

Camp near Forrestville,
Shenandoah Co. Va.
Nov. 16th 1864

Mrs. Ware, My dear Madam,

Dinkey has just asked me to perform the painful duty of communicating to you intelligence of the misfortune which befell Natus a few days ago. He came up in Company with me, and arrived at this place on the 8th inst. Two days afterwards, our brigade recd orders to move in the direction of the enemy – engaged him in less than 24 hours after taking up the line of march, and drove him up on his main body – a few miles below Newtown, Frederick Co. Natus was made 2d Sgt the day on which the brigade marched and while acting Orderly Sgt of the Co. which was charging through the streets of Newtown, was shot through the neck.

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As the Yankees reoccupied the town almost immediately afterwards, he fell in their hands, or rather could not be brought from the place. The Yankees fell back to the lower end of the town about 2 hours after our forces left, and young Tabb got to see him – says he was then living & talked easily – i.e. without difficulty. As a mortal wound in the neck produces almost immediate death, and as he was living & talked as represented 2 hours after being shot, I am very hopeful. Though our Surgeon did not see the wound, he says if he lived 2 hours [illegible] chances are favorable. He told Tabb to give his love to all. T says he was in the hands of kind ladies, who promised to care for him as sisters would. Dinkey is very much distraught- sleeps very little. [illegible] he will recover.

Very respectfully, yr friend

Jno T. Bray