

James Marion Kelzer (Kilzer) Letters and Military Records

45th Mississippi

Letters

Grenada Miss April 15th 1862

Dear Wife

I have a few leasure [sic] moments from waiting o the Sick and imbrace [sic] them to rite [sic] you a few lines. I am Stuck at Grenada attending a few of the Boys, who have not been able to go to Corinth with the company which Started this evening at five O'clock in fine Spirits. Three or four of the company are a little sick but none of them but what [illegible] doing well and will be up in a few days. I expect to go to Corinth in a week or two if nothing more than I know of transpires before that time. None of the Sick are in the Hospitals but at private Houses and as good care taken of them as if any where but at home, So no one need be uneasy about them. you requested me to give you the particulars of the Battle which I will do as near as I can. The fight commenced on last Sunday morning was a week about four O'Clock [sic] in the morning and lasted all day and out troops Slept on the Yankey [sic] camp ground Sunday night. our troops commenced the attact [sic] on the next morning, and drove them to their [illegible] Boats in the Tennessee river where our troops [illegible] to the [illegible] they have [illegible] on after the first days [sic] fight. In the first days [sic] Battle we took between three and four thousand prisoners, and Six Batteries consisting of Thirty Six guns and one battery was [last 2 pages are illegible]

In camp near Shelbyville Tennessee November 7, 1862

Dear wife,

I arrived here day before yesterday, after eight days travel from Columbus and am very well, but little tired from losing sleep. I am just off guard duty and have a chance to send a letter home by Mr. Featherly, who is going to Raymond to bring clothes back to the boys in the Army, and a great many of them are very much in need of them. I have as many clothes as I have any use for, except a blanket, which you can send by him when he returns if you can get me a nice colored one. And if not, send it white. I have one very good white one. If you can get me one heavy undershirt anywhere, you can send it to me also. There are a good many troops here but I do not know how many, our regiment has been changed from the 33rd to the 45th Regiment. We are still in Woods [sic] Brigade and Buckness [sic] Division and the whole under Lieutenant General [illegible]. I saw the both (of them) the other day at division drill and they are very good-looking men. I am within 75 miles of my father and mother but do not expect to get any chance to go to see them very soon. I have not seen my brother yet, though I am within a mile or two of him, but will go and see him as soon as I get a chance.

My pen [sic] is so bad I will have to finish my letter with a pencil. We are encamped on the bank of Duck River, a beautiful little stream and have plenty of good cedar wood to burn, which is almost equal to pine, and get plenty to eat and it is very well cooked as we have a very good cook in our mess. We get Turkey at one dollar and very fine ones too, chickens from 15 to \$.50 and a fresh pork at \$.10 per pound, and plenty flour and meal, so you know we are not suffering for something to eat. The Yanks are about 50 miles from us at Nashville but do not seem inclined to attack us and I think if were, we [illegible] for the South which is [illegible] we will do as it is getting very [illegible] here, it is about as cold here now as it ever gets in Mississippi, thought [sic] I keep very warm yet, tell Belluah I find the gloves and comforter she made for me very useful and think of her every time I wear them, tell her I hope she may get a good husband for she deserves one, and not too [sic] marry until she does. Tell your Pa, if he can sell my cotton for \$.15 and exchange the bonds for Confederate and enough cotton money to pay my debt at the cotton bank, to do so and then if Birdsong is in a hurry for his money, to pay him and take up my note; but if he is in no hurry, to let it stand a while longer. As for the farm, you can do just as you please, for I am to [sic] far off to tell anything about it.

I will come home as soon as I can, but I do not know how long it will be until er get far further south. You must write to me every week and direct your letters to Chattanooga Tennessee until further notice. I will try and go see my father and mother if there is any possible chance before a [sic] leave the state but the chance is very slim to go anywhere except to drill. I think I will get out of the loop ranks again before too long and if I can, will do so, as all of them will do it if they can. Take care of the stock, don't let the Negroes waste the corn and make them keep the fences up and behave themselves or I will settle with them when I come home which I hope will not be very long. Tell the boys to learn all they can and stay at home with you and keep you company. I (hope) George and Allen are well by this time. Tell Alan I will come before long and bring his boots if I get to go and see my father. Give my love to all the relatives and respects to my friends. I hope you have gotten my trunk and key. I sent it by express and will send you the receipt for it in this letter, and if it does not come to hand, make the company paid [sic] you \$175 for the clothes and trunk. My fingers are getting cold and I will quit this time.

I remain your affectionate husband until death.

(signed) JM Kelzer

PS Direct your letter to me at Chattanooga Tennessee, Woods [sic] Brigade, 45th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers, Company K (signed) JM Kelzer

Military Records

Card Numbers Form

Kelzer, James M.

Co. K, 3 Battalion Mississippi Infantry.

(Confederate.)

Private Private

CARD NUMBERS.

1 47396963

2 7045

3 7133

4 7222

5 7297

6 7385

7 8074

8 46528484

9 8525

10 49823620

[lines 11 through 38 are blank]

Number of medical cards herein [blank]

Number of personal papers herein [blank]

BOOK MARK: [blank]

See also [blank]

Company Muster-in Roll Form March 1862

(Confederate.)

K 3 Battallion. [sic] Miss.

James M. Kelzer

Pvt, Capt. Richard Charlton's Company, Mississippi Vols. (unattached.) [see footnote below]

Age 29 years.

Appears on Company Muster-in Roll of the organization named above. Roll dated Grenada, Miss. March 13, 1862.

Muster-in to date March 13, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When March 13, 1862.

Where Raymond

By whom Rich Charlton

Period 12 months

Travelling to place of rendezvous 153 miles.

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company K, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I.G.O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

J B Dowd

Copyist.

Company Muster Roll Form for March through May 1862
(Confederate.)

K 3 Battalion. Miss.

James M. Kelzer

Pvt, Co. K, 33 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for March 13, to May 1, 1862. Dated June 30, 1862

Enlisted:

When Mch [sic] 13, 1862.

Where Raymond

By whom R Charlton

Period 12 Mos.

Last paid:

By whom [blank]

To what time [blank], 186[blank].

Present or absent Absent

Remarks: Detached to wait on sick of Company at Columbus

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company K, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I.G.O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

J B Dowd

Copyist.

Company Muster Roll Form for May and June 1862
(Confederate.)

K 3 Battalion. Miss.

James M. Kelzer

Pvt, Co. K, 33 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for May and June, 1862.

Enlisted:

When Mch [sic] 13, 1862.

Where Raymond

By whom R. Charlton

Period 12 Mos

Last paid:

By whom [blank]

To what time [blank], 186[blank].

Present or absent Absent

Remarks: Detailed as nurse at Genl Hosptl [sic], Columbus Apl [sic] 28/62

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company K, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I.G.O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

J B Dowd

Copyist.

Company Muster Roll Form for July and August 1862
(Confederate.)

K 3 Battalion. Miss.

James M. Kelzer

Pvt, Co. K, 33 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for July and Aug., 1862.

Enlisted:

When Mch [sic] 13, 1862.

Where Raymond, Miss.

By whom R. Charlton

Period 12 Mos.

Last paid:

By whom Never been paid

To what time [blank], 186[blank].

Present or absent Absent

Remarks: Absent at Genl Hospital, dechd [sic] serv. (Nurse)

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company K, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I.G.O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

J B Dowd

Copyist.

Company Muster Roll Form for November and December 1862
(Confederate.)

K 3 Battalion. Miss.

J.M. Kelzer

Pvt, Co. K, 45 Reg't. [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Nov. and Dec., 1862.

Enlisted:

When Mar. 13, 186[blank].

Where Raymond

By whom R. Charlton

Period 1 yr [sic]

Last paid:

By whom [blank]

To what time Nov. 1, 186[blank].

Present or absent Present

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company K, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I.G.O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

J B Dowd

Copyist.

Company Muster Roll Form for January and February 1863
(Confederate.)

K 3 Battalion. Miss.

J.M. Kelzer

Pvt, Co. K, 45 Reg't Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Jan. and Feb., 1863.

Enlisted:

When Mch [sic] 13, 1862.

Where Raymond

By whom R. Charlton

Period 1 yr [sic]

Last paid:

By whom Maj. Walt

To what time Nov. 1, 1862.

Present or absent [blank]

Remarks: Died of wounds in Hosptl [sic] Murfreesboro, Jan. 8/63.

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company K, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I.G.O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

J B Dowd

Copyist.

Regimental Return Form June 1862
(Confederate.)

K 3 Battalion. Miss.

J.M. Kelgar [sic]

[blank], Co. [blank], 33 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Infantry.

Appears on Regimental Return of the organization named above, for the month of June, 1862.

Commissioned officers present and absent: [blank]

Station [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

Alterations since last return among the enlisted men:

Date [blank], 186[blank].

Place [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

Enlisted men on Extra or Daily Duty: [blank]

Absent enlisted men accounted for: on detached Service

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, Headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I.G.O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

G.C. West

Copyist.

Prisoners of War Form
(Confederate.)

K 45 Miss

J.M. Kelzer

Pvt Co K 45 Regt. Miss

Appears on a register of Prisoners of War, Department of the Cumberland.

When captured [blank], 186[blank].

Where captured Stone's [sic] River

By whom captured [blank]

When paroled [blank], 186[blank].

To what point forwarded [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

Dept. of the Cumberland, Reg. No. 1; page 138 (Hd. Qrs. Prov. Mar. General, Nashville, Tenn.)

I N Hammer

Copyist.

Prisoners of War Form
(Confederate.)

K 45 Miss

J.M. Kelzer

Pvt. Co. K 45 Regt. Miss

Appears on a register of Prisoners of War, Department of the Cumberland.

When captured [blank], 186[blank].

Where captured Stone's [sic] River

By whom captured [blank]

When paroled [blank], 186[blank].

To what point forwarded [blank]

Remarks: Died January 8 1863

Dept. of the Cumberland, Reg. No. 1; page 140 (Hd. Qrs. Prov. Mar. General, Nashville, Tenn.)

I N Hammer

Copyist.

List of Confederate Prisoners Who Died Form
(Confederate.)

K 45 Miss

J.M. Kelzer

Pvt Co. K. 45 Reg't [sic] Miss

Appears on a List of Confederate prisoners who dies within the Federal lines, in the Department of the Cumberland, from December 31, 1862, to March 1, 1863.

List dated Not dated, 186[blank].

Where taken prisoner Stone [sic] River

Cause of death Gun shot wound

Date of death Jany [sic] 8, 1863.

Place of death Murfreesboro

Remarks: [blank]

Hospital roll: 1; page 8

Dept. Cumb. [sic]

J Furek

Copyist.

Register Form for Confederate Soldiers who died
(CONFEDERATE.)

K 45 Miss

J M Kelzer

Co K 45 Miss Regt

Names appears on a Register [see footnote below] of Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Confederate States who were killed in battle, or who died of wounds or disease.

Where born Tenn [sic]

When deceased 7 Jany [sic], 1863.

Where and from what cause [blank]

Amount of money left [blank]

Effects [blank]

In whose charge [blank]

When received 1 June, 1863.

Number of certificate K114

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: This register appears to have been compiled in the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office from returns furnished by Hospitals and by Regimental and Company Officers.]

Confed. Arch., Chap. 10, File No. 7, page 146

W A Ruess

Copyist.

List of Casualties in Cleburne's Division January 1863
(CONFEDERATE.)

K Miss.

J.M. Kelser [sic]

Pvt. Co. K 45th Miss.

Appears on a LIST of killed, wounded and missing, in Cleburne's Division, Hardee's Corps A.T., in the battle of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862.

List dated Jan. 16, 1863.

Remarks: Wounded severely in leg.

Series 1, Vol. 20, part 1, page 779.

E. Rucker

Copyist.

Handwritten Note

No K114.

J.M. Kelser [sic]

Co K

45th Mis

[stamp: ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE CONFEDERATE ARCHIVES DIVISION]

order 80

order 80

7 May 1863

Discharge Certificate

FORM No. 4

Certificate to be Given to a Soldier at the Time of his Discharge

Statement Showing the pay due a deceased Soldier

I Certify that the within named J.M. Kelzer a Private of Captain Thompsons [sic] Company (K) of the forty fifth of Mississippi Infantry born in [illegible] County in the State of Tennessee aged 31 years 5 feet 9 inches high, fair complexion blue eyes black hair, and by profession a Physician was enlisted by Capt [sic] [illegible] at Raymond Mississippi on the 13th day of March eighteen hundred and sixty two to serve for one years [s is crossed off], and is now entitled to a discharge by reason of dead

The said J.M. Kelzer was last paid by Paymaster Capt [sic] Shearer to include the 31st day of October eighteen hundred and sixty two and has pay due from that time to the present date of his death the 7th of Jan. 1863

There is due him for traveling from [illegible] Tenn [sic] to Edwards Depot Miss being [blank] miles at [blank] per mile [blank]

There is due him Twenty five dollars eighty six cents dollars [crossed out] on account of Clothing drawn in kind

There is due him for Commutation of Horse [blank] day at [blank] per day.

He is indebted to the Confederate States nothing

He is indebted to [blank] Laundress [blank] dollars

Given in Duplicate at War trace Tenn. this 1st day of May 1863

[blank] Commanding Company.

For pay from [blank] of [blank], 186[blank] to [blank] of [blank], 186[blank] being [blank] months and [blank] days at [blank] Dollars per month

For pay traveling from [blank] to [blank] being [blank] miles at [blank] per mile

For Clothing not drawn [blank]

For Commutation of Horse [blank] days at [blank] cents per day.

Amount [blank]

balance Due [blank]

Received of [blank] Paymaster Confederate States Army, this [blank] day of [blank] 186[blank] dollars and [blank] cents, in full of the above account.

Pay [blank]

Traveling allowance [blank]

Clothing [blank]

For Commutation of Horse [blank]

Dollars [blank]

[Signed in Duplicate.]