

We could not find any more
Supply. We are now waiting
for more.

At night we were ordered to
move to the new houses we have built. The
new houses are to hold our position to the back
of the old ones. We are now in the new
houses. We are now in the new houses.
We are now in the new houses.

We had a sleep since we had the day
before. We were now at the new houses. We were
called up by the beating of the long roll and left our
new houses on which we had our beds made
all the week before. Each had its little fireplace
table, chairs, benches &c all nicely and comfortably
arranged according to the convenience of its occupants.

The boys of the regiment had been so busy as bees
during the cold days of the preceding week and
the stacking of cartridges and shades with the
falling of trees made our camp grounds appear
like a hay stack shop. But alas! we were not
permitted to sit by our fireplaces but three nights
ago the rebels scoured our camp ground and
took down our entrenchments, planted batteries,
dug rifle pits on the beautiful site of our little city.
And so I was going 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. We had orders
to strike our tents and remove everything inside
the new houses. Our new houses were
all coming in from the new. We received our last
mail. To day we shall get word of the
rebels as they go away and leave us.

We are now waiting for news.

PAGE 1

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 arranged according to the necessity of its occupants.

The boys of the regiment had been as busy as bees during the cold days of the preceding 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 Loudon. 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

many officers & recruits were made & forces are
nearly all collected about the city.

fact of the land being in the ridge before named.
At this point of the battle, several fighting on
the right of the line, and 500 prisoners taken.
Some of the prisoners were sent to the fort. The
day was a success to the fighting, and the

They are off to battle and so forth we understand to be the case. Many have been hunting for the rebels have established a line of pickets in front of ours and considerable firing takes place. The citizens are in a terrible excitement the balls whizzing over their heads while they are getting out their furniture adds no little to their excitement. The reason of burning the buildings is this, to prevent the rebels sheltering themselves in the houses and picking off our men. The citizens are not able to get near all of their stuff into the city and the contents of parlors, chambers, larders, cupboards and cellars are pilaged by our soldiers whatever they want is carried off the rest trampled under foot broken or destroyed.

It was a sad sight to see houses so well furnished as any in W.C., the most elegant furniture the choicest labretes the nicest wearing apparel all left to be pilaged by the soldiers and destroyed by the flames. Luck is war But why was not the furniture taken into the city? because an attack was daily expected Government teams was all engaged in conveying government property to a safer 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 felling trees digging rifle pits and entrenchments.

PAGE 2

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 citizens 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 citizens 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 off the rest trampled under foot broken or destroyed.

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fat to all 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 tum-
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 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 Capt. Leon
Benjamin to surrender he replied by touching of the first
gun doubly loaded with grape and canister which ~~ran~~
mowed them down by hundreds, then one after another
of the eight guns were discharged each discharging ^{two}
a wide gap in the rebel column. Meanwhile the ^{two} little
regiments of 150 men each which ~~partly~~ ^{and that of the} supported the battery
were firing in ~~the~~ destructive fire before which 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} muzzles of the guns to pull themselves up into the fort.
A Lieut. climbed up in this way and cried out "I am
the man to whom this fort is to surrender" "The hell
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 Lieut. Benjamin found a
way to dispose of the rebels in the ditch, by lighting the
fuse of shells and tossing them into the ditch by
hand to explode among the rebels Lieut. B. saying at the
same time to the rebels "what are you in there for we
don't want anything of you 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

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 canister 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

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arriving a squad of 30 detailed to cut loop holes in the freight depot and to hold our possession 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 so richly furnished as the finest ^{dwelling houses} ~~houses~~ in St. L. are completely sacked and straw strewn about every room. The citizens ~~are~~ are not able to get much of their property into the city and the contents of parlors, chambers, closets, ^{up}boards, and cellars, are pillaged by our soldiers whatever they want is carried off, the remainder trampled under foot, broken or destroyed.

It seemed too bad to see the most elegant furniture the choicest libraries, the nicest wearing apparel 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 rattling over the storm 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. 22nd. Considerable firing between pickets. Lila Wood and myself got an advance position behind a big log and with a glass we amused ourselves looking and shooting at

PAGE 4

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Nov. 21st

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Nov. 22^d

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the rebels who are pretty saucy they take pains to show us
their blue overcoats they captured and mountily ask us "what 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 "can't see it". They would
hullo in this manner Bay Pank & got any hard fact?
some one on our line would reply no but we have
plenty of whisky and tobacco. they said they were going
to take Burnside to exchange for John Morgan Genl.
replies can't see it

Nov. 25th. Relieved from picket at 4 o'clock. Finished our rifle
pits in town. Rebels charged in front of the skirmish line
of the 1st Md. regiment drove in the pickets of that regiment
and part of the 11th Md. It was just at dark when the attack
was made. I had just got laid 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 prepare for action
and we were in the pits gun in hand in a few minutes.

The rebels only pushed the attack 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 hotel 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. 26th. Went on picket at 4 A.M. The 21st Mass, 48 Penn and
parts of the 35th Mass, 51st Penn. charged on the rebels and
drove them back to their old position, capturing a number
of prisoners, blankets, rifles and so forth.

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engine house which has been loop holed and occupied by 12

PAGE 5

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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

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Nov. 25th

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

with a Lieutenant and 10 men. The pickets are enlarging the pits we dug for them last night on the picket line Thanksgiving morning. Woke 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 almost firing between pickets it is getting to be dangerous to show ones heads above the rifle pits. I shot a nice little halibut 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 rains in torrents, about dark the rebels commenced to shell Fort Sanders and continued the bombardment all night.

We in the half round engine house kept awake as much as possible the cannonading would not keep us awake so much sleep had we had, but the instant the pickets in our 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 ^{a little longer} hours. At daylight Longstreet ordered three of his choicest brigades to charge on Fort Sanders. 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 there was the

PAGE 6

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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 every possible form and laying in every shape three feet 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 relieved in the morning from the engine house and went into the city where the regiment was stationed. Gen Burnside offered a truce for the rebels to bury their dead and remove their wounded it extended till 5 P.M. 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 heroes 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 position their guns would have commanded every 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 half each other half way and conversed as friendly as we do among our own boys; they traded jackknives, wallets, combs, watches and many very little trinkets it was possible to trade on the rebels were as anxious to obtain a Yankee relic to send home as we were to ~~and~~ get relics from them. One of the boys in our Regiment went with a rebel 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

PAGE 7

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tired of the war, and wished it over with. They were surprised to learn that the 8th Army Corps were in that part of the city they dreaded to meet the 9th boys said they did not care a straw for the 23rd Army Corps but the 9th 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. 2nd On picket

" 3rd Was stationed in the freight depot.

" 4th Went on picket at night

" 5th The rebels left during the night and we are not on the least sorry, but feel greatly relieved.

The pickets advanced soon after daylight and we have taken a large number of stragglers prisoners. Our brigade except a few pickets went in pursuit of the rebels on the Pigeonwell 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 than I expected to write when I began. I have ~~stated~~ 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, 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.

PAGE 8

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