

Dec 17, 1862

Head Quarters 11th Regt N 2^d
old camp near Halmouth Va.

December 17th 1862

My dear Ellen and family

You will no
doubt be surprised to see the date and
place of this letter - I wrote you from the
battle field on Sabbath evening - and
also on Monday - from the same place
After holding the front line and
fighting with our skirmishers for
twenty four hours - we were relieved
and brought back to the second
line - to protect a battery this was on
Monday morning - this was the fifth
days fighting - But the fighting was
much less on Monday than any one
day since we left the battle commenced
our picket lines were constantly pushed
especially on the center where we

were in the after noon a
flag of truce went over to ask
leave to bury the dead - left in the
hands of the enemy on Saturday
This took place in sight of where
I was with my regiment - but
more to our left - an officer in the
rebel army engaged for me
He was either a Col. or a Brigadier Genl
He was told that I was in command
of the 11th Infantry - He seemed to
be aware of the fact and said
that he knew me like a book
It must have been either Thompson
or one of the McDonalds - I think
the latter but dont know - He did
not send his compliments
small loss - none - This was Jackson
force that was ~~not~~ in front of us
and with whom we were fighting
Thompson and his troops are I think with

him J. E. Jackson - 10 1/2 o'clock
that night - we had orders to form
and were marched across to this
side of the river - bivouacked for
the balance of the night - I soon
found that not only our division
but all the center was falling back
We lay down to sleep - and had
just got to sleep - when down came
the rain in a perfect torrent - but
us all through - and putting out
our fires - I got up - soon slipped
through the storm - about noon
we were ordered back to our camps
here - What is to be done I dont know
What all this more must I cant
tell - But have had too much to do
and to go and take those heights
~~was~~ would be to sacrifice too
much life - I am satisfied that
it would cost us ^{perhaps} ten thousand