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.

Publication Rights
Preferred Citation
Thomas L. Rowlands Letter, 1864 January 6, MS0348, The Mariners’ Museum Library

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

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)