

Ms. A. 9. 2. 31. 72
Hospital Reserve Artillery on the Baltimore Annapolis road
five MI of Gettysburg, Pa - July 17th 1863

Miss Deborah Weston:

Please allow me to give to Mrs Weston
and to all of you - that what I saw in this great Battle here near
Gettysburg in which I was engaged last Thursday afternoon and fought and
done all what ~~offt~~ was in my power to keep the rebels back, and to
have the Victory on our Side - I am sorry that our Battery
is cut up so terrible so I fell so bad that I could Cry - seeing our
Horses all shot down we had no Splendid Horses -

We the reserve Artillery arrived at the battle ground where the 1st & 11th Corps
were fighting on Wednesday - Thursday Morning ten o'clock - no fighting
was going on then only Fickett's Division - but in the afternoon
the rebels came out it was 4 1/2 o'clock p.m. at five - the Reserve Artillery
was called for - our Battery the 9th Men - went in in high spirits - it was in
a field near a house - where three Batteries were in line on the right we
joined on the left - all free exposed to every rebel who were then 1000
yards in front of us - The battle line was in a shape of a Horse shoe - We on
the Extreme left - had a Corps on the left of us for support - We then
commenced firing with Ah Care Shot - and done very good Execution - The rebels
Batteries through the Railroad Iron at us but they fired so high - this
firing kept up about half an hour - our Infantry advanced then we fired over
their heads to the rebels - the rebels Longstreet then moved to the
left and pitched into us they fought like Tigers - up they came our Infantry
had to fall back in the Woods - they came up then to 400 yards - oh we
moved them down now - but they did not care they jumped over our dead
bodies and moved still on more to the left - they were all Sharpshooters -
our Infantry gave way then they the rebels rushed in through the Woods - but
now ad it that the 9th Men Battery showed them ware and Horses - We fired
Canister - we got out twice with Ammunition - and just the time
the rebels rushed on the guns we had none left - they outflanked us
through the Woods and Crippled all us down from both sides -

Ha

The Order was now giving to leave - but where were our Horses? all piled up in
heap killed - No Men to be able to do anything, - I was working then
as I had no Horses - to get the prolong rope (attached to the Cannon) - but I
hooked it to the Limber finding that ~~two~~ Horses were on the Limber left - but then
I saw the rebels between the Pieces - and it was then they shot me in my
left Arm through the Muscle - here we all got wounded. it was a bad
place to retreat. We could get of only two Pieces - the Center Section - for
their Horses were got - My last two Horses got shot down as I had limbered
up - they had me Prisoner - but they got so weak in trying get the Guns of
so I ran of to the other side the house - My Shirt and Pants was all
over with blood and I got weak and dropped down - they put me
in the Ambulance and carried me to the Third Corp Hospital where they
dressed my Arm - the Bone is not hurt - my Arm will be all right
again in a Month or so - when then I shall go in again and
seek revenge I hate them more now - than I ever did - the
Johnny's - Gray-Jackets - They did not get of our Pieces -
we drove them like a flock of sheep again. We had them all
back again - but my Gun is spiked - Friday Morning the
fight began again - the heavy fighting was at two o'clock - p.m. Saturday
the rebels had left - the Victory is - ours -

I lost everything I had my Blanket and Robber blanket - Working Matons
Linen - all what I got left is that what I have on a bloody Shirt and Pants
and blood all stiff - the first two days I suffered greatly in the Woods out doors
Nothing to eat and no care - especially in the Night on the Ground without any
thing under or over me - the Dr. Doctors - were all busy in taking of legs and
Arms - it looked like a butcher Shop around me the legs all
piled up on one heap - but now I am a little more comfortable I am
in a house with 76 other Artillery Men - and it is now the reserve Artillery Hospital
we got a Surgeon - and Men to dress our Wounds - two days last
night - I need not give any more account of this Battle for you will know all
about by this time and the Paper - it was the hardest and desperate fighting in this
Battle during their War! The rebels say themselves they lost 40,000 -
also one told me that they had Orders to take that Brass Battery on the left by all circumstances
which was ours the 9th Mass Battery -