Dattle ground in front of the many Near Spottsylvana bourt House May 17 ch 1864 Dear Griends at Home Point Barnes a letter yesterday which Implose you receive from him before this reaches you. In that of our first days, they to called The Balle of the Wildenness: I confeso Rwas ashan ed to send you such a letter as Asent gesterday especially the last sheet as you will see by the writing & commences yesterdays letter expecting to have time togive your an account of the disperite fight the 9th Borks had on this ground. We only received notice, that a mail would have at 12 m, bent for some reason or other it left before 11 belock & I had but just began my letter I thought & must send it for it was the first chance & had since me left Briston Station knowing that you & fame: would be ancious to hear from me, as Dichectory many aftered in the

Battle ground in front of the enemy Near Spottsylvania Court House May 17th 1864

Dear Friends at Home

I sent James a letter yesterday which I suppose you will receive from him before this reaches you. In that I attempted to give you an account of our first days fight May 6th called "The Battle of the Wilderness". I confess I was ashamed to send you or James such a letter as I sent yesterday especially the last sheet as you will see by the writing I commenced yesterdays letter expecting to have time to give you an account of the desperate fight the 9th Corps had on this ground.

We only received notice a 10 that a mail would leave at 12 n, but for some reason or other it left before 11 o clock & I had but just began my letter I thought I must send it for it was the first chance I had since we left Bristoe Station knowing that you & James would be curious to hear from me, as I expect my name appeared in the

wounded I hope no mistake I as made was to class me among the dangerous. We have seen hard times for the last 12 days if not mirching in the heat, we were obliged to be ready to spring to an guns any minute night or day & I know not how many times I have been worke from a found sleep by the exited whisper from the comrade on good "fall in " or a still more veiting command to fall in, by the whyging of bullets over our heads & the croshing policys from our frekets & the enemy on front. Thus we home list half & more of way night alceh Last night I aleft from dock till & am & this foresom I have occupied in sleek so I gues I have got resled so a to be able to write more nitilleges - bly than I did yesterday I have got no hopers invelopes & know not how to get them so please send me a sheel of poper & an envelope in way letter. I lost a new fartfatio full of poper & envelopes on the morek from Washington in short some one took my kurpoch ouriting in it have left only a good suit of underdolling Shave been well since I left A. I was hit by a spent boll last Thursdays fight of struck ine

in the Boston Journal among the slightly wounded I hope no mistake has made so as to class me among the dangerous. We have seen hard times for the last 12 days if not marching in the heat, we were obliged to be ready to spring to our guns any minute night or day & I know not how many times I have been woke from a sound sleep by the exited whisper from the comrade on guard "fall in" or a still more exciting command to fall in, by the whizzing of bullets over our heads & the crashing volleys from our pickets & the enemy in front. Thus we have lost half & more of evry nights sleep Last night I slept from dark till 2 am & this forenoon I have occupied in sleep so I guess I have got rested so a to be able to write more intelligibly than I did yesterday I have got no paper envelopes & know not how to get them so please send me a sheet of paper & an envelope in evry letter. I lost a new portfolio full of paper & envelopes on the march from Washington in short some one took my knapsack & everything in it I have left only a good suit of underclothing I have been well since I left A. I was hit by a spent ball in last Thursdays fight It struck me

in my left am It soulled considerably but is mit houch lane now I have been in duty ivy day since yesterday I went with the Beg. in front to fel of the rubs. I are if they were in forces Gen Burnside thought they had left but me found enough of them we lost in 22 minutes time Killed 12 wounded & one missing. Now Iwill - commence where Pleft offin gesterdays letter to James. Wednesday Pm. & during the night it s rained hard at indervals I've slept but little on the old met ground before daylight me were we heard lord cheering all along the line for miles to our right. It was 2" box p's beginning a terrible charge on the rebel brestworks I in a minute after cheering then come boom my of come & long & continuals rolls of muskets In another murite the order come for no to advance me mere in front a throughout two comparis as akinnships & advanced the 17th Nt. on our right yth R. S. on one left we I rushed through bushes a thickets over mud hole & brooks droing the rebel thimselves & there supp - orto as fast as there legs would carry them me pushed on passed there couch grounds birts all

In my left arm It swelled considerably but is not much lame now I have been on duty evry day since yesterday I went with the Reg. in front to feel of the rebs. & see if they were in force Gen Burnside thought they had left but we found enough of them we lost in 22 minutes two killed 12 wounded & one missing. Now I will commence where I left off in yesterdays letter to James. Wednesday pm. & during the night it rained hard at intervals & we slept but little on the cold wet ground before daylight we were ordered to fall in to line and just at break of day we heard loud cheering or rather yelling all along the line for miles to our right. It was 2^d Corps beginning a terrible charge on the rebel brest works in a minute after the cheering then came the booming of cannon & long & continued rolls of musketry In another minute the order came for us to advance we were in front & through out two companies as skirmishers & advanced the 17^{thV} Vt. on our right 7th RI on our left we rushed through bushes & thickets over mud holes & brooks driving the rebel skirmishers & there supports as fast as there legs would carry them we rushed on passed there camp ground tents all

standing & blankets just as they lay in them? they had left almost everything in their hast after dooring 3/4 fa mile me came up machina few roots of the rebel brest works there we wild fire we healing one should charge on their works but we were only to hold our possition our line run north & south while just at our right it formed a right angle running cost & west at over right the 2d borks charged brough while we lay plat on our foces but received a terrible hot fire from the rebets This brest works if we had been in line izes we should have been alreast atmost agnihilated. As it was we lost more my proportion Here are a few hours than we lost in the bottle of Heder heburgh In the bottle of the Wilderness May o the wo lost killed avended a missing 60 mi the bottle on this ground me lost I killed wounded & missing In Jisterdays weriance me last low killed thrustee wounded hole through my right frants leg than in about of the field the cords of my arm being weeters In the & I could not use my hand for Several hours. But to arm getting off the treet a little We bay on our foces the bullets shotting by the hundred into ensytree oround & dropping into the ground on all sides Inch a terriffic fire Iwas nuter under before, how any of us got out seems most a miriele We held and possession or rother fell back a few rods in the afternoon and through up brist worths. The rebelo more drown and bystworks in our front for the Et Coops bop flanked them They touch town passoners two major lengra two pieces and two caisons were contined by the Et Buty

standing & blankets just as they lay in them they had left almost everything in their hast. after advancing 3/4 of a mile we came up marchin a few rods of the rebel brest works there we would see the pits full of heads they reserved their fire expecting we should charge on their works but we were only to hold our possition our line ran north & south while just at our right it formed a almost right angle running east & west at our right the 2^d Corps charged bravely while we lay flat on our faces but received a terrible hot fire from the rebels in their brest works if we had been in line & standing we should have been almost annihilated. As it was we lost more in proportion in a few hours than we lost in the battle of Fredericksburgh In the battle of the Wilderness May 6th we lost killed wounded & missing 60 in the battle on this ground we lost 91 killed wounded & missing In yesterdays reconnaissance we lost two killed twelve wounded & one missing making 165 total loss. As We advanced I got a bullet hole through my right pants leg than in about half an hour I got hit in the left arm & went of the field the cords of my arm being useless & I could not use my hand for several hours. But I am getting off the tract a little We lay on our faces the bullets spotting by the hundred inch evry tree around & dropping into the ground on all sides Such a terrific fire I was never under before, how any of us got out seems most a miracle We held our possition or rather fell back a few rods in the afternoon and through up brest works. The rebels were driven out of the brest works in our front for the 2^d Corps boys flanked them. They took 8000 prisoners two major Generals & killed several brigadiers. We took 18 pieces of artelery two pieces and two caisons were capture by the 2^d Corps

I have picket up a few buts of paper & will write you a little more before & send y my letter Me onwed last night at 19 m evacuating our Jursition on bottle field where we fought last Thursday & moving to the left wing of our army & taking a new position in am immence come fiela We rested for breakpast on the a deserted plantation called the anderson plantation It was before our troops drove the rebelo of here two days ago a splendid place for trees, shade trees walks parks & groves the most beautifully arouged fever saw but the yankees are now in possession and the Virginaaristocrat if he ever sees his plantation again will all the fruits of accession. I have just been reading your letter No. 3 which I received this afternoon. We got a big mail the first since me crossed the Rapidan I only got one letter I was glad to heare from you & to learn that you were all well It seems yought the boe & money all right Ireceived your letter No 2, Apr. 14 while me

Thursday afternoon May 19 1864

I have picked up a few bits of paper & will write you a little more before I send my letter We moved last night at 1 am evacuating our possition on battle field where we fought last Thursday & moving to the left wing of our army & taking a new position in an immense corn field We rested for breakfast on a deserted plantation called the "Anderson plantation It was before our troops drove the rebels of here two days ago, a splendid place for true, shade trees walks parks & groves the most beautifully aranged I ever saw but the Yankees are now in position and the Virginia aristocrat if he ever sees his plantation again will see the fruits of seccession.

I have just been reading your letter No. [3/8] which I received this afternoon. We got a big mail the first since we crossed the Rapidan I only got one letter I was glad to hear from you & to learn that you were all well It seems you got the box & and money all right I received your letter No 2 dated Apr. 16 while we were at Bristoe Station

The money I sent I did not need & as it has hopkered I might have sent more mo tead of buying articles which I have lost I was well authbried with articles of comfort when & left A. But have, lost most all supposed when at Amnopalis that I might possibly be at He lad Le norters of 2d Dri & there could get my boggage corried but Ben Grout has cut down boggage trains greatly ogness the army of the Ostorial never moved with is little baggage for teams carry withhis & amunition instead of all ports baggage for officers. Then just before teaving Anne - the order cam fulling every doman who was delailed from his sig bock into his reg. implaying betigans instead of them that now I carry a few little comforts & but a few I what my pretures don't look much no they did like me so months ago. but way one and they were good pictures my whishers which are sandy and don't take well make me book add . gly old coal Frent home because At we too warm for summer & I could not carry it The over coat you array keep perhaps I may want of sometime I will send a button to butt on the strok beling when I find one hose Justinders I did not need as I had two her. Bell Annet Many Farm much obliged to her for the kind rememberance of me Me all hope for the for tright right in the bottlest of it wong the last I have excepted with but slight injury how it is possible for one to escape in such a shower death dealing missels seems olivest ammed leave many more such scenes of death & carnage ben to wilness a gothrough unbarme

The money I sent I did not need & as it has happened I might have sent more instead of buying articles which I have lost I was well supplied with articles of comfort when I left A. But have lost most all I supposed when at Annapolis that I might possibly be at Head Quarters of 2^d Div & there could get my baggage carried but Gen. Grant has cut down baggage trains greatly I guess the army of the Potomac never moved with so little baggage Our teams carry supplies & ammunition instead of all sorts of baggage for officers. Then just before leaving Ann--- the order cam putting evry man who was detailed from his rig back into his reg. employing itizens instead of them So that now I carry a few little comforts & but a few Perhaps my pictures don't look much like me 20 months ago. But evry one said they were good pictures my whiskers which are sandy and don' take well make me look odd. My old dress coat I sent home because it was too warm for summer & I could not carry it

The over coat you may keep perhaps I may want it sometime I will sent a button to putt on the strap behing when I find one Those Suspenders I did not need as I had two pr. Tell Aunt Mary I am much obliged to her for kind rememberance of me We all hope for the best I have been in four battles during the last fortnight right in the hottest of it evry time & have escaped with but slight injury how it is possible for one to escape in such a shower of death dealing missels seems seems almost a miracle How many more such scenes of death & carnage I am to witness & go through unharmed or how soon I am to fall no one but Got knows

driday morning May 20th I have picked who onother wheat of proper so will try & bill it wh I have to beg or hich whall ellet I have Ishall have to send this letter without a stouch yest checker board of got aut of one of those houses which were Herwards burst during the siege of H. I have got a good rubber blowket which is better than a coal for one can't carry but little I am glad to get such long letters from you please write often dell Anna & will write to hersoon Idon't get much time to write we more & fight so often Now I will try & write you a little afterned of our last bottle day before yesterday I hold you in my other sheet that great movements whe going on Jusday night artilery was rattling a troops moving allought onne though me were going to evocuote other that an advance was to be made Wiwere woke up at Jam at day break Corcorous Irish brigade 2 thorps advaned arms at right shoulder shift, on the run over our hits x man instant ele whigging of shell & bryging of

Friday Morning May 20th

I have picked up another sheet of paper so will try & fill it up I have to try or pick up all that I have I shall have to send this letter without a stamp That checker board I got out of one of those houses which were afterwards burnt during the siege of K.

I have got a good rubber blanket which is better than a coat for one can't carry but little I am glad to get such long letters from you please write often Tell Anna I will write to her soon I don't get much time to write we move & fight so often Now I will try & write you a little afward of our last battle day before yesterday

I told you in my other sheet that great movement were going on Tuesday night artilery was rattling & troops moving all night some though were going to evacuate others that an advance was to be made We were woke up at 3am at day break Corcorans Irish brigade 2^d Corps advanced arms at night shoulder shift, on the run over our pits & in an instant the whizzing of shells & [wh]izzing of

of bulleto told us what they had met some ofter our brigade was ordered to their support and we advanced amount a shower of shells & covered ausdays under the brown of a hill Hearish Brigade drove the rebels from thorse lines of hits a held their ground. We were there in a thick woods of hard wood trees me were right who to a big rebel furt within tweaty rodo of the musles of the guns we could see them sun their guns out & fire grape & conester at us me were in the rear line & but one or two got hurt The Irish brigade got body out up in the charge & by shell is grobe & conster our brigade went to work throughing h brest works The rebels thrown shells & knocking away the logs we lay who to file dust an the but they could not do us much home under the till ax I in a thick woods Me morked. lusily a by 4 h me had a very forsidately formidable rible fut about I am the rebs through a charge of grope into the rand

of bullets told us what they had met soon after our brigade was ordered to their support and we advanced amidst a shower of shells & covered ourselves under the brow of a hill The Irish Brigade drove the rebels from two lines of pits & held their ground. We were then in a thick woods of hard wood trees we were right up to a big rebel fort within twenty rods of the musles of the guns we could see them run their guns out & fire grape & canister at us we were in the rear line & but one or two got hurt The Irish brigade got badly cut up in the charge & by shell & grape & canister our brigade went to work throughing up brest works The rebels throwing shells & knocking awat the logs we lay up to pile durt on but they could not do ud much harm under the hill & in a thick woods We worked busily & by 4 pm had a very formidable rifle pit about 11 am the rebs through a charge of grape into the ranks

of the Irish brigade & they broke & run fell mell through am line a the 6th Not. the Eth N 36 % 329 Maine also broke a mu V left the 11th & the 6th almost alone to hold the him but me strek to our ground The 9th was not to blame for soming for the bah , commending their rig. run like a coward, but as I soul before we kild the line till 4 hm then the rebelo hade a dost on an right flowth and partly turned it but were repulsed by the 6th a 9th We soon foundant me must get away or be gobbled up and while some were throughing the dist out the brut works others were creeking away

of the Irish brigade & they broke & run pell mell through our lines & the 6th NH The 8th NHV & 2d Maine also broke & run& left the 11th & the 6th almost alone to hold the line but we stuck to our ground The 9th was not to blame for running for the Cap. commanding their reg. run like a coward. But as I said before we held the line till 4 pm then the rebels made a dash on our right flank and partly turned it but were repulsed by the 6th and 9th We soon found out we must get away or be gobbled up and while some were throughing the dirt over the brest works others were creeping away

to any old refle fits on the left silently & slowly me made our way book & all got not softing Itell you I felt some relieved to get into aur strong lines again We had bein under fire all day a but few of us and fired a gure but it was horder to bear thou though we had been fireing, I guess our movements Wednesday were to fool the rebs so me wild fall book & inacuste Mednesday night as we did than last night the lotter part of the place was carried out We had 40 guns planted roos to rake way rod of ground we concented they were all covered up or masked then they left our la Die sightly traine there to buil on the rebs about night to oclock last night we heard heary fireing where we come from It was the relis driving in over pickets they expecting gets get our hard last & sugarour lines fell back the train moved away dowly till rebels were in just the shot we would the 40 guns opened & in a few mutter many rebelo did not need any more work brigd report , and long were killed & as many token prisoners but my sheet is full

to our old rifle pits on the left silently & slowly we made our way back & all got out safly I tell you I felt some relieved to get into our strong lines again We had been under fire all day & but few of us had fired a gun but it was harder to bear than though we had been fireing. I guess our movements Wednesday were to fool the rebs as we could fall back & evacuate Wednesday night as we did then last night the latter part of the plan was carried out We had 40 guns planted so as to rake evry rod of ground we evacuated they were all covered up or masked, then they left out 2^d Div supply train there to bait on the rebs about 6 o clock last night we heard heavy fireing where we come from It was the rebs driving in our pickets they expecting to get our hard tact & sugar out lines fell back the train moved away slowly till rebels were in just the spot we wanted them our 40 guns opened & in a few minutes many rebels did not need any more corn bread report says 2000 were killed & as many taken prisoners but my sheet is full

Good Buy W.J.T.