

Ward N<sup>o</sup> 32. Carver Hospital,  
Washington. D. C. Sept. 6/62.  
Nathan Redlon Esq. South China, Maine.

My dear father.

You will have heard 'ere this of my arrival here on Tuesday last, at 4 P.M., and of my having been wounded on Monday, at the Battle near Centreville, in my left arm. Judging from the smallness of the hole, the ball must have been that of a Target Rifle, which our sharpshooters know to be used by the enemy. Having my gun in my left hand, and being in the act of loading, my left arm partially extended, the ball entered the topp part of my arm below the elbow, and passing through and fracturing the joint, went out about 2 inches above the elbow. Seeing that my arm was entirely use-  
less, I retired to a house in the rear, where the hospital was, and remained there until 3 O'Clock next morning, when I was sent with a lot of other wounded men to Fairfax, where I received the first medical attendance, and according

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Date: 1862

Description: Pvt. George Redlon wrote from Carver Hospital in Washington, D.C., to tell his father that he had been shot in the arm and agreed to have his left arm amputated above the elbow.

the opinion of the surgeons, of which I was satisfied in my own mind, that the arm could not be saved, I submitted willingly to the amputation of the limb, about 3 inches above the elbow. By the administration of Chloroform, I suffered no pain, whatever, during the operation. On Tuesday, I was forwarded to this hospital, where I arrived, as above stated, and where I have as good medical attendance as I can expect. If nothing unexpected interferes, it will take about 4 weeks, in the opinion of the Surgeons, for the stump to heal sufficiently and for me to recover enough strength from the loss of blood etc. before I will be able to stand the long ride in the cars to come home. I am thankful, after all, it is not my right arm, which, unfortunate as I am now, would have been more embarrassing. The four companies on the right of our line, to which ours belonged, suffered most in the action, our company alone having 2 killed and 15 wounded. Our first Lieut. Arthur L. Libby, who is wounded in the right arm, but

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of Compy. C. of our reg<sup>t</sup>, are both here with  
me in the same ward. Lieut. C's wound is  
rather severe and very painful, the ball  
entering the left shoulder, and the surgeons  
have not been able yet, to find or extract it.  
the ball. Expecting to hear from you soon,  
and with love to all the family and my  
best regards to all enquiring friends, I am,

Your affectionate son  
George M. Redlon,  
pr. J. J. Habrich, 5<sup>th</sup> N. J. V. his Ward Mate.

Address:

M<sup>r</sup> George M. Redlon,  
Ward N<sup>o</sup> 32, Carver Hospital,  
Washington, D. C.

N. B. I have just rec<sup>d</sup>. your letter of Aug<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>.  
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