

In Front of Petersburg, Va July 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dear Brother

I received a letter from you sometime ago, but have been so busy that I could not answer it. We had a desperate fight on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June. I lost 27 men I was on the skirmish line under heavy fire 10 hours.

7 Companies of our Regt was skirmishing and I am the only Officer that was not wounded. We made a brave charge on their batteries and breast works. I never was so ~~excited~~ <sup>excited</sup> before. Can tell about what it was by thinking of Fredericksburg. We have only 9 line Officers with us.

I have been quite sick since as I got entirely exhausted. How do you get along and how are the folks at home? I have had no letter for 14 days. I hope you will get home soon but don't come back too soon. You will get so much hard fighting yet. Write soon and direct to Co. E 4<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Col. Regt.

S.S. Fort Monroe Va

Yours affectionate brother  
Stephen

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To Co. F, 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cal. Troops  
Fort Monroe, VA

From your affectionate brother,  
Stephen