10-22-1863

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Nov. 21, 18th Brig. 3rd Div.
17th Army Corps.

Dear Sister Frank & Anable:

Your kind favors were received the morning of the 17th just as I was starting on an expedition toward Canton the State. District from here sixty (60) miles. I was pleased to hear from home as usual and to know you were all enjoying good health. Our expedition proved a success. The second day after we left here we met the enemy. But not in any heavy force. Our Brigade being in advance we had the form of skirmishing with the enemy for some days. But they would not stand and give us fight. At one point they took position which we thought they would endeavor...
to hold. But upon our approach they would get up & scat, &c. I was at one time out on the skirmish line, & a Six o'clock foolish enough to get his fire upon me at once. But they neither touched me or my horse, they were in the bushes & I did not see them until they fired again, then three of our skirmishers came up. I told one of them to hold my horse. I took his gun & tried hard to get a shot at one of them. But did not succeed. They got up & away. I had a great many narrow escapes. But they did shoot close enough. There seemed to be an unknown hand which protected me. I think the friend at home was not forgotten to look to the interests of the nation in my behalf. There is something missing in all this which I am not understanding. We arrived in camp this day before yesterday. I found a slip of paper which returned a letter from John which I will answer immediately. We lost but very few men on this trip. The enemy force consisted of two brigades of cavalry, 1 of infantry and 2 of mortars infantry. But they could not fight. The burning distress & loss which they knew in furnishing meat for their army in this part of the country. This I think was an important point gained. I was pleased to learn that College has succeeded in getting a school. I hope this will be successful. He must work hard & keep every thing straight. I expect he will proceed from good. I hope you are progressing finely in your school. I will close for this time as I have to go to town on business. You must write often & long letters. My love to you all. I remain as ever your affectionate brother

E. M. Porter

P.S. Richy is well & hearty, my love to all friends.
October 22, 1863

Hd Qrs 1st Brig 3d Div

17th Army Corps

Vicksburg Miss Oct 22d 1863

Dear Sisters Frank & Huldah,

Your kind favors were received the morning of the 14th just as I was starting on an expedition toward Canton this state, distant from here sixty (60) miles. I was pleased to hear from home as usual and to know you were all enjoying good health.

Our expedition proved a success. The second day after we left here we met the enemy, but not in very heavy force. Our brigade being in advance, we had the fun of skirmishing with the enemy four or five days. But they would not stand and give us fights. At one point, they took position which we thought they would endeavor to hold, but upon our approach they would get up & skedaddle. I was at one time out on the skirmish line and six Rebs were foolish enough to all fire at me once. But they never touched me or my horse. They were in the bushes and I did not see them until they fired upon me. Just then three of our skirmishes came up. I told one of them to hold my horse. I took his gun and tried hard to get a shot at one of them, but did not succeed. They got up & left. I run a great many narrow escapes, but they don't shoot close enough. There seems to me an unknown hand which protects me.

I think the friends at home have not forgotten to look to their alwaise creator in my behalf. There is something misterious in all this which I do not understand.

We arrived in camp day before yesterday. I found upon my return a letter from John which I will answer immediately. We lost but few men on this trip. The enemies force consisted of two Brigades of Cavalry, 3 of infantry, and (2) two of mounted infantry. But they would not fight. We buried several flour mills which they used in furnishing meals for their army in this part of the country. This I think was an important point gained.

I was pleased to learn that Huldah had succeeded in getting a school. I hope she will be successful. She must study hard & keep every thing straight. I expect she will paddle them good.

I hope you are all prospering finely in your school. I will close for this time as I have to go to town on business. You must all write often & long letters. My love to you all. I remain as ever, your affectionate brother.

G.W. Porter

P.S. Rickey is well & hearty. My love to all friends.

George
I will send another of Gen'l Leggett's pictures. Also one of his sons who is here with him. Take good care of them.