

May 3rd [1863]

Dear Father

One of the most terrific conflicts of the age was terminated this noon in to all appearances a total defeat of Hookers plans.¹ In [On?] the 1st the firing commenced and continued with short intermissions until this noon. Last night we went to the front and sustaining a severe fire from the enemy in which 6 were wounded we were dawn up in the woods & lay on our arms all night. This morning we were attacked at day light & the firing continued until noon. The boys did well. Capt. Thrasher was wounded just as our Regt became engaged, and was obliged to leave the field. The command of the company devolved upon me. His wound is a very serious one to the bone of his leg being broken above the knee. I did not receive so much as a scratch, am well.²

I have tried to hear from Porter & think that he is safe. C. Ayers wants to send word that he is safe.

Sam Porter.

Notes:

¹ Hooker's plan was defeated but he mainly defeated himself by not having a firm grasp on the reality of the battle. Even after Jackson's 'surprise' attack on the right flank, Hooker's army was still capable of defeating Lee if used aggressively but Fightin' Joe Hooker' perhaps still stunned from the cannonball, chose to retreat the way he came.

²Capt. Byron Thrasher, Co.F was the focus of the promotion uproar after Fredericksburg.
Charles B. Ayers, Sgt-Major, Co. G. 108th NY
Porter is Sam's cousin Porter Farley of the 140th NY.