

## MACK TO NAN

Friday Sept 9th 1864  
Camp near the Welldon R.R. Va.

my Dear Nan I now Seat my self to inform by the way of writing that I am well or I feel first rate ever Since I have been back to my Regt. Nan the time passes away livelyer and more Cheerful here than it did when I was at the Hospital. the boys of the Regt all appear to be in good Spirits. we are about 2 miles from the place where we was the other day when I wrote to you. I Sent a letter to you the 7th. We are working now building forts and making breast-works all around it Self. it is the Calculation a go in to winter quarters here in this vicinity and grant is building these works So that we will be Safe through the winter. they are building a rail road from City Point down here to Supply the army through the winter. there is no fighting going on here now I have not heard a half dozen picket guns Since I Came back. they are Shelling once in a while up in the front of Peters burg. I dont have any gun yet and I dont Care if they dont give me one this fall. I dont think that there will be much more fighting this fall and I do hope they will Come on Some kind of terms of peace this winter. Nan Dewitt Al and me Sleeps together we have a Comforable little tent we Sleep buncum. last night and night before last we got a candle in our little tent and went to Singing. last night the Boys of other tents crowded our tent So that we had hardly room to turn around. now I Shall have to Stop for this morning we are going to Slashing down timber and building brest works. So I will finish tomorrow.

Saturday morning the 10th

Al has been writing to Lydia and now Dewitt and me is writing to our Old Wimons. Dewitt got a letter yesterday from Bess She wrote the folks was all well and that Andy had got home on a 22 day furlow. last night and this mornng there has been very Steady and heavy fireing and Canonading towards Peters burg. we have got a line of brest works here that the hole Southern Army Cant take from us. there is a large fort that holds from 8 to 10 Canons a bout every half mile all along the line. Now Nan I will have to Stop for this morning I will try and finish tomorrow. I hope I will get a letter from you today for it Seams like a long time Since I got a letter from you but I know that you have wrote to me but it takes letter a good while to come to the front. Now Nan I will Stop for today. Oh how I wood like to Se you My Dear and have the pleasure of enjoying your Sweet Company but We will have to be patient and trust in Our god for this happiness. let us trust in him from day to day. Nan Al just got a letter from Lydia I did not get any letters [from] any boddy. Lydia wrote that they was all well now Nan I will Stop for today. good by Nan Mc

Sunday morning the 11th

Now I will Scribble a little more to you Nan I wish I Cood be at home with you this Sabbath morning. I Cood enjoy my self So well. there is no Such as Sunday here this morning the canons are firing towards Peters burg as much as they do any day and I expect that we will have to go to work all day to day as we have been at work for Some time building forts and Slashing down timber and this morning there was a Regt passed by our Camp going to work So I am listning to hear us called out to go to work but I hope we wont when I think of the pleasure that we have taken together on the Sabbath day going to Sunday School and meeting it makes me feel bad to think I have to Spend the day at hard labor. but god knows that it is not my will to do So but we are under military authority here and we have to do as we are ordered. but I hop the rope will Soon be Sliped of ove[r] our necks then we will have the privilge of white people again. I wonder how you feel today and what you are doing. I hope you are well. Nan I hope we will have the Satisfaction of living to gether again. if it was not for this hope I Cood not pass of the time at all. but lets us keep as cheerful as posiable and look a head for beter times. now I will Stop till after the male Comes in I look for a leter from you this morning. I will finish this Some time to day. now I will close this Sheet by Saying with a warm Heart good by Mc Nan Ewing

It is now ten oclock. the mail has come but I did not get any letter from you. I got a letter from bess an[d] Clay the folks at Home is all well. I Shall look and anxiously wait for A letter from you I was Sure that I wood get one this morning but now I think I will get one tomorrow morning. we have not been Set at work yet today, and I hope we wont. Well Nan Al is just now in front of me by a little fire par boiling Some mackerel fish for dinner. we drew two days ration of fish to day Al Dewit and me all Cooks and eats and Sleeps together. we always draw our pork raw and fry it our Selves we Cood have it cooked for us by the Co[mpany] Cooks but they boil it and we like pork friend the best. when we get beef we have the Co Cooks Cook it for us. Dewitt has gon to the Spring after Some water. we have it as Comfortable here now as Soldiers cood expect Bess did not write any particulars worth writing. She Said She had wrote two letters to you that She had not got any answers from. I am a fraid that your are Sick the reason that I hant got any letter from you Since I Came back to the Regt. but I hope you are not Sick. Maby my letters has been misplaced. Al Said he wood write Some in this letter now I will finish for this time. Nan write often as you can think of one that loves you when you pray. O Nan be faithful untill death. Mc

When we assunder part  
It gives us inward pain  
But we Shall Still be joined in heart  
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives  
Our Courage by the way  
While each in expe[c]tation lives  
And longs to Se the day. Mc Nan.

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Note: The last part of the letter was found by itself and is a part of some previous letter. As near as I can place it, it belongs with father's letter for Sept. 9-10-11, 1864, and I shall place same in the envelope bearing Washington post mark Sept. 13.

The lines above quoted are verses 4 & 5 of the old hymn "Boylston," the first verse of which begins, "Blest be the tie that binds," etc.

AEE 012631

Note: The context of the letter fragment AEE refers to clearly seems to place it with Mack's letters of September 9, 10, and 11. I am not sure of the meaning of "buncum," but it would appear to be the equivalent of "bully" or "excellent." The Weldon Railroad was one of several that went into Petersburg. Grant's aim was to cut off the flow of supplies to Lee's army by railway, and the capture of Petersburg would accomplish that goal.

WKE 020897