

Cornelius C. Platter Civil War Diary, 1864 - 1865

C. C. Platter
Adjutant
81st Ohio Infty [Infantry] Vols [Volunteers]
Savannah Ga [Georgia]
Jany 20th 1865.

Friday Nov 11th 1864.

Up this morning at an early hour and commenced loading up the things - After Breakfast I discovered that my pocket [added book] containing \$175. was either lost or stolen - I looked in every nook & corner for it - but could not find it. Left at six o'clock. 81st bringing up the rear of the Brigade - We left all our tents standing

and many things which we could not bring away with us - they were all destroyed by fire by the 52d [unclear: Ills. [Illinois]] which brought up the rear of the Division. The Railroad Depots Foundry and every thing of value to the enemy in Rome was destroyed. All the way from Rome to Kingston the road was lined with "contrabands" of all ages sizes and sexes - It was indeed a novel sight to see these people fleeing from Slavery. Every one was loaded - some with bundles of clothes and bedding larger than themselves. We passed through a country which showed plainly the ravages of war. We reached Kingston at 3 P.M., the town was full of soldiers waiting to see a Rebel Captain hung who had murdered several soldiers of the 33d [unclear: O.V.s [Ohio Volunteers]] - they were found in the woods hung up by the heels with their throats cut. We marched past Genl [General] Shermans Head Quarters at "Shoulder Arms" with band playing and Colors flying. Presented a fine appearance. Went into camp about Sundown 4 mile South of Kingston on the R.R. A beautiful day. fine weather for marching. Made out a report of "effective strength". Wrote a short letter to Father and sent it North by Mr [unclear: Alehurst (Sutler)] - Orders to march at 3.45 tomorrow morning.

Saturday Nov 12th 1864

Up at 2 A.M. had breakfast at 3 AM were under way at the appointed time our Brigade having the advance. Reached Cassville by daylight. The place was burned by our troops last Summer and presented nothing but a mass of ruins. Only two houses are standing and they are churches. Reached Cartersville at 10 AM where we halted several hours. Everything at Cartersville has been destroyed today Quite a number of wagons were burned and enough medical supplies to last a Division 3 months. Some of the brave heroes who fell at Allatoona were buried here. Col [Colonel] Bedfield Capt [Captain] Agors & c. [et cetera] We passed through the famous "Allatoona pass"

this afternoon. - If Sherman had attempted to reach Atlanta through this "pass" he certainly would have been defeated. Reached Allatoona at 3 P.M. Passed over the battle ground of Oct 4th and 5th which still presents many evident signs of a hard fought battle. Everything along the [unclear: road] gave us evident proof that Sherman intends to evacuate the R.R. from Atlanta North to Resaca or Dalton - Twelve long trains heavily loaded went north today and none South. We crossed the Etowa River at noon. Went into Camp at 4 P.M. 2 mile South of Allatoona. We had a Sumptuous supper coffee "& Hard tack" - Roads are in splendid condition and trains keep well "closed up" - We feared though a country which shows the effects of war. No houses - no fences and the road side strewn with dead mules & broken wagons. A cold & windy day. Retired early.

Sunday Nov 13th . 64

Up at 4 AM. and breakfast at 5 Rec'd [Received] a mail this morning just before starting. Suppose it will be our last mail for sometime. Rec'd [Received] one letter from home - from "Sib" - We moved at 8 A.M. our Brigade having the [unclear: rear]. We passed over historic ground today Ackworth. Big Shanty. & Kennesaw Mt [Mountain] - they looked very familiar - the two former were entirely destroyed by fire which was done by the "Yankee vandals" The 14[unclear: th AC] were destroying the RR at Ackworth. - At Big Shanty we found the RR. completely destroyed - ties burnt and rails bent. We are now certain that we are entirely cut off from communication with the north and are an isolated command. We marched today in two ranks on each side of the train. Went into camp at the foot of Kennesaw Mt [Mounain] on the South side. About 1 mile from Marietta. Genl [General] Kilpatricks Cavalry was reviewed by Genl [General] Sherman at Marietta today and it is said they presented a fine appearance. Did not go up on Kennesaw Mt. those who did. say they can see burning buildings in every direction - even see Atlanta burning - . Marietta is all a "blaze" - We had a fine days march. - the country was entirely cut up with fortifications of every description - Seen [added the] grave[deleted: s] of many a brave hero who fell in the defence of his country.

Retired early.

Monday Nov 14th 1864.

Left camp at 8 o'clock - took the Atlanta road and marched on it. until we were within two mile of the "Chattahoochee" - when we took the road to "Turners Ferry" and marched for 4 mile alongside a complete "chain" of Forts and works built by the enemy for the defence of Atlanta - It would have been impossible to have to run them by assault, and we can plainly see the reason of our flank movement "[unclear: era]" of Rosswell last July - At the "Ferry" were pontoons laid guarded by a Brigade of the 2d Div [Division] 15 A.C. The enemy had strong forts & works here

defended by heavy guns. We went into camp on the south bank of the River. We are 5 mile from Atlanta.

Tuesday Nov 15th 1864

Up at 2 a.m. started at 4 on the Atlanta road. Our Brigade "escorted" the Div [Division] supply train into Atlanta.

On the way in we passed over some familiar ground - Where we laid 16 days last August under fire all the time. Saw the effects of our shots upon the timber in front of our line. We certainly must have made it very "warm" for the enemy. Their works in our front were very strong and we can now understand why we did not assault their works. We found a great many buildings burning in Atlanta. R.R. Depot torn down and the RR destroyed. made a detail to lead our "supply train" - A large quantity of Tobacco, bread and meat were issued to the Brig. [Brigade] - At the R.R. depot saw 13.64. Pounds which were rendered entirely worthless - About 3 P.M. the RR depot which contained a large quantity of shells was fired. and at times the the explosions were terrific but fortunately no one was hurt. A large quantity of clothing which we did not have transportation for was distributed to the troops and when we left town every man was loaded with clothing Rations & c. [et cetera] We left Atlanta at 4. P.M. on the "East Point road and by the time we were two mile from town it was dark and we beheld a grand sight - The burning of the "Gate City". All the principal buildings were on fire and the sight was indeed grand. We went into camp 2 mile north of East Point - has very much the appearance of rain this evening. This has indeed been a strange day - In the morning we passed over the ground where so many of our "brothers in arms" spilt their life blood and during the day seen the destruction of Atlanta. Such a day as this one seldom sees and it will not soon be forgotten but this wanton destruction of property would soon demoralize any army -- I think Sherman intends to devastate [devastate] the whole country as he goes. This day may be considered the beginning of the campaign - Today we joined our corps and the different divisions headed southward. While in Atlanta received an old mail. Rec'd [Received] one letter from Lizzie. Recd [Received] \$50 today from R.W. Suttrell