

July 20th

In Camp 5 miles beyond
Fairfax Court House and within 2 miles of
the Potomac batteries

My Dear Parents

I'm writing this in the peculiar trials & cir-
cumstances the I'm seated in one of the camp
wagons trying to write to you and my loved
and to be proud Parents. We left Washington last
Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock. The order for
marching came very suddenly. we marched until
11 o'clock that night to a place 10 miles from
Fairfax. There encamped until the next morning
at 9 when we started on and made a march
in the foggy description one of the hottest days
& could see if not the hottest men falling out of
the ranks. At ever step examined I stopped it
until the last, when men who had worked in
the harvest fields at home in the morning run
if they had had another mile to march I
should have dropped in the road the saddle
having poured several wells and destroyed
others it made it very bad for us we arrived at
Fairfax at two o'clock we expected to find a large
possession power there but they had fled. The
more quickly we were disappointed, we staid in Fair-
fax from 12 o'clock of that day until 10 o'clock of the next

next day, we lived on the spoils taken from
the Secessionists while there the boys stole these geese
and shot chickens, quail, pigs and even turkeys
one party went to a farmers house some two miles
off and found 7 bottles of wine, fine cakes & C. M.
on at hand. ~~it was~~ Gen. Lee was a decided rebel
started at 4 o'clock for this camp where we arrived
at 7 o'clock, set our picket guard, that night,
that was a night indeed to me I can assure
you, I laid down upon the ground with Dr. Hawks
and we all surrounded seeing four after and I was
wet through about 12 o'clock we were awakened by the
firing upon our pickets we all jumped up
and during that time they after some
pouring in such a right man blinding whiff
to one another, but ~~the~~ and
told us to retire ~~the~~ down our guns which
we did, only to be surprised by another alarm
I while I am writing I hear the artillery booming
in the distance toward the rebel batteries. I suppose
you have heard of the battle on the 18th at
the intersection of the Potomac and the
river. The rebels whistled them on and so
many to one the odds of 20 to 1, we lost some two hundred
men. Gen. Scott is suspected to be here this evening
to plan the attack it is thought to shell the bat-
teries then pour in shot until they are burned
out then bring on the infantry and give them the

lay out. we are waiting now for the shells to come
on so ^{we} they can get powder with the shells. there
will be some fighting. we will in all probability be
in Richmond some time next week. Our Col
told our Obedy when he asked him for a sword. that
it would scarcely suit us for we would all be home
in 3 weeks. I tell you it is tough. we will have
all of Virginia in our possession here another month
I hope I shall live to see you all again I
often think of home and all its comforts. tell
all my friends of my wish to direct to Washing-
ton.

John B. Edens I wrote to you when
~~you~~ in Washington but have see.

Washington no answer. I will get

Comp & 27th Regt. D.C. if you write I have
received no money.

N.Y. S. V. yet. probably will
not until we are again in Washington.

Let me know how you are getting along
and what the people think of the move about
of the army in Virginia.

I hope to see you before
many months are passed ~~the~~ it is very
warm to day my love to all
An ever your affec
John B. C.