Henry D. Stanley.
2nd Lt. 20th Conn. Vol.
Co H

[map of The Atlanta Campaign]

Saturday July 16th 1864.

In accordance to orders Recd. from Maj Gen Thomas we left Marietta at 7 Am to join the 3rd Brig. 3 Div 20th A Co Which lay about 9 miles distant on the Western + Atlanta R.R. The road is very direct and the Turnpike high road to Atlanta. it follows the R.R. nearly all the way and is necessarily very crooked passing through a rolling country well wood but with few streams of water. The day was exceedingly warm and we did not make a remarkably quick passage, not wishing to over work the mules belonging to the team or fatigue the guard with us. About 12 oc we came to the place which the Rebels had fortified very strongly with earthworks of all descriptions to dispute the progress of our Army to the Chattahoochie river. They had evidently been built some time and were certainly the most remarkable constructions for combined defense and offence that I have seen. Thier general facing was to the north, but angles were constructed which enabled the force holding them to bring an [enfacading?] or cross fire on the attacking party which if not produceing utter annihilation would reduce them [word struck out] so much that by the time the ditch which protect the outer face of the breastwork was reached hardly a corporal guard would be left. But the cross fire was not the only obstacle which would oppose the charging party. About 60 yards in front of the works a line of heavy trees had been [word struck out] placed the branches pointing outward. which being sharpened made death almost certain by being impalled on them. They covered a space much higher than a mans head and to have passed them under the most favorable circumstance would have sorely tried ones patients beside producing sundry rents and tears in broadcloth woolen + C. Thirty yards back of these were planted large stakes six inches apart and fastened together strongly under the ground, [word struck out] leaning from the earthworks at an angle of about 50°. The passage of these would have been still more tideous than that of the trees for there was no way to crawl through, over, or under and to all this a perfect storm of iron and lead which could be hurled with the most terrible certainty upon the force who should attempt to storm their works and you can imagin why it is that the Rebs have felt so certain that they could so easily overwhelm Genl. Sherman Should he have the audacity to confront them in thier stronghold and demand battle. But he did have the audacity to march boldly up and to build other breastworks in many places not 20 yds from them which if not so elaborate in thier construction serves equaly as well the perpase for which they were intended. While they were busy with the force in thier front a force was marching to gain thier flank and rear which was certainly un protected, and as perfect were the arangements that when, at a given signal, we discovered our presence to them they were taken compleatly by surprize and ran [pellneell?] to other protection 2 or 3 miles in the rear then were these formidable works gained, by a little strategy, which other wise would have resisted our most perserviering efforts to have taken. and left us to day sitting on our marrow bones wishing some kind providence would turn up which would enable us to get possession of the coveted treasure. No adequate idea can be conveyed [word struck out] by pen, of thier
seeming impregnable nature. They must of a necessity be seen to be comprehended. It is the supposition that they were constructed by slaves in the employ of the C S Govt but whether that is true or not they show plainly that they were laid out and built under the supervision of a most skilful engineer one who was quick to perceive and use to his advantage any little circumstance which would embarrass his enemy Every angle was as perfect as though formed by rule and square and it seemed almost a pity that such perfect woodmanship should bring forth no fruits. But they are used to being clanked out of just such works and probably left them with only an occasional sigh or tear. as a parting tribute to what they had so fondly hoped would be to us an impassable barrier. About 4 P.M we arrived at the camp of the Brig and in a short time were in as good quarters as shelter tents ["+" stuck out] woolen + rubber blankets would give. Kellogg + myself put up our shelter tent and took as kindly to it as we did to the good room at Marietta. At 6 O C P M you might have seen us discussing the merits of a dish of dessicated potatoes coffee and hard bread with as much relief as though we [word struck out] had fasted for 24 hours previous. A shower in the night reminded us that we were not in No. 3 Phoenix building main Lt. Marietta, which fact we duly noted and quietly went to sleep again. but it cleared off before morning and

Sunday July 17th

Was as pleasant as one would wish. Coll Ross Reed orders to go to M. + assume command of the Post while Lt. Col Buckingham was to take command of the Regt. which is to remain in the Brig Good bye white shirts, clean clothes well dusted and aired, boots which boasted of a most immaculate polish, clean hands and face the natural result of a moderate appreciation of "brown [windson?]"and white towels. and most of all our good boarding place where we had so fondly hoped to be permitted to partake of the bounty of Uncle Sam prepared by the motherly hands of our ancient landlady. But a soldier learns to be philosophical and we resigned all these luxuries with a most becoming grace not once [wichint?][words stuck out] micawber like, that "some things would turn up" which would again [word struck out] Stalion us [word struck out] in the beautiful city of M. Ah M.. of course not, at 3 Pm the corps recd. orders to move and the team went back to join the Brig. Train 2 miles in the rear. and after a good deal of trouble the road being very bad and the load heavy we arrived at our destination and went into Park with the rest of the train. Supposing we were to remain ther until the next morning at least we put up a tent fly and proceed to make ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would allow. but alas for the fallacy of human hopes. So we were spreading our blanket on the generous couch which nature gives to the soldier and making extensive preparations for an [word struck out] active + successful campaign of sleep for the night. Orders came to pack up and move. (or as our western brethren say "git up and git.") Dose a soldier need any patience? Is there anything more provoking than to be obliged to fore go the comfort of a good sleep when one can hardly tell whether he is awake or not? But time waits for no man and the same is very applicable to a wagon train. So we packed up our things and was ready to move with the rest, but after waiting for some time, expecting to start but expecting in vain, concluded to take a little,nap, three rails side by side made the bed and Morpheus soon had us in his possession, hurrying us through the lands of Dreams at a great rate as if anxious to get a stock of sleep ahead, But his reign was [word struck out] restrained to be a short duration for a friendly but rough hand is laid on our shoulder, and the unwelcomed information is forced on our more unwilling understanding that the train
is moving, and not wishing to be left, we moved too but at a pace that even a snail would call lazy; but the night air is invigorating and after several in availing attempts to push over the trees that stand in our way we got thoroughly awake and got along without any difficulty. After a good many stop, waits, go ahead a little ways, and then stop a long ways – we got under good head way and go rolling along at a good rate, and not being much of a predistinate I mount my horse who by the way is as sleepy as [word stuck out] myself – and by girt of spur, craking and scolding manage to keep awake and in sight of the train. Tomorrow morning the air grew very chilly and an overcoat was very comfortable but as I [word stuck out] was not fortunate enough to have one with me I had to keep warm as best I could. Not a very difficult task with a lazy horse. About 6 A.M on the morning of the

Monday 18th

we went into park about 2 miles from the Chattahoochee river for the purpose of feeding and watering the animals and at 8 A.M was on the road again, the country through which we passed was poor and hilly – and hardly what we expected to find for from all accounts the land [word stuck out] for miles around Atlanta was [word stuck out] rich and cultivated. where as it was in reality just the contrary. Nothing but hills and woods, and a cultivated field is a rarity. At 10 A.M we went in to park ¾ of a mile from the C. River the pontoon which we were to cross not being in readiness. We put up a “fly” but at 6 P.M orders came to pack up and we had to take it down. As there was no immediate prospect of moving kellogg + myself spread our blankets under a large oak and went to sleep resolved not to be cheated out of what might rest let what would happen and it was well we did for about 10 orders came to unharness and soon everythin was quiet again. A slight shower came up about 4 A.M and as we had no shelter we put up the fly again but just as we had finished our work on it the moon shone out bright and in a few moments it was clear again. A poor joke on us.

Tuesday 19th

Left Park at 6 A.M. and found ourselves on the banks of the Chattahoochee after some little delay caused by the passage of another train we began to cross in the following order 3 Div First 1 Div Second + 2 Div Third + last. The bridge consisted of 22 boats made of light frames of wood covered with thick heavy canvas. This kind [word stuck out] has been introduced lately into the service and are much preferable to the heavy and cumbersome wooden boats of the old pattern. Which required a wagon to a boat while [word stuck out] 10 canvas boats can be carried on a simple wagon tied above the pontoon bridge is another bridge built of logs by our soldiers for the purpose of facilitating the crossing of troops. It is a substantial structure and will remain a long time to tell of the skill of the northern men + all part of the 2 Div cross on this bridge. The river at the point we crossed is about 325 feet wide from 12 to 20 feet deep and with a current of about 3 miles an hour. The water is very muddy nearly the color of brick. The [cank?] at the point of our crossing were [word stuck out] about 12 high but above and below [word stuck out] they are much higher, not [percioetous?] but gentle slopes from the top of the hill which runs the hight from 20 to 100 feet. The south bank is much higher than the other and [word stuck out] consists of [can't read word] of very high hills called river hills. and which of course we had to climb before we could leave the river. It was literal up and down. and our progress was necessarily slow. [word stuck out] Long after crossing the river. I left the main road and took a [word
crossed out] bridle path leading up the mountain to the right hoping to get out of the dust and thinking I might possibly get a chance to see Atlanta. The hill side was so steep that I was obliged to dismount and then my speed was decidedly slow. For I dont possess the faculty of running up hill but I kept climbing away. Thinking all the while of what a splendid view [word stuck out] was promised when the summit was reached. After half an hours [can not read word] climbing [word stuck out] during which I expended an immense amount of muscle and not a little patients I had the pleasure of seeing what I expect to see namely a higher hill before me: but I was bound to see some things more and after a short rest I was again in search of knowledge under difficulties a short walk brought me to the top of the hill that before hid the glorious view I had expected but all I saw was tress. not so much as a cleaed field brok the dull monotany of green which lay like a pall over the whole expanse of country where were the cultivated fields which Madam Rumor said lay around Atlanta? They probably were afflicted with the mollassus conly couraghe of thier overseers and fell back before the fire. I was some what dissapointed but not so much so but that I soon recovered my spirits (not ardent spirits) and was ready to climb another hill if nessasary to see Atlanta. But I didn’t see any higher elevation than the one I was on and perhaps that accounts for the readiness I had to climb all the hills in creation. I mounted my horse as the path was quite level and rode along. wondering why it was that some people could be so foolish as to put themselves to so much trouble for the sake of seeing Atlanta – and soon came across the breastworks which the 4th a c had built [can not read word] on their crossing. the C River they extended for a distance of several miles along the hills and are very formidable. No attack was made [word stuck out] on them and they probably had the effect to melt the courage of the chivalry of the south to a very liquid state and whist rendered it impassible to prevent them from running. I followed the works [word struck out] for some distance and was trying to hear [two words struck out] or catch a glimpse of the train [sentence struck out] when I discovered a tree which had been used for a station for making observations while our forces occupied the hills. Thinking I might possibly see what I had been looking for so long I hitched my horse and began to exercise my [can not read word] of initiations a squirrel and soon found myself at the top of the tree through I was not at a loss to tell how I got thier for [word stuck out] [can not read word (sweat?)] of preparation. (beads some folk call them but mine always comes in [can not read word]) which rolled off my toe and my puffing told the story but I looked in vain for Atlanta. All I could see was a smoky haze in the distance and I got down out of that tree not a little disgusted and determined to wait untill I came on Atlanta before again making the attempt. I sadly mounted my horse and rode along wishing I had kept in the road and minded my business when I was another tree which had been used for the same purpose as the first and I could not resist the temptation to try and begin to clime but it was a tedious job for the branch remain [word stuck out] far [word stuck out] apart and very large which rendered the process of climing still more difficult I had not much zeal for I had been disapponted so many time that it seemed almost impossible to think I should meet with better success this time but I kept slowly at work thinking occasionaly of the fable of the aunt and the grain of corn and called myself the aunt and A. The grain of corn and soon had the satisfaction of finding myself at the top and also of seeing what I had so long been looking for In the distance and directly in front was the eastern portion of the coveted city for which 130,000 men are fighting part to capture and part to protect. If I
had had a glass I should have been enabled to have seen [words struck out] much more
than I did for the air was very still and clear and favorable for an observation of that
nature but I had only the two eyes which nature has given me and I had to see what I
could with them and be as contented as possible. Ther [word struck out] are a great many
trees in the city which of course hid most of the buildings from view [words struck out]
but the eastern part of it seems to be almost destitute of such ornament and I could see
plain enough to distinguish a brick from a woodin house. I also saw what I suppose to be
the arsenal through I am not as yet certain whether I am correct or not. I could also see
the church steplés though I can not count them so I cannot tell how religious they are. To
the right rose the grim Kenesaw mountain where so many of our brave men sleep thier
last sleep while a nation chants thier requiem and sheds a silent tear of gratitude. to thier
memory. [word struck out] or to the left as if conscious of its strength the bald peak of
stone mountain rose majestically as if waiting to hurl its storm of iron and lead with the
gathered fury of the long years of war upon the foe who had invaded the sacred dominion
of the C.S.A. and grind them to dust. But the sullen roar of the cannon only told that the
fate awaited it which befell its fellow seninel Kenesaw and that it would soon bear upon
its brow the flag of “76” as proud of its trust as if it were “Bunker hill.” I sat for some
time in the old tree looking [word struck out] as hard as posisible toward A. and wondering
what the inhabitants were thinking of. No doubt they thought the Yankees were [word
striuck out] a little to neighborly and that some thing ought to be done to induce them to
stay at a little greater distance. But Genl Sherman has evidently got other ideas of a very
different nature in his head and when they get there they are plenty apt to produce bad
results to the rebs after taking a farewell look I began to desend and with a little difficulty
reached the ground feeling some what important in my voyages from the fact that I had
seen the celibrated city. The next thing was to find the Train. while in the tree I thought I
heard it rattle over the road to the left and accordingly turned my horse head in that
direction and soon had the satisfaction of seeing it winding its way up + down the hills
and vallies. I kept in the woods to be far from the dust and occasionally came across a
field of clack berries where I satisfied my appetite which by the was was of no liliputian
dimensions. About 11 o.c. A.M. we went into park in a piece of woods and about 3 miles
from our lines. We could hear the report of both cannon and muskets + shell. which
indicate that we had an enemy in our front who was disposed to dispute our passage. A
rest was very welcomed for we had gone aobut 7 miles over a very tedious road and
everything and every body was tired out.

Wednesday 20th

To day was a sad day for the 20th for is was engaged in a sever fight and it's loss
was heavy Capt Post Tarr + Dickiman are wounded. Post and Dickiman it is feared
mortally Luit Lepson + Fenton slightly Lepson in the head and Fenton in the foot. 8 Men
are known to have been killed and about 40 wounded. Some mortally The Regt had no
earth works to protect them and sufferd much more severely than they otherwise would
had they been more fortunate. The Rebels attacked the 5 Div 20 A C. about 4 P.M. and
for 2 hours the fighting was terrific: but they accomplished nothing and were obliged to
fall back leaving thier dead and many of thier wounded in our hands. The 3 Brig of the
Div Col Wod 136 ny vols comis captured 2 flags from the enemy and fought bravely.
The whole [word struck out] Dev was highly complimented for its conduct in the
engagement and the 20th C V was particularly noticeby the comd Gen. The whole Corps
20 was eventually engaged but the 1\textsuperscript{st} [word stuck out (Milliains) and 2 (Geary) Div were obliged to abandon thier line for a short time but they finally recovered them and held there in spite of all oppositions the men were firing nearly all night but the fight was ended by 6 \( \frac{3}{4} \) o clock [word stuck out] some prisoners were captured we learned that it was thier intention to drive us into “peach tree” creek a small stream about 1 5 feet more and though the water is not deep the bottom is composed of soft mud which threaten to engulph any who should be so [can not read word] as to trust to it for a footing. They were told before making the charge that we had no breastwork and that it would be easy to drive us into the creek and then they could shoot us down at thier leisure but they reckoned without thier host this time and the tables were turned without much ceremony. they cant fight with the courage and desparations that they formerly did. They seem to have lost all spirit and determination though they still make some desperate attempts to retreive their lost fortunes.

Thursday 21st

ther is no fighting to day the opposing forces are at rest but frown sullenly at each other from the long line of earthenwork which men constructed during the night occasionaly thier spitf finds vent in the angry screech of a shell that goes crashing throught the trees and bushing over the line kills or wounds half a to gain men who have foolishly exposed themselves or a [mimmi?] ball whistles by your eat as a gentle reminder that you had better “ lie low” Poor Cap Post died to day from the effects of the wound recd yesterday He lived in Hartford and leaves a wife and 3 children to mourn the loss of a husband and father, He was for some time editor of the Hartford Post printed in that city and many of to old readers will rember the Cool cultring and eloquent writing from his pen. He had fine talents and a good education [line stuck out] and never was at a loss to find words to most eloquently express his meaning. Capt Doolittle Co B went to Marietta with his body and will try to get permission to accompany it to [words stuck out] Hartford [words stuck out].

Friday 22

We left camp at 10 AM and crossed Peach tree creek finally passing about 2 mils from our line. We passed the battlefield of the 20\textsuperscript{th} and the trees tell how terrible was the storm of [rion?] at that point one tree a live oak 3 feet in diameter was struck by a 3 inch shell which went completly through it as though it had been a straw. Other trees of a less diameter were cut in two and thier shattered limbs lay scattered in every direction Every little shrub and bush [word struck out] was cut and scarred by musket balls while the trunk of the larger trees had sometimes as many as 50 + 60 balls in through bark It seems almost impossible that anyone could live though such as storm but man did and but few comparitivaly of the number who made the charge were injured but for all that there cant be much fun in being a soldier particularly when no umbrellas are allowed in such a shower. Maj Gen Mc Pherson Comd 23 A C was killed to day. It was reported to him that a body of Rebel cavalry was in the rear of his corp and he went out with his staff to give directions for thier capture when they fired a volley which unfortunatly produced his death. He was an able officer and the men of his command had the most perfect confidence in him and his Military knowlege and skill has added much to the success of his campaign.
Saturday 23.
We remained in camp all day to day. Nothing of any interest transpiring at the front. The Rebs made a charge on our line about dark but never repulsed. Loss not much on either side. The [word stuck out] cannonading was very heavy at times but have not heard of any accident to our Regt. The day was very cool, and cloudy [words stuck out] and threatens to rain. In the afternoon I was busy building a Bunk of stick to “keep dry”, but it seems that I was not a very good carpenter for it fell down in the night, piling Kellog and myself into a jolly heap. but things were sood righted and we finished our sleep on the ground.

Sunday 24th
nothing new. We commenced [can not read word] into the city of Atlanta to day. From one of our batteries we have a splenened range and have Demolished [word stuck out] the arsenal which is on the opposite side of the city [word stuck out]. They seldom reply to our fire [word stuck out] and when they do it produces little effect as they fire at too long a range. Thier shell sticking in the rear of our lines. About 10 1/2 P.M. [words stuck out] a feint was made along [word stuck out] our lines to attract attention on the right while the left made and advance. Skirmismenth thrown forward. The Picket line began a vigorous fire the charge was sounded, and the men began to cheer as if a charge reify was intended. A battery of 20 pounders thundered away and the roar of musketry was continuous for half an hour when it gradually slackend and after a while nothing could be heard but the solitary gun which threw an admonishing shell at intervals of 15 minutes into the city of A. Gen S. sent an order to Gen Hood comdg C.S. Army to surrender the city at 12 M. on the 23 stating that if the order was not complied with he should commence shelling it (not the order but the city) Gen H did not see fit to comply with the demand and about 4 P.M. of the same day [word stuck out] Sherman and his “complements” in the shape of a 20 t shell which no doubt created [word stuck out] no little commotion amongst the few who remain behind determined to cling ot the dark fortunes of the Gate City to the South. before morning a full battery (6 guns) was engaged in sending those lovely “low notes” into the “last ditch” of the [word stuck out] confederacy and have probably succeeded in convensing former Reb. that some things can be one as well as others. It seems foolish that they should attempt to hold the place for it is certain that they must sooner or later abandon it to the ruthless invader whom Johnston has so admirably succeeded in “drawing on” and “on” until they stand knockong for admittance at the gates of the city he so much wishes to protect with a determination which the fields of Resaca could not check or unpregnable Kenesaw withstand.

25th Monday
Early this morning I went to the front “to see what I could see” for I had no little curiosity to witness if possible [word stuck out] a fight of some kind. Of course I did not intend to take a gun and go into the ranks. My curiosity did not lead in that direction [word stuck out] but I hoped to be able to post myself on a hill which would command [word stuck out] a view of the field of operations and at the same time afford me protection by being out of range and consequently out of danger for though those people who stay at home and are so thoroughly patriotic as to tell a soldier what a glorious thing it is to die for ones country and then furnish a substitute when drafted, [words stuck out] thus showing the world that they dont believe what they say. Though such people may ridicule my courage still I had a desire to see a fight from such a place and no other
+ started out with the hope of having my curiosity gratified there was no particular indications of a fight or even a skirmish but I concluded that I should be more likely to see what I wanted at the “seat of war” than if I remained in the rear. My ride out was one of no particular interest unless it was that my pegasus rode about as easy as a crowbar and seemed to be in a quandary whether to pitch me over his head or slide over his tail; but I arrived without being obliged to submit to either of his whims in that respect [words stuck out] in safety at the point it was considered safe to go with a horse and after hitching him to a tree, taking the precaution to do so in such a manner that should any thing serious happen I should not have to tug and pull at the strap all day. I finnished the rest of the journey on foot a walk of 5 min brought me to the Right which is [several lines stuck out] camped on a side hill and fortified [can not read words] through manner through the line of marks which they occupy during an engagement are on the brow of the hill, [line stuck out] they first build a fence of rails about 4 feet high on the hillside then behind this grid a trench. throwing the dirt in front [words stuck out] thus forming a sure protection against any hostile missel that may come that way no matter how determined it may be to put an end to the northern musill who sits in the conscious security behind it. Over this is build a roof of brush as a protection from the hot sun and dew both of which are exceedingly uncomfortable. The men seem to care little about the danger which surrounds them as if they were on a parade a thousand [word stuck out] miles away. Some were writing letters others playing cards and others sleeping soundly as they would at home. not even disturbed by the roar of the battery of 20 pound parrot guns on the left of the regiment which kept thundering away sending thier huge pills of “moral suasion” to the druggests of A for general ditribution to correct if possible the disordered system of the Union. After visiting all my friends Bob Usher Frank Smith + Hitchcook of [Peville?] particularly and receiving assurances from thier own lips of thier continued saftey I went up on the hill where the battery I spoke of was stationed. hoping to catch a glimps of A. but the air was so full of smoke and dust that it was impossible to see any great distance and I was obliged to be satisfied with looking in the direction of the city and leave the rest to my imagination. The course of a shell can be distinctly traced by the sound in the day time and by the burning fire at night. I cannot describe the sound for I never heard anything like it It is said to be decidedly unpleasant to one who hears them coming toward him and dont know which way to dodge. They have completely demolished the arsenaal and sadly shattered a good many other buildings A citizen who came from their this morning says that the extensive repair shops connected with the various R Roads which concentraite in the city have been distroyed: supposed to prevent them falling into our hands. It seems they do consider it a possible thing that we may yet have the town in our possession. An army of 75000 men is very apt to force such ideas upon a certain class of people. I saw them fire quite a number of shell and when fully satisfied that they could get along without me I fell back in good order to my old position with the Regt an occasional bullet would go huming by sometimes in rather close proximity to my new hat ( or at least I thought they did, but it might have been the solicitude I had for the new hat that made me imagine so) but [line stuck out] I did not carry to cultivate thier acquaintance and [word stuck out] could not feel slighted in the least that they then turned the cold shoulder to me. I did not see any prospect of a fight though I had selected a good position on a very safe hill. and concluded to return contented with what I had seen. which was not much when compaired to [word stuck out]
what so often transpired on the line. I dont believe that it is good policy to foolishly expose oneself but if I want to see a fight [sentence struck out] I am willing to [word struck out] run the risk of a stray shot to gratify my curiosity foolish or not. I went out to the Front again in the evening but there was nothing of any interest going on. unless it was the signaling by rocket between different portions of the Army which is quite a display of "fireworks" and would do honor to the public spirit of a small village on the Fourth I was not concurred with the modus "operandi" of the signaling and consequently it was nothing but the red, gre, blue, and white lights which interested me. From the hill on which I stood we could plainly see the flash of the Rebel guns, the night being quite dark, but could hear no report from them. In due time the shell would burst on our line but thier range was too high and nearly every shell went far beyond its intended mark. Thus making it far more dangerous to be held on a reserve than to be stationed in the front lines. Shell were thrown all night from either side and the Pickets kept up a continual popping with thier muskets in thier endeavors to dislodge either a real or imaginary foe. Probably both. but it is necessary to use a great deal of caution on this line as well a powder for when an attack is intended in the night the picket is the most important man to capture. He sees the enemy a comming approaching and gives the alarm and the line is ready for anything that may present itself but if he is careless and suffers himself to be captured without giving an alarm the men in the works are not aware of the approach of a foe until it is often too late. all because of the worthlessness of one man or a few men at most.

Tuesday 26th

I went to the Regt again this morning for the purpose of assisting the QM in issuing some Clothing. They were much as I left them last night. one man (George Tomlinson CO B. ) was killed yesterday by a sharp shooter and his death was the result of his own indiscretion more than anything else. He had been at work in the front line in the rifle pits with a squad of men and sat on the top of the works to rest a few moments when a SS discovered [word struck out] and fired at him. The ball struck him in the back bone just below the shoulders and came out through his upper lip. Killing him instantly. He was buried in the rear of the 2 line and to the right of our regiment Sergt Cormin of the same company as the deceased officiated at his burial. While busy in issuing the clothing a rifle ball came cutting through the brush which shattered the pit in whicke we were. and though doing no harm still it made us feel a little uncomfortable. They go with a velocity that renders it impossible to get out of thier way and if they hit they always produce an ugly wound. That one came very close to my head and the branch it cut off was resting on my hat at the time. Wonder if I didnt grow 6 inches shorter thier. a short time after I went up to "Bobs" fort" and just as I stepped into the hole another complement came hissing by. this time so close that I could plainly feel the wind of it on my cheek I suppose some SS saw me as I went from one place to the other and felt a sudden desire to try his skill. I call him a good shot and hope he will alwayes be just fortunate enough to come without 6 inches of his mark. Thought candidly I have no desire to be [can not read word] an accidental target for him to practice on. A few shell exploded in our vicinity but as yesterday they all went over and buried themselves in the hill side in our rear throwing up clouds of dust and gravel. Few of them exploded which dont speak in very high terms of the ammunition which the Rebs use against us. They are reported to be shoot of the article and from what I have seen I am inclined to give some credit to the
rumor all the packing copies I have noticed lately have been filled during the months of June + July 64. From some boxes which I saw on the battle field of the 20 I took a label such as usually comes with a box of cartridges which stated that these cartreges were made at “Augusta Arsenal Ga July 1864.” now it is customary to use the oldest ammunition first for it never improves with age and the most natural conclusion is that they are suffering from a scarcity of that most necessary material of warfare: the conclusion is strengthened by the noticeable fact that they used very little artillery AM at the battle of Kennesaw Mt. and thus far in this siege (if I may so call it for is seems but little else) of Atlanta they have exhibited a very parsimonious way of returning our lavish present of 20 pound shell. Perhaps they have failed to appreciate our liberality but modestly prefer to say nothing about it for fear we should pay no attention to their remonstranced. they are very likely correct in their reasonings and I for one am heartily sorry that they are thus obliged to keep the painful truth to them selves. when by a little common sense they might save so many valuable lives. But I didn’t moralize in this way where I was with [word stuck out] the Regt while thier I was ready to advocate in the strictest sense of the term a “war of extermination” for I possessed no very amiable feeling to word the C.S.A. since they so unkindly tried to add my name to the list of killed. now I thank that fellow for making the effort instead of trusting the job to some one else. who might have been a better shot. and am willing to let the old “Confed.” go to ruin at its usual pace. We can get no papers and consequently no news. Every one is full of expectation in regard to the operations of Genl. Grant before Petersburg and Richmond and when such a rarity as a paper finds its way into camp with the message intelligence that no news has been received from Grant of any importance we all feel a great deal of disappointment not that we fear the result Vicksburg is to be enacted over again. That everyone is satisfied is certain of and only differ in their opinion in regard to the line of the “grand finale” is to come off. But we all want to hear what he does from day to day. A soldier knows that though a reporter says “all quiet along the lines” there is an activity everywhere that plainly contradicts his statements. A new breastwork is built or an old one strengthened a new battery posted a slight advance in certain parts of the line is perhaps made a little skirmish creates a little temporary excitement or some deserter comes in with his story. which he protests is “perfectly reliable” in every particular though it is “slightly different” from the one his comrad told who came in the day before. One says Lees army is in an absolutely starving condition while another says they have and abundance. One tells a sory tale of the conditions of the clothing + c of the Rebs. while the other says that they are giving clothing to the destitute inhabitant of the country. To believe such statements requires an “India Rubber” belief. and one looses all interest in such “reliable information” much sooner than he would if the stories had a little more of the truth mixed with them.

Wednesday 29th

Nothing new to day Two or three showers cooled the air and laid the dust which was too thick for comfort and as I write the trees look as though they had been out to take a bath and dressed out in thier best to bid good night to the sun who is just sinking to rest behind a golden bank of clouds. A shower is a very pleasant thing when one has something to shelter then but when a tent leaks as mine did this P.M. it is not quite so romantic as the description in those “Ten Cent Novels” which are so common in the Army. We had just fixed a fly to our tent when it stoped raining and we had the meloncholy satisfaction of
feeling secure if another shower should come up which was not likely to happen as the sky was clear as could be, but that is the way to be on the safe side and a little trouble may be the means of saving us from a good sound drenching some “pleasant” night. The soldiers will be comfortable for a few hours at least for the ground was dry, dusty and parch and the air full of smoke one being hardly able to see ¼ of a mile with any accuracy. The flies are quiet for a few hours as the atmosphere is too fool for their preambulations over the unfortunate suffers who are obliged to withstand thier jokes. When Egypt was afflicted by the plague of lies the origonal stock must have been obtained from the southern station (not organized then of course) for the quantity is enormous and they would draw exclamations of impatience from the most perfect Job that ever lived for they certainly torment with a most refined cruelty. If you lie down to take an afternoon nap and as a precautionary measure move envelope [word struck out] you head in a friendly newspaper of the most liberal amplitude and thinking you have securely closed all avenues of ingress and egress resign yourself to the God of Sleep with a mental chuckle over the skill with which you have foiled the insidious tormentors you are startled out of your doze by a triumphant buzz from some inquisitive fly who in spite of your efforts has forced an entrance into your sleeping “sanctum sanctorium” and begins his exploration by a grand buzz, skip, jumb, skitter, fizzle and tickle on your nose, which is sure to call you to the full consiousness of [word struck out] your terrible martyrdom – In cain you blow spit, snuff and wiggle. He wont go out untill you take the paper night cap [entire?] off you head and try to court sleep from a new basis. But the second effort is seldom more successful than the first and you have to growl out your [analthema?] to the clouds of [wips?] that buzz around your head with the most tantalizing familiatity all with the most perfect security for you might as well attempt to hit a passing shot as to bring the hand of justice and vengence on the winged scamp. But they suffer at the hot dishes which ornament the table for they seem possesed with a perfect mania to bathe in the [word struck out] steaming soups and gravies of our epigurian mess. Great caution is necessary that a stray body may not find reffuge on the knife which is making a journey to a hungry mouth. They have not the nourishment which would elevate them to the dignaty of a first class dish.

Thursday 28th

Went to the front again this morning. No one has been hurt since yesterday though a large number of shell have been thrown during the last 24 hours Genl Hooker was to day relieved from his commande the 27” AC and ordered to report to Gen’ Grant in La. Nothing could more disappoint his brave soldiers for they loved his [should read “him”] only as a favoite Genl can be loved by his soldiers. It is to be hoped that his absence is to be only temporary, for the 20”corps have fought through this campaing under him and hardly could be consoled or comforted by any other commander who might be placed in the posisition he formerly held.

Friday 29th

It is to day reported that the forces on our right had a severe fight yesterday. though as yet I have heard no particulars. Papers report us to be in Atlanta but they are a little to eager to be the first to tell the joy ful new to the waiting ones at home; I wish they could truly say we held the place for I fear the loss of life and limb will be great before we accomplish our object. But it is more a question of time than anything else. We have force enough to successfully meet any thay can oppose us with and they will wake up
some fine morning to find Genl Sherman knocking very loudly at thier doors. he having gained the object by one of those timble flanking movements which the Rebs think his weakness At the time I write it is begining to rain (9 PM) and the prospect is a rainy night. It is much needed for the sun is so hot that nearly the moisture has been evaporated from the earth by its rays. and life in the trenches is any thing but agreeable when the earth and air is so dry and scorching. Letters from home tell me that they are suffering for rain very much at the north and that the crops will porbably be light for the severe drought has affected them seriously. this will undoubtedly cause a great deal of suffering, for many families had depended on the vegetable + c which they could raise in thier gardens in a great measure for thier daily food: but they will probably have much better crops than they now expect. we are very prove to be much more scared than hurt. The Division moved to the right leaving their old position about noon. and are now about 6 miles from the train. The Rebs. are massing thier forces on thier left (our right) an will endeavor to hold the [word struck out] Macon R.R. Prisoners we have taken say that Gen. Hood will hold that road if it takes every man in the Confederate Army; but if thier efforts to hold it prove as unsuccessfull as thier attempt to drive us back or check our advance on the 27th + 28th fear he will come to greif. they can leave A only by the M R R all the others being in our possession and thier only salvation + hope is in retaining control of it Something will be done and that soon too. Hood had been much more careless than Genl Johnston with his men. He has made a great many charges always with no success whil his loss was always great. Johnston would most likely have evacuated the place by this time and had 10,000 more men at his command than Hood has now. Perhaps this is the quickest way to end the rebellion. One thing is certain. if the rebels throw awway thier men the way they have for the last few days they will have a very small army to opperate with in the fall campaign.

Saturday 30th July
Nothing new has transpired to day. or at lest nothing to my Knowledge which is I must confess a little limited in military movements since my place is so far in the rear where the truth comes if it comes at all in such distorted and over grown shape that it tis difficult to seperate the right from the wrong. I heard more in relation to the fight on our right the 27 + 28. This P.M. which is “reliable” the rebels charged five times on our lines. but were repulsed each time Some of thier Regiments (entire) would fire thier muskets in the air instead of at the enemy in thier front they were drink and manyu of the prisoners we captured were so under the influence of liquor that they had to be led off the battle field. Such fighting dont help thier cause unless it is on the road to ruin. Our forces were of course victorious. and after the fight we burried over 900 of thier dead. We also captured a hospital belonging to them and the terrible scenes we saw thier were too horrible to relate and showed how terribly certain had been the gire from our muskets and cannon. Thier loss must have been four times greater than our for they were perfectly reckless. Had too much gunpowder and whiskey dealt out to them before the fight. Many of the prisoners had whiskey in thier canteens which was the probable cause of thier defeat. Genl. Hood has siad he would hold the Macon R R if it took every man in his army to do so. That road is thier only salvation for we have completely destroyed all the others and they will have of exercise the greatest vigilance else the M.R.R. will be number among the things that were.
Genl. Killpatrick has a strange faculty for destroying such things and may probe troublesome when and where they least expect. A letter from my old fiend Northrop (Asst Surg. L. D.C.C.) tells me that things are all quiet before Petersburg. Grant will get every thing fixed to this perfect satisfaction and then will come a victory that will only add new laurels to his sucessfull carear. Lee has found a foe who will never give him a moments rest. and whose genius is equal to any that

August

may oppose him. Vicksburg is too fresh in the memories of the rebels [word struck out] no to cause some feelings of uneasiness to take possession of their hearts [word struck out] now that G. Has secured such a firm footing in front of their capitol. May the most speedy success crown his efforts.

August 31st 1864

I [read “it” ] has been a long time since I have mad any entires in this diary not fomr a want of intrest bu for want of something to write about or something shich would in my estemiation probe on interest for future reference I began with the intention of writing down any thing that came under my notice which would be north remembering or reading at some future time and not for a record of daily event. Such a taks would be out of my power to perform beside the result would often be devoid of any interest. Camp life is usaly of such a sameness that one days record answers for the whole and is easily described by “dull in the morning So. at noon so. at night” our army remained in front of Atlanta from the date of my last entry until the 24th of August when the 20th A C was ordered to proceed to the Chatthoochie river to guard Turness Paces and Calhoun Ferries while the main army moved to the right and toward the Macon R R the 1” division was stationed at Calhoun Ferry the 2nd at Paces and the 3rd at Turners: about 4 miles apart. The rebels had build strong earthworks on the south bank of the river for the purpose of obstructing our crossing but they proved to be of no use to them All the fault of Genl Sherman of course for he avoided them by one of his flank movements or of he desired to take one of their mud forts he had only to throw his line of skierishers to the bank of the river and under thier fire lay his pontons cross over and find the fort evacuated 2 or 3 guns left and things in as good shoe as he could wish. Earth Div. occupies a splendid postion on the south bank of the C river and with 3 or 4 or so men can easily defend the situation against 4 times thier number “Paces Ferry” is on the extreme left. “Calhoun Ferry” in the center and “Turners Ferry” on the right. The R R crosses at “Calhoun Ferry” and the bridge at this point one of the curiosities of “military energy” It is 900 feet long and has an average hight of 70 feet and was built in three days. The timber having been previously pre parcel in the rear. The Govt having the plans and specifications of the structure in thier possession at the beginning of the campaign Thus greatly aiding the work There was nothing left of the old bridge except the piers and these might have been torn down with out materailly retarding the work. Reports from the army have been very megar if any unless it was some that no one could believe\, even those who in the most sanguine of Shermans success and though every thing is working well or supposed to be we are certain of nothing important haveing as yet accomplished. On the 26th the rebs made a recon with a force of 2000 men toward our Div. but finding us in a strong posistion they retired killing one man in the 20th C T and capturing one also. They opened on us with shell and for some time our batteries remained silent but finally returned shot for shot and some forced threw to fall back We found several gun + Eqpts in the field
beside two or three dead which told that they were harly prepared for their reception they recived. Yesterday a man by the name of Moulthrop belonging to Co B was injured by the accidental discharge of a musket so that he died at 10 oc PM He was cleaning his gun and in trying draw the ramrod the precussion powder remaining on the tube became ignited in some way and ramrod was forced entirely throught his body. It was the result of carelessness more than any thing else and ought to teach men to be as carefull as possible when they are clearing thier gun particularly if it is loaded. Our location is splendid and we have a beautiful view of the C river Many of the Reft in the Div have bands with them and thier is hardly and hour in the day but what some one of them is blowing away as though the life of the army depended on thier efforts to play the “star spangled Banner” or “Hail Columbia” a western Regt seem to feel as their organization was not complete unless they ahad a band attached to it but the quality of the music is of little consequence. If they only make a loud noise that is all they require. There is no skill displayed and the peices they select are more suitable for “cat calls” than rational music. For a month + more we had the 33rd Mass Reft guarding the Wagon Trains and they have a band that would do credit to any city. They play fully equal to Dadsworth celebrated band. and thier selections are always from the bes authors and thier execution is perfect or as near it as possible. They used to belong to Gen Hookers HdQts in the A of the P and were called his “pst Band” that may not make them any better but it shows that I am not alone in my good opinion of their skill. The weather has been very pleasant for the past month and it has been nothing but fun to be a soldier but the nights are beginning to be cold + blankets are in demand. We had to day a requisition for 81 many of the men have had none through the whole campaign preferring to lie cold rather than carry a blanket all day particularly if it is wet.

Sept 2nd 1864

Atlanta has fallen! The Gate City was surrendered by the may to Col Colburn Comdg 3rd Div 20" A.C. on the Cng and after a little skirmishing with a few cavalry who were ransacking the city the place was taken formal possession of by our troops. I have not heard many particulars of the surrender and must wait like Mr Mcawber untill someting “turns up” where by I can state something realliable.

Sept 5th 1864

The Honorable QM Dept 20 Com Vol Duty entered the famous city of Atlanta Ga on the 4th of Sept 1864 at 1 oc PM and I will recored some of the sights I saw and a few of its first impressions. We came in on Marietta Street which runs paralel wit the Atlantic and Weastern R R nearly east and west. It might not be out of place to speak of the fortifications the Rebs had erected to oppose our advance They were certainly the most formidable I ahve ever seen and it would have been impossible to have taken them by a direct assault they were protected in every possible way and are realy some of the wonders of the war. Some of the funs in the forts were left some in good condition others partially dimounted and others with thier carrages sill burning such was thier hast to get away from the “cowardly Yankee mudsills”. I saw some splended 100 pound guns made in Apne 1864 at Selma Ala. The heaviest line of forts was on the north west side. and looked lonely and deserted enough as we passed them. A few houses stord between the two lines and were perfectly riddled with balls and shell they looked for all the world like a high coal screen. As we passed into the town the damage done by our shell became more and more apparent and some very fine residences were completly torn down by
them. It seemed a pity to destroy so much property but they would not give up the city until it was ruined and they are to blame for the damage. Marrietta Street suffered the most being in direct range, and every house but one was hit more or less times. That one was of brick [word struck out] a very fine building though the houses near it had been ruined. Strange to say not a shot had stuck that Of course no one lived in that part of the City It would have been almost certain death. Some buildings had one side completely torn off by the bursting of a shell inside others were destitute of a chimney, and all were without windows and had holes in them Every where so we proceeded into the city. The damage grew less as that part was more out of range than the rest or that part on M + decatur St oly two or three building were burned but they were very large and valuable we passed the Trout House in good style and came to that portion of the city which had been considered safe. The houses were most of them small and reminded on of the houses one sees so often in New England thought they did not have that comfortable cozy and [word struck out] inviting look that those do. Most of them were inhabited mostly by Irish who had braved the bombardment and were now determined to reap the benefit of thier bravery Here was where St Clark Capt Brown and your humble servant maintained the dignity of our respective positions in fine style. Brown on a mule that could hardly carry him and Clark and Stanly on firey steeds that would fall over with a very slight push. Oh the pomp and circumstance of war. We were nearly an hour in passing through the town. for it is very long, and we of course went slow as a matter of accomodation to our horses and mules. nothing else oh no!! The Rest came in the day before and were on the South West side. and we were looking for them, and had to turn our heads in every direction to be sure that we did not pass them. When we were on the outskirts of the city on the South we saw the ruins of the R.R. trains which the Rebs had burned when they left consisting of part of 100 carloads of ammunition of every description and four locomotives the shells were exploding continually and it was dangerous to be near the wreak. Such perfect destruction I never saw. and the [word struck out] loss must have been very great A large rolling mill was also burned. where they manufactured a great deal of thier R.R. iron the locomotives were smashed one into the other but not injured beyond repair. A large quantity of small arms were destroyed beside sections of two batteries 7 guns with caisons in all pieces of the wreck were strewn around for a great distance and told how fearfull the destruction was. Every kind of shell from a hundred pound ot a hand grenade, were lying scattered around in dangerous profusion. and bits of wood and iron covered the ground Our car was loaded with clear powder and the rails were twisted into the most curious shapes imaginable and the heavy timbers on which they rested were torn into splinters [word struck out] no longer than matches. Our Reft. lay in work erected by the Rebs before they left and when I came as they were expecting to move to some other position. So I let the team remain as it was until something definite should be known. At 6 P M we got orders to move toward the Right but I had to wait for the trop to pass before I could move my team and it was 7 before I started I went about 3 miles and did not come up with them and as the mules were tired out I concluded to camp out where I was which I did much to the relief of the driver who not being acquainted with the road was fearfull of turning over. I rode on to see if I could find the redt and to report to the Col my position and after a two mile ride from them. Everything was satisfactory and I started to bo back but was the night was so dark and I knew so little of the road I got lost and had to start again and this time with better success I was hungry and tired and
ate my supper and laid me down to sleep on the ground with as much satisfaction as if I had been in “Willards” [word struck out] or “Dellmonico’s”

Sept 17th 1864.

Went to Marrietta to obtain the Baggage of the Regt which was brought there by QM Scrantor. The city had not chanced much though it looked more deserted than when I was last there. Col Rop commands the Post.

Nov. 5th 1864.

Recieved orders to pack up and move at 2PM and at 3PM the troop were on the march leaving the city by the Mc Donald road toward “Jonesborough” on the Macon R R they went into camp about 6 PM 4 miles from the city the 3 Div 20th A C in the advance and the 1 + 2 Div in the rear. The way on train got into park about 10 PM and by 11 all was quiet.

Nov 6th 1864. (Sunday)

Last night was quite cold. and a large quantity of blanket were not in the least uncomfortable as there was no prospect of a move I went down town to take what I supposed was to be a farewell look at the city I could not but notice the change that had taken place since the day I first saw the place More than one half the houses in the outskirts of the city have been torn down to furnish material for building quarters for the troops and to aid in the construction of the impregnable line of forts nd earthwors which have sprun up as if by magic all around the city. Every thing is changed. Huge forts are built in gardens and front yards and often in front of fine dwellings any place that commands any approach to the city is crowned with a fort. and the whole are connected by a line of the most formidable rige pits Some of them are really beautifull if a pile of dirt can be considered beautiful. They are as square and trim as if mae of stone or brick and thier embrasures are protected by heavy Iron doors which might not stop a cannon ball but would most effectualy destroy all the killing propensites of a musket shot. The skeletons of the works were most of them built by the 1 Mich Engeneers and would do credit to any set of workmen North or South. The line extends completly around the city and a small force could rest in perfect security behind it To one unacustomed to military movements the scene the streets of A. would indicate that every thing was confusion The streets were full of Wagons Horses Mules Troops and Cattle. and the noise was a perfect bable. but if they (the crowd) were closely observed it should be seen that every one had some particular place to go to or some deffinite object. to accomplish and what appeared to be confusion was in reality perfect order. The most busy part of the town was near the depot where trains were loading with the [can not read word] stores and baggage which had all been ordered to the rear. (chattanooga bridge port + c.) The depots take up a large space in the very center of the town and are very extensive One building can shelter 40 locomotives and there are accomodations in other buildings for 100 more. they are all more or less damaged by the shell shich we were so liberal with and look rather dilapidated but a few hundred dollars would put thm in compleate repair. The passengers depot is very large and looks some like the one in Philadelphia only the roof of the one in P is of iron while this is part iron and part wood. but it is a very substantial structure and adds greatly to the good look of the city It stands very near Whitehall St About 10 AM it began to rain and I concluded to cut my farewell tour short. and started for camp. When nearly there I met some one who told me that we were ordered back into our old camp. Of course I was pleased with that arrangement and made all possible
hast to reach the train and find out weather there was any truth in the statement. I found to my satisfaction that it was all truth and leaving Srqt Smith to take care of the wagon + c. I started back for the camp in company with Nolan to secure what was left of bed chairs tables + c. at our old tent I was very fortunate in finding every thing just as I had left it and soon the wagon came along and my tent was up and theings "put to night" before the Regt came into camp. A curious move [this last bit was underlined three times] we lost one man killed and one wounded from the 33rd Ind (2nd Brig) They being on Picket and were fired on by a patrol of 25 or so Reb Cavalry It is the general impression that we move soon but no one can tell where or when to I am contented to wait like Mr Macawber until some "things turns up"

Monday Nov. 14th 1864

We have not left Atlanta Ga. yet and I am still at a loss to tell when we shall. It is very evident however that we shall go soon. for the RR is being distroyed as fast as possible by our troops and every thing that can possibly be of any use to the Rebs is speedily transformed into nothing or a great quantity of small peices The Roundhouse of the Atlanta and Western R R was torn down Friday and is now nothing but a mass of ruins. It was a very large building having accommodations for forty locomotives beside a large repair shop for both locomotives and freight cars. It was constructed of brick the roof supported by iron pillars. which were pulled out thus letting the whole thing down. From the large quantities of smoke in that direction I infer that the ruins are on fire. The Winship formr works were burned yesterday, and the roundhouse of the Atlanta and Macon R R was torn down this building is built of heavy granite blocks and was a fine structure but a few busy hands soon reduced it to nothing. Near it were lying eight or ten large funs abandoned by the Rebs the tronions were broken off and driven into the muzzle hus rendering them entirely unfit for use. Car wheels were broken RR iron bent and twisted by fire machinery destroyed buildings torn down or burned and every piece of public property destroyed as completly as possible But in all cases there seems to have been the greatest respect paid to private property not a single dwelling house has been injured since this whole sale destruction began. A few nights ago some one set fire to a few houses that stood in a luster on the North side of the town. Every exertion was made to extinguish the fire. Genl Geary and Slocum aiding with thier own hands in the work. The next morning Gel Clocum offered a reward of $500 for the arrest and detection of the one who fired the buildings and a like reward for the detection of the perpetrator of any like crime here after. The 14th and 20th A C are now under the command of Maj Genl Slocum and form the left ring of the "army of Georgia" while Genl Williams assumes the commande of the 20th A C all have confidence in Fenl Slocum and his old 12th A C will follow wherever he may lead.

[there are also two hand drawn maps in this diary. The firs is of northern Ga the second of Atlanta and the surrounding area.]