

John Phillips Letters

Camp Sheridan Dec 21st/62

Dear Mother

Your letter of the 7th and the 10th came to hand on last Thursday and would have been answered sooner but, I went on guard Friday morning and was not relieved until last night. I am glad you think the likeness a good one, but I wish I had taken some other position as I dont [sic] like it verry [sic] well. it is the position on dress-parade after saluting the commanding officer. I got the socks you sent by Lt McKenzie but he did not get here for some time after Serg,t [sic] Murray I feel verry [sic] much obliged for the socks and allso [sic] for your kind thought of sending me five dollars, but as it turned out I did not need it as we have been paid for two months. I sent some money to Mr [sic] Brice by Sergt [sic] Hill with instructions to let you have twenty dollars, which you will please accept as a Christmas present. I am glad to hear that you have got Allie and Ellie so well fixed up for winter and am allways [sic] glad to hear everything that is going on at home and you could scarely [sic] write anything that would not be interesting. I am sorry to heer [sic] that you have to work so hard again and hope it was not for a verry [sic] long time. I think it is time you and father would both take time a little easier and not work so hard. You say that it is just as I say about Allie taking music lessons. Well I say take them if she can do it without interfering with her other studies or confining her too much. I will pay for it, but I dont [sic] want her to have so many studies that it will interfere with her health for I thing that is of more importance than anything else. I wish I was home to help you eat your sausage and other good things when you butcher. I dont [sic] care much about helping to butcher but would like to help do the eating and you know I can make a full hand at that I have not seen Mr [sic] or Mrs [sic] Jones or Clark for some time and dont [sic] know when I will see them as I dont [sic] go to Nashville any. Billy says dinner is ready and I will have to stop and eat it.

Dinner over. We had biscuit bacon Molasses and coffee. I will have to finish this in a hurry as we are to have Inspection at 1 Oclock. [sic] There was a verry [sic] heavy connading [sic] to our left last night about 6 ½ O clock but I have not learned what it was about. There is not much sign of a battle here. I dont [sic] think the Rebels will attack us and dont [sic] think we will move for some time yet. We have a verry [sic] good camp and good tents. nearly every tent in our Reg,t [sic] has a stove and we are getting allong [sic] quite comfortably. The men are well provided for in everything but socks since we left Cane Creek. a great many of the men have none atall [sic] and they are so scarce here that it is allmost [sic] impossible to buy them. Serg,t [sic] Murray died in the Hospital at Nashville last week and it is said of a disease contracted while on recruiting service and not atall [sic] creditable to his character.

Everything is moving along here about after the same old fashion and camp life has got to be such a monotonous affair that I can scarcely find anything worth writing about.

My love to all the family and dont [sic] forget to write often.

Yours affectionately

John H. Phillips

Company D 22nd Reg III Infty [sic]

Roberts Brigade

Sheridans [sic] Division (11th)

Army of the Cumberland

Bivouick [sic] near Murfreesboro

Jan 5/63

Dear Friend

Thinking you would feel anxious to hear something direct from the 22nd I embrace the first opportunity of writing I got this sheet of paper from an artilleryman and have to write with a very short pencil sitting on my blanket I shall address this to Mr [sic] Brice thinking he would be most likely to be at the Office first but wish it sent home as quick as possible The great battle of Murfreesboro is over and the rebels have schedadled, [sic] and I suppose you have heard of the general results so I will confine myself more particularly to the particulars of our Div. We left camp Sheridan on the 26th Ult and marched out the Nolensville-pike driving the rebels out of the Town, and stopped for the night on a high hill close to Nolensville it rained nearly all night and we were not allowed any fires next day we marched about four miles and there was heavy skirmishing and some canonading [sic] in the front it rained very hard and we were drawn up in line of battle and marched through cornfields almost knee deep in mud we stopped for the night in a beech-grove and had plenty of fire-wood of Secesh-rails We stayed there all day sunday [sic] the 28th and stripped the country for miles around of forage and provisions. There are three Divisions (Davis Johnson and Sheridans [sic]) in our Column. Monday morning early we marched out and took the road leading to Murfreesboro Davis Division was in the advance and had a fight with some of Cheathams [sic] forces in the evening and capatured [sic] several prisoners. We camped for the night about four miles from Murfreesboro it rained all night and we were lying on the ground with nothing but our blankets early on the morning of the 30th Col Roberts made us a little speech stating that the 22nd would be in the advance that day and we started but we had not gone more than a mile when Cos A,B,C, and D were sent out as skirmishers – we advanced skirmishing with the enemy until within 1 ½

miles of Murfreesboro – here the fighting was kept up all day but not very heavy – Johnson and Davis' Divisions were on our right and were swinging around toward the town driving the enemy before them and every thing looked bright and cheering. One Brigade of Sheridans' Division captured two pieces of Artillery. The 22nd had one man (S McAdams) killed and 10 or 12 wounded – none of Co. D. were hurt. Afterward, we were marched a short distance to the rear and slept in a corn-field in the mud – Early on the morning of the 31st we were to arms and an order from Gen Sheridan was read apologising for some hard language used toward the 22nd at the time some of Co E. were captured while on picket at Camp Sheridan – he said he felt that he had done great injustice to a very gallant regt. and hoped the past might be forgiven and forgotten and complimented the regt very highly for their conduct on the previous day – the firing was very heavy on our right and the enemy had driven one Brigade of our Div. out of a piece of timber when Col Roberts rode up and ordered his brigade to charge and retake it. Which they did in gallant style while capturing one piece of Artillery – The 42 led the charge and the 22nd 51st and 27th supported them. It was now evident that Johnson's and Davis' divisions were falling back and the rebels were flanking us, so our Brigade changed position to the Cedar – Grove where we had been the day previous and farther to the left – Hoetling' Battery belonging to Roberts' Brigade also changed position – The rebels were now on our front and right-flank and we had to change front to the right – facing to where [crossed out they were coming across the corn field, but] we had camped the night before - Our Artillery did great service here driving the rebel columns back three times while they were coming across the corn-field. but their ammunition being exhausted and the rebels pressing us on both sides we were forced to retreat (leaving quite a number of our killed and wounded) to the opposite side of the road where Col Roberts ordered the 22nd to fix bayonets and charge which they did but were unable to drive them back – here the gallant Roberts fell and the regt completely cut to pieces – our Artillery captured and the rebels were all around us – it seemed for some time that we would all be killed or captured. Grape, shell and bullets were flying around us thick as hail and retreat was impossible Gen Negley rode up and said we would have to cut our way out – so we started a perfect mass of confusion and came out to the Nashville – pike which ended the fighting of the 22nd.

The rebels advanced to the pike but were driven back and their dead and wounded lay in our camp that night. Genl Johnsons' Division is charged with the defeat of the right and it is said he was surprised in the morning while his Artillery horses were watering and the men eating their breakfast. Genl Rosecrans says it was Sheridans' Division saved the army from a total rout. Genl Sheridan says that Roberts' Brigade saved his Div. – The loss of the 22nd is greater than other regt. in the fight. on Thursday evening there was a very hard fight on our left and our army gained a complete victory driving the rebels into their entrenchments. The rebel dead and wounded lay in heaps, it is said, but I did not see the battlefield. It is said it was the hardest fight of the battle and the canonading was the heaviest I ever heard – on Thursday our army put up breast-works and concentrated behind them and reorganized

our forces – Our Brigade is on the West side of the Nashville pike one half mile from the pike. On Thursday afternoon a body of rebels were discovered moving through a cornfield in our front we lay down behind our works and they did not discover our men until within about a hundred yards when our men opened a deadly fire on them they broke and fled like a flock of frightened sheep without returning the fire and over a hundred of them came in and surrendered Our men did not go out at all except to skirmish Yesterday the rebels evacuated but I have not heard how much they were pressed, but Genl [sic] Rosecrans claimed a complete victory, but it does not look much like a victory to our brigade. Our men went and buried their dead yesterday evening and did not find but two of Co. D dead. Abbot and Pettyjohn. Sergt [sic] White, John Alexander and J. N. Coleman were thought to be dead but they found Coleman in a Hospital wounded in the leg and heard that the rebels took all the wounded (who could walk) to Murfreesboro. I cant [sic] tell what our next move will be but hope we will get to camp soon. We have been out eleven days without tents or shelter and living on hard bread bacon and coffee and not enough of that sometimes. There are a great many things I would like to write but have not paper. I will send you in this as correct a statement of the condition of the condition of Co D as I can at this time.

John H Phillips

Phillips' Report of Killed, Wounded, Missing Company D

Killed, wounded and Missing of 22nd Regt Ill Infantry Lieut [sic] Col Swanwick, wounded and at Nashville – Capt [sic] Gregory Co. C. wounded and in Nashville – Capt [sic] French Co. I wounded in thigh Capt [sic] Borneman Co F wounded and missing Lieut [sic] Seishman Co K wounded and missing Lieut [sic] Galloway wounded in leg and missing

Co D. 22nd Regt killed and buried by our men Abner Pettijohn, A.G. Abbot

Killed or badly wounded and missing Sergt [sic] J.P.C. White and John Alexander

Wounded and in our lines Sergeant [sic] J.B. Paialy in right arm Alva Stevens in ankle and amputated Henry File in the arm-pit M. Hanley in leg A Bilycue very slightly in leg and doing duty J. Trammel slight scratch on inside of thigh doing duty

Wounded and missing W.H. Jackson E Hale Robt Reams (Corpl [sic] Color Guard)

Prisoners not wounded Joseph Armstrong A McCullan.

Supposed to be stragling [sic] inside our lines Kirkpatrick

Killed and Wounded and Prisoners of the 22nd reported at 199 which I think is about correct and went into the fight with 350 The rest of our boys are well and doing finely considering the hard way we (are) living They are bringing in meat today in abundance

This is a day of general foraging and rejoicing The Roberts Brigade has had glory in this battle if getting killed and wounded is Glory

John H Phillips

Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn [sic]

Jan 12th 1863

Dear brother (Fielding)

Your letter was rec,d [sic] yesterday. and I would have answered it immediately but I have been verry [sic] busy ever since we went into camp here fixing up and making out muster rolls and reports. I had it all to do myself as Lt Galloway who formerly done the most of the writing was wounded in the battle near Murfreesboro.

Well the great battle is over and the 22nd suffered severely. We were in the hottest of the fight on the 31st of Dec and lost in killed wounded and missing 20% The loss in Co D was as follows. Killed Anson D Abbott and Abner Pettinjohn, Wounded Sergt. [sic] I.P.C. White in the head (died on the 10th Inst) Sergt J.B. Paisley in the arm, Corp R. Reams in the hip, J.M. Alexander in shoulder, I.N. Coleman in leg Henry File in breast, M Hanley in leg, A Stephens in ankle (foot amputated), E. Hale slightly in shoulder, Missing J.N. Jackson, Wm A. Elam, J.H. Armstrong and N. McCollum. Lt. C.M. Galloway was wounded in the leg. Our wounded are all getting along verry [sic] well. Lt. Col Ivanwick was wounded and taken prisoner, so we are now without a field officer. The regt [sic] went out on picket yesterday and could only turn out 130 men. We left Camp Sheridan on the 26th of Dec and marched out the Nolanville [sic] pike about 6 miles south of Nolonville [sic] driving the rebs [sic] all the way we then took the Murfreesboro road and arrived on the line in front of Murfreesboro in the morning of the 30th. Our regt [sic] skirmished with the enemy all day an we lost several men wounded. The fight was renewed early on the morning of the 31st. The attack was first made on Johnsons [sic] Division on the extreme right and it was surprised before they had formed their lines or got the artillery horses hitched up. Consequently they did not make much of a fight but retreated in disorder losing nearly all their artillery and baggage. Next to Johnson was Davis [sic] Division who were also surprised but not so badly as Johnson. Next was Sheridan and in consequence of the Division on the right of us giving way we were flanked but succeeded in keeping the rebels back until they brought up reinforcements and we were allmost [sic] surrounded, when we fell back, but not without leaving our mark and loosing [sic] many of our brave companions Col. Roberts, Commanding our Brigade was killed and the brigade badly used up. But Genl, [sic] Rosecrans says Sheridans [sic] Division saved the army from total route [sic] by their obstinate fighting. Genls [sic] Negly and Palmer on our left succeeded in keeping the rebels in check and this ended the second days fight, which was by far the hardest of

the battle. There was considerable skirmishing until Sunday and on Friday and Saturday night verry [sic] hard fighting in which our arms were victorious and on Sunday morning it was discovered that the rebels were skedadling. [sic] We are now camped about three miles south of Murfreesboro on the Shelbyville road we came here on the [illegible] and had been out 12 days without tents or any kind of shelter and part of the time it rained verry [sic] hard and we had nothing to eat but hard bread and meat and sometimes verry short of that. We were a dirty tired set and were glad to get into camp once more. We are now verry [sic] comfortably located near Stones river but how long we will stay I cannot say. Lee is nurse is a hospital at Nashville and John W is in the pioneer Corps. Capt [sic] Hubbard and Mr [sic] Palmer send their compliments. Tattoo is sounding all over the camps so I will repair to my bunk. I enclose a note to Mr [sic] Hipnell who wrote to Abner Pettijohn.

Write soon

Your brother

J.H. Phillips

F.D. Phillips