

nd J. Hines are doubtless killed. Hess left the works a second before me and when urged to run would not. Our company's position was some rods west of the Columbia Pike. I crossed an open field near the outskirts of town where a locust grove stood and where a sharp ravine put out towards the river. This ravine had some bluffs or banks on either side. Some said, "go down this," which would have been certain capture or death as was the lot of Hess and Asa Gay [?] etc. We had been here but a short time when we found all or nearly all had forsaken the 2' line for the 3rd and last ditch. By this time musketry and the roar of guns was deafening. Bullets commenced coming from the rear and the smoke of battle shut out the view of the movements. Not an officer was to be seen. It was evident that man could not long live there exposed to flank, front, and rear fire. I resolved to attempt to reach the rear line, but in so doing was to be exposed to the fire of friend as well as foe. 3 of us started together. I alone reached our lines in safety. Here one of our batteries was playing and the concussion started the blood from nose and ears. This was all done in much less time than it takes to write it. They charged and recharged us in this last position, but in vain. We counted 17 distinct charges and had our brigade the 2nd of 2nd Division (Wagner's) been drawn back from its advanced position before the action began, when it could have been done in good order and placed behind these works our loss would have been much less. We counted from 12 to 16 distinct charges upon our lines. At 12 (midnight) got orders to leave the works as quietly as possible and all our dead and badly wounded turned over to the tender mercies of the enemy. Our trains were all night till midnight crossing the Harpeth River. Among the wounded of Co. D are Captain Davis, N Hart, G.E. Huffman, L Holcomb, Wm. Wands, J.J. Carpenter. Killed: T.J. Drake, Joseph H. Hines. Missing: A. Hess. We made Nashville a distance of 20 miles about noon without sleeping or eating, without shoes myself, and still hearing the appalling and deafening roar of musketry and artillery ringing in my ears. Drank a pint of strong coffee and layed down under the guns and forts of Nashville, wakened up by one of our boys at sundown to eat some supper and prepare for a night's rest, such as we had not had since the fall of Atlanta. By morning the roar in my ears was nearly gone, but it was some time before we got all the burnt powder and black from our countenances.

11 Mo. 30": Rebel loss 7,000, 2,200 killed and 7 generals killed and wounded. Our loss 1,800 or 2,000

12 Mo. 1" 1864: 5th Day. We left the battlefield of Franklin between 1 and 2 A.M sleepy, tired, hungry, and myself barefoot, but the hardest of all was leaving our dead and badly wounded to the mercy of a relentless foe. We reached Nashville about noon. Took a strong cup of coffee and fell asleep and dreamed of being in battles and hearing the clangor of musketry. Day pleasant, but frosty in A.M.

12 Mo. 2": At arms by 4 A.M. No sleep to us last night. About 2 P.M. the enemy made some demonstrations along our lines. Our batteries opened and kept up a vigorous fire, shelling till dark. Have not got all the dust and smoke of Franklin Battle from my face yet.

12 Mo. 3": Rainy. Moved in the evening 1 mile and took position on the right of the Shelbyville Pike 2 1/2 miles from the Capitol building and began fortifying immediately. Tennessee has one of the handsomest statehouses in the U.S., of Tennessee marble.

12 Mo. 4": Had meeting in the afternoon. Members of U.S. Christian Commission spoke while a few rods distant one of our batteries were

throwing shell into the rebel lines. Our traps are on and we are on the alert. Shelling kept up all day.

12 Mo. 5": Second Day. Clear the most of the day. Skirmishing kept up all the time. Drew some clothing. Received a letter from mother. Today I and Joseph Wetherel took a stroll through the grounds, belonging to a man named Aolan [sic]. The cost of surroundings is said to have cost one million dollars. Statues, greenhouses, monuments, etc., the prettiest grounds I ever saw.

12 Mo. 6": Pleasant with sunshine. During the night picket firing. Capt. Davis returned, not so badly hurt as was at first feared.

12 Mo. 7": 4th Day Seven days have sped by on lightning wings since the bloody afternoon of Franklin. General Elliott succeeds General Wagner in commanding our division (the 2nd, 4th A.C.)

[12 Mo. 8-10": no entries]

12 Mo. 11": First day. Blowed all day. No news. Very exceedingly cold. Very lonely since the Franklin affair. My 22nd birthday today.

12 Mo. 12": Went to Nashville to get some photos taken. Drew rations and 60 rounds of ammunition. Everything indicates a move soon. Cannonading today.

12 Mo. 13": Wakened up and ordered to be ready to move at daylight! At 11 P.M. we have not yet moved. Did not move today. Very windy in the evening and began to rain.

12 Mo. 14": 4th Day. Ordered to get up and have breakfast over by daylight. Warmer and very foggy all day. Some cannonading about 3 P.M.

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

12 Mo. 15": 5th day. Reveille at 4 ready to march at daylight. Marched, struck tents and our brigade moved to the right and massed on the left of 1st Brigade. 1st and 2nd Brigades forming 2 lines of battle. 3rd Brigade in reserve for our division. 3rd Division on our left, the 1st Division reserve for our Corps. General T.J. Wood commanding. Heavy cannonading began early on our right--A.J. Smith's and Schofield's forces which increased with intensity and musketry. At 2 P.M. a charge was made carrying the rebel works on our right. We advanced slowly and cautiously awaiting the movements on our right as that portion of our line must move much faster until near 4 P.M. when the 4th Corps made a grand charge taking several prisoners. And I saw three pieces of ordnance and caissons in works through which our division passed. The rebels staid by their guns to the last minute. Saw several poor fellows dead or dying in these works. Our regt. lost 1 man of Co. B. killed on skirmish line. We now came to a halt, it being dark. 1,200 prisoners and 18 pieces captured today by our Corps.

12 Mo. 16": Sixth Day. Moved at early dawn. Marched in line of battle towards the Franklin Pike on our left 1/2 mile when our skirmishers found them. We got our batteries in position and shelled them vigorously till 10 A.M. when a charge was ordered through a thin wood. Our division had to pass on the right of the Franklin Pike, but our men failed to carry their works: Sargeant Gaylord Co. C was killed. Captain Davis wounded again.

Col. Baines, Adair also Arick [possibly Barnes; this name appears in the diary several times and is difficult to interpret with certainty.] It was reported that myself was also slain from similarity to Gaylord. But about 3 P.M. a grand charge was made from the right which was successful and we took many prisoners estimated at 5,000, and 30 pieces of artillery. We pushed right ahead as fast as we could go; the enemy were completely panic stricken and strewed the way with everything that impeded their flight. Rained in the night. Hood's army never made any determined resistance afterward.

12 Mo. 17th: Seventh day. Followed on a rapid pace, our cavalry fighting their rear guard and picking up stragglers. We halted for the night 2 miles north of Franklin, tired, as it rained nearly all day. Heavy musketry and artillery firing some miles ahead in the neighborhood of Spring Hill. Our cavalry moved on through Franklin.

1st Day, 12 Mo. 18th: Very different from 18 days ago when we passed through going north, being driven back by Hood's superior numbers. I stopped in the hospital a moment to see our poor boys; saw Nathl. Hart and walked through the battlefield in our front it being the most interesting portion to me. Our dead were buried in our entrenchments, the rebel graves were very thick. Almost up to the last line of works were C.S. horses lying. We pressed on too fast for the rebels to get away; they made a last feeble stand 10 miles south of Franklin. Our cavalry drove them, taking four pieces of artillery and some prisoners. Rained nearly all day. Went on picket at dark, half way between Spring Hill and Columbia. Marched 20 miles. There has been 64 pieces of artillery captured in 3 days by our army.

2nd Day, 12 Mo. 19th: Our cavalry pursued at daybreak. Our division went next; went 4 miles and came to a creek, the rebels on the opposite bank in perhaps small force. We halted for the day as it proved, our artillery shelling them considerably. Some rebel sharpshooter shot pretty close to us, struck a stump on which I was reclining. Another close call and narrow escape to be remembered with thankfulness. Rained most of the day. Saw several prisoners who were taken here.

3rd Day, 12 Mo. 20th: Got dinner over just as orders came to move. We crossed the creek and went toward Columbia where we could see something burning; marched 4 miles and went into camp on the north side of Duck River. (Rained in the night.)

4th Day, 12 Mo. 21st: Cold and windy. Layed still all day. Snowed some. Very smokey about camp.

5th Day, 12 Mo. 22nd: Very cool all day. Layed still through the day. By night bridge was completed and about 9 o'clock P.M. we tore down tents and moved over and through Columbia, camped 1/2 mile south of town. Marched 3 miles tonight. Extremely cold. Savannah fell into our hands today.

6th Day, 12 Mo. 23rd: Layed still until 3 P.M. We moved on the Pulaski Pike, 3rd Div. in advance. Some cannonading in front in the afternoon. Camped after night. Lucky enough to get plenty of rails for fires. Marched 5 miles.

7th Day, 12th Mo. 24th: Marched at 11 A.M. Skirmishing between our and the rebel cavalry through the day. Went through Linnville about 4 P.M. Camped about dark 3 miles from town near where we staid all night when

foraging from Pulaski. Marched 15 miles. I went on guard. Linnville has been burned by our men in retaliation for the deeds of murder, etc., of Guerrillas harbored in the vicinity.

1st Day. 12th Mo. 25th: Christmas Day again, while many are partaking of their sumptuous dinners at home, among their kindred, still finds us in the waste wilderness of war. The morning damp, cold and cloudy. Marched at 10 A.M., turned to the right in Pulaski, crossed Richland creek mud road, now, hub deep. Camped about 3 miles from Pulaski marched today 13 miles. Our cav. were skirmishing pretty briskly this afternoon. It is said that 600 of our horses were captured. We saw plenty of wagons and caissons containing ammunition this side of Pulaski. Heard today that Sherman had taken Savannah with 8000 prisoners and General Hardee. Rainy in afternoon.

2nd Day. 12th Mo. 26th: Cloudy in the morning. We had to go back on the road to help our supply train up. We got 3 days rations to last five. No mail. No move yet at 2 P.M. The 1st & 3rd Divisions are camped in advance of us. The rebel army here are represented as being in a sad plight. One month ago when they were near here going north the men were jubilant and in good spirits, but having fought 3 battles, "Spring Hill", Franklin, and Nashville, with a loss of at least 15,000 men & driven 80 miles into the confederacy I think they may begin to see the hopelessness of their cause, as they trudge along shoeless & blanketless as many are. As well as ourselves.

3rd Day. 12th Mo. 27th: Moved at daybreak, through mud & rain, marched 10 miles & camped near Sugar Creek about 3 P.M.

4th Day. 12th Mo. 28th: Reveille at 4, marched at 7 A.M. through a wilderness country, camped about 4 P.M. Marched 12 miles. Clear & pleasant all day. Went through Lexington, a few scattering houses near the Tenn. & Ala. line.

5th Day. 12th Mo. 29th: Clear and cold in the morning. Reveille at 4. No move today. I went foraging 5 miles out. Got nothing but meat. Not so cold as yesterday.

6th Day. 12th Mo. 30th: Reveille at 4. Orders to get breakfast over and be ready to move at daylight. Morning cloudy & damp. We are in a low marshy country. No move as yet 1/2 past seven. Layed still.

7th Day. 12th Mo. 31st: Marched in Ala., moved at 11 A.M. went back to Lexington & drew rations, 3 days to last five; then moved toward the east in the direction of Elkton, marched 8 miles and camped at night.

1st Day. 1st Mo. 1st, 1865: Nearly clear and quite cool. The boys were shooting at an early hour in honor of the New Year. 2 years ago today we were on the battlefield of Stone River. The rebellion is certainly destined to see its inglorious end in 1865. The sword of the Union is constantly gaining new victories and our flag is finding a welcome on ground hitherto hostile to us. Made these notes by campfire ere the bugle blast had sounded reveille, which was at 1/2 past 4. Breakfast by daylight. Marched at 9 A.M. Camped near Sugar Creek in Ala. early in afternoon. Marched 6 miles. Pleasant thro. the day. Got some forage, etc.

2nd Day. 1st Mo. 2nd: Clear & pleasant in the morning; probably we may lay here today as we have no orders. Clouded up & looked like rain. We

re in Limestone County, Ala. Prayer meeting held in the evening.

3rd Day. 1st Mo. 3rd: Rainy in the morning. How many blessing we enjoy and are continually receiving from the Almighty, both as a nation and individuals. Moved at 2 P.M., crossed the Elk River on a bridge. Camped about dark. Moved 8 miles. Had mush for supper. Baked corn pones for breakfast.

4th Day. 1st Mo. 4th: Reveille at 4, marched at 6, our brigade in the advance of our division. The other 2 divisions are ahead of us. Halted in Athens about 11 A.M., 25 miles to Huntsville. Camped about dark 13 miles from Athens. Marched in all today 23 miles, the country low and wet. All tired.

5th Day. 1st Mo. 5th: Reveille at 4, marched at 6. Reached the suburbs of Huntsville about 11 A.M. The country passed over today more rolling and healthier than yesterday. Some elegant residences here; said to be the most fashionable town in the South e're the war. Camped 1 m. west of town. Marched 11 miles today.

6th Day. 1st Mo. 6th: Rained all day. Moved at 7 1/2 A.M. to select a camp; found one position, to give it up for another. Got our stakes set & guns stacked by 3 P.M. Talk is we now go into winter quarters here and build huts 10 x 7 feet. We are on the left of the railroad going from Decatur to Huntsville, 2 mile from the latter place. Everyone is anticipating a season of rest in store. How it will be the future can one decide.

7th Day. 1st Mo. 7th: Clear & cold. We took boards off a fence and began our house. Got some mail. Col. Baines [?] & Capt. Davis came up.

1st Day. 1st Mo. 8th: Went 2 miles for brick, hired an old darkie to haul them. Got our fireplace finished, etc.

2nd Day. 1st Mo. 9th: Raining in the morning; wrote some letters. Wet all day.

3rd Day. 1st Mo. 10th: Colder than yesterday. We washed clothes in afternoon. In the [P.M.] I was detailed to go with a foraging train tomorrow.

4th Day. 1st Mo. 11th: Up at 5 A.M. Reported at Brigade Headquarters at 6 o'clock, went out 13 miles crossed Indian Creek got plenty of corn & meat, the country rich & fertile. Loaded our wagons & corralled near the place the wagon train was mostly loaded on one plantation.

5th Day. 1st Mo. 12th: Started for camp at sunrise where we arrived at 2 P.M. The day pleasant. Today we heard of Nathaniel Hart's death which occurred on the 3rd of this month from wounds at Franklin.

6th Day. 1st Mo. 13th: Clouded up towards the close of the day. Capt. Arick arrived from home.

7th Day. 1st Mo. 14th: Policed quarters etc. Drewed 5 days rations. I took my Enfield to pieces & cleaned it.

1st Day. 1st Mo. 15th: Clear & pleasant. Inspection of company at 9. Rumors of peace. Read all day except to attend meeting.

2nd Day. 1st Mo. 16th: Pleasant. No news. (Ft. Fisher fell)

3rd Day. 1st Mo. 17th: Pleasant & warm. General inspection at 2 P.M. Got my photos from Nashville. We are camped in one of those beautiful groves so common in the south on plantations belonging to the chivalry. Geo. Newman a recruit to our company came up from Malta.

4th Day. 1st Mo. 18th: The day pleasant. Wrote 2 letters.

5th Day. 1st Mo. 19th: Pleasant, though clouded up & looked like rain. On camp guard at night.

6th Day. 1st Mo. 20th: Received a letter from Bro. Aaron. On company drill in forenoon. Battallion drill in afternoon by Col. M. Bains [?].

7th Day. 1st Mo. 21st: Raining & warmer. Report of the fall of F. Fisher & displacement of Ben F. Butler. [Entry of 1st Month 16th regarding Ft. Fisher evidently added to show proper day of the event at time of copying war diary in 1882]["displacement of Ben F. Butler" refers to bumbling ineptitude of General Butler in attempting to take Ft. Fisher, after which he was recalled by Gen. Grant, sent to Massachusetts, replaced by tough Major General Alfred H. Terry, who completed the capture of the Fort.]

1st Day. 1st Mo. 22nd: Raining some today, attended meeting in morning. Over at 26 OVI in the evening.

2nd Day. 1st Mo. 23rd: Snowing & cold all day. The papers contain favorable news: gold 206 etc., etc.

3rd Day. 1st Mo. 24th: Very cold & raw. All day tho the sun shone brightly in afternoon. Studying short hand.

4th Day. 1st Mo. 25th: Clear & cold. Drawed 4 days rations. Washed, etc.

5th Day. 1st Mo. 26th: Quite cold all day. Occupied in reading and study. Clear & bright.

6th Day. 1st Mo. 27th: Clear & cold. I studied phonography some. [There follows a line of characters which an 1865 phonographer might recognize.]

7th Day. 1st Mo. 28th: Clear & cool. Drawed some things sent out by the Sanitary Commission such as tomatoes, apple butter, onions, etc. They were good.

1st Day. 1st Mo. 29th: I read some 3 or 4 books in Pallocks Course of Time, very interesting. Clear & cool.

2nd Day. 1st Mo. 30th: Israel Hoopes & myself went to Huntsville. There I saw the most beautiful springs I ever saw, it is the head of Indian Creek. I could see the pebbles on the bottom some 6 or 8 feet under water as it gushes out beneath a hill sufficiently large for water power. I wrote a specimen of my writing to send to Division Headquarters as a clerk wanted there.

3rd Day. 1st Mo. 31st: Hoopes started for home on furlough. I rec'd a letter from my mother. The day pleasant, occupied in reading, etc.

4th Day. 2nd Mo. 1st: Pleasant and warm for the season. Rec'd a letter from Bro. Smith. Battallion drill at 3 P.M.

5'2'2": [Joshua changes his style of designating day and date at this point] Cloudy in the morning. Rained in the evening. Went over to the 26th Regiment. Fred M. gave me a quire of paper. Wrote a letter to cousin R. Tomlinson.

6'2'3 Cloudy & rained some at times thro the day. Wrote letters & read some.

7'2'4 Warm & clearing off. No news.

1'2'5 Rainy & cold in the morning. Turned to snow before night. Rec'd a letter from Uncle Aaron P.

2'2'6 Quite cool. I was detailed on guard.

3'2'7 Very cool. I bought 2 books, went on guard again in evening.

4'2'8 Gen. Vandever is now our Brigade Commander.

5'2'9 Pleasant today though quite cool yet.

6'2'10 Clear & pleasant all day, just beautiful. Wrote a valentine to Susan Gilbert.

2'11 Pleasant; no news.

1'2'12 Signed the payrolls for four months pay.

2'2'13 Cold & rainy

3'2'14 I rec'd a letter from Aaron & wrote one to mother.

4'2'15 Jesse Car came to company today. Cloudy & damp.

5'2'16 The cars made the 1st trip through via Pulaski from Nashville since Hood's retreat. Played ball some.

6'2'17 Extremely windy; violent gusts of wind altho sun shone clear. Washed clothes.

[Between 17th and 18th is a line of phonography symbols]

7'2'18 Clear & pleasant all day. Very warm.

1'2'19 On guard. Smokey in the distance like autumn. Pleasant.

2'2'20 Much resembles spring in the north; clear & pleasant.

3'2'21 We were called up to Headquarters this a.m. when we were told that a dispatch had been received stating that the city of Charlestown was now Sherman's possession, having been evacuated by the rebels. Leut. Gosage led we give 3 cheers for the fall of Charlestown also for Sherman and his noble army, which was done. Rec'd a letter from M.P. Weather cloudy & windy.

- 2'22 Wind & rain most of the day. At noon a national salute was fired in honor of Washington's birthday. Rec'd a letter from Bro. Jas.
- 5'2'23 Rained nearly all day. Wrote a letter to Uncle Jesse.
- 6'2'24 Cloudy & warm. Chopped wood, etc.
- 7'2'25 Very hard rain & wind; our tent leaked like a riddle.
- 1'2'26 Clear again & pleasant.
- 2'2'27 Warm, began raining about night but cleared off again.
- 3'2'28 We were mustered for pay. The day mild with some light clouds. Received a letter from cousin Dan'l and also one from cousin R. Tomlinson. [Six short-hand symbols:]
- 4'3'1st: Brigade drill in afternoon. No news today.
- 5'3'2 Rained all day quite hard with thunder & lightning. Rec'd a copy of the Waverly Magazine from Belleville, Ohio.
- 6'3'3 Wrote a letter to coz. Dan'l. Rained exceedingly hard in evening.
- 7'3'4 Today Pres. A. Lincoln begins his' new term of service. Cool & cloudy. Drew rations.
- 3'5 Clear & pleasant. No mail owing to R.R. bridges being washed out. Attended meeting forenoon & evening. Wrote a letter to Cousin R. Tomlinson.
- 2'3'6 Clear & pleasant. No mail yet.
- 3'3'7 Clear & windy. Battallion drill no news.
- 4'3'8 Rained in the morning. Brigade drill in afternoon & cleared off in the evening. I was detailed H.Qtrs guard.
- 5'3'9 Rained again. We got some mail. Turned very cold in the evening. Snowed, froze quite hard. We were to have had review but owing to the weather it was postponed, etc.
- 6'3'10 Quite cool forepart of the day, got warmer towards evening. No mail.
- 7'3'11 Detailed on Brigade Guard. Clear & pleasant. Israel Hoopes returned from home.
- 1'3'12 Pleasant except windy thro. the day. Joe Wetherel came up. We are looking for marching orders any day.
- 2'3'13 General review in forenoon by Major General Stanley: we were in tight trim, nothing but guns & cartridge boxes. In the afternoon orders came for our regiment to move to town & release the 84th Ill of 1st Division, who had been doing provost duty there. We moved everything to town (Huntsville, Ala) before we rested. Got down to town about 11 P.M.
- 3'3'14 Finds us in the Court House yard at Huntsville, Ala. I am on

guard. Rec'd a letter from Uncle Jesse.

4-3-15; 5-3-16 [Joshua confesses these original entries in his war diary were "written in Phonography which I can not now read as it has become rusty in my memory."]

6'3'17 I was on guard. Cool all day. No news of note.

7'3'18 Warm & clear. Fred Mercer was here. Attended meeting in the evening.

1'3'19 Pleasant. Attended Sabath School in morning then Episcopal & in the afternoon the Presbyterian. James Hanson was here during the day.

2'3'20 I strolled around through the town. Rec'd a letter from mother. Rained in the evening.

3'3'21 Wrote one letter. Read some, etc.

4'3'22 Clear & cool & quite windy. I was on patrol guard. No mail today. There was a picture of our quarters taken with the C. House. Gold down to 157 3/4; Cotton 50 cts per lb.

5'3'23 Washed some clothes. The day mild & pleasant except quite windy and blew dust in one's eyes if he went out on the streets. War news generally good. Our ambulance train was shipped towards Knoxville, Tenn.

3'25 Quite cool & windy all day.

1'3'26 Attended sabath school, did not go to hear preaching. I was on duty at 12 noon. Went to meeting in the Presbyterian house which was small & lifeless -- to me at least. Our supply train was loaded on the cars & started for Bulls Gap. The 57th Ind. went as guards.

2'3'27 Cloudy, with a pleasant breeze. Received orders this A.M. to move by 2 P.M. Drewed 6 days rations. We left our comfortable quarters about dark, so the possibility of sleeping much is out of the questions. This seems quite like home to us as we have laid here 11 1/2 weeks, a long time for us to be in one place.

3'3'28 Daylight found us near Bridgeport, Ala. Got into Chattanooga about 9 A.M. Our brigade is all along except the 57th Ind which went up some days since. Left Chattanooga at 2 P.M. Got to Charleston by dark. The train just behind us ran off the track & killed one man in the 28th Ky. Rained most all night.

4'3'29 Daylight found us in Knoxville, E. Tenn. Started on; 12 miles east the bridge over a large creek gave way with the train which preceded us killing the conductor & 48 soldiers. We had just as likely shared the same fate if our order had been reversed; another cause for profound thankfulness for our deliverance & also a warning that in life we are in Death even when we think ourselves safest nothing but Divine Power can protect & guard us in dangers both seen & unseen by mortal man. Our train back to Knoxville where we arrived at 2 P.M. Got off the cars & marched out on the right of Ky R.R., put up tents & went into quarters for the night. Rained.

5'3'30 Rained quite hard this morning. Cleared off & turned very windy.

ailed in the evening.

o'3'31' Very cold & raw. Have orders to move at 12 M today. 5 P.M. we did not move per order. 3 or 4 trains have gone to the front this afternoon.

7'4'1 Tore down tents at 6 A.M. Got aboard the cars at 7. Did not move out for 2 hours. Passed Morristown in the evening, 35 miles from Knoxville. At dark got to Russellville; our tender ran off the track, had to lay here till morning. Country nice & rich.

1'4'2 Rode above "Bulls Gap" & went into camp on the left of R.R. in woods. Country very poor & rough & desolate looking. We have travelled over 265 miles since leaving Huntsville, Ala. without any serious accident to our regiment. For which we should indeed be thankful for our continued preservation. Rained in the night.

2'4'3 A dispatch from the Secretary of War states that the city of Richmond was occupied by our forces at 8 o'clock & 30 minutes this morning & that Wertzels troops now hold that city. Our capture was 12,000 prisoners & 50 pieces of cannon. Genl. G. H. Thomas ordered a salute of 100 guns fired in honor of the news, which was done with us in the evening. This is surely their last ditch & we hope that this report will be confirmed. We sent back our surplus baggage. Drew rations & ammunition as if preparing for a campaign. Marching orders for tomorrow etc.

4'4 A telegram confirming yesterday's dispatch, also that Gen'l Grant is pushing forward to cut off Lee's retreat. We are packed up & ready to move. Marched 7 or 8 miles & camped about 10 A.M. near Blue Springs. There is several houses here & a barn or 2 which is more than we have seen for sometime. We are heading toward Danville ready for striking if needed. Country rough here.

4'4'5 More confirmation of the fall of Richmond. Weather windy.

5'4'6 Weather rainy & warm.

6'4'7 Rainy in the morning & quite cool. Further particulars of late successes in the East.

7'4'8 Cool & windy; on guard tonight.

1'4'9 Very cold & windy. Wrote a letter etc. Today Gen'l R.E. Lee surrendered to Gen't Grant the rebel Army of Northern Va.

2'4'10 Rained most of the day. This evening a dispatch reached us announcing the capture on yesterday the (9th) of Lee's whole army. Great rejoicing in camp, musketry & artillery firing.

3'4'11 Our whole regiment on picket. Weather cloudy & mild. Read some.

4'4'12 Rained nearly all day. Rec'd a letter from cousin R. Tomlinson, Trenton, Ohio. Saw today's Knoxville Whig.

o'4'13 Rainy & cool. Saw dispatch stating that our captures included 1 Gen'l in Chief, 2 Leut. Gen'ls, 17 Major Generals and 61 Brigadiers.

6'4'14 Thanksgiving Day. The day appointed for the hoisting of our flag

- over Ft. Sumpter. Heard a dispatch read this evening ordering that recruiting for the army be suspended in the loyal states. Our poor lamented President murdered tonight.
- 7'4'15 Rained very hard in the morning. Cleared off in afternoon. A dispatch announced the sad, sad fate of A. Lincoln.
- 1'4'16 The day clear & pleasant, but a cloud rests on every face caused by the sad intelligence last evening viz the assassination of Pres. Lincoln & Sec. Seward.
- 2'4'17 No news. Every train that so lately passed decorated with flags are now carrying them at half mast & draped in mourning.
- 3'4'18 Rainy thro the day. It is thought we will go to Nashville as we are under marching orders to be ready to move at 5 tomorrow morning.
- 4'4'19 Reville at 1/2 past 3. Marched at 6 A.M. Got to the Gap about 10, moved down the road 1 mile & camped on the left of R. Way. Rained in the evening. This is the day of President Lincoln's Funeral. The 1st Division is leaving as fast as the cars can carry them. Marched 9 miles today.
- 5'4'20 Warm & rained a little. Confirmation of the fall of Mobile.
- 6'4'21 Got a letter. Rained some, etc.
- 4'22 Went on picket, the day pleasant. We were releaved in the evening & a detail made to go out about dark. I was one of detail.
- 1'4'23 Got on the cars about 11 A.M. Run down to Knoxville, got some mail & our baggage; 55 miles from the "Gap" to Knoxville. Very windy & raw.
- 2'4'24 Run to Chattanooga, again dark. Viewed the old Battle Ground of Missionary Ridge and took a last look at bold Lookout & Walden Ridge as we hardly expect to be here again. The dis. from Knoxville to Chattanooga via R.R. is 110 m.
- 3'4'25 Morning found us in Stevenson, Ala; some country very poor as we near Murfreesboro it gets better in appearance & plantations stretch away as far as the vision can travel without hill or break. Got to Nashville about 10 P.M. Dis from C. to N. 153 miles.
- 4'4'26 We are laying out on the NW RR 2 ms from the Capitol. Warm & pleasant. Marched at 8 A.M. out 5 or 6 miles from the city & put up camp, a beautiful situation. Went down to the creek & took a wash in the evening.
- 5'4'27 Nashville, Tenn. warm & pleasant.
- 6'4'28 Rained all forenoon. Wrote a letter to Sister Lezzie W. Dewees.
- 7'4'29 Cleared off this A.M. Had a dispatch read to the effect that Gen'l Johnston had surrendered all confederate forces to Sherman up to the Attahootchie on same terms as Lee surrendered to Grant. Boys are looking towards being mustered out e're long. Drawed rations. Had fish, etc.
- 1'4'30 We were mustered today. It is said that this is our last muster in

- the field. Most of our Regt. is on brig. guard. Wrote a letter to Cz. T.
- 2'5'1. Very pleasant all day. An order is issued to muster out all soldiers in hospitals who do not need or require Med. treatment.
- 3'5'2 Very pleasant & warm. On guard at Hd Qtrs. Negotiations are pending for the surrender of Trans Mississippi Rebel Army.
- 4'5'3 Heard of the disaster of the steamer Sultana on the Miss. River & that some of our boys were on board among them Alex Hess cap. at Franklin.
- 5'5'4 Warm & pleasant
- 6'5'5 " "
- 7'5'6 On general review of our division by Gen. Elliott alone. We went out nearly to the city. Very dusty; came back with a headache.
- 1'5'7 Warm & pleasant. Heard preaching at 10 A.M. by a member of the C. Commission. His text was the last verse of the 31st Psalm, "Be of good courage etc." Heard the same man preach in the 4 o'clock Inst at 3 o'clock from the text "The wages of Sin is death but the gift of God eternal life." Rained some. Attended evening meeting, heard a stranger speak.
- 2'5'8 Rainy in the morning. Nothing to note.
- 5'9 On general review in which our whole Army Corps was present, some 25,000 or 30,000 men, by Generals Geo. H. Thomas & Stanley. This will probably be the last time this organization viz. the 4th Corps will ever be together. The same that has toiled through so many weary marches & stood firm as a rock on so many bloody plains shoulder to shoulder all working as one family for the right & victory. Our comrades lay along our route from Shiloh, Perryville, to Atlanta, a vast congregation of graves are at Stone River, Chattanooga, Nashville, etc., while at Dalton, Reseca, Peach Tree Creek, Kenesaw, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge & Franklin & many other places testify to the presence of this (Corps) by the blood that flowed so freely there.
- 4'5'10 Warm & looks like rain
- 5'5'11 Rained very hard in the morning. In the afternoon walked down to what is called "Harden Park," a very beautiful situation it is 1 mile wide & 2 miles long with deer & cashmere goats, etc.
- 6'5'12 Cool in the morning; became warmer as the day advanced.
- 7'5'13 Today was pleasant & warm.
- 1'5'14 Inspection of arms & quarters at 9 A.M. Then Joe Wetherel & myself walked out on the Battlèfield of the 15 & 16 Dec. 1864. Came back by Achlan Residence. Had a long and interesting walk over a beautiful & historic ground. Dress parade in the evening & prayer by our chaplain. ferson Davis captured.
- 2'5'15 Very warm. Inspection of arms & acoutrements. Dress parade in the evening. A convention was held by the regiment and appointed a delegate to the State Convention. Capt. Joseph Gorsuch was the choice.

- 2'5'16 Warm & pleasant; nothing strange beyond the ordinary monotony of
mp life.
- 4'5'17 Rainy. On guard all day.
- 5'5'18 Rained in afternoon; washed clothes, etc. Had dress parade in the
evening.
- 6'5'19 In the afternoon went to hear a man speak or preach. He was an
American Missionary to Turkey in Europe. The discourse was very
interesting viz details of their mode of life, government etc, etc. In the
evening a remarkably hard storm came up tearing down tents, trees, etc.
Severe rain followed the wind.
- 7'5'20 Warm & pleasant again; on guard.
- 1'5'21 Went to meeting morning & evening. Rained again today.
- 2'5'22 Still it rained. No news or mail on account of R.R. bridges being
washed out by the storm of 6th day last.
- 3'5'23 All quiet in camp. Dress parade, etc.
- 4'5'24 Very warm, no mail yet.
- 5'5'25 Rained quite hard in the afternoon again. Drew rations.
- 5'26 Cool all day with considerable wind.
- 7'5'27 Clear & windy. Quite a large mail but myself left out.
- 1'5'28 Warmer & pleasant. Attended service in morning; in the afternoon
took a walk & got some nice mulberries. Went to see 3 persons baptized it
being the 1st time I ever saw that ordinance performed or administered.
- 2'5'29 Clear & cool. Report of Kirby Smith's surrender.
- 3'5'30 Warm & pleasant. No news.
- 4'5'31 Some of our boys went to Franklin, Tenn. Quite warm.
- 5'6'1 Clear & warm.
- 6'6'2 Very warm! Have orders to commence to make out the muster out
rolls.
- 7'6'3 Very warm indeed. Each company office is busy working on the rolls
and now it seems that our prayers for peace has been allowed. Never saw so
many flies I think before.
- 1'6'4 Clear & warm. A spirit of impatience prevails for the bugle blast
to call its last note to "fall in" & march for our distant homes.
- 5 Clear & warm. Washed everything up clean.
- 3'6'6 Assisted in making out the rolls, etc.
- 4'6'7 On camp guard; very warm.

5'8 Mustered out of the U.S. Service this afternoon by Capt. Chickering. Several boys came in who have been on detached duty.

6'6'9 Very hot. We expect to get off for Ohio soon.

7'6'10 Got all the rolls signed up & squared.

1'6'11 Attended meeting. Had dress parade, likely for the last time. The band of 26th OVI played for us & the chaplain made a touching appeal to every one in his prayer. It is ordered we start for home 2 o'clock tonight. I cannot view the present without mingled feelings of sorrow & joy, when we remember that so many are beyond the narrow confines of this world, who will never go with us to return home, who went out with us in manly vigor, some soon to lie down by the way while others toiled, marched & watched with us almost to the end, whose graves are yet new, while on others grass & flowers have bloomed & faded thrice.

2'6'12 Packed up at 1 A.M., started for the Nashville depot where we arrived about daylight. Started out about 7 A.M. Got to Louisville at 5 P.M. Distance from Nashville to Louisville, Ky. 185 miles. Got on board the Steamer Nora at the wharf.

3'6'13 Morning found us quietly steaming up the Ohio towards our homes. 8 o'cl. just passed the mouth of Ky. river. We got to Cincinnati about sunset. Took the freight cars for Columbus at 11 P.M.

4'6'14 Arrived at Columbus 10 A.M., went to Todds Barracks. Got some money signed the payrolls. Turned our guns & accoutrements over to the State Arsenal. The citizens of Columbus prepared us a nice dinner which we enjoyed right well. Gov. Brough made us a speech welcoming us back to Ohio, in the name of the State, etc.

5'6'15 Our regiment got discharged & paid off; went to Zanesville in the evening. Now as we are gliding along towards our homes that have been separated from us so long, almost 3 long years, a deep feeling of sadness pervades our hearts much more than can be transferred to paper. While we bow in humility at our own preservation & safe return; and as we look around us among the group we miss very many pleasant faces which went with us hence from their homes and our homes, but they will not return. We laid them in their last repose neath a Southern Sun, but we hope they have united with the just of all generations, and have exchanged a world of conflict & trouble for endless peace & rest.

6'6'16 Came down to Malta on the Little Zanesville.

7'6'17 Got on the hack & went to Chester Hill. Thus ends my term of service as a soldier of USA. Thankfully & pleasantly at home. We numbered 28 men. When we went away over 100 men.

X X X

Thus ends my short account of 35 months service among the U S Volunteers having marched and countermarched more than 5,000 miles over Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, participated in the Battles of Perryville, and skirmishes to Murfreesboro, where the bloody battle of Stone River occurred, thence the Chattanooga campaign which culminated in Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. Thence to Knoxville, raised the siege, drove Longstreet to Strawberry Plains. Thence returned and wintered on the

Hiwassee at Charleston, E.T. [Eastern Tennessee] 1863 & 4. Thence began the weary marches & constant fighting for 3 months being under fire every day for more than 40 consecutive days in which time was fought the Battles of Buzzards Roost, Dalton, Reseca, New Hope Church, Peach Tree Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesborough, Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville, having participated in at least 17 pitched battles & small engagements & skirmishes without number, almost, & strange to say that blood was drawn from my veins but twice, 1st at Mission Ridge, right hand 11 Month 25th 1863, 2nd at Kenesaw Mtn while advancing our picket line, in flesh of right leg, 6-22-64. Very many hair breadth escapes while on the march & in the tent proclaim a Divine Providence was round about and that the Everlasting Arms were underneath. Once while reclining against a stump as we rested or halted on the road while our advance was hindered by the opposing army, I soon felt unusually strange & uneasy though tired & in comfortable bodily posture I moved quickly to one side when a shot struck the very spot on the stump where a minute before I was leaning. On another occasion while on picket post at Murfreesboro, Tenn, early in 1863 on a cold & windy day a tree blew down upon me hurling me to the ground but escaped with a few slight bruises. At another time while lying in my tent reading a minnie ball came tearing thro my haversack which was suspended a few inches above my head & passed thro both legs of my companion Nathaniel Hart in an adjoining tent. These are only a few instances of imminent danger that was seen and when we contemplate that there were more unseen dangers than visible ones & that the Eye which never slumbers nor sleeps preserved thro dangers seen & unseen I trust his Holy Spirit never forsook me and I humbly pray never will, for how can one who has such cause to tremble and adore at all his mercies forget Him who is the health of my countenance, my King and my God.