

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Sept. 18th / 63.

My Love,

I seize the earliest opportunity that offered for sending a letter. But will not now attempt a long letter. I have just to say that yesterday about eleven o'clock A.M. after skirmishing with the enemy across the river, since the morning before. They abandoned their position entirely, as soon as I saw their lines give way I sent Lt. Cox, my acting Adjutant across in a canoe, he towed a ferry boat over by the help of some citizens, when I took a squad of men, and the new flag of the 97th crossed over and planted it on the principal works in front of the town with my own hands, amid the the most vociferous cheering and a salute from our battery. The town was closely invested by our troops attempting to effect a crossing, at several different places. When it became known that the enemy were evacuating there was of course a rivalry as to who should cross first; I am very happy to inform ^{you} that I had my flag floating on the works just about ten minutes before any other, Gen. Wagner did not happen to be there at the time, and when he came gave me quite a scolding and threatened to put me in arrest for crossing over without orders, but he was not there and thought it was too good a thing to throw over my shoulders, and although I was rickety a good deal, I did not care a snap if he ~~did~~ had arrested me. My dear it was the proudest day

of my life almost, I thought of you, and wished you could have
~~witnessed~~ ^{seen} the scene, although I had not been well for nearly two
weeks, I entirely forgot it; as I stood upon the parapet waving
the flag white sheet after sheet went up from our men on the
other side of the river - who were perfectly frantic with joy!
Major Moore, Sgt. Cox, Capt. Nailor of our Battery and
Capt. Willy of Wilder's Battery accompanied me over,
Also Dr. Gordon & Stewart, we were met by a citizen
who took us to his home and extending the hospitality of his
side table, which I relished for once in my life. This
over we recrossed and commenced shipping our troops and
baggage across, and having got fixed up yet, today
the whole of Cretchen's corps passed on through passing
after the flying Bragg - a fight is in anticipation
in the direction of Rome, Georgia, but our Brigade is
to garrison the town here, Genl. Wagner to command
the Post, the 9th to do the Provost duty, I suppose because
~~we~~ were in first. The Indiana regiments were very
mad. I have my dear wife aside for the present,
I have been so busy - I will write more in detail in
a day or two, My cold still hangs on but am going to
take some medicine to night - to break it up,

My love to all, Kiss Tiza and tell her Pa's in Chattanooga.

We lost no men, and none wounded,

Your loving and grateful husband -
Willow.

P.S. Tarran was with me today, took supper with us
and he and I took a bath in the Tennessee river.

600.00

13.

633

80

553

520

133

75
5
80

Very special



Mrs. M. Barnes
Camden
Gumby Co
Ohio,