

D I A R Y O F

Lyman S. Widney

Sergeant - Major

34th Illinois Infantry

From: September 25, 1862

To: May 25, 1864

Diary of Lyman S. Widney-Pine Creek, Illinois-Date of enlistment December 23, 1862-Date of Muster December 23, 1863-Muster Out July 12, 1865-Report of the Adjutant-General of the State of Illinois-Volume 11-page 655-1861-1865. 54th Illinois Regiment-Mitchell's Brigade-Davis Division-14th Army Corps-Sergeant-Major-108 Regiment.

Thursday-September 25, 1862-At an early hour I bade good bye to my friends in the Hospital at Keokuk, Iowa and wended my way to the wharf to board the steamer for St. Louis and thence to join my comrades in actual service. My outfit provided by the quartermaster consisted of a new suit of blue, a knapsack containing change of underclothing a blanket rolled and strapped to the top, haversack, canteen and a Descriptive roll containing a record of my name, age and height, color of eyes, hair and complexion, company Regiment and date of last payment. Also an order for transportation and subsistence which authorized me to travel by boat or rail, to eat and lodge at Uncle Sams wayside Inns, his Hospitals and Convalescent Camps all at his expense. In company with 11 other soldiers bound for their commands I found quarters on the Steamboat Warsaw and at 8 a. m. we backed out from the wharf at Keokuk and steamed down the river. The day was beautiful and I fully enjoyed my release from Hospital restrictions. Our boat was busily employed and made many landings usually to take on supplies for the Army such as mules hay corn oats etc. At 10 p. m. the Fog stopped us for the night.

A gray mist enveloped us this morning until 8 o'clock when a breeze began to ruffle the water and soon caused the fog to roll away in great snowy clouds. The course being sufficiently clear and our boat resumed her way. The view of the river was enchanting with its constant change of scene. The water being at a low stage was clear and sparkling, exposing long lines of white, sandy beach sweeping around the bends and encircling numerous islands. Patches of fleecy white clouds of fog drifted helplessly about the spurt of every puff of wind seeming loth to leave the river's course yet dissolving surely in the suns rays. We landed at St. Louis at 3 p. m. and our squad proceeded at once to look for quarters where Uncle Sam would foot the bill, a task that consumed

the afternoon. We were directed from one wrong place to another until at last tired and hungry we were admitted to the "Transportation Office" where after a rigid inspection of our "Descriptive Rolls" to see that we were not deserters, our names were recorded and we were escorted through a side door across a court and securely locked in a "Slave Pen" for such it proved to have been. The blocks whereon many a slave had stood to be "knocked down" to the highest bidder still ornamented or rather disfigured the court yard. The rooms assigned to us opened into this court and while they were clean and comfortable we surveyed our surroundings with unconsented disgust. It seemed absurd that we should have hunted so hard for a place of imprisonment. We expressed our indignation in fitting terms to the clerk in charge who explained that this rule had become necessary for the reason that returning soldiers applying for transportation to their commands had frequently failed to after arrangements for they conveyance were completed, so the Officer in charge decided to lock up all applicants until the Steamboat should be ready to receive them. This explanation was not satisfactory but we had to put up with it consoling ourselves in the expectation of a very brief sojourn. We drew rations, ate supper, unrolled our blankets and laid down to dream of auctioneers, whips and fetters.

Saturday September 27- The prospect of an early release from our obnoxious confinement was disappointing as the morning passed without sign of relief but the afternoon witnessed our departure for the wharf to board the Str. War Eagle bound for Helena. Glad we were to escape the oppressive hospitality of our Host of the Slave Pen.

Sunday September 28- Our boat was not prepared to leave Saturday being busily engaged in completing her cargo. This morning was spent in taking on board two Howitzers, Gen. Curtis mounted Escort and fourteen paymasters with several million dollars in greenbacks for the payment of Grants Army in Mississippi. While the Church bells were ringing for morning service our boat backed out and turned her prow southward. We ran without stopping until 9 p.m.

when the low water rendered further progress unsafe. There was no Sunday on board our boat. The paymasters and their clerks had entire possession of the cabin and devoted their whole time to gambling. Every table had its group of card players, rattling poker chips, drinking, swearing and smoking. Gen. Curtis' Cavalrymen with their Howitzers and Carbines stood guard on the hurricane roof watching for Guerrillas who might well covet such a valuable prize. Their horses occupied the boiler deck and our little squad found room as best we could on the Cabin guards.

Monday 29- Resuming our course at daylight our first stop a short one was made at Cairo about noon. Columbus Ky 20 miles below was our next landing place at 3 p. m. Here I learned that my Regiment was near Louisville so I left the boat with several comrades whose destination was the same as mine. The steamer continued on her way to Helena. My companions soon afterwards were informed that their commands were distributed along the Tennessee river in the State of Mississippi so they boarded a train on the Mobile & Ohio R. R. for Corinth Miss. I was now left alone to find my way to Buels Army wherever it might be and applied for transportation to Louisville which was promised by the Packet leaving the next day. I found quarters at the Soldiers Home, so called, a frame building whose only furniture was a floor and a roof. After drawing rations and eating supper, I selected a corner spread my blanket and with knapsack for pillow was soon sleeping so soundly that the arrival of a large number of new guests did not awaken me until the room was nearly filled and I was completely surrounded with fellow lodgers who came limping or carried on stretchers, to drop or be dropped promiscuously about the floor for a night of rest or suffering. "What is the matter" I asked of my nearest neighbor. "Well we had trouble with old Price down at Iuka. He wanted to come into town and we got hurt trying to keep him out, but we kept him out, you bet, and we hurt his crowd a good deal worse than he hurt us." My fellow lodgers were the wounded of the Battle of Iuka who were loaded at

once on the cars and shipped to Columbus to await transportation by Steamer to Northern Hospitals. Their wounds had been dressed and bandaged by the Surgeons but many of the poor fellows were suffering with pain and required all the attention that we, who were able, could give them during the night.

Tuesday 30th. My quarters were not so attractive as to induce me to prolong my stay in Columbus so I tried all day to get information as to when a boat should arrive by which I might get transportation to Louisville. Only boats in the service of the Government found any trade below Cairo as the Guerillas who infested the river banks rendered it unsafe for boats that did not carry an armed guard. The Army distributed at important points as far down as Helena required food and forage which had to be supplied by boats in the employ of the Government. One of these, returning from Helena, I looked for in vain.

1862-Wednesday -October 1st. I was advised this morning to report to Major Raymond commanding a detachment of Regulars stationed at Fort Halleck on the highest point of the bluff overlooking the town and river. Scaling the heights I found the Garrison well protected by heavy fortifications that had been constructed by the Confederates to prevent our gunboats from passing down the Mississippi. The fall of Fort Donelson on the Tennessee and the consequent free progress of our fleet on this river as far as the depth of water would permit its navigation, made the strongholds of Columbus and Island No. 10 untenable and compelled Gen. A. S. Johnsons to withdraw all his forces to Corinth Miss. The defenses of Fort Halleck were complete. Heavy cannon with muzzles directed towards the river below threatened destruction to hostile water craft. While standing there I saw an illustration of their capacity to command the navigation of the river. Orders were in force that no craft should pass Columbus without landing to report their business and the gunners at Fort Halleck had orders to enforce this regulation. I watched a steamboat coming down the middle of the river at full speed. Opposite the Fort she gave no indication by whistle or by stopping her engines that she

intended to land. I saw the gunners prepared to do their duty. A blank cartridge was fired to which the boat paid no attention. Now it looked serious- A solid shot was quickly rammed into the gun and a moment later I could see a cloud of spray where it struck the water just in front of the boat. This admonition was sufficient. If the Falls of Niagara had been 40 feet ahead the pilot could not have "tramped" his wheel to the Larboard with more desperation than he did to turn towards shore. I reported to Major Raymond, the Commandant; who treated me very kindly and after enquiring all about my military experience he sent his Orderly to show me the quarters of the Convalescent Battallion where I found a number of recruits and returning soldiers like myself awaiting transportation to Guel's Army. They were provided with tents and rations so I joined one of the messes and did my share of the cooking. Our tent like the others furnished shelter for six which number also composed our mess.

Thursday - 2- The Steamer City of Alton came to the landing this afternoon and our hopes of securing passage were realized. Major Raymond came to inform us of the fact and at 8 p. m. our little Battalion marched down the steep roadway to the river where we boarded the steamer and at dusk we bade goodbye to the frowning bluffs of Columbus and proceeded on our way to Cairo where we arrived three hours later and disembarked to wait for the train. The cotton bales on the levee were to be our beds so we sat there until sleep overcame us watching the silvery beams of brilliant moonlight sparkling upon the water which was darkened here and there by the black hulks of a fleet of Gunboats anchored in the stream, grim and silent, except when their bells tapped the hours.

Friday - 3 - Of course we had to rise with the sun to escape the glare of his beams. About the same time a Levee Clerk with traces of a nights dissipation and the smell of bad whiskey, made his appearance and talked himself into a fury because we had tilted over some of the bales on their side to answer for our beds. Some of our party wanted to "put a head on

him" but we bottled our sentiment from fear of Cairo jails and officials renowned for dirt, depravity and disloyalty.

Friday - 5- We remained on the levee waiting for the cars until 10 a. m. when we boarded a train on the Illinois Central enroute to Louisville via Sandoval the river being too low for Steamboats. Reaching Sandoval at 7 p.m. we left the cars and waited two hours for the train from St. Louis when we proceeded towards Louisville the rain falling heavily. It was cheering to us to notice the interest of the people along the route in our little battalion bound as they knew for the seat of war near Louisville where Braggs Army threatened to cross the Ohio river and play havoc on Northern soil in retaliation for the ruin inflicted by our Army of Southern soil. During our trip on the cars when we ran 120 miles from Cairo directly towards my home. I was tempted to continue a hundred miles further in the same direction which would have taken me home. Several of our party yielded to the temptation to go home and we missed them when we left Sandoval in a direction away from home and towards the post of danger.

Saturday - 4- Shortly after daylight our train crossed the Wabash river and stopped at Vincennes. The river here divides Illinois from Indiana and Vincennes on the east bank appeared to me the most beautiful town I had ever seen. We stopped two hours then proceeded to Mitchell where we changed cars at noon, then to New Albany where we arrived at 8 p. m. and found quarters for the night by spreading our blankets on the Depot floor.

Sunday - 5- We spent the most of the day at the Depot, the stores being closed and business suspended there was little inducement for us to stroll around, An Engineer kindly supplied three of us with a basket of provisions. At 2 p. m. crossed the river to Portland where quarters were provided for us in a Convalescent Camp where other soldiers were awaiting transportation to their Regiments.

Monday - October 6- At 10 o'clock this morning all those belonging to Buels Army were mustered together and started for Louisville under charge of

a Sergeant. A march of 3 miles brought us to Headquarters where our squad was increased in numbers to a Battalion of 120 men and put under charge of two Lieutenants. Rations of fresh beef and bread were issued to us and we marched out on the Bardstown Pike in pursuit of our Army which was also in pursuit of the Confederate Army. When we reached the outskirts of the city we met small squads of paroled Confederates hurrying into town many of them no doubt anxious to meet friends and relatives. We halted 6 miles from the City for the night.

Tuesday - 7- Started again at Sunrise and after travelling through the heat and dust until noon when we were brought to a halt by an Officer from Bardstown who told us there was no need of our going further as there were no provisions to be had on the way and nothing at Bardstown which was 20 miles distant. Our rations were about exhausted so we held a Council to determine whether to proceed. We decided to continue and marched 4 miles to SaltCreek and there encamped. Our march for the day was 18 miles.

Wednesday - 8- We started early and hurried on towards Bardstown as fast as scant rations and lack of drinking water would permit as two great Armies just ahead of us had drained all the wells. The heat and dust were also oppressive. We reached Bardstown at 4 p. M. after an exhausting march of 16 miles and found the town almost deserted as both armies had swept through it within a week. With great difficulty we secured a few crackers but not enough to satisfy our hunger. We passed through and halted at the river.

Wednesday -October 8- All afternoon as we toiled through heat and dust towards Bardstown we had heard the dull echo of cannon in the distance. As we progressed the reports became more frequent and distinct until at last we imagined we could hear the rattling of musketry. When we reached the river beyond Bardstown at nightfall the firing ceased but we felt sure that a battle had been fought. We were too tired and hungry to discuss the probable results of the battle after we found a suitable place to encamp on the river bank and soon dropped to sleep snugly rolled in our blankets and our

last thoughts being the hope and prayer that victory was on our side.

Our conjecture proved true, a battle had been fought. The two armies after manoueuering and marching a thousand miles and threatening each other for three months had at last met in conflict and the result was the Battle of Perryville. It was not premeditated by Buell or Bragg. The latter was trying to get away from Buell into East Tennessee where the country would afford a better defense and where Buell would have a long "cracker line" to provide for. But Buell crowded so close upon Bragg's heels that the latter deemed it necessary to fall upon Buell's advanced troops and check or drive them back. Bragg accordingly massed a heavy force in front of McCook's Corps to which my Regiment belonged. My Regiment however was absent from the Corps together with our whole Division, Gen. Sills, which had been detached at Louisville to intercept the Confederate Gen. Kirby Smith's march upon Cincinnati. Our Division had been ordered to rejoin its Corps when Kirby Smith had retired, and was now near at hand. Buell was waiting for our Division in order to make a general attack upon Bragg who appeared to wait for the attack. Bragg did not know that he was hemmed in so closely by Buell's main Army or he would not have risked an engagement. Buell did not think that Bragg would have the temerity to attack and in fact neither Commander ordered an attack. It was brought about unwittingly by Gen. McCook, our Corps Commander who finding one of his Brigades suffering for water ordered an advance to a small stream only a short distance in front of his line. This movement brought the Brigade in contact with a strong force of Confederates and presently both sides became furiously engaged. Bragg hurried reinforcements to this point thinking that he could overpower what he believed to be only one of Buell's advance Divisions. McCook's two Divisions were soon drawn into the fight and next Phil Sheridan's Division of Gilbert's Corps which joined McCook's Right. These three Divisions fought desperately all afternoon while five other Divisions of our Army stood idly in line almost within gun shot listening to the roar of artillery and the crackling of musketry waiting waiting for orders

that never came to help their comrades in distress. Gilberts Corps of three Divisions, except Sheridans, in the Center and Crittendens Corps of three Divisions on the Right took no part in the battle which was fought by McCook and Sheridan with three Divisions whose loss amounted to 1000 killed and 5000 wounded. It is almost incredible, yet nevertheless true, that Buel did not know that a battle was in progress on the Left of his line until late in the evening, although his Headquarters were only $\frac{3}{4}$ miles in rear of Gilberts Corps in the Center,

Wednesday -October 8- Our little detachment, a days march from the scene, had a clearer appreciation of this fact than Buel who insisted that the firing only proceeded from a skirmish and therefore allowed McCook and Sheridan to struggle unsupported through one of the great battles of the war. When Buel at last came to know the true state of affairs he aroused himself with his old time energy and ordered an immediate and general advance of his whole line but nightfall ended the contest before his movement could produce any result. The Confederates were glad to withdraw under the friendly shades of darkness for their loss was very heavy and Bragg did not dare to risk another engagement.

Buel did not lose the battle-he held the field and the enemy's dead at its close-but he lost in addition to 4000 of his bravest men-the confidence of his Army. He was justly held responsible by his soldiers for the failure to support the fragment of his Army that did all the fighting. Nothing weakens the soldier in battle more than the suspicion that his Commander is neglecting him. The feeling of distrust resulting from Buel's neglect in this case was not confined to the men who fought to hold their line all through this bloody afternoon nor to those who suffered from mortal or painful wounds but it was shared equally by the rank and file of the five Divisions who stood obediently in line anxious and able to decide the day but waiting for the orders that came only when the shades of night had stopped the carnage.

But at last aroused to action spent the night in preparations for a

combined attack on the morrow but while he was thus preparing to fight, Bragg with his exhausted Army was preparing to fly.

Thursday - October 9- The morning light disclosed the Confederate columns marching rapidly away from the scene leaving their dead unburied on the field and their wounded crowding the houses of Perryville. Nothing decisive resulted from this mutual slaughter of thousands of brave men and both claimed the victory. Buell because he held the field, Bragg because he checked his pursuers who greatly outnumbered him and thereby gained time for a safe retreat.

Our little detachment, encamped as we were for the night near Bardstown 30 miles from the battle field, knew nothing of the details of the battle when we awoke this morning with a long march before us and nothing in sight for breakfast. We sent two men back to Bardstown for supplies and they returned with a few crackers in time for dinner. We let breakfast go by default. We resumed our march at noon and presently met two country wagons going to mill "Prarie Schooners" we called them each drawn by four mules in charge of a white man and a negro. We pressed them into our Service without much persuasion, loaded the wagons with knapsacks and those of our comrades least able to walk, and bade the drivers turn the mules towards Perryville. We now moved along at a cheerful rate. Our white teamster appeared to enjoy the trip and laughed to think how his folks at home would be surprised to learn that he had started to mill and had gone travelling with the Army. The negro was in a jolly humor. This was a picnic. In all his life as a Slave nothing so exciting had ever happened. No one had ever presumed to give him any orders contrary to those of his master. Here he was with a lot of strange new masters from a far country who could order his old master around.

Thursday- October 9- We made good time with our teams and stopped for the night near the little village of Fredericktown where a small stream supplied us with water which was about all we had as rations were exhausted. We managed however to get enough from the citizens to keep from starving. While encamped around our brightly burning fires we were told by some Union people

that their Secession neighbors were talking about a party of Guerrillas who had arranged to pounce upon our camp after we had gone to sleep. As our detachment had only six guns we felt rather helpless so we held a Council of War and decided to ambush those who would ambush us. Accordingly we left our fires burning and concealed ourselves in the bushes near by hoping that our enemies if they came might stumble unexpectedly upon us in the darkness and be put to flight. We kept six guns on Picket duty all night but we were not disturbed.

Friday - 10- We started at sunrise with our teams, anxious to get under the protecting wing of the main Army, as we did not know what moment we might encounter Guerillas or the enemy's Cavalry. Five miles from camp we were overtaken by the owner of the negro, accompanied by the Sheriff, to make legal demand for possession of his property which included the negro as well as the team. We did not at first comply for although he had the Sheriff on his side we had six guns on our side and besides we felt entirely irresponsible for we knew that our detachment would lose its organization as soon as we should overtake the Army, and each individual would seek his own Company and Regiment. We did not stop to argue with the master and Sheriff but continued on our way while the two rode their horses close after the covered wagon and begged more earnestly as we progressed. At last we yielded to persuasion as the owner claimed to be a good Union man, and after taking out our baggage we bade the negro turn his team towards home, which in fact he was glad to do as our talk of Guerillas had thoroughly demoralized him and that his master, he had told us, always treated him well. Our white driver continued on with his team the balance of the day but he grew very tired of his job, when rain began to fall at noon and continued all afternoon. We extended our march until dark in order to reach the little village of Pottsville for shelter. We there dismissed our teamster with his team and heard no more about him. We quartered ourselves in vacant buildings wherever we found them. Several of us found refuge in a kitchen where we disputed

possession in the darkness with a stove and other kitchen furniture. I found room under the table to roll myself in my blanket and only remained awake long enough to thank Heaven for the dry floor and a tight roof that protected me from rain and mud outside.

Saturday -11- Was awakened this morning by the rattling of the kitchen stove as the Colored Servant began to prepare breakfast for her masters family. The presence of uninvited lodgers and the possibility of uninvited guests for breakfast did not seem to concern her as she stepped over the prostrate forms that blocked her way at every turn. We did not stay for breakfast well knowing that the scanty supplies left for families by the two armies.

Saturday-October 11- ahead of us would not permit of hospitality. We also learned that our army was only eight miles distant, and fearing it might move on and give us another long chase we hurried off without ceremony. We did not even give our host a vote of thanks for our lodging. We made quick time to Perryville and reported to Gen. Buel whom we saw pacing back and forth before his Headquarters tent. Our detachment halted at a respectful distance while the Lieutenant, who was supposed to command us, rode up to the General and saluted. Buel continued his walk and the Lieutenant addressed him but still without eliciting any sign of recognition. After several futile attempts to attract the notice of his superior, our Lieutenant appeared to resign himself to the embarrassment of the situation and sat on his horse speechless watching the General passing and repassing directly in front of him apparently oblivious to his presence. The Lieutenant turned his face toward us with a mute appeal for help or suggestion neither of which we could furnish as we were equally mystified. At last Gen. Buel stopped abruptly. "Young man" said he you might as well learn military etiquette now as later. Get down from your horse; sir, when you address a superior officer." a quiet "snicker" ran through our ranks when we saw our Lieutenant fairly tumble from his horse in his haste to get down to his proper footing. Upon receiving

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our report Gen. Buell directed us to our several commands which we proceeded to do without further ceremony, each one in several of his own Regiment. My course led me over the battle field of Wednesday where broken fences, trampled fields, shattered trees and the unburied Confederate dead portrayed the bloody horrors of War. A stone fence marked the locality of the hardest struggle. It was defended by our troops and repeatedly charged by the Confederates who left the field strewn with their dead. As I walked among the bodies I would see just how they met their death. Some with faces set towards the deadly stone fence as they advanced, others with back to the foe as they retreated from the unsuccessful charge. Many a brave fellow had rushed close enough to the fence to look into the muzzles of the guns levelled on its top and there left his body as the silent witness of his gallantry. What poor reward for heroism. Abandoned by comrades, neglected by foes, their ~~murdered~~ bodies exposed for days to pitiless rains, at last to be dragged like carcasses of beasts into long trenches that would be mockery to call graves, there to moulder into dust unrecognized and unknown. Sick at heart with such scenes, I continued the search for my Regiment through the camps where Buels Army was bivouaced and preparing for march. The organization of Brigades and Divisions had been changed during my absence so that my inquiries were restricted to the whereabouts of my particular Regiment. I did not know that it had been assigned to Gen. Sills Division and despatched from Louisville to Frankfort to intercept Kirby Smiths advance toward Cincinnati, and that the Division had not yet rejoined the main Army but was within a few hours march and Buell only awaiting its arrival to continue the pursuit of Bragg. When the troops began to move I stationed myself on the Danville Pike three miles from Perryville and watched the steady stream of Regiments Brigades and Divisions marching by until night hid them from my view but still I could hear the tramping of feet and the jangling of coffee pots, tin cups and skillets carried by the soldiers.

Sunday-October 12. Worn out with fruitless watching and inquiry for my

Regiment I was glad to find a straw shed a short distance from the pike where I could roll myself in my blanket for forty winks of sleep." without danger of being trampled over by the passing troops.

At the break of day I was up and continued my inquiry Regiment after Regiment passed but not one that I was familiar with. At last I recognized one familiar face that of Gen. Phil Sheridan riding with his Staff at the head of his Division. I knew that he could tell me where to find my Regiment so I saluted and said " General can you tell me where to find the 34th Illinois? Yes, my boy he replied stay where you are your Regiment will pass in a little while." I did not wait long until the 34th came in sight when I placed myself under its protecting wings with all the eagerness of a helpless chicken that has long been separated from its mother hen. Three weeks of precarious subsistence made the ranks of the Regiment appear to me a veritable home. True comrades did not have a roof or a bed to offer me but they gave me a part of the road to walk in, a place at the camp fire my share of rations, the privilege of cooking them and a spot of ground to sleep on. As I marched in the ranks with a light step, and a light haversack, chatting with my old messmates who had interesting experiences to relate, I had to laugh at their ridiculous appearance, with frying pans coffee pots and tin cups strapped on their backs or gungling at their sides and jingling with every step like so many tin peddlars. The baggage wagons of the Regiment had been captured and destroyed - All we possessed was now carried on our backs. Officers as well as Privates were ornamented with kitchen-ware and the skillet disputed honors with the sword. All were bronzed with five weeks exposure to the open elements smoked with camp fires, greased and blacked with handling skillets and pots, stained with mingled colors of dust and mud red, white, yellow and black picked up in mountains and swamps, highways and byways of six hundred miles travel. But all were in good health and spirits anxious to overtake Bragg who during all this time was always just a little way ahead. We encamped for the night eight miles out from Perryville.

Monday -13- Marched about 11 miles and encamped near a tanyard where the vats furnished an abundance of clear cold water . When we sat down to drink our coffee some of our boys were mean enough to tell us that they had discovered green hides in the bottom of the vats. We could not afford to be fastidious although we could imagine there was a flavor of green hides in our coffee.

Tuesday-14- Marched about ten miles through Danville which we found to be a town of some importance apparently a place once of considerable business but now like hundreds of other towns in the South deserted and desolate. The advance guard of our Army continues to skirmish with the rear-guard of Bragg's Army which necessarily makes our progress slower than it would be if we had a clear road before us.

Wednesday -15- Reached Crab Orchard at dark and marched 3 miles beyond to a small stream where we encamped for the night. The reports we heard along the road today led us to believe that we should find the enemy at Crab Orchard by Bragg appears to have gotten out of our reach and is now supposed to be making for Cumberland Gap to escape from the State and to avoid a battle with Buel where the advantage would all be on our side because we have superior numbers and inspitited by pursuit, while Braggs troops are discouraged by retreat.

Thursday-16-Contrary to our expectations we did not move today. Evidently Gen. Buel has stopped to consider what next to do. We are quite sure that if we could not overtake Bragg by marching continuously every day we certainly cannot do so now after another delay on our part, much as we need rest, our men are anxious to continue the pursuit and compel Bragg to fight or surrender before he reaches the mountains of East Tennessee where we may be compelled at last to seek him perhaps when the advantage of numbers and position will be on his side.

Thesday-17- Another idle day convinces us that the pursuit of Bragg has been abandoned, and our men are bitterly complaining of Buels failure. We

have no further confidence in our commander and expect to accomplish nothing under his leadership except perhaps our own defeat in the future through his stupidity. Our present situation is not calculated to improve our temper as the nights are frosty we have no tents and but one thin blanket to each man. Wood is very scarce and we have no axes. The result is that we pass the night in changing from one miserable position to another. We huddle around a few smoking embers until too sleepy to sit up any longer, then lie down on the cold ground away from the fire for there is no room near it. An hour of troubled sleep is all we can endure in this position. Thoroughly chilled we rush to the fire to get thawed out but generally get smoked out. We soon go back to our blanket for another wink of sleep until finally the night wears away. I tried joining blankets with a comrade so as to have two thicknesses to spread over us but we found them short at both ends. They failed to cover us both by six inches which left a cold streak which each of us tried to transfer to the other. We agreed to divide the shortage between us but my companion managed to get the blankets over to his side and soon fell into a comfortable sleep. I then quietly pulled them to my side and dropped to asleep leaving the cold streak for my comrade who presently awoke and transferred it back to me. In this way we managed to pass a miserable night. We had plenty of company in our misery. Spectres wrapped in blankets flitted to and fro all night growling at everything connected with the Army and especially with Gen. Buell who if he could have heard half that was said about him would have rested no better in his comfortable tent and warm blankets than we did in the frosty air.

Saturday-18- Our wagon train started this morning for Lebanon. We also received orders to be ready to move at short notice. We now know that Bragg is beyond our reach and that our next move will be to retrace our steps into middle Tennessee where there are railroads to furnish us with supplies for another advance into the Confederacy. We feel that the results of the summer campaign have all been lost and that we will again find Bragg's Army reenforced

and refreshed, in a chosen position obstructing our progress. The troops having been paid recently greenbacks are plentiful but there is nothing to buy. I managed however to spend some money today for a mixture of cornmeal and water baked in a skillet and having the appearance of cornbread but minus salt and every other kind of seasoning, unless water in such a case might be called seasoning. The poor woman who baked it was not to blame, she used all the materials she had and worked heroically to supply the demands of a crowd of soldiers who could scarcely be made to wait for the baking process. I don't know how many dollars she made from her barrel of meal she evidently needed all she received.

Sunday-October 19-We changed our location this morning into a clover field and not knowing how long we should remain we began building sheds made of poles and brush as a protection in some measure from the cold wind, but which would prove a sorry dependence in case of rain.

Monday-20- The order to march came on short notice but did not find us unprepared. It was a small matter to twist a blanket over the shoulder, hang frying pan or coffee pot to cartridge belt pick up musket and say "ready." We had no tents to strike or knapsacks to pack and wherever our bodies were there were all our worldly goods also. At 7 a. m. we marched towards Danville passing through Crab Orchard and Stanfordscamping for the night five miles from the latter place. We marched 15 miles. I felt very unwell and had a hard time to keep my place.

Tuesday-20- Started at 7 a. m.-passed through Danville and on to Perryville where we encamped - a march of 15 miles. The section of country we traversed from Crab Orchard to Perryville displayed the terrible ravages of war. Our army had followed Bragg over it and now we had passed back again and what Bragg spared or what we spared in our advance we demolished on our return. Fences gone orchards cut down, fields obliterated and the very sod trampled into dust. Deserted dwellings in the midst of this desolate rolling plain marked the places where three weeks since productive

farms supplied peaceful homes with a plentiful subsistence. Near Perryville where the battle was fought the scene was tenfold more deplorable. The field was not strewn with human bodies such as I saw ten days before but long lines of freshly turned clay marked the trenches where Confederate dead had been heaped one upon another and so scantily covered that a hand or a foot might be seen protruding. How pitiful that men should die in defense-as these believed of their native soil and then be denied enough of it to cover their mutilated bodies. Our own dead had been buried in separate graves and marked by comrades. The decaying carcasses of faithful horses still offended sight and smell and torn fragments of blue and gray, uniforms and equipments still suggested the mortal combat of the brave men who fell in the front ranks of both armies.

Wednesday-22- We marched away from this scene just as the sun's early rays began to shed a peaceful light upon the resting place of friend and foe alike. We bore off in a southwesterly direction to the Rolling Fork which we found to be extremely low and more like a spring branch than a river. We remembered however its raging floods of last spring when it carried away our bridges and seriously delayed our forward movement. We followed its course a few miles and then encamped-a march of 10 miles.

Thursday-23- We continued our march 12 miles along the bank of the stream and encamped in a large open field.. On our route we passed a small village, Newmarket, and also the ruins of another village that had been partially burned by the Guerilla Chieftan, John Morgan. Our march was a pleasant one, following the tortuous course of this beautiful stream through a wild and romantic country and then its sparkling waters supplied such an agreeable, substitute for the surface ponds which furnished our only supply of drinking water for many days past.

Friday-24- At a late hour of the morning we turned our backs to the river and marched 15 miles to Saloma a lonesome looking village of 40 houses and a tanyard. One of its citizens however tried to impress us with the

town in which he had been born and raised. He imagined New York could not be much of a place-it was so far away from Saloma.

Saturday-October 25-Information is given that we will remain several days . A very cold rain began to fall during the day and changed before night to snow. Our Regiment was bivouaced in an open field without any protection from the weather but the rain soon drove the men without orders to the adjoining timber where each sought such shelter as was afforded by the trees. I was detailed during the day and at night for guard duty at General Sills Headquarters and fared much better than my comrades as our detail of guards had a barn for our quarters which we occupied four hours out of six when not standing at our post. Gen. Sill our Division Commander occupied the farmhouse adjoining. The snow continued falling at night.

Sunday-26-We found four inches of snow this morning and when I was relieved from guard duty and returned to my Regiment I found my comrades in very bad humor on account of our uncomfortable situation but our camp was soon in a state of rejoicing when the baggage wagons drove in with tents, knapsacks and other camp equipage which had been following the Regiment since August 20th but never within reach during this period of rapid marching. It did not take us long to pitch our tents and when I sat down with my mesmates in our own tent with a blazing fire in the center we forgot past hardships in the enjoyment of present comfort.

Monday-27-⁵ somewhat unexpected to us we were ordered to march at sunrise. We struck tents, packed baggage and started at the proper hour. The ground was frozen solid and the air sharp and cutting with frost but the sky was clear and the bright rays of the sun gave promise of more genial weather. We crossed Green River 20 miles above Munfordsville and encamped a march of 18 miles.

Tuesday-28-Cold weather and scarcity of wood gave an excuse to some of the rascals of our Brigade to attack an orchard near camp last night and cut down

a number of fine apple trees. We had no orders to march this morning and report said we would remain a day or two. Several of us, more fastidious perhaps than our comrades, resolved to take advantage of the river, so close at hand, to wash our clothing. In the midst of our meritorious labors to attain that condition which is said to be next to Godliness the bugles sounded the march and our Regiment started off leading the Brigade, with more than its usual promptness, leaving us with our wet clothing. If, a moment before we had almost reached Godliness we immediately fell to its opposite extreme "Cussedness". My companions remembered those fitting expressions which we had all heard our teamsters address to the mules when roads were bad and they now applied them to all military officials from the fifth Corporal of Co. K to the Commander in Chief. At the same time we did some desperate wringing, which was more to the purpose, and with ever weighted knapsacks we plodded after the Regiment which we overtook at noon while it was halted for dinner, just in time to continue the march without our dinner. We marched 22 miles during the day crossing the Little Barren River and encamping near a fine spring.

Wednesday-29-We marched at 9 a.m. and at noon reached the Louisville & Nashville Turnpike which we followed the Bells Tavern on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad where we encamped for the night a distance of 17 miles. Our surroundings were familiar, we had travelled over the same turnpike and camped at the same town last spring on our way to Pittsburg Landing. We were delighted to see the Railroad again and in running order for our rations had been diminished daily until we were very hungry- We had to put up with a light supper but we had the cheering promise of a full supply on the morrow.

Thursday-October 30- This morning was devoted to drawing rations. We had ample time to treat ourselves to a bountiful breakfast the first full meal in many days. Our line of march in Eastern Kentucky had taken us so

far from our railroad supply that short rations became a necessity. We broke camp at 10 a. m. but only marched 7 miles to Dripping Spring where we halted for the night on a very high ridge to the left of the Pike, we found a straggling village with a neat church but we did not find the spring from which it derives its name so we made our coffee from the surface ponds as we have been forced to do through Kentucky where Caves and subterraneous rivers abound and springs and wells unknown.

Friday-31-1862-We marched at sunrise and crossed the Big Barren River on a pontoon bridge to Bowling Green where we found that great improvements had been made since we passed through last spring immediately after Bragg had evacuated. The railroad bridge was then a mess of blackened ruins. Now it was rebuilt and trains passed over it daily. We halted for the night 3 miles beyond Bowling Green at Lost River a march of 18 miles. Lost River is one of the great curiosities of this subterraneous region. We no sooner found it than we lost it. Its source and outlet are unknown to the outer world. It allows you but a glimpse of its clear cold, sparkling waters as it issues from one side of a deep depression of the land, flows rapidly 360 feet to the other end and disappears with an unearthly gurgle into unknown caverns. We gratefully enjoyed the luxury of this plentiful supply of pure water. Men and mules thronged its banks and it is said that one of the animals lost his footing in the stream and was carried in a moment into the awful vortex to disappear suddenly and forever. I was detailed on Picket duty for the night.

Saturday-November 1- I was recalled from Picket duty this morning to help make out the Pay Rolls in readiness for the Paymaster who is at hand with greenbacks to settle two months pay.

Gen. Rosecrans-W. S. assumed command of our Army on Thursday relieving General Buell. The cause of this change was Buell's failure to continue the pursuit of Bragg into East Tennessee. The Washington authorities desired

him to do so but he declared the movement too hazardous as it would be necessary to abandon his line of supplies the railroad from Louisville to Nashville, and would expose the latter city to the danger of recapture by the Confederates. President Lincoln was exceedingly anxious to respond to the appeal of the Union people of East Tennessee who were largely in the majority but surrounded on all sides and kept in subjection by Confederate soldiers. He enquired of Buell "If the enemy can march rapidly and gather his supplies from the country why cannot you do the same". Not receiving a satisfactory reply the President issued his Order of Oct. 24th relieving General Buell and on the 30th Gen. Rosecrans assumed command of our Army of the Cumberland. We now await the development of his policy. As for Bragg he has concealed his purposes since he left us behind at Grab Orchard.

Sunday-Nov. 8- As usual this has been the busiest day of the week. Rusty guns to be polished and oiled, leather equipments rubbed and cleaned, brass plates and buckles brightened for "inspection" which was held at 4 p. m. As yesterday was observed as a general wash day our appearance on parade was greatly improved although we didn't have any white "billed" shirts nor paper collars. Our Chaplain as usual was absent, leaving us to our own devices for observing the day. It is needless to remark that the Devil remained on duty.

Monday-Nov. 9-The night was clear and frosty and this morning the cold-est of the season. It was hard for the orderly Sergeant to get us out from our warm blankets and he only succeeded by the threat of reporting us for extra duty.

Tuesday-Nov. 10--Rosecrans had but little time to decide ~~whether~~ to execute the President's plan or Buell's. Within a week of his appointment the question was settled by the sudden appearance of Bragg's Army at Murfreesboro 80 miles south of Nashville. The relief of Nashville which was garrisoned by only two of our Divisions was of immediate and permanent importance. No time was to

be lost as we of the main Army were more than 70 miles north of Nashville. Our troops (McCooks) and Crittendens were at once set in motion towards the point of danger. We broke camp early this morning and took up our line of march on the Franklin pike, while Crittenden moved towards Gallatin. We marched rapidly in spite of the dust and at 3 p. m. reached Franklin 18 miles distant. We crossed the Harpeth River and continued 3 miles to a small creek where we halted at 4 p. m. for the night very much fatigued with ~~our~~ 21 miles march.

Wednesday-Nov. 5- At sunrise we were again under way-the dust more stifling than ever. A march of 4 miles brought us to the State line of Kentucky and Tennessee marked by a cut stone pillar where a road crossed the Pike. Another notable object at this point was a large Oak where Gen. Jackson once fought a duel and killed his adversary a half mile further we passed through Mitchelville a village of 20 small houses and a large grist mill. We marched 20 miles altogether and encamped at 8 p. m. near a large frame Tavern. Soon after a heavy storm of wind rain and sleet passed over us.

Thursday-Nov. 6- Our place in the column being near the rear according to our turn, we did not leave camp until 8 a. m. The morning was clear and cold after the rain and we experienced great relief for awhile from the dust but by noon it was nearly as bad as ever. We passed through Goodlyville- a dozen houses and a neat Hotel near the Tyree Springs. Three miles beyond we reached the Junction where turning to the right we proceeded a mile and encamped a march for the day of 15 miles.

Friday-Nov. 7- We started this morning for Nashville 9 miles distant but did not cross the Cumberland River. We halted in a beautiful grove near Edgefield and prepared to make ourselves comfortable in expectation of a few days rest. We pitched tents and retired for the night in a very complacent state of mind. Sleep came unbidden after our hard marches but our rest was of short duration. At 10 o'clock the ominous sound of the "General Assembly" by the bugles of our Brigade suddenly awoke us to the duty of

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"Striking tents and forming in line with arms" ready for sudden attack or defense. Under the stimulus of expected danger we executed the order in a very short space of time. We soon discovered however that nothing serious was the matter. We simply had to cross the river into Nashville where we were quartered in a large brick building and spread our blankets on the floor to catch an hours sleep before the break of day.

Saturday-Nov.8- As we had no duty we spent the forenoon in looking about the city. At noon recrossed the river to Edgefield and pitched our tents again on the same grounds whence we had been so unceremoniously bounced.

Sunday-Nov.9-We were tired enough to observe this as a day of rest but we had to devote it to the purpose of getting rid of the dust and dirt of our long march. We had inspection of arms and equipments but no Divine Service, as our Chaplain is not able or willing to keep up with us.

Monday-Nov.10- Now that we have time to sit down and rest our camp is unusually quiet. Nearly every man is absorbed in the task of writing to home folks or friends, although we have no assurance that our letters will have an early departure. No mail has been received or taken for a month. We are hungry for news from home and anxious to let our friends know where we have been wandering and how we have fared. Our transportation is taxed to the utmost to carry foods to the Army and no attention is paid to mail bags. The railroad is in running order from Louisville only to Mitchelville whence all supplies are hauled by wagons. The Cumberland River is too low for Steamboats and no supplies can therefore be brought by its route. The work of repairing the damage to the railread inflicted by Bragg during his northward march, is being pushed day and night and will soon be completed. When railroad communication with Louisville is restored we may expect a big batch of delayed letters provided we are not launched out into the wilderness again before the first train arrives. We can scarcely expect to travel very far at this time as Braggs Army is lying across our path evidently to

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dispute our passage. Rosecrans has established Head Quarters at Nashville and has reorganized the Army into Right Wing, Left Wing and Center under Generals McCook, Crittenden and Thomas. Our Regiment, Brigade and Division belongs to the Right Wing under McCook.

Tuesday-Nov. 11th-The ceremony of Guard Mounting in our Brigade was conducted with more than the usual eclat at half past two this afternoon. I took part in it as one of the detail. There were 150 men in line. A little later the 6th Brigade was drawn up in line near our quarters for inspection by our new Commander General Rosecrans. He has been engaged in this duty several days and will continue until every portion of his Army has been visited. Our Regiment was resplendent so far as new dress coats could cover the rents in pantaloons and shoes made by time and travel, many are out at the knees and toes with fringes below and streamers above while the best pantaloons in the Regiment are faded, greased, smoked and stained with the mud and dust of forty Countries.

Wednesday-Nov. 12-Being on guard duty during the night, the fact did not escape my notice that it rained since I had to turn out in it. The rain continued during the day but the earth was parched and dry, so there was no mud. At 4 p. m. was relieved from guard duty and for the first time in six months appeared on dress parade. Orders were given our Regiment this morning to prepare two days cooked rations in haversacks ready for the march.

Thursday-Nov. 13- Companies E, G, H and K were ordered out on Picket duty at noon. We marched out 3/4 of a mile when my company was divided into squads, the first being posted on the river bank. My position with three comrades was, in the midst of a large cornfield where we could not see ten paces in any direction. We were instructed to be very watchful as the enemy was disposed to press too closely to the Picket line, and might take us by surprise. As for our squad we felt no uneasiness. The enemy could never find us, at least could not steal upon us without giving timely notice by the rustling of the corn. The sun found us, however, and shone most uncomfortably

hot during the day, but at night the air grew uncomfortably chilly. Fires were forbidden so we had to shiver and bear it. The enemy did not trouble us.

Friday-Nov.14- At noon the 52nd Indiana relieved us from Picket duty and we returned to camp. The news that Gen. McClellan has been removed from command and succeeded by Gen. Burnside causes universal discussion in our ranks. At one time we were all ardent admirers of the "Young Napoleon" but his lack of success in Virginia has shaken the confidence of many and our verdict now is that he is entirely too cautious ever to make a bold attack upon Richmond.

Saturday-Nov.10-The Regiment was out this afternoon on Battalion drill and later on dress parade with our new dress coats. We congratulated ourselves on our fine performance and appearance. It has been a long time since we were called on to drill or for any of the fancy duties. We have had too many practical duties such as marching, picketing and skirmishing. It has been rout step, arms at will and cutting cross lots so long with us that we surprised ourselves when we found we could keep step wheel in line, turn a square corner and carry arms according to the manual.

Sunday-Nov. 16-Our Brigade hurried out this morning at daylight, crossed the river paraded through Nashville with drums beating and colors flying marched out on the Murfreesboro Pike about six miles and halted near the Lunatic Asylum. Soon after we heard several cannon shots when our Regiment and the 29th Indiana were ordered forward on the double quick. We fully expected to run right into a fight but were halted after running a mile and as there was no enemy in sight we returned at our leisure to rejoin the Brigade. We had no orders to encamp where we were so we spent the balance of the day on momentary expectation of farther marching orders. A smart shower of rain did not add to our comfort, as we had no shelter.

Monday-Nov. 17- We moved to the left of the road and pitched our tents in a beautiful clover field. We needed the shelter of our tents as there were frequent heavy showers of rain. It is reported that eight men of the

79th Illinois were captured while straggling outside the picket line. The enemy improves every opportunity to pick up stragglers, surprise or overpower detached posts or forage trains or to harass our line of communication in the rear. For this purpose his cavalry hovers close to our front and flanks thus compelling our Pickets to be on watch continually near our camp is the Lunatic Asylum a splendid building now containing 350 inmates. It is surrounded by well cultivated grounds.

Tuesday-Nov. 18-At the break of day we were awakened by the sound of cannonading in the direction of our Picket line. It appeared so close that we listened for a moment to hear the whizzing of solid shot or the bursting of shells. We tumbled out of our tents in short order with guns and cartridge boxes expecting the immediate order to double quick to the scene of action. Our services were not required. The enemy had only repeated one of the customary attempts to surprise and capture "our Pickets by dismounting and stealing upon them at the usual hour just before dawn. Our Pickets fell back in haste to the reserve where Edgertons Battery was stationed and three guns created the uproar that disturbed our slumbers. The enemy's raiders had not ~~staid out~~ to hunt larger game than lonesome Pickets so they in turn retreated upon the first round of shot and shell. Rain fell steadily all day keeping us within our tents except during a short company drill in the afternoon.

Wednesday-Nov. 19-At 3 o'clock this morning our Regiment was quietly aroused and turned out in a heavy rain with arms and ammunition to join the 77th Pennsylvania in an expedition the object of which was to return the compliment of yesterday by surprising the enemy's Cavalry. Two of Edgertons guns accompanied the expedition which moved in silence as directed, expecting momentarily to encounter a short hostile force in the darkness. Our force was divided a short distance from the camp, the 77th Pennsylvania and Right Wing of our Regiment with two cannon following the Pike a distance of 7 miles without interruption until early morning light disclosed a small body of

January congregated about an old house. Our two guns opened with shell and soon dispersed them. As no surprise could now be effected our column re-
turned to camp at noon and at 4 p. m. our Regiment was ordered out and station-
ed on Picket duty. I was detailed as one of the Camp Guards during the
absence of the Regiment.

Thursday-Nov.20-The Regiment was relieved from Picket duty and returned
to camp at 4 p. m. Our men kept a vigilant watch last night and especially
at the break of day to see that no gray coats mingled with the gray mor-
ning light. Col. Kirk is very anxious for the Confederates to try and sur-
prise our Regiment on the Picket line just to see how well we would observe
his instructions. They may drive us back by main force but we are sure they
will not surprise us. We notice that the same strict discipline in this res-
pect is not enforced in many other Regiments. Our Division has been reinforced
in its present position by the arrival today of Crittendens Division from Silver
Springs via Nashville. We hold the advance of Rosecrans Army 24 miles from
Murfreesboro where Bragg has collected his Army to oppose our further march.
Rosecrans is waiting to repair the railroad to Louisville before he will order
us forward. Bragg in the meantime keeps his Cavalrymen industriously employed
in closely watching our Picket line with the principal object of reporting
our forward movement as soon as it shall occur, but incidentally to harass our
Pickets and prevent foraging on our part. They have succeeded pretty well in
both respects. We do not dare to sleep on Picket duty nor go out foraging
without the Army to back us.

Tuesday-Nov.21-There was rejoicing in camp this evening when the Quarter-
master announced that he had a supply of much needed articles for us and pro-
ceeded to issue pantaloons blankets, shoes and canteens to all who were in
need of them. The blankets are especially acceptable as many of our men have
suffered for the want of sufficient covering at night. Was detailed for
service in the Adjutants Office writing up the records of the Regt. which
were destroyed by Morgans raiders.

Saturday-Nov. 22-Our Regiment was drawn up in line today for inspection by the Brigade Inspector Lieut. Edsall. He found that we needed a number of effective guns to replace those not in good order and directed the Colonel to make requisition for Springfield Rifles. Our ~~was~~ seemed determined to get Rifles instead of the Muskets originally furnished us and many have already supplies themselves by exchange and other means.

Sunday-November 23-My 20th birthday dawned clear and beautiful. Dame nature greeted me with her brightest smile and promised a perfect day. Our camp too, was astir at an early hour. There was rubbing, brushing and polishing of Arms and accoutrements for the appointed Review of the Brigade. At 9 a. m. the Regiment formed in line and moved with drums beating and colors flying to join the Brigade where General Kirk marched and counter-marched us by front, flank and rear, by the wheel, the oblique, in solid column, extended line or hollow square until we were covered with the glory of our performance and perspiration. Dismissed in time for dinner we assembled at 2 p. m. for Divine Service by our Chaplain, who inspired by the magnificent style with which we annihilated the imaginary enemy, on parade, predicted that the war would be ended by next Fourth of July.

Monday-Nov.24- Our Brigade performed so well yesterday in the presence of the enemy (who was absent) we flanked, charged, repulsed and surrounded him (if he had been there) so completely that General Kirk evidently made up his mind to try us in actual combat so he ordered us under arms at 7 o'clock this morning and led the Brigade out on a reconnaissance. A march of five or six miles did not disclose the required enemy so we completed this brilliant movement by a countermarch that brought us back to camp at noon. Our Regiment had only time for dinner and a short rest when it was sent out at 3 P. M. to relieve the 80th Indiana on Picket duty.

Tuesday-Nov.25-Our Regiment was relieved from Picket duty at 3 p. m. by the 77th Pennsylvania and returned to camp. We notice the arrival of troops which show that Rosecrans is concentrating his Army here. Several Divisions

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have passed our camp and occupy positions in advance of ours. The railroad has been completed to Nashville and heavily laden supply trains are bringing great quantities of stores. Rosecrans is making energetic preparations for an early movement on the enemy at Stone River. Gen. Kirk rode through and inspected the quarters of our Regiment today and gave orders for drains to be dug and the ground swept. This has been done and the appearance of our camp is much improved.

Wednesday-November 26- Sergt Henry Newcomer arrived from Illinois with four new recruits for Co. H. He reports that he has been one month on the way and that recruiting is not so brisk as formerly. This business of War has turned out to be a serious affair.

Thursday-Nov. 27-At 9 a. m. Gen. Kirk led our Brigade out of camp for a reconnoissance. We marched out on the Murfreesboro Pike in column with a small detachment in advance to take observations and Edgertons Battery to bring up the rear. We proceeded at a rapid pace without adventure a distance of 9 miles from camp when, as we approached the village of La Vergne, our advance discovered a line of Confederates in position awaiting our approach. Gen Kirk riding at the head of our column was at once advised and immediately gave the order to deploy into line of battle. About the same time a cannon ball whizzed over our heads followed by a second and third at a little lower range. We vacated the turnpike and double quicked into line in the adjoining field in shorter time than we ever did in drill. This gave our Battery a clear road to gallop up from the rear and wheel into position on the roadside, where in a few moments it was belching flame and smoke in front of our faces and hurling shot and shell towards the hostile Confederate guns which did not return many replies and one shot only proved effective. The ball came bounding over the field plowing the earth at intervals into the ranks of Company K of our Regiment where it struck off the leg of one poor man who was immediately picked up and carried to the rear groaning and bleeding to be placed in an Ambulance under care of the Surgeon. As our Six guns soon silenced the enemys three, Gen. Kirk ordered our line to advance which we did with fixed bayonets but

the enemy retired without waiting to exchange musket shots evidently being inferior in numbers. We entered LaVergne and destroyed some buildings that had been used by the Confederates. The village was entirely deserted. We then returned to camp.

Friday-Nov. 28-Our Division is under orders to be ready to march at short notice. Another Division passed our camp and occupied a position still further in advance. Changed my quarters today from Co. H to the Adjutants tent where I turned in with him as a messmate. A cold northwester blowing all day kept all the men in their tents where good fires, bad cards and tough yarns made life tolerable, even enjoyable.

Saturday-Nov. 29-At 9 a.m. our Regiment broke camp and marched in a westerly direction over one of the roughest roads we ever encountered. Fortunately we had only three miles to go. Halting near a turnpike running west we proceeded to lay out a camp in the midst of trees and brush, but did not accomplish much before we were ordered out on Picket duty at 3 p. m.. Other Regiments are being subject to change of position, the object being to get each located in its proper place in Brigade, Division and Corps, according to Rosecrans' plan of reorganization. Our place is in the Right Wing under command of Gen. McCook.

Sunday-Nov. 30-The Regiment was relieved from Picket duty at 4 p.m. but did not reach camp until after dark because the line had been further advanced and more extended than ~~the morning~~. I was engaged all day with the Adjutant preparing a History of our Regiment from its organization, to be filed with the State records at Springfield for future reference. Governor Yates has made this request of all Illinois Regiments.

Monday-Dec. 1-Our camp was visited last night by a very heavy cold storm of wind and rain, which drove the water into many tents and drenched the inmates to their great discomfort and disgust particularly after a watchful night on Picket. The rain continued moderately all night. At an early hour this morning the unfortunates were out in the chilling blasts hanging blankets and

never witnessed in our boyhood days. A continual shower of snow balls flew over the dividing line of our camps. A storming party would cross the line under a fusillade of balls, seize one or more prisoners and drag them away from their friends. Charges and counter charges were made until all the ammunition within reach had been exhausted.

At 2 p. m. our Regiment and the 30th Indiana were sent out on Picket duty where we found something more important to attend to than snow balling for we had to be on the qui vive for leaden balls from troublesome scouts from Braggs Army who delighted to disturb us.

Saturday-Dec. 6-Last night our visitor, the beautiful snow pinched us with its icy fingers in a very unfriendly way. Our Regiment on Picket duty did not suffer much as rail fences were plentiful and furnished roaring fires, but of course all could not sit around them which might attract the enemy to approach too closely. It was necessary that Sentinels should be stationed beyond the circle of light. The Confederates did not visit our fires they doubtless hugged their own. At 2. p. m. our Regiment was relieved by the 15th Ohio and returned to camp. We found this the coldest day of our experience in Tennessee. One of our Forage trains was attacked this evening not far from our camp and several wagons were captured.

Sunday-Dec. 7-The several Companies held inspection of arms this morning in compliance with orders from the Colonel. Divine Service as usual was dispensed with but the Devil had his own way with the 29th Indiana of our Brigade which got roaring drunk on the strength of getting two months pay. They found some means of buying a plentiful supply of whiskey to which was added brandy peaches and cherries from the Sutlers Shop. It was a disgraceful jollyfication and very annoying to neighboring Regiments which had neither money or Whiskey.

Monday-Dec. 8-Grapevine dispatches report Braggs Army coming up from Stone River to attack us-very absurd improbable story. Indications point to a speedy advance on our part. All those sick or unable to march are ordered

clothing to dry.

Tuesday-Dec. 2-We have been living like Indians since Saturday concealed in the brush of our new camp, the weather and Picket duties preventing any improvement of our surroundings but today the entire Regiment was resolved into a "Fatigue Squad" and before night all the brush and leaves had disappeared our camp once more presenting a civilized appearance.

Wednesday-Dec. 3-Our Regiment with the 30th Indiana and a small detachment of Cavalry was sent out this morning with a wagon train to collect forage in the enemy's country. They gathered enough hay straw and fodder within four miles to load the wagons for the mules, while our men confiscated for themselves a generous supply of fresh meat potatoes etc. The sweet smelling savor of fried pork mutton and beef was soon diffused through camp and excited our fond hope that many more such expeditions might follow. A few Confederate horsemen were seen but they kept at a safe distance.

Thursday-Dec. 4- Since our Division was stationed solitary and alone south of Nashville we have been reinforced at intervals until now we have grown to the dimensions of a great Army with wings extending to the river above and below the City. Military Stores of all kinds are being collected from various quarters for the forward movement that will soon take place. Forts are being constructed and heavy siege guns mounted for the defence of Nashville when we leave it in the rear. Bragg is supposed to be waiting for us at Stone River with formidable works and a fine Army.

Friday-Dec. 5-Our camp grounds was quietly sieged and surrounded and occupied last night by a stealthy invader which held possession notwithstanding our surprise and protest when we awoke to the situation. The Beautiful Snow smiled upon us and we hailed it as the old time friend of our boyhood. We became boys once more and tossed the mischievous snow ball as of yore. At first our sport was a contest between individuals, then Company was pitted against Company until finally our Regiment united its forces against the 89th Illinois of the Sixth Brigade adjoining ours, and such a battle we

back to Nashville.

We are directed to have three days cooked rations on hand and arrangements are made to send our tents and other bulky camp equipage back as soon we move from this camp.

Tuesday-Dec. 9-According to orders received last night our Regiment formed on the color line of daybreak this morning under arms and awaiting further orders until 9 o'clock when we were directed to escort a forage train outside our lines. We saw no enemy but loaded the wagons with forage and returned to camp a little while before sunset. A Forage train at the same time from another part of our line did not fare so well as we. It went out on the Murfreesboro Pike found plenty of forage and soon loaded the wagons but just as they started to return Wheelers Cavalry attacked the guards and kept up a continual skirmish until the train reached the shelter of our lines. Colonel Stanley Matthews the Commander of the Escort distributed his Brigade in four detachments to protect his wagons. One led the way towards camp another guarded the rear while the remaining two walked single file on each side of the road the full length of the train. It is needless to say the mules did noble service for the Government under the persuasive crack of the whip as did the drivers themselves under the persuasive "Zip" of an occasional bullet. Altogether the teams made better time back to camp with their loads than they did going out empty. Our loss was 5 killed 30 wounded and some prisoners rather expensive mule feed. Enemy loss not known.

Wednesday-Dec. 10-The several Regiments of our Brigade were ordered out as before under arms at daybreak. After waiting a short time for what might turn up we stacked our guns in line and broke ranks to prepare breakfast after which at 8 a. m. we struck tents and moved one mile west to a beautiful cedar grove where we again pitched tents. The object of such movements is not always apparent but the "grapevine" is equal to the emergency. It imparts the news that the enemy intends to play early bird but we don't propose to

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to play worn therefore we rise early and make preparations not to be eaten.

Thursday-Dec. 11-Brig. Gen. R. W. Johnson formerly of the Sixth Brigade has been appointed to command our Second Division in place of Gen. Sill who has again taken his own Brigade. Gen. Johnson has been for sometime a prisoner but recently exchanged. He surrendered a force under his charge at Murfreesboro under circumstances not creditable it is said. We suppose however that he has vindicated his action or Rosecrans would not assign him to such an important position as the command of a Division. Gen. Stanley with a strong force of Cavalry moved towards Franklin today.

Friday-Dec. 12-We have all seen the long wagon trains that encumbers our Army on the march and we know how large a part is taken up with bulky tents that usually fail to reach us when we need them worse in rainy weather. Our movements are frequently delayed by the necessity of keeping them under our protecting wing. Morgan and Wheeler the rough riders of the Confederacy are wont to swoop down upon them at unexpected times and places. They are seldom able to carry away the wagons so the torch usually reduces them to blackened piles of scrap iron while the mules gallop away with their captors without a murmur. The grapevine has for sometime been telling us that every man shall be his own baggage wagon and the report was confirmed today when Lieut. Dexter exhibited in camp the newly contrived "Shelter tent" which is to take place of our "Sibleys and each man is to carry for himself. It is nothing but a strip of canvas 6 x 10 feet which will cover about as much space as a dog house. We therefore call them "pup tents". We are expected to stretch them over a ridge pole and stake them to the ground on each side in the shape of the letter A, and then crawl under them on all fours. We measured Lieut. Weld of Co E with one of the pup tents and found him too long at both ends and now we are waiting for instructions from the Government how to make him fit. We don't know whether to saw off the ends or to drive them in.

Saturday-Dec. 13-Our Regiment and the 79th Illinois were ordered out

to the Picket line to support another detachment sent into the country for forage or some other purpose. Remained but a short time and then returned to camp all being quiet. Gen. Stanley with his Cavalry returned today from Franklin after driving out a force of the enemy who occupied the town. He left here on Thursday last for this purpose.

Sunday-Dec. 14-Orders came to us at midnight from Gen. Johnson for the Second Division to be ready to march at a moments notice. We made all preparations but nothing further was ordered except that our Regiment was sent out on Picket duty at 6 a.m. Our former Colonel E. N. Kirk has at last received his commission as a Brigadier General and remain in command of our Brigade a position he has already held for six months. He is noted as a tireless worker and strict disciplenarian, which qualities have made models of his Regiment and his Brigade. He has kept us in a complete and constant state of preparation for sudden attack or defense. He as established rigid rules for Picket duty which prevents the possibility of surprise, and apparently the Enemy avoids us for we have not fired a shot on the Picket line while others are frequently attacked within hearing and almost in sight of our posts.

Monday-Dec. 15-At 6:30 this morning our Regiment was relieved from Picket duty but was immediately taken en~~e~~ with the Brigade under charge of Gen. Kirk as Escort for a forage train. The enemy gave us no trouble but the rain did and all returned late in the afternoon well soaked but with our wagons well loaded. The rain which began to fall in the afternoon continued during the night.

Tuesday-Dec.16-The Regiments of our Brigade formed in line as usual this morning at daybreak. We have the news that Gen. Burnside moved towards Richmond on the 15th and after fighting a great battle has captured the Confederate Capital. We have talked of nothing else today but this important event.

Wednesday-Dec. 17-Later news from Virginia makes it certain that Burn-

side was defeated on the 15th at Fredericksburg. Some of our boys were jubilant yesterday over the prospect of getting home soon because of the supposed capture of Richmond but now they are grumbling and abusing the officials who plan such abortive campaigns for the Army of the Potomac. We find no fault with the Rank and File of that Army because it is the same old story of a fragment of their number bearing the brunt of the battle while a large portion are held back and takes no part. Lieut. Wagner returned today from Ohio. Col. Briston returned yesterday. Three of my messmates George Giles, Robt. Wilson and Wm. Scott went to Nashville today to enlist in the Regular Service in the 4th U. S. Cavalry. A recent order from the War Department gives Volunteers the privilege of joining the Regular Army, limited to three from each company. It is likely that our Regiment will furnish its quota. Sergeants and Corporals in some cases have joined as Privates to serve three years from date of transfer.

Thursday-Dec. 18- A Board of Examiners consisting of the Major & Captains and two Lieutenants has been appointed to examine the non-commissioned Officers of our Regiment as to their knowledge of Tactics and the latter are now busily engaged in the study of Upton much against their will, but they are afraid to neglect the necessary preparation as the Board has authority to recommend or report against promotions. We had about concluded that precision in drill was something that belonged to the Home Guards-an ornamental affair to please the Ladies but of no use to scare the Enemy.

Friday-Dec. 19-Our Brigade was drilled from 8 to 11 a. m. We executed the movements of a Sham Battle in connection with our Battery of Artillery and Ambulance Corps. We had everything but bullets and blood and certainly made a very imposing display which attracted many spectators from adjoining camps. My three comrades who enlisted in the Regular Cavalry on Wednesday gathered their traps this morning bade us all good bye and started for their new quarters.

Saturday-Dec. 20-Our Regiment and the 30th Indiana were detailed to es-

cort a forage train and succeeded in getting the wagons well loaded without molestation from the enemy except that a small force of Cavalry followed the train as it returned but at a very healthy distance. Shortly after dark our camp was startled by sharp booming at the Picket line in our front. It apparently was so close that we picked up our guns and cartridge boxes and hurried into ranks without waiting for orders. Before we had time to make any other demonstration the firing ceased and we disbanded. This was merely a playful joke perpetrated on our friends the enemy by order of Gen. Kirk who had reason to believe that he knew a spot within reach of our cannon where they nightly congregated to conspire against the peace and safety of imprudent Pickets. Accordingly a Section of Edgertons Battery was concealed on the Picket line and trained during daylight to bear upon the supposed hostile rendezvous-at nightfall the guns were discharged and if the Confederates had kept their usual engagement they must have been very much surprised. We don't know whether this joke was embellished with any corpses.

Sunday-Dec. 21-Rarely in our Army experience has the Sabbath day been observed and respected as though it was considered any better than any other day in the week. An occasional sermon and the usual inspection of Arms were the only distinguishing features of the day. But a better spirit possessed our camp today and carried our thoughts back to the peaceful Sabbaths of our homes. The weather was perfect. The sun rose with as much splendor as it did perhaps upon the day when God said "Let there be light". The sky was as blue and the pure winds of Heaven as caressing as when they first kissed the landscape of a New World. Time has not dimmed nor has man been able to disfigure Gods Creation beyond the reach of his puny arm. Such a blessed and kindly mood of Nature should have directed our thoughts to the Creator and moved us to a serious contemplation of our duty to him. But another cause had subdued our boisterous and heedless spirits-the defeat of our Army in Virginia. The first news we received of the Battle of Fredericksburg promised a grand victory but day after day our hopes were gradually

dissipated by later scraps and fragments of news until at length we were brought to the knowledge of a great disaster. Now for the first time we realized what difficulties and dangers were before us. At the outset we thought our presence in the field would overawe the South. Later we expected to finish the war in one great battle but now after a number of great battles had been won or lost and especially after this last defeat of Burnside we were forced to the conclusion that we must accomplish our work by the wearing out process. Imagination with sad and serious aspect pointed our mental vision to future fields strewn with mutilated forms and ghastly faces. Whose faces? For answer we could only look into each others eyes and say "yours or mine". Memory recalls to me the faces of many comrades who might have answered on that beautiful solemn Sabbath, "mine, mine".

Monday-Dec. 22-Our Brigade marched out early this morning as guard to a forage train advancing about eight miles into the enemys country and procuring a large quantity of forage besides a lot of poultry pork, corn meal and other provisions confiscated by the men. When the train was about to return a force of several hundred Cavalry was seen advancing on our Cavalry rear guard apparantly with the intention of making a charge but our "brass bull dogs" gave them a few warning shots which they heeded. One of our Cavalrymen was wounded in exchanging carbine shots with them.

Tuesday-Dec. 23-Our Regiment was stationed on Picket at 6 a. m. During the afternoon a party of Confederates made a dash on a squad of Pickets attacked the 22nd Illinois and captured 6 men. Company A of our Regiment which joined the Pickets of the 22nd Illinois on our right had an opportunity to fire a few rounds and they claim to have killed a horse and wounded the rider.

Wednesday-Dec. 24-Our Regiment was relieved from Picket duty and returned to camp at 9 a. m. Shortly after the Bugles sounded the "General" from Brigade Headquarters-the call to strike tents and pack baggage ready for an

immediate march. We obeyed the order with our usual promptness. Our baggage was loaded on the wagons and they were ordered back to Nashville. Shelter tents were distributed to each man and with full preparation for an active campaign and full expectation of it we marched off with our faces towards the enemy but did not go far enough to meet him for we were soon halted and ordered back to camp where we unpacked our baggage and tents and remained all night.

Thursday-Dec. 25-Christmas dawned upon us without any promise and merriment or good cheer. Our first movement was to strike tents and pack baggage in preparation for the march but after a few hours the order was countermanded and we again pitched our tents. We sat down to crackers and coffee for dinner as turkey and champagne were not within reach and we were very thankful to be allowed even those in peace for if we had marched early in the morning as our preparations indicated we might have arrived in time to dine with the Confederates provided they had not considered their absence better than our company.

Friday-Dec. 26-Once more for the third and last time we packed our Sibley tents on the wagons ready to be sent back to Nashville. In their stead we very reluctantly folded our new fangled "pup tents" on our backs and with knapsacks guns, forty rounds ammunition in cartridge boxes and three days rations in haversacks we marched out of camp at 8 a. m. with our faces to the South - Here began the "Stone River Campaign" destined to end with a great battle at Murfreesboro. Our line of march with the Right Wing under command of Gen. McCook was on the Edmonson Pike towards Holensville. Davis Division took the lead, Phil Sheridans second and our Division third. The Left Wing under Crittenden and Center under Thomas also marched at the same time towards Stone River by the Murfreesboro and the Franklin Turnpikes parallel with our line of march. We had marched but a few miles when the popping of muskets in front gave notice that the enemy's Pickets had been posted close to ours in order to discover our forward movement at the ear-

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liest moment. The skirmishing grew more vigorous until presently the cannon joined in with the loud and sharp reports apparently so near to us that we could imagine we could hear the shriek of shot or shell and momentarily we expected the order to deploy into line of battle. But our Division was not within range and our march was only retarded for a short time while Davis Division in advance charged a small force of the enemy and dislodged it from a chosen place at Knobs Gap where our road was flanked on either side by a range of rocky hills. After this little brush there was a cessation of cannonading in our front but the crackling of musketry still indicated that the enemy's skirmishers were disputing every step of our advance. Notwithstanding their resistance and a very heavy rain nearly all day we accomplished 14 miles passing through Holesville and encamping south of the town in a large open field where we spread our shelter tents for the first time and crawled under them thankful for the protection they afforded us from the rain which continued all night.

Saturday-Dec. 27-We marched at half past seven, our Division in advance and our Regiment leading the Division in the direction of Triune. A heavy fog almost hid the road from our view and we fairly walked into the enemy without seeing him before we had gone a mile from camp. Our first notice just as we turned a bend of the road was the explosion of two shells in quick succession at the head of our Regiment where Gen. Kirk and Staff were riding. We could not see through the fog whence they came and naturally expected a few more of the same sort. Before the smoke of the shells had blown away Gen. Kirk gave us the order to deploy into line of battle in an open field to the left. We obeyed with unusual promptness so glad were we to get out of the road before another discharge. Five of our companies were thrown forward as skirmishers and in this position we waited for the remaining Regiments of our Brigade to form their lines in rear of us. At the same time Edgertons Battery came up the road with a furious gallop and quickly turned their brass muzzles towards the enemy belching forth a volley of shells to

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which no reply was made. We then moved forward with loaded guns held ready for instant firing and up the slope of a hill where we supposed the enemy to be waiting for us. We had a fine view of our Brigade from our place in the ranks and the scene was very spirited. Just ahead of us one half our Regiment was extended in a single line as skirmishers. We followed with five companies in line of battle. Behind us at intervals "an echelon" the other Regiments of our Brigade moved slowly forward ~~with~~ supporting distance - much to our surprise we reached the top of the hill without resistance and there halted as the fog hid the valley beyond from our view - where in fact the Confederate General Hardee had his entire Corps in position. At 1 P. M. the fog lifted and our skirmishers moved upon Triune followed by our entire Division and Sheridan's prepared for action. Hardee retired as we advanced exchanging but few shots with our skirmishers and contenting himself with burning the bridge over Wilsons Creek leaving some Cavalry and a Battery to contest the crossing. These however retired after a few rounds and we entered Triune without further opposition. We passed through the camps where Hardees Corps had laid in line of battle the night previous and we bivouaced a mile beyond the town. Davis' and Sheridan's Divisions moved close up in our rear. Rain, fog and our cautious movements in constant expectation of battle reduced our days' march to 3 miles.

Sunday-Dec. 28- The weather cleared during the night and the cheerful rays of sun dispelled the gloom of two wet days. We remained quiet all day. A number of wagons were sent out for forage, others started back to Nashville for rations. Willich's Brigade was sent out to reconnoitre and discovered after advancing seven miles that Hardee had retired to Murfreesboro and Stone River.

Monday-Dec. 29-Our entire Army moved forward today into position nearer the enemy. The advance of our Wing was led by Stanley's Cavalry which met with strong resistance by the enemy's cavalry resulting in a severe skirmish at Wilkineens Cross Roads where a Brigade of Infantry had to be called on

en fer aid to dislodge them. Our Regiment on leaving camp this morning marched back through Triune about a mile and turned to the right on a dirt road which was very rough and caused great delay to our supply wagons moving ahead of us so that it was nearly midnight when we reached Wilkinson Cross Roads the scene of the days skirmish and encamped in a large open field a distance of 12 miles from our starting point. During this march we were greatly fatigued by the roughness of the road and having to be on our feet such long hours. The wagons ahead of us would start or stop in frequent intervals of time and we had to follow them in the same way. Sometimes the halt would be for a few moments only again a half or more would be consumed. We could not calculate in advance how long it would be and were always undecided whether to remain standing in the road or to find a seat on the roadside or even to look for a friendly tree to lean against. After night set in and it was pitch dark our trials began. As for myself I was so nearly overcome with sleep that my eyes would close as I walked and dreams would steal into my brain until rudely awakened by the giving away of my knees. Sometimes I would select a smooth looking path ahead for a few steps then drop into a nap for a minute or less to awake just in time to keep from falling. A halt was worse than the marches when we stood in our places waiting and expecting to move on in a minute or two it seemed as though a quarter or half hour would elapse but if we sought the roadside for a seat or a tree to lean against the column would move forward almost instantly requiring an effort on our part to regain our place in the ranks. What a relief when we halted near midnight and crawled into our shelter tents. No fires were allowed as they would disclose our position to the enemy so we were deprived of our coffee but not our slumber which soon wrapped our camp in its silent embrace unmindful of the fact that six miles away was Braggs Army in battle array waiting our nearer approach while between us two hostile lines of Pickets watched each other with sleepless vigilance all night long.

Tuesday-Dec. 30-Early this morning we took our place in line with the

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troops of McCooks Right Wing moving towards Murfreesboro on the Wilkinson Turnpike, Sheridans Division in advance, ours second and Davis' third. Sheridan was more and more stubbornly opposed as he approached Murfreesboro but succeeded in pushing his Division forward until but little more than two miles from the town. Here the resistance was so strong that he had to deploy into line of battle and Davis also moved up and extended his line on Sheridans Right. Our Division was held in reserve immediately in their rear. During the day our Regiment slowly followed the cautious movement of the troops ahead of us and scarcely beyond the range of the enemy's guns. The crackling of musketry and the roar of Artillery resounded in our ears all day for the entire Army, Right Wing, Left Wing and Center was moving close up to Braggs line at all points. When the din of battle grew louder at times we braced our nerves for an expected call to the front and when it subsided we breathed easier in the hope that the enemy's resistance had weakened. Late in the afternoon Gen. Kirk called our Brigade to follow him which we did and shortly found ourselves on the extreme right of our Army and almost face to face with the enemy whose breastworks were in plain view across an open field. Our Battery was brought up to the edge of the timber where we stopped and exchanged a few shots before the shades of night hid the enemy and ourselves from each others view - Our Regiment was placed in advance of all the others extending in line close behind a rail fence that divided the open field in front from the woods in the rear. Strict orders were issued that no fires should be allowed to disclose our position to the enemy. The air became quite cold after nightfall and we soon found it impossible to sleep. Some of my messmates with myself ^{concluded} to build a rail pen and line it with long dry grass from the field. We found the exercise restored our warmth but it did not continue long after we laid down in the pen in vain hope of falling asleep so I spent the most of the time pulling the long grass and carrying it in. One of my messmates Sergeant Werts appeared to take no interest in our work but sat silently all through the night with his face buried in his hands. He gave no heed even when I threw my rubber blanket over his shoulders through

pity for his despondency and chilled appearance. Perhaps the shadow of impending fate darkened every faculty of his mind. Before sunrise his bloody corpse laid amid the long dry grass in the field not twenty steps away from the rail pen where he sat through the night.

Wednesday-Dec. 31-We entered upon the last day of the year not only in great discomfort but also in greatest peril. Directly in front of our little force detached Regiments two thirds of Braggs Army had gathered during the night and only waited for the first grey streaks of morning to burst upon us. We had no knowledge of this danger and evidently our Officers had no such expectation. No sort of preparation was made for such an event. Why did we not keep ourselves warm during the night with pick and shovel constructing breastworks. Why was not our Regiments and Brigades joined together in line instead of being detached and isolated without knowledge of each others location. At the very time we should have exercised the greatest vigilance we were building fires and making coffee, for such permission had been granted just before daylight. One half of the Battery horses were unhitched and taken to the creek for water. A Brigade Commander and several Regimental Commanders were absent from their posts in attendance at Gen. McCooks Headquarters to receive orders for the day. As for myself the comfort of warming chilled fingers and toes and drinking a grateful cup of hot coffee outweighed for the moment any consideration of danger. Next my curiosity asserted itself and while my comrades were still sipping their coffee I leisurely walked out into the field towards the Picket line where a company of our Regt. was stationed to watch the enemy. Before reaching them I saw one running towards me and as he passed me he exclaimed "they're coming" and continued on to the Regiment to give the alarm. As all was so quiet, not a shot having been fired, I felt decidedly skeptical and walked still further out until the enemy's breastworks were in view and there sure enough was the confirmation of the Pickets report. A succession of long lines of Gray were swarming over the Confederate breastworks and sweeping towards us but not yet within gun shot range. As there was no

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time to lose I started back in a hurry to rejoin the Regiment, and met it advancing in line into the open field to meet the shock that soon must come. General Kirk, at the first alarm given by the Picket placed himself at the head of our Regiment and gave the command "Forward". He performed a brave but very rash act in so doing and paid the penalty with his life for here he received the wound that afterwards killed him. The mistake was evident to me when I saw 350 men marching into an open field to meet 20,000. Our Regiment had advanced about 100 yards into the field when our Pickets fired into the approaching columns of the enemy. Our weak challenge was answered with a volley from one of the advancing Regiments directly in front of us and a moment later a succession of volleys spread to the right and left until the entire Confederate line was directing its fire into the ranks of our Regiment as we were alone visible to them. At the first discharge we threw ourselves flat in the grass and emptied 350 muskets into the ranks of the foe. At the same time our Battery of six cannon opened a vigorous fire throwing shells close over our heads into the enemy whose Batteries also opened on us with shells and grape & cannister. Under such a fire our only salvation was to lie flat as possible on the ground for the air fairly seethed with the "Zip" of bullets and grape shot over our heads. It reminded me of the passage of a swarm of bees. All the bullets did not pass overhead. Many plowed little furrows around us throwing up tufts of grass and handfuls of soil into our faces or over our bodies and others struck with a dull "thud" into some poor unfortunate soul opening a gaping wound through which might perhaps flow his life blood. We endured this ordeal scarcely ten minutes until 21 were killed and 100 wounded or more than one third of our number. By this time the Confederates were almost upon us and nothing remained to us but capture or retreat. We adopted the latter alternative but all did not succeed for 64 of our number were captured after leaving the field by the enemy's cavalry which had ridden around in our rear. When I passed our Battery of six brass cannon their muzzles were

Confederates in a gallant manner and when his Division was repulsed returned to the attack several times until the field was strewn with his dead and wounded. Some of his Regiments lost half their number in these assaults. Disheartened by the failure to turn our left as Bragg fondly hoped for, he ordered no more charges during the day but pressed his whole line close up to ours for the purpose of discovering a weak or unprotected spot where the attack might be renewed. No such spot was found before night closed the scene and terminated the incessant roar of musketry and artillery. Both Armies thoroughly exhausted, rested on their arms in line of battle while the old year passed into history and the New Year dawned upon an undecided battle field.

Thursday-January 1, 1863-Contrary to our expectations the morning light did not witness a renewal of the battle. We were glad enough to be let alone and Bragg was anxious for us to fall back on Nashville without having to be driven back. We showed a disposition to be stubborn when it came to being driven. Bragg's cavalry had ridden entirely around our Army and reported our baggage trains in a complete state of disorganization and panic. Indeed Rosecrans at one time contemplated a retreat to Nashville, being ignorant of the exhausted and weakened condition of his enemy, but wiser counsel prevailed and our position in front was held intact. During the day Bragg made several demonstrations with Artillery and a show of infantry in a threatening way as though preparing for another assault but these movements failed to produce the effect he desired.

Friday-Jan-2-During the forenoon it became evident that Bragg was making preparations to renew the assault on our left and Rosecrans promptly concentrated as many men and cannon as possible to defend the threatened point. At 3 p. m. the Confederates emerged from their concealment in strong columns and advanced rapidly upon our lines driving back our men for some distance but in doing so they came within short range of our artillery which had been massed for the purpose and which now opened upon the advancing

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still pointing to the foe but they were silent and deserted save by the dead and dying horses. Before I reached the Battery I saw the last Artillery man cutting the traces of the last available horses galloping madly to the rear as his comrades had already done before him. In our retreat we hoped to find a refuge with organized troops belonging to other Divisions of our Right Wing but in this we were disappointed. We encountered nothing but confusion until we reached the Nashville Turnpike. This charge of the enemy or rather a succession of charges had driven back our Brigade after another until the Right Wing rested against the Center like a bird with outstretched wings folds one to its body. The Confederates elated with their success in driving back our Right Wing now made a vigorous attack upon the Center and if this too had given way the destruction of our Army would have been complete but the troops of the Center had time for preparation and their lines were in order to receive the attack being strengthened by the fragments of the Right Wing which found a refuge there. The victorious columns that had driven us back now found an obstruction they could not move and they recoiled from each charge with heavy losses. Their Commander Gen. Bragg was forced to abandon the attempt to break our Center and transferred the attack to our Right Wing where he had a large part of his Army confronting that portion of our Army and where neither side had been seriously engaged during the attack on our Right Wing. Our Commander Gen. Rosecrans finding all his own plans of battle demolished by Bragg's early and unexpected attack now devoted himself entirely to defensive operations and by the time Bragg was ready to swing back our Left as he had already done our Right Wing he found a very different condition of affairs. Instead of detached, isolated, unsupported Regiments and Brigades some without commanders and all unprepared he found a compact line of Infantry supported by nearly every piece of Artillery attached to Rosecrans Army, trained to cover the ground over which the enemy was expected to charge. General Breckenridge (Ex-Vice President of the U. S.) led this charge of the

Confederates with such disastrous effect that they halted wavered and retreated being followed by our Infantry. The roar of Artillery and musketry had been deafening all along the line since noon and when night again ended the strife we still held our position with but little loss while the Confederate loss was about 2,000 killed and wounded in this disastrous charge of Breckenridges Division.

Saturday-Jany.3-Both Armies appeared so exhausted and so unwilling to provoke any further slaughter that notwithstanding the close proximity of the opposing lines there was scarcely any firing. An occasional shot from a sharpshooter or skirmisher was the only indication of hostility. Our Brigade very reduced in numbers and very hungry for lack of rations occupied hastily constructed works so near the front that a bullet once in a while dropped into our midst but without any damage to us. Late in the evening there was a sudden burst of Artillery caused by General Thomas throwing forward two of his Brigades and driving the enemy back from the woods in his immediate front, nightfall soon ended the movement and quiet once more prevailed.

Sunday-Jany-4-The Sabbath like stillness this morning denoted a change of affairs. Our Pickets looked and listened in vain for the line of Gray that had been confronting them so persistently and aggressively. Our Officers were soon informed that no enemy was in sight or hearing and directed a cautious advance of our lines to learn his whereabouts. The fact was soon established that our foemen had retreated under cover of darkness leaving the field in our possession. The joyful news was soon known to all and great was our rejoicing. We had not anticipated the extent of the damage sustained by the Confederates in their repeated charges on our lines because their success in surprising and routing our Right Wing appeared very much like a victory and we fully expected a renewal of the Battle. Bragg however decided otherwise and departed in haste believing that we were receiving reinforcements when in fact we were too much dis-

organized and exhausted to follow him.

Our Army numbered 45,000 engaged in the battle and the Confederates 35,000. The losses in killed wounded and missing were about equal being about 9,000 each, killed or wounded and 1,000 prisoners. Our Regiment went into action with 850 men and lost 21 killed 100 wounded- 60 taken prisoner total loss 181. Loss in Co.H- 1 Lieut & 4 men killed- 17 wounded-6 captured-Total loss in Co-28.

The list of the killed in Co. H were as follows; 2nd Lieut. Smith-
Corpl. Wetts-Privates Tyler, Easton & Willerby- Wounded Sergt. Householder-
Corpl Lawrence & Holsinger and Privates Bellig Coddington-Detwilder-Grove-
Johnson-Kellog-Morrison-Meredith-Miller-Reif-Tice-Bennet-Hays & Cert.
Missing and supposed to be captured, John Brown Fifer-L.Harrison-Drummer-
Mam-Nice-Brooks-Shaw.

My personal experience in this Battle was varied and exciting- During the first attack a piece of shell tore the heavy padded collar of my overcoat and blistered my neck. The violent jerking of my collar spun me around and fairly choked me while the smarting sensation on my neck naturally made me think that the missile had passed through my neck and that the choking sensation was the symptom of a fatal wound. My delusion was so complete that I could feel the blood flowing down my body and I sat myself down to die as I firmly believed- I was so sure of a gaping wound that I could not raise my hand to my neck until as some moments elapsed and my strength did not appear to be ebbing away I ventured to pass my hand around my neck and to my great astonishment found that it was only my coat collar that was shattered. I did not have much time to congratulate myself for the charging columns of the enemy were ready to run over us. They were coming six lines deep on the double quick, extending to right and left of us as far as we could see. Our Regiment was solitary and alone in the field, and we did not know whether any of our troops were near enough to give us

any support. Of 350 who marched out to receive the charge nearly 100 lay dead or groaning with wounds within the space of ten minutes. If our retreat had been delayed five minutes longer we could have escaped. I have a vivid recollection of thrashing my way through a little patch of low scrubby pines thickly strewn with rocks. All too low and small to afford any shelter but large enough to obstruct my progress- while bullets were slipping the shrubs and glancing from rocks all around me. I became separated from others of the Regiment in this retreat many of whom were captured after they left the field. Once out of range I stopped to consider and thinking that perhaps the Regiment might have rallied somewhere I determined to return the same way I had come. Crossing an open field I was approaching the woods when suddenly the confederates emerged ready to charge and at the same time there began once again a furious fire of musketry from both sides of the field and I realized that I was between the contending lines and just about to walk into the midst of the Confederates. It appears that when the Confederates dislodged our Regiment they halted to reform their columns before charging across an open field upon the second position of our troops. The cessation of firing during this preparation misled me to conjecture that the charge had been checked by some of our troops that I had not noticed in my hasty retreat and that the remnant of my Regiment had joined them and stopped further retreat. My experience in finding myself between the lines convinced me that my Regiment was completely "hors du combat," or in other words killed wounded captured or scattered. I have always been thankful that I belonged to the latter class.

The remnant of our Regiment was collected after the first days battle at the Murfreesboro Pike and remained under orders.

Monday-Jany-5-Our Brigade was ordered to move at noon. We crossed Stone River on the Railroad Bridge which had been partially destroyed by the enemy making the passage difficult and tedious. Entering Murfreesboro

so recently General Braggs Headquarters we found it like one vast Hospital being occupied by the wounded of both Armies perhaps ten thousand in number as the aggregate loss during the battle was 18,000 killed and wounded. The Confederates left behind only those who were very seriously wounded. We marched through the town and encamped four miles south of it. Tuesday-Jan-6-Contrary to our expectations we remained in camp all day. We pitched our tent and once again enjoyed comfortable quarters after eleven days of exposure. I was kept busy in the Adjutants Office making out reports and lists of the killed wounded and missing which were required to be sent in as soon as possible to the different Army Departments as well as to the State of Illinois.

Wednesday-Jan-7-Arrangements have been made for laying out a new camping ground a short distance from our present location. For this purpose a number have been detailed and at work all day under charge of Captain Parrott.

Wednesday-Jan-8-Our Regiment went out with a forage train this morning and returned every man with his ration of fresh meat. Our supply of Government rations is very short, particularly in meat, so we do not let any opportunity pass for supplying our deficiency.

Friday-Jan-9-The Company Officers are busily engaged in making out payrolls ready for the Paymaster who is expected James Askey and August Hickman supposed to have been captured, returned to the Company today.

Saturday-Jan-10-The Regiment was ordered out on Picket duty at 7 a.m. The line is only one half mile in advance of our camp. None of the enemy have so far been discovered near our picket line. No further work has been done at the new camp ground we having received notice that our Division will be moved further to the rear.

Sunday-Jan.11-Orders came this morning before the Regiment returned from Picket duty, to strike tents and pack baggage which was done by those remaining in camp. When the Regiment was relieved we moved our camp one

mile to the rear and located it on the north bank of Stone River, our Brigade occupying a large open and level field adjoining the railroad. We found the weather beautiful.

Monday-Jan-12-This Camp is named Camp Sill in memory of General Sill who fell in the Battle of Stone River. This is a tribute to his name that could not be more worthily bestowed. But still more glorious and lasting is the love of his soldiers including every man of our Second Division which he once commanded. He was a Christian as well as a Patriot, quiet, kind, faithful, courteous, consistent and above reproach.

Tuesday-Jan;13-J. Grove and L. Hays wounded in the late battle and Geeting, Wagner and Matmiller convalescents returned to their Company. It is great comfort to see a few more familiar faces in Co.H. We miss so many from the ranks for our numbers are only one third of those who took part in the Battle. A feeling of loneliness pervades our thinned ranks and somewhat of despondency when we reflect that we may be destined to pass through such ordeals before we have accomplished the preservation of the Union.

Wednesday-Jan/14-Another of our boys(Jas. T. Kennedy) returned to the Company today from the Hospital at Nashville suffering from a chronic complaint which he despaired of having cured there so he determined to try the effect of camp life and active duty so far as able.

Thursday Jan.15- Our rations are getting very scarce and while sufficient to prevent starvation they are enough to satisfy our hunger. In order to supply this deficiency our Quartermaster this morning directed that each Company should furnish a squad of men to shell corn and carry it to a Grist Mill a short distance from camp to be ground into meal.

Friday-Jan;16-Shower after shower of rain passed over camp today flooding the grounds and suspending all movements or business. Our whole attention was given to efforts to keep dry and some men had such poor tents that they did not succeed.

Saturday-Jan.17-The Regiment went out with a forage train and Snow fell during the night and covered the ground this morning. The air continued so cool all day that the sun did not have much effect in melting it.

Sunday-Jan.18-After a very long interval we had the privilege of attending Divine Service and assembled at 1 p. m. to hear Major Buckner of the 79th Illinois who preached us a very good sermon.

Monday-Jan.19-The Regiment was ordered out on Picket duty at 7 a.m. Many of our men went out with empty haversacks on account of the scarcity of provisions. Our supply has to be hauled thirty miles from Nashville by wagons and the roads being very bad from recent rains it is impossible to keep us provided with more than half our usual rations.

Tuesday-Jan.20-The Regiment was relieved from Picket duty and returned to camp hungry as wolves. We have a fair supply of fresh meat but no salt and therefore cannot eat it.

Wednesday-Jan.21-Rained slowly all night and some during the day. We realize that it means worse roads and smaller rations. The prospect is not improved by the rumor that the enemy's cavalry has raided our wagon train and burned 500.

Thursday Jan/22-A bright clear day and a good supply of rations has restored us all to cheerfulness.

Friday-Jan 23-Brigade went out five miles with a forage train and gathered a good supply of corn hay and straw, for our animals. Our men as usual stored a quantity of fresh meat on the wagons but alas for all of us our pickets had received orders to detain all provisions as contraband articles. Allowing nothing to pass but forage for horses and mules. Our Cavalry escort during this expedition had sharp skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry but no one was hurt.

Saturday-Jan.24-Late in the night an order came to our Regiment to be ready to start at an early hour the next morning as escort for our wagon train to Nashville and return with provisions.

Sunday-Jan 25- At 6 a.m. our Regiment with the addition of 50 men from the 29th Indiana started for Nashville and notwithstanding mud and rain arrived there the same night and occupied an old building on the Fair grounds.

Monday-Jan 26-Remained at Nashville all day waiting for a train of wagons to be ready for returning to the front.

Tuesday-Jan 27-The Regiment started back with the train stopping at Laverne for the night, under very unfavorable circumstances as the weather turned cold and snow fell in considerable quantity during the night. We considered the weather sufficient to keep raiders away without our aid.

Wednesday-Jan-28-Regiment arrived in camp at 3.p.m. very glad to get back from Nashville for the trip was anything but a pleasure excursion. There was two inches of snow on the ground this morning.

Thursday-Jan.29-It was quite cold this morning, the ground still partially covered with snow and frozen solid. We did nothing but sat by the fire discussed the news and speculated as to when the war would ~~begin~~.

Friday-Jan. 30-Regiment was ordered out on Picket duty at 8 a. m. The weather during the day was very pleasant and at night splended for lying out in the open air. As usual the enemy did not trouble us.

Saturday-Jan.31-Returned from Picket at 9 a. m. Sergt Myers reached the Regiment today- The resignation of two good officers were accepted today Capt. Wood Co. C and Lieut Beaver Co. I.

Sunday Feb. 1- A heavy rain set in last night and continued a greater part of the day. Several Regiments of our Brigade were ordered out for work on the fortifications around Murfreesboro which have been in progress a few days. These works are intended to be very formidable so that a comparatively small force will be able to hold this point when our main Army moves on further south. Murfreesboro will be on the line of our communications and a very important strategic position second to Nashville. This work may be valuable and necessary in a military view but our men had three

objections to it today. Because it was Sunday, Because it was muddy and last greatest Because it was work. The first two objections may be temporary but the last is permanent and unchangeable. We did not enlist to get a job of working we had plenty of it at home. We expected just a big picnic with good clothes good rations regular pay and glory not work and mud.

Monday-Feb.2-Our turn came today for work on the fortifications. The Regiment left camp at 7 a. m. and returned in the evening and actually had to work to keep warm for the day was extremely cold and the mud frozen.

Tuesday-Feb. 3-^Ihis morning was the coldest we have experienced in Tennessee. A light snow laid on the ground. The Regiment had no duty to perform so we hugged our fires and congratulated ourselves that we did not have to work to keep warm.

Wednesday-Feb.4-Our Brigade was ordered out on Picket duty at 7 a.m. . About 9 a.m. we heard lively cannonading in the direction of Tullahoma and not very far from our posts. We were very much excited for a time and made preparation for a possible attack but we learned after awhile that the firing was caused by an attack by the enemy's cavalry on one of our forage trains which was defended by an Infantry force from our Division and two guns from our Battery. The enemy harassed the train from the time it went out until it returned, following almost to our Picket line - but did not prevent the loading of our wagons and their safe return - Three of the train escort were wounded.

Thursday-Feb.5-The firing yesterday was the first we have heard since the Battle of Stone River. The two armies have been letting each other "severly alone" since that event. About the only exception was a raid by General Wheeler upon our communications with Nashville making it necessary for General Rosecrans to send Davis Division and a force of Cavalry to drive the raiders away.

Friday-Feb.6-The first news came today from captured members of our

Regiment who were taken at Stone River. Some of them reached Annapolis, paroled, having been shipped via Vicksburg and Mobile to Richmond and there transferred to our lines.

Saturday-Feby-7-Our Regiment with a small force of Cavalry went out this morning with a wagon train for forage. Four miles from camp the enemy's Cavalry encountered and brisk skirmishing ensued. A large quantity of powder and lead was shot away and a great deal of noise was made but the only damage was one man of our cavalry wounded.

Sunday-Feby-8- This day called a day of rest has become transformed for us to a day of work.. We were therefore not surprised when the order came today that this Brigade should bivouac a few days along the line of fortifications under construction in order to be near the work allotted us. All baggage was left in camp with a few men to take care of it, except shelter tents for protection during the night. Our men obeyed this order with much grumbling.

Monday-Feby-9-The Brigade was kept at work all day with pick and shovel. The regulations for working are as follows- The Right and Left Wings of the Regiments constitute two parties, relieving each other every two hours, from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. each day.

Tuesday-Feby-10-Our camp and baggage was moved this morning at 9 o'clock to a position near the works, about one mile west of Murfreesboro- A Locomotive and train arrived from Nashville today for the first time since our possession of this place. The shrill whistle evoked hearty cheers from all quarters of our camps. It conveyed to us the agreeable and indisputable intelligence that we are linked again with home and friends, by an iron roadway over which may come plentiful rations, letters, newspapers tobacco whiskey and numerous other so called luxuries which Soldiers love so well and miss so much when the wagons are overtaxed in carrying only the necessities of life.

Wednesday-Feby-11-A new regulation was enforced today which appears

to us as being very unnecessary. A detail was made for Guards to encircle our Brigade Camp and keep us all within these limits. It is not so much the restraint we object to as it is the hardship frequently of working during the day and being detailed for guard duty at night.

Thursday-Feby-12-The weather which for the last few days has been springlike changed to wet and stormy growing quite cold in the evening. We do not mind the change much as we have been in camp long enough to make ourselves comfortable. Now since the railroad has been repaired our Butler has received a new supply of goods which he is anxious to exchange for those little pieces of pasteboard which rise up on pay day and draw our pay for us.

Friday-Feby-13-Our Brigade was engaged all day in drawing drift logs and trees from the River to prevent them from being carried by a flood against the temporary bridges which our engineers have constructed across the stream. An important order is received from Gen. Rosecrans authorizing the employment of negroes as cooks teamsters etc. to be paid and clothed at the expense of the Government.

Saturday-Feby-14-Near our camp is an elevated point where one may stand on a clear day like this and look upon a scene of the greatest activity. Far as the eye can see to the north and east are long zig zag lines of upturned earth where many thousands of blue coated workmen are busily engaged with pick and spade digging wide and deep trenches and building high and broad earthen ramparts sufficient in extent for the complete protection of Rosecrans entire Army.

Sunday-Feby-15-Contrary to our expectations we have no work today. Some of our neighboring Regiments had Divine Service but as usual our Regiment had none on account of the absence of our Chaplain. We observed this as a day of rest in a very quiet manner and so did all the camps around us, disclosing a remarkable change from so many previous Sabbaths when there was no intermission of work (or) drill.

Monday-Feby-16-Rain fell steadily all day, suspending all work on the fortifications. Our camp presented a desolate aspect from the outside but within the tents were groups of loungers variously engaged in reading dime novels, writing letters, spinning yarns, arguing some question sleeping or most generally playing cards.

Tuesday-Feby-17-Captain Miller of Co h returned from home looking well and hearty after an absence on recruiting service since Aug. 17th 1862. Our Pay Rolls not having been made out properly were returned to us for correction.

Wednesday-Feby-18-Rain fell heavily last night soaking the blankets of more than one poor soldier who placed his trust in a weather beaten tent.

Thursday-Feby-19-The Paymaster came into our Brigade and began to pay off the 79th Illinois. We enjoyed the privilege of watching the crisp new greenbacks being hustled from Uncle Sams coffers into the empty pockets of his hirelings.

Friday-Feby-20-During the last two weeks our army has been reinforced by the arrival of 14,000 men from General Jordan Grangers Department. They came up the Cumberland River to Nashville on Steamboats conveyed by a number of Gunboats. The view of this flotilla from the Bluffs of Nashville approaching the city with colors flying and drums beating, was very inspiring to the Unionists but very dispiriting to Confederate sympathizers.

Saturday-Feby-21 A series of resolutions were prepared and presented to the Regiment condemning the action of Southern sympathizers in Illinois who are trying to discourage enlistments in the army and generally obstructing every movement favoring the Union cause. This class of sympathizers nicknamed "Copperheads" control the Legislature owing to the fact that the loyal men of the State are in the ranks of the many Regiments credited to Illinois and therefore unable to vote leaving the disloyal element a home

to control elections. The Governor of the State Richard Yates is a friend of the soldiers and he is able to counteract the schemes of the copperheads.

Sunday-Feby-22-This being Washingtons birthday it was observed by a Dress Parade of all our boys and the reading to each Regiment of an address by General Rosecrans. At Sundown a National Salute was fired by all the Artillery in our Army numbering several hundred cannon and for a while the uproar was equal to a Battle.

Monday-Feb.-23-The Ordnance Department issued to our Regiment today 155 new Enfield Rifles taking in exchange as many Springfield Rifled muskets.

Sunday-Feby-24-We have just received news that the Conscription Act has passed the Senate. It is necessary now to compel service as Volunteers no longer offer themselves in sufficient numbers to fill our depleted ranks. Our Regiment for instance scarcely numbers one half its original size. The new law divides the number of men required to meet the Presidents call, proportionately among the different States and in case Volunteers do not present themselves the deficiency is to be provided for by drawing the names of able bodied citizens who must serve themselves or provide a substitute by persuasion or hire. By these means we can depend upon securing any number of recruits the President may see fit to call for,

Wednesday-Feby-25-Recent heavy rains have swollen the streams so much that great mischief has been done to bridges. Two between this place and Nashville have been carried away stopping the shipment of supplies by Rail but we expect that Rosecrans with his accustomed energy will soon find a way to bring the Iron Horse to the front again.

Thursday-Feby-26- The Paymaster at last reached our Regiment with his greenbacks to our great delight. We received pay to January 1st. which amounted to six months in my case. A disagreeable surprise awaited me when the sum of \$21.60 was deducted from my pay for clothing drawn in excess of my regular allowance. Others fared much worse as some received no money

at all and many but a few dollars after excess of clothing was deducted . The Regiment has had a hard campaign and clothing, especially shoes had to suffer hence it appears very hard to our poor fellows to pay this additional expense.

Friday-Feby-27-Procured a pass and visited Murfreesboro this afternoon. Found the town thronged with Soldiers looking for ways and means to spend the greenbacks the Paymaster is distributing. A few citizens, (Butternuts we call them) were engaged in handling Government supplies. A great many of the buildings are used as Hospitals being filled with wounded both Federal and Confederate.

A detail of 35 men and one Lieutenant of our Regiment was sent out with a forage train proceeding about ten miles towards Manchester and returning with a good supply without being molested by the enemy. The plan of placing Citizens under guard along the route of these expeditions is found effective in preventing news being carried to the enemy.

Sunday-March-A very heavy storm of wind and rain passed over last night. This morning after a slight shower the clouds rolled away and the sun came out in all his brilliant quickly drying up the mud and water. At 4 1/2 p. m. the Regiment assembled for Divine Service and Chaplain Decker delivered a sermon. All work on the fortifications was suspended for the day.

Monday-March 2-The destroyed bridges on the railroad between this place and Nashville have been replaced and the cars have again resumed their regular trips. The work on the fortifications is progressing rapidly. Capt. Saml L. Patrick of Co. E. returned after an absence of six months. On sick leave.

Tuesday-March 3- At 3p.m. an order was received to hold the Regiment in readiness to march at a moments notice with 5 days rations. One wagon to accompany the Regiment with 2 days additional rations and the men to carry shelter tents.

Wednesday-March 4-We did not move from camp but learned that Rosecrans had ordered a general reconnoissance to discover the position and strength of the enemy. He was found three miles south of Franklin and an engagement followed between a force of 3,000 men on our side and a much larger force of the enemy resulting in the defeat and capture of a large part of our troops at least three Regiments. Another detachment of our Army dispatched at the same time by Frimont was more successful but nothing more was accomplished beyond developing the fact that the enemy was close at hand and prepared to dispute our further progress.

Thursday-March 5-Two men of our Regiment having been sentenced by Court Martial to wear the Ball and Chain for 30 days and kept constantly at labor were today set to work with brooms and shotels to clean up the camp grounds.

Friday-March 6-A detail from our Regiment of 1 Lieutenant and 88 men were sent out early this morning with a wagon train for forage but returned empty handed because the enemy showed fight.

Saturday-March 7-Our Brigade was notified today to hold itself in readiness to move at any moment. We are required to have three days rations on hand at all times. Rosecrans is pushing detachments forward at various points to feel the enemys force and positions. These movements provoke considerable skirmishing and may at all times develop a general engagement. In such a contingency our Brigade will be found ready for action.

Sunday-March 8- A very heavy thunder storm passed over last night, rain fell in torrents with some hail and the wind threatened to capsize our tents. It is again worthy of note that work on the fortifications was suspended for the day. Our Chaplain preached at 1,30 p. m. and gave us more politics than religion denouncing in very sarver terms people at home opposed to the War, who are discouraging all the efforts of the Unionists.

Monday-March 9- We were greatly surprised this morning to receive the abrupt order "Strike tents and load baggage immediately". The order was promptly obeyed and with everything in readiness to move at a moments notice we anxiously awaited further orders. These came at 5 p. m. to pitch tents and remain ~~where~~ we are and we at once began to rebuild the village we had demolished as many had supplemented their tents with lumber and rails and chimneys. All the men worked like beavers to restore their huts and by sunset all was in order again very fortunately for rain began to fall in the night.

Tuesday-March 10-Rain continued all day and proved very trying to our weather beaten tents which have been in service 14 months. This persistent downpour discovered many leaks not previously suspected.

Wednesday-March 11- A blistering chilly wind cleared away the rain but made it very uncomfortable in the open air. We kept our tents warm inside with fires and had nothing much to do but to discuss the military and political situation.

Thursday-March 12-General Rosecrans has issued an order notifying all persons in Murfreesboro or within his lines whose principles will not allow them to take the oath of allegiance, that they must prepare to be sent beyond his lines within the next ten days. The reason for this order is that many women and children are here whose natural supporters are in the Confederate Army and it is not considered good policy for these persons to be supplied from rations intended for our Army in place of being supplied by and thereby reducing the stock of provisions possessed by the Confederates. Another consideration is the probability of news ^{being} conveyed to the enemy by sympathizers within our lines.

Friday-March 13-The day opened bright and beautiful with a crisp atmosphere suggesting the benefit to be derived from the vigorous exercise of Battalion drill, so the Regiment was turned out in the afternoon with polished equipments and flying colors to make an exhibition of its

skill in marching, countermarching, advancing, retreating, filing or wheeling to right or left, forming hollow square or solid column, charging Infantry or guarding against cavalry, rallying as skirmishers or loading and firing in line of battle. This was our first drill since the Battle of Stone River and well executed considering the long interval during which we have had no practice.

Saturday-March 14-Another bright spring day attracted all of us to outdoor amusements either as participants or as spectators in a great variety of athletic games.

Sunday-March-15-A recent order from President Lincoln forbids any work on Sunday except in extraordinary emergencies. The result is that Sunday has become an agreeable day of rest to the Army. We followed our usual Sunday programme today, Inspection of arms and accoutrements in the morning and Divine Service in the afternoon when Elder Decker preached an interesting sermon.

Monday-March 16-Joseph H. S---a private of Company G having been tried by Court Martial convicted of disobedience of orders and sentenced to forfeit one months pay and publicly reprimanded by the Colonel in presence of the Regiment was compelled to undergo the latter part of the sentence during Dress Parade this morning when his name was called S---stepped from his place in the ranks to the front and center of the line and stood there with uncovered head while the Colonel reprimanded him.

Tuesday-March 17-While our own camp has of late been very quiet it has not been so everywhere. Squadrons of Cavalry and frequently large detachments of Infantry are required to observe and intercept the enemy's raids upon ~~the~~ lines of communication and also to keep so closely in touch with the enemy's pickets that any general movement on Bragg's part may be instantly detected and reported.

Wednesday-March 18-The Divisions occupying the advanced front were moved back today within a short distance of the town perhaps for conven-

ience. The country between the opposing lines of the two Armies has been stripped completely of all supplies for man or beast and therefore not worth holding. It is useless longer to send out forage trains as the last ones returned empty.

Thursday-March-19-In the Adjutants Office we were busily employed in making a "Descriptive Roll of Absentees from the Regiment" to be forwarded to the Provost Marshall General to facilitate him in detecting Deserters and soldiers whose leaves of absence have expired. So many officers and men are absent without proper authority or excuse that the ranks of our Army are greatly depleted and when a Regiment is called into battle it can scarcely muster one third of its original number as was the case with our Regt. at the battle of Stone River. For this reason a new policy is to be adopted and rewards paid for the detection and arrest of such absentees who cannot show official authority.

Friday-March 20-We were all out bright and early this morning to prepare ourselves to take part in the grand Review of our Division by General Rosecrans. General Johnson our Division Commander had urged us to make this the Star Review of the season and we did not greatly disappoint his expectations. The evolutions of 14 Regiments and 3 Batteries of Artillery (k8) guns in perfect harmony proved to be a very imposing spectacle. A single event marred the pleasant features of this parade. A Lieutenant of the 79th Illinois, in answer to a question of General Rosecrans, stated as an excuse for some failure of his company, that he could not make his men obey his commands. Rosecrans very abruptly exclaimed "Sir you may very shortly expect to be relieved of your command."

Saturday-March 21- At daylight this morning our slumbers were disturbed by sharp musket firing beyond our picket line with an occasional heavy report of cannonading. We tumbled out of our quarters in haste not knowing but that it was the preliminary of a general attack. The firing continued several hours and then ceased.

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Sunday-March 22-The firing yesterday was caused by an encounter between the Second Brigade of Reynolds and the Confederate General Morgans forces. The engagement lasted $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours and resulted in Morgans retirement from the field after leaving several hundred men. Morgan is a great raider and has been very successful in burning bridges tearing up railroad track and capturing wagons in our rear interfering very seriously with our supplies but he does not allow himself to be drawn into battle unless the odds are greatly in his favor.

Monday-March 23-Our men have been improving their leisure time in ornamenting our camp grounds by transplanting large cedar trees along the sides of the streets and around the tents- Many were 15 to 20 feet in height and presented the appearance of having grown where they stand. The contrast to green foliage and white tents is very pleasing to the eye and gives our camp a very elegant appearance.

Tuesday-March 24- In accordance with an order from General Rosecrans directing the formation of a roll of honor, the commanding officer in our Regiment assembled to select one Sergt. and one corporal from each company whose names were placed on the Roll together with the names of five privates from each company previously chosen by ballot. This Roll was forwarded to Brigade and Departmental Headquarters.

Wednesday -March 25-Robert Wilson and William Scott who were transferred from our Regiment to the Regular Cavalry Service ~~visiting us~~ today and expressed themselves as preferring the Regular to the Volunteer Service. Their Regiment is kept almost constantly on the move either scouting or skirmishing with Morgans Cavalry which is making constant efforts to interrupt our communication with Nashville and only prevented by the vigilance of our own cavalry.

Thursday-March 26-Camp was full of rumors today and kept us in a state of excitement which was evidently shared by our commanding officers who ordered work on the fortifications pushed with greater activity and

also ordered heavy siege guns shipped from Nashville to be mounted on our unfinished works. The main report was that General Bragg had been reinforced from Virginia and was preparing to attack us before the completion of our works.

Friday-March 27-An order was received from General Johnson that the troops of this Division at once turn over all the Sibley & Wall tents except one large tent for each company for the use of its officers. All the men will draw shelter tents and have already concluded that these will be our only protection during the summer.

Saturday-March 28-A large number of citizens were at work today on the fortifications, having been hired by the Government to take the place of teamsters etc. thereby increasing the effective force of fighting men by the return of many soldiers to their place in the ranks. Lieut. S.F. Davis, Brigade Inspector gave us a thorough inspection today including a rms equipments clothing and Company Records pronouncing all in excellent condition.

Sunday-March 29-A cold blustering wind threatened to capsize our tents and chilled our limbs when exposed to its fury. We had no Divine Service our Chaplain being in Illinois the order requiring us to give up our Sibley and Wall tents for small shelter tents, was suspended today until further orders a very agreeable announcement as we do not fancy the newfangled "Pup tents" which each man must inhabit solitary and alone.

Monday-March 30-The hours of work on the fortifications have been lengthened from four to eight hours. Our men now work from 8 a. m. to 5 p.m. Allowing one hour for dinner.

Tuesday-March 31-One of my comrades John Cottingham who helped build the rail pen which six of us occupied the night preceding the Battle of Stone River received his discharge today and will start home tomorrow on account of the wound he received. A minnie ball lodged in the bones of his arm and when extracted a piece of bone was found embedded in the lead. He

wears this combination of lead and bone as a watch charm. The departure J
Cottington leaves me the only remaining member of the party who occupied
the rail pen. One was killed, two wounded two captured and myself escaped.

Wednesday-April 1- All Fools Day was fittingly observed by playing
practical jokes on each other. A large number of miscellaneous packages
were started through the mail to various persons in the North who will
feel victimized when they receive them.

Thursday-April 2-The following order from General Johnson was received
today "The camp of this Division is hereby named Camp Drake as a tribute
to the memory of the gallant soldier Lieut. Col. Drake 49th Ohio Vols.
who bravely died in the cause of his country at the Battle of Stone River."

Friday-April 3-Two eight inch Howitzers have been mounted on the works
constructed by this Brigade. Heavy guns are also being placed in position
at other sections of the works. One would suppose that our fortifications
are already sufficiently strong to resist the entire Confederate Army
but the work is still being pushed with great energy. Meantime the two
opposing armies are watchful but not aggressive. Morgan and Forrest with
their squadrons of Cavalry are continually trying to interrupt our Com-
munications but with very poor success and frequently get punished.
Morgan on Wednesday was driven back with a loss of several hundred men
at Snow Hill where he had ventured too close to our lines.

Saturday-April 4-The Presidents proclamation requiring the immediate
return of Soldiers absent without proper leave is having a good effect in
filling our ranks. A considerable number have already returned to our
Regiment and others are on the way. It is said that 150,000 men are absent
without leave.

Sunday -April 5-After working on the fortification all week our men
were prepared to enjoy the beautiful spring weather today without having
any duty to perform. Our Chaplain being absent we are deprived of Divine
Service.

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Monday-April 6-Our Camp has been visited several times since the battle by an old man named Locke calling himself the "Song, maker of the Army." He always carried a valise full of printed songs of his own composition for selling to the soldiers generally mounting a box to deliver short speeches and sing his own songs which were eagerly purchased and became very popular. The last time we saw him he said he was going to Grants Army but a few days later we heard he was under arrest as a spy with a ball and chain to each leg and now we hear he was shot in attempting to escape.

Tuesday-April 7-This is the anniversary of the several days battle at Shiloh and was celebrated by the 77th Pennsylvania by sword presentations to Colonel Rose and Lieut. Col Pyfers. General Negley was present and made a short speech. The presentation was made by Lieut. S. T. Davis.

Wednesday-April 8-Our camp was inspected by the Department Inspector and reported in good order neat and clean.

Thursday-April 9-Heavy firing was heard nearly all day in the direction of Lavergne and many rumors were circulated through camp keeping us in constant suspense. The truth was that General Stanleys Brigade was sent from our camp this morning to reinforce General Granger at Franklin who was threatened by General Vandorn with a large force .

Friday-April 10-A general muster of all the troops in this Department was held today for the purpose of ascertaining the number of men actually present and the number required to fill all the Regiments that have been reduced by battle and disease. Rolls have been made out and forwarded to Washington for the use of the War Department.

Saturday-April 11-The Confederates today attacked our forces at Franklin and were repulsed with some loss. The 4th Regular Cavalry was engaged and succeeded in capturing a Battery but had to relinquish it.

Sunday-April 12-All the Sibley tents in this Brigade except those required by the officers were turned over to the Quartermaster to be shipped

to Nashville. Being ~~thus~~ turned unceremoniously out of doors every man began at once to provide new habitations and before the setting of the sun each man had his "Pup tent" in place ready to be "crawled into."

Monday-April 13-A detail of 400 men from this Brigade has been made to build a magazine in the works we have been finishing. This work is to be pushed day and night without cessation and for this purpose the force of men is divided into four reliefs of one hundred men each. Companies A, F, D & I supplied the detail from our Regiment. There seems to be several months of labor ahead of us if we are to complete the magnificent plan of these fortifications.

Tuesday-April 14-We are all waiting with impatience for news from our fleet before Charleston. The result of this contest will show the relative capacity of iron clad gunboats for the attack and fortifications for defense. But we have a deeper interest in the result than a mere question of science.

Wednesday-April 15-A printed address from the Loyal League of Allegheny County Penna. came through Brigade Headquarters for distribution to the Companies. The object of the League as stated in its address is to oppose the schemes of Northern traitors and protect the soldiers in the field from the fire in the rear.

Thursday-April 16-Spring is coming with its green leaves and bright flowers. The trees are putting on their summer garments while the tender grass is weaving a carpet to hide the roughness of field and hill. A few flowers tempted by the warm sunshine are timidly making their appearance.

Friday-April 17-An important order is received from the War Department that Regiments reduced to less than 500 men shall be consolidated into 5 or a less number of companies and all supernumerary commissioned and non-commissioned officers mustered out of service. We regard this order as very ill advised for the reason that it will destroy the soldiers pride in the history and achievements of his Regiment or Company. It appears to us the better policy would be to assign all new recruits to old Regiments

thus filling^g their depleted ranks and preserving their organization instead of forming entire new Regiments with these recruits as the practice has been.

Saturday-April-18-Paymaster Truax appeared with his greenbacks and supplied our Regiment with two months pay to March 1st. Some trouble was experienced by newly appointed commissioned officers who only received pay from the time their commissions were actually received and not from date of appointment.

Sunday-April 19 -A very quiet day in camp, Divine Service at 4 P. M. We have been expecting to hear of the fall of Charleston as the result of bombardment by our iron clad fleet, but a present we have given up the hope as nothing has been accomplished either there or elsewhere of advantage to us.

Monday-April 20-The camps of the 77th Pennsylvania and 29th Indiana of our Brigade were moved to make room for another line of fortifications. We are relieved from work on the magazine, but will continue to work on the earthworks as before. The duty of guards has been lightened by the organization of two details exclusively to work on the fortifications.

Tuesday-April 21-A reconnaissance was made today by a detachment of 4,000 Infantry under General Rosecrans and 2,800 Cavalrymen under Colonel Wilde r. The first and third Brigades of our Division were included. They destroyed almost entirely the railroad from Manchester to McMinnville a small mill at Liberty captured a large amount of supplies 180 prisoners, over 600 animals and returned with a loss of only one man wounded.

Wednesday-April 22-Rumor says that the Enemy is moving up to make an attack on our position a bit of news considered too good to be true for we could not ask a better situation than to occupy such works as these with the enemy in front and in close range. Doubtless we shall have to meet Bragg some day but he will induce us to come out of our stronghold before he opens the battle. Lieut Wald of Co. E who was captured at Stone River

returned to camp today having been exchanged. He was confined for some time in the Knoxville Jail and altogether his experience was not pleasant.

Thursday-April 23-For months past certain persons have been beholding visions and dreaming dreams of Peace which was to be declared on this day but the times give no token of it.

Friday-April 24-J. L. Harrison of Co. H returned today. He was captured and paroled at Stone River. Some of our men may be seen daily fishing in the river with seines made out of gunny bags. There are plenty of fish but not very large.

Saturday-April 25-Visited Murfreesboro to send some money home by Express. The town is overrun with pedlars black and white who occupy every prominent corner selling lemonade and cider. As the paymaster has recently been in our midst our men are generally supplied with money and apparently anxious to get rid of it as soon as possible.

Sunday-April 26-The day passed quietly in the usual manner, ~~Marched~~ Dress Parade and then Divine Service. The death of H. H. Bennett a few days ago at Murfreesboro fills my heart with sadness. He served me faithfully and preserved my life with unwearied nursing at Corinth where I was left in his charge apparently dying. The surgeons instructions to him were that medicine was useless and nothing remained for him to do but to attend my last moments and give me a decent burial. He did not however give me up and under Gods Providence and Bennetts care I survived to mourn at last over my comrade departure.

Monday-April 27-At one o'clock this morning Colonel Watkins moved out of Franklin between Columbia and Carters Creek turnpikes and surprised the Texas Legion encamped within a mile of Gen. Van Dorns main force, capturing 128 prisoners, 300 horses and mules 8 wagons and all the camp and garrison equipage without losing a man.

Tuesday-April 28-Surrounded as we are with "panoply of war" where every effort is being made to promote the efficiency of destructive weapons

it is refreshing to see near our camp a number of soldiers engaged in preparing the ground and planting potatoes for use of convalescents encamped here. All of them who are able will be obliged to work in the potato patch.

Wednesday-April 29-All Tents of Field and Staff Officers except four wall tents were turned over today for shipment to Nashville. The Adjutants and Quartermasters Offices were consolidated in one wall tent. This proceeding looks more like an early advance than does the planting of potatoes and more in keeping with our ideas of putting down the Rebellion.

Thursday-April 30-By direction of President Lincoln we observed this day as Thanksgiving Day. Peter Householder returned from the Hospital at Nashville having recovered from the effects of a wound received at Stone River.

Thursday-May 1-May Day this year brings none of the enjoyments that distinguished it in days goneby. Memory recalls the happy hours of the May Days before the discordant notes of War called us from peaceful pursuits and the comforts to meet the enemies of our Country. Hope points to the future when with Peace again restored we may celebrate with joy each returning May Day.

Saturday-May 2-Another detachment consisting of a Brigade of Cavalry under command of Colonel Campbell went out of Thursday from Franklin and surprised the enemy's outpost inflicting a loss of 14 killed and 25 wounded and 13 captured.

Sunday-May 3-Walked over to Murfreesboro with James Black. We visited Elmer Lawrence lying in the Hospital suffering from the effects of a shot through the leg at Stone River. We found him unable to move about and looking pale and thin. He is the only wounded man of Co. H. who has not been sent North. At 11 a. m. we attended service at the Catholic Church. General Rosecrans (a devout member) was there with his Sunday face looking as pious as though he is not in the habit of swearing like a trooper the

rest of the week.

Wednesday-May 4-A little more than four months have elapsed since the Battle of Stone River yet we are still lying inactive except that preparations for defense are still in progress in the construction of earth works magazines and stockades. Offensive preparations are also being made by the collection of supplies while our ranks are ^{being} ~~not~~ filled with new recruits or the return of absentees.

Tuesday-May 5-While our Army is holding its central position and keeping Bragg in suspense, the armies of Grant in the West and Hooker in the East are actively engaged. Grant is besieging Vicksburg almost continuously hurling shells into the city and forcing the inhabitants to live in caves dug in the hillsides. At the same time he is digging a canal across the narrow strip of land that extends directly in front of the city which undertaking if successful will divert the course of the Mississippi from its channel around the bend and thereby leave Vicksburg out of the way. General Hooker with the Army of the Potomac has crossed the Rappahannock and fought a three days battle with Lee's Army on the 2nd 3rd & 4th.

Wednesday-May 6-We are again cast down with disappointment to learn that Hooker has recrossed the Rappahannock thus confessing defeat as the result of the Battle of Chancellorsville. Our loss was much greater than the Confederates activity and rapid marches ~~have~~ caused more disasters to our cause than any one save Lee himself has been able to accomplish. Stonewall Jackson received a mortal wound inflicted by his own men by mistake during the first days battle May 2nd.

Saturday-May 8- A cold north east wind and rain yesterday and today made us all seek shelter and warmth around stoves where we discussed the unfavorable news from Hooker yet hoping for some new developments in our favor.

Friday-May 8-Sunshine today followed the rain and drew us out of our

tents to bask in his genial rays but did not serve. to drive away our gloomy foreboding as to the final result of the Battle of Chancellorsville reports the Army of the Potomac almost entirely destroyed.

Saturday-May 9-Our anxiety in regard to the fate of Hookers Army increases as the days go by and no definite information is given us. Never before have we experienced such feelings of suspense and nothing is talked about but the chances of ~~defeat~~ or defeat. Few however are sanguine enough to expect any favorable news.

Sunday-May 10- Attended Sunday School in one of the Stockades conducted by Col. Buckner of 79th Illinois who announced that it would be continued every Sunday while we remained. This Stockade appeared like a queer place for a Sunday School. It is octagon in shape with heavy timbers laid one upon another in layers and thick enough to be impenetrable to bullets. It is lighted by several circles of port holes wide enough to permit a musket barrel to be thrust through. Platforms extended around under each tier of port holes on the inside where the defenders are to stand to load and fire a ditch surrounds the entire structure and a heavy door is ready to be closed against hostile intruders.

Monday-May 11-We have at last reached the conclusion that Hookers Army has been defeated at Chancellorsville but not so badly as we at first supposed. It seems to be the policy of all in command to spread good news but to conceal bad news from us. We have lost faith in the old adage that "no news is good news".- it means to us just the reverse. We understand the situation as readily by the silence at Headquarters as we should by the actual announcement that our Army has been defeated.

Tuesday-May 12-It does not appear to us that we are helping much to put down the Rebellion. Here we are digging away in one spot apparently with the purpose of remaining here in security until the end of the war as though we expected the Confederates to come to us voluntarily and surrender. We have the idea that it will be necessary for us to go out and

bring them by force of arms and we also believe that the Confederates will wait for us to come out of these works before they will venture to attack us. This war business is becoming entirely too deliberate for us.

Wednesday-May 15-We are glad to learn that Grants Army at Vicksburg is making good progress towards the complete investment of the city. His columns are fighting their way in the rear of the city and if not checked very soon will completely surround and starve out the garrison that cannot be driven out on account of the great strength of the fortifications.

Thursday-May 14th-There is a contingency that may draw us out of our fortifications at any moment the contingency of Brags Army leaving our front to go to the relief of Vicksburg. Then it would become our duty to follow the procession and keep Bragg from interfering with Grant.

Friday-May 15-Company A was detailed today as guards for the ammunition of this Division. It is expected that they will remain with the train for several weeks. They took all their camp equipments with them.

Saturday-May 16-The continual work in which our Brigade is engaged is having a very beneficial effect on our health. We have plenty of good rations and splendid appetites to consume them. We could feel very well contented if we could realize that our work is necessary. We are only postponing the day of conflict that must come sooner or later.

Sunday May 17-Another interesting Sunday School was held in the Stockade and also Divine Service. I examined the structure more closely than last Sunday. It is built of heavy logs about three feet in diameter and 15 feet high. Standing upright side by side with the lower end planted firmly on the ground. The sides are hewed perfectly smooth and made to fit closely together. The form is thus. Between each upright timber loopholes are provided to admit the barrell of a musket. The whole ~~is~~ covered ^{covered} with heavy logs and a heavy layer of earth and considered cannon proof.

green boughs supported by forked stakes. We have no pews but we have rough benches. Service has been held in it during the week and many soldiers show a great interest. Two hundred have joined from our Brigade during the last two weeks and others are ready.

Monday-May 25-Vallandigham the "Copperhead" who made himself obnoxious to the loyal people of Ohio and who was ordered by the President to be expelled, arrived here yesterday and was escorted to the Confederate lines under a flag of truce. The officer in charge at first refused to receive him but finally consented to do so. "I am a citizen of Ohio of the United States and come within your lines against my will, consider me a prisoner."

Tuesday May 26-Another change has been made in the working hours on the fortifications by which the men are allowed more time in the middle of the day the hours being from 6 to 11 a. m. and from 6:30 to 6:30 P. M. However pleasant it may be at midday it is far from agreeable to be turned out so early in the morning or to work so late in the evening. The fact is the working hours are unpopular whatever portion of the day is allotted to them.

Wednesday-May 27-The monotony of our plodding work with pick and spade was broken at noon today by an order to hold ourselves in readiness to march at moments ~~with~~ with five days rations and forage. This vigilant attitude on our part is necessary to counteract any movement on Bragg's part to send reinforcements to the relief of Vicksburg. Any weakening of the forces opposing us will simply be an invitation to us to pounce upon them and destroy them if possible and then follow the detachments to Vicksburg.

Thursday-May 28-The inactivity of our two great armies in Virginia and in Tennessee naturally diverts the attention of the whole country to Grant's Army at Vicksburg. The authorities at Washington through General Halleck are urging Rosecrans to advance against Bragg with two objects

in view first to prevent Bragg from reinforcing the enemy at Vicksburg and second to respond to the impatient demand of the Northern people for a vigorous prosecution of the war. Rosecrans objects and has objected during the spring for several reasons. the bad condition of the roads, the lack of Cavalry to cope with that of the enemy and inadequate military supplies. The roads are now in fair condition, our Cavalry is fairly equipped and a goodly stock of provisions and other supplies are gathered in this stronghold which have almost made impregnable with nearly five months hard labor. No apparent reasons exist to justify much longer delay.

Friday May 29-A considerable quantity of rain fell during the day and laid the dust which has been whirling through the air for a day or two.

Saturday May 30- The prospect of an immediate advance indicated by Wednesday's order has faded away. We have relapsed into the monotonous performance of our regular duties.

Sunday May 31-We enjoyed a quiet day of rest excepting regular inspection in the morning and dress parade in the evening.

Monday June 1st-Corporal John Geeting met with a serious accident at Brigade Headquarters. A large pile of sacks of corn fell on him crushing one side of his face and injuring him in other parts of the body. He was carried to the Regimental Hospital.

Tuesday-June 2nd-We learn from New York papers that a "Peace Meeting" is called for tomorrow to devise means for ending the War by compromise. The idleness of our Armies encourages the "Peace at any price party."

Wednesday-June 3-Again we are thrown into a fever of excitement by an order to be ready to march at a moments notice with three days rations in Haversacks and four days in knapsacks. A hasty inspection of the Regiment was made and the exact number of effective Officers and men reported to Brigade Headquarters. These preparations denote the probability of an immediate campaign. Rumors fly thick and fast through

camp and set every tongue in motion asking questions or discussing

possibilities. The general expectation is that we may be called on at any time to follow Bragg's Army to Vicksburg.

Thursday-June 4-Heavy cannonading was heard nearly all day in the direction of Franklin, the result of reconnoitering operations on our part to discover whether the enemy has made any change in the location or strength of his lines. Every few days a Division or two are sent out for this purpose and a great deal of ammunition is wasted in shelling the woods. Neither Rosecrans or Bragg appear anxious to meet each other in earnest.

Friday June 5-Our hopes of a change which were stimulated by our orders of Wednesday and the cannonading yesterday were again dispelled by the absence of any disturbing elements today. There was nothing exciting in the "dull-thud" of pick and spade in the red and yellow clay as it was heaped into additional lines of fortifications as if to render assurance doubly sure, for there seems no need of any new works to make this position impregnable nor does it seem probable that Bragg would venture to attack us if our works were only one quarter as extensive as they are.

Saturday-June 6-At the close of work today our Brigade was notified that no further work on the fortifications will be required. This announcement caused general rejoicing and appears to indicate a new order of events.

Sunday June 7-Our rest today was undisturbed by anticipation of work tomorrow. We understand that an active course of drill will take place of digging. We have devoted so much time to the latter that we have become experts, but we may in the meantime have forgotten how to handle our musket. John Certan's exchanged prisoner returned today.

Monday-June 8-Company A was relieved from duty guarding the Ammunition train of our Division and rejoined the Regiment after having been

detached some time. The companies drilled from 6 to 9 and from 4 to 6 P. M.
Hereafter the Regiment will be exercised in Company drill from 6 to 9
A. M. and Battalion drill from 4 to 7 P. M.

Tuesday June 9-Exchanged prisoners fifty seven in number returned
this afternoon and were warmly welcomed by their old friends who did not
accompany the party during this tour through "Dixie".

Wednesday June 10-The relentless cruelty of war was illustrated
yesterday at Franklin by the execution of two spies or rather of two
Confederate Officers supposed to be spies. They found means to enter
our lines and presented themselves to the Commanding Officer at Franklin
wearing Federal Uniforms and claiming to be authorized by the War Dep-
artment and General Rosecrans to inspect the works. Their movements
excited suspicion and they were arrested. Inquiry of General Rosecrans
and at Washington disclosed the fact that no such appointment had been
made. General Rosecrans immediately ordered a drum head court martial
and their execution if found guilty as spies. The prisoners before trial
confessed that they were really Confederate Officers but claimed their
purpose was not to be spies. While it appeared exceedingly strange that
these officers should venture upon such a hazardous undertaking merely
to procure a plan of such unimportant post as Franklin yet the Court
Martial could form no other conclusion and therefore pronounced them
guilty. The following orders briefly tell the sad termination.

Headquarters Department of the Cumberland

Murfreesboro June 9 4:40 A. M.

Colonel J. P. Baird Franklin

General Rosecrans directs that the two spies
if found guilty be hung at once thus placing beyond the possibility of
Forrest profiting by the information they have gained.

Frank S. Bond

Major and Aide de Camp

Franklin June 9-10:30 A. M.

To General Garfield, Chief of Staff

The men have been tried found guilty
and executed in compliance with your order. J. P. Baird, Col. Commanding Post.

Thursday-June 11-The great event of this day was the arrival of Major Wil Paymaster who proceeded to hand out our wages from March 1st to May 1st.

Friday June 12-This day was observed as a general holiday by common consent to allow us all the opportunity to squander our greenbacks. The town of Murfreesboro was overrun with blue coats anxious to invest in whatever enabled them "to eat and be merry." A large crowd was also attracted to the Gallows where it was reported several spies were to be hung but for some reason there was no execution. After waiting a long time and indulging in the circulation of all sorts of idle rumors the crowd dispersed very much disappointed.

Saturday June 13-An order is received from General Rosecrans that all soldiers who have been irregularly paroled, that is paroled on the field of battle and released, shall report to the Provost Martial General and by him be sent to a Parole Camp to await exchange.

Sunday June 14-We learn that General Rosecrans within a few days past has called a council of officers to decide whether to advance upon the enemy at once or await further preparations. He was sustained in his policy of delay which is contrary to the advice and wishes of the authorities at Washington. The rank and file are willing and anxious to end the monotony of six months inactivity by breaking up our camp and ~~marching~~ marching out to meet the enemy.

Monday June 15-General Rosecrans has reduced the prices of the Louisville and Nashville daily newspapers from 10 to 5 cts and the weekly Leslie Harpers and Waverly from 50 to 15 cts. This is very kind on his part but it has cut off our supply entirely as no one can be found to distribute them at these reduced ~~prices~~ rates.

Tuesday June 16- We found this to be the hottest day of the season and all who took part in the drill suffered greatly from the heat. The Regiment is exercised in Battalion drill two hours each morning and

and Brigade drill three hours each afternoon. Most of the movements are executed in quick or doublequick time.

Wednesday June 17-Captain Decker has obtained leave of absence to go to Louisville to express money for the soldiers to their homes. This will be the only safe way to dispose of our cash.

Thursday-June 18-All the paroled men who have been exchanged were collected today and shipped to Camp Chase ~~at~~ Benton Barracks Mo. Thirteen of our Regiment captured and paroled at the Battle of Stone River were taken. They all departed unwillingly and hope soon to be exchanged.

Friday-June 19-We have been drilling so assiduously since we stepped working on the fortification that we are not sure the change has been much to our advantage except that it is more in keeping with our idea of military duty much as we dislike anything like drudgery it may become necessary for us to dig many a hole in the ground for self protection before we get through with this war. No doubt such work would be greatly stimulated the the "zip" of bullets about our ears. How often have we regretted our neglect to dig rifle pits during the night before the battle of Stone River. When we laid flat in the open field the next morning with a hail of bullets about us we realized too late how desirable it is to have holes in the ground when you need them.

Saturday-June 20-Colonel Miller of the 29th Indiana assumed command today of our Brigade. He has been commanding a Brigade in and near Nashville for a year past and has proven himself qualified for this position His conduct at the Battle of Stone River won the respect and admiration of officers and men of his present command. He relieves Colonel Rose of the 77th Pennsylvania who has been in command of our Brigade since the retirement of Gen. Dodge. He became very unpopular in our Brigade and we have been hoping all the time there would be a change of commanders before we enter an another campaign.

Sunday June 21-Our Chaplain being absent we had no religious exercises today and spent the day quietly in our quarters those of us who did not belong to a detail of 200 men for picket duty.

Monday June 22-At last we see preparations for the advance of our Army and we expect stirring events after our prolonged season of inactivity. It is high time for the Army of the Cumberland to do something for the good of our Country. Grants Army in the West has the City of Vicksburg and Pembertons Army in its grasp and will soon compel its surrender. Meads Army in the East is attempting to prevent Lee from invading Pennsylvania. Here in the Center we are confronting Braggs Army of 45,000 with our Army of 65,000. Bragg has the advantage of position a strong entrenched line extending from McMinnville to Columbia along the north bank of Duck River. Directly in front of us is a range of abrupt hills which cannot be passed except through three Gaps named Liberty Bellbuckle and Hoover. These Gaps are held by Hardee Corps which will doubtless offer obstinate resistance to our advance. It is probable that Rosecrans will avoid a direct attack on these strongholds by a flank movement by which we may get in the rear of Braggs Army and force him out of his works to meet us in the open fields where our superior numbers can be made effective. If Braggs Army has constructed fortifications as formidable as ours they should be well nigh impregnable to direct attack. We hear that Tullahoma is his stronghold and there he will retire from his advanced positions.

Tuesday June 23-We were all ready to move forward this morning but our Corps and the main portion of the Army remained quietly in camp while Grangers Corps and a large detachment of Cavalry advanced upon the left of Bragg's Army. We could hear the skirmishing resulting from the movement and knew that our turn would soon come. The possibilities of the campaign before us engrossed all our thoughts. As usual there were

privates ready to inform us of every movement in advance but as these self appointed commanders of imaginary Brigades and Divisions failed to inform us in our last campaign that the enemy would surprize us before breakfast we lacked confidence in their predictions.

Wednesday June 24-All preparations having been made during the night we were ready early this morning when orders came to advance upon the enemy. Willich's Brigade first filed out on the Shelbyville Pike, our brigade followed, then came Baldwins of our Division, after which Phil Sheridan's and Jeff. C. Davis' Divisions joined ranks to ours thus constituting the Right Wing under command of General McCook. once in line we moved over the turnpike like a huge serpent with its head towards the enemy its outspreading fangs represented by a line of skirmishers ready to strike the object lying across its path.

We had not proceeded very far until the irregular snapping of musketry announced that the enemy's pickets were opposing our advance but they retired slowly saluting us from every point of cover with persistent valor which delayed but did not arrest our progress.. Six miles from camp Sheridan and Davis deflected towards Millersburg leaving our Division headed towards Liberty Gap. As we advanced the enemy gathered strength until our skirmishers encountered a resistance too vigorous to be dispelled. Willich's Brigade then deployed on both sides of the road while ours moved up to support it. We found a Brigade of the enemy under General Liddle before us and our skirmishers had to be heavily reinforced to dislodge and press him back to the entrance of Liberty Gap where he held his position at the close of the day.

We passed through Liddle's camp which was occupied by his troops ~~last night and we found the place a perfect ruin. Evidently we had deprived them~~ of comfortable quarters at a very inoportune as rain fell steadily all day drenching Blue and Gray alike.

Our engagement did not permit us the privilege of a camp nor could we

allow it to the enemy. When darkness approached our Brigade bivouaced on a hillside minus every article of baggage not carried on our backs. Rain fell incessantly and wood being scarce we kept fires alive with difficulty. It was my good fortune to secure a boulder partly imbedded in the mud near our fire where I might sit with my chin resting on my knees lying down was out of the question. A rubber blanket partially protected my body from the cold rain. In this position I tried to find consolation in the belief that I would either be killed or cured of a slow fever that had tormented me for more than a week.

Thursday June 25-The morning light disclosed a wretched camp occupied by a dripping dispirited soldiers searching blindly for the missing requisites of a warm breakfast. As for my slow fever the rain washed it entirely out of my system during the night having only a damp, hungry feeling. Although a narrow valley only separated us from the enemy and all signs indicated that we would be called to cross it before the day was over yet our present discomforts were so immediate and pressing that our thoughts dwelt more upon them than the contingencies of battle.

About noon Willich's Brigade attempted to dislodge the enemy from the entrance of Liberty Gap but did not meet with success. We were held in readiness to support this attack until 3 P. M. when an order came for a portion of our Brigade including our Regiment to advance which we did promptly. Rushing down the hillside we passed around a spur at the foot and found before us a level field of growing corn nearly waist high and beyond it the hills on either side of the Gap where the enemy concealed his numbers in the brush. Our appearance on the scene attracted the enemy's fire while we were forming for the charge. It was not our purpose to waste time in making a show so before we had time to consider what were our surroundings the order was given and over the fence we clambered into the midst of the young corn which toppled over before us as grain before the reaper while behind us it lay crushed into the soft

mud that reached our shoe tops. Not tender stalks of corn alone toppled over as we advanced - blue forms here and there were seen to fall and rich red blood added its color to the picture of desolation into which that peaceful cornfield had been so speedily transformed. We who wrought this destruction gave little heed to the doleful picture at our backs as we struggled forward. Our eyes were fixed upon the brush beyond the field where the flash and smoke of musketry disclosed the danger line. The sooner we reach it and dislodge the enemy the fewer of our number will be left writhing in the muddy field. As we emerge from the field the smoke clears away before our eyes and we enter the cover unopposed. Our enemy is retreating towards the southern end of the Gap while we prepare to bivouac on the hillside of the stronghold we have won. But first comes the duty of looking after our comrades who fell with the toppling corn. Three of our Regiment lie dead upon the field and twenty six are wounded while the loss in our Division is two hundred & thirty one, including our Brigade Commander seriously wounded. It was my sad duty to search in the darkness for the body of a dead comrade and help to bear it saturated with a frightful mixture of blood and mud to the hillside where we consigned it to a hastily dug grave.

Friday June 26-We remained last night in the position we had won exposed to drenching rains and the apprehension of an attack by the enemy to recover possession of the Gap. We had no way to defend ourselves from the elements but kept our guns and equipments within reach for instant use against our human foe. As soon as the morning light disclosed our pickets to the enemy there was a lively exchange of musketry which slackened somewhat when no disposition was shown by either side to advance and finally subsided. Late in the afternoon our Regiment was posted on the picket line and during the night orders were given us to prepare for an immediate advance which were afterwards countermanded so far as our Brigade was concerned but the remainder of our Division moved away.

While our portion of the army made no aggressive movement during the day owing to our advanced position and the possibility of concentrated attack by the enemy, the Corps of Thomas and Crittenden floundered all day through mud and water toward Fairfield and Manchester presenting a battle front of five miles, and skirmishing heavily with a sullen but retiring foe. Rain fell in frequent heavy showers deepening the mud and swelling streams already well nigh impassible.

Saturday June 27-The danger of attack appeared so ~~imm~~ imminent that we passed the night on the picket line in almost sleepless vigilance which proved to be unnecessary as the enemy had stolen quietly away from his position in our front to concentrate in front of Thomas who was threatening his flank. As soon as the enemy's absence was discovered our Regiment was withdrawn from the Picket line and joined our Division and Corps on the march to support Thomas. Our route lay across the country east through Millersburg over roads and through fields impassable to loaded wagons. The weight of saturated clothing and mud adhering to our feet and legs impeded our march and taxed our endurance to the utmost. At noon we were delighted to reach the Manchester Pike which was in good condition. We followed it to Beach Grove where we found our baggage wagons parked and for one night we enjoyed the luxury of tents to protect us from the frequent rains. We learned that Wilder's Cavalry Brigade had dashed into Manchester and that Rosecrans had established his headquarters there.

Sunday June 29-A rest of half a day was allowed us but when we moved out of camp about noon it was in the midst of a heavy shower and for the next twelve hours we floundered through rain and mud as far as Duck River near Manchester. It was midnight when we broke ranks very tired and half starved just in time to dodge an approaching storm. It was my good fortune with a comrade to find a shelter in the kitchen of a house near by where we stowed ourselves under a table on the bare floor to sleep with

an overwhelming sense of comfort and security. During the day Minty's Brigade of Cavalry supported by Mitchells Division of Infantry attacked Wheelers Cavalry at Shelbyville capturing his Artillery and 500 prisoners. Wheeler himself escaped by swimming Duck River with the remainder of his command.

Monday June 29-Remained in camp all day with nothing to do but submit to getting wet, as often as it rained which required no effort and then to dry out which did require efforts and monotonous ones too considering the number of times we had to repeat the process.

We find ourselves in rear of Thomas' Corps near Manchester a town of about 30 houses badly scattered.

Rosecrans is here concentrating for an attack upon Bragg's stronghold at Tullahoma or a flank movement to force him out of it. Our Cavalry approached within two miles of Tullahoma during the day.

Tuesday June 30-While our Division remained inactive except to battle with almost incessant rains, we watched with painful interest the prodigious efforts of the various other Divisions to reach positions designated by General Rosecrans for a combined movement upon Tullahoma. The roads are swimming with mud and growing worse while Artillery and Ammunition wagons are being dragged to the front. A lot of pontoons, on wagons, so necessary in crossing streams are apparently hopelessly stalled here. Baggage wagons are all consigned to the rear as luxuries not needed in this campaign. Three elements are indispensable: cannon, ammunition and men and these must be gotten through mud and across swollen streams if within the limit of human achievement. It appears as if the limit must be reached before we are in position to attack successfully. Men and horses are dripping with water bespattered with mud hungry and exhausted. The result of light rations, incessant labor and the lack of everything necessary to comfort or rest.

Wednesday July 1-This morning opened bright and clear so our spirits

rose accordingly. Orders, momentarily expected, came about noon for our Division, to move into position so we marched out into the muddy road in the direction of Tullahoma but as the rain had ceased and the sky clear we moved with more cheerfulness than when weighed down with dripping clothing. Our progress during the afternoon was extremely slow but we kept on by the light of the moon after the sun had set, and contrary to our expectations we did not stop until we marched fairly into Tullahoma a little after midnight.

Thursday July 2- We laid down to sleep the balance of the night, within the massive fortifications which the enemy had taken six months to construct. We were too much exhausted to fully realize the unexpected good fortune of such a peaceful entrance to the great stronghold so formidable to our fancy during these six months of reflection and discussion. Our column was not the first to enter. One of Thomas' Brigade preceded our's a few hours. We found that Tullahoma had been abandoned in such haste that large quantities of provisions and ammunition were left behind while larger quantities had been destroyed. Seven 32 pound guns remained in position but spiked, also a number of tents. A few citizens remained who very willingly took the oath of allegiance. In the midst of our fancied security we were suddenly surprised by the rapid explosion of shells near the depot and for a short time imagined we were attacked but presently learned that the explosions were caused by the carelessness of a soldier who ignited a quantity of loose powder and shells resulting in the death of two soldiers and wounding of several others.

Our Division remained to occupy Tullahoma while Davis' and Sheridan's Divisions of our Corps were hurried off in pursuit of the enemy retiring towards Chattanooga.

Friday July 3- These Divisions found the enemy's Cavalry on the south side of Elk River at Rock Creek Ford drove them away crossed and continued the pursuit as far as Cowan where pursuit was abandoned on account of

wretched roads swollen streams and scarcity of ammunition and provisions.

Saturday July 4-It is hard for us to realize that after six months of preparations our first step towards Tullahoma was made only ten days ago and yet today it was so very quiet that even the "Glorious Fourth" failed to disturb our serenity. The only occurrence worthy of mention was a national salute of 35 guns at noon by the 20th Ohio Battery.

That so much has been accomplished in such a short time with so little bloodshed must be attributed to the brilliant strategy of Gen. Rosecrans. Consider what was before us ten days ago.. An Army not greatly inferior in number to ours well supplied with provisions ammunition and artillery in a chosen position guarding the only accessible gaps in a range of abrupt hills otherwise inaccessible protected by a deep river with marshy banks and operating from a stronghold made almost impregnable by six months labor. These difficulties appeared great enough in ordinary weather but when we encountered extraordinary heavy rains every day of the campaign and roads became muddy canals and streams raging torrents our task became doubly difficult and we can only wonder that Rosecrans was able under these unfavorable circumstances to move us about in such a threatening manner that Bragg has abandoned Middle Tennessee and apparently will only feel secure when he has found lodgement behind the Cumberland Mountains and the Tennessee River at Chattanooga.

Sunday July 5-Having no Chaplain to return thanks for us to a merciful Providence for the preservation of our lives we were left free to observe the day as we pleased. Probably very few prayers were uttered but surely many hearts were filled with thankfulness which inspired a quiet observance of the proprieties of the day.

Monday July 6-Cheering news from Washington comes in a telegram from the Secretary of War to General Rosecrans that Lee's Army has been defeated at Gettysburg Pa. thus ending the evasion of a northern state

which was the cause of great alarm in the north and of great rejoicing in the South. As a result of this news our camp resounded with joyous songs and laughter. We again ventured to predict an early end to the war, a prediction that none would have made during the last six months for fear of the scoffs of his comrades.

Tuesday July 7-Another dispatch from the Secretary of War to Gen. Rosecrans announces the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4th. No further particulars given.

Our spirits are now raised to the highest pitch. All are anxious to go forward and have it out with Bragg's Army in the hope that a victory now on our part will practically end the Rebellion but however much we may wish it we cannot move very soon to roads are too bad and supplies of all kinds too scarce. Salt pork and hard crackers are almost as hard to get as pies and cakes in our schoolboy days and taste just as good. We are sent out on picket before breakfast with empty haversacks. Our supply train is not far away but a great gulf of mud intervenes which must be "scorudroyed" before our wagons can reach us.

Wednesday-July 8-We hear very little from the two Divisions of our Corps which went off in pursuit except that they halted on Elk River to await supplies. While the Infantry is remaining as far as we can learn our Cavalry appears to be active judging from the numerous squads of prisoners they pick up and send back to our care daily.

Thursday July 9-A prolonged whistle of the locomotive awoke us last night from our dreams and we responded with a faint cheer in recognition of the fact that the cracker line was once more open. We arose early to catch a glimpse of our friend the "iron horse" and greeted him with enthusiastic demonstrations. Several trains arrived during the day and in consequence our rations are visibly increased.

Friday July 10-The telegraph announces that Morgan has crossed the Ohio River with 11 Regiments and 3 Batteries and is making his way North

through means necessary the country as no goes. This raid will in the end be of advantage to us, by awakening our people to the necessity of sustaining the army instead of wasting their time in Copperhead meetings.

Saturday July 11-Blackberries being plentiful the Surgeons recommend that we be allowed to eat freely of them on account of their medicinal value but the unpicked berries are in patches beyond our picket line, a dangerous locality, so we are required to go out in squads with arms under charge of an officer. It was my turn today to go with a squad of thirteen under charge of the Quartermaster. Our number was unlucky but not so our expedition for we found all berries we could eat and returned undisturbed with a supply for our comrades.

Sunday July 12-Lieut Col Van Tassel has returned to the Regiment having recovered from the wound in his arm received at Stone River.

Adj. Leavitt received notice of the acceptance of his resignation. Attended Divine Service in the evening.

Monday July 13- Prisoners continue to arrive from the front principally dissatisfied Tennesseans and Kentuckians who object to the manner in which Bragg has abandoned their States. A company is being organized here from the ranks of such prisoners and deserters.

Tuesday July 14-Heavily laden trains of provisions and other supplies pass this place daily on the railroad destined for the troops in front who are supposed to be occupying a line along Elk River around and near Bedford and Winchester.

Wednesday July 15-The report of the Capture of Port Hudson is confirmed. We expected this event after the fall of Vicksburg. Sherman is reported as having defeated Joe Johnson and captured 2,000 prisoners.

The Rebel General Morgan continues the destruction of railroads and other property in Indiana and Ohio, with the Militia of those states in hot pursuit.

Thursday July 16-Disgraceful riots in New York City have been progressing since July 15th in opposition to the Conscription Act. The building occupied by Officers engaged in conducting the Draft was assaulted and burned. The military and police are unable to quell the rioters who are increasing in number. /A Brigade of Veterans from the Army of the Potomac could soon restore order if their presence becomes necessary.

Friday July 17-The town of Tullahoma is rapidly increasing in importance and business. Butlers are coming in droves with their goods to tempt the soldier who has just received his pay for the Paymaster is at work in our Division distributing crisp new greenbacks that have a tendency to burn the pockets of the average soldier until exchanged for something that will burn the stomach. Such as brandy peaches.

Saturday July 18-A written dispatch from Department Headquarters was received late last night that Charleston has surrendered - based on reports from Rebel deserters.

Sunday July 19-Day passed more quietly than usual. Chaplin Decker delivered a sermon in the evening.

The bridge over Elk River was completed on the 18th but there are no indications of any forward movement on our part. Sheridans Division is engaged in repairing the track as far as Bridgeport on the north bank of the Tennessee River miles below Chattanooga.

While our infantry columns are quiet the Cavalry under General Stanley are scouring the country through North Alabama using Huntsville as a base of operations. They have had several running fights with Forrest's Rebel Cavalry and succeeded in bringing into camp large numbers of horses mules cattle sheep prisoners and negroes. The latter are the least desirable for while they represent a certain amount of labor withdrawn from the fields that furnish subsistence to the Confederate Army, they add capacious mouths to be fed with our scanty rations.

Monday July 20-The riot in New York City has been suppressed by the

the employment of a large military force after the city had been in the hands of a lawless mob four days during which time a great amount of property was destroyed and many lives lost. The drafting of recruits for the army is now being conducted at the point of the bayonet.

Tuesday July 21-About ten P. M. a dispatch was received from General Rosecrans that John Morgan with all of his command but 400 men had been captured in Ohio. Our Colonel at once communicated the good news to those who were awake and presently it had spread through the quarters sleepers were awakened and the busy hum of conversation succeeded the usual stillness of the hour. We attach great importance to the disastrous result of Morgans raid as it would seem to discourage future invasions of the Northern States following as it has the defeat of Lee's Army in Pennsylvania.

Wednesday July 22-The report that Morgan has been captured is not confirmed. He is still at large with a portion of his command hunting a hole through which to crawl but his chief officers Basil Duke and Dick Morgan are prisoners in our hands.

Thursday July 23-We hear that Grant is clearing away the enemy from the banks of the Mississippi River. The latest news from his quarter is that he has compelled the evacuation of Jackson the capital of Mississippi thus forcing the Confederates back into the interior.

Lee has retreated with his disheartened army south of the Potomac and doubtless will be content to resume the defensive tactics necessary to preserve Richmond from capture.

Friday July 24-The Christian Commission has fitted up a room in Tullahoma where religious books and papers are provided for the soldiers. A visit there today disclosed a large number of soldiers attentively reading while others were borrowing books and papers to carry to their tents.

Saturday July 25-We are glad to note that the railroad has been repaired as far as Bridgeport and the first train run through to that point today, which will enable our columns to gather closer around Chattanooga our next objective.

Sunday July 26-Intelligence was received today of the death of Brigadier General Edward H. Kirk at Chicago on the 21st inst. He was taken to that city to have the ball which he received at Stone River extracted from his body. He did not long survive the operation. His loss is sincerely regretted by his old Regiment. His death brings to my mind a heroic picture - a noble figure on horseback leading a handful of men into the middle of an open field to meet any army. He fell with more than a hundred brave men of his own beloved Regiment - all sacrificed in a vain attempt to check twenty thousand assailants by interposing three hundred and fifty defenders. Also received news of the capture of John Morgan and remainder of his band in Ohio.

Tuesday July 28-

Saturday Aug 1-Letters from home relate much excitement regarding the draft. We who are already in service consider conscription a glorious thing so do old men, women, children and cripples but able bodied men who want to stay at home, and especially "Copperheads" are very much exercised in spirit. Our ranks need recruiting if not by willing volunteers then by unwilling conscripts.

Sunday Aug 2-The late order of the War Department authorizing re-enlistment in the Veteran Corps is exciting much interest and discussion in camp. A bounty of \$402 is offered to such men as have served not less than nine months who desire to re-enlist for three years longer. A large number have expressed a willingness to re-enlist under these terms.

Thursday Aug 6-In accordance with the Presidents Proclamation this day was observed in thanksgiving and prayer for our victories. All un-

necessary business in camp was suspended and Sutler Shops and stores closed. Our Chaplain preached to the Regiment in one of the city churches which we have proclaimed from use as a rebel storehouse. It boasts a bell and spire so for the first time in our army experience we were summoned to worship by the musical tones of a church bell which found an echo in our hearts to the sweet refrain of "Home Sweet Home."

Saturday Aug 8- Orders to prepare for the march are at last received but we are to await the arrival of ten days rations required to be carried. This seems to indicate that we will leave the line of the railroad. The enemy is so far away from us and there are such a diversity of routes to reach him that we are unable to guess what plan has been adopted for the campaign yet we have many and various theories to advocate or combat in our discussions.

Sunday Aug 9-Colonel A P Dysart received notice of the acceptance of his resignation ~~the instant~~ on account of the reduction of our Regiment. It is the policy now of the War Department to reduce the number of Officers as far as possible in proportion to the reduction in rank and file or rather in muskets. The drafting of recruits to fill the depleted ranks of the army has not resulted as yet in any accession to our Regiment which is only one third its original size, but we that remain are effective almost to a man. Nineteen are reported today unfit for duty but marching orders will restore them to the ranks.

Monday Aug 10-An order from General Rosecrans directs that all soldiers desiring to apply for commissions in the colored regiments now being organized must send their names at once to the "Board of Examiners" which will decide the qualifications of applicants. The policy of arming the Blacks appeared so unpopular in our Regiment judging from the discussion evoked by its adoption that it was something of a surprise when 4 officers & 21 enlisted men made application.

Tuesday Aug 11-The first movement indicative of the opening of the campaign occurred today when General Mitchell's Cavalry Division broke camp and rode away in the direction of Bridgeport which is our frontier. Beyond that point Bragg is prepared to dispute, our advance as an encroachment upon Chattanooga which he claims as his own.

Wednesday Aug 12-When an order came this morning for the Regt. to go out on picket duty we said "We won't pull down our tents before another day" but we see our preparations for a great campaign rapidly approaching completion. We are stripping for the fight. An order requires us to forward to Headquarters a list of those who cannot endure hard active service. These will be collected from all the different Regiments and transported to Louisville to be formed into a Reserve Corps for the protection of our line of communication a service as important almost as that of climbing the mountains to meet the enemy.

Thursday Aug 13-One Brigade of Grangers Corps passed our camp today on its way to the front. One Regiment the 40th Ohio was left in camp near ours. We believe that a portion of this Corps will relieve our Division so that we may go to the front in time to take part in the first advance as our orders indicate. We are really anxious at least to be sent into Northern Alabama where we remember the orchards of delicious fruit and verdant fields of tender roasting ears upon which we feasted last year. What a disappointment is in store for the farmers who believed we would not return to devour their crops a second time.

Friday Aug 14-

Saturday Aug 15-The plans of our Generals for a new campaign are as yet unknown to us but we can see from preparations now being made that a long journey is before us and naturally our eyes are turned toward Chattanooga which was the objective of our movements from Corinth last summer. It is a trifle discouraging to find after fourteen months the same stubborn army and the same frowning mountains barring our passage to the Gateway

of Georgia" under circumstances no more favorable to us except that we have a new commander whose brilliant strategy in passing the strongholds of Tullahoma inspires us with the belief that somehow we will creep safely through the defiles of the Cumberland Mountains to the plains of Georgia.

Sunday Aug 16-The order to march while expected for some days came rather suddenly at 2. p.m. to be ready in two hours and promptly on time we marched out on the Winchester Pike over a level country dotted with scrub oaks. The road was muddy from a shower the day previous, but never did we move forward with more boisterous good humor. Our "Wits" were in their glory and every sally was greeted with shouts of laughter. One was so overcome with a prodigious effort to say something funny that he stumbled and fell before completing the sentence which action on his part was more ridiculous to us than his words could have proved. If any doubt exists in the mind of Rosecrans or at Washington as to the issue of this campaign it appears to have no place in our ranks. We marched eight miles and encamped in an open field to the left of the road late at night.

Monday Aug 17-As the field of our bivouac was empty at sunset last night so it was empty at sunrise this morning for we had come and gone while the shades of night brooded over it. We filed out into the road at 4:50 A. M. and at noon ~~reached~~ Winchester a beautiful village pleasantly located and apparently much more progressive than any of the towns near it. There we bore off south east of the main road toward the mountains over a beautiful well cultivated country covered with extensive fields of luxuriant corn and many fine orchards of apples and peaches. Halted at 3 P. M. near one of these cornfields which furnished a plentiful supply of roasting ears while the rail fence furnished the fires to cook them. They were literally roasting ears for we wasted them in the hot ashes with the shucks. As for appetites we compassed the fields with our hunger.

Tuesday Aug 18-Marched at 6 A.M. over much the same country as yester

day except that it became more mountainous as we advanced. Reaching Larkins Creek in the afternoon we followed its course ten miles crossing and recrossing twenty times many of the fords being three feet deep. Our progress was exceedingly slow and tedious on account of the wagon train ahead which made more stops and starts than we ever experienced before as might be expected in a trail that never reached the dignity of a road the bed of a creek constituting more than half of it. It was bad enough to wade through the water and shake ourselves like wet dogs on the other side but when a halt would suddenly arrest our progress in mid-stream waist deep the situation became decidedly embarrassing for none could tell whether a start would be made in fifteen seconds or fifteen minutes so it was usually better to stand and soak than to waste our strength in seeking an outlet where the ban, was difficult to climb the roadway being filled ahead and behind. As this watery ordeal continued until almost midnight we were a sorry set of wretches when we halted to spend the balance of the night as best we could. An hour later a lot of dripping clothing was dangling from a rail fence along the roadside while in the corners we were sleeping soundly in our skin and under single blankets which fortunately the flood had not reached. But not all were thoughtful enough to separate themselves from their wet clothing for the night, a number dropped exhausted on the ground to awake ere long shivering in the chill mountain air which penetrated to the very marrow of their bones.

Wednesday Aug 19-When the bugle aroused us at daybreak to get ready for the march we had to take down our washing before it was dry and move off at six o'clock with the water oozing from our shoes but we soon forgot all about the creek when steep hills began to rise before us and now instead of idly waiting for the wagons to move we had to move them ourselves. For this purpose we were distributed in squads of ten or twelve to each wagon and worked so hard we and the mules that when we reached the foot of the principal mountain at noon, our masters gave us a half

holiday before attempting the ascent.

Thursday Aug 20-At 11 A. M. we started up the mountain road which here ascends more than a mile almost perpendicularly dragging our wagons with us ten miles and as many men to each vehicle. We reached the top in about two hours and there followed a road of white sand comparatively level eight miles when we bivouaced for the night to sleep soundly in the pure air on the crest of the Cumberland Mountains.

Friday Aug 21-We arose bright and cheerful as larks long before the sun. An easy march of three miles brought us to the eastern slope of the mountain which we descended into a fertile valley-the Sequatchie-soon crossing the ~~mountain~~ and ten miles further on reached Bellefonte less than a mile from the Tennessee river where we encamped for the night having accomplished 17 miles. Here we are to await the arrival of the remainder of our Division which we left to struggle up the mountain side as we did twenty four hours to each Brigade working continuously.

Saturday Aug 22-While waiting for the remainder of our Division to cross the mountains and reach the river our Regiment has been detailed as Provost Guards in Bellefonte with headquarters at the Court House. The Adjutant has his office in a room where we found the records of Jackson County Ala., strewn over the floor in such confusion as only mischievous soldiers can create. Many documents have been destroyed. We can imagine what maledictions will be invoked upon our heads when future litigants depend on these missing documents to prove their cases. All the inhabitants except a half dozen families fled across the river when we approached but many will doubtless return.

Sunday Aug/23- Our march from Tullahoma to Bellefonte was distinguished by more boisterous good humor than any march of our experience although our enthusiasms was temporarily dampened by Larkins Creek.

One of the ludicrous events occurred when we stopped for dinner. Our guns were stacked and we sat on our knapsacks when the cry was raised

"Coon Coon" and in three minutes half the Brigade had gathered around a tree looking up at a knot which was not a Coon. After the laugh had subsided one of our boys appeared before Colonel Dodge our Brigade Commander and asked permission to shoot a Coon. The Colonel assented proposing to his Staff to join the coon party and soon they were seen to approach the tree and look with great interest for the "varmint". A great shout from the ranks dispelled the Colonels illusion so in retaliation he immediately ordered "march" and led us such a lively gait that soon we were too short of breath to cry "Coon" any longer.

Monday Aug 24-

Saturday Aug 29-During the week that our Regiment occupied Bellefonte we restored order and many of the fugitive families were encouraged to return. It is always the case that when our advance first enters a town there is a painful lack of discipline and confusion for a short time reigns supreme owing to the fact that the inhabitants generally are missing and their abandoned effects invite confiscation. Those who remain always few in number are undisturbed and in fact may enter at once into a profitable business of selling meals or pastry to their invaders. When the main body of troops arrives a Regiment is detailed to act as a Provost ~~Market~~ Guard and thereafter life and property are secure under strict military rule.

Sunday Aug 30-Leaving Bellefonte at seven o'clock this morning we marched out on the road to Stevenson a distance of 12 miles halting at 3 P.M. at Crow Creek within 3 miles of the town strangely enough almost on the identical spot where we camped 15 months previous-our mission the same seeking to pass through the Gateway to Georgia. Many of the old bunk s we used were recognized by those who had built them.

Monday Aug 31-Early this morning we marched rapidly three miles to the Tennessee River and crossed on a pontoon bridge 1200 feet in length constructed yesterday in the short space of four hours.

The enemy had been watching for our attempt to cross but the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry entrapped the pickets appointed to give the alarm. When our Pioneers reached the river with their boats-sixty in number-they saw the Rebel Pickets on the other side. One of our Batteries was stationed to command the crossing the boats were hauled into line with an allocated number of men to each and at a given signal were slid from the wagons carried to the water and launched. Then while some pushed with long poles others stood in the boats with muskets pointing towards the opposite shore where the Rebel Pickets remained quietly watching the movement until the boats reached mid stream when their curiosity apparently being satisfied they retired in haste into the arms of the Kentucky Cavalrymen who had already forded the river in two detachments above and below the crossing. Thus was accomplished the passing of one of the great barriers to the Gateway without firing a shot.

Tuesday Sep/t.1- We spent the day preparing for a long and difficult march across the mountains. Our tents and extra baggage were packed on wagons and sent to Stevenson for storage, only one tent being allowed to the Regiment. So anxious are we to lighten our loads that very few have retained any clothing but what they are wearing and one blanket preferring a scanty wardrobe to carrying a heavy pack over the mountains and at the same time filling the position of "assistant mule" by helping to drag baggage wagons and artillery over steep and rocky mountain roads.

Our pontoon bridge was thronged all day with the passage of our Division until this evening when Negley's Division began crossing.

Wednesday Sept. 2-After all our preparations yesterday we were surprised this morning when our Brigade marched away at 6 o'clock on the Twenton road leaving us behind. We soon learned that our Regiment has been detailed for the responsible duty of defending this crossing from possible attacks by the enemy who may seek to destroy our communications-a policy more feared by Rosecrans than a direct attack upon his marching

columns. We were set at work immediately to strengthen our position by building entrenchments. The 2nd Tennessee Cavalry was stationed a short distance in our front. During the day McCooks Cavalry crossed to lead the advance towards Trenton.

Thursday Sept. 3- A deserter from the 1st Kentucky (Rebel) Cavalry came into our camp last evening and remained until this morning when he was sent under guard to Stevenson. He says the Confederacy is a "dead dog"-that Bragg's Army is demoralized and will not risk a battle at Chattanooga and that the Tennessee soldiers say they will desert in a body if their state is abandoned.

This is the usual picture drawn by the deserters but scarcely justified by circumstances which appear favorable to Bragg if reports are true that reinforcements are joining him from Mississippi and Virginia. We hear of no reinforcements for us and none promised. It is said that Rosecrans begged Halleck at Washington for additional troops to protect our flanks but the answer returned was an imperative order to move at once upon Chattanooga.

Friday Sept 4-Our army has succeeded in crossing the Tennessee at four points without opposition-Caperton's Ferry, Bridgeport, Shellmound, Tenn. and Battle Creek. As the river is considered one of the great barriers of our approach to Chattanooga we are surprised that it has been yielded without resistance at any point. Evidently Bragg has been deceived by the demonstration of Crittenden's Corps north of Chattanooga but if he is not already he soon will be aware that the two Army Corps of Thomas and McCook are marching towards his railway communications. We must pass another barrier the mountains and there he must meet us or retreat. Our crossing at Caperton's Ferry is the most distant from Chattanooga being 40 miles. Roads such as they are diverge from here crossing Sand Mountain to several gaps in the Lookout Mountain Range. Our Corps marched towards Trenton 25 miles distant a very important Gap in the range.

Saturday Sept 5-Men women and children from the surrounding country and deserters from the Rebel Army are continually coming to our Regimental Headquarters for passes to cross the river. Thierfy two recruits came in one squad on their way to Stevenson to join an Alabama Union Regiment being organized there numbering already 500 members.

Sunday Sept 6-At last accounts our Division had crossed Sand Mountain with great difficulty building roads and dragging artillery and wagons by the aid of double teams and ropes. It occupied Winstons Gap with Davis' Division on the western side of Lookout Mountain. Sheridans Division-our corps-crossed at Bridgeport and came within 12 miles of Winstons Gap.

Wednesday Sept 7-This day completes the second year of our service. How our line has shortened since we stood in ranks one thousand strong anxious to rush to the front and capture our share of Rebels before the war might end. Scarcely one third of those fierce warriors remain and these are greatly tamed not over anxious now to rush into the fray but willing to take our place and maintain it wherever ordered.

Tuesday Sept 8-So long a time has elapsed since pay-day and our Sutler has been charging so much for his goods that most of our boys have already consumed their allowance and can get no further credit so it was the expected that happened immediately after "Tattoo" this evening when the Sutler tent went down under the rush of many feet and the contents went off in the grasp of many hands. There was but one spectator the Butler and he was so suddenly and so deftly rolled up in his canvas that when he emerged he stood like Casabianca-all but he had fled and likewise all his goods. All other spectators were participants. The silence that followed this performance was painful for every man in the Regiment was in bedasleep in less than three minutes thereafter. Tomorrow one may learn how it all happened - how the first line of raiders cut the ropes-the second caught them and circled around the sutler in a dizzy whirl with the canvas while the third and last contingent grasped the spoils. These

will be cautiously distributed and devoured and empty cans and bottles buried or otherwise disposed of while the sutler will get a new stock and add his present loss to his future price.

Wednesday Sept/9-As far as we can learn our army is grouped along the western base of Lookout Mountain at the several Gaps where passage can only be effected, extending from a point scarce|y| six miles from Chattanooga to Valley Head forty miles distant. These Gaps must appear to Bragg like so many rat-holes, which must be stopped or his storehouse will fall a prey to invaders. Can he hold Chattanooga and keep these holes plugged at the same time? "Nous Verrons".

Thursday Sept 10-General Morgan commanding at Stevenson came over this evening to inspect the fortifications on which we have been working so assiduously. He reports that Bragg has left Chattanooga but it not known whether he has retreated towards Atlanta or will attempt to throw his army on our communications which is our greatest fear. We are required therefore to hurry our work with all possible speed and every man fit for duty must either work on the fortifications or stand guard. The great length and weakness of our lines of communication are more apparent to us than they are to the officials at Washington or they would not have forced Rosecrans contrary to his advice to advance so far without support. If the other crossings of the Tennessee are not guarded by a larger force than ours it will not be difficult for Bragg to seize them. The necessity of keeping up the effective fighting strength of our army in front prevents Rosecrans from detaching more men to guard his rear.

Friday Sept 11-We were gratified today to find the 80th Illinois Regiment and a section of Edgertons Battery pitching their camp on the West bank of the river to assist us in the building of fortifications and guard duty, for really we are hardly able to perform the duties thrust upon us by the exigencies of the present crisis. Our camp being located

on low ground in the shade of heavy trees has proved dreadfully unhealthy and the sick list has increased with alarming rapidity. We are now ordered to remove our camp to the river bank where God's blessed sunshine we hope will dispel malaria.

Saturday Sept 12-We learn that our comrades of the 92nd Illinois mounted infantry belonging to Wilder's Brigade were the first to discover that Bragg has left Chattanooga. Rosecrans on receipt of this information believing that Bragg was hurriedly retreating ordered all his columns to advance immediately in vigorous pursuit. In attempting to carry out this order our commander soon discovered that they did not have a flying enemy to deal with but a compact army concentrated at Lafayette and prepared to assault either one of our isolated corps.

Sunday Sept 13-We scarcely knew this was Sunday so hard did we have to work on our defenses, stimulated as we are by rumors of Cavalry raids by the enemy to destroy our communications while our army is penned in the mountains its several columns unable to communicate with or help each other.

Monday Sept 14-The only news we get now is from Chattanooga which is occupied by a portion of Crittenden's Corps. As for our own corps (McCook's) it is away on the extreme right of our army farther from Chattanooga than is Bragg's Army, which in fact confronts Thomas Corps in our center. It is possible to concentrate our army under such circumstances? Heaven, only knows.

Tuesday Sept. 15-The country people continue to apply to us for passes to cross the river and make their way into Tennessee or Kentucky. Many of them beg for something to eat as they have been robbed of food by friend and foe. All claim to be Unionists but we know they are not. All to be trusted-The real Unionists are suffering greatly. One instance among many is that of the wife of a soldier in the Union Tennessee Regiment. She came to us with a babe in her arms having walked five miles.. Two other children waited at home without food for her return. After pro-

during our passage we waded through heat and dust to Stevenson three miles further. We have given all our surplus rations to these suffering people and our Major has applied for authority to issue rations in extreme cases of want.

Wednesday Sept 16-Many conflicting rumors reach us from the front. No battle has yet occurred but the Cavalry Brigades of Minty and Wilder have had several skirmishing, as these commands are depended upon to find out what the enemy is doing and they have discovered by the resistance encountered that Bragg is not at all disposed to retreat but rather to take the offensive against our unsupported columns.

Thursday Sept 17-At midnight the monotony and suspense of our position at Caperton's Ferry was broken by an order to move our Pontoon Bridge to Battle Creek eighteen miles nearer Chattanooga. There was urgent necessity for haste-the order stated -so we all assisted the pontooniers in stowing all the plank and timber in the boats and then taking charge of them six men to each boat to row them up the river. We soon grew tired of this laborious work and therefore hailed with delight a suggestion to use our shelter tents for sails as the wind began to blow strongly up stream. Presently a fleet of forty sail was scudding before the breeze but before we reached our destination the wind died away so that our appearance was not nearly so imposing when we passed Bridgeport as poles and oars had taken the place of swelling sails. Our cheers died away with the wind we found we had no breath to spare in our struggle with the river current.

Friday Sept 18-Spear's Brigade of Tennesseans from Jasper were waiting at the mouth of Battle Creek for the arrival of our pontoons in order to cross the river. We soon had the bridge ready when they crossed on their way to the front. We are now about twenty miles distant from Chattanooga.

From our point of view our army is buried in the mountains that interpose between us and the open valley (Sequatchee) south of Chattanooga where

Bragg is maneuvering. But we know that our columns must be struggling with the natural difficulties that separate these mountain roads inaccessible under ordinary circumstances must be traversed with baggage trains and artillery before their concentration can be effected.

Saturday Sept. 19-We recrossed the bridge and laid out camp at the eastern end this morning. A large white house with many outbuildings the property of "Skedadled Secesh" drew our attention as soon as we broke ranks and a dreadful racket soon indicated that the work of demolition had begun. Boards and timbers and doors took themselves legs and jagged into camp to be thrown into heaps ready for the builders use and when the original buildings were stripped to the ground they reappeared as shanties the size of peg-pens-not beautiful to look upon but oh so comfortable to summer clad soldiers exposed to chilling mountain winds.

Our pickets report cannonading all day ~~at~~ Chattanooga which we did not hear or at least did not notice in camp owing to the din of building in which we were engaged.

Sunday Sept. 20-We were so much absorbed in the completion of our cabins and especially in finishing our fire places and chimneys so that we could warm them with cheerful fires that we failed to recognize the day as Sunday or to notice the faint echo of cannon which our pickets again report continued all day without cessation but now that our building is completed we are at leisure to reflect upon the consequences that may follow a battle of two days duration so plainly indicated by the continuous firing. At last accounts a battle appeared imminent and we can only hope that our army was prepared for the contest. Darkness now hides the intervening mountains from our view and doubtless has ended the roar of musketry and cannon for no sound is carried to our ears but in imagination the "Field of Shiloh" is reproduced beyond the mountains in the thousands of dead and wounded which we know must be lying on the field of battle has raged two days as we fear.

Monday Sept 21-During the night orders came that we must hold our

bridge at all hazards so we turned out at daybreak to build fortifications. This order is very disquieting- it almost foreshadows the defeat of our army and a possible retreat across the Tennessee River. If we will soon have an opportunity to distinguish ourselves in defending our post. A great battle has been fought but rumors are conflicting that we know nothing about the result. We cannot help wondering while busily engaged with pick and spade whether the first to arrive from the scene of action will wear the blue or the gray. The 3rd Ohio and one section of Edgertons Battery joined us today and the Pioneers in charge of the pontoons 140 in number are also under arms. Gen. Morgan at Stevenson again repeated his orders that we must hold the bridge.

Tuesday /Sept. 22- The first tangible evidence of a battle came today with the arrival of our wounded on their way to Bridgeport, on foot or in wagons and ambulances. Our camp soon became a hospital while our surgeon and his assistants dressed the wounds of many who had received no attention. In the midst of our labors came another order from Gen. Morgan to remove our quarters to the west bank on a account of an expected attack. This looks as if our retreat has really begun. We can get but little consolation from the wounded who left the field during the first days engagement. They all say the enemy attacked in superior numbers sweeping around our flanks and in many cases reaching our rear causing our men to lose ground continually until night interrupted the conflict. Our Right Wing was badly broken and disorganized. Some of the wounded assert that our army cannot be driven back any further while others say it will soon be besieged in Chattanooga if not already confined there.

Wednesday Sept 25-A member of our Brigade just arrived from the front entertained us with a graphic account of the battle. He says: after leaving Capertons Ferry we marched out on the Trenton road over Sand Mountain to Alpine where we encamped. The distance was only 25 miles but consumed several days as our wagons and artillery had to be dragged up

the steep mountain sides. While waiting for all our corps to come up we heard that Bragg had abandoned and was falling back on Atlanta or Rome. Our Corps was ordered to intercept him on the road to Rome but on attempting to do so we found the enemy directly in front of us in strong force and not only that but we were isolated from the other columns and subject to immediate attack by the entire Confederate Army. General McCook waited anxiously three or four days to hear from General Rosecrans when the summons at last reached him to join General Thomas in the Center where a battle was imminent. General McCook placed himself at the head of our Division and Davis' and began the toilsome ascent of the mountain at Winstons Gap leaving Sheridans Division in charge of the trains. We followed a mountain road to Stevens Gap and there descended to Crawfish Springs and bivouaced on the night of September 18th. The next morning we were hurried away in the direction of Chattanooga following the sound of musketry and artillery which indicated to us that a battle was in progress. A rapid and exhausting march of 12 miles brought us to the scene of action at 1 P. M. near Kellys house on the LaFayette road where Brannan's and Bairds Divisions were fighting against odds and were being pressed back. A rest of ten minutes was allowed us after our arrival on the field and then our Division was thrown against the enemy. We rushed forward with cheers-our Brigade passing through the ranks of Hazens Brigade. The Confederate line gave way and fell back about a mile when we were halted by orders as we had no support for our flanks. There we held our position until 5 P. M. when the firing ceased in our front but continued on our left. We all supposed the bloody work of the day was ended when darkness hid surrounding objects from our view but suddenly we were encircled with a line of fire flashing from the enemy's guns almost in our very faces it appeared. All we could do was to throw ourselves flat on the ground and answer flash for flash while bullets fairly scathed over our heads. Thus for an hour our Division and two Brigades of Baird's bore the brunt of

an attack by ~~Chatham's~~ and Cleburns Divisions and we held our position although exhausted with the days marching and fighting while these Confederate Divisions had not previously engaged. Then the enemy retired we were moved back and bivouaced about 300 yards east of the Lafayette road with Bairds Division on our left and Palmer's Reynolds's and Brannan's Divisions on our right thus forming a line of defense crossing one corner of Kelly's farm and the road just south of his house.

At daybreak we began to pile up logs and rails for breastworks in which work we were not disturbed by the enemy probably on account of a heavy fog until after eight o'clock when skirmishing began and continued for an hour and then the battle burst upon us in all its fury. Our breastworks served us well for we were able to hold superior numbers in our front at bay but could not prevent the enemy's long line from overlapping the two Brigades of Baird on our left and gaining access to the rear of our fortifications. But here our Brigade as the reserve of our Division assisted by reserves of the other Divisions blocked the enemy's path and drove him back around the left of our line and away from the Lafayette road which he so much desired to secure as an open route to Chattanooga. Comparative quiet followed this repulse of the enemy but the roar of battle continued away to our right where in fact the Right Wing of our army was falling back in confusion even General Rosecrans was on his way to Chattanooga to provide defense of our Pontoon bridges at Bridgeport and Battle Creek believing that his entire army was shattered. He did not know that five Divisions including ours still held their position under the immediate command of General Thomas nor did Thomas know of disaster to the Right until he discovered the enemy approaching from the direction whence he expected reinforcements. With the Right Wing ~~dis-~~ disposed of Bragg turned his attention to our five Divisions and at 4 p. m. his lines of battle rolled upon us like great billows from the sea only to be shattered and fall back for another attempt. We bore the

brunt for two hours longer clinging desperately to our barricades when we were ordered to withdraw fighting. We then left our works and retired slowly stopping at times to fire from the shelter of trees and other obstructions, but when we reached an open cornfield we found it swept by such a fierce fire of musketry and artillery that we abandoned all semblance of organization and rushed across as only those can run who imagine they can hear the jaws of death snapping at their heels. But we did not forget to rally and reform our ranks a short distance beyond the field and as the enemy did not pursue we marched back to Rossville and bivouaced in line of battle in the new position assigned us by General Rosecrans who there collected all that remained of his army prepared to resist the expected advance of the enemy on Chattanooga.

Thursday Sept/24. An order from Colonel Smith chief of Engineers directed that immediately after the 21st Kentucky Infantry had crossed the bridge it should be taken up the 3rd Ohio Regiment sent to Bridgeport and the Battery to Stevenson. Six or eight pontoons were taken from the east end to prevent surprise and we waited until 11 p. m. when information was received that the Kentucky Regiment had crossed at some other point. The Pioneers then swung the pontoons to the west bank and the Ohio Regiment and Battery departed to Bridgeport and Stevenson leaving only our Regiment and the Pioneers in charge of the dismantled bridge.

Friday Sept. 25- Conflicting reports from the front keep us in a condition of great anxiety. We cannot yet determine whether we have suffered defeat or gained a questionable victory. Our army has withdrawn from the battle field to Chattanooga which stronghold was the principal object of our communications. Reinforced as he has been from Virginia and Mississippi his numbers must exceed ours and therefore he may be expected to assume the offensive while we must be content to hold our position if we can until we also receive reinforcements.

Saturday Sept/26-The movements of troops that came under our obser-

vation plainly indicates the uncertainty existing in the minds of our Commanders as to the point of greatest danger for no sooner had the 3rd Ohio and the Battery reached the places to which they were dispatched day before yesterday than they were sent back by General Granger so they rejoined us today. The bridge was also relaid and two heavy guns dragged over with great difficulty as their weight threatened to submerge the pontoons.

Sunday Sept 27- A citizen this evening informed us that a force of Rebel Cavalry was approaching our post from the opposite side of the river. Our pickets were doubled and Company F sent to guard a ford three miles above where it was reported the enemy would cross.

With our main army crippled and confined to the defenses of Chattanooga we realize that Bragg has many opportunities to dash upon the smaller detachments at isolated points along our line of communication, and we are surprised that we have escaped thus far. Perhaps we owe our immunity to the fact that the enemy is quite as badly crippled as we are.

Monday Sept. 28-An officer from Chattanooga reports our army confined to the environs of the city while Bragg's army extends in a semi-circle from the river above to the foot of Lookout Mountain where it abuts the river below. His tents whiten the side of Mission Ridge by day and his many camp fires gleam in one unbroken chain from river to river at night. A Battery on the highest point of Lookout fires occasionally but without effect. A signal station at the same point overlooks our camps conveying orders and reporting movements. His pickets hold the foot of the mountain at the waters edge and command both railroad and wagon road communicating with Bridgeport thus forcing our supply wagons to cross the mountains and enter Chattanooga from the north with a distance of sixty miles while the distance by the obstructed road is not more than twenty. Rations are already reduced and Heaven only knows how long our army can be fed by these means.

Tuesday Sept 29-Have they forgotten us at Washington? is a question often repeated but not satisfactorily answered during the last month. often repeated but not satisfactorily answered during the last month. We found ourselves thrust into mountain wilds far from our base of supplies without any support from our armies in Mississippi and Virginia which remained inactive while the enemy withdrew large detachments of his veterans from those sections to hurl them upon us at Chickamauga showing very plainly that Braggs Army was not forgotten at Richmond. But today we learned that Washington has at last awakened to our needs. A Battalion of the 15th Regulars from Memphis passed our camp enroute to Chattanooga and gave us the cheering news that one of Grants Corps is marching from Vicksburg to our relief and that General Sherman and Staff had accompanied the Regulars as far as Corinth.

Wednesday Sept 30-We were startled this afternoon by a loud explosion and looking in the direction of Bridgeport saw a dense column of white smoke rising far in the air. A large pile of ammunition had exploded killing 15 and wounding 30 men. The bodies of the dead were so mutilated that their comrades could not recognize them. They were engaged in unloading the ammunition from cars to be placed in wagons and hauled to Chattanooga when one dropped a percussion shell which exploded and set off a huge pile in the vicinity.

Thursday Oct 1-The first rain for many weeks began to fall this morning and continued steadily all day much to the discomfort and delay of all the troops in our vicinity who were suddenly called out to meet Wheelers Cavalry which had crossed the Tennessee River headed for the mountain road between us and Chattanooga where our wagons loaded with precious rations will fall a prey to the torch if the raiders are not driven away in time. Our neighbor the 3rd Ohio and the Battery were hurried away at noon following a large body of our Cavalry from Stevenson. It was not in the nature of old soldiers to restrain their grumbling at the

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fact of having to make a forced march on such a day as this after all the fair weather of weeks past. But it is the Rebel General who has set the pace and he must not be allowed to have his way or General Starvation will have his way in Chattanooga. Our Regiment is again alone with the Pontoniers in charge of the bridge.

Friday Oct. 2-Since the departure of the troops in this vicinity to head off Wheelers Cavalry our Regiment has been kept in line momentarily ready to repel an expected attack for it is considered probable that Wheeler if pressed too hard may attempt to recross the river at our station-It is reported that he has burned 300 wagons loaded with provisions and shot or stampeded the mules. If so our hungry boys in Chattanooga will have to get along with one or two crackers less each meal.

Saturday Oct 3-At midnight an order came from Colonel Smith Chief of Engineers to send all pontoons to Bridgeport not used at our crossing. Bridges are to be relaid there for the crossing of reinforcements now rapidly arriving. Sherman is approaching along the Memphis & Charleston Railroad and Hooker with two corps the 11th and 12th from Virginia by the Louisville & Nashville R. R.

Sunday Oct 4-After three days of rain the air has turned very cold so that we feel very sensibly the lack of heavy clothing turned over to be stored in obedience to "light marching orders" just before the battle of Chickamauga.

A big fire in front of headquarters is the resort of officers and men from early dawn until midnight. No mail came intoday because it is said that Wheeler captured it at McMinnville along with valuable supplies. This is not agreeable news for while it was bad enough to have him destroy our wagons on the mountain road he can do much greater damage along the railroad where he now appears to be operating.

Monday Oct 5-While all our efforts have been directed toward driving the Confederate raiders away from our "cracker line" an element almost

as dangerous has appeared in our very midst the mud that has followed the rains. It was difficult in good weather to move our wagons laden with provisions into Chattanooga as fast as hungry mouths could empty them now doubly so or the level road of the valley then in good condition has now become as difficult by reason of mud holes as steep declivities of the mountain road.

Tuesday Oct 6-We who guard the "cracker line" are kept in constant readiness day and night for expected attacks but our army at Chattanooga is undisturbed by such a fear as no attack there seems probable nor does the enemy interfere while our boys burrow with pick and spade in plain view from the heights of Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain. Bragg from his headquarters on the Ridge looks down upon his crouching foe yet dares not tempt the desperate courage of such men as fought at Shiloh with backs to the Tennessee, striking down upon that bloody field the flower of Johnsons Army. He looks beyond our trenches with greater interest where the Cumberland Mountains hide our precarious lines of transportation from his view and hopes for the success of his bold raiders whose work of destruction if thoroughly performed will tame defiant spirits with the pangs of hunger.

Wednesday Oct 7-The whereabouts of Wheelers raiders has been a question of such vital interest to us that it always absorbed the larger part of our discussions of the military situation until the present moment when they are reported far to the westward of us with our cavalry in hot pursuit. We are now no longer called into line to meet an enemy momentarily expected but are allowed the freedom of the woods and many if us today improved the privilege by gathering chestnuts, on the mountain side.

Thursday October 6-Our interest in Wheeler having subsided we look with anxiety for the approach of reinforcements for without them we will soon be reduced to desperate straits by short rations. The wear and tear of wagons and mules is slowly but surely depriving us of the means to

supply our army at Chattanooga. Each trip is made with fewer wagons and lighter loads at longer intervals while the debris and carcasses on the roadside are increased marking the most desperate mudholes and the steepest declivities.

Friday Oct 9-A little more than five weeks ago the comrades of our Brigade endeared to us by participation in the same marched battles and campaigns, marched away from us at Capertons Ferry to the bloody field of Chickamauga without an opportunity for them or for us to say "Good Bye Boys." Our parting after such long service together was unexpected and sudden. Since that date no orders have come to us from our Brigade Division or Corps Commanders but we have tried to obey various orders from various officers. Our last order received today comes direct from General Rosecrans that we shall proceed to Chattanooga by the Haley road as soon as the Regiment appointed to relieve us arrives.

Saturday Oct 10-Before the arrival of the Regiment to relieve us another order came from General Rosecrans that both Regiments shall ~~remain~~ remain to guard this crossing as Wheelers raiders are broken into small detachments one or more of which may attempt to recross the river here.

Sunday Oct 11-General J. D. Morgan has removed his quarters from Stevenson to this point so we shall look to him hereafter for orders while we remain. The 108th Ohio Regiment and two sections of Edgartons Battery have again rejoined us and we are all directed to keep a sharp lookout for the raiders. Our first mail for a week, came today and was accepted as a happy indication that the cracker line is in working order. We therefore attended Divine Service-a rare privilege with thankful hearts for the cutting off of our rations is a deprivation easier to endure than the interruption or the destruction of letters and papers from home.

Monday Oct 12-Five Companies of our Regiment were sent out this morning to work on the Sequatchie Bridge and the road to Jasper. Rain is again falling and the road rapidly becoming almost impassable but we

trust not quite so-for our army must be fed.

Tuesday Oct 13-Rain all day. How fortunate are we who remain in camp with nothing to do but to lie in our comfortable quarters and play cards while the unfortunate other half of the Regiment is lifting wagons out of the mud holes and cutting brush in the dripping woods. Of course our comrades are "cussing" us because we are in the dry and they are in the wet but we are so comfortable that we can easily forgive them.

Wednesday Oct 14-More rain -more mud-more dead mules-more work for our boys in the woods-more everything bad less good especially rations. But what care we who are well housed in our comfortable cabins, with boarded walls canvas roofs-brick fire places-bright fires and nothing to do. Our particular "Shebang" is the pride of its occupants. We have a real door and half window sash only three lights missing but replaced with cracker box lids.. Now when a visitor calls he does not thrust himself into our very midst without even a "Hello" but he knocks at our front door and waits until we scrutinize him through our window and demand "Whom do you wish to see sir".

Thursday Oct 16-Four members of our Regiment returning from Chattanooga by the river road were fired on by the enemy from the opposite bank. Believing they had encountered a small party they put spurs to their horses to run the gauntlet but the further they rode the faster flew the bullets. Two then sought shelter in a house and are missing while the other two crawled up the side of the mountain and escaped to camp.

Friday Oct 16-Rained heavily all day-streams are bank full. Our camp is cut off above and below by the rise of the creeks. Travel on the road is stopped. Pontoons are being brought up from Bridgeport by river to this point to be loaded on wagons and hauled to the Sequatchie River which is now impassible.

Saturday Oct 17 The sun came out to our great relief today and the mud began to dry up. Our spirits revived accordingly from a state of

depression caused by our isolated condition with raging floods front and rear and mud everywhere else.

Sunday Oct 18-Our rejoicing over fair weather was interrupted early this morning by a great storm of wind and rain which overthrew a number of our cabins which as it happens does not now concern us very much for we are ordered by General Morgan to prepare for marching to Anderson Cross Roads tomorrow. We realize how delighted will be our boys who have spent a week in the woods when they see us plodding through the mud away from our present comfortable quarters.

Monday Oct 19-So little information about expected reinforcements has reached us lately that we had almost ceased to speak about it and were therefore agreeably surprised today when three Regiments belonging to Hookers Corps from Virginia appeared with orders to relieve us. They are the 27th & 73d Pennsylvania and 33rd New Jersey. Our Ohio Regiment the 108th started at once for Andersons Cross Roads while we are ordered to follow tomorrow. Evidently no reinforcements can be thrown into Chattanooga starvation will ensue so much sooner. We must open the way to carry our line of supplies with us.

Tuesday Oct 20-Fourteen months ago we marched away from Battle Creek and stopped only when we reached Louisville. Again today we marched from Battle Creek for another destination we hope. Reaching Jasper we picked up our five detached companies and a few miles further came to the Little Sequatchie which we had to ford after stripping to the waist. The water was 3 ft. deep and icy cold so that when we emerged our faces were blue and teeth chattering while the water line across our bodies felt like the track of a buzz-saw. Marched 15 miles encamping near a large spring.

Wednesday Oct 21-We started early and so did the rain and it kept company with us all day. Another branch of the Sequatchie river blocked our way and gave us a momentary shiver before we found that a cavalry

company would provide horses for our crossing. Once safely over we camped on the bank while the wind blew cold and rain fell in torrents. The half deserted camp of the 10th Michigan afforded us shelter without invitation the Michiganders nearly all being absent at work on the road which here begins the ascent of Waldens Ridge and must be traversed by our wagons on the way to Shattanooga thirty miles south.

One of the owners of the tent occupied by our mess was somewhat disconcerted to find it occupied when he returned from the performance of some duty but we kindly allowed him to enter and share with us the cold comfort it afforded.

Thursday Oct 22-A miserable day dragged its weary length while we tried in vain to keep warm for a cold driving rain storm extinguished our fires of green wood. An issue of less than half rations did not satisfy our hunger and reduced us to a condition unfavorable for with standing inclement weather.

Friday Oct 23-Our three wagons started today for Stevenson under escort of the Quartermaster and thirty men to procure rations our supply being almost exhausted. As the distance is 40 miles and the road horrible we are reduced to quarter rations. Our present supply must last until our wagons return no matter how long it may be. No rain today but a cold blustering wind.

Saturday Oct 24-We removed our location a short distance to the grounds just vacated by the 10th Illinois where material remained capable of being converted into cabins and while our length of stay was all uncertainty yet each mess began the construction of cabins as if we were going into winter quarters. Bricks were in great demand for fireplaces and chimneys and the country around was scoured for them but the supply was far too small so many had to use sticks and mud as substitutes.

Sunday Oct 25-This day as usual the busiest day of the week. The

sound of chopping and hammering could be heard all day long. Did not stop for dinner or supper as these meals were included when we ate our breakfast. Our day's ration was so light we feared it might blow away before dinner. Some of the Michigan Regiment at work on the main road report that General Grant passed them on Friday riding on horseback with several attendants towards Chattanooga all well bespattered with mud. The report is that he is going to extricate us from our perilous position. After traversing the route our wagons must follow he must follow he must be impressed with the necessity of opening a new cracker line.

Monday Oct 26-Short rations in camp forced us to hunt outside for something to eat. A foraging party of 30 men in the charge of the Commissary Sergeant was sent out to scour the country and returned with two small cattle. We have no crackers but manage to get a little corn meal.

Tuesday Oct 27-Having nothing but a little corn meal it was necessary to send out another foraging party which returned empty handed so we could only pray for the return of our wagons from Stevenson.

Wednesday Oct 28-Great was our relief today when our wagons appeared loaded with hard crackers. We felt like giving a "War Dance" and a feast but contented ourselves with a "War Whoop" in honor of the event. The Quartermaster gives a gloomy account of the situation in regard to the hauling of supplies over the road he traversed with his wagons. He saw more dead mules than living ones and these appeared to be on their way to the beneyard instead of Chattanooga.

Thursday Oct 29-A batch of letters and papers today relieved our two weeks isolation during which time we have remained in almost total ignorance of events outside our camp. We now learn that Rosecrans has been displaced by Thomas and that Grant has assumed the chief command of this army in addition to his own in Mississippi. In his first dispatch Grant enquired How long can you hold Chattanooga "We will hold the town until we starve" replied Thomas.

Friday Oct 30-Cannonading-the first we have heard since the Battle of Chickamauga was borne faintly to our ears today from the direction of Chattanooga. Can it be that Grant is already opening the new cracker line-We hope so and welcome the sound of cannon for anything is better than the silence of starvation.

Saturday Oct 31-Cannonading continued today but more irregular than yesterday. We were ordered under arms at daybreak and each succeeding day until further notice. According to rumors Wheeler with a large force of Cavalry is menacing this portion of our line. It was at this point a month ago that he suddenly dashed upon our helpless wagon train and burned three hundred-as their blackened remains testify to our eyes. The ease with which his troopers galloped from wagon to wagon with pure torches and set them all ablaze within an hour many tempt him to repeat the venture.

Sunday Nov 1-Our surmise proved correct that Grants arrival at Chattanooga had something to do with the cannonading. It is said that he was so much impressed with the growing difficulty of transporting supplies by this route that he did not attempt to change his wet clothing until he informed himself about the plans for opening the short route to Bridgeport so tenaciously held by the enemy. He adopted a plan already formed by Rosecrans and Thomas and immediately proceeded to carry it into execution-Fifteen hundred men embarked in pontoons at Chattanooga on the night of the 27th floated silently down the river unobserved by the enemy's pickets and landed on their side at Brown's Ferry just below Lookout mountain. There the bridge was rapidly constructed by the pontooneers while the soldiers leaping from the pontoons prepared to repel any attack. Two Brigades with Artillery marched down the right bank at the same time and were ready to cross on completion of the bridge. Two days later Bragg attempted to dislodge this force but reinforcements and fortifications made his attempt futile. This successful expedition

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appears to solve the problem of how our army is to be fed.

Monday Nov 2- The result of the seizure of Brown's Ferry is that a shorter line of supplies is now open to Chattanooga. Several light draft steamboats run from Stevenson and Bridgeport to Kelly's Ferry whence supplies are hauled in wagons to Brown's there crossing the pontoon bridge and across Macassig Point to Chattanooga.

Tuesday- We are notified that our Regiment has been assigned to the 14th Army Corps-2nd Division-2nd Brigade, command respectively by Maj. Gen. John M. Palmer, Maj. Gen. Jeff C. Davis and Col John G. Mitchell.

Wednesday-Nov-4- Reports from Chattanooga state that our army is very comfortably quartered in wooden cabins with brick fire places and chimneys. Deserted houses of the town furnished the material. The opposing pickets are separated by the Tennessee river along the foot of Lookout Mountain and also by Chattanooga creek. By mutual agreement no firing is permitted and while conversation is permitted by officers on both sides it is still carried on to some extent as well as the swapping of corn bread and coffee.

Thursday-Nov.5- We are surprised to find the newspapers filled with abuse of Rosecrans such outrageous charges as cowardice incompetence disobedience of orders and opium eating. All because he failed to defeat Bragg at Chickamauga. But Bragg is likewise condemned by the Southern papers for failing to destroy Rosecrans. One is abused for getting shut in Chattanooga-the other for getting shut out. In our ranks the charges against Rosecrans excite great indignation, because we are all aware of the difficulties he had to grapple and if he did not overcome them he at least prevented them from overcoming him.

Friday-Nov.6- Hooker has established one of his Divisions half way between Bridgeport and Chattanooga on the south bank of the Tennessee thereby ensuring a safe route for our supply wagons by the direct road almost within sight of Chattanooga but the enemy still has a grip on the railroad wagon road and river at the foot of Lookout which is easily avoided however

by dodging across Moccasin Point. Rations are now more plentiful and the day of starvation is far removed from what it appeared to be before the capture of Brown's ferry.

Saturday-Nov-7-It behooves Bragg now to disrupt our plans as we will soon break through the bounds he has set for us. With Hooker guarding the line to Nashville and Sherman marching up the Tennessee and daily expected to arrive the Army of the Cumberland may become restless and no longer content to burrow in the clay at the feet of our besiegers.

"Tableau"
---Scene 1---

Sunday-Nov-8-Camp of the Regiment at Andersons X Roads-Adjutants tent furnished with pure floor brick fire place and blazing fire-The Major tilted back in a chair smiling to himself over "Maj. Jone's courtship"-The adjutant stretched on a bunk reading "Military Law". The orderly squatting on an ammunition box close to the fire(no danger empty). The writer, writing-(Voice without)"malls come"-The major's chair and the adjutants heels strike the floor at the same moment. Orderly bounces as if box exploding- Writer wheels right about.(Exit all double quick). Excited throng with outstretched arms and papers.

---Scene 3---

A deserted camp in appearance only-A busy hum issuing from forty "shebangs." Inmates reading letters and papers from home. Everybody happy.

Such is a literal picture of the arrival of the mail after two weeks delay.

Monday-Nov-9-~~Never~~ Never was there a more quiet day in camp every man writing letters in answer to those received yesterday. We are especially anxious to get our mail posted before we are sent we know not where for rumors of marching orders are persistently repeated and find ready belief for our usefulness at this point is apparently ended.

Nov.10-This constant preparation and falling into line at short notice at unseasonable hours to repel attacks that are never made have become monotonous. We feel that we are entitled to a visit from the enemy in return for the trouble we have taken to give him a suitable reception. But we are not to wait here any longer for his appearance. We have orders to go forth on the morrow and perhaps we may meet him on the road to Dallas Tenn. which is named as our destination.

Wednesday-Nov.11-At sunrise we turned our backs upon Andersons X Roads and our faces towards the mountains in company with the 108th Ohio and Edgerton's Battery all under command of General Morgan. We consumed nearly the entire day pushing and pulling wagons and artillery up the steep side of Waldens Ridge where the roadside was littered with the broken and charred remains of many supply wagons and the decomposing carcasses of mules. But we felt repaid for our labor when we reached the summit and looked down with admiration into the Sequatchie Valley whence we came. We were not so far away from the Cross Roads but that we could still see the ill shaped cabins and unsightly mud chimneys of our deserted camp.

Thursday Nov 12-We had to rise early to beat the sun at this elevation and proceeded along the top of the ridge a distance of 12 miles N. E. when we reached the point where the road descends into Chattanooga Valley 6 miles above the city. Here we enjoyed another sublime view so unlike the level expanse of our own Prairie State. Down into the valley we descended by a zig-zag road two miles in length and encamped between us and the setting sun.

Friday-Nov 13-Off again at sunrise we marched 12 miles reaching Dallas at 4 P. M. where we found Colonel R. T. Smith's Brigade encamped. The town was scarcely visible as the troops had converted the buildings into huts and while the brick Court House furnished the material for chimneys. No sooner had we broken ranks than there was a scramble for loose material

or for logs to build our new homes. It was not our disposition to speculate how long we should remain. We have already learned by cold experience that "he who hesitates is lost" to comfort.

Saturday Nov 14-The fact that rain was falling this morning at day-break when we turned out only stimulated us to greater effort to complete our huts. Nor were we discouraged by short rations but continued our work. Like so many beavers until an orderly was observed to enter our Colonel's tent with a dispatch. A moment later the Colonel appeared and spoke to those nearest him. Their work stopped. "Whats the matter" enquired the others. "Marching orders" the reply. Then these magical words skipped from the lip to lip through the confines of camp and out into the wood beyond where the sound of chopping suddenly ceased. Bearers of valuable building material upon hearing these words quickly dropped their loads and walked scornfully away. A moment before these words were uttered the possessor of a few dozen bricks was an object of envy. A moment after he was ready to disclaim the ownership of such rubbish. The order that was the cause of ruination in values of brick and lumber came from General Thomas that "the 34th Illinois and 108th Ohio Regiment will report to General Beatty opposite Chattanooga." Two hours later we were on our way and marched to the mouth of Chickamauga Creek where we encamped, a distance of six miles.

Sunday-Nov.15-Reaching Chattanooga we reported to General Beatty who assigned the two Regiments of our detachments to occupy Moccasin Point at the foot of Lookout Mountain but separated from it by the Tennessee River. Here we found two Batteries in position which it would be our duty to protect and also to picket the bank of the river the opposite bank being occupied by the enemy's pickets. As we approached our attention was directed to a threatening object in plain view - a Rebel Battery frowning from the point of Lookout Mountain nearly 2,000 feet above our heads and

occasionally spitting forth a mouthful of smoke followed by the whistle and explosion of a shell. We cast upward glances at our lofty enemy like defenceless chickens look up at a hawk. We were puzzled to know how we could protect ourselves from his missiles which might be dropped as from the clouds at any time. One suggested caves as necessary for sleeping quarters while another suggested iron umbrellas as useful in walking about camp. We soon found that the nearer we approached the dreaded object the safer became our position as the guns could not be sufficiently depressed to reach us when we located our camp not more than half mile from the foot of Lookout Mountain so we listened with equanimity to shells whistling harmlessly overhead.

Monday Nov. 16-Undiscouraged by our last attempt to build huts we started this morning to cut pine trees which are plentiful and to convert them into logs of the proper size for the building of our new village. Our activity excited the apprehension or the wrath of the Mountain Battery for it opened with a lively attempt to drop shells in our midst and exploded several directly over our heads but too high to hurt us. We watched the experiment with great interest and for awhile were undecided about going ahead with our permanent improvements but to our great relief our Battery of 32 pounders occupying the works directly in front of us began to reply to our antagonist and soon silenced him for the time but the duel was received at irregular intervals during the day and even during the night. Once assured that we were in no special danger we could watch with lively interest the efforts of the gunners on Lookout to disturb the peace and quiet of our camps. Nor would they direct their shells away to our right where Hookers rifle pits are visible now to our left into the suburbs of Chattanooga and now directly towards us.. When the shells pass to right or left we hear their shrill whistle but when we are the object we first see a flash then a puff of white smoke followed by a dead silence of suspense during which we may count five in as many seconds and also

speculate as to whether the range is lower this time and the shell travelling down a bee line beginning at the muzzle of the cannon and ending between our eyes. The question is soon settled the shell always arrives on time and if the fuse rightly out burst directly overhead while almost at the same instant the report of the gun reaches our ears producing the curious impression that the gun remained silent and the shell exploded twice.

Tuesday Nov 7-The first thing to attract our attention this morning was a party of Rebels constructing works for a Battery lower down the mountain side where they could get the range of our camp. Our gunners opened on them with such vigor that they were soon driven away. We were interested spectators and awaited the result with some anxiety. When we saw the working party retreating a hearty cheer from our camp appeared to irritate the gunners on the mountain top for they spitefully directed all their efforts to reach our camp and were doubtless gratified that many of their shells exploded not more than fifty feet overhead and planted one in the ground near our camp limit. Our Batteries silenced them at times but could not prevent them from breaking forth at intervals. At all other portions of the lines quiet reigns. We have a magnificent view of both armies grouped around Chattanooga and can easily trace the picket lines camps and fortifications of both. We can distinguish the Headquarters of Grant, Thomas and Bragg and count every tent of our Army in the valley as well as those of the enemy on the side and summit of Mission Ridge.

Wednesday Nov 18-Last night nearly the entire Regiment was posted on picket duty along the river bank. The Confederate pickets occupied the opposite bank but were not troublesome neighbors as an agreement is observed all along the line that no firing shall be indulged in without notice. The first volley shall be overhead and harmless but the next will be as the boys say "for keeps". Accordingly both lines of pickets appeared

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in full view of each other during the day confident that the agreement will be sacredly observed.

The paymaster arrived today and gave us four months pay so with fat pocket books and lean stomachs we are looking for something to buy which we may afterward devour but none have anything to sell. Bids are offered on "hard tack" at ten cents each but no sellers can be found which is not surprising for if anyone in camp had possessed a surplus it would have been stolen before this time just as we steal the scanty allowance of corn given to our hungry mules - a practice not to be prevented by armed guards who themselves steal what they are appointed to protect.

It is on private record that a hungry member of our Regiment on duty at Brigade Headquarters was too honest to steal corn from a mule while he was on watch but when relieved and retiring to his tent quietly picked up a pan of frying bacon while the Generals cook was out of sight and carried it smoking to his messmates.

Friday Nov 12-We find our Regiment assigned to Palmers Corps-Jeff C. Davis Division and Mitchells Brigade. The Division is under orders to be ready move at short notice with two days cooked rations and 100 rounds of ammunition but our Regiment is ordered to remain on picket duty until relieved.

Shermans troops are passing in a continuous line up the river toward the left of our Army. They look rough and weather beaten with hard marching from Memphis and Vicksburg. Our pontoon train also passed up which indicates that a crossing is to be made above Chattanooga. We feel that we are about to make an effort to break out of jail and are delighted with the prospect of getting into better pastures.

Saturday Nov-21-The "Mountain Angel" as we call the gun or guns on Lookout Mountain has been quiet all day-the first since our arrival and we think it has flown to another perch. But the Signal Corps still remains as evidence of the waving of lanterns last night and of flags today. Our

gunners fired assiduously at their lights last night and we watched our shells bursting in close proximity to them interrupting perhaps but not preventing the transmission of orders or information. There was an extensive movement of our troops last night under cover of darkness and perhaps this was the burden of information conveyed by the lanterns last night and flags today. Rain nearly all day appears to interfere with our movements.

Sunday Nov 22-The peaceful look that graces the brow of Lookout yesterday departed with the rising of the sun this morning when the spiteful divinity there enthroned began to hurl tokens of animosity upon Hookers works to our right and occasionally upon us-without damage in our case as only one shell exploded within a hundred yards. We did not monopolize the cannonading today as here tofore for during the afternoon the heavy report of siege guns attracted our attention to the center of our line when Fort Wood ~~and~~ was almost hid from view by clouds of smoke rising from the discharge of its guns, evidently intended to develop the location of Braggs Artillery but failure to provoke a reply. The grim silence of Mission Ridge, unbroken since the Battle of ~~Mississippi~~, leaves us to conjecture how and where Bragg has planted his cannon to sweep the mountain side in the face of an assaulting army. Our Division has been sent to strengthen Sherman. Monday Nov 23-From the elevated bluffs of Moccasin Point we surveyed this morning a scene of activity within our lines which betokens a clash of arms before many hours had elapsed. Looking down into Lookout Valley on our right where it stretches from the base of Lookout Mountain to the river we could see the gathering of Shermans troops hidden from the enemy by a range of knobby hills. On our left at Chattanooga we could see a portion of Howards Corps crossing the river on a pontoon bridge and halting in the suburbs of the town. In front Lookout Mountain preserved a grim silence as was the condition all along the enemy's line. The three Batteries (Brammans thirty-two pounders and the 10th and 18th

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Ohio) which our Regiment was appointed to support made ready for action and only awaited the word of command to fire into the enemy's lines within range and in plain view. The morning passed without a shot but shortly after noon there was a sudden burst of cannonading from Fort Weed in our line half way between Chattanooga and Mission Ridge and we could see our shells bursting on Orchard Knob which was held by the enemy lying behind barricades of logs and stones. Our cannonading elicited no reply from the enemy's artillery and soon ceased but while the smoke was drifting away a new scene was being enacted—a stream of blue coats issuing from the Fort and forming in line in the openfield in front of our works as if on dress parade. When several Brigades had thus formed in full view of Bragg's Army as well as ours we fully expected to see the hostile cannon of Mission Ridge open a furious fire of shells or if sufficiently near with grape and canister. Now we see our compact lines sweeping towards Orchard Knob with colors fluttering and arms glistening in the sunlight.

Surely if the Confederates have regarded this display as a dress parade they are undeceived now—yet they hesitate to respond to the challenge. Our line is now half way to the scrubby woods at the base of Knob the enemy hesitates no longer—little spirals of smoke encircle the base and sides of the Knob and at last we hear the crackling of muskets but thank Heaven no grape and canister yet. Our line does not halt or waver it enters the wood and is lost to our sight but the smoke rising above the low tree tops marks its steady advance. An hour passes while we watch the long gray clouds that hover over the woods and signal to both armies the progress of the battle. Now the musketry ceases and a cheer is faintly heard issuing from the woods. It finds an echo within our lines and sweeps down to us on Moccasin Point where we add our voices with hearty good will and pass it on the Hookers and Sherman's men in the Valley of Lookout beyond us.

It means that our flags are planted on Orchard Knob. Ours again all

is quiet along the lines as the shades of approaching night begin to hide the hostile camps from our view. Mission Ridge looms up in the gathering twilight like a dark thunder cloud but we have ceased to fear its threatening look since our bold movement today could not provoke its thunders. Suddenly without warning its dark side is illuminated from crest to base with the flash of more than a hundred cannon and a storm of shells falls upon and beyond our entrenchments. Our point of observation is beyond range but we look with awe upon the flash of cannon as of lightning darting down from the Heavens and the flash of bursting shells in the Valley as if infernal flames are shooting from the earth. Two hours we watched this sublime scene and then almost as suddenly as the beginning, old Mission Ridge relapsed into grim silence but the flash and roar of that awful scene haunted our dreams all night long.

Tuesday Nov 24-Bright and early we tumbled out of our bunks assured that the day would bring forth great events and that if we should not be actors we certainly would be spectators by virtue of our position. We turn first to Mission Ridge infernal last night smiling this morning with a halo of sunlight on its crest. The valley stretching from its base to Chattanooga thickly dotted with our camps shows no sign of activity. We bestow but a passing glance to Lookout Mountain in our front for surely it is inaccessible and turning our backs to Mission Ridge and Chattanooga we look down into Lookout Valley where the movement of troops attracts our attention. Hooker with three Divisions representing the Armies of the Potomac and Cumberland is placing Batteries and columns behind the knobby hills of the south bank of the river. We see the rifle pits well filled with men while across an open space half mile distant we also see a line of gray sheltered behind the railroad embankment. The Blue and Gray are hidden from each other but in our elevated position at one end and midway between the two lines we follow the course of each with our eyes. We have thirteen guns on Moccasin Point and these we place in position to

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bear on the long gray line and wait for the word of command. We were held in suspense an interminable length of time it appeared to us, yet it was only eight o'clock when Hookers Batteries opened a furious cannonading in which our guns immediately joined. The enemy gave no response for a cloud enveloped the summit of Lookout completely eclipsing the Battery stationed there and the line of gray could only crouch lower behind the railroad embankment. At the end of half hour Hookers Batteries slackened their fire and our line of Blue rises from concealment and with a yell charges upon the line of Gray which also rises to resist the onset, but without effect - our line is unchecked and as it nears the embankment we see the gray line began to break. At first a man here and there along the line is seen rushing up the mountain side toward a second line of entrenchments, groups follow and now the whole line is disintegrated. The hillside is covered in gray forms dodging from one shelter to another as afforded by the rough and rocky condition of the ground, but they are loading and firing as they retreat. A house near the railroad was the first sheltering object encountered by many of the Confederates and a number halted there to fire upon our advancing infantry but the object was such a fair target for our guns on the Point that as soon as we got the range there was such a splintering of boards, whingles and bricks that the refugees evidently concluded it was a good place to run away from-at least they acted that way. By the time our men reach the railroad the Confederates have found refuge in a second line of entrenchments which does not protect them from the raking fire of our Point Batteries and our gunners redouble their efforts while we of the Infantry support rush down in the ravine to the magazine in the hillside and carry a shell under each arm and watch to see the effect when they are hurled upon the enemy. Resistance at the second line is of short duration our advancing line never halts and again the Confederates retreat further up the mountain side into a belt of timber our men following until both are hid from our view but the smoke indicates

the course of battle as upward and onward. We endure almost an hour of idle suspense as our Battery has no visible target. But now we see straggling forms crossing an open field directly in front of us and far up the mountain side. We see them gathering into another line of entrenchments and firing toward the timber whence they emerged so we know that our men are not far behind. Our shells are once again raking the enemy's line which as before runs up the mountain and therefore parallel to our line of fire. Presently we distinguish little patches of blue at the timbers' edge and little spurts of smoke projecting towards the enemy. The little patches soon grow into a compact line of blue and now we catch a gleam of colors-it is our flag. Instantly we scream with joy and our cheers find an echo far to right and left us. Our gunners are panting with excitement and effort for our guns alone can now reach the enemy, and our line has halted perhaps exhausted but now it moves forward again and the enemy's line is again melting away-The open field behind his entrenchments are filled with fugitives and our shells are dropping in their midst. They are traversing the face of the mountain toward the eastern slope and find shelter in their last and strongest line of works where reinforcements reach them and our line is checked. Seven hours have flown since our men began to ascend the mountain but the result is yet undecided. While we watch the stubborn contest we notice that the cloud is descending from the summit of the mountain and gradually enveloping friend and foe. At length both lines are blotted from our sight and our Battery becomes silent and useless. The gunners as well as ourselves look up at the impenetrable ^{gray} mist with blank faces but we know that the fight is still on by the crackling of musketry and the occasional "zip" of a stray bullet. The sun disappears and darkness hides even the cloud from our eyes but still we sit watching and waiting for we know not what. Nature is about to shift the scene - the cloud is growing luminous and drifting away. - the moon shines out in sudden brilliancy. We look eagerly toward the mountain now

plainly outlined in the moonlight. Both lines are in the same position as when the cloud descended. We trace them by the parallel lines of fire flashing in quick succession as the muskets are discharged.. When the firing lulls we are reminded of fire flies on a summer night but when it grows fierce we see fiery serpents darting up and down the mountain side almost from base to summit.

Not only our little detachment on Moccasin Point but almost a hundred thousand spectators in our army watched this pyrotechnic display until midnight when the Confederaty fire slackened and soon ceased. We then laid down to rest and fell asleep not knowing that on the morrow we would find the mountain deserted by the enemy and that our flag would float from that pinnacle so long dominated by the Rebel Mountain Angel.

During the battle the larger portion of our Regiment was stationed on picket duty along the river bank at the foot of Lookout Mountain and took no part in it. Nor did the Rebel pickets on the opposite bank. Both laid low while a tray bullets clattered about them. Neither had orders to fire and so considered their previous agreement in force when the firing began it was some distance below them and beyond Moccasin Point but as it continued our pickets noted that it was describing the arc of a great circle of which Moccasin Point was the center. When it reached a point directly in rear of the Confedefate Rebel pickets but far up the mountain they evidently became uneasy and our men could see them moving about as if in consultation about a "skedaddle." But when the sound of the firing continued on towards their right they suddenly rose like a flock of partridges and vanished from the view of our pickets who gave them a cheer and the very timely advice of "Run Johnny run". But now a gun was raised towards them our agreement remained unbroken. It is said they did not reach their lines and were captured.

Wednesday-Nov.25-All was quiet all along our lines when we awoke at break of day but the crackling of musketry amid the hills that hid Germans

men from our sight soon after drew our attention to the extreme left of our line as the next probable scene of action. Lookout Mountain was half hidden by a grey mist but the silence there denoted the absence of the enemy which became a certainty when the cloud lifted shortly after 9 a. m. and disclosed the Stars and Stripes proudly floating from the rocky pinnacle. Our cheers greeted the first glimmer of our flag when the sun kissed its folds. Meanwhile the firing in the hills near the river above Chattanooga grew heavier as the artillery joined in with deep bass echo yet the troops within our view remained inactive. About 10 a.m. we saw a long blue line winding its way up the river and disappearing in the hills. It was a portion of Howards Corps dispatched to help Sherman. About noon there was an echo from Hookers guns beyond Lookout Mountain whither we had followed the enemy retreating from the stronghold toward Braggs main line on Mission Ridge.

We who were idle spectators on Moccasin Point watched the blue smoke curling above the hills and listened intently to the noise of battle vainly trying to determine whether our lines were advancing or receding until the lengthening shadows of the afternoon warned us of the near approach of darkness and awoke dire fears that the close of the day so near at hand might find us still crouching almost helpless at the feet of a haughty foe.

Grants Headquarters on Orchard Knob near the center of our line was plainly visible and unconsciously we turned our eyes toward it with an expression of helpless entreaty that he should make a new demonstration of his military genius ere the day had gone. We believed he would set other columns in motion but had no expectation of witnessing a direct charge upon the face of Mission Ridge furrowed as we could see with a network of breastworks and bristling as we knew with concealed batteries. Yet such a spectacle was being prepared for us.

Between three and four o'clock there was a discharge of artillery from Orchard Knob and the men of Thomas rose before our eyes and rushed

straight toward the Ridge which soon became wreathed in smoke from base to summit, emitted from zig-zag lines of rifle pits and more than fifty cannon held until this moment in concealment but now all directed against our assaulting lines. Our heavy guns in four large forts and lighter batteries in as many smaller forts responded by hurling shells over the heads of our men and distributing them alternately between the enemy's infantry lines and artillery stations. A fringe of timber at the base of the Ridge soon hid our men and we watched with breathless anxiety to see whether they would emerge from the upper edge in advancing or from the lower edge in retreat. We had not long to wait until we saw a scattered line of gray climbing the ridge followed by a line of blue—not compact but in irregular groups dodging from one obstruction to another but always forward. Our flags too came into view fluttering along the line like birds breasting a furious storm. Now and then one would be hidden in the glare and smoke of a bursting shell and for moments our hearts almost ceased to beat while we waited for it to reappear. It seemed scarcely possible that the assault could succeed. Our lines appeared to be disorganized or rather transformed into a score of more skirmish lines gathering a moment into larger or smaller bodies here and there and as quickly dissolving into crouching crawling individuals each selecting his own way from cover to cover as was afforded by the rough rocky inequalities of the mountain side. We could see well ahead of the heavier patches of blue a fringe of blue specks scarcely perceptible which we knew was composed of those fearless heroes in plain blouses who dash forward to new points of vantage with the inspiring cry of "Come on Boys" and there wait only long enough for their more cautious comrades and their officers to follow ere they repeat the example which brave men cannot fail to imitate. These were the Generals who orders or no orders, were leading the way up the mountain side over breastworks and batteries to the very crest where we saw our flags planted just in time to receive a parting kiss from the sun

ere he withdrew his rays from a bloody but glorious battlefield.

As our men neared the summit of the Ridge we who watched the battle from Moccasin Point realized that the crisis was at hand scarcely dared to breath much less to speak but when the roar of guns suddenly gave place to triumphant cheers.-the first one of our group to speak was the Quartermaster. "There", he said, "Grant has a feather in his hat as big as that pine tree."

And we all looked up into the lofty pine above our heads and cried out "Hurrah for Grant." In the midst of our rejoicings an order came at 6 p. m. for our Regiment to rejoin the Brigade which had been despatched two days previous to help Sherman.

We started at once with two days rations-one hundred rounds of ammunition and a blanket to each man. Our tents and all other baggage remained in charge of the Quartermaster and men unable to march. At 10 p. m. we joined our Brigade at the pontoon bridge crossing our Brigade at the pontoon bridge crossing the Tennessee River near the mouth of Chickamauga Creek and there bivouaced, spreading our blankets on the bare ground for four hours ere we arose with our Brigade and Division under command of General Sherman to hurry away in pursuit of the enemy.

Thursday Nov 26-At 2 p. m. we were called up and marched as rapidly as possible in the darkness along the right bank of the Chickamauga to a railroad station of the same name which we found in flames consuming the military supplies with which it was filled but we secured a large quantity of other stores-a siege guns 15 pontoons and 20 wagons. These the enemy did not have time to destroy.

We continued our pursuit and overtook his rear guard at Pidgeon Ridge where a stand was made and Morgans Brigade at once became engaged but shortly cleared the way for our further progress, along a road littered with broken wagons and abandoned caissons showing the haste of the enemy to get beyond our reach. As we emerged from a dark miry swamp after sunset

our Brigade being in advance we were suddenly assailed by the rear guard posted on two small hills commanding our road. We quickly deployed and soon brought the fighting to close quarters. The firing on both sides was very lively for three quarters of an hour when our antagonists retired and it was then too dark for any further pursuit, so we bivouaced on the field. The part assigned to our Regiment was to dislodge a force of Confederates sheltered behind a house which we accomplished by a charge losing only one man wounded.

Friday Nov 27-The morning light disclosed no enemy in front of us but at 7 a. m. we moved forward through Graysville and encamped within two miles of Ringgold.

Saturday Nov 28-Further pursuit of the enemy in this direction was abandoned by General Sherman so he led our Division back towards Chattanooga to join with Howards Corps and a portion of his own in an expedition for the relief of Burnside who was besieged in Knoxville.

Sunday Nov 29-At 7 a. m. we turned our backs on Braggs retreating army and our faces toward Knoxville 120 miles away where Longstreets veterans from Virginia were perched on the surrounding hills and counting the hours when they might break into the town and revel in the luxury of Yankee supplies. We followed Candy Ridge and north-easterly direction until within three miles of Cleveland and there encamped. Here too were evidences of the enemy's flight-a railroad bridge partially destroyed and some abandoned stores. The latter proved very acceptable as the two days rations with which we started scarcely sufficed for the first day's march as we were "hollow clear down to the soles of our government shoes" the result of more than two months subsistence or less than half rations. Light as were our rations our outfit of clothing was still lighter. The single blanket and uniform with which we entered the Chickamauga campaign full three months back were worn threadbare and afforded slight protection against the cold mountain winds which now swept upon us.

Monday-Nov. 30-At 8 a. m. we were on the way to Charleston where on arrival we found that Howard had driven out the enemy who had partially destroyed the railroad bridge thus preventing our further progress for the day. We encamped one and a half miles distant from the town and prepared to pass a miserable night which promised to be bitterly cold. We found the enemy had left no rations so we had to lie down on the cold ground without supper.

Tuesday Dec. 1-During the night Howards men were hard at work repairing and planking the bridge so that it was ready for us to cross early this morning. We passed through Charleston before crossing but had to wait nearly three hours on the other side for the 15th Corps to pass when we followed slowly so that when we halted at sunset we were only seven miles distant from the town.

Wednesday Dec. 2-We were glad enough to be aroused very early for the march as we found more comfort in the exercise of walking than we did in vainly trying to keep warm in camp. We tried to make up for the delay of yesterday by marching 23 miles in the direction of Loudon hoping to reach there in time to save the pontoon bridge.

Thursday Dec. 3-Marched early as usual soon reaching Loudon but not in time to save the bridge so we were subject to another delay while waiting for it to be repaired. Before leaving the enemy ran three locomotives and a large number of cars into the Tennessee river. Fortunately they left some provisions which we devoured and four cannon which we were hungry enough to eat but didn't.

Friday Dec. 4-At sunrise we marched into Loudon and while a portion of our Division crossed the Holston river our Brigade moved south east to Morgantown on the north bank of the Tennessee and there waited until evening for a bridge to be repaired when a portion crossed.

The houses of Morgantown furnished the material for repairing the bridge. At the same time Howards Corps crossed seven miles below us on

a bridge constructed of some wagons abandoned by the enemy- Surely Yankee ingenuity is hard to circumvent.

Saturday Dec. 5-Instead of being called out this morning at the usual hour to continue our march we were notified that Longstreet had raised the siege of Knoxville and retreated. The good news was received with enthusiasm and for awhile we forgot hunger, cold and the fatigues of our march but our empty stomachs were still in evidence so our next movement was necessary in order to fill them. Accordingly our Regiment was ordered to take possession of Johnson's and Robinsons Mills to grind corn and wheat for the use of our Division. Our Colonel being a practical miller was very fitted to direct us. We started the mills at nightfall and kept them going all night.

Sunday Dec, 6-We were so busily engaged as millers that we almost forgot we were soldiers but were rudely awakened this morning to our real occupation by a sudden order to drop our bags of grain and seize our muskets to repel an expected attack. We were rushed towards the river but before reaching the bridge were ordered to return and resume our peaceful duties as millers.

Monday Dec, 7-Once more we became absorbed in the soothing "whirr" of wheels and rattle of grains while more than all we were fascinated by the steady stream of flour and meal which suggested pan cakes and hoe cakes enough to fill "a long felt want." But once more we were rudely awakened by a sudden order just as the sun was disappearing to rejoin our Brigade. We hurried away without ceremony and although a space of fifteen miles had to be traversed we accomplished it in time to retire for the night at the reasonable hour of 10 p. m. We found the Brigade located four miles southwest from Madisonville.

Tuesday Dec. 8-We had very little time to observe our new surroundings for at the break of day our Brigade was hurried off to Columbus 23 miles distant arriving about sunset drenched with rain and thoroughly exhausted

with splashing through the mud.

Wednesday Dec. 9-Exposure and fatigue proved trying enough but they were of secondary importance to the demands of hunger. Further we could not go with a substitute for rations and the only substitute in sight was the ungathered corn in the fields so our Regiment was sent with wagons to gather the corn and haul it to the Scarborough Mill and there grind it for the use of the troops in our vicinity who patiently awaited their turn for a scanty issue of corn meal.

Monday Dec. 14-Orders for the return of our expedition to Chattanooga were received with expressions of delight. We hoped to find there a regular supply of rations and clothing which we so much needed. Since the day nearly four months past when we stripped ourselves to "light marching order" to enter upon the Chickamauga campaign, no opportunity had been given us to replenish our scanty wardrobe, and now we were in rags and shoeless. almost ~~and~~. Our blanket too were worn almost as thin as paper and scarcely more effective in protecting our bodies from wintry winds. But we were all in good health despite short rations and exposure and when our faces were turned toward Chattanooga we moved with alacrity and cheerfulness.

Friday Dec. 18- A march of five days without special incidents brought us late this evening to Chattanooga and a shout of joy greeted the first glimpse of our tents on Moccasin Point standing as we left them twenty four days past.

Our Regiment marched cheerily to the landing to cross on the pontoon bridge but alas for bright anticipations of comfortable quarters a portion of the bridge had been carried away by the flood which rolled darkly and swiftly before our eyes. Now behold a desolate picture. The fragment of a Regiment represented by less than 300 ragged shivering wretches, many shoeless with bleeding feet wrapped in remnants of much needed blankets, exhausted by weeks of heavy marching and light rations-no fuel-no fires

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and a freezing gale sweeping down from the north, the icy river in front and a bleak bank behind. There we passed the night without the possibility of sleep—the coldest night thus far of the season.

Saturday Dec. 19—Early this morning a steamboat was provided to carry us over the river and soon after we hobbled into camp much the worse for wear yet able to give vent to hearty cheers when the order to break ranks was given. We scampered into our tents like prairie dogs alarmed by the approach of a stranger and fell to eating all the rations we could get our hands on while we toasted our frosted shins before the cheerful fires with which our huts were provided. Neither did we forget to sleep in the midst of our luxurious surroundings.

Sunday Dec. 20—This was truly a day of rest as we had nothing to do but lie on the broad of our backs before the fire or eat our rations.

Monday Dec. 21—If the subject of reenlistment had been broached three days ago while we stood shivering on the river bank hungry and half clothed it would have been treated with indignant scorn but now with our stomachs full and bodies clothed past hardships are already forgotten and we talk brightly of Bounty money and a furlough offered to all who will join the Veteran Corps for another three years service or during the war.

The impression is gaining strength that the Regiment will reenlist in a body and thus preserve its organization.

Tuesday Dec. 22—Our sincerity about reenlisting was brought to the test today when blanks were presented for signatures. One hundred names were secured. Others are halting between two opinions—whether to serve the remaining nine months of their original enlistment without bounty or furlough—perhaps to be killed before the expiration of their time or to reenlist now and secure above all the furlough which is just now the most desirable privilege we can conceive.

Sunday Dec. 25—Our third Christmas in the service and the war not ended in fact we are about to bind ourselves to spend three more in the

army. How different from our first expectations. It is not a day of joyousness but serious reflection. The requisites of festivity are absent except greenbacks which the Paymaster gave us the other day and they will buy nothing since Sutlers there are none and rations are reduced to a mere sufficiency to sustain life. Fortunate is he who can furnish his table with a few hard tack for the one day's ration issued three days ago is already consumed.

Monday Dec. 26-Last night an order from General Beatty directed our Regiment to march with the Brigade to Rossville starting at 8 o'clock this morning. Rain began falling in the night and when Reville disturbed our slumbers we could hear the pattering on our canvas roofs which evoked many a growl of dissatisfaction but our good temper was somewhat restored later when the order was suspended and finally we were delighted when Gen. Davis our Division Commander decreed that our Regiment should remain in present quarters until after our anticipated muster into the Veteran Corps. So the Brigade marched without us.

Tuesday Dec. 29-To be or not to be a veteran is the all absorbing question. A walk through our camp disclosed groups of soldiers talking very earnestly and the words "Bounty" "Furlough" so frequently mentioned indicates the subject of discussion. Already the required three fourths of our number have signed for reenlistment which entitles the Regiment to be furloughed in a body.

Until noon all seemed lovely - then a discordant note sounded and "Veteran Stock" dropped to zero. It was an order from General Thomas that we should at once proceed to escort a Section of Artillery to Calhoun 55 miles distant and then rejoin the Brigade at Rossville. This appeared to dissipate all hope of a furlough so our Colonel at once mounted his horse and rode direct to General Thomas who relieved us from the unwelcome task which announcement by the Colonel on his own return was received with noisy demonstration of joy and many new names were added to the Veteran Roll.

Thursday Dec. 31-The close of the year finds us not looking backward with vain regrets but forward to renewed efforts for the suppression of the Rebellion and the restoration of Peace. The promised furlough is the bright spot in our anticipations. We do not talk about what will be after the furlough. We try not to think of the period beyond it. But we know there will be a return to duty arduous marches exposure and battles. We are under no delusion as to the temper of our adversaries as we were when we first enlisted. The men in gray who met us at Shiloh, Stone River and Chickamauga will meet us again on the hills of Georgia. We do not expect them to yield without a struggle in which many of us will go down and when we have worn them out if there are any of us left we may rejoice in our victory and return home to enjoy the blessings of Peace

Friday Jan 1-1864-The New Year finds us busily engaged in the work of preparation for muster into the Veteran Service and for the journey home. The weather is extremely cold but we do not heed it.

Saturday Jan 2-The Mustering Officer arrived in camp and proceeded at once to prepare the necessary papers.

Sunday-Jan 3-All the papers being ready we were called into line one company at a time and assented to the oath which binds us for another three years or during the war. As each company was dismissed the hills would ring with shouts more perhaps for the assured furlough than for the service to follow. Our term of service dates from Dec. 23d 1863.

Monday Jan 4th.-Every man skillful in handling a pen is now taxed to his utmost in preparing the numerous Rolls etc. necessary to meet the demand of "red tape" as prescribed in Regulations General and Special Orders circulars and numerous other authorities.

Tuesday Jan 5-Now comes the Paymaster with stacks of greenbacks about two hundred dollars for each man including pay to Dec. 22nd date of muster and bounty on account of muster in.

Wednesday Jan 6th-The "Individuals" as we term those who did not re-enlist together with recruits who are ineligible were assembled before

Headquarters preparatory to transfer to the 78th Ills. As they stood in line their faces indicates keen disappointment as thus being thrust from the ranks where many of them marched and fought nearly three years.

Thursday Jan 7th-Preparations for starting home tomorrow engage the time and thoughts of all the Veterans. The Quartermaster is ~~busy~~ busy turning over camp equipage baggage horses and mules. The much desired order for the Regiment to proceed to Illinois has been received from General Thomas.

Friday Jan 8th-Long before the break of day we marched away from the smoking ruins of the huts we had constructed and occupied so long on Moccasin Point. The usual stillness of the hour was broken with cheers and noisy mirth as if we were schoolboys just let loose from school. The ground was frozen hard and rough and slightly covered with snow making our march through the darkness very difficult. But we had surmounted greater difficulties in the face of the enemy and no obstacle could now deter us in our homeward march. Marching a point on the River three miles below our camp we waited two hours in the cold for the horse ferry to cross us then continued to Whiteside eleven miles distant the terminus of the railroad. From Bridgeport no train in sight. The Colonel telegraphed to Bridgeport for transportation. It was promised but night came and yet no train. Prepared to bivouac on the hard frozen snowy ground of the mountain side. No axes to cut wood - scant rations and clothing and a piercing wind were the miserable conditions that confronted us. The decrepit railroad had not been able before, during or after the siege to bring us a full supply of rations or a new supply of clothing. A few weak fires scarcely kept alive by a few loose sticks of wood were thronged by shivering forms while others laid down amid the rocks resolved to defy the weather to do its worst while they invoked fire flood and earthquake upon those responsible for our distress.

Saturday Janyn-9-After a sleepless night we hailed the morning light with an earnestness that almost reached enthusiasm believing as we did that a train would soon arrive to carry us towards home. This thought tempered the frost but could not quite satisfy the cravings of hunger. A little bakery two miles distant furnished a meager supply. My share was a forty cent pie tough as sole leather and scarcely more nutritious.

The day wore away while we watched and waited for the train. Deceived often by a well imitated whistle of the locomotive or imaginary rumbling of wheels elated by rumors of relief-depressed by their failure until the shades of a dreaded night deepened the gloom of our situation now much worse because even loose sticks of wood were exhausted as well as rations. But just as we had given up hope for the night the sound of a real whistle of a real locomotive too real to be doubted inspired a spontaneous yell of delight and when the wheezy engine with its train of dirty box cars rolled up to the station we were already lined up ready to spring aboard. There was a shuffling and scrambling in the darkness for a few moments while we were packing ourselves like sardines and then the cars were full but not all could find standing room inside so a number had to climb on top, where the night wind blew cold and swift. But we were now all in a good humor our journey home had really begun. At Bridgeport after considerable delay we were transferred to clean box cars with sufficient room to spread our blankets on the floor and drop asleep while in our dreams the rails became measured lines of music and the wheels rattled off the notes of "Home Sweet Home".

Sunday Jan'y 10-The morning light found us speeding toward Nashville over ground made familiar by many a hard days march and at one point Murfreesboro by a bloody battle field. The trip was not altogether pleasant the weather extremely cold and cars destitute of stoves. At 8 p. m. reached Nashville. Found the city overflowing with veterans enroute home and consequently had trouble finding accommodations. Finally found quarters in

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unfinished upper story of the Zollicoffer House which contained five or six different Regiments.

Monday Jany 11th-Many of us were disappointed this morning to find the door guarded by a Provost Martial under orders to keep us all inside but learning that we could pass out with canteens to procure water we borrowed them for the purpose and once outside we could send the canteens back and remain out to see the sights of the city.

Tuesday Jany 12-Spent the day in looking about the city. The Yankee soldiers are by far the largest part of the population. Not many ladies are seen and these scarcely deign to glance at us. But their pride is sensibly lowered since we passed through two years ago. Then they expected soon to see us driven back and the "Bombé-Blue Flag" once more floating from the dome of the State House a vain hope thus far so their pride has given place to sullen submission.

Wednesday Jany 13-It is interesting to watch the Veterans squandering their Bounty money on good clothing watches jewelery-Fancy prices are paid everything and if we remain much longer our Regiment will go home penniless.

Thursday Jany 14-To the great joy of all we marched to the Depot this morning boarded the train and soon after were dashing merrily along the road to Louisville. We watched with great interest for the localities where two years before our camps had been pitched. Reaching Louisville shortly after dark we marched to the Barracks corner main and sixth street. Here as in Nashville every available building was filled with veterans going home.

Friday Jany 15-We are delayed by a flood in the river and running ice which prevents the ferry from crossing. This is a good thing for dealers in pinchback jewelery who are even more successful than their Nashville brethern in fleecing the thoughtless veterans.

Saturday Jany 16-We are impatient to move on but can learn nothing about the time of departure. Several Regiments arrived and one departed.

Some veterans having created a disturbance. The Provost Guards were sent throughout the city to notify all soldiers without passes to report without delay to their respective quarters or be arrested and confined in the Guard House. Instead of complying the veterans gathered in squads and defied the Guards threatening to seize their arms in self defense. As we greatly outnumbered the Guards we were allowed to roam unmolested.

Sunday July 17-On my way to church with several comrades we learned of marching orders and reported at once just in time to take our places and march to Jeffersonville where we waited until night for a train of second class cars to convey us to Indianapolis.

Monday July 18-Reached Indianapolis at 6 a. m. and marched over to the Soldiers Home for breakfast. Other veterans were ahead of us and the dining room was filled so we had to stand outside until those had eaten and another meal had been prepared. This occupied fully two hours during which time we stamped about in the snow which was a foot deep and still falling. When breakfast was at last announced we crowded the table and disposed of a plain substantial meal after which we marched to the Depot and departed at 11 a. m. A few miles out from the city our train stopped where a number of school girls large and small came to look at us through curiosity. Before they had time to retreat an equal number of our younger boys had jumped from the train and were kissing them right and left. If anyone of them escaped being kissed it must have been a great disappointment since they all appeared to enjoy it so much. It all happened within five minutes as the train moved on leaving the girls waving a farewell and laughing roguishly through their blushes.

Tuesday July 19-At a late hour last night our train stopped at State Line City for several hours and our men searched the village for something to eat. One store only was open-the other two had closed to avoid being troubled with soldiers. When this fact became known these storekeepers were compelled to open and never did they sell more goods in so

listless that we naturally resort to card playing to pass the time for lack of other recreation. Reading will attract many of us when we can obtain books and periodicals but such reading matter is hard for us to procure.

Sunday Apr. 3-I was awakened this morning by the strains of "Old Hundred" by the brass band at Brigade Headquarters and memory again called back the days of Sunday School and church going now interrupted by the hideous tocsin of war.

It was announced that Divine Service attended by all the Chaplains, would be held by Brigade Head Quarters but through some misunderstanding our Regiment failed to attend the service however was interesting. The day was beautiful. Nature wore her sweetest smile in pleasant contrast to the chilling frowns with which she has so recently greeted us.

Monday Apr. 4-Nature's sweet smile was hidden today under a laden sky and frequent showers of rain. It was my day to cook for the mess. We are five in number and each takes his turn. Had time however to have a long and serious conversation with Jesse Clements and played chess with Tommy B. in which game I came out second best.

Tuesday Apr. 5-The only event today was the burning of a tent shortly after ¹laps. We hear very little from Grants Army in Virginia beyond the fact that it is preparing to make an advance upon Lee's Army on the Rapidan about the same time that we advance upon Johnston's Army at Rocky Face Ridge. A concerted movement by both our armies will prevent Lee or Johnston from sending help to each other.

Wednesday Apr. 6- A beautiful spring day incited us to outdoor games by day and dancing at night. Our ~~substance~~ solitary fiddle furnishes the music and army shoes do the shuffling for slippers and the fair sex come net within our jurisdiction. Our Recruits having recovered from the frost bites of the late snow and the adhesive grip of the later mud now join in the sport with hearty enthusiasm and several of them have been heard to

say that soldiers don't have such a hard time after all."

Thursday Apr 7-This is the second anniversary of the second day's battle at Shiloh in which our Regiment took part. The bloody scenes of that day have left a deep impress on our memory and its anniversary will never pass unnoticed by the survivors. We rehearsed the events of that day-both seen and heard-and for the information of our Recruits magnified the death struggle until we could imagine they turned pale and were almost ready to exclaim "I wish I was home."

Friday Apr 8-After an interruption of several days a heavy mail arrived and the excitement could not have been greater if the enemy had arrived. The news of its advent spread like wildfire and when the bags reached the Postmasters tent it was immediately surrounded by an impatient noisy crowd clamoring for letters. Being domicilled in the same tent any opportunities are first class for observing and reporting the inside workings of this department.

While the letters are being assorted it is necessary for one of our men to stand guard with a drawn sword to prevent forcible entrance, for the crowd acts like starved wolves and every crack and cranny of the tent has its pair of eyes gazing upon the heap of letters in hops of catching a glimpse of a long expected missive from sweetheart, relative or friend.

When the letters are arranged a score of voices cry "Give me Co. A", an equal number call for Co. B and so on through the list of companies where the excitement is renewed when the letters reach the Company for distribution.

Such is the ordinary reception of the mail but today the excitement was increased by the delay in its arrival. If our home folks could look upon this scene and mark its disappointment depicted on the faces of those who receive nothing, we are sure they would write more frequently.

Saturday Apr 9-One of our "fads" at present is writing under assumed names to unknown correspondents. The Waverly Magazine publishes a dozen columns of addresses of soldiers in the army and fair creatures throughout

the north desiring correspondence. The latter usually describe themselves as fun loving girls.

He is a poor lonesome chump who does not receive a feminine missive every week. One of my messmates writes wonderful accounts of his adventures and hairbreadth escapes which keep his fair correspondent in a continual state of agitation as she evidently fears he will soon be captured or killed as the natural result of his desperate forays, but we know the only danger is the dreadful strain on his imagination.

Sunday Apr 10-Joined a squad of returned pickets to engage in target shooting. At 2,00 yards a white piece of paper three inches in diameter was pinned to a tree with a picket knife. The first marksman struck the exact center and sent the knife spinning. The owner of the knife picketed it with the remark that if they proposed to shoot in that style they had better find another pin. None of the party could equal the first shot and the lucky marksman who fired it was entitled to be excused ~~from~~ Picket duty next time his turn came.

As we returned to quarters I noticed a small cluster of daisies the first flowers of the season to greet my eyes. How sweet they looked and peaceful springing out of a soil so recently trodden by two contending armies.

Monday Apr. 11-A stir was created last evening by a report that the Brigade had orders to start this morning on an expedition, destination and object unknown.

The truth is that the 78th Illinois alone of our Brigade had received marching orders. This morning early it started for Lafayette 20 miles distant. The object was to locate the enemy's outposts in that direction. We were inspected today by the Brigade Inspector each company forming successively on the Parade Ground for that purpose. Inspectors have lately received stringent orders to report all officers who neglect or evade the rule.^p

Tuesday Apr. 12-Nathan Ferrine and Wm. Saddler arrived today from home and bring interesting news of our neighborhood. The recent elevations in Town & Country resulted in victory of the Union Ticket by increased majorities. My ~~Ferrine~~ was re-elected Tax Collector of Pine Creek Township.

Read an interesting sketch in Harpers of the capture of Washington by the British in 1813. President Madison was blamed for that disaster because he failed to make preparation to prevent it. Unlike Lincoln of our present day he would not believe the Capital in danger until the enemy was in full march upon it and only a few miles distant.

Wednesday Apr. 13-The 78th Illinois returned today from their reconnaissance toward Dalton. Leaving camp here they marched 23 miles almost due south, then turned to the west as far as the Gap held by McCook at the Battle of Chickamauga, and returned by another road to avoid capture by a Brigade of Cavalry, reported by one of our scouts as having been dispatched from Dalton for that purpose. The Regiment found the people of the country usually Union in sentiment but in destitute condition. Feeble efforts in farming were made as it is expected that the fields will be scenes of battle as soon as our army advances upon Dalton for which our preparations are almost completed.

Thursday Apr 14-A great improvement has been made in the appearance of our camp by the planting of a double row of pines along the regimental street.

The Colonel has issued an order dividing each company into two sections with a Sergeant and Corporal in charge of each, who will be held responsible for the good behavior and cleanliness of the men.

Company Commanders are required to pay strict attention to the quality and cooking of rations and the Officer of the Day is required to inspect quarters after guard mounting each morning and report any neglect of these

rules. Friday Apr 15-Apparently a condition of peace and quietude surrounds us and just now the days are passing in a dull monotonous way devoid of

incidents within the sphere of our observation worthy of record.

But we know that the most strenuous and desperate efforts are now being made by the Union and Confederate Governments to strengthen their respective Armies in Virginia and Georgia.

On our part a call has been made throughout the North for volunteers to serve 100 days to relieve our regular soldiers in the guarding of railroad bridges and other positions in our rear in order that disciplined troops thus employed may be sent to the front.

Throughout the Confederacy the dragnet of conscription has been cast and no able bodied man may escape unless he is protected by official friends in high authority.

Saturday Apr 16-This day might have passed without note if some careless fellow while cleaning his gun had not accidentally discharged it and sent the steel ramrod broken into fragments hurtling forth through camp without injury, fortunately, to life and limb.

Sunday Apr 17-General Steedman, commanding Chattanooga visited our Brigade and was sumptuously entertained and dined by General Mitchell our commander at Head Quarters. All the Field Officers of the Brigade were present.

Usually when our officers are seen enjoying luxuries denied to the ranks there are growls of dissatisfaction from the veterans of hard tack and bacon but in this case no ill natured remarks were made about Steedman and Mitchell, two gallant companions in arms, who have won the unbounded admiration of the rank and file by conspicuous bravery especially at the Battle of Chickamauga just seven months ago.

Steedman is now separated from our command but at that time he commanded the Division of which this Brigade is a part. Our Regiment, however, was not yet assigned to it, being employed in guarding one of the two pontoon bridges crossing the Tennessee River, a ^{Very} necessary link in our line of communication with the rear, and so very important that when

Rosecrans saw our Right Wing at Chickamauga crumbling, he supposed his entire army was routed and rode madly to Chattanooga to provide for the safety of those bridges so essential to the salvation of our army in case of our retreat which appeared imminent. He did not know that the left Wing was still holding its ground and repelling the enemy's attacks.

Steedman and Mitchell's Brigades occupied a position far to the left and rear where only the noise of battle reached him. Chafing with impatience under his condition of inactivity he at last decided go to the front, orders or no orders. Accordingly he set his Brigades in motion directly towards the point where the firing was most intense and arrived none too soon for he encountered the enemy swinging round to the rear of Thomas who now with only half our army was bearing the weight of Braggs whole army.

Steedman threw his two Brigades across the path of this fatal movement and arrested its progress and then joining the right of Thomas line he assisted in holding the position against repeated charges until night ended the contest.

But this heroic service was performed at fearful cost, for in the short space of time between the middle of the afternoon and night, nearly one half, or 44 percent of the two Brigades, had been cut down by the enemy's bullets.

Monday Apr 18-One of our new recruits who has already tired of the service concluded that "playing off" was more to his notion than the faithful performance of duty-For several mornings he has failed to attend the morning roll call and consequently was given extra duty clearing up the camp ground. This proved tiresome and when he was ordered to grub out a stump he flatly refused. He was punished by being tied up by his thumbs and told that when he decided to go to work he would be released. There he stood nearly all day until fatigue brought repentance and a willingness to work-just for a change.

Tuesday Apr. 18-In company with four comrades I visited the battlefield

of Chickamauga which lies six miles south of our present camp at Rossville.
continues to
As the field/remains disputed territory lying between the Union and Con-
federate lines, we fully armed ourselves as a very necessary caution in
case of we should encounter any of the enemy's scouting parties.

We walked five miles beyond our picket lines over a country blooming
with wild flowers but blackened here and there with the ruins of houses
and a little farther on we began to see shattered trees and the ground
strewn with fragments of guns, battered canteens bits of leather belts and
cartridge boxes, shreds of clothing blue and gray and little mounds marking
the graves of friend and foe. Reaching the southern end of the battle field
we ascended a moderately knoll on a curving ridge trending eastward from
the Dry Valley road then northward on the east of that road. Its summit
was notched with depressions and its slope indented with projecting spurs .
It is known as Horse Shoe Ridge on account of its shape and has become
noted as the scene of one of the most desperate and bloody contests of the
war. Rude breastworks, built the night after the first day's battle, marks
the position held by Wood, Brannen and Steedman. On the knoll called Batt-
ery Hill was stationed one of our Batteries-All around the ridge and knoll
we could see the effects of bullets, shells, and grape shot on the trees
which were scorred and shattered.

On our way back to camp we stopped at one of the few occupied houses
and were pleasantly received and invited to partake of a luncheon of bread
and milk for which the housewife refused pay but very willingly accepted
a generous ration of coffee and sugar with which we had provided ourselves
well knowing these articles are rare luxuries to the country people.

The next place we stopped was at a large log house of seven or eight
rooms surrounded by huts formerly used for slaves. The inmates consisted
of a middle aged woman and her aged almost helpless parents. We sat down
in a large kitchen before a huge fireplace beside the old man who was
scarcely able to totter across the room but he was quite cheerful. He was

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greatly interested in one of our guns, a sixteen shooter Henry Rifle and expressed great astonishment that the Yankee's should be able to invent such a dangerous weapon.

"We know what war is," said the daughter, "the cavalry fought for eleven days around our house and we never expected to live through it. We hid in every corner of the house but it was'nt sand anywhere." You can see where the bullets came through."

After leaving this house we met on the road two old women returning from our camp with rations they had drawn from our Division Commissary. We learned on inquiry that their ages were 50 and 88.

"Have you anytobacco", asked the younger one, " we can't hardlyget along without it. We've always used it and now can't get a bit." We explained that tobacco was quite as scarce with us as with them and that while two of our party used the weed when they could get it they had not had a taste or a smell of it for many days. "Yes," she continued, we can't get any needles pins thread buttons or sich like and we would'nt get anything to eat if it was'nt for you uns, but we have to walk seven miles and carry our Rations home."

We gave them all the pins needles and thread that we had and expressed our sympathy for the hardship they had to endure as the result of a cruel war. They thanked us and hobbled on towards their destitute homes.

Wednesday Apr 20-Knowing as we do the destitute condition of the inhabitants of the neighborhood where their fields have been ravaged by both armies, we are paindd to learn that General Sherman has issued an order forbidding the issue of rations to civillians south of Nashville. It declares that it is ~~an~~expedient for the Government to bear the burden of transporting supplies under conditions of great difficulty for the subsistence of persons not connected with the army and the only alternative is removal to the rear of such persons for which purpose free transportation will be provided.

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The real reason for this order is the necessity for accumulating supplies for the coming campaign-The daily need of the army is 150 car-loads which must be carried over a single track from Nashville which is constantly menaced by the enemy's raiders directed by such skilful commanders as Wheeler, Forrest and Morgan.

But the hardship entailed by the enforcement of this order are so apparent and so heart rending that the Washington authorities urged Sherman to forego it but they could not suggest any other remedy by which the necessary quantity of stores can be accumulated in time for our forward movement.

Thursday Apr. 21-We hear that Johnston has sent his cavalry into North Alabama and is holding them in readiness to make a dash upon our cracker line. It was reported that boats were being prepared for crossing the Tennessee River so Gen Thomas sent a steamboat load of soldiers with artillery to go down the river as far as possible and destroy every skiff, dug out or boat they could find. The expedition was only partially successful as the enemy was found in increasing force along the bank and soon rendered the further passage of the boat unsafe. But a great many boats that had been used by the enemy were destroyed.

Friday Apr 22-A visit to Chattanooga, six miles from our camp, gives an idea of the tremendous work involved in the supplying of food and clothing and forage for a hundred thousand men and many thousands of animals each day while at the same time accumulating large quantities for future emergencies. Heavily laden trains are seen rolling into the Depot almost in continuous procession while a swarm of government wagons are in constant readiness to pounce upon the cars as soon as they are shifted to the side track and transfer the contents to the various warehouses for which purpose a number of buildings in the city have been appropriated, new buildings have been erected and others are under construction.

Saturday Apr 23-Our mess has constituted itself a "Committee on the

Conduct of the War." We formulated plans for both armies and severely criticize the commanders of both when they adopt some other plan. We have decided what we are going to do to Johnston in the coming campaign but we are still unsettled in our minds as to what Johnston is going to do to us.

We consider that he has three alternatives. One is to come up and attack us where we are, another is to slip around through North Alabama and get in our rear, severing our communications and forcing us into a foot race to see which army can reach Nashville or even Louisville first as Bragg did us in 63 and the third is to cling to his present stronghold and if driven or flanked out to fall back to the next range of hills or mountains of which the country before us will afford him many lines of great natural strength to choose from. We fear he will adopt the latter.

Sunday Apr 24-Grant telegraphs Sherman: "Will your veterans be back in time to start on the 2nd of May? Sherman had to ask for a few days delay. The veterans referred to are the regiments that re-enlisted for another three years, as did ours, and were sent home on 90 days furlough. All have returned but a very few and they are on the way.

During the winter and spring these reenlistments in the Army of the Cumberland numbered 88 regiments of Infantry, 3 mounted infantry, 16 Cavalry 18 Batteries of Artillery and 26 Detachments of all arms. If these men had not reenlisted their time would have expired about the time we reached Atlanta and the depletion of its ranks by this great number would have left the remnant of our army at the mercy of the Confederacy.

Monday Apr 25-The ill advised expedition of General Banks from New Orleans up Red River to capture Alexandria and Shreveport has failed to reach the latter place and having been worsted in several encounters with the enemy is now retreating to New Orleans, it is reported that a fleet of gunboats that accompanied the expedition has been caught by the falling river and cannot get over a shoal bar.

It is said that this expedition was made as a cotton speculation to secure great quantities of the staple said to be held in Texas. This cotton is worth at least one dollar a pound but the owners have no market unless they ship through our lines where it is subject to confiscation. But this difficulty is overcome and daily practiced by the collusion of Southern planters, Federal Army Officers and cotton speculators with bags of gold. The cotton finds its way to New York and the gold finds its way into the pockets of the Planter or Officer, and speculator. It is related of one of our Generals in command at Memphis - I think it was General Ord - that he wrote to President Lincoln asking to be transferred to the front as he had been offered \$50,000 by the speculators to help them get their hands on a certain lot of cotton "and this," he declared, "is so near my price that I am afraid they will come up to it next time." He wanted to be removed from temptation.

Tuesday Apr 26- Capt Wagner started for home yesterday on recruiting service for the Regiment. If successful in securing enough recruits we will be entitled to three Field Officers and he will be commissioned as major. As it is we have but one such officer, Lieut Col Van Fassel who commands the Regiment. Up to the date of our reenlistment our numbers had been reduced about one half by casualties and sickness. It was expected that our furlough home would be productive of new material to fill our depleted ranks but the Regiment only obtained 184 recruits. We found that the glitter and the glory of war that attracted us in 1861 had been dissipated by sad and stern realities and our civilian friends whom we urged to join our ranks hesitated or declined when they learned how many of our number had been laid under the southern sod and how many were crippled with wounds. The inspiring effect of our presence with all our assumed enthusiasm could not dissipate the depressing influence of our comrades who did not return, whose bereaved parents widows or relatives met us with tears more potent to discourage new enlistments than all the cheers by which our

arrival was welcomed.

Wednesday Apr 27-General Sherman has issued an order for the concentration of all his forces at Chattanooga and is moving his Headquarters from Nashville to the latter place in preparation of the forward movement soon to take place. The Army of the Potomac under Grant will advance at the same time to attack Lee, so there will be no fresh troops from Virginia thrown upon us in this campaign as there was at Chickamauga as Lee will need every man for his army is much smaller than Grant.

Thursday Apr 28-The southern newspaper especially in Richmond are making a great hue and cry urging Johnston to take the offensive. President Davis is said to be quite anxious for such a movement but Johnston is too prudent to take such chances with inadequate means and men. If such a plan was ever feasible it was while so many Veteran Regiments were absent on furlough, but now it is too late as concentration of Sherman's Army is almost effected. The newspapers call attention to the long line of railroad, 336 miles, from Louisville to Chattanooga which Sherman has to guard and insist that it must be vulnerable at some point to the attack of such daring cavalry as Forrest, Wheeler and Morgan.

Johnston knows however that permanent interruption of the railroad is difficult task or it would have been performed ere this. The bridge along the line are all protected by Block Houses or Forts each containing 25 to 30 soldiers provided with water, food and ammunition for a siege. Octagon in shape, with sides double thickness of heavy logs and further strengthened by embankments of earth which also covers the roof, the garrisons can hold an army at bay and pick off any parties approaching their bridge with the purpose of setting it on fire. The reduction of these little forts means interminable delay to a raiding party or even an army conducting operations against the railroad.

Friday Apr 29- An order from General Palmer directs us to be ready to

move to Ringgold next Monday. All surplus baggage is to be sent to Chattanooga and thence by river to Bridgeport for storage. Only one wagon will accompany the Regiment loaded with rations and not more than five small valises to contain underclothing for all the officers. All other baggage not carried on the person must be sent to the rear.

Saturday Apr 30-A busy day - everybody packing boxes with extra clothing and the many trinkets possessed by every soldier. The larger portion of our personal property has been shipped home by express as we have found by experience that A Government Warehouse is a knapsack "Inferno" and we may well "abandon hope" for all that enters there.

Sunday May 1-We attended Divine Service and listened more attentively than usual to the Chaplin's sermon for we realize that in the campaign before us our future Sabbath's will likely be spent on the firing line.

Monday May 2-Our Brigade marched at 8 A. M. on the road to Ringgold, 12 miles distant, over a rough country broken by rugged mountain spurs covered with chestnut and pure timber. The road follows a tortuous course through the valleys and occasionally where unavoidable, scales the abrupt sides of the smaller spurs. Shortly after noon we came in sight of Ringgold and went into camp one mile north west of the town on the hillside opposite Taylors Ridge.

Tuesday May 3-Although marching orders may disturb us at any hour and certainly within a day or two, we spent the entire day in building huts - using for material the chestnut bark which we strip from the trees in sections, often fifty feet long by a foot or more in width.

We observe the gathering of troops in our vicinity and already the valleys and hillsides are growing white with numerous "pup tents". Our army has been for some time rather disorganized and scattered but now that a new assignment has been made and concentrated, we see Regiments joining their Brigades, Brigades their Divisions Divisions their Corps, and Corps their Army of the Cumberland, Tennessee or Ohio. Our movement to

Ringgold has put us in line with our Division.

As now constituted our Regiment belongs to the Second Brigade, Gen. John G. Mitchell, commanding. Second Division, Gen. Jeff C. Davis commanding Fourteenth Army Corps, Gen. John M. Palmer commanding Army of the Cumberland, Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, commanding. The Army of the Cumberland constitutes the center of Shermans command, the Army of the Ohio the Right Wing and the Army of the Tennessee the Left Wing.

It is intended that we of the center shall march straight up to the enemy's intrenchments in front and hold him there while the Right and Left Wings shall "flop" towards the enemy's rear and force him to come out and fight or retreat to save his lines of communication.

Our ^U Corps the 14th is also the Center of the Army of the Cumberland. The 20th Corps under command of General Joseph Hooker constitutes the "Right", and the 4th Corps under Gen. O. O. Howard the "Left".

Wednesday-May 4th-A party of us visited Ringgold and saw a town of about fifty buildings, half of them in ruins. Very few citizens remain and these can scarcely find lodging as every available building is filled with army stores. Walking out from the town we followed the railroad through Nickajack Gap, along the bank of Chickamauga Creek. We stopped awhile to admire the cool limpid stream and then began the toilsome ascent of Taylors Ridge from the east. On the summit we found a Signal Station and were kindly permitted by the officer in charge to look through his glass. Rooky Face Ridge was plain to be seen by the naked eye but the powerful glass disclosed its sides strewn with loose rocks as if specially prepared to make its ascent most difficult. A deep notch in the contour of the Ridge marked the position of Buzzard Roost Gap where Mill Creek and the railroad runs through. In an open field at the foot we could see a solitary horseman on picket duty watching to give the first alarm of our approach.

Thursday May 5-At sunrise we moved in the direction of Tunnel Hill, passing through Ringgold and the Gap below, along Chickamauga Creek and

and the base of Taylors Ridge, an extremely rough and rocky road, until we reached an open field in the Valley two miles below the town. Here our Brigade was formed in column by Regiments in rear of Morgan's, arms were stacked and the command "Rest" was given. Meanwhile other troops were forming in our rear and soon the valley was nearly filled with the Infantry and Artillery of the 14th Corps in battle order, while the Cavalry in our front was slowly pushing back the Rebel Pickets, as the popping of carbines indicated. The fog which all morning had obscured distant objects was now disappearing under the influence of the sun, and far down the valley could be dimly seen our skirmishers advancing toward a patch of timber that soon hid the combatants but did not smother the noise of their combat. Evidently our skirmishers soon secured possession of the wood, for the firing did not continue very long and presently ceased for the day.

When quiet was restored our Regiment marched back to Ringgold where our old Enfield Guns were exchanged for new Springfield rifles, 69 caliber carrying an ounce ball. Some of our boys are like children with new toys, they are anxious for a "sorap" in order to try their new guns.

Friday May 6-Learning that we would not move today three of us visited Catoosa Springs, a couple of miles from camp, a locality notable in history as a great resort for the Indians.

We found a lot of innocent looking springs transformed into various chemical solutions by wooden sign boards. Some of the names appeared to us to be so formidable and dangerous that we sampled them very cautiously but finding all had the same watery taste we drank recklessly of thirteen varieties-an unlucky number and returned to camp alive.

Saturday May 7-Yesterday was completed the concentration of Sherman's Army and all being in readiness, he gave the order for a general advance upon the enemy to take place this morning, directing Gen Thomas to march our 14th Corps straight toward the center of Johnston's Army. Accordingly we were ordered to be ready and at sunrise our Regiment broke camp and led

the Brigade with our faces set towards the menacing heights of Rocky Face Ridge. We slowly followed and skirmishers who were cautiously searching for the Rebel Pickets and quite sure of finding them. Pretty soon a few scattered shots indicated that the expected had happened. As we advanced the firing in front kept growing in volume. When we had gone three miles and were within two miles of Tunnel Hill which was occupied by the enemy, our Brigade filed to the left of the road, unslung knapsacks to be left under guard, formed in line of battle and remained almost an hour, then crossed the road and ascended a hill overlooking the town of Tunnel Hill from the north west.

While crossing the road a shell bursted over our heads and we naturally expected more of the same sort but it was not repeated. We laid on the crest of the hill more than an hour during which time the enemy evacuated the town when we moved down and occupied it. The reason we obtained possession so easily was because Howards Corps was swinging around on the left and would soon have cut off retreat. The hill overlooking the town was well fortified but Howards flanking movement made the works useless.

Shortly after noon our Brigade moved to the crest of Tunnel Hill, formed line, stacked arms and was notified that here we should remain for the night. Company B was sent out to reconnoiter and exchanged shots with the Rebel Pickets. Another company was then sent out and the two remained on picket all night. During the afternoon small squads of the enemy occasionally approached and attracted several shots from our Brigade Battery. A negro came to our pickets about sunset and was brought to our Colonel who questioned him about affairs within the Rebel lines, the reports that Johnston has three lines each nine miles long occupying the crest of Rocky Face Ridge.

Sunday May 8-A bright morning greeted our eyes when we awoke but it was not to be a day of church going and singing of hymns. A church was in sight, a brick one, in the town of Tunnel Hill below us, but the preacher,

where was he, the singers, where were they, the congregation where was it. x
All badly scattered. I invited some of my comrades to go to church, which,
of course, was out of the question as we momentarily expected orders to
advance. Their replies were amusing on said his "boiled" shirt and paper
collar were packed in his knapsack and piled somewhere in a field with
40,000 others and he did not have time to go to look for it. Another could not
find a boy to take care of his gun while he scouted his girl. Another ex-
pected a visit from the folks over on Rocky Face and a fourth thought
Sherman might want him to carry a message over on the Ridge.

The morning passed quietly enough but toward noon we heard firing on
our left and presently saw Harkers Brigade of our corps working its way
along the lower edge of the ridge. Reaching a position nearly opposite to
us the Brigade encountered obstructions and resistance that brought it to
a halt. Assistance was then sent forward from Butterfield's, Morgans
and Davis Divisions, in which movement we took part at 4:30 p. m. Joining
the Brigade we followed the R. R. track down the valley toward the Gap about
a mile. When we met the enemy's pickets and our Regiment was deployed to
the left of the road and two, A & F, companies were thrown ^{out in front as} ~~down~~ ~~scattered~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~
skirmishers. We followed them within supporting distance ^h ~~thresing~~ our way
through heavy underbrush to Mill Creek which back water we waded waist
high and emerged at a clear space at the foot of a hill. Here we quickened
our pace and swept up the slope with the enemy's skirmishers retiring as
rapidly before us. We followed them down the other side of the hill and
up a smaller conical shaped hill to the top where we were halted. A portion
of our Brigade took part with us in the running fight of three quarters of a
mile but our progress was so rapid that little shooting was done and our
loss was only one man killed in the 133th Ohio.

After we had halted the Regiment was called on to send a company to
clear an adjoining hill of the enemy's sharpshooters. Co. A & F being
on the skirmish line were ordered to do so. To reach the foot of the hill

they had to wade Mill Creek waist deep and draw themselves out by the overhanging brush while subject to the enemy's fire. Gen. Mitchell sent the 108th Ohio to reinforce Co. A and together the hill was cleared without further difficulty. We now found ourselves close up to the mouth of the Gap and within half a mile of the fort guarding the entrance. We could look into it and see a sheet of water where Mill Creek had been dammed so that the railroad track elevated on trestles furnished the only footing. The precipitous sides of Rocky Face loomed as if we had surely reached a stopping place loomed above us apparently inaccessible so altogether it looked as if we had surely reached a stopping place. A semi circle of batteries at the inner end of the Gap are said to command every foot of the narrow passage.

During the night, Gen. Davis our Division Commander, concluded that an attempt should be made to cut the dam that caused such serious obstruction to the Gap and the allotment of doing so fell to our Regiment. The attempt can best be described by the principal actor Sergt. E. C. Winters of C. A in his own words.

"My company had been skirmishing during the afternoon upon the side of the mountain among rocks and fallen trees. I had gone to bed too tired to sleep. About 11 o'clock Gen. Mitchell and Col. Van Tassell came to my tent. The General wanted me to take a few men, go through the enemy's lines and cut the dam. I selected Pvts. Garmick, Crichton and Coryell of Co. A. Mitchell and Van Tassell accompanied us to the skirmish line when the 113th Ohio Regt. was stationed. We were given picks and shovels wrapped in tent cloth to deaden sound. We were to carry no arms but as I objected to this Gen. Mitchell gave me his revolver. Leaving the skirmish line we talked over our plans of work. On our left was a steep side of the mountain from which the road bed had been blasted. On the right a steep incline of broken stone the foundation of the railroad track along which was the only way for us to go. We laidr and crawled, I in the lead, close

enough to reach each other with hands on feet. We were not to speak a word, all communication to be by signals, one stroke of hand or foot to go forward, two to be still and three to retreat.

As we neared the picket post I saw a sentinel leaning on his gun looking at the fire and near him, half a dozen or more of his sleeping comrades. We passed within twenty feet of him and then knew we were within the Rebel lines. At this moment Pvt. Garwick gave me two sudden jerks. I raised my head and saw a little building on fire just across the Valley and it would soon be light as day. I signaled a retreat. As we passed the sentinel he looked directly over us at the burning building and the last we saw of him he was still looking in that direction.

We reported to Gen. Mitchell who dismissed us saying that it would have been impossible to have done more with the Pass lighted up. A few hours later the General again sent for me and put me in charge of about 100 men of the 113th Ohio with orders to force our way through and open the dam.

We charged their pickets capturing three men and had almost reached the culvert where the dam had been constructed when the enemy on both sides of the pass opened fire and about the same time the men in rear of my detachment cried out "They're cutting us off" and began to retreat to escape capture. As I retreated past the head of the enemy's charging column they were not more than 100 yards from the railroad track and were shouting Stop there you Yankees. Surrender. Although it was now growing light from the approaching day, it was still too dark for them to see that we were all getting away and they were too intent on our capture to stop and fire at us.

We again reported failure to Gen. Mitchell who said he had twice received orders from Gen. Davis to cut the dam but was now convinced it could not be done without great loss of life.

Monday May 9-As our Regiment remained inactive until the middle of the afternoon and our point of observation being a good one we watched

the operations being carried on against Rocky Face and Buzzards Roost with interest. Off to our left we could hear the skirmishers of Howard's Corps and see the smoke that marked the progress of their line along the base of the Ridge in our direction.

On our right, across Mill Creek, Geary's Division of Hooker's Corps was making a desperate attempt to scale the mountain side and succeeded in reaching the base of a palisade of rock which barred its further progress. A few men clambered to the top and urged their comrades to follow but they were either killed or forced back as the defenders were in position even to roll stones down upon the heads of the attacking party. Three attempts were made to the palisade but all were repulsed and the attempt was then abandoned.

The skirmishers of our own Division then became engaged directly in front of us and about half mile distant. We watched them working their way forward and upward amid loose rock and scrubby trees near the edge of the Gap while stray bullets occasionally fell in our midst. The Rebel Battery on the right of the Gap might have given us much trouble had not its attention been engaged by one of our Batteries. Yet once and awhile it dropped ashell near us.

We continued to remain inactive but interested spectators until 3 P. M. our Regiment was ordered to reinforce our skirmishers in front. We crossed over to the base of the ridge and awaited further developments. Presently it was announced that the skirmishers in front were short of ammunition so two of our companies were sent forward to take their place and we clambered up until we reached the palisade of rock which we found to be continuous and inaccessible on both sides of the Gap. The enemy appeared in strong force manning the top of the palisade reminding us of the fortified walls of ancient days. We who were in front could now see how futile it would prove to attempt to scale these although our Generals in the rear might entertain a different opinion. We held the ground we had gained until

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has gone down before them as the stumps will testify.

Wednesday-Moh 9-

Thursday-Moh 10-We find our Army under command of General Grant holding a line that extends from Knoxville in East Tennessee through the extreme northern part of Georgia into northern Alabama with Chattanooga as the center. Our own "Army of the Cumberland" under General Thomas occupies a middle position with the Fourth Corps under General Howard at Cleveland the Twentieth Corps under General Hooker in Lookout Valley and our Corps the Fourteenth under General Palmer in front of Chattanooga. The Confederate Army under General Joseph E. Johnston who has succeeded General Bragg is gouped around Dalton with the main line occupying Rocky Face Ridge which appears to be inaccessible except at Buzzard Roost and Snake Creek Gaps which are strongly guarded. This situation was developed about two weeks before our arrival by the advance of our Corps to seize Dalton under the apprehension by General Grant that Johnston had weakened his center by dispatching troops to meet Sherman in Alabama. After a series of spirited engagements the outlying forces of the enemy were crowded back to Rocky Face Ridge but there bid defiance to any further advance by our Corps and General Thomas found it necessary to withdraw it, having ascertained at the cost of more than three hundred men killed and wounded that Johnston had all his forces in position across our path and that his soldiers had not lost the quality of stubborn resistance under their new commander, despite the fact that through lack of confidence in their old Commander Bragg they yielded too easily the strongholds of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge less than four months back.

Friday-Moh 11-The noise, bustle and smoke of putting our camp in order which has continued uninterruptedly since our arrival was suspended at 3 P. M. today long enough for the Colonel to muster us into line for inspection in order to ascertain how many had actually responded to the call for our return to the field. The result of this inspection disclosed a number of vacancies in our ranks which should have been filled by returning veterans

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who failed to keep with the procession enroute from Dixon especially in the large cities where attractions are numerous and fascinating as we passed through. But they will show up later on before they are reported as deserters.

Saturday Moh 12-Lieutenant Williams arrived today with forty seven recruits who were left at Dixon when the Regiment started to be mustered into service. A few of their original number are also missing-probably bouty jumpers.

The recruits were suprised to find us all so hard at work apparently building a village for permanent occupancy. They expected to find us on the march or in line of battle all the time. We suspended our work long enough to fill them brim full of misinformation the nature of which they will discover in course of time by experience but precious little truth will they learn by making inquiry.

Sunday Moh 13-This was vaccination Day and "A^{ks} in Sling" was the order after the Surgeon had left his mark on us. Smallpox has appeared and several members of our Regiment have been sent to the Hospital suffering with the disease. The Chaplain also made an attack on us this afternoon in a sermon directed against the vice of gambling which is a hundred times more prevalent and just as bad if not worse than Smallpox.

Monday Moh 14-The rattling of musketry every day about noon sounds like a battle. The troops of our Brigade are required to practice shooting at a target and the two best shots in each company are to be selected for a Battalion of Sharpshooters to be organized. The weather is uncomfortable cold and as we did not provide fireplaces in our tents we are compelled to congregare around outdoor fires while at night we have not sufficient covering to keep warm.

Tuesday Moh 15-A strong cold north wind blowing all day lowered the temperature very considerably until at sunset there was a flurry of snow

Hitherto we Veterans in the presence of Recruits have professed extreme indifference as to weather and other disagreeable incidents of camp life but we had to unbend under stress of this unusual cold snap and join with the Recruits in their cry of lamentation. A few Veterans maintained the dignified position we have assumed with the Recruits by proceeding without word of complaint to build fireplaces and chimneys as if it was a matter of course that winter should last all summer. The Recruits heard no complaints but in the privacy of their own tents these same Veterans swore not loud but deep.

Wednesday Moh 16-The continued cold weather has suspended camp duties leaving us free to combat the disagreeable elements of our situation in our own manner. But we had one ray of comfort in listening to the music of a brass band which came yesterday to our nearest neighbor the 113th Ohio and today lulled us into forgetfulness of our surroundings with the sweet notes of familiar airs.

Thursday Moh 17-No mail is the burden of our complaint today. Rumor says Jno Morgan captured and destroyed the train near Decherd so our letters are no more. This is a calamity worse than the non arrival of rations and none of us are stoical enough to hide our vexation even in the presence of recruits.

Friday Moh 18-It is wonderful how we have settled down to the quiet performance of our duties so soon after the deviltry that marked our progress from Dixon to Chattanooga. The causes of our reform are apparent we have no whiskey to overcome our reason no copperheads near to excite our wrath-no groceries to be raided-no liberty to work our own sweet will but strict military discipline ready on the spot to execute judgement for present misdoings.

Saturday-Moh 19-Although the enemy is not anywhere near us we have persuaded our Recruits that Guerillas are prowling along the picket line at night "seeking whom they may devour" and the result is that when a

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Recruit is placed on picket duty his gun may be heard breaking the stillness of the midnight hours as he fires at stumps logs and shadows which his fancy transforms into luring enemies.

Sunday Mch 20-Lying in my tent at an early hour half awake there came to my ears the notes of "old hundred" wafted from the horns of our neighbor's regimental brass band. The grand melody took possession of my dulled senses binding them with a silken chain while all that was low and hateful fled from its presence. My hard cot became soft and downy as a summer cloud and my squatting tent became shining wings to waft my soul to the very Gate of Heaven which opened to my vision disclosing the Great White Throne and He that sat thereon while multitudes of the R^edeemed chanted in unison. "Be thou Oh God exalted high". When the notes ceased the beautiful vision faded away-the wings that had borne me aloft became an overpowering weight to crush my spirit back to earth where the knots and humps of my ill made bed soon restored the consciousness of my poor humanity and caused me to cry in anguish of heart How long, Oh, Lord, how long will the passions of war stifle our humane emotions, the clash of arms dull our ears to heavenly music and the smoke of battle obscure our vision of Him who hath proclaimed; "Peace on earth and good will to men".

Monday Mch 21-Awoke this morning to find an enemy in my tent with a firm grasp on my jaw-a case of mumps. There are others in the same fix-a consolation. The weather is bad-a cause of dissatisfaction. Only one jaw affected-a cause of congratulation.

Tuesday Mch 22-Snow eleven inches deep and still falling was the case this morning-the deepest in thiry years it is said.

Wednesday Mch 23-A great battle occurred this afternoon between the right and left wings of our Regiment. Balls flew thick and fast and many were struck. Some blood was drawn-from noses, too soft for hardened snowballs. The action had increased to great violence and threatened dire results when a blast from the bugle dispersed the combatants as each man

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rushed to his quarters to answer to his name a "Retreat and Roll Call"-
Both sides claimed the victory..

Monday Moh 24-While we have had a great sport snow balling we are
glad to see the snow fast disappearing under the occasional beams of the
sun.

Friday Moh 25-Rain began falling last night which changed to snow and
the ground was white this morning but it soon disappeared when rain again
began to fall. We notice the weather very particularly because we have
nothing else to do then this spell is so unseasonable and we have no pro-
tection against the cold. Our recruits now upbraid us for the glowing
discription we gave them of balmy weather in the sunny south and claim to
be the victims of misrepresentation which induced them enlist.

Saturday Moh 26-Following the snow comes the mud to convert our camp
ground into a minature "Dismal Swamp" a new grievance for the recruits but
we veterans could see the promise of a better day in occasional gleams of
sunshine stealing through scurrying clouds to rest a moment on the brow
of Lookout.

Sunday Moh 27-A fair warm day at last has dispelled our gloom the
restored the natural buoyancy of spirits characteristic of soldiers who
abandon themselves to the keen enjoyment of pleasant surroundings undis-
turbed by a single thought of hardship and danger ahead. As our Brigade
was exercised a pretty much all day in practicing the movements we will be
called upon to execute tomorrow in Review by General Thomas. Very little
time was given us for the observance of the Sabbath-but unfortunately we
do not consider this a grievance.

Monday Moh 28-The Review did not take place today on account of the
unexpected arrival of General Sherman who is now expected to attend.
Sherman has been appointed to the command of the Armies of the Cumberland
Tennessee and Mississippi in place of Grant who is now Lieutenant General
in command of the entire army with Headquarters at Washington. These

appointments were made by the President on March 17th.

Tuesday-Mch 29-The Review has again been postponed possibly on account of the rainy weather. The order from Division Headquarters announcing its states that the object is to ascertain the condition of the army for active service. It is certain that our Regiment is not prepared as we are not yet supplied with the necessary wagons and camp equipage.

Wednesday Mch 30-It is reported that Chattanooga is full of Major Generals who are "hobnobbing" together in such a profound way that the "High Private" who observed their movements is sure they are hatching a plan.

Thursday Mch 31-The much talked of Review came off today-The Division was drawn up in an open level space and performed the evolutions of drilling and parading in the presence of General Thomas and Palmer. General Sherman was not present much to our disappointment. The weather was perfect and the display magnificent to the looker on who could see a whole Division moved as one man but the grandure was lost to us who trotted around under the weight of knapsacks and arms and with great drops of perspiration coursing down our cheeks. The great majority of us cheerfully performed our humble parts but there were kickers after the parade who said they could see no fun in trotting around for the benefit of a few shoulder straps.

Friday Apr. 1-All fools day has been celebrated in the usual way of playing tricks and many new practical jokes were invented and practiced. Having nothing else to do we devoted ourselves to this harmless recreation well knowing that more serious matters will shortly engage our attention.

Saturday Apr 2-Received by mail today four numbers of the Atlantic Monthly for the Adjutant and myself. We had the opportunity through the kindness of Elder Decker of subscribing to such periodicals as we desired at one half of the regular rates. We are indebted for this favor to an association of editors formed for the patriotic purpose of supplying the soldiers with cheap reading matter. What we need in the army next to food and clothing for the body is food for the mind. Our life in camp is so it

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night terminated the firing when our two companies were withdrawn from the skirmish line to rejoin the balance of the Regiment which had remained in reserve at the foot of the Ridge and here bivouaced under arms for the night.

Our Regt. lost 9 wounded, some of them mortally.

The uproar of this fighting throughout the day was equal almost to a great battle, but as the nature of the ground restricted the contest to skirmish lines only, the loss to our army was very small and to the Confederates almost nothing.

The loss however such as it was fell almost entirely on Morgans Brigade of our Division to whose assistance our Regiment had been called.

Tuesday May 10—We remained at the front of the hill until 10 a. m. then retired across the valley to a hill where we found shelter behind its brow in rear of one of our Batteries planted on its crest.

About noon a duel began between this Battery and one of the enemy on the hill opposite and continued the balance of the day. We endured the screaming of shot and shell over our heads and watched them fall in the valley behind as with equanimity as we were fairly out of danger although an occasional spent bullet from the skirmishers reached our quarters.

One of our companies was placed on the skirmish line a quarter of a mile in front and kept up an irregular contest with the enemy, both firing from the shelter of logs stumps and trees consequently inflicted no injury to each other.

There was a cessation of attack by our infantry which appeared to indicate that Sherman considers the position before us to be too strong for direct attack, and evidently the Confederates think so too for we hear their cheers rolling their line on the Ridge as though their enthusiasm has been worked up to a high pitch. We may expect a stout resistance wherever we may meet them.

Within our lines and directly in front of the Gap stands a solitary

log house occupied by some women and children. Shells from the Rebel Battery fly shrieking over them and to right and left but the gunners are careful not to shoot too close being aware of their position. Neither do we use the house for a rampart to invite attack. They have dug a cave into which to retire when the expected battle occurs. They are specimens of the lower class of whites and have exaggerated ideas of what we Yankees can do and still their wonder grows.

Early this morning the whistle of a locomotive was heard this side of Tunnel Hill. We were not a little surprised ourselves but the astonishment of the natives was overwhelming. One of the women rushed into the cabin exclaiming "Bets, Bets I'll swar I heard a Keer holler." The Confederates had told them it would be three months before we could repair the track and run a train this fat and here it was in as many days.

Wednesday May 11-Last night our guns gave way to Heaven's Artillery which crashed around us and rain fell in torrents drenching us all more or less thoroughly.

In the midst of it came an order to draw ten days rations in readiness for moving at short notice, so it became necessary for one man of each mess, myself among the number to crawl out into the rain and darkness, cross a roaring creek on a foot log visible only when the lightning flashed, wait an hour or more in the rain, each for his turn, retrace our steps loaded down with rations, pack them away and crawl back into our "pup-tents" to resume our dreams much the worse for exposure.

Before morning the heavy rain changed to a cold drizzle which forced us to get up early to build fires and dry our wet clothing and blankets. The batteries in front of us continued to exchange compliments over our heads, a very noisy performance but harmless as far as we were concerned.

One of our companies during the night had stolen stealthily around the edge of the Gap and took possession of a sheltered work, which furnished a good position for annoying the enemy's pickets who were near the mouth of

the Gap, when daylight made them visible. For awhile both parties used their muskets in alively manner until the enemy's pickets were withdrawn . Col. Van Tassel could not understand why the firing ceased and fearing that our Company had run out of ammunition and could not send back word ~~with~~ without exposing the messenger to great peril, he sent me to find out. It appears to me that I would encounter the same danger going to the company, so in order to avoid the enemy's pickets and sharpshooters I choose to enter the Gap in plain view of the Batteries believing that they would not fire their big guns at such a small object. This open route gave me a good view of a semi circle of cannon located so as to sweep every foot of the passage way by which I entered and while my approach was treated with silent contempt it was not difficult for me to imagine what would happen if one of our companies or Regiments should attempt to traverse the same course. During the afternoon we were called to arms by an attack on our extreme left where Wheeler's Cavalry encountered Stoneman's.

The fight was of short duration, little loss and of no consequence. Late in the evening one of our guns dashed up to the front of the Gap, unlimbered and dired a shot-changed a position and fired again-changed once more and fired a third shot, by which time the enemy's guns inside the Gap were thoroughly aroused and began to hurl out a stream of shot and shells that flew like hornets disturbed by a stone armed at their nest. Our gun, like many a boy we have seen, scampered out of range without waiting for full rations.

This trick had previously been very frequently played by squads of our soldiers who would suddenly expose themselves and perform all sorts of antics which was always sure to bring a shot from the Gap. But they were always able to jump out of range after seeing the flash of the cannon as the narrow sides of the Gap restricted the enemy's fire to a very small focus.

Thursday May 12-As our Brigade was now pushed close up to the Gap, almost like a cork to a bottle, we speculated rather nervously as to the

prospect of our having to squeeze our way through it. Needless to say we were not enamored with the prospect, so when the positive came for us to march away this morning we did so with light hearts. We rightly judged that there must be a side door to the Ridge through which we might steal or forcibly enter. We could see that the movement was general. Hookers Corps was ahead and Schofield behind our Corps and we were all stretched along a single road winding down the valley of Rocky Face Ridge on the left frowning upon us. Our progress was slow as the road was rough and rocky and in many places traversed good sized hills. Shortly after dark the column was halted and as we happened to be on top of one of these hills we looked down on one of the most ^{inspiring} ~~inspiring~~ Scenes of our experience. Far up and down the valley thousands of fires suddenly flared up and spectre like figures moved around them preparing supper. A ruddy glow bathed the rugged side of the Ridge bringing out in bold relief the inaccessible features of this mighty rampart that rose between the contending armies. After supper the scene was still further enlivened by the waving of many thousands of fire brands in imitation of signal lights producing an effect grand beyond expression. But there was a fear with many of us, while enjoying the spectacle, that this display was a reckless advertisement of our purpose to seek another entrance through the Ridge and consequently that we would find it well guarded.

Greatly to our surprise, however, after resuming the march and proceeding eight miles we reached Snake Creek Gap and entered it in darkness and in silence. Its precipitous sides abutted so closely there was scarcely width for a file of fours so we stumbled for several miles over a rough and rocky road much of which was the dry bed of a creek each man following the sound of his comrade's footsteps ahead. Shortly after midnight we emerged from the inner end and spread our blankets on the ground to catch a few hours sleep ere we should rise to meet the enemy with no Rocky Face Ridge to separate us.

Friday May 13-While we slept the troops in rear of us continued to pile along through the Pass and when we were called to arms at break of day they were streaming through and deploying on the level ground to right and left of us preparatory to an advance on Resaca, a point on the railroad, eight miles distant which Johnston considered the key to his safety and had heavily fortified it.

We threaded our way through masses of men with scarcely less difficulty than we encountered in our passage through the Gap, and were unable to go but little more than a mile when our Brigade filed to the right of the road into close column and stacked arms while Hookers Corps passed on ahead. Here many saw General Hooker for the first time when he stopped to enquire what Corps we belonged to. One of the finest looking officers in our army he presented a fine figure mounted on a thoroughbred with gaudy trappings, himself in full uniform which set off to advantage his ruddy countenance and snow white hair and mustache. We could not repress looks and words of admiration.

Although now holding a subordinate position as one of the five Corps Commanders under Sherman, he was, a year ago, Commander of an army of 125,000 men of the Army of the Potomac and fought Lee at Chancellerville May 2-3 & 4th 1863 and was badly defeated.

Resigning that command he was transferred to our Western Army and having captured Lookout Mountain is now honored at the "Hero of the Battle above the Clouds".

While we waited an ambulance passed from the front and we were pained to learn that it contained Gen. Kilpatrick who had been badly wounded while at the head of his Cavalry Division fighting Wheeler.

We remained on the roadside with our guns stacked and nothing to do but watch the stream of troops passing until 4 p. m. when our Brigade was ordered to leave baggage and move forward in light marching order or in other words "stripped for the fight". We piled our knapsacks and surplus

baggage in heaps under charge of guards and marched rapidly to a point near the railroad where we found our Corps forming on the left of Hookers. Darkness set in before our disposition was completed so we laid down to sleep on the bare ground, arms within reach ready for the next order.

Saturday May 14-At break of day we marched under arms and at sunrise our Division formed its lines as a Reserve for the other two Divisions ~~at some points on the front.~~

When these dispositions had been made our army again confronted Johnston extending along Camp Creek from its mouth at the Oostanaula River in a northerly direction parallel with and less than two miles from the railroad which was absolutely necessary to the Confederates as their single line of communication. For the protection of this line Johnston abandoned Buzzard Roost and Dalton and while we were marching down the west side of Rocky Face to Snake Creek Gap his army was marching down the east side to meet us at Resaca. The capture of Snake Creek Gap was accomplished by McPherson on the 9th while we were demonstrating against Buzzard Roost and threatening to scale Rocky Face, which action on our part diverted Johnstons attention from the danger to his flank and caused him to leave this important pass practically unguarded.

At 6 A. M. cannonading began on our right and at 9 A. M. our Division moved in that direction to a position in rear of Johnsons Division. By this time the firing was heavy and continuous all along the line. About noon in accordance with Shermans plan our army began to swing upon the enemy using Johnsons Division in front of us as a pivot. Carlin's Brigade of our Division was the first to strike the enemy in his main works on the east bank of Camp Creek and met such a terrific fire of artillery and musketry that it was driven back although fragments remained under shelter of the banks of Camp Creek.

In this emergency our Brigade was hurried forward to its relief and in a few moments we stood upon the crest of the hill and looked down into

a narrow valley where the creek meandered close under the guns of the enemy's fortifications which consisted of heavy redoubts for Artillery connected by elaborate breastworks for Infantry.

Our Regiment formed its line in connection with the 98th and 108th Ohio of our Brigade but when the bugle sounded our Regiment alone rushed down the slope toward the enemy. Our starting was the signal for the discharge of cannons and muskets which swept our ranks with grape and canister and bullets during the short period of time it required us to reach the creek. There its muddy bank furnished us a shelter from which we directed a rapid and persistent fire into the embrasures of the enemy's fort at short range and prevented the gunners from serving their guns to any advantage.

Thus we were enabled to maintain our precarious situation until long after nightfall when we withdrew by orders to our former position having lost 6 killed and 25 wounded out of 450 men engaged. We cannot understand why a handful of men, alone and unsupported, should in this manner have been thrown against the enemy's main line and heavy fortifications.

The general attack beginning at our point and continued toward the left by each Division in succession proved unsuccessful. Johnston held his line intact, and inflicted a loss of about 5,000 men in our three Corps under Thomas, but our line remained in such close proximity that he could not weaken his at any point to prevent the flanking movement which Sherman at once adopted. While our Regiment was in action lying sheltered behind the bank of the creek we found a number of men mostly wounded of Carlin's Brigade concealed in the high grass and weeds or behind logs between us and the enemy so that we fired over their heads. They had been left when their Brigade was driven back. Some of them crawled back to our line during the firing while others waited for darkness. One of them threw himself on his face and groaned with so much distress that we anxiously enquired if we could do anything for him. Nothing, said he, "I am no hurt, but my little

brother is lying dead in the weed out there". We witnessed a daring act of a Confederate Artilleryman who suddenly leaped out of the works, trotted leisurely towards us some 50 yards with his flag which he planted in the ground by the staff, lifted his hat in salute to us and leisurely returned. We greeted him with cheers but not many shots.

Sunday May 15-We moved early this morning nearly a mile to the right and occupied some rifle pits that had been built during the night. A portion of the regiment was ordered out to another line of pits in front and immediately became engaged with the enemy's skirmishers, who were also in rifle pits. The larger portion of the regiment found shelter in a ravine just behind the works where shells and bullets flew harmlessly over our heads. In a short time we were relieved by the 78th Ills. and retired to a ravine a little further in the rear with orders to be ready to support the skirmishers in case of necessity. The other regiments of our Brigade were posted near us. The firing by the skirmishers was heavy and continuous all day and several of our regiment were wounded in the rifle pits. A number of wounded also of our Brigade were carried back through our ranks to the rear. We of the reserve were only annoyed by one enterprising sharp shooter who managed to drop a bullet occasionally in our midst. We could not locate him in a straight line so concluded he had a gun the shape of a mule's leg to shoot over the hill.

One of our batteries was stationed just behind the brow of the hill a few yards above us and fired rapidly all day. It shook the ground upon which we lay and deafened our ears with its concussions. At nightfall the firing subsided from a continuous roar to fitful outbursts occasionally by one side or the other imagining their antagonists were staling upon them in the darkness.

Two of our companies were set to work after dark digging rifle pits along the crest of the hill and while the balance of us laid upon the ground with our guns at our side we could hear the dull thud of pick and shovel

accentuated by the concussion of a cannon fired at regular intervals from our battery just to let the enemy know that we were still on guard. Notwithstanding these disturbing elements we dropped into slumber so profound that when about midnight there was a sudden burst of Artillery and a heavy roll of musketry on our right that came sounding down the line, reached our front and passed on to the left, we slept on. The first alarm awoke me and before my eyes were fairly open I was sitting bolt upright while around me were only sleeping forms. A curious impression came over me that it was only a dream.-that there was no uproar and that it would be foolish for me to break the stillness by sounding an alarm.

But the din grew louder until it seemed as if the whole Confederate Army was rushing upon us. The Adjutant was sleeping soundly at my side. I grasped his shoulder. He awoke with a start at the same moment, the Colonel lying a few feet away and springing up dashed into the nearest company shouting "Fall in, Thirty Fourth, Fall in."

The command was repeated by Company Officers "Fall in Co. A, Co.B etc. and we did "fall in "with the utmost haste and stood with our muskets ready for the invisible foe.

But in half an hour the commotion ceased and we sank upon the ground to resume our dreams.

Monday May 16-~~7~~ Then we awoke this morning all was quiet along our lines. The enemy was gone. The uproar last night marked the hour of his departure and his safe passage over the single remaining bridge which if it had been siezed by us would have cut off his retreat, for while we were beating ineffectually against the defenses of Resaca, one of our columns was forcing its way to that bridge, in spite of opposition, and in one more day would have reached us.

At 8 A. M. our Division returned three miles to get our knapsacks and baggage and there learned that our Division had been detached to capture Rome, thirty miles distant where there were extensive iron works engaged

in the manufacture of salmon and ammunition for the Confederacy.

The main body of our army proceeded down the railroad in the direction of Kingston in the wake of Johnston's retreat.

Starting about noon we marched rapidly through a well cultivated and comparatively level country about the middle of the afternoon when we encountered the 15th Corps marching south by another road. Without crossing their line of march we turned to the right and plunged into the woods by an obscure road that threaded its way through the deep ravines and heavy timber. It was a long after dark when we halted, 19 miles from our point of destination. We were greatly exhausted but our cheerful fires and steaming coffee which we prepared soon restored our spirits and we laid down to sleep with a feeling very much like contentment, although we knew that another day would bring us to face new dangers.

Resaca, for which we battled so fruitlessly on Saturday, was quietly entered by Howards Corps this morning.

Tuesday May 17-Our regiment was called up very early and at sunrise we led the advance toward Rome. At noon we halted on the south bank of a creek eight miles from the city and remained an hour to cook and eat dinner to strengthen the inner man for the expected battle. After dinner our regiment was directed to march on half a mile in advance of the Division and to preserve this interval until we had developed the enemy. We marched briskly however, and unknowingly increased the interval to somewhat nearer two miles. Five miles from the city a solitary horseman in the road ahead of us discharged his carbine and sent a bullet whistling through our ranks which indicated that it was now time to throw out skirmishers which we did and then proceeded with more caution. For some distance, a mile or two we had only the single horseman to oppose us which he did to the best of his ability, stopping frequently, as he slowly retired, to send his bullet bounding down the road.

At length crossing an open field our skirmishers were greeted by a volley from a few pickets concealed at the edge of some timber. Our line

returned the fire and advanced rapidly toward their cover without giving them time to load and fire again. In the manner we proceeded without serious opposition to our skirmishers until we came in plain view of the city and the entrenchments which had been constructed on the north bank of the Oostanauala River the city being on the south side. We were now within a mile of the works and they seemed to be deserted. As the opposition had been slight we had almost concluded that we might capture the city without a blow when we were quickly undeceived by a round of grape and canister from the fortifications that seemed to shriek in our ears with a variety of discordant notes, "not yet-not yet".

We, the reserve, flattened our bodies behind a rail fence but our skirmishers were in open ground without any protection. Our small number, about 400 men, invited attack and we did not have to wait long for it. We soon saw five regiments sallying forth from the works to give us battle and while portions deflected to our right and left a heavy force advanced directly upon us. Now we glanced nervously back along the road we came hoping for sight or sound of the approach of our Division but in fact the Confederates were nearer and reached us soonest. Our skirmishers were quickly driven back and some of them being wounded fell into the hands of the enemy but they were not removed from the ground where they lay and we soon after recovered them. The Confederates carried their attack to our reserve companies but not so vigorously as to dislodge us as they depended on the success of their flanking movement to get in our rear before that fate befel us we saw a cloud of dust rising in the road behind us and ere long we saw two regiments of McCooks Brigade with their gallant General at the head coming on the double quick to our assistance. They had barely time to form into line at right angle to ours facing our left and enter the wood in our rear when they encountered the enemy's column and checked its progress just in time to save us from being surrounded. With this addition to our force we were able to hold the enemy at bay until Gen. Davis with

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the remainder of the Division came to our relief when our regiment was withdrawn from the firing line and fresh troops took our place in sufficient numbers to force the Confederates back into their works. During the night we gathered logs and rails to build the breastworks not knowing what force might assail us in the morning.

Our loss was five men wounded on the skirmish line. The Division lost 150 men killed and wounded.

Wednesday May 18—Our pickets were alert before the break of day, watching for a possible attack and scrutinizing every object in front with sharp suspicion as its outline grew visible in the dawning light. At last the heavy fortifications loomed into plain view apparently deserted which proved to be their actual conditions when our line advanced to reconnoiter. But the Confederates still held the city beyond the river with the bridges destroyed and opened fire on our men when we entered their deserted works, intending to delay us long enough to permit their rear guard to complete the destruction of munitions and other supplies. However, the 85th Ills. hurriedly crossed the river some distance above the city on rafts, in skiffs and by swimming and quite unexpectedly to the Confederate rear guards approached the city from that quarter which hastened the departure of the guards to such an extent that they did not have time to destroy a large quantity of provisions and other stores.

These included many articles which to us were luxuries such as tobacco etc. of which we received a generous distribution.

We found the defenses of this city the most complete and elaborate of any we had yet encountered but the advance of our main army to Kingston had made this point untenable from a military point of view.

Thursday May 19—We remained inactive all day with nothing to do but enjoy the luxuries of coffee with milk and captured tobacco. The former was so well appreciated by my mess that we kept it on tap and drank an innumerable number of cups during the day. The users of the weed considered

themselves up in the "seventh Heavens since their supply had long been exhausted. The captured corn meal and flour were also acceptable substitutes for hard tack and the agreeable odor of pancakes in continual process of manufacture, permeated our camp. We could readily understand how alluring it was to the soldiers of Alexander and Caesar to anticipate the spoils of captured cities.

I walked down to the river with Jesse Clements and saw a force of pioneers busily at work repairing a pontoon Bridge that had been partially destroyed.

The Oostanula is very narrow here and can quickly be bridged. Another will have to be built over the Etowah before we can leave the city. Rome in time of peace has been a beautiful city in the midst of a fertile country. It is the county seat of Floyd Co. and was incorporated in 1847. It possessed extensive Iron Works which were devoted after the war started to the manufacture of arms and ammunition for the Confederacy. The works are now in ruins having been destroyed to prevent our making any use of them.

Last year a force of our cavalry under Col Straight attempted to capture the city and destroy these works but it was surrounded and captured almost within sight of their object. No fortifications had then been built, but immediately after, a large number of negroes were set to work and converted it into a stronghold which if well manned, might defy capture by direct assault but it was not proof against flank movements.

Friday May 20-Rumor has it that Wheeler with a Division of Cavalry is hovering around seeking to do us some mischief of cutting off supplies which must be brought by wagons from Dalton. We appear however to be in possession of such a quantity of provisions left by the enemy that we are not alarmed about short rations.

We spent the day in writing letters to our folks at home as this was the first opportunity since we left Chattanooga. Of course we did not neglect to describe ourselves as "conquering heroes."

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We learned here something about the movements of the main army after we left it or rather cut loose from it as our commander Gen. Davis took it upon himself to cut loose entirely with our Division instead of keeping in communication as ordered. The result justified judgement. It was not clear at first whether Johnston would endeavor to hold Rome, Kingston or Allatoona Pass. He decided upon the latter so our main army pursued him until he found refuge beyond the Etowah River. He retired deliberately and refused to be hurried resisting our advance with the usual spirit of his troopers. Our army of the Cumberland followed directly in the path of the retreating army while the Army of the Tennessee on the right and Army of Ohio on the left endeavored whenever Johnston halted to swing round into his rear. He was thus forced back until he had the Etowah River to protect his flanks, and the national stronghold of Allatoona Pass to protect him from direct assault as at Buzzards Roost Gap.

Friday May 21-Although our Western Army has participated in army skirmishes and several bloody encounters in the last two weeks we find that our experience is trivial compared with that of the Army of the Potomac in Virginia during the same period of time.

According to the plans of Grant and Sherman for a simultaneous advance of both armies, the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan on the morning of May 4th, three days before we moved.

Lee, unlike Johnston our antagonist, did not wait for Grant to attack but fiercely assailed Grant on the 5th and for two days a desperate battle raged in the wide expanse of timber and underbrush without advantage to either side except that our loss was much greater than the Confederates. Lee then retired within his entrenchments and Grant attempted to flank him when two other bloody battles were fought on the 10th and 12th when Lee retired within his second line of works having inflicted a loss of 30,000 men of our army in eight days.

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An ordinary commander might have become disheartened by such fright-

losses, but Grant undismayed telegraphed to Lincoln, "I will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."

Sunday May 22-In camping with his two comrades, I went out into the country this morning to satisfy our curiosity as to the class of people inhabiting it. A walk of three miles through the woods brought us to a clearing which surrounded a house of moderate size usually occupied by the middle class. As we entered the gate we noticed several blue coats already there. Stepping on the porch we bade the family good morning and accepted their polite invitation to sit down. The family consisted of Mr. Moore, his wife, three daughters, and several smaller children. Two of the daughters were married. Their husbands were in the Confederate Army. We remained for dinner and were treated with true southern hospitality to the little they possessed. We had to urge them to accept pay for our meal. While we were in the house one of the children came running in to report that a yankee soldier was trying to catch their chickens. We threatened the fellow with arrest and he departed grumbling.

During a very pleasant conversation with Moore and his family about the causes of the war we found that he still cherished a love for the Union and hoped it would be restored but he didn't want the slaves set free. The daughters naturally sympathized with the cause in which their husbands were engaged but they had no harsh words for us. We talked over our differences of sentiment in perfect good humor.

Our next stopping place was the house of a Baptist Clergyman named Smith and enjoyed a very interesting conversation with him about the war. He said that all the people of his district were at first violently opposed to Secession which was advocated only by a few fire eaters but after the war was started he and his neighbors believed their path of duty lay in following the lead of their State.

Monday May 23-A few days of inactivity and a liberal diet of corn meal to which we are not accustomed have made the majority of us fit subjects

for the Hospital, so when marching orders came today we considered that a train of ambulances should be provided for our transportation. A Brigade of the 16th Corps arrived from Kingston to garrison the city.

We had to wait until 5 a. m. to procure rations than crossed to Rome marched through the city and over the Etowah on a pontoon bridge to the junction of two roads a mile and a half beyond where we encamped it then being after nightfall.

We noticed that the boats used in the construction of the pontoons bridge over the Etowah were covered with waterproof canvas and consequently of such light construction that 10 boats can be carried on a single wagon. A wonderful saving in transportation over the old method.

We learned that we are to rejoin the main army at Dallas and we are glad of it. We are tired of cow paths and independent expeditions in which our Division Commander Gen. Davis, delights.

Tuesday May 24-Marched at 6 a.m. over a moderately hilly country interspersed with a number of fine farms. The road was hot and dusty making the march disagreeable and difficult.

Being numbered with the sick the Surgeon gave me a ticket to ride in an ambulance but there were twice as many sick men as could ride so we had to take turns and each ride half the way. While taking my turn on foot I stopped at a house by the road to get a drink of water and caught sight of a barrel that had contained sauer kraut but was now minus the kraut which soldiers ahead of me had dipped out with their hands leaving it half filled with brine. The sour salty flavor struck me as being just what I wanted so I quaffed two pint cups of the stuff dirty as it was and "presto change I felt like a new man-nausea and headache left me as if by magic. I was thankful when we halted at night near a splendid spring and I found my regiment preparing to encamp in a large peach orchard. The fruit trees furnished stakes for pitching shelter tents and for this temporary purpose very many of the trees were destroyed-a very reprehensible

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short a time and for less money. The grocer who remained open was well treated and received good prices.

Wednesday Jan'y 20-Long before daylight we reached Dixon Illinois the termination of our railroad journey. A number of citizens were at the depot to meet us. Leaving the cars the Regiment was formed in line and marched to the lively music of fife and drum into the city where comfortable quarters had been provided in a public hall. Soon after our friends came flocking into town and many a joyous meeting there was. At noon a splendid dinner was prepared to which we did full justice, after so many months of short rations. After dinner the Regiment was disbanded for thirty days and each member sought the quickest and shortest route to his home where loved ones awaited his coming after twenty nine months absence.

Feb'y 29th-Our furlough having expired, our money having been spent, generally our good time ended, and the war still going on we were notified by Uncle Sam through his proper officers that the remaining portions of our contract with him must be performed to wit:

To obey all orders handed thrown or poked at us

To do all manner of acts possible practicable or unexplainable

To travel all kinds of roads horizontal perpendicular obstructed or obliterated.

To carry all kinds of loads ornamental or monumental whether cooking utensils or implements of war

To stay out in the weather until called in whether in sunshine rain or snow

To eat such food as we could find, palatable or despicable

To seek localities where bullets are most prevalent and there remain remain until shot or otherwise disposed of

And to perform all other manner of acts pertaining to the suppression of the Rebellion during a period of three years or during the war unless sooner despatched. Accordingly we assembled at Dixon marched to the depot and boarded a train and departed for Chicago leaving a sorrowful group of relatives friends and sweethearts gazing after us with tearful eyes. They

knew too well the perils of our future service and realized with sinking hearts that many would return maimed and crippled and many return not at all. Reached Chicago shortly before sunset and marched through the city to the depot where cars were in readiness and shortly ^{after}/dark our train moved out for Louisville via Indianapolis.

Tuesday March 1-Awoke this morning to find our train a special-switched at Valparaiso Indiana having travelled during the night the wonderful distance of 44 miles. Remained until late in the morning then started once more and reached Indianapolis about dark where we stopped an hour which time was spent in getting something to eat. We proved troublesome passengers to the conductor of our train during the day owing to our practice of hopping off at every stop however brief and tardy movements in getting aboard. He became so exasperated that when we stopped at a small town and a number of our men failed to get aboard when the whistle sounded he directed the engineer to go ahead and leave the stragglers.

The train was fairly under way when we who were aboard realized that our comrades were being left behind. We rallied to their rescue ganned the brakes and brought the train to a standstill in spite of the engineers efforts to go ahead. Nothing then remained for the conductor but to back the train a mile and pick up the stragglers.

Wednesday Moh 2-Reached Jeffersonville at 9 a. m. and found the grounds covered with snow which had fallen the previous Sunday while the northern country from which we had come was bare. Leaving the cars we marched to the ferry and boarded it all but the last man who came as the boat was leaving shore and managed to reach the deck by a long distance jump but his gun fell short and disappeared in the icy waters. He watched the ripples a moment to see if the pesky thing would float then turned sadly to his comrades for sympathy which he received in the way of assurances that he would find his gun next pay day on the roll duly charged.

Thursday Moh 3-Quarters were assigned to the Regiment on reaching

Louisville, at the Barracks, but few of us availed ourselves of Uncle Sam's hospitality. We prepared to spend the remnant of our bounty money in cheap hotels where for the time we might put on the airs of a gentlemen well knowing that in a few days the scene will change. The hotel will become a "pup tent" and we "gentlemen", who now walk in with lofty airs to a well spread table and walk out with polished shoes, cigars and tooth picks, will then be seen crawling in and out with rusty shoes, unshaven faces, no cigars, no toothpicks. The hotel table will sink to the level of the ground, beefsteak will turn to salt pork and pie to hard tack.

Shortly after noon the Regiment was collected and marched to the Nashville Depot. Two Regiments ahead of us had filled all the cars so we had to wait until another train could be made up during which time we stacked arms on the road side and having nothing else to do we found great sport in snowballing every passer by whether soldier or citizen. All submitted with good temper except one officer in a wagon with a companion and he flourished a pistol for a moment but quickly replaced it when a number of our boys seized their guns. Our sport was ended by the arrival of the Major to order us aboard the cars and at 4 p. m. we departed for Nashville.

Friday Nov 4- Early in the morning we reached Nashville disembarked and marched to Zillioffer Barracks where we broke ranks and dispersed about the city. There was nothing new to attract us in the busy streets so a party of us visited the City of the Dead. There the evidence of War was painfully apparent by the large number of soldiers graves representing both armies. Each grave is marked by a headboard bearing name and Regiment of deceased. In many places friend lay side by side here a soldier from Maine, there his enemy in life from Texas. May we hope that we who remain the wearers of the Blue and the Gray will some day bury our differences in the grave of forgetfulness and stand peacefully side by side

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in loyal support of a reunited country. But ere this day comes we must meet in deadly strife -they for their States-we for our Nation-not with hate in our hearts but as champions of opposing principles that we in our day and generation are called upon to settle for the benefit of those who come after us and so when we meet at the points of our bayonets we are ready for a friendly salute "How are you Yank""How are you Johnny Reb;" ere we proceed with the mutual slaughter.

Saturday Mch 5-An incident is worth recording. A soldier tightly buttoned up in a plain blue overcoat is standing idly in front of a military office. A Lieutenant rides to the curbstone dismounts and asks the soldier in a tone of authority to hold his horse. The soldier replies "certainly", grasps the bridle and stands obediently at his post while the Lieutenant enters remains some time. Meanwhile the soldier unbuttons his overcoat disclosing the shoulder straps of a Major and when the Lieutenant returns he finds himself in the presence of a superior officer and proceeds to offer profuse apologies which the Major accept in perfect good humor. It was our Major Miller and is characteristic of his readiness to do a kindly act without regard to rank or position.

We were glad to learn that a train would be ready at the appointed time and proceeded to stow our bodies in a limited number of box cars which we filled so compactly that although every inch of space was economised and devetailing resorted to there were quite a number who had not where to lay their heads. The doors could not remain open without discomfort to those lying near them while there was no ventilation with them closed. A few blows of the axe provided air holes and when the train pulled out for Chattanooga we packed ourselves on the floor like herring in a box and soon the noise of snoring rising above the rumble of the wheels our bodies were being rushed forward to future battlefields our fancy had flown back to revel again amid the joyous scenes of our furlough days.

Sunday Mch 6- Our dreams were disturbed before daylight by the

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Halting and switching of our train at Decherd caused by an accident to one three trains ahead of us resulting in the death of three persons and injury of others. We were delayed until the middle of the afternoon then proceeded to Stevenson where another accident occurred in which a Major had his leg broken. There we saw negro soldiers for the first time and were much amused by the movements of a squad under charge of a Sergeant who exemplified the tactics and amplified his authority in such manner that every Sergeant in our Regiment turned green with envy and hid his diminished head while we showered compliments upon the colored Sergeant with such telling effect that his uniform could not have held him much longer if our train had not removed us from the scene.

Monday March 7-We found ourselves in Chattanooga before daylight but remained in the cars until sunrise when we formed line and stacked arms to await orders, which came about noon for us to report to our old Brigade near Rossville. We took up our line of march passing through a gap in historic Mission Ridge and for the first time found ourselves on Georgia soil. Near the little village of Rossville six miles from Chattanooga we found our Brigade encamped and here we found a spot to pitch our tents and settled down to resume the duties which had been interrupted by our veteran furlough.

Tuesday-March 8-This day was spent in laying out and fixing up our new camp. The smoke of burning brush goes driving with the brisk wind blinding and suffocating while the woods ring with the sound of axes cutting and splitting timber for the walls of our cabins which already begin to take form and will soon constitute a village.

On our way from Chattanooga we noticed that the timber along the base of Mission Ridge had been cleared away and we remember that it was this strip of timber into which we saw our soldiers dash their guns a few months ago to dispute with the Confederates for its possession and successfully too. Evidently they have since made another charge but with axes and timber

act since our boys did not know but what the orchard belonged to a Union man. There was no excuse for this destruction of private property even if it belonged to a secessionist.

Wednesday May 25-My dose of brine perfected a cure during the night so that I was able to march away with my regiment at 7 a.m. We crossed Euhardy creek and followed obscure roads winding through valleys and along the beds of dried up streams until we reached another creek at noon where we halted two hours to allow our Division wagons to close up. Eighteen miles from Dallas we heard the dull booming of cannon. Our course lay along the crest of a range of hills but at sunset we descended our path and rain began to fall.

We stumbled along at snails pace unable to see the man ahead but following the sound of his footsteps, until reaching a large field four miles from Dallas, we halted at 10 p. m.

Rain continued to fall slowly-we were hungry and tired and our suppers must be cooked. A rail fence a quarter of a mile away afforded fuel for bright fires which soon gleamed from all parts of the field.

Supper disposed of we laid down to rest while kindly nature dispelled the clouds and rain, the stars came out and diffused a soft radiance over our slumbers , so typical we believed of Heaven's sympathy.