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On board ship in the Mississippi River

April 27<sup>th</sup> 1862

Friend [*Rusel illegible*] sit down to write to you a few lines to let you know that I am in the land of the living. I hope that these few lines will find you well and tough as I am. I have been on this ship so long that I am tired. We have been on board so long that we are getting pretty lazy and do not know to do with ourselves.

We have been on board ever since the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. We did expect to go into Fort Jackson when we took it but it seems that we are not going to the Fort this forenoon. When I writing a letter for one of our boys the news came that the Fort had surrendered and we was not going to the Fort but we was going up above the Fort in some of the villages. I think

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that we shall have to fight if they do not give the place up but I do not know. We are getting ready to start now.

While I am writing this Henry is well and hearty. He and I have good times. I think that it would do us good to get in one good fight with the Rebels. For my part I would like to fight one good battle and let them damn rascals what we are made on. It would do our boys good to fight. They have lay still so long I am not rosy. I come way down here in Dixie lands. I suppose that all the folks around there thought I was afraid to go to war. They made so much fun about my enlisting. But I ask you which is the biggest cowards? Ask George Colton when he is

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a going to put his foot on that gentleman's neck that he spoke about. He is a brave boy. He can brag and that is all he can do. I would not come home now if I could. I suppose it would not make difference if I never come again with some folks. But no more of this. I hope that we shall get home safe. I wish that you could see us. We are as black as nigger Tule. I cannot think of much more to write so I must draw to a close.

You must excuse this bad spelling and writing for there is so much noise here.

I cannot very good give my love to all you folks and all inquiring friends. You must eat one meal of pork and greens

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for me as I can not get any. Write to me as often as you can and I will do the same. Direct your letters the same as you would if I was at Ship Island.

From Julius N Paseo your friend forever

There are 4 penciled spirals in the open space at the bottom of this page

**ENVELOPE**

2 ¾" x 5 ¼" SIZE

The front left corner has a stamp showing an American flag with 11 stars.

Upper right corner has the return address of:

Ship Island Miss

May 5

Address to:

James Russell Lard Esq.

Warehouse Point

Hartford County

Conn