

Opposite Fredericksburg May 4th 1863

Dear Mother

I have been waiting three or four days for something decisive to happen so that I could give you the particulars. But as things do not go off verry fast and I am afraid not verry favorable for us I will write a little now and more some other day. The fighting began Thursday and has been kept up every day since then and thank God I have not been obliged to be in it at all. I was left in charge of ten men to pack up the things left in camp and then act as guard for the Waggon train. I have heard a number of reports from our division and they say that nearly all of the officers are killed wounded or missing.

Col. Berdan is reported killed. Our troops took the heights back of Fredericksburg yesterday morning and captured three batteries, but I see this morning that they the rebs have got back there with more guns and have opened fire again. I saw our men make three splendid charges yesterday on three different batteries. They were successful every time. Our men on the right wing were driven back about six miles the other day. Caused by a panic created in Segils old corps. The dutchmen, they are not good for anything. One good Yankee is better than forty dutchman. It is just a year ago today that the rebels left Yorktown. They may leave here but I do not think they will.

Tuesday Morning May 5th

Things look rather dark this morning. There was a general engagement last night just before dark and I think that our men were repulsed. Longstreet has fresh troops yet. Our regiment has done nobly. They Captured 3 pieces of Artillery and nearly a thousand prisoners in one day. Col. Berdan is not killed but is all right. I can't write any more now for the mail is going right off. I got your letter last night of the 21st.

Your Affectionate Son  
Cyrus J Hardaway