



(Civil War) Sullivan, William H., **Civil War Correspondence of William H. Sullivan, of Phillipsport, Sullivan County, New York, while serving with the 1st Regiment New York Volunteer Engineer Regiment in South Carolina, and Florida, 1862-1865**

Group of 55 letters, 143 manuscript pages, several retained mailing envelopes, generally in good clean condition.

Civil war letters of William H. Sullivan, a young man from Phillipsport, New York, written mainly to his mother, Sabra Tice, of Phillipsport. Sullivan volunteered with the 1st New York Volunteer Engineer Regiment and writes home with news of his regiment's movements in the Southern Department, mainly in South Carolina and Florida. Sullivan utilizes his own idiosyncratic spelling, and his hand is at times a challenge for the reader. Sullivan served in Company G and for a time was the orderly for Colonel Edward Serrell, the commander and organizer of the regiment. Sullivan and the regiment saw action at Fort Pulaski, Hilton Head, Folly Island, James Island, Johns Island, Morris Island, the siege of Fort Sumter, and Charleston, the bombardment and assault on Fort Wagner, raids in Florida among other places. The 1st New York played pivotal roles in many of these actions and worked tirelessly in South Carolina and later in the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond.

The 1st Regiment New York Volunteers was formed by Edward W. Serrell, a prominent New York Civil Engineer and veteran of the Mexican War. In 1860, he saw the clouds of war gathering and perceived the need of the Army of a specialized Regiment that would be able to operate in the battlefield, under enemy fire, in direct support of line infantry and artillery. The US Army had a Corps of Engineers, but they made up only a small percentage of the 15,000 men and officers comprising the standing army. The U.S. Engineering Officers were composed for the most part of Topographical Engineering Officers and were ill-prepared to support field troops.

After the formation of the Confederacy and the Battle of Fort Sumter, Congress authorized a massive increase in the number of specialized engineer troops on August 3, 1861, to complement the growing Union Army. Serrell, obtained authorization to begin recruiting an engineer regiment which would become known as the 1st New York Volunteer Engineer Regiment, or Serrell's Engineers.

The regiment was accepted by the state on September 27, 1861. Serrell was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of Volunteers on October 11, 1861, and promoted to a full Colonel by December of that year. The regiment was officially organized in New York City and mustered in for a three-year enlistment on October 11, 1861. The Regiment consisted of 12 companies (A-M) a large regiment for the time.

In late December 1861, with most of the companies mustered, the regiment was sent to Washington and then onto Fortress Monroe in Hampton Roads. There they were assembled with the forces under General William T Sherman that were to sail with the expedition under the command of Admiral S. F. DuPont, for Port Royal Sound, South Carolina. The regiment completed its organization in early 1862 and became the 10th Corps Engineers in the Department of the South. The Regiment was employed throughout the east coast from South Carolina to Florida. They were on Tybee Island building the National Batteries before Fort Pulaski. The regiment distinguished itself in the Battle of Fort Pulaski, helping to capture the fort after 30 hours of bombardment, constructing batteries for the new James rifled cannon. The 1st New York was given the honor of having their regimental flag chosen as the first to float over Fort Pulaski after its capture.

While serving in the 10th Corps, the regiment was involved in capturing several key forts in Charleston Harbor. After the failed infantry assault on Fort Wagner which included the famous charge by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the 1st New York Engineers were tasked with conducting a traditional siege on the fort. After 60 days of shelling, the defenders abandoned the fort on September 7, 1863.

Using Morris Island as a staging area, the 10th Corps could focus on recapturing Fort Sumter, the site of the first military action of the Civil War. During the Battle of Fort Sumter, the 1st New York established watchtowers and built batteries in an attempt to pummel the fort into capitulation. However, in spite of a near constant bombardment, as well as a failed amphibious assault, Union forces were unable to occupy the fort until its abandonment by Confederate forces on February 17, 1865.

The regiment was at Fernandina as part of the forces that reoccupied Fort Clinch. They saw action along the Saint Johns, Coosawachee and Edisto Rivers. The Regiment was also at Hilton Head, Folly and Morris Islands and Battery Catfield (famous for the "Swamp Angel").

In the spring of 1864, the majority of the regiment, 8 companies, were detached from the Department of the South and brought north to become part of the Army of the James. Four Companies (A,C,G & I) remained in the Department of the South where they finished the war. The eight companies that came north (B,D,E,F,H,K,L, & M) proceeded with the Army of the James to Bermuda Hundred. There as the Engineer Corps of the Army of the James, they were placed in charge of the construction of the Bermuda Hundred Line, they laid countless miles of corduroy roads, operated an Engineer Depot, three saw mills, they dredged the Dutch Gap Canal, also established a machine shop and forge. When General Grant proposed the movement of the Army of the Potomac to the south side of the James after Second Cold Harbor, the 1st New York built the abutments and roads that connected the pontoon bridge assembled by the Engineers of the Army of the Potomac (15th & 50th N.Y. Engineers, with City Point.

Later, in September 1864, with Grant and the Army of the Potomac at Petersburg, the Army of the James thrown against the outer defenses of Richmond and the 1st New York went with them. The Confederate line was broken north of the James River at Fort Harrison and the 1st New York set the new line from Fort Brady to Fort Harrison and over to Deep Bottom.

With the fall of Petersburg and the subsequent abandonment of Richmond, the combined armies of the James and the Potomac pursued Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia westward. By this time the 1st, 15th and 50th New York Engineers had been formed into the Engineer Brigade. Four companies were detailed to enter the burning Capital of the Confederacy to put out the deliberately set conflagration that enveloped the city. At least one of these companies was from the 1st New York. Meanwhile to the west the remainder of the regiment was shoring up bridges and repairing roadways, building field works and batteries in support of the onrushing Union Armies. The last known mention of the regiment comes at Farmville on the eve of surrender at Appomattox Court House, where they were employed building batteries for field artillery.

The regiment was mustered out on June 30, 1865. The regiment lost 2 officers, and 25 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded in combat. 5 Officers and 116 Enlisted men died from disease, for a total of 148 casualties.

Sample Quotes:

“Hilton Head March 24, 1862

It is with pleasure I take my pen in hand to let you know that I received your letters and it found me well and in good spirits and all the boys is well but James Whitney he has got the dropsy on the heart and he is a going home on the first mail. I am now on Hilton Head Islen I have been back 6 days from tibe [Tybee] We caught four prisoners and fetched back with us and to day the pickets fetched in to mor ... We have a paper printed on this island Weekly called the little south. We have the warfe about done you wanted to know about my pay I hav not recved it yet. Col. Serrell has gone to Washington to see about it. There seems to be trouble with the regiment there is only four companys hear now I weigh 110-120 pounds now do not you think I am a gay soldier. I am on the right side of all my officers We have good living now. I wish you would send me a half a dozen postage stamps in your letter... I wish you would send my black pants to me for I want them to wear for I hasn't my black ones up and I hant got any nice ones to wear on dress parade ... W. H. Sullivan to his Mother ...”

"Hilton Head April 13 62

Dear Mother ... the boys is all well and rejoicing over the surrender of fort Pulaski after the fighting was over they took 380 prisoners they landed here today only one killed on our side I don't know how many is killed on there side ... W.H. Sullivan"

"Hilton Head the 2 [?] 1862

My dear Mother,

I now take the opportunity to right a few lines to you to let you no that I am well at present and hoping these few lines will find you the same Mother we have been drawed up in line of battle two or three times and now we lay on our guns every night. We are about 15 minutes from the enemy we can hear them... Mother we expect to draw our money in week or two and then I will send 13 dolers home We have very hard time here mother I want you to end me a box of things and don't fail For I stan in need of them... Hilton Head in care Col Serrell"

"James Island, SC June 19, 1862

Dear Mother

I thought I would write a few lines to let you know that I am well and in good spirits. The boys is all except Georg Eichenberg his health is very poor. We have had two battled the first one tha attacked us and we worsted them bad we took 5 pris and killed 30 and our loss 30 kild wounded and we attact them Tuesday and tha drove us back our loss was from 300 to 500 and there loss was not so bad Their force is supposed to come but we was but we was expected them along for their forts. Our boys was in their fort three times and they drove us back every time. We had to retreat back to the old camp but we will have it again if we can get that point we can take fort Sumpter and Charleston. I have got a good job I am Col Serells you orderly. I have to carry messages. I don't have a gun. We expect to get paid when this expedition is over or the next move ... W. H. Sullivan"

"James Island SC June 26 1862

Dear Mother,

Dear Mother it is with pleasure I drop a line to you I am well and in good spirits the boys is all well except George Eichenberg his health is very poor. We got paid yesday There we was Divided in to classes \$ 17 and 13 I was second class so I get only \$ 13 per month up to the first of May We will get paid the first of July agin. So I will send you 35 dollars I will keep \$ 10 to spend. Things are so dear don hear it takes a good deal to bye a little I want you to pay father them to dolars he let me have to come away with and one box of things. Send tow nice check shirts and about to dozen postage stamps and a box of segars a bottle of wine and some cake and the rest what you have a mind to take What mony you want to pay the freight and buy the things and keep the rest till I come home....

We are right a mong the enime our pickets was drove in last night we are a building batteries night and day We will have another fight in a few days ... from Will to mother ..."

[Hilton Head] "July the 5 1862

Friend Robert,

I thought I would right yo a fieu lines to let yo no that we are all back on Hilton Head a gane as good luck will hav it all well we sene a hard fight and I donte want to see a nother one sum would think it was fun but to see men all cut up sum with their armes of well Bob a nuf of that, how are you getting a long with the world how is the family that little one you must rite as sune as yo get this tel me how things is in Philipsport From your Friend Donkey..." [William H. Sullivan]

"Hilton Head Sc July 15 1862

Dear Mother,

It is pleasure I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and in good spirits. The boys is all well except George Eickenbergh is a going down hill every day. I think he will get his discharge. If he don't he wont live long here. I want you to send my box of stencil tools and get Gabe David to send for stock to New York send for about 8 dollars worth of stock. Send for one dozen of large size plats to pounds of brass get three dolars worth all together pay the freight on it. Send it as soon as you can for I can make money on it. I can get 75 cts a piece as fast as I can sell them. Get some good ink off Gabe David get him to send for the things. Get them as soon as possible. Get Horton Tice to make the ink fill all the bottles make it out of lamp black and oil the same as use to make it... W. H. Sullivan Vol. Eng Brgt"

"Hilton Head Aug the 6 1862

Friend Robert,

... thare is quite excitement here now for we expect to be attacked on this island and the rebels has got a ram completed to savannah they have tried to run by Fort Plaski several times but got drove back she is similar to the Mary Mack ... Wm. H. Sullivan"

"Hilton Head, SC August 13, 1862

Dear Mother,

It is with pleasure that I drop a few lines to you stating that we are all well that is left of us. Mother I have not got a letter from you since I left James Island. I don't know whether you got my money or not. All the rest of the boys herd from theirs... Mother I suppose you would like to have my picture. I have had it took for you. It is dark, but no darker than I am. We have not been kept in a bandbox it cost twelve shiling to get them with out a case to it ... W. H. Sullivan [with two crude ink sketches of tents]

"Hilton Head, SC Oct. 25, 1862

Dear Mother,

I thought I would send you a paper. It will give you the news better than I can write it to you. We have had some fun as you can see by the paper. We expect to go agin in a few days for we wood like to get in Charleston if we can The boys is well and unhert from William H Sullivan of New York Engs Co. G"

"Hilton Head October 25 1862

Dear Mother it is with pleasure I drop a few lines to let you know we have got marchers orders at one o'clock today. I don't know where we are going but I suppose to Savana. We are going in light marchen orders We are getting paid to day I will send some home. I must pack my knapsack... Willam H Sullivan"

"Camp Wells Hilton Head Nov 18 1862

Dear Mother,

I received your welcome letter of the 2. I was glad to hear from you. I am well at present the post boys is all well as far as I know. Moses Cudington was here yesterday. He has gone to Beaufort to see about getting in the cavalry regular service for two years. Me and George Tice is going in. I think it is going to New York and camp until it gets full and then is going out to the front teers to fight Indians. We got paid the day we left for the battle. I sent 25 dolars directed to you iof you want to use any of it do so. I suppose you know Charles Elmerdorf has been promoted to Sergeant, but I think he will be reduced to the rank for getting drunk. I suppose you know that Charley and Weed cowed out of going to the fight. The Co is gone to sea brook to bild a btry I am on Hilton Head with the colonel

I will send you a per so you can read it beter than I can wright it I did not send the money by Express but in a letter. I suppose you have got it by this time ... W. H. Sullivan"

"Hilton Head December 3rd 1862

Dear Mother,

I received your welcome letter and was glad to hear that you was all well as we are not Mr Raymond is loseing his eye sight and s punctured. He is not with the Co. He is on the Co Head and I am there to under doctors care When our Col Serrell went home I had to report to my Co and the first day I worked on the post I put my shoulder out of joint But I have got it pulled in place again and it is getting better. I think Mr. Raymond will get his discharge. ... William H. Sullivan"

"Camp vol engs 10 army corps Hilton Head Sc Dec 21 1862 [To his sister Jenny Tice]

Sis

I received your letter with pleasure, it found me in as good spirits as ever and full of the devil. So can't be down hearted. You know you say you are lonesome since the post boys has enlisted... there was two regt of them since earnest came hear but our old troops wont speak to them the cowardly sons of guns I am glad you have sent a box to Jimmy If I had monyto spair I wood send him some for he must need it he has seen hard times. This Regiment I am in drinks more wisky eats more fat pork steal more sweet potatoes does more work gets more prais than any regt in the service and that good ... Wm H. Sullivan"

"Camp Vol Eng SC 10 army corps Department of the South

Dear Mother,

I Recvd your welcome letter. It found me well except my shoulder is not quite well yet. Our Post boys come down to see me today it being Sunday and had no work today. They are all well. Mother your [letter] states that you have not received my money yet. Sent it on the Steamboat Peabody. She is lost No body nows wether she was sunk or wether the [?] has captured her. She bothers our vesels a great deal about this Department but the gun boats is laying for her but the next time I will send it by express. A good many lost money by that Pirate. You stae about me wanted to go in the reglar cavalry I cant get in the general said we was in the Engineer Regt than reglar servis ... I am glad you let father have that money for he is good for it I have got a new knap sack and blankets but I have to pay for them. ... You said if I was home you could talk to me all night. I think we could enjoy ourselves tip top but I don't wasn't to come this winter. It is too cold for me. I have gotten used to it down here and like it... Wm. H. Sullivan..."

"Camp Vol Engineer Hilton Head SC Dec. 26 1862

I wish you a Merry Christmas Dear Mother I thought I would drop a few lines to you after Christmas to let you know I enjoyed myself tip top. We had target shooting, ball playing, chasing a greased, shaved pig, climbing a greased pole, running bag races, and a roasting pig for dinner at night. We had niger [sic] performances. We had a big time. I don't think the boys on the Potomac could come up to us! don't see a chance for the war to close if Gen. Burnside is defeated. I wish the rebs wood attac this place they would get a belly full of it. Mother I wish you would send me a bed quilt for it is cold nights with one blanket. I suppose we will be here all winter ... William H. Sullivan"

"Camp Vol. Engrs Hilton Head SC 10 Army Corps Jan 19, 1863

Dear Mother,

It is with [pleasure] I drop a few lines to you ... To my surprise I received a letter from Jim he was well. I have a paper of the 6 Jan it brings bully news from Gen. Rosecrans Army and Gen. Sherman at Vicksburg. A few more such strikes as that will bring an end to the War. I would like to see peace tip top. I think I could be enjoying myself next summer home. Mother I want you to send me 2 doz postage stamps if you have got the money to spare, for I have not got money or stamps. ... Jim has had a hard time by the letter he [has] written me was Cliff Tice to the battle of Fredericksburg? The soldiers in this department is getting diseased tha are deserting every day but I will stick to it till the last dog is dead. If you can send my stencil tools to me I can make something of them here ... Direct Willam H Sullivan Co. G NY Vol Engrs. Hilton Head SC In care of Col Serrell"

"Camp Vol Engineers Hilton Head SC Feb. 14, 1863

Dear Mother,

I received your most welcome letter with pleasure, stating you was all enjoying good health. It found us all well and in the best of spirits, for our old friend the paymaster is coming around with some greenbacks for us. It makes us smile to think of it. Several Regts has been paid off in this department. We think we will be paid next week. I would like to have my stencil tools now I could make \$ 10 or so but if you cant send them never mind it. The tenth Leagen is here thair is a great many fellows I know

it does me good to see them. N. Crossman is a Lieut. My shoulder is well. It is nearly as strong as ever. I am not the Col Orderly at present for he is in Washington. There is a rumor about camp that five companies is going to New York to repair the harbor. I think we will stand a chance to go with them. Our Capt has been dismissed from service for disobedience of orders. The Co is sorry to see him go he has been a good man to his Co. Better than the one that will be Capt now ... "

"Head Quarters Hilton Head Feb. 27/63

Dear Mother,

... The Rebs is getting ornery than ever ... tha came on this island last night and captured a whole post of pickets We intend to tame them soon around Charleston or get tamed our selves... We are having easy times but expect to have something to do after a while... Wh. Sullivan"

"April the 3 /63 Hilton Head Sc

Dear Mother,

I sit down to drop a line to you to let you know that we are going away we are packing up soon we will embark on board the steamer burnside to day bound for Charleston we expect to have a hard fight there I will write to you as soon as I get to James Island we are packing up now ... Wm H Sullivan"

"Camp Vol Engrs Hilton Head Sc Apr 15 /63

Dear Mother,

While on the burnside off Charleston harbor. It found me well. I am sorry to say that our Expedition is a failure. Our Monitors opened on the rebels forts the Eight of Apr but after three hours fighting was forced to retreat with the loss of one monitor sunk and all damaged and the gun boat iron sides had 18 holes put through her. Our Co. G went on James Island one night to build a battery under the enemies guns but tha shot us out. We had no land fighting more than picket fighting So we did not lose more than 40 men altogether. But we never can take Charleston tha are too well fortified tha have got 200 guns and 50 mortars to bear on any vessel So it is impossible to take it. Some of the forces that came from VA is going back. I am getting tired of this place. I would like to go to Va. We have bin in this Department long enough. We are afraid of the yellow fever this summer ... Send my stencil tools soon as you can ... From you son Yankee..."

"Camp Vol Engrs Hilton Head SC May 9th/63

Dear Mother,

... When I wrote my last letter I expected to have some fighting to do but it was all hope for we have returned to Hilton Head a gain and give Charleston for a bad job four of our companies are on Morris Island building batteries. Our C will stay on this island all summer I suppose I don't think we will attack Charleston We have very easy times now for a soldiers life life that aint very easy the best of it. Henry Tice is in the Hospital ... the 50 regt is for North Edisto island ... W H Sullivan"

"Camp Vol Engs. Hilton Head June 20, 1863

Dear Mother,

I received your welcome letter it found me well and in good spirits as I hope this will find you. We expect to have a fight before long. We have received reinforcements and a Monitor and expect 5 more of them. You have had bad luck I guess you have had so many deaths, but we all must come to it some day. If you can send me a quilt I will do the best I can. ... I have got a letter from Jim* he has gone to his regiment. I hope he will behave himself and stay to his company. He forgets his friends, he won't write once a month to me ... we expect to go to Charleston or get drove back. But I think we will get it this time. We will fight for it all we can. We intend to have a dance her the fourth of July, if we don't miss of it .. this from your son, W H Sullivan, to mother Sabra Tice, if you wish to write to Jim direct James H Tice Harris light Cav, Bele Plain Va Co. K or elsewhere..."

- James H. Tice, 2nd NY Cavalry, made a prisoner of war at Todd's Tavern, May 5, 1864, paroled at Charleston, South Carolina, December 6 1864, died of disease December 29, 1864.

"Morris Island SC July 15, 1863

Dear Mother,

... We started for Hilton Head the 9 of July and went of Foly Island the nite of the 11 30 of us was picked out to go with Col Serrell with six boats with muffled oars then went up a creek close to far island up to the spiles and sawed them of... We were under the guns of Fort Sumter the rebels discovered us and came down with one search boat but the Col fired six shots from his pistol and tha run back for reinforcements and we put back to foly island and the next day we opened fire on the rebels batries the fire lasted three house and half be fore tha surrendered we have got all of Morris Island ... Our forces have charged on the fort three times and got repulsed every time. So we are building batries to seize it. Fort Sumter fires once in very day tha haven't fired on us to day We have worked day and knight for 5 days with nothing to eat but dry hard tack ... You will hear from me next ime when fort sumter has got the stars Stripes flying over her ... William H Sullivan"

"Morris Island SC [July or August 1863?]

Dear Mother,

"" am sorry to brake my word for the last letter I wrote to you that w wood not wright to you until fort Sumter was taken but you say you are anxious to hear from me. We are building batries still under the Enemie nose and the rebles shell us as usual thair has bin no casualties on our to amount to mutch... thair was a Deserter come in from Sumter yesterday he says that the folk are all leaving Charleston City. We have Guns mounted that will throw shell in the city. I think that we will get the place but it will be hard fighting first. We have fourth of July every day here. So you see it is a musing for us but I hope we will be rewarded for it by hearing the news of Peace... W H Sullivan"

"Head Quarters Vol. Engineers Morris Island SC July 29, 1863

Dear Mother,

... We was all well but tonight it gives me pain to say that Floid Weed received a bad wound from a shell while working in a battery the shell bursted so near him as to burn his eyes but I don't think that it will inger his eye sight any a piece of the shell hit him in the back and a nother on the arm but did not brake any bones. So he will get over it soon. Three more was wounded in the same battery .. I was working in the advance of them throwing up rifle pits the sharp shooters bothered us some but did not hurt any body ... Mother I hope that tha will draft those sandies that is making all the fuss in New York City and fetch them down here we will give them a nuff to do William H. Sullivan"

"Morris Island SC Aug. 26, 1863

Dear Mother,

... We are passing up to fort Wagner the closes parallel to the fort is a bout 75 yards the infantry drove the rebels out of thair rifel pits so the engineers could advance ... our heaviest gun in one three hundred pounder and six two hundred pd and ten heavy mortars a bout 20 and 30 pd and ten pieces of light artillery Thir has been 20 shell thrown in Charleston City ... was filled with fluid one set the depot on fire ... We have had quite number killed and wounded since I wrote last. Fort Sumter has not the stars and stripes on it but will have hour Gillmore wishes to She is all knocked in pieces it is believed that her Garrison has all left as she has nothing but wooden guns on her it wood be poor policy to put a garrison in her the rebel rag is suffered to fly over the fragments of her walls. Our infantry captured 63 prisoners in driving them from their pits... William H Sullivan"

"Union Victory Morris Island SC Sep. 8 /63

Dear Mother,

Having nothing to do I thought I could not devote my time any better and let you know the news, which is Fort Wagoner [sic] and battery Gregg is ours since yesterday. It was taken by a charge, Our Monitor and Iron Side went up and engaged Fort Multry [sic] and the batteries on Sullivan's Island. Fort Multry [sic] has not surrendered but one shot passed through her magazine and bloun it up and silenced her. So you see things begins to look favorable. I have not learned the number of prisoners captured yet ... Any how Gen. Gillmore sent his compliments to Col Serrell that his regt was the most entitled to the honor & he said he cld plant his colors on the fort. The rebels said we completely charged them out of the fort. I suppose the Navy will get all the praise of it in the papers... William H Sullivan"

"Morris Island SC Sep. 10 /63

Dear Mother,

... I received a paper ... it says fort Sumpter has surrendered it is false it cant do us no harm but the rebel rag flays over is shattered walls. Our Scouts went out in Charleston Harber last night and Captured Gen Giplys boat and crew... going from Fort Wagner to Charleston City Every thing looks favorable I think we will have a general engagement soon. Our batterys are ready and Gen Gillmore don't stop for trifles but I hope you folks wont have Charleston taken before it is attacked. We have got a hard road to hoe be fore we can take fortifications of the city. The soldiers here have great confidence

in Gillmore and the best of it he compliments our Regt very high. We expect to be paid agin soon We have bin paid once since we have bin on the island ... William H. Sullivan”

“Headquarters Folly Is. S.C. HJan. 9th, 64

Dear Parents,

... I wood have written before but we had to pick up and skedaddle over to folly Island there is only one company on Morris Island of our Corps now. So we don't half to cover for shells now but our company worked under fire five months every day ... We are having very good times now We have a very nice camp since we moved close by Gen. Gillmore's Head Quarters. Our Col has just gone home recruiting tha are trying to get the regt to enlist for three years more I haven't made up my mind whether I wood enlist or not ... Our company expects to go to Hilton Head before long ... William H. Sullivan”

“Jacksonville [Florida] Feb. 26/64

Dear Mother,

... We have bin 52 miles in the interior of Florada We drove every thing before us and captured lots of coton and camp equipage until we come with in a bout 7 miles from Lake city When we met the rebs 15 thousand strong and as we only had 4 thousand we got badly wipped Lost 5 the best piece of Artillery in the department I haven't learned how many men but it was heavy Our Co was the only one of our corps along ... the enemie drove in our pickets so we had to ready for attac. I had to work from noon yesterday until this morning. So every thing is ready for the Rebs ... W H Sullivan”

“Jacksonville Fla April 22 1864

Dear Mother,

... I am well and in the best of spirits as we expect to leave for the Potomac this week we have got orders to be ready in one hours notice the White troops are all going as fast as possible and Gen. Gillmore we expect to have a hand in seidgeing Ritchmond it will be a big thing for us for we have never been defeated yet on a seidge yeti suppose the vetrens is a bout to leave home and every thing that is dear as we call it 30 days in paradise and three years in hell ... We have very easy times at present but we have got to leave it We get soft bread every day but if we go on the Potomac it will be hard tack ... W. H. Sullivan “

“Folly Island S.C. May 8th 1864

Dear Mother,

.. We have been shoved around considerable since my last. We left Jackson ville the 28th of April for Hilton Head and expected to embark for Fortress Monroe but got disappointed as eight companies of the Corps had left thair remains four Co in the Department still. We left Hilton Head the 4th for Folly Island Where we are now. We have a Fort 400 & 50 ft square to bild that is an all summer job but we expect to half to go to Va yet. ... It is very dull here now as most of the white troops have left the department. Our veterans have not returned yet ... William H. Sullivan”

"Camp 1st N.Y. Vol. Engineer Corps Folly Island S.C. June 11th, 1864

Dear Mother,

... I see that our fellows on the Potomac are having Hard times. We was lucky that we did not go. Gen. Grant has had a good many men killed and hasn't captured Ritchman yet. I think that little Mack is the man. Have you heard anything from Jim since the fighting commenced... W. H. Sullivan"

"Folly Island, SC June 30th/64

Dear Friends at Home,

According to promise I send you a brief note to inform you we are under marching orders, with three days cooked rations. We had a misfortune on the 27th a boat crew of five men and Srgt, including Donkey, after completing a boom across the river from James Is to Johns went in a little town situated on a point off John Is... the town is called Legrar Ville They went into town to get some [window] blinds for the Capt's tent The rebs [were] concealed in some houses and when the boys got opsite of them jumped out and fired in them. Our fellows being unarmed run for the boat, but the rebs caught two of them the others got away what a narrow escape. Some 28 shots being fired at them some of which passed through the sail boat I was lucky in not being up that day. I was there every day before, but the job being nearly done tha only wanted one boat. Tese are the first of our Company that ever fell in the Hands of the Enemie... W. H. Sullivan"

"Folly Island, SC July 18th, 1864

Honored Mother,

... We arrived safely on F. I. on the 10th after our brilliant James Island expedition ... But it was a failure. Although our loss was light but we got checked after capturing one battery two guns witch was captured from us on the gun boat Isack Smith.

Gen. Hatch made an advance on Johns Island the same time but was repused ... loss one man wounded our leaders will find out attacking the Defenses of Charleston with a small Force is no Boys play.

I hope to have no more sutch foolish raids before my time is out ... William H Sullivan"

"Morris Island, SC, Sept. 10th 1864

Honored Mother,

... think some of reenlisting for the space of one year the Inducements are as follows \$ 300.50 for the county of New York City \$ 100 United States Bounty Total \$ 400.50 ... I have not reenlisted yet nor can't until the 28th of this month but if very thing is favorable I think I shall....

We have 600 rebel officers prisoners on the north end of this Island under fire of the enemies guns as a retaliation. ... We have Glorious News from Sherman and also Fargat at Mobeal. I sincerely hope Grant may be crowned with the same success. I think that a few such victories wood crush the Rebellion... William H. Sullivan"

"Barrack Branch, Lincoln Hospiak, Washington DC Feb. 8th/65

Friend Will,

Wishing very much to hear from you and seeing to you are not going to write to me. I attempt to write you a few lines. You have no doubt altered very much since I las saw you. I also have altered every way. I don't think would recognize me now for I have grown very much within the last two years. I now weigh 150 lbs and 5, 8 ½ " high.

Well Yankey, poor Jim is dead is he. Poor fellow. Little did I think it was the last time I should ever see him when I saw him captured at Todd's Tavern. Well perhaps it will be my luck to kick the bucket before leaving the army, but here's whats going to stick to the City of Washington as long as I can for I don't like picketing in the winter. ... G.W. Eichenberg"

\$ 4500.00