On the road from Battle ground of the Wilderness Smiles from Fredy
Richburg May 10th 1864

Dear Brother James:

I suppose you in the North are in a most terrible suspense in regard to the great battle which has been raging for the last 4 days. Such a battle probably never was fought since the world began. It has been the roar of cannon & the heavy duffle of musketry almost every day since we crossed the Rapidan last Thursday. And now as I write I can hear the heavy booming of cannon miles away in a southwesterly direction. We are in about as much ignorance about the results of the battle as you are. All we know is from the movements of troops & the thousand rumors we hear. However we know we got round in season to fight Longstreet's corps & the same regiment we fought
On the road of the Battle ground
of the Wilderness 9 miles from Fredericksburgh
May 10th 1864

Dear Brother James:

I suppose you in the North are in the most terrible suspense in regard to the great battle which has been raging for the last 6 days. Such a battle probably never was fought since the world began. It has been the roar of cannon & the heavy rattle of musketry almost necessarily every day since we crossed the Rapidan last Thursday. And now as I write I can hear the heavy booming of cannon miles away in a southwesterly direction. We are in about as much ignorance about the results of the battle as you are. All we know is from the movement of troops & the thousand rumors we hear However we know we got round in season to fight Longstreet’s Corps and the same regiment we fought.
They only got in the day before & some of the prisoners wondered how we got here so soon. We left Bristol Station Wednesday the 14th marched 18 miles along the R. & R. camping at Bolton at night next morning started at 4 am marched 13 miles in a south east direction passed the Rapidan at 4 bare on the ground our army drove the rebels from the day before about dark there was a terrible charge made by our troops on the rebel works they captured them but with most terrible slaughter for it was a continual rolling of musketry for two hours it was remarked by many of the boys of the hundreds of evidences & shots made every moment. We rolled up in our blankets about 8 & slept then slept soundly those that could sleep all night quietly till 1 am called at and marched till nearly daylight on the Fredericksburgh plank road about daylight filled right into the thick pine.
in the trenches of Knoxville The 9th Ala. Reg. They only got in the day before & some of the prisoners wondered how we got here so soon. We left Bristoe Station Wednesday the 4th marched 18 miles along the RR camping at Bealton at night next morning started at 4 am marched 17 miles in a south direction crossed the Rapidan at 4 pm camping on the ground our army drove the rebels from the day before

About dark there was a terrible charge made by our troops on the rebel works they captured them but with most terrible slaughter for it was a continual rolling & crashing of musketry for two hours It was remarked by many of the boys of the hundreds of widows & orphans made every moment. We rolled up in our blankets about 8 o clock then slept soundly those that could sleep I slept soundly till 1 am called up and marched till nearly daylight on the Fredericksburgh plank road about daylight filed right into the thick pine
woods deployed in line and our brigade marched in three lines of battle through the thick very gloomy trees & underbrush for about a mile when we suddenly came up with the rebel skirmishers the next instant our buglers went a yell over our heads then one and another till the air was about full of them roaring & rushing among the tops of the trees and through the earth behind us. They thought the lines of battle were further back for we were almost under their noses before they new it. This shelling would continue for 5 or 10 minutes at a time in a movement by our lines it would become each time they would check the yell & shamnel cruiser to us two shell burst over our heads wounding 5 or 6 in the regiment thus were wounded in my company not all lay flat on our faces till the shelling was over then when anything was all quiet we most all dropped to sleep. I noticed three fourths of the boys were alseep so yelling was the only
woods deployed in line and our brigade marched in three lines of battle through the thick scragly pines & underbrush for about a mile when we suddenly came up with the rebel skirmishers the next instant whiz bang went a shell over our heads then another and another till the air was about full of them tearing & crashing among the tops of the trees and ploughing the earth behind us they thought the lines of battle were further back for we were almost under their nozes before they new it This shelling would continue for 15 or 20 minutes at a time often on a movement by our lines it would commence each time they would drop shell & shrapnel nearer to us two shell burst over our heads wounding 5 or six in the regiment two were wounded in our company we all lay flat on our faces till the shelling was over then when everything was all quiet we most all dropped to sleep I noticed three fourths of the boys were asleep so lulling was the calm
About noon we had orders to march back & we picked our way as best we could through the woods then marched by the right flank formed in line of battle and marched through the thick woods a half a large growth of hard wood trees was clear of underbrush for about a hundred yard we came when the 30th division formed in three lines of battle with skirmishers a few rods ahead they were laying down and our brigade went right over them till the front the center of the first line 31st Maine the right 48th as the left after laying down a minute in front of them a mouth Co. H. formed sons forward boys forward Plowed right at them they and I shall never forget the storm look in his face forward we met fired through & as we encountered a terrible hot fire but we advanced several rods easily followed by the three lines of battle while we covered ourselves as best we could behind trees & logs then we poured into the retreating rebels a terrible fire they fell into their first line of rifle into them their fire was terrible and hundreds were killed & wounded it seemed as though the air was ringing with bullets. In a few hundred the rebels began to retreat and we followed them terribly running over the hills & firing at the retreating rebels. Hundreds of the darts went back unavenged as we came & instead of running they lay behind the breast works holding on with their
About noon we had orders to march back & we picked our way as best we could through the woods then marched by the right flank a short distance formed in lines of battle and marched through a large growth of hard wood trees very clear of underbrush for about half a mile here we came upon the 3d division formed in three lines of battle with skirmishers a few rods ahead they were laying down and our brigade went right over them the 11th had the center of the first line 31st Maine the right 17 Vt. the left after laying down a minute in front of them Col. Harriman says forwards boys, forward I looked right at him then and I shall never forget the stern look in his face forward we went tired thirsty & sweaty as we were we encountered a terrible hot fire but we advanced several rods easily followed by the three lines of battle where we covered ourselves as best we could behind trees & logs then we pored into the rebs a terrible fire they fell back into their first line of rifle pits then their fire was terrible and hundreds were killed & wounded of us it seemed as though the air was ringing with bullets. In a few minuts the rebels began to retreat and we peppered them terribly running over the pits & fireing at the retreating rebs. hundreds of the dirty graybacks surrendered as we came up instead of running they lay behind the brest works holding up on them