

SC-11848a: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1864.

1863 May

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my dear dear Wife Hel que 120 to 0.0 . in the field pear Black Mines Mis. May 5/63 through another fight, a fearful terrific fight , and helped to gain a glorion Victory . you must not spicet a detail de of m this morning as I am sitting and Boall & writing air a Denn and ful ticed & reany, with a Heating in my Ear & a Boil aw my and with the Jumboals ran ap to Grand Julph, the Jumboats attacked their Batterics and the plan of salle was for the Junito al to silence the Rebel Matteries sfor the Injanty to land stake Then the 120ct ohiv & y It Renter by was to have the advance, a dangerous but glorious for sition & ditat & fell proved ? But after and a wfull fight believen the yunboards & the Pub Battery for 6 hours the most sulling and grandest right more ever behild, the Ima boats gave up not able to selecre them When apon we were disembarked and mor hed overland passed the Batterie's a as so and as Evening sation the Junkouts and Than proto raw the Blackash & I till that was grand with a dry their you ran succeppully. Mest morning ere men Intern brand again slaund about y miles

At food as landed we marched on tonais Port gibson over a wrigh & hilly Conats different from any I had seen yet, which is called , the up land of miss " we marched on Meadily untill about 12 o about that night enhing an advance met the advance of the taks lund I can alune to a Soldier it was a gran midnight secure, while on the Ret antiller were booming at each ather firm hill top to hill top the Infanty descended storty & drove the Mile back at about 20 chere the morning of the first we gained the Hell the tests had accupied and were arlened to lay down and som weak shipt samidly vang alma Arodds from the Energy. at form a clack after two hours pert we were proved & your line of Battle and by h hast fore my Rg L was out & under find from that time ag me still advanced. I will send y an a copy of my report of the action, when you a an see what we done. But suffice it to say I was the first one that charged and the on the left & drove them boo yours I fals one them up & untill I was over the hundred gards in advance of any of an troups took a position in from the of the Emanies light wing & the as

at untill my amin how fare "out aten I asked to be released & toold Eight prisones the fight was builded the Bullets & Hall flew this it + fast and I house the men that day + by the gads they follow I should up to the clanger sever themploing of it all I felt that day was the responsibility bading a hegt & dear I man a reputation In that day which will give me at least ana in my county history of which a dear Childen an fact formel of. am highly an plementer by al the generally and moles fand that and recons mended for promotion, but that and any tighting permit - the day after the fight duas tul aut & field but as marched as The weather is a wful hot as hat as it on a may time in any met with as yesterly I her very rick to day our letter + as were the



Hd qrs 120th O.V.I. in the field

Near Black River Mis. May 5/63

Well well my dear I have passed through another fight, a fearful terrific fight and helped to gain a glorious Victory.

You must not expect a detail a/c of me this morning as I am sitting on a Book & writing on a Drum and feel tired & weary, with a Bealing in my Ear & a Boil on my ---

We were put on board of trains first, the 29th and with the Gunboats ran down to Grand Gulph, the Gunboats attacked their Batteries and the plan of Battle was for the Gunboat to silence the Rebel Batteries & for the Infantry to land & take them & the 120th Ohio & 7th Kentucky was to have the advance, a dangerous but glorious position & ditnt I feel proud? But after an awfull fight between the Gunboats & the Reb Battery for 6 hours the most sublime and grandest sight man ever beheld, the Gun boats gave up not able to silence them.

Whereupon we were disembarked and marched overland passed the Batteries & as so on as Enemy sat in the Gunboats and Transports ran the Blockade & I tell you that was grand noble & all of them ran successfully. Next morning we were put on board again & landed about 7 miles below Grand Gulph on to Mississippi Side. As soon as landed we marched on, towards Port Gibson over a rough & hilly country different from any I had seen yet, which is called "the up land of Miss", we marched on steadily until about 12 o clock that night when an Advance met the advance of the Rebs And I can assure to a Soldier it was a grand midnight scene, while our & the Reb artillery were booming at each other from hill top to hill top the Infantry descended slowly & drove the Rebs back at about 2 o clock the morning of the first we gained the Hill the Rebs had occupied and were ordered to lay down and soon we all slept soundly & only about 80 rodds from the Enemy. At four o clock after two hours rest we were roused & formed line of Battle and by 1/2 past four my Rgt was out & under fire from that time on we still advanced. I will send you a copy of my report of the action, when you can see what we done. But suffice it to say I was the first one that charged on the Rebs on the left & drove them 600 yards & followed them up untill I was over three hundred yards in advance of any of our troops took a position in front of the Enemies right wing & kept it until my ammunition gave out when I asked to be relieved I took eight prisoners when we charged on them, so you can think we came pretty close to them.

The fight was terrific, the Bullets & shell flew thick & fast and I have the satisfaction of saying of leading my men that day & by the Gods they followed. I stood up to the danger never thinking it, all I feel that day was the responsibility of leading a Regt & dear I won a reputation on that day which will give me at least a name in my country's history of which my dear Children can feel proud of.

I am highly complimented by all the Generals and understand that I am recommended for promotion, but be that as it may I feel proud & I know that you and my dear children for whom I am fighting feel proud.

The day after the fight I was [illegible] out & sick but we marched on the weather is awful hot as hot as it is any time in August with us, yesterday I felt very sick to day I am better & as such as the boil in my Ear & below break I think I shall feel well. The Victory at Thompsons Hill is the greatest win in this war & will have the severest effect on Rebeldom anyhow I begin to think the Rebellion is about played out, their Soldiers are getting sick of it. I lost 22 of my gallant boys in killed & wounded, I tell you they behaved splendidly. Genl Osterhaus [illegible] golden laurels that day, he is a splendid man. Oh my dear I would give anything in the world for an hours talk with you now. I have not seen Joseph yet since he has come back. I expect you are in Millersburg & will send this letter there. I do not know wether you can read it or not but is all with it. Good bye God bless you & the dear Children, as soon as this Campayne is over I will come home.

> Good bye my loves, my dear, God bless you Your true & loving

My respects to Cohn & family & all the rest.

I left \$50 with Sinsheimer which I dit not know where to send

and dit not know where you





will feel happy I ant a lattle proved of your hund, man " when your dle any report there how beaulessly I stoped up there many sprathe of and in the highest pierce & my barys most all worship me and you anght to hear how proudly they speads of their being being belone l'allowell' God bleed your 2 may marche Chaldren lle encin as I bear have an appartmente I will avere to see your and all Good quel a frace to the Tures & ampachate in Decing you and the decid. Children your anale in a cone 112 may have an Butthe to merced, if se I will with the help of Ind do may date I have the Children you bloo your In the last Poattle I have any solifity rounded Marens

[Upside down text]: May God bless you my love

Hd qrs 9th Div Near Big Sandy May 7/63

My dear dear and sweet wife!

I have but little Paper, no Pen nor Ink, but enough to say to you that I am still alive, again well & love you more than ever. You must not feel uneasy if you do not get letters very frequent, for we are moving every day; no paper, no chance to send, neither have we received a mail for nearly two weeks. Yet I am in hopes that as soon as it comes it will bring me a long, good & sweet letter from you.

I have sent you a letter written on Coloured Paper about the Battle & I am satisfied you will feel happy & not a little proud of your "homely man" when you see my report & learn how fearlessly I stood up. Here many speak of me in the highest praise & my boys most all worship me and you ought to hear how proudly they speak of their "brave Colonel".

God bless you & my sweet Children. As soon as I have an opportunity I will come to see you and, Oh God, such a sweet & happy time I anticipate in seeing you and the dear children, you cant imagine. We may have a Battle to morrow; if so I will with the help of God do my duty. Kiss the children. God bless you.

Your

In the last Battle I had only 3 killed, 3 mortally, 8 severely & 6 slightly wounded.



He que 120th in the field mean Big Black River Mis. Way 9/63 my dear Wife, my love the Can! Here I am laying crowded under a little hail hart covered with greed Brushes to phield us from the burning Som and I have just heard that there was an objectumity of sending of a letter & to I have been succepful in getting a little paper of one the lays Inko Pen of another and by these means I can fay to you that hickand is himself again " . Since the Bealing in my car & my Bail behinded busted I feel all well again. At is mon about three weils since I have not seen as heard any thing from you seent that lovely hating for which I would ave tothe \$ 1000

I have written your two notes finer the Battle which if you can lead will give you and outline of the fear ful but glowously Victorins Battle For cleven days feast we have had contrat marching to Broomacing; I have not seen my tent for 13 days, neither have & sleft any where bat out doors not had my Clothe off Since that line , Dome mights we marched till one and two valoab, yet & feel all right and in excellent Spinite. 118 and to day stopping reating and I Therefore tool off my Dawyers, Undershirt thirt and have my nego they washing it, I sat in the Shade untill it Tires . I have not seen Joseph yet, I think it is real mean is himd, not even to come after the Battle, how dit he know

but what & and wounded, yet I hear of him often, he is doing a lifeudid Bussings, I suffire he has cleared two thousand Vollars smeete is back and pechaps they have made for Thausand I allaws fince They came to the Key and all in Park. Jod need not be alarmed I mean to get my Shaw in due time. Cary my love just fed perfectly Eary about me I am doing evell. I am Establishing supelf a reputation which will sten for life and & Know you feel formal of it besides my Express non are not of 10 for months, I have very saving and if had spares me & mean to have based of four thomand Dollars In money in hand befor Dlean the Unny so that whatered I shart I Can start without harry w much unsamp of mond, so that I ann sit stack speak to you, honor and love you undistanted seing

molested + treat your my augelie and henric wife in a mamer you deserve , faroline & Know to apreciate the Heroism it requires for you to lead the life you have been compelled to live, since I am in the army and many times since & first toolby and from your quite happy and gulich Home, a many pany I feel when I think of all, but rest assend my low that if kind providen elfrares me my life shealt stall be my object to atome for all loving as I do your, I feel that I shall be able to do it. At love my deargon to give you a disciption of the beautiful Enjagement betreen as Gentrals the Landbatteres at grand gulf by dayd night best I think I could

Lord Sheet-I will have to defear it untill I come home, when I can tell you more than I ever dit before, for a do think that in the last & months of my life & Saw mon of life than I ever ded before and trust I may have benefited thereby, a few days ago a man was here from lovester & gave him two hundred + fifty bollows to read to your Dometime ago & got \$ 800 I send \$300 to leurs Brown Ho & paid Debts with some & had \$ 400 which I wanted to send to your bent I Knew with where your was as Joseph had not yet retter as form as I found we had to move I sead my money to Joseph as rather finderned . The nett day while an march I took a baer \$ 200 belonging to the Key -, which I had in my worket so I thought I would bead

it to your down throw wether Joseph send your any as not preither do I throw wether I you are at threagand millerstray, but hope for to be able to find out, as won as this actual Campargne is over which will have to be in the course of a month a slip I will come home & stay at home a month at least sthen we will talk I it all aner. my love strespect to planting Loggie Money state. I will bring toome Bay Pomies Ifor Hamlin + 1 for Enger & morey, I shall also bring my Charley Hore along sleave him at home till fall, he both se any this spoor I must now close. Last night I were on a recognicitering Extraction with you and Osterhaus twee had a lingly trans, will of the Rets you time storing where

Hd qrs 120th in the field

near Big Black River Mis. May 9/63

My dear Wife, my lovely Cary!

Here I am laying crowded under a little Rail hut covered with green brushes to shield us from the burning Sun and I have just heard that there was an opportunity of sending of a letter & so I have been successful in getting a little paper of one [of] the Boys, Ink & pen of another, and by these means I can say to you "that Richard is himself again." Since the Bealing in my Ear & my Boil behinded busted, I feel all well again. It is now about three weeks since I have not seen or heard anything from you except that lovely picture for which I would not take \$1000. I have written you two notes since the Battle which if you can read [them] will give you an outline of the fearful but gloriously Victorious Battle.

For eleven days past we have had continual marching & Bivouacing. I have not seen my tent for 13 days, neither have I slept any wheres but out doors nor had my clothes off since that time. Some nights we marched till one and two o'clock, yet I feel all right and in excellent Spirits.

We are to day stopping & resting and I therefore took off my Drawyers, Undershirt & shirt and have my negro Boy washing it; I sit in the Shade until it tries [dries]. I have not seen Joseph yet; I think it is real mean. in him, not even to come after the Battle. How dit he know but what I am wounded, yet I hear of him often; he is doing a Splendid Business. I suppose he has cleared two thousand Dollars since he is back and perhaps they have made four thousand Dollars since they came to the Regt and all in cash. You need not be alarmed; I mean to get my share in due time. Cary my love, just feel perfectly easy about me; I am doing well. I am establishing myself a reputation which will stand for life and I know you feel proud of it. Besides my expenses are not \$10 per month, I live very saving, and if God spares me I mean to have three or four thousand Dollars in Money in hand before I leave the Army, so that whatever I start I can start without having so much uneasiness of mind, so that I can sit and talk to you, honour and love you undisturbed & unmolested & treat you, my angelic and heroic wife, in a manner you deserve. Caroline, I know & appreciate the Heroism it requires for you to lead the life you have been compelled to live, since I am in the Army and many times since I first took you from your quite happy and girlish Home; a many pang I feel when I think of all, but rest assured, my love, that if kind providence spares me my life and health, it shall be my object to atone for all. Loving as I do you, I feel that I shall be able to do it.

It was my design to give you a description of the beautiful engagement between our Gunboats & the Landbatteries at Grand Gulf by day & night but I think I will have to defer it untill I come home, when I can tell you more than I ever dit before, for I do think that in the last 6 months of my life I saw more of life than I ever did before and trust I may have benefited thereby. A few days ago a man was here from Wooster & I gave him two hundred & fifty Dollars to send to you. Sometime ago I got \$800; I send \$300 to Enos Brown and Company & paid Debts with some & had \$400 which I wanted to send to you but I knew not where you was, as Joseph had not yet returned. So as soon as I found we had to move I sent my money to Joseph or rather Sinsheimer. The next day while on march I took in over \$200 belonging to the Regt which I had in my Pocket & so I thought I would send it to you. I do not know whether Joseph sent you any or not; neither do I know whether you are at Chicago or Millersburg, but hope soon to be able to find out. As soon as this active campaign is over which will have to be in the course of a month or less, I will come home & stay home a Month at least & then we will talk it all over. My love & Respect to Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & Hattie. I will bring two nice Bay Ponies, 1 for Hamlin & 1 for Lizzie & Mosey. I shall also bring my

Charley Horse along & leave him at home till fall; -he looks so very thin & poor. I must now close. Last night I was on a recognoitering expedition with General Osterhaus & we had a lively time with the Rebs. Charley although thin is full of life.

Your true & loving

Marcus

My love to Cohn & Family



In the field befor licks. May dear dear good Wife after five days of the hardest Mind of Jughting In the front we have abour a half and how ago se timed to ball back here about a prove to the the Vuch the grighting to far has been tentre and as yet me have not tubles Wiellebary we have taken two farts good were dune and of them again And Regiments deventes how challed the prist and perfection august I meret Dawn that, shell Cape Voubleto ply theke in my life syst I had but form men warside I and man stood sticht then time as an pluse haraly

while and the charge & dance (who had taken Charge of and Brig in the more coming) Came up to me & lacd " Spriget by Gool your an a man after my and heard you are doing bull I your men are the breaks I knew Dam" the Regt was at least 20 yardo in first The lass or for has been hippanly & crounded & Jaken structs by a picce of shellan my lift House which Knocked the shin off, tornsed it anne T. matter it a witte painful I did not suffer it to he would day if the measy, Gent de mais manually by the Dame thell hadly he had to leave the field. I am Any he is a man og alland Aleer + a gentleshan

We have pathones alcard Immunder it mand fall form and praction relation Can dec. The Charcal Aliche but they have a pearly line of fortification blea The quater + acurlations have plinning the last tina incells of continual fighting marching Acherdohily, 26 that longly protone of yan and the dear Childlen Han ane of any men 34 miles to the man for the intered has lift if in my turned. I am hocking at it about 5 times times & and talking to it as down as the toplag falls I will came have If stay at least one would mit antonia deman heaven yang men that me through thread this

allways by any and no matter from miner the danger's Vickhan multing all in this all had that I may chan Do far Sthen & will acure form & toth year ann heres than your hand heard Omean to hay und in find share a hally time ful I Hund alun to the (man who agrees to came this to Alelena andis the children surgerent Marcino me thereasthe The

In the field before Vicksburg

May 23/63

My dear dear good wife

After five days of the hardest kind of fighting in the front we were about a half an hour ago relieved to fall back here about a mile to the Rear & rest. The fighting so far has been terrific and as yet we have not taken Vicksburg; we have taken two forts and were driven out of them again.

My Regiment made two charges, the first one perfectly terrific awful; I never saw shot, shell, crape [grape] & Bullets fly thicker in my life & yet I had but four men wounded & my men stood & kept their line as on dress parade while on the charge & during the hottest Brig[adier] Genl Lee (who had taken charge of our Brig[ade] in the morning) came up to me & said, "Spiegel by God you are a man after my own heart; you are doing bully & your men are the bravest I ever saw." The Regt was at least 20 yards in front of any of the 10 charging Regiments.

The loss so far has been in my Regt miraculously light, only 8 wounded & I am struck by a piece of shell on my left knee which knocked the skin off, bruised it some and makes it a little painful. I did not suffer it to be published for fear you would see it & be uneasy. Genl Lee was wounded by the same shell badly; he had to leave the field. I am sorry; he is a brave & gallant Officer & a Gentleman.

We have Vicksburg already surrounded & it must fall. From our position we can see the Church steeples but they have a heavy line of fortifications clear around.

The greatest consolation I have during the last two weeks of continual fighting, marching and hardship, is that lovely picture of you and the dear children. I sent one of my men 34 miles to the Rear for it where I had left it in my trunk. I am looking at it about 5 times an hour & I fear that some times I am talking to it. As soon as Vicksburg falls I will come home and stay at least <u>one</u> month.

My Adjutand Sherman is one of the gayest and bravest young men that ever lived. He sticks to me through thick & thin, allways by my side no matter how much the danger.

I think Vicksburg will fall within a week and let us pray to God that I may get out as safe as I have so far and then I will come home & tell you more news than you <u>ever heard</u>.

I mean to buy wool in June and have a bully time [illegible].

I must close as the man who agrees to carry this to Helena, Arkansas, is leaving. God bless you & the children

& all friends.

Your

Marcus



The full helang Lishar Michael Pail grant Baland Jaban min wohi noffaster gaffagen And the fillen strong and Banna for the main and the fahan histophing Filling Station for the son th

fring & in fand at Information in an maning famit fiftiand faces chi graceph falinif pit no m. Chreager en array might yappart so it men fraillound an byrgafa. Majil Bagman fat fan 56000 Carticles in roffelm Pohnter picksterry fille The for for the for the forder Jun Mathar if would an head angallan Marcan

In the field before Vicksburg May 23/63

[letter from Marcus to Michael in German]:



He que 120th in the field near 10. 12. Bridge Big Black River mis may 25/63 may 25/63. My dear good Hind Wife . the Where about and place of a folding are frequently as uncertaind as his life is insecure. When last two days agof I work to you a few harly funciled of Vickling I sonely thought that my next the would more aft to be Anthen in bick string , then 15 mileback here to the pile. What fuch i war, Moro for the facto. After fighting for fine days and high with but two days rations before these burg after skinnishing charging, de filoging in line and again in mais Mauding nicket, Informing batteries and charging a those of the Energy. in short after fine days of the montlaborious, hagardon & terrible harda Ship and protions when ear 21 hected relieve we receved an Order to get ready to march in an hour

"How is that? Well Osterhans when is known as a careful, brave and digreed General who is always seed with his fighting Division to the most dificult places was Orderedan here in consequence of news being re crived that the Rebel General toe Johnston was advancing, and our Bear with a force of bifleen thous and. Well had we are Eleven miles for the Battle field and in fact & fal reliand, & was almost tind of the hundreds of Canon & nortans, the rattling of much thety which latter never beased for a uninte the fine days and the formed heart top. to thear how it stands with biells buy. Well we have it perfectly don anded we and close and to their would and Every side, but Their works are almost impregnable besides being to filmated that vor can not approach and of Their unnerous ports with aget going bow ravings, abatter faller timber they hind and forible

We have charged every fort and wen Wented with gearful losses Every time and had possibion of two forts but charging flesh and blood against all the immanded obstackes and have of dist and a Concealed Eneny is about played ant and in pactas needless as it is unpropritions We are so situated that Vickeburg must fall shouth with all the force thereid contained, providing our Governant will keep it's forces Elsewhere argaging the Evenny in mak a shape that he can not talleanay one of his annie from the front of Roseneram Korled Hanter powerful any captured and Second in the Jourt West is gone up. general Grant has shown in this Campayne more time, gay, darhing, bold and tralegie military o'hill than has been displayed by all the generals com bined since the Rebellion broke out. He decleared the Energall the time, they as well as many of the generals in his Clerry Keven not
not what he was agoing to do mitil he which the Energy at fine dif points and had his whole timmy Surroundinglick Vie Khug will soon be our. us to be without the continual when guy of bullets & busiting of shells but how long too may be permitted to enjay this pleasant quitetude God only thinks, of Johnston advanced as he has you two days past, he will be on asky to monow arran May My men has been Efterney fortunates thank god . Fince we landed on the mis those and in all the fights I have only lost 33 in Killed and wounded and puhaps 10 a prometer, among the latter two of my best the Capt. Eberhart & Lieut Wallace

3 quil theat as for myself I fed in good opinits I have allready with to you that I was struck by a piece of thell on my Ruecap it Knocked the frin and hissed the flesh and bond a little but I never left the fill and have not beed off the an account in a fen days I will be all fight scarcy My Regt. was in two charges, in the first and general See lead as and Kept on Any immediate right, it was a georph Charge and hered in my life diel & she hell orape to ply the che het of and in front of my Reg - and the whole charging column, general Lee on the field and in the pottert Came to bre and faid, by 4-a 1 Juigel you and a man after I my ovor heart und your keys "Alands like a Roch age the 1 parade, take a drink with me. Sont you think I felt bully -My bays will follow me any where

I have it so now that I can so in as cool as on Battalion Dill, Even thing must be learned and I reallis think I had a good echool! Of is no Science in my Estimation to send a lot of men in a hot place where they will get mited up and frequently Haughtered and then have albig list of Willed audationed and marker is a during the bravery of his med at a distance, but to lead your meno carefully into danguons places and do the Anor damage to the Energand least to yound, the latter Dawn Indeavoring to Hurthey and I believe that at last I am Goored with a little Consolation Vin Knowing, that in this Clenny I have the reportation of being some what of and apt Schollar! 1 my dergt. Major, a very wice. young man bey the morne of Melloay had his should badk shaddened by a thell, buy -Waters of loo Q a gilend id young man had the socket of his

his thoulded knocked safter wards taken and by the Ingion. By the way Di Pomercu of Un Counte is on Madria Quelos and by the way with the Exception of Elight the best mand Ever law Mos the place, he is a great friend of mind. My three Increas and Excel. but men, the Surfeons name is Stanton a dow of old Dactor Stanton golen, he is a gleudid mar Ingeons. The two desistants Hannow totanged are very food men. Us soon as tickstoning falls I mean to go home and & dr not believe your can immagine how much I long to see you all if it ward not fat your littuges I do not know what to do. 14 le for resigning dear Caroline ? do but feel that I can as long as my barnty needs my derviers of the Duppreprind of this and holy and wieked rebellion, dans not in favor of Settling This install the misterable Cussed that would un our beloud Country are thoroughly convinced of Their Enor

and completely whipped, it makes but little difference to me wether the Holmes Comity Republican a decuaratio party give me Cudit for any thing, you can feel perfectly me thing is certain, that my fighting in this War, will leave an inherita, to my beloved Children, of more salue then all the Gold in India. I have to live to see the day when my bayo will point with puide to their fathers history during his Country " Tweetle . of this War should come to a close sood and the Rube whipped god knows I would we it for I long for home with all it's blessings and I think of ought to be at home & assist in raising my children. J. they coundidate Ret into companies in charge of the 25 Col as pr Cuder of the War Department Tin they will monthe ball ant of service, then I coved go home how wable for my Country would not need my service any longer I understand that will be done

and I think it would be a good planged would dave the you t a great deal of money. For many Companies in it there is no use of having to many Officer and Gibe my boo to all my friends Jell Hamlin that I still have the two ponies for him, yet I may per hope give the mare pony to charley in Cheage, the mare way will have a little Colt Doon, but "Billy" the How pony is the pictures for my Lizzie, Money and Hally I must himy the mail goes but. I have not seen thele fores yet and Know not where he is! god bless you and preserve you is the player of your time Hooing

My boys alone have find off in the five days before Victoring (48000) forty Eight Thousand cartidges, so you can think the whole any and matter great deal of moine

Hd. Qrs. 120th in the field near R.R. Bridge Big Black River Mis.

May 25/63

My dear good & kind Wife!

You will see by the above that the whereabouts and plans of a soldier are frequently as uncertain as his life is insecure. When last (two days ago) I wrote to you a few hasty penciled lines from the front in the Battlefield of Vicksburg, I surely thought that my next one would more apt to be written in Vicksburg, than 15 mile back here to the rear. But such is war. Now for the facts.

After fighting for five days and nights with but two days rations before Vicksburg; after skirmishing, charging, deploying in line and again in mass, standing picket, supporting batteries, building Breastworks for ourselves and charging at those of the enemy; in short after five days of the most laborious, hazardous & terrible hardship and privations, when we expected relieve, we received an Order to get ready to march in an hour.

How is that? Well, Osterhaus who is known as a careful, brave and discreed General who is always sent with his fighting Division to the most dificult places, was Ordered out here in consequence of news being received that the Rebel General Joe Johnston was advancing on our Rear with a force of fifteen thousand. Well, here we are eleven miles from the Battle field and in fact I feel relieved; I was almost tired of hearing the incessant roar of the hundreds of Canons & Mortars, the rattling of musketry, which latter never ceased for a minute the five days and the former never stopped any for the last five days or nights. You are perhaps anxious to know how it stands with Vicksburg. Well we have it perfectly surrounded; we are close up to their works on every side, but their works are almost impregnable besides being so situated that you can not approach one of their numerous forts without going over ravines, abattis, fallen timber & every hindrance possible.

We have charged every fort and were repulsed with fearful losses every time; we had possession of two forts but could not hold them. The Idea of charging flesh and blood against all the ennumerated obstacles and heaps of dirt and a concealed enemy is about played out and in fact as needless as it is unpropitious.

We are so situated that Vicksburg <u>must fall</u> shortly with all the force therein contained, providing our Government will keep its forces elsewhere engaging the Enemy in such shape that he can not take away one of his Armies from the front of Rosencranz, Hooker, Hunter or otherwise. Vicksburg and its powerful Army captured and Secessia in the South West is gone up. General Grant has shown in this campayne more true, gay, dashing, bold and strategic military skill than has been displayed by all the Generals combined since the Rebellion broke out. He deceived the Enemy all the time; they as well as many of the Generals in his Army knew not what he was agoing to do untill he whipped the Enemy at five different points and had his whole Army surrounding Vicksburg and, if no unforseen event Vicksburg will soon be ours.

It seems like Sunday to us, to be without the continual whizzing of bullets & bursting of shells but how long we may be permitted to enjoy this pleasant quietude, God only knows. If Johnston advances as he has for two days past, he will be on us by to morrow noon. My Regiment has been extremely fortunate thank God. Since we landed on the Mis[sissippi] Shore and in all the fights, I have only lost 33 in killed and wounded and perhaps 10 as prisoners, among the latter two of my best Officers, Capt Eberhart & Lieut Wallace.

As for myself I feel in good spirits. I have already wrote to you that I was struck by a piece of shell on my kneecap. It knocked the skin and bruised the flesh and bone a little but I never left the field and have not been off duty on [its] account. In a few days I will be all right, scarcely feel it in walking now.

My Regt was in two charges. In the first one General

Lee lead us and kept on my immediate right; it was a fearful charge and never in my life did I see shell, crape [grape] &c fly thicker but I was in front of my Regt and the Regt [was in front of] the whole charging column. General Lee on the field and in the hottest came to me and said, "by G-d Spiegel, you are a man after my own heart and your Regt stands like a Rock; Aye the line is as straight as on Dress parade; take a drink with me."

Dont you think I felt bully? My boys will follow me anywheres. I have it so now that I can go in as cool as on Battalion Drill; everything must be learned and I really think I had a good School!

It is no Science in my estimation to <u>send</u> a lot of men in a hot place where they will get mixed up and frequently slaughtered and then have a big list of killed and wounded and make a <u>big fuss</u> while the Commander is admiring the bravery of his men at a distance, but it is a pretty and dificult study to <u>lead</u> your men carefully into dangerous places and do the most damage to the Enemy and least to yourself; the latter I am endeavoring to study and I believe that at least I am favored with a little consolation in knowing that in this Army I have the reputation of being somewhat of an apt Scholar.

My Sergt. Major, a very nice young man by the name of

McCay, had his shoulder badly shaddered by a shell; Sergt Waters of Co D, a splendid young man, had the socket of his shoulder knocked & afterwards taken out by the Surgeon.

By the way Dr. Pomerene of our County is our Medical Director and by the way with the exception of Ebright the best man I ever saw for the place; he is a great friend of mine. My three Surgeons are excellent men; the Surgeons name is Stanton, a Son of old Doctor Stanton of Salem; he is a splendid man; he is one of the Division operating Surgeons. The two assistants, Hammond & Stouffer, are very good men. As soon as Vicksburg falls I mean to go home and I do not believe you can imagine how much I long to see you all; if it were not for your likenesses I do not know what to do.

As for resigning dear Caroline, I do not feel that I can as long as my Country needs my services for the suppression of this unholy and wicked rebellion. I am not in favor of settling this untill the miserable cusses that would ruin our beloved Country are thoroughly convinced of their error and completely whipped. It makes but little difference to me whether the Holmes County Republican or democratic party give me credit for anything; you can feel perfectly easy on that score, for I do also. One thing is certain, that my fighting in this War will leave an inheritance to my beloved children of more value then all the Gold in India. I hope to live to see the day when my boys will point with pride to their father's history during his country's trouble. If this War should come to a close soon and the Rebs whipped, God knows I would love it, for I long for home with all its blessings and I think I ought to be at home & assist in raising my children. If they consolidate Regts into companies in charge of the Lt Col as per Order of the War Department, then they will muster Cols out of service. Then I could go home honorable, for my Country would not need my services any longer. I understand that will be done and I think it would be a good plan and would save the Govt a great deal of money. For many of the Regts have not over four Companies in it & there is no use of having so many Officers and paying them.

Give my love to all my friends. Tell Hamlin that I still have the two ponies for him, yet I may perhaps give the mare pony to Charley in Chicago, the mare ponies for him, yet I may perhaps give the mare poney to Charley in Chicago, the mare pony will have a little colt soon, but "Billy" the horse pony is the prettiest.

I will also bring something for my Lizzie, Mosey and Hatty.

I must hurry the mall goes out. I have not seen Uncle Josey yet and know not where he is.

God bless from you and preserve you is the prayer of your true & loving husband

Marcus

My love to Elizabeth & M

My boys alone have fired off in the five days before Vicksburg (48,000) forty-eight thousand cartridges, so you can think the whole Army must make a great deal of noise.



"Hel que 12000 00. 5 mar R. R. Bridge Big Black River Miss Ellay 25/63 • my dear dear Wife This morning I may had by yet never the less with quet pay 1 enved your Kind letter of alley gh which I will first ans med an detail trugh I have best this urring witten to your. In the first place you day you have not use a letter from me driver april 6 that I write to Everybody Else Efect to your. Now my dear let me tell you that I have written regular to Your 4 Cept in the week when I 24 picted mele Joney home davily and learn from him wether you left Chreago, wether he gave you money wether he haid guthinger te but without seeing him we wen bedered to march and I adressed your letters to Chicago. about the sending of the woney to inos, is pumply like this dued fome money from the bays to

to send to Euos, Euos Knew Then we uch 4 months pay and not throw Where you was and wether you houd. received any money from dorey and not, I could not send money to her Euro without paying him that old debt. I then send him \$ 300 I had nearly \$375 left which I gave to finskind when we wer artend to march Effecting the ty to hear firm you through Josey , not knowing where you Was. Since then I have not seen Josey in the meantime some one haid me \$ 250 belonging to the Righ and in time when everen daily in Battle, a guste man for Wayne & Came here and I sem the \$ 250 to Bet to gene to your without a letter or any thing to the Reef as from as I mich Insteined as go. Your may give it to Cohn as anybody else your please. The goat word ones me \$ 575 most of which & Effect from as for me making much. I am now gitting \$192 por month my Expense an not twelve Dollar promo

I can as me you that I and living as Laving as I possibly can, any doubts a nessed by you to the contrary mit with standing. I and spending no money for anything ! While on the River and in lovington Amimphis and Expences were heavy, but for the last I hunte I do not believe I spend \$75 all togethe Its for uncle gover I siguet they have chared over four Thousand Dollars in least since they commend I think that is almost as well as he might have done at home. I mean to make Unde Josey and his partice pay the \$ 500 to Henry as for my coming home, as I told you this morning as soon as bicklobary full. I will apply for a base and now man in gad allnights would can be now autions to see his dearfamile than O Even of your do Deold me Energy time you have the blues. During all the hardships we are horing well, on Mess fares better I Think than any Mess in this Corps, it Consists of It Col. Major adjutand. Durater Marter Inger and too aprelant Inguns and in slip-

We have two of the best boys to cirk and forage for us in the whole thry and during a Battle now matter how clangeron an position one of them will knot us at meal time and bring us something to Eat. I am wally glad your have a fresh con for glate & an nearly Crazy for Bread & mill, we still have ane good Can, but to many in the mess to get much mill. I send you an abstract of a paper that [the only paper] und to pitch into me. Dont your thill be comes under nice? I do not see what produced the Change, Every thing is quite to day loe have a large but in which lae all thop. The bays have a lot of Fents we got from the Robo that luc drove out. . Ever your time + loving manens my love to Hautin, Lizzie, Morry + Mattic + Elizabeth.

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I. near R.R. Bridge Big Black River Mis. May 25/63

My dear dear Wife

This morning I unexpectedly yet nevertheless with great joy received your kind letter of May 9th which I will first answer in detail, though I have but this morning written to you. In the first place you say you have not recd a letter from me since April 6th & that I write to everybody else except to you. Now my dear, let me tell you that I have written regular to you except in the week when I expected Uncle Josey home daily and [to] learn from him whether you left Chicago, whether he gave you money, whether he paid Guthman &c, but without seeing him we were ordered to march and I addressed your letters to Chicago.

About the sending of the money to Enos, is simply like this: I received some money from the boys to send to Enos; Enos knew then we recd 4 months pay and not knowing where you was and whether you had received any money from Josey or not, I could not send money to Mr. Enos without paying him that old debt. I then sent him \$300. I had nearly \$375 left which I gave to Sinsheimer when we were ordered to march, expecting shortly to hear from you through Josey, not knowing where you was. Since then I have not seen Josey. In the meantime some one paid me \$250 belonging to the Regt and in time when we were daily in battle, a Gentleman from Wayne Co[unty] came here and I sent the \$250 to Rex to give to you without a letter or anything else, expecting to refund the money to the Regt as soon as I meet Sinsheimer or Jo. You may give it to Cohn or anybody else you please. The Govt now owes me \$575, most of which I expect soon. As for me making much, I am now getting \$192 per month; my expenses are now twelve Dollars per month. I can assure you that I am living as saving as I possibly can, any doubts expressed by you to the contrary notwithstanding. I am spending no money for anything. While on the River and in Covington & Memphis our expenses were heavy, but for the last 4 months I do not believe I spent \$75 alltogether.

As for Uncle Josey, I expect they have cleared four thousand Dollars in Cash since they commenced. I think that is almost as well as he might have done at home.

I mean to make Uncle Josey and his partner pay the \$500 to Henry Liebenstein & the \$500 to Weimer & Steinbacher.

As for my coming home, as I told you this morning, as soon as Vicksburg falls I will apply for a leave and no man in God Allmighty's world can be more anxious to see his dear family than I, even if you do scold me every time you have the blues. During all the hardships we are living well; our mess fares better I think than any mess in this Corps. It consists of Lt Col. Major. Adjutand. Quarter Master. Surgeon and two Assistant Surgeons, and myself. We have two of the best boys to cook and forage for us in the whole Army and during a Battle, no matter how dangerous our position, one of them will hunt us at meal time and bring us something to eat.

I am really glad you have a fresh cow, for of late I am nearly crazy for Bread & milk; we still have one good cow, but too many in the mess to get much milk. I send you an abstract of a paper that (the only paper) used to pitch into me. Dont you think he comes under nice? I do not see what produced the change. Every thing is quiet to day. We have a large tent in which we all stop. The boys have a lot of Tents we got from the Rebs that we drove out.

Ever your true & loving

Marcus

My love to Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & Hattie & Elizabeth

Ad gons 120th ON. I In the field Big, Black. Bridge Min. May 31/63 My dead dead Wife. To days mail bronght me 24 letters from dif somer all Very agreable but none to relishingly fileasing as your Smeet letter of the 17th I aler received one from you to day lead by Mr Lemmon. - We are still in the Sand place as when & last conte to you a viry quite place when we hear the the canonading of our falls at lickeling Day and night. I am hale and hear and in Acellent spirits have nothing to wish for if it were not that I feel as though I must bond times first und off sev your the dear Children I then I get that dead pretime to feel as will as I can. Jow many feel perfectly easy as far as any dear little Hattie is concerned as & feel furt no well towards her as I do towards any of them, I often ficture her week face beford my emagination Ida really with I had be profile

I would very much wish, if you would write and a little more incoraging as to my military career but & know you write as you feel at the time your resign to and never theless fatisfiel that your feel as proud in any achieven and as I do and Daw satisfied that in your heart you do not now want me to resign, when you kand that we Signation is " disgrace " unless a man is field, which thank yad & and and-Oary my love, my heart and bond are in the same, though I make no blow, though & write no letters for popularity, though I say Abut to your yet I am as fatified as O came is first and that as an pour able man I point shay in the Meroice as long as my comity needs me and while I can serve my dear Jable name, they by an honest and how my wand in forsaking my County and influence I can do her some lem're.

There is a balance due me by Envs Brown & & of forty sig Dollars sparty the cho \$ 46 43/100 which & ordered them to pay ones to you whenever you call for A Offend you \$ 250 by a Mr Canfinan of Woosted without a letter Expection have received it. I have not yet seen Joseph and do not know where he is but speet he is doing hully busines along the pined. I received a letter from Henry Herger & Oal French the would like to go into Amaring here! to that for fickening fallo, & shirt to that for formed spect to stay with you grite archite go to Units town Dina to with you. My Charley of the bines till & go home I will king min along and hand him till fall. the later Buttles which is a very you will find them interesting Enough und their and if chill will not pack -lish them, lell Ebright to have them published in the Republican

I hope and trust to gad that Yow will all feel well when I come home for I have made up uny wind to enjay myself to well and catil within my dead family Cricle to I do not intend miting with put lie affairs. All my by Son Haming that his little Billy looks very well and that I share a very mice lift sadle for him. Sell my daughter Lizzu that I will bring her some this nice and tell my dig the Low Morey that I bring thim amething very pretty + tall my Sweet little Hattin the most have to Day, Pa "hefore I erm and get her usul to my pictino fine my respects to the gabeth A to all the quints in storing 9ª Division 13 the angloups Mead Vickshary

Hd. qrs 120th O.V.I. In the field

Big Black Bridge Mis.

May 31/63

My dear dear Wife.

To days mail brought me 24 letters from different sources all very agreeable but none so refreshingly pleasing as your sweet letter of the 17th I also received one from you to day sent by Mr. Lemmon. We are still in the same place as when I last wrote to you, a very quiet place where we hear the cannonading of our folks at Vicksburg Day and night. I am hale and hearty and in Excellent spirits, have nothing to wish for if it were not that I feel as though I must some times just run off [to] see you & the dear children & then I get [out] that dear picture & feel as well as I can. You may feel perfectly easy as far as my dear little Hattie is concerned, as I feel just as well towards her as I do towards any of them; I often picture her sweet face before my imagination & I do really wish I had her profile.

I would very much wish, if you would write me a little more incoraging as to my military career, but I know you write as you feel at the time you write & allthough you say in every letter resign &c I am nevertheless satisfied that you feel as proud in my achievements and as I do and I am satisfied that in your heart you do not now want me to resign, when you know that resignation is "disgrace" unless a man is sick, which thank God I am not.

Cary my love, my heart and soul are in the cause, though I make no blow, though I write no letters for popularity, though I say it but to you, yet I am satisfied as I am that "God liveth" that our cause is just and that as an honorable man I must stay in the service as long as my Country needs me and while I can serve my dear family more by an honest and honorable name then by leaving a stain on my name in forsaking my Country and her flag, just then when she needs me and when by my experience and influence I can do her some service.

There is a balance due me by Enos Brown & Co of forty Six Dollars & forty three cts, \$46 43/100, which I ordered them to pay over to you whenever you call for it. I send you \$250 by a Mr. Caufman of Wooster without a letter, expect you have received it. I have not yet seen Joseph and do not know where he is but expect he is doing bully business along the river. I received a letter from Henry Herzer and Col French; they would like to go into business here.

As soon as Vicksburg falls, I expect to start for home & expect to stay with you quite awhile, go to Uniontown, Lima &c with you. My Charley is quite sick; he has the "scowess" [scours]. If he lives till I go home I will bring him along and leave him till fall.

I sent you a Copy of my reports of the late Battles which is a very correct history of my doings; hope you will find them interesting enough to read them. Let Cohn & Ebright read them and if Estill will not publish them, tell Ebright to have them published in the Republican.

I hope and trust to God that you will all feel well when I come home for I have made up my mind to enjoy myself so well and entirely within my dear family circle as I do not intend mixing with public affairs. Tell my big son Hamlin that his little Billy looks very well and that I have a very nice little saddle for him. Tell my daughter Lizzie that I will bring her something nice and tell my big son Mosey that I bring him something very pretty & tell my sweet little Hattie she must learn to say "pa" before I come and get her used to my pictures.

Give my respects to Elizabeth & to all the friends

Ever you true & loving

Marcus

120th O.V.I. 9th Division 13th Army Corps Near Vicksburg

Anrale. My dear dear Carry! When you her Enos & talk about the money tell him if he wants to lead part of my letter he may, you Know it would please him. I really dit not think of writing for anybody " lye but your ? I proto non backed over it & am fato. ful that Jud sheet would do Euros a great deal of good. dell fin he need not say make about as & do not want you to come ant- public when I come home. alto show him Banks Junal Order Un 23. I love you my dear my since Whe and have a chance to show at Some time I hope Every han Marcu I send this letter by one of min men, He Copy of the military history of the Officer of the 120 ? want you to presence for my take Goad care of it.

Private!

My dear dear Cary!

When you see Enos & talk about the money tell him if he wants to read part of my letter he may, you know it would please him. I really dit not think of writing for anybody's eyes but yours. I just now looked over it & am satisfied that 2nd sheet would do Dr. Enos a great deal of good. Tell him he need not say much about as I do not want you troubled through I mean to come out public when I come home. I also how him Banks General Order No. 23.

I love my dear my sweet Wife and have a chance to show it some time I hope.

Ever yours

Marcus

I send this letter by one of my men. The copy of the military history of the officers of the 120th I want you to preserve for me, take good care of it.