Bivouac 15th M.V.
North side Rappahannock River
opposite "U. S. Ford" May 5th 63

My Dear Father

We have been in a big fight, with rebels three to our one, and I am "O.K." if I may except being a good deal tired.

I will have to write in haste as Maj. Smith has kindly offered to carry any letters home that the officers of the Bengal may have.

I wrote to Mother on the 2nd inst. and since that time we have been some pretty lively times.

In the first place, on the afternoon of the 2nd, our picked
advanced, from near the water's edge, up to the very foot of the hill, where the enemy were intrenched, a distance of about a mile.

The next morning the 6th Corps, which was the only one that crossed the river at that place, advanced on the Rebels and after fighting about three hours made a glorious charge on the right and took the hills. The Fifteenth was meanwhile under a heavy artillery and sharpshooter fire, supporting the 1st, Mass. Battery.

After the hills had been taken, the whole Corps marched down to Fredericksburg, leaving Howe's Division to garrison the forts on the hill, and then marched on towards Gordonsville.
to join Hooker on the extrem
ight.

After marching about three
miles we met the enemy in the
woods, and, without a rest,
our Regt. was ordered into
the woods at a Charge.

We entered the woods and
had not gone over twenty
yards, before Col. Brown, (Comming
the Brigade) ordered me back
to send the 3d. Regt. in to
the support of the 13th. I went
back and Maj. Stickney gave
the command "Attention, Charge."
but only about two companies
moved forward and they with one
officer, so I stepped to the
front and led in all the 3d,
who were brave enough to follow.

When I came up with the Regt.
they were engaged with the enemy
...decided to stock their ground like
...carried the old colors.
...deeply back in the rear and
...right through the ranks.
...a man named Thayer
...a pack from behind.
...it was awful in
...dead and wounded men
...ground every second,
...casualties from fire and
...rounds of cartridges for
...two hours and then fell back
...order. Every soldier saw
...Banks saw a Regt. stand up
...towards the 15th, just before.
...Regt. lost between 50-60 and
...every soldier was supported batteries all
day and repelled all eight back
to Banks or United States Fort.
...Rebels being about there.