

Near Warrenton Va July 26th 1963

Dear Mother

Have not had any mail since the middle of June but will write a little just to keep up appearances. This is the Forty Sixth day that we have been on the march. I think we have marched nearly five hundred miles. After leaving Snickers Gap we kept down the mountains to Ashbys Gap, and from there we went to Manassas Gap where we found the rebels in pretty good force. There had been a cavalry fight there the day we got there and our cavalry had been whipped and driven back. We laid down at night without any supper and got up and started in the morning without any breakfast marched about two miles, stopped and made a little coffee and then went out and began skirmishing. Our whole regiment was deployed as skirmishers and it made a pretty long line. We found the Enemy posted in a high hill with a stone wall in front of them. We were a little afraid to fight them there so we laid down out of sight but we soon got orders to drive them away from the wall. So at it we went with a pretty good will. We had to fire about half an hour before we could start them, but when they did start they went like sheep and we after them and got possession of the wall. We drove them more than a mile taking quite a number of prisoners. They finally got lodged behind another fence and our amunition being used up we had to stop another regiment taking our place. That night we captured a large number of hogs and sheep and quite a number of bee hives. So you see we have something good to eat once in a while. We have all the blackberries that we want. The lots are full of them and I eat my cap full twice a day. We have been verry short of rations for the last week so we are partly obliged to pick berries for a living. They are so thick here that a person could pick a bushel in less than a half a day. I think you had better come down here and get your berries this year it will not take you long. We have stopped to day between Warrenton and White Sulphur Springs. I think we will bring up at Culpepper pretty soon. The army never was in better health and spirits, but they are mighty ragged and dirty and I think some Louzy, but that can't be helped when we have ben on the march so long. I guess I am telling some things that should not be mentioned so I will stop.

Your Affectionate Son  
Cyrus J Hardaway