

## Civil War Soldier's Letter Home

Camp Near Martinsburg, Va.  
July 15th 1863

Dear Parents,

I wrote you a note 4 days ago informing you of our condition & whereabouts but before I had an opportunity to send it over the River I was ordered back to Heggerstown, Md. with 40 dismounted men of our Regt. who had been put under my charge as sharpshooters we marched back Sunday & early Monday morning we were sent in advance we remained in this position until about sunset when the enemy charged upon us with inftry & cav we fell back firing as we went till we got to our support when we poured a volley into them killing & wounding many of them & driving them back. Our loss was very slight no one killed & 6 wounded. We had good protection. Gen. Lee waited at Heggerstown 4 days for the enemy to attack him but he had a chosen position & they made no attack only on the flank where the cavalry was guarding. On Monday night our army fell back to the River again & waded over next morning it was little more than waist deep.

John is here in camp enjoying good health but very much fatigued as well as all the ballance. Our Regt is so near exhausted that it reports only 200 men for duty. Before the rear of our army was over the River the Yankees were on the bank shooting them in the water killing & wounding several. They made no attempt to cross & follow us. Our army is now falling back towards Winchester, Va.

Your son  
W C. Hadley

Martinsburg, Va.

I arrived at this place a few minutes ago found J.M. Hadley here in charge of the Hospital & enjoying good health &c Also Cousin W C. Hornaday here under his charge. he is very unwell but is able to walk about. I saw E. H. Hornaday since the flight he came out safe but nearly all his Co. & Regt. was killed wounded & taken prisoners. David Roger was not hurt. I heard & wrote home he was killed. There is a great many wounded here now which must fall into the hands of the enemy. They follow us for Gen. Lee has ordered it to be evacuated. Our Regt. is on its way to Leetown & I must close & fall in with them.

Your son,  
Wm C. Hadley