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Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Geneting me to gene you you would be go due by.
The work to go and I know you would cyon. of acta, a little from Abeaca book nights Mead Quarters 15%. Brig, 300 Division 17th Army Corps. Dear Shiter Franks; Your Kind Javor of the 16th. Inst was Ecclived last evening, and perused with much pleasure of assure you, I was pleased to learn you were enjoying good health, And Seem to be in Luch fine Spirits, 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 to well. Well Thank we are not in possession of treksburg yet but I hope will be loon, I nave written to some one of you every other day hince Inc, came from the yazoo, And have de-Scribed the work I have been assisting in Superintending, The main fast which is in from of us, he undermued and on the evening of the 25th Blev who, It helew whire

Such shape as to quie us a regular fort not less than fifty (50) men. all gast gust where it stood leaving as a good by the Officers not attending to their busing rifle por in our immediate from, and and knowing whather their ammunition The Celis one gust about ten feir from was good or not, The 230 hid we can inout ours, As Soon as the fort went up we res of another Rifle pit close by So we had to hed the Forty fifth (45) Tees Ills, of our Baring Send them to their old position, He then ento this fort made by the explosion, And undertook to relieve their by this other by heavy loss succeed in holding is, This new Trest, He got Them relieved and back was about I I clock P. M. and our Brigag to their own position, He had been fighting fought them (you may say) The whole back & forth with handgemades (by the night of all day festerday wind forebe way all the men we lost were by these I. no, She enough during the night of the and the men who stood up close to the 28th two Regts. from Genl. Comby's old breastworks were hardly ever hurt. But Division were sent to help us, 56th, Ill's & These men kept near the Center and every 1/1. Towa, Regto. The 56th, was Lent undo this granade killed Loomded from fine to acron e Fort. when they got there and tens of them. I tried to Show them who loaded their frieds they found their the breastworks but could not get them to Ammunition was worth nothing and gr. I was a Stranger and I Suppose they had we mar am The 23 a chia, of our Brig. thought I was trying to push their into Manger, They were in about Three hours in and relieved them Just when we did low would have lost our prosition. I think and last about thirty men, I tola The during the fifteen simules the & 6th was in Gent, If they did not keep out of the There they lost in Killed and wounded Center they would all be killed, He

Cola me to go and bring the 3/82, Regs Hes of our Paris, and we would hold it oursely The 2187, had been engaged all day and Just lay themselves down to restautily Faut they come out like onen took The Hart & held is with but very little loss, The loss of our Brigade Killed and woun in it Lofar is not less than 250 men our loss in officers is heavy. O mean our own Paris The Jiftring has about ceased Sharpshooting and carmonading continues, I thought I have witnessea have been But never anything to Compare with The oright of the 25th Richer is well and hearty. I was with him all day yester day nearly the is in fine Spirits, If he does Jer to go before I cannot yo with him. I want to go to stay when o go. If I was is his place I work yo. Were day of you to get fich I would come home? By staying here while you are all well. I will be allowed to go of crythy Should happen, If any Thing Should hapflen sue I want Father to Lake me home of I should be tricled, ongregaret is that my body is taken there thehen I she home I mug Theherether the family is, If any Thing Should hope Pricher I will see that he is taken home. I Chings he will do the house with me. If any thing More happen all I have left about expences is talther's I have never began to kay him for the trouble he has had in raisey me, Hour he uneasy about me I will take The best of care of onyself always gon where auty calls me, I will chose for tupres hoping to hear from you Loon. my love to all I rimain four berother, Porter,





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