

St. James Hospital
New Orleans La Apl. 18th 1863

Dear Father,

In my letter last night I told you I would give you a full description of our battle. I will now try & do so to the best of my ability.

On Monday afternoon our division crossed to the west bank of the Bayou Teche. Two companies of our regt were deployed as skirmishers (one my company) & after scouting a large field for some hours we were ordered to lie down. Then we received orders that we were to lie in this position all night as a sort of guard. This we did & with the exception of a few shots occasionally fired at some sneaking foe every thing was perfectly quiet. On the 14th Tuesday at 6 A.M. we were called in & formed our regiment. We were marched up the road about 1 mile & a half & there halted to await orders. We saw the 25th regt Conn. Vols. marched up in line of battle across a large plantation. Their right wing was deployed as skirmishes. After marching in a northerly direction a fire was opened up on the right flank. They were immediately faced to the west toward the woods skirting the plantation & boldly marched on in the new direction. A heavy galling fire was kept on them from the woods, but still they kept on until suddenly the rebels opened a battery of 3 guns on them & they were ordered to lie down. The 26th Maine was then ordered forward to their support. Forming line of battle, down they went to within 150 yards of the woods, forming on the left of the 25th Conn. When they laid down too. A heavy fire was kept up from both sides. Two pieces of artillery were sent down & opened up on the rebel battery.

After some time we were ordered forward & marching down the road a little further we formed line of battle & marched across the field to the support of our gallant comrades. We went over the 26th Maine, the boys giving a gallant cheer as they went. We charged forward to within 50 yds of the woods when we laid down. The firing was terrific. The balls flew like a shower in April and more than one poor fellow was sent to his final account. We kept up the fire for half an hour, when the rebels made a flank movement, coming on our right and opening a heavy galling fire on us. We were now between two fires, and it was so terrible that my company on the right flank were driven out of their place. Someone gave the order to fall back & back they went. I saw the Colonel [Edward Leslie Molineux] as he was being carried off the field & stood close to him. I had just taken his sword from one of our boys when I was knocked over by a musket ball. I lay on the field & heard the firing going on all around me. I was utterly exhausted & could not get up to fall back to the rear. Soon I heard the 91st N.Y. making a charge on the woods & then two of our boys coming along, helped me up & I walked off to the rear. I was soon in full possession of all my faculties & after putting some cold water on my bruise (for it is nothing more) I felt a good deal easier. The only trouble is that it has stiffened my neck so I cannot twist my head. The Dr. says I will be well in a week at most, so you must not worry & think that I am worse than I am. Edward [Leslie Molineux] was shot through the mouth, the ball coming out at the side of the cheek, the wound though painful is not at all dangerous. He is in good spirits & I hope to see him well very shortly.

Business has quite revived in this place & the city presents quite a cheerful aspect. There is no news of any consequence. We destroyed 5 or 6 rebel boats on the Teche &

took about 600 prisoners. The rebels are retreating to New Iberia where I expect they will make a stand, but we will whip them there.

I forgot to say Harry [Tiemann] was not hurt in the least. He had his horse killed under him, but did not hurt him any.

I will write more in my next.

Your affectionate Son,
Frank