

no 18

Will write more as soon as I have opportunity
Concord for no Rebel rifles

Headquarters 9th NY Vol
Opposite Fredericksburg Va Dec 16th 1862
(In the old Camp)

Dear Friends

I am well aware that at this time you at Home are feeling unusually anxious about your son & brother C. W. and as I have a few moments this morning to rest I occupy them in writing that I may gladden your hearts with the knowledge of my safety and that as yet I am minus a scratch from the Rebel bullets for which I can only feel thankful to Him who ruleth over all

We broke up Camp and started for the Field of Battle last Thursday and returned from the front of the enemies lines at 2 o'clock this morning to our old Camp It has been the hardest fought Battle I have witnessed although our Regt has not but little in comparison to what others have I am not certain of the whole number of ours but they have reported between 50 & 60 in killed & wounded Co I had 2 only slightly wounded How we have been

Dec. 16th 1862

through such a storm of lead & iron is an
mystery to me as it is to us all But some
Regts were nearly annihilated (Evening)

I understand there is no mail to leave here except
Official at present but I feel anxious to have one
ready when it does leave I learn from the Adjut
that our Brigade lost 500 in R. F. W. our Division
1000, and our whole to be 1600 killed & covered
The City ^{where} ~~where~~ we have made it our quarters since
Friday morning is one heap of ruins They ^{have} not
occupied it in force their entrenchments being
half a mile back but we shelled everything out
on Thursday completely riddling every Building

It commenced early in the morning and the
incessant roar reminded me very much of 4th of July
but it was a sorry celebration to the ill fated City

I counted 38 holes in one Building varying in size
from 4 to 10 inches The inhabitants were surprised
as it seems and left in great haste as many
of the Houses that I entered the tables were spread
and ^{their} meal half finished cups of tea & coffee stood
stood half drunk and my heart was somewhat
saddened when I entered those splendid ^{once} parlors ^{once}
and see the furniture of the highest cost smashed

Wanted soon to see your son & brother Chas W Wilson