

- Gettysburg, July 3rd
- From Benjamin Hirst (A Union Soldier)

About noon commenced the fiercest cononading I ever heard, the shot and shell came from front and right and left. It makes by Blood Tingle in my veins now; to think of it. Never before did hear such a roar of Artillery, it seemed as if all the Demons in Hell were let loose.... The Rebels had concentrated about 120 pieces of Artillery upon us and for 2 long hours they delivered a Rapid and Destructive fire upon our lines.

And now we have a short breathing spell.... We must hold this line to the last man. The fate of the whole army now rests with you. Don't fire until you get the order, and then fire low and sure.... And time it was too. For the Rebels seemed to me to be within 150 yards of us. Then you ought to have heard the exultant shouts of our brave boys as the whole Rebel force gave way in utter confusion leaving thousands and thousands of killed, wounded and missing in our hands.... As it was they suffered a tremendous defeat.