

#41

Before Atlanta, Ga.
July 24, 1864

My dearest Lis,

Sorry the 11th inst. is just read and I assure you I am right glad to hear again from you and home. One week ago today we crossed the Chattahoochie to commence direct operations against Atlanta and I have had no opportunity to get a letter off since Dr. Day went to the rear until now.

After crossing the river, as ours was the rear corps, everything was pretty quiet with us--except skirmishing with the reb. Cavalry until the 20th when our troops were getting into position about four miles Southeast of Atlanta. Our Corps was assaulted by two corps of Rebs--massed (Hardee and Polks old corps). The battle raged furiously from 3 to 6 p.m. when the Rebs were most thoroughly repulsed and driven back nearly a mile and a half. Our corps suffered severely, losing in killed, wounded and missing nearly 2500. The Rebs must have lost nearly as many--say 4000 at least.

Our poor Regiment was quite lucky for once having only k killed and five wounded--one has since died of his wounds.

The following is the list of casualties

Property of Pavilion Center Antiques Shop
Killed

Mathias Thisen, Co. B from Dayton

Wounded

Pavilion, N.Y.
Adj. Wm. Clark - flesh wound of arm
Corp. Rich. Kerr - Co. D - 2 toes amputated
Sgt. Perkins - Co. D - flesh wounds shoulder
Pvt. Andrew Hollister - Co. E - fracture of lower jaw
Pvt. John Wood - Co. A - shell wound of head - later died

The rebs are making a determined resistance to save Atlanta. Gen. Johnston having been removed because he didn't fight and General Hood placed in command because he believes in making a stubborn fight now there. Our troops found some recent Atlanta papers in the abandoned reb camps here from them it appears that the people of the South generally and of Georgia in particular are clamoring to have the question fought on to here--saying that it must be settled by battle and might better be decided now and here than to have other districts of the South overrun and laid waster--and pertinently but despondingly asking the question "When shall we be stronger"?

They urge and appeal to the Army to stand firm to the rescue--life and liberty--and property and the sacred rights of honor and a national existence depending upon their valor and efforts. The papers promise their army that a success here will end the war,--as in that event the Peace party at the North would succeed in the election and the Confederacy would be acknowledged in 60 days afterwards and with the loss of Atlanta all is lost, as it would assure the re-election of the "Jester Lincoln".

7/24/64

Our folks are confident of success--considering the fall of Atlanta only a question of time. Our forces are now within about a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the city--occupying a semi-circle on the east, southeast and south sides extending somewhat to the southwest. Our troops have destroyed the Augusta area and Macon R.R. south of Atlanta and hold Decatur.

The Rebs made a vigorous assault on the 16th and 17th corps day before yesterday but were repulsed after a terrible battle--General McPherson was killed and we understand the Rebs General Hardee wounded and taken prisoner.

Rest - family and business.