

the Court
above their own Sunday night
it was a boat on a Sunday night
and thirty miles
and now we are Chicago we are
hear on Sunday night
I must close
Chicago Illinois 15 Regt
company
George Hoyt
Dear friend
Alvin Failing

Major
Major George
Major George Hoyt
George George Hoyt

Carroll
Dated 15 October the
Dear friend take
my pen in hand to inform
you that I am well and
hope those few lines will
find you the same I have
written before when I was
at Harper's ferry and received
no answer I have written eight
letters and have received no
answer the fight beginning
on Saturday morning about
ten o'clock the 15 Regt was
ordered on Maryland heights
but company B was on picket
on the west side of Bolivar
at heights about two o'clock
in the afternoon general
miles ordered the pieces
spiked and left every
thing on the ground

Thought
and when there was no
rebels seen their until
about sundown they had
time enough to save the pieces
but there was no use to stand
or if we would have had a good
true guard we could hold the
place until we got in force
ment on Sunday morning we
opened on them one of our batteries
filled one hundred and twenty men
the distance between the
batteries was about 3 miles and
then the rebels began their
performance the rebels had the
Maryland battery in our guard
to the foot of Bolivar the battery
on Maryland and they fired over
Bolivar and the shells fell
near company B and did not
we took a man Sunday night

we was drawn in line of
battle a boat at two o'clock
on Sunday night and a cavalry
came up and we fired four
or five shots in them and
then they turned and
run we cut them all to
pieces on Monday morning
general miles surrounded and
then he said he wished that
the first shell that was fired
it would fill him for he had
sold his boys once before
and I am very happy to say that
he got his wish a shell or some
thing else struck his fire and
he died in a few ours and we
stacked our arms and the rebels
came and took possession and we
remained there until
Tuesday morning and then
we started for Annapolis we

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[Chicago, Illinois]

October 1, 1862

Dear Friend,

I take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I have written before when I was at Harpers Ferry and received no answer. I have written eight letters and have received no answer.

The fight beginning on Saturday morning about 10 o'clock, the 115th Regiment was ordered on Maryland Heights but Company B was on picket on the west side of Bolivar Heights. About two o'clock in the afternoon, General [Dixon Stansbury] Miles ordered the pieces spiked and left everything on the ground and run. There was no rebels seen there until about sundown. They had time enough to save the pieces but there was no use to surrender. If we would have had a good, true general, we could [have] held the place until we got [re]inforcements.

On Sunday morning we opened on them. One of our batteries killed one hundred and twenty men. The distance between the batteries was about 3 miles and then the rebels had the Maryland Battery. I was on guard to the foot of Bolivar [Heights]. The battery on Maryland and they fired over Bolivar [Heights] and the shells fell near Company C and did not touch a man.

Sunday night we was drawn in line of battle about twelve o'clock on Sunday night and a cavalry came up and we fired four or five shots in them and then they turned and run. We cut them all to pieces on Monday morning. General Miles surrendered and then he said he wished that the first shell that was fired it would kill him for he had sold his boys once before and I am very happy to say that he got his wish. A shell or something else struck his thigh and he died in a few hours. And we stacked our arms and the rebels came and took possession and we remained there until Tuesday morning and then we started for Annapolis. We arrived there on Sunday night. It was about one hundred and thirty miles. nd now we are in Chicago. We arrived here on Sunday night.

I must close. write soon.

Chicago, Illinois

115th Regiment, Company B, New York Volunteers

Your friend, — George Hoyt

Bio of George Hoyt

George was the son of Thomas Hoyt (1817-1880) and Mary Knapp (1815-1880) of Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York. He was 21 years old when he enlisted at Canajoharie on 4 August 1862 to serve three years in Co. B, 115th New York Infantry. He had been in the service for little more than five weeks when he and his regiment were surrendered with 12,000 Union troops at Harpers Ferry in September 1862 by Dixon S. Miles. Thus, the 115th New York and other regiments were unfairly tagged as the “Harper’s Ferry Cowards” and spent the remainder of the war trying to regain their reputation. George was later wounded in action on 20 February 1864 at Olustee, Florida, but survived his wound and served out his time in the Veteran Reserve Corps. George passed away in 1930.