

Manassas Junction

Wa July 23<sup>1861</sup>

Dear Mother It is impossible for  
me to tell you how I feel this  
morning You have no idea how  
rough a soldiers life is I am  
truly glad he was at home if  
I know he could not have stood  
what we have all went through  
since we left Raleigh it has been  
now ten days since I slept in  
a tent. It is impossible for me  
to tell you all I suppose you  
have heard of the Battle we  
were in what an awful one I  
hope I may never witness another  
such a scene There was fifteen  
killed out of our regiment  
two out of our Company several  
wounded I dont know how many  
Parsey White had both arms  
Broken Bridge Tompson was shot through  
the arm

I will now have to begin again  
for as I was writing the Revell  
was beat for us all to fall in  
for inspection of Arms. It was a  
Solomon thing to hear the Boal call  
this morning Simpson & James  
Stewart were killed on the battle  
field. When we left Balleg  
we went to Winchester ~~from there~~  
where they were expecting a Battle  
we stayed there one day when we  
received orders to march by forced  
marches for this place. We had to  
walk for a distance of 30 miles  
did it in a day and a night without  
anything to eat we arrived at this  
place Sunday Morning about 2 o'clock  
after marching all night we heard  
the Cannons roaring we doubled  
quicked it for a distance of about  
6 miles to the Battle field without  
any water or anything to eat  
I paid a negro 25cts for a canteen  
full of muddy water

We were drawned up into a line  
of battles in the edge of a <sup>of woods</sup> piece  
to wait untill it came our time to  
act that was the most trying time  
that ever I witnessed the Cannon  
Balls and grape Shot were flying  
over our heads as thick as hail  
The Wounded men were passing  
by some with legs some with arms  
shot off 3 or 4 of our men fainted  
while we were standing there at last  
the word was given forward Boys  
the day is ours and every one rushed  
forward untill we came in firing  
distance of the enemy when they turned  
loose upon us we reserved our fire  
untill the smoke cleared and  
then the Command was give to fire  
~~we stood then~~  
and that is about all I know  
only that I came out safe  
Bridge Tompson is going  
home and will carry his  
letter

You must write to me  
I never wanted to hear from  
home so bad in all my  
life you must remember  
in your prayers it is all

owing to a mercifull  
providence that I was not  
killed I had my Bayonet  
shot off pay for me that  
I may yet get home safe  
Mother dont you let Go  
come yet for a while  
even if he is well. But

Some how I have been think-  
ing that Go never would  
get well I dont know what  
makes me think so but  
it does seem so

John White Good Bye  
is well Mother