

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Dec. 3rd 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Quartermasters Supply Train, 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Nashville, Tennessee, *{Saturday}* December 3rd 1864

Dear Wife,

I received two letters from you and have just finished reading them and now hasten to answer. I am glad to hear that you are well and the rest of the folks. I am well as usual and have been since I last wrote and I have seen about the hardest times I ever saw yet since then. I must tell you all about it. After getting my train fitted out I got marching orders for the front then at Columbia, Tennessee, 40 miles distant. I drove through in two 2 days escorted by a brigade of cavalry with a train of the 3rd Division. Our forces had then crossed the river at that place and falling back towards Nashville. I had to be up and ready to move early and only moved 1/2 mile and with orders to be in readiness at a moments notice. Consequently I got very little sleep or rest. Our men were fighting with the Johnnies all of the time. I was then ordered to Spring Hill *{TN}* to load with rations to be issued the same night and started on the road

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being sent without a guard. After moving about a mile General *{David Sloane}* Stanley commanding IV Corps *{Western Theater}* ordered me off the road with my train and to fall in the rear of the 2nd Division of the 4th Army Corps as the road was not safe until some troops had passed.

I moved my train onto the road again as soon as I got room to do so and moved side by side with the 4th Army Corps trains to Spring Hill and got there just in time for my safety. The troops had only time to get in position before the rebels were after us and I witnessed the fight from a little hill which commanded a view of the whole line. The rebs fought well and drove our line back 1/2 mile when we succeeded in checking them and moving our trains further to the rear. At dark reinforcements arrived and at 11 o'clock p.m. we again took the pike for Franklin *{TN}* and moved along finely until about half way there my train was fired into by the Johnnies from over the fence by the roadside, killing and wounding a good many of my mules and two teamsters, scaring the other teams so they become unmanageable, and driving the most of us away. They charged over fence and we succeeded getting away, some

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of the teams and most of the men. My horse threw me off at the commencement and I was left on foot after finding myself dismounted and alone or nearly so. I jumped a stone wall and made use of my legs and the rebels after me firing at me at every jump. I was lucky enough to not get hit and in the darkness made

my escape, my coattail sticking straight out behind. I climbed the first fence and every other fence I could find putting as many fences between me and them and as much rough road as possible. I got into the road again and at my headquarter wagon found one of my horses there and then I mounted myself again. I tell you, Susan, I thought you was a widow sure. I would not at that time give two cents for your chance of seeing me again at that time, but thank God that I got away and am now safe. We arrived at Franklin just after daylight without any more trouble and fed and got something for ourselves to eat. The troops arrived soon after and in the afternoon and evening they had one of the hardest fights of the war. Our loss over 7,000 and the rebels loss not less than 6,000. They charged our works, I am told, 17 times and repulsed every time. The loss of the 23rd is one officer killed and one wounded

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and twenty men killed and wounded. We had to leave our dead and wounded in their hands.

At dark I got started with my train for Nashville and arrived there without any accident the next morning, making three days and three nights without sleep and only one meal a day and one of them was cabbage stumps. I stood it first rate and my loss is twelve wagons and six mules ~~teams~~ to each wagon, two ~~wagons~~ horses, two men killed, and all my blankets and cooking tools and other small articles. I saved my desk and papers and my clothes except a few articles. Our army is now in line around this city and firing commenced about one hour ago. We can hold this place against any force they can bring against us, so have no fears. I mustered as 1st Lieutenant of Company D this forenoon for the unexpired term of the regiment, so I am now a 1st Lieutenant. I am very busy and must go to issuing clothing to my teamsters. I have 14 wagons left and orders for 31 more which will make 45 wagons. Keep up good courage and be patient a few months longer and my time will then be out. My love to all. Write soon to

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Q. M. G. Supply Train 3000 (3000) (3000)
Nashville, Tenn Dec 3. 1864

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again and took my head Dr Logan found one of
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Write soon to your Affectionate New band
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