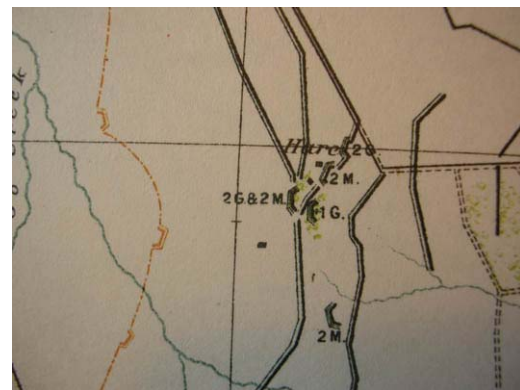




Battery of Mortars and Light Twelves, Lt. Jackson, 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, 18th Corps
 Drawing by Alfred Waud, Library of Congress LC-USZ62-14047 (b&w film copy neg.)

Low: I'm posting this drawing of Petersburg earthworks by Alfred Waud from the LC. Looks like a wire entanglement out in front. Two magazines on right—one for each caliber of gun. Loader carrying a mortar shell in tongs. Note the fancy love seat and matching table under the sun shade lower left-hand corner--likely looted from the house in the background.

Shiman: This is a great sketch! The building is the Hare House. As the attached map shows (OR Atlas, Plate 64), it was one of a cluster of batteries on Hare House Hill. They were later rebuilt as Ft. Stedman. I don't believe those are wire entanglements in front (they didn't use wire on this part of the line), but likely the remains of poor farmer Hare's corn crop. Note the bayonets on top of the parapet in front of the mortar. I believe those were used for aiming the mortar, so the gunner wouldn't



have to stick his head up to spot the targets. (The lines were very close here, less than 200 yards between main lines.) Also note that sandbags were used to heighten the parapet, because they could be filled under cover and tossed up in safety. The sharpshooting was particularly heavy around here, not just because the lines were so close, but because the 18th Corps had a black division. The Confederates did not grant truces, even of the informal "live-and-let-live" kind, to corps with black units in them. (The same was true on the 9th Corps lines further south.) I would hate to be the guys lounging under the tent in front of the mortar about to fire. Because the range is so short, the piece is probably firing with a reduced charge, so the noise & concussion

might be tolerable; but I would've thought that it would still spit out enough flaming embers to make things uncomfortable for anyone so close in front.

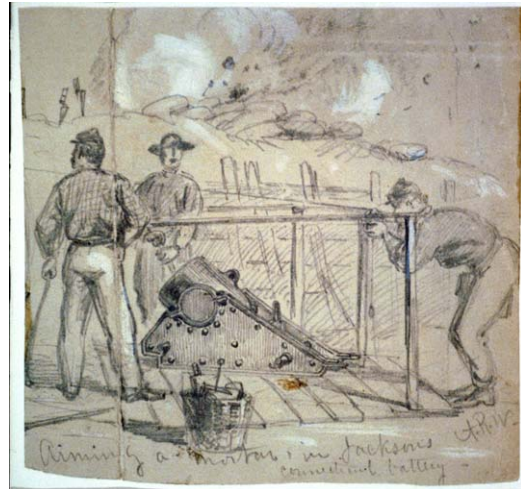
Lowe: Nice call on the corn field. Lt. L. W. Jackson 1st CT HA, Co. I, is obviously the prominent officer in the fight foreground. Piper below puts Jackson and Anthony at Hare house on eve of the Mine.

Col. Alexander Piper (18th corps artillery) written Aug. 6 of positioning guns for the Mine explosion: "At the Hare house, about fifty yards to the right, was a battery of five light 12-pounders, commanded by Captain Anthony, Seventeenth New York Battery; four 8-inch mortars, Lieutenant Jackson, First Connecticut Artillery." (OR 40, 1: 726)

Shiman: I've attached a closeup from the same OR Atlas plate, dated 30 July. This shows the batteries and has a list of the artillery units, commanders, & guns in each one. You will see that battery no. 39 (not an official designation, I don't think) has two 12 pdr guns & two 8-in mortars under Capt. Anthony & Lt. Jackson of the 17th NY & 1st Conn. H.A. It certainly fits with the sketch. So at least in theory, the sketch *could* have been drawn during the battle of the Crater, though I really doubt it; I think the artist had more interesting things to draw that day.

Mortars No. in bat.	No.	Name	Comdg Officer	Guns		Mortars	
				12 in	8 in	8 in	8 in
5	29	1 st Conn.	Capt. Gillett			4	
	30	11 th Mass.	Capt. Jones	4			
6	31	19 th N.Y.	Capt. Rogers		6		
	32		Capt. Smiley				2
6	33		do				2
	34	2 nd Maine	Capt. Thomas		4		
On the 18 th Corps front to Hare House							
2	35	1 st Conn.	Lt. Andrews			5	
	36	4 th N.Y.	Capt. Gould				4
2	37	1 st Conn.	Lt. Sargeant			2	
	38	4 th N.Y.	Capt. Gould				2
2	39	17 th N.Y.	Comd. Capt. Anthony and Lt. Jackson	2		2	
	40	17 th N.Y.	Capt. Anthony		2		
2	41	1 st Conn.	Lt. Bill				2
	42	3 rd N.Y.	Lt. Goodrich	2		20 pdr	Parrot

Lowe: Here's Waud's close-up of one of Lt. Jackson's mortar crews at work, likely drawn the same day as the first. Here are your bayonets stuck into the parapet. The gunner appears to have a string run up to one. So each bayonet represents a separate target bearing within the CS lines. Makes sense.



REPRODUCTION NUMBER: LC-USZC4-1210
 (color film copy transparency)
 LC-USZ61-1035 (b&w film copy neg.)

Lowe: This Waud drawing of sharpshooters and their loopholes shows what appears to be a surprisingly polished plank revetment. Do you think they dismantled a barn? Also looks like they added height to their parapet after the fact and have had to improvise firing steps. This is labeled 18th Corps and may be along that same Hare house line as the battery. The soldier who looks dead was probably just exhausted from using all those tools all night.



Shiman: That's another great sketch.

Yeah, they probably stripped a building for the planks. The Federals did operate a captured saw mill somewhere along the lines (down near Blackwater Swamp, I think), but I doubt this lumber came from there.

I wouldn't be surprised if this were sketched on Hare House Hill. The drawing sent out before also shows some board revetment. The two scenes have a very similar look, right down to the bayonet stuck in the top of the parapet. The absence of a regular firing step suggests this could be part of a battery position like the Hare House complex, but it isn't conclusive. When the lines were very close & the sharpshooting fierce, they were thinking more about secure shelter from enemy fire than about good firing positions, even on the front lines, which in places on the 18th Corps front were barely a hundred yards from the enemy. (The advanced pickets were even closer.)



This drawing is one of the sources I used for the sharpshooter's loophole I made at Petersburg.

Shiman the Sharpshooter.

Photos © P. Shiman 2008

Sharpshooters Drawing: **REPRODUCTION NUMBER:** LC-USZ62-7053 (b&w film copy neg.)