to murning at to orcheck me called up by the beating of the long roll and lift our me ways houses on which we had werked hand all the week before such but had to little fireplace tobles olders bunks se all nicely and comportably example according to the inflaminty of its occupients The boys of the regiment had been on begy as been during the weld days of the procedure week and the clocking of hallohet area and chideo with the talling of trues made any camp grounds offer like a ling work shop. But alab! we were not prinitted to get by our fireplaces but three night How the rebels decape our count ground and Novem up entretichments planted Batteries, dry will pits on the beautiful cite of our little sity Well so I was agoing to relate me hurredly left out carry and took whom position in fine of ballly an the mules surricurenter rudge covering the depot to otrake our lends and remove way there was The orien the right buildings. Durinders was Il coming in from Sounder. Me received our bast maile It day we shall get motil we drive of the Ido as they ally so every sold leave no. for ally lon

In the old [?] house at Knoxville Depot Tenn. Thanksgiving morning

Memorandum

A squad of 10 men are stationed in the old engine house we have loop-holed the walls and are to hold our position to the last if the picket in front are driven in The brick walls afford us good protection while we can make the plain in front and flanks with our rifles for half a mile. We have been constantly on duty night and day [?] little [?] could catch for sleep since week ago last Monday morning That morning at 5 o'clock we were called up by the beating of the long roll and left our nice cozy houses on which we had worked hard all the week before; each hut had its little fireplace, tables, shelves, bunks &c all nicely and comfortably aranged according to the necessity of its occupants

The boys of the regiment had been as busy as bees during the cold days of the proceding week and the clicking of hatchets axes and spades with the falling of trees made our camp ground appear like a big work shop. But alas! we were not permitted to sit by our fireplaces but three nights. Now the rebels occupy our camp ground and have thrown up entrenchments, planted batteries, dug rifle pits on the beautiful cite of our little city But as I was agoing to relate we hurriedly left our camp and took up our position in line of battle on the ridge semicircular ridge covering the depot and the adjoining buildings PM we had orders to strike our tents and remove evrything inside our lines near the depot buildings. Burnside's trains ar all coming in from Louden. We received or last mail To-day we shall get until we drive of the Rebs. or they they go away and leave us.

Tuesday

We have been waiting for rebs but

while they are getting out their furnature oddo themselves in the house only picking of our men. The city and and the hast men all of their our soldiers whelever they want is coveried of the next ! transfel under foot broken ar destroyell It was a sad right to I have seen asked so any in Who, the most elegant furnature the chaicest labratus the micest wearing apearal all left to be pilaged by the soldiers and destroyed by the flames. I such is war But why was not furnature taken into the city? because an attack was daily expected bovernment teams was all engaged in corbunying government property to a safet place they were rattlibus through the streets at all hours of the day and night the military that present a great many certigans where & black to work to the test of the way out in whether black to work on fortifications and soldiers are at work night and day felling trees diging rifle hits and entrenchments

none appear on our front Burnside's forces are nearly all collected about the city

Wednesday

We [?] in the same place all day at night [?] pickets the line being on the ridge before named

Nothing of interest as usual some fighting on the right and forces take 600 prisoners among whom was an [?] paroled Brig. Gen.

Friday

We wake and start digging rifle pits [?] and so forth are ordered to be cleared [?] fire burning for the rebels have established a line of pickets in front of ours and considerable firing takes place. The citizans are in a terrible excitement the balls whizing over their heads while they are getting out their furnature adds no little to their excitement. The reason of burning the holdings is this, to prevent the rebels sheltering themselves in the houses and picking off our men. The citizans are not able to get near all of their stuff into the city and the contents of parlors, chambers, closets, cupboards and cellars are pillaged by our soldiers whatever they want is carried of the rest trampled under foot broken or destroyed.

It was a sad sight to see houses so well furnished as any in NE, the most elegant furnature the choicest labraties [?] the nicest wearing apearal all left to be pillaged by the soldiers and destroyed by the flames. Such is war But why was not the furnature taken into the city? Because an attack was daily expected Government trains was all engaged in conveying government property to a safe place they were rattling through the streets at all hours of the day and night. The military has pressed a great many citizens white & black to work on fortifications and soldiers are at work night and day falling trees diging rifle pits and entrenchments

fort to are the grandocks blundering and stimbling round. A wire was stretched so as to tourble any one who hit his foot against it into a deep wick detch which surrounded the fort are all sides the rible turn bled into this ditch till it was full just as you would throw in cord wood and as there was no getting back they all tried to closwifer into the fart. This was the satuation of the setells when our gone opened they were all crying "the fort is ours;"come on boys" The header of the allaching forty surround book him Benjamin to surroudes he replied by tinching of the first gues doubly loaded with grope and conester which mound moved there down by hundreds their one ofter another oft the eight guns were discharged each discharge autting. a wide got in the rebel column, Meanwhile the little referrente of 150 men each which bouter supported the bottom were foring in assectistimetime fire before which the rebels were melting away as dew before the sure. But our muce were in the most danger from those in the ditch which the gons would not reach they would actually take hold of misses of the gimes to full themselves up into the fait A Lun dimbed wh in this way and cried out Jam the man to whom this fort is to surrender the heyou are" answered the growner as he touched of his piece Howing the lientenent into a thousand pieces But as I was going to relate Leve Desjamme found a way to dispose of the rebs in the detah, by lighting the fine of shells and tosting them into the ditch tog hand to explade armong the robale Leeve. I raying at the some time to the rebs whot are you in there for me don't want anything of you in there. Inch work as This as you would noturally inphose ded last as long as it takes me to discribe it. The rebelo retreoled but not

fort to see the graybacks blundering and stumbling round. A wire was stretched so as to tumble any one who hit his foot against it into a deep wide ditch which surrounded the fort on all sides the rebels trumbled into this ditch till it was full just as you would throw in cord wood and as there was no getting back they all tried to clamber into the fort.

This was the situation of the rebels when our guns opened they were all crying "the fort is ours", "come on boys" The leader of the attacking party summoned Lieu. Benjamin to surrender he replied by touching of the first gun doubly loaded with grape and canester which mowed them down by hundreds, then one after another aft the eight guns were discharged each discharge cutting a wide gap in the rebel column, Meanwhile the two little regiments of 150 men each which supported the baterys were poring in distructive fire before which and that of the batteries the rebels were melting away as dew before the sun. But our men were in the most danger from those in the ditch which the guns would not reach They would actually take hold of the musles of the guns to pull themselves up into the fort A Lieu. climbed up in this way and cried out "I am the man to whom this fort is to surrender "The h---l you are" answered the gunner as he touched of his piece blowing the lieutenant into a thousand pieces

But as I was going to relate Lieu. Benjamin found a way to dispose of the rebs in the ditch, by lighting the fuse of shells and tosting them into the ditch by hand to explode among the rebels Lieu. B saying at the same time to the rebs "what are you in there for we don't want anything of <u>you</u> in there. Such work as this as you would naturally suppose did not last as long as it takes me to describe it. The rebels retreated but not

arring a squad of 30 detailed to eat look lotes in the preight depot and to hold our possession to the last He mere but hey knough to find several boxes of hard bread in the building which we considered a great lucury Resided terribly during the afternoon and night The atigons are engaged during the night in moving of their goods, the rifle bolls whigging our their heads shells dropping about added no little to the exitement of learnisters citizens and mules. It seems too bad for such splindid dwellings to feeling houses of dwellings so richly furnished asse the finest, houses in I'll are complete sacked and straw strewn about every room. The citizans six are not able to get much of their property into the city and the contents of parlos chambers closets exploreds, ande rellars, are fillaged by our voldiers scholiver they want a carried of the remainder brampled under food broken or distroyed It remad too bade to see the most elegant furnature the shoisest libraries the minst meaning appeared all left to be distroyed by the flarmer. But one will ask only was not this property to him into thecity! because an allach was hourly expeded. Communit learns (the only learns that could have in and out of the cely) was all engaged in mooning government property to a sofe place they are nottleing over the story poverments at all hours of the day and night which with the falling of trus and the tearing down of buildings shows the ribels that we are perfairing for them Now It! Relieved from the brick building and went to digging rifle fits. I few shots mescerchanged between our botteries and the rebels Thork shirmshing on the ficket Nov. 14. Considerable firing between peckets Tila Wood and myself got an advance possetion behind a big log and with a glass me armised ourselves looking and showling at

among a squad of 30 detailed to cut loop holes in the freight depot and to hold our possesion to the last. We were lucky enough to find several boxes of hard bread in the building which we considered a great luxury.

Rained terribly during the afternoon and night

The citizens are engaged during the night in moving off their goods, the rifle balls whizzing over their heads shells dropping about added no little to the excitement of teamsters citizens and mules. It seems too bad for such splendid dwellings to be destroyed, dwellings as richly furnished as the finest dwelling houses in NE are completely sacked and straw strewn about evry room. The citizens are not able to get much of their property into the city and the contents of parlors, chambers, closests, cupboards, and cellars, are pillaged by our soldiers whatever they want is carried off the remainder trampled under foot, broken and destroyed

It seemed too bad to see the most elegant furniture the choisest libraries, the nicest wearing appearal all left to be destroyed by the flames. But one will ask why was not this property taken into the city? because an attack was hourly expected, Government teams (the only teams that could pass in and out of the city) was all engaged in moving government property to a safe place they are rattleing over the stony pavements at all hours of the day and night which with the falling of trees and the tearing down of buildings shows the rebels that we are preparing for them

Nov. 21st

Relieved from the brick building and went to digging rifle pits. A few shots were exchanged between our batteries and the rebels Sharp skirmishing on the picket line

Nov. 22^d

Considerable firing between pickets Ziba Wood and myself got an advance possition behind a big log and with a glass we amused ourselves looking and shooting at

the rebels who are feelly saway they take points to show us they blue averante they captured and muntily ash no while are your ourceasts" we would send a bullet in answer they told us they were going to explore us all and take us to Suchmond the would answer "cont see it; They would hollo in this manner day tanks got any hard lact? more on our line would reply no but me have blenty of who key and boboseo. They said they were going to take burnede to exchange for John Margan bonk. niplys contouit Nov. 18th Relieved from picket at Gottle Finished our rifle . Juto in town Reke charged in front of the shirmest line . of the It, illd regiment drove in the fichets of that regiment and fort of the 11th d'Mb. It was just at dark when the allock was made I had just got lair down for the night and was consoling myself with the probability of a good night nest or at least till & orbick in the morning, when the shooth fireing of musketry adminished us to prepair for action and we were in the fits you in hand in a few munutes The rebels only pushed the allack for enough to gain and picket line for a part of it, then set themselves towark ligging rifle fits on our probet line. The roldiers left in the duelling houses stones and hotelor north of the depot buildings cash set fire to the bundles of straw and one after another building was enveloped in flames till 30 or 40 building were all on fire lighting who the city and country for miles around and making a grand sight. Now Ut. Went on picket at 4 AM. The 21st Mars, 45 Command ports of the 35th Man, 57th Jenn charged on the rebels and drove them book to their old persition, capturing a num of prisoners, blankets, rifles and so forthe. Nov? 25th Relieved from picket at 4 All and ment into the engine house which has been look holed and occupied by to

the rebels who are pretty sausy they take pains to show us the blue overcoats they captured and vauntily ask us "where are your overcoats" we would send a bullet in answer. They told us they were going to capture us all and take us to Richmond. We would answer "cant see it". They would hello in this manner Say Yank; got any hard tact? some one on our line would reply no but we have plenty of whiskey and tobacco. they said they were going to take Burnside to exchange for John Morgan Yank. replys can't see it

Nov. 23^d

Relieved from picket at 4 AM. Finished our rifle pits in town Rebs. charged the skirmish line of the 2^d Md regiment drove in the pickets of that regiment and part of the 11th NH. It was just at dark when the attack was made. I had just got lain down for the night and was consoling myself with the probability of a good nights rest or at least till 3 o'clock in the morning, when the sharp firing of musketry admonished us to prepair for action and we were in the pits gun in hand in a few minutes

The rebels only pushed the attach far enough to gain our picket line, or a part of it, then set themselves to work digging rifle pits on our picket line. The soldiers left in the dwelling houses stores and hotels north of the depot buildings each set fire to the bundles of straw and one after another building was enveloped in flames till 30 or 40 buildings were all on fire lighting up the city and country for miles around and making a grand sight.

Nov. 24th

Went on picket at 4 AM. The 21st Mass, 48 Penn. and part of the 35th Mass. 51st Penn. charged on the rebels and drove them back to their old possition, capturing a number of prisoners, blankets, rifles and so forth.

Nov. 25th

Relieved from picket at 4AM and went into the engine house which had been loop holed and occupied by

with a Liestenant unde 10 min The frickets are inlarging the fits we day for their last night on the picket line Thanksgiving morning. Who we with the prospect of a poor thankegiving dinner The boys shot a hog last night and Igot inough for my breakfast but block bread is a four inbetitute for potatoes. Now 27th West on picket smort firing between pickets it . getting to be dangerous to show ones heads above the rifle fit Aphot a nice little helffer this forenous and we live well for feel Nov. 28 Relieved from picket this morning and went to the engine house A very raining fay but the Shekets are shooting considerable, comphase to keep up their corrage for it raines in torrente, about dark the rebels commenced to shell Tort Faunders and continued the bomberdment Il night. He in the holf wand engine house heft awake as someh as possible the conomading would not keep no awake so much sleep had we last, but the sinstand the pickets in one front began firing me had singed one rifles There was one little dash upon the fichet line in our port which was a failure and only served to sot on fire the remaining buldings worth of the depoty which heft the city illuminated for house At daylight Longstrut ordered three of his choicest brigades to charge on Port Sounders they mareted up in mass and reached the guns of the fort before our men opened, the rebels never fired tall they had got so mear our mine could almost reach them with the baparet The attacking party was forced to a cent a hill which had totally been cleared of wood are men had token the lelegroph wire and wound it around the dumps and statehed it from one to another about a foot from the ground as as to make a set of net work. The rebell found it rather difficult, which on their feet it was armining had there in the

a Lieutenant and 10 men The pickets are enlarging the pits we dug for them last night on the picket line Thanksgiving morning. Wake up with the prospect of a poor thanksgiving dinner. The boys shot a hog last night and I got enough for my breakfast but black bread is a poor substitute for potatoes.

Nov. 27th

Went on picket smart firing between pickets it is getting to be dangerous to show ones heads above the rifle pits. I shot a nice little heiffer this forenoon and we live well for beef

Nov. 28

Relieved from picket this morning and went to the engine house A very rainy day but the pickets are shooting considerable, I suppose to keep up their courage for it raines in torrents, about dark the rebels commenced to shell Fort Saunders and continued the bombardment all night.

We in the half round engine house kept awake as much as possible the canonading would not keep us awake so much sleep had we lost, but the instant the pickets in front began firing we had seized our rifles

There was one little dash upon the picket line in our front which was a failure and only served to set on fire the remaining buildings north of the depot which kept the city illuminated for hours. At a little before day light Longstreet ordered three of his choicest brigades to charge on Fort Saunders they marched up in mass and almost reached the guns of the fort before our men opened, the rebels never fired till they had got so near our men could almost reach them with the bayonet. The attacking party was forced to ascent a hill which had lately been cleared of wood our men had taken the telegraph wire and wound it around the stumps and stretched it from one to another about a foot from the ground so as to make a sort of net work. The rebels found it rather difficult in the darkness to keep on their feet it was amusing said those in the

till our folke had taken Soo prisoners they left as Jon informed nearly Too dead and wounded in pront of the fort the delah was full of dead and wounded, wounded in every possible forme and laying in every shape three food and fine deep of on the side hill dead rebelo lay as thich as poloto hills in a poloto field offer loss in hilled and wounded was only about 30. Non 29th I was relived in the morning from the engine house and went into the city where the regiment was stationed. Sen Burnside offered a truce for the reblo to bury their dead and revove their wounded it water ded till 5 PM. I went out to the Fort and had a miew of the bottle ground the rebels were busy in sunviv my their dead and wounded some of our boys were woluntarily helping them. It was a sad right to see no many brove mere cut down; the flower of the Southern army, the herows of probably a dogen battles But whom that short and desperite fight depended great issues of the rebels had got possession of that fart they would have had the key to our whole possition their gons would have animanded way one of our batteries and they could have shelled the city to their become . He should have been compelled to surrender or retreat and storve, but thank the Loard no meh fate was in store for us. During the truce the pickets on both nois met half woch other half way and conversed as friendly as we do among one our wys; they traded jackness, wallets, combs watches and way cong little trinket it was forvible to trade on the rebels were is ansioned to abtain a danker relie to send home as we were to said get aclies from them. One of the bays in one Regiment wint with a rab to a house between the lines and the two got quite a quantity of flow backer boson apple be which they wenty divided. The robels Il represent themselves

till our folks had taken 300 prisoners they left as I am informed nearly 700 dead and wounded in front of the fort the ditch was full of dead and wounded, wounded in evry possible form and laying in evry shape three four and five deep. On the side hill dead rebels lay as thick as potato hills in a potato field. Our loss in killed and wounded was only about 30.

Nov. 29th

I was relived in the morning from the engine house and went into the city where the regiment was stationed. Gen Burnside offered a truce for the rebls to bury their dead and remove their wounded it extended till 5 PM. I went out to the Fort and had a view of the battle ground the rebels were busy in removing their dead and wounded some of our boys were voluntarily helping them. It was a sad sight to see so many brave men cut down; the flower of the Southern army, the herows of probably a dozen battles

But upon that short and desperate fight depended great issues. If the rebels had got possession of that fort they would have had the key to our whole possition their guns would have commanded evry one of our batteries and they could have shelled the city to their leisure. We should have been compelled to surrender or retreat and starve, but thank the Lord no such fate was in store for us. During the truce the pickets on both sides met each other half way and conversed as friendly as we do among our own boys; they traded jacknives, wallets combs, watches and evry little trinket it was possible to trade on the rebels were as anxious to obtain a Yankee relic to send home as we were to get relics from them. One of the boys in our Regiment went with a reb to a house between the lines and the two got quite a quantity of flour bacon apples &c which they evenly divided. The rebels all expressed themselves

tired of the war, and wished it over with . They were surprised to learn that the 8th Army looks were in that fact of the city they dreaded to meet the 9th boys said they did not care a straw for the 23d Army Cospo but the 9th boys were regular devilo to fight Non 30 Very quel along the picket line Dee 1st Nothing of interest occurred eacht the usual firing of picket and our rations of com meal is cut down from one lb. to holf a lb. Dec. 21 On picket " I Was stationed in the fright depot 4th Went on picket at night " 5th The rebelo left during the night and we are not an the least rorry, but ful greatly relieved We picket advoved som after daylight and we have taken a large minuber of stragler fisoners. Our brigado · except a fine prichets went in hersuit of thorebelo on the Magewell roade marched I miles and returned to the city with no boots. Show written a much more lengthy account of the rige of Anoswille those Fee feeled to write where I began. I have stated reloted it as blearned the facts from there who were wilness of the scenes & have attempted to discribe. I of course saw best little of what accounted between two great armies, but what I did see I can write about knowingly. Those you will not get discouraged in trying to read this of show merceded in making this account interacting to you it is all I expect . However Attr you perme it blease send it home by allary Ann. and I would like to home Mother by it away so if I should ever come home perhops I may like to look it over

tired of the war, and wished it over with. They were surprised to learn that the 9^{th} Army Corps were in that part of the city they dreaded to meet the 9^{th} boys said they did not care a straw for the 23^{d} Army Corps but the 9^{th} boys were regular devils to fight

Nov. 30

Very quiet along the picket line

Dec 1st

Nothing of interest occurred except the usual firing of pickets and our rations of corn meal is cut down from one lb. to half a lb.

Dec 2^d On picket

"3 Was stationed in the fright depot

"4th Went on picket at night

"5th The rebels left during the night and we are not in the least sorry, but feel greatly relieved We pickets advanced soon after daylight and we have taken a large number of straglers prisoners. Our brigade except a few pickets went in persuit of the rebels on the Tazewell road marched 4 miles and returned to the city with no booty.

I have written a much more lengthy account of the siege of Knoxville then I expected to write when I began. I have related it as I learned the facts from those who were witnesses of the scenes I have attempted to describe. I of course saw but little of what occurred between two great armies, but what I did see I can write about knowingly. I hope you will not get discouraged in trying to read this. If I have succeeded in making this account interesting to you it is all I expect. However after you peruse it James please send it home by Mary Ann. and I would like to have Mother lay it away so if I should ever come home perhaps I may like to look it over