

Letter #3 (Black Union Soldier):

MR. EDITOR: It has been a long time since I have had an opportunity to indite a line for the columns of THE ANGLO-AFRICAN, but by permission I will give a brief account of the battalion to which I am now attached, and to which I hope to belong until this cruel war is ended, and the nation enjoys once more the blessings of peace. That this may soon be is my earnest wish and prayer.

Our camp at present is in a very healthy place, and the men are in fine spirits.

The Battalion is composed of as good material and contains as brave hearts as any equal number of men that ever shouldered a musket in this war. These men have left their own dear homes, their wives and children, of their own free will: why, then, should they not fight? Yes they will as they know full well that this is the golden opportunity that they have given them to establish their manhood and capability as soldiers before the world.

The service of this Battalion shall be loyal and true until every rebel is banished from the country, and every traitor is hung between the heaven and the earth, the rights of the colored people acknowledged, and the States all forever free.

Then will this be one of the strongest and most prosperous nations on the face of the globe –a country that God will bless.

When all is peace –when the colored man can go forth over all the States and say, “I now am free and no longer shall be a slave!” –when our stars and stripes shall be emblematic of the freedom of all, both black and white, then shall we forget our hardships and sore trials and “forgive those who trespass against us.” While we are fighting let the good people of Zion (i.e. all Christians) hold up our arms with their prayers until the Lord shall crown our cause with glorious victory.

If it be my lot to fall on the battle-field, I shall be content to die far from home and friends, if my ears are saluted by the shout of my comrades, “The battle is over; the stars and stripes wave triumphantly, and the slave is free!”

MACY ,

Co. E. 2d Bat., 14th R.I. Heavy Artillery
The *Weekly Anglo-African*, March 26, 1864, p. 2)

Source: <http://teachinghistory.org/best-practices/examples-of-historical-thinking/25048>

*FROM THE SECOND BATTALION 14th
REGIMENT R. I. HEAVY ARTILLERY*

CAMP KENYON, New Orleans, La., }
Feb. 19, 1864. }

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