

Information Sheet

R Eldred, Wellington.
532 Letters, 1862.
One folder, photocopies and typescripts.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are letters describing the campaign against New Madrid and Island No. 10, written by a Union cavalryman in the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. Eldred described the damage to the town of New Madrid and operations against Island No. 10, and reported shortages of rations and an outbreak of smallpox in camp.

New Madrid and Island No. 10 became important Confederate posts along the Mississippi River in March 1862, after the evacuation of the southern stronghold at Fort Pillow near Columbus, Kentucky. Led by Gen. John Pope, Union operations by land forced the Confederates to relinquish the town of New Madrid on 14 March 1862. Island No. 10, in the Mississippi River, was surrendered to federal forces on 7 April 1862.

Eldred's comparison of New Madrid with Galesburg and his mention of the unit's horses indicate that he was a member of a Michigan cavalry unit. The 3rd regiment served in the New Madrid/Island No. 10 campaign, and compiled service records indicate that he was a Private in that unit.

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Shelf List

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25 March 1861 [*sic*] Wellington Eldred, New Madrid, Mo., to "Sir"

25 March [1862] Wellington Eldred, New Madrid, Mo., to father

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Index Cards

Eldred, Wellington
Island Number Ten
Michigan cavalry—3rd Regiment. **SEE** United States. Army. Michigan Cavalry Regiment, 3rd (1861-1866)
Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
New Madrid (Mo.)
New Madrid County (Mo.)
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
United States. Army. Michigan Cavalry Regiment, 3rd (1861-1866)