

and guns, when it becoming
dark, we returned to Nashville.

Over fifty shots struck our boat
but with the exception of destroying
our summer quarters, glanced
harmlessly ^{from} her iron decks.

The Press, a copperhead journal,
gave an account of the engagement
next day, stating that the Monitor
had her turret blown off, and
was rendered unfit for service.

If you see this copied in the
Cin. papers, you may know that
it is false, for one hundred such
batteries would be powerless to
affect us. Tomorrow we are going
down to blow their batteries from
the river banks, unless Hood
makes a general attack, which
is hardly to be expected.

Since our quarters were shot away
we have been sleeping in a transport
which the Captain pushed into service.
Since the fight I am better pleased
than ever with the Order, for a
tin clad would have been literally
blown from the river. C. V. S.
Direct as before. C. V. S.



Enclosed is a photograph of our
flag taken in the morning
from the river.

U.S.S. Monitor, off Nashville Tenn
Dec. 10th 1862

Dear Mother

I have written
you or twice since receiving
a letter from you, but as
the Cumberland river is
blockaded by Rebel Batteries I
cannot expect to hear from
any one for some time.

When I last wrote we
were in the Mississippi near
Bicksburg, but a few minutes
after starting very late
we received sailing orders
for the Cumberland river
fleet. When we arrived at
Nashville, we found Hood's
army drawn up in front
of our lines threatening
the city. I took the first

opportunity of visiting
the fort; and from St.
Ralph had a fine view of both
armies; small detachments
of which were to be seen
skirmishing between the lines.
shot and shell were also thrown
into our lines from their
batteries. some of these falling
in close proximity to my
worthy self, reminded me that
I had urgent business aboard
the Mercury, I therefore beat a hasty
retreat. A few days since
several transports were captured
a short distance below the city
and our whole fleet consisting
of eight tin clad and our
vessel were sent down to open
the river. Our boat took the
advance and had proceeded but
a few miles when six rebel
batteries opened upon us they

being stationed on the
hills on each side of the
river. We rounded to as soon
as possible and started up the
river to stop the tin clad, which
the Admiral said could not
fire five minutes if exposed
to such a deadly fire.

We were in front of the batteries
sufficiently long for them to
completely demolish our gun
on deck! and destroy the clothing
of many of the officers. I more
fortunate that the rest had
only a pair of pants spoiled.
although four shells passed
through my room.

We tore every fragment of
wood from our decks, leaving
to be seen but heavy iron;
and returned again to fight
the batteries. We shelled them
three hours with our eleven