

Portland, Ohio, Oct. 10th, 1862.

Miss Mullie.

Once more to my fortune, (whether
good or ill I know not) to have the pleasure of
writing you a few lines. This morning is the first
opportunity that I have had to write since the 17th
of Aug^r, on which date the line of communication
was cut off from the ill-fated Cumberland Gap
when I had the pleasure of being camped.
Since that date, have not heard one word from a
friend. How gloomy has that time passed by.
And I am so anxious to hear from you that it
seems to add to the deep gloom, that hangs so heav-
ily over me. May I soon have the privilege of
perusing one of your welcome and highly interesting
epistles. And while the war may last ~~hope~~ to never
be debared of that great pleasure - for three months
unless by your desire to discontinue the correspondence.
You have long known that the 7th D. A. O. were
besieged by Cumberland Gap. By the rebels.
On the morning of the 17th of Aug^r they made their

appearance in large force on the Genl. side and
every thing looked as though a battle was certain.
Though after a few hours heavy cannonading
the rebels fell back. The same day they captured
a small force at Sander Bg. And marched to the
ford on Cumberland R. Then we were completely
gobbled, but expected relief soon. The troops were
immediately put on half rations, in a few days
that was reduced to 1/4. and bread soon gave out
then our living was beans, rice, bacon & Coffee. but
all were content, hoping for relief. until we learned
of the defeat of our forces at Richmond Bg. Then
Evacuation, or surrender was thought certain
either of which was an unsavory doom.
On the 12th of Sept evacuation was determined upon
rations were getting almost consumed. and that
was the choice between surrender and starvation. Had
more or less fighting every day. we were always success-
ful. Three of our men were killed one of them an
intimate friend of mine. a member of Capt Johnston's
company. We killed, wounded, and took over 300
prisoners while they were besieging us. though at last they
had no other way - that we could surprise

On the 17th of Sept. the entire army concentrated, we turned
every thing excepting what we wore, and carried, and that
was but little, I turned my trunk, and every thing except
ing Absent and one suit of clothes, That was truly one
of the gloomiest moments of our lives, Leaving an important
position, and destroying several thousand dollars of Provision
meat & property. And undertaking a march of 200 miles
through the lines of the enemy. All started determined
to fight until death, or go through. It is useless to
tire your patience with a detail of particulars. And I
never wish to think over the scenes, as the march en-
gs through another, On the 4th of Oct. we reached Green-
sborough on the Bank of the Ohio, 120 miles above Cin-
cinnati. We had marched 200 miles in 17 days and drew only 4 days
half rations of bacon and coffee. Outside of that we
were compelled to steal or prey what we eat, and many
times would not have time to cook more than once in
two days. And the only time we had for sleep was
when the column would halt for a few moments, Many times
I laid down in the hot dusty road and slept awfully.
Once marched 30 hours without eating or sleeping - When
we halted to rest one day, we killed every hog, goose and
chicken, in reach of us, and stole the corn to grate
meal for bread. That was the only bread we had to eat



Miss Mollie Emmett

Grand View
Spencer Co
Indiana