

Perryville Oct. 10th 1862

My Dear Father,

Since I wrote Billy we have met
the enemy & had a severe engagement - coming off
victorious. The battle commenced the same day &
went home lost, the next day after we had started
long hard march on Monday. It commenced at
about four o'clock in P.M. Our Reg. being behind
our front on face march, & drawn up in battle
array in a very safe & good position behind our
battery, the 8th Wisconsin, we were between two
hills in a kind of ravine. The cannons on top
of hill in front, we were at this time not very
near the enemy as we were drawn up as reserve
troops. Firing ceased little after dark. We slept with
accoutrements on & arms by our side. Early next
morning firing commenced & has kept up till dark
again. Our position was not left till 2 o'clock in
P.M. when we advanced nearer to relieve the old
troops that had been fighting all day. Again we were
drawn up in line of battle behind our cannons
& the 75th Reg. behind us. at this time the firing

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The right-wing being in a
a tight fix we were again ordered to advance this
time to help the right-wing, we went forward on double
quicks & before we got there the thing was decided in our
favor, being now dark we laid down on our arms, for
rest, we had lain but a short time before we were call-
ed to attention, you ought to have seen us spring
to our feet, they again advanced us on double
quicks through a piece of woods about a mile &
height into an open field, by the side of 1800 man
regiment & 109 companies, then we quailed till next morning
when they were taken to head quarters, this was all I had
to do with fight I am safe & well, & have had more
to eat & drink during the last two or three days, the battle
ended yesterday morning, when the enemy retreated on
a 22,000 galls. Last night we camped on enemy's ground
near where the last day's action fought, our corps
had the honor of & filled the nest, I did not know till
last night that the battle was so desperate, over 16,000
soldiers were killed on our side & 4,000 on enemy, to
great many of the enemy those damn their own
disgrace, they left over 5,000 stacks of arms, I have not
been to see any of the dead & wounded as I have no
anxiety for such sights, we are to move again this morn-
ing, where I know not it is reported that we have
an army around Bragg & that we are to close on
him & force him to surrender, if he had not left
as he did yesterday morning, we could have had him
now, but among those a number of prisoners the
exact number I have not been able to learn, we had
an narrow piece of Wednesday, I felt when the firing was
so heavy, the 7th Reg, that also behind at that time & here in
the same brigade did not understand, and that no gain
& instead of going with us, went to the left & by some blunders
were brought into action & cut up badly, A 4th