

In front Port Hudson June 24/63

Dear Father,

I have rec'd since my last your letter of June 6th. I am glad to hear that all are well.

Since my last to you we have been in another engagement with the enemy & have been repulsed. Our regt. lay in the rifle pits the nights of the 11th, 12th & 13th. On the 14th we were notified that we would be drawn out that night at one O'clock. At that time we silently drew off from our position and were marched back some two miles where we came to a halt. It seems the charge was to be made that morning at day light. Our brigade with the 2d were held in reserve. At 3 am of the 15th we were marched to our positions. The other regts. which were to make the charge had gone on & formed line of battle & were only waiting the signal to charge the work. At 4 am. the action commenced. The place was charged in 3 places. Owing to the bad generalship displayed, the charges did not all take place at once & the consequence was the rebels were able to mass themselves at any one point & successfully repulse our attack. Genl. Payne [Charles J. Paine] was wounded early in the engagement & Col. [Henry W.] Birge took his place. Harry [Tiemann] went with him. At 8 AM the reserve was called upon. We marched through a ravine commanded by the rebel sharpshooters, and several of our men fell before reaching our destination. At length we came to the foot of a hill on the crest of which were 2 or 3 regts. drawn up ready for a charge. We supposed this to be the rebel breastworks & these were the regts we were to support. As we came up they gave a cheer & made a rush across the hill. A number of them fell back again. We marched to the top of the hill & the word charge was given. We made a rush supposing we were going right into their works, when to our surprise we tumbled into a deep ravine & then up another hill, from which we could see the rebel works distant about 25 yds. We lay there in the broiling sun from 8 a.m. to 12 ½ P.M. then marching through another ravine we came out at the foot of another hill distant about 15 yds from the works. Here we lay till after 9 P.M. then all the forces were drawn off baring a couple of regts. as picket. The only advantage gained was the hill over which we charged, having entrenchments thrown up on it, thereby bringing this part of our army a little nearer to the works. Our loss so far has been very heavy. Over 5,000 wounded have gone down from here to Baton Rouge. A great many are in the hospitals here. I will write more fully in my next. I have been laid up for a week with Diarrhea but hope soon to join the regt.

Harry [Tiemann] is well. Give my love to all at home. I would write more now but the mail is just going.

I remain
Your affectionate son
Frank