

6-27-1863

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Respecting one to give you money to go do his
If you wish to go and I know you would enjoy
The money for the whole money you want

Head Quarters 1st. Brig, 3rd Division

17th Army Corps.

On read of Vicksburg Miss, 27th June 1863,

Dear Sister Frank:

Your kind favor of the
16th. Inst, was received last evening, and
perused with much pleasure I assure you,
I was pleased to learn you were ^{all} enjoying
good health, and seem to be in such fine
spirits, ^{and} Father's health must be much better
than usual, this I am pleased to know
So be brief I am very much pleased to know
you are all getting along so well. Well I thank
we are not in possession of Vicksburg yet
but I hope will be soon, I have written
to some one of you every other day since
we came from the Yazoo, and have de-
scribed the work I have been assisting in
superintending, the main part which is in
front of us, we undermined and on the
evening of the 25th. Blew up, It blew up in

Such shape as to give us a regular fort
just where it stood leaving us a good
rifle pit in our immediate front, and
the others were just about ten feet from
ours, As soon as the fort went up we sent
the Forty fifth (45) Regt. Ill. of our Brig.
into this fort made by the explosion, and
by heavy loss succeeded in holding it, this
was about 4 o'clock P.M. and our Brigades
fought them (you may say) the whole
night & all day yesterday until 7 o'clock
P.M. ^{and} ~~two~~ ^{enough} during the night of the
25th ~~two~~ Regts. from Genl. Quincy's old
Division were sent to help us. 56th Ill's &
17th Iowa, Regts. The 56th was sent into this
advance Fort. when they got there and
loaded their pieces they found their
ammunition was worth nothing and
had we not seen the 23rd Ind. of our Brig.
in and relieved them just when we did
we would have lost our position. I think
during the fifteen minutes the 56th was in
there they lost or killed and wounded

not less than fifty (50) men. All just
by the Officers not attending to their business
and knowing whether their ammunition
was good or not, The 23rd Ind. we ran in out
of another Rifle pit close by. So we had to
send them to their old position, We then
undertook to relieve them by this other
new Post. We got them relieved and back
to their own position, We had been fighting
back & forth with hand grenades (by the
way all the men we lost were by these)
and the men who stood up close to the
breastworks were hardly ever hurt. But
these men kept near the center and every
grenade killed & wounded from five to
ten of them. I tried to shove them up to
the breastworks but could not get them to
go. I was a stranger and I suppose they
thought I was trying to push them into
danger, They were in about three hours
and lost about thirty men, I told the
Genl. If they did not keep out of the
center they would all be killed, The

told me to go and bring the 31st Regt. Ills.
of our Pariz, and we would hold it ourselves,
The 31st. had been engaged all day and
just lay themselves down to rest awhile.
But they come out like men took the
Fort & held it with but very little loss.
The loss of our Brigade killed and wound-
ed so far is not less than 250 men our loss
in officers is heavy. I mean our own Pariz
The fighting has about ceased Sharpshooting
and cannonading continues. I thought I had
witnessed hard scenes but never anything to
compare with the night of the 25th. Richey is
well and hearty. I was with him all day yester-
day nearly. He is in fine spirits. If he does
get to go home I cannot go with him. I want
to go to stay when I go. If I was in his place I would
go. Were any of you to get sick I would come home.
By staying here while you are all well. I will be
allowed to go if anything should happen. If any-
thing should happen me I want Father to take me
home. If I should be killed, my request is that
my body is taken there. When I stay home I mean
wherever the family is. If anything should happen
Richey I will see that he is taken home. I think
he will do the same with me. If anything should
happen all I have left above expenses is Father's
I have never began to pay him for the trouble he
has had in raising me. Don't be uneasy about me.
I will take the best of care of myself. Always going
where duty calls me. I will close for this present
hoping to hear from you soon. My love to all.
I remain your brother
C. M. Porter.



Miss F. P. Porter
Clinton

De Wia Co.)

Ills.



June 27, 1863

Addressed to Miss F.P. Porter

Clinton, Illinois

Head Quarters 1st Brigade 3d Division 17th Army Corps

In rear of Vicksburg Miss 27th June 1863

Dear Sister Frank,

Your kind favor of the 16th inst was received last evening and perused with much pleasure I assure you. I was pleased to learn that you were all enjoying good health and seem to be in such fine spirits. Father's health must be much better than usual. This I am pleased to know. To be brief, I am very much pleased to know you are all getting along so well.

Well Frank, we are not in possession of Vicksburg yet but I hope will be soon. I have written to some one of you every other day since we came in from the Yazoo and have described the work I have been assisting in Superintending. The main fort which is in front of us we undermined and on the evening of the 25th blew up. It blew up in such shape as to give us a regular fort just where it stood leaving us a good rifle pit in our immediate forces. And the Rebs are just about ten feet from ours. As soon as the first went up we _____ the Forty-Fifth (45) Regt. Ills. (of our Brig) into this first made by the explosion. And by heavy loss succeeded in holding it. This was about 4 o'clock P.M. and our Brigade fought them (you may say) the whole night & all day yesterday until 7 o'clock P.M. True enough during the night of the 25th, two Regts from Genl Quimby's Old Division were sent to help us 56th Ills & 17th Iowa Regts. The 56th was sent with this advance Fort when they got there and loaded their pieces they found their ammunition was worth nothing and had we not run the 23d Ind. of our brigade in and relieved them just when we did it would have lost our position. I think during the fifteen minutes the 56th was in there they lost in killed and wounded not less than fifty (50) men. All just by the Officers not attending to their business and knowing whether their ammunition was good or not. The 23rd Ind. we ran in out of another Rifle pit close by. We then undertook to relieve them by this other new Regt. We got them relieved and back to their own position. We had been fighting back and forth with hand grenades (by the way all the men we lost were by these) and the men who stood up close to the breastworks were hardly ever hurt. But these men kept near the center and every grenade killed & wounded from five to ten of them. I tried to shove them up to the breastworks but could not get them to go. I was a stranger and I suppose they thought I was trying to push them into danger. They were in about three hours and lost about thirty men. I told the Gen'l. If they did not keep out of the center they would all be killed. He told me to go and bring the 3/82 Regt Wis of our Brig and we would hold it ourselves. The 3/82 had been engaged all day and just lay themselves down to rest awhile. But they came out like men, took the Fort, and held it with very little loss. The loss of our Brigade killed and wounded so far is less than 250 men, our loss in officers is heavy. I mean our own Brig.

The fighting has about ceased. Sharpshooting and cannonading continues. I thought I witnessed hard scenes but never anything to compare with the sight of the 25th.

Rickey is well and hearty. I was with him all day yesterday nearly. He is in fine spirits. If he does get to go home, I cannot go with him. I want to go and stay when I go. If I was in his place, I would go. Were any of you to get sick, I would come home. By staying here while you are well, I will be allowed to go should anything happen.

If anything should happen to me, I want Father to take me home. If I should be killed, my request is that my body be taken there. Where I say home. I mean wherever the family is. If anything should happen to Rickey, I will see that he is taken home. I think he will do the same with me. If anything should happen, all I have left above expenses is Father's. I have never been able to pay him for the trouble he has had in raising me. Don't be uneasy about me. I will take the best if care if myself. Always going where duty calls me. I will close for the present, hoping to hear from you soon. My love to all. I remain your brother,

G.W. Porter