Camp, near Port Republic,
Saturday, June 14th, 1862

My dear Brother:

We have been in Camp

...as this encampment is a beautiful one...

...well shaded & convenient to one that...

...but only those need consider
the list...if it is practicable will...

...be allowed to receive before comman...

...again, our usual forced marches. I...

...have not heard a word from home since...

...I always expect to hear from you.

...I have not heard from one of you...

...than this, for whilst I read articles...

...to hear from you, I was more anx...

...on should hear from me.

...I have written three letters to you...

...from Winchester, J.F. St. Point & an...

...from Charlestown, J. Mrs. Scherer.
another from the top of Blue Ridge
in Brown's Gal. the present week, by
Mr. Hunter. When you write, I hope to
see you will be able to say you received
from them. I wrote to Mrs. Charlesto's
also at Charlestown—also wrote a
lengthy letter to them yesterday
For the past 3-4 days, our army has
been so unsettled, that it was im-
possible to send many letters away
especially to find any time to be free
from station or duty. As I think here
I will not be disturbed this two
or for an hour or so I will
occupy the time with pleasure in
writing my dearest mother, believing it
will be her pleasure to read or I
after me.

I have a memorandum of our late
marches & battles, from which the
I will copy for your perusal.
When my book is full, I shall send it
home for safe keeping, as it will stand
be interesting to me if I am spared through this war. I have been exposed to many dangers since I left home last of the same kind Providence which shielded me in past dangers can do so in the future. If it is my good fortune to escape through his mercy I hope to merit his favor to a greater extent than on last battlefields, for I believe many more worthy have gone out of this strife forever. Here are a few notes which may be interesting to you all. I need not say much about our trip to Winchester. As you have already heard of our success there over Banks taking 12,000 or 15,000 prisoners, about $1,000,000 of stores & driving the enemy from the Potomac. I will simply mention the fight, as recorded in my little memorandum, from notes-Farnsworth was slow in unter- standing Jackson’s movements around
The mountain from New Market, or the disastrous result to his army

—from Harriett, mother. We had gone around

140 miles of Front Royal, capturing

a regiment there—1st May (at

2 others besides a quantity of

stores) 5 miles below Strasburg.

Banks column was seized,

during at Strasburg on the road a

day train of valuable army stores

ammunition, etc., also a great number

of sick as well as a thousand

and well soldiers, who were

of course compelled to surrender.

As our batteries dashed to the

front, falling down the street. And

after the retreating foe, Turner's

Band, at the head of the 5th regiment

commanded the sight of our

army, only our wearied troops, who
took a "quick start" down the Valley. Later, after the Artillery was again unlimed, the Barks trained, which it was feared, might lead the enemy at close, until reaching Newton, where we were compelled to make a short stand. That is, my battery was in check a few moments. Possibly it was not Gen. Jack
son's design toöst them to drive them into N. Chester. It
seriously was for Gen. Cameron had not time to reach there, and
keeping gone across from D. Royal, when the same time we left.
By were started again in half a hour's time. Papers Newtowen and another train was captured and carried a much larger one—some 300 wagons—were in flames. The Barke had destroyed them while halted south of town. It was now dark. I soon reliable information had learned that a large force were not over one mile ahead of our advance. Reaching Borton's Mills, two miles north of town, we were fired into from behind stone fences, or short trees, houses, etc. So we were surprised at this. Still it was unexpected. This is a curious or as ambiguous remark—but it is almost right. On frost, while it did not snow, the price, it certainly startled a great many for bush-whacking is something known to Valley people. A great many, and most
30 yards from our column, came back in full gallop, injuring several of the Connecticut One, this, together with the surprise, increased the damage, rendering the 33rd Va. unfit for immediate action. Our line of the Rough, Bardeny & the entire Rough were thus isolated in the rear, every man in front securing the place for his position at all hazards.

The 27th, immediately in our rear, was ordered to the front. Soon poured a volley in the direction of the enemy's fire. In less than 25 minutes, the Indians backed our left, losing several men. Our line was nothing save what our own cavalry accomplished. Leaving this point, we advanced & halted alternately throughout the night, dark broke at 3 a.m. was within 1/2 miles of Winchester, where the line
I had halted in an advantageous spot, behind old fortifications. Sunday, May 24th. It was noon. Known to all that the Yankees were determined to fight before leaving Winchester, O. to hold the same if possible. Gen. Jackson was in front, as usual, watching. advantages, but there were few and unfortunately, too. General Yankee Batteries already in position on the right, occasionally firing on our skirmishers whenever seen. Gen. J. soon ordered us to the left of the road. Gaining our position apparently at just one volley a tremendous fire. The Rough Battery was first in position to retaliate upon our detested neighbors across the river, seconds in a short time. E. Rockbridge, & Central Batter.
The Rockbridge on our left. We had engaged the enemy but a short time in front, till we were overflanked with a terrific cross-fire from the left upon our lines. The Rockbridge immediately wheeled upon them, but no sooner fired till a second our line—far Thicker, within 500 yards from our line, to a regiment of Yankee Thoroughbreds, with Belgian guns, its immediate commenced their usual work upon cannonade—"tick' em then off". Under all this, we held our position for 2½ hours, until Gen. Jackson said Artillery could do no more—charge! The Rose wall & Long's farm charging on the left; Lowell commencing to tickle them on the right. The charge was suicide.
one square behind them—Cahries screaming for joy waving their handkerchiefs as if they were all joyous then a grand scene such as one as is calculated to enthuse the victims to create a terror—Three to the day—nearly as it was winter with our enemies the panic was complete—their retreat constant and I hastened throughout the army for the distance of over 25 miles pursued by some of our more fresh troops—the Place Wall the Louisiana 2 a number of other regiments halted 5 miles below Winchster. I ordered from the Purser's office quite successful, taking squads of prisoners at every bend of the road I at Martinsburg and destroying a large supply of heavy stores. etc. The same evening
after resting a few hours in 
Camp, went to Winchester. 
While there paid a visit to 
Mrs. Jordan. I remained all 
our wounded. I remained all 
the night with them. In the 
next morning returned to Camp, with 
the satisfaction of knowing 
that our wounded (Mr. Jordan 
who called upon me for some 
clothes for me) Walker, Draper, 
would be better attended to, and 
I paid almost special regard to 
them by several kind ladies 
of Winchester.

Monday, 26th. Rested.

Tuesday, 27th. Rested. Three 
lost tribute to our comrades 
who fell in the late battle, Jos. 
A. Jordan, injur. 2 days, John 
McCullough. I received orders 
late in the evening to return 
next day.

Wednesday, 28th. Left camp early. 
Left camp early. 
Cutting across to the Charleston 
road, heard several rumors of 
the rebels, found the enemy on 
the route. I took the route just 
the route west of Charleston. P. 
2 regiments of infantry, 1 of cavalry, 
2 pieces of cannon. Jacob's
Brigade was our only fire close at hand—the rough Battery taking position under their fire, soon scattering the Yankee regiments who were already in the battle. No 3 [my piece] being planted in the road, we fired it with Bomb T组s—above the Yankee houses out of sight, our Battery gallantly firing at Charleston after they, 2 days ago, held the hill, for 3½ miles firing upon them who returned to the vicinity of Charleston to capture our piece being in front of the city. The only care we took was to fire it tolerable black into powder. When I called upon my friends here, you remember I was pretty short when I called on them last year.) In our march Gen. Kidd's two aids were
our only advance—no cavalry being present, but later in the evening nearly all of Jackson's force was "about." (Lient. Carhenter, I myself visited Rohrer's Farm.) Previous to our departure, we took off the horse that had been introduced to several of most interesting girls. Remain'd several hours.

Thursday, 29th. — Moving towards Harker's Ferry, with a heavy force, I being as if "bound for Maryland." Roke's Hill, the ridge I crossed, batteries for men in Camp. Resting. Could hear mus—

Party from the neighborhood of Antioch especially the heavy janyback. I believe a 32 pounder, planted on the Maryland Heights, or on one of the little ridges. The 2nd Va. Regt. under Major Long forces towards the river to the right, countermarch

Sunday, May 31. Orders for evacuation of the entire force taken to White Hall, 4 miles from D.C., several regiments going to the neighborhood of Bolivar. Much speculation among the soldiers. Some rumors of 30,000 most reported to be going to Manassas. About 12:30 m. troops marched off to right, left of White Hall, through dense woods, as if intending a flank on H. Perry (enemy reported 8,000). However, all this flanking force was marched immediately back to Knickerbocker Jackson's Brigade returning to old camp, to await for the remainder of the command who were on the heights. Ordered to break sections & prepare for early march on the morning.
Saturday, May 31. - Left Charles town, bidding adieu to the banana trees. I felt sorry to leave this lovely and beautiful place to the danger of its usual inundation. Continued the march past Kingstown, called upon acquaintances, citizens of the city to see us depart. Cant to several miles south of Manchester, creek nation. Troops quite under armed.

June 1st. Moved up toward Strasburg, occasionally hearing cannon to the right a distance of 7 miles east from Middletown at the foot of Shenandoah mountain. Rather a surprise to us, that knew neither Hills nor was on our left at St. Royal. But as usual, Jackson knew more than his men, I doubt he took his troops from White Hall Millbury. The gentleman we had ridden at McDowell was whipped at Strasburg to come across to Strasburg to form a junction with Hill. That force would combine to keep us in check till forces should arrive behind us. Wasn't this the idea.
would only write. Jackson pushed, marched rapidly to Milling, got in his left in good time—not content whipped him so badly in 3 hours. He did not follow Jackson an inch that day. Then, in Thelers had appeared the Stonewall was about, sitting in Banks old fortifications at Maury wanting for our reinforcements to come up from the mountain side. About 1 o'clock the entire column moved up. We like I wanted a short distance north of Woodstock. Monday, June 2nd. Vexations slow in retreat, Fremont followed closely. Our large train slow in motion. Soon became necessary to plant batteries to hold the enemy in check. Jackson
or somebody was rather slow this morning, I might have saved serious but fortunately quite took after all. Cassie's Battery 0 & 2 pieces of Rockbridge had the enemy in check for a time, the Yankee cavalry fell making a dash upon our rear. At this juncture we had the 2nd regiment hid in the high wheat, 120 man a number of stragglers who said they could be of the first class, but as the enemy prepared upon us I captured our fans once taken they running back in every direction three infantry turning Main conciderde these stragglers 1st 2nd Regiment raised in the wheat, turning a deadly fire into the enemy. Daughters may be killed, others take...
Firmer one suns remained
I the yankes who could get out of the way, running back
like wild men. This effective
fire put a damper upon the enemy's
forward movements. If we were
not troubled again throughout the
day. Half a mile from this attack
at the 'narrow bridge' the
roughs were waiting for a
place of their counterattack, none
said appearing were ordered after the
columns came in the vicinity
of Mr. Jackson.

Tuesday, June 5th. Marched within
1 mile of New Market--quite
inclement raining all night. Burnt
the Bridge near Mr. Jackson.
Wednesday, June 6th. Did not
march till evening--raining
still--several rumors about
the enemy crossing the river at
the bridge on Tennessee bridge of wagon.
Marched about New York Market, coming 9 miles from Harrison. Inj. Orders to evict prisoners, took wagons so the train could move out at 1 a.m. Thursday 15th. Moved up the valley out of town. Continued the march through Harrison's roads to the vicinity of Port Republic, arriving there at 11 P.M. Friday 6th. Orders for march countermanded. Train returned. Me crossed the Henderson's at Vicksburg, 7th P. Republic. Gen. Abdy actively supported with the enemy all day in the vicinity of Harrison's. Was present himself with a small force of infantry & cavalry when he advanced toward the town. Of course he received its bravely in the shock of death. 40 killed, 2 Confederates. The capture of about 50 prisoners. Besides some prominent officers two long rifles. Col. Carr's, one especially, an English Col. whose object mission to the Valley was to capture Ashby. But the West Point was struck on the other side.
Saturday, June 9th. Arrived at 11 1/2 past 1 a.m. Quite hungry. Ordered to cook immediately. Back wagon train broke through the Bridge at daylight. Painful rumors concernin

Gen. Ashley— that he had fell from his horse and was killed. The head of his horse fell by charging enemy. Light reports confirm later, his body borne to Camp for Headquarters. A general feeling of deep sorrow among the rest of the soldiers. Majors moved out early. Soldiers longed about till evening when the train returned, as on Friday. Enemy reported close on every side. Still from indications Gen. Jackson is in a position to go on. Troops sent throughout the day, showing their high regard for the Corp of Gen. Ashley.
and feeling him to be almost an irreplaceable loss to his command.

No orders but prepared adjutants.

Ocmayo, June 8th. On Bank at 8 a.m. Conroy as usual, confidently expecting another adjutant, when "hang a man hang" teleled 2 pieces of Yankee artillery within half a mile of Bank. I was immediately in the vicinity of P. F. Reubens' farm. This was evidently a surprise, especially to the troops, who in fact, for a short time had little lead to discern the reports thinking an old road was being fired off by one of our batteries. Conroy went to Reubens to keep on the Twint and Run Gap Road, and we up into T. P. Rife. Marble Bridge over the Shenandoah. The for Fremont, with 30,000 to attack us in our rear on the Harris on the T. P. Rife Road. Shields has 13,768. The supposition ourickets must have taken their duty on the enemy not warranted.
of their approach, until the last gunne was
110 yards of P. Republic with a
small advance. Their infantry halted
nearly a mile below following. Gen. Jackson's
right was on the front, and a flank
would have it a regiment in line on
the front. P. Republic's right was
supported in the 2 pieces of artillery
that the Yankees in advance in
fact taking some from our own. We
will now, who had been caught in P. Republic
foully from civil offenses. I under
arrest of Uncle Sam. While
P. Republic was going on in the hollow
the Rockbridge Battery
had not a dead fire when
the advance, infantry east to
15. The the dead on the end of were stand
for march for the bridge. On leg
of them, three rifle skirmishers. Moreover, we
had the satisfaction of seeing their ranks fire in巧, as we formed
shells to direct them against a series of large regiments. It was seen
by man for himself, for dear life.

This is the most complete panic
when we came from. Our batteries followed
in the western side, keeping up
the fire running behind them. No sooner
where they came from, than we
was this accomplished, than we
could bear firing in our rear.
Firemen thought all was
right hitherto, but after
8 hours fight, had to smile
at losses of men, prisoners
way, causing several prisoners
suffering in the field. This
our own, with all within the
was accomplished, without the

much speculation as to where we
would cause soldiers to a
secret trap, instead of being a case
one which might last end as har

However two brigades were left to watch the front. The remainder of Jackson's troops continued the bridge crossing for the night on the Staunton Road. Ordered to cook two days' rations. This was Monday, June 4th. Preparing to move at daybreak back through Page's Valley and to after Sheridan. Sheridan's strength reported 15,000. The 2nd brig. in advance - Roughs Battery following. After marching one more mile down Red S. and the Ir. Road, halting a number of killed and wounded from our Cannon shell yesterday, we were ordered to halt. The Rough Battery, rather 2 pieces. No. 2 and 3 ordered to the front to fire on Yankee pickets. We fired 2 rounds a piece. Prepared to advance, when the order was accepted with two Yankee brummbles over our heads. Immediately the troops were deployed in battle array.
A portion of Stone-wall 5th
 typography to the left. The
 edge of the Shenandoah followed
 by the Rockbridge I am section
 (No 144) of Heavy Batteries.
 On the right, the 3rd de Leydetas
 skirmishers going a thirtieth of
 a second, followed as far as
 possible by our section of Artillery
 the Louisiana Brigade to remain
 to the extreme right of the valley
 several regiments keeping the
 mountain ridge forein their
 way tightening in sight of the enemy
 my guns. For a short time
 after we ceased firing our sec-
 tion was inactive waiting at
 position to remain under the
 circumstances. When however
 on the left a daring charge was made by
 a Yankee Battery, the centre closed
 in, followed rapidly our men
 gone on.
Two, which took a position in under a terrible fire of small arms, 300 yards behind the 29th Reg. Owing to overwhelming numbers against us the charge was unsuccessful—the idea of placing two guns in our presence—ordering a hasty retreat of our Battery in the centre, as the was a large force of advancing infantry. Reaching the top of the hill, we could not discover this fact ourselves, a small ridge. Reaching the crest of the hill, we saw a slow, dropped toward our Battery, falling off 150 yards of facing the enemy. From this point the entire height of the field & position of all troops within the field, clearly seen.
it was when this shot that enemy
Battery in action was called upon
to suffer the dangers from
small arms equal to the injury
some to quite rare imprudence
of the defenders party it is sure
in the face of such small
Cannister was used in abundance near every
man on the field enough to stop
any for just as well as small
battering so flame over hot peers
bullets flame the air invalid
cutting through the ranks of
Cannister now the enemy as it was used on one
infantry as it was well on one
infantry before this war. The left slowly
before this man I should
find my in this manner I should
by our Batteries find to follow
if it had an appearance be new
were whipped. But not so. If
were still the Brigade after
was still the force had not
2 regiments, some forces had not
come of on the left nearer the
same reason had the Louisiana
Brigade crossed upon them.
They were rather late in this move-
ment, yet when they did emerge
from the woods taking their ex-
treme artillery in action (4 or
excellent field pieces) then crafting
almost fiercely with the乙方
the adversary enemy it was time
enough for them.
Their heavy guns charged the side of the ditch, definitely meaning to end the day. The enemy seeing their enemies in turn began a retreat, but more hastily than was anticipated by our entire force in reserve, which, with the firing on the left, crossing on the right, I suspect that 5 to 10,000 in the center who knew how to use them (Col. Taylor's command, Louisiana) could have made the route, both pursuing by our infantry for several miles, capturing 6 guns (some say eight) 5,000 prisoners. Jackson had 70,000, and of those, 2,000 were in the fight (about 8 or 10,000). I don't know how they fought well for 5 hours, thanks to a kind friend...
Never. Sohsh done a little letter.

I started with notes, but have not followed then. Swist I had here done so, I am taking too much time. Must return to them again, as I would see I have made mistakes, besides the new writing in such a hurry and not as one should plan. 800 prisoners were taken in the engagement. Our loss is over 160 in killed and wounded. The enemy's greater. While this fight was going on, the men no doubt wanted a hand. The general sent for the two brigades on the left of the division. They crossed the bridge and burnt it in fragments. The

I am glad. I have already done the battle field. But we had no notice for this or plenty there already.
not in action. What is laughable, however, is that incident had taken place under the most trying circumstances. It is possible that the incident may have been the result of these two Brigades arriving just in time to get a glimpse of Shields' fleet—Fremont the other side of the river (river 10 feet deep) looking on from the western bank. It was a foolish spectator of the scene. This was the result of their scheme to teach a man who had unhinged to have been born up the river. Poor Shields was in a helpless state. Fremont could not stop him no sooner. I am sorry to think that I of our Company were not severely wounded. Two or three slightly wounded. I think dangerous, though.
it was upon this day that two men of Don Jordan's 9th A.C. were captured by the enemy. The same day, marched up to the boys in Brown's 9th O.V.T., to Blue Ridge, arriving here 13th, eleven miles from camp. A surprise was made at night, a party of enemy who could easily constitute 200 men, were surrounded and driven into the Hudson river above us. Arriving in Camp, put on my overcoat, which I had left in a blanket, took a meal and slept upon a rude bed. I spread myself at day-light. I was good luck there at night, through their hospitality, though rather tired from my journey. I was grateful for my life of tradition.

Fridya June 13th. Beautiful Gov-ernment. Washed a quantity of clothes can now wear again.

Saturday, June 14th. With great pleasure am writing to my mother but an affair I will tax her patience this time as she has not had time for a newspaper.

Dear mother, I have written very hurriedly, fearing something might turn up. I order us out again.

I hope we will remain here. However, something as I like the place very much. I suppose you want to know where the Yankees are. Well, it is supposed they are running back to Belmont New Market. Why? Well, it...
is because the rains lost Gen. Jackson again in the mountains. Do you know Brown's Gap is the identical spot where Banks lost him? I never found him till Jackson had marched 100 miles west of it, trapping Mills and back again to a. Royal, captain, I got all Banks' force there. He finally showed himself, his chimney well elevated, between Banks and me, shooting his advance column head having almost cut the road off by the time of 4:00. You see it's an ocean to something. I love Jackson and I attribute it to love. He seems he is to shunt.save the Banks. That's all right. I am just off on sure ground. Tell Pini. I saw the folk in Winchester. George left for home. Tell Pin. I saw this folk. I
Washington when we drove Banks through. Mrs. Ogles was quite sorry about it, Mrs. Ogles is quite near. I suppose he has returned since the Federal army left after his victory. I heard that his father is coming to hear from him. John. I suppose that still holds on to the mules. I had him four when I last saw him at Paris. How is Teresa? Please write about it. She is any air to be satisfied, as I think she is. It is quite lucky if he don't think in like him. Give my love to them all. I would like to run Stauton a trial. I hope I can soon. I would like to see you all very much. I hope you will write soon. I am done with this lengthy letter.
Dear Captain Waters at Marietta
just after I came off the battle
field. If he has returned, I suppose
he told you I was right side
but I was minus of a cap
I had been wearing a Yankee cap.
I in following the Boys the unit
then it off under another tree
so I wasn't in a good humor for
as I wasn't in a good humor for
anything Yankee left it I made
a handkerchief chaw of it to wear
as a souvenier, no anguish to the
persons. Tell Mrs. Betty George is all
right but his regime is suffered
seriously. I have seen him frequently
he does well. Regards to Miss
Miss Pierce later.
Seely's family is red.
Mrs. Robt and
Mrs. Robt and
the world write to you
Write soon. Love to all
Accept the best love of your
Affectionate son,
W. H. Robt
P.S. Will you please send me
enough of red stripe for a hair
of pants. The whole company had
tantalious alike, blue clothes
from the current
from the current