

[Fry, Speed Smith]

Jollicoff's Camp
January 20 1862

My Dear Wife, I have written to you some
two or three times within the last week
but have had no opportunity of sending
them to you. Even that time we have
had one of the hardest fought battles
since the commencement of the winter
war, and the best of it is we won a most
glorious victory driving the enemy back and
capturing about 100 prisoners, about 100 wag-
ons, 14 pieces of artillery, a very large quantity
of horses I cannot say how many, all their
ammunition, many stores, tents, trunks, clothing
and a thousand other things too tedious to
mention. We killed and wounded, from the
best accounts some 200 or 250 and wounded
perhaps as many more. They admitted, in
their retreat of killed, wounded and missing
some 600. Our loss in killed and wounded
is about 200 or 250. My Regt. suffered
more than any other considering the numbers.

My Regt. stood in one place and fought
two hours and a half and never for a
moment did we waver. We had
little thought of being attacked by the rebels.
We supposed they would remain in their

in their intentions and await an attack from us. But to our surprise they came out to attack us, and they were right it the longest day they live. They marched some six or eight miles in the night expecting to catch us on ashore, I was in bed when the alarm was given, but in few minutes time my men were formed in line and on the march to the scene of action. We went at it earnest and for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours the combat hung upon a slender thread. They had eight Regiments and for $1\frac{1}{2}$ or two hours the 10 Indiana and my Regiment held them at bay until the 2nd Maine and 9th Ohio came to our aid.

I had a personal interview with Genl Gallien before the field of battle. He stood side by side a short time, I thinking all the time he was one of our officers, and from his conversation to me he must have thought I was a rebel officer or else he was trying to play a trick upon me. The conversation took place right in the road and when I left him I rode off some ten or fifteen paces and looked at around to see what was going on behind me to see what was going on, and the first thing that attracted my attention was a man, one of his aids, rode out of the woods and deliberately aimed his pistol at me but fortunately missed me. I then observed that I had been talking to a

white officer. I at once drew my pistol & the man who had shot at me having made good his escape I aimed my pistol at Galtieoffen and shot him through the heart.

This may shock you a little, but my own life depended upon it, and I did it with a clear conscience.

He said to me when he rode up to me, "we must not kill our own men", to which I replied, "I did not intend to kill my own men intentionally." He then said, pointing to some men standing out in the woods, "Then come over now and let us not kill them."

As I turned away from him and after I had shot one of my own men stepped up to me pointing to the same to whom Galtieoffen aimed, and asked me if there were more men, I then looked at them and discovered that they were rebels and gave orders to our men to fire upon them which they did killing several of them and putting the others to flight.

After the morning had taken flight we immediately followed in pursuit some seven miles to their intentions, when we expected another hard fight. Our cannon was immediately placed in position & commenced upon them in their entrenchment.

May 1st

rents. They returned a few shots and quit.
We did in our turn all that night not know-
ing but that they might commence on us
this morning. We watched them closely all
night. We could see this little Steam
boat moving back and forth across the
river all night. We could not tell certainly
whether they were going off or whether they were
surging reinforcements on this side.

I was satisfied myself that they were
leaving. We opened one of our batteries in
the morning at their boat and in a short
time the fire burst from it and very soon
it was consumed to the water's edge.

We all then took up our line of march
towards their encampment, and upon
reaching them found them evacuated and
the lining all across the river and every
thing they had left upon the ground.

The bottom of the river on this side was
literally covered with wagons, cannon, mules and
horses, and their tents and huts were filled
with trunks, boxes, chests and thousands of
other things too tedious to mention. They
left all their clothing behind except what
they had on their backs. It was a com-
plete rout. They had built some two or
three hundred huts for their winter quarters.

Little did they think we would be occu-
pying them to night, but here we are in

them sitting by warm fires and they scattered
through woods many of them barefooted and
almost naked. The whole force was completely
demoralized, so much so that their officers
could move badly, then after their flight in
the morning. Many of them threw down
their guns and positively refused to fight
again.

I can say that my Regt. behaved
most nobly during the whole fight, never
giving away an inch from the commence-
ment of the fight, and I ^{am} happy to say all
join in giving my men great praise.

I had my horse shot under me. He was
shot twice, and died that night. He was
a noble animal and I regret his death
very much indeed. I never have seen
an animal behave as well on a battle
field as he did. It will be hard to replace
him. I have Gallicoff's sword and spy
glass. I will send the sword home by the
first opportunity.

It is getting late and I must close. What
more of interest I have omitted in this
letter, in regard to the fight I will give you
in my next.

My health is good except a horse

Cuba.

I am truly sorry that poor Simon Grubbs
was amongst the killed. Say to the good
people of Hamvile that his widow and
children should be well provided for and
not allowed to suffer for any thing.

He died like a brave man and true
patriot. He died leaving his wife and
children destitute of the means of life
poor and helpless. Get some good man
to take up a subscription for them.

He was the only man taken from Hamvile
who left a family. You will soon see
the report of the killed and wounded in
the papers and I therefore forbear giving their
names.

Give my respects to all friends.
Kiss the dear little boys for me and
bid them me to be good, afft. husbands
Yours S. P.

Wicks fought through the battle without
being hurt. He is well. He wrote to Kate
to night. S. S. F.

Pray God.