

Near Fort Mifflin, Feb. 11th 1862

Dear Sister: We ~~have~~ received orders this morn-  
ing to march at sunrise <sup>but</sup> an hour before however  
a tremendous canade had been going on at  
Oresterburg <sup>mostly by our batteries on this side</sup> it has continued with increas-  
ing vigor until now (11 a.m.) it reminds  
me of an heavy thunder storm except  
that it is more continual rumble. It  
is such an artillery duel as I never heard  
before. I suppose our folks are trying  
to cross the river & our artillery is trying to  
protect them I don't hear with what success.  
It is very pleasant to-day we had quite a  
snow storm last week it has been so  
cold until yesterday & to-day it has  
not melted it is quite muddy today  
The (the forces all around us are laying  
on their arms) have marched out about  
a half mile from camp and are laying  
round in ~~the~~ the mud. I am sitting  
on the roll made of my piece of tent rubber  
& woolen blankets that being all we can carry  
our knapsacks left piled up in camp  
don't know as you can read this I am  
writing it on my tin docket being all I could

PAGE 1

Near Fredericksburg Vir. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sister: We received orders this morning to march at sunrise for an hour before however a tremendous canade had been going on at Fredericksburg mostly by our batteries on this side it has continued with morning vigor until now (11 am) it reminds me of an heavy thunder storm except that it is one continual rumble. It is such an artillery duel as I never heard before. I suppose our folks are trying to cross the river & our artillery is trying to protect them I don't hear with what success

It is very pleasant today we had quite a snowstorm last week it has been so cold until yesterday & to-day it has not melted it is quite muddy today

We (The forces all around us are laying on their arms) have marched out about a half mile from camp and are laying round in the mud. I am sitting on the roll made of my piece of tent, rubber & woolen blankets that being all we can carry our knapsacks left piled up in camp don't know as you can read this I am writing it on my tin dopper at being all I could

find (one o'clock) The firing has pretty  
much ceased guess we shall move soon. Received  
these drawers with a letter containing ammunition  
for which am much obliged have received  
those letters with the stamps all right be  
sure & send me paper & envelopes soon  
or I can't write am almost out & we are  
moving & can't buy; my boots are all  
right sent for those things to be prepared  
Hav'n't tried my drawers, left them  
in my knapsack Guess I will not write  
any more now will wait for events  
Friday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> We went to camp last  
night & started early this morning went  
right along across the river on the pontoon  
bridges & are now occupying the west part  
of Fredericksburg city the Rebels frequently  
throw shells on to the pontoon bridge & the  
opposite bank we lay on the high bank of  
the river when they come to fast The rest of  
the time we spent today in pilaging the city  
we find anything to be found in any deserted  
city. Hav'n't seen any inhabitants of the city  
except a negrow woman I've been in to see  
a good many houses We find the most splendid

PAGE 2

find (One o'clock The firing has pretty much ceased guess we shall move soon. Received those drawers with a letter containing cinnamon for which am much obliged have received those letters with the stamps all right be sure & send me paper & envelopes soon or I can't write am almost out we are moveing cant buy; my boots are all right I sent for those things to be prepared Hav'n't my drawers, left them in my knapsack Guess I will not write any more now will wait for events

Friday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> We went to camp last night & started early this morning went right along across the river on the pontoon bridge & are now occupying the west part of Fredericksburg city the Rebels frequently thru shells on to the pontoon bridge & the opposite bank we lay on the high bank of the river when they come to fast The rest of the time we spent to-day in pilaging the city we find everything to be found in any deserted city. Hav'n't seen any inhabiance of the city except a negrow woman Ive been in to a good many houses We find the most splendid

furniture pianos watches & glass ware. Tables  
half all set & the victuals half eaten. Almost of the  
nicest quality nice food & our boys are getting  
flitters & doughnuts in any quantity. The relics  
of all kinds are collected by the boys I did  
not get much because I knew we are  
going into battle soon & they will only be  
an encumbrance. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> We slept in  
houses last night. We took possession of parades  
kitchens cellars & garrets had a good  
supper last night & breakfast this morn<sup>ing</sup>  
of doughnuts. 9 A.M. ordered to march  
the ball has opened firing has commenced  
We <sup>have</sup> marched down the city east & north  
& lay ~~there~~ here with the shells flying  
over us from both ours & the rebels  
batteries some hole faces & trembling  
hands I see in our Reg. I don't wish  
to brag any but I don't feel much alar-  
-med. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> A.M. A desperate  
bloody battle was fought yesterda-  
-ay. At about one o'clock we were  
ordered on to the battle field we  
rushed on ~~and~~ the men run over fences  
through mud holes in full view of the

PAGE 3

furniture piannas crockery & glass ware. Tables all set & the victuals half eaten Flour of the nicest quality nice land & our boys are frying flitters & doughnuts in any quantity The relics of all kinds are collected by the boys I did not get much because I knew we are going into battle soon & they will only be an incoburance. Dec 18<sup>th</sup> We left in houses last night We took possession of parlors kitchens cellars & garrets had a good supper last night & breakfast this morning of doughnuts. 9 AM. ordered to march the ball has opened firing has commenced We have marched down the city east 1 mile & lay here with the shells flying over us from both our & the rebels batteries some pale faces & trembling hands I see in our Reg. I don't wish to brag any but I don't feel much alar-med. Dec 14<sup>th</sup> AM. A desperate bloody battle was fought yesterd-ay At about one o'clock we were ordered on to the battle field we rushed on the keen run over fences through mud holes in full view of the

Rebel batteries and rifle guns were poured  
a perfect hurricane of shot and shell  
amongst us. We advanced under this terrific  
fire for nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. It seems to  
me we got over that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile almost  
instantly. We got dreadfully cut up going  
across the field. What made it worse for  
us just as we were going on a Penn. Reg.  
broke their line & ran passed us for  
dear life (Oh! the miserable cowards  
I wanted to shoot them) This left the  
rebel fire to be wholly directed at us  
but we did not falter for an instant  
This was the most critical part of the  
battle for us, when we saw that Reg. running  
& no troops but the 11<sup>th</sup> N.Y. advancing &  
confess my heart almost failed me but  
we ~~soon~~ heard at this time the clear voice  
of our gallant Major. Advance boys! Give  
it to them. We quickly advanced and  
filled up the almost deserted line &  
the way we peppered the rebels for the  
first fifteen minutes went slow for  
half an hour. The rest of our brigade came  
to our support & I fired my sixty round of  
cartridges & then lay down in the mud  
& let the other reg's take the front. I stayed  
on the field over 4 hours the musket  
balls & shells flying like hail stones all  
around me & did <sup>not</sup> receive a scratch  
except a piece of a shell struck me a couple  
blows on the shoulder while advancing  
on to the field.

PAGE 4

Rebel batteries and rifle pits which pored a perfect hurricane of shot and shell amongst us We advanced under this terrify-fire for nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. It seems to me we got over that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile almost instantly. We got dreadfully cut up going across the field What made it worse for us just as we were going on a Penn Reg. broke their line & ran passed us for dear life. (Ah; the miserable cowards I wanted to shoot them) This left the rebel fire to be wholly directed at us but we did not falter for an instant This was the most critical part of the battle for us, when we saw that Reg running & no troops but the 11<sup>th</sup> NH. Advancing I confess my heart almost failed me but we heard at this time the clear voice of our gallent Major. Advance boys! give it to them We quickly advanced and filled up the almost desereted line & the way we peppered the rebels for the first fifteen minutes went slow In half an hour the rest of our brigade came to our support I fired my sixty round of cartridges & then lay down in the mud & let the other regs take the front. I stayed on the field over 4 hours the musket balls & shells flying like hailstones all around me & did not receive a scratch except a piece of a shell struck me a smart blow on the shoulder while advancing on to the field