

# Battles

Peter Keiffer  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Letter to Jennie Johnston

September 29, 1863

*.....We was tow days under heavy artillery fioring and it is almost a mirackel that we escapt so well as we did for the shelles came so thick that we did not have time to dodge them all.It is of no use for me to deiscribe to you my feelings for you dont have no idea what it is to stand before a canon. I am proud to say that Richard and myself never flingot while some of our boys got behind some trees and away from the company and even some three or four run while we was in the most danger.....this has been the hardest fight that has been fought for the rebels out numbert us three to one but for all the out numbert us they lost more men then we did if we had not had such a good commander.*

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Peter Keiffer  
in camp near Chattahoochee River  
Atlanta, Georgia

Letter to Jennie Johnston

July 14,1864

*.....I guess I will give you a full history of our charge on the 27th of June as I have a large sheat of paper.....we fell in and marched about half a mile when we was halted when Colonel McCook called all the officers together and give them the nesenary instrucshuns we took the hint then ..and as soon as our Comander returned he ordered us to load our gunes...and then told us that we had to charge the rebel breastworkes and that we the 125th had to lead the charge.oh that was a serious moment. for we know that it was a hard task to charge breastworks at a work was spoken and we march a litle further and formed our lines and awiated the singal gunes. I dont hardly know how i felt. but one thing I know I was not afraid to face the enemy....we marched 4 lienes deep 10 paces apart. and as we was the front line we had orders to carie our gunes at a right sholdershift and not fiere ontill we got on the rebel workes. but as soon as we got over our breastworks some of our boys started a yell and we all took up the dopel quick and every men run his best and that is the reason we all got mixed up together the whole brigade...we 10 steps of the rebel workes and stood for 10 minutes under havy musketry when we had to fall bak about 40 steps under the cover of a hill wher we reformed again and tryed it over again but this last charge was more tirible than the first. and many of our boys got on the breastworks where they was killed .....*