

Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C.

Treasury Building,

1861.

Alexandria Virginia August 4<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Mother i Have taken the pen in my hand to let you know that iam Doing well. perhaps you have Heard of the late Battle of ~~Manassas Gap~~ or Bulls Run. Well in that Battle i had. got a Wound on the Right Shoulder. our Regiment was Drawn up into line. when we got the order to fire i just pulled the trigger and fired. and just as i was turning around to Load the ball struck me in the Shoulder the ball glancing Down my arm. just then we got the order to Retreat and Everything was thrown into Confusion. our own Cavalry Running over our own wounded men. Well we Retreated back as far as Centreville Where i slept. in the hospital all night With a faithful friend of mine who Walked With me all the way from the Battleground. the Distance from the Battleground to the hospital where i slept was. about 15. or 17. miles the way we came and we Walked that Distance in about two hours. Without Running one single step. Because i could not Run Without my Shoulder Would pain me When i Reached

Centreville that Sunday night July 21<sup>st</sup> the Surgeon  
there could not find the Ball and he told me to keep it  
Wet With a cloth all night which my friend did for  
me while i was a sleep. When i woke up next morning  
I heard our Troops. moved on to Fairfax Court House  
During the night. When i learned this i put on my  
Cartridge-Box and other Accoutrements and we Walked  
on there ~~a~~ Distance of seven miles which we Walked in  
About 1 hour and a half. we learned at Fairfax Court House  
that our men moved on to Alexandria where we  
are now. makeing 21 miles in 5 Hours. Walking  
all the way. Our Camp is on Shutters Hill.  
where the N.Y. fire Zouaves. built a fort. Which is  
called fort Ellsworth. it is a fort which a Hundred  
Thousand Rebels. could not take. and we are  
~~the~~ Building another one like it. the number of men  
we had in the Battle that Sunday Was. 45. Thousand.  
men. but ~~half~~ that number ~~did~~ was. not in  
the Battle. if you Were there you would see some  
Cowards. Laying Down in some Ditch afraid of  
his life where they were no safer than being out on  
the open field only when they would imagine  
themselves. safer there would come a Bomb. Shell from  
the Rebels. When we Were on the march just Before  
we got into Battle they Put us. on Double Quick.



for about three miles. With two Blankets on our  
Shoulder, and Lucky was the man that could get a  
<sup>rink</sup> Water and muddy Water at that. for our Canteens  
were Empty. But i shall write more about this another  
time. While iam here in the Hospital our Regiment got Paid  
off it was on Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> but the Wednesday  
after Capt. Davis came Down to the Hospital and told  
me he would give me an order to go over to  
Washington to get my money. when i would get well  
i believe our Regiment got 16 Dollars. and 43 cents. and  
when i get Paid i will send it home to you only what  
i want myself i wont ~~want~~ want more than a few Dols. my Shoulder  
is almost well ~~and~~ Else i could not write to you,  
the ball that was in my Shoulder Worked out itself and  
i have got it. it is a Carbine ball from the Black  
Horse Cavalry (the Rebel Cavalry). When we were at Centreville  
i wrote a letter the Day before the Battle, and the day we  
went into the field i lost it. i write this letter  
hoping to find you all well. and write and let me know  
if Dannie is working yet and who for. and write and  
let me know how much you get from the Relief of  
the Volunteers families. i have got the Boston Herald,  
it is the Sunday Herald of July 28<sup>th</sup> and my name is  
in it as being Wounded. so this is all i will write this time  
~~When you write your letter direct it to~~ Thomas. Greene Co B.  
11<sup>th</sup> Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers

When you Direct your Letter Direct it to  
Thomas Greene Co. B. 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment Mass  
Volunteers Shuters Hill Alexandria Va

good Bye and Remember me to all at home  
Excuse my Bad Writing as my hand is not Quite  
Well. and Write as soon as Possible so Good Bye for  
the Present Perhaps i shall not Write again till i get <sup>(some)</sup> money

Thos. Greene

Tuesday August the 6<sup>th</sup> 1861

Mother I Received your letter yesterday (Monday the 5<sup>th</sup>)  
and you need not think that i am goin to have  
my Shoulder or arm, or leg Cut off. ~~i am only~~  
~~glad of it~~ i have got the bullet in my Pocket  
now. i go out Every Day just as though nothing  
was the matter with me i Do not Have to Carry my  
arm in a Sling So you need not have any more  
Trouble on that account. When that man wrote  
to you i told him not to say any thing about my  
Shoulder. he lives in Cambridge. and he is  
i think a member of Congress. No more at Present. T. Greene