

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society (Coll. S-166, Misc. Box 6/5) MMN #35844

Date: May 10, 1862

Description: Marshall Phillips on West Point battle

Saturday West Point May 10th Dear Wife as ben is writing I will pencil a few lines and put in to his letter I wrote a few lines to you the, 8, the day we had our scurmish but did not write any partickulars and shal not write to day very partickulars to day as you probly will see it more correct in the papers but will say that I think our Company was was placed in the most dangerous posisi

on

that they have ever been placed in since we have been in thee survice and dont think we evershal be again when Relels sot upheir brish fire in the woods and drove in our pickets we formed in line of battle in the fiel in front of the woods the field contained about 60 arors and very level but they never showed their heads in the field we then advanced to the woods we went in to the woods a short distance whitch was very thick and difficult the artilery and gun boats was then orderd to shell the woods from where we was stationed to the distance of about three miles back

And over our heads and burst in the woods when they not through the ling, we was ordered to decoure we advanced a short distanced to found some of our mean rounded and some short distanced and her sover sometimes and the woods are not found that their man army had represented back but had left a free fine of reunishers to secrepted in the husbes to beick us advanced on them over company was ordered advanced and be deposed as rounnit hirs ontheir line as some found that we was but six or sent rocks from an our found that we was first our eight rocks from an in lay that me our relies they fired as number last in at we willing the burkes on ribing up the anomal around a we had the fired as number of their gives

I never heard anything sound ^ good as it did to hear the shell howl over our heads and burst in the woods when they got through shelling we was orderd to advance we advanced a short distance we found some of our men wounded and some shot dedd as they wer coming out of the woods we soon found that their Main army had retreated back but had left a front line of scurmishers to secreated in the bushes to pick us off if we advanced on them our company was orderd to advance and be depoyed as scurmishers ontheir line we som found that we was but six or eight rods from was we lay flat on our belles they fired a number of guns at us cutting the bushes and riping up the ground around u we fired back judging of their posision by the smoke of their guns