

5th U. S. Regular Co H

Nashville, Tennessee
September 9, 1862

Dear Bridget,

I received your welcome letter on the 8th instant, which has given me a world of pleasure to think that you have forgiven me for my abrupt departure.

Dear Bridget,

You want me to give you more particulars about my travels. Well now, I shall give you an outline sketch of them. Dearest, I first enlisted in the 4th regular cavalry and was sent to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I was then transferred to Terrell's Battery, and sent to Louisville. We were sent to Green River, Kentucky and there I experienced my first brush with the rebels. There we remained from the 19th of December until the middle of February, when we marched on Bowling Green. We made the Rebels skedaddle from there in double quick time. We had some difficulty in crossing the Bean River for they burned both bridges. Captain Turrell was then made chief of Artillery in our Division of the Western Army. He took me on as his body guard. He was ordered to advance on Nashville with his Battery, ahead of the Army, protected only by one company of infantry and another of cavalry. At night of the first days march, about ten o'clock, we saw a party of Rebels cavalry in a field. We made after them, but they made their tracks good and escaped. About one hour afterwards, we saw lights about 50 rods in the woods. The infantry at this time was deployed as skirmishers

Peter Fitzpatrick

through the woods. The Chief ordered me to go and find out who was camped there. As I passed through the lawn of a beautiful mansion, I met the Captain of the infantry, and a party of his skirmishers. He challenged me and I answered. He asked me where I was going. I said I was going to see what the lights were. He said he would go with me and you better believe I was glad of his company. When we got in sight of their camp, I asked his opinion on what we should do. He told me to go to the Chief and report what I saw. I said I would find out about the men in the camp first. He took hold of my horse and said that he was my superior officer and I should obey his orders. I went back and reported it all to the Chief. In his rage, he ordered me back again. The command was by this time about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles ahead. You may judge of my feelings, when I had to retrace my steps again, alone. Their camp was situated in a very pleasant place in the rear of a mansion. I rode in through the thickest of the woods and took a good look at the camp. There were about a dozen fires and men were lying around them in a circle. I saw a solitary sentinel on the extreme right, sitting on a log, close to a large fire. I advanced towards him shaded by the trees from his view. I asked him who commanded the post. He told me that it was Captain Walker of the Texas Rangers. He drew his revolver and ordered me to dismount and consider myself his prisoner. I didn't believe in that logic, for I had my pistol ready primed. I aimed at his right shoulder,

The shot told and I trusted to Napoleon to carry me safe back to the Battery. I think I must have been about a half mile off when I heard shots whizzing through the trees. I had two railfences to cross before I came to the road but Napoleon crossed them like a brick. Both me and my horse was received with a shout of joy, when we came up. I suppose they did not deem it prudent follow up to close for we were not troubled again until we arrived in Nashville. We remained there for two or three weeks until the Chief got into another row with the Louisiana Cavalry. There, I got my left arm splintered, while defending the old fellow, who was attacked by four of them. I suffice to say that the four lay dead at our feet.

There was a company of infantry on our side. The rebels ran and left seven wounded and five killed. There was two killed and four wounded on our side, including me. From there, we marched to Pittsburgh's Landing. On the night of the 6th of April, after the first days fight, the rain poured down on us as if the heavens was open. The next day, the 7th, the fight commenced at day break and continued until four. It was there boys of our Battery bravely distinguished themselves. I could compare the bullets that were flying around us to nothing but a handful of sand thrown against a window. But not undaunted, we holdly stuck to our post, although 2 regiments of infantry ran away from us, which was supporting our battery. At last the 6th Ohio Volunteers came to our aid, and with their assistance, we repulsed three desperate charges that were made against us. Buregard brought a brigade of Mississippians and offered every man \$100, if they could take Turrells Battery. But the

The next day, we went back on our own hook and hurried his
swords and horses. What do you think our brave officers did?
They had us surrounded and was going to try us at court martial.
But they released us for the moment, you might get a hold
of it another time. Some of our men went into an orchard there
was not a fence and took from it a few apples. They were marched
under guard for a hundred and fifty miles. And the one to whom this
orchard belonged was a captain in the Rebel Army. I believe in
my heart that half of our officers and a few more were dangerous
the rebels were all day long against us. I believe that they
are now getting the best of us for we have fallen back several
hundred miles and I believe we are going to fall back on (Louis-
ville) or Cincinnati. If our officers had kept their soldiers
together instead of having them scattered all over, guarding
looted property and allowing them to take what might be good to eat,
they would have little reason to fall back or draft for more
soldiers. It is my opinion now, I am glad that they are exiles
and will have to take every cent they could get for
the rest of the world or wherever they go.

You can also take the review, the writer, if you like. It
will give you a lot of how things are transacted in this part
of the country. I forgot his actual name. He must be a
there was a great incident, which occurred which would be a
terrible case to mention especially since time is passing.
And the writer knows very little about the Army of the Potomac.

Mississippians found the Irishmen of our Battery to tough for them, for I must tell you that the Battery is composed of nearly all Irishmen. There were fifteen wounded and five killed. Our next movement was to Corinth and there we remained skirmishing until the evacuation. We then followed up to Tuscumbia, had another brush with them there, followed to Florence, Huntsville, Stevenson, and Battle Creek. While there, we had our communications cut off by the Rebels. We then started for Chastanooga. Bragg came to meet us with an army of 40,000.