

Sunday, May 15th, 1864

Dear Parents,

As there is an opportunity of sending out mail again today I improve it by addressing a few words to you, who are ever anxious to know how I am getting along especially in such an uncertain time as this. Although there is nothing of importance to write about since I wrote you last of the 13th, yet I will let you know that I am yet alive & as well as present circumstances permit. that is we are almost worked jaded to death by heavy marching & continuous fighting which has been in progress now for eleven days & been very severely contested indeed.

It had been raining when I wrote you last, which made the roads very bad. & it has rained the most of the time since then which makes it much worse, so that where troops pass the mud is nearly knee deep all of the way. & besides this, we are short of Blankets to make us comfortable while we have a little time to ly [sic] down. In the first engagement we were driven back. & each man had to run for dear life. & we lost all of our extra clothing & Blankets. I shed all of my thinks except an old Blanket & the clothes on my back in that time. Some lost more than that. Burch came out with nothing but his belt on. We were glad to get away as well [as] this. But few of our wounded got off of the field. & some that were not were taken.

Since I wrote you last we moved that day back to where we went from when going there. & formed in line to support a line of works. during this time the Rebs would throw over a few shells occasionally which would make us lay low.

At about 10. O.C. at night – after it had rained all of the afternoon & so far in the night – we had to push out again & march to this place. I don't know how far it is but it took those that kept along till after daylight to get here. the mud was so deep that we could not go very fast. I went as far as I could and lay down. I got up at daylight & made me some Coffee & moved along. I soon fell on with the most of our Co who had stopped as I did. & we went along together. We came up with the Reg at about 10 oc. They lay in the mud in a field near where we are now. the men have been coming up ever since & some are not up yet. We lay here till night without any molestation except having to doge [sic] a few shells. then we moved into the pitts [sic] where we are now. there was some very heavy cannonading last night & some musketry a little to our left but all was quiet after dark & is today except a few artillery.

I hope it may continue quiet for I am satisfied with war. But we must trust in luck & hope on & have not heard from the north yet. Burch is well as the rest of us.

Give my respects to all of my friends. Also to you I am as ever your son – Albert. I send my love to Addie & Nett & Mother & Father & all.

Write to me soon.

This from your Son A H Tibbals