

Hospital on David's Island NY Harbor

Monday August 8th '64

Dear Parents,

I will write you a few lines to let you know where I am XC [etc]. I left City Point with a boat load of sick & wounded on ~~thursday~~ Wednesday [sic] last & arrived here Saturday morning early. We changed Boats twice on the way. Once at Fortress Monroe & once in NY. Harbor. the island where I am is in Long Island Sound, 20 miles above N York, it is Small island of about 20 acres & is all occupied with Hospital Buildings. quite a pleasant place. More so than City Point by far. & the weather more favorable for the sick.

I am getting along very well now, am better than when I wrote you last.

I would be glad to hear from you. I have not had a single letter since the 18th of June. I know that circumstances has changed the run of things, but why I have not heard a word from home in so long I cannot tell.

My address now is.

D. Camp Ground Hospital
Davids Island
Pavilion 18 NY. H.

While at City Point the Christian & Sanitary Commission furnished writing material. But we have none here. I am out of stamps, paper & money, but hope I have friends left. Your affectionate Son Albert.

[Letter continues with second sheet as follows]

2nd Sheet –

You are well aware that I have experienced a considerable of the rough & tumble of war. Considering the time I have been in the service, this is certainly the care as you may know from what I have written at different times. & I have not put the darkest side out, at every time either, nor do I wish to. & since I have passed so far unharmed & so luckily, I am truly thankful to a Protecting Power... & do not flatter myself that all is over yet. The war is not yet ended & its horrors are not all passed.. but considering all this my spirits are yet good & hopes firm still looking forward to a time when I shall be permitted to return home & join my friends as in former days. Perhaps you would like to know how, - "since I have escaped the death dealing shots of the enemy during the present campaign," – near or close they have come to me. in many cases I cannot tell, for they were so numerous what my escapes were. but I have actualy [sic] been struck twice with balls that glanced from trees.. these times were when we lay in breastworks. the first time the ball after it had hit a tree & flattened out, glanced & hit me fair on the head. it cut a hole through my hat & left a nice little bump on my head but that did not

last long. the next I was lying on the ground back of our works. the Skirmishers having it rather lively. when a ball glanced as the other one & took me on the skin. this one did not cut any hole in the clothing. but it subbed [sic] the skin off of my shin. & that was all of this. it seems by these that they were trying to ping where my branes [sic] lay. but as they done no harm, all right, I have had my face & eyes filled with dirt from shells that struck the ground near me. & have had my face switched with limbs that the balls cut off when in the Wilderness. but as these done me no injury I did not fear them. in fact it was to [sic] late to be afraid when it was over. my gun also got a few scratches, I told you of our skedadle [sic] in the wilderness the first day. & of my loosing [sic] my baggage &C [etc]. this was general for many came out with less than I did. when we were attacted [sic] we lay in line. I had my knapsack off & in front of me. & when I discovered that they were retreating I was loading my gun. I looked around (as I lay in the front row) & the men were digging out their best licks. those that were able to. I finished loading/except putting in the cap & picked up my knapsack & began to dig out to [sic]. the small pine & cedar trees & brush were so thick here that we could not see two rods. the Rebs were close on us when we left the line & were pouring the cold lead into us like hail Columbia. we could not keep together through the thick brush so each man was for himself & done his best to get out of that. the Rebs pressing us close. after going a little way I found that knapsack I should have to part or both fall into the hands of the enemy. I stopped, took my woolen & oil blankets of off in top & dropped the knapsack with all of its contents. but after going some ways fa[r]ther at full speed I found that I could not get out with this as the day was very warm. so I dropped the woolen Blanket & slung the other over my shoulder & made my way out with it & my gun & accoutrements, haversack & canteen. I ("ain't I glad I've got out of the Widerness") that time, but I am filling two sheets & no writing anything of account & must close for this time. I am as when I wrote you last at City Point Hospital. my health is on the gain & think I shall be on my pairs in a few days again. the weather here is very hot & dry. no particular news of late with us. the two armies are facing each other before Petersburg as they have been for some time & make a considerable noise quite often. But there has been no great damage done on our side of late. this hot weather causes a great deal of sickness with our men. they send the wounded & very sick away from here as fast as they come in, most of the time. they take the Boat here to Washington. I hope this will find you all enjoying good health. Write to me as soon as you can. to the Reg if I am not there, I try & get it. Give my respects to all who may inquire after me. & to yourself & the family I send my best respects & good wishes. Your son Albert.