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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

U S Steamer Keystone State
The 26th
off Wilmington P C In

Dear Thomas I Recived ever
Welcome ltr to day and
I Was glad to hear that you
are all Well your ltr foun
me Well at presant but
not in verrey good heart
I am sorey that Joney is not
Well for i know that it is hard
for one to be sick away from
a good home but i hope to god
that he Will get bttter soon
We have had a hard time
sinse We Come out this time
it has bin verrey cold and
rough and seas runing
mountons hi it mkes the
old Keystone trimble at

U S Steamer Keystone State
the 26th

Off Wilmington [illegible N.C.?)

Dear Thomas I Recived ever Welcome ltr to day
and I Was glad to hear that you ar all Well your
ltr foun me Well at presant but not in verrey good
heart I am sorey that Joney is not Well for i know
that it is hard for one to be sick away from a good
home but i hope to god that he Will get bttter soon
We have had a hard time sinse We Come out this
tine it has bin verrey Cold and rough and seas runing
mountons hi it mkes the old Keystone trimble at

every sea it is an ofel place
to be in bad Weather but
must grin and bear it a little
While longer I ofen think this
War Will never be over it
seems to mee as if it for
nothing onley but to get poor
men killed I hope to god thay
Will draft some of them
down lofers about that town
Thay have pretty good time
of it Thay destroyed a macy
a peasful and happy home
if could have my Way
i Would put them at head
of the battli Kill them off
like dogs We had a great time
the other nite thear Was larg
stemer hove in site We
got up anshore after her
but she Would not stop for
us we fired severl shote at
her and set her on fier

every sea it is an ofel place to be in bad Weather
but must grin and bear it a little While longer I
ofen think this War Will never be over it seems to
mee as if it for nothing onley but to get poor men
killed I hope to god thay Will draft some of them
down lofers about that town Thay have pretty good
time of it thay destroyed a macy a peasful and
happy home if Could have my Way i Would put
them at head of the battle Kill them off like dogs
We had a great time the other nite thear Was larg
stemer hove in site We got up anchor after her
but she Would not stop for us we fired severl shote
at her and set her on fier

Thay run her on the beach she
bernd up that nit so that one
more out of the Way I have
to months and half yet to
stay then i hope to god i
Will a free man again
I hope to god i ^{have} luck to get of
saf and sound We ar boning
to norfolk in a few days
i think We Will lay thir to on
thre Weeks i think i Will try
to get my discharge for
Will onley a short time
to stop i think thay Will
let me go but dont let on
aney thing about it aney
one i Will get off if i can
suse is still at Work at the
same yet here and mee
had a good bit of trouble
i Will do as lib told me to
do to find out my self
sus told done rong in one
way

they run her on the beach she berned up that nit
so that one mor out of the Way I have to months
and half yet to stay then i hope to god i Will a free
man again I hop to god i have luck to get of saf
and sound We ar Coming to norfolk in a few days
i thnk We Will lay thir to or thre Weeks i think i will
try to get my discharge for Will onley a short time
to stop i think thay Will let me go but dont let on
aney thing about it aney one i Will get off if i Can
suse is still at Work at the same yet her and mee
had a good bit of trouble i Will do as lib told me
to do to find out my self sus told done rong in one
[illegible]

but she denies being
with any men
she says she sorry she
~~don~~ that but she says
that hopes if takes ^{one} drop
of any thing again that god
will take her life from
her i am verrey sorry
any turned up with us
you know Thomas a
person must not
believe all that they
heare but i will see for
my self if all is rite
i will go hous keeping I
will a good start I send
love to all of you I still
yours truely John Rudolph
Direct your lettre
norfolk v g

but she denies being With any men she says she
sorey she don that but she say that hopes if takes
one drop of aey thing again that god Will take her
life from her i am very sorey any turned up With
us You know Thomas a person must not beleave
all that thay hear but i Will see for my self if all is
rite i Will go hous keping I Will a good start I send
love to all of you I still yours truley John Rudolph
Direct your lettr norfolk V g