

the attack the first day we could have taken the place, but that now it was almost impossible for Gardner had fortified every point which Banks was mounting his big guns. They said the place could be starved out in a couple of weeks without our losing a man & that that was the only way it could be taken. That our shells & did them no harm for the ravines & rifle pits protected them, & we might cannonade a month & not knock down the earthworks. They said also that the Commanding General would be very much ashamed of himself when he ever got inside & saw what had kept him out so long. After Banks had got everything fixed for a siege he seemed to change again & another attack was ordered, which came off on the 14<sup>th</sup> (when I was wounded) with same result as at first. We lost 2000 men that morning & gained nothing, for that night the troops were again withdrawn to their old positions. Then came Banks order congratulating the soldiers for what they had done, - 'Bravo & humbug!' & at the same time calling for 1000 volunteers to storm the works, to whom a medal was to be given &c.

That of course made the soldiers who had been in the previous battles mad, for they said very naturally, why do these men deserve a medal more than we. We have been ordered in twice & twice have been driven back with little loss. We have

63  
27/63  
Dear Mother  
It is a long time since I have written you a letter, - that is one worthy of the name, & if none of my notes have reached you it must be very nearly a month since you heard a word about me. I am waiting for a boat now to go down to New Orleans & gather up put her along today, but as I have been expecting her on the same day, - I shall not start down to the city before commencing my letter. I think it most probable it will be finished soon there though. My wound is getting along nicely & it will not be long before I am able to write letters & then I can get them once more pretty much as usual. - Old water is a great thing for it is all I have need, & as I have said my leg is getting well fast. We have very comfortable quarters here compared with what we have had. The house is generally cool & pleasant & with the wind from the sea it is a great deal better than we had at the front. I am in "Hard One" in the front parlor. The Ward takes in both parlors, & has ten beds. Of these four are in the front & six in the back room. Some of the ten are dangerously wounded although some are very badly. Our great want is books, & reading matter generally. One copy of the Woman in White has been the rounds of the room twice - it is about all we have in the way of novels

I borrowed a Bible from the Lieut. next one yet  
today & have been reading up about the battles of the  
old Kings - they had some tough fights. About once in  
three or four days a boy will come in with papers &  
we soon settle his stock in trade. There being  
four of us we each take a different paper & then  
change round. We only have two regular ~~news~~  
events, beside our meals, to break the monotony of  
the day. They come off at 10.30 Am, & at 4 P.M.

At those hours the Ward Master brings round a big  
bucket of Claret punch & hands us each a mug full.

It is about the most refreshing thing we could have.

Sometimes a man will come along with oranges  
or Apples & he always finds lots of customers for even  
such a little thing as buying an orange gives us some-  
thing new to think of. Mrs Tomlin (the lady after  
whom the hospital is named) comes in once a day  
for a few minutes, & as she is pretty & pleasant looking  
her visit is a treat. I had quite a compliment  
paid me yesterday by the Head steward when he came  
in to tell me that he was going down till today. He  
informed me that he was sorry he was going to leave  
me so soon for "of all men I have ever seen you  
are about the coolest & make the least fuss."

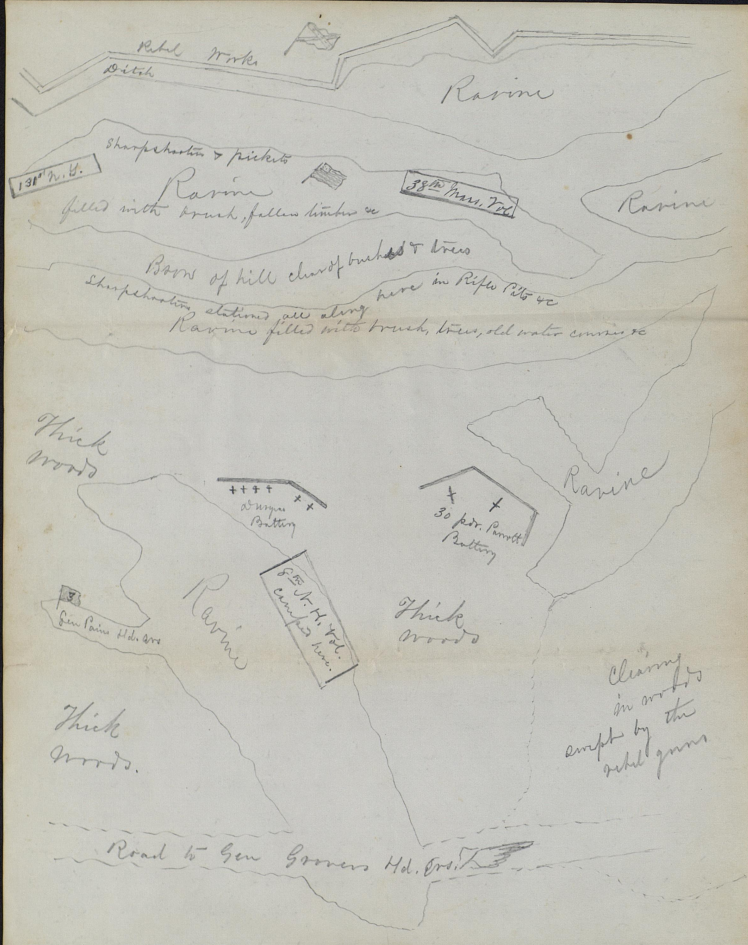
What do you think of that? I suppose it astonished  
him to find that any one could hold their tongue and  
keep quiet while suffering pain. We have a lot of  
young men here who cry if they cut their fingers, and  
are always wishing they could get home & wondering  
if they can get off right away, when their time is up in  
a couple of weeks. They all go by the name of "Green  
back men" down here for money seems to be all they

think of or care for. They were fighting at Port  
Hudson all day yesterday but with what result we don't  
know yet. I don't believe it will amount to more than the  
other attacks, but this I do know, if Banks orders a  
third charge & it is again repulsed, he is killed dead.  
He is very nearly "played out" now for neither men  
or Officers have the least confidence in him, & if  
he is thought as little of now as here, he will not  
be in command of this Dept. many months longer.

His whole course of action during this campaign  
has proved him to be more anxious to make political  
capital out of the affair, than to restore the Union.

It has been nothing but a series of mistakes since  
he first got to Port Hudson. Gen. Sherman made  
an earnest protest against the first fight, for he  
said very truly that we knew nothing of the ground  
save that it was filled with ravines, each one of  
which would prove a mere slaughter pen. He is  
an old soldier & one of the best in the Dept. The  
result proved he was right. We lost over 1500 men  
& never got within eight Rods of the enemies works.

Just as we did begin to gain the least advantage the  
men were withdrawn, & then Banks set to work to  
re-secure the place. It took some two weeks to get  
the heavy guns in position, but even then they merely  
opened a scattering fire & did not ~~attempt~~ <sup>attempt</sup> a regular  
cannonade as was expected. The whole thing was  
so slow that the boys got up a story that Banks had  
ordered the guns painted & covered over, to make them  
look nice. Deuster came in to our lines every day  
& all said the same thing. If we had continued



5.  
 his own friends & comrades shot down on each side, our Regiments have been cut to pieces, & our officers mostly all killed & wounded, & now after all this the entire glory & credit is to be given to men who may have never been under fire. You may say that they could volunteer & so get that medal, but there are hundreds of men who would go into the front a dozen times if ordered who would not volunteer for the sake of those at home. If any men deserve honorable mention I think the 4th Wis. & 8th N. H. Vol. who came out of the fight, one with 400 men & the other with 90, 10. One thing is certain if the next charge is made where we went in, neither Banks or any other man will be much troubled about getting up a design for those famous medals for not fifty men out of the whole would ever come back. My head is beginning to ache so good bye for this present.  
 It is afternoon & Dr. Webster has just been his rounds examining all our wounds. This is exactly what he said to me. "You are getting along first rate but that leg will keep you in bed a fortnight easy, & keep you limping for a couple of months sure." I think I shall be out of bed before the fortnight, but I guess he is about right as to the couple of months. I think I shall have to read up my diary if I am to tell you all that has happened since I left New Orleans for a camp life. I have been more & been through more than in any

previous six months of my life. I got to Springfield  
landing on the 31<sup>st</sup> May & was busy there all day unloading  
the heavy siege guns & the Ammunition etc. The  
next day I had a chance offered me of going to the front  
& as H.M. had an Assistant Ordnance Officer there was  
not much for me to do, so I went up & over to Mack's  
Battery. I found he was stationed only 200 yds from  
the rebel works & of course within easy shelling range.

There was an Indiana Battery of 24 32 pdr. Parrotts  
down in the field in front of him & about 400 yds.  
nearer, so they took most of the attention of the  
rebels. I placed that night with Mack under a big  
oak tree, where he has his quarters. We were only  
disturbed once when one of their big 64 pdr. shells  
from "Lady Davis" burst about fifty yds. to our right.  
That woke us up.

The next day was my birthday  
& I intended to go over to the right & see what ground I  
could find, but Mack had to get leave from Gen. Paine  
before he could leave & I decided to wait for him until the  
next day. We took breakfast under the tree where  
we passed the night & while eating it another of their  
big shells burst in front of us, making a hole in the  
ground big enough to bury a horse & scattering the dirt  
all over us. Luckily we had about finished breakfast  
for the real was entirely spoiled. There was a pretty  
heavy fire kept up all the morning between the rebel  
gun "Lady Davis" & the 32 pdr. Parrotts. Both sides made  
some splendid shots. But it amounted to nothing.

The next day I rode over to see how things were looking  
on the right & was introduced to Gen. Paine by Mack.  
I found he was short of Staff Officers & Knowing I should

see work with him, volunteered as did while I was  
up there. My offer was accepted & I was asked to  
report as soon as possible. From there we rode over  
through the woods to several different camps & then back  
to a late dinner. In afternoon I bought a horse  
from Mack, he having several which he picked up  
in the Tetch country & it being necessary for me to have  
one in the business I am now in. After tea I started  
for Gen. Paine's Headquarters but got lost in the woods  
& only brought up there about 9 P.M. Talked for a  
little while & then laid down & went to sleep. There  
is no such thing as undressing of course for we  
are under fire all the time & have to be ready at  
a moment's notice. I took off my coat for a pillow,  
& rolled myself up <sup>in</sup> a blanket, & then listened  
to the shells as they passed over & fell around until  
I dropped off to sleep. Our quarters are in a  
ravine just behind Duryan's Battery & of course we  
catch all stray balls intended for him. We are only  
800 yds. from the rebel works, & I hear the intention  
is to move up still nearer in a day or two. They  
hoisted our Division flag (No. 3) a few days since  
so that the top was about two feet above the bank  
under which the General was, & in twenty minutes  
the rebels had put four Rifle Balls through it. The  
troops who are lying here have put up shelters  
of bushes & branches of trees, for no tent can be  
raised without drawing a direct fire. On the  
next page I give you a map of the place as  
near as I could get it, & I guess it is about  
right.

miles. We have lost 100 men by sun stroke & more than half the troops are sick. The Ambulances were loaded & sent back to Port Hudson & ordered to follow us up & join as soon as possible. Gen. P. said tonight that he would not march troops so again whatever orders he might get. We were to start at 4 Am. But the time was changed to six. At the latter hour we left Redwood Point & recommenced our march. We had one alarm in consequence of a shot being fired at our flankers by some guerrillas, but it was no attack & we moved on again. I was taken sick early this morning & by eight was too unwell to ride.

I went back & found Dr. Ward, surgeon 38<sup>th</sup> Mass, and got a dose from him which strengthened me for the time & enabled me to keep on my horse till 10 Am. when we halted by the Comite River. We stayed here all day resting & recruiting & it was fortunate we did so, for I have no doubt but what it saved a very great many from a fit of sickness. I lay right down on the grass & slept until 2 P.M. & then took a good swim in the Comite River. The two together set me up once more & I rode back to Hd. Qrs. feeling almost well. Porter & I took a blanket & laid down under the trees & talked & rested till supper time. After tea we moved Hd. Qrs. to the other side.

The General's Staff now consists of Lieut. French A.S.G. Capt. Allen Inspector General, Capt. Porter Chief Dr. Master of the Division, Lieut. Colby Aid, & myself. Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> Took breakfast with the Gen. this morning & then made arrangements with Allen to meet with him & Porter while on the Staff. I of course gain by it for Quartermasters always live better than any one else. News came in this morning that Col. Grierson with the Illinois Cavalry & the 4<sup>th</sup> Wis. Regt. (mounted Infantry) had been drawn into an ambush by the rebels up on the Clinton road, & defeated with considerable loss. Gen. Paine was sent for by Banks & was over there all the morning, but told us at noon that we were to start at 4 Am. tomorrow with 2000 men to try & find the rebels. In afternoon Allen & I had to carry round the orders to the different Regiments. Two of course lay out in the front the 131<sup>st</sup> N.Y. & the 38<sup>th</sup> Mass. and I had a gay time getting out to them I assure you & I had to pass over the head of the hill four different times, for I got a wrong direction from one of the Officers of the Battery & so started wrong. How the Balls did fly! One passed through the collar of my coat, & a second cut off one of my spurs, as I was getting over a big log. I was too proud to run as I crossed the hill, for it was in front of our lines as well as theirs, & I came near paying for it. That evening Allen & I went down to Porter's quarters for supper & to get our Canteens filled with Whiskey for the march. It was late when we left & the night proved dark as Egypt & as a matter of course we lost our way. You never

saw such a place to get lost in as the woods around  
 Port Hudson. Wagon roads & paths cross each other  
 in every direction, & after following one for perhaps  
 half a mile it suddenly ends nowhere or brings up  
 against a fallen tree. We were over two hours getting  
 back to our quarters, & what was furnished for  
 five orders in different places all looking for Gen.  
 Paine's quarters. We towed the whole lot down with  
 us, & finally got to the ravine just in time to be greeted  
 by a shell which rolled in from the bank above, but  
 fortunately did not burst. If it had we should have  
 been spared the Clinton expedition. Up at 3 A.M. the  
 next day & started at 4 o'clock. Rode forward with the  
 Gen. about two miles & was then sent back to take  
 the baggage train by another road up to the "Plains Store"  
 & meet the troops there. It was fearfully blind  
 work for I knew nothing of the road, knew nothing  
 of the Plains Store, or even the direction it was in,  
 & knew still less of where the baggage train might  
 be. I went back through the woods until I got  
 nearly to Porter's quarters, the starting point of the train,  
 & then I met a team going down to the Landing, &  
 found out from the Stage Master that my train  
 was about three hours ahead on the Bayou Sarah  
 road. I followed that up & finding the train was still  
 a long ways in front & that it was going on all right  
 I took a short cut across which a drakey showed me,  
 meaning to get to the Plains Store first. It was only  
 another example of the "short way across being the long  
 way round," for I rode fully ten miles before I got to my  
 destination. Found the train & part of the Supply had  
 arrived, & after waiting for the rest of the troops to join

us, Allen & I formed column of march. He did not  
 wait for the Cavalry but left them to follow on & at  
 10 A.M. we started again in the following order.

	8 <sup>th</sup> New Hamp. Vol.	
	9 <sup>th</sup> New York "	
1 <sup>st</sup> Section	Dropps Battery	12 pd. Guns.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mass. Vol.	} Gooding's Brigade
	3 <sup>rd</sup> " "	
	5 <sup>th</sup> " "	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Section	Dropps Battery	
1	"	3 inch Rifles
	5-2 <sup>nd</sup> Mass. Vol.	
	Ammunition Train	

Plankers

Plankers

At 12 we halted for dinner at an old Sugar House &  
 here the Cavalry joined us. At one we resumed  
 the march in the same order except that the  
 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Illinois & the 1<sup>st</sup> La. Cav. under Col. Geisler  
 led the advance & the 4<sup>th</sup> Wis. Vol. brought up the  
 rear & guarded the train. We marched till 4 P.M.  
 over a hot dry plain with the thermometer at 98°  
 in the shade. By this time the men were pretty well  
 used up - the Ambulances & Baggage Wagons were  
 filled with the sick & no care could prevent straggling.  
 We halted in the woods until 6.30 P.M. to give the  
 men rest & supper, & then started in the cool of the  
 evening. We got to Redwood Bend at 10.30 o'clock after  
 a most fatiguing days work. We have come over 20

examine some new works the rebels have been throwing up & asked me to accompany him.

We went over by the river where we lived before going to Clinton & up into the 30<sup>th</sup> Par. Battery. We found it was not quite safe to ride down there however for the place was kept pretty clear by the rebel sharpshooters, so we left our horses behind the hill with the orderly & walked down. After examining the works from the Battery we went out side & stood there a few minutes with our glasses, & then the balls began to fly thick & come nearer. The General did not seem to mind it however & of course I couldn't. I don't think I care anyhow for I believe most firmly that no man will be hit before his time, & when the letter does come he can't escape whether he is in the advance or rear. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday I was quite unwell & did but little duty, the two latter days being sick in bed. Saturday night I learned for certain that the attack was coming off the next day at 2 A.M. so I went up & reported for duty. I could walk but not ride & I thought I could fight. Some of our pickets captured a letter from Gen. Gardner to day. It was addressed to Gen. Pemberton or Gen. Johnson & written in cypher & signed

13.  
of the river & then managed to get a few hours sleep until midnight. It is the greatest country for Blackberries I ever saw. You can pick all he can eat by just sitting down under the bush & never moving from his place - they are thicker than the leaves - almost. It seems to be a great country for Chickens too for we have lived on them ever since we first started & have now some thirty live ones in the wagon. Most all of the troops are living in the same regal style, & I hear the boys say they hope we shall go back by a different road, for this part of the Confederacy is about cleaned out. Gen. Paine don't care how much men forage as long as they don't go too far & he don't know of it. We have two pretty smart darkies with us who know this country well, & they bring us in vegetables, fresh milk &c., so our meals is well supplied. I went up to a house this afternoon & it was literally sacked & turned inside out. The floors, piazzas & garden were covered with loose clothing of all sorts & kinds, & tables & chairs were heaped up inside as if the soldiers meant to set fire to the whole. I found a few lemons in the kitchen which was all I wanted, & just what Dr. Ward told me I must eat freely, so of course they were confiscated for "Hospital Stores". At midnight we started with the knowledge that if we met the enemy at all it would be within six hours. The

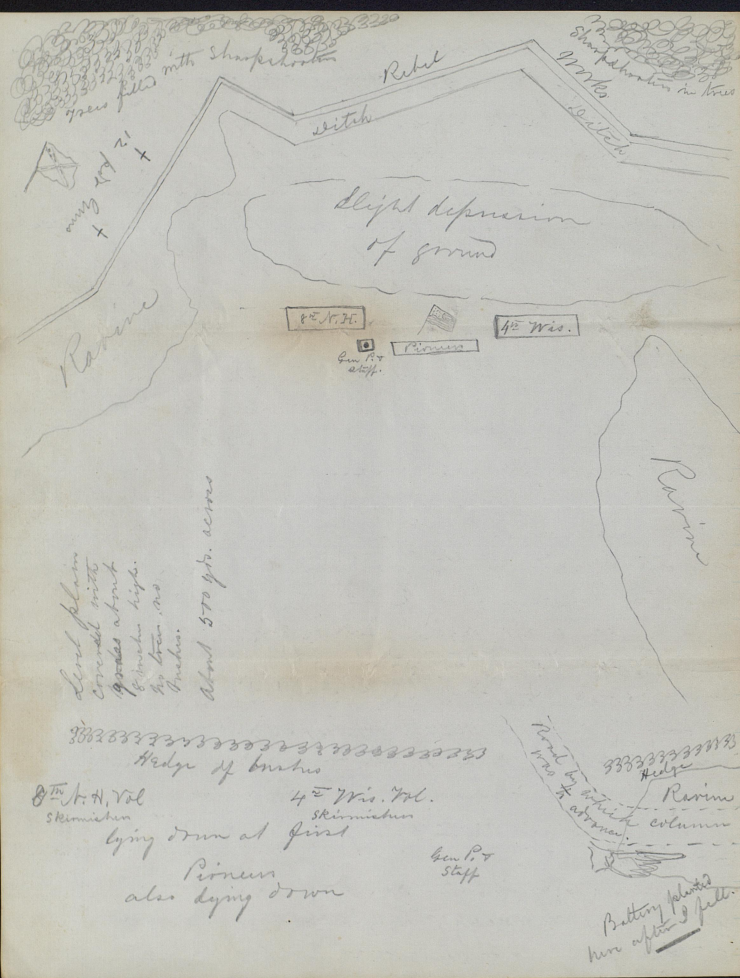
orders were to halt ten minutes every half hour so as to keep the troops fresh in case of trouble. All of the staff were sent back & stationed along the column to keep it closed up, save myself & I was ordered to remain with the Gen. It was a beautiful sight to see the long line of bayonets glittering in the snowlight & to hear the steady tramp of the men as they passed along the road, marching by platoons. I was kept busy enough carrying orders etc & was sent to the extreme front to Col. Grissom, three times. At 6 A.M. the Inftry were halted about a mile & a half from Clinton & the Cavalry entered the town. Of course I went on to see the Gen, & it was well worth my while.

I had heard that Grissom's Cavalry understood how to do the thing up in style but never saw them at work before. They cleared out that town in less time than you would have thought they could have ridden through it. Every store was broken open & tobacco, whiskey, dry goods, jewelry & candy and about every thing else usually sold in a country town was sluttred about over the side walks & transferred to the pockets of the troops.

The public buildings were set on fire & when I left, the Rail road depot & Commissary warehouse were all a mass of flames. The whole column was now countermarched & we went back to our quarters of the night before on the Comite river. I rode over 30 miles before

breakfast. We remained all this day without moving for it was too hot to stir - I never felt such hot & sick weather. At 6 P.M. we took up the line of march again & at 10 P.M. reached Redwood Riv. where we camped for the night. A six hour march the next day took us into our quarters before Port Hudson - a lined out, raised up crowd. Such a set of hard looking customers you don't often see as we were on our return. It was hard telling officers from privates for all were about alike. We had all slept on our clothes ~~for~~ since we started, were covered with mud & dirt from head to foot, our faces, necks & hands brown almost black by the sun and to finish up the picture none of us had been able to wash for nearly two days. Blacked boots & "boiled shirts" and unheated of things. We took the rest of that day (from 8<sup>am</sup>) to rest, but in the evening went with Gen. Raine to find our new quarters which are back of the ones we left, & nearer the main road. As a matter of course we all got lost, & had to fracture our horses to trees & lie down beside them & so pass the night in the woods. Foundry from 9<sup>am</sup> Found out where we were when daylight came & rode back to Porters camp for breakfast. From there I was sent over to Gen. Crover with a message & then went over to the 8<sup>th</sup> Vermont to see Chaplain Williams. He was sick in the hospital and after talking to him a few minutes I had to return to report to Gen. R. The latter was just starting for the front to





Frank Gardner Maj. Gen. Comd. Port Hudson  
 Some of our officers have been puzzling over it all the afternoon but no one can read it. I was sent over to report to Gen. Grover at 10 P.M. so that I could bring back the order for the attack in the morning. I reported & was told to be on hand at 1 A.M. so lay down & slept until that time. Our column was formed this afternoon & is resting tonight in the woods on side of the road. The orders for tomorrow were read to each Regiment as it fell in. The attack in this order

- |                                  |                          |             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 8th New Hamp. Skirmisher         | 4th Wis. Vol. Skirmisher |             |
| Pioners                          |                          | } 1st Brig. |
| with bands for bridge            |                          |             |
| 110th New York with Cotton bags. |                          |             |
| 4th Mass. with hand grenades     |                          | } 2nd Brig. |
| 28th Conn. Vol                   |                          |             |
| 133rd New York                   |                          | } 3rd Brig. |
| 173rd "                          |                          |             |
| 31st Mass Vol                    |                          |             |
| 38th "                           |                          | } 4th Brig. |
| 58th "                           |                          |             |
| 156th New York                   |                          |             |

Aims Battery 6th Ind. Rifles  
 The plan is for the Skirmisher & Pioners to advance & while the former engage the rebels

in their works the Pioneers are to place their boards in the ditch. The Cotton men are then to advance & after throwing their bags of Cotton into the ditch are to unsling their guns & go in. The Handgrenade men follow up & then the troops.

A quick step only is to be used - no doubt quick allowed. Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> Left Grooms quarters at 1.30 Am. with Gen. G. & his Staff. Upon getting to the front found Paine had already formed his column, & at 3 Am I was sent to order it forward to make way for Gen. Wittzels Division. Paine was in the extreme advance forming the skirmishers behind the hedge, which was our shelter. After giving the order I returned to Groom to carry the final order for the attack. At 4 Am it came & I hurried forward with it. The rebels had just discovered us & were opening a hot fire, although they could not have seen many of us, for the troops were all lying down & only the Officers could be seen standing about. I was just giving the order to Gen Paine when a spent ball struck me full & fair on the right breast. It stopped me short but did no harm beyond leaving a black & blue mark. The General now went back on the road telling us to remain in a small hollow in the ground, where he could find us. While sitting here & waiting for the word, the rebels threw in one of their "jerk lots" consisting of old iron, chains

nails, &c. One piece of Railroad iron struck between Lt. Cooley & another man who were sitting close together, & the way they jumped was not slow by any means. I shall never forget Cooleys fall with its evident horror & scare, & we were all laughing at him when the Gen. came up. "Gentlemen we will go forward, I want my Staff with me." Deagan, Pease & myself all jumped up & went on, giving the word to the Skirmishers, who had been lying behind the hedge all this time. Allen was ordered to remain with the Cotton men & Cooley I did not see afterwards - I rather think he did not get over his scare time enough to go with us. I dont know how the others felt as we burst through the hedge, but I was of the opinion that none of us were ever coming back. It was hot enough behind the hedge - it was ten times worse in front. I dont think I ever felt better though than at that moment - I would not have changed places with anyone in the rear for all they could have offered. I found a map on the next edge of the ground & the different places we occupied while I was on my legs. I fell just about where I have placed Gen Paine & Staff (□) and in getting across to that place I had my coat cut twice & my cap struck once, while carrying it in my hand. The last 15 men from the Pioneer Company alone before I stopped, & I dont know how many of the skirmishers had fallen.

Division Field Hospital & there Dr. Ward dressed my wound. They had to cut my clothes all off & they were so utterly spoiled by blood & dirt etc, that they had to be thrown away. From the Hospital I was taken to Capt. Porter's quarters, where I remained until Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Gen. Paine was not got off the field until night. They made two attempts to get to him & lost five men & so had to give it up till dark. That night the troops were all withdrawn to their old positions & the total summing up stands "Nothing gained, 2000 men lost." While in the Hospital I saw one man brought in shot through both legs. He was singing "Bob Ridley, oh! oh! oh!" at the top of his voice - it saved him from being killed! I think you have had about enough of "blood & thunder" by this time so I shall cut the rest short. Thursday I was thought well enough to start for A. O. & Porter got leave to go down with me. He got Gen. Paine's carriage & a careful driver but in spite of all that ride to Springfield Landing was the roughest I ever took - my leg hurts to think of it. We got on board that at noon & started for A. O. But on getting here were ordered off, as the

21.  
About two minutes after I was shot Paine dropped, & three minutes after that Paine fell, all shot in the leg. Capt. Dyer was the only one not touched & he passed through the whole without a scratch. You will see from the map that they had an enfilading fire over the whole field & they swept it from four different points not counting the sharpshooters on the trees. They used but little Artillery but nothing could have been hotter than the fire of their Infantry. They had two Regts & so were enabled to keep up a steady fire as we came on. Nothing I can say can give you any idea of how thick the balls flew. It was a perfect rain of lead. I experienced it when I fell even more than while I was advancing. When Gen. Paine fell we were defeated. The skirmishes were not supported & never got up to the ditch. Some of the handgrenade men were sent up but they could not stand the pressure & could not get near enough to throw the grenades. What few were thrown did not explode & that branch of the service proved a total failure. A few of the regiments were sent up after a while & ordered to lie down, & in this position the fight was kept up all the morning, sometimes being very hot & then again more scattering. All I felt of the ball when it struck me was a quick sharp blow, as if I had been hit with a hammer, but no pain whatever. I took one step forward & "down came my horse"

At first I thought my leg was broken, I lost all power over it so quickly. I sat down and pulled off my boot, & soon saw the ball had passed through so I knew I had escaped that. Then I came to a very sudden conclusion that I had better lie down. I looked at my watch - it was quarter of five. That is the last I remember for some time. When I came to I found the sun had risen & it didn't take me long to remember where I was for the shells were striking around me in every direction. Just as I was thinking I had got into a scrape, two balls hit my back as it lay beside me, clink! clink! and then I was sure of it. It really did seem as if every square inch of ground around me was being ploughed up - I could see the dirt knocked off everywhere & every now & then one of their percussion bullets would explode beside me.

To make matters more pleasant a Battery & regiment on our side opened fire on the rebels & of course every shot passed over the ground where I was lying. The scream of the shells, the whistle of the Minnie Balls & the thud! thud! ping! ping! as they struck around me, was exciting. The next thing I felt was a stinging pain in my leg below the wound. I looked down - my leg was covered with black ants. Then I began to think, how the devil shall I get out of this? I raised my head a moment & looked round. There were the

rebel works, too down near, and the hedge we had left, a terrible way off. I made up my mind to try it though & started to crawl off, dragging my leg. I got about ten feet I suppose before I gave out the first time. Rested a little while, got a little whiskey from my canteen & tried it again. I had a dozen balls sent at my unfortunate head every time I raised it above the grass, by the secondels up in the trees, but they only hit me once more. I must have glanced from something or been a spent ball, for although it raised a big lump on the back of my head which gave me great pain for several days, it did no further damage. I fainted once after that from the pain & heat together & if it had not been for a couple of lemons I had put in my pocket I don't know as I could have kept my head straight & have got off the field. I had got within a few yards of the hedge when a Capt. of the 50th Mass. who was lying with his men behind the bushes, saw me scrambling myself along by my hands, & thinking it was a queer way of getting along called out to know if I was wounded. As soon as he heard I was, he ran out with his first Lieut. & brought me in & laid me in the shade. I wasn't glad to get there either - oh no! I wasn't sorry to be lifted on a stretcher & carried down the road I had walked up in the morning, either. Being a Staff officer I was taken to the

Rebels held Plaquemine below and had  
 command of the river. We were taken to the  
 M. S. Barracks, - another side; this time in  
 the Ambulance - oh! oh! oh! & kept there  
 till Saturday, when we were moved to our present  
 quarters. We were not quite sure on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
 inst. but what we should all be captured be-  
 fore night, for we were threatened with an at-  
 tack here. The rebels made a dash down the  
 road & there was some little fighting out at  
 the pickets, but they got no further than the  
 picket lines. It was a very small force  
 & easily repulsed. They are getting very bold  
 down below however for Brashier is reported  
 as being captured by them, & they attacked  
 Fort Butler at Donaldsonville day before  
 yesterday. Our gun boats did good work  
 there however. The band of the 55<sup>th</sup> Mass.  
 passes our door about every day now playing  
 the Dead March, - cheerful! Sometimes we  
 are favored two or three times, but always  
 once. Scarcely a day passes that we do not  
 lose some good Officer. Very many are dying  
 of their wounds which have been mismanaged  
 or not attended to. I am going to start a new  
 fashion in pants when I get to N. C. and  
 instead of the stripe down the side put on.

white bows. You see I have to have the whole  
side cut open, so I have had tapes sewed on  
to fasten it up & they look gay.

Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> I haven't got off yet but  
this morning the Doctor told me I should  
probably be sent down to day. The boats  
are all kept up at Springfield Landing in  
expectation of an attack ~~there~~ at Port St. to-  
morrow. One is to come down this afternoon  
with sick women & the Doctor promised  
to stop her for me. I want to get down  
and get my letters & see to things generally.

Please remember that you will have plenty  
of time to write me again for I cannot  
leave ~~here~~ much before the last of July

Give my love to Grandmother  
Father & all at home. I write Father  
by this same mail.

Your loving son  
Appleton