

Near Harpers Ferry Va. Aug 25/64

Dear Father

Yours of the 18th inst. came safely to hand yesterday evening. I wrote you a letter on the 20th which I hope has reached you. On the afternoon of the 20th we moved camp joining Col. Molineux. Next morning we heard heavy firing in the direction of Middletown & in a few hours troops were moving in all directions & taking their position in line of battle as the enemy were in force & our cavalry were falling back. We were soon to work & threw up quite a breastwork along the crest of the hill upon which we were posted. We were in line all day till 9½ P.M. when we received orders to move immediately & were soon off in this direction. At 1¼ A.M. 22d inst. we passed through Charlestown the place I believe where John Brown was hung. We marched steadily along till 3 A.M. when we arrived at our present encampment which is called Halltown although all official documents are headed as is my letter "near Harper's Ferry Va" we being only three miles from that place. At 4 A.M. skirmishing again commenced. At 5½ A.M. our regt. was marched out & deployed as skirmishers, acting as pickets for our Division. We saw a few rebs. but could not fire there as they were beyond long rifle range, yet our boys kept popping away keeping up a continuous "crack-crack" all day. We were relieved early next morning. Nothing further of interest occurred 'till yesterday when our Regt. with three others was marched out for a reconnaissance. We soon reached our pickets & then our Regt. was deployed as skirmishers my company with two others being on the reserve. The regiment soon advanced & were engaged almost immediately.

I was soon after detached with a portion of my company to take possession of a house beyond which our lines had advanced. I was soon there & posting my guards in position for any attack the rebs. might make on me. Our regiment dashed forward in gallant style & the roar of the musketry was incessant. We drove the rebs for some distance & then the order was sent for a retreat. The boys came back in good order & were soon in line again. I was soon after relieved & rejoined the regiment. My company was then deployed but I did not have to advance. We lost one officer Capt. Pettit dangerously wounded & nine enlisted men two of whom were left on the field, the officers of their companies not knowing that they were wounded. The regt. soon after returned to camp. I hear this morning from our Lieut. Col. that our regt. was highly spoken of by the Genls. who witnessed the engagement & also in the report made by the officers commanding the expedition.

We have quite a strong line of breastworks thrown up & I think the rebs will have some trouble to get us out of here. It is hard to say whether we will wait for them or pitch in & drive them away. We can see them very plainly from our picket line which is out about ½ miles.

The weather has been very fine lately. Yesterday was pretty warm but we were too busy to notice it.

Col. Molineux is quite well & busy as a bee. I have not seen him for two days.

Anthony receive his commissions by yesterday's mail & will soon be mustered. He sends his respects. Our mail arrangements are very incomplete & you may not hear from me very often, but I will write as often as possible.

Give my love to all the folks Grandmother &c.

I remain

Your Affectionate Son

Frank.

Have you ever received my commissions letters &c.?