Hd. Qrs. 34th N.Y. Ind Batty.
Fort Friend Before Petersburg Va

Remarks and explanations of gallant services rendered by men of the above command

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Hd. Qrs. 1st Div. 9th A.C.
Jany 11 1865.

I take pleasure in reccommending the within (rather to lengthly) statement for respectful consideration. This Battery served immediately under my own eye during the late campaign and the men spoken of for "distinguished conduct" deserve in my opinion a "medal" for bravery.

(Signed) O B Willcox
Brot Major Genl.

STATE OF NEW YORK
BUREAU OF
Military Statistics
JUL 2 1866
P.O.

Head Quarters 34 Indpt Battery Vet. Vols.
Fort Friend Before Petersburg Va Jany 11. '65.

Asst Adjt Genl.

Sir

I have the honor in accordance with Special Orders - No 364 - Hd. Qrs. Army Potomac Dec 23rd 1864 that a statement is required in cases where "gallant services" have been rendered.

In making my remarks I state the facts as they occurred in the different "fields of action". This command was "mustered" into the U.S. Service as a Light Battery by Order from War Dept. July 25 '61 and consolidated with the 2nd N.Y. Artillery. - Marched from Washington D.C. May 29th '62. First Battle Cedar Mountain Aug 9. '62. Rappahannock Station Sulphur Springs Waterloo Bridge Gainesville Battle Manassas Aug 29th and 30th '62 - Point of Rocks & South Mountain Md. Fredricksburg Va Dec 11. '62.

After all of these "Battles and engagements" I noticed that I had some "Brave Boys" and "Good soldiers" in my Command of which I took particular notice in the art of gunnery and in bravery so much so that I became confident that I could hold most any position if good supports were furnished to the Battery. This point I must confess is in my own mind very important for troops to have confidence in each other on the field of battle. - I think I can say with confidence that on several occasions I saved my Battery from Capture by the enemy.

The 9th Army Corps were sent to New Port News Va Feby 1863 from there to Kentucky - July 3d '63 Ordered to Vicksburg. July 4. '63 Taking of Vicksburg. - July 17th Taking of Jackson Miss - Augt 9th Ordered to Kentucky - Sept 1st Ordered

to "Tennessee" - Oct 14th Blue Springs - Nov 15th '63 Lenoir Station. A desperate "Charge" was made on the "Light Batty L" 2nd N.J. at 9 P.M. with no loss to us.

The "retreat" to Campbell Station on the morning of Nov 16th '63 where Lieut Thos Heasley with "one section" brought up the "Rear" with Col. Humphries Brigade 9th Army Corps. Here Sergt Valentine Rossbach and Sergt John H Starkins distinguished themselves most gallantly by bringing their Pieces off the "field" without losing a man. Ordering the "Cannoniers" to lie down and load and fire to repel the enemy so as to gain time to get their Pieces under cove. "Yes" while lying down "loaded" "fired" "limbered up" and brought the Pieces off in safety. At the Battle of Campbell Station they also behaved with much gallantry.

The "retreat" to Knoxville the same night - the Seige of Knoxville - The "Charge" on Fort Sanders by Longstreet on the morning of Nov 29th '63 at 5½ A.M. (See Special Order of the Comdg - No 72 - Dec 1st '63 Knoxville Tenn") here Sergt Valentine Rossbach and Sergt John H. Starkins have signalized themselves again.

The Campaign in Virginia - At the Wilderness - May 12th '64 At Spottsylvania - morning foggy - The enemy had planted "6 pieces" of Artillery on our "Left flank" and 4 in my immediate "front" - I had already sent 2 of my 6 pieces to our Center so I had but 4 pieces to contend with the enemy 10 pieces which they used most effectively as soon as the "fog" cleared up on my 4 pieces and my "support" to drive us off if possible

I ordered 2 pieces to take care of our "front" and the "Left Section" to take care of the 6 pieces on our Left. The Lieut. Com'g the "Left Section" reported its condition "hopeless". I immediately rode up to the Beverly House to ascertain the facts. I asked them one and all. Boys "is that so" that you cannot hold your "position?" this will be the first time that "Old Battery L" (now the 34 N.Y. Indpt Battery) "give in" on the Battle Field. It cannot be so you have been in to many "hot places" and you must stand this "10 minutes" longer and the day is yours.

I here found that Sergts Rossbach and Starkins encouraged their "Cannoniers" to their utmost "saying" "no stain shall be left on the 34th" "we'll" drive the "Rebs" yet from their position and after 7 minutes with a most accurate and well directed fire such as is seldom seen and the position was none the best but no time could be spared all depended on several good shots which were sent with effect from Sergt Rossbach's "piece" the cannoniers mostly on their knees. when some 30 shots were fired and No 1 loaded them into the muzzle of the gun while lying on his back as no man could live to stand up and do his work. The enemys fire suddenly ceased and their guns hauled back under shelter. Also the "right section" silenced the enemys 4 guns at the Court House which releived our critical position. I reported to Genl Willcox my success.

At this time the "battle" raged most furiously towards our "right and center" The Genl had

already sent for my 4 pieces and to leave 1 section of Knights 4th Mass. to hold the ground in my absence. I immediately started ahead of the Battery with my "Bugler" to see what "position" I could take before the Battery could arrive. In looking for the Chief of Artillery I met Genl Burnside who said that Capt Rosmer was able to select a position for himself. I had already made my selection of position and only wanted to know if the Chief of Artillery had the same opinion

I ordered the 4 pieces to a hill nearly on the "right flank" of the 1st A.C. and for my Bugler to conduct them to the place. Here I had to pass a "ravine" where the enemy could "enfilade" them. In the meantime as the Battery passed through the "ravine" I could have a chance to look after my "1st Section" of which I had had no information since morning. I found that "all right," and doing well. I galloped back to my 4 pieces. I met them as they were passing the "defile" and my brave Bugler Casper Sternberg at their head and amidst Shot and Shell he encouraged and facilitated the crossing of a small "brook" (to gain the selected position I had pointed out to him for the 4 pieces to occupy) with the greatest coolness of mind. He is a brave boy. I have given him a good trial this summer. as I generally selected him night or day to go with me selecting positions &c and I have seldom found Casper Sternberg equal in courage. He has been of great service to me during this Campaign. His never flinching offers convinced me when I

I asked him of a night if he would accompany me on a very dangerous expedition. (the laying out of the first work before Petersburg) on the night of June 16th 64 and on many other occasions after that night of a similar nature

I also cannot pass over the great services of Corporal James O Connell in the art of "gunnery" as gunner on the first piece. He rendered great services through the Wilderness Spottsylvania North Anna Cold Harbor and the 17th of June before Petersburg Va At about 6. P.M. the enemys fire passing on my Command I discovered they had some Caissons near the edge of the woods I directed this experienced and expert "gunner" to send a few "percussion shell into them". With the third shell he succeeded with his keen and seldom failing eye to explode one of the Caissons which brought forth a "huzza" from our entire line for the 34th NY Fifteen minutes afterwards another Caisson "went up" from the same place from his gun. The enemy immediately slackened their fire and withdrew. Corpl James. O. Connell. has rendered valuable service since and is now a Sergt

Corpl Carl Ludwig Decatur Fuller & Patrick Kiernan have shown themselves worthy of the Gen! notice. On the 18th of June while the "Charge" was made after 1. P.M.. On that day I had 10 pieces in position in the woods and "masked" as soon as 1. P.M. the first gun was the signal from the Gen! Comd! the 3rd Div 9th A.C. to attack. The 10 pieces of Artillery were

unmasked and the Genl seemed to be pleased with the manner and asked me if it were possible to shew a piece of Artillery on a certain eminence in front of us. I stepped to try it. Knowing that no horse could live under such a fire I therefor ordered Capt Allen an 12 men of the 24th NJ Cavalry (who had been detailed with 30 men to assist in manuvering any part of my command) by hand the piece was run out. But by the time I had the piece "unlimbered" I found it impossible for the men to work the piece in its position - Several men fell at once. - the horses were immediately unhitched and sent to the Rear. Seeing that my new position was not very pleasant I ordered them to seek shelter about 300 yards "ahead" and to the "right behind a barn - which was effected under such circumstances as are seldom known. "Sponge buckets" "grease buckets" and other articles were used by the brave boys to shield their heads in one hand while with the other they favored the piece. Capt Allen showed good courage in using his men in bringing the piece under shelter. I saw at once by bringing this piece so far forward that I would be enabled to "enfilade" the enemys line on the Norfolk R.R. just to our right which they had taken possession of as a shelter in their haste. Corpl Carl Seiding "gunner" of this piece Patrick Kiernan No 1. Decatur Fuller No 2 are recommended to the Genl Comdg the Army of the Potomac for gallant services performed on this occasion Capt Allen lost 6 men killed and wounded I lost 2 slightly wounded but a much greater loss was

inflicted upon the enemy from this single piece of Artillery. — Sergt Valentine Rossbach Sergt John H Starkins Albert Townsend Patrick Kiernan done nobly on the 30th Sept when this Command had been sent into the engagement near the Pegram House Va. It was only by the bravery and soldierly conduct of Lieut Thomas Heasley (who commanded the Battery on that day) and his brave Officers and men that the Battery was saved at all the "supports" had all given away and Albert Townsend acting No 1 with sponge in hand tried to "rally all he could of the support to stand by the Battery And great praise is due to Lieut Thos Heasley Lieut Alonzo Garretson 1st Sergt John J Johnston Sergt Rossbach Sergt Starkins Albert Townsend Patrick Kiernan and the "Guidon" "carrier" Richard Beddows who had by a shell bursting near his horse he lost all power over the furious animal lost his "Guidon" in the struggle with the horse but when he found that it was impossible for him to regain his "Guidon" on his horse he sprang off his horse and run back and brought his "Guidon" off in safety under a heavy fire of musketry which his horse so stubbornly refused to face.

With the above remarks Genl I have the honor to transmit the names of some of my bravest Veteran Volunteer Soldiers as the Genl Comdg can desire to have under his command

I am very respectfully
Your obedient Servt
Jacob Haemer Bro Major
Comdg 34th N.Y. Ind V V Battery
Serving with 9th A.C. A.P.

Asst. Adjt. Genl.
Army of the Potomac.