

No. 24th Ala Regt
In the Field Sept 25th 1864

My Dear Patti

It has been several days since I had the pleasure of writing to you and even now I write at a venture for it is very uncertain when I will have an opportunity of sending my letter off after it is written. But having nothing of importance to attend to today I concluded to write any way and keep it until some opportunity offered to send it off, which I hope will not be many days. When I last wrote you we were near Lovejoy Station on the Macon Rail Road. Since then we have "changed our base". We are now in line of battle near Palmetto on the Atlanta and West Point Road and about twenty five miles from Atlanta. Our Corps is on the West side of the Road & between it and the Chattahoochee River. We left our position on the Macon Road a week ago today and marched across to this road in two days. The first day we marched twelve miles & the next twenty two. I cannot tell why Gen Hood changed his position from the Macon road to the West Point road as the enemy were making no demonstrations in that direction. It may be simply a precautionary move upon his part so as to be ready to meet any advance they may make in

in this direction. The change has broken up all our mail arrangements for the present and I dont know how long it will be before they are put right again. We have not had a Mail now for a week & the soldiers are beginning to complain dreadfully of being deprived of the pleasure of hearing from home for so long a time. The army mail is kept separate and distinct from all other mails & consequently when the army moves the army Post Office has to move also. The trouble here is, we have no cars on this road above West Point. The track from Montgomery to West Point is four inches narrower than it is from West Point up here & consequently the cars cannot come any higher up than West Point. I hope some arrangements will be made soon to have the mail brought to us. We have no enemy in our front still we are making breast works and getting every thing ready for them when they do come. I was on picket with my Regt about four miles to the front two days since we came here & had a pleasant time of it. We bought some Sweet Potatoes & Chickens from the citizens & lived very well. The people here, as a general thing are very poor & have but little to spare either for love or money. But it is the greatest country I

your business is now over
and we are waiting for the first opportunity

believe that I ever saw for children. Every house
is full of them from the sucking infant up to the
full grown girl looking out for a "Soldier's Sweet-
-heart". They all go "bare footed" I suppose from neces-
-sity both old & young and seem to take the world easy.
It is a wonder to me how many of them live during
these war times. I believe this is about the poorest
country I ever saw to be inhabited. It can beat
old Pickens by far. We have to pay enormous prices
for every thing we buy. Chickens cost five dollars
Sweet Potatoes fifteen & Irish Potatoes twenty dollars
Honey & Butter five dollars pound. Cow Peas
one dollar per quart. The Soldiers get nothing now
but Corn Bread & Beef & they spend all their money
for these little extras which they buy from the citizens.
Every thing for the present so far as the operations of the
army are concerned seem to be at a stand still
It is difficult to tell what will turn ^{up} next. I learn
that Gen. Forrest has been made a Lieutenant General
and put in command of all the Cavalry & that he is now
on his way to Blount Mountain in North Alabama
and that a portion of our army is to unite with him
and then they go to the rear of the enemy. It is
growing late and will defer concluding my letter
till some other time. There will be preaching

in the Brigade tonight & I wish to attend.

Tuesday Sept 27th I have just learned of an opportunity
of leaving my staff tomorrow by an officer who is going
to Montgomery & Hartley to confer. Yesterday President
Davis paid us a visit & we all turned out under
arms to give him the reception salute as he came along.
He is looking very well indeed. Last night he was vis-
ited by a great many officers & soldiers at Gen Hood's Headquarters
& after being served a dinner, he came out & made
them a speech. He told them all not to be discouraged
but to be hopeful & cheerful & that all would come out
right in the end. He says that we must flank Sherman
out of Atlanta by some means or other, & when we do get
him out his retreat will be equal to that of Bonaparte
from Moscow. Our camp is full of rumors of a grand
movement being contemplated & it is pretty generally
credited. It is said that we are going to Sumner
& that we will start in a few days. Gen Hood last
night in his speech asked which we had rather do,
live on paraded ground & go forward or live as we
have been doing & keep retreating. The unanimous cry
was go forward. The only objection I have in going
into Oxon is that we will be denied the pleasure of
being with you until we return which you know
will be very uncertain. We received a mail to

Hd. Qrs. 24th Ala. Regt.
In the Field, Sept. 25th, 1864.

My dear Bettie:

It has been several days since I had the pleasure of writing to you and even now I write at a venture for it is very uncertain when I will have an opportunity of sending my letter off after it is written. But having nothing of importance to attend to to day I concluded to write any way and keep it until some opportunity offered to send it off, which I hope will not be many days. When I last wrote you we were near Lovejoy Station on the Macon Rail Road,. Since then we have "changed our boss". We are now in line of battle near Palmetto on the Atlanta and West Point Road and about twenty five miles from Atlanta. Our Corps in on the West side of the Road & between it and the Chattahoochee River. We left our position on the Macon Road a week ago to day and marched across to their road in two days. The first day we marched twelve miles & the next twenty two. I cannot tell why Gen. Hood changed his position from the Macon Road to the West Point road as the enemy was making no demonstrations in that direction. It may be simply a precautionary move upon his part so as to be ready to meet any advance they may make in this direction. The change has broken up all our mail arrangements for the present and I don't know how long it will be before they are just right again.

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portion of our Army is to unite with him and then they go to the rear of the enemy. It is growing late and will defer concluding my letter till some other time. There will be preaching day, which is the first we have had for more than a week but unfortunately no letter came for me. I hope I will have better luck next time. I think it very uncertain how long we will remain here, perhaps not a great while. I will write you again soon if I can. Tell dear little Willie & Maggie Howdy & Kiss them for Pa. Remember me to Mother, Vic, & all the family. God Bless you. Good-Bye.

Your devoted Husband,
Newton.