

the Hospital. I am coming home
some time next month, as soon
as I am able to travel, for the doctor
all tell me I must get North & off
in the country, before I shall be able
to get strength enough to get really
well. I think a few weeks will recruit
me up to the mark again. It will
depend upon my wound when I shall
be able to undertake the voyage so you
may just keep on writing, for your
letters will have lots of time to get
here before I start. I am very
well taken care of now & am as
comfortable as possible under the
circumstances. I have been messing
with Capt. Allen & Porter, who are both
on the staff, for the last 2 weeks &
when I was brought down to the
hospital they would not let me stay
but carried me here to Capt. Porter's
quarters. The clothes I wore on
the field were so utterly ruined that
they had to be thrown away & I

Camp 3^d Div, 19th Army Corps
in front Port Hudson
June 15th 1863

My Dearest Mamma

If you could only see me now
you would open your eyes - wide!
I am lying on a hospital bed in the
tent of Capt. Porter. Chief Dr. M.
to this division. There isn't much
the matter, only in the fight of yes-
terday I got a Minnie ball through
my right leg & it has laid me out
for the time. It is a lovely wound
the doctors say & indeed I couldn't
have been hit with more care. The
ball passed through my leg about 4
inches above the knee just missing
the bone. It is ~~if course~~ very pain-
ful but I have very little fever & am
doing very nicely. I can only thank
God that I got off as I did. I was
struck 8 times & have only this
flesh wound. The first time a ball

struck me full & fair on the right
shoulder, but its force was spent &
beyond leaving a black & blue mark
did no harm. My sabre was
struck 3 times & only cut in
2 places. One was a very curious
shot for it cut open the bottom of
my pocket & I lost every thing
in it, including my pocket book
with about \$75. I was with Gen
Pain when I was felled & fell at

quarter to five yesterday morning.
We had about 400 yds. of level
ground to pass over before reaching
their works & the fire was so in-
fernal that I did not see how any
one man got over. They used but
little Artillery but the whistle of
the Minnie balls never ceased

Gen. P. fell 200 yds beyond me
& Lieut. Pearce who was with us
was shot down at the same time

All struck in the leg! After
I fell it was 7 hours before I could

get off the field. I had only 300
yds. to crawl to get to shelter but I
could not raise my head above the
short grass without having a dozen
balls fired at me by the scorch snuff-
shooter. They struck me once
in back of head but whether it was
another spent ball or whether my
cap shielded me, it only left me
with a severe pain & a big lump
which Amia will cure. I fainted
twice getting off, & once had to sham dead
for over 2 hours for I couldn't move
my hand without getting a shot. It
really seemed as if every square foot
of ground except where I was lying
was plumped up. I was covered with
dirt & dust by the shots which fell
around me. I certainly never expected
to get off the field alive. I shall be
sent down to New Orleans in a few
days as soon as I can stand it, & shall
go to Mrs. Roper & let her take care of
me. I can get along better than at

when Gen Gardner coolly said
he had "not been fortifying for 3
weeks past to give up now." If
the reports here about Kirby Smith
are true Banks will be besieged
in town & his campaign prove rather
a failure. I got your letters of
May 7th & 22 yesterday afternoon after
I was brought down here. They are
the first I have had for over a month
& I see by them that I have lost
at least two in some manner.

I am too tired to write more
for I have to lie on my back
in rather a cramped position not
being able to move my leg alone.

Please give my love to Father
Grandmother & all

Your ever loving son
S. J. Spencer

am now wearing ⁵ some of Capt. Porters until I can get some from the Brig. Dr. M. There is a Probenantian of mine drifting around loose somewhere up in this region but Haven only knows where

It has probably been confiscated by some "gobbler", but still it may turn up. Instead of renewing the attack this morning upon P. H. the tables are rather turned & we are attacked in rear by a force supposed to be 4000 strong. Weitzel has marched out to the sugar house & is in line of battle there. It would not surprise me now if we never took the fort, but had to pull up stakes & make tracks for H. O.

We have wasted over 3 weeks for the place could have been taken when we first arrived with one half the loss of life necessary now. A flag of truce went in on Saturday to demand a surrender