

Tannallytown D.C. Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Father

Yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. came to hand on the 8<sup>th</sup> & owing to my being on Court Martial I have been unable to answer it before.

I am happy to hear of the continued good health of our folks at home & hope the country air may have the benefits which you desire.

As far as I am concerned I enjoy remarkably good health owing as much to the change of climate as any thing else in my opinion.

I did not in any of my letters give you a description of the works at Petersburg or rather at Bermuda Hundreds in Butler's front & I will now endeavor to do so. As you already know Butler's line extends from the James to the Appomattox rivers a distance of three miles. The works are about 7 feet high with an earthen platform of a foot high so that the men can step up & deliver their fire & then fall back under cover. The works are at the base about 12 to 14 feet thick & on top about 5 feet thick. All along the top of the works sand bags are placed as a protection for our Sharpshooters. At about every 250 yards or maybe more, strong redoubts are built mounting 10 or 12 guns each. These redoubts are numbered respectively Battery 1, 2, &c. Opposite every other battery is thrown up a strong redoubt. These outer redoubts are some 100 yards from the line of breastworks & are so situated that the batteries in their rear & on either side command them, so that even should the rebs. take one of them the other batteries could render it untenable. The works are a great deal stronger as a work of art than Port Hudson was, & yet Port Hudson would be harder to take for the reason that it is naturally fortified.

When we were at Bermuda our camp lay between batteries 5 & 6. One of the batteries (I think No. 5) has been attacked since its erection 15 to 20 times & every time the rebs. were repulsed with great slaughter.

We are now encamped on a high hill near "Fort Gaines" having changed our camp yesterday. I like the position better than the last one occupied as we have more room. I think we will stay here some time as I understand that we are attached to the "defenses of Washington," which is very probable as from 30000 to 40000, 100 day men go home in a week.

I am at present member of a Genl. Court Martial having been detailed Saturday. We have to sit without regard to hours, which uses up nearly all my time & when I get back to camp I do not feel much like doing any thing.

I took a walk this morning to the Potomac & went in swimming in the canal which runs along side of that noble river. At present the river is very low owing to the great want of rain now prevailing.

Every thing here is as hard & dry as a stick. Yesterday the Thermometer stood at 98° in the shade, so you can imagine what we feel who are in the sun, for if you were to put a sheet up you would have as much protection as we have now.

I do not know that I told you that Edward had recovered, & supposing us to be at Monocacy Md. he reported there & Genl. Emory at once put him in command of such troops of the 3d Division as were there. I expect he will join us now that we are in camp – the weather to day is "tremenjuously" hot. Great beads of perspiration roll of at the least exertion so I lay perfectly quiet & keep still.

Hoping that this finds you Nattie & baby in better health

I remain

Your Affectionate Son

Frank.

Love to all