

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 on account of our 2^d bottle
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. I have just
got in from the skirmish line for I was ~~detached~~
detailed on picket last night. The rebels
skirmishers keep popping at us & we at these
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 I am now where I now
write. For 10 days previous to last Thursday
the weather was very hot & sultry but during
Wednesday night it 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 2^d line. We drove the
rebel skirmishers & their supports $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to
the ground where we now lay here we met with
the rebels in their ^{rifle pits} & such a terrible 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

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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 $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the ground where we now lay here we met with the rebels in their rifle pits & such a terrible 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 light & dirty colored handkerchiefs
shirts & haversacks when we came 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 ~~we~~ many of us among
them stopped to take a drink for I was
most clucked. 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
stampede & knapsacks haversacks &
anything 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. Harrison was

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captured some after we commenced to
retreat. We captured a Lieut in the 9th Ala
who described Col Barriman & 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 Hatchins (~~was~~ ^{was} on Col ^{of 6th Ill Regt} Buffum's
staff, Col Griffin commands 2^d 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 heard. We slept on our arms that
night expecting hourly an attack but we
were not troubled except being wake up
frequently by officers & volleys of musketry, next
day held the line built log breast works had
orders to march at 4 p.m. marched out of the
woods. Just before we marched I saw several men

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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 & volleys 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

of the 29th Mass one of Co H who knew Tom
Port Inquired for him but did not have time to see
him as his regiment lay a half a mile away

We marched to where Grant & Burnside's
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 very
early next Sunday morning marched 3
miles to the old Chancellorsville battle ground
camped where the 2^d Corps fought so desperately
here we see relics of the battle every tree bears the
marks of bullets & shells some trees have a dozen
scars. We frequently found dead mens skulls
& bones I saw a foot & leg sticking & shoe on the
foot all looking quite natural. We lay here till
Monday p.m then relieved by black troops of
Surrender's division & marched towards Fredricks
burgh rested till the following day Tuesday 2 p.m
ordered to march marched rapidly to the
extreme left of the army it was very hot &
the dust was most suffocating after marching
about 4 miles we took up our position in
front of the rebels our batteries shelling them
furiously towards dark. Slept on our arms

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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 & Burnside's 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 every 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 every 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 suffocating after running about 7 miles we took up our position in front of the rebs our batteries shelling them furiously towards dark Slept on our arms