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## Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Dear Fister: Landing Aprile 12th. 1862. I Received your Kind & welcome letter this evening, was gratified to hear from home of find you all well, I received a letter from Thuldah & Aus, about a week ago. Jalso received a letter from goline, who was Till at Louisville, I Luppose as Buils firees are fire John is Long where near. I don't know where to write to him To I will wait an aus, from you hoping you will hear from him, by the time This Reaches you. He told me to write to Louisville, but as he is knew nor how to deriet, when you write give best respects I well wishes, always warm him as regards bad Company, tell him to write of I will now give you a discription of our ups of downs Lince I write to Houldake, I believe I Related to her about our Leout in which we killed two Cavalymed. In a sew mighto after this, our Confranz was called on for Fichel Evara, Sovent, Wiles Requested me to go with him, as we were expecting an attact, I told him I would accompany him. I dia nortate a post, but watched with him. and

helped him attime to the Guaser, we was not attacted as we Supposed to be, where we return. ed to Camp the next day about noon, our tents were all loaded up of our Righ was fixing for Ceaveing as I have not slight much the previous evening (or rather might) I did mut feel much like marching, we got Started for this place about 3 déluct in the afternour, arrived here about 8 Geoch the Landone, distance 12 miles, However the morning before we came in off of Ficker. the firein Commenced at this point, and reprufe until dark. It was tremmedous, and never ceased until dark, Communeed about Lun- vise, The result was, our vous were drive. en all day, in the first place they were take, by Surprise, by the way we made a quick hip, when we arrived we were tired & Sleepy, we were drawn which like of battle & communated to Llegh on our arms. The Capt. & I fixed amon our Blandeds of threw our Lelves down to rest. I Love fell aslep. about midnight it commen-Eed raining, Franca for keeps, from This time on until morning I sould not get to Lleefe, for the Engo of Loreaux of the wounded on the field whi was auful about daylight one of the being of 80, 8 went to take his pistol out of his pocket, when it wenty

Liedle of is come le man. De y ou with gour con for This beautiful morning finds me Leated in It's many pleasent ours we have all Thent Coulder this mornin, finds us Liparatea Low distance from dach other haping I Suppliese you are fixing about this time to go over to Ashung to Chart ch. 2/ I was there would have, But thank god I am from a know post Striving to do what I beine to be only dute, Jam mot forme as Lorne tying award home, while others are out fighting our balles for us. I am Latinied with my lor, hoping when peace is a clared to litim home withouned, I am you there is a first Zod who dwell and things will culy then fear, I will not La, how I believed during the battle forther than I was found always at my first, I can't Lay that I was Lealed as I supposed to be, I have here ready I wish they would frush the thing through, I don't believe they will make more than one more Stand of that will be at Corrently.

have untenderne, had I a change. J. H. A. Gillie mas mid mil all das during the fight he behaved bravely always at his heart. Our officers aid well. The Eal 30 Three or four ball holes through his coar was Struck on the friger by grape not much burt Edalo, Our Regis Cour boys gut holes ent in Their Living Providence is all that Laved us. you those of their my girl. I would like to The warit good Eform, never ming Dwill Lettle with you when Dereturn & H. Morrison is hitry Mede around. I will stafe that when of come around. give her my bist wishes tell her I would like to be her, as on infrupe of not by hope when we all get west, we will have a home. how is Father getting along with his bismys you never till me anything about how you are getting along achiel I ark alidays anxious to know, what he is doing this Summer of everything concerns ing his business I maly with John had collayere at home always when you write to him Chax him to Correctionare Hather needs him to much your hear from home. I will write to Will Tresize to day, us I I the little girls of boys to be good children I hope Tell with them from Joe must continue to be fore war matters. I think I go of might write This battle filler or an awful Light. Tell Father & Mother I would like to see them of hope to Love give my love to all enjug friends. Est no one in anytrunk save yourself, is yourself, is yourself in ger that school don't board ar markalls. The boys

and Thur him through the hand, Show after the fireing commenced of it come Thick theavy. Deaniguard was in Command. of as they had driver as all the day previous he told his men that if they would hitch in, it would out he a me little breakfast Thele, to Clean us our but as you find he was Ladly mistaken, we were now ordered assured on the right flowto, where we were Love found at our posts we were Experia to the Leverest of their fire the whole day, at Lorne times the Stills would burst right about our heads, we were now marched up with an open fills. the every had formed in the finite on the apposite Lide, here we were right our with with nothing to protect us of they Emaltinear by the thick growth a simber, hele I withespece ord of the most beautiful Louis Jever Euro, our whole Angade diawn up in this large feela of about I thinks 30 a cres, If you had been Visterin, it Leems to me that your omight have beard us Charing, we now hitched into them regular, and you ought to have Leem them Tradaddle, here I run Lome very marrow escapes, as we were marching use, a Common ball came along to dont thinks it

is Aprily a tree farther in Grand Ex mis Lyster There a Thele papea by I Law it Think the ground about 3 rods off ance it glancece Eight over our heads, it is of no use to to somention the member of Times, I came to mean being thruck to make a con they thurs, the ball I thele come thich & fast, around its all day, unitin about It Ochoch when they Tradaddees for reeps, Our General Lays wie behavior the most Cool of our fire lower the hest feet of any other High the give them one fine voller, they hoke inmediately, our guns are to Lapurion to their they can't stand who to us amplitud. Our forces here was about 80,000 mers, Theirs 140,000 beyond doubt, our tags was 5,000. Theres. 11,000. The battle of Donaldson is no where to be Commenced with this, during Monday the day wie fought them! I don't think a the frein Ceased ten aminto during the whole day but was a ; continual waller the whole Elac This is the 6 th day Lince we lest our lines Illy our ever Lines until Compas. we fit the a then to day and I am now in my tent for the fier time Line, Fit has Easing every night Line Law one, Juile Coll for to hight.

#### April 12, 1862

Addressed to Miss F.P. Porter

Hopewell Muskingum Co.

Ohio

Pittsburg Landing April 12th 1862

Dear Sister:

I received your kind & welcome letter this evening. Was gratified to hear from home & find you all well. I received a letter from Huldah & Gus about a week ago. I also received a letter from Johnny who was still at Louisville. I suppose as Buell's forces are here, John is somewhere near. I don't know where to write to him. Lo I will wait an ans. from you hoping you will hear from him by the time this reaches you. He told me to write to Louisville but as he is not connected with any particular Regt, I knew not how to direct. When you write give best respects & well wishes. Always warn him as regards bad company. Tell him to write after.

I will now give you a description of our ups and downs since I last wrote to Huldah. I believe I related to her about how about our scout in which we killed two Cavalrymen. In a few nights after this, our company was called on for picket-guard \_\_\_\_\_. Wiles requested me to go with him as we were expecting an attack. I told him I would accompany him. I did not take a post but watched with him and helped him to attend to the Guard. We was not attacked as we supposed to be. When we returned to camp the next day about noon, our tents were all loaded up & our Regt was fixing for leaving. As I had not slept much the previous evening (or rather night), I did not feel much like marching. We got started for this place about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Arrived here about 8 o'clock the same eve, distance about 12 miles. However, the morning we came in off of picket, the firing commenced at this point and kept up until dark. It was tremendous and never ceased until dark. Commenced about sunrise. The result was our men were driven all day in the first place, they were taken by surprise, by the way we made a quick trip. (When we arrived we were tired & sleepy. We were then drawn up in a line of battle and commanded to sleep on our arms. The Capt & I fixed down our blankets & threw ourselves down to rest. I soon fell asleep. About midnight it commenced raining & rained for keeps from this time on until morning. I could not get to sleep for the cries and screams of the wounded on the field which was awful. About daylight, one of the boys from Co. G went to take his pistol out of his pocket where it went and shot him through the hand.

Soon after the firing commenced -- it came thick and heavy. Beauregard was in command and as they had driven us all the day previous, he told his men that if they would pitch in it would only be a nice little breakfast \_\_\_\_\_\_ to clean us out, but as you find, he was sadly mistaken. We were now ordered around on the right flank where we soon found our post, We were exposed to the severest of the fire the whole day. At some times the shells would burst right above our heads. We were now marched up into an open field, the enemy had formed in the \_\_\_\_\_ on the opposite side. Here we were, right out with nothing to protect us & only sheltered by the thick growth of timber. Here I witnessed one of the most beautiful scene I ever saw. Our whole

brigade drawn up in this large field of about I think 50 acres. If you had been listening, it seems to me that you might have heard us cheering. We now pitched into them regular and you ought to have seen them skedaddle. Here I run some very narrow escapes. As we were marching up a cannon ball came along & I don't think it stuck in a tree farther in front of me 3 feet. A shell passed by. I saw it hit the ground about 3 rods off and it glanced right over our heads.

It is of no use to try to mention the number of times I came so near being struck. To make a long story short, the ball and shell came thick and fast around us all day until about 5 o'clock when they skedaddled for keeps. Our general says we behaved the most cool and our fire took the best effect of any other Regt. We gave them one fine volley. They broke immediately. Our guns are so superior to theirs, they can't stand up to us anyhow. Our forces here was about 80000 men, theirs 140000 beyond doubt. Our loss was 5000, there's 11000. The battle at Donelson is no where to be compared with this. During Monday, the day we fought them I don't think the firing ceased ten minutes during the whole day, but it was a continual volley the whole day. This is the sixth day since we have left our tents. Slept out ever since until tonight. We pitched them today and I am now in my tent for the first time since & it has rained every night since, save one. I will close for tonight.

### Sabbath morning April 13th, 1862

This beautiful morning has me seated in my tent thinking of the old homestead. The many pleasant hours we have spent together, but this morning finds us separated some distance from each other. Hoping soon to mingle together as in times past, I suppose you are all fixing about to go over to Asbury to church. If I was there to go with you, what a pleasant time we would have. But thank God I am \_\_\_\_\_ at my post striving to do what I believe to be my duty. I am not found as some lying around home while others are out fighting our battles for us. I am satisfied with my Co. hoping that when peace is declared to return home unharmed. I am sure there is a just God who doeth all things well, why then fear.

I will not say how I behaved in the battle farther than I was scared as I was supposed to be. I am here, ready. I wish they would push the thing through. I don't believe they will make more than one more stand and that will be at Corinth. J.W.A. Gillespie was near me all day during the fight and he behaved bravely always at his best. Our officers did well. The Col. got three or four ball holes through his coat, was struck on the finger by grape. Not much hurt. A good many of our boys got holes cut in their coats Our Regt lost one man, 12 wounded. Divine Providence is all that saved us.

You spoke of my seeing my girl. I would like to know who she is. You spoke as if you thought she wasn't good looking. Never mind. I will settle with you when I return. G.W. Morrison is \_\_\_\_\_ Meda around. I will state that when I come around. Give her my best wishes. tell her I would like to see her. You spoke of not feeling at home. You must make yourself at home. I hope that when we all get west we will have a home. How is father getting along with his business? You never tell me anything about how you are getting along which I am always anxious to know. Tell what is doing this summer and everything concerning his business. I only wish John had stayed at home. Always when you write to him coax him to come home. Father needs him so much.

You must write often. It does us soldiers so much good to hear	r from home. I will write to Will
today. As I have given you a full description of affairs.	s, I will close. Tell the little girls
and boys to be good children. I hope to be with them soon.	must continue to on
war matters. I think W.P.A. might write. This battle field is	an awful sight. Tell Father and
Mother I would like to see them and hope to soon. Give my lov	ve to all enquiring friends. Let no
one in my trunk, save yourself. If you get that school, don't boa	ard at Marshalls The boys would
talk about you before a week.	

Give my love to Will's folks. Tell all to write. I would have written soon had I a chance.

W.F. Armstrong is well. Sump has his discharge and is getting better. Says he don't think he will go home. I think he will

Quadlock is coming down. Sis, if the rest of you can forgive him, I never can. He may invite for me. I never expect to darken his door. I hope you never will.

Direct to G.W. Porter, Co. B, 78th Regt, O.V.I. Savannah, Tenn River, Tenn. Care of Col. M.D. Leggett to be forwarded immediately.