

My Dearest Chandra ,

I write to you with the hope that this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. The day that followed our last engagement at Lain's Mills brought a mixture of tension and triumph that I wish to share with you.

The morning began peacefully enough, giving us a brief respite from the chaos of the previous day. Our spirits were lifted by the arrival of our comrades who had been detained on a separate mission, bolstering our numbers significantly. Despite several Yankees deserting under the cover of darkness and early morning, they attempted to frighten us with night fire from their artillery. This act seemed less a display of their strength and more an attempt to cover their cowardice.

After midday, the Yankees renewed their attack. Amidst the confusion, my comrades of the Bedford Light and I were captured while providing counter battery fire. It was a dire moment; we truly believed we were done for. However, Moody's battery emerged from the tree line behind us, scattering the enemy and putting them to flight. This timely intervention allowed us to regain our implements and redouble our efforts.

We harassed the enemy with renewed vigor, supporting the bold 21st Georgia Infantry as they pursued the Yankees through the forest opposite our battle lines. It was another victory for us, marked by courage and resolve.

As if the thunder and smoke of our guns made the Heavens themselves jealous, we were soon met with a downpour. The rain forced us to break camp and move out as we make our way to Lima more than a month by foot. The dampness and mud made for a difficult march, but the sense of accomplishment and camaraderie kept our spirits high.

I wanted to share these events with you to give you a clearer picture of our daily struggles and triumphs. Your prayers and thoughts are a constant source of strength for me, and I hope to return home soon, bearing stories of our perseverance and victories.

Until then, know that I am thinking of you always.

Yours faithfully,

Pvt. Matthew F Foley