

McLomb, Ohio, Dec 4th 1913

Being Requested by some of my Children
to write a short History of my Army Life
I at this late date will try & give a short
History as my Memory serves me now. being
50 years ago which is quite a long period
of a persons Life to think of Incidents &c.
I Remember quite well yet - that when Living west
of Findlay in Hancock Co about ^{near Co. Line} 12 miles. I and
my Bro Benjamin got permission to take a horse &
go to uncle Sam^l Bolton, who lived ^{miles} 2 1/2 East of
Findlay O. we both rode the same horse. I think
this was Sat; & Sunday ^{afternoon} we started home, when
we got to Findlay, here were men in Line Drilling.
The 1st we ever seen Drilling. Mr Neibling was
Drilling them. He ^{afterwards Col. of the 27th O.V.D.} having seen some service in
the Mexican war; we naturally wanted to know
the cause of all this commotion & learned that
Fort Sumpter had been fired on; we went
home & told the story why we were so late
& of course were excused & created quite
a talk & excitement; in a short time a
few days we got the news that Abraham
Lincoln called for 75,000 men, Col Gibson
of Tiffin was getting up a Regt & was called
to the O.V.D. My Bro Benjamin was in the Regt. John Cartwright

Jacob Stover, Henry Stover, Amasy Stover,
 George Stover, & Johnus Lenhart volunteered
 from our community & joined Co D of the 49th
 and soon went to Griffin in Camp. I went
 with them as far as to Columbus Grove. (The
 1st time I ever rode on the cars) Later on some
 of us went out to see them & staid all night
 with them. Soon there was a call by the
 President for 300 thousand more, and there was
 a Regiment organized & went into camp at
 Findlay, about one mile east of Findlay.
 Called the 21st O.V.I. My Bro Cyrus Enlisted
 in Co F of this Regt & it soon was sent
 South. Then another Regt was organized called
 the 57th O.V.I. The Scotty boys from our commu-
 nity went into this Regt; later the President
 called for 300 thousand more & some enlisted
 in a Co that went into the 65th O.V.I. by this
 time I had the fever to=only I wasent born
 soon enough. but during the summer another
 call for more Troops & a Regt. was organized
 and went into camp at Lima, O. So one day
 while Philip Roland was Cradling wheat
 for my Father & he was tired. Battered.
 He to go to Findlay & Enlist in Co D. 99th O.V.I.
 I accepted the Challenge, and shortly he

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Milton Thrapp, Orvell Thrapp, Newton Wilson & myself went to Findlay & Enlisted under James A. Bogue & became Co. D. of the 99th O.V.I. another Co also was organized in Findlay called Co. G. Lewis Davis, Jake Boon & others went into that Co & we soon got ready & went to Lima into Camp. we enlisted on the 11th day of Aug. 1862. I well remember going to Findlay & John McDowell treated us to the Oysters, the 1st I ever tasted. I couldn't go mine, so Phil Roland got my oysters, when we got to Lima. we soon commenced to drill by Squads & Co & we thought we were some Soldiers, we here drilled our Guns &c but no clothing, were here mustered into the U.S. Service for 3 years or during the War; we here were all examined to see if we were able bodied fellows, had to strip naked & go before a Board of Doctors. My name being in the Letter B, I soon was called Passed all O.K. and ready to fight Jeff Davis; while here Father & Mother came to see us, also R.K. who thought I surely ought to be Baptized ere I went, but I didden consent to it so that Part was left off, while here another Regt. was being organized

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Called the 118th A.V.I. our Regt the 99th A.V.I. was soon called to go to the Front {as we called it} & left Louisa & same night got into Cincinnati, O. and as we marched through the city we sang well Henry Jeff Davis on a sour apple Tree &c. we were ferried across the River in the night & laid around on the Streets till morn. we were now in Covington Ky; in a day or so was Rushed by rail up to Paris K.Y. here we landed, it was here I first seen the Darkies that looked at us around the Corners, of course they were all Slaves; we camped here in the old Court House Square, Continued reports came in that Braggs Army was coming down on us; that he had given Gen Buells Army the slip & was Breaking for the Ohio River, which was True, Gen Kirby Smith of Brags Army had a fight up near Lexington K.Y. with Gen Nelson of our Army & whipped our men & they were coming our way. Soon some of the Men came into our Camp and reported the same, which created quite a Stir in our Camp, we here staid here for a day or so doing Guard duty &c we then were told to hurry to the Train

and get on & get out of there—as the
 The Rittel army was close by & would soon
 be on us, well indeed we did make a
 Rush for the old Hog Cars & were soon taken
 back to a small town by the name of ^{Falmouth}
 here we camped for a few days; here the
 45th O.V.I. got in with us; and Col Runcle
 who was the son of our Col (viz Col
 Langworthy) and a little later we retreated
 to Synthan, here we dressed our clothing
 and they made us burn our other clothing.
 Oh how I hated to do this as I had a suit
 (& the rest of it) that I had bought out of the
 store & I felt grieved to see it burn, and
 very much uncalled for, in a few days we
 were taken back to Covington K.Y. & there
 went into camp, and digging breastworks,
 in about 2 weeks we were ordered on the
 Boat & taken down to Louisville K.Y. and
 here went into camp in a square ^{or Park} in the
 city. here a lot of the new Regiments were
 Rushed to head off Bragg. well in a week
 or so Buell's army begins to come in, well
 do I remember getting up one more and
 out across a Pond was a lot of men
 camped & oh how dirty & dusty they ^{were}

6th They came down to this Pond for water to drink & made coffee & also to wash, we thought it couldn't be = well during the day the army came marching through. I soon found out where the 49th O.V.I. was camped & went over to see them; while there they drew Rations & oh what fat meat, and Blue of old age, well they Relished it, and laughed at me. saying you'll soon get use to it, here an Incident occurred = that of shooting of Gen. Nelson. By Jeff C. Davis; we laid here for couple weeks & reorganized, & our new Regiment was added to every Brigade in the Army. I should of stated that while at Covington they made us draw Blankets, over = Coats &c. &c. a mules load for sure, now when the army again was ready, we started after Gen Bragg; we started about 4 P.M. & they marched us about 12 miles, and then went into camp, tired to pieces, we now were in the 23rd Army Corps, Under Gen. Crittenden, Vanclive was our Division Commander, & Col. Stanley Mathews our Brigade Commander, Col. Runckle of the 45th O.V.I. had an altercation with our Col. at Covington, Preferred Charges against him & he was taken away from us, so the

7/3 The Regiment was then commanded by the
Lieutenant Col. by name of Cummins, who
knew all about what good whiskey was-but
knew nothing of military tactics, or how to
provide & see after his men, so that we
hadn'ted gone very far till we were taken
Blind, but we soon caught out to it and
tried to keep even, as before stated we started
after Bragg & drove him back through Crab Orchard
on to what they called Wild Cat Mt. here I
and Philip Roland, staid in camp a few days
both of were on the sick list, the army here
marched to the right to Summerset K.y. here we
went into camp, I remember our mess carried
rails-got some fodder & made us quite a
covering, in the morn when we crawled out
there was about a foot of snow & you could
see the lumps where the boys had laid down
& went to sleep not realizing that they were
covered with snow, we laid here for about 2
weeks, while here I went out foraging and
got an old Gander, took him to camp and
Roland & I dressed him, & then we cooked
him, took us all day, but finally got him all
O.K. and then we went for him, it was about
as good eating as I ever ate.

From here we again started & did some extremely hard marching, dusty, no water, & almost famished. about this time our Brigade was sent to Lebanon Tenn to route out old John Morgan, we drove him from the place, took possession, got a lot of good things to eat and at about 4 P.M. started back & when we got into camp (which was called Silver Springs) we were all so tired we couldnt scarcely move. Many of the boys fell out on the way back & were captured by John Morgans men & taken back to Lebanon we staid in this camp for about 3 weeks, one day they sent a lot of wagons out for corn and our regt went with them as guards. also to help load the wagons; we hauled in at a large plantation & soon had a lot of corn, they had about 6 colonies of bees, these were under a shed in front of the house - close to a lane & opposite was a large corn-crit. there was a guard that paced back & forth around the house, I said to some of the boys I'll go and get one of those bee hives & take it to the fence if one of you will then take it across the lane to the other fence & then the 3^d man to take it back of the crit. all agreed, so I picked one up & it seemed somewhat light so I set her down & tried

another which was quite Heavy. So I soon had her at the fence. The 2^d man took it across the 3^d man did his work—but by this time the Bees were out by the Hatfull & he Threwed it down behind the Building & Ran & the rest of the Boys yelling. I noticed that in Throwing the Hive down it Broke & a large Cake of white Honey laying loose. I ran & got it & the Boys seeing it also Broke for it & soon had the Balance of it Sting or no Sting. our mess also got 4 or 5 Chickens for our Share, in the eve when we got we had Marching orders & what to do we didnt know, but concluded to Cook them & then in the morn we certainly had a feast of Honey & Chickens; well I eat to much & I got awful Sick over it, while here & on picket I got Permission to go out & see if I couldent find something. I got a Rooster & an old Hen & cut the flaps off of a Saddle to Half Sole my shoes. when I got to Camp Capt. Pope wanted his Boots soled Roland was a Shoemaker & put them on but mine diddent get on.—so had to draw new shoes which were about 1 size to small for me & I nearly ruined my feet; well the next day after the getting of the Honey. we started and they marched us hard all day.

The day before the Perrysville Fight they marched us all day & until midnight when we got to a river & went into camp. I think in my Co only 6 or 8 men were there to stack arms. but towards morning the most of the Boys came up. about 9 a.m. we were marched about 5 miles & formed in line of Battle; were in a cornfield all day. on the Left of us the Battle raged furiously, but our Corps & I think Thomas's Corps never got into it. why it was I never could understand, had we swung in on their flank, we certainly could of made short work of it & possibly made short & taken a lot of Prisoners. Gen Bull of our Army was severely censured & later relieved of the command of the Army - and Gen Rosecrans took his place; it wasnt long we landed at Nashville Tenn. here we went into camp, and a sorry looking set we certainly were, here they sent us a Col by the name of Swain to command our Regt; when he came he went through our camp & soon took in the situation. he immediately sent out 8 or 10 wagons for straw for us. and when they got back there certainly was a rush for it, and we soon had beds fit for a King.

all of us Seemed to have what they called the yellow jaundice, out of 1,000 men we now had only 150. Men who were fit for duty; in a day or so he got us out to Drill. He soon found out that we diddnt know Beans about Drilling, but he had us out every day & we soon got pretty good. Then we were to have Inspection on Sunday. He got as far down the line as to the man next to me. He turned on his Heels, called for his horse & then made us a speech; now sir he said there is no doubt ere long we would get into a Battle & there isent ^{out} one of 10 guns that would go off & they he went for the Officers & told them he would hold them responsible if their men, diddnt come up on next Inspection with Guns that when the Ramrod was reversed & let go into the Gun that it rang like silver, well he had the officers scared into a Panic Our Capt (who was easily scared) was right after us. well we went to scrubbing and cleaning till we thought we were all O.K. but they diddnt yet suit him, so at it we went aggin & soon found out how to keep our guns, then we were to Police our camp. we made Sweepers of Brush & Bushes, which

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answered the purpose of a Broom & we soon thought we had her in dandy shape, but it did not yet suit him. So at it we went again till it did suit him, and then we had to clean up, polish up our Buttons and every thing that had Brass, well he soon had us in tip top shape, & we no longer were the laughing stock of the other old Regiments, but indeed we surpassed them all. in our Brigade here one day my Bro C. S. came over to see me, he showed me the ~~the~~ ones I had seen, some gray backs on a shirt some one had throwed away. Later on I became quite well acquainted with the Gentlemen. The Boiling of the clothes seemed to be the best remedy; our camp was out from Nashville about 4 miles. I quite frequently went over to the 49th O.V.S. also the 21st O.V.S. about the 20th of Dec / 62 Rosecrank, moved on the Rebel army lying in and about Murfreesboro Tenn about 30 miles South; in and about a little town by the name of Lavern, our reg^t was sent down to the Left & crossed quite a stream on a pole bridge to I suppose watch the Crossing. a little way from the bridge was a large (I think) ^{bricks} house, and

a lot of Negroes. had a large Farm, had a lot of nice Fat Sheep, and now if we didnt help ourselves to some of them isent Disputable, in my mess we had each of us a ham or shoulder, we werent there very long till we were ordered to rejoin the command which we did & marched on & on till about 11 o'clock when we got near Stone River, well our Mutton got to be a mighty old Sheep during this time & I think we throwed all of it away except our quarter, we went into camp & got water out of a pool close by. made a little coffee & & laid down tired to pieces. next morn we again went after & found a Dead Horse & 2 or 3 mules in it, well we got no more water out of it. The Skirmishing in front was quite plain, also a Cannon now and then, which told us to Beware, The Army now began to be placed ready for the incoming Crittendens Corps was on the Left. so we were placed down close the Bend of the River I remember they put me out on Picket & my Post was right on the Banks of the River by a Tree. it was a real cold night. The Boys in Camp Killed an old Cow. & we got quite a Hunk of it in our mess.

(4th)

On Wednesday morning Early we Crossed
the River & formed in Line of Battle to
Move on Bragg's right wing of the army.
I was on the Skirmish Line & we were ordered
to move & I think did, but all at once way off
to our Right the Firing of Small arms and
the Cannons Roared. = we were halted and
waited for Results, was not Long till we
could plainly tell that our men were being
driven back, more & more, we were recalled
across the River & most of our corps were
double quicked to the Right to help restore the
Line & Check the Rebels, which was done
and all was over for that day. next day
some Fighting but not General, we were again
crossed the River & Laid there in Line of Battle
all day. on Friday it soon became evident
that the Rebs were going to Charge us, which
they did about 3 or 4 o'clock, Drove us across
the River in good Shape, I remember the River
was about waist Deep; about 25 years ago I
was over the same field with Jacob Knepfner of
my Co. I went in Bathing at about this Spot.
Mr Knepfner found a Sycamore Tree with wide Spaw
Roots where ^{the} and behind, about 2 rods on the Banks
the River lower down than I crossed. & he with

The rest of them were taken Prisoners, (but he a little later got away from them) when and where I crossed the River the Bank was quite steep & Rocky on the opposite side & I had trouble in getting up - but the spat of Rebel Bullets helped me along. I remember as and after I got across of seeing several ^{through} Thrapps & ^{militia} & Roland & I think Newton Wilson Cross the River ^{the 2^d time} below the Bend, at that moment Troops from the Right came pouring over to our rescue also of Gen Rosecrans & his Staff coming up and helping to restore order & check the Rebels. For they had by this time got to or close the River, in fact it is said the Color Bearer of one of the Confederate regts got across at the ford (which was only shoe top deep) and was shot down & the flag captured; these immediate troops who came to our Relief were the 79th Pa & 21st O.V. I after seeing Rosecrans & our men coming to the Rescue, went back & up the Bend of the river & had some fine shots just across the River, one Rebel however who was behind some Rocks, had shot several of the Boys here & came very near getting me, but I watched him mighty close, about that time our men were ordered to cross the River, which they did & back of us on a

Raise of Ground our Batteries were being collected
 and begin to shell & Grape & canister the Rebels
 at Furious gate. Some 40 cans ^{more} they say doing their
 Level Best, well the Rebels not only were checked
 but driven back full well; night came on
 which stopped the mass. I went across the river
 (but before crossing) & while watching my Rebel
 across the River, I heard a noise behind me
 in the standing corn. looked around & soon saw
 some skirmishers of a regt of our men. I told
 them to look out & soon found they were the 15
 O.V.I. I said where is the 49th they motioned me to
 the left where they too had come through the corn
 field. I soon went up there & found my Boo John
 and most of the boys all O.K. Johnus Lenhart
 had been captured. I then crossed the river &
 began to look to see if I could find any of
 our boys killed or wounded, later found a
 good many of our boys in camp, this virtually
 ended the battle known as Battle of Stone River.
 The Rebel Army retreated, we laid in or
 close the battle field for several days; right by
 the River, in the mud & water. Raining & Snowing
 was a bitter dose for us as many had lost their
 Blankets &c, right here was a tree which had
 fallen across the River forming kind of a

Damn in the River, so we could cross over. I said to the Boys you look after my Knapsack (if they move) for I am going across the River & see what I can get, well I did & went right over to where the Rebels had been when they charged on us; & here shot a Pig weighing about 40 lbs & Yoated it into Camp. My. But the Boys were tickled to have some fresh meat, in a few days after we were marched up through Murfreesborough out on the Left in Position and went into Camp, here we stand for quite a while doing Guard Duty &c, lots of the Boys here were on the sick list & many dying. Here Ike Hollenback died, I helped to dig his Grave & then we as a Co took him out & Burried him in the Honors of war (he was the Father of Horace Hollenback) he also came from the same neighborhood I did, about this time our Brigade was called out on a force march to support our Cavalry. To Snow Hill, I wasent well, Roland took me up to the Surgeon to have me excused but he refused to excuse any one - So I went to the Tent got my accoutermint, fell into line & we were soon on the march, and it certainly was a hard Swift march. Many of the Boys fell out, but I stuck to it, we got out to what they call Snow Hill

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my regt. was taken right up on the hill where we had a good view of the field, we here had a pretty sharp engagement, away over to the right we could see our Cavalry advancing, was a grand sight. They soon had the rebs on the run. next day we started back - went by the way of Lebanon. (where we had been once before.) we went into camp 2 or 3 miles north of Lebanon. I felt sick but stuck to it. the next day we started back & when we got back inside of our picket line. I felt I couldn't go any further & fell out of ranks laid down in a fence corner. it wasnt long till some of our wagons came along, and I asked one of the Drivers if I couldn't ride, as I was sick. Yes he said. jump in. so I got into camp nearly as quick as the rest of the Boys, and oh how glad I was. well I took down immediately with Pneumonia, they took me to the Hospital. well here for 8 days they said I knew nothing; if I then had of died. It just would of been like thousands of others did go. I staid in the regimental Hospital I think for about 4 weeks. My Bro Cyrus came to see me nearly every day; from here they took quite a few of us over into the field Hospital, up on the river close where the ~~pre~~ days fighting was; here lots of the Boys died. the Gents were down. the weather

was Damp & Disagreeable, I while here got a
 Box from home with good things ⁱⁿ to eat, amongst it
 was some dried Beef. one of our Boys next to me by the
 name of Davis wanted some of the Beef, I said I
 was afraid to give him any. I ^{told} the Ward Master
 & he said he didnt believe it would hurt him,
 to let him have some, so I gave him some, well in
 the morn he was dead. I always kind of thought
 I shouldnt of gave him the Beef as I believe it got
 away with him; he was carried out to the Morgue
 and that was the Last of him, C. S. came every
 few days days to see me, as he could away
 better than most any one else, also he had a
 Horse, he having been Transferred to the U.S. Signal
 Corps; when I got so I could get out a little I
 found out I had lost my Speech, which didnt
 come to me for about 4 months; from here (the Hospital
 was to much Crowded) they took a Train Load to
 Nashville Tenn, here I was for about 3 months
 in Hospital No 19, in third Story, while here
 I gained very slowly, all day while here, came
 in Minor Wickham, he came after his Brother-
 in-law Harrison Hammond, (Father of Taylor Hammond
 who had died & took him home, he wanted
 me to get a discharge and go with him home,
 but I preferred to stay by it, but I with the

20th Rest of the Boys got deathly tired of the place. I think there were about 125 or 150 in our ward, we had our water closet places for 2 to be in at a time, hardly ever if ever, but that was full & most of the time 7 or 8 or 10 waiting. Many a time we couldnt wait, I think I never wanted anything so much as to get to a place where I could be free - in a fathers woods or some where to relieve myself; after I got some better I use to walk up & around town some, I use to love to go to the market house, one day while there an old Lady asked me why I couldnt talk loud I told her; she said well you just get you a lot of Hoarhored Candy & Eat it, well Bless her memory - any yet for she seemed so kind, she asked me if I had any money, I said I had, so I got quite a smack of the ~~Hoar~~ Candy & Kept Eating of it, inside of a a week I could to my astonishment talk Loud; I asked our Physician one day - {who by the way was from Ind} whether I couldnt go to the front, My oh My I guess not was the Reply, he seemed very kind, told me I mustnt think of such a thing as that, but later they fit up a large room across the Street & called it Hospital no 25, & I got the Doc^r to let me go over there as a nurse, he gave

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We leave to go, which I did & found it so much better, but before I quit No. 19 I must tell you more. Our grub was miserable poor. They had Vegetable Soup, which I guess was all right for us, we called it Gut & Growler, Bull Beef & once in a while a Potato. one day I went over to No 14 to see Albert Shank of my Co, he was in the kitchen & dinner was nearly ready, and as you know they had on the table just lots of good things to eat. I remember that I asked him if that was for the officers, why no its for the men, well I couldnt hardly believe my eyes, why he said havent you got it about this way, why no I said, well he said its for you, if you dont get it its because some one is selling it. He said each Hospital was allowed so much coming to the No of men from the Sanitary Commission, well I went back & I told it & it raised quite a talk; well as I said before I went to No 25; They soon Promised me to Hospital Steward, I had to dish out the medicine, wait on the sick &c, in so doing I had many privilage I otherwise wouldnt of had; I remember

A young man who had been Hospital
Stewart, who took quite sick, and soon
after died, I remember I & another comrade
carried him to the morgue, I wrote a letter
to his folks & asked what to do with his
Belongings. His Sister wrote me a very nice
letter thanking me for letting them know he
belonged to some Maine Regt. Shortly
after I thought I was strong enough to go
to the Regt. Knowing that our army had
moved further South, but the Dr. would
not give me a permit for my Knapsack
So I stole out myself, got my Knapsack
& about half doz of us got away. we went
up to what was known as the Golacoff
House, a large Hotel but not finished,
so our people used it, there were about
100 that went that morn. I went as far as
to Galahoma, here close by the 49th av.
laid. So stopped over & went out to see them.
They all were surprised as I was only skin
and bones, and chastised me quite severely
for leaving the Hospital so soon. from here
I took train for W. Minville where my regt.
laid, on the way we stopped at Manchester
for just a little. here E. S. came down

23 To the train & was determined that I should stop off, but I thought different and went on, got there towards eve, I had a paper with me of the news of Lee being whipped by the Army of the Potomac, & that Pemberton had surrendered to Grant at Vicksburg, also that John Morgan had been captured, which indeed was good news. when I got to camp I told them about it & the camp nearly went wild. I soon got so I was able for duty & went on drill with the Boys, I may just as well say here that while I was absent the Regt. did a great deal of Drilling, our Col. certainly was a great Drill Master, it was said that Rosecrans said that the 99th O.V.S. & I think the 44th Ind. Regt were the 2 best drilled regts in his Army, let that be as it may, we certainly could make quite a showing on the Drill Grounds, we put some of the old regts to shame; here we had lots of Blackberries, had a nice big swimming hole, where we certainly use to have a time, ^{while} here soon regt or Troops had quite a revival meeting on the Hill, quite a few were converted

one of these days they marched down to the River & Baptized some 50 or 60 ^{converts}, one of the Chaplains of an Ill Regt went to the Col of his Regt & told him of the wonderful meeting and of their being so many Immersed, &c.

and thought it a good thing for his regt to do the same, whereupon it was said that the Col called his orderly & had him to go and see the adjutant to come up immediately, which he did & told him about the meeting and also of a certain Ohio regt having so many Baptized, now I want you to go down & make a detail of 75 men and have them taken down to the river & have them Baptized as he dident propose that any Ohio regt should bet his regt. it was said at the time that it was a true story, well I soon got so that I could go it with any of them, some time the last of July the army got marching orders, we had to cross the Cumberland Mt. we were all day in getting up the mt. as the ^{wagons} & artillery had to be helped up the mt. there usually was one Co to each wagon & when up we returned for another & so it went most of the day; finally all up & they marched us possibly 5 miles ere we went into camp.

just as we were stacking corns—we scared
 out a Big Rattle Snake—which was soon dispatched.
 The 1st Rattle I ever had seen, the following day
 we went on & landed in Sequatchie Valley, quite a
 narrow valley dividing two ranges of the Cumberland
 Mt. it certainly is naturally a very fertile
 country, we here ate more Roasting Ears of Corn
 than ever I did before or since, while here we
 had pretty good times, a detail of about $\frac{1}{2}$ of our
 Regiment was made to Guard a Supply Train
 back to McMinnville, so we recrossed the Mt.
 but rode in the wagons; got loaded in a day
 or 2, & then commenced recrossed the Mt., we
 then had a hun of a time getting all those wagons
 up on top of the Mt., but finally did & then started
 across, but made but little head way, next morning
 resumed the march & when we got back to the
 Sequatchie Valley, behold the army had moved, we
 took up the Valley ^{away} & then started up the 2^d range
 of Mt. here again we had a time in getting up
 the Mt. on our return trip we had to march hunc.
 it was hard on the Boys; we landed across the
 Mt. at about 4 miles above Chattanooga; the Supplies
 were for the Cavalry. here we found Wilders
 Brigade who took the Train & we were relieved of
 further duty along that line, we then

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Started down the valley, = on the north side of the Yenni & then crawled up a steep road and when we got to the top of the mt. we could see right over into Chattanooga, which at that time was but a small place, we there argued the case whether we should stay there till we could cross into the town or recross the mt. & go around there was no doubt but that our men would soon be over there = but the orders came to go around so we remarched & went down into the valley. I well remember going down, it was in the night and awful dark, we had one wagon with us & in that wagon was our Chaplain who had got with us at McMinnville; the boys didnt like him any to well at Best and in going down the driver was careless & had him scared nearly out of wits. he prayed all the way down, when we got down we went into camp & in the morning started down the valley and came out at Shellmound, ^{on the Tennessee River} here our troops had crossed on a Pontoon Bridge & hadnt taken it up yet so we crossed & then started for Chattanooga which was about 30 miles up the River. on the way I remember quite well the 1st time, that we crossed Lookout Mt., it was a dirty crude Road & took us quite a little

while to get even one wagon across, when
 we got to Chattanooga our troops had gone
 further south - so we kept right on, I remember
 passing Rosecrans Head quarters. I stopped to see
 C.S. but he wasnt just there so I went on and
 of course got behind, but directly C.S. came
 along and he asked me if I hadnt got word
 to report to head quarters for an examination to
 get into the Signal Corps. I said no, well he
 said that was curious as he had made app-
 =lication for me & I should of had. (he said)
 the notice & that he knew they wanted ^{more} men in
 the Signal Corps, so while we were going along
 a Capt Kelly of Co E, I think, heard us talk -
 he asked my Bro C.S. if he didnt have a
 Bro in this regt, my Bro said yes & then told
 of a notice that had come for Private S.H.
 Bolton - but that I had been promoted to
 Corporal & the Capt (Boyer) went up to the
 Col & told him that there was no such a
 man in his Co as Private S.H.B. so that
 ended the matter, and the news told us the
 secret of it all, well C.S. said I'll explain
 it to Capt Case of the Signal Corps & he
 no doubt would send my name in again
 but as Corporal, which he did & which

He speak of later, we kept on till I
 think we got to or in the neighborhood of
 Ringold Ga, which is out from Chattanooga
 about 12 ms. where we came to the regt.
 a mighty glad set to get back & with the
 boys again: for we all felt that there was
 something ahead of us. I think that about
 the next day we were taken to the right
 about 4 miles south of Crawfish Springs.
 I remember they put me on a picket Post
~~at~~ on a road leading East, out about a
 mile. I had charge of the Squad. I think
 there were 16 of us. & all day long we
 could see the dust fly of a marching
 column & we knew quite well it wasnt
 our men, it seemed to be just across a
 corn field. how I did ache to go & see what
 it was, but being in charge of the Post
 diddnt dare leave, Jacob Alspaach of my
 Co I placed on ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~night~~ ^{ways}, out in the woods
 quite ^{in that night} ways, all at once he began to yell
 Halt, Halt, I went out to him & he said that
 a man had walked around to the left of
 him through the leaves & he had stopped
 (Pointing) right out there, Foolishly we both
 took our guns & went out to see, ~~~

But couldnt see any thing so we went back & I to the Post, I had hardly got back till Halt. Halt. I went out again & he said after I left he went back the same way he came in so I told him to come back behind a large log, which he did & that was the last of it. about 2 P.M. we were relieved & went to camp. Scarcely got back the rebs began to shell us. of course every man in an instant was in line, our Battery Replied to them. in the eve we were ordered back & I remember we passed Crawfish Spring. I thought that it was the greatest Spring I ever saw, and it certainly was; next day we laid some where between Lee & Gordons mill & the Spring. I remember the rebs shelled us from across the Chickamauga Cruts. we I think were taken in the eve close to or farther to the left of Lee & Gordons mill. becaus I remember we were double quicted over to the right to help the Cavalry out. The Rebs were here trying to force a Crossing. & our men were ordered to hold it at all hazards so that it may be understood why all this = the whole or nearly all of Braggs army were in our immediate front, Crittendens

Corps was the only Troops here & it was their opportunity time to come on to us. Gen. Thomas's Corps (the 14th) was 20 miles down the Mt. (Lookout) he of course were hurried to come up. McCook's Corps (the 20th) was still further down the Mt. but did not cross - but got on top & then retraced & came up on the west side of the Mt. I tell you we were a glad set when they came around to us. of course after those 2 Corps came to us we held them back, and in fact the Brigade that the 49th Q.V. belonged - drove their their Right Flank back about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, but later they were driven back; This was on Friday Eve. on Sat. the Ball opened all along the Line. Charge after Charge, Churs after Churs. With our line gaining much, we were taken down on the Lafayette Road, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Lee & gardens Mill, at about 3 P.M. we were ordered stripped for the fight. I well remember that Col. Swain here made us a speech, and told us that he did not want any of his Regts (now that the opportunity presented its self) to show the white feather & bring a Disgrace on his Folks at home here, I quite well Remembering of the fighting.

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going on further to the Left & of the Smoke
moving over us. possibly 30 feet high. well
in we went, and soon ran right into Mrs.
Johnny Reb. We commenced firing on them,
our officers yelling at us - that we were firing
at our own men. I Remember they were going
to our Right at Trail arm, we began too
shoot in Earnest & then they commenced on
us. We were ordered to fall back but I
didnt hear it, some 20 of us got into a
Dry (or nearly so) Creek & from there we kept on
shooting till we were ordered back to the
Lafayette Road where our Regimental ^{mt} Monu-
ment now stands, it would seem that the gets
had got to our Right & Rear & were flanking
us, so we were ordered to fall back; &
I guess it was only done in the quick of time.
This is now 30 years since the fight & I was
there this fall & looked over the Ground,
I may just as well state here that our
Monument is on the Lafayette Road & about
400 yds from where we did the fighting.
Sure we built Breast works & held our Position.
I remember the woods took fire & many a poor
Boy was burned to Death, some of our
Boys who stood Picket that night said

They could hear the Moans & Groans of the wounded all night crying for Water &c, we here had a Detail made out of our Co, under Lieut Gay to go on Picket ~~off~~ to the right, which they did & never got back to the regt till we got back to Chattanooga, Milton Thrapp here was wounded & afterwards died, at about 2 a.m. The Command was ordered to the Left we went possibly 2 or 3 miles, here we halted on a raise & Drained Rations also clothing Sunday Morn & all seemed quiet, we were taken further to the Left & while going Gen. Rosecrans, Crittenden & their Staffs rode by. C.S. was with them, he noticed us & came over to us, he said Boys we are going to have a hot time of it today as Gen Longstreet from Lees Army was on the field & he was afraid they were too much for us, well we were marched down to the front, in an open woods, we had no Breastworks, we could see the Johnnies & their Breastworks, all at once we were ordered to our left Double quick to help restore our line, we got there too late to do any good, but were turned to the Right on a raise ^{of ground} & supported a

Battery, this was Sunday about noon, all
 the time the Rebels seemed more determined
 and aggressive; all along the line, there were
 continual heavy firing, the Battery in front of
 us sent her in hot & heavy, that drew the
 fire from the Rebel Guns & now I tell you if
 the dirt & Limbs didnt fly - its a caution,
 I think I hugged a log (I was behind) as close
 as any one could get, I remember the 49th O.R.S.
 coming out of the woods & lining up close us,
 My Bro. J. H. had been slightly wounded
 & was sent with the regt., there are many incidents
 I could here relate but it would make this
 entirely too long; off to the right from where we
 laid, our line extended off to the right in the
 shape of a Rainbow; I might here say that in
 the forenoon when we were taken out of the
 front line & double quicked to the left, the
 Rebels took advantage of it & pushed through
 & cut off 2 of our Divisions, also Gen Rosecrans
 who had rode to the right of our lines. This
 was a serious loss to us & virtually the
 Command then fell on Thomas; as Rosecrans
 was cut off and was driven back to Chattanooga,
 well the Battle Raged all day, Charges and
 Counter Charges, Bragg being Reinforced

By Longstreet, from the East. were to many men for us, also two of our divisions being cut off, we certainly were up against it, at about 4 P.M. They charged our line & as I remember it, I could see away off to the Right & here a ^{co} would give away & then rally & force the Rebs back again & then further down the Line may be the same thing happened finally a whole Regt & finally the whole line. ^{to me} it appeared to me at the time & since then that our men should of held it, as they seem to have fairly good Breast-works; and as one man behind Breast-works is as good as 2 charging those Breast-works, well = Pell mell Back they went through a corn field (which had nearly all been trampled down) men of the Infy-artillery, officers on Horse back, at our part of the Line we held them back till we seen there was no use to stay any longer so back we went & the reason I did not go faster was because I had no wings, the Rebels helped us along amazingly by sending a shell in our midst, we had quite a lot of Prisoners amongst us, it quite a little laughable to see the Gray coats Dodge. we got Back to a Ridge - where we had a good line of our men, to check them if they came

on, but they did not & Darkness came on
 and I started back, well we were on a road,
 (guess the Lafayette Rd.) and the Road was full, the
 fellows yelling their Regiments &c I quite well
 Remember some one yelling out 49th Ohio, here
 we are, down here, I went down & found my Bro.
 John, he had lost his Cap & some Johnny Rebs
 Hat on, shortly I started back again & down
 at Rossville found the Regt. in pretty good shape.
 The 21st a.v. were on Snodgrass Hill & most of
 them were captured, before we retreated I
 went back just a few rods to where some
 of our men were wounded, also of the Johnnies
 I gave them water &c, I remember one of our
 men belonging to an Indiana Regt. who was
 sitting up against a tree, he wanted to know
 what the outlook was for us, I told him I
 couldn't tell, he had the picture of his wife
 & children out & looking at them, well later on
 saw many such sights; the next morn. we left
 at Rossville & marched back to Chattanooga,
 and took position not far from the River & east
 of the town, possibly 2 miles; there we began to
 fortify & we went to work like badgers, I with
 some more were sent out on the picket line.
 I quite well remember that Lieut. McConnell

of Co G Was in Charge, we were on a Road leading east, we built Breastworks of Rails &c; possibly about 2 P.M. the Rebs. came up close enough to throw a Shell over at us, the 44th Ind were on our Right and right behind the R.R. well this Shell exploded on the opposite Side of the R.R. from them and say diddent they run, I think I never witnessd such an uncalld for Ridiculus thing as they Ran, throwing Knapsacks, Blankets & in fact nearly every thing. that would keep them from making Spud. Our Col (Swain) was officer of the Division Picket line, well if he diddent come out in a Hurry, doubled quicked some regt out & took their place & also relieved us, well the whole Army was now back in and around Chattanooga, with strong fortifications, while Braggs & Long Streets Army Hummed us in pretty close, from below Lookout Mt. to the River above. they of course held Lookout Mt. and also Missionary Ridge, we could see their Camp & also Braggs head quarters very plain from our Camp on Missionary Ridge; I here was Detailed with Lieutenant Gay, also some other one, but have forgotten who, to do Signal Service, our Duty was to go out about 12 o'clock in

The night & stay till morn. beyond the Picket line and as near to the Rebels as we could & not to be discovered, with Rockets & in case the Rebels advanced on us in force (I mean the Army) we were to send up a white red & Green Rocket, but not until we were absolutely sure it was to be a general attack, we then were instructed to get back to our command the best we could, we decided that if the worst came—which we expected we would Break for the River & wade or swim as the case might be, well the attack never came & we were mighty glad of it. During this time we were getting mighty scarce of Rations, I remember in our mess we took it upon about to go to the River & hunt for mushells many a good mess did we have from them, one Eve I saw 2 wagons drive in at a hospital I suspected they had corn, so in the night I went down to see, sure enough they were, there was a man asleep in the Wagon, well I got out one ear of corn after the other till I had an arm full, I took it back away to a stump & since the chance for corn was so good I went back & got another armfull I took it to the stump & husked it & then attempted to carry it in my arms, but I

Couldn't, so I put a good bit of it
 in my Pantaloon, well I started with
 it, it soon worked down in my legs that
 I couldn't walk & there I was in a fix,
 but by & by I got it out & then made two
 loads of it & got it to the camp all O.K.
 The Boys the next day, wondered where we
 got the corn, well we lived pretty high
 on parched corn, I remember while here that
 the Col one day called us out in Line, and
 made us a Speech, it was the time that
 Vallandigham & Brough ran for Gov of
 our State and a Provision was made by
 which we could vote, well it was Reported
 by some one that Col Swain wouldn't allow
 any one to vote for Vallandigham, which
 he denounced in strong terms, but urged
 all to vote the way they shot, a couple
 weeks later we marched to the north side
 of the River, across the 1st Range of Hills, one
 night they took us to the Tennessee River oppo-
 site Lookout Mt. to protect some of our
 Boats they had made up above & were sending
 them down the River, which they did, we here
 camped for couple days, in a Persimmon
 Grove, after the ripe ones were gone, I got

Some which werent fully Ripe & Boiled them
thinking it would take the Pucker out of
them, on the contrary it nearly took it out
of me, about this time Gen. Hooker with the
old Eleventh & Twelfth Corps came to our relief
Gen. Longstreet attacked them in the night
not very far below us & had a very
Severe Engagement Resulting in Longstreet
Defeat & opening of our Cracker line, while
we were Lying north of the River as Stated
Hooker sent his wounded men up past us
close to Chattanooga, a little later some of
our Boys were cutting trees & making Shanties
while so doing & they were right by the road
which was awful Muddy, all at once came
along Gen. Thomas & some other man with
Black stubby whiskers, he stopped his horse
& said-Boys you had better save your labor
& quit as we wouldnt be allowed to stay there
long, well we all looked & wondered who
are you, we asked some of the Escort, they
told us it was Grant; so we stopped right
there and in a day or so were Marched down
to Browns ferry & then up & over near the
R.R. and the order was soon to move on
they marched us down the Tennessee River to

403 Shellmound Tenn. here we went into camp. I might here relate that after the Chickamauga Fight. Gen. Roscrans was Relieved of his Command & Gen. Thomas took Charge of the Army & also Gen. Grant was placed in command of all of the Troops in the South West, we were placed in the 4th Army Corps under Gen. ^{Howards} Stanley & Commanded our Division. our Brigade was Commanded by Gen. Whittaker, who was a Kentuckian & a fighter; soon Gen. Sherman with his men also came to our relief, in the Rebel Army Gen. Longstreet was sent up to Knoxville Tenn. to capture Gen. Burnside & his Army. They had a hard way to get Provisions up & they thought that Chattanooga, was as well as Gained. but when Sherman & his men got up they were Marched on the north side of the River. about 5 miles East of Chattanooga. Crossed the River & got ready for the fray. we left Camp & were placed temporarily, under Gen. Joe Hooker & while Sherman commenced pounding away at the Rebs. on their extreme Right. Hooker was to commence on Lookout Mt., and did so. we as I remember were Marched where we had an old Mill Race to cross; while waiting to cross another Regt. came up, some of our

Boys knew some of their men & talked with them, it was a very full regt. their uniforms rather new & clean that said that they certainly must of been back some where during duty as Guards, they crossed in advance of us, of the regt. I'll speak of later, we followed over this Mill Race after them, they going to the left & we started up the mt. we went up quite a ways, other Regts passed us further up then we turned to the left & took towards & around the point. Possibly 3 miles; we didn't go far till we struck the goblins, who hadn't finished their breakfast, they certainly had good natural breastworks, but we started on the run & in no time routed them. Most of them gave up & held up their hands & came into our line, we kept right on; now comes something that occurred that has in our community been exaggerated & misrepresented, we came to a small fort—not over 30 feet across it, a round one; I passed the opening of the fort—which I think wasnt over 4 feet, right in the rear of, I think a co. a. Bay, then came Jake Butler, behind me I paused & saw what there was, the men were white with fear & their guns were all bent up against the —

Breastworks, a Lieutenant had charge of them, he wouldnt turn over his sword to Jake Butcher who had stopped & demanded their Surrender, but just then a capt. stepped up & he turned it over to him, well Jake always claimed great things because he captured those men, yes & here at home he was heard to say that there were 20 or 30 of them, well I didnt stop there but kept right on after the Johnnies till we got to or near their main line, at one place on top of the mt. I could see a small flag, but we paid no attention to it; when our line was again being formed I looked around me & couldnt see any of our Boys so I dressed down to a white Star regt. who were getting ready for a charge, all at once Capt. Bove ran ahead of me & yelling having his sword drawn as though he meant to cut me down, I drew up my gun & was going to defend myself, when he put his sword down, I looked around & saw our Regiment coming up in pretty good shape I immediately joined them & awaited the word given to charge, I saw ahead of me an opening in the Breast Works, I thought to myself there is where I will break for. I & Geo. Snyder

of my Co I guess were of same mind, as we both went through together. I think that most of the Regt were higher up, but below what was then & is yet called the Craven House, the 99th O.V.I. Their marker is about 300 or 400 feet above the Craven house, which isent at all where it ought to be. I think I passed the Breastworks just about where now a large Monument stands belonging to the Pennia Corps. Our Regt possibly went about where the Iowa People have their Monument. I remember after Geo Snyder & I got through the Breastworks; there was a small Patch like unto a Potatoe patch between us & the Craven house. we had off a good many of the Johnnies who either Surrendered or Ran further up & then down we were (as it seemed) an old road or Path; Right in front of us & a little to the right the Rebs had dropped a nice Blue Colors. one of the Star Boys ^{1st} saw it & gathered it up & took it Back, & great Glee, Geo & I kept Right after the Rebs till we came to a Spring, right below & at the side of a Rock, with a sort of an Excavation all around; we stoped here, filled our canteens & took a good Drink, we then took in the Surroundings

and looking back & to the right, there
Rets were in line of Battle, shooting up
at our men. I said here they are see, they
looked like so many Grain Sacks, well I
said lets shoot, I had an Enfield Rifle, he
had a Spuser, & shooter, well as I remember
we kept shooting - and if ever such a poor
shot he couldnt help hitting some one,
well I could see the fellows jump around &
I knew quite well that our shots were taking
Effect, the Rets began to change their line, some
forming facing us & away over to the Right there
was quite a Demonstration as though they
were going to charge our men, I said to George
Snyder = they are going to charge our men
and if they are successful, then we are gone
Goslings, which he agreed to, so I said I guess
we had better get back to our men, I said
you go ret, no you go ret well finally I started
up in plain view of the Johnnies, but
they had enough respect for me that they
didnt shoot much at me, so I got up
behind a large Boulder & stand a little to get
my wind & then ran for another & I tell you
the Balls did sing, they hit me on the wrist a
little, but didnt amount to much, I here

Yet pretty Secure, as I then wasent far
 from our men; I then watched Geo. Snyder who
 to get back safe, I made another Rush to
 a stone fence & here found my Co. - let me say
 that about 25 years ago I was down there & also
 this fall & I tried to locate that place, but
~~it~~ it may may have been a wet weather spring,
 hence couldnt locate it, but I found this
 fall an old earth works back that answered
 the description of the Little fort, but not sure;
 after I got to my Co as before stated, we were
 moved down the stone wall quite a good bit
 & at about 4 P.M. were Relieved & went back a
 little & made some coffee, as we had no blankets
 it was but little use to make a place to lie down,
 night soon dawned on us, about 2 a.m. the Rebels
 some how got up next to the point & came
 down on some of the Regt. (think the 8th K. Y) and
 sent a volley, well now if we didnt jump its
 curious, but the firing soon ceased & we had
 to await day light, after day light I went
 back a little & found a Dead Johnny, he had
 a Haversack full of Biscuits which I appropriate
 (were mighty good) also took his wooden canteen
 & kept it during the remainder of the war, and
 brought it home, it was put on the old

46 Kitchen Loft & I think fell to Pieces, it had
his name & Regt on it, he belonged to some
Alabama Regt. at about noon we started
down after the Johnnies (who had fled down off
of the Mt. I mustered forget an Incident
that took place in the Morn. a capt. & about
8 min. ^{of the 8th N.Y.} climbed up a ladder & got up on the top
of old Lookout Mt. got out on the point &
waved their old Regimental Flag the Stars
and Stripes which was never to be wrested from
us again, well I guess we all cheered & yelled,
and we were told afterwards that the Troops down
in Chattanooga seen it & they too yelled till
their throats were hoarse; it told them to that
we had been victorious, as during the day
before - because of the smoke & fog they couldn't
tell how the battle went, its often now desig-
-nated as the battle above the clouds, which
was literally correct, as I said before some
time in the P.M. we started after ~~the Johnnies~~
but because Hooker had to bridge a stream
we were detained till towards eve, I then thought
& think so yet that Hooker was very slow in
getting across a little stream, we were finally
across & then quick time marched over to the
Point of Missionary Ridge, as we

approached the Ridge, we could see way
 down the Ridge & see the smoke from the Rebel
 Guns, our men having advanced out from
 Chattanooga & were going up the ridge, I
 think it was the grandest sight I ever
 saw: Cannons Booming all along down the
 Ridge, men Cheering & the flags waving as they
 strode on, we too soon were marched up the
 end of the Ridge; Grosses Brigade of our Division
 were in the Lead; just at this time old Joe
 Hooker rode up amongst us on a white
 horse, I thought as I looked at him, that he
 he made the Best appearance of a Genl I ever
 saw, about this time the Balls were falling
 thick and fast, Grosses Brigade made a
 charge, Drove the Rebels Helter Skelter down
 the Ridge, which indeed was happening all
 along the line about that time, I thought then
 & think so yet that had Hooker pushed on
 back of the Ridge, we or he or both of
 bagged lots of the Johnnies, as it was my
 ran & most all got away to turn up some
 where else, well it was a great Victory & one
 the Rebels never got over. That night we
 camped on the Ridge, I Remember there
 were 4 or 5 wounded Johnnies, Rich

483 we cared for them & made them just as comfortable as we could, one of them was an officer, a very Bitter Rebel, we left them in the Moon (I think some one was left with them to see that the ambulance took them) and started after the Rebels who now were on the Rim, that night we came to a large Ridge in our front, we were filed to the Right & our Co & I think co G, were detailed to Skirmish up the ridge, it was as dark as Dungen, I remember we hadnt gone but a little way till some one in our front said in a low voice, Halt= who comes there? click went every hammer of our guns, some one yelled out 99th Ohio be God, all right, this is the 8th Ky, they had got out before we did & in the darkness got over in our front, well we started & it was as dark as 12 Doz Black Cats, I being a Corporal they put me in charge of the right wing of our Co, oh but the Boys did hate to go up that hill-as they expected a volley from the Rebs. any moment, but we kept on until we got to the Top without any thing unusual happening, and just at the Top when we got there the Moon began to peep up a little, Sgt Snyder & I went out in front & we

49/ could see by the Reflections of the Moon on the water of men getting to the Rear about as their legs would let them go, we fired a couple shots at them which helped them along. next day as we took after them, we found a Carison & two Ambulances, with wounded men in them. I believed them and do now. had some of our men followed up real close, we could of captured quite a few of them; we followed them to Ringold Ga & there had quite a Brush with them I remember that to the front and Left of Ringold there was a large Regt. went up the Hill. we were in the 3d line of Battle & right across the street in the town & could plainly see, when this regt got to the Top of the Hill the Rebs let loose on them & of all the Running I ever seen they did it! there was lots of them Killed and wounded, it turned out to be the 7th O.V.S. that Passed us back at the millrace, on the other Side of Lookout Mt.; here we gave up the chase if I remember right & Grant sent Sherman & some 2 or 3 corps up to Knoxville to Relieve Burnside, which he did in good style, we were then Taken

3rd Back to our old camp at Shellmound,
The President Promoted Grant to General
in Chief, he going East & Sherman took
Command of all the Troops in the west
we at Shellmound, were told to Build oursel-
=ves huts= which we did & went into winter
quarters; a Great many of the Troops= their
time of their Enlistment had Expired & to get
them to Reenlist= they gave them 30 days Furlough
nearly ^{all} of the men Reenlisted, and went home,
C.S. was at Chattanooga, he got a Furlough to
go home, as the Train Stopped at Shellmound
he yelled at us, we ran out & had a little
chat and the Train went on, I think that there
was 1 or 2 out of our Co to that got a furlough,
I remember that Henry Derodis was one of
them, he no doubt was as worthy as any one
in our Co, well we laid here for quite a while
doing Guard Duty &c, it was a very severe,
Cold winter, there was a cave close by= called
Pickpocket Cave, we went in quite frequently,
while here I got an order from the War Depart-
=ment to go to Chattanooga, for Examination
for the Signal Corps, I was called up to the
Capt (Boyer) tent; he apologized for his act
towards me at Lookout Mt and he said