

## E. J. Work Letter

Murfreesboro Tenn. Jan the 11th A.D. 1862 Co. A. 40th Ind. Vols.

My dear Sister

With pleasure do I Embrace this presant [sic] opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you know of my safety and good health still hopeing [sic] this will find you all Enjoying the same good blessings We have been in a terrible [sic] Battle on the 31st. and on 1st 2nd for on the 26th we struck tents and began to Advance on the Enemy at this place we advanced with great Caution in double column or in two lines of Battle for about 25 miles through corn fields and waded creeks and run through briers all the way our division was in Front [illegible] the 27 came up to the Enemy at Lavergne a town 18 miles From Nashville we was first in picket at night the next morning there [sic] [illegible word crossed out] pickets were right close to us so the good old fun began we fired on them and them on us for about ten or 15 rounds and they began to throw grape and shell at us but then our lines were formed and we [illegible word crossed out] Advanced on the Enemy and took the town after loosing [sic] about 40 in killed and wounded.

they retreated to there [sic] rifle pits at this place and us close at there [sic] heels giving them discharge after discharge of shell canister and musketry but we only had one man wounded until we got to the field of Action on 28 sunday [sic] we camped at Stuarts Creek nothing of importance [illegible word crossed out] only picket fighting and that only amounted to nothing but an annoyance to them in camp monday [sic] The [illegible] come up to within three miles of the town but it was at the point of the bayonet amid shower of canon [sic] shot and Musket Balls had considerable of picket fighting had three men killed with canon [sic] Balls while we were agetting [sic] breakfast nothing more of importance took place that day only they would shell us occasionally but we did not mind that on the morning of the 31st they made an atack [sic] on our right with there [sic] whole force to turn our right flank and they were bucketsful in it took nine pieces of canon [sic] before they were licked [illegible] [illegible] in the morning our whole right wing gave way and the rebs [sic] were not checked untill [sic] they came to woods [sic] Division where they by our division and Eighteen Cannon that made death rain among there [sic] rank so that they were forced to fall back double quick Oh! man they fell in heaps at every volley we poured in to them there [sic] prisoners say that we killed 700 of them in 20 minutes they made five bold sorties on our brigade during the day but were Each time nicely repulsed we was under fire for about Eight or nine hours on 31 Sat and our Company had 16 wounded and one killed dead that was John Montgomery he was shot in the head I was the only man in our Co. about that did not get hit in some part of there [sic] clothing with bullets our Division was the only one in the Army that held its [illegible] During the day and it had between 1100 or twelve hundred killed and wounded well now I can not tell it all to you this time the 15th Ind. had [crossed out] lost in killed And wound 226 men our loss I do not know Exactly what it is but it is not as heavy or [illegible] man we confronted Capt. Cox Battery and the enemy shells and Canon [sic] balls just fell as thick around us just by dozens and we could see them just

as plain as we could see the balls that we [illegible word crossed out] use to play with at school this may seem curious to you but it is so we could see them just as soon as they left the canon [sic] The balls flew just as thick as [illegible] Ever seen hail and swarming just like horrible bees now I seen whole files knocked out of regts [sic] by canon [sic] shots the fight closed only with [sic] the darkness of the night this was new years [sic] eve we slept on the ground we fought on and could not sleep for the cries of the wounded rebels begging [sic] to be carried [sic] off and was perishing with the cold our wounded was all well cared for that night rosecrans [sic] was in the thickest of the fight [illegible] where spoke to us boys and told us to go in while we was a fighting the boys stoped [sic] firing [sic] and gave him three cheers and then went in to do it again well I have writen [sic] all my paper so no more at present but remaining as ever your brother E. J Work

I will write the rest in my next writ [sic] soon.

Col. Blake got so drunk that he fell from his horse in the beginning of the fight and was put under arrest by the Lt Col. shortly afterwards wounded after having his horse shot under him. he fell at he [sic] head of the regt. cheering it on to victory.