

Received from

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Camp on the Battle Field near Murfreesboro
 Tennisee
 Jan 5th 1863

Dear Wife

I wrote and sent you a few lines yesterday morning before daylight I told you in it the Battle was not over but it is now over and we have gained the victory I am well But somewhat fatigued we were fighting more or less for nine days on the 31st the enemy made a desperate charge on our men and drove them our Regt was next to the front the Regt that was in front of us came running panic struck through our lines we stood our ground and when the Rebels come we let in on

them and soon drove them back. But it was a desperate engagement in which we lost sixteen of our company in killed and wounded I have often read a description of a Battle but no one can realize what it is without being in it I hope I will not ever have to witness it again the man on my left side fell dead shot through the heart and the one on my right fell badly wounded I dont see how I escaped the Balls flew around me as thick it seemed to me as drops of rain in a shower I felt as though God had answered the prayers of my Dear friends at home and spared my life

I was not at all frightened in the engagement I
felt as though if it was Gods will that I should
die that I was prepared but I thought of my
Dear Wife and Children and the pain and
anxiety that you would suffer when you heard
that we were in the Battle and not know
who had fallen, the 84th Regt. receives
great praise here for the way it fought
here Col. Waters has proved himself to
be a Brave and good officer one that we are
all proud of. on the 2 Day of this month we
got into another severe engagement in which
we routed the Rebels with great slaughter and
did not lose but three or four in our Regt.

we had but 39 men in our company when
we went into the fight and we had seventeen
of them killed and wounded. Ed. Ball
shot his own thumb off I will have to
stop writing for this time I will try and
write again soon. it is all confusion here yet
I would give all I am worth if this difficulty
could be settled and I could return to my home
and family, give my love to all God
Bless and Comfort you my dear Wife
is the prayer of your Husband
his dear children for me John J. Walker
what would I give to be
with you to
Lavinia E. Walker

DIARY OF JOHN S. WALKER

Co. A 84th IL

Harrisburg Civil War

Round Table

Collection

US Army Military History

Institute,

Carlisle Barracks

PA