

December 10, 1862  
Cypress Corner  
near Clear Water Harbor Florida

Captain Kearney,

My compliments to the Captain, and I am pleased to inform you that Pvt. Tad Dye and I have returned home safely. We did not return home without incident, and the cause of this delay needs to be brought to the Captain's attention.

Our plan was to take the south west road from Hogtown toward the Cedar Keys and then turn south at old Ft. Jennings and then follow the Gulf trail to Pinellas Point. We were surprised and dismayed to find Federal patrols supported by Union sympathizers in the area of Rock Springs. Pvt. Tad and I had to move north and east to find a suitable ford of the Big Withlacoochee. We finally had to hoof all the way to the old Fort King road and finish our journey home.

Captain, I am fit to be tied to find Union sympathizers operating so openly this deep in the CSA. They appeared to be quartering the Federals, as well. If it would please our command to organize a campaign to rid our State of this dishonor, both Pvt. Tad and I would be the first to volunteer (with the Captain's permission, of course).

Both Pvt. Tad and I were honored once again to stand shoulder to shoulder and fight with the fine soldiers and officers of Company E of the 2nd Florida. Together we read with pleasure and pride the dispatches sent from the Captain and First Sgt. French.

Our lemon harvest is about done, and this old pie eater will be ready to report to camp upon receipt of orders. Until then I remain

Most respectfully yours,

Pvt. Thomas A. Dye III  
2nd Florida Volunteer Infantry  
Company E, The Hammock Guards  
Fifth Company  
Florida Battalion  
CSA

