



Richard C. Hulse, Co. F,  
5th New York Heavy  
Artillery

Joseph C. Hulse  
quarter master department  
No 6 State St  
New York  
City

Addressed to Joseph C. Hulse, Quartermaster Department, No. 6  
State Street, New York City

Maryland Heights Sep 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Father & Mother

I sent an answer to your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> but I guess you did not receive it as the mail and road was taken possession of by the rebels. we are having very tough times out here we expect every minute an attack from the enemy we have been sleeping on our arms these two nights our captain called us together and told us our time had come that he wanted his men although a hand full to stand by him he said he would not leave us until the last drop of blood runs out of his frame and such hurrah good gracious some of the men cheered so that any one two miles off would hear them while he spoke some could not help crying. I believe I have not told you how we are situated but I will commence now ~~to~~ turn over

we are on a mountain about one mile high we have our pickets posted all around we have three large guns regular navy pieces I tell you they can bark like the mischief when they go off if we were forced to retreat we would have to cross the potomac or be taken prisoner but there is no retreat in our captain for he will keep the hill till the last we thought one night we would have to retreat but it seems they did not come you can see that I am in a hurry as we have found out how to send the letters but it is a dangerous for you will have to run the risk of them going into the hands of the secesh I guess you have heard of our men retreating from Winchester they have all retreated on this side there was one cavalry company as they were retreating they were hissed at and their captain told them to dismount and clear out the place

well it happen to be a watchmakers store they rush in broke the windows and some took feed bags full and other took haversacks full of gold and silver watches jewelry rings and other articles. why you can one from them for four or five dollars gold or silver ones as they do not know what to do with them

I have not received that box yet but it may be on the way coming I do not know wether you will get this letter or not but I hope you will receive this for I am very well now and feel as hearty as the next one the captain says I fell away a good deal since I came here but never mind he says for eat all you can get sleep all you can and then you are all right I will write you a very long letter this time for it may be my last time to write to you all

N.B. you can write the same directions as before but if we move I will let you know if I can when you write let me know how all the folks in Williamsburg are we expect to be paid off on the fifteenth of this month they are trying to starve us out of the ferry we have a great time in getting meat - but I guess we can stand sometime yet well I will drop off now

So if this letter reaches you

I remain

Your Son

Dick

MS Send my love to Miss Hill,

for things look very suspicious out here now. we have very strict orders out here no one must leave the camp ground we have extra guard on night time I send my love to you all and all the folks, do not forget to tell uncle John. it is now very near dinner time our work out here is not hard we have easy times to what some do I suppose things are very dull in New York now but there may be a good time come yet when we all may return to our homes and those black hearted villains as we called them I mean secesh may once more be brought to rally under the stars and stripes we caught fifteen rebels last night and if you was to see them come in one would lay of on the chairs and the others would call for a glass of milk or

whiskey but they did not get treated as they thought they would they got the guard house with nothing dry bread and water. nights we have our camp fires and have plenty of singing and talking why then a fellow feels as if he was at home but as soon as they leave to go to bed then I lay think

our men are very sociable together there is not a cross word said to no body that is what we call something like it for in the camp ground below us they are always fighting I think I will have to come to close now as the roll strikes for dinner if there is any way of sending stamps please send some

So I remain  
Your Old Dick  
from your Son

Richard H. Hulse

Dear brother and Sister  
I thought I would say a few words in this letter to you I hope you are getting along well you must not think that I forgot you all for I did not if you see Joe Davis tell him I send my best respect to all the folks I think that this is my last chance of writing to you all we are surrounded on four sides by rebels and may be we may be all cut up to pieces for these rebels say they allow us on the hill no quarter but they mean to shell us out but we fear them not you may all write but I don't know whether it may go

So I remain  
Your Dear Brother  
Dick

Maryland Heights

September 9, 1862

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We are on a mountain about one mile high. We have our pickets posted all around. We have three large guns—regular Navy pieces. I tell you, they can bark like the mischief when they go off. If we were forced to retreat, we would have to cross the Potomac or be taken prisoners but there is no retreat in our captain for he will keep the hill till the last. We thought one night we would have to retreat but it seems they did not come. You can see that I am in a hurry as we have found out how to send the letters but it is dangerous for you will have to run the risk of them going into the hands of the secesh.

I guess you have heard of our men retreating from Winchester. They have all retreated on this side. There was one cavalry company—as they were retreating, they were hissed at and their captain told them to dismount and clear out the place. Well, it happened to be a watchmaker's store. They rushed in, broke the windows, and some took feed bags full and others took haversacks full of gold and silver watches, jewelry rings and other articles. Why you can [buy] from the for four or five dollars, gold or silver ones, as they do not know what to do with them.

I have not received that box yet but it may be on the way coming. I do not know whether you will get this letter or not but I hope you will receive this for I am very well now and feel as hearty as the next one. The captain says I fell away a good deal since I came here, but never mind, he says, for eat all you can get, sleep all you can, and then you are all right. I will write you a very long letter this time for it may be my last time to write to you all for thinks look very suspicious out here now. We have very strict orders out here. No one must leave the camp ground. We have extra guard on night time.

I send my love to you all and all the folks. Do not forget to tell Uncle John. It is now very near dinner time. Our work out here is not hard. We have easy times to what some so. I suppose things are very dull in New York now but there may a good time come yet when we all may return to our homes and those black-hearted villains as we called them—I mean secesh—may once more be brought to rally under the Stars and Stripes.

We caught sixteen rebels last night and if you was to see them come in, one would lay off on the chairs and the others would call for a glass of milk or whiskey but they did not get treated as they thought they would. They got the guard house with nothing but dry bread and water. Nights we have our camp fires and have plenty of singing and talking. Why then a fellow feels as if he was at home but as soon as they leave to go to bed, then I lay down.

Our men are very sociable together. There is not a cross word said to nobody. That is what we call something like it, for in the campground below us they are always fighting. I think I will have to close now as the [drum] roll strikes for dinner. If there is any way of sending stamps, please send some. So I remain your Old Dick—from your son, Richard H. Hulse

Dear brothers and sisters, I thought I would say a few words in this letter to you. I hope you are getting along well. You must not think that I forgot you all for I did not. If you see Joe Davis, tell him I send my best respect to all the folks. I think that this is my last chance of writing to you all. We are surrounded on four sides by rebels and maybe we may all cut up to pieces for the rebels say they allow us on the hill no quarter but they mean to shell us out. But we fear them not. You may all write but I don't know whether it may go. So I remain your dear brother, — Dick

# Bio of Richard C. Hulse

Born 1843 the son of Joseph C. Hulse (1818-1893) and Elizabeth Todd (1819-Aft 1880) of New York City. Prior to the Civil War, Richard's father was a furniture merchant in the city. After the war, he kept a billiard saloon in Morrisania, New York. Richard was a member of the Yorkville (upper east side of Manhattan) Fire Department, Truck No. 10, before joining the service. When Richard was 19 years old, he enlisted on 4 August 1862, at New York city as a private in Co. F, 5th New York Heavy Artillery to serve three years. At the time of his enlistment, Dick was described as a "machinist" who stood just shy of 5 and a half feet tall, with brown hair and brown eyes. he was captured and paroled by Stonewall Jackson's men at Harper's Ferry on 15 September 1862. 19 October 1864 near Bowman's Ford a surprise attack by troops under Confederate General William H. Payne. Following a stint in prison, Dick was reported as having taken the Oath of Allegiance to the Confederacy and joined the rebel army as a "Galvanized Confederate" at Salisbury, North Carolina, in December 1864.