

In Camp near Holly Springs, Miss.,

Oct the 14th, 1862

Dear Father & Mother

It is with the most sincere thanks to god for preserving my life in the terrible battle that we have just past^{ed} through that I attempt to write you a few lines to let you all know the fate of your relations and friends. In the first place, after we had rested two or three days at Saltillo on our retreat from Muka we started by the way of Ripley for the purpose of forming a junction ~~and~~ with Lovell and Van Dorn to attack Corinth in the rear.

After marching six days the battle opened on Friday the 3rd, about 5 miles from town and about 9 o'clock our forces drove them before them very rapidly until we come to their first breast works about one mile in front of their second and main intrenchments when they were taken about 3 o'clock at the point of the bayonet and several pieces of artillery was taken from the

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enemy. All this had been done without our Brigade being ordered into the fight though we supported several attacking Brigades but about 4⁰⁰ clock we were ordered to charge a battery or rather two batteries that were about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in front of their main intrenchments.

We ~~are~~ were about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from it when the charge commenced. We started at a double quick and directly after we started both of the batteries commenced throwing grape and canister shot by the bun. but it did not stop us untill we had driven all the gunners and infantry from both of the batteries but we could not hold it or bring it off. The reason we could not hold it was we were not strong enough to fight the supports that was brought against us for we had no supports at all the reason we ^{did} not bring them off. Spike them or brake them down was all the horses were killed we had no spikes to spike them nor axes to brake them down. But we did not do all this without a sacrifice of life as well as wounded. Of the latter was L. B. Prendergast. He was wounded ~~by~~ by a piece

of Shell when we were in about 100 yds of the battery that done it he fell charging as fast as he could run fortunately though it was not a dangerous wound. The piece struck his thigh about 4, or, 6 inches below the fork the piece passing on the inside of the bone making an ugly flesh wound though it did not injure the bone. The wound is not a dangerous one at all. There was nothing else done that evening except a disposition of the forces for the attack on the 4th. There was nothing of importance done the next morning except some heavy firing of artillery which done no mischief until 10, O'clock when the order for the attack along the whole line was given. Now comes the hard fighting. The enemy had breast works with front holes for the Infantry and artillery and ditches in the rear of them making all within very secure and besides that they had an abatis of fallen timber in their front about 2300 yds in width. The artillery commenced throwing grape & canister shot as soon as we came in sight and when we got into the edge of the fallen timber the Inf^y commenced firing but we still advanced on them

and commenced firing about 150 yds. We
kept it up and still advanced until we
drove them from their works took their
artillery and planted our banners on
their BEST works but you can imagine our
mortification when we saw a column advancing
to the support of the Led^s about twelve
deep then we turned to see if we had any
support and there was none to be seen
the result was we had to give up all that
we had taken at a sacrifice of the life of some
of our best boys besides a great many wounded.
There was 23 killed wounded and missing in our
Co. and 145 in our Regt and about 500 in
the Brigade. There was 7 killed & missing
and 12 wounded among the wounded is Capt
Ross and Lt. Wilson. Pete Lewis is counted
among the missing though he was not in
the fight = he was taken very sick the night
before we left Pocahontas 18 miles from Corinth =
and left in a house near the Hatchie River
and the only consolation that I can offer
to his people is that he may have got well
got well" but he is certainly a prisoner for
on Sunday the 5th the Led^s cut off our retreat
by the way we come and occupied the ground
where we left Pete while we were fighting them.
The Led^s forced us back across the river by out-
flanking us = We then formed on the brow
of the hill about 300 yds from the river = The
Led^s then crossed the river to pursue us but
by the time they came in sight we had two
batteries planted and our Brigade formed to receive
them" They came up and we drove them back
and they come again only to meet the same iron
and deadly hail.