

4

face them out. Nor did they act
isolated with this but while in-
stant firing was kept up over the
top of the breast works so that on
neither side could a head be
shown for an instant, these indefati-
gible men went to work night and
day, digging a mine straight to
the Rebel Fort. They told the
Rebels, (as they were in easy speaking
distance), that they would celebrate
the 4th by blowing them up. And
doubtless they would have done
so as when the Rebels evacuated
on the morning of the 3^d the
mine had reached half of the
distance. At other parts of the
line along the center the pressure
was great also. The position upon
the hill which Whittaker (4th
Regt.) took and which the Rebels
struggled so hard to recapture,

Never fighting on the

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Sherman's Army

On the Chattahoochee

July 9 1864

Our first view of Atlanta.

Those who share the fortunes
of this Army have witnessed many
more eventful days than the
5th of July inst. At least two-
ty times during the sixty
days since we first met the
enemy at Funeral Hill in
front of Dalton we have had
more of the strife of battle and
But not once in the conflict has the army been
more of the tug of war. A
if such may be as of the vendor's right.
~~together on the 5th inst.~~

4th of July. With a defiant
mien before the national Army
how could they better celebrate?

On the night before the 4th
our battery commanders were

as sleepless as are our enthusiastic School-boys at home on the night preceding Independence Day; and ~~had~~ we not ~~been~~ somewhat accustomed ^{all} to night firing we would have spent as wakeful a night as probably did our aunts and grandmothers and the anxious mothers of those boys at that identical time. But our treacherous battery boys are true soldiers and it is a minor sin to call them boys at all. They are almost without exception self-reliant heroic men. They were firing because they were ordered ^{and they had orders to fire in order to cover} to fire. The Rebels had left ^{and were} ^{the} ^{enemy,} ^{at the same time} ^{looking} ^{it} ^{now} ^{over} ^{to} ^{you} their strong position about ^{now under} ^{cover} ^{of} ^{his} ^{works.} Rebel forces ^{mes} nesas Mountain on the night captured ^{the} ^{day} before they had just right now of the 3^d. Their left flank had rested for three nights. ^{Tempo's} ^{with} ^{this} "push them" ^{wrong} been turned by Scifield and their line of communication was threatened. Our forces were

even in sight of their Rail Road. En passant let me say that although great credit is due to the Commanding Officer and the troops that make a bold flanking movement before the enemy yet it should not be lost sight of that in all such movements made by any portions of this Army during this campaign, the remainder of the Army has held the enemy in its front. This was the case at Kenesaw Mt.

Assaults were made by three distinct columns and with fearful losses on the very day Scifield gained his advantage on the extreme right. Davis' Div (1st Corps) got so close that the men actually fought with stones because they covered ^{which the bullet would not penetrate.} thrown their over the works. There Davis' men burrowed and nothing could

Some of the prisoners, thought or said they would fight again North of the Chattahoochee. Others said they were hurrying across the river as fast as possible. Our army pursued in all the available roads. Having no complete and reliable maps of the country it is often great labor to ascertain the right road. Of late the Rebels have swept ^{back} all or nearly all the people with them. - The 4th corps was marching upon the R.R., its shelter, and wagons going in rear of the 14th corps on a main road, near the R.R. running parallel on the West side. Hooker was three further West and McPherson & Schofield were beyond him.

There was skirmishing with the Secession's Cavalry ^{his} beginning soon after we reached ~~the~~ vacated works,

was within 75 yds of the Rebel fort upon the same ~~hill~~ hill so that the continuous stream of musketry from our works completely shattered and mashed the Rebel Chemin de fer. I doubt if such a sight was ever seen before - from the effects of bullets alone.

But we will leave those stubborn works at Kennesaw is not so difficult as the Rebels, by no means, for with them they must give up Monette and many of them said that with the relinquishment of that position would come the immediate fall of Atlanta. Johnson covered it so well that he held longer, it is said, on one day, ~~of doing to turn~~ "Contrary to his best military judgment in the eager hope for something to turn up."

We marched into Monette

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an the clear pleasant morning
of the 3^d of July jubilant ^{alike} at
the own success in expelling the
enemy from their strong hold and
also because we knew the ~~expansive~~
disappointment to all Rebels down
and the loss of morale to their
Army. We mounted to the top
of the "Nutley Institute" a large
brick building situated upon an
eminence south west of the town
and from which we could view
the country for many miles.
Little else than woods could be
seen in any direction. Stone
Mt. towers up some 20 miles to
the south east - the last strong
hold of the Alleghanies - too far
to the East to come in our path
and trouble us or comfort the enemy
as have Kansas and Lost Mts.
which are said to belong to the
same family.

(7)

We could see clouds of dust to
the south and in the direction
of these we pushed on. Our Army
moving in different columns came
upon the enemy in force in a
line cutting the R.R. eight miles
from the Chattanooga bat - with
the flanks apparently thrown back
upon this river. This point on
the Rail Road is sometimes called
"Neal Dow" Station ~~for~~ however
certainly before that pure patriot
of Maine had by his devotion
to the national cause become
a stench in Southern upturned
nostrils. - I will not dwell
upon the details of the fight of
the 4th of July - Again we passed
them on the left and in the center
and again we passed around their
left flank or pressed ~~at~~ ^{its} back
~~the~~ light Cavalry cover and
in the night they withdrew.

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directly toward Atlanta and bending back towards the North after passing the R.R. bridge thus forming a neck of land or peninsula. This neck of land the enemy now hold, having previously fortified it strongly. - Great was the joy when our Army reached the banks of the Chattahoochee and came in sight of the long-tolled-of Atlanta.

We spine, too, that some little fluttering was caused in the hearts of ^{but} not ~~in~~ the houses and streets ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ of that fair city at the first thunder of Yankee cannon. Still we go on - yesterday Scipio came the river five miles up - and today ^{the} ~~the~~ Divⁿ of Howard's ^{left} ~~left~~ with Howard's Cavalry ^{of} ~~to~~ ^{left} the same still farther up. What a terrific cannonade right before last the Rebel Pontoon-bridge was captured by

(19)

(13)

At Vinings Station - three miles from the R.R. bridge and about ten (10) from Atlanta the opposition to our progress became more stubborn. Here the main road West of the R.R. crosses the latter and leads to Pace's Ferry across the Chattahoochee distant in an easterly direction only one mile.

We had heard from a deserter upon we reached this point that the Rebels had a Pontoon-bridge across at Pace's Ferry and had been ~~crossed~~ crossing since R. A. M. It was Negro, however, said that they were in fortifications this side of the river. Both statements finally proved true. From the dense and uninterupted woods we had been unable to see anything. But scouts had reported a wagon train cross-

artillery moving on a road east of the R.R. At King's station we heard the rumbling of the wheels and were the men eager to reach the river in time to cut off the Pocahontas guard. We had now reached high but wooded ground. As the skirmish line swept over one high knot the men got plain view of Rebel troops and trains moving on a road a little more than a mile ahead. Artillery was brought up and some shells were plucked in among them with visible effect. General officers flocked to this high knot. Gen. Thomas was there and directing the artillery firing. Rebel forts could be seen some three miles ahead and to the right. The ~~trees~~ trees were cut away for the use of the artillery.

where to! the ~~tops~~^{spurings} of the hills and the steeples of Atlanta appeared less than ten miles distant. ~~nothing but a flat with occasional trees and~~ could be seen ~~between~~. The country between seemed a vast forest with occasional clearings and cultivated spots. The road where the Rebel troops had been seen proved to be beyond the river. After a brief skirmish one of our columns (Howard's) reached the river at Pace's Ferry but the guard succeeded in cutting loose from this side the Pontoon bridge. The river is about only about 125 yds wide. and swinging it round. Our men ~~had~~ got so close down on this bank that the Rebels could not take the boats out of the river nor in fact go near them without being shot. The river here bends southward running.

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Hagan's men, Wood's Divⁿ, 4 Regts.

One Cannon was captured by
Scoville yesterday evening. Our
men have never seemed in better
spirits. And to every reasonable
mind the chances for the im-
mediate capture of Atlanta
are better than those for the
taking of Richmond.

That he may not be ^{too} confi-
dent the write. of this will re-
call to mind that in June
1862 he was ^{down or fine} with the National
Army within ~~4 or 5~~ miles of
Richmond when the men
would climb the high trees
in lieu of high hills and see
the Rebel Capitol. But here
we have a larger Army than
that opposing, and if Grant de-
termines ^{us} to see, as who doubts that
he will, it must decision long-
er. Besides I have a faith

which no one is required to
adopt and whose grounds
I have not the space to declare
even were it desirable - a faith
that God's time has come for
bringing this Rebellion to an end
and that in His mercy He will
not again roll back ^{otherwise} the
wheels of our irresistible progress.

W H Howen