

1861
Alexandria July 24 Wednesd I am now where I have
an opportunity of writing and will improve it I am as
well as I could ^{in respect} considering my hard ships since
last Sunday ~~night~~ Morning which has been very
hard indeed I had not received but one letter from
you until last night when I got in to Alexandria I got
two letters from you one directed to Alexandria and
one to Washington our division of from 50 to 75 thousand
men started last Saturday night about twelve o'clock
to take a place called Bulls Run near Manassus Junction
we was defeated in taking it I believe mostly in the
bad management of officers we marched about four
miles within three miles ^{of the battle field} and waded until our artillery
attacked the batteries the regiments went in on different
routes we had to go about four miles mostly through
the woods we had to mostly on double quick time
that is to run we had to carry two blankets three
days rations of our knapsacks ^{and} when we got within
a half a mile of the battle field our men begun to
fall out and could not go any further they wer
still rushed on with out regards to those that
could not follow I think there was at least one quarter
of the men fell out before we got to the battle field
it was very hot you may judge what ~~state~~ condition
the men was in to fight ^{was} then about three regiments went

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Date: July 24, 1861

Description: Marshall Phillips letter about Bull Run

in to the field when we went in, our artillery had
silenced some of the batteries they did not know how many
there was or where they was when we went on to the hill
they retreated back into the woods we followed them up
they fired from the woods and we fired out in to the
woods in a short time about a thousand men marched
down from a nother direction with a union flag
they marched ~~over~~ with in ^{or rods} 50⁰⁰ without firing or being
fired upon they then opened fire on us and we on them
at the same time a battery mark battery opened on us
from the side hill that we know nothing about a nother
opened on us about a half miled of on the back side
we was then orderd to retreat and did so in great
confusion our men wer falling fast our ~~it is~~ artillery
it is sed were out of amunition our blankets did not
hat we had was left near the battle field they took ~~advan~~ advantage
of our confused condition on our retreat we wer attacked a number
on our retreat I witnessed but one that was about two miles
from the battle field on the head of the retreat they come
across with their artillery and opened fire on us the most of
the men fled in to the woods some with rifles went in and
stepet behind a tree and shot some of the men and a number
of the horses as they advanced they attacked the rear of the
retreat with Cavalry it is supposed that they took number
of the baggage ~~waggon~~ wagons and also wagons prepared
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the battle comenced about ten O'clock Sunday morning
and continued untill the sun about an hour high the
attacts on the retreat wer between sunset and dark
I have given very short discription of the battle as near as I can
I do not know how it will agree with the papers and dont
care, brobly you will a hear a great many more partickulars
in the papers if you have not all ready I will just mention
that I have not got wounded yet I should like to come
home very well if I could I think I feel more anxious to come
than you do if possible perhaps there would be a good
chance for us down east we are quartered now in a building
in Alexandria there is nearly half of our company that
lost or threw away their gun and equipmants on the
retreat we shall probly stay here some time and be fitted
up before we leave again the President was in here
last evening I under stood that was according to his
direction I saw him in his carage but there was so meny round
that I could not here much that he sed he talked
some with the oficers perhaps I shall come home before
in the cours of a month if I was put on duty now I could
not do duty on our retreat ther was a folse alarm
given that cavelry was upon us and they ^{made} a rush
and shoved a number over alog and me with them
I struck my hand agains the lim of a tree and spraint
my wrist so that I could not cary my gun in it
if it hurts me to write with it I ^{get} shall not come home
unless I can an onerble dis charge M S Phillips
say nothing about yrs coming home please write the Aubrn boys are well

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