Monday, July 25th - Weather clear and cool. Conclude to not start to the front till tomorrow as I cannot get ready as soon as the train that will go out today.

Spend the day in playing checkers with J. R. till 12:00 noon when we move down to the Chattahoochie, distance 3 miles. Camp near a rough rapid just below the pontoon and go in a bathing preparatory to donning our fatigue suit for the front.

Great destitution prevails in this country. It seems that the Georgians are an accursed section. Female virtue is unknown almost, and it's loss in many instances is occasioned from stern necessity. i.e., it is in cases the only alternative to starvation, but a great many of the citizens are gone. I suppose most of the richer class.

Tuesday, July 26th - Weather cloudy and cool. Let off for my regiment early and after crossing the Chatahoochie and walking about twelve miles, I find them camped right in rear of their works and occasionally a Rebel bullet whizzed through camp, sometimes cutting through a tent and frightening the boys, but otherwise doing no damage. The boys all tell me that I have come up in the wrong time, but I think not. Yet, if I had not been at home so long last spring I should have played off a little longer. As it is, I will go on picket soon and see if I can hear a bullet whiz without dodging.

It is four months from this till our time will be out. If we can only just get through till then and ????

Wednesday, July 27th - Weather cloudy and raining. Sure enough, the narrator is detailed early to go on picket. The pickets today from here to left are to make a diversion in favor of the Army of the Tennessee that moved from the left to the extreme right on last night. We have quite a warm time of it, but nothing unusual the boys say. Howard is now in command of the Army of the Tennessee and Stanley of the 4th A.C.

Thursday, July 28th - Clear and warm. Incessant firing on the line all last night and till noon of today. There is nothing besides, but in the afternoon we hear very heavy cannonading on the extreme right which continues for several hours.

About 5:00 p.m. our pickets are ordered to move the skirmish line and our regiment and the 79th Ind. to support them. The pickets charged gallantly and the Rebs fell back the same way. We lost one Sergeant killed of the 19 O. and one mortally wounded of the 17th Ky., and heavy firing was at the same time reported to be heard away on the left, but I think it a mistake.

Friday, July 29th - Clear in the forenoon and rain in the afterpart. Pickets firing continually and considerable cannonading. The Rebs threw shells from a 64 pounder, several of which burst over regiment, one of them killing a private, A. B. Weaver, Co. I, and producing a general stampede to the works and hog holes. These circumstances awaken a lively sensation of dread in me, but I will stand it with the thought that I can give but one life and that better for my country than any other earthly consideration.

Saturday, July 30th - Weather very warm and clear. Pickets more quiet than usual today. Heavy cannonading further to the right, but no shells thrown at our part of the line till about dark when two 64's come around on a friendly visit and awaken us up.

Sunday, July 31st. Cloudy in the forenoon and rainy in the afternoon. Pickets put it in pretty strong again today. Rebel's shell us pretty strong from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Are striking our works and tearing up generally. No mail today. Don't know the trouble.

Monday, August 1st - Clear and warm. Pickets about as usual today. Severe cannonading on our part of the line about 2:00 p.m. and away to the right from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 2nd - Weather cloudy and warm. Pickets more quiet than usual. No cannonading on our part of the line today of note, but some away to the right yesterday. The pioneers commenced a line of works back on a ridge in our rear on yesterday. The 23 A.C. was reported to be going to leave our aft on last night and go to the right, but I don't believe they are gone. W_____ eats (or helps to eat) a nice blackberry cobbler today in Capt. Simmons mess, for since I have come back I have found all withdrawn but Hestand from old mess.

Wednesday, August 3rd - Cloudy and rainy in the afternoon. Pickets more quiet than usual in the forenoon, which leads us to the conclusion that the enemy has withdrawn from our front and gone to the right, and having arrived to this belief, our commanders conclude to make a demonstration, and at ____ p.m. our artillery opens. We are ordered to buck up.

While the 79 Ky. moves to the support of the pickets, the picket reserves are deployed on a line with the skirmishers, and soon the forward begins; first on the left and then in front. Our boys advance gallantly across an open field with zig-zag motions about the Rebel "skirmish holes", the Rebels making but a feeble effort to defend them and several of them remaining in their works to be captured.

All this time the Rebel artillery has been silent, notwithstanding ours have kept up an incessant fire. Our

boys gallantly maintained their perilous position in the Rebel works for some time within 100 yards of the main works, but soon the Reb broke forth with artillery shell and shot grape and cannister and the infantry to advance in such force that our boys were compelled to fall back with the loss of one man killed, while we captured several Rebels.

The Rebels shelled our camp severely. A solid shot struck Capt. Miller (A.A.G.) horse and tore him almost in twain.

My deficiency in hearing always causes me great inconvenience and I, unless I see the flash, cannot tell whose cannon is just fired (comment). One is compelled to have a great feeling of insecurity when shells fly through camp so thickly. Cannot sleep in security.

Thursday, August 4th - Warm and clear. Answer our letter received on yesterday from friend W_____. Have a heavy argument in this evening with Con. as we do every day, but we won't give up a bit.

Pickets fire pretty strong today. Later in the evening a movement to our right by the Rebs in our front is discovered and the 6th O.A. shells them heavy. Heavy cannonading and musketry is heard far to the right this evening and I think we will soon hear that something very important, if not decisive, has occurred in that quarter. May we be justified in hollering for Howard and Schofield.

Friday, August 5th - Cloudy and cool. We go on picket and are promising ourselves a good time as there is not much firing, but about 3:00 p.m. we are ordered to deploy the reserve and advance the line, which is rather hard to do across the open field in our front. We advance into the ravine between the lines where we are secure from danger, but cannot go any further on account of the regiment on our right and left not going with us (9th, 17th and 79th).

We lay between the lines till about sundown when we fall back to the original line and have nothing unusual farther tonight.

Saturday, August 6th - Cloudy and warm with rain in the afternoon and early part of the night. Rebs conclude to make a demonstration against the first Brigade this evening and with no effect except to cause us to fall into line and get wetted with the rain.

Peach cobbler for dinner and B. Berry for supper, and the latter causes us some trouble and a slight indisposition as we could not take exercise after supper on account of the rain. We waked up during the night in a pleasant way by the ridge pole of our tent falling on our head and causing us disagreeable sensations of pain and dropping rain.

Sunday, August 7th - Clear and warm. Pickets very quiet all day and I don't think I heard a cannon the whole day. W._____ rather unwell from last night's supper, but gets better in the afternoon. A letter from Uncle S. which helps us a little. Time seems to pass away so swiftly and yet the days that must be served seem immemorable. We are also liable to the casualties of war and many of us may yet be cut down when just on the eve of that greatest of earthly enjoyments "returning home from war". Second, who is it of the little group left that will never get home?

Monday, August 8th - Weather clear in the forenoon, but rainy and disagreeable in the afternoon and night. Baggage wagon up today and we get a change of clothes, first since coming, and it feels good, I tell you.

Pickets quiet again today and but little cannonading. None at our part of the line and it seems that we will have a peaceable time besieging Atlanta.

Tuesday, August 9th - Showery during the whole day. Regular and considerable cannonading kept up by our troops during the whole day which is not answered by the Johnnies on our part of the line, but farther to the right. Rumors are abundant in camp as usual, and I sometimes wish that I wrote down every apparently well-authenticated rumor that I have heard in the war.

The most popular at this time is that Col. Stout is soon to take the 17th and 9th Ky. and 59th O. to Marietta. Now I would not care a minute if that should prove to be true, but I think it very improbable.

Wednesday, August 10th - showery in the forenoon, clear in the afternoon till about 5:00 p.m. when a very hard shower sets in which lasts till in the night. Boys up in the lookout today think they discovered a movement of the Johnnies to our left. Everything very quiet till about 4:00 p.m. when a slow cannonading gets up on our part of the line and a very severe one away to the right. Kept up at intervals during the whole night.

Rumor. Col. Stout is to take the 17th Ky., 59th O. and the non-veterans of the 19th O. It seems therefore that the old 9th is to be left out of the blessing, but let's wait and see what the rumor is worth.

Thursday, August 11th - cloudy and warm. Occasional cannonading along the whole of the line. Picket firing as usual till p.m. when they seem to get warmed up about a degree. One gun fired at regular intervals during the whole of last night.

Rumor. Sherman has received a dispatch that Mobile is in our possession and the Johnnies have come here to the number of 25,000 to reinforce Hood. Received letters from home.

Friday, August 12th - Clear and warm. Picket firing and cannonading to the usual extent. We make a demonstration against the Rebel lines about 12:00 noon; also about 3:00 p.m. by rapid firing on the Johnnie's pits. Everything gets more quiet about dark than we have before had since we have been here and continues through the night. The 17th Ky.'s sutler comes up this evening with a stock of goods.

Saturday, August 13th - Clear and warm. Everything more quiet today than for a long time, ever since I have been here till about 6:00 p.m. when the pickets and cannons rather get warmed up to the work which lasts a greater portion of the night on confirmation of the reported capute of Mobile.

Write letters to our friends, W.H.W. and M.E.W. and send a composition which we wrote on yesterday. W_____ appears before the Court Martial today for the investigation of his absence while wounded. Several sentences against men of our regiment for desertion are received today, which increases the number of veterans considerably.

Sunday, August 14th - Warm and clear. Pickets and artillery very great again today. Had heavy cannonading lasts night on the right. A large light seen in the direction of town which was probably a burning house sat on fire by our shells, which could be seen bursting in great numbers in the light of the fire. Heavy cannonading this evening away on the right and the men also imagine they can hear heavy musketry.

No news from the military or political of the north. Chattanooga Gazette says the line is down between N_____ and C_____ and that if it did not belong to the meetin' it would say "damn the line".

Monday, August 15th - Clear and warm in the forenoon. Slight rain in the afternoon. Pickets and artillery still very great. In the evening I indulge in the reading of the treasonable and ignorant speeches of Hon. W. Ethridge and Dan Vahoors of Ind. and every sentence I read causes me to think "hurrah for old Abe" and I have a sharp talk with my better half on the subject. I am for Lincoln and Johnson, for I think that they are the ones in whose election I can see the Constitution and the Union preserved in it's original form, more nearly than in any other personages. Baggage train comes again this morning.

Tuesday, August 16th - Clear and exceedingly warm. 9 Ky. and 79 Ind. start at 5:00 a.m. on a foraging expedition via Buckhead, turn off to the right about ten miles in all. March unnecessarily hard and many of the men give out by the

way, W_____ among the rest, but he obtains a horse from a Sergt. of the 51 O. and rides about 3 miles, which enables him to drag into camp. We bring in a load of roasting ears for each regiment and battery and now we will prepare to throw up fortifications (sinks). Rumor. Wheeler has captured Dalton, blown up Tunnel Hill, etc.

Wednesday, August 17th - Clear and warm. Everything quiet till about 3:00 p.m. when somebody got up a mess a little way to the right and as it extended along the whole line. We had quite a skirmish, but no cannonading of import.

No mail out yesterday or today and that looks as if Wheeler does really have the railroad in our rear, but I guess he won't stay long, eh? Rumor. Our Corps will be moved to the right quite soon, say the 19th. As we go to sleep tonight, the musketry on the picket line seems still warmer than usual, and I almost give credit to the rumor on that account.

Thursday, August 18th - Clear and warm. Demonstrate has been the program the whole day on our part to the imminent danger of putting up a mess. Pickets open a heavy volley about 8:00 a.m. Regiment moves to the right in view of the Rebs, then out of view and back again three times. Very heavy cannonading to the right at intervals today, but that seems to be an every-day business around there.

Mail today, but no letters and there are many due. Don't like it. I have placed "100" at the head of this page which denotes how many days we have in service, but rumor says officers will make three years from commission.

Private Isaac Maines of our company was wounded severely this morning while passing over the works, the ball passing through the right arm and lodging in the right breast. Done by a Johnny at the distance of probably one thousand yards. Thus, we lose one of the best soldiers that was ever in our company. A good boy in almost every respect (morals). In fact, he had few superiors in bravery, efficiency, strict obedience or any of the qualities that characterize a good soldier. But good men must be killed and maimed and we are at all times in peril, and should never let our lamps go out.

Friday, August 19th - Clear and warm in the forenoon. Cloudy and a little rain in the afternoon and early part of the night. Will I never be relieved from the clash of this unremitting picket firing or sound of cannon? Demonstration has been the programme again today. This evening the 17th Ky. V.I. moved out with the express purpose (?) of taking the enemy's rifle pits, but after a few moments of severe musketry, they returned all right. We were awakened early this morning by a severe cannonading away on the right, and it seems that they fight around there all the time.

being confined here for so long a time, we are sadly put to it for some method of passing the time in a way that will prevent restlessness, depression of spirits, etc., but the soldier is full of expedients. I get up and wash my face and perform other morning ceremonies, then I write my journal of the incidents of the preceding day, and then am ready for breakfast. After breakfast, I read a portion of scripture, generally about 6 chapters and then after meditation am ready for a novel if nothing else, but for the last few days I have tried something more solid. Exploration of the valley of the Amazon by Lets Heandon and Gibson of the U.S.N. which I find not very interesting but entertaining. Today I procured a copy of the "Pictorial History of Greece" by John Frost which serves my purpose much better. I read the three first chapters. I was before I came into the Army, and am yet, a stern opposer of novel reading, yet I think it has its good parts as well as anything else. I think it is in many instances beneficial to the soldier. It prevents the indulging in many evil thoughts that would otherwise take possession of the unemployed mind and keeps his mind more on the valley.

No mail again today, which rather frustrates me as I cannot divine the cause, but I will patiently wait till tomorrow.

Saturday, August 20th - Cloudy and rainy in the afternoon and night. Demonstration again today to make the Rebels think that we are moving to the left. Also an occasional squall on picket.

The mail came this evening and the W_____ got a letter from home - one from ___W. and one from Miss M.M.W., and don't you know we feel all right or a little more so.

Rumor. We are reinforced by another A.G. of twenty thousand men, which is true beyond all doubt. Ha! Ha! Ha!

See in the papers an account of the recent great political meeting in New York City which nominated G. B. McLellan for President. The meeting was closed by an able speech from one of its members, and I think it is the best conservative doctrine I have ever seen set forth by anyone. I am a true conservative at heart, but I think the nominal Tory is not composed of that kind of men in sufficient numbers to carry their point, and consequently I must be for the only National party there is left, and that brings me to be an advocate of Lincoln and Johnson; and I calculate I shall vote for them if a great and unexpected change does not occur between this and that time.

Sunday, August 21st - Cloudy with rain through the day, and a very hard rain after dark. Nothing of interest along the line today except the unusual quiet. Just to rest on Sunday, I suppose.

Conservatives ripping about their great mass meeting in New York, and their language generally tending to make me a ten times stronger Li-Jh (Lincoln/Johnson) than ever before. The chief argument brought up by them consists in affronts against Mr. Lincoln. And in that particular they have the advantage of me, for it is a chip lower than I will go, specially when I am backed by such sound argument as at the present. The great Conservative Party is now divided into three functions. The first A.L.V. is for peace on any terms; the second, Dan Vahoores and Ethridge are for concluding an armistice and negotiating with the armed traitors; the third, great meeting in New York is foremost to the bottoms. Clear out with your remnants of the disappointed demogagues of all parties and give me that which is for Lincoln. Hurrah for Lincoln!

Rumor. We (our corps) are going to Montgomery, Alabama. I don't care if we do.

Monday, August 22nd - Clear and cool for the weather. No news of interest again. Pickets very quiet. Politics just a surging. Conservatives rallying in the great mass meeting N.Y. on the 10th of this month, and they beset us with a storm of words sufficient to batter down the walls of Jerico, but we remain firm.

Our worthy friend, Capt., almost insulted us by confining himself to abuses of Mr. Lincoln while trying to draw us into an argument, and I just walked away from him. Then B.O.K. comes down and gives us a civil lecture which we take in good part, as it is not of sufficient caliber to batter down our wall of defense. I expect to be for Lincoln till the true Conservatives dismiss D.L.V. and his party. That's one feature in our platform, and one by which we will stand.

Baggage wagon comes up again today and now for them clothes. Rumor. The Rebels are evacuating their works in front of the 17 A.C. Deserter comes in and says they have marching orders. I don't much think it, and so mite it be. Gen. Kilpatrick has been on a raid. Has gone around Atlanta and came in today or yesterday.

Tuesday, August 23rd - Cool and clear. 17 Ky. V.I. goes on a foraging expedition. March hard all day and get roasting ears enough to make three for each man in the Brigade. Pretty small fruits, but one mess per week will do much toward preventing scurvy and other diseases that are the effect of so much salt return.

Amuse myself by drawing a resemblance of home from memory. My experience renders the attempt rather unimitative, but I get off rather well at last make. A failure at the attempt to draw a scene in camp from want of skill and bad view.

The boys that went out with the 17 Ky. today find the 5 Ky. Cav. that have been with the Kilpatrick raid just coming. They are very much jaded and are without hats, a great many of them, and so on, some whose horses were killed or broke down. Had to be left and were captured, but that class was not very numerous. They got a good many prisoners, but lost most of them again.

Pickets very quiet today till about dark, when our boys throw in pretty strong to find out something - if Johnnie had left truckin'.

Wednesday, August 24th - Clear and warm. Pickets all quiet along the whole line today. Orders. Baggage train will remain till tomorrow to give the company commanders an opportunity to fix up their books, as Capt. Liggett came up the 22nd with them.

Went to hear Divine service in the 79 Ind. last evening. Found a large and well-behaved audience and an interesting speaker, and were, upon the whole, favorably impressed with the meeting and think that much more attention could be given to religion without hindering anything else that's good.

Rumor. Still rife that our Corps will move in a few days and the general impression is that we are going to Montgomery, Alabama. I can't see the point.

Write letters for home and make an error and date it 23rd. Tom is twenty years old today.

Lieut. Henry of the 19 O. was killed this evening in his tent by a Rebel ball from the skirmish pit.

Thursday, August 25th - Weather is warm and variable. 4:00 p.m. pickets very quiet all day and nothing of interest any way except we name a lesson in pugilism that was held this evening in the 79 Ind., which ended in the accident of one man's head bouncing away from a fellow's fist several times and striking the ground.

Orders. Be ready to move tonight with 60 rounds of ammunition and three days' meat to do four. Who would have thought it? Yesterday I wrote a letter home in which I said that the indications seemed favorable that we would stay here some time yet. But the changes that man are subject to will forever be a trouble to prophets.

Sent up a petition today for our regiment to be sent to the rear.

Friday, August 26th - Cloudy with slight rain the afternoon and very warm. Left our camp yesterday evening at about 10:00 p.m. and blundered along till 3:30 a.m. When we have

travelled about 7 miles and are very much fatigued, and to crown all, W_____ has to go on picket but it don't amount to much as he has no orders and makes his reserve about 20 yards from the Regiment and sleeps like an honest man.

This morning soon after breakfast we are ordered to commence erecting a temporary barricade and at it we went, as if we had slept all last night, and just as we got a good musket-proof erected, we received orders about 10:00 a.m. to get ready to move again, and go away to the right about ten miles in a direction a little south of west. We pass the camps of the 16, 17, and 14 A.C.'s who are either marching or under marching orders. The 20 A.C. has recrossed the river to guard our communications. There is something big a brewin' as sure as a gun and now Johnny may look out fer certain.

Rumors. Dead agin.

Saturday, August 27th - Waked up this morning by a slight shower of rain, but soon clears away and we have an excessively warm day. The 15 A.C. moves out on the extreme right and we next to them in a southerly direction about 5 miles, finding Rebel cavalry who are inclined to skirmish a little. We are now about 11 miles from Atlanta in a southwesterly direction, and about 9 miles from the Macon R.R. Our Regt. and the 79 Ind. move out this evening to near camping ground of Rebels for the 2nd Div. Shoot at a few Rebs and make them run like 69.

W._____ feels very unwell today and has for or five days, bowel complaint. "fraid we are in a bad fix." I should have before stated that we built light works as soon as we stopped.

Sunday, August 28th - Warm and clear. Have orders to move early, but do not leave camp till near sunset and then go in a southerly direction about 3 miles. The 14 A.C. moves out in our advance today; reason we lay in camp all day. It now begins to look kind a like going for Rebs again, but they as yet offer no obstruction to our advance.

The boys amuse themselves today by fighting a sham battle with corn cobs and have a very exciting time. Casualties. Wounded: Let. Hestand, nose; Corporal A. W. Hall, "J" mouth; Private Johnson "K" cheek. W_____ felt too unwell to participate, but enjoyed the fun much by looking on. The boys seem to be full of expedients to beguile the time. We still feel bad in our bowels, but a little better today than heretofore.

Monday, August 29th - Weather clear and warm. Today seems full of events. First, it is the day for the great Chicago Convention in which I still prophesy that there will be a split up or Val____ will be nominated for Vice Presidency;

Secondly, we left camp early in the morning. Went a short distance and drew three days' rations, then about one mile further and laid aside our baggage and went 2 more miles to the M. R.R. and go fer it. Three Brigades of our Corps and the whole of the 14 A.G. have been turned into R.R. hands and are good ones, as evidence of which about 15 miles of the road is a complete wreck.

Third, by and last, but not least of today's events, is the election of corporals to fill the vacancies of that branch of service, 7 in all, to serve as private but to draw the $2.00 per month allowed to Corporals. Have a lively time congratulating the chits.

Rumor. Howard, with the Army of Tennessee, is on the Macon R.R. sending it toward the skies in the form of smoke. Returned to baggage and about 2 miles further making the whole day's travel about 8 miles.

Tuesday, August 30th - Clear and warm. Set out early and on to the M. R. R. again, and on to within about 3 miles of the Macon R. R. but I don't know how far from East Point. 8 miles today.

A slight skirmish on our left flank in the evening. We all back off from the road in line of battle and ordered to get dinner. Cook gets our coffee and corn in a good way to boil when we have to pick up. A distance farther and have time just to get supper when, toot, toot, goes the horn and we are off again, but not far through the darkness and brush till we are in position and are ordered to throw up barricades. Boys said this morning there would be no fight today for Sherman passed us this morning and had on a clean shirt, a thing that the boys say is of rare occurrence with him

It seems strange to me that we have been able to come this far without fighting, for we are now (according to my reckoning) but little west of south from Atlanta, if any. Heard fighting today away to the right, which is Howard, I suppose, and it seemed far enough away to be on the Macon Railroad. Our direction today has been a little east of south, and we can hear Rebel cars whistling to the N.E.

Wednesday, August 31st - Clear and moderately cool. Travel about 4 miles in a N.E. direction and find ourselves with a slight skirmish on the Macon R. R. After traveling about one mile this morning, the Rebs appeared at works in our front. Went into line and with that astonishing alacrity that has always been a characteristic of the Army, went to building works and in one hour had up good light works, but the Johnnies falling back before our skirmishers, we soon went forward again crossing the Rebel works and two small creeks with a mill on each and late in the evening saw the railroad in our front going up into the air, and at sundown were in

line with 23 A.C. on our left and 14 A.C. on our right and building works with all our might. Heard some cannonading to the south, which I think is at Jonesboro, for we are some miles below Rough and Ready. Hurrah for Howard!

We have had very light skirmishing today and don't it seem strange that we have gotten here so easily. Prisoners say that half the Rebel army has gone to Jonesboro while the remainder will hold Atlanta. Guess the remainder will have a hard time of holding it.

I am now anxious to know which way we will go. I want to go toward Atlanta, but tomorrow will decide. Hurrah for Sherman! Thanks to the Almighty God.

Thursday, September 1st - Clear and cool. Several nights past have been very cool. Heavy cannonading this morning in the direction of Jonesboro. Give it to them, my Gallant Howard. Oh, but he is a good man!

Early orders to cease work and get ready to move. Which way will we go? About 5 miles south and strike the R.R. again and with astonishing quickness have the ties piled up and the bars laid crosswise. 2-1/2 miles from Jonesboro and can hear musketry in that direction. Look out Johnnies, there and at Atlanta. I think those at Atlanta will have hard time and these a harder. Forward at the Rebs again at 4:00 p.m. 14 A.C. on the right, 4 A.C. in the center and 23rd A.C. on the left, while we hear the Gallant H_____ giving 'em fits away to the right and beyond. Our division in reserve. Shelled pretty heavy at sundown and later. Heavy skirmish in front.

After dark move to the left. Orders. No. 1. Stay here tonight; No. 2. Get ready to move in half hour; No. 3. Stay here tonight and move in the morning before breakfast.

Water a mile off, very sorry and between the picket lines. Supper at 11:30 p.m. and then to sleep with the indellible impression that the Johnnies are in the middle of bad fix. We think the Rebs will be gone in the morning. Also think that Hood will be relieved soon by Hardee.

Friday, September 2nd - Second pardon the Rebels for they know not what they do. Drew three days' rations to do four and set off early after the Rebels who evacuated last night. Pass through Jonesboro about noon and on we go. About 3:00 p.m. we begin to hear skirmishing again in the front and soon our Div. is moved to the left and we go into line at about right angles with the R.R., our brigade some 3/4 of a mile therefrom.

We are soon moving forward, wheeling to the left. Pass Gen. Wood, who orders Col. Kneffler, Com. 3rd Brgde, to move forward briskly and attack the enemy where he finds him,

regardless of position. Gen. Wood looks drunk. On till we come in view of the Rebel skirmish pits, then halt for the 1st Div. to come up on our left, which they do, and charge and carry the skirmish pits in splendid style.

We forward and carry the pits in our front with small loss, and if we had stopped here, all would have been well, "but somebody blundered" and hallowed for us to charge the main works and forward went three little regiments of our Brigade; 9, 19, 79, through the thickest shower of balls I ever encountered, about 100 yards and lay down a moment, then up and forward again, but alas, what can valor do against equal valor with such fearful odds?

Some men went to the Rebel works, a great many near there, but had to fall back. The Rebels in our front at one time wavered and commenced falling back, but when they saw that our whole line was not charging, they rallied again and we were then subjected to a terrible crossfire. Fall back to the Rebel position (rifle pits) and hold them yet. Lt. Col. Bailey was shot through the femual artery, left thigh, just after we got back to the pits. (comment upon him)

Lt. Hestand of our company, as brave a man as ever lifted sword, was killed just as we commenced pulling back. He led his company till everything else wavered and then said "boys, let us get back" and was almost instantly shot through the heart. He had commanded our company with ability for more than a year. He was remarkable for obedience to superiors and for keeping all official matter well posted, and for unexcelled perseverance and indomitable courage. His bravery was not rash, but prudent. He never sought fight, but when ordered he was always in the van, but he is gone. A board bearing this inscription: "Lt. Turner Hestand, 9 Ky. V.I., killed Sept. 2nd, 1864" is all that denotes his resting place. We console ourselves with the thought that he has gone to where he will live in perpetual enjoyment without war.

Col. Cram, Capt. Harlin, Lieut. Downing, Sergt. Roark, colorbearer and several of the regiment lay near the Rebel works till it was getting dusky and smoky before they would come off. They were in advance and the regiment had fallen back ere they knew it, and they could not go then without taking the fire of a brigade. Eli Rhoten is slightly wounded in the shoulder. 16 men are wounded and one killed in the Regt. Capt. A. O. Miller, A. A. G. of the brigade is killed. He is an irreparable loss. Our regiment will soon have filled its contract with the government and what a pity for men to be killed at this date.

Saturday, September 3rd - Cloudy and rainy during the whole day. Rained heavily last night. Rebel balls whistle very low past our position (2nd line). Dangerous to be above the

works. Heavy skirmishing during the whole day. Rebel battery pesters us much this morning, but old 6th O. gets into position and silences them. Railroad destroyed up to our line. Feel to be under a severe depression of spirits at the loss of my dear Lieutenant. He had been in every skirmish with the regiment and had always come out unhurt, and now a bereaved mother (a widow) would mourn his loss.

Rumor. Orders, start back to Atlanta tonight at 1:00 and I believe we will go, for we have only six days rations for the troops and thirty miles of torn up railroad in our rear, and according to all rumors, Atlanta is now in our possession. If we get back there, I shall conclude that my service at the front is done. 2nd. Petersburg with 25,000 prisoners has been captured by Gen. Grant. Don't believe it, a little too big.

Have the opportunity to write a letter home this evening, which I gladly accept.

Sunday, September 4th - cloudy in the morning. Clear and very warm in the afternoon. My 22nd birthday. Guess I will not travel as far south as last birthday.

Order from Gen. Sherman saying that our work is well done and that makes me think we will go back, for he also says that all destruction of the R. R. will now cease; also, has official information that Atlanta was occupied by our troops on the 2nd.

Received a mail tonight and, of course, a full one, and as yet do not, with certainty, know the result of the Chicago Convention.

Our position is very dangerous, Rebel balls coming over continually. Akers, Co. G, wounded in the arm this morning standing near his tent. Two of the 19th killed today and six wounded within their camps. But war will have its casualties, yet it looks hard to see a man free from excitement in cold blood shot down.

We are much gratified to learn that Co. O.D. Bailey's wound is by no means as severe as at first expected, and that it is very probable he will recover.

Monday, September 5th - Clear and very warm in the morning and a severe storm of wind and rain in the afternoon. Rain continuing till very late in the night. Wrote letters this morning to Mrs. Hestand informing her of the death of her son. Pass another fearful day in balls, but are relieved in the evening by an order to get ready to move to Jonesboro at 8:00 p.m., but we do not get away till 10:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 6th - Clear and warm in the a.m. Rainy in

the p.m. Had a severe time last night sure marching over the very rough and muddy new road, and this morning we are muddy, muddier, muddiest.

Arrived at Jonesboro about daylight this morning and came about one mile above and lay till 12:00 and then moved over to the left and put up light works just to keep in practice, for we do not think we will need them for the Johnnies don't seem disposed to follow us in a very great hurry. They ran in on our right this evening and a few of them were gobbled and the rest shot at pretty heavy, and thus it ended soon. I guess they need rest about as bad as we do, and are glad of this opportunity.

I now think that the old 9th has been in its last fight and could indulge in pleasant thoughts were it not that I think of the good friends that I have left on battlefields, and whose dear relatives will so sensibly miss them again when the regiment begins to arrive at homes, the few that are left.

Wednesday, September 7th - Cloudy and cool. Nice day for marching. We set off at 7:00 a.m. and march up the R.R. to within 3 miles of Rough and Ready, then turn to the right and move 3 or 4 miles. 10 miles. Rebels don't push after us at all today and almost seem willing to let us be if we will let them be.

McLellan and Pendleton are Chicago nominees and I won't vote for them surely. Rumor that Old Abe will withdraw in favor of Sherman or some other man, but I can't see it.

Thursday, September 8th - Cloudy and cool. March to Atlanta and 3 miles beyond. 10 miles. Put up in an old sage field and begin to make preparations for regular camp, for I feel more like I am going west than I ever did before. I also feel like I have done my last fighting, and will not have to dread the casualties of war any longer. And, oh, what emotions when I think of the brave men we lost just the other day. But such is war.

Atlanta is not now - never was a nice town. It is very irregularly laid off, and the buildings are very ordinary and a great number of them present evidences of the accuracy of our artillery men.

Friday, September 9th - Remain in camp all day resting and getting ready to commence work which I will do tomorrow, I think. Rations are getting very scarce and what is worse, our communications are cut in the rear, and the general cry is "no mail, etc.".

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Got the news of John Morgan's death, which is great relief to us all. I have got on clean clothes, and I feel so good.

Saturday, September 10th - Clear and warm. Go to the city and lay in a supply of rations and now calculate on living. Make a general tour of that part of the city lying adjacent to the Georgia depot, and find that it never was any big thing, several houses burned by our hot shot, and one sign had a 6-pound shell sticking in it that had spent and failed to burst. But few sutlers, and they are all ordered to leave town in three days. Don't like that much. Inspection tomorrow at 9:00.

Sunday, September 11th - Clear and warm. Company inspection at 10:00 a.m. Nothing of interest occurs and we have a dull, lazy day till late in the evening when we get an order to know the strength of the companies and the number of recruits required to fill out the regiment. This causes a belief among the officers that they will have to serve three years from date of enlistment as officer and creates much excitement in the regiment.

Rumor. Gen. Wood is to command the post at Atlanta and our Div. moves there Tuesday.

Get a large mail today which helps us considerably, and we have had mail very irregularly for a considerable time. An order this evening permitting five percent of the men to be furloughed.

Monday, September 12th - Clear and rather cool. The air begins to present strong indications of the season so prolific of solemn impressions. Autumn. (comment).

Dress parade this evening; also on yesterday evening, and general cleaning up order from Col. Fred Kneffler, Com'd'g Brigade. Also a congratulary order from Gen. Wood for our arduous services in the past campaign, setting the loss of the Div. at 2,800 men and officers, which I think must be near one-third of the whole, which tells well for the sport performed by the Dir. in taking the jewel, Atlanta. The order also paid a compliment to the gallant dead and wounded and commented the fact that they could not be with us to enjoy the promised season of repose. How many of us will get home? We think we need not fear any more bullets, but alas the rude hand of death comes sometimes in the form of disease.

Tuesday, September 13th - Clear and moderately cool. On picket today and it is so different from the picket duty of 2 weeks ago. We are not compelled to remain covered all the time to prevent a passing stray ball snatching away that which connects soul and body. But it is now rather a season of rest from the heat and confusion of camp, under the

cooling shades of spreading oaks. We can lounge around and indulge in comments upon the near approach of the expiration of our term. .

But politics will come in for its share of consideration and in the present excited state of affairs, a conversation upon that subject is anything but pleasant. There will be some "low flung" things around whose whole argument consists in epithets derogatory to the opposite party and a gentleman will not retaliate, consequently he must take the browbeating of fools and sich. Such men as this causes me to become stronger for Lincoln each day and I would now rather vote for Fremont than McLellan and Pendleton.

Wednesday, September 14th - Cool and clear. Return from picket early and find everything taking the appearance of a regular camp.

Pass through the day very easy by making out the usual number of reports and so on.

Preaching at night in our camp and we, of course, attend and are seriously impressed with the beauty of the scene, and the strict attention paid by the soldiers to the worthy speaker.

Get a copy of the Nashville Times which is the first paper in a long time, and in it we have Gen. Grant in the crisis which shows very plainly that he is not a peacemaker.

We now find it necessary to close Journal No. 7, but just turn to No. 8, which we will commence tomorrow and you will find us as before - for Lincoln and Johnson.

Thursday, September 15th - Clear and warm. Inspection appointed at 10:00 a.m., but postponed till tomorrow at the same time of day for some cause unknown to me. Make out the Muster Rolls for the last muster.

13th and 24th Ky. starts to Kentucky today with orders to report at Louisville. That looks like leaving the old 9th in the shade. Never mind, a greater portion of the enlistments of the regiment are dated today and for my part I think we will not look red dirt in the face any more. The 59th O.V.I. also will start home tomorrow or next day and are in a high way tonight.

I will remain here patiently till the 26th of October and then I shall begin to inquire why I am not sent to the rear, and if I can't find out easily, maybe I may assist in getting up a row. I expect _____ or _____ in a few days and donn't know whether to accept.

Friday, September 16th - Clear and warmer. Inspection at 10:00 a.m. The regular old routine of sweeping and making

out reports is being slowly but surely inaugurated. But it is better than fighting, marching, or any of the duties generally attending an active campaign.

The 59 O.V.I. does leave in reality on this evening for the rear. Why can we not enjoy such pleasure also? I think we will surely hear of the petition soon. Quite an interesting official report made its appearance this evening purporting to come from Headquarters 17 A.C. Squirrel Hunter and which bore a strong relation to a pugilistic contest that took place this morning between two officers of the 17 Ky. W_____ is appointed Officer of the Day tomorrow for the first time in his life. Thinks it means something.

Saturday, September 17th - Cloudy and warmer. Got off on Officer of the Day fairly well. At my request, a Board of Administration was appointed to value and recommend a disposal of the effects of Lieut. Hestand, which was accordingly done; they being recommended to my care to ship to his mother on the first advisable opportunity.

Vallandigham has flown the track, so they say and here comes my Conservative friends to ask my objection to "Little Mac" now. I tell them that "Old Abe" suits me and why change for Little Mac when he can suit me no better.

Furloughs returned today. Disapproved because the men's terms are so nearly out. Looks ominous. Col. Cram went in search of the petition today and found it had only left Division Headquarters a few days since, but highly approved. Look out citizens of Kentucky soon for the "Old 9th".

Sunday, September 18th - Cloudy with slow, steady rain last night and most of today. Our regiment furnishes the detail for picket again today, but I don't have to go.

Order from War Department that all commissioned officers shall be mustered out with their commands. Sounds pretty well to some who have been thinking that would not be the case.

Divine service today at 10:00 a.m. by Chenoweth of the 6th O. Battery from the 8th Psalm, 4th verse: "What is man that Thou art mindful of him", etc., and the sermon seemed to be the general edification of those present.

Politics. Have concluded that there was a little money and tricking at the bottom of the Vallandigham "bolt." That opinion is operating upon the minds of some of the Conservatives with doubtful effect.

Still think a little of the time when we will start to the rear and don't care how soon.

Monday, September 19th - A year since today was the first of Chicamauga. Clear and warm. The First Division reviewed in front of our position this evening by Maj. Gen. Stanley.

See a letter from G. F. Train to Gen. McLellan requesting him to withdraw. Conservative Party is like a rope of sand. It will do well enough to look at, but when you come to handle it, it falls to pieces.

Sherman's and Grant's letters are for the 500,000 call to be immediately filled.

Politics all right generally. Write a letter today to my distinguished correspondent in Bowling Green, Ky.

Orders read at Dress Parade in regard to commissioned officers being mustered out with three commands, and as I consider that a clincher I shall bother myself no more on that score. Second, be ready to go a foraging tomorrow morning at 6:00. Reville at 4:00. Now don't I dread that! Wouldn't it be a nice thing just to be a little sick?

Tuesday, September 20th - Cloudy and warm. Off on a foraging expedition very early, accompanied by three other regiments. Ride in the wagon the whole day, going in a northwesterly direction beyond Cross Keys and put up for the night. A little rain falls after dark, but none of consequence.

An interesting Little Johnny where we stop about 8 years old who possesses a remarkable degree of intelligence and becomes very much interested in W___ who, in turn, becomes very do- with Johnny, and gives him some powder to shoot his toy guns, etc. Prudence would have dictated otherwise, but "Little Johnnies" will rule "big Yankees".

A year since was the disastrous day to our Army at Chickamauga, where our little army of the Cumberland contended against the hoardes of Bragg and _____. Some think we would have done better to have fallen back to Chickamauga without a fight. I think that if such a thing had been possible, it would not have been policy, for if we had first fallen back there and still retained our confidence in our ability to whip Bragg, who would have come back there and whipped us and then the Tennessee River _____. Our army would have gone 22 miles up sure.

Wednesday, September 21 - Guards make a mistake and wake us up at 2:30 instead of 4:00 a.m. W_____ enters upon the duties of the day by going for an oven full of sweet potatoes.

Before sunrise we are off for corn, which we find in about three miles and fill our wagons, notwithstanding the wet day and drag back through the mud about 9 miles, making the whole

distance 12 miles. The boys have today laid in a large amount of potatoes, pork, mutton, etc. for they think it is their last foraging expedition, and say "let's give it to 'em while we have the chance." W._____ also has high hopes of finding orders for the 9th Ky. to go to the rear when we arrive at camp and that he may dream about it. Sleeps in the porch of a Georgia planter who is gone anon.

Thursday, September 22nd - Cloudy and warm. Some fine rain. Start to camp at 6:00 a.m. with some full loaded wagons and a muddy road, but as we did our duty to the potatoes this morning, we feel "all right". Arrive in camp about 1:00 p.m. and feel so good, but anxious to hear the news from the petition, for it is due. Sure enough it has returned. Whoop! Hurrah! What does it say? Let us hear, well it says, Attention! Respectfully disapproved for the present. Is that not solacing and cheering to the tired and expectant 9th? I fear that the old 9th will be driven in her last days to take some part in that not very creditable practice of "playing off". It is strange that the big numbers can go to the rear and us little fellows will have to remain in rear at the front till we will muster ourselves out. i.e., serve out our full time.

Friday, September 23rd - Cloudy with a very hard rain in the evening. Mail, but no letters from home, not even since the 30th ultimo.

One of our Chickamauga men that was captured there returned on yesterday and it is almost aggravating to hear him talk of the treatment he received at the Rebel's hands while a prisoner in their hands. And one of the results of such treatment is that he is now a Lincoln man of the sort that are generally termed as "dyed in the wool".

The Vallendigham bolt has blown over and with it McLellan is losing ground sensibly by a great many of his supporters getting "astride the fence" while some of them are declaring for Lincoln. I think the prospect is very fair that the "rail splitting buffoon" and the "journeyman" tailor will be elected, and here's all around

Saturday, September 24th - Cloudy and cool. Looks much like fall. Rained heavily last night. Fountain Run mail today, but no letters for Mark. Letter from Sergt. Roddy who says he is for Lincoln every day. Potomac fellows about him think McLellan is a milk and cider man. Letter from P. H. Emert who deserted on the night of the 25th of August. Informed him that if he did not report in person forthwith, he would be arrested by P.M.

Company commanders talk with Col. Cram tonight about another petition. He thinks we had better wait till Monday and he will see one of Thomas' A.A.S.'s who is an old schoolmate of

his; also has semi-official information that our Division will be left here at the beginning of the next campaign.

Sunday, September 25th - Clear and very cool. Inspection at 9:00 a.m. Divine service at 10:00 a.m. by Brother Chenoweth, which interested me very much. Remarks were founded upon the 3rd verse, 2nd Chapter of Hebrews and he confirmed us in the opinion that the Army is a good place to serve the Lord. The Brother delivered his valedictory to the 9th and 17th Ky. for he thought that ere we went to the rear he would not have the opportunity of preaching again in said regiment.

Capt. Reed comes in with the surplus baggage sent from McDonald's Station and Kingston which is in good time, with most of us furnishing the wall tents. But I have none and must put up with my frame house, better than a tent. Company papers, blankets, overcoat, and other articles of importance.

Monday, September 26th - Clear and pretty cool. New prospects for us today. Company drill today. Boys don't like to see it. Orders. Be ready for review tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. by Maj. Gen. Stanley. Everything must be clean as a new pin. Looks as if we would go on another campaign, but I can't yet think we will.

Grant's letter in regard to Rebel deserters. Buffalo Courier calls him a copperhead. Some of the Conservatives try to create a sensation over it, but it is too plain a case and the more sensible of them won't say anything for fear of another Vallandigham trick.

Col. Cram lectures in at dress parade on being so loose in regard to discipline and says we will soon be like the old man's chaise that was made all strung alike and broke down all at once. We, with our character, etc., will break down in like manner (comment).

Tuesday, September 27th - Clear and cool, but warmer than yesterday. Grand Review by Gen. Stanly came off according to appointment today. Was the most nicely carried out of any I have seen. Headquarter flags were presented to the Div. and Brigades separately. Also, a National Flag to the 93 O.

Gen. Stanley inspected the arms and was very observant generally. Remarked the men had no bayonets. Col. Cram told him the boys threw them away for the little necessity. Gen. Stanley said that if we had had support on the 2nd of Sept., we would have used them. Thank you General!

Received a letter from my extinguished correspondent informing me that the draft is going ahead in our parts and that is good news to soldiers. McLellanists and all are for

the draft and it seems about as consistent to me as Vallandighamers voting for the draft last year.

"Pap" Thomas took a ride around in our parts this evening. He is _____.

Wednesday, September 28th - Cloudy and warm. W. drills Companies B and G. Some of the boys are disposed to be turbulent and insubordinate. W_____ gave them a talk which is persuasive to all but two refractory fellows, one of which I have since been creditably informed threatened to "whip" me if we should ever get out of the service. He is the same referred to in a disturbance near Murfreesboro in 1863 while the Army was there, and as he is a big double-fisted fellow and has the character of being the stoutest man in the regiment and consequently I shall never raise against him but in self defense, and then I think God will parden me for saving myself.

I find there is more trouble in commanding a company than I had apprehended, and as it is I feel I cannot avoid making enemies, but will use every effort, calling on God for assistance, to discharge my duties faithfully and I know I can gain the good will of good men; that of others, I do not so much value. I will command with a firm hand, or I will not command at all. I will finish if it be necessary. I have had two boys sentenced to do extra duty (5 days each) for some omission and they have only half completed the sentence, but they are the best of boys and have done it so passively that I have released them this p.m.

Appointed "Officer of the Day" tomorrow. Divine Service tonight in the regiment by Reverend Brother Brown. A very attentive audience and I believe that much good could be effected at this time by all the Christians entering zealously to the work.

Seventy-five privates, 7 non-commissioned officers and 4 commissioned officers are detailed from the regiment for picket tomorrow.

Thursday, September 29th - Clear and cool. As the regiment is all on picket, we have a still monotomous day which is spent by us in posting up our books.

Read our political letter last night to a few of the members of our company and tonight had quite an attentive squad to hear. They requesting us to read. Conservatives seem rather cool for the last day or two and seem to be growing rather lukewarm in the cause. Spend a portion of the day in drawing a picture of the spot where we buried our Lieut. (Hestand). Succeed tolerably well.

Wheeler is playing thunder with our communication. Elk River Bridge is burned and the road is out at other points. The boys are very gaily tonight and have got "Sis" out to dancing, and as she is very fleshy and not a dancer. It makes quite a treat.

Friday, September 30th - Clear and warm in the forenoon, but cloudy in p.m. 11:00 p.m. I have just turned in from hearing an interesting band of singers from the 93 O. here in Simmon's tent. The rain is falling very heavily since dark.

The First Division was reviewed by Maj. Gen. Stanley again today. Rumors becoming very current again that we are going home again within a few days. But we are not very anxious to start at this particular time for we think the prospect for a fight is better in the rear than at this place. But the great trouble is that we get no mail and haven't for a great while.

Talked with some of the 79 officers tonight. They say that when the 9 and 17 leaves the Brigade that it won't be much. I hope for the character of the "Ole Brigade" that men may come in our places that will not disgrace us.

Saturday, October 1st - Clear and warm, but appearance of rain last at night. Rained awful last night.

The boys in the "Old 9th" are heavy for guerillas when they get home. Sixteen men of Co. B are going for Henry rifles and near one hundred of the Regt.

Preferred charges against a man of my company for "conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline", he having fired off his gun on picket yesterday morning without cause and cursed his superior officer for remonstrating with him in the matter; telling him repeatedly that he was a damned liar, etc. It does seem hard to prefer charges against a man at this late date and cause him to suffer, but then men should behave themselves and good men should not be imposed upon by such ruffians who regard neither law, order, principles nor nothing else that an honest man would think of.

Sunday, October 2nd - Gold $2.01. Clear and warm, cloudy p.m. Received a telegram yesterday from the Secretary of War stating that the draft was going on quietly in all the states, which is pretty good news to us folks down here in Georgia. Co. C. D. Baily started home yesterday, but in the present strained state of our communication line, the impression now is that our Regt. will not go to the rear for some time.

Gen. Thomas is reported gone to the rear with 6 divisions of our department. The 17 A.C. started to the rear this morning

and I think that all is indicative that we will have more "sow belly", some of which previous article the boys this evening drew on days rations, the first for a long time.

Divine Service today by a Reverend Mr. Guthrie of the 31st Ind. who delivers the most feeling sermon I have ever heard in the Army. The soldiers give unparalleled good attention and I think are much edified by the occasion.

Monday, October 3rd - Cloudy and warm with rain late in the afternoon. Who would have thought it.... This morning about 2:00 and just as I had waked up and thought about the hard rain in the early part of the night and had turned over for another nap, S. M. thumped at the door and said "get ready to move by daylight". Awful! Awful! Awful! But we have to go and are off in due time through town, and cross the Chattahoochie where two spans of the R. R. bridge have recently washed away and on to within four miles of Marietta, making a distance on the whole of 18 miles.

Whole Rebel army is reported on this side of the river, large force at Big Shanty and they seem to be going forces, generally. If we had 30 days' rations in Atlanta, we would take Macon "so mite it be" (comment).

Tuesday, October 4th - Clear and very warm. Move at 11:00 a.m. to and through Marietta and to the western base of Kennesaw Mountain, about 10 miles. Heard rumors about the Rebels. I am afraid we are going to have another bout and that will destroy my prophesying; also be rather contrary to my desires, but at it go. It is for my country and I think I love it as good now as ever.

I am puzzled to know whether we will remain here tomorrow or go farther; also which way we will go. Everything has a mysterious appearance. We cannot even get a clue from which to form an opinion upon the future movements of the Corps, but still I think Old Billy knows what he is about and will defend all the flankings of the enemy. So mite it be.

Wednesday, October 5th - Clear and cloudy; also very warm. Advance very cautiously around the western base of Kennesaw Mountain and to the foot of Pine Mountain (3 miles). Everything seems to say "another bout", and let it come.

The troops are in good spirits and think old Sherman will "play off" on Hood yet. Tonight we hear that Gen. Corse has whipped the Rebels at Etoweth Bridge, giving him a severe repulse, and we also hear that Johnny is tearing up our road at an awful rate, and this don't suit us much, for rations have been several days short and we have no mail for several days.

I had to go on picket tonight and as it is in a severe

thicket, I dread the posting of my relief tomorrow at 2:00 a.m. Have a spree with Monky and Cato, two good fellows, and lay down to sleep.

Thursday, October 6th - Waked up at 2:00 a.m. by Burnside to put on my relief amid the slight rain that has commenced falling, and oh! but I have some of a time crossing the many branches and swamps that are along the line, but I get it done "all right." It commences raining heavily about 3:00 a.m. and rains almost incessantly till about 12:00 noon. Hear firing away to the left this morning, which we naturally judge to be skirmishing, and feel uneasy at the prospect for fighting. I am relieved from the line about 2:00 P.M. and go into camp and after a short rest, I repair to the top of Pine Mountain and enjoy the nice view that is there presented. Kennesaw to the southeast - an almost unbroken line of blue skirts the horizon from that around by the south to the west where Lost Mountain rises above the general uniformity and much nearer. Then, the same unbroken line till we arrive at the northeast when the uneven but picturesque Altoona Range sets in, altogether tending to make the scene one of unexampled beauty and attraction. But "Uncle Billy" (Sherman) was up there walking back and forth abstractedly smoking his cigar and looking as ordinary and homely as ever. But he says that Gen. Thomas whipped the Rebels yesterday at Altoona Pass giving them a severe repulse. Also, he says that they have only 4 days' rations from this morning and that they intended to chew our crackers at Altoona but didn't do it. Also, he says that they fight like Indians now. "Don't make any fires, but they han't got any coffee to make no how." Anyhow, I am, to some extent, relieved of my apprehensions for a fought, and don't I greatly thank "Uncle Billy" for his good management. Hurrah for Sherman, with his tan coat tucked up with a pin and mud-bespattered pants.

Friday, October 7th - Clear and warm. Remain in camp all day. Hear a little away in the direction of Lost Mountain about noon. Rumor still current that the Rebs are leaving and that the whole U.S. Army is moving except one division of the 14 A.G. and the 1st and 3rd divisions of our Corps, the 2nd being with Gen. Thomas. Troops in high spirits and making the Wilkins ring with their shouts of joy and gaiety. Took a trip to the top of the mountain after sunset, but the moon is not high enough to present the scene in its proper beauty. See no appearance of Rebels.

Many rumors about the movements of the Rebels too numerous to mention. Rumors that the order has come for the 17th Ky. V. I. to go to the rear as soon as the line of our communication is open. Think the old "9th" will "kind O raise a dust" if such be the fact. Heard tonight that Capt. Dunbar, 79 Ind., saw Sergt. Hinson while South. (Comment on the bad treatment of one prisoner).

Monday, October 10th - Clear and cool, but warmer. Considerable frost last night. Remain in camp all day till about 3:00 p.m. ditching and straightening up camp to stay awhile, when at the time just mentioned we received hasty orders to be up and ready to move at a moment's warning, and are soon under way and arrive that night at the Etowa and cross and go to Cartersville, 13 miles.

This moving of everything north looks rather queer, but I guess Old Billy knows what he is about. Sherman's order this evening in regard to the gallant defense of Altoona by Gen. Course and his small command.

23rd A.C. reported to have gone through Cartersville this evening on "double quick". Rebels near Kingston today and reported to be fighting at Rome. I wonder if we will ever get any more mail.

Tuesday, October 11th - Clear and warm and the roads getting rather dusty. Set out early (W____ and mess waits to finish breakfast) and travel to Kingston and about 2 miles out to the left, making the whole distance 15 miles. Detail from our Regt. to go on picket, but not needed.

Oh, Joy! A mail comes to Headquarters just as we get into camp. Large wagon load for our division comes to the men about 8:00 p.m. and W_____ has eight letters. Hurrah for W____! Getting to be a very important personage, but there were that many besides Official Communications. Oh, I do love for folks to write to me! Draft is going heavy in all the states. Gold $1.91, and I don't know where the Rebels have gone, but we are going to Chattanooga, I think, right soon, but why I think so I can't tell for the life of me.

Wonder what will become of Atlanta, 4, 14, 15, 17, 23 A.C. are here. 20 at Atlanta, poor 20th.

Wednesday, October 12th - Clear and moderately warm. Move about 10:00 a.m. in the direction of Rome as some say, but I think not, for we go due northwest according to my reckoning. Get along very slowly and have not made five miles at dark, but after awhile we start a big road (I think the one leading from Kingston to Hermitage) and travel about 5 miles on it, making the whole day's march 18 miles and come into camp about 11:00 p.m. Hard march this certain.

I think one-third are straggler, large camps of them. Nice country since I struck the big road. Boys that lack knowledge curse Abe, Generals and everybody else for hard marching. Hateful practice of hateful men, I think (comment).

Cannonading today in the direction of Rome. Looks that we will have another fought. I believe Thomas has gone to

Virginia with his Six Divisions (all up and a coming).

Thursday, October 13th - Clear and cool, will frost tonight. Remain in camp till about 3:00 p.m. when we pick up and move about 13 miles in the direction of Calhoun, coming into camp about 10:00 p.m. Beautiful moonlit night and the boys merrier than I ever saw them at one time. I think the whole regiment was whistling, every man his own tune.

Cannonading this evening in the direction of Resaca and I do wish I could think where and what we will do. Things look suspicious, but I suppose "Old Billy" knows what he is about.

Col. Cram made application again today to Department Headquarters for us to be relieved, but we do not have communication with him at present. There is no telling when we will be relieved. No salt meat issued this evening, and don't know whether there is any this side of Chattanooga. (Hiccough dreadfully)

Friday, October 14th - Clear and cloudy and frost this morning. Warm today. March early, leaving Adairsville to the right and striking the railroad at Calhoun where the Rebels were yesterday, and on to Resaca, which is "all right" (Rebels repressed yesterday there), and three miles beyond Resaca and camped for the night (18 miles).

Troops very much faded and the railroad this side of Resaca all being torn up does not tend to enliven their spirits, but they all think that Sherman knows what he is about. Rebels at Dalton, Tunnell Hill, Spring Place, Round Gap, Snake Creek Gap, and it seems that they are everywhere. I believe Sherman's policy is to let them get across the Tennessee and if they do they are gone up, and I think they are too sharp for that. The thing will now be told in a day or two.

Saturday, October 15th - Warm and variable, mostly cloudy. Move early to the Dalton and Rome Road, across which we form a line and throw up a hasty fortification and lay till about 4:00 p.m. when we start across the mountains, sending our wagons by the Snake Creek Gap.

First cross Pigeon Mountain, then Grapevine Mountain down into the aforesaid Gap and encamp for the night. 15 and 17 A.C,'s pass up today and if we had been in the Gap early, could have cut off two Brigades of Rebels. Think the Johnnies are in the middle of a bad fix and likely to remain, at least some of them. Oh, if we can just hem them and bring on a general battle, won't Johnnie go up!

Rumor: Thomas gave the enemy a severe repulse at Tunnell Hill yesterday, killing 600 that were left on the field, and it comes from so many sources that I think it true.

Road across the last ridge last night was one of incomparable roughness. Boys gaily, etc. (8 miles)

Sunday, October 16th - Clear and warm. After the 14 A.C. passes to the front, we move on out of the Gap and then, rather south and again west intending to pass through _____ Gap in the _____ Range, but the Gap is so filled that we cannot pass through tonight and we camp after marching about 10 miles.

Snake Creek Gap was badly blockaded by the felling of timber, which is evidence that the Johnnies want to get away without a fight, or have other offensive movements in view.

Sherman seems to be well satisfied with the state of affairs, for we are moving along as slowly as if we were going home to be mustered out. Many suspicion that the Rebs intend going to Bridgeport and even across the Tennessee and into Kentucky. Don't like the prospect.

Rumor: The Rebs are going out by the southwest into Alabama.

Monday, October 17th - Clear and warm. Remain encamped all day. Orders! Get ready for a long march and to depend upon the country for vegetables and forage. Everything worthless sent to the rear.

Rebels undoubtedly gone off by the southwest. Col. Cram attempts to pass his application, but Old Stanley now commanding the Department refused to comply, and we have to go on this campaign.

No mail from home since the big one and no chance to send a single line. This is the best country we have thus far found in the State of Georgia. Corn abounds in abundance and I guess the teams will now gain flesh.

This raid will, without doubt, be a hard one, but I had just about as soon go on it as not. Draw rations of bread this evening, but no meat, which makes me think that we will get no salt meat on the route.

Tuesday, October 18th - Variable. Clear in the evening. Move early through _____ Gap in the _____ Ridge and turn south through the beautiful and highly productive valley called _____. Move to within about 6 miles of Summerville, whole distance 18 miles. Get into camp very late and oh, but the boys do bring in some of the pork and potatoes!

Was to Western Georgia P.T. Beauregard had better not have made Sherman thought of raiding for he will now give the Rebels an awful raid.

Rumor: The Rebels are crossing the Tennessee River in very large numbers, but I don't believe it.

Many of the boys are without shoes, which renders their ambition for raiding rather bad.

Wednesday, October 19th - Clear and warm. Nights very cool, but only little frost. Advance to Summerville today (6 miles). This is one of the most productive valleys I have seen in Georgia.

Forage details made from each brigade today, and an order from Col. Post Com'd'g Division to prohibit independent straggling, and I am pleased with the order, for the shooting out in the woods amounts almost to a skirmish and is really dangerous.

Sherman's headquarters are near our camp tonight. Various rumors in regard to our destination tonight, and the movements of the Rebels. Some think we are going to Alabama; others to Atlanta. Rebels, some to Alabama, others, that they are now crossing the Tennessee.

Think we will get mail tomorrow. Ah! That we may, and when will we be relieved and allowed to go to the rear? Hope soon.

Thursday, October 20th - Clear and warm. Dusty - as August. Move early in the direction of Gayesville, Alabama and to within one mile of the latter place (18 miles).

Heavy orders against personal straggling from D. C. Headquarters. Sherman passes us early. Wonder what he is going to do with us. I think we are going to make about a 12-days' raid through the best country and finally land at Atlanta. Boys don't get much forage today, and keep up better than I ever saw them on a hard march.

Guess we will be a good distance from our base on the 26th. Good news from Northern States. Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Nebraska gave large majorities for the Adm. candidates (1,000) in the recent elections. I guess Old Abe will be all right in November.

Expecting a supply of shoes and a mail daily, but it seems that they are a long time about coming.

Friday, October 21st - Clear and cool today. Heavy fog last night and very cool. To the surprise of all, we remain in camp today and are joyfully surprised by the reception of another large mail of which the W_____ gets a good share, but none from home. Also get to read the eloquent and sensible speech of Gov. Brough of Ohio delivered at Circleville, Ohio September 3, 1964. Much to our edification, everybody now

thinks it now certain that Lincoln will be elected.

Receive a supply of shoes, which are very acceptable to the boys as some of them are entirely without, and the weather getting very cool. Still much speculation as to where Sherman intends to send us to, or rather lead us. Hope they will do nothing but speculate for the next few days, and we (9) will try another experiment in regard to going to the rear. If Stanley had any sense, we would be back now.

Saturday, October 22nd - Clear and cool. Heavy frost on last night. Remain in camp again today. Heavy details sent out foraging for the companies which bring in a large amount of sweet potatoes, pork, beef, etc., which will help our three days' rations to do five.

Receive an old mail today. W_____ receives a notification of appointment as First Lieutenant and others in the regiment also. Don't know what the Rebels mean by their doings. In fact, don't know what they are doing.

Write letters this evening, first (except one yesterday) since we left Atlanta.

Boys out a foraging give terrible accounts of the doings of our boys while out a foraging, robbing houses, etc., all of which I consider beneath the dignity of a man and a soldier. I wish a few of that class could be shot publicly.

Sunday, October 23rd - Clear and cool. Thickest fog this morning that I nearly ever saw. W_____ gets mustered on his new appointment for three years or during the war, but I don't think we will stay the time out, according to orders.

Rumors: The Rebels are at Pond Spring and the Army will soon start on another campaign soon. All regiments in the 23 A.C. who have not 60 days to remain in the service are going to be sent back immediately. Old Stanley is a rascal, or he would send us back.

Orders have come to let Kentucky regiments have a vote in the Presidential Election. Wonder if we Tennesseeans will be allowed a vote. Think we should, as though we had been in the state three years, but I expect we are too _____.

Monday, October 24th - Clear and warm. Rumors all blasted and orders to set up a regular camp. Ain't it strange, at least 25 miles from the railroad at the nearest point, and not in the vicinity of any important town or crossing. But Sherman's program is always strange till after the explanation.

Col. Cram went to headquarters today to see about going to the rear. Gen. Stanley promised to go and see Sherman and

Pshaw! I do hate such conduct, but I can't help it. Yet I will have to endure, as not a man of Co. B is the least foxy and are conducting themselves well, generally. Guess we will be sure to go tomorrow.

Wednesday, November 23rd - A little warmer than yesterday but still windy and bad. Get on the train and make a start about 12:00 noon and travel on slowly, arriving at Columbia about 4:00 p.m. and get off, but get on again about 9:00 p.m. A little better situated than before, all getting inside this time, and go to Nashville about 2:00 p.m.

The boys are getting in a little better spirits and seem to hope strongly for good times soon. Our mode of traveling has been very rough, but then "going to the rear" is the good thing of it.

Time will soon be out and we will have to remain in some days after the expiration of our time as it will be impossible to straighten everything now before the 26th.

Thursday, November 24th - Warmer than yesterday. Get to the Zollincoffer barracks about sunrise and find it a very disagreeable place to rest at, but think we will go away this evening.

Get an order at 12:00 noon that every man must remain to the end of his time, even if it is only one day. Looks hard. I have to leave three of my company who have only three days to serve.

Six court-martialed men have to remain and altogether it amounts to a pretty big thing. Some of them bear it like men, and others cannot be pacified at all. I am sorry for them all. They must be transferred to the 25th Ky. V.I. and will probably see a great deal of hard service yet, hard but strictly just. Leave Nashville at 6:00 p.m. in good cars, stoves, etc.

Friday, November 25th - Cool and cloudy. On the road all last night, making very sorry time and don't arrive at Louisville till about 2:00 p.m. when we get off and march to Gaycon Barracks where we find very comfortable quarters, but some of the boys have the little sense to act up because "negro soldiers" are quartered in the same room, but the Colonel promptly interferes and puts one man under guard and lets all know what to depend upon "right". I cannot see the cause to complain and as a general thing, those that would be nearest equal to the negro are the ones that make the most noise. The negroes are very peaceably disposed and conduct themselves as properly as anyone.

Officers have to walk all the way to town to procure rations and must board at the hotels at least one and one-half miles

away, but never mind.

Saturday, November 26th - Cloudy and cool. The long-expected day has at length arrived and I feel so thankful to my dear maker that I have been spared to live through the whole of the tour and am now blessed with good health and privileges.

Get orders that those of my men who were left at Nashville can be mustered out and Lt. Barteloff will start to Nashville in the morning to bring them and others up. Do not get straightened out to work today, and will not now till Monday, but then we will go to work to get the men mustered out immediately, and we will have to remain here for near one month to get our matters settled.

Go to Woods Theater and stay all night at Lt. _____'s Hotel where good fare and lodging. The world moves.

Sunday, November 27th - Cool and cloudy. No work today, but will commence tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. office hours ha! ha! ha!

Lounge around the city and spend all the money I can and finally put up at Wood's Tavern for one week.

Am very much puzzled as to what course I shall pursue in the future after being mustered out. When I consider my age, it almost shakes my resolution in regard to going to school, and I am not at all learned enough to battle my way through life in the sphere that I desire to, but probably I am too aspiring for one of my figures. But I will make something of myself or make a positive failure.

God help me to be useful to mankind.

Monday, November 28th - Cool and cloudy. Heave-to at muster-out rolls, but do not get one out in the whole day, and go to my room at night feeling very much wool-gathered and having a decided antipathy to making out muster-out rolls.

But the impatience of the men bothers me more than anything else. If we could get them out, I would not care how long I would stay there.

Go to the theatre tonight and see the beautiful _____face and Newton Alliance perform the romance of "Much Ado About Nothing."

Run out nearly - pocket getting empty and mind bothered with so much currying and flurrying. Oh, if I would get into business here for awhile and then go to school. Kendall has acted the hunk with me.

Tuesday, November 29th - Clear and warm. _____ a muster roll _____ and now have to wait till it is examined and that will take another day, and then if it is wrong, won't there be squirming. But never mind, "we ain't at the front."

Theatre again tonight and will all the time till I get away from the city and I hope that may be soon. Since my time is so near out, I feel a kind of loathfulness to going out of the service and almost a desire to remain in awhile longer.

When I think of going home among the guerillas, and worse than all that, country where education and refinement never has encouragement it makes me feel -- no, not sad, but almost. Home drowns the sad feeling, and I rejoice in the thought of relations and friends.

Wednesday, November 30th - Cloudy and rainy. The muster-rolls returned and pronounced all right, and now we will have to lay to it till we get through six rolls to make out. Won't it be a heavy job? Go to the theatre again and cannot express one-tenth just of my admiration for Miss Kate Newton. She is beautiful. She is lively. She is intelligent for she plays her parts with a chill that calls forth the unequalled applause of the thousands that nightly go to see her performances and I_____.

Hood is a closing fearfully near Thomas down in Tennessee and I expect they will have some warm time down there soon. Oh, did we not get out in good time? I pity the poor soldiers that will have to be marching and fighting, all through the cold winter.

Thursday, December 1st - Warm and clear. Work away at our rolls and get along finely. Rumored that the 10th Ky. will be mustered out Saturday and Monday and then comes our turn. Men are getting very impatient. By some means they got into a fuss with the negro soldiers, or rather with their officers which ended in a fight and one of our regiment being confined in the guard house. But the excitement is finally quelled and quiet is restored.

Hood and Schofield have had a heavy battle near Franklin, which ended in a severe repulse of the Rebels and the victory of our troops who are coming to Nashville, and that, I fear, will leave our country exposed to the enemy's cavalry, and especially the guerillas will be troublesome. But I hope we may enjoy ourselves a little more greatly than is generally expected.

Friday, December 2nd - Warm and clear. Going ahead at our rolls and will soon have them completed and then you may listen for Heigh Ho! Ain't I glad?

I am spending money with a speed that promises me that my

pocket will soon be empty, but when I have a desire for anything, I have not the fervor to resist possessing it, and the lack of means only stimulates my exertion to possess the coveted treasure and increase the ardency of my wishes ten-fold.

The boys are growing very impatient and are also not doing very well in the line of battle in the barracks. All are taking coughs, wheezes and sneezes and anything almost seems now to be concentrating upon them to make them disagreeable.

Saturday, December 3rd - Warm and clear. Rolls nearly completed, as some are done, but as I have no assistance I will, of course, be behind but never mind, I will be somewhere in the ring.

The Tenth is not mustered out yet and consequently there is no telling when our time may come, for as they arrived here first their turn is first.

I go to the theatre (Woods) every night and my admiration of Miss Kate might almost be construed into something else. Heigh ho!

I am charmed with very pretty women that I behold and I fear sometimes that I never can love one woman as I should do to insure the happiness I thirst for. Love's true happiness, the star of my hopes.

Sunday, December 4th - Clear and warm. Finish my rolls today if it is Sabbath to insure no stoppages on my part, and now I await the action of the mustering officer. Not, however, without some misgivings as to the result of a close examination, but I think maybe mine are all right.

Stroll about the city, my mind racked with the many notions that fill my head as to what I shall do next. I know what I would quickly do if I could, but alas! I am poor, but if I find it possible I shall make it my first duty to acquire an education and then I will be prepared for anything of the common line of business. Hurrah for hurrah!

Monday, December 5th - Clear and cool. Stroll around town, going to a gallery and setting for some photographs levy $12.00 for 3 dozen and so on. Nothing to do now and I am so restive. Not that I am very industrious, but when I am at leisure, it gives me more time to study over my troublesome prospects and not how embarrassing are my circumstances for a future career of usefulness.

But I still my mind with all the ardor I possess. I sometimes shudder at how careless I am becoming of religion and know that if I would but put my trust in God and desire justice that it would certainly be granted.

Tuesday, December 6th - Cool and cloudy. Stroll around again today. Also make up blank discharge and prepare for final settlements. Find a possible mistake in ordinance receipts which frustrates my intention of making out my ordinance return today.

This making final settlements and procuring a certificate of non-indebtedness is going to be a shaggy business and I fear will end in a difficulty about procuring pay. I shall try to settle my business without hiring an attorney, and that will be a test of my powers as a business man in which I wish to be at least common, if I cannot excel.

Wednesday, December 7th - Cloudy and warm. Stroll around most of the day. Nothing to do and to say waiting with much impatience for the time when my muster rolls can be examined and compared. Rather fear for the result for they are very dirty and hurriedly written, but that will be the only fault.

The news from Nashville is of great _____ importance. No uneasiness about the situation there and think it all right there. Boys are getting wound up to the highest pitch of impatience, and I am asked at least 100 times per day "when will we get out?" I am getting tired of going about the regiment.

Thursday, December 8th - Clear and exceedingly cool. Quite an excitement among the citizens today concerning the impressment of horses. Orders press all horses that have not the brand U.S. on them.

Rumor: Forrest is within 10 miles of Bowling Green, Ky., and 15,000 men. Everything stirring.

Carry my rolls up today and have them examined and by making a few corrections they will be all right. Seven companies are condemned and have to be made over and, of course, I am all right. Now you may think there is some splurging around here and I don't wonder. Men are just a rearing!

Friday, December 9th - Cloudy and snowing rapidly in the evening. Come! my rolls! But do not get them compared, but will early tomorrow.

Nothing to do again but when I am at leisure it gives me more time to be apprehensive of whether I will get out clear pecuniarily or not.

Well, Well! Just so I get out that will do, and then I can look out for myself and see if I can make my way through successfully, according to my desires.

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Saturday, December 10th - Cloudy and cool. Get my roles compared today and have the consolation of knowing they are

all right, except that the writing is not legible enough and am informed that "I must make them out again". Well, I will work by a shorter plan this time and get through sooner than before. I am now almost afraid to go to the barracks till I get them made again, but every other officer has to do the same thing and that, of course, makes it lighter.

See Miss Kate Newton make her last performance tonight and I do feel queer at the thought of not seeing her any more. She is a pretty girl, a good girl, I believe. Oh, W ____ Ha! Ha! Ha! What do I mean by such thoughts?

Sunday, December 11th - Clear and exceedingly cool. Work heavy all day and till 10:00 at night on my rolls, but get along slowly for I am taking pains and am determined to have them right.

Monday, December 12th - Clear and warmer. Don't get my rolls quite done today, but near enough to consider them safe, and I go to the theatre tonight, but it is such a dull thing now since Miss Kate is gone. Heigh Ho!

Tuesday, December 13th - Cloudy and warmer. A general thaw. Get my rolls completed and compared and passed all right. Man, you had better guess I feel good on the subject! Think we will be mustered out the 15th anyway.

Wednesday, December 14th - Clear and cool. Scrape up scattering business today preparatory to being mustered out tomorrow. Oh, won't it feel so queer to be called citizens, but I guess I can stand it - howsomever I am apprehensive of my safety in regard to guerillas when I get home.

Thursday, December 15th - Cloudy and rainy and unduly _____. The charm is broken! The die is cast! and nowhere is 9th Ky. in the Army of the United States and TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, know ye that W. M. Woodcock is a citizen of the United States. I don't feel the great amount of relief that I once thought I would, but somehow I almost feel a pang at parting with the service. I think of the many warm attachments I have made; of the many friends with which I am parting, and that I will never see them all together again. And I think of my country _____ and of the claims that it still has on my services, and at this thought a shudder passes through my mind to see the old 9th, the pride of her General Command, on leaving the service, but she has done her duty. Nobly has she stood up and done battle against the traitors to save her country.

I feel that I have acquitted myself and that I have done justice to my grandfathers, both of whom were soldiers in the War of 1812, and now I leave the service to stop the personal sacrifice I am making, but if my country again demands my services, expect to find me again in the army shouldering a

musket for a beginning and putting myself forward as a soldier of fortune.

Friday, December 16th - Rainy and muddy and very disagreeable. Carry the payrolls to Maj. Pierce, Paymaster, U.S.A., and now await his ready to pay.

Leisure today and stroll around looking for a place where I may get into business, but I can't find one easily, as I thought. I believe that when one starts out without recommendation, it is a hard go anyway, but I am willing to risk my fate upon my own resources, and if I fail, I am nothing.

I am now growing very impatient to start home and will not probably get off before Tuesday. Oh, I will get to see my good mother and then won't I be so glad. God has been so good to carry me through 3 bloody years and finally to bring me home safe and sound.

Saturday, December 17th - Rainy and nasty. Very busy all day and tonight I feel as tired as I used to when I marched 20 miles. Have all the men from the barracks and our camp and garrison equippage and oh, I am beginning to feel so free.

Get the news this evening that we will be paid off tomorrow and then we will let off for home and make glad our dear relatives and friends by our presence again. Ho, I think I shall fail to get into business here, but what then? I can work and there is a high price for that.

Sunday, December 18th - Cool, cloudy and mizzling rain. I go to church today and hear a very edifying sermon by a Baptist Divine and upon the whole feel much benefitted by the occasion. Nothing else of interest today.

Have good news from Gen. Thomas who seems to be putting Gen. Hood through on a grand scale and now all the apprehension for the safety of Louisville are vanished.

Monday, December 19th - Troops paid off today and a general jubilee you may think, but have a nice time. Buy tickets for my company and tomorrow away we will go for the south, and for home. Sweet home. I feel an involuntary reluctance to leaving the service bad as it is.

My mind wanders back to the bloody fields of the south and the weary roads of our marches with a kind of yearning for these scenes again. I am now separated from as brave, generous and gentlemanly band of man as it is ever my desire to meet up with.

I am not only attached to them by the ties that the long companionship of three years will create, but by the

remembrance of the trying scenes through which we have passed and in which I have always found them to be men of sterling valor and unflinching integrity. Never will I see again all of those dear friends from whom I will separate tomorrow, yet the time will be when I can meet many, and I hope all of them in a country free from the strifes of this old Earth.

Our Noble Colonel seems to be loathe to separate from us. The circumstances do not favor a formal separation, and consequently we must take leave of him singly, but not with any less affection for him.

Tuesday, December 20th - Cold and clear. Special train for our regiment this morning, but on account of the slothfulness of the ominous company we do not go (i.e., about a dozen of us) and therefore must repair again to the St. Cloud and await our chances on the morrow, which will be rather bad as the trains now are very much crowded.

Sport around all day and go to the theatre at night. Devising, it seems, every means to spend money! Oh! I can take care of money worse than any person I ever saw. It seems that I am a perfect spendthrift and I don't see what I spend for, either, but let it go. I was not in the service to make money, but to serve my country. Now I am upon the world and am ready for all to criticize and be criticized.

Wednesday, December 21st - Go to the depot early but the trains are so crowded that I fail to get off, yet I must consider myself lucky as the trains only went near the tunnel and then had to return on account of the wreck of cars that were on the track there.

Snowed last night and is excessively cold today, but never mind, I will get home in a few days, I think, and then I can set by the blazing wood fire of old father and tell my stories of war and suffering.

From some cause or other I cannot feel a contentedness of mind that I have been so long accustomed to. I look upon merry faces and bright eyes so indicative of light hearts and almost envy the happiness of the owners.

Thursday, December 22nd - Clear and excessively cold. I got on the train this morning, but leave part of my baggage. I gave it to Monkey on last night and could not find him on this morning. Get along slowly, a trickle, occasionally running off the track till we arrive at the tunnel after which we get along tolerably well, but do not arrive at Cave City till 4:00 p.m. where we put up at the hotel as the stage for Glasgow has already gone out. If I don't watch it will be Christmas yet before I get home. Oh, but I begin to feel so glad and so thankful to the Great Ruler of our Destinies.

Friday, December 23rd - Clear and cold. Have to remain at Cave City till about 2:00 when we start for Glasgow, our baggage being so heavy that we have to walk a greater portion of the way. Arrive in Glasgow about dark and put up at the Glasgow House, kept by a Rebel sympathizer, but is, I believe, a very clever man and we are very well treated. Our boys that came through here Tuesday and Wednesday have left a great character behind them and I shall consider it a lifelong honor to me to be able to say that I was of the 9th Ky. V.I.

Saturday, December 24th - Clear and cold. Just as I was getting out of the bed a boy came running upstairs to my room and said that a company of soldiers had just arrived in town and that he believed that they were guerillas and then we were all bustle till we got ready for fight, and then take our stations (7 of us) with five revolvers (Colts pistols and one Henry Rifle). But we are confident as there are only 20 of the guerillas and they are straggling all about the streets and if they are disposed to fight we will go into them. They do not know of us for three hours, and then they threaten to burn the town or have us, but the citizens interfere and a parley is agreed upon between Capt. Harling on our part and Capt. Bates of the guerilla squad, which results in an agreement for them to leave the town forthwith and for us to stay as long as we choose and they immediately mount and leave. We remain till afternoon and then set out for home and that night I arrive at Capt. Simmon's father and remain all night, walking a greater part of the way from Glasgow, but got my baggage hauled.

CHRISTMAS DAY - Cloudy and warm. Arrive at home and find my folks all well and, of course, glad to see the "super boy" that has been gone to the wars. Oh, may I be thankful to the Divine Ruler that has been so merciful as to spare me through these long and bloody three years that I have been trying to serve my country!