

Camped on the "Field" near Petersburg Va June 30th 1861

Worthy and Esteemed Friends

Your kind and welcome

message. My late June 21st came duly to hand by yesterday's mail, and you may be assured I was as ever pleased to hear from you and the rest of my "Friends" in the "distant west". I am glad you enjoy yourself so well and also have good health. Well as for myself I am enjoying good health for me, and pride myself I am almost tough as any of the 36th., or at least I have been since we came in to Va. Gusel has been quite unwell for a few days past but is getting some better, still he is so poor you would hardly know him. Frank Gostermout is tough as ever, there too are all that's left in the Co. now of the "Brotherhood" stock, all the rest being sick or wounded and gone to the rear to some "hospital". O.R. Gant was taken sick while at Golds Harbor and when I last heard from him he was in Washington getting better. Arthur Adams and Benj Dick we have heard nothing from yet. Lee Jahnke and Lewis Manderscheid are at Alexandria both getting along finely. Mathew Gearhart I have heard nothing from, but he is in some hospital north. Chauncy A. Walker is "played out" and the last I heard of him he was at the "Soldiers Rest" Alexandria. We have done some hard marching and a little fighting since I wrote before. We crossed the James River at Wilcox's Landing, and come to Petersburg and immediately charged upon the Rebels and

our Regiment lost 76 wounded and 15 killed. My Co lost only one
wounded, Johnie Moran a fine little fellow was shot through
the shoulder. Here we lost our Lieut. Col. and Major both
being wounded. And soon after we moved to the left about four
miles, and here we had another fight and my Co lost one more
man. Speister Bantow shot through the shoulder. Here we met with
quite a disaster, the line of battle being so much broken, and
in places did not connect. And the "Johnie" got in rear
of the 3^d Division of our Corps, and fired a volley on them
which caused a panic, and many were taken prisoners. And
they got in rear of the left of our Brigade, and took four
Regiments prisoners viz. 15th, 19th, & 20th Mass 83^d N.Y. Regiments
Our Brigade started out with 3700 men and now numbers
1550 men and we are not in Richmond yet. But I suppose
they will try and throw the blame on to the men about the
prisoners being taken, and exonerate Bad Generalship & such like.
We have had a little rest for the past six days, having been
in the rear, doing guard duty, but we now nearer the front. And
I suppose will soon go out again. My Regt. stacks now 266 men
keto, and a Captain in command of it. The weather is very
hot here, and dry and dusty so it almost smothers us to
march, no rain since June 1st. Well I would like very
well to be there and go the circus with you, but I guess I
will have to wait until this cruel war is over. And

I think I could enjoy myself along with you Rhys when
you got the beer, as we can get none here, and pot water
is very scarce here. Well I want you should eat some
Ice cream and drink some lemonade and enjoy yourself
for me the best of ways. All quiet along the lines to day,
I suppose on the account of being mustered to day. Well I
must close. Give my best wishes and respects to all the
folks, and write soon.

I am as Ever John W. Dick

To Edgar M. Dick

Address as before