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The Civil War Diary

of

Albert Gsell

Regimental Bugler

Second Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry

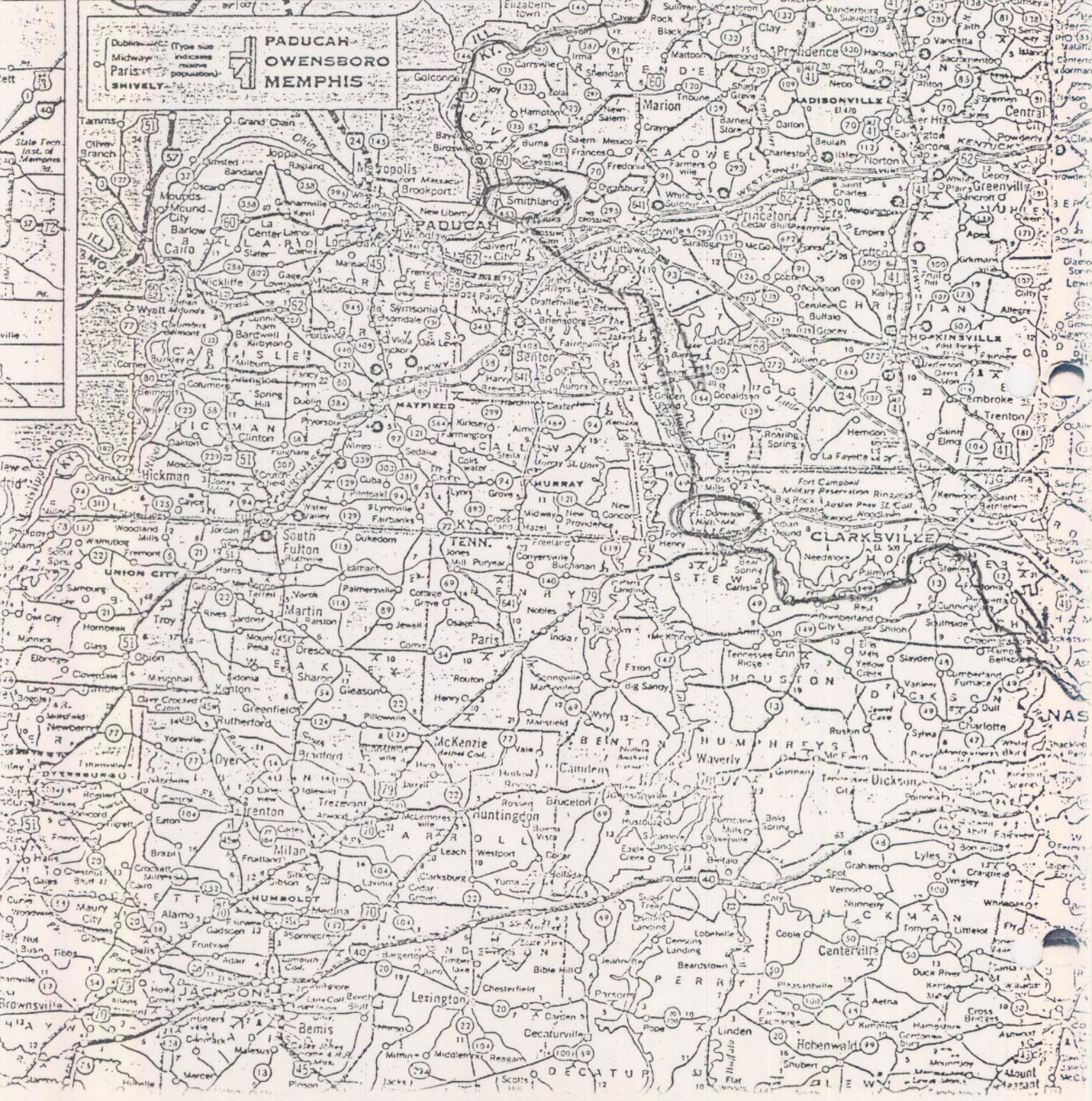
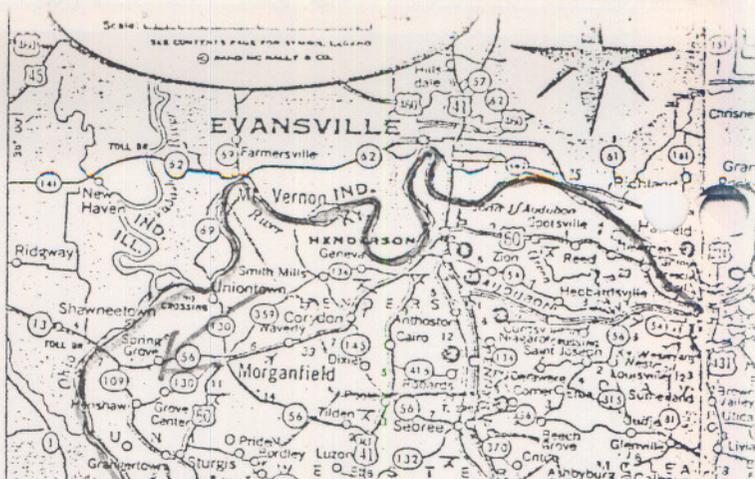
1861 - 1864

Albert Gsell was born in 1842 near Innsbruck, Austria, and came to America with his parents in 1848. On July 5, 1861, at the age of 19, he enlisted in the Union Army at Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota. The following is a transcript of the diary he kept during the nearly 3 years he was in the service.

July 5th the regiment. 1861
departed at Fort Snelling on the 5th of July
and was engaged in the U.S. service on
the 9th of July. The road Sgt. Brown had
having been on garrison duty he served Fort
in the rank of Captain during the months
of July August and September of 1861.
Was assembled at Fort Snelling having
been ordered to Washington. Embarked
thence Oct. 14th 1861 on the bark "Bird" the steamer
Northern Bell and Keokuk started at 5 A.M.
arrived at St. Paul 7 P.M. after marching through
the City we went on board of the "Beak" and
embarked our way down stream we arrived at
La Crosse 1 P.M. and left for Chicago the same
night and arrived there the next night and
embarked on the "Wigwam" the next day I had
very fine time in the City the next
day we took the "Rail Road" for Peoria
here we arrived the next morning
and spent our time residing at the
Hotel by a committee of citizens.

Feb. 1862

inches. We shoveled it away and pitched tents. Feb. 16th. Struck tents and marched through Danville to a point a mile and a half from Perrysville and 16 miles from the last camp. Feb. 17. Remained in camp to day on account of bad weather. Feb. 18 th. Broke camp at Perrysville at 7 A.M. and marched 20 miles to a point of 2 miles from Lebanon. We remained in camp at Lebanon until Feb. 22 nd. Broke up camp and marched to Jackson Farm 8 miles from Springfield. It rained hard all day. We made a heavy march of 15 miles and got into camp late, tired, and hungry and wet as a drowned cat. Found Jacksons Smokehaus a fine institution for hams were plenty there. Feb. 23 rd. Marched from Jacksons to Bardstown, weather fine. Feb. 24. Broke camp at Bardstown and marched 20 miles to Mount Washington. Feb. 25th. Marched from Mt. Washington to Louisville



Feb. 1862

and to a point 1-1/2 mile beyond Somerset.

During the night it snowed some. Feb. 11th.

Remained in camp all day, Weather very

disagreeable, snowing and raining by

turns. Feb. 12. Started early this morning

and marched 10 miles to Buck Creek

where we encamp for the night without

incident. Feb. 13 th. Marched from Buck

Creek 10 miles to the Junction of the old

and new Somerset and Crabb Orchard road.

Did not reach camp until midnight.

Feb. 14 th. It snowed last night to a depth

of 4 or 5 inches and this morning it was

quite cold and froze hard. Marched from

camp to a point 1-1/2 miles from Crabb

Orchard on the Louisville Pike. Very

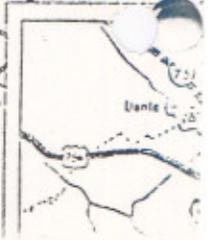
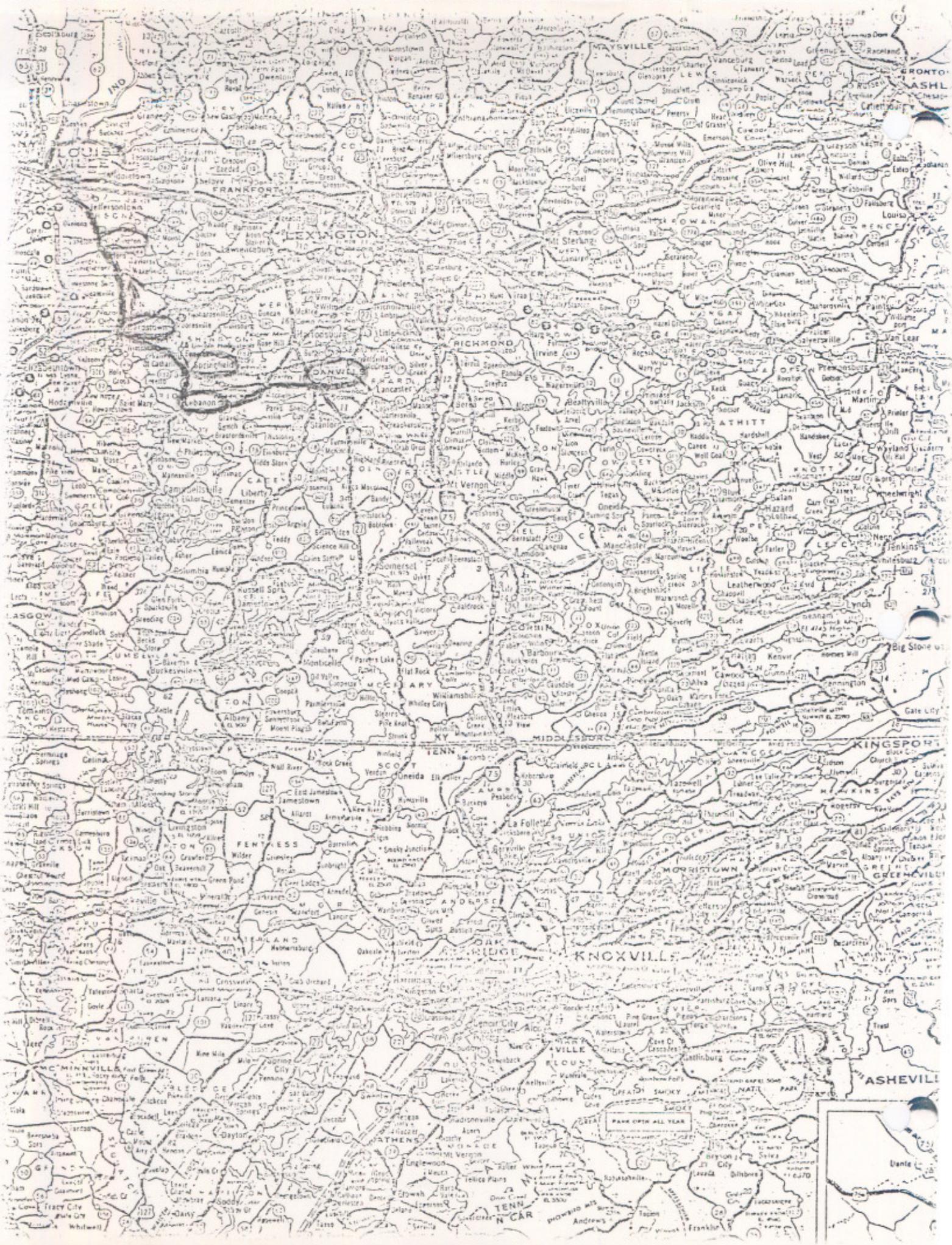
cold and freezing hard at night. Feb. 15 th.

Broke camp and marched through and

to a point of 4 miles beyond Stanford.

Cold and freezing and snow laying on

the ground to the depth of several



Aug. 1862

Aug. 25 th. Arrived at Pelham and campd in the mouth of the pass through the mountains.

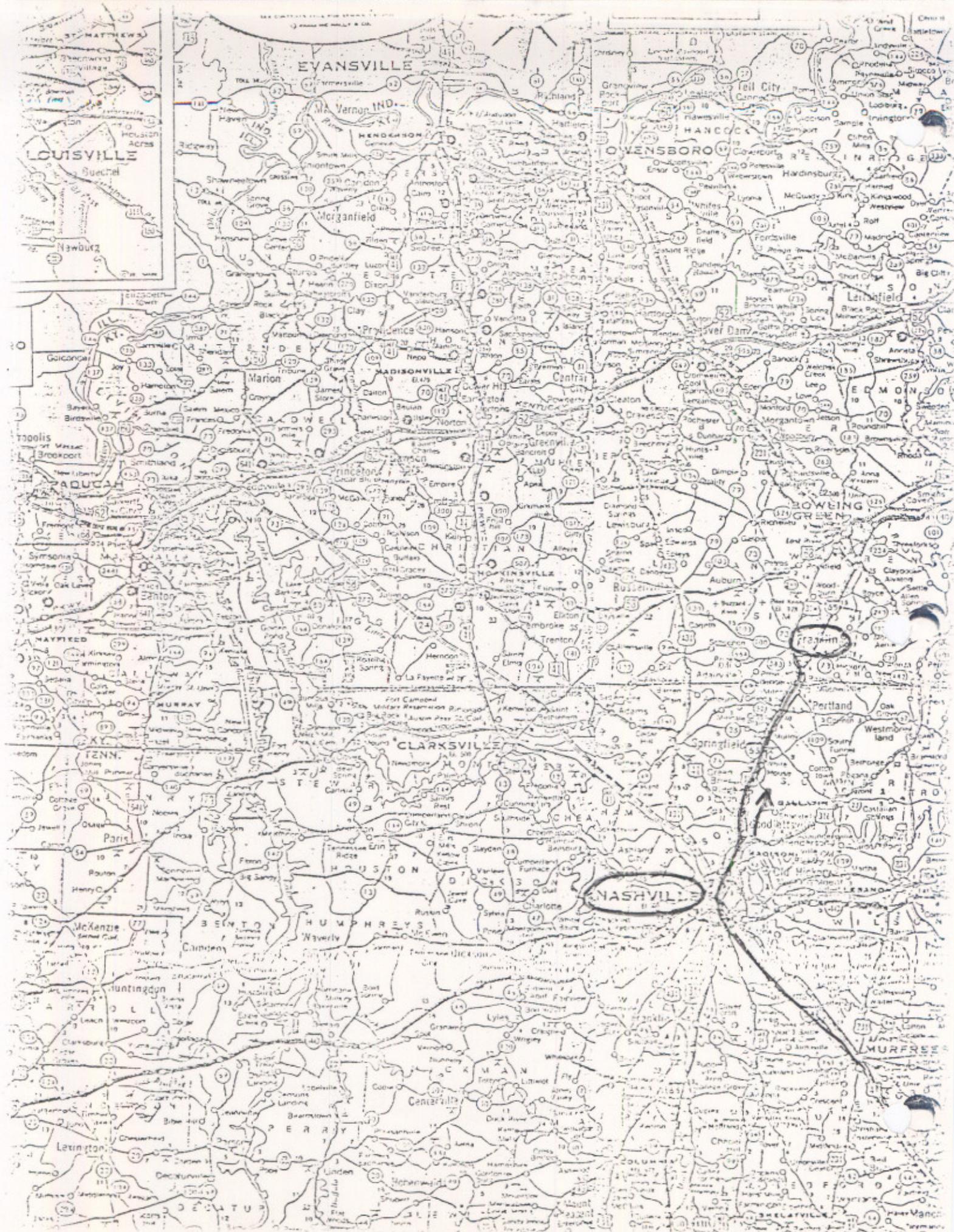
Aug. 26 th. To day the rest of the armee came up and formed a line of battle and planted the batteries in position.

Aug 27 th. Still waiting for Bragg, but he did not come. Aug. 28 th. Went foraging up into the pass. I bought a few chickens and returned to camp. Aug. 29 th. Still waiting for Bragg. Aug. 30 th. Moved camp to the Spring at 4 P.M. Aug 31 th. Marched to Hillsboro.

Sept. 1 st. Marched to Manchester, 18 miles, and campd in the fair grounds. I had a very fine time there. Sept. 2 nd. Marched 12 miles to a point 2 miles from Beach Grove on the Murfreesboro Road.

Sept. 3 rd. Marched 3 miles to Horse Gap.

" 4 Marched to Murfreesboro. Sept 5. Remained in camp until 7 A.M. when we resumed our march for Nashville. Marched 7 miles and



Aug. 1862

the place of the disaster. Aug. 16th.

Gen McCook died of wounds received

the day before. Marched at 3 P.M. and

arrived at Salem about eleven P.M.

Campd in town near an old mill. Aug. 7 th.

Marched at 6 A.M. and campd between

Winchester and Decherd. Aug. 8 th. In

camp. Plenty of apples and peaches were

to be had. Aug. 9 th. In camp. 10 th. in camp.

Aug. 11 th. moved camp a mile towards

Winchester near the big springs. Bob

Costerd was shot last night. He was a

Guerilla Capt. Aug. 12 in camp. 13 th. in camp.

Aug. 14. Drilling all day. Aug. 20 th. marched

13 miles to Elk River and campd. Aug. 21 st.

*In camp, nothing of note occuring.

Aug. 22 nd. Still in camp. Aug 23 rd. Marched

across the river in morning. In the

afternoon started again and recrossed the

river and marched 8 miles.

