

Crampton's Gap 6 miles from

Harpers Ferry Sept 18th 1862

Friend Bromney,

According to promise I take this my first opportunity to write to you. One week ago last Sunday I took out my portfolio and was just going to commence a letter to you when I heard the captain hollar out "fall in! fall in!" and I hurried out of my tent and was told to take sixty rounds of cartridges and our guns and blankets and be ready for a march in half an hour. We were all ready at the appointed time and started out about three o'clock P.M. and marched here I do not know how many miles but it seemed a great way to us you may be assured. I saw General McClellan and staff at Georgetown. He looks just like his pictures. We passed Phil Wales and his company and saw him and Jesse Hubbard and Ed Holmes and Jim Fonda. Ed Holmes is here now his company are engaged in the fight now going on at Harpers Ferry. They have been fighting three or four days there. we can hear the cannonading very plainly from here, yesterday seemed to be the hardest fighting of any day yet. It sounds very much like twenty five or thirty horses on a barn floor kicking and stamping. And every little while we here one of those great siege guns which pounds just like distant thunder. But Sunday I was still closer to a battle as you have probably heard which was at the taking of this gap from the rebles. They had I have heard about sixteen Regiments in the field while we had but about five thousand men. there is no hill around Cherry Valley to be compared to this in length, steepness, and difficulty of ascent, we came in sight of them about three o'clock PM when we drew up in line of battle but soon found that we were to far off to fight with musket so we were moved about a mile and a half nearer when our battery opened upon them. We were soon greeted by a [illegible] whizzing sound and soon a cannon ball struck about six rods in our rear. the infantry were then moved a little farther toward them under a small hill while our battery still kept up a brisk fire and was as oftin answered by the rebles. I tell you the balls and shell whistled over our heads like hail. I tell you it is an ugly sound to hear those shell coming toward you. Well we lay under the hill sometime longer when we were ordered to charge upon them all but our Regiment was soon on a double quick (we were in the reserve) and then the musketry opened upon them there was some noise it was a desperate assault but our men carried the day with a comparatively small job. Next day we were marched over the battle ground and it was a tough sight I tell you. the ground was literally strewn with dead rebles, guns, straps, cartridge boxes, cup boxes, swrods, sheaths + c +e we took from five to seven hundred prisoners. they are a ragged looking lott as I ever saw. they were made to bury their comrades they put as many as fifty-three in some graves. I do not know how long we will stay here. we are liable to be called away at any moment. I send you some confederate money I have some other small things which small things which I picked up on the battle field which I cannot send in a letter. I must close for want of paper. Give my respects to Mr. Hall + Lady. tell our folks I am well. Yours with Respect, ED Hills Direct Co. G. 121st Regt Washington D.C.