

Harrison Point July 4 1862

Dear Mother

It is a long time since I have had a chance to write to you and thank God that I am alive to do it now. I have been through some terrible scenes within the past week. We have been marching for the last Eight days what little time we have not been fighting. We began our march on Thursday Marched to Mechanicsville to help McCall staid there over night and then marched back to camp and by the time we got our things packed up the enemy was in sight. We marched back about a mile where we found the whole of Porters corps drawn up in line of battle. We left our knapsacks back of the line and then went out as skirmishers. We laid there and waited there about an hour before the Enemy made his appearance. We had some splendid shots for a little while but they began to see that they were loosing to many men so they made a rush on our right wing and drover in our skirmishers and opened the battle. They were repulsed there with heavy loss and then they tried the left wing where I was posted they drove us in at double quick and opened fire on us at the same time. After we got in the woods we were ordered behind the line that was formed and got behind the trees and shoot. The regiment that we fell behind was the Michigan 4th which is a splendid regiment. They were lying behind some rails and bales of hay which had been brought there for that purpose they did not fire untill the rebs got within three rods and then they poured in a volley that mowed them down like grass at the same time there was two cannon pouring grape and canister into them so that after they fell back the ground was covered with their dead and wounded. Our men fought like old heroes that day but were outnumbered three to one they were driven back in short distance when the Irish brigade came up fresh and drove the enemy back on their own side of the fence we laid on the battle field untill two oclock in the morning. When we got up and crossed the river we marched part of the day Saturday and part of Sunday and most all night. We got down to the James river about noon Monday where we staid about an hour and then we marched back about a mile and formed in line of battle. We laid there untill morning when our regiment was sent out again to skirmish and did skirmish untill we brought on the general battle. There was not so much musketry as there was in the battle before but such Artillery firing I never heard before I should think that we had fifty pieces of cannon in the field and they were assisted by the gunboats. The Enemy was driven from the field that night and at two oclock the army began to move back. We now lay in a large field of about four hundred acres which is one solid mass of mud about six inches deep. George Crawford was killed in the first days fight he was doing his duty nobly. I have not time to write any more at present. There was three hundred guns fired at 12 oclock to day to celebrate the day and the bands are all playing lively airs. Please write often as you can.

Your Aff Son

C J Hardaway