

no 14.

U. S. S. *Albatross*

At anchor off Fort Walker Hilton Head S.C.

November 8th 1861



My dear Father

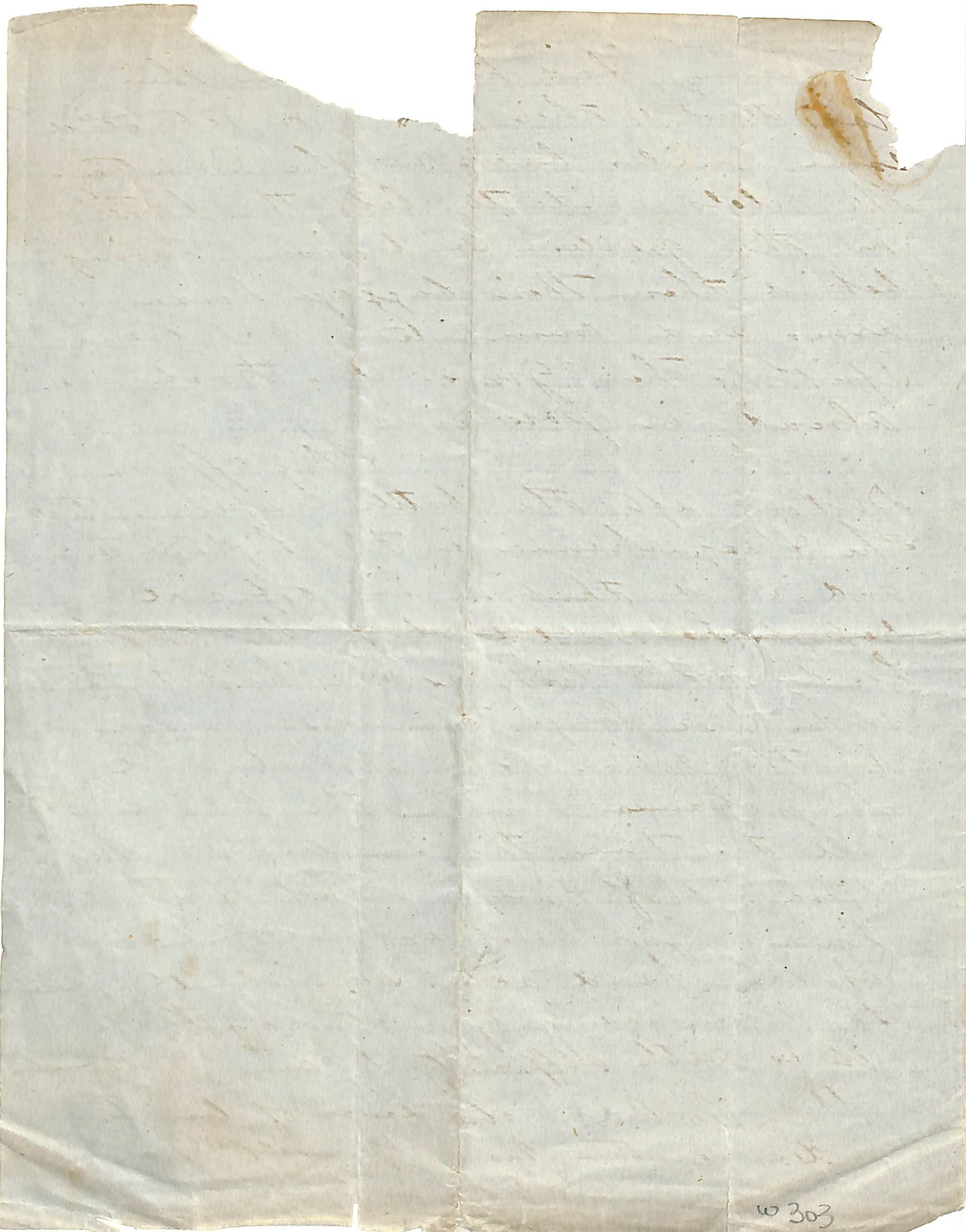
The great fight is over and a glorious victory it has given us - more glorious probably than any of the present war, as not only was the place taken of great import to us but also was the battle more fiercely fought than any ^{one} save an eye witness can imagine or appreciate. I do not say what I have - vainly, but with the feeling of one who knows that men never did stand a more terrible fire of shot and shell than was poured upon our ship and the *Wabash* during the six hours of the engagement. Yet we have miraculously escaped with but small loss and damage, only being hit some thirty five times and losing but two men and wounding four or five seriously and a few others slightly. The enemy fortunately for us gave their guns too great an elevation so that much

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The loss of their shot & sh
went over our heads, indeed at times
during the action, the incessant
"Whittle, Whittle, Whittle" (noise made by
passing shell) overhead made my position
on the hurricane deck nearly resemble
that of man with his ear attached to
the cylinder of a steam engine.

Our masts, yards and rigging were
very much cut to pieces. A splinter
from our main mast (weighing about
five pounds) struck about three inches
from my nose, and a ball came
crashing by, so close to Lieut. Fendall
so to knock him down, without
so much as scarring him. From all
we can learn the rebels lost some
five hundred men. Our fire upon
the forts was more terrible than
can be imagined. I myself visited
fort Walker yesterday afternoon and
saw legs & arms innumerable scattered
about in all directions. Many of the
enemies guns were dismounted
by our shell, and as the smoke
was very thick and dense we
kept up our fire long after the

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enemy had been driven from their
bay, deserted their guns and retreated
some miles back in the country.
The rebels evidently left the forts
in the greatest confusion, leaving
behind them their baggage, horses,
arms and ammunition, not even
spitting their guns. Our troops are
already in possession.

Flag Officer
DuPont after the battle complimented
the Quaquehanna in the highest terms,
and said that in his official
report he would place her at the
head of the list, as she had remained
under fire longer than any vessel
in the action. The Wabash and
Susquehanna were in the fire nearly
all the time, the smaller vessels
were out of range most of the
time. You must excuse this sheet
as my head aches so violently from
the cannonading of yesterday that
it is with difficulty I can write at
all. With an abundance of love to
dear Mother Mary, Yourself & Grandfather
I remain
Your affectionate
Nephew



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