



Friday 8th, 1865

The army of the Cumberland encamped in and around this place, resting itself after the last battle, and _____ having for another advance. The natural and artificial defenses of this city make it one of the strongest positions in the south and ~~has been~~ ^{hasn't} been defeated with the same spirit - in which attack was made, this would have been to us a second Fredricksburg. ~~⊙~~ We left Nashville on the 26th inst. and marched to the battleground in two days a distance of twenty-eight miles, In speaking of the battle I can only speak of what transpired within range of our guns as I did not leave _____ the battery during the _____ we were accordingly situated in the rear, and in the third line of battle. When on the morning of the 31st. the enemy made an attack on one entire right wing driving us back. onto our third line and capturing an Ohio battery which occupied a position commanding the entire line! The battery was immediately? Moved and turned upon us. We were eating our breakfast when all manner of shot and shell were thrown amongst us, we immediately turned our guns on the battery and in a few moments had the pleasure of ~~seeing~~ seeing them limber up, and _____ retire, and instantly get under motion and moved to the ground. Later acknowledged the last battery At this time the cannoning and _____ terrible, our entire forces seemed to be on the retreat (Generals) of infantry and parts Artillery was hastening in the rear. Gen Ross ret center of our battery _____ to

2) All parts of the field, and with drawn sword urging the retreating soldiers to return and recover the lost ground, soon the great mass was formed in line and lay down so as to escape the shot of the enemy as much as possible, all the batteries but our own had retreated and we with our Support of two thousand men held the advance — to this time we had used our guns but little for fear of hitting our own men, but now the rebel ranks were seen moving from the woods in our front, apparently as numberless as the leaves themselves, and their approach as silent and sure as the approach of night, we were laying on our faces at the sides of the guns, when the ranks were within musket range of us, each cannoner sprang to his post and six guns aimed by the best of gunners opened on the dark and solid lines. At each discharge long ~~practice~~ spaces would open in the ranks, only to be closed in _____, soon they came within cannon range. and other batteries came to our support, soon the lines began to waver, the rear striving in vain to urge on the advance, then all joined in a disorganized retreat when the infantry with a deafening shout charged on them driving them with great slaughter back into the woods, Then came a pause in our front, the infantry returned their posts and we again held the advance. Soon we were opened on by three batteries, the first round killing three men and wounding two more, here the fire became terrific We fired so fast, as soon to disable two guns. some of the guns discharged six shots a minute but we succeeded in knocking one of the rebel batteries all to pieces and in driving the other two, greatly disabled from the field. Then came another lull in the storm of nearly an hour, during which the enemy were making an attack on our lines. Soon a Texas brigade made an advance on us with the intention of capturing our battery. Our support had themselves on either side and allowed.

3) The enemy to approach. within easy shot when we opened on them with shot and shell, here was our hardest fighting, never did men fight better than the rebels on this occasion, our shot would cut clear through them, yet they moved on to within pistol shot. when our support ——— a well directed fire into their front, and they were again driven across the fields into the woods, with the loss of a Col. and other officers prisoners while these troops were retreating we discovered a body of men approaching on a double quick bearing a white flag, the guns were turned on them but not fired, when it was perceived that they were without arms and suffering from the musketry of the enemy our fire was turned their persecutors and they came in under ^{our} guns and gave themselves up, the first word their leader said was "I was a rebel, and give myself up. I am tired of this d— foolishness and want to see it stop." During the day we were charged on three times by the Texa troops, once they came within fifty yards of our guns when we drove them back leaving the ground covered with their dead. After their last charge Gen. Rosecrans thanked us for saving his right wing. In that days fight we fired into the Rebel ranks nearly thirteen hundred rounds, and of lost? three cannons killed & seven wounded so as to be obliged to be taken from the field. That night we stood by our guns, early in the morning the enemy undertook to make a flank movement when we shelled them out of sight by this time they had learned to respect our guns and keep away from them. During that day the 12th inst we were obliged to lay on our faces to prevent being picked off by sharp shooters who were hid in the woods. This day we succeeded in keeping the enemy at long range, and shelled them as often as they approached, we fired eight hundred rounds & lost one man, wounded slightly.

Long after dark and in a heavy rain storm we were relieved from duty and allowed to retire from the front, our cooks got us a good supper and we lay down in the weather to sleep. On the morning of the second our forces were again attacked and we again took the front but soon the enemy retired and even lumbered up + took a position in the woods. That evening our left was attacked by the forces under Gen. Breckenridge and driven back in disorder. Here we were again ordered to the front and worked our guns until after dark, during the fight we made an Artillery charge moving our guns almost into the enemies lines. And doing wonderful execution. As they retreated we followed them, fording the river and pushing them at every point. The infantry after the retreat fought well and the rebel dead lay ten to one of ours. This was the last + great lesson of the rebels, there commenced the retreat which has not ended and will not until the old — waves over our entire land. I have spoken of but little, save what I was engaged in for that was all I saw, circumstances so placed our little band as to force us to play an unfortunate part in the late battle. Each man did his duty.

— we mourn the loss of our companions but a hill we bowed over the graves of our dead, our hearts beat proudly knowing that there was not one spot to near their bright soldier fame, we are attached to Gen. Rosecrans headquarters and expect to spend a few weeks in camp. A large number of our men are sick from exposure and fatigue. My health is good, I was struck on the head by the bursting of a shell and somewhat bruised but the wound is slight. Our loss is much less than that of the enemy and the army in better order for battle than before the fight. Gen. Bragg

— hardly make another stand in this state, his troops are discouraged and doubt their own strength. I have talked with prisoners and they report all tired of the war, + willing to lay down their arms. One more battle at Chattanooga and

Memorandum
The Army of the Cumberland
The Battle of Nashville, Dec. 15, 1864

The Army of the Cumberland had been ordered in and were
the day, resting until after the 10th, and on the morning of the
advance. The natural and artificial defenses of this city, make it one
of the strongest positions in the south, and had it been defended with
the same spirit in which attack was made, this would have
been to us a second Gettysburg. We left Nashville on the 25th
inst and marched to the battle ground in two days, a distance of
about eight miles. On speaking of the battle I can only speak of
what transpired within range of our guns, and did not have

to the second day we were accordingly situated in the
morning, and in the forenoon we were ordered to move on the morning
of the 15th the day we made an attack on the enemy's position
situated at Bragg's third line and captured an excellent
position commanding the main line.
In the battle the enemy immediately moved and turned upon us
we were scattering our dead & wounded in all manner of shot and shell
we threw away our arms, and immediately turned our backs
on the battle, and in a few moments had the business of
sweeping them down, and after a while, we had them got into
confusion and moved to the ground. Being acrossed at the first
battery, at this time the cannonading and the firing
ceased, our entire force seemed to be on the right. The enemy
was in a position to attack us in the rear. The
Remembrance of our battle of Nashville, Dec. 15, 1864

Long after dark, and in a heavy rain storm, we were relieved from
 duty and allowed to retire from the front. Our cars got us a good
 shelter and we lay down in the water to sleep. On the morning of
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 in the woods. That evening our left was attacked by the forces under Gen
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 to the front, and worked our guns until after dark. During the fight we
 made an artillery charge, moving our guns almost into the enemies
 lines, and doing wonderful execution. As they retreated we followed
 them, fording the river and pushing them at every point. The
 intensity after the retreat, fought well, and the rebel dead lay thick
 to our guns. This was the last and great lesson of the rebels, there
 commenced the retreat which has not ended, and will not until
 the old flag waves over our entire land. I have spoken of Gen
 Little, save what I was engaged in, for that was all I saw, circum-
 stances so pleasant our letter board as to force us to play an
 important part in the late battle, each man did his duty
 well. We stop the loss of our companions, but while we bowed our
 heads of our dead, our hearts beat proudly knowing that there was
 not one spot to man their bright soldier families we are attached
 to the Rosecrank head quarters and expect to spend a few
 weeks in camp. A large number of our men are sick from exposure
 and fatigue. My health is good, I was struck on the head by
 the bursting of a shell, and so much lacerated, but the wound is
 slight - our loss is much less than that of the enemy, and the army
 in better order for battle than before the fight. Gen Bragg
 will hardly make another stand in this state, his troops are
 discouraged and doubt their own strength. I have talked with
 prisoners and they report all tired of the war, and willing to
 lay down their arms. One more battle at Chattanooga and
 the great west will be free. I have undertaken to give you a
 truly accurate account of the part we took in the battle. Should you
 see a printed list - please to enclose it in a letter and
 send it to me. Give my love to my sisters and all our
 friends. Let me hear from you as often as you can. I
 believe me to be your friend, Direct to Nashville
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the enemy to approach within easy distance we opened on them with shot and shell, there was our hardest fighting, never did men fight better than the rebels on this occasion, a shot would not clear through them, yet they moved on, to within pistol shot when our support poured a well directed fire into their front, and they were again driven across the field into the woods, with the loss of a Col and other officers prisoners, while our troops were retreating we discovered a body of men approaching on a double track bearing a white flag, the guns were turned on them but not fired, when it was perceived that they were without arms and suffering from the musketry of the enemy our fire was turned their pursuers and they came in under our guns and gave themselves up, the first word their leader said was, "I was a rebel, and give myself up, I am tired of this foolishness and want to see it stop." During the day we were charged on three times by the Texas troops, once they came within fifty yards of our guns when we drove them back leaving the ground covered with their dead after their last charge Gen^l Rosecrans thanked us for saving his right wing, in that day's fight we fired into the rebel ranks nearly thirteen hundred rounds, and lost three cannoners killed and seven wounded so as to be obliged to ^{be} taken ^{from} the field. That night we stood by our guns early in the morning the enemy undertook to make a flank movement when we shelled them out of sight by the time they had learned to respect our guns and keep away from them, during that day the 1st time we were obliged to lay on our guns to prevent being picked off by sharp shooters who were hid in the woods this we succeeded in keeping the enemy at long range, and shelled them as often as they approached. We fired about hundred rounds and lost one man, wounded slightly.

Newark, January 3
Friday 8th, 1865

The army of the Cumberland encamped in and around this place, resting itself after the last battle, and preparing having for another advance. The natural and artificial defenses of this city make it one of the strongest positions in the south and hasn't been defeated with the same spirit---in which attack was made, this would have been to us a second Fredricksburg. We left Nashville on the 26th inst. and marched to the battleground in two days a distance of twenty-eight miles. In speaking of the battle I can only speak of what transpired within range of our guns as I did not leave the battery during the entire engagement engaged-us-----
to the second resing we were accordingly situated in the rear, and in the third line of battle. When on the morning of the 31st, the enemy made an attack on one entire right wing driving us back onto our third line and capturing an Ohio battery which occupied a position commanding the entire line. The battery was immediately maned and turned upon us. We were eating our breakfast when all manner of shot and shell were thrown amongst us, we immediately turned our guns on the battery and in a few moments had the pleasure of seeing them limber up and directly retire and instantly got under motion and moved to the ground lately occupied by the last battery. At this time the cannoneering and artillery was terrific, our entire forces seemed to be on the retreat (Generals) of infantry and (parts) Artillery were hastening in the rear. Gen. Rosecrans sat in the center of our battery. acting acting aids to all parts 2 of the field, and with drawn sword urging the retreating soldiers to return and recover the lost ground, soon the great mass was formed in line and lay down so as to escape the shot of the enemy as much as possible, all the batteries but our own had retreated and we with our support of two thousand men held the advance position this time we had sued our guns but little for fear of hitting our own men, but now the rebel ranks were seen moving from the woods in our front, apparently as numberless as the leaves themselves, and their approach as silent and sure as the approach of night, we were laying on our faces at the sides of the guns, when the ranks were within

musket range of us, each cannoneer sprang to his post and six guns aimed by the best of gunners opened on the dark and solid lines. At each discharge long spaces would open in the ranks, only to be closed in an instance, soon they came within cannister range. and other batteries came to our support, soon the lines began to waver, the rear striving in vain to urge on the advance, then all joined in a disorganized retreat when the infantry with a deafening shout charged on them driving them with great slaughter back into the woods, then came a pause in our front, the infantry returned their posts and we again held the advance. Soon we were opened on by three batteries, the first round killing three men and wounding two more, here the fire became terrific we fired so fast, as soon to disable two guns, some of the guns discharged six shots a minute but we succeeded in knocking one of the rebel batteries all to pieces and in driving the other two, greatly disabled from the field. Then came another lull in the storm of nearly an hour, during which the enemy were making an attack on our lives. Soon a Texas brigade made an advance on us with the intention of capturing our battery. Our support had themselves on either side and allowed the enemy to approach. within easy shot when we opened on them with shot and shell, here was our hardest fighting, never did men fight better than the rebels on this occasion, our shot would cut clear through them, yet they moved on to within pistol shot when our support pozed a well directed fire into their front, and they were again driven across the fields into the woods, with the loss of a Col. and other officers prisoners while those troops were retreating we discovered a body of men approaching on a double quick bearing a white flag, the guns were turned on them but not fired, when it was perceived that they were without arms and suffering from the musketry of the enemy our fire was turned on their persecutors and they came in under our guns and gave themselves up, the first word their leader said was "I was a rebel, and give myself up. I am tired of this d___ foolishness and want to see it stop." During the day we were charged on three times by the Texas troops, once they came within fifty yards of our guns when we drove them back leaving the ground covered with their dead. After their last charge Gen. Rosecrans thanked us for saving his right wing. In that day's

fight we fired into the Rebel ranks nearly thirteen hundred rounds, and lof

without escort, we are liable to an attack from rebel stragglers--We are very 9
sorry to see the other section go without us, as we may be obliged to stay
here a month before we are relieved.

.....5th.

Up this morning before daylight, and pulling down our tents, we
tumbled them into the wagons (we could not fold them, as the ice and snow
defied us to compress them) harnessed our horses and then stood around
until 11:0'ck. for our cavalry escort.

.....5th.

Clear cold afternoon, and rough roads, but we marched twenty-seven
miles to "Mitchellville" Our escort left us at "Franklin--At Mitchellville we
found an empty barn for our horses--Frank and I got into a little shop by the
roadside, and there not being room for us to lie down, we crawled up on the
rafters, and slept or tried to sleep on a couple of boards--We almost froze,
and our boots were on our feet a-1 night, which was well for us, as had we taken
them off, we never could have gotten them on again.

.....6th.

Cold, stinging cold--A half done piece of mess pork, and a cup of hot
coffee, (thank God for the coffee) and we are off on the hard road. It is so
cold that we are obliged to walk to keep warm--The skin breaks on the horses
legs from the cold--It is hard work to get them along.

This is the worst we have seen yet, but I suppose it is as a mole to a
mountain in comparison to what we have to suffer before our three years run by.

The dwellers in the country say, -- "The weather will break", (what- 10
ever that means), tomorrow. We moved very fast today; going to the west of
Gallatine, and camping at six o' clock P.M. seven miles from Nashville.

.....29th.

We have enjoyed ourselves all day--At ten o'clock some fool fired off his gun at a mule or a calf, and so called out the whole camp--We harnessed up and got into battery; but nothing coming to attack us, we quickly got to sleep, after unhitching the horses--Some very amusing things happened in the dark-- Poor "Barry" put the bridle under his horse's tail, instead of into his mouth and over his head; and "Kennedy" tried to get into the forge for safety--

.....1st

I received from the supply of clothing sent down by the "Board of Trade.", one shirt and a pair of gloves--Others not so well provided for as myself, received larger amounts of clothing. The weather is growing cold. Mr. Stevens left for Nashville today.

.....Dec., 2nd.

Inspected by the Inspector Genl., and received our marching orders. Mr. Campbell of the 102 Ohio Inft. was today detailed as harness maker in the command.

.....3rd.

This morning the "lead driver; and those having revolvers went up on the hill into an old fort to discharge them; some not having been emptied since we left Louisville. The General sent up the Provost Marshall to arrest us for firing; but Orderly Stevens could not see it, and the Officer gained nothing for his trouble. He reported to his superior, that--"Them battery fellows wouldn't arrest worth a D--n-" The ammunition, "limbers" and caissons are all repacked today, and we go south tomorrow.

.....4th.

Turned out at 4:30 o'clock--The right and center sections striking tents; leaving us to guard the town until the arrival of other guns, which are on their way here. Yesterday we drew muskets, and equipments. As we go through

The hills were grand over the whole distance we marched today.

10

Dec., 7th.

Out this Sunday morning early--cold, sharp clear morning--For the last twenty miles, we have had a splendid turnpike road bed, and today it is so very cold, that we dismounted and walked.--I thought my feet would freeze.

At eight o'clock we passed through "Edgefield", and an hour later passed over the river on the pontoon; the fine suspension bridge having been cut into the river some time since by "Bragg's" Army passing through Nashville out on the Harding Pike, we find our command camped in a mud hole, or, rather on a low flat marsh--But it is near town, and the boys are faring quite well, occupying tents belonging to "Rosecrans" head-quarters, kindly lent to them until theirs thawed out.

We Made the trip from Bowling Green ninety miles in 21 1/2 hours-- Lieut. Robinson in command--He telegraphed to Capt. Stokes at Galatine to wait for us, but as we took the main road, he did not get the dispatch. It is just as well now, for the rebels took Galatine the night we stopped at Mitchellville, only ten miles from them--Had we gone the main road, we should have been on our way South, but in a far different way from the one we are now pursuing Today a large foraging squad have gone out for corn--At dress parade, we were astonished, and made happy-yes-too full for utterance, by the orders read by Capt. Stokes--i.e. Orderly Stevens made 1st.Jr. Lieut. Corp. Lester, reduced to the ranks. Sergt. Hand, promoted to Orderly Segt. Corp Jacobs to Segt., Gale and Howard to Sergeants. Letter from Father today--all well at home.

.....8th.

Morning call at sunrise--at nine o'clock we moved camp to higher and better ground--The snow is all gone--Our tents are now up, and the sun warms everything. The 13th Regulars are camped near us, and we have very fine music

every evening--Spent all P.M. carrying stones to pave our tent floor, so that, now as we lie down, we are out of the mud.

.....9th.

This morning was spent on washing and oiling harness, cleaning the guns and carriages, and in polishing the whole camp grounds.

At two o'clock, we hitched up, and taking three days rations with us, moved out to College Hill, being informed we were out on a scout--But after remaining an hour and a half at the camp of the 51st Illinois, we counter-marched to camp with orders to hold ourselves in readiness to move at a moments notice-- So we may be called out at any time, though I do not expect it. The horses are not unharnessed--

Weather warm and clear--very beautiful indeed for winter.

.....10th.

Horses remained harnessed all night, but we were not disturbed. Today raver drew a few more horses, we need them very much. The canoneers having muskets, were put through "Hardee's" this morning, very much to their disgust-- Did my little washing this noon--Splendid weather-- I never saw such in winter.

.....12th/

Nine o'clock--ready to move--at noon we with the 15th Regulars moved through town to the Franklin Pike, seven miles distance. We passed a long meadow where Gen. Rosecrans and staff were reviewing Gen. Neglie's Div.--A splendid sight--The first time I have seen so -any troops in line--The whole Div. was out, when two miles from the front, our orders were countermanded and we returned three miles, and camped on a hill near the pike just at dark. We expect to move in the morning, (so our Segt. of the guards says--) Our camp is in a beautiful place, and I hope we may stay--A slight rain tonight.

.....13th.

We do not leave here as was anticipated--At dinner today, we were gladdened by the sight of the Regulars coming round the hill--(We left them

miles and back. But he got quite cooled off by the time we returned to the camp--He then tried, (in a very poor way,) to show he defied us--Riding up in front of us, he told how "he would cut down the first man who showed any signs of mutiny--aye, cut him down as he would cut the head off a dead goose"--Then he more quietly said--"We will begin anew from this date" I think none will be hurt. The rations have been very short and poor, but the Sargents spoke to the Capt., who had them quickly corrected.

....23rd.

This p. m., the command rode to "Mill, or Lost River Cave", four miles south from her--We explored it for three miles from the entrance--I will not write out the details, but the reader can ask for them, and he shall know.)

.....23rd

Inspected by Capt. Stokes.

.....25th

The gun carriage wheels are being repainted.

.....26th

Turnpike drill.

.....27th.

Thanksgiving Day--We obtained from the "Company Fund" five dollars for a squad; and spending it for good things, we had a very good dinner--I wish you could have seen it--

.....28th.

Mr. Weeks having returned the day before yesterday, left tonight for home--And we have in his stead Mr. E. B. Stevens from Chicago--He brings many things for the boys from loved ones at home--We shall get them tomorrow.