

Above Middleburg June 23^d 1863

My Dear Father

Now that I have an opportunity I will tell you all about what we have done since we left the Rappahannock. My last letter was written at Warrenton Junction, on the 15 we received orders to fall back so early in the morning we started and late that night we encamped at Manassas, here we remained all the next day, and on the morning of the 17th we left Manassas crossing the battle field of Bull Run, here we saw the bones of men who had been killed in that bloody battle, they were all sticking out of their

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Date: June 23, 1863
Description: Sheahan description of Bull Run battlefield

graves skull bones, old knap
sacks and cannon balls lay
in great confusion upon the field
oh how desolate that place looks
I shuddered while we were on
it, at 4 oclock we reached the
village of Aldie here we had
a fight with the rebs our colonel
C S. Douty was killed dead leading
his regiment to the charge many
of our officers and men were killed
we drove the rebels and held
the field on the next morning
we advanced to Middleburg but we
did not have any fight. Friday
the 19th we had a very heavy
battle with the enemy and drove
him from the town and about
three miles beyond it, oh it
was the most bloody battle
that I ever saw our compay
suffered the most of any one
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the name of making the most
desperate charge of any company
in the regiment only 7 of our
company came out of the charge
soon after we charged the
rebs gave away and fell back
and formed another line of battle
we then went onto the field to
bring of the dead and wounded
oh it was a sad sight to look
upon our best men killed. we
went into the charge with 22 men
and only 7 came out, a ball
struck my cap box which was
thick leather, went through my
pants and just stuck in my
thigh had it not been for the
cap box I should have been dead
before this, never has there been
such hard cavalry fighting as
there has been since we left
the Rappahannock and what
is best of all we have licked

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the rebs every time
on the 21st we again set out
on the advance the rebs disputed
every inch of ground but we drove
them 8 miles and our regiment
drove them from the town
of Upperville by charging them
we took one brass gun from
them in the village after the
rebs left I went over the
field, the road where we
charged was literally covered
with blood and to see the dead
piled up was perfectly horrid
but then I have got used to
it and think no more of seeing
a dead man than I do of seeing
a dead ox why it is so I cannot
tell

John P Sheahan

I want you to tell John
Shaw to answer that letter which
I write him so long ago. dont
fail

a rebel letter which I found on the battle
field of Upperville keep it

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