

CAPT. ALEXANDER
PHILLIPS

77TH PA
CO. G

FROM
HOWARD PHILLIPS
445 CAUCES, WY

page 1

(Feb-Mar 1863)

My Dear Mary

Yours of the 3rd I received this evening and was very glad to hear from you and that you were well as I am happy to inform you I am at present. I was in the late Battle and escaped without a scratch. I wrote to you as soon as possible after the Battle, you have no doubt received it before this, I have received no letter from you for a month before this one I will give you a little particulars of what happened as since we left Nashville although you have probably heard all about it We left our Camp near Nashville on the 28th of December and came upon the Rebel Pickets at 10 O'clock in the morning and drove them about 10 miles and bivouacked, we had no tents nor even a Blanket until the 8th of this month. On the following morning at day break we moved forward and had a sharp running fight all day and part of the next when the Rebels retreated to Murfreesboro where we arrived on the 29th at 11 O'clock at night wet to the skin and allowed no fires so you can guess what a fix we were in. At day light on the 30th we moved forward and heavy skirmishing continued all day but we succeeded in forming our lines before dark and slept on our Arms ready for the Battle that we knew would commence on the morrow, and knew also that some of us and perhaps myself must die

a soldier to meet troubles
there is not one soldier in ten but what
thinks he will go home safe. But there are
thousands who were alive and well that night
who will never see their homes again And
no doubt there are many loved and dear ones
at home who are anxiously waiting to hear
from them that are no more but are resting
in a soldiers grave in a strange country.
This War is a terrible thing. To have an Idea
of the Horrors of War a person must visit
a Battle Field after the Battle is over
There they will see the consequences of War in
its true light. At 4 o'clock on the Morning
of the 31st of December we all stood to our
Arms ready for the attack that we knew
would come. And it did come sooner than we
expected. It was not quite daylight when
the Rebels attacked us in such force that
we were compelled to give way. Our Generals
did not expect an attack on the right where
we were posted so we were not very strong.
They poured such a volley into us that if we
were not protected by a cedar thicket and
lying down must have killed half of us
but only killed one in our regiment but the
other Regiments in our Brigade suffered more
as they were more exposed we were forced to
fall back and to leave our Battery in the
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 Rebels had the best of the fight
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 but we had sixty pieces of cannon at this
 point which as soon as they came near enough
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 Battle lasted four days. Our loss was
 heavy but I believe the rebels lost more than
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 60 to 70. I lost 9 there is only two from around
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_____ Morgan was taken prisoner but was
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 Colonel was killed in the late Battle so I
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 You mention in your december letter about the
 likeness I want you to send home and that
 I did not tell you to send one to your Mother
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You can of course send one if you choose I would
like Ruth to have one also, And I hope the
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I confess it would please me very much to
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pleasant to each of us. You are all right with
Jane again I see it is far better than to be
enemy's. Write me a letter yourself. I can make
it out. If you can't write well enough to direct
it get some one else to do it. I wrote a letter to
Lem a few days since and told him to ask old
Williams if he wanted to sell his property you
know he offered it to me when I was home. If
he would sell it cheap I would not mind buying
it. I want this kept secret tell no one of it
my love to them all and to Ruth and Maria
I will now conclude with fond love to
Yourself and believe me to be

Address Your Affectionate Husband
Capt A Phillips Alec
77th Reg P V 5th Brigade
Johnsons Division Cooks Corps
Nashville
Tennessee

Write as soon as possible



Marionboro Tennessee
May 5 1863

My Dear Mary

Your long looked for letter reached me yesterday. I had almost despaired of hearing from you again. Perhaps you are not to blame but it seems a little odd that you delay writing so long that you have to apologise every time you do write. You must do better in future. That affair of Fathers may have delayed you this time. I am sorry that he has been unfortunate. If he wished to keep the Saloon why did he not make an arrangement for a certain time. I met with an accident a few days since. But not a very serious one although it came very near being so.

I was riding through Marionboro and in passing a squad of Cavalry

one of their horses became unmanageable. He kicked at my horse and missed but struck me square on the forehead making a very bad cut. I would have fallen but I had a Sargent with me and he caught me in his arms. I recovered immediately and rode back to Camp and got it dressed. It proved to be rather a bad

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cut clear to the bone. The Doctor dressed it and sewed it up. I have been near blind since but today I am all right. I also had one of my ribs broken, but that is nothing in a few days I will be as well as ever. The wound on my forehead wont be seen after it (has) healed up. It was sewed up nicely so my beauty wont be spoiled, that is providing I ever had any. Dear Mary there is nothing certain about the consolidation yet so

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there is no knowing when I can come home at least through that source. But I intend to apply for leave of absence to go home as soon as I get an opportunity. Our Colonel is home now so it is no use trying at present. We expected a battle here last week. The Rebels moved up within twelve miles but fell back again and now everything is quiet as usual. There will certainly be a fight here somewhere so the sooner the better. Its just about a year since we the battle of Pittsburg Landing and you know I came on home after that. I ought

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to have paid you a visit after this last Battle of Stones River but I was not allowed. But I got higher in Rank. But I would rather be with you than have the

p. 4

highest Rank they could give me. If you can break the slats alone It wont be safe for me for we shall certainly break them all. Then we can do as we done before make a broad bed. Oh how I wish to be with you not for a short time but for ever. The time will soon come. I am determined on that. Give my respects to James Brown and wife. I would like very much to see them. My love to Father, William Lem, Jane & Family. I will now conclude with fond and lasting love and

Believe me to be Your devoted
Husband
Alex Phillips

P.S

I expressed some money to you on the 27th will soon send more

Dear Sister

In answer to your note I write you a few lines and hope you are enjoying good health. You must not allow yourself to be low hearted nor suffer such sad feelings to arise in your mind. I feel sure that I shall see you again all safe. I was glad to hear that you had been to Carbondale and that our relations treated you so kindly. I received a letter from Cousin John. He told me you had been to Carbondale. Keep up your spirits and all will yet be well.

from your affectionate Brother

Alick

CAPT. ALEXANDER
PHILLIPS

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FROM
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LAS CRUCES, NM

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Yourself and believe me to be
 Address Your affectionate Husband

Johnson's Division Cooks Corps
 Nashville
 Tennessee

Write as soon as possible