

New Orleans, La. Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Father,

Since my last letter to you our regiment has passed through a good many scenes some of which I will try to describe.

When I wrote to you last we were laying at Bayou Boeuf expecting to move forward.

We left Bayou Boeuf on Wednesday morning & reached Brashear city the same afternoon. Here we staid two days. The other divisions having crossed to the other side of the Bay on Saturday night. We were embarked on transports as that was the manner in which our division was to travel. We did not start till the next morning however, as there was some delay in getting the troops on board. It was a soul stirring sight to see the vessels crowded down with troops, hardly able to move so crowded was it and in the best of spirits off we started.

We steamed along very slowly preceded by a couple of gun boats to clear the way, as it was feared the rebels had some gun boats on the Lake. Our route was through Berwick Bay up the Achlafalaya river into Grand Lake, to Irish Bend, a long narrow strip or rather neck of land, where it was thought we would be able to cut off the retreat by the rebels who were to be attacked in front by Genl. [Godfrey] Weitzel & the rest of [Nathaniel] Banks' forces. The plan was well laid as events showed. Sunday night we came to anchor little thinking that the next day would decided the fate of more than one poor fellow. At 4 O'Clock next morning we started off again. At about 8 A.M. two companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana were landed and deployed as skirmishers on a large plantation, the property of Capt. A.E. Fuller of the rebel ram Queen of the West. [Now known as Oakland, the plantation was owned by the widow of former U.S. Senator Alexander Porter.] They had proceeded half way across the field when a galling fire was opened upon them from behind the stumps & fences and we could plainly see from our boat how nobly our boys sustained the fire. More troops were landed & rapidly forming line of battle were marched up to the woods which skirted the field. The rebs were driven from their position & were driven some mile back through the woods where they again took up positions along the Bayou Teche. Our forces were rapidly marched up & soon the rebels were again driven from their position. Our Company was deployed as skirmishers at 4 P.M. lay out all night. Next morning we were called in & joined our regiment.

Tuesday our Brigade went into action. Edward [Leslie Molineux] had a ball pass through his mouth coming out of the cheek. The wound though painful is not at all dangerous. He is receiving the best of treatment – is in excellent spirits. I had a ball just graze the back of my neck stiffening the cords, but otherwise doing no harm. I will write a full account in my next. The mail closes soon and I am afraid this may be late so I close.

Love to all

In haste  
Your affectionate son  
Frank