

1 letter from Pvt. Herbert Anthony, Co. G, 39th Ill. Inf.,
July 18, 20, & 24, 1863, from "Battle Field Folly Island
SC", to his father.

everything was once more in readiness and
mounted, five monitors & the Ironsides inside
the bar, so they opened fire again, this time
on Fort Wagner, It is an earthwork but a
most formidable one, The rebels consider
it the key to Charleston, The cannonading
was kept up steadily until after dark when
a charge was ordered, Five Regiments
were ordered for this business among them
the fifty fourth, Mass colored Regt, Owing to
the darkness a most terrible blunder occur-
ed for when the advance Regt had succeeded
in reaching the parapet of the Fort the one
in their rear thinking they were the enemy
fired a whole volley into them killing & woun-
ding many of them, This as a matter of course
with the firing in front caused a panic &
they were obliged to retire, Another Brigade
was immediately ordered to try it, & this
time a few succeeded in getting into the
Fort but owing to the cowardly action of one
Regt the ninth Maine who would not go up

Battle Field Folly Island S.C July 18th 63
Dear Father

I snatch the first moments
of spare time I have had since receiving yours
which was last Sunday, to write a reply.
I expect every moment to be called upon
for duty so must write fast while I can.
I have to write sitting on the ground, folios
in my lap, so you must make the best of it.
Of course you will want to know about our
proceeding here, for just now it is a matter
of some interest to us all, To make a long
story short & be brief on the subject, we are
bound for Charleston & this time we expect
to "make a fetch of it". You are aware
that Gen Hunter has been superseded &
Gen Sillmore has taken command.
The manner in which he has gone to work
has given us all confidence in his ability
& will to carry out whatever project he
may have on foot & at present it is a

project that has pethered the wisest heads
of the Nation. He has been here but a
short time but already he has accomplished
as much as what would have taken months
for many of our Generals. In the short
time of about two weeks we have erected
most formidable batteries just across the
channel from Morris Island as I have
told you before only a few hundred yards
from their works. Last Saturday every-
thing was in readiness, & at sunrise in
the morning the batteries were unmasked
& belched forth with a noise that almost
shook the Island. The rebels soon con-
cluded it was getting too warm for them so
saved their skins by running & leaving guns
& everything for us. They retreated as far
as Cummings Point where they have
splendid earthworks. Several of our Regts
charged them & tried to carry the works, but
could not succeed & were obliged to retire
with considerable loss. It was soon

found we could not carry the works by storm
so the next best thing was to crop with the
artillery & get that in position. The whole
force has been busy since that time
doing it. During that time there has been
no fighting of consequence except occasio-
al cannonading from the gunboats just
for a little diversion & prevent their
firing upon our working parties, at times
Port Armoister throws a shell among our
men killing & wounding a few. There!
just as I expected, I am detailed & shall have
to leave, no knowing when I can finish this
Monday July 20th At last I have found anthe
spare moment to write perhaps only for
a moment. Since writing the above we have
had not a little exciting if not serious
times, I have hardly room or time to give
a full detailed account of all that has
transpired since then but will try & give
you the main items of interest.
Know then that at noon of last Saturday,

you the receipt before you can collect it?

If so I will send it next time I write,

Day before yesterday we were paid again
this time to the music of the cannon.

We are getting pretty near square with Uncle
Sam now. Paid up to the first of this

month, I have again tried my luck &
have expressed a package containing

seventy five dollars \$75.00. I will bother
you all I can in that way & you must

try to be even with me. If it is my luck to get
perforated with a bit of cold lead or iron be-

fore we get into Charleston it will be where
it will do some of you a little good. I have

not heard from Byron since he left Ky. but
I see by the Detroit papers Aunt Adell occasio-

nally sends me that the 17th is at Picksburg, by
the way what a grand old victory Gen Grant

has gained there. It takes the western boys to
do it. I think the war will end when they can

come there although matters at present look
favorable. Remember this is written on a hurry
& I have no time to look it over. Write to Herbert

although their officers even shot some of them
down they were not supported, & were again

obliged to fall back. Our loss is very heavy.
Gen Strong is severely if not mortally wound-

ed. Gen Seymour is also wounded, the
Col of the colored Regt is wounded & a pris-

oner, One Col is killed, two or three wounded.
Our loss will probably not be less than eight

hundred killed, wounded, & prisoners, it
may be much larger. Probably nearly one

half of that was ~~xxx~~ caused by our own
men. The rebel loss cannot be very heavy as

they were protected by their works. Yesterday
~~there was no fighting~~ but the whole day was

spent in caring for the wounded & burying the
dead. The rebels would not allow us nearer

than three hundred yards of the fort, inside of
that they attend to that business. This has

been a severe blow to us but the forces
are not discouraged & I believe all are ready to

try it again. Some Regts swear vengeance
on them next time. The 17th Ohio

The 17th Ohio

have only two or three commissioned Officers
A Captain is in command of the Regt.
For the benefit of some of our friends at the
north who are howling against the negro-sol-
dier's saying they will not fight, I will say
that question is permanently settled, for they
will fight, & that too with a will that would
do credit to some of our white Regiments.

The fifty fourth led the charge & did it nobly
suffering severely. Our Regt being so small
has not as yet been called into action but
we expect it in some time. Perhaps another
reason is that we have done so much of
the fatigue duty. Today there is but little
firing. A few mortars playing upon them
to keep them from work. I have no more
time to write today but will not close this
until I can write more.

July 24th I hardly thought when I left this
that it would be so long before I could finish
it, but so it is. This afternoon is the first I
have found to write since then. have been

busy all the time. We have had but
little firing since last Monday until
this morning. We have been employed
strengthening our works & mounting more
mortars & heavier guns. A slow bom-
bardment has been kept up the most
of the time just to keep them in hot water.

This morning the batteries & gunboats
again opened a brisk cannonading which
lasted for several hours when the enemy
came out with a "flag of truce", & there has
been no more firing today though what
its object was we are perfectly ignorant.

Well! to return to other affairs I was glad
to hear that you had a pleasant visit
east but am truly sorry to hear that visit
again brings on your old complaint. I was
in hopes a change would help you.

As to the money affairs I am glad the
fifty dollar package has gone through &
that there is a prospect of getting the
other. Will you require that I should send