

[Transcribed on 2/26/2022]

Camp Suffolk Jan the 31st 1863
Catharine I now sitdown to write
to you to let you kno that I am
well and hope that you are all well
I expect some money in a fiew days
and I will send you a litle
for it is but little that I get now
we only get about twenty one dollars
a piece this time but I am in hopes
that I will get some more soon I am
oughing about ten dollars that has got
to be payed out of this twenty one
so you see I shall not have much
to send you this time We started
on another march friday night at twelve
Oclock with three days rations in our
haver Sacks we marched eight miles
and found the enemy about ten
thousand strong and our nighbors
did not exceed three thousand as we
marched out of the woods to the open

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field
the first that we discovered was that
our Batreys wer planted for action
our Batreys opened fire on them
and they returned the fire amediately
with shot and shell grape and
canister we wer amediately formed
in line at the rear of our batery so
that we wer just in range of the
enamys shots the firing commenced
at half past three in the morning
and kept up untill half past seven
as soon as we formed in line as I first
told you the enamys shots came whis

ing over our heads and our Colonel
commanded us to ley down flat
on the ground we droped down and
the shot shell grape and canister
came thicker and faster and loer
we layed with our heads toardes the
firing the shots would just pass
over our packs and some of them
would strike just in front of us

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and bound over us I leyed by
the side of our Orderly Sargt Alln O
Abot and there was one large cannon
ball struck just in front of us and
bounded over us and struck but a short
distance from our feet and went [eutin?]
down small trees and slashing through
woods one shell bursted not more than
three feet over our heads so you see that
if we had stood up we would have
been all stove toe pieces there was
one man layed to the left of me and
there was onley two leyed between
him and me and there was a round
shot struck him on the head and noeked
his braines out and glanced over and
and hit Richard S. Southworth on
the heel but did not breake the
leather of his Boot it bruised his heel
just enough to make him lame all day
yesterday but he does not complain

[4]

when three hours had elapsed the
fireing began to die down on bothe sides
we was called to Attention and we sprang
on our feet they marched us by the

left flank file left into the road
and halted then marched up in the
field and formed in line of battle
and then our artillrey commenced
playing upon theirs and then we made
a charge upon them and they pulled
up and started through a piece of
woods we advanced untill we got to the
woods and halted and then we sent a
skout of Cavelry to see if they had
made a stand they returned and said
they wer not but a litle way in advance
and had planted their batreys again
they had planted them in range
of the road so we wer ordered to advance
on the charge and we was oblige to

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go through the woods on the right
hand side of the road we advanced
in line of battle through the woods the
woods was about a half mile long we
got about two thirds the way through
the woulds when they opened fire
on us there was some offisers on horse back
the first fire seamed to be amed at
the ofisers one Cannon ball struck
an offisers horse and it fell then
they poured the shells and grape
and canister into the wods and their
shots wer well aimed for we had
to dodge behinde trees and logs and
their shots would hit the same
trees and logs that we wer be hind
so we wer ordered to retreat we retr
eated back about half way out of the
woods and then we formed in again
and tried it again when we
got about the same plase again they

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poured in their grape and canister
and shells again they wer on one side
of the woods and our batrey on the other
and we wer directly between them and
then our batrey opened fire on them
and we had to look out for the limbs
that our gunns cut of from the trees
and for the rebbs shots too we tried
for two hours and a half and our
offisers found that it was impossable
to get the men through the wods with
out haveing them all killed so we
retreated back out of the woods there
was two of our Co woonded in the woods
one of them was Frank Birt brother
in law to Fred Vaneuran the other
was Corperal Wood and from Bakers
Bridge there was onely one of our Company killed and
and four slightly woonded when we retre
ated out of the woods we left our batrey
plaging shells into them they soon

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soon found that it was to hot a plase
for them so they left they heard the
fireing in Suffolk and sent us reinforceme
nts of about ten thousand men
and six Cannon we followed them
about eight miles and there they
made another stand and as we came
up they fired upon us so our infantry
flanked them on the left and the
artillrey took them length ways
and we son routed them from there
and they destroyed a bridge so we
could not follow them any farther

very well so we turned around and
marched back to Camp Rufe
and Charles did not go out this
time Charles was on camp guard
I counted seventeen dead horseis of ours I
mean they belonged to the union army
and I did not see but three rebil horses
that was killed but it was evedant that
they lost more than three times the number
of men that we did

[8]

any with it today we leyed on our faces three
hours and the enamys shots flying over
us as thick as hail stones there was
one man in our Co that got a flesh
woond on the forehead this mans
name that was killed was George Abbot
Michael Gardner was hit on the
head with a piece of a shell that hirt
him some but did not breake the
skin I beleive that is all of our Co
that was hirt dureing the three hours
Cannonadeing there was anomber more
of our regt that was killed and woonded
Captain Tailor was killed we was
lying on the ground with his men
and he arose up a litle and said to his
men laye down closer and a shell went
under him and exploded and blew
his inwards all out some had
an arm shot off some a leg and some
had their heads shot off men wer
mangled in every way that you could
think off