

5-4-1863

Letter, 1863 May 4, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Camp on the battle field
Eight miles from the
Rappahannock

May 4th 1863.

Dear Mother & Sisters,

Before this reaches
you, you will no doubt have heard
of the fighting out here. I cannot
describe it, It was the hardest
that I ever heard of. Our Corps
was on the extreme right, and
as ours is the 1st Division, we
were of course on the right of the
corps. The enemy made a feint
on the left and massed their
main force on our right, and
about 4 o'clock, Saturday may the
2^d they came on to us. The first
Brigade who were on the right of
our Regt. (we were in a thick wood
doubled in column on the center)

are two year troupes and their time is out or about out cannot be depended on, they broke at the first fire and came breaking through our Regt. while we were deploying into line (the balls and shell were coming as thick as hail) our line was broke our Col. was shot, horses, mules, stragless and every thing else came tearing past us and we had to leave also, though not bifen we had given them several rounds. but we could not check them so we fell back in a good deal of disorder. It was something similar to the Pittsburg landing fight. We rallied on the second line and held them, that night there was fighting all the time. Yesterday

There was another engagement
but the rebels were repulsed.
To day, Monday, there is skirmish-
ing all along our lines.

You will know, from the
papers before this reaches
you, more than I can tell
you. Capt Mordy is missing
I don't know whether he
is killed, wounded or a
prisoner. Some of our compa-
nies cannot muster more
than half their men. In
our Co. which is a very
small one we have eight
missing, killed, or wounded.
Our Corps was completely
flanked and surprised.

We are in line of battle all
the time, with little to eat
and scarcely any sleep.
We have taken a good many
prisoners, I don't know

how many.

I want you to write
often, but I can not.
Even this may not reach
you.

Remember me to all.
And believe me ever Affectionately

P.S. & C.

P.S. Four Colonels out
of five in our brigade
were wounded, and it
is supposed that our
Col. is dead.