

[Letter raised imprinted logo with initials: "E.S."]

St Augustine E.F. Sept 14"

My Darling Wife

I have just received your letter dated Aug 16" I cannot tell you how very glad I am to hear from you but I am sorry to find that all that I can say does not seem to relieve your fears in the least. Indeed my sweet wife, I do not see sufficient cause for such a despondent feeling. I am in as good health as I ever enjoyed in my life, and the perfect confidence which I feel of some time returning to enjoy the blessings which I have left, keeps me in good spirits. Do my darling try and beleive me, (for I would not try to deceive for your own good) there is not one half of the danger that you immagine I shall not be able to write you a long letter this time, for we are about to leave this place, and I have a great deal to do, but I thought I would take the time to inform you of it for fear you would hear of it in some other way, and would let that alarm you

The 7" N.H. is here to releive us, and Joseph is with me now. He came yesterday, and his Cap^t has excused him from duty till we leave so he will stay with me while we remain. We shall probably get off in a day or two But my hand is not steady enough to write now so I will leave this and find some other time to answer you. Evening.

We expect to get off the day after tomorrow, we are to report at Hilton Head, but shall probably be stationed at Beaufort. Now you must not feel as though I ~~was~~ am an any more ~~than~~ danger there than here but I do not know what to say to you, for I find that all that I have said, has failed to releive you of your fears. But my sweet darling, you must keep up good courage, for I feel sure that I shall come back to repay you for your love that has been, and always will be the light of my life. But I cannot talk to you tonight for I have been talking with lots of acquaintances and cant get my ideas collected to say what I wish to. So I will tell you about ^{the} friends I have seen, Joseph is looking well and enjoys good health. He is very well contented, but would like to be in this Reg^t. I have been talking a long time tonight with John Dow of Atkinson. He is in the Hospital department as a nurse. he has been sick. but is looking very well now. There are lots more that I know, but I cant write any more tonight. So good night love, I will go to sleep and dream of you. L