

**Guide to the Thomas L. Rowlands Letter, 1864 January 6
MS0348**

**The Mariners' Museum Library
at
Christopher Newport University**

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: Thomas L. Rowlands Letter

Inclusive Dates: 1864 January 6

Catalog number: MS0348

Physical Characteristics: 4-page letter

Language: English

Creator: Rowlands, Thomas L.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Little biographical information on Thomas L. Rowlands is known. He was from the Madison, New York area. On November 6, 1862, at age 25, he enlisted in the 3rd New York Light Artillery as private in Battery H for a term of three years during the Civil War. His unit participated in operations in eastern North Carolina and around Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia. He was promoted to corporal on November 1, 1864, and to sergeant on January 1, 1865. Rowlands was mustered out of service on June 24, 1865 at Richmond, Virginia.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of a single letter written by Thomas L. Rowlands to his brother on January 6, 1864. At the time, Rowlands' artillery unit was stationed at Newport News, Virginia.

In the letter, Rowlands describes artillery training in preparation for the upcoming spring and summer campaign of 1864, the Russian fleet visiting Hampton Roads, the triple turreted USS *Roanoke*, and the USS *Minnesota*. He also mentions men reenlisting in his unit and writes sarcastically of men avoiding the draft back home. Rowlands also describes a minor engagement with Confederate forces, in which a "light monitor" and a "larger monitor" were sent to drive the rebels off.

The collection is organized into one folder.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession Number

CA30

Accession Date

1951

Restrictions

The collection is open to all researchers.

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Preferred Citation

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Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

FILE GUIDE

Folder 1

Correspondence

January 6, 1864: Newport News, VA

Four page letter from Thomas Rowlands to his brother

SOURCES CONSULTED

“3rd New York Light Artillery.”

http://www.civilwarindex.com/armyny/3rd_ny_light_artillery.html

Annual Report of the Adjutant-General of the State of New York, for the Year 1896.

Registers of the Third and Fourth Artillery in the War of the \Rebellion. Albany: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford, Co., 1897.

<http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/rostersartillery.htm>

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. 33. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891.

SUBJECTS

Rowlands, Thomas L.

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Personal narratives

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Naval operations

Roanoke (Ironclad : 1863)

Minnesota (Frigate : 1857)

Newport News (Va.)-Environmental conditions

Draft-New York (State)

United States. Army. New York Light Artillery Regiment, 3rd (1861-1865). Battery H.