

CHATTANOOGA HISTORY CENTER

This transcription is property of the Chattanooga History Center.

2015.001.051 transcription

2015.001.051(1)

Camp of the 20th Ohio Battery

Chattanooga, August 14th, 1864.

Dear friend Lottie:

Your favor of the 27th of August was handed me yesterday. I should have got it before had I been in camp. I left camp on the 1st of September in pursuit of Gen. Wheeler, the rebel raider, went to the depot got on the cars, started towards Nashville rode all day. Got off the cars at Murfreesboro about midnight, fed our horses and ourselves, and about 3 o'clock A.M. of the 2nd we started off on the Nashville Pike. (the railroad had been torn up by the raiders) marched until about 8 o'clock when we came to where they (the rebels) had burned two wagons, deployed skirmishers, and marched along until we came to Lavergne. There we halted-fed our horses two(?) rations and got our dinner. About 4 o'clock we got information that Gen. Rosseau(?)(Union) was driving Wheeler (Reb) towards us, formed a line of battle and awaited his coming, which by the way he took good care not to do. We marched back about 5 miles towards Murfreesboro, next into camp (making a march of about 20 miles that day). On the morning of the 3rd we were up and off

2015.001.051(2)

at the break of day. We marched all day. Heard of enemy first ahead of us all time but could not come up with them, their force being cavalry whilst ours was all infantry with the exception of one section (two pieces) of our Battery. On the morning of the 4th we again loaded on the cars, went the distance of 8 miles [or 18?] to Murfreesboro, stopped, took off our horses, fed them, drew rations, but before I had time to pour them out we were ordered to move. We marched through Murfreesboro with colors flying, and went out on the "Salem Pike" about two miles, made a countermarch and went back and camped in Murfreesboro for the remainder of the day. At 9 o'clock am. of the 5th we got orders to move down to the railroad preparatory to loading on the cars. About noon we got started from Murfreesboro, and as we supposed for home. We arrived at Stevenson Ala. some time during the night, but instead of continuing on the homeward route we were off on the Memphis and Charleston railroad for the heart of Ala. At about noon of the 6th we

arrived at Huntsville, a beautiful village, with many fine buildings. We took off our horses and fed and watered them, drew rations and at 2 o'clock P.M. were off again. Hauled(?) up the night at Pulaski, Tennessee. On the morning of the 7th

2015.001.051(3)

we again took off our horses from the cars, watered and fed them. We then started back toward Huntsville about 10 o'clock AM. We arrived at Athens Ala. There we stopped and took off our horses again, just at dark or a little before we were ordered to take the pieces off the cars and be ready to start at a moment's notice. All was bustle and confusion until all was ready when we got the order to march. We traveled all that and at daylight of the 8th found ourselves on the banks of the Elk River. We camped long enough to feed, get our breakfast and forage some meat for the two coming days. At 10 o'clock AM. of the 8th we crossed the Elk River, marched through a a [sic] small place called Rogersville, and at dark camped at a place called Mariman(?). On the morning of the 9th reville was sounded at daybreak as soon as everything could be got in readiness we started at 10 o'clock A.M. We came up with the enemy. They were strongly posted on the south side of the shallow river. Our Battery was ordered up on a double-quick. When we arrived at a suitable distance we came to an "action front" with the first piece, fired 9 rounds at them. The infantry also did some firing. After about ¼(?) of an hour skirmishing the enemy withdrew. About

2015.001.051(4)

this time Gen. Rosseau came up with a thousand cavalry and Col. Straight(?) commanding the infantry, was ordered to go no farther. In fact Gen. Steadman(?) commanding our division, whom we left in Athens, came along with Gen. Rosseau. They held a consultation and concluded that they had the rebels penned up so that they would be obliged to surrender. While they were forming plans the enemy were surely engaged in crossing the Tennessee River at Florence Ala and at Muscle Shoals. On the next morning the cavalry started in pursuit, and we crossed shallow river and went into camp about 3 o'clock P.M. We were ordered out and went about two miles and fired 8 rounds at the enemy across the Tennessee River. On the next morning at daylight we headed(?) back for our respective camps. Our generals saying that they had accomplished all that they expected to as they had driven them (the rebs) out of the country. We arrived in camp on the morning of the 13th having been 12 days away.

It appears that success has crowned General Sherman's operations. I was very despondent the day I wrote that letter, had a slight touch of the blues. [See 2015.001.049] John Williams sits "forminst" (?) me and is saying all the time, "Young hurry up and finish that letter and let us go to bed" and I suppose I shall be obliged to do so although I would like to write all night if it were possible but I have not yet got over my "raid after Wheeler." I will come again soon.

My compliments to all

Your friend

George L. Young