

OTTO WOLF
Civil War Letters
(4 January 1863 – 6 July 1865)

	Year	Month	Day	Recipient	Subject
1.	1863	January	4	Brother Theodore [?] & sister Tilly (Mathilda)	Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tennessee; descriptions of Fort Pickering and Christmas in camp; sundry visitors; rumors from Vicksburg; and names of men suspected of having gone AWOL.
2.	1863	January	20	Theodore [?] & Tilly	Fort Pickering; more on deserters, recent severe weather; responsibilities as the company mailman, recent bout with the measles; concern over report of smallpox in Edwardsville; etc. (Includes an appended message from Adolf chastising his siblings for not writing oftener.)
3.	1863	February	22	Mother	Fort Pickering; apologizes for not writing sooner; description of a “scout” (raid); and news of Logan’s division being shipped south.
4.	1863	March	—	Theodore [?]	Fort Pickering;; replaced shanty with a wooden-floored tent; report of recent deaths in camp; wonders why parents have not written lately; confusion over recent pay; wonders why friends have not written back, etc.
5.	1863	April	6	Theodore [?]	Fort Pickering; description of a typical day; laments the state of music un the 117 th Regiment; issued new Enfield rifles; etc.
6.	1863	April	25	Mother	Fort Pickering; description of a typical day—including the meals—and what happens at a dress parade.
7.	1863	May	9	Mother	Fort Pickering; recent bout with a fever; gossip about pending nuptials for Britty Brown; deserter shot-and-killed attempting to escape; etc.
8.	1863	May	31	Theodore [?]	Fort Pickering; relates recent bout with fever; laments the inactivity of his regiment; rumors from the siege of Vicksburg; man (copperhead?) deserts while on furlough; POWs moving up-river as federal troops move southwards; weather getting warmer; leisure-time activities; etc.
9.	1863	July	10	Parents	Fort Pickering; “A very poor time” on Independence Day; walked a field following a battle; movement to Helena (AR); brief skirmish with Rebs; burst drum head; etc.
10.	1863	July	12	Theodore [?]	Fort Pickering; company free of sickness; recent deaths; victory at Vicksburg and Gettysburg; Dolf almost made trip to Alton; etc.
11.	1863	July	23	Parents	Fort Pickering; Dolf weak due to recent illness; requests articles of clothing be

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					sent via Henry Avard; back-pay expected soon; etc.
12.	1863	September	8	Parents	Fort Pickering; admits he has also been ill recently; Avard back with requested clothing; has finally been paid; plans to visit St. Louis to buy a new drum; laments parents have to watch excess food spoil; detailed to guard a railroad under construction in Arkansas; etc.
13.	1863	December	4	Brother Fritz [?]	Memphis, Tennessee; exchanges information regarding recent illnesses at-home and at-camp; 49 th Illinois in vicinity; description of a typical day; negro soldiers now garrison the fort; Dolf now company clerk; etc.
14.	1864	April	12	Parents	Grand Ecore Landing, Louisiana ; relates recent engagements with Rebel forces in Louisiana during the Red River Campaign; etc.
15.	1864	April	23	Mother	Onboard steamer <i>Thomas Tutt</i> ; expresses concern for brother Theodore's health; gives a fuller-account of the battle at Pleasant Hills near Grand Ecore, Louisiana; encourages her to convert his old military overcoat to civilian-use; etc.
16.	1864	June	1	Theodore	Vicksburg, Mississippi; expresses concern for brother's lingering illness; relates how the company has been in constant motion the past few months, campaigning along the Red River; etc.
17.	1864	July	4	Parents	LaGrange, Tennessee; company almost constantly on-the-move in-pursuit of Nathan Bedford Forrest; General Sturgis defeated and replaced by General Smith; etc.
18.	1864	July	26	Parents	Memphis, Tennessee; relates movements for July 1864; describes a skirmish and his duties on the battlefield; assisted doctors with amputations; expresses desire for articles of clothing; etc. [ten-page letter]
					[Letters missing, according to transcriber.]
19.	1864	October	3	Parents	Franklin, Missouri; all well at camp; return trip to army uneventful; Rebs raided Franklin, Missouri right before his arrival; skirmish briefly with Rebs; etc.
20.	1864	November	27	Parents	Onboard the steamer <i>Mollie M^cPike</i> , Cairo, Illinois; arrived safely at Cairo [Ill.]; is now embarking on a boat headed up the Ohio River; etc.
21.	1864	November	29	Parents	Onboard the steamer <i>Mollie M^cPike</i> , Cumberland River; relates in greater-detail his return trip from home to the regiment; is headed for Nashville [Tenn]; someone from company H drowned; etc.

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22.	1864	December	12	Parents	Camp near Nashville, Tennessee; digging breastworks at Nashville [Tenn]; 3" of sleet fell recently; being fed well; asks parents to inventory letters; etc.
23.	1864	December	14	Parents	Camp twelve-miles from Nashville, Tennessee; description of recent engagement with Rebs.
24a.	1864	December	23	Parents	" <i>Camp this side of Duck River</i> "; letter fragment (with December 24, 25, & 26); on the Duck River, forty-two miles from Nashville [Tenn]; engineers constructing a pontoon bridge; does not expect to get into a fight; etc.
24b.	1864	December	24	Parents	Letter fragment (with December 23, 25, & 26); crossing the Duck River following a brief skirmish; foraging food for Christmas; etc.
24c.	1864	December	25	Parents	Letter fragment (with December 23, 24, & 26); Christmas meal; inactive day.
24d.	1864	December	26	Parents	Colonel Moore back from leave; marched through Lynnville; hopes to post letter today; etc.
25.	1865	January	3	Parents	On board Steamer <i>LemiLeoli</i> ; daily summary of activity (movements) at-the-end-of December 1864;
26.	1865	January	22	Father	East Port, Mississippi; low on greenbacks; has to supplement meals provided by the army from his own pocket; have built a shanty, and will send a sketch soon; etc.
27.	1865	February	4	Parents	East Port, Mississippi; anxious for news from home; currently at Cairo [Ill] working as clerk in the quarter master's office at brigade HQ; Col. Moore commands brigade; 49 th (Illinois) replaced by 34 th (Illinois); food " <i>pretty rough</i> "; etc.
28.	1865	February	11	Parents	Onboard steamer <i>St. Patrick</i> , Cairo, Illinois; expects to be in New Orleans soon; etc.
29.	1865	February	13	Mother	Onboard steamer <i>St. Patrick</i> , Memphis, Tennessee; discussion of mail situation; visited Theodore Sydel at Fort Pickering; relates movement down the Tennessee River to Paducah [Ky.], and from there to Cairo [Ill.]; speculates the regiment is headed for Mobile [Ala.] via New Orleans; etc.
30.	1865	February	16	Father	Vicksburg, Tennessee; regiment has continued-on; deployment to New Orleans now doubtful; etc.
31.	1865	February	17	Father	Camp three-miles from Vicksburg, Tennessee; regiment likely to make it to New

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					Orleans before returning to Vicksburg; is expecting to participate in a campaign through Mississippi to Selma and Augusta; is sending drum home via Adams Express; etc.
32a.	1865	February	19	Parents	Onboard steamer <i>St. Patrick</i> , Vicksburg, Mississippi; no sign of regiment; has not sent drum yet; working on completing invoices and receipts; etc. [Appears to be part of a serial letter, with additions made 20 and 21 February 1865.]
32b.	1865	February	20	Parents	Near Plaquemane Court House [Louisiana?]; traveled down river past the mouth of the Red River; laid-overnight at Plaquemane Court House; etc. [Appears to be part of a serial letter, with additions made 19 and 21 February 1865.]
32c.	1865	February	21	Parents	New Orleans, Louisiana; travel through densely-populated part of Louisiana; arrival at New Orleans; will rejoin regiment soon; raining badly; etc. [Appears to be part of a serial letter, with additions made 19 and 20 February 1865.]
33.	1865	March	2	Parents	New Orleans, Louisiana; in good health; anxious for letters from home; has sent drum home; expects deployment to Mobile [Ala.] sometime soon; etc.
34.	1865	March	11	Theodore	Camp near New Orleans, Louisiana; in good health; regiment recently sent to Mobile [Ala.], supply train to go by different route; stayed behind to assist Quartermaster Fike; recently relieved of brigade clerk duties; needs more stamps; low on cash; recent deaths; etc.
35.	1865	March	16	Parents	New Orleans, Louisiana; grateful for stamps; boarding river transport at 4:00 a.m.; recent death; etc.
36.	1865	March	21	Parents	Onboard steamer <i>Starlight</i> ; grateful for \$10 sent recently; relates recent deployment to Mobile, Alabama, area, and movements of Gunboat #44 near Fort Gaines, on Dauphine Island; sent box home via express; etc.
37.	1865	March	24	Parents	Camp fifteen miles east of Mobile, Alabama; incessant rain; daily artillery exchanges; recent Rebel gunboat foray; skirmishing almost daily; current camp site very pleasant; good food; etc. [From Otto and "Dolf"]
38a.	1865	March	26	Mother	In camp [fifteen miles east of Mobile, Alabama?]; belated birthday wishes; constant thoughts of family at home; relates experience of being in reserves during a recent skirmish; etc. [Appears to be part of a serial letter, with additions made 27 and 28 March 1865. This first-section appears to have been written by brother

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					Adolphus Wolf.]
38b.	1865	March	27	Mother	Camp twelve miles east of Mobile, Alabama; description of distant cannon fire and skirmishing on march towards Spanish Fort; further combat delayed, due to rain; orders to fortify camps whenever they stop for the night; etc. [Appears to be part of a serial letter, with additions made 26 and 28 March 1865. Possibly written by brother Adolphus Wolf, even though it is included with the collection of Otto Wolf letters.]
38c.	1865	March	28	Mother	In camp [fifteen miles east of Mobile, Alabama?]; summary of events surrounding the siege of Spanish Fort; etc. [Appears to be part of a serial letter, with additions made 26 and 27 March 1865. Transcriber notes that the letter ends abruptly.]
39.	1865	April	3-9	"Dear Ones at Home"	Camp fifteen miles east of Mobile, Alabama; description of campaign to take Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely; contains details about troop movements, building fortifications, daily routines, skirmishing, siege of the fort, fall of Spanish Fort, prisoners captured, etc. [Although the initial date of the letter purports that it was written 5 April 1865, this letter is contains short summaries of events spanning the dates 3 through 9 April 1865, as he participated in the campaign to take Mobile, Alabama.] [See serial letter written 26-28 March 1865 by brother Adolphus Phillip Wolf]
40.	1865	April	12	Sister	Camp near Blakely, Alabama; description of attack on Fort Blakely. (Part of the campaign to take Mobile, Alabama.)
41.	1865	April	26	"Dear Ones at Home"	Five miles from Montgomery, Alabama; Summarizes movements of 117 th Regiment from 13 through 30 April 1865 (covered 174 miles); description of what a soldier typically packs; etc. [Judging from some of the dates, events must have been added after the original missive was penned, but before it was posted <i>via</i> New Orleans.]
42.	1865	May	10	"Dear Ones at Home"	Montgomery, Alabama; describes camp routines honoring the passing of President Abraham Lincoln; shares details about how the camp is set-up; expresses concern about getting paid soon [even though he enclosed \$320 with the letter]; plans on sending some Confederate money later; etc. [Letter appears to be incomplete, as it ends rather abruptly.]

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43.	1865	June	18	“Dear Ones at Home”	Montgomery, Alabama; initial orders for mustering-out countermanded; does not anticipate getting home before mid-July, due to a lack of transportation; mentions it is Dolf’s [brother Adolph’s] birthday; recently received four-months pay [and does not intend to eat anymore Government rations – especially hardtack]; dislikes the climate of Alabama; enclosed some Confederate money; etc.
42.	1865	July	3	“Dear Brother” [Theodore or Fritz-?]	Fort Pickering; expresses concern over mother’s continuing health problems; disappointed he was not part of the guard detail escorting Rebel prisoners to the Alton Prison; looking forward to being “ <i>free once more to go and come when I please without asking</i> ”; shares plans for upcoming Division Parade 4 July; etc.
43.	1865	July	6	Parents	Montgomery, Alabama; comments on no letters being received from home; camp has been moved since last writing; described events commemorating 4 th of July; expects mustering-out will not happen before August; etc.