On Bottle Ground near Spottsylvania Court House 10 o'clock A.M. May 16th 1864

Dear Brother:

I have just heard the good news that the mail goes out at 12 m. so I will try & write you an account of our 2nd battle on this ground. We now hold our lines we fought so desperately for last Thursday in the pine woods where we have built up good breast works & lay quite securely behind. I have just got in from the skirmish line for I was详细ly detailed on picket that last night. The rebel skirmishers keep pattering at our line whenever we occasionally wounding one or two. I suppose we don't hit any more of them. There was terrible fighting & horrible slaughter on the ground from where I now write. For 10 days previous to last Thursday the weather was very hot & muggy but during Wednesday night it rained hard we lay in at all daylight we were ordered to advance. We (1st) were the 1st line of battle followed a few rods behind by a second line. We drove the rebel skirmishers & their supports & a mile to the ground where we were lay here we meet with the rebels in their 4th & 9th a terrible fire from their cannon before we see it was no use to charge on where go all layed down but did not fire much
On Battle Ground near Spottsylvania Court
House 10 o’clock AM May 16th 1864

Dear Brother:

I have just heard the good news that the mail goes out at 12 n. so I will try & write you on account of our 2d battle on this ground. We now hold our lines we fought so desperately for last Thursday in the pinewoods we have built us good breast works & lay quite securely behind them I have just got in from the skirmish line for I was detailed on picket last night The rebels skirmishers keep popping at us & we at them occasionally wounding one on our side & I suppose we don’t hit any more of them

There was terrible fighting & horrible slaughter on the ground where I now write. For 10 days previous to last Thursday the weather was very hot & sultry but during Wednesday night I rained hard we lay out in it all night at daylight we were ordered to advance We (11th) were the 1st line of battle followed a few rods behind by a second line We drove the rebel skirmishers & their supports ¾ of a mile to the ground where we now lay here we met with the rebels in their rifle pits & such a terribl fire I was never under before we see it was no use to charge on them so all layed down but did not fire much
guns right, dirty colored handkerchiefs, shirts & haversacks when we came in. They called "don't shoot! don't shoot! we get enough, we surrender." and we sent them back into our lines and they seemed to be mighty glad to go back. We did not stop for anything but pushed on over the next line of rifle pits during the rebels before us till we came off to a little brush & an open field but not many of us knowing them stopped to take a drink for I was most dehydrated. In the mean time the 31st Ala. Reg. fell back & left our left flank open the 9th Ala. Reg. marched in and commenced cutting us off and sending the bullets into our right & near them commenced a regular clambread & handkerchief hussock & everything that would impede one's locomotion was quickly dropped and legs handled themselves pretty thin till we found ourselves half way back to where we started the rebels crying hell hell the bullets whizzing by as they took among prisoners & Lie Harriman was
guns light & dirty colored handkerchiefs shirts & haversacks when we come up they cried “don’t shoot don’t shoot we got enough we surrender” and we sent them back into our lines and they seemed to be mighty glad to go back. We did not stop for any thing but rushed on over the next line of rifle pits driving the rebels before us till we came up to a little brook & an open field here many of us I among them stopped to take a drink for I was most clocked. In the mean time the 31st Me Reg. fell back & left our left flank open the 9th Ala. Reg. marched in and commenced cutting us off and sending the bullets into our right & rear then commenced a regular stompeed & knapsacks haversacks & evrything that would impede ones locomotion was quickly dropped and legs handled themselves pretty lively till we found ourselves half way back to where we started the rebels crying halt halt & the bullets whizzing by us they took many prisoners Col Harriman was
Captured my camp after my command commenced to retreat. We captured a Lieut in the 7th Ohio who described Col. Garvin's and a private in this Co. took some prisoner. Lieut Col. Collins was killed instantly just as we began to charge, a ball went through the crown of his head. Co. I had five men wounded, most of them slightly. Our loss to ours was unrecorded. Without and Strange to say only Lieut. Collins and Lieut. Bichard (was not 27th) staff. Col. Griffin commands 27th brigade) was killed. But as Schenck have said after retreating nearly half the way back we formed our lines & held the rebels at bay till night a most terrific charge was made by our troops just on our right with what result we never have learned. We slept on our arms that night expecting hourly an attack but we were not troubled except being awake frequently by officers & orders of muchly near day held the line until dug best works had orders to march at 3 a.m. marched out of the woods, just before we marched I saw several men.
captured soon after we commenced to retreat. We captured a Lieut in the 9th Ala who described Col Harriman & said a private in his Co took him prisoner Lieut Col. Colins was killed instantly just as we began to charge, a ball went through the crown of his head Co D had five men wounded most of them slightly Our Reg lost 60 men wounded & missing and strange to say only Lieut Col Colins & Lieut Hutchins (who was in Col Giffins of 6th NHV staff, Col Griffin commands 2d brigade) was killed. But as I should have said after retreating nearly half the way back we formed our lines & held the rebels at bay till night a most terrific charge was made by our troops just on our right with what result I never have learned. We slept on our arms that night expecting hourly an attack but we were not troubled except being woke up frequently by officers & voleys of musketry, next day held the line built log brest works had orders to march at 4pm marched out of the woods. Just before we marched I saw several men
On the 23rd Meas one of the 28th who knew Your
Prtt's sergnd for him but did not come back
him as this regiment layd half a mile away.
We marched to where Bracken & Burnside
head quarters were during the fight near a
slate colored house where Stonewall Jackson
lay was ambulated here confused or rather restless
for the night expecting to march very
nearly next Sunday morning marched 8
miles to the old Chancellorsville battle ground
camped where the Cold 25th Capt. fought so desperate.
Here we see relics of the battle very few bears the
marks of bullets & shells some trees have a dozen
snaps. We frequently found dead men skulls
& hence I save a foot & leg stinking & show on the
foot all looking quite natural. We lay here till
Monday 12 a.m then relieved by 3 Black Troops of
Merritt's division & marched towards Fredericks
burg rested till the following day Monday 2 a.m
ordered to march marched rapidly to the
extreme left of the army it was very hot &
dust was most suffocating after swimming
about 1 miles we took up our percussion in
front of the reef our batteries shelling them
furiously towards dark. They fix our arms
of the 39th Mass one of Co H who knew Tom Short I inquired for him but did not have time to see him as his regiment lay half a mile away.

We marched to where Grants & Burnsides head quarters were during the fight, near a slate colored house, where “Stonewall” Jackson’s leg was amputated here camped or rather rested for the night expecting to march evry minute next Sunday morning marched 3 miles to the old Chancellorville battle ground camped where the Old 2d Corps fought so desperately here we see relics of the battle evry tree bear the marks of bullets & shells some trees have a dozen scars. We frequently found dead mens skulls & bones I saw a foot & leg stocking & shoe on the foot all looking quite natural. We lay here till Monday pm then relieved by black troops of [?] division & marched towards Fredricksburgh rested till the following day Tuesday 2pm ordered to march marched rapidly to the extreme left of the army it was very hot & the dust was most sufficating after running about 7 miles we took up our possition in front of the rebs our batteries shelling them furiously towards dark Slept on our arms.