City of Mexico
December 8th 1847

Dear Uncle:

You should have heard from me long before this but as you must have known that the communication has been entirely closed the enemy being in possession of the strong points on the road and this is the second train that has passed from this place for the Gulf for upwards of five months this I consider a sufficient excuse for not letting my friends at home know how I was getting along.

We left Vera Cruz on the 4th of June on the 6th we were engaged in considerable fight. Our company was in the advance of the train and we were the first that receives the fire of the enemy. You perhaps have seen a statement of this fight, in which our company is not spoken of in "very high terms" but such men as Col. Moore and others if it should ever become

necessary will do the "Company justice,"
You will understand the "meaning of the last
two words,"

The train that we came up
in was commanded by Gen. Cadwalader
and we had as much or more fighting
than any train that has left Vera Cruz
for the main Army - At the National
Bridge - a few miles from the great
battle-field of Cerro Gordo - we had a pretty
hard fight - which lasted four or five
hours - the loss was tolerably severe on both
sides - we succeeded in driving them from
both hills - and crossed the bridge into a small
town - after a hard days march of it. There
was hardly a day, during the entire trip
but we has more or less fighting - We reached
Puebla on the 9th of July - Puebla has a popu-
lation of Eighty thousand - and I think decidedly
the handsomest city that I have yet seen -

On the 10th of August General
Scott left Puebla for this city - leaving only
four hundred and fifty men to garrison the city
About the last of the month the fighting
commences - Gen. Rea in command of the
Mexicans and Col. Childs - who had been left
as the civil and military Governor of the city
in command of the Americans. Their force

was so strong, that it was impossible for us
to do anything, but stand on the defensive
The enemy occupied the main city leaving us
the quartel- And fort- and what it- they too cow-
-ardly to come up close fighting- and we had
not force sufficient [redacted] upon them
The picket guard in sight- and firing- they
were two squares off only- After Santa-Anna
had been defeated- he came to Puebla with the
remnant of his Army- and demanded the sur-
render of our forces- but the Col. [redacted] as too much
of an American to think of such a thing- and
sent him word "to come and take us. [redacted]
that time (about the 20th of Sept[redacted]ber) until
Gane came up- we had it hot and heavy
and whilst he was coming in at one end
of town- we were fighting at the other
For thirty two nights- in all sorts of weather
we slept on the roof- with every man at his
"hole" ready for a fight at a moments
notice- We were well pleased to see Gen.
Gane and his men
We were in several fights after Gen. Gane came
up- in which he commanded- one at Atlixco-
in which we killed 215- and wounded 300- our loss
was small- My health is good- Give my respects to
your family- Respectfully- Yours
W. A. Dailey

City of Mexico

December 8, 1847

Dear Uncle,

You should have heard from me long before this but as you must have known that the communication has been entirely closed – the enemy being in possession of the strong points on the roads and this is the second train that has passed from this place for the Gulf for upwards of five months. This I consider a sufficient excuse for not letting my friends at home know how I was getting along.

We left Veracruz on the 4th of June – on the 6th we were engaged in considerable fight. Our company was in the advance of the train and we were the first that received the fire of the enemy. You perhaps have seen a statement of this fight in which our company is not spoken of in "very high terms" but such men as Col. Moore and others – if it should ever become necessary – will do the "Company justice". You will understand the meaning of the last two words.

The train that we came up in was commanded by Gen. Cadwalader and we had as much or more fighting than any train that has left Vera Cruz for the main Army. At the National Bridge, a few miles from the great battlefield of Cerro Gordo, we had a pretty hard fight which last four or five hours. The loss was tolerably severe on both sides – we succeeded in driving them from both hills and crossed the bridge into a small town after a hard day's march of it. There was hardly a day during the entire trip but we had more or less fighting. We reached Puebla on the 8th of July. Puebla has a population of 80,000 and I think decidedly the handsomest city that I have yet seen.

On the 10th of August Gen Scott left Puebla for this city leaving only 450 men to garrison the city. About the last of the month the fighting commenced – Gen Rea in command of the Mexicans and Col Childs - who had been left as the civil and military Governor of the city - in command of the Americans.

Their force was so strong that it was impossible for us to do anything but stand on the defensive. The enemy occupied the main city leaving us the Quartel & the Fort and we had it – they too cowardly to come up to close fighting and we had not force...upon them.

The picket ward in sight and firing – they were two squares off only – after Santa Anna had been whipped he came to Puebla with the remnants of his Army and demanded the surrender of our forces- but the Col was too much of an American to think of such a thing and sent him word "to come and take us." From that time (about the 20th of September) until Gen Lane came up we had it hot and heavy and whilst he was coming in at one end of town we were fighting at the other. For 32 nights in all sorts of weather we slept on the roof, every man at his "hole" ready for a fight at a moment's notice. We well pleased to see Gen Lane and his men!

We were in several fights after Gen Lane came up – in which he commanded – one at Atlixco – in which we killed 219 and wounded 300. Our loss was small. My health is good. Give my respects to your family. Respectfully yours, H A Daily