an opertunity of writing and will improve it I am a as I sould considering my hard ships since you untill last night when not in two tellers from you one directed to ox layoudrie and Hashington our division of from 50 to 45 thours started last solurebay night about twelve volock to take a place valled bullirun near Mariarus Lundies. was defeated in takeinget I believe mostly in the bal management of opiners, we marked about four miles with in three miles and wated untill our artilier atasted the drateries the regiments went in on different routs we had to so about four miles mostly through the woods we had to mostly on doubte weigh time that is to run we had to carry two blankets three day rations of our knowhearh, the when we got within a fall a mile of the battle field our men begun to fall out and would not go any purther therewer still rushed on with out regards to those that could not follow I think there was dut least one minute the men fell out before we not do the batthe field it was very hot you man fudge what chare condition the men was in to fight the a bout thre regiments went

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society (Coll. S-166, Misc. Box 6/4 MMN #35819

Date: July 24, 1861

Description: Marshall Phillips letter about Bull Run

1861

Alexandria July 24 Wednesd I am now where I have an opertunity of writing and will improve it I am as expect

well as I could \(^\) concidering my hard ships since last Sunday \(\frac{\text{night}}{\text{night}}\) Morning whitch has been very hard indead. I had not received but one leter from

you untill last night when ^ 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 oclock to take a place called bulls run near Manasus Junction we was defeated in takeing it I believe mostly in the bad management of oficers we marched about four

of the battle fild

miles within three miles ^ and wated untill our artiliry atacted the bateries the regiments went in on differant routs 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 [?] when we got within a falf a mild of the battle field our men begun to fall out and could not go any futher they wer still rushed on with out regard to those that could not follow I think there was d at least one quarter of the men fell out before we got to the battle field it was very hot you may judge what condition

was

the men was in to fight ther ^ a bout thre regiments went

in to the field when we went ine, our artilery had eilanced some of the boteries they did not know how man here was or where ther was when we went on to the hell they retrated back ineto the woods we followed them up They fired from the woods and we fired out in to the wood, in a short time a hout a thousand men marches adown from a nother direction with a union flas they marshed soon with in soft without fixing a being fired upon they then ofwered fire on us and we on them at the same time a batery mark batery opered on us from the side hill that we knew nothing about a noth opened on in about a half miled of on the back side we was then ordered to retreat and did so in great confusion our men wer folling fait our it is artillery it is sed were out faneuntion our blankets and net hat we had wasteft near the battle field they clock advantage of our confused condition on our retreat we wer alloced a number on our retreat I witnessed but one that was about town miles from the balle field on the head of the retreat they come across with their artilery and opened fire ones the most of the mon fled in to the woods some with rifles went in and stepet behind a tes and shot some of the men and a member of the harres as they advanced they allooted the rear of the retreat with Canaly it is suffered that they took unmeber of the badget despace wagans and also wagons prepaired for varing the rowended it supposed that one ofour docters was taken prisoner that that war with the mounded

in to the field when we went ine, our artilery had silanced some of the bateries they did not know how many there was or where they was when we went on to the hill they retreated back ineto the woods we followed them up they fired from the woods and we fired out in to the woods in a short time a bout a thousand men marched down from a nother direction with a union flag

or rods

they marshed ouvr with in 50 ^ 60 ^ without firing or being fired upon they then opend fire on us and we on them at the same time a battery mask batery opened on us from the side hill the we know nothing about a nother opend 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 artilery it is sed were out of amunition and blankets and all hat we had was left near the battle field they took advantage of our confused condtion on our retreat we wer attaced 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 artilery and opend 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 attacted the rear of the retreat with Cavalry it is supposed that they took a number of the baggage wagage wagons and also wagons prepaired for carreing the wounded it supposed that one of our docters was taken prisoner that that was with the wounded

The bille somenced about ton Colock Lunday morning and continued untill the sun about an hour high the attacts on the retreat wer betweensunger and dark I have given very short discription of the bottle as near as I son do not how how it will a gree with the papers and don't care, brokely you will ashear a great money more partichulars papers if you have not all ready I will fust mente that I have not got reounded yet If should like to some very well if sould Ithink I feet more any ion to come than you do if possible sprehaps their would be a good chance for us down last we are quartered snow in a buely in Alayandria here is nearly half of our company that lost or throw away their gun and emperants on the retreat we shall probly stay here some time and be fitted up before we leave again the Resident was in here last evning I under stood that was acording to his direction I saw him in his carage but there warement round that I would not here much that he red he talked some with the oficer prehaps I shall some home before in the vour of amonth if I was put on duly now Ison not do duty on our retreat ther was a holse alarm a given that covely was whon wand they a rush and shoved a number over alog and me with them I street my hand again to line of a tree and spraint my west so that I could not corry my gun in it it heists me to write with it I shall not come home unless Scon an overble dis sharge Old & Chellofy say nothing about you coming home pless write the church for are well

the battle comenced about ten Oclock Sunday morning and continued untill the sun about an hour high the attacts on the retreat wer between sunset and dark

a

I have given ^ very short discription of the battle as near as I can I do not kow 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 anxios to come than you do if possible prehaps 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 eqipmants on the retreat we shall probly stay here some time and be fitted up before leave again the President was in here last evning I under stood that was acording 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 prehaps 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

made

given that cavelry was upon us and they ^ a rush and shoved a number over alog and me with them I struck my hand againts lim of a tree and spraint my wrist so that I could not cary my gun in it it hurts me to write with it I hab shal not come home

get

unless I can ^ an onerble discharge M S Phillips say nothing about yrs coming home please write the Aubrn boys are well