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## **Guide to the Albert M. Forbes Civil War Letters MS.M.055**

Processed by Adrian Turner.

Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

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**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

**Title:** Albert M. Forbes Civil War letters

**Creator:** Forbes, Albert M.

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.M.055

**Physical Description:** 0.1 Linear Feet(1 oversize folder)

**Date (inclusive):** 1862

**Abstract:** This collection comprises seven letters sent from Albert M. Forbes, Lieutenant, Member Company of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery, to his family in 1862 during the Civil War. The letters provide a first-hand, detailed account of skirmishes in Tennessee and Mississippi. He describes battle preparations, soldier life in camps and the harsh living conditions, and long marches through Memphis and other areas. He repeatedly urges his younger brother not to enlist. Forbes also mentions the work of his officers and peers, describes troop movements under the direction of Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and John McClernand, and criticizes General Ulysses S. Grant for his tactical decisions. Four of the letters were apparently written while Forbes' troop was encamped near battle sites.

**General Physical Description note:** 0.1 linear feet (1 oversize folder)

**Language of Material:** English .

**Access**

Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

Albert M. Forbes Civil War Letters. MS-S16. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California. Date accessed.

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of unknown donor, ca. 1967.

**Processing History**

Processed by Adrian Turner, 2001.

**Biography**

Albert M. Forbes was a Union soldier in the Civil War who served as a Lieutenant in Member Company of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery. His Company was active in Tennessee. When the first of these letters were written on April 16, 1862, Forbes was stationed at Boltons Battery, after moving from Benton Barracks. By November of that same year, he was camped at La Grange with an army of over 100,000 Union soldiers, where they clashed fiercely with Confederate soldiers in Holly Springs. The last letter in this collection in this collection was apparently written during the winter of 1862.

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This collection comprises seven letters sent from Albert M. Forbes, Lieutenant, Member Company of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery, to his family in 1862 during the Civil War. The letters provide a first-hand, detailed account of skirmishes in Tennessee and Mississippi. He describes battle preparations, soldier life in camps and the harsh living conditions, and long marches through Memphis and other areas. He repeatedly urges his younger brother not to enlist. Forbes also mentions the work of his officers and peers, describes troop movements under the direction of Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and John McClernand, and criticizes General Ulysses S. Grant for his tactical decisions. Four of the letters were apparently written while Forbes' troop was encamped near battle sites.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives -- Correspondence.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Correspondence.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Attitudes -- Correspondence.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns -- Correspondence.

Soldiers.

Forbes, Albert M. -- Correspondence

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box FB-022, folder 5

**1862 April 16.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter to mother and father from P describing battle preparations, fighting, and devastation in the area.

box FB-022,  
folder 5

**1862 April 23.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter to brother and sister from Pittsburg Landing, similar in content to April 16 letter; also describes arrival of reinforcements under direction of General Pope and Fremont and camp living conditions.

box FB-022,  
folder 5

**1862 September 20.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter to mother from Bolivar Camp, describing march through Memphis.

box FB-022,  
folder 5

**1862 October 12.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter to brother and sister from Bolivar Camp describing battle of Hatchie.

box FB-022,  
folder 5

**1862 November 14.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter to brother from La Grange Camp describing fighting near Holly Springs, mentions removal of General McClelland.

box FB-022,  
folder 5

**1862-11-27**

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter to mother and father from La Grange Camp describing battle preparations near Holly Springs, and troop movements under direction of Generals Sherman and McClernand.

box FB-022,  
folder 5

**Undated.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter to brother difficult living conditions and hardships of life as a soldier.