

**ADOLPHUS PHILLIP WOLF**  
**Civil War Letters**  
**(31 August 1862 - 17 May 1865)**

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1.	1862	August	31	Parents	Camp Butler [near Springfield, Illinois]; written six days after leaving home; complains about army life, the lack of necessary equipment, and the ignorance of the officers, <i>etc.</i>
2.	1862	September	14	Mother	Camp Butler; laments having not received any mail from home; expects to receive his uniform and enlistment bounty soon; comments on younger brother's "sparking"; <i>etc.</i>
3.	1862	September	28	Brother Fritz	Camp Butler; thanks brother for recent visit, complains about his failure to write; relates various rumors about pay and deployment; <i>etc.</i>
4.	1862	October	22	Brother Fritz	Camp Butler; apologizes for not writing sooner, describes some of the routine of camp life; queries him about correspondence from ladies attending Monticello Seminary; <i>etc.</i>
5.	1862	November	9	Mother	Camp Butler; relates his safe return to camp following a visit home; relates how initial marching orders for Columbus, Kentucky; have been countermanded and that they are now headed for Memphis, Tennessee; expresses fear they will join M <sup>c</sup> Clellan's army; <i>etc.</i>
6.	1862	November	14	Father	Quarter Deck, Steamboat <i>Empress</i> ; relates events of trip from Camp Butler to Cairo, Illinois; <i>etc.</i>
7.	1862	December	4	Brother Fritz	Fort Pickering, TN; shares details about the concentration of forces near Memphis; explains how the regiment is scattered guarding artillery pieces, and that the army appears to be going into winter quarters; expects little fighting anytime soon; <i>etc.</i>
8.	1862	December	30	Brother Fritz	Fort Pickering; complains about the monotony of garrison life; describes Fort Pickering; <i>etc.</i>
9.	1863	January	1	Mother	Fort Pickering; relates how they have been allowed to enjoy two holidays excused from drill; describes the recent dispatch of an expedition to re-supply Grant's army; asks her to send paper for correspondence; <i>etc.</i>
10.	1863	January	17	Mother	Fort Pickering; comments on the activities of Copperheads in Illinois; mentions

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					pro-Southern sympathies among some soldiers, the arming of negroes, a recent heavy snow fall, and Confederate POWs headed to prisons in the North; <i>etc.</i>
11.	1863	January	20	Brother Fritz & sister Mathilde	An appended message on one of Otto's letters from Adolf, chastising his siblings for not writing oftener.
12.	1863	February	8	Brother Fritz	Fort Pickering; relates how a recent romp led to his getting sick; comments on his brother's acquisition of a farm in southern Illinois; wonders whether marriage is in Fritz's future; speculates that his unit will be sent to Vicksburg, <i>etc.</i>
13.	1863	February	9	Parents	Fort Pickering; thanks parents for advice proffered in previous letters; informs them that they are infantry again (no-longer guarding artillery), that they are headed for Vicksburg, and that more negroes have been conscripted to dig a channel bypassing Vicksburg; <i>etc.</i>
14.	1863	March	5	Mother	Fort Pickering; laments lack of letters from home over the past seven weeks; briefly relates the details of a recent "scout" into Arkansas scavenging; expects to attack Marion soon; rails against southern-sympathizing Illinoisans; laments being stuck on garrison duty; <i>etc.</i>
15.	1863	March	18	Father	Fort Pickering; enclosed \$25, criticism of suttlers as enemies; relates details about visit/travels of Mr. Springer; received new Enfield rifles yesterday; comments on unseasonably warm weather; <i>etc.</i>
16.	1863	April	6	Father	Fort Pickering; acknowledges recent receipt of letter; expecting to receive four-months pay today or tomorrow; shares rumors regarding desperate plight of Southerners from refugees; discounts Copperhead interpretations of events; expects Vicksburg to capitulate soon; relates how Tennesseans are enlisting in the Union Army; <i>etc.</i>
17.	1863	April	11	Mother	Fort Pickering; communicates that he is well; brags about having become a decent cook; relates that he has been paid through March 1 <sup>st</sup> ; plans to send some home, along with some photographs, with Lt. Treadway; <i>etc.</i>
18.	1863	April	16	Mother	Fort Pickering; describes personal camp; complains about guard duty; company to be allowed furloughs 5% at a time; comments on Lincoln's preventing newspapers from being distributed in some camps; asks for twice as many letters in order to stay informed on the latest news; <i>etc.</i>

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19.	1863	May	20	Parents	Fort Pickering; relates his good health; expects war to end soon; recognizes the South has no more men to recruit; expresses desire the North speed-up conscription; has been appointed to the color guard, and explains responsibilities and perks; talks about a Mr. Sydel going to serve in a negro regiment; expresses opinions about negroes; requests sundry clothes items be sent; <i>etc.</i>
20.	1863	August	7	Parents	Fort Pickering; laments lack of letters from brother Fritz; expresses remorse over mother's recent illness; hoping for a furlough home soon; would like to be home eating apples and peaches; enquires about the recent draft; <i>etc.</i>
21.	1863	August	16	Brother and sister	Fort Pickering; encourages sister to write more-often to improve her writing.
22.	1863	August	26	Brother	Fort Pickering; laments not writing sooner; describes his busy routine as a company clerk; got paid yesterday; relates how many of the men got drunk; <i>etc.</i>
23.	1863	August	30	Parents	Fort Pickering; apologizes for not writing (has been busy with his duties as company clerk); relates that they were paid last week and some troops got drunk; plans on sending money home to help out; informs them Otto has not been well lately; <i>etc.</i>
24.	1863	September	24	Parents	Fort Pickering; relates the events of an expedition taken over the last eight days to Arkansas that resulted in a skirmish with Rebel forces; recent inventory of camp gear preparatory to marching; has been ill recently; <i>etc.</i>
25.	1863	November	5	Parents	Camp East of Memphis, Tennessee; communicates he has arrived safely back with the regiment following a furlough home; unit has moved to a better camp east of Memphis; routine mostly devoted to guard duty; Otto in good health and happy with items sent from home; have sent money home by a Private Cox; <i>etc.</i>
26.	1863	November	22	Brother	Camp east of Memphis; chastises brother for not writing more-often; asks whether he has received the \$80 sent home earlier; expresses satisfaction in the recent gains made at the ballot box by the Union Ticket in Madison county; asks about events at home, relates they are preparing for winter camp; <i>etc.</i>
27.	1863	November	27	Parents	Memphis; expresses gratitude for recent news from home conveyed by a Mr. Greer (wishes there was more); expresses frustration over mother's and brother's continued health problems; worries that his father is working too hard; apologizes for harsh words used in an earlier letter; had a great Thanksgiving dinner; expresses

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					hope that father and grandfather can visit during the winter; <i>etc.</i>
28.	1863	December	13	Brother [Theodore-?] & Sister [Matilda]	Memphis; laments boring daily routine (hankers for “a skirmish or two a day so as to stir things up”); Rebels fired on pickets overnight; expects to spend the duration as the garrison for Memphis; <i>etc.</i>
29.	1863	December	22	Parents	Memphis; shares delight experienced in recently receiving a long letter from home; shares recent experiences interacting with the local ladies; <i>etc.</i>
30.	1864	January	2	Parents	Memphis; comments on recent spate of winter weather; relates details of a recent expedition and his first battle near Lafayette, Tennessee; inclement weather and no food contributed to suffering of the troops; <i>etc.</i>
31.	1864	January	24	Parents	Memphis; “ <i>positive orders to leave Memphis</i> ” soon; destination unknown (rumors abound); looking forward to seeing more of the country; anticipates hardships; speculates on probable routes of deployment; describes brigade organization; assures parents not to worry; <i>etc.</i>
32.	1864	January	31	Parents	Vicksburg, Mississippi; critical of the conditions and state of the troops; speculates that Vicksburg “ <i>must have been a beautiful place before the war</i> ”; remarks on pleasant trip down on steamboat <i>Sioux City</i> ; color guard unsuccessfully used rubber blankets to create a shelter against the rain; anticipates being on the march soon; <i>etc.</i>
33.	1864	February	2	Parents	Camp three-miles up-river from Vicksburg; expects to march tomorrow for Jackson, Mississippi; comments on how formidable the Confederate defenses around Vicksburg; recent weather has made it difficult to stay dry; <i>etc.</i>
34.	1864	February	7	Parents	Jackson, Mississippi; skirmish yesterday; assures parents “ <i>Otto and I are well</i> ”; <i>etc.</i>
35.	1864	February	26	Parents	Camp near Canton, Mississippi; hard times, since leaving Vicksburg; living on reduced rations; skirmishing every day; some casualties among the ranks; captured a cannon; expect to go to Yazoo City soon; <i>etc.</i>
36.	1864	March	7	Parents	Near Mouth of Red River, onboard steamer <i>Thos. E. Tuft</i> ; on another expedition, destination unknown; weather fine; expect fighting soon; <i>etc.</i>
37.	1864	March	15	Parents	Fort De Russy, Louisiana; had to fight their way to this point; “ <i>one of the best Forts that I ever saw</i> ”; did not participate in assault that carried the fort; <i>etc.</i>

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38.	1864	April	1	Parents	Boices Landing on the Red River, above Alexandria, Louisiana; nearing Rebel stronghold of Shreveport, Louisiana; anticipates difficult battle with high casualties; describes surrounding countryside; summarizes what was captured at Dort De Russy; <i>etc.</i>
39.	1864	April	?	Parents [?]	Natchitoches, Louisiana; continuation of march up Red River; expresses confidence a successful campaign will shorten war; describes forces deployed; ; <i>etc.</i>
40.	1864	April	18	Parents	Grand Ecore, Louisiana; recently deployed upriver to rescue a fleet of transports; campaign difficult, with hard-fought battles; describes Banks' defeat and subsequent rout; provides extensive description of battle; considers Union General A. J. Smith to be one of the best officers; anticipates returning to Vicksburg soon; <i>etc.</i>
41.	1864	May	24	Parents	Vicksburg; destination unknown; <i>etc.</i>
42.	1864	June	15	Parents	Memphis; have orders to be ready to march on a moment's notice; <i>etc.</i>
43.	1864	June	17	[Parents?]	Memphis; recent orders for another expedition countermanded; inadequate shelter for rainy weather; troops fatigued/need rest; description of trip from Vicksburg to Memphis, including a skirmish with Rebel forces; solicits father's preference in next presidential election; <i>etc.</i>
44.	1864	June	25	Parents	Camp near Moscow, Tennessee; expects to advance further into Tennessee, operating against Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest; Colored troops vow to take no prisoners; train traveled on attacked by guerillas; misses Memphis; <i>etc.</i>
45.	1864	July	3	Mother	La Grange, Tennessee; preparing for a campaign in the offing; hot weather causing problems; extensive section on presidential politics: expresses hope Lincoln will be re-elected, excoriates Fremont for " <i>ultra abolitionist sentiments</i> ", <i>etc.</i> ; regiment will be allowed to " <i>veteran</i> "; <i>etc.</i>
46.	1864	July	25	Parents	Memphis; recently returned from Tupelo, Mississippi; glad to hear family health has been " <i>tolerable</i> "; expresses sorrow that parents have to work so hard; provides a summary of a skirmish with Rebel forces near Tupelo; <i>etc.</i>
47.	1864	July	31	Parents	Memphis; inactive last eight days; anticipates marching through +100° temperatures within a week; describes preparation of a typical camp meal, sleeping conditions, revile routine, and making breakfast; weighs the benefits of re-enlisting

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					now versus later; makes contemptuous comments about Copperheads and draftees; summarizes current strategic situation; <i>etc.</i>
48.	1864	August	7	Parents	Holly Springs, Mississippi; on the move again, battling the heat; right time to campaign “ <i>for fruit . . . [of] the country abounds</i> ”; ; <i>etc.</i>
49.	1864	September	9	Parents	Onboard steamer <i>Iatan</i> ; speculates they are bound to join General Sherman’s forces; laments lack of letters from home; expects to be paid soon; <i>etc.</i> [Letter ends abruptly. The next letter appears to be a continuation this letter.]
50.	1864	September	10	[Parents?]	Cairo; glad to be back in Illinois; expresses desire to be able to visit Edwardsville; <i>etc.</i> [This letter appears to be a continuation of the previous letter.]
51.	1864	September	24	Parents	St. Louis, Missouri; regiment at Jefferson Barracks; passes easy to acquire; <i>etc.</i>
52.	1864	October	2	Parents	Franklin [Pacific], Missouri; regiment “ <i>knocked about considerable</i> ” over last few days; skirmished with Rebel forces [led by Sterling Price] two miles from Franklin; describes how Rebels had plundered town; whole brigade, including artillery and cavalry, now assembled; <i>etc.</i>
53.	1864	October	28	Parents	Camp near Harrisonville, Missouri; fatigued from chasing Price nearly 300 miles; likely to abandon pursuit; comments on the quality of the land and resources; <i>etc.</i>
54.	1864	November	? <sup>1</sup>	Parents	Columbia, Missouri; short letter, apologizing for not having written since leaving Harrisonville; has marched 200 miles since last letter; <i>etc.</i>
55.	1864	December	6	Parents	Nashville, Tennessee; spent last four days fortifying place “ <i>from River to River</i> ”; anticipating siege by Confederate General Hood; constant cannonading and skirmishing; description of Rebel attempt to plant a battery thwarted by Union artillerists; plans for a reconnaissance in force led by General A. J. “Old Pap” Smith; <i>etc.</i>
56.	1864	December	20	Brother	Spring Hill, Tennessee; still unhurt, after “ <i>two days hard fighting</i> ”; description of battlefield conditions; large number of prisoners taken; <i>etc.</i>
57.	1864	December	25	Parents	Camp in the Woods [near Nashville-?]; recent foraging produced a Christmas feast; prayer and thanksgiving to God; rumor of Sherman being victorious; tallies recent accomplishments of his division; <i>etc.</i>
58.	1865	January	3	Parents	Onboard steamer <i>Leni Leoti</i> ; headed up the Tennessee River, destination unknown;

<sup>1</sup> Date obliterated.

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					gives critical assessment of Union General Thomas' generalship; speculates on movements and situation of Confederate General Hood; plans to write grandfather a birthday letter in German; <i>etc.</i>
59.	1865	January	10	Mother	Eastport, Mississippi; marvels at health, despite campaigning conditions; comments on the unpredictable weather; credits Providence with his good health; busy since Arrival building winter quarters and entrenching; laments lack of news about home; missed opportunity to capture some Rebel colors at Nashville; living on half-rations; asks that a care package of food be sent; ; <i>etc.</i>
60.	1865	January	19, 22	Parents	Eastport, Mississippi; building shanties for winter; bunking with the Captain; rumors of peace
61.	1865	February	3	Brother Fritz	Eastport, Mississippi; description of camp life and the importance of letters; expresses confidence in Sherman; description of food
62.	1865	February	10	Parents	On Steamer Des Moines, Cairo, Illinois; speculates on destination; urges parents to prevent brother (Fritz) from enlisting; expresses respect for Frank Springer
63.	1865	February	18	Parents	Camp near New Orleans, La.; description of the landscape; speculates on next destination; expresses regret for letters he and Otto sent that were lost
64.	1865	March	11	Parents	Fort Gaines Dauphines Island; expresses confidence in Canby, Smith, and Sherman; describes seasickness on the journey; describes island as "one sand heap surrounded by water"; says Otto stayed in New Orleans; says food is better now
65.	1865	March	29	[Parents?]	[First page of letter appears to be missing] Describes firing at the Fort [Spanish]; killed and wounded number 130; presently safe after three days of fighting
66.	1865	March- April	30- 2	Dear ones at home	Camp near Fort Spanish; rebels continue to hold the Fort; making baskets to be used for portholes to prevent breastworks from caving in; rebel wharf was sunk; rumors that Canby has stopped letters from going out; longest interval without firing a cannon has been 2 hours
67.	1865	April	6-9	Parents	Apologizes for complaining about lack of letters; they have extended rifle pits to within 300 yards of the rebels' main works with the objective of taking out the cannon via sharpshooters; Division losses are 2 killed and 8 wounded; describes crawling across and open field to picket duty; one man in regiment was killed; Fort Spanish falls

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68.	1865	April	10	Parents	Fort Blakely, Alabama; assures parents that he and Otto are safe; describes the battle at Fort Blakely; rumors that Lee has surrendered to Grant
69.	1865	May	1	Brother	Montgomery, Alabama; rumors of peace “in a few short months” and of the assassinations of Lincoln and Seward; expresses anger at the South for the assassination; thinking about re-enlisting as a veteran
70.	1865	May	17	Parents	Montgomery, Alabama; camp celebrates capture of Davis, arrest of Stephens, and surrender of Clay; rumors they will be mustered out; wishes Fritz would write and confirm reports of his engagement; asks after his grandfather