Dear Brother:

I sent you a hastily written note week ago last Friday. We had just got out of prison and felt highly elated to think we were to have a little rest. Saturday I was busy most all day washing for we had hardly had our boots off for 6 weeks and a chance to lay aside rifle and equipments was a great relief. Just at night I wrote I wrote one page of a letter to you intending to finish it on the morrow, but we were called up early and ordered to
march with blankets
and tents clothes only. We
started early marched 12 miles
We supposed we were only to
be gone two or three days but
we marched Monday 9 miles
Tuesday 14 which brought us
here and here we are now
What far as more than I
can guess. The most reason
able supposition is that we
came this way to push the
ribs and if strong and that we
remain here because we can
get corn meal flour & fresh
meat for man and forage
for beasts articles knowledge
about Knoxville. Daily feeling
remarkably well now. That
rations agree with my health
better than any appetite. Wastered
Sunday with half a lb. of meat & 3 or
meat made into tender and
march with tent cloths only. We started early and marched 12 miles. We supposed we were only to be gone two or three days but we marched Monday 9 miles Tuesday 14 which brought us here and here we are now. What for is more than I can guess. The most reasonable supposition is that we came this way to push the rebels out of Tenn and that we remain here because we can get corn meal, flour, and fresh meat for man and forage for beasts; articles pretty scarce about Knoxville. I am feeling remarkably well now. Short rations agree with my health better than my appetite. We started Sunday with half a lb. of corn cob meal made into pudding and
and half a lb. of fresh beef one
day's rations. Tuesday we drew
two hard loaves which would
amount to about the same
as 8 hard crackers and half lb.
of beef. Wednesday half beef.
Thursday half lb. of meat the
same. Friday and Sat. with
half. But they can't charge old
soldiers so. Two meals a day
were made of roasted corn
browned in a spider or an
old piece of tin. Officers
could only draw the same as
soldiers and I guess there was
20 hambles of corn browned &
fried by the men and
officers of our Division.
Boiled good and we learned
how the rebels lived and
marched on a little flour
and meal... The rebel retreated
and was saved only the day before.
half a lb. of fresh beef one days ration Tuesday we drew two “hard tact” which would amount to about the same as 3 bakers crackers and half lb. of beef. Wednesday half lb. of flour Thursday half lb. of meal the same Friday and Sat with beef. But they can’t starve old soldiers so Two meals a day were made of roasted corn browned in a spider on an old piece of tin Officers could only draw the same as soldiers and I guess there was 20 bushels of corn browned & crushed by the men and officers of our Division It tasted good and we learned how the rebels lived and marched on a little flour and meal The rebels retreated over this road only the day before
was and that all day long we rode and took. We concluded we
must play the bag as soon as
jams were stacked hundreds
were stringing off for something
in the middle till they
righted and the first hen taking
rose pig or calf or fowl get a
bullet through its head and came
onto camps. The pick of all the
time night and day for the first two
days we were here the country for
three around was clear with
soldiers and cattle are plenty
within four miles of camp.
We have found all the mills now.
security of teams rich at once
wheat as to day we get full ration.
I went out Thursday and腾了
a pig and a nice fat chicken
ran with a heck of nice chickens
out of an old peach hole and
broke made me and my tent and a
good breakfast they cherished
well after getting at least all night
eating them for fear of rain we made
the nest day. I your humblest of  the
powerful effort to be kind and of  the
us and took all they dared [?] and take. We concluded we must play Reb & so as soon as guns were stacked hundreds were stringing off for something to eat most all took their rifles and the first hen turkey goose pig or calf in sight got a bullet through its head and come into camp double quick. All the time night & day for the first two days were here the country for 10 miles around was alive with soldiers and eatables are pretty scarce within 6 miles of camp. We have pressed all the mills in the vicinity & teams pick up corn & wheat so to-day we get full rations. I went out Thursday and dropped a pig and a nice fat chicken which with a peck of nice potatoes I got out of an old sesech’s potato hole made me and my tent made a good breakfast they relished well after setting up most all night waking them for fear we move the next day. So your humble servant didn’t get checked out of his
East: December 14th. 1864

Last evening Union in 60 B. K. was wounded in the leg flesh and all the old soldiers say it was the most severe and fought battle they ever heard. I don't know when I will ever return home and I don't know where I will ever return home. I will write you more December 31th, 1864.

We were on a pike last night and 2nd day was made up fairly. Suddenly a terrible volley from the Rebel's advanced pikes. 40 P.M. Pikelet firing some shells.

December 14th: quite warm & sunny. Has been for several days. December 15th last night as we were sleeping quickly at our lines on pikelet we were at 12 o'clock. Ordered off across the river on double quick. We found the city mostly deserted and very few troops. We crossed the river and marched back to our camp. Left our tents and wrote our families at home. The reason for the sudden evacuation of the city.
[?] Lieu in Co G 9th NH. was wounded in the leg flesh wound. All the old soldiers say it was the hottest & most deperite fought battle they have ever been in.

I do not know when I shall have chance to send this but will not write any more now.

Dec 15th

We were on picket last night and to-day. Was woke up pretty suddenly by a terrible volley from the Rebel & our advance pickets.

4 PM. Picket fireing & some shells thrown to-day quite warm & pleasant. has been for several days.

Dec 16th

last night as we were sleeping quietly at our lines on picket we were at 12 o clock ordered off across the river on double quick. we found the city mostly deserted. we being about the last troops that crossed. we marched back to our old camp put up our tents & now feel at home. The reason for the sudden evacuation of the city.
my orders but a little. The engagement was short and we soon were all well. I was rather a dirty looking fellow this morning almost covered with mud together with the smoke & powder blocked me up well. There was about 1000 men ordered to the city of Frederich last night slght in an old house.

Our losses have lost nearly 200 men, 60 killed, wounded & missing out 60. Out of nearly 20 men killed Captain Dodges, John Smith of Virginia on the left, John Smith was killed only a few feet from me by a piece of shell which struck him in the head & breast, but he survived. Dyer was killed almost instantly. Charles Holt was wounded slightly. James Gibson wounded. A J. Crum was wounded in chest shell slightly. Our bodies & arms were not injured. Col. Her has a rather suit of clothes on but as his good spirits Don't know if but two faces being 19 or wounded.
My shoulder feels a little [?] morning & I feel rather tired and stiff otherwise am well. I was rather a dirty looking fellow this morning almost wholly covered with mud together with the smock & powder blacked me up well. We were relieved & ordered to the city about 6 o clock. Last night slept in an old house. Our Reg have lost nearly 200 men according to this morning reports, in killed wounded & missing our Co looses nearly 20 men killed, Corporal Dodge & John Smith of Hillsboro on the field. John Smith was killed only a few feet from me by a piece of shell which struck him in the head he lived but half a minute. Dodge was killed almost instantly. Charles Hall was wounded slightly. A.J. Crooker wounded by a half spent ball slightly. Our Cap. & Lieu’s were not injured. Col. H. has a muddy suit of clothes on but is in good spirits. Don’t know of but two Capt’s being wounded.