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# HISTORY

OF THE

## One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth

REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,

CONTAINING THE

MARCHES, EVENTS AND BATTLES OF THE ARMY COMMANDED  
BY GEN. SHERMAN, FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF  
THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ATLANTA, GEORGIA,  
TO THE ARRIVAL AT WASHINGTON, D. C. ;

ALSO,

THE RETURN OF THE REGIMENT FROM WASHINGTON TO  
CHICAGO, ILLS., AND EVENTS ON THE  
ROUTE AND IN CHICAGO, .

BY

WILLIAM GRUNERT.

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WINCHESTER, ILL.

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1866.

# PROCLAMATION

1862

Whereas the President of the United States has received from the Congress of the United States the following resolution, to-wit:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in all cases where, in his judgment, the public safety requires it.

And whereas the President of the United States has deemed it expedient to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in all cases where, in his judgment, the public safety requires it, he has caused the following order to be issued:

That the writ of habeas corpus be and it is hereby suspended in all cases where, in his judgment, the public safety requires it.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Witness my hand and the seal of the Office of the President of the United States at Washington, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1862.

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## HISTORY OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH.

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President LINCOLN had scarcely issued his call for three hundred thousand volunteers in the year 1861, when the loyal hearts of the inhabitants of Scott county, Illinois, were moved and filled with enthusiasm. Every one that could leave his loved ones hastened to be mustered in, thinking that his country needed his services in the pending danger more than father, mother, wife or children. The love of country caused the farmer to leave his plow, the mechanic to change his implements of peace with implements of war, to take part in the great work of suppressing the rebellion. Many of our friends and acquaintances had set a good example and gone to the field of battle before us; many had already shed their blood in the defence of the country, while others were lying ill in the hospitals. It was the duty of every loyal, upright man to assist in saving the country from ruin, and in consequence of the call of the President for volunteers, a company was raised and organized under the care of the later Col. HENRY CASE, in Winchester, Scott Co., Ill., in July, 1862. In a few days the company was full, nevertheless more volunteers came and offered their services. During the same month a second company was raised by Captain (later Lieut. Colonel) THOMAS H. FLYNN. On the 5th day of August, 1862, we left our homes and friends and dear ones, for how long a period no one could tell, to command a halt to the enemy that grew bolder and more daring every day. Early in the morning of the above day we entered the wagons of our friends who wished to do

this last act of kindness and bring us to the next railroad station. It is almost needless to say, that tears glistened in many eyes when the parting farewell was said! At noon, on the 5th of August, we reached Jacksonville, and after the last friends had bid us adieu and wished us a speedy and safe return, cheers were given, hats waved and the locomotive steamed with us towards the State Capital, Springfield. There we remained until 9 o'clock, P. M., when we again entered a train of open cars, while a heavy drenching rain saturated every thread of our clothing, and a few hours before daybreak on the 6th of August we reached Pontiac, Ill., where we went into camp. The next day was also a rainy one, and our barracks offered us but very poor shelter. As a matter of course, this new mode of life did not suit us exactly, until we became more accustomed to it. Bad as our barracks were, we began to be satisfied with them, after we had stood guard for several hours, and wind and rain made this part of the service rather unpleasant. When not on guard, we went to town, after procuring a pass, where we were well received and kindly treated by the citizens. A company of volunteers was also being organized here, which afterwards became the first company of our regiment. Three weeks passed quickly, during which time we did guard duty with clubs. By this time the requisite number of ten companies for the regiment were full and had arrived, and now we received uniforms and muskets and the drilling was done with more exactness. On the 8th of September we were sworn in for three years, unless sooner discharged, and received two months' pay in advance and twenty-five dollars bounty; after which we moved nearer to the enemy's country. The "iron horse" brought the 129th Illinois volunteer regiment to Jeffersonville, Ind. The regimental officers were Col. SMITH, Lt. Col. HENRY CASE, and Maj. CROSEY. Here we remained a short time after our arrival, and then crossed the Ohio river to Louisville, Ky. This

was at the time when BRAGG threatened Louisville, and was only a few miles distant. When one day some cannon shots were heard, we supposed the enemy was making an attack, our camp was alarmed and the regiment posted into line—but no enemy appeared.

We had been in camp near Louisville two weeks, done guard duty and improved in drilling, when one morning at 3 o'clock we were ordered to "fall in" line of battle. We were told to be ready at a moment's notice, though the day of our march had not been fixed. We were of course all very anxious to know the time and direction of our march or "tramp," but could get no positive information. So we packed up our knapsacks every day anew, in order to leave nothing behind, until finally some had such a heavy load that it was an impossibility for them to march, much less run after the flying rebels. On the first day of marching, blankets, overcoats, socks, &c., &c., were thrown away in all directions and the knapsacks lightened. The day for our departure had come at last. On the 3d of October, 1862, we turned our backs to the city of Louisville, after having received sixty cartridges, and after many a "parting bumper" had been taken. The sun was tremendously hot, and as the water in our canteens gave out, no springs or creeks on our way, the knapsacks overloaded and heavy, it may be imagined that this our first day's "tramp" was anything but pleasant. The sun had long departed and it was dark, and yet we were on our march toward Shelbyville, Ky. Every one that was with us this night, will never forget the scene when by the light of the moon a small spring, half dry, was discovered close by the road. The confusion that followed this discovery is indescribable. Every body rushed to the water, quenched his thirst and returned to his former place—no company there—the different companies were completely intermingled—from all sides the cry: "Where is my company?"

was heard—the officers sought their men, and the men their officers. The officers strove in vain to bring some order in this confused mass of human beings, until some of the men, tired and worn out, threw themselves down on the ground to rest and sleep, despite the entreaties and commands of the company officers. The part of the regiment not so tired followed the officers, and when we halted at two o'clock, near a small creek, I counted not more than eight of my company. Although we were hungry, we were too tired and worn out to cook anything, but stretched ourselves on the ground and were soon asleep.

*October 4th, 1862.* Before sunrise a good many of the sleepers left behind had rejoined us. Some of my comrades, hungry as they were, shot a hog in a corn field close by, cut a few slices off and roasted them over the camp-fires on bayonets or sticks of wood. We missed the necessary salt very much. Many had just arisen from their sleep, when the signal was given to fall in, and many had to march the second day also with an empty stomach. This day's march was, nevertheless, not as severe on the men as the day before, and there were less sore feet. We had to march only thirteen miles this day, and reached Shelbyville, Ky., long before sunset, where we went into camp and remained until the seventh of October.

*October 7th, 1862* The bugle called us up rather early and we were told, that a march of twenty-two miles would be our day's work. We were all right again and the tramp was not so hard, although several sick members of the regiment had to be left in Shelbyville. Evening approached, but as on the third, there were no prospects of going into camp. We were told that the enemy was at Frankfort, Ky., and that we would have to reach that city before morning yet. The whole column moved along silently, and without a word being spoken, resting a little now and then, until midnight, when we rested



two hours near a small creek. Those two hours seemed to us to be but as many minutes, and scarcely had we closed our eyes, when the command to "fall in," tore us from our slumber. No march has ever been so tiring to me as this one, being hardly able to remain in the column. Many of the men left the column and laid down by the road to sleep and rest.

*October 8th.* Before day-break we had reached Frankfort, the Capital of Kentucky, but too late nevertheless, as the enemy had fled. Our advance guard of cavalry had a skirmish with the enemy at the bridge over the Kentucky river, while the latter were endeavoring to demolish the bridge. The enemy had to flee with the loss of several wounded and killed. Blood-spots were to be seen on the walls of a house up to nearly eight feet from the ground, where some wounded rebel had laid his bleeding hands. The enemy had been successful in destroying part of the bridge, and we had to remain on the other side of the river until the repairs could be made. This was done a few hours after sunrise, and, marching over the bridge, we saw three of our killed cavalymen lying there; several wounded had been brought to the hospital. We remained upon our arrival in the city on the streets, where part of the men laid down on the hard pavement, another part prepared breakfast, and a third went to the citizens for something to eat. The sun was scorchingly hot, and it was with the greatest difficulty that some of the men, when the bugler blew forward, could be brought to move, and kept in line. We did not march but a mile south of town, where we were stationed as guard on a high hill to protect some guns stationed there. After we had rid ourselves of our knapsacks and muskets, most of the men went to the river to bathe and cool and refresh the aching and worn out limbs. We were enjoying ourselves finely, when the report of a cannon and the buglers called us under arms again. We were posted in line of battle and were expecting an

attack from the enemy; but in vain, no enemy appeared. Near Frankfort we remained for three days, but on

*October 11th*, the tramp commenced again; nothing of importance, however, appeared until

*October 13th*. It was some time after sunset, when we arrived near the small town of Rough and Ready, with a large force of rebels but a short distance from our front. As we were unacquainted with the country and the night a very dark one, it was impossible for us to move on, and we remained in front of the town on the road, where every one made himself as comfortable a resting place as the road would permit. Early on

*October 14th*, we were awakened and commanded to get ready for a move; what this new move was to be no one knew or could find out just then. We soon found out that we were reconnoitering and were marching with great caution several miles east of the town, when the command to load was given, after which we again moved forward very quietly and with great caution. Finally we found tracks of the rebels, who appeared to have been a whole brigade of cavalry, as in every fence corner the leavings of the horse fodder were seen. The rebels had fled on hearing of our approach. We advanced about five miles from Rough and Ready, when the pursuit was given up. After having partaken of a scanty breakfast, consisting of coffee, pork and crackers, we returned to the city, where we remained during the day.

*October 15th*. We were aroused at four o'clock in the morning, and after marching ten miles reached Lawrenceburg, where we encamped.

*October 16*. After another march of ten miles we reached Harrodsburg and camped.

*October 17*. We reached Danville, after having marched twenty miles, where we pitched our tents.

*October 18*. A march of fifteen miles brought us

to the town of Harrisport, where we remained over night.

*October 19.* We struck tents at eight o'clock A. M., and reached Crab Orchard after having marched twenty miles. The place assigned us for camp ground was so covered with briars and brush, that we had to cut these before we could commence to pitch tents. We took some corn stalks from a cornfield close by, belonging to an arch rebel, for which crime (thanks to our contemptible General) we had to drill for two hours with knapsacks. Here we remained for eight days, when we received marching orders for Lebanon. As I cared but little for keeping a diary from here, I cannot give the exact date of our departure from Crab Orchard. Our march to Lebanon brought us again to Danville, thence to Harrodsburg, where we camped. When the sun arose the next morning, we were already on the march which we continued until we had reached Danville and the sun disappeared. As there was not water enough for the horses and men, we were compelled to march five miles further to a creek. Hundreds of the men did not reach the creek on account of being too tired and having sore feet. The road from Danville to the creek was covered with stragglers and sick soldiers, while in every fence corner one or more sleepers could be seen. Myself and my comrades H. D. and H. F. belonged to the worn-out men, and without thinking of supper, stretched ourselves in the cool grass of a meadow to sleep, and let the others who chose to endeavor to follow their officers in order to get to the creek.

The next morning, after taking coffee, pork and crackers, we packed our "things," and went towards the creek in search of our regiment. The regiment, however, had left, and we were compelled to continue the march alone. We reached the regiment just after the dinner was over, and had scarcely taken our places, when the order to move on was given. We reached Perryville after a march of eight miles at five

o'clock P. M., and went into camp. But a few days had passed after the battle between BRAGG'S and BUELL'S command, and this was the first battle-field we had ever seen. The houses were riddled by bullets and inhabited or rather filled with the wounded of both armies. The inhabitants were gone, either to the rebel or to the Union army. The dead had been interred but lightly, and here and there a leg or hand was protruding out the ground, or lying unburied. The devastating effects of war were but too plainly to be seen. Here we remained but one night, and continued our march early the next morning. Despite the stony and sandy road, that frequently led through the bottom of a creek, we made twenty-four miles that day, and camped only a few miles from Lebanon. As our place of destination was Lebanon, we commenced our march the next day later than usual and reached Lebanon about noon. I had kept my diary very accurately till now, but lost all pleasure in its continuation in consequence of the hardships we passed through. The wish to continue the diary, arose again on Christmas, 1863, and from there I did not stop with it until my safe return home. If I remember right, we remained at Lebanon but one or two days, when we were ordered to Bowling Green, Ky. Here we were for some time, and at one time Gen. ROSECRAN'S held review. Our time was spent in drilling and doing guard duty. We were then ordered to Mitchellsville, Tennessee, where we also remained a longer period, until part of the regiment was ordered to Buck's Lodge, a station on the Louisville-Nashville Railroad. Our chief duty now was to keep the rebels and guerrillas from the road between Gallatin and Mitchellsville, which we did with a good will. The hiding places of the guerrillas were soon known to us, and no accidents happened on that part of the road under our control, as long as we remained there. The guerrillas were completely powerless. We did not see anything of them until Christmas

1863. This was at the time when the two great armies under Rosecrans and Bragg were confronting each other at Murfreesboro, Tenn., and fighting the battle on Stone River. In times when the great armies were lying idle, the bushwhackers generally remained quiet, but were very troublesome when these were making some move or fighting, in order to prevent the transportation of provisions, ammunition, etc. But all their efforts were of no avail. As mentioned above, the 129th Ills. regt. was stationed at Buck's Lodge, six miles above Gallatin, at a water tank of the Louisville-Nashville Railroad, when we heard of the approach of a strong band of guerrillas, whose object seemed to be to steal on us, attack us suddenly and then destroy the road, bridges, water tanks, etc. But our officers and men were on the alert. Christmas night, when the news came that the neighborhood was full of rebels, we were under arms. The guards were reinforced and instructed to keep quiet, strong patrols went up and down the road, while the balance of the regiment was under arms in camp. From 2 o'clock until sunrise we waited and watched patiently, a grave-like silence reigned, but no enemy appeared. As the danger seemed past, we stacked arms to satisfy the cravings of our stomachs by a hearty breakfast. Great prudence was nevertheless necessary, and the men were allowed to leave the camp only in large numbers. Several companies were now sent to Fountain Head, several miles north of us, where they did guard duty for some time, while we spent our time in drilling and trench work. Sometimes we would scour the neighborhood in search of guerrillas and forage "for man and beast."

The bi-monthly muster and review took place on the 31st of December, 1863.

*January 1, 1864.* The day was beautiful. We were busy digging trenches. The trains had come very irregular and for several days no mail had arrived. Nothing of importance happened until the 3d of Jan-

uary, when two trains ran into each other near our camp. Both trains came from Louisville, and the first had been delayed. The locomotive of the last train was totally destroyed, several cars were smashed to pieces and two persons badly wounded.

*January 5th.* I was on picket duty; the day was very pleasant. We received good news from the army of the Potomac. The next day passed without anything of importance.

*January 7th.* The day was clear and pleasantly cold. Myself and several comrades went several miles from camp, where we found a German family, the first in the neighborhood. We were well received and kindly treated. In the afternoon we worked on the trenches.

*January 8th.* I was again on picket duty on this cold and rainy day. My place was in a deep hollow near the railroad. The night was dark, and rain and snow coming down in an unpleasant way.

*January 9th.* Two members of our company, JORDAN H. WHITEHURST and JOHN MIKLES died today. Three trains with rebel prisoners passed north. A rebel captain was brought in a prisoner by our scouts. The night was very rainy.

*January 10, 1863.* The whole day was rainy and cold.

*January 11, 1863.* The day was very cold and I had the pleasure of doing picket duty.

*January 12, 1863.* Another cold day—everything was very quiet. We received a very large mail.

*January 13, 1863.* A negro that had been shot by his master, but not fatally wounded, came to us and offered his services, "to live and die with us," he said. Several companies had to go to Buck's Lodge to reinforce the part of the regiment stationed there.

*January 14, 1863.* I was again doing picket duty. The morning was very rainy, and turned afterwards to snowing and became so cold that I could hardly move a limb.

*January 15, 1863.* A snow of five inches, accom-



panied by great cold fell. On arising we found our blankets frozen tight to the ground and covered with sleet. It is hardly necessary to say that we froze very much.

*January 16, 1863.* Despite the chilling blast and snow I had to stand guard, but as permission had been given to kindle a fire, I liked the day better than the day before in camp. A number of volunteers were demanded to-day to go in search of a gang of guerrillas. They left the camp in the evening.

*January 17.* The cold weather continued. The road was out of order and no trains passed. A company was ordered to go in search of the volunteers that went on a guerrilla hunt. We had heard nothing from them since they left. Both detachments soon returned, without having seen a trace of the enemy.

*January 18.* A strong detail was sent out foraging with wagons and returned well loaded before nightfall.

*January 19.* The unpleasant duty of standing guard in a very heavy rain was my lot to-day, and wet to the skin I returned to camp the next morning.

*January 20.* Another cold day; all quiet in camp.

*January 21.* Since standing guard the last time I felt sick and broken down in consequence of getting wet. A friend thought I would have to go to the hospital.

*January 22.* I felt decidedly better to-day, well enough to go along with a foraging party. The negro mentioned above, shot by his master, was our guide, and led us immediately to the house of his (former) master, where we confiscated everything that we could use. The negro took a couple of blankets along, and under his lead we returned with our well loaded wagons towards evening into camp.

*January 23.* Although not entirely well, I went

on picket duty again. Three men of Morgan's command surrendered to-day. Fifteen men on horseback, under command of our (then) Colonel SMITH scoured the country in order to confiscate all serviceable horses of the rebels. Part of our regiment was to be mounted to clear the surrounding country of rebels.

*January 24.* We received another mail to-day and the trains are running regular again. We had much fun to-day and spent the time with music and singing until we went to bed.

*January 25.* The day was rainy; nevertheless we were inspected by a staff officer of Gen. WARD, and our drill and general looks were perfectly satisfactory to Col. SMITH, as well as to the inspecting officer. This satisfaction was a hint that we were sufficiently posted in tactics and rules of warfare to be sent to the front.

*January 26.* In the forenoon we received firewood for a couple of days. In the afternoon I was detailed with several others to guard some female prisoners, among them the wife of the noted and feared guerrilla chief PETTICORD, in a neighboring house. It rained hard the whole day.

*January 27.* News was received that a large quantity of salt was to be smuggled by the rebels close by, and a number of men, among which myself, under command of Capt. FLYNN and Lieutenant HALDEMAN were ordered to capture it. All mounted, and with a faithful guide, we left camp immediately after breakfast, and rode in full gallop to our place of destination. Evening came, and we were yet without any positive information of the whereabouts of the smuggler. As night came on and we were unacquainted with the country, we resolved to go to a neighboring mill for information and then seek a shelter for the night. The mill was not far from Franklin, Ky., and soon reached. But unfortunately we were separated from it by a creek



very high in consequence of the heavy rains and over which no bridge could lead us to the mill. To swim through seemed impossible and too hazardous. The miller was called, and asked about the narrowest and shoalest place of the creek. The place was shown us, but the miller thought that the current would be too strong for us to cross. The feeling of finding our reward in the mill, however, overpowered every other consideration. Lieutenant HALDEMAN kneeled on his horse, led it to the water, and although only after great exertions and danger, the horse reached the other side of the creek. We followed the example, fastened our muskets and cartridge-boxes around our necks as well as we could, so they could not get wet, and in a few minutes joined our lieutenant on the other side of the creek. The mill and neighboring houses were thoroughly searched, but all labor was in vain; our swim through the creek had been for nought and we were obliged to swim the creek another time, in order to find a shelter for the night and to attend to our jaded horses. The sun had long disappeared, darkness reigned everywhere, and the cold had given the ground a hard surface. As we all got more or less wet, it may be imagined that our situation on horseback was not a very enviable one. We would rather have camped in the bushes close by, but our commander, Capt. FLYNN, would not listen to such a proposition, until about ten o'clock we reached a well filled corn crib and a large farm-house. The inhabitants were at first very much frightened at this armed visit at night, but were soon pacified on being told whence we came and what our object was. A couple of negroes took charge of our horses, after which we went to the house, where shortly after we were invited to a substantial supper. After supper beds were prepared and guards posted. The beds we refused, because our clothes were too wet, and because it was not advisable to "strip." We laid

down around a roaring chimney fire on the floor of a room, where we slept soundly the next morning, better than in a feather bed.

*January 28.* Before daybreak we were up again, and after having taken a substantial breakfast and our horses a sufficient quantity of corn and hay, we intended to confiscate horses in the neighborhood, doubting the successful accomplishment of the object of our expedition, the capture of the salt smugglers. The horses were completely worn out, and the horses of the neighboring farmers were not much better, the good ones having been confiscated already. We determined to send three men back to the camp, over twenty miles distant, and fetch fresh horses. At this moment we heard the noise of galloping horses and our guards cry "halt." Our frightened commander gathered his small and scattered force as quickly as possible, when several "blue jackets" hastily rode up and made ready for firing. The officer of the party now demanded of us who we were and what we were after. Satisfactory answers having been given, we learned that we had been pursued by Union troops. The miller, to whom we had paid a visit the night before, had immediately after our departure sent word to the commanding officer of the Union troops at Franklin, that what he supposed to be a fact, "guerillas in Union uniforms had been at his mill." This officer immediately sent half a regiment of cavalry in our pursuit. This mutual explanation caused a good deal of merriment, and the cavalry returned to Franklin, while three of our men returned to the camp. The others scoured the country for horses, and succeeded in finding and bringing away eleven very fine horses.

*January 29.* A detail was sent to Gallatin, Tenn., as escort of a train for provisions. The guerrilla chief PETTICORD sent a flag of truce which was admitted into camp, with the following propositions:

1. The return of all property confiscated by our men, to its rightful owner; 2. this done, to surren-

der; 3. in case of refusal of these propositions to prepare to smell powder. The last proposition we were willing to accept. The flag of truce, however, was not allowed to leave the camp again. We received additional ammunition, and towards evening one hundred men on foot and twenty mounted men were sent out to see if there really was danger, while the remainder of the regiment staid in camp under arms. The night passed as peaceably as the former.

*January 30.* Our detail returned without having found a trace of the enemy.

*January 31.* A number of rebel prisoners were sent to Gallatin, Tenn., among them the bearer of PETTICORD'S flag of truce.

*February 1.* The day was rainy, and nothing of importance happened. The general subject of conversation was our pending move, as we had received marching orders the day before.

*February 2.* On arising we received orders to be ready for marching immediately. At 7 o'clock we left the camp at Fountain Head and repaired to the South Tunnel, two miles north of Gallatin, where we arrived at 12 o'clock and went into camp. During the whole day it was very cold.

*February 3.* A better and more suitable place for camping was selected, tents erected, &c. It was very cold.

*February 4.* The day was spent in making the tents more comfortable. I had the honor of standing in the cold on guard. A deep snow fell.

*February 5.* A very cold and snowy day. A messenger from Mitchelsville brought the news that a train with clothes had been attacked by guerrillas, and fifty men were detached to assist the garrison there. The detail were met on the way by a second messenger, who reported that the guerrillas had been compelled to retreat, whereupon our men returned to camp, as it was very cold.

*February 6 and 7.* Everybody that could made the camp and tent more commodious and pleasant.

*February 8.* The whole regiment was busy to-day digging ditches around our camp.

*February 9.* The whole day rain; was on guard.

*February 11.* A beautiful warm day. Two soldiers that were buried near our camp, were disinterred and sent north to their friends. Both corpses were in an advanced stage of putrefaction.

*February 12.* Was sick.

*February 13.* Half sick I went on guard, and reported myself at the doctor sick, when I got worse.

*February 14.* Was sick a-bed until February 23.

*February 23.* Went to do guard duty again for the first time. The corpse of another soldier that had lain two months, was disinterred.

*February 25.* Early in the morning at three o'clock the camp was alarmed, as our pickets had been fired upon. In ten minutes the regiment stood in line of battle, awaiting an attack. It was found out afterwards that a certain captain of our regiment had only tried us, and wishing the disturber of our night's rest all ill, we retired to sleep again. The afternoon brought us a heavy rain, nevertheless we had an inspection of arms.

*February 27.* Was on guard again; in camp the inspection was continued.

*February 28.* The bi-monthly muster took place to-day; in the afternoon we had rain again.

*March 1.* The day was a very beautiful one, nothing of any importance happened.

*March 2.* A company of mounted men were sent off, as we had received news of the notorious guerrilla chief PETTICORD.

*March 3.* During the night the long sought for guerrilla chief PETTICORD was captured and placed under guard. When caught he was at a house in the neighborhood, taking his supper. At the sight of our "boys in blue," he endeavored to escape, and

ran through a back door, away from our men. When a few "blue beans" were sent whistling about his ears, however, he surrendered and begged for life. On his arrival in camp, he became very insolent, but trusty men were placed to guard and soon quieted him.

*March 5.* It was very cold, accompanied by a heavy snow storm.

*March 6.* A rainy day; nevertheless several companies were sent out foraging. This was a rather difficult task to be accomplished in the neighborhood of our camp, and the party had to go about twenty miles with the wagons before they succeeded in getting corn. We got the corn at a large plantation that was well stored and stocked with corn, cattle, &c., and as night was near it was impossible for us to return to camp, but we remained on the plantation. The inhabitants of the house treated us kindly and gave us a hearty supper. The night passed quietly.

*March 7.* Early we went to work to load our wagons, which caused the smiling face of our landlord to change to a very sour and angry one, because we were not satisfied with supper and lodging. The family no doubt considered us very impudent, but such is war; and we did not provoke it. After we had filled about half a dozen wagons with oats and corn, perhaps compelled a hog or chicken to go with us, we started on our return. The day was very rainy and the roads worse than bottomless, and the drivers could with the greatest difficulty only compel the animals to pull. The camp was reached at last about eight o'clock. During the night one of our pickets shot a horse, that did not understand the meaning of the command: "halt," and the picket not being able to see whether the horse was riderless or not.

*March 10.* The day was very rainy.

*March 12.* Myself with several comrades were in the country to get some fresh meat. Our cavalry

captured twenty-six prisoners to-day. We were ordered to sleep on our arms, because it was feared that the friends of PETTICORD intended to pay us a visit. The night passed quietly however.

*March 13.* The prisoners were taken to Gallatin by a guard of honor.

*March 14.* I was on guard; the day was fine.

*March 15.* All our "duds" were inspected minutely and to the satisfaction of the officers.

*March 16.* At the usual battallion drill, during the pause, we laid our arms on the ground, when one gun that was left loaded imprudently, went off and the ball entered the right foot of a sergeant of co. I. The wounded man was taken to the hospital, where the surgeon removed some bone splinters from the wound. The sergeant became forever unfit for duty.

*March 17.* On gaurd to-day; nothing new happened.

*March 19.* The passenger train from Nashville was this evening attacked by a band of guerrillas near Richland station, Tenn., where companies A. and K. of our regiment were stationed. The train was stopped by tearing up the track, while the guerrillas were in bushes near by, and a briggadier general, several colonels, the mail and all goods on the train captured by the enemy. Companies A. and K., however, always on the look out, attacked the rebels, a small skirmish took place, and the guerrillas lost one dead, several wounded, horses and guns, and also the prisoners, mail and provisions. The train was soon put back on the track, and went on. We received orders to be on our guard, and ten men, reinforcements, were sent to the two companies. They returned, however, on hearing on the way that all danger was past. The night passed quietly.

*March 20.* Was on picket duty during a heavy thunder storm, accompanied by incessant rain the



whole day. The prisoners taken yesterday were to day brought in.

*March 21.* The day was cloudy and cool.

*March 22.* It was Sunday, and we had inspection of arms and dress, and in the evening, dress parade. The day was cloudy and rainy.

*March 23.* Incessant rain; a foraging expedition was sent out to-day.

*March 24.* Was on guard; it rained again day and night.

*March 25.* The weather was cold and cloudy, sometimes an occasional fall of snow. We had to keep our arms loaded and ready on hand, as the neighborhood had become unsafe.

*March 26.* The day was beautiful, and a number of men were sent foraging; five men from each company were detailed to act as escort.

*March 27.* Companies A. and B. were again troubled by guerrillas and had to be on their guard.

*March 28.* I was on picket; a heavy thunder storm, accompanied by torrents of rain fell upon us during the night, and everybody got wet to the skin. Three of MORGAN'S men were captured by our cavalry to-day. They were well armed and fired four times on our men, before they surrendered. It was reported that the passenger train had run off the track, and six men been killed. The report was afterwards corrected, that a freight train had been demolished at a bridge below Gallatin, while in motion. Three soldiers were killed and several others crippled; seventy head of cattle were burnt with the fragments of the cattle cars.

*March 29.* Inspection took place to-day. The cavalry at Gallatin were driven back to-day by 400 rebels.

*March 30.* Our camp was moved to a high mountain, and consequently our line of pickets could be reduced.

*March 31.* I was on guard to-day; the day was

fine, in the night a deep snow fell, accompanied by a heavy wind.

*April 1.* We made improvements in our camp; had battallion drill in the afternoon.

*April 2.* The trains came very irregular; our picket line was reinforced during the night; had company drill in the afternoon.

*April 3.* The day was clear and cold; drilled in the fore and afternoon

*April 5.* Had inspection and in the afternoon a visit from Gen. PAINE, staff and daughters, who were well satisfied with our discipline and state of health. Towards evening dress parade. The day was cloudy.

*April 6 and 7.* We drilled the principal part of both days.

*April 8.* Two men were shot to-day through the carelessness of another, who was cleaning his loaded gun. The bullet went through the breast of one and the head of the other. As we intended to remain at South Tunnel for some time yet, we commenced the erection of small buildings, in order to live more comfortable.

*April 9.* We made several improvements in our camp; a detachment of cavalry captured two of MORGAN's guerrillas.

*April 10.* We had general inspection, and the inspecting officers were well satisfied.

*April 11.* It was Sunday, and the inspection of our "duds" was continued. A larger portion of the regiment was sick to-day than usual. The weather was dark and cold.

*April 23.* A negress that had been maltreated by her mistress, came into camp crying and begging for admission into camp and protection. It was granted, and she was set to work in the hospital.

*April 14.* A dispatch from Franklin, Ky., reported that a large band of guerrillas had shown itself near there with the intention of destroying the railroad. A strong detachment of our regiment was sent off to



Franklin, but before the men reached their destination they learned that the guerrillas had withdrawn without accomplishing their object, and our men returned to camp.

*April 15* A detail of men was sent to Gallatin to escort the paymaster to us; after having received our money we made preparations to send it home. The day was rainy.

*April 17.* A foraging party was sent out to-day.

*April 19.* Inspection of arms was ordered, but the rain prevented it. A member of company I deserted last night, and cavalry was sent after him, but in vain. At night dress parade.

*April 27.* When the drum beat for roll-call this morning, and the men were taking their places, the gun of a member of company C went off and the bullet wounded him on the right hand. His wife, who was with him at the time, became very excited, but was soon pacified.

*April 28 and 29.* Had battallion drill this as well as the next day.

*April 30.* The bi-monthly muster took place to-day; there was much talk about marching orders.

*May 1, 1863* Company D left South Tunnel and went to a station fifteen miles further North, called Richland, where three companies were stationed already.

*May 2.* We reached Richland station and erected our tents and camp according to order. We chopped wood for houses, which we finished on the third and fourth day of the month.

*May 6.* It rained the whole day. In the evening one of our pickets shot at a person stealing on him; the person escaped, but was captured half an hour later by our cavalry returning from a scout. The prisoner was placed in the guard-house under a strong guard, where several of his captive friends were enjoying themselves.

*May 7.* The day was very rainy, and many of our men went home on a furlough.

*May 9.* We dug ditches near our quarters; the war news received to-day was not very pleasing.

*May 10.* Five men were detached from each company to go to Gallatin, and assist Gen. PAINE in arresting several disloyal persons that had acted the traitor to the Union cause. A number of them were sent beyond our lines. In the evening dress parade.

*May 11.* Twenty-five men infantry and a detachment of cavalry went off on a scout to-night.

*May 12.* To-day a dinner was brought us by a neighboring Union family. After dinner dancing took place, and speeches were made by Col. CASE, and other officers, which were well received by the Union family and by our men. The report that Richmond had been taken, reached our camp the third time.

*May 13.* The report came in that sixty guerrillas, in Federal uniforms, had shown themselves at Woodburn station, near Franklin, Ky., and were destroying the road property. A detachment of infantry and cavalry was sent from here, but came too late, and returned without accomplishing anything.

*May 14.* Our whole camp was fortified and the trees around it cut down. Part of our cavalry went after guerrillas. In the afternoon drill.

*May 15.* A party went foraging, but were in great danger on account of bushwhackers that had been reinforced and were becoming bolder.

*May 16.* To-night a number of bushwhackers fired on one of our pickets, but, as the man was standing behind a tree, not harmed. The guerrillas were kept back by our pickets and retreated. We were in line of battle from 12 o'clock until daybreak, but nothing occurred. One rebel was taken prisoner.

*May 17.* Had inspection of arms and towards evening dress-parade.

*May 18.* Several shots were fired during the night, but the camp was not alarmed. One of the pickets had in the darkness shot a calf for a rebel.

*May 20.* Inspection of arms, cartridge boxes, and

ammunition ; in the afternoon drill. The necessary water began to get scarce and we commenced digging a well.

*May 22.* The digging of the well was continued incessantly.

*May 23.* The report was received that one thousand rebels had crossed the Cumberland river and driven in part of our cavalry that was out on a scout. The report was not believed by many.

*May 25.* Several of our officers had arranged a ball, but during the dancing some jovial fellows fired a couple of shots, and the enjoyment of the officers had an end.

*May 26.* All wagons and twenty mounted men went out foraging, who, in order to get forage faster, divided off into small parties, and intended to return as soon as possible. One party arrived at a plantation, where corn, &c., was in the field, and as they needed an axe one man went to the bouse to get it. When near the house this messenger saw several armed men there, and immediately made a retrograde movement ; but too late, the armed men had seen him, and went in pursuit. A race took place and five shots fired at the fleeing man, until the supposed rebels reached the wagons, where it was found that our own party had pursued our messenger, which caused a good deal of merriment.

*May 27.* A regiment of cavalry passed by here to-day en route for Murfreesboro. Many of our men off on a furlough, returned to-day. Received the report as a fact that Vicksburg had been taken.

*May 28.* It rained the whole day ; nothing of importance happened.

*May 29.* The day was dark and sultry. There was a good deal of talk about marching orders having been received.

*May 31.* Company A received marching orders, and had to go to Gallatin to night yet.

*June 1.* It was announced that an inspection of

arms would take place, but afterwards we were ordered to be ready for marching. It turned out finally, that companies F and C had marching orders, and that companies D and K would remain.

*June 3.* Company K received marching orders, and left for Gallatin on the 8 o'clock train.

*June 4.* In the forenoon we had target shooting, and were served a substantial dinner in the afternoon, for the second time, by a Union lady living near. Lieut. HALDEMAN and Corporal CLARK, both of company D, went about twilight to the house of a widow lady near, where they were by treachery surprised by guerrillas. CLARK escaped, but HALDEMAN, according to CLARK's testimony, taken prisoner and shot. During the night a scout of mounted men was sent out to learn something definite of the fate of Lieut. HALDEMAN, and, if possible, rescue him. As the scout remained absent so long, another detachment was sent out after the first, and, as we supposed, captured one.

*June 5.* Ten more men were sent out after the two detachments sent out before, of whom no news had as yet been received. There were now but few men left in camp, and as the bushwhackers were aware of this, they showed themselves openly and often, but did not venture an attack, knowing that we were well fortified and always prepared for them. About 7 o'clock in the evening the long expected men returned from their troublesome and dangerous ride. They had made inquiries about Lieut. HALDEMAN, giving his description to several citizens and received the answer that they had seen a wounded Federal officer on a mule between some Confederate soldiers, and had given our men the direction the party went. But all was in vain, and being convinced that Lieut. HALDEMAN was in the enemy's hands, they returned to camp, after a ride of more than fifty miles. This evening, sufficient proof having been given that HALDEMAN had been captured through the treachery of

the widow lady, her house was set on fire by Colonel CASE and several men, and the woman ordered beyond our lines.

*June 6.* The whole company was again on duty, The guerrillas had heard that Gen. PAINE was going on a furlough, we had to patrol the road and prevent its destruction. In the afternoon we were reinforced by two companies of the 106th Ohio regiment. Towards evening nine men of Capt. FLYNN'S company, under command of a corporal, were posted at a place where a road crosses the track, which road was much used by the bushwhackers. The men were well posted behind trees and very quiet. About 10 o'clock they heard the clatter of horses' feet, and soon two riders came in sight. When near enough the command to halt was given, but scarcely was this uttered, when the two horsemen turned their horses to flee. Faster than I can write this the reports of nine guns were heard, but alas! but one bullet hit the aim. One of the horsemen staggered in the saddle, but as he had strength enough to hold himself, both horsemen escaped. As the shots were fired, the whole camp was alarmed, and all men were under arms until they learned that there was no danger of an attack.

*June 7.* A foraging party, sent out to-day, found the hat of the guerrilla shot last night on the road. The guerrilla was found dead in a house in Mitchellsville, and was buried by our men in the later part of the day.

*June 8.* When we returned from our foraging tour, we found the whole camp deserted, excepting by the men that had been on guard the night before. The guerrillas were very troublesome, and attacked the trains very frequently; our "garrison" had to guard a train to Bowling Green, Ky., and did not return till late in the afternoon.

*June 9* Our company D received marching orders and went to Gallatin on a train at night, where the

whole regiment was once more united—the first time for a long while. A member of company A drowned in the Cumberland river while bathing.

*June 10.* We received two months' pay to-day. A young lady, dressed in men's clothes, was taken prisoner and put under guard. A great excitement was in camp to-night in consequence of the report, that a large force of rebels were approaching town. All our cavalry, not otherwise on duty, were sent out on the main roads, and stationed at the entrance of the roads into the city, wagons were placed as barricades, and all the regiments of infantry posted in line of battle. The night passed without any attack, and it was doubted very much the next day, whether there really had been any danger.

*June 11.* A rainy day; nothing of importance happened.

*June 12.* We had to drill in the forenoon.

*June 13.* News had come in from Lieut. HALDEMAN's place of captivity and a detail ordered to rescue him. On arriving at the house described, it was found that he had been removed by the guerrillas. A freight train was burnt by guerrillas near Elizabethtown, Ky. From now until the 20th everything remained quiet in camp and neighborhood, the service however became more arduous on account of having to patrol the principal roads, outside our picket lines, every night.

*June 20.* A tremendous excitement existed last night, as it was generally believed that an attack would be made by the enemy. Reports had come in continually that the rebels were gathering around us, of which smaller or larger squads had been seen by our scouts, and our cavalry had to patrol all roads leading to the city, as on a former occasion; the regiments of infantry were posted in line of battle to await the attack of the enemy. But again we were unnecessarily robbed of our sleep, and the morning dawned without an enemy having appeared in sight.



*June 21.* It was generally reported that the rebel Gen. Morgan, with eight thousand men, was moving against us to attack Gallatin. No man was permitted to leave camp without permit, from which we drew the conclusion that the report was believed at headquarters. We received marching orders to-day. Morgan, who had the night before attacked Alexandria, had been beaten back by the Union troops.

*June 22.* Another dreadful night. Nobody doubted an attack of the enemy that had the day before been seen in numerous large squads by our scouts, and we knew that Morgan was close on hand with a large force. All our tents, whose erection and commodious arrangement had caused us so much trouble, had to be struck, so that the enemy should not see our exact strength and position from a distance. The whole 129th regiment marched to Fort Thomas, near the camp, as we could defy the enemy better there. After all preparations had been made, the necessary caution taken, plenty of ammunition given out, and the silence of the grave reigned everywhere, we swore "never to surrender Fort Thomas as long as a cartridge was left us." In vain we listened, but no report of a single shot was heard from our picket line, and when morning came, and no enemy had appeared yet, we left our guns, went to the camp, and commenced erecting our tents again.

*June 23.* Many of our men went on a furlough; we had inspection of arms.

*June 24.* Twenty-five men were sent to a plantation eight miles from Gallatin, confiscated by the Government, with a number of negroes, to protect them in harvesting the wheat on the field against an attack of the guerrillas. Rain set in and prevented the work to-day, and the men were compelled to remain on the plantation over night.

*June 25.* It rained the whole day.

*June 26.* Thunderstorm and rain the whole day.

*June 27.* Another day of rain; a foraging party was sent out after the most necessary things.

*June 28.* Rain the whole day.

*June 29.* Storm and rain during the day; a detachment of cavalry met twenty rebels, several shots were fired but nobody hurt; the rebels escaped.

*June 30.* It rained again. The bi-monthly muster took place to-day. The 106th Ohio regiment that took our place at Richland station, was attacked by eighty rebels. Fifteen of the "rebs" were taken prisoners and several killed; no loss on our side.

*July 1.* This was the first clear day since the 23d of June.

*July 2.* Another party was sent to a confiscated plantation, to protect the negroes working there against an attack of guerrillas. The party returned on the 3d of July.

*July 4.* The day was foggy; everything was quiet until noon, when thirty-two guns were fired in Fort Thomas in honor of the day. The locomotives that passed here were completely covered by the stars and stripes. In the afternoon speeches were made by Col. CASE, Lieut. Col. CROSEY, and others. The rebel Gen. MORGAN was fighting in Kentucky. The telegraph wires were in disorder.

*July 5.* Another fight in Kentucky; we could plainly hear the roar of the cannons. No trains to-day. A heavy rain set in towards night.

*July 6.* Another hard rain. A train was taken by guerrillas between here and the border of Kentucky. The guard of the train was paroled, mail and other valuables taken, passengers, etc., taken off the train and the train set in motion again.

*July 7.* More rain. The track had been destroyed somewhere, as the trains did not run. We got new uniforms to-day.

*July 8.* Received the news that Vicksburg had surrendered on the Fourth. A negro regiment was organized here and many of our men applied for



officers' posts in the same. No train to-day—more rain.

*July 9.* Received the news that MORGAN had gone to Indiana with his gang, and that preparations were made there to capture him. A train was expected.

*July 10.* Beautiful and very warm weather.

*July 11.* One hundred and twenty men infantry and some cavalry were ordered to be ready for a scout, under command of Lieut. Col. CROPSEY and Maj. FLYNN. According to the testimony of some loyal citizens there were about two hundred rebels near a place called Cottontown, situated near Gallatin, which robbed and plundered and threatened the Union men. At half past 11 o'clock the expedition was ready, and started. We soon reached the Red River Pike, leading to the place named, our cavalry taking the lead, and about the dawn of day we arrived at Cottontown, where we halted. The infantry was brought in position, while the cavalry, led by a trusty guide, approached the camping ground of the rebels. A citizen of the town, however, had acted the spy and reported to the rebels the fact of our arrival and our strength, whereupon the rebs fled. The spy did not escape, was taken prisoner and his property burnt.

*July 12.* As we had missed the object of our yesterday's expedition in consequence of treason, it was resolved to search the neighborhood further and more thoroughly. We started again, but the country, a continuous changing of high mountains and deep valleys, with roads almost bottomless in consequence of the heavy rain, presented such obstacles that we could advance only with great trouble and very slowly. We were about twenty-five miles from camp, in a country, offering every facility to guerrilla warfare, and frequently we saw the traces of these gangs of rebels. Our men were divided now, all by-roads and houses searched, and frequently men captured, who were afraid of Yankees, but in their hearts good Union men. The more we advanced, the more

impassable the country became, and as our small stock of provisions was giving out we were compelled to return to camp, which we reached about dusk, after having been thoroughly drenched by a heavy shower of rain.

*July 13.* Col. HENRY CASE received the first authentic news about the whereabouts of Lieut. HALDEMAN in a letter from his mother. She stated that he was in Richmond, Va., in prison, and that he had been wounded when captured, because he refused to surrender, when demanded to do so.

*July 14.* The pay rolls were signed and some time afterwards we received two months' pay. It rained heavily the whole day.

*July 18.* Several Union families were admitted in our lines, because their lives had been threatened by guerrillas. This afternoon a dress parade took place.

*July 19.* Several of our men were punished very severely to-day, by deductions being made from their pay, and the men themselves put under arrest for months.

*July 23.* Inspection of our arms, uniforms, tents and kitchens took place to-day.

*July 24.* We received new tents to-day and the camp was moved to a higher piece of ground.

*July 25.* The day was rainy and the men busy in making the camp commodious.

*July 26.* Part of our cavalry, that was always on a scout, came across a gang of rebels that as usually fled on the approach of the Union troops. Several rebels were wounded by our boys.

*July 27.* The work on the camp continued, although there was a good deal of talk about marching orders, and many stopped working in consequence.

*July 28.* Drill in the forenoon and afternoon.

*July 31.* One of the Union men, admitted into camp a few days ago, asked for an escort to his farm, where he had some harvesting to do. His wish was

granted, and, although the party had to suffer much from the enemy, they returned to camp in safety.

*August 1.* The day was very hot, and during inspection and review many men left their places, others drilled until they fell down. Generally speaking the drill was satisfactory.

*August 2.* The train that left Gallatin at 9 o'clock P. M., was attacked by guerrillas between this place and Bowling Green, Ky. As the train was not off the track and the conductor supposed the track to be torn up, the train returned to Gallatin. The behavior of every soldier in camp and on duty was put down in writing every day, and the whole report read at the end of every week on dress parade in front of the whole regiment. A scout of 150 men infantry was sent out to-day.

*August 3.* The scout sent out yesterday, returned. They had killed one guerrilla and taken several others prisoners.

*August 4.* The day was very hot.

*August 5.* Thunder storm and rain, the lightning felled one man of company A in camp to the ground, without injuring him otherwise much.

*August 8.* Inspection of arms to-day.

*August 9.* Many of our boys went off on a furlough; inspection of arms and dress took place again.

*August 10.* A number of horses were taken to Nashville by our cavalry.

*August 11.* A rebel deserter came in our lines; the day was made interesting by thunder storms and rain.

*August 12.* Company D received a new recruit.

*August 13.* To-day a year ago we left Pontiac, Ill., for the three years' service. In the afternoon drill.

*August 14.* Drill.

*August 15.* Inspection.

*August 16.* Tremendous heat and rain.

*August 17.* The second Lieutenant of our com-

pany, BURCH, received his commission as Captain. In the afternoon dress parade.

*August 18.* One hundred men infantry were sent off again on a scout.

*August 19.* Inspection; the scout returned with several rebel prisoners.

*August 20.* We received marching orders.

*August 21.* We packed up and at 4 o'clock P. M., turned our backs upon Gallatin. Five miles west of the city, on the Nashville Pike, we halted and camped for the night.

*August 22.* Left camp at 5 o'clock A. M., and as the sun was very hot we did not continue our march longer than 9 o'clock, when we rested near a creek. At 5 o'clock we resumed our march and camped 5 miles from Nashville for the night.

*August 23.* We struck our tents at 4½ o'clock and reached the Cumberland River at 8 o'clock; we rested some time before we crossed. At 12 o'clock we were on the ground assigned us for camping, between Fort Negley and the Murfreesboro Pike, near the eastern part of the city.

*August 24.* The ground assigned us for camp, was so covered with stones, wood, etc., that but a small part of the regiment had been able to erect tents the evening before, and it required the hardest work of every man to get everything fixed and right.

*August 25.* Worked on our tents again. One man of the regiment was tied to a tree for bad behavior; he broke loose, however, and escaped, but was afterwards recaptured and tied again. We delivered up our old Springfield muskets and received Enfield rifles in their stead. Got another new recruit in company D.

*August 29.* Had brigade drill for the first time under command of Gen. WARD.

*August 30.* Inspection of arms and dress.

*August 31.* Gen. WARD's brigade had parade

before Gen. R. S. GRANGER; the bi-monthly muster took place.

*September 1.* Brigade drill in the forenoon and company drill in the afternoon.

*Sept. 2.* Part of the 129th went as escort on the trains to Stevenson, Ala.; brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Sept. 3.* Another escort went with the trains to Stevenson, 113 miles from here.

*Sept. 5.* Company drill and dress parade.

*Sept. 6.* Another escort went to Stevenson, Ala.

*Sept. 7.* On our return from Stevenson, when near Nashville, one of our men jumped out the car, while the car was in motion and crossing a bridge, which the man could not see in consequence of the darkness. The poor fellow was badly hurt and carried to camp.

*Sept. 10.* On the 9th we went to Stevenson again. On our return on the 10th, the locomotive of our train ran off the track near Andersonville station in the Cumberland Mountains, and as the engine could not be brought on the track again, we had to remain over night on a switch close by.

*Sept. 11.* About twenty miles from the place where the locomotive had run off the track, another like mishap befell us, and all endeavors to bring the locomotive on the track again were fruitless. As our cars were on a switch, other trains were not stopped by our disaster. Afterwards we took another train, as we were beginning to feel hungry, and the country being hardly able to feed the bushwhackers, much less us half-starved Yankees.

*Sept. 13.* Our orderly sergeant, WILLIAM LEMON, died to-day in the hospital with the flux. The whole regiment mourned the loss of this much-liked, brave soldier, but all mourning could not recall him to life. A few hours after his death he was buried with the usual military honors, the customary salutes fired over the body of the brave man now resting in the

cool sod, and slowly and mournfully the regiment returned to camp.

*Sept. 14.* Inspection of arms, equipments, etc., was announced, and everything prepared for it.

*Sept. 15.* In consequence of the rain no inspection was held.

*Sept. 16.* Rain and heavy storms.

*Sept. 17.* The inspection announced for the 14th, took place to-day.

*Sept. 19.* The paymaster arrived here, and we received pay for two months.

*Sept. 20.* A detail of our men were ordered to guard the negroes working for the Government near the city on the Cumberland river.

*Sept 21.* The unpaid part of the regiment was paid off to-day. The guard sent out yesterday, returned.

*Sept 22.* Company and battallion drill.

*Sept 23.* Inspection took place again; fire-wood was received; in the afternoon battallion drill.

*Sept 24.* Four hundred wounded from ROSECRAN'S army were brought to Nashville.

*Sept 25.* Many Eastern regiments passed through here for ROSECRAN'S army; in the afternoon brigade drill.

*Sept 26.* In the fore and afternoon company drill.

*Sept. 27.* Had company drill twice.

*Sept. 28.* Brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Sept. 29.* Part of ZOLLIKOFFER'S large building in the city, which served as a prison for rebel soldiers, caved in, over two hundred prisoners were crippled and six killed.

*Sept. 30.* A rainy day; inspection was announced, but did not take place.

*October 2.* Inspection took place to-day, and in the afternoon brigade drill. Sergeant HOWARD of company H died in the hospital.

*Oct. 3.* Company drill in the forenoon and dress parade in the afternoon.

*Oct. 4.* Inspection and dress parade.

*Oct. 5.* The regiment received marching orders. The rebels burned a bridge near Murfreesboro, Tenn. All the camps had been alarmed, and all regiments near Nashville, had hereafter to be in line of battle from 3 o'clock A. M. to daybreak.

*Oct 7.* To-night at 10 o'clock the camp was alarmed again. The order came to our regiment to draw rations for two days and be ready for marching. The order was promptly obeyed, everything packed up, and shortly after we marched to the Chattanooga depot, where a train was awaiting us to take us to Franklin, Tenn., which place was threatened by the enemy and contained but a small Union garrison.

*Oct 9.* A sergeant of the regiment, on guard at the time of the departure to Franklin, got into a difficulty while in company this evening, and was wounded slightly on the hand by a pistol ball.

*Oct. 10.* The regiment returned from Franklin, without the loss of a man; the enemy had kept away from the place.

*Oct. 12.* The day was very cold. One hundred rebels came to Nashville with horses, accoutrements and arms, and surrendered.

*Oct. 13.* An escort was sent again with a train to Stevenson, Ala.; JAMES HILL, a member of company D, died in the hospital, and was buried with military honors.

*Oct. 15.* Inspection of the regiment took place.

*Oct. 16.* A rainy day.

*Oct. 19.* Company and battallion drill in the forenoon, and brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Oct 20.* Spent the day with drilling, as yesterday.

*Oct. 21.* Companies A and D had to do picket duty. Gen. GRANT came through Nashville to take command of Gen. ROSECRANS' army; Gen. ROSECRANS was called to Washington.

*Oct. 22.* Company and battallion drill in the forenoon, and brigade drill in the afternoon.



*Oct. 23.* A cold and rainy day, in consequence of which no drill took place.

*Oct. 25.* Received the news that the escort of the train, sent off a few days ago, had been taken prisoners and the train burned. The report was not believed. In the evening inspection of the regiment took place. Another party was detailed as train guard, but as no trains were running, the men returned to camp.

*Oct. 26.* A member of company H was buried with military honors. The detail again went to the depot, but returned again, as no trains were running.

*Oct. 28.* Battallion drill in the forenoon and brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Oct. 29.* Battallion drill in the afternoon.

*Oct 30.* Company D was detailed as train guard, and left camp at 6 o'clock P. M., had to remain at the depot the whole night, and did not leave Nashville until the next morning.

*November 1.* Nothing particularly unpleasant happened on our trip to Stevenson, excepting that we had to wait several times rather long for trains bound North. We did not reach Stevenson until 10 o'clock at night.

*Nov 2.* Company D had to remain in Stevenson, because the next train would not leave before tomorrow.

*Nov 3.* At five o'clock A. M., the train with company D and a number of disabled horses left Stevenson; between Smyrna station and Nashville two cars with horses were thrown off the track and several horses slightly hurt. Reached Nashville at 8 o'clock.

*Nov. 4.* In the afternoon company drill.

*Nov. 5.* Rainy and cold weather; no drill took place.

*Nov. 7.* A foraging party was sent 18 miles from the city after hay.

*Nov. 8.* Inspection and dress parade.

*Nov. 9.* Cold weather; brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Nov. 10.* Battallion drill in the forenoon and dress parade towards evening. Company D was again detailed as train guard.

*Nov. 11.* The report was current that we would be paid off to-day.

*Nov. 12.* Company D returned from Stevenson.

*Nov. 13.* Company drill in the forenoon; brigade drill and practice in firing in the afternoon.

*Nov. 14.* Were paid off for two months.

*Nov. 16.* Between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock, a fire broke out in the city; but one building burned down.

*Nov. 17.* General inspection and dress parade. A corporal of company C was stabbed by an Irish store-keeper, and died afterwards in the hospital; the Irishman escaped.

*Nov. 18.* Battallion drill in the afternoon.

*Nov. 19.* A number of men were arrested for firing their guns in the camp which had been prohibited; they were, however, not severely punished. In the afternoon the following regiments had brigade parade before Gen's. WARD and GRANGER; the 129th, 105th, 102d Illinois, 79th Ohio, 13th Wisconsin and 70th Indiana; also, a regiment of cavalry. The parade was the finest we ever had, and both Generals were well satisfied. The day was sultry and dark.

*Nov. 20.* A foraging party was sent out again, but as a heavy rain set in, the party was compelled to return to camp, without having accomplished their object.

*Nov. 21.* A large part of the regiment went as train guards to Stevenson and Chattanooga.

*Nov. 23.* The men returned from Stevenson; a good many of the boys got furlough.

*Nov. 24.* The boys went off on a furlough.

*Nov. 25.* Kitchens were erected by the regiment, brigade drill the afternoon. There was an alarm of fire in the city.

*Nov. 26.* In the evening dress parade.

*Nov. 27.* In the afternoon brigde drill.

*Nov. 28.* It was cold and rainy, and no drill took place.

*Nov. 29.* A large part of the regiment was again detailed as train guard for to-morrow's trains. Dress parade in the evening.

*Nov. 30.* The train gaards left the camp at 3 o'clock A. M. but did not reach Stevenson until December 1.

*December 2.* One hundred and eighty rebel officers were escorted by the train guard from Stevenson to Nashville; among them was a son of the rebel Gen. BRECKINRIDGE.

*Dec. 3.* Drill in the forenoon and afternoon; no passes to the city were issued, on account of the small-pox raging there.

*Dec. 4.* Battallion drill in the afternoon.

*Dec. 5.* Dress parade in the afternoon.

*Dec. 7.* All regiments of infantry, some cavalry and artillery were reviewed by Gen's. ROSSEAU, WARD, GRANGER and PAINE. The day was cool and suited for the occasion.

*Dec. 9.* The small-pox broke out in the regiment. There was talk about marching orders to Gallatin. General inspection was announced.

*Dec. 10.* The regiment was inspected and passed review before Gen. HUNTER.

*Dec. 14.* In honor of the victories won by the armies of the Cumberland, large bonfires were kindled; Generals HUNTER, GRANGER and WARD were present.

*Dec 15.* Firewood was received by the regiment. A member of company B shot at the captain of his company this evening, but missed him; he was put under guard.

*Dec 16.* The day was rainy and cold. A number of men were sent out to catch negroes, who were to unload the steamboats.

*Dec 17.* A strong detail was sent out to guard a number of wagons dispatched after some timber for a new powder magazine.

*Dec. 18.* Brigade drill in the afternoon ; the day was very cold.

*Dec. 19.* Dress parade towards evening. A member of company D who had imbibed too much, was robbed of his watch when returning to camp.

*Dec. 20.* Company inspection in the forenoon, and in the evening dress parade.

*Dec 21:* It was the general talk that we were ordered back to Gallatin. Brigade drill in the afternoon. The provost guard shot a soldier through the head, who refused to stop when ordered to do so.

*Dec 23.* Brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Dec. 24.* Christmas eve shots were fired in every direction.

*Dec. 25.* A beautiful day. The officers of the regiment took their men to a neighboring brewery, and treated them to several barrels of beer.

*Dec. 26.* A rainy day ; except guard duty we had nothing to do.

*Dec. 27.* It rained day and night.

*Dec. 28.* Company and regiment inspection.

*Dec. 29.* We drilled twice to-day. During the night heavy rain.

*Dec. 30.* Brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Dec. 31.* Muster for pay ; rain and snow fell.

*January 1, 1864.* New Year's day ; very cold and frosty ; snow fell more abundantly.

*Jan. 2.* It snowed the whole day and turned very cold, so that those out with passes returned.

*Jan 4.* The report came that our Doctor Johns who went along with a boat guard several hundred miles up the Cumberland river, had been shot by guerrillas. The guard returned and reported that the Doctor had been shot through his coat tail ; otherwise "nobody hurt" nor killed.

*Jan. 6.* Very cold weather.

*Jan. 9.* Company K was called to the city on duty. Col. HARRISON, of the 70th Indiana regiment, took command of our brigade provisionally, our former commander, Gen. WARD, having assumed command of the first division of the eleventh army corps.

*Jan. 10.* Company inspection; the day was very cold.

*Jan. 11.* As the inspecting officer was not satisfied yesterday, another inspection took place to-day.

*Jan. 13.* It commenced thawing. Several citizens from Scott county, Ill., in order (perhaps) to escape the draft at home, came to Nashville to offer their services to the Government.

*Jan. 15.* It was reported that certain parties tried to persuade the whole brigade to re-enlist, in case the Government would permit.

*Jan. 16.* Inspection of the regiment in the afternoon.

*Jan. 17.* A heavy rain night and day.

*Jan. 18.* Snow, rain and frost.

*Jan. 21.* Gen. ROSSEAU received orders to hold all troops in Nashville ready for marching at any moment.

*Jan. 22.* A warm and clear day.

*Jan. 23.* Inspection of the regiment in the afternoon.

*Jan. 24.* A beautiful and pleasant day. Dress parade in the evening.

*Jan. 25.* Got the news that the guerrilla chief JOHN MORGAN had escaped from prison; everybody was angry about the prison-keeper of MORGAN's place of confinement.

*Jan. 26.* The day was hot; drilled in the afternoon.

*Jan. 27.* Company drill in the forenoon; received marching orders.

*Jan. 28.* All necessaries were packed up, and all unnecessaries boxed up to be left here.

*Jan. 29.* Had brigade drill; the time fixed for

our departure was Sunday morning at 6 o'clock.

*Jan. 30.* A rainy day; we got shelter tents.

*Jan. 31.* Delivered up our old tents; had general inspection in the afternoon.

*February 1.* Guards were again sent out as usual, and the talk was that we would remain until further orders.

*Feb. 2.* A number of men went off on a furlough; the order came that we would remain but three days longer. In the night all pickets were drawn in, and yet the report was that we would not move.

*Feb. 3.* The tents were again erected and the camp made as commodious as possible.

*Feb. 4.* Firewood was received, and many of the men commenced erecting houses, and worked generally as though we would spend the balance of our time of enlistment in Nashville.

*Feb. 5.* The pay rolls were signed as we were to be paid off the next day.

*Feb. 6.* The weather was very cold to-day; to-morrow was fixed for pay day.

*Feb. 7.* Received two months pay.

*Feb. 9.* Inspection was afterwards countermanded; had brigade drill instead.

*Feb. 10.* Battallion drill in the afternoon.

*Feb. 11.* Company drill in the forenoon and afternoon.

*Feb. 12.* Brigade drill in the afternoon; the weather was cool; many soldiers got permission to go to the theater to-night.

*Feb. 13.* General inspection in the afternoon.

*Feb. 14.* Our regiment had to guard the new powder magazine. A sergeant of the 105th Ill. regt. was murdered to-day near our camp; his skull had been split and the body thrown across the track where it was found the next morning.

*Feb. 15.* Furloughs were granted again.

*Feb. 16.* Our regiment had many sick members

who were brought to the hospitals; the weather was cold; brigade drill in the afternoon.

*Feb. 17.* Battallion drill in the afternoon.

*Feb. 18.* Intensely cold weather to-day.

*Feb. 19.* Half the regiment was on duty; as laborers were wanting the soldiers had to help; the other half of the regiment was free from duty.

*Feb. 20.* The other half of the regiment had to assist in unloading the boats.

*Feb. 21.* A number of men, anxious to make a little, went to the landing to assist in unloading the boats. The day was beautiful. In the evening dress parade. At 12 o'clock at night the regiment again received marching orders.

*Feb. 22.* Our things were unpacked for the second time, and things drawn when the last marching orders came, were offered to the citizens for sale for almost nothing. We were not allowed to take them along, and could not send them home. We were permitted to have in our knapsacks 1 shirt, 1 pair of drawers, 1 pair of socks, a woollen blanket and an oil cloth.

*Feb. 23.* The time for our departure had been fixed at to-morrow morning 5 o'clock and to-day was the last day that we were here. No one had any idea that the whole company, regiment or brigade would ever return. The men, therefore, amused themselves highly, because they know that with them garrison duty had an end now, and that hereafter fighting had to be done,—and also because no one knew whether he would return alive or as a cripple, that had to live off the small starving penny, called pension, the balance of his days.

*Feb. 24.* We were awakened at 5 o'clock, and everything packed up, while our cooks were preparing the breakfast of coffee, crackers and meat for the last time in our kitchens. After breakfast we "fell into line" immediately, and at 8 o'clock the whole brigade, consisting of the 79th Ohio, 70th Indiana,



102d, 129th and 105th Illinois regiments, was assembled on the Murfreesboro Pike. Many of the citizens, with whom we had become intimately acquainted during our six months' stay in Nashville, accompanied us to the suburbs of the city, until the command "forward" was given, and the band of the 79th Ohio played a beautiful march, we turned our backs to Nashville, the friends we had won there, and our own sick in the hospitals. The day was pleasant for marching, but soon in the afternoon the brigade camped near Lavergne, a station on the Nashville and Chattanooga rail road, about 10 miles from the former place. The camp was in the field of a rebel, and in order to have a good remembrance we burned a considerable number of fence rails in the camp fires, which kept us warm.

*Feb. 25.* We left camp at 6 o'clock and reached Lavergne at 8. The weather was very hot, the road dusty, and in consequence of this we camped at 12 o'clock m. already.

*Feb. 26.* Broke camp before sunrise and reached the battlefield of Murfreesboro about 10 o'clock. Here we rested and visited the graves of the brave Union defenders, quietly sleeping beneath the sod. Here and there bones were bleaching in the sun. The trees near the battlefield were nearly all withered, others shot down or at least robbed of their crowns and branches by bullets and balls. Shells, canister shot and rifle balls were scattered about, in pieces or entire, in every direction. We were yet looking on these to us unwonted things, when the bugle called us to return. We had several miles to march to the city, and at 12 o'clock we were treading the streets of Murfreesboro, delighted by the music of the 79th Ohio. We camped on the south side of the place, near the Shelbyville road.

*Feb. 27.* We left Murfreesboro early in the morning. The march was more fatiguing than the day

before. Had to cross several creeks without bridges, which caused much loss of time. The road was either covered with several inches of dust, or led through a rocky, hilly country, and as we had rations for several days, sixty cartridges and a full knapsack to carry, many a drop of sweat was squeezed out of us. We marched 13 miles and camped in a fenced field of a rebel; the fence rails of which were of course confiscated and used.

*Feb. 28.* We commenced our march early, and reached Shelbyville at 12 o'clock m. After passing through the city we crossed to the south side of Dog river, and stopped near by half an hour, for dinner. The afternoon was rainy, and we continued three miles, when we camped, after a march of 15 miles.

*Feb. 29.* As usual we left our camp early. It had rained during the whole night before and rained to-day, the weather was disagreeably cold, nevertheless we marched to Tullahoma, 15 miles distant. Some of our baggage wagons reached camp to-day, while others, after sticking in the mud every now and then, did not reach us until morning. Our camping ground became a regular sea during the night, and only those who were fortunate enough to be encamped upon high ground found rest; the others could choose between a drenching in the shelter tents, or have the rain outside from the first hand, and freeze too.

*March 1, 1864.* The rain continued, the roads had become bottomless, and in consequence we were unable to advance.

*March 2.* The sky had cleared off, and although the roads had by no means improved, we broke camp and left Tullahoma. The sappers had to place wood and fence rails for miles on the road, in order to get the wagons along. Early in the afternoon we reached Elk river, which we crossed, and camped after a march of 10 miles.

*March 3.* The weather was beautiful, the roads

had dried off remarkably and the marching went in a fine style. At noon we reached Orchard station and soon after Cowan station, when we camped at the foot of the Cumberland mountains, after a march of 10 miles.

*March 4.* Soon we were up, climbing the mountains. Our regiment was detailed to-day to guard the train of wagons against an attack of guerrillas and to help them along through the mountains,—three or four men to each wagon. We got along slowly during the day, and as the last wagons were several miles behind the brigade, (which had marched on,) the situation became critical. The darkness was impenetrable, many wagons ran against trees, stumps and rocks, and had to remain in that position until daylight; the others were drawn together on an open place, where they remained.

*March 5.* We were under way soon, and as the roads were in better condition, we soon reached the brigade camp, but the brigade had gone on. We went into camp early, after having made a march of 12 miles in the last two days.

*March 6.* We reached Andrew station, and camped 2 miles north of Stevenson, Ala.

*March 7.* Passed through Stevenson, and stopped, after a march of 12 miles, at Bridgport, Tenn.

*March 8.* Remained in camp and spent the day washing our clothes.

*March 9.* Left Bridgport, crossed the Tennessee river twice on pontoons, and had dinner at Bellefont station, where we visited a large cave. We went further until we reached a valley, entirely surrounded by high mountains, where we camped during the following, very rainy night.

*March 10.* We had to wait for the wagons that lagged behind, and did not resume our march until 9 o'clock. The country was mountainous. At noon we reached Whiteside station and about sunset the Lookout Valley, after passing through immense

hollows and passes. This last day and the bad roads had cost us many mules. During the night it rained heavily, accompanied by thunder and lightning:

*March 11.* A camping ground was found at last for the brigade. The weather was fine.

*March 12* Inspection was ordered, but did not take place. We chopped wood for houses and preparations made to draw clothes.

*March 13* Inspection of the company took place. Major General HOOKER was introduced to-day. It was currently reported that the 11th army corps would be ordered to Virginia.

*March 14.* The regiment was on picket, for the first time, since our arrival, and for 48 hours at that.

*March 16* We were relieved from picket duty by a detachment of Zuaves; the day was windy and cold.

*March 17.* More cold weather. Many drummers and fifers, not having been mustered in as such, were sent to their respective companies on duty. Received the news that JAMES MONDAY, of company H, who had become sick at Stevenson, had died there. A train with \$15,000 and the mail, was attacked, robbed and burned near Tullahoma by guerrillas.

*March 18.* A grand parade took place; the whole brigade was inspected by its commander, Gen. HARRISON. We got new clothes.

*March 19* The parade announced took place to-day. At 8 o'clock the brigade assembled and marched to the parade ground two miles distant, where the regiments were posted according to their number, and had to await the arrival of the commanding General. At the appointed hour some cannon shots announced the arrival of Major Generals HOOKER and HOWARD, who, after having passed along the front and rear of the column, took their places, and the column moved forward, delighted by the excellent music of the 33d Massachusetts regiment. The parade went off fine, and both Generals seemed well pleased with the manoeuvres of the brigade. The

day was very cold. A member of the 79th Ohio fell from the top of the Lookout, 100 feet, and was killed.

*March 20.* Company inspection and muster for pay took place; in the evening, dress parade.

*March 21.* It was very cold; fire-places were built by the whole regiment. Major FLYNN was appointed lieutenant colonel.

*March 22.* We remained in our bunks under the blanket nearly the whole day, in order to keep warm.

*March 23.* The day was milder, and in order not to be compelled to remain a-bed again during the day, the fire-places were completed.

*March 24.* The whole camp was cleaned; a heavy snow fell in the night.

*March 25.* It rained the whole day.

*March 26.* A brigade hospital was erected.

*March 27.* In consequence of the continuous change of weather, there were many men on the sick report.

*March 28.* Company and battallion drill; in the afternoon heavy rain.

*March 29.* We got the first bread from our newly erected brigade bakery; trees were dug out in camp.

*March 30.* Company and battallion drill in the forenoon; brigade drill in the afternoon. The weather was fine, and the camp was decorated by planting budding trees therein.

*March 31.* Company and battallion drill in the forenoon, and brigade drill in the afternoon; inspection was announced for to-morrow.

*April 1.* Inspection of the regiment in the afternoon; the day was rainy.

*April 2.* A rainy day; a number of men went fishing; company drill in the afternoon.

*April 3.* Inspection and dress parade; the day was fine, but in the night, thunderstorm and rain.

*April 4.* As it rained the whole day, no other than guard duty was performed.

*April 5.* The camp was cleaned and inspected by our brigade commander, HARRISON, in the afternoon.

*April 6.* Company and battallion drill in the forenoon and brigade drill in the afternoon. Some more decorations were added to the camp of company D, but not so generally as would have been the case, if the report had not been current that we had marching orders again.

*April 8.* Gen. HOOKER was expected in camp, but the rain in the latter part of the day prevented his coming.

*April 9.* A beautiful day; no duty to do.

*April 10.* Inspection of the regiment took place in the forenoon and dress parade toward evening; the day was rainy.

*April 11.* A great many troops went to the front, and the report of an advance on our part, was current again.

*April 12.* Rain the whole day.

*April 13.* The day was beautiful. Gen. HOOKER arrived, and a parade before Gen. THOMAS was announced.

*April 14.* The parade announced yesterday took place to-day. At 8 o'clock the brigade marched to the parade ground, and soon after Gen. THOMAS appeared. Gens. HOOKER, WARD, BUTTERFIELD, &c. were present. The parade was one of the finest we had ever witnessed.

*April 15.* Gen. BUTTERFIELD was expected in the camp, but did not come; in the morning we had company and battallion drill, in the afternoon brigade drill.

*April 16.* Inspection was announced for to-morrow; company drill in the afternoon. Large portals were erected at the entrance of every company's street, and our camp was one of the finest now



of all the camps around, and presented a handsome and pleasing appearance.

*April 17.* Inspection of the regiment in the afternoon. As it was Sunday, there being no duty to do, many of the men went to the the top of Look-out and to Sommerville, near there, whence Chattanooga and the whole surrounding country with its camps and soldiers could be seen distinctly. In the evening dress parade. Gen. WARD again assumed command of the brigade, and his provisional successor, Col. HARRISON, again assumed command of his, the 70th Indiana regiment. Gen. BUTTERFIELD assumed command of the division. The 4th and 12th army corps were consolidated and called the 20th. Our division, formerly the first in the 11th army corps, became the 3d in the 20th. Many of our men were sent fishing every day, and the fish divided among the regiment.

*April 18.* More decorations were fixed through the camp. Brigade drill took place in the afternoon in the presence of Gen. THOMAS and other strange officers. Gen. THOMAS inspected our camp after the drill. The day was rainy and cool.

*April 19.* Company and battallion drill in the forenoon; brigade drill in the afternoon.

*April 20.* Company and battallion drill again in the forenoon; inspection was announced for the afternoon, but did not take place, but brigade drill took place in its stead. We received the news of the surrender of fort Pillow, and the barbarous treatment of the union soldiers after the surrender on the part of the rebels under FOREST.

*April 21.* The parade ground was made more level and cleared of the shrubs and rocks. The men not at work had to drill in the afternoon. General BUTTERFIELD drilled his division for the first time to-day. Below Chattanooga, in the neighborhood of Ringgold, our pickets met the enemy, and a considerable skirmish took place. Everything quiet in the



front. The enemy, under Gen. JOHNSON, lay behind his entrenchments near Dalton and Buzzard Roost. A bloody spring campaign was expected, and from all signs and orders we could begin to believe that the "dance of war" would soon begin. The troops, now under the command of Gens. SHERMAN and THOMAS, were "full of fight" and in the best condition.

*April 22.* Company drill and skirmish drill by signals; brigade drill in the afternoon. The band of music of the 33d Massachusetts, which regiment belonged to the 3d brigade of our division, serenaded our brigade commander and all the regiments to-night. The evening was spent joyfully and merrily. It was reported for certain that we would have to leave our beautiful camp in a few days, the erection of which had cost us so much labor, and to commence the campaign against the enemy. As yet we had no marching orders, and all these reports were to be believed but half.

*April 23.* We had no marching orders yet, nevertheless the report of our advance became more positive.

*April 24.* Inspection of company and dress parade in the afternoon; the weather was rainy.

*April 25.* Company and battallion drill in the forenoon and brigade drill in the afternoon.

*April 26.* Brigade drill in the afternoon; weather warm.

*April 27.* Company drill in the forenoon and battallion drill in the afternoon.

*April 28.* Division drill and practice in firing in the afternoon. Two members of company I, of our regiment deserted to-night, after having borrowed revolvers and watches from several men. Preparations to capture them were made, but not a word was heard of the successful accomplishment of this object.

*April 29.* The weather was excessively warm;

brigade drill in the presence of Gen BUTTERFIELD; a heavy rain fell during the night.

*April 30.* Inspection and muster for pay in the forenoon; the weather was very hot.

*May 1.* This morning at last we received the long expected marching orders, to be ready for the tramp to-morrow morning early. Rations for three days were drawn, and all things more than the prescribed baggage, which had been taken along from Nashville, were put in chests and left. The officers had to leave their writing desks, paper, ink &c. Hereafter we were to be loaded down by provisions, cooking utensils, ammunition, etc. The last dress parade took place towards evening, in Lookout valley, by the 1st brigade of the 3d division of the 20th army corps. In order to be ready early in the morning, we slept early and soundly—for the last time at the foot of the grand Lookout, whose peak towers high toward heaven.

*May 2.* We were awakened at 4 o'clock by the roll of the drums. After roll call a hasty breakfast was prepared and taken and the haversacks filled with bread, meat etc. for three days. The hour for the march was set at 7 o'clock; this hour approaching the dog or shelter tents used as roofs on our houses, were taken down, rolled up and buckled to our knapsacks. The bunks were searched once more to see if everything had been taken out that the rebels in the neighborhood might make use of. It was seven, the drummers gave the signal to fall in to line and soon we were on the march to the drill ground, where the brigade was to rendezvous, and every regiment took its place in the line. With unpleasant feelings of regret we left our comfortable and commodious camp, where we had spent so many happy hours. The 1st and 2d division of our corps had left camp before we did, and as both were far enough ahead of us, no impediments were in our way to Chattanooga. Passing to the right of the

city, we moved over Missionary Ridge to the Chickamauga battle-field. The battlefield looked very much like that of Murfreesboro, except that there was more wood here which had been riddled by thousands of bullets and was either withering or had withered already. We marched over the battlefield without halting. A little while before sunset we reached Chickamauga creek, and camped near Gordon's mill, after having marched 15 miles. We received a big mail to-night.

*May 3.* According to orders we remained quiet to-day in order to give the regiments that had been here before us time to pack up and move on. We drilled in the afternoon. The day was very hot. Another mail came.

*May 4.* Early in the morning we struck our tents and marched on to the front. The march became more unsafe, as the enemy's cavalry, knowing that the Yankee army was in motion, displayed much agility and harassed us wherever it could be done. In order not to be surprised by the enemy or lose men unnecessarily, several regiments of one brigade had to throw out flankers; but no enemy appeared where the 20th army corps was marching. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon we reached the 14th army corps, or at least a part of it, near Ringgold, Ga. Here we camped in the woods, after a march of 12 miles; near the front. The pickets were instructed to be very cautious, as a nightly attack was at least possible, if not certain. The night passed quietly.

*May 5.* We remained in camp and in consequence of this lying idle, the fighting spirit of the men gave way to still and silent thoughts about the impenetrable future, or about the strength of the enemy in our front, estimated at 80,000 men. Letters were written to our friends and relatives at home to let them know that we were well. Although all knew that many a one would have to lose his life, or be wounded on the battlefield, or peraps be crippled for life, yet

a stern resolution was fixed in all hearts of those brave men to fight and perhaps die for the country. Such a spirit can only arise from a pure and holy love of the cause of our glorious Union! Our officers were equally brave and to be trusted, and we were certain of the final victory. We drew rations to-day for three days, and the regiment had dress parade. Several of our scouts were taken prisoner to-day.

*May 6.* We commenced our march early on the road from Ringgold to Dalton Southward. As nothing impeded our progress, we advanced rapidly and went into camp early in the afternoon. Our regiment was ordered on picket duty, the principal part posted on the brow of a high mountain, the balance in the valley below. From the mountain we could see tents at a considerable distance, but it was impossible to say whether they belonged to the Union or the rebel army. The night passed quietly. We were near the celebrated Nicka Jack Gap.

*May 7.* Before daybreak our pickets were called in and after remaining on the Dalton road preparing and eating breakfast, until the balance of the brigade came up, we marched in the advance forward. Our march to-day was not a pleasant one, over, narrow, dusty, or rocky roads, although the enemy did not harass us. The weather was intolerably hot, and the necessary fresh water was wanting. When we rested in the afternoon for a couple of hours in a field, we quenched our thirst in a milky, dirty creek, in which higher up some were bathing, others washing their feet. But all these minor considerations were nothing, we could at least quench our thirst and rest a couple of hours. We left our dusty resting place and went into camp after sunset, after having marched 20 miles. At Buzzard Roost we heard some fighting; Gen's. HOOKER, SICKLES and BUTTERFIELD were with the brigade the principal part of the day. Gen. KILLPATRICK with his cavalry was continually in our front or at our flanks. Everything went off quiet.

*May 8.* We lay quiet to-day, but had orders to be ready at any moment to advance. A horse, saddle and bridle which the adjutant of the regiment had brought from Louisville, Ky., yesterday, was presented to Col. CASE. The present was made to Col. CASE by the whole regiment. The Colonel was deeply touched by the love of his men, and thanked them sincerely. Later in the day we were ordered to be ready for marching, but to leave all baggage behind under the care of some guards.

*May 9.* The 2d division of our army corps under Gen. GEARY met the enemy unexpectedly to-day near Buzzard Roost and immediately got in the heavy fire of the enemy's guns. Several attempts were made to dislodge the enemy from his strong entrenchments, but in vain. The division lost about 500 dead and wounded who were brought past our camp in ambulances. We remained quiet, although under marching orders since noon. It was expected that our division would be sent to Buzzard Roost, but we remained during the night. Heavy firing was heard in our front in the afternoon. We drew rations for three days.

*May 10.* A rainy day; we were still lying in the bush, though under orders again to be ready for an advance at any moment. A glorious time was in camp on the reception of the news that the rebel army had been badly whipped at Richmond after a bloody four days' fight, and that the much longed for peace was near. The news was too glorious and but half believed, as the strong inimical force in our front did not much give room to the thought of the conclusion of an early peace. On the contrary, the enemy in our front seemed more determined than ever. Gen. MCPHERSON, with the 11th corps went to the road to Dalton, in order, if possible, to shut up the enemy in Dalton, or to take such positions that the enemy would become an easy prey to our cannons. The

report of guns was heard during the whole day ; the night brought us a thunder storm and rain.

*May 11.* We were awakened from our slumber before day-break, and left the main road for small by-roads and paths, sometimes even on paths cut by our pioneers. The march lasted without interruption until evening, when we remained near the Wall Gap over night.

*May 12.* We remained quiet until noon ; the roads which had become in bad condition in consequence of the many wagons passing over them, were repaired during that time, our guns put in the best order, as now there could be no doubt of meeting the enemy. After twelve o'clock we moved forward, but only three miles, where we went into camp at Snake Creek, and remained for the night. Heavy firing the whole day at Dalton and Buzzard Roost.

*May 13.* Remained on our camping ground until 3 o'clock p. m., when, after drawing a large quantity of ammunition, we advanced. It was generally believed that to-day we would have a first chance at the enemy. After a short and slow march we halted in a forest of beautiful oak trees, while skirmishing was going on in our immediate front ; we could, however, see no enemy. The firing became less audible, a sign that the enemy had to retreat before our cavalry, whereupon we advanced again in the immediate rear of our pickets, not in column, but in line of battle, prepared for any attack the enemy might make. Our advancing was slow and cautious through the woods, in search of the enemy ; the country changed with hill and valley. We had not long to search for the enemy ; on our arrival at the foot of a tolerably high hill some well aimed rifle shots told us of the presence of the enemy, whose determined refusal to retreat brought on a skirmish. Our pickets and the enemy vied with each other in rapid and well aimed firing, but our continual advance and the sure marksmen in our ranks brought the enemy to retreat at last.



The rebel pickets once on the retreat, could not be brought to a stand, as our pickets advanced as the enemy retreated, and were compelled to return to their principal force, and until evening came on and the darkness prevented a continuation of the murderous play. We were nearer to Reseca now than to Dalton, and when we camped at night on a hill on the opposite site of that occupied by the enemy, and were talking over the events of the day and preparing supper, we were not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile distant from the enemy's main force. The most part of the night we kept awake, the knapsack packed and the gun on hand; but few hours sleep were allowed us, for at 2 o'clock A. M.,

*May 14*, we again advanced for new slaughter work. Early in the morning shots were exchanged, but ere this our brigade was up and in line of battle, ready for any attack. The firing of the pickets became more rapid and violent at sunrise, now and then the enemy fired a cannon shot, while ours were brought into position, the positions of the infantry improved and reinforcements came to our aid. For three days we remained quiet in our place, tolerably well protected against the enemy's cannons; we did not lose a single man of our regiment, as the enemy's balls went whizzing over our heads. The 102d Illinois, which was on picket during the day made several attempts to drive the enemy back further; but all attacks were without avail and only caused loss to the regiment. In the evening company D of our regiment, and companies from other regiments, went to relieve the 102d Illinois that had stood the enemy's fire the whole day. When we arrived the firing had ceased, but when we were posted occasional shots would come flying past us, while we watched and listened to the enemy. Gen. HOWARD took Buzzard Roost; Gen. KILLPATRICK was wounded to-day.

*May 15*. As yesterday, so to-day, shots were fired early, but having taken positions behind trees, we were



safe from such shots, and exposed only to the bullets of the rebel sharpshooters posted in trees. No one, however, of our regiment or brigade was killed or wounded while on picket. After some skirmishing of two hours we were relieved by other (strange) troops, and we were told that our brigade had left its position and moved off early in the morning. This seemed strange, as a regiment or brigade never leaves its positions without drawing in the pickets first. As it was so, however, we supposed that the brigade had been ordered away in a hurry to a place where its services were needed. A staff officer had remained to draw in the pickets and guide them to the brigade. As we had not had anything to eat the evening before, nor early in the morning, and as we were in no particular hurry to find the brigade, which, was no easy matter, we took our time in marching. After many inquiries on the part of the staff officer as to the whereabouts of the division, we at last found it four miles to the right of our former camp in the woods, where Gen. PALMER's men had been stationed heretofore. We went to our respective regiments and took our places. Along the whole line there was fighting going on, and in the distance we heard distinctly the deafening yells of an attacking party, which a few seconds later were drowned by the dreadful roar of cannon and musket fire and exploding shells. Here a picket line advanced towards the enemy in his rifle pits, who continually fired on the advancing line; there ambulances were hurrying off and past with their loads of groaning and crying wounded. Everywhere the awful reality of war and battle stared in our faces; everywhere the fight was raging, except in our own front. But we should not long remain idle, and soon have the pleasure of testing the enemy. The enemy had a fort with three guns in our front and attempts to take it had been unsuccessful, on account of the terrific fire with shot, shell and canister. Another attempt was to be made

by our division, our brigade leading, to take the fort; we knew nothing of the object of our being here, until we were in the fire. As said before, the first brigade was commanded by Gen. WARD, and led the attack; the third followed, while the second took position to our right. Each brigade marched by regiments in line of battle, 35 feet apart. Having taken our position we were ordered to unbuckle our knapsacks and leave them on the spot we then occupied, and which were to be guarded by some sick members of each regiment. The bayonets were fixed and the command "forward march" was given, which was promptly obeyed. The way from here to the fort was covered with underbrush and almost impenetrable, and only with the greatest difficulty could one regiment follow the other; the tapes of the haversacks and canteens of many tore, but the men had to leave them and advance—there was no time now for mending such things. The fort was situated on a slight elevation, and although we had advanced quite a distance, yet we could see nothing of the fort. The regiments remained in pretty good line, despite the brush, and everything went on well until we came to the border of an open space, where a most murderous fire of the enemy unexpectedly saluted us. This unexpected fire, that had killed several of our men, caused some confusion in our ranks, some companies were completely disorganized, while here and there parts of regiments stood dispirited. The command "lay down" brought all down on the ground. After remaining there several seconds, during which the enemy's fire slackened, the command to arise was given and obeyed, when the enemy again opened on us and causing the loss of many valuable lives. We advanced some distance and again threw ourselves on the ground. Our first line, however, was completely broken and when we arose again after a short while, nothing but the broken ranks of our former line were seen rushing toward the enemy,

which they reached, as the distance was but short. Gen's. HOWARD and BUTTERFIELD, who had observed our movements from a neighboring hill, gave the men up for lost, as they had seen no regular line advance. but merely a confused mass of dare-devils. Both Generals erred. The men, maddened by the excitement of the moment, knew no fear; they rushed fighting, shooting, stabbing on the enemy, encouraged by the words of Gen. WARD; "Go in, boys, give them the devil,"—until our beloved and courageous commander, who had placed himself at the head of the brigade, was wounded by a grape shot in the shoulder. The enemy began to stagger—the fort was ours! with the three cannons, all in good order, as the enemy in his fright left them. After the fort had been taken, the enemy was not pursued, and the slaughter began to cease; now and then a rebel sharpshooter would send a bullet to us, but as soon as pickets were posted, this fire also ceased, and the regiments retreated a short distance to gather again. The enemy in our front had been completely whipped, but not without considerable loss on our side. Many a fine fellow who but a few hours ago, in hopeful and joyful spirits, was at our side in the ranks and fought gallantly was stretched, a cold corpse, on mother earth. Others, wounded, unable to go to the hospitals, lay bleeding on the ground, an unspeakable thirst drying their lips, waiting with patience until help could be rendered. And help did come! The roar of the cannons had ceased, we went out to assist the wounded, embraced our unfortunate comrades, and carried or helped them along to the hospital. Now, after the fight had closed, we could get some idea as to the number of bullets and balls fired. The brush was riddled, branches and leaves shot off; here and there a solid shot or a shell had plowed up the ground, and the battlefield was covered with blankets, haversacks, canteens, hats, guns, equipments, etc. The flag of our regiment was riddled by seventy-five bul-

lets, and the ensign, although wounded at the commencement of the fight, nevertheless carried the flag on, not heeding his wound, to the fort, where he proudly and defiantly raised and waved it, when he was shot through the head, and sank down a corpse. As night approached, our wounded were brought to the field hospitals and cared for as well as could be expected, our position was attended to and guarded against a surprise, our knapsaeks were gotten and we went to sleep, satisfied with our dearly bought victory. At 12 o'clock P. M. we were awakened by a heavy musket fire, accompanied a few seconds later by the deep bass of our cannon. The enemy tried to retake his fort and guns, but our boys would not assent, and soon the horde of butternuts were sent back in double quick whence they came; not even taking their dead and wounded along. Soon after everything was quiet again, and, satisfied with the victory of Resaca, we laid down awaiting the events of the next day.

*May 16* The enemy had been attacked yesterday along his whole line almost, and lost nearly all his entrenchments. While we kept the enemy busy behind his entrenchments, MCPHERSON continually advanced in his rear and sought to cut off his retreat. The enemy hearing this, and considering MCPHERSON'S plan probable, considered prudence the better part of valor and fled in the night. To-day we could find but dead or wounded rebels, a number by no means small; the chivalrous and hale rebels had given leg bail. We were thereby enabled to give our fallen comrades a befitting funeral. The grave of the fallen heroes of our brigade was dug on an elevation, the corpses wrapped in blankets and laid along side of each other to sleep "the sleep that knows no waking." Some green twigs were put over the dead, several chaplain's addressed the listeners, the grave was closed up, and a board, bearing as an inscription the name, number of brigade, regiment and company of

the dead, was placed at the head of each corpse. It was late in the afternoon when the burial ceremonies had ended, and the greater part of the army had gone in pursuit of the enemy; but we had to march during the night in order to catch up to them. The brigade had lost, since yesterday morning, 315 men, and did not assemble until sunset, as those not engaged at the burial, had to gather the guns of the dead, or bring the wounded rebels away, and others moved the cannons a distance of several miles to Resaca. After sunset we commenced our march, passed several dead rebels, lying unburied, and marched the whole night without camping.

*May 17.* We stopped only long enough to prepare and eat a hasty breakfast, when we again went on our march until noon. We stopped 1½ hour to prepare and eat dinner and to wait for our men that had taken the captured caunons to Resaca. At 2 o'clock we continued our march with as great haste as in the morning; many of the men gave out, remained behind, or were taken along in wagons. The rebels must have been very hasty in their retreat, or else our advance guard would have seen something of the rebel rear guard. The inhabitants of the country swore they had never seen Yankees, and particularly not these "horny figures." They either had expected a different result of the battle, or else they had not the means to flee. And although we convinced them that we had no "horns," we although convinced them that we wanted all their things with or without horns that were of any service to the army—in fact that we were carrying out the confiscation act. We did not go into camp until 9 o'clock P. M.

*May 18.* A beautiful spring morning; early we were on the road again pursuing the retreating enemy, to whom we got nearer and were close at his heels. Our cavalry was continually fighting his rear guard and took many prisoners. The day was tremendously

hot, and many of our men had been completely worn out and sank to the ground, we therefore stopped oftener than we would have done if the day had been cooler. The enemy, however, was harassed everywhere by our cavalry and got no rest whatever, until we compelled him towards evening to make a stand. Our men were very tired and the further we marched the less men remained in ranks; we would rather have thrown ourselves behind the first tree to rest for the night. Suddenly and unexpectedly we heard some heavy firing in our front, and with double quick, worn out as we were, albeit, we rushed there. The enemy had stopped his retreat and posted a strong line of pickets against our cavalry, in order that his main force could continue the retreat a couple of miles. On reaching our cavalry, we assumed our positions in front of the enemy, and being late we went into camp; but few shots were fired in the night, during which the enemy again fled.

*May 19.* We could find the enemy without hunting for him, for after a march of a few miles, when near the place, Cassville, we found him and exchanged shots with him immediately. After our first mutual salutations, not knowing the strength and position of the enemy, we halted and erected a kind of breastworks, behind which we placed ourselves, until the numbers, position, &c., of the enemy could be found out. This done we made a movement to the right, which the enemy found out, however, and made his preparations accordingly, so that our men found the enemy's pickets everywhere. Till now our brigade had not a member on the line of pickets, which consisted of troops strange to us whom we had supported; but as these were relieved now, our brigade was called upon, and the 129th Illinois had to advance. We assembled in an open field, bordered by brush, in which the enemy lay hidden. We advanced expecting a heavy fire, but the enemy had disappeared and retreated to a stronger position further back in the



woods, and we had marched some distance before some wild scattered shots told us of the presence of the enemy. The resistance of the enemy was but a timid one, caused perhaps in consequence of commands, certainly though partly in consequence of fear, as the wild, scattered and ill-aimed shooting proved conclusively; and soon the enemy had been driven back three miles. We had been ordered to drive the enemy to his works, and as these were seen, we halted, and cavalry was sent out to draw the fire of the enemy. Scarcely had our cavalry shown itself, when a shower of shot and shell saluted them, but one of our batteries that had been brought in position in the mean time, soon silenced the enemy's guns by well aimed shots. After sundown, still lying in the picket line, the second brigade of our division rushed on our right with terrific yells against the town, Cassville, which was taken after a weak resistance. Great joy spread through the whole division, and the hurrahs must have struck terror in the hearts of the enemy as they again had been whipped in a position chosen by himself and driven him out of it. We camped around the town for the night, during which the enemy retreated again.

*May 20.* We remained quiet in camp to-day, near Cassville; of the enemy nothing could be seen and in consequence no firing took place. Our yesterday's loss in taking the town was but small, our brigade did not lose a single member. We received a very large mail to-night, and as a mail was to leave again, many letters were written home in the course of the day.

*May 21.* We remained idle another day, and the report was that we were to remain here three days. Rations were drawn and new clothes sent after. Everything was quiet.

*May 22.* Had inspectium of arms and clothes; the division was lauded by Gen. BUTTERFIELD for the bravery shown on the 19th inst.



*May 23.* We continued our advance, and left camp at 4 o'clock already in the direction of Kingston, Ga. The day was very hot and many men were sunstruck. We were commanded to put fresh leaves in our hats, to protect head and brains against the burning rays of the sun. Several scouts of the enemy were seen; some distance on our right heavy cannon firing was heard, though we marched on unmolested by the enemy. About sundown we camped on the south side of a river and remained there during the night.

*May 24* We broke camp early, and, as yesterday, had to suffer very much from the sun. Our advance met the enemy after a march of ten miles who fired hastily at our men. We were ordered to halt, and camped for the night, during which it rained, while we built entrenchments. Many of our men had suffered so much from the sun and heat that they could not assist at the work, but threw themselves down on the cold ground to sleep and rest, not caring even for any supper. This was the first night we camped in the Altoona mountains; the enemy disappeared during the night.

*May 25.* We commenced our march early in order to make use of the cool morning hours in marching a couple of miles, for the heat became more oppressive every day, while every day the number of our men became smaller. Despite of the heat we continued our march with but few and short rests until 5 o'clock P. M. During the whole day we had not been troubled by the enemy, until after 5 o'clock we suddenly saw staff officers and dispatch bearers gallop in every direction, troops were drawn together, and everything betrayed a bloody evening. Our division, the third, was formed near the road where we had halted, while the troops of the 1st and 2d divisions, who had heretofore been in our rear, moved past us against the enemy. The regiments of the two divisions were scarcely past and had barely

taken their assigned position, when a terrible fire of musketry and cannon was heard—the bloody battle at Dallas or Burnt Hickory had commenced. Our own division now advanced again, and after many flank movements approached the battle-field; many wounded, able to help themselves, met us and sought shelter or went to the hospitals. We were acting as support in the rear of the 1st and 2d divisions of our corps, but were as much exposed to the enemy's fire as the men in the front, and consequently lost many men. The bullets continually tore holes in our ranks, or whizzed over our heads. The firing did not slacken until after hard fighting of two hours and darkness commenced setting in. Fresh troops had arrived in the mean time, our lines were re-established and entrenchments built on our outer lines. When this work was commenced with, the enemy's picket resumed firing, and continued during the whole night, although a heavy rain had commenced falling. Forming as we did the second line, we were not allowed to leave the ranks, but remain in the rain, with the face on the ground and the knapsack on the back, the whole night.

*May 26.* Amid heavy firing of the pickets the entrenchments on the front line were finished, in which work we took no part, as we relieved the front line in the evening, and took our places behind the new works. The enemy lay silent behind his works during the day, but night had scarcely set in, when we heard hundreds of axes at work felling trees; the enemy was either building new works, or strengthening those already built.

*May 27.* Earth and breastworks had been erected along our whole line, and our guns, after being placed in position, began to play on the enemy, who still remained silent, (as had been the case since the 25th.) Our guns began their thunderous music early in the morning and our pickets, safely placed behind trees and logs, were harassing the enemy very much, while

our main force was safely stationed behind our works. Our bombardment did not elicit an answer from the enemy to our great surprise—his guns continued silent. What was the cause? was everybody's question. To save power or lead, could not be the cause. It was the intention of the enemy to remain silent until we advanced to an attack, and then butcher us by the hundred. But they were mistaken. Gen. SHERMAN pondered over ways and means to whip the enemy without perhaps uselessly sacrificing thousands of valuable lives, he understood flank movements and get in the enemy's rear. He had men enough to confront the enemy everywhere, and he had the men who were willing to do anything to whip the rebels. At 12 o'clock at noon we advanced a few hundred steps to draw the enemy from his works, but as he believed we were advancing to an attack, he remained behind his works; his pickets and sharpshooters, however, opened a merciless fire on our column, by which our regiment lost one killed and thirteen wounded. As we had not been ordered to attack the enemy, we went as close to him as possible, and entrenched ourselves in broad daylight almost under his nose. The 102d Illinois regiment had taken one of the enemy's batteries yesterday, but could not hold it on account of the murderous fire of musketry, being situated between the two picket lines. The enemy did not think it prudent, however, to retake the battery, which was afterwards shivered by our artillery fire. The enemy now made an attack on our first division, but got the worst of it and fled, leaving all his dead and wounded behind. Gen. SHERMAN inspected our lines. There was an incessant picket fire going on during the whole day, and the loss of the brigade was larger to-day than yesterday. As night approached the fire slackened, and the night passed quietly.

*May 28.* Our brigade was relieved at the front and went to the rear; but as we were posted near

one of our batteries, at which the enemy's guns were firing to-day continually, every moment a shell exploding over or near us and cutting off the branches of the trees, our present position was a more dangerous one than the one in the front line. The enemy, under JOHNSTON, had received reinforcements from Richmond, and the report was that JOHNSTON had sent a flag of truce to SHERMAN demanding his surrender, or else he would come with his mighty army—five to our one—compel us to surrender and play the d—l generally. It did not seem as though the enemy was going to do all this at once, and that SHERMAN did not expect it either, for large foraging parties were sent out in the neighborhood.

*May 29.* During the day the pickets continued their firing, which was now and then intermingled with the deep bass voices of the cannons. Our loss, therefore, was less to-day than yesterday. Our men had become accustomed to the continual firing of musketry and the thunder of the cannons and were in excellent spirits, heightened on the reception of a mail from home. We saw thereby that the road behind us was clear and that we could write to our parents, relatives and friends the news of our victories; and also, alas! the sad news of the death of many a brave and noble fellow in behalf of our glorious country. We received letters in return with news from home, encouraging us in our work of the restoration of our country, telling us of the doings of the Copperheads in the North, etc. The day was pleasant, but the night brought the more trouble. Several hours after sundown the enemy made an attack on our lines, and advanced, several lines of battle, with a terrific yell towards us. But the rebs. had calculated too surely, without consulting us, on a victory. They were received by a well directed fire of musketry and canister that made them stagger; another volley made them flee in thick confusion, leaving their dead and wounded behind them. The fire must have been

an effective one and the enemy suffered severely; but as the firing was continued now the principal part of the night, we also lost a number of men killed, who should no more behold the light of the sun, or wounded, who were to lie in the hospitals for months, and be discharged, perhaps, as cripples for life.

*May 30.* There was an incessant roar of the cannons, intermingled with the rattle of musketry. The enemy attacked the pickets on our left and drove them back; many of our pickets were surprised and taken prisoner and afterwards shot or killed by a blow with the musket in a most fiendish manner. An attack the enemy made on our right proved unsuccessful for him, and he lost some 1800 men in the attempt. There was fighting going on at our left, but the loss could not be ascertained. During the pauses, when the firing ceased for a few moments, the signal bugles of the enemy could be distinctly heard, and sometimes we even heard the enemy's officers curse the Yankees.

*May 31* The 129th had to go on picket to-day. Early in the morning there was not much firing going on, but after a gang of rebel sharpshooters had taken possession of a house between the two lines and began to fire on us from the upper story, the firing became more lively, but all our firing at the rebels in the house was of no effect. To stop the annoying and dangerous fire of these sharpshooters, two of our guns were placed in the picket line, and a few shots from them stopped the mad firing of the rebels. Hereafter the firing was continued from behind the trees and ditches and pits, and even words were exchanged, but it was not very prudent to show one's head, as a bullet was sure to be sent on the appearance of a head. During the night the rebels were again very busy felling trees; on our right heavy firing was going on.

*June 1, 1864.* After being relieved from picket duty and having joined our brigade, we remained in

our old position until noon. In our front there was but little firing going on, but on our left the firing was very lively. In the afternoon we received orders to be ready to march, and a short while afterwards the whole division marched a few miles further to the left of our former position, where, when night came on, we took our place behind the 14th army corps as supports. The night passed quietly.

*June 2.* During the night a heavy rain had commenced to fall which became worse, streaming on us in torrents, after we had packed up and were ready for marching. Wet to the skin, we waded through the morass further to our left, and reached the extreme flank in the afternoon. On approaching our new position we heard heavy firing going on, a number of wounded met us on their way to the hospital, while here and there a corpse was stretched on the ground. We took our place in an open field in line of battle and had scarcely shown ourselves when the enemy began to fire shells at us, wounding and killing several. Doctor POTTER, of the 105th Illinois, who was washing in a creek far behind the division, was shot by a ball of the enemy in the head, and instantly killed. The firing continued during the balance of the day, but slackened during the night until morning.

*June 3.* A brigade of the 23d army corps and the 1st and 2d brigade of our division of the 20th army corps, went further to the left; the enemy noticing this, after we had marched but a short distance, fired several shells at us, without doing any harm, however. A few hours before sundown we camped near Big Shanty station in the forest. No firing during the night.

*June 4.* Heavy rain in the forenoon and rapid firing on our right. We remained quiet until noon, when we went behind breastworks and remained there during the night. No firing in our front. The enemy retreated a short distance towards Lost mountain.



*June 5.* A rainy day, and in consequence of this we were quiet; the enemy was retreating. Our music bands began to play again, the first time for a long while,

*June 6.* We moved nearer to Big Shanty station, but our advance soon met the pickets of the enemy, who began to fire. The position of the rebels was soon discovered, but as we had no order to advance further, we erected light breastworks, and remained for the night. A heavy rain fell afterwards.

*June 7.* We remained still and had inspection in the forenoon. The weather was very hot, and the enemy quiet. A music band of the brigade, sent after long ago, arrived at last. We received a large mail.

*June 8.* We still remained quiet; nothing was heard of the enemy.

*June 9.* We still remained quiet; a member of the 1st brigade, found guilty of theft, was drummed through our lines.

*June 10.* We received marching orders, but as the 14th army corps marched off before us, the roads were blocked, and we remained; the 129th Illinois went on picket for the night. Heavy firing was going on in the afternoon. Rain and sunshine changed.

*June 11.* Our pickets were relieved; it rained incessantly during the day and the roads were in a most wretched condition. Firing was heard throughout the day. We had received marching orders.

*June 12.* The rain continued and no movements were made.

*June 13.* Big Shanty station fell in our hands after hard fighting, and the Railroad trains followed immediately to the station. It rained again, and heavy firing was going on at our right. We remained quiet.

*June 14.* The rain stopped at last; heavy artillery



fire in the afternoon. We remained quiet and drew rations.

*June 15.* Early in the morning we began our pursuit after the enemy, who was again on the retreat; skirmishing between our advance and the enemy's rear took place continually. During the forenoon we marched by the flank, but in the afternoon, being nearer to the main force of the enemy, in line of battle. amid continual fire of the enemy. We lost our second ensign and several other men. Although near the enemy's works, we had not yet reached our destination. We advanced and drove the enemy's pickets behind the entrenchments; these we approached to about one hundred yards. amidst a most murderous fire of the rebel artillery. We laid down on the ground, with the face downward, while the hilly elevations somewhat protected us. Yet, many had been killed and wounded, and their number was steadily increasing. After the fire of the enemy had slackened somewhat and the night set in, we were ordered to erect breastworks, which we did as quickly as possible by placing logs and branches of trees in piles, covering them with earth. Scarcely done with this we again received orders to advance, while the 3d brigade of our division moved in our place behind our breastworks. Having formed a line, we climbed over our entrenchments and advanced, despite the murderous fire the enemy opened on us. The object of our advance was to protect the brigade that had taken our place in finishing the works, and until they offered good shelter against the enemy's balls and attacks. We approached the enemy ten to twelve steps, when we again laid down to evade the blue beans that were whizzing around our ears. While lying down the enemy's fire became more violent, and as our position offered no protection whatever, causing the loss of many a life, the whole regiment, misunderstanding a command, rose to the feet and retreated behind the breastworks, despite the

endeavors of the company officers to stop the men. Even if this retreat had not been caused by a misunderstanding, nobody could blame the regiment for seeking shelter from such a shower of lead and iron behind breastworks, principally erected by itself, losing thereby 18 wounded and 2 killed. Even the men behind the works did not blame us for seeking shelter, although many of them were knocked down and trodden upon in the scramble over the breastworks. They themselves thought it wrong to take us away from our breastworks, that we had to a great extent erected with such hard work and amid such danger. During the night we were ordered to a position on the left, where we again built entrenchments. Of course no one slept a minute that night.

*June 16.* The firing commenced early in the morning, particularly annoying were the rebel sharpshooters, who could do us no harm behind the breastworks, but our pickets were in continual danger. Later in the day our cannons opened on the enemy, who did not answer with his artillery until evening, when he sent some shell and solid shot against our breastworks. The shells either exploded on the ground before our breastworks or behind us, cutting off branches from the trees, and doing us no harm. Provisions were very scarce, as the roads were too bad and had to be repaired before the wagons could reach us.

*June 17.* The night passed quietly and without much firing, and even the day was not ushered in by the usual picket fire; it seemed as if the pickets were tired of shooting at each other. The rebel pickets satisfied themselves saying from their rifle pits; "we have taken JOE HOOKER and staff prisoner last night;" our men gave them the lie and asked why they had left Dalton and Resaca so quickly, how far it was to Atlanta, etc., the rebs refusing every positive answer to these questions. Some time afterwards we found out that the enemy had fled and left

the pickets to mask his retreat, and who now also beat a hasty retreat. Curiosity led us to the enemy's works to take a look at them. They had been built a great deal better than ours. Here and there the upper part had been shot away, and stains of blood near by proved that our artillery fire had been very exact, more so than the enemy's against ours. Our cavalry was soon at the heels of the enemy, and as the shells the enemy fired at the cavalry exploded near us, he cannot have been far when our men caught up to him. We soon went on after the enemy, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles further we approached him from an open field and halted. Our brigade was in the reserve to-day. A number of cannons were placed in the front line, who assisted the enemy in "getting along." Our cannons barked incessantly at the enemy who continued to retreat until dusk, when again a courageous notion caused him to stop and answer every shot. A continuous thunder of cannon shots filled the air until late at night, when the whole surrounding country was thickly filled with the sulphurous smoke, and the lateness of the hour stopped all operations and the noise.

*June 18.* As it always had happened after a heavy cannonade, so to-day again a hard rain set in, becoming more intense as the day advanced, and giving no room whatever for the hope of an early clearing up. Despite this rain the fighting seemed to become more fierce than on the day before; the roar of the cannons was almost insufferable; reverberating in the mountains and thereby becoming more frightful. Here and there the deafening cheers of the attacking columns were heard, followed by a continual rattle of musketry. Our brigade still remained in the reserve, and we were thereby enabled to observe the better the movements and fighting during the day. Where the roar of the artillery was the loudest and where the rattle of musketry was the hardest, there our men made an attempt to cross a creek.

But all attempts were for naught, as the enemy was too strong and determined to resist and prevent our crossing over. Although during the forenoon the fight was going on incessantly, yet during the afternoon, instead of increasing in violence, it became more quiet. A brigade of rebels was taken prisoner to-day.

*June 19.* Yesterday's slaughter took place on the right side of the Kenesaw mountains, and to-day we marched  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles further to the right of the mountain, through bottomless morass and in the heaviest showers of rain. The enemy had to be driven part of the way, before we could get close enough to his entrenchments. By this work we frequently got in a rather unpleasant fire, particularly when in the woods, supporting our line of pickets and making movements of every sort. Two of our men were badly wounded and the horse of Col. CASE that had been in all the battles and violent fires, was wounded under its rider. To our left, near the Kenesaw, a heavy cannonade was frequently heard. We again erected breastworks in the night and had but an hour's sleep. The night passed with but very little firing.

*June 21.* During the forenoon we remained in our place, strengthening our breastworks. In the afternoon we protected the 23d army corps that advanced a short distance for a better position. After having returned to our breastworks, we had to advance again in order to form a straight line with the corps mentioned, and had to erect new breastworks again; of course we got but very little sleep. The day was rainy and on our left heavy firing going on.

*June 22.* The enemy sent us several feelers to-day in the shape of shells, that exploded harmlessly in our front and rear. Gen. HOOKER climbed up a tree in front of our regiment to get a better view of the enemy and the surrounding country. Soon after we got the order to advance, and drove the enemy from

Lost mountain amid heavy skirmishing. The enemy halted at the edge of the forest, with an open field in front, and as our pickets could not drive the rebels further, the second brigade of our division was sent to assist, and brought the enemy to stagger, though it cost many valuable lives. Our brigade, on the left of the second, had to cross the field also and was fired upon by the enemy, losing a considerable number; our own regiment losing four members. When we had advanced far enough, we built breastworks at the foot of a hill held by the rebels, who fired at us continually, having a plain view of us and our work. The shots, however, nearly all went over our heads, and soon our new breastworks afforded us shelter against rifle balls. In the afternoon, while yet busy at our breastworks, the enemy made an attack on our right on the first division of the 20th corps and part of the 23d corps, in order to regain the ground lost to-day. The first division had just gotten a firm hold of their new position when the rebels, half drunk, came from their hiding place and rushed like madmen upon the Yankees. But as on former occasions the rebels again lost their courage when our men gave them the first salute at very short range. Many a rebel bit the dust and our shots riddled the rebel lines. A panic seized them and they turned and fled; but before all had begun to flee several pieces of cannon opened on them with grape and canister, reducing their numbers by hundreds of killed and wounded which were left behind. All the rebels now fled panic-stricken, not thinking any more of recovering the lost ground. The fire on the enemy continued until night, and at dusk our "tender regards" were reciprocated and elicited frequent replies, doing but little damage, however.

*June 23.* Early in the morning we were relieved in our position on ground, taken away from the enemy by us, by other troops and we marched to the

right wing, where yesterday the enemy had attacked a part of the 23d army corps, and where the rebel dead were lying in every direction. Here our division and troops of the 23d army corps were gathered to make an attack on the enemy. After everything had been prepared for the undertaking, the advance was delayed, perhaps in order to find out more about the enemy before the movement was made. The undertaking seemed too costly a one, and we were divided along the line, whereupon our cannons opened on the enemy. The fire at the rebels on the Kenesaw was a spirited one, as were the "tit for tat" answers of the enemy. Our pickets during the night were advanced toward the enemy without meeting with any resistance.

*June 24.* Half of our company D of our regiment was on picket. We were at a point to which the line had advanced the night before and had entrenched ourselves in an open field. When the morning dawned and the rebels saw our new works they gathered in crowds to take a look at the wonderful works; to assist them in looking and convince them that our works were inhabited, we soon opened our fire on them, whereupon the crowd disappeared. Curiosity had been awakened on the part of the rebels, and every now and then a head became visible, was shot at and disappeared, until one rebel was seen to fall. The rebels tried to carry the fallen one away, but as they were fired upon they thought the job too hazardous and quit. The enemy advanced his pickets to the place where the one shot had fallen, and we were fired on in return. This mutual gratulation continued throughout the day despite the almost melting heat. One of our pickets at our right was killed by a ball through the head. After sunset we were relieved and went to our regiment. The night was a restless one; no thought of sleep.

*June 25.* The weather was very hot and we re-



mained quiet. The picket firing in our front continued, intermingled with cannon shots from the Kencsaw.

*June 26.* The weather was very hot, and firing going on at our right and left and skirmishing in our front.

*June 27.* The first division at our left, which had been further back, advanced until it got into a straight line with us. This was a hot work for the division as it had to drive back a strong line of the enemy's pickets, who seemed determined to keep the division back and keep their own places. At such advances the artillery generally assists, as it did to-day, and as the division went to work with a heart and a will, the enemy was soon compelled to withdraw after a hard struggle. The firing continued until night when the whole field was completely covered with a thick and heavy smoke. Our brigade was behind its entrenchments, awaiting an attack. During the night we strengthened our breastworks and in camp every regiment was on guard until the work was done.

*June 28.* During the entire day heavy firing took place; in the night a rebel patrol came too close to our pickets and was received with shots; the whole camp became alarmed and every regiment was placed in line of battle until the firing ceased and we could find out what had happened.

*June 29.* No firing of any consequence took place in our front, but heavy musketry fire was occasionally heard from Kencsaw. The enemy made a night attack on our left, which must have been a determined one, as the firing continued very long and violent; later news reported that the enemy had been whipped.

*June 30.* But very little firing along the line. Gen BUTTERFIELD started for New York, and our brigade commander, Gen. Ward assumed command of the division. Col. HARRISON assumed command of the brigade. Muster for pay in the afternoon.



*July 1.* But little firing going on between the pickets. Uniforms had arrived and were distributed among the regiments, many a member of whom was barefooted or ragged. Several members off on a furlough returned; one member of our regiment was wounded. We were to-day behind the first line of entrenchments, and towards evening we went to the second line.

*July 2.* Before daybreak we were awakened and placed in line of battle behind our works, as the 23d corps had been selected for a flanking movement around the enemy's left flank. In our front, in order to engage his attention, a tremendous cannonade was opened on the enemy. The pickets were pushed forward, and the enemy expecting an attack from our direction, was deceived and his left outflanked. The object of the 23d corps must have been successful as we noticed the enemy making preparations to-day for a retreat, and as we received orders at 9 p. m., to be ready for marching at daybreak.

*July 3.* The rebels had been outflanked and during the night had given up Kenesaw mountain and the town of Marietta. We found his pickets only the next morning. As had been ordered, we commenced the pursuit of the enemy early, whom we reached early in the forenoon. The enemy, expecting immediate pursuit, had left a considerable force at the point where we overtook him, in order to stop our progress, until his main force with the train of wagons and cannons had retreated to the Chattahoochee river, there to await our approach. The enemy's rear guard was seen in an open field, too powerful for a mere line of pickets, a section of artillery began to play on the enemy, who immediately answered from a larger number of cannons than ours. Our brigade had taken position in the rear of our cannons, with our pieces on the ground, while the enemy's shells exploded in front, behind and over us. We were in a dangerous position, but every man remained at his

post. One shell of the rebel gun exploded over us and a piece struck a member of company A on the head, scattering his brains in every direction on the men; several others were slightly wounded. Another shell exploded and the pieces struck a gunner who had always faithfully performed his duty, tore one of his legs off, wounded the other, tore off an arm, the nose and part of the chin. The unfortunate man lived until night, when death ended his sufferings. The enemy's fire became more violent and accurate, and as one of our guns had become unserviceable, a second battery came to our assistance; but ere this could begin its work, the enemy had packed up and fled. The road from here to Marietta was now examined by our regiment to see if it was clear of rebels, while the remainder kept the position until we returned. We took five rebels prisoners in the forest, and brought them along. The number of rebel prisoners taken to-day amounted to about 15,000. In the afternoon we again went in pursuit of the enemy, overtook his rear guard several times, built breastworks, and again advanced. During the night we camped at the right wing of the army.

*July 4.* We remained quiet until 2 o'clock in the afternoon when we again advanced without opposition of the enemy. In the direction of the breastworks built by us yesterday afternoon, a cannonade was heard, and the enemy used his artillery heavily against SCHOFIELD'S 23d army corps. Our music bands played delightful this evening and merriment and hurrahs abounded in camp. Rebel deserters frequently came into our lines.

*July 5.* The enemy was still on the retreat and we marched the whole day without meeting any resistance; towards evening, when near the Chattahoochie river, we reached the enemy and light skirmishing took place.

*July 6.* We lay quiet until noon when we went

to the left wing, and in the night we commenced skirmishing with the enemy in the front line.

*July 7.* Very hot weather. The enemy had given way again and our pickets advanced  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles before catching up to the enemy. During the day no firing took place—a kind of treaty of peace having been concluded to that effect—and the rebels sold southern papers to our men for coffee. The men were quite conversational until our men were relieved, when the firing commenced again and was continued until morning.

*July 8.* The weather was hot—we remained quiet, except clearing up a little in camp, as it was believed that we would remain for a longer period. No firing took place.

*July 9.* From a high mountain the houses of Atlanta were to be seen, but also the intermediate forts and camps of the enemy; and it seemed not, as though the enemy would allow our early entrance into that city. We received orders to pack up and support the line of skirmishers—we remained in camp, however. Heavy cannon firing on our right and left, and insufferable heat. A shell exploding in one of our ammunition wagons, wounded the driver and killed five mules.

*July 10.* At 2 o'clock A. M. we received orders to be ready by sunrise; at the appointed time we marched a couple of hundred steps, when we halted, remained quiet some time, and again returned to our old camps. A rebel major with 1,400 men was captured near the river, while the balance of the enemy's forces were crossing from the north to the south side of the river. In the night we drew rations.

*July 11.* A member of our regiment while upon picket duty was shot by the rebels—the bullet went through his head and he fell dead. We still remained in our camp; the day was very hot and but little firing on the picket line.

*July 12.* The camps were cleaned again and we had no prospect of an early move. In the afternoon rain.

*July 13.* We remained quiet yet—the heat was very great. Drew rations.

*July 14.* A rainy afternoon; a cannonade was heard sometimes in the day, and sometimes in the night.

*July 15.* Cool and dark weather; we remained quiet.

*July 16.* Our pickets were now on the north side and the enemy's pickets on the south side of the Chattahoochie river. Not a single shot was fired by the pickets of our brigade at the rebels, or by those at us, but the rebels were prohibited from speaking a single word to our men and would not allow them to go into the water. Our men generally were out of tobacco and continually asked the rebels for some, who did not answer, but now and then tied a piece of tobacco on a stone, and threw it over the river. Cannonade on our left.

*July 17.* At 3 o'clock in the afternoon we left our camp and marched until late at night in an easterly direction. whereupon we crossed over the river pontoons ready there, without resistance from the enemy. We continued our march in an easterly direction without stopping, until we were about four miles from the river, when we camped for the night.

*July 18.* Again we commenced our march at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, principally in line of battle, as we were near the enemy, and whose pickets had to be driven ahead frequently after slight resistance. Late in the evening we reached our camping ground, and erected breastworks during the night. Trees were being felled in every direction, despite the darkness, and a member of the 102d Illinois regiment, feeling ill, laid down under a tree, and had his skull crushed by a falling tree while asleep. Senseless

and dying the wounded man was taken to the hospital.

*July 19.* We remained quiet and made our breastworks stronger—the heat was intolerable. Heavy cannonading and skirmishing was going on near us. Gen. HOOD had relieved Gen. JOHNSTON in the command of the rebel army, the latter having declared his inability to keep Atlanta from the Yankees' grasp.

*July 20.* To judge from all preparations and movements in camp it seemed, as though the day would not pass by as former days, but that an attack would be made on the enemy. All the sick were taken from the doctors' hands and placed in wagons, or wherever there was room for them. Men were detailed and sent with ladders to the regiments to be on hand in time for carrying off the wounded and dead. Everything betokened a bloody day. Early in the day we had received orders to pack up and immediately after breakfast we left our camp for the bloody work. The commencement was at hand, as our advance immediately commenced exchanging shots with the enemy. The firing sometimes increased and then again decreased. At noon, the sun burning almost insufferably, we reached a creek, Peach Tree creek, which was very high, although there had been but little rain of late. A dyke had been erected by the rebels below our position, in order to prevent our crossing. We crossed, however, without any obstacles, as a bridge had been built over the creek and the 14th army corps had driven the enemy back. After crossing the creek, we reached an open field, where we halted, but where the rifle ball of the enemy reached, without doing any damage, however. The 17th corps was on our right, and the 14th on our left in position, while we remained in the open field. The centre was a gap between the two corps, destined to be our position, but was not filled because the supposition

was general that the enemy would again retreat without much fighting. This did not seem to be the case, and all attacks of our pickets were of no use, but seemed to make the enemy the more determined on resistance. We arose again and marched to the right until we reached the right wing of the 17th army corps. Thus the gap was filled, and we were stationed at the foot of a hill in our front; here we stacked arms. Our orders were not to go too far from our guns, as orders for an advance were expected. As the noon sun was very hot, we went in the shade of a neighboring thorny thicket, others went after water for the dinner coffee. We had scarcely seated ourselves, and long before the thirsty ones could get their coffee ready, a tremendous roar of musketry in our front was heard, coming nearer every second. In a few minutes our pickets were driven in, who reported that the enemy was coming, three lines of battle strong and was approaching fast. As soon as the firing had commenced, every one rushed for his gun, and before the enemy, who approached in double quick time, could open his fire on us, we were on the top of the hill, meeting them, and thereby preventing a surprise. The rebels, being thus unexpectedly confronted by a line of Yankees, lost some of their courage, and instead of rushing on us, they stretched themselves behind a rail fence on the top of the hill, waiting until we had advanced to within ten steps of them. The fire between the two armies now became most violent and no member of our regiment who expected death on that day, will ever in his life forget the slaughter, while the powder smoke rose slowly up to heaven between the fighting parties,—where one gallant lad after another was snatched from our side! He will never forget, how after a short continuation of this wholesale butchery, on our left, cheers were given, like a prairie-fire leaping to the right, and all our men rushed on the enemy with the bayonet, like so



many devils! The scene was a bloody one, but glorious one after all to the Union heart! The rebel lines behind the fence, not accustomed to such bravery, rose to their feet and ran away as fast as their legs could carry them. Now our harvest had come and we paid back the enemy in the same coin they had given us. Every man now aimed at an enemy running in his front, who went down before such a fire as the ripe wheat before the scythe of the mower. The enemy ran about 300 or 400 steps and then gathered and began to return our fire again, thereby endangering his own wounded in our front. The fire, which commenced at 2 o'clock P. M., continued until night; but as we were protected somewhat by the fence, our loss was smaller than at the beginning. While we were thus fighting with the enemy, the troops on our right and left had to do the same thing, as the rebels under HOOD were trying their best to whip the Yankees, and had attacked our whole line. Both wings had to give way to the enemy several times, who had even taken several cannons from them, when they again rallied, until the enemy had been whipped everywhere. Although the rebels can say "at Peach Tree creek we did good work," yet they cannot say that the work was a master-piece. They had no master-workman in HOOD as we did in SHERMAN, and where the "boss" is of no account, what can you expect from the "journs" and boys? Our loss on this day was large, smaller however than the loss of the enemy. All our wounded were collected during and after the fight, and cared for in the hospitals as well as possible. Our regiment lost 10 killed, but many of the wounded died afterwards in the hospitals. Our division took seven flags from the enemy, (one of which was taken by our regiment;) the bearers of three had to be killed before the flags were taken. The rebel wounded, by no means a small number, were collected after dark and cared for. They were very thankful for our care,



and as they were well provided with tobacco, which our men were in want of, they willingly divided with us. As our own wounded were very numerous, best little medical aid could be rendered the rebel wounded during the night. We had but little sleep, as we were busy erecting breastworks, for which, however, we had no use, as the rebels made no attack in the night

*July 21.* We buried our own dead and some of the enemy's, whereby most of the day was spent. Gen. HOOKER rode along our line as we were collecting the enemy's dead, and as the General was a favorite of the men, cheers were repeatedly given. He stopped a while and looked at the staring dead, and was soon surrounded by our men. He could not, however, control his feelings, tears came in his eyes, and he rode off. The enemy retreated quite a distance during the night, to make another stand around Atlanta. The 14th corps, which formed our left wing, swung around, thereby approaching our destination, Atlanta. During this manoeuver there was frequent heavy firing on the left. We remained for the night on the battle-field.

*July 22.* Without taking breakfast we left the bloody field in pursuit of the flying enemy, to avenge our fallen comrades and the losses we had sustained, determined not to rest until the rebels had been completely whipped. In the afternoon, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Atlanta, we found the enemy's pickets and saw the rebels busy perfecting their fortifications. We pressed as near to the enemy as possible, until our pickets could advance no further without suffering loss. We stopped and entrenched ourselves. The enemy gave us time for this work until night, when he began his artillery fire; by this time our breastworks afforded us good shelter. Our left wings, having pushed forward yesterday, had to fight with the enemy and whipped him again, as on the 20th.

We suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Gen. McPHERSON, who was killed by a rebel ball.

*July 23.* The enemy opened a heavy fire on us in the forenoon and compelled us to seek shelter behind our breastworks. A shell struck our breastworks in front of company A and exploded, doing, however, no other damage than throwing the earth up high in the air. At noon our pickets were driven some distance by the enemy, being in too close proximity to him; but when our pickets advanced again, the enemy retreated and our men resumed their old position. The night was rest and sleepless, the enemy's fire continued, while we were in the ditches behind our breastworks.

*July 24.* Artillery and musketry fire as yesterday. Two negroes were struck by pieces of a shell, and instantly killed. Gen. SHERMAN demanded the surrender of Atlanta, but was refused by HOOD; after which we made preparations to bombard the town and compel the enemy to surrender. Many women who had fled from the horrors of the war and had been in the woods heretofore, prepared to come into our lines instead of those of the enemy, and were admitted. A false alarm robbed us of our sleep again to-night, and we had to remain on guard behind our breastworks, even after the cause or no cause of the alarm had been found out.

*July 25* During the forenoon we remained behind our entrenchments, in consequence of the enemy's fire. In the afternoon, the firing having subsided somewhat, a second line of breastworks was built closer to the enemy's lines. The rebels now thought of preventing our work by a continual fire, particularly by sharpshooters; but of no avail. To hear the bullets whistle, our soldiers had become used to, and on account of the loss of a few wounded it would not be prudent to stop such a work, which was therefore continued amid jokes and jests, and the works became stronger and safer every hour, nearing completion. Having picket firing in the night.

*July 26.* More improvements were made to our works, but on account of being under marching orders, we did not advance to them. The rebel pickets and sharpshooters did more damage than yesterday, as a number of men were wounded. A member of the 70th Indiana lost his life by his own carelessness. He was relieving his man and in the act of stepping in the skirmish pit, when the cock of his gun caught on a root, the gun went off and the ball passed through the breast of the man, who fell down dead. The enemy's cannon's were more quiet than usual, but our artillery opened on the enemy frequently.

*July 27.* Our whole brigade was relieved last night from its position, and marched further to the right, where we took position behind breastworks. Our pickets that had been sent out on the evening before, were left in their position, and brought to us the next morning by a staff officer. The pickets, before reaching us, had to pass through an open field, where they were within easy range of the enemy's balls, that were sent to them. A soldier of the 79th Ohio was shot in the hip and disabled from reaching the hospital. His comrades, unwilling to leave him, had hard work in carrying the wounded man off, before they got out of reach of the enemy's bullets that continued to fly about them faster than before. The fire along the picket line was very violent to-day, as the enemy's pickets were driven back at several points.

*July 28.* Heavy fighting was going on at our right wing; we had marching orders to go there in case of necessity. About 10 o'clock we left our breastworks, and immediately fired at by the enemy who had noticed our movement. After having marched several miles we received orders to return, as the enemy had been completely whipped and our troops were able to withstand the enemy in their front. We returned to our former position, but with the order, not to make ourselves too comfortable

there. Maj. Gen. HOOKER gave up the command of the 20th army corps to go North. The men were not well pleased with this change, as all loved and adored him as a prudent and good General.

*July 29.* The whole third division went to the extreme right. Our army led past yesterday's battlefield, on which the rebel dead and wounded were scattered in every direction yet. To judge from the balls lodging in the trees yet standing and fallen down, the fight must have been a hard one. The troops stationed there were in the best humor, standing and sitting, jesting and laughing between wounded and dead rebels, talking of the events of the day just passed—how the enemy had approached and afterwards the slaughter, in which the enemy suffered severely, where, after the rebels had given leg bail in the most amusing manner. These men belonged to the 17th army corps which had suffered heavy losses too, but which the men did not mind, as their wounded were cared for, and as they themselves had been victorious. At night our division formed the extreme right flank and erected breastworks on all four sides to be protected against attacks by cavalry and infantry. The night passed quiet.

*July 30.* In the forenoon we remained quiet, and in the afternoon we pressed on further to the right and the gap thus occasioned filled by other troops immediately. We had scarcely marched a mile ere we met the enemy, when a slight firing commenced and the division halted and was formed in a hollow space, whereupon we again entrenched ourselves. During the night slight firing commenced occasionally, but not sufficient to cause alarm and prepare for battle.

*July 31.* A division of the 14th army corps, under command of JEFF. C. DAVIS, had to do duty as an inspecting patrol and approach the Macon and Atlanta Railroad as near as possible. We remained quiet, but had orders to be ready to march to DAVIS'

assistance, in case he should come in contact with the enemy. Towards evening DAVIS returned with his men; he had lost some men by the enemy's balls, but no attack had been made. They reported that the road, the only one the enemy had left, had been strongly fortified and was well guarded. The trains the enemy had running were heard distinctly in the night. We remained in our hollow square to-night. The weather was rainy.

*August 1, 1864.* The enemy moved his pickets nearer to our southern side several times, seemingly thinking of making an attack. Perhaps he feared that we would gradually come closer to his last road, whence it would have been difficult to drive us, after we had entrenched ourselves there and gotten a firm hold. All roads leading to us were barricaded with trees and the trees around us were felled, in order to make the task of reaching us the more dangerous for the enemy. Our breastworks, hastily and irregularly erected, were strongly fortified, and now every man desired the enemy to approach. The rebels did not deem it prudent to attack, and there was no other firing but slight skirmishing on our southern front. On our left heavy firing was going on. In the evening an inspection of arms took place.

*August 2.* Our division was relieved by the 23d army corps, which now held the right wing, and we returned to the left, where the 1st and 2d division of our corps were. We went into the front line of the position of the corps on the right of the Chattanooga road and relieved the troops placed there yesterday evening, that had erected entrenchments in the night, and were now taken away to be disposed of somewhere else.

*August 3.* In the forenoon, when behind the entrenchments and the enemy not over eight hundred steps from us, was firing very heavily, we lost a member of the regiment who was busy with the others in fastening branches of trees for shade on our breast-

works ; in the afternoon we lost two more men the same way. In the night another line of entrenchments was erected closer to the enemy ; the work went on incessantly, and the enemy troubled us but little in the night, and while erecting breastworks.

*August 4.* The new line of entrenchments, which already afforded us some shelter, we finished, amid the enemy's most rigid fire. The fire on the picket line was very heavy, particularly that of the enemy. At 12 o'clock at night we went behind our new works, the enemy not knowing anything about it ; we thereby came closer to the enemy, though the distance was but a short one.

*August 5.* Shortly after the enemy had been driven from the Chattahoochie river, the building of a bridge was commenced with for the Railroad. The bridge was done now and to-day the first train reached the front before Atlanta. The locomotive was received with tremendous cheers by our soldiers, and the shrill whistle must have sounded defiantly to the rebels. As provisions had become scanty, we were glad at the arrival of the iron horse, as sufficient quantities could now reach us, despite of the guerillas.

*August 8.* The city had been bombarded for several days, and the fire to-day was more rapid than before. Siege guns had arrived yesterday and been brought into position immediately. We could hear plainly, particularly at night, when the shells struck a house and exploded inside—the sound of which resembled the crash of a falling building, followed by the tremendous explosion in the upper story or cellar. The inhabitants of the city, as we read in the Atlanta papers (which we exchanged from the rebel pickets for coffee,) fled to the most distant parts of the city, or sought refuge in cellars, or dug caves in the ground, where they remained during the bombardment and only left their hiding places, when compelled to by hunger or thirst. The war is a scene



of horror, and it was particularly so the case with Atlanta, full as the city was with refugees from the neighborhood all around. What would the enemy have cared for the women and children, if the reverse had been the case and the city of Atlanta in Union hands, besieged by rebels? How did the rebels act towards the women and children in Pennsylvania and Maryland? And what cared the rebel bushwhackers for women and children, or the passenger trains, when they tore up the rails and hurried hundreds of them to an untimely grave and death, and even robbing them of the little they had left. Not so did SHERMAN act. As the surrender of the city had been refused by HOOD, SHERMAN had told him to order the women and children out of the city. HOOD did not fulfill this request, hoping thereby to compel SHERMAN to forego the bombardment, a foolish supposition indeed. SHERMAN had done everything to prevent loss of life and cannot be called cruel, as has been done by the rebels for the bombardment of Atlanta—HOOD is to blame and to be held responsible for every innocent life sacrificed there, as he knew of SHERMAN'S purpose,—to him the spirits of the innocent, the cripple now begging in the South, must be held responsible and accused of murder, of wantonly sacrificing the lives of his men.

*July 7.* The rebel pickets and sharpshooters were very annoying again, and endeavored to kill the men at our guns; but all efforts were useless, as our cannon barked most lustily. A member of company K of our regiment was badly wounded, and died afterwards in the hospital.

*August 8.* Rain and heavy picket fire. A member of company I of our regiment was badly wounded in the evening at guard mounting.

*August 9.* Every one of our cannon along our whole line had to fire fifty shots during the day at the town. The enemy answered very lively, but was soon made to hush by a few shells. Our shots were



principally directed at the town. Several cannon balls struck our breastworks, but did no damage, as they were bomb proof.

*August 19* Capt. BURCH wounded in the head at Peach Tree Creek, had recovered and again assumed command of his company D. There was much talk of introducing Henry Rifles in our regiment. Very little firing to-day.

*August 11* The enemy's pickets fired incessantly at our pickets who had received orders to remain quiet; now and then, however, one of our pickets could not control himself and fired a shot. On both sides a heavy cannonade was going on. About 10 o'clock P. M., when everything was quiet in our lines, a tremendous artillery and musketry fire commenced, and soon we were in line of battle, not knowing whether the enemy would actually dare an attack or not. From all appearances the enemy made an attack, some distance on our right, as the firing approached our lines, and gradually grew fainter until it ceased entirely.

*August 12.* Heavy picket and artillery fire on both sides. All firing had of late had but little or no result. We were as close to the enemy's lines as we could get, to outflank him, seemed impossible here; but no attack on his forts or works was made, and the soldiers of both armies shot at each other whenever there was a chance—each day demanded its sacrifice, but we did not gain what we wanted, Atlanta. However, we did not grieve very much about this, Atlanta would be taken we all knew, and that Gen. SHERMAN was plotting ways and means to take this, to the rebels, very important position, there could be no doubt. The enemy's road from Atlanta to Macon was yet open for him, and he believed no doubt that we were afraid to drive him out of his entrenchments, or considered the capture of Atlanta an impossibility. A member of the 105th Illinois was shot while on

picket to-day. During the night heavy firing was going on.

*August 13* The brush that was between us and the enemy before the fighting around Atlanta commenced, had been shot away or crippled by the musket balls and shells, whereby the enemy gained a clear view at our works at many points, and whenever our men showed themselves at such points and kept not close behind the breastworks, they were fired upon by the enemy. The rebels had become very good marksmen and but seldom the balls went overhead, but hit either the works or the men behind at work or cooking; wounding or killing them. To prevent any further losses we heightened the breastworks several inches; while at work we again lost one man of our regiment, who was shot through the abdomen; Lieut. FISHER, of the 195th Illinois regiment, was also shot when on picket duty. The bombardment of the city still continued and several times houses had been set afire by our shells—the alarms could be distinctly heard by us—but the fire was quenched by the military and citizens before it could make much headway.

*August 14.* The enemy's fire in our front slackened somewhat, our artillery was the busier in bombarding the city. The enemy made another attack on the 17th corps on our right, and tried very hard to break through our lines. He had to give up his efforts, after a loss of 500 killed and wounded, and 400 prisoners. During the night heavy firing was again going on at our right. Close to our left a fort was built, opposite an enemy's fort. The weather was rainy.

*August 15.* In the morning a heavy cannonade was going on, as well as occasional picket fire. We drew new clothes. Our pickets were again advanced a little, and as this was done very quietly the enemy did not know anything about it until new rifle pits were being dug, when the enemy sent a shot occa-

sionally to the spot whence the noise of digging emanated.

*August 17.* Early in the day our pickets saw rebel regiments and brigades marching to and fro, and the general belief was that the enemy was preparing to break through our lines. An attack was desired by every one as we had good breastworks, and many rebels would have been killed before they could have reached the main works. We had driven poles in the ground with sharp points and this with the brush made an approach to our breastworks very difficult and dangerous. But the enemy seemed to know the strength of our fortifications as well as we did, as he did not come, and we waited for him in vain. The pickets were the busier in firing at us and we lost five men of our regiment. During the night the fire slackened.

*August 18.* Before daybreak the enemy opened a most dreadful fire from all his guns, the shells went bowling over our heads and exploding further back without doing any damage, however, excepting tearing holes in the ground. In a moment our men were under arms behind the entrenchments, as each firing was generally the commencement of an attack, and we were prepared for the worst. The game of the enemy should not last long and our artillery was preparing to make the "erring brethren" hush. They commenced and soon the enemy cooled down, while our artillery continued as long as they pleased. On our right heavy firing was heard. Gen. KILLPATRICK, with his cavalry was in the enemy's rear, destroying railroads and other valuable rebel property, south of Atlanta.

*August 19.* The enemy was very lively in the early morning hours, but became quiet after a few well aimed shots of our artillery. The pickets on both sides did not cease firing for one minute throughout the day and we had to remain quiet behind the entrenchments, in order not to suffer unnecessary

loss. Our commissary sergeant was shot through the right hand. The weather was rainy.

*August 20* In consequence of the rain, the pickets were kind enough to remain unusually quiet to-day. Our men were busy writing letters.

*August 21.* It seemed as no inimical feeling existed between the two armies, for not a cannon was fired, except toward the city, which fire was stopped but seldom even at night. But little picket firing was going on, and we could leave our breastworks for hours, without danger of the enemy's bullets.

*August 22* The bombardment of the city continued without interruption, but the picket fire was very light. Several houses in the city were again set afire by our shells.

*August 23* Part of our army retreated to-day, but was not compelled to by the enemy—it retreated in consequence of SHERMAN'S OWN orders. The 97th Ohio regiment of our brigade marched back to the Chattahoochie river, there to build fortifications, and we took the place of this regiment behind the breastworks, at the same time each brigade had to stretch out a little, so that we stood but one man deep on some points, in order to fill the gap. Not a shot was fired in our front, as the enemy had not noticed the movement, and as only such troops were moved that could without being noticed by the enemy. It had been determined upon to move the 20th army corps, that was stationed on the right and left of the Chattanooga-Atlanta Railroad, in a direct line back to the Chattahoochie river, to make the enemy believe that the whole army had retreated. At the same time the five other army corps were to fall back a distance and thence approach the Atlanta-Macon Railroad. The retreat of our division was commenced as soon as it became dark, the brigade music band was to give the signal by playing, as usual, the customary marches and finishing with the Yankee Doodle. As soon as the enlivening notes of the Yankee Doodle were

heard, our regiment formed and marched without making the least noise to its destination. Our pickets were to remain in front of the enemy and then to retreat slowly in our wake. Our siege guns had been moved the night previous, and as they were quiet the entire day, the enemy must have thought it rather queer; and when even towards evening an unexampled quietness reigned in his front, the enemy must have come to the conclusion that we had retreated. The enemy seemed certain that our whole army had retreated and called to our few pickets left: "Never mind, Yankee, we'll find you again in the morning!" The retreat was made very slowly, sometimes we lay still for long periods, and did not reach the river until 4 o'clock A. M.

*August 26.* Major General SLOCUM assumed command of our corps, and presented himself to the troops. The 1st and 2d division went to the south side of the river, and took position on the right and left side of the Railroad, and built breastworks. Our division, destined to take position on the north bank of the river, remained quietly on his southern shore. Heavy cannonade was heard in the direction of our main army.

*August 27.* We felled wood in front of the 1st division that was busy building entrenchments. In the afternoon our division went over the river and took possession of the works of the enemy, of whom nothing was to be seen, and who must have followed our main army.

*August 28.* We erected tents and put branches of trees up, in order to protect ourselves a little more against the burning rays of the sun. The fifer major of our regiment drowned in the river while bathing. Part of our troops was skirmishing with the enemy, without suffering much loss.

*August 29* In consequence of the scorching sun we remained quiet. No news from our main army.

*August 30.* We remained quiet, awaiting patiently news from the other corps.

*August 31.* Gen. SLOCUM inspected our camp; we were mustered for pay. Everything quiet.

*September 1, 1864* We got the news that the rebels had left Atlanta and that our army had overtaken them at Jonesboro and whipped them soundly. This happy news created the wildest excitement and the whole day nothing but songs and cheers were heard. Gen. WARD, with two brigades, the second and third of our division, moved to town, which we entered, without molestation. Our brigade was under marching orders; we remained in our old places during the night, however.

*Sept. 2.* We received further news about the fight at Jonesboro between our troops and the rebel army. The army under HOOD, according to the report, had been split in two, and had been compelled to leave its dead and wounded behind, and was still pursued by SHERMAN and THOMAS. In the city many rebel wounded were found, and a number of prisoners had been captured, consisting principally of such men that had left the army with the firm belief, that the rebel cause was lost, and had left the sinking ship in time to save themselves. All siege guns which the enemy had used against us in his fortification, fell in our hands, though they had been spiked and made useless for the present. The arsenal from which the whole rebel army had been supplied, had been blown up by the enemy. A large number of railroad cars, filled with ammunition, guns, &c., had been set afire by the enemy, as they could not be moved on account of SHERMAN taking part of the road before the rebels were aware of it. The town itself resembled a building having passed through a gale and threatening to tumble down every minute. In the northern part of the city not a house was left uninjured and many either leveled to the ground entirely or completely riddled, and nothing but a skeleton of the former stately mansion left standing. The streets were a complete morass, here and there plowed up by shells



or solid shot. The inhabitants looked shy and frightened from their shattered dwellings at the victorious Yankees, coming in by the thousands, receiving them, of course, not as friends, and never believing until it became reality, that *such men could take Atlanta!* The wealthy and arch rebels had fled with the rebel army, taking their light and movable property along with them, but leaving their homes and firesides and "last ditch," for, and in which, they were going to die so gloriously as—rank traitors to the Union! The goods from the stores had principally been moved, but nevertheless some things been left, which were being stolen before our army arrived. Here and there old women or children were seen with small parcels, kegs, baskets, &c., hurrying through the streets to take the captured things to their homes in some remote corner or cavern. We never found out what the armed rebels thought about the loss of their stronghold, Atlanta, but many of the inhabitants believed firmly that "their men" would take the city again in about ten days, and had retreated merely to get in our rear, then to return and starve us out. Such suppositions and threats were laughed at by such men as SHERMAN had in his army. Atlanta will remain in our hands, and if it should be evacuated, there will be nothing left of it but a heap of ashes! These were our answers to such impertinent remarks of the haughty enemy. To strive is not fashionable in an inimical state like Georgia, and if our communication with the North is cut off, we have learned to forage, was another answer. To subjugate us by powder and lead requires courage, and this we have shown at Dalton, Reseca, Marietta, &c., on the 20th of July, while your men lost the last bit of courage at Atlanta and Jonesboro, were the remarks of our boys. The more angry the men became with the Copperheads in the North, of whose doings we learned by letters, and threats were uttered frequently with the expectation of calling the rebel sympathisers in the



North to an account some day. At noon we had garrisoned Atlanta, and reached the object of the campaign.

*Sept. 3.* Our brigade yet remained behind the old entrenchments on the Chattahoochie, guarding both bridges leading over the river here, and a large quantity of supplies that had arrived and been deposited here. Atlanta had been taken but a few days ago, and here was the nearest and most suitable place for a depository of supplies, &c. The enemy, having recovered from his whipping at Jonesboro, gathered his scattered forces and had retreated towards Macon, there to await, what our next move would be. The enemy's cavalry was principally in our rear, tearing up railways, burning bridges and trains, laden with supplies for our army, and tried their best generally to cut off our communication with the North, hoping thereby to compel us to evacuate Atlanta. The report came in to-day that the rebel cavalry were between here and Marietta, and the report must have been true, as no trains arrived as usual. We were on our guard, in order not to be surprised, but the enemy moved Northward.

*Sept. 4.* The hospital of our division that had till now been here at the river, was moved to the city. The weather was cloudy and rainy.

*Sept 5* The damage the enemy had done to the track must have been considerable, as no trains had come in yet.

*Sept. 6.* The weather was again rainy and chilly; no news of any importance.

*Sept. 7* Everything was quiet here; no trains had reached us, and we heard nothing from other points, as not only the track but also the telegraph had been demolished by the enemy. Our main army had left Jonesboro and camped around Atlanta.

*Sept 8.* The general talk was that all Illinois troops were to be sent home for the Presidential election, but very little faith was placed in the report.

*Sept. 9.* Several trains arrived and the commissary stores here were moved to Atlanta. The track of the Louisville-Nashville Railroad had been destroyed by WHEELER'S cavalry on several places, and we had not received any letters for some time. We also received the news that the guerrilla chief JOHN MORGAN had been taken prisoner by a private of the 13th Tennessee cavalry in Kentucky, and shot. The weather was very hot.

*Sept. 10.* A member of our company, wounded on the 20th of July, died on the 24th of August in Kingston, Ga.; we received the news of his decease to-day.

*Sept. 11.* We received new clothes and looked like respectable men again, and not like ragged beggars. The weather was windy and warm.

*Sept. 12.* An address from the President and Lieut. Gen. GRANT was read to us, thanking the army under SHERMAN for the deeds of valor done during the campaign. In honor of the capture of Atlanta and the troops that captured it, 100 minute guns were fired in all the Northern cities and from all the forts by order of the President. An order was issued that each flag of the army having participated in the capture of Atlanta, should have the inscription, "Atlanta," affixed on it. The weather was very warm to-day.

*Sept. 13.* Guerrillas were doing mischief in our neighborhood and persons were frequently attacked and robbed on the road from here to Atlanta.

*Sept. 14.* A few days ago the report was current that furloughs were being granted, in consequence of which a number of our men applied, but were all refused, as we were to remain at Atlanta but a short while, and then commence a new campaign. We received marching orders to-day for Atlanta; five men of each company had to pack up in the night and march to the destined place.

*Sept. 16.* The hour for marching was fixed at 6

A. M. We assembled punctually and marched to the North side of the Chattahoochee, where the brigade was assembling, crossed the river then, and at 7 o'clock we passed over a part of the battlefield of the 20th of July. About 8 o'clock we reached our former entrenchments in front of Atlanta, passed the graves of the fallen dear comrades, that were "sleeping the sleep that knows no waking," and many of us could not resist the silent tear at the thought of the many pleasant hours, privations and sufferings, enjoyed and endured in company with the fallen heroes, now slumbering beneath the silent sod! They had fallen in defence of our glorious country—peace to their ashes, and may the memory of those days fill us with new love of our Republic and its glorious freemen! We halted and remained for some time, although under quite different circumstances as formerly, when we were in continual danger of the enemy's shells, balls and bullets, and nothing was heard but the roar of artillery and the rattle of musketry. A solemn silence reigned to-day, not disturbed by the howl of shells, the moans of the wounded, nor the last yells of the dying! The thoughts of our men there now, I do not dare to describe, or even suppose! We continued our march and at 10 o'clock we reached the ruined city with its (formerly) inimical fortifications, passed straight through the city and went in camp about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile farther South. The day was excessively hot and the roads covered with dust several inches deep. After we had been dismissed, a number of our men went to the enemy's former works on the South side of the city. They were very strong and in their erection every modern invention in the art of war had been added—but all of no avail—the doom of rebellion had been sealed!

Sept. 18 A more suitable camping ground was selected to-day and cleared of the dirt and brush piled there. Received the first mail again for some time. During the night a heavy rain commenced

Beautiful and valuable deserted frame houses in the neighborhood, that had been riddled by bullets and balls, were torn down and doors, lumber and even shingles taken and used in erecting tenements in camp, in order to be as comfortable as possible while we remained here. The timber was carried from a distance of sometimes more than half a mile, as the houses in our immediate neighborhood had been "appropriated" by troops before our arrival. But we were satisfied with what we received and in case of necessity were willing to do our share in burning down what we had so laboriously erected.

*Sept. 19.* Our camp was divided off by Col. CASE and FLYNN, and each company got its own ground, which every four or five men were allotted a space of eight feet in width and twelve feet in length, to enjoy themselves in a glorious and noble style—in a straight line with the rest of the company, of course. With the erection of the buildings we were not long at work; to lay a safe and sure foundation, was not necessary, aye, very superfluous, as this was not destined to be our "final resting place." At every corner of the "lot" allowed us, pillars" were erected in the ground, bearing no particular Corinthian or Dorian ornament, and the boards, gathered up as they were, were made to fit some way or other and nailed to the "pillars," whereby a kind of a box or cage for wild animals, without a roof, was formed. The rafters and spars, if such were on hand, were put on next, or otherwise our shelter tents formed the roof, and the "noble mansion" stood there. The lack of furniture was not felt very severely, where such could not be gotten from the houses near, a board was taken, four holes bored in the ends, sticks put in, and our chair, stool, lounge, settee, sofa, etc., was done. The beds were made the same way, and branches of trees made a splendid "spring mattress," and did good service. Or forks of trees were cut down, boards nailed across, and covered with straw, leaves, grass,

&c., and the "bed" was fixed for the night. Rubber blankets and woollen blankets formed the "featherbed" covering and our knapsacks the pillars. Windows we needed none, as the roof—either entirely or partially missing—afforded no obstacle to light, and besides we received light through the opening left, generally called door, in civilized life. With such work the day was spent; the hammering, knocking, splicing was as deafening as the rattle of the musketry and the roar of cannon in battle. A looker on was reminded involuntarily of an ant-hill—here a party went after building materials, there a party returned loaded down with such, while others sawed, hammered, nailed and fitted. As everybody was at work, nails, hammers, saws, &c., were in great demand, hunted, hooked, confiscated, stolen, or robbed and cries of "Jake, give me that hammer," "Jim, hand me that saw," "who stole my nails?" resounded on every side. Others, having finished their work, or being worn out, laid down and rested and slept and dreamed about the dear ones at home, about a battle, about a falling comrade shot through the heart!

*Sept. 19.* Those that had not finished building yesterday, continued to-day, and some, not being satisfied with their "bed" tore it apart and slept on the ground.

*Sept. 20.* Several of our men who had left camp had gone to the city, and had commenced demolishing houses there, were arrested by the provost guard. A heavy rain commenced at sunset, and lasted the whole night.

*Sept. 21.* The rain continued as heavy as last night, despite of this the slow builders and joiners in our camp finished their work; the streets between the company grounds were cleaned. Review was announced for to-morrow, in consequence of which new clothes were drawn, guns and dress cleaned and our quarters put in order and cleaned up.

*Sept. 22.* At 12 o'clock m. the parade announced -

yesterday was to commence, but as a sudden rain set in the order was not executed, and the parade postponed. We drew new tents and haversacks. Old clothes were condemned by the brigade inspector.

*Sept. 23.* The weather changed from rain to thunderstorm and to rain again. Ditches were dug along the company streets in order to keep them free of water.

*Sept. 24.* Early in the morning a heavy rain continued, afterwards the sun shone uncomfortably warm. More clothes were sent after, as the whole army had not been supplied, and as there was talk of the commencement of another campaign.

*Sept. 25.* Company inspection in the forenoon, and brigade inspection in the afternoon. The weather was very chilly. The road had been interrupted again by the enemy's cavalry, and no trains were running. We suffered nothing, however, as we had plenty of provisions.

*Sept. 26.* The parade announced for the 22d took place to-day. At 11½ o'clock A. M. the brigade assembled and marched to the headquarters of the division, where the division was assembling and where we were received by the delightful music of the 33d Massachusetts regiment. Thence the division moved with music to the parade ground, northwest from the city, where we arrived at 1 o'clock P. M. The parade was before Gen. SLOCUM, the first one held before him. Gen. SLOCUM was well satisfied with our movements, although they were not as they would have been on even ground; the ground was very uneven and stony, and not in the least suitable for a parade ground. Late in the evening we returned to our camp.

*Sept. 27.* Lieut. SMITH, of company A, and a private of company I were discharged on account of disability. A captain of our regiment was discharged for not obeying orders.

*Sept. 28.* The 17th army corps, commanded by



F. P. BLAIR, had a fight with the enemy; the wounded were brought to town. An engineer regiment, heretofore stationed at Chattanooga, arrived and camped next to us.

*Sept. 29.* Had a drill for the first time since the commencement of the campaign—company drill in forenoon, and battallion drill in the afternoon. In the evening rations were drawn, among which sour-kroust and onions something unusual and quite a delicacy with some.

*Sept. 30.* We spent the day drilling. A perfect flood of rain came down upon us in the night, inundating everything, as our camp was situated low, and as the shelter tents on our houses offered little or no resistance to such rain, and were in the water up to the knees.

*Oct. 1, 1864.* At sunrise the day promised fine weather, in consequence a great part of the men went to the ditch, close to camp, in order to wash the clothes completely covered with mud and dirt by the rain. We had been told that no work was to be done by us, and that we could wash to our hearts' contents. Some of the men had commenced the work of washing, while others were preparing to commence, when orders for marching came, and to be ready in an hour. This caused a general dissatisfaction, and the wet clothes had to be stowed in the knapsack. All grumbling did not alter the situation, and a short while afterwards we were on the tramp to town, through which we passed and went in the direction of the Chattahoochee river, 10 miles from Atlanta. This was about the time when Hood made his last march to Chattanooga and Nashville. and our brigade was ordered to the river to protect the bridges, and prevent the rebels from getting in our rear. At the commencement of the march we suffered very much from the heat, but afterwards thick and dark clouds darkened the sky, and before we had come half way to our destined

point, a thunder storm and rain broke upon us, threatening to drown us. The roads were inundated and at places we marched knee deep in the water. On such days a soldier wishes himself far away from his regiment, to his home, and don't see much fun in "soldiering" then. But the rascally rebels were the cause of all our trouble and privations, and we knew that we would not find rest until they were subjugated. Tired, worn out and completely saturated to the skin we reached the river after dark and very late. Company D of the 129th Illinois regiment was ordered to remain on the south side of the river on picket duty, while the balance of the brigade crossed the swollen river, that was rising very rapidly. Lieut. Col. FLYNN of our regiment remained with company D during the night and selected a hill for our resting place. After having stationed the necessary guard our men hunted boards in the darkness from the evacuated rebel camps, while some erected the shelter tents, and all things done we sought rest. The night continued rainy, illuminated now and then by a flash of lightning, and we fell asleep amid the rushing sound of the rising river. About midnight we were awakened by a tremendous noise and crash.

Oct. 2. In the night both the railroad bridge and the bridge for wagons had been swept away by the river; we were thus compelled to remain in our place on the south side of the river until a bridge could be erected again. Our provision wagons were on the other side, and provisions had to be brought to us in skiffs. In the afternoon a pontoon bridge had been made and we returned to our regiment. Scarcely arrived at our place we heard a heavy artillery fire in a westerly direction; afterwards we heard that KILPATRICK had surprised the enemy at Sweetwater creek and had a fight with him. Preparations for a new railroad bridge were made, and laborers were brought from Atlanta. Gen. ROUSSEAU, who was sta-

tioned at a creek between Tullahoma and Murfreesboro, had to retreat to the latter place as the enemy's cavalry was threatening him with superior numbers. It was reported that Gen. LEE was retreating from Richmond.

*Oct. 3.* A division of mounted infantry arrived on the way to reinforce KILPATRICK. We made our camp more commodious and many men pitched their tents, while others felled trees for log cabins. In the afternoon we erected breastworks, while the rain was drenching us.

*Oct. 4.* Gen. SHERMAN arrived here to look at the position of our brigade; from him we received orders to pack up and move to the south side of the river, and entrench ourselves. Large bodies of troops left Atlanta for the north, to prevent Hood from cutting off our communication. The 20th army corps under Gen. SLOCUM remained and held Atlanta and the river. The work on the fortifications went on incessantly, as the report was that LEE was marching from Richmond to Atlanta with a very large force.

*Oct. 5.* Long trains of wagons with ammunition and provisions passed north, stragglers sought their regiments as they passed by yesterday, and from morning until night the road was covered with wagons and with men. Our brigade continued to build houses, as the cold weather was approaching and as our common "pup tents" became too cold without a fire. The report was that Big Shanty station, between Dalton and Marietta, had been taken by the enemy, and that the main rebel force was in the Allatoona mountains, 40 or 50 miles in our rear.

*Oct. 5.* Danger must be near as we received orders to finish our breastworks quickly and to hold this place at all hazards. The "duds" we left at Lookout mountain had arrived a few days ago and were given to the owners to-day; some of the own-

ers were dead, others in the hospitals wounded. The work on the railroad bridge progressed finely. A report was current that 900 rebels had been surprised in the act of tearing up the railroad in our rear, and captured, and compelled to build the road again by our men.

*Oct. 7.* The enemy had injured the road very much and the last few days no trains had arrived from Chattanooga, and those that had come did not return but brought lumber to Atlanta, and from Marietta to the river. We had learned from a bearer of dispatches from THOMAS to SHERMAN that the former had met the enemy under HOOD on the 5th in the mountains, and had whipped him again and compelled him to run away. The chief of artillery of SHERMAN's army had been killed in this fight. Our loss had been smaller than that of the enemy. We were working on our fort; new and more clothes were drawn, as the whole army was to be clothed anew before a move could be made. The pickets of the 105th Illinois regiment, the only one on the north side of the river, were fired at by guerrillas.

*Oct. 8.* We erected another line of breastworks, and were now enabled to hold this place against a superior inimical force. Shoes were drawn. The weather was cold. The report was that we were to remain here during the winter, which report others doubted, as SHERMAN would not allow the enemy to build new entrenchments that we would have to take in the spring; something would be done this winter that would break the enemy's neck, and Charleston and Mobile would be the next points from which to drive the rebels. A courier from Marietta brought the news that the enemy was coming to the river in strong force, between here and Marietta. The wagons sent to that place returned, and we got ready for the enemy but waited in vain.

*Oct. 9.* It was Sunday and the first actual day of rest we had seen for some time.; the weather

was cold. The railroad bridge over the river was finished and a locomotive tried the strength of same towards evening. Major Hoskins left us and went on a furlough. The first mail was sent off to-day.

*Oct. 10* A courier of our brigade, sent to Atlanta with orders, was surprised by guerrillas on his return, robbed of his arms and horse and shot by guerrillas. His friends found the corpse lying on the road. Since the capture of Atlanta the bushwhackers had had become very numerous and bold, and even showed themselves in daylight along our picket line, or they would attack our provision wagons, kill the driver and steal the mules. The work on our fortifications was continued and our regiment worked by reliefs the whole day.

*Oct. 11.* A strong detail of members of our regiment and the 102d Illinois was sent to Marietta to-day. The road had been in disorder for some time and we could not get anything that way. The cattle the army used near Atlanta, had to come afoot from Chattanooga and perhaps further yet. A lot of cattle for our boys near Marietta was driven to the river by our men. The cattle, perhaps formerly fat and sleek had become so lean and poor in consequence of the long march and of the lack of food, that there was nothing left of those who had gotten so far safely and not died on the road, but skin and bones. Nevertheless they were butchered, and divided among the regiments, who, if they did not get meat, at any rate got bones! It was reported in camp for certain that Richmond had been taken—a wish whose fulfillment all desired—but unfortunately most thought it to be but a camp rumor.

*Oct. 12.* The days became colder and fire-places were erected in our huts both for cooking and heating purposes, so that hereafter we could have warm rooms.

*Oct. 14.* Our camp became continually safer and

stronger against an attack. Trees were cut down, the branches left in their places, and the trees placed in position with the branches extending from us. It was quite a task to climb through the branches and reach us, and an attack would have cost the rebels hundreds of men, before they could have reached us, in case they had ventured it. Sixteen miles of railroad track were torn up by the enemy, who had also taken Stevenson, Ala. We received the first mail to-day for many days.

Oct. 15. The trains did not leave here and no mail matter was received. We drew whisky and for five days rations. Were very anxious for news from Gen. THOMAS, but as the telegraph had been destroyed, could get none, and but seldom heard of what transpired between him and the enemy.

Oct. 16. As we had nothing to do, the day was spent as everybody pleased. The company commanders delivered over the muskets of the dead and wounded.

Oct 18 Four hundred mules, brought from Atlanta and neighborhood to the river to the pasture; had been guarded day and night by detachments of a regiment of *pontoniers*. They were surprised by the rebels, and nearly all the mules taken away from them. The men must have been very careless, as seven of them were taken prisoner; otherwise it would have been impossible for the enemy to get away with his booty, as our line of pickets was not more than five hundred steps distant from the pasture. Had the guard given the alarm in time, there would have been help on hand soon enough to prevent the capture of the men and mules. Our regiment was ordered to be ready for a scout and foraging expedition in the morning. As the scout was to be out for several days, we drew rations for five days and got forty cartridges extra. The general talk was that pay day would soon be on hand, a time hoped for, as most of the men were out of money, and as



their families in the North with needed money very much. Signs of rain were plenty.

*Oct. 19.* We were awakened at four o'clock A. M., prepared a hasty breakfast, packed up everything we needed, and at seven o'clock we commenced our march. We were accompanied by a large number of wagons, that were to be filled with rebel property. This foraging expedition was the first since the commencement of the campaign, and we knew that nothing could be found within twenty miles of the railroad on either side, everything having either been taken by the rebels or our men, or been destroyed by both in order to starve the other out. We calculated on a day's tramp of twenty-five miles before we could commence foraging. We crossed the river and went along its northern shore upward in an easterly direction to the neighborhood of Rossville, about twenty miles from our camp, where it was said there was a good deal of corn left, and where we could remain for the night. We had no hindrances on our march excepting the bad roads; there could be no doubt that rebels had been near, but they did not annoy us but let us move on without resistance. Tracks of the enemy were to be seen frequently. At a house where we rested for half an hour for dinner, a skull was found; and in the afternoon we passed the ruins of a cotton mill, burnt by KILPATRICK, where formerly hundreds of laborers found their daily bread. The larger part of the inhabitants of Rossville had not yet fled, but this unexpected visit on our part frightened most of them who fled; very seldom a man was found at home, but women and children the more, who informed us that there were many armed rebels near, to be upon our guard, etc., but wished in their hearts that we were with the devil or somewhere else, and who would, if possible, act treasonable to us. After posting a strong line of pickets, eating supper, we retired to rest. The night passed without alarm.

*Oct. 20.* A short distance from our quarters, which we left very early in the morning, while our pickets remained at their posts, we found corn, and commenced filling our wagons. We did not inquire about the proprietor of the corn, as the rebels did not ask our permission when they tore up the track over which our corn was carried. Without any trouble we loaded our wagons with the products and property of the slave barons, and with filled wagons we commenced our return at 2 o'clock P. M. We were told that a brigade of rebel infantry, having learned our whereabouts, was preparing to cut off our retreat. Whether this was true or not, we did not find out, as we did not return the same way we came, but used a better though circumferous road to Marietta. About dusk we arrived safely to within about two miles of the city with our booty, without having seen a single rebel, where we camped for the night. Our arrival near Marietta and the Kenesaw had created quite an excitement and to some extent fear, as our troops stationed there could see our numerous camp fires without being able to tell who we were. The troops in town had to remain behind the entrenchments, guards were doubled, signals went up from the Kenesaw every moment, while we were making merry over our booty, ate a hearty supper, and laid down to sleep, giving the garrisons at the two above mentioned places permission to guard us.

*Oct. 21.* Early in the morning we took breakfast, marched to the city, where they had found out by that time who we were. We went straight through and pursued our way to the river. Between Marietta and the river we passed a place, where the night before a train from Atlanta had been thrown off the track, robbed and set afire. Two soldiers had been killed and buried near the spot where they were overtaken by death, while others had been wounded. The locomotive had been completely

shattered and several of the cars were burning yet when we passed. In the same night another train was fired upon by the rebels, but passed through safely, as the rebels did not get time to tear up the track before the arrival of the train. About four o'clock P. M. we reached our camp at the river, where everybody was surprised at our speedy and safe return.

*Oct. 22.* We received a large mail, that had passed here yesterday for Atlanta. The weather was rough and windy and we remained most of the day in our huts around the fire. There was a rumor that two companies of our regiment would be ordered to Vininy station, btween the river and Marietta, to guard the track—but the rumor was without foundation.

*Oct. 23.* We were busy writing letters; a foraging party was ordered to be ready to-morrow morning for another "trip to the country." The paymaster had arrived, and we were to be paid off to-morrow.

*Oct. 24.* Although the much hoped for payday had come, yet the men, selected from the various regiments for the foraging party, broke up and went in the direction of Rossville again. Our regiment was paid off in the afternoon—for the first time after our departure from Nashville.

*Oct. 25.* Those indebted to their comrades paid them off and preparations were made to send the principal part of the money received yesterday home. Had nothing to do besides this.

*Oct. 26.* It rained day and night. The foraging party, sent out day before yesterday, returned; they had been fired at several times by the enemy, but suffered no loss, and brought three young rebs, of 17 or 18 years, along as prisoners.

*Oct. 27.* The rain continued. As we were not allowed to go home to vote, we had a mock election to-day in the regiment. LINCOLN received a large

majority of the votes, and McCLELLAN a minority.

*Oct. 28.* The track had been repaired and trains were running regular to Chattanooga. To prevent further destruction of the track, we had to patrol the track day and night half way from here to Atlanta. This was a very dangerous piece of business, but the track remained undisturbed. We received orders to pack up all unnecessary things and be ready for marching at any moment. We did not know our place of destination, but from rumor we learned that our tramp would not be northward, but southward—deeper into the heart of rebeldom. A larger number of men from our regiment and other regiments of our brigade were ordered to be ready for another foraging tour. From this order we came to the conclusion that our march to the south had been postponed, as a foraging party could not return in less than three days.

*Oct. 29.* At 5½ o'clock we went on our foraging tour the same way as the first time, and reached Rossville before dark. Here we camped, confiscated pork, chickens, geese, flour, honey etc., on the plantations near, for our supper, that vanished in our hungry mouths in a good style. Afterwards we retired to rest, having made a march of 20 miles.

*Oct. 30.* In the neighborhood of our camp we found plenty of forage for man and beast; the wagons were filled with corn, calves, geese, hogs, chickens, turkeys etc., to such an extent that the drivers were fearful of not being able to return to camp with such a load. The wagon-masters could hardly prevent the men from putting a still heavier load on. Cows and oxen were tied to wagons and taken along, while the men carried a load of chickens, turkeys or geese, and stuffed the haversack with eggs, apples or potatoes. After we had loaded twenty government wagons, each one drawn by six mules, we commenced our retreat and camped 9½ miles from Marietta, near Bush mountain.

*Nov. 1, 1864.* After we had lightened our haversacks by taking therefrom a substantial breakfast, we started and reached Marietta at 10 o'clock A. M. Our march in the morning had been very rapid, though the day was hot, the officer commanding us (belonging to the 26th Wisconsin) had not allowed us the necessary rest, and in consequence of these circumstances we marched slow in the afternoon, and did not reach the river until late at night.

*Nov. 2.* The day was rainy and cold. The evacuation of Atlanta was continued briskly; all the cannons captured there were sent north. The talk was, that our next promenade would be to Savannah, Ga., and the sea coast.

*Nov. 3.* Rainy and cold. Atlanta had not been yet evacuated. Trains of wagons, belonging to the 15th army corps, stationed at Marietta and Kennesaw, were ordered to Atlanta and there to load with ammunition and provisions for our expedition.

*Nov. 4.* All superfluous clothing, such as we could do without on the march (nobody knew where to except our generals), had to be packed up to-day and sent north, as "we would get to a warmer country." Everything being done, we were ready for the promenade, and the day of our departure was fixed for Monday the 6th. Our corps, the 20th, formerly belonging to the army of the Cumberland, was now attached to the army of the Tennessee.

*Nov. 5.* We received special notice to be ready to-morrow at an early hour, and all things from the smallest to the largest to be taken along, were packed up. Several persons had, before getting this order, even packed up their tents, expecting to use them again at some future time; but for the coming night they were shelterless and got along badly. The 70th Indiana regiment belonging to our brigade, heretofore stationed at Landtown, had been ordered here and arrived towards evening, to go along with us on the promenade. Everything and everybody

was ready for the march, and we laid down for the last time in our bunks, warmed by the blazing fires in our fireplaces, and intending to spend the last night by a glorious sleep. At 12 o'clock at night we received orders not to march to-morrow, but to await further orders; the cause of this postponement we could not find out, but supposed that Atlanta had not been evacuated sufficiently, and that the town would be burnt entirely before the army left it. Guards were detailed for the morrow, when we went to rest and slept until awakened by the reville of the drummers.

*Nov. 6.* Another part of the wagon train of the 15th corps went to Atlanta, and as troops and wagons were coming and going to Atlanta throughout the whole day we began to doubt that our destination would be southward. The evacuation of Atlanta was continued, however; trains left empty and returned heavy laden, a sure sign that the evacuation of the city was progressing in earnest.

*Nov. 7.* Two government wagons on the road between the river and Atlanta, with but a small guard, were attacked and taken by the guerrillas. The latter jumped from the brush, stopped the mules and took them and two soldiers along. This happened but a short distance from our picket line. Another attack took place shortly after, on a single picket on the Atlanta road. The picket belonged to the 79th Ohio and was stationed behind a tree, and did not see the guerrillas until ordered by them to surrender. He refused and fired at the rebels who in return fired at him; when assistance came, the man had been shot in the abdomen and robbed of his gun and ammunition. The shots fired at the flying guerrillas killed one of their horses, without hurting one of the enemy. The wounded man was brought into the hospital and a strong patrol under Lieut. Col. FLYNN was sent after the guerrillas, but it was useless; they had got too far ahead before our

men left, who could not find the daring enemy. The report was that the enemy was 30,000 strong between Atlanta and Stone Mountain, but the report was not believed, as Hood was too far in the rear with his army, and the report that LEE was coming from Richmond had proved untrue. Strong guerrilla bands might have been there. The weather was rainy.

*Nov. 8.* Rebels showed themselves again between the river and the city, but the men sent after them could not find them. All was anxiety about the result of the election in the North, though we did not doubt that President LINCOLN would be re-elected. Atlanta had not been emptied yet, and trains were arriving continually with freight from there, which was sent north. All the inhabitants left had to leave town, many went north, but most of them south, swearing that they had no friends in the north.

*Nov. 9.* We were alarmed by a heavy cannonade in the direction of Atlanta, which commenced between 8 and 9 o'clock A. M. and at first we believed that the evacuation had been completed and the burning of the town, blowing up of the forts &c., had commenced. This was not so, but the enemy, 15,000 strong, had attacked the 1st and second divisions and the two brigades of the 3d, stationed there, and quite unexpectedly at that. They had heard enough of the existence of this force in the neighborhood, but never credited the report until convinced of its truth to-day. The enemy had approached from the south side, where our former entrenchments were, but as pickets had been posted a good distance from the fortifications, was given in time, that our men could shoulder their arms, form and take their position, before the pickets were driven in and the enemy make an attack. Our artillery and infantry was ready for the enemy, who lost all courage after having made three desperate attempts to take Atlanta, losing many men every time. Our men said they took it



as playwork to keep the enemy back. The rebel loss was 500 killed and wounded, all falling in our hands, while our own loss amounted to scarcely 100. The enemy, seeing the foolishness of his attempt, retreated and we expected him at the river; no enemy came in sight. The day for our departure was fixed to-day on the 15th of November, and we were ordered to have in our haversacks on that day the following provisions: Coffee for 10 days, sugar for 5, salt for 10, bread for 2, and meat for 2 days. Every man was to have 60 cartridges. Our knapsacks to contain 1 shirt, 1 pair of drawers. 1 pair of socks, 1 woollen and 1 India rubber blanket and the shelter tent. If a person took more and the bundle became too heavy, and the person was found tired and resting, the knapsack was to be searched by the provost guard following every brigade, and everything except the things allowed to be thrown away.

*Nov. 10.* We could hear nothing from the enemy, not even a guerrilla showed himself on the road to Atlanta. Nevertheless the wagons going to and coming from Atlanta were strongly guarded.

*Nov. 11.* Two wagons going to Atlanta and guarded by 12 men, attacked by 6 bushwhackers, and the mules taken. How this was done I dare not say, but suppose that the guard (that did not belong to our regiment,) lost the courage and that the rebels were regular devils, or else they could not have got away with 12 mules, guarded by 12 men. In camp everything was quiet and everybody patching and repairing his clothes for the march.

*Nov. 13.* The telegraph brought the news of the re-election of ABRAHAM LINCOLN to the Presidency of the United States for the next four years. In consequence there was general rejoicing, but seldom a man could be seen with a bowed head, angry because Little Mack had been beaten by Old Abe! The destruction of the railroad from the river to Marietta was commenced with, the track taken up and the

wood work placed in piles and set afire, the iron rails were put across the pile and soon the heat soon softened the centre and the rails became crooked. The fires as far as the road run straight and as far as the eye could see, created a fine sight for the looker on, and filled the air with smoke. It was said that Marietta and Rome had been burned. Guerrillas came forward again, but did no damage.

Nov. 13 The army of the Tennessee, our corps excepted, began to move; part of the 15th and 17th corps passed by us during the day on the way to Atlanta. We remained quiet but received orders to be ready to-morrow. The new built railroad bridge was set afire to-day, but the fire had to be quenched again to prevent the pontoon bridge from burning up too. The railroad on the South side of the river was destroyed by our brigade, the same road that we had captured, protected and partly built ourselves. The road could be of no further use to us, particularly after the burning of Atlanta, but the rails could have been used in repairing the roads that we were going to destroy on our promenade to the sea coast. We burned the wood and iron, and made destruction complete. The day was on hand for our departure, and we were to go to Atlanta first, where the 20th, 14th, 15th and 17th army corps were assembling; the 4th and 23d corps that had been with us in our summer campaign, were to go to Gen. THOMAS and assist in whipping HOOD out of Tennessee. At 9 o'clock we had left our work and at 10 stood ready for the march, after having set fire to our quarters and huts—all burnt down with their contents. At 5 o'clock P. M. we reached Atlanta and camped on our old place. The city burned and smoked for several days, and the flames finished what the shells, shot and bullets had left undone. One foot after another was blown up with a tremendous noise; also many large brick buildings. In the evening we drew the prescribed provisions, whereupon we sought rest.

*Nov. 15.* The 14th army corps had arrived and the hour for marching been fixed at 9 o'clock A. M., and until then we assisted in the work of destruction. Thick volumes of smoke rested over the city, now and then wafted aside by the wind, and the roar and thunder of the explosions, of the falling timber, &c., struck every one with awe at the grand scene of destruction. The following further orders had been given before 9 o'clock: 1. Every army corps had to pursue its own road, that the army could advance the quicker. 2. The different divisions had to change daily in the lead of the corps; for instance, if the 1st division led the corps to-day; the 2d had to to-morrow; and the next day, the third. 3. The 2d brigade of the leading division had to do guard duty for the whole corps in the night; every brigade thus knew, when it was its turn to do guard and picket duty. Every soldier was allowed to take along what pleased him, but had to remain in the line, and was punished if he left the line to go plundering on his own hook. Mills and manufactories were to be destroyed by designated persons or foraging parties. Foraging parties had to start daily to the right and left of each corps and fetch provisions for man and beast, whereby rebels in the distance suffered as well as those near the line of march of the different corps. These parties were at liberty to fetch along cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, mules, and everything that could be of any service to the enemy's army. Gen. SHERMAN assured us in his order that the march would perhaps be a troublesome and dangerous one, but that the victory was sure, as the enemy would thereby receive a blow that would destroy all his hopes and insure us an early peace. Nine o'clock was past after all these orders had been read to us and three cheers given for Gen. SHERMAN, and about 11 o'clock we turned back to the ruins of Atlanta. Our corps took the road from Atlanta to Decatur, with the first division leading, followed by the second, while ours,

the 3d, was the last, and made but slow progress, as the first two divisions had not stretched out yet. and as their wagon trains were in our front and got along very slowly. As our advances was slow and the night very damp, several deserted houses along our route were burned, the men came and moved, or slept, until the wagons got ahead apiece and we could advance again. Late at night we reached the small town of Decatur. The inhabitants, at that time quite numerous, seemed to sleep, as all houses were dark and not a sound or voice was heard. Just as our brigade was passing through town a halt was made, and several hours elapsed before we went on. During this halt we cooked coffee and here and there a voice called to the dark houses: "Why don't you come and see who is here?" As every army, so ours too had its bad members, who, in cooking their coffee, kindled the fire as near to the seemingly deserted frame houses as possible, until they caught afire and the frightened and lamenting inhabitants fled from them. Some of our men were softened by the entreaties and assisted in extinguishing the fire, but as fast as it was put out at one corner, another corner commenced to burn until the whole was wrapped in a sheet of flame and became a prey to the devouring element. Several houses were thus burnt down, until guards were stationed through town, who stopped this unnecessary incendiarism. About 12 o'clock at night we left town again, and in the darkness two men were shot by bushwhackers or inhabitants. In the morning it became very cold, and we would have frozen, if the fence on both sides of our route had not been fired and burned by those ahead of us. On several places the heat became so intense that our ambulance wagons had to take to the field. To fulfill Gen. SHERMAN's order to the letter, several cotton presses and gins and mills were fired during the night, and along the whole route to Atlanta the sky was red, while an occasional explosion indicated, that

the fire was still raging there We marched and it rained the whole night without stopping, until the sun arose and we halted at a creek.

*Nov. 16.* We prepared our breakfast, but had hardly time to eat it, before the signal sounded a renewal of the march; tired and worn out as we were, we had to fall in and march. The second division took the lead and the 1st found the rear, with the 3d in the center. The country through which we passed was filled with brush and not inhabited, and we could do but little in consequence. Our advance was slow, because we had no rest the night before, and many fell asleep as soon as a halt was made. We reached Stone Mountain about noon, and a river, called South or Yellow River, in the afternoon, which we crossed and camped for the night in its neighborhood on the road to Social Circle.

*Nov. 17.* We commenced our march at 5 o'clock A. M., our division in the advance. The marching was quicker and more pleasant, because we had some rest the night previous. The country began to look better, and edibles we found whatever we wanted along our route. From the calves and hogs which we killed by a shot or by the bayonet, we ate only the hindquarters, the balance we left to rot, or for the dogs or buzzards. The inhabitants at home we found in their houses, and not with the militia, not having had time to escape or hide, and as they had never expected a visit from us. Kitchens and cellars were opened and everything of any use to us taken therefrom, without taking notice of the wry faces of the rebels. The houses were left unharmed, as they were principally inhabited, but barns filled with tobacco and cotton, and hay presses and fences, were burned. A member of company A, of our regiment, was shot to-night in the dark, after we had driven a fine drove of hogs from their resting places. The wounded man died in the night, but the soldier that had fired the fatal shot immediately withdrew and

could not be punished. At 8 o'clock we camped near Social Circle.

*Nov. 18.* At F. A. M. we left our camping ground and reached Social Circle at 10 o'clock; as also the railroad building from Atlanta to Augusta to Atlanta and other points. The report of our movement had spread, many inhabitants were gone as well as the goods from the stores. Many of the fugitives, escaping to the right or left fell into the hands of the 15th or 17th corps. Only those escaping to Augusta got off safely. Much property was destroyed here, among which the railroad depot and the railroad track, over which the last trains had come but yesterday and taken the inhabitants to Augusta. The town was plundered completely by our division that remained during the dinner hour and took dinner there. The weather during the day was very hot and the roads dusty. We went into camp at 10 o'clock P. M.

*Nov. 17.* We left camp as early as usual, and went along the railroad, tearing up the track at the same time, in the direction of Madison. The country through which we passed yesterday and to-day, was poorly provided with water and with the greatest trouble only we got sufficient water for cooking purposes, to say nothing of quenching our thirst. The wells were nearly all dry and where one with water was found it was immediately surrounded by hundreds, not half of whom got the water they wanted. A very large amount of cotton, cotton factories and bridge timber was burned along the railroad. Horses, mules and cattle were brought in by our foraging parties by the dozen. As a general thing we found more edibles to-day than we had expected. A number of rebels that had followed us from Atlanta, attacked our rear guard, but were repulsed with a loss of 5 killed and 13 wounded, while our men lost but 1 killed and 4 wounded. The entire loss of our brigade since its departure from Atlanta amounted to 20 men, mostly stragglers or foragers. Negroes, both



male and female, came to us to-day in masses, having heard near and far of our arrival. As their masters and mistresses had set the good example of running away, they followed suit and came to the saving Yankees, loaded down with bundles and babies. At 1 o'clock we reached the beautiful town of Madison, where the blacks welcomed us most kindly and sincerely. Having heard that a world of blue jackets was coming they had come to town and lined both sides of the road, slapping their hands and one "God bless you!" followed the other from the mouth of our recipients. After we had arrived in the center of the town a hollow square was formed by our brigade, around the court house, and our band began to play. The negroes, and even whites, came flocking to us now, and in such numbers as to rob us of the "look" at the contents of the stores and court house. The negroes, music-loving creatures as they were, commenced dancing and jumping and shouting, saying "God bless the Yankees," and swearing that this was the happiest day of their life. They saw that the Yankees carried no horns as had been told them, and that they did not have holes through their shoulders and hitch them as oxen to a government wagon, but that they treated them more kindly than their masters did. They got over these lies of their masters very quick, and according to them there were no better men living than the Yankees. While resting here, the depot, railroad and a negro prison, (where negroes were tied to a bank and lashed in a most unmerciful manner,) were given to the flames. Many other houses were burned or demolished more or less. After these buildings had been burned, we proceeded  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles further, burned a good deal of cotton outside of the town, and went into camp about 9 o'clock P. M. The day had been rainy, and the night was dark and very rainy; but we enjoyed a nice sleep after having had a hearty supper, kindling a fire in front of our tents, and making a bed of leaves.



*Nov. 20.* We left at 7 o'clock, while the rain continued to pour down and saturated all our things; besides this the road was very bad, so that the march to-day was a disagreeable one. The country was mountainous and inhabited less than around Madison. As our brigade was in the advance and foraging parties were not allowed to go ahead of our line, we got plenty of chickens, honey, &c., for our supper and breakfast, and edibles were plenty and good, and the opposite of the right kind. As the marching was slow in consequence of the bad roads, we halted half an hour for dinner, and went into camp at 3 o'clock P. M., two miles from the town of Eatonton, which place our cavalry occupied during the night. The male inhabitants had all fled, and the females put on no smiles at our approach. We passed one house, in front of which a number of ladies were standing and waved their handkerchiefs, as we defiled past them. Whether they were actually glad, or whether they only showed gladness to save their property, we never learned. About dark we heard artillery firing going on in the distance, and we supposed that either in or near Milledgeville we would come in contact with the enemy. The reports went that Milledgeville had been fortified and strongly garrisoned, that reinforcements were arriving there daily, and that Gov. Brown was gathering the militia there, determined to hold the place as long as he could. In the afternoon the rain had ceased, but commenced again about dusk and continued throughout the night.

*Nov 21.* At six o'clock we broke camp and reached Eatonton, where we were received by the black inhabitants with great enthusiasm. Their joy had no bounds when we burned their prison, and "God bless you all" was heard on every side. They came to us, shook our hands and burst into tears when they saw the flames rise from their house of torture. The depot and the railroad from Gordon to Eatonton was

destroyed by us and the troops on our right. The bridges and water tanks along the road suffered the same fate, as we had everything our own way. The roads were in a worse condition than ever before, and in some places actually bottomless. The afternoon was fine and the marching became more pleasant, until at 4 o'clock we had tramped 10 miles and camped on a field of a rebel quartermaster. Our brigade was camped near the plantation villa. The plantation was well stocked with hogs, geese, chickens, turkeys, etc., but all became a ready prey to the hungry Yankees. In the house we found flour, molasses, meat and salt; in fact everything to make us feel comfortable and "at home." In a few hours the beautiful, well stocked plantation had been completely ruined, while the Yankees were busy in camp cooking, roasting and baking the rebel quartermaster's property, using for their fires the fence rails they found very handy. The distance from here to Milledgeville is only 40 miles, and we expected to reach that place and fight there to-morrow. We camped on the Oconee River.

*Nov. 22* We broke camp later than usual, as we had to cross the river, the bridge of which had been burnt. A pontoon bridge was ready at 8 o'clock in the morning. We crossed at 10 o'clock, as we formed the center of the corps to-day. The day being rather chilly the marching went fine and quickly through the mountainous country. We did not take time to prepare dinner, but rested occasionally. As we neared the city and heard no firing we supposed that our advance had taken the place and that the enemy had again given "leg bail." We approached the capital of Georgia rapidly and soon reached the newly erected but evacuated rebel fortifications. From the first house of the city a white flag, the signal of surrender, was flying. We marched through the city by the music of our bands to the South side, and camped on the Northern shore of the Oconee

river. In the city great stores of guns, lances ammunition were found which the retreating enemy had left behind, not being able to take it along. Many of the guns were burnt by us, or with the ammunition thrown into the river. The state prison was torn down and the men sent there on account of their loyalty, set free. Most of the white inhabitants had gone off with Gov. BROWN and his brave militia, and many of the stoutest and healthiest negroes had been dragged along. Among those that remained there was a general rejoicing and all were willing to divide everything with us. With the negroes left here by their masters to starve some of our boys divided their last cracker. The night was very cold, and we missed the fence rails very much, that had until now been always "so handy."

*Nov 23.* We remained in our camp and looked in town and neighborhood for provisions, which we found plenty. Many valuable things, dug away in the ground by the owners, were disinterred and taken along or destroyed. Houses whose inhabitants treated us well and showed no rebel spirit, were protected and as a general thing, Milledgeville suffered less than any of the towns we had visited, but all things, that could be of any use to the enemy, were destroyed, The day was clear but cold.

*Nov 24.* We left Milledgeville early in the morning, and crossed the Oconee river for the second time, but this time on the regular wagon bridge, left unimpaired by the retreating enemy. The bridge was burned after our last wagon had crossed. On the Southern shore we remained for some time in order to let the 14th corps that had gotten on our road, pass by. This corps took another route sometime in the afternoon, and thus each corps had its own road again. As we were getting into the swampy part of Georgia, our progress became very slow, passing as it seemed from one swamp to the other. As the bridges had been destroyed by the enemy we had to build new

ones, by which much time was lost. Our pioneers had to build the bridges on what was left of the burnt ones, or build pontoons. Where wood for the bridges could not be gotten we had to wade through the swamps, sometimes up to our knees. The men were completely disgusted with such state of the country, but all wishes brought no relief. On the contrary, the situation became worse, as the swamps increased and the provisions decreased. A short distance from Milledgeville the pineries commenced, and the ground was either covered with long grass or the needles from the pine. Here the inhabitants had gathered pitch in Summer season by taking the bark off on the sunniest side, cut a hole near the roots, whence issued the pitch made fluid by the sun. Many of the trees, where the pitch had collected and become hard, were set afire by us, both to give us light and to keep us warm when we halted. After having spent the first night in the swamps, every man wished it to have been his last there, and persons who have been in that country will agree with me when I say that this wish was based on a good reason.

*Nov. 25.* We remained in our position until 11 o'clock A. M. because several bridges had to be erected before we could advance. The day was cold and marching quite a task, as we had to pass through swamps or cross them on bridges; and as a consequence our advance was very slow. We marched in a straight line towards Augusta, although we were yet a good distance from that city. The enemy believed, as we did also, and as the rebel papers reported, that Augusta was to be besieged, and all preparations were made there to make it very strong. All able bodied slaves, not cut off from Augusta or Savannah, were ordered there to work on the fortifications. The families, who had fled there for safety, were again threatened by new dangers from the never resting Yankees. At 3 o'clock P. M. we reached a river, not bordered by high banks as other rivers,

but by swamps, filled with brushwood, or cypress trees, and standing water. The road on which we were was dry, though it led through the swamp, and we would have no trouble, if the Georgia State militia and WHEELER's cavalry had not burned the bridge over the stream. The enemy was hidden on the other side, fired on our advance, and then fled again. Six of our men were wounded. We had to halt and await our pontoon train; night, however, commenced, and we remained in our position after the bridge was done. The 14th corps that had again gotten on our road, passed by us during the night and crossed, in order to get out of our way. A heavy cannonade was heard on our right and we learned afterwards, that the 15th and 17th corps had met quite a resistance in their endeavors to cross the stream.

Nov. 26. At 7 o'clock we crossed the stream, our brigade formed the rear guard of the corps. After the whole corps had crossed we had to wait until the pontoon bridge had been taken up again and the train got in motion ahead of us, before we started. The obstacles were very numerous, the rebels had not only destroyed the bridges in the country, becoming more swampier as we advanced, but had thrown trees across the road at places where the bordering swamps were deep. We were compelled to clear away these obstructions before we could advance. The enemy awaited us behind these obstructions, and as soon as our cavalry or advance guard of infantry came in sight, shots were fired, and more or less men killed or wounded. Thus we worked our way along very slowly and advanced but a few miles before dark, while our advance guard was continually skirmishing with the enemy, and sometimes had great trouble in driving the daring enemy from his dangerous hiding place. We were on our way to Sandersville, and only a few miles distant from it, but did not expect to reach it, in case the obstructions should be as numerous in the afternoon as they had been in the morn-

ing. Our first division had lost several men by the enemy's shots. As we approached Sandersville, the country became higher, the swamps less numerous and the road more dry, so that our men could pass round the obstructions, or the trees could be cut away from the side to make room for the wagons to pass. The enemy had retreated to the town to make another halt there. We reached Sandersville about 5 o'clock P. M., sometime after our advance guard, that had quite a skirmish with the rebels, losing two men. The enemy had fled, after the meeting house, in which he had lodged himself, had been completely riddled by the balls of our men. We camped here for the night. The inhabitants had fled, taking all the property with them they could, as the armed rebels had told them that we would hang all the citizens and burn the property, but this was only partly true, as we hung no citizens, but only those that were trying to hang us. We only burned the houses that were deserted or whose inhabitants had betrayed us, or murdered our men. Edibles were scarce around Sandersville (water, however, plenty,) but what we did find was carried along. We were forced to do this, and it was also Gen. SHERMAN's intention, to take everything from those rich slavocrats, and to let them know the consequence of war. They did not expect us, or else Hood would not have gone to Tennessee.

*Nov. 27.* Before we broke camp at 8 o'clock, an event caused the loss of a member of our regiment. A member of company A had a rusty rebel musket and thrown the same into the fire, not supposing it to be loaded. The shot went off and wounded a member of company F, in the leg just below the knee. The wounded man limped a little and then fell down, and was carried to the hospital train, after the surgeon had examined the wound and stated that the shin bone was hurt but little. The bullet wounded another member of the 2d brigade slightly. The



country through which we passed to-day was level and sandy, but very seldom interspersed with swamps. Our road was but seldom obstructed by the enemy, and our march was faster than yesterday, however. We had to do great work yet before sundown. After reaching the Savannah and Macon Railroad we destroyed a good portion of it on our right and left, while the corps further on our right did the same, as also the 14th on our left. After we had burned as much of the road as possible, we continued our march to Davisboro, several miles distant. The trees along our to-day's march presented a different appearance from those we had seen heretofore. The pines, with their needles, had disappeared mostly, and trees with beautiful large foliage were seen, every branch or twig bedecked with the so-called Spanish moss, hanging down from some a yard or more long. The trees looked very romantic and presented a view entirely new and very interesting to us. After sundown we reached Davisboro, and camped. The country around here was very even and clear, and as the night was very dark the thousands of camp-fires presented an interesting sight, surrounded as they were by thousands of men holding pans, coffee pots, or other cooking utensils in their hands, and preparing their supper. Everything wore a pleasant aspect and as the troops were in the best humor, enlivened as they were by the music of the various bands and the cheers and jokes of the men, the looker on would not have supposed that these men were in the midst of the enemy's country, surrounded by countless dangers by swamps and enemies. The camping ground of our brigade was close to the Canuchee river.

Nov. 28. We left camp at 7 A. M., and as the sun was very hot, the marching in the deep sand was very difficult and troublesome. We had with us a number of rebel prisoners, among them a rebel Colonel and quartermaster. In the afternoon we reached the Ogeechee river, where our advance guard was



fired at by the enemy, who had burned the bridge before our arrival. We were compelled to go into camp here, while the enemy was being driven from the other shore, and the pontoons put down before night commenced.

*Nov. 29* Our division formed the rear, and in consequence our turn to march did not come until 1 o'clock P. M. The first and second divisions passed by, but their advance was slow as eight bridges beyond the river had been destroyed by the enemy, and had to be repaired again; the swampy road also caused a good deal of delay. After we had crossed, the pontoons had to be taken up, and our brigade had to wait until this was done. It was reported that a strong force of rebel cavalry was threatening our pontoon, and we marched a good distance from the bridge to keep the enemy back, while the bridge was being taken up. Our regiment had to stand picket in the direction from which the enemy was expected; half the regiment remained in reserve. We were all stationed behind large trees, about 10 paces apart, kneeling or standing, looking watchfully in the direction the enemy was to come. Not a word was spoken and the only noise heard was the shaking and rustling of the leaves and branches of the trees overhead; what were the thoughts of those silent watches? At such moments the reflections and thought take man's mind as by a storm. The sun had long gone down behind the trees and hills, and still we were watching, in vain expecting the enemy. The pontoon bridge had been taken up, we left our posts and returned to our brigade, already in motion, and went after the balance of the corps ahead of us, and which by this time must have been in camp resting. The night was very dark and the country became more swampy as we advanced, until at 8 o'clock we reached a place we might properly have termed "father of swamps." We had to pass through, though it would have taken the whole night to do it,

as we could not remain in the place where we were, feeling, as we did, our way along by the roots of the trees. The trees thrown in by the column ahead of us had disappeared below water and mud, and not a bit of them was to be seen. Those fellows who unfortunately missed trees and sunk down between the logs, were indeed to be pitied, but on account of the darkness nobody could help them, and they had to get out the best way they could, assisted by their muskets or a club kindly handed them by a passing comrade. Luckily many of us had hatchets or axes, and we cut pieces from a dry pine, using them as torches, when we got along a little better. We reached the end of the swamp at last, though our clothes did no longer look blue but had pounds of the Georgia swamp-mud and water on them. But the end of our march was not here, much as we desired it, and though it was after 10 o'clock, we reached Louisville about 11 o'clock, and we could see despite the darkness, that the place had been partly burned by our cavalry. We continued our march for several miles, when we found the balance of the corps encamped in front of a large swamp. Bridges had to be erected ere we could advance. We went into camp about 12 o'clock, desiring a little rest after the "promenade" we had made that day. Our provisions were rather scanty to-day, and many a fellow went to sleep without eating supper, either because he had nothing to eat, or else because he was too tired to prepare something to eat. Our foragers had returned for the last days as empty-handed as they had gone out. The swamps and neighborhood contained nothing for the subsistence of an army. Our provision wagons contained provisions for but a few days, and we would have to make them last until we could reach Savannah. And even after reaching Savannah, we did not know how soon we could get close enough to Fort Pulaski, to get provisions from there. Four of our men were taken prisoner to-day, and shot by the enemy.

*Nov. 30.* As announced yesterday we remained in our position near Louisville, Ga., and many of our boys preferred to go to town, and look after provisions, as to remaining in camp and cleanse their clothes. But the efforts of these provision hunters were mostly fruitless, as but a few returned with a half starved, lean cow or hog; flour or potatoes were not to be found, having either been taken along by the flying inhabitants or destroyed. The rebels thought they could thus starve us in the swamps, by preventing our rapid progress by burning the bridges, and by destroying the necessaries of life. And it did look a little that way, and our situation was by no means a pleasant one. The men were hungry, very hungry and begged the quartermasters continually for food, but these were rather stingy with the provisions, hoping that the country contained enough subsistence. But this hope did not satisfy the craving stomachs of our men, who now went to the Colonel's and higher officers for food, and even threatened to take the bread and meat from the wagons, if withheld from them. The threats became more numerous until at last we received rations for three days with the order to make them last ten days. More than one Illinoisian now wished himself back to the flesh-pots of Egypt. The day was hot and the work on the road through the swamp in our front was carried on with vigor, so that by night part of our corps could cross to the other side of the swamp. We remained quiet. Near Louisville there was some firing going on, and some said that our men had found some cattle or hogs, others said that skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry was going on

*December 1, 1864.* We left camp at 11 o'clock A. M., and went into the direction of the railroad running from Augusta to Millen where it forms a junction with the railroad from Savannah to Macon. This was the only road upon which reinforcements could be brought from Richmond to Georgia to stop

our advance to Savannah. As we supposed that there would be fighting to do on that road in case the enemy had received reinforcements from Richmond, we hurried as fast as possible in order to prevent the enemy from getting a firm hold before our arrival. Cannon shots were heard occasionally, fired by our cavalry in front at the enemy, who refused to let our men cross the swamps. The day was very hot and the swamps were as frequent as ever, besides this the heavy clouds threatened with rain, so that our situation became anything but pleasant. We crossed the Cedar swamp to-day, meeting less difficulties than we had expected; the swamp was well filled with water. Several members of the 102d Illinois regiment of our brigade, were sent out to hunt horses, which the inhabitants had commenced hiding in the swamps; some of the men were taken prisoners at a house, by rebels dressed in Federal uniforms. The rest escaped. Several members of our regiment were found missing at night. We got some provisions from the neighborhood, and the hope dawned, that, with the sweet potatoes and hams of the rebels in the neighborhood, and our rations of three days (which had to do us for ten, and which had decreased in an astonishing style in the last two days) we would not starve at least for the present.

*Dec. 2.* We broke camp at 6½ o'clock. The greater part of the 14th army corps and a large number of KILPATRICK'S wagons was with us, and our division had to guard them. The 14th corps had given us the guard of its train to enable it to move the faster. This corps advanced to 20 miles from Augusta, threatened the city and compelled the enemy to bring reinforcements from Savannah. Our troops then turned and went in the direction of Savannah, but before the enemy had time to return the reinforcements to Savannah on the same road, the track had been destroyed in the mean time by the other corps. Swamps we encountered as ever, and also

the usual obstructions, but we had become accustomed to all this somewhat. Our provisions began to fall off in a frightful manner; and fortunately the country through which we marched to-day, was inhabited but little.

*Dec 3.* We broke up our camp at 6½ o'clock A. M. The whole army was drawn together closer as we neared the above mentioned railroad, and were expecting some fighting. Our road had been blocked on many places and we were compelled to drive the enemy from behind the obstructions before we could advance. These small fights always caused loss on our side, as the enemy always had in a sure mark at our men and never fired, until they got within easy range. Where the rebels did not impede our progress, the deep sand did, and the march to-day was very troublesome and annoying. Houses had been burnt more or less every day as we had advanced, particularly in the afternoon and towards night, and in looking to the right (where the 15th and 17th corps were marching,) or to the left, (where the 14th corps was marching,) the pillars of smoke arising high, told us where those corps were, and whether we were ahead of or behind them. At noon we reached a large and, from all appearances, well stocked plantation, where we halted for dinner and where our brigade received orders to go to the railroad, a mile distant, and commence the work of destruction. The inhabitants of the plantation consisted of negroes who informed us that their master had fled with his male slaves, victuals, &c, several days ago, without leaving them anything to eat, and that they were left to starve and knew not what to do, not having a bit to eat. We found about fifty bushels of pea nuts that had till now served the negroes as nourishment, but were now mostly taken by our famished men. The smithing and wagon shops, with contents, were burned up, as well as the dwelling house of the proprietor, before we left the place. After leaving the planta-

tion our brigade went to the left, while the other two brigades of our division went to the right, to points on the road, to commence burning and tearing up the track, until the brigades would meet each other. We reached the road at 3 o'clock P. M., without meeting any resistance. Having stacked arms and posted pickets some distance from the road, we went to work; half of the regiment remaining at our arms, while the other half was at the work of destruction. As soon as a few rods of the road had been destroyed, the party at work was relieved by the party guarding the arms. Fence rails were set afire and the iron rails laid across, whereby the latter soon became bent and unserviceable. The road had been repaired by the rebels but a few days before, as we saw from the newly made ditches on both sides of the track, not supposing that we would be there so soon. After we had destroyed our part of the road, we left in the direction of Milan, until we reached the main road to Statesboro, leaving Milan, where our pioneers were bothered very much, on our right. The troops on our right moved through Milan, burning it more or less. Night approached, and in vain we looked for our camp; our men were completely worn out, not having had enough to eat, and were hardly able to keep in the ranks. The march was continued, though many, not being able to go further, fell by the road and in the hands of the enemy, or died in the swamp. The march continued until 12 o'clock P. M., when we reached the camp of the first and second division, but had to go a distance further for a dry camping ground. More than half of the members of our regiment had remained behind in the swamps, completely worn out, and did not come up until the next morning, shaking and trembling, barely able to stand straight, much less to prepare food. They fell down on their arrival, to rest and sleep, but had scarcely laid down when rain set in and those of us able to do it, went off after some



branches of trees to cover our things with and protect us from the rain. Some of our men, more wise than others, after feeling the first drops of rain, looked at the clouds, and being satisfied that "the rain would not last long" went to sleep again, and had the pleasure the next day of carrying and wearing their wet clothes and blanket.

*Dec. 4.* At 4 o'clock A. M. we were awakened, and at 6 we turned our backs on our short resting place, hoping that to-day's march would bring less difficulties and hardships. We felt something like men just recovered from a severe illness, who have to rest and gather strength very frequently. Forming the advance guard, we were the first to go into camp, it is true, but also, in case we met the enemy, the first to get the fire, requiring, perhaps, more strength than we had, to drive the enemy away. Shortly after we left, heavy firing was heard on our left, in the direction of Waynesboro, where the greater part of KILPATRICK'S cavalry and the 14th corps were, and where we had learned the enemy was entrenched. The 14th corps made no attack on the enemy, but in stead, passed to the left of the city, and was only harassed by the enemy's cavalry, exchanging rifle and cannon shots only with him in order to compel him to "go along." We approached nearer to the Savannah river, and the black population, that always took our part, informed us that the rebels were strongly entrenched there. We did not believe it to be Sherman's object to attack the enemy where it was unnecessary to do so, as the wounded and sick could not, on a march like ours, receive the necessary aid and comfort, and as every fight reduced our ranks, and as every mile of march brought us deeper and further into rebeldom. Our communication with the North was cut off, and if our friends at home placed confidence in the reports of the rebel papers, prophesying the sure and certain destruction of the Yankee corps in Georgia, which



reports must have given especial pleasure to the Copperheads—then indeed we would have been lost. At noon we reached a river, swelling at so rapid a rate that it was impossible to cross on pontoons, and had to remain there for about three hours. The corps on our left had caused this inundation by destroying a mill and dam above, not knowing that thereby our advance was stopped, until we could lay our pontoons and cross. Neither enemy nor swamps were as troublesome to-day as the sand, through which we had to march. We saw beautiful pineries, and as the day was very hot it was a pleasure to stretch out in the shade of the pines and rest for a short while. The inhabitants had all fled. Victuals we got more to-day than on the day before, particularly sweet potatoes and sugar; sometimes we quenched our thirst with the sugar cane growing there. Seven members of the 70th Indiana were taken prisoner when out foraging. We went into camp at 8 o'clock p. m., after a long march in the sand and heat.

*Dec. 5.* At 5 o'clock we left camp on the way to our destination. The day was clear and promised to become hot. The country was level and sandy, adorned by beautiful pineries, with high grass covering the ground. To-day we reached the first rice plantation, but the rice, yet in the straw, had been burnt. We found rice, however, in the houses of the blacks, and hereafter rice and sweet potatoes was to be our main nourishment and food. It was reported that 3,000 rebel cavalry was in our rear, endeavoring to destroy our trains, and catch our foragers at work in the neighboring houses. Not satisfied with capturing them, the rebels would hang or shoot them, or cut their throats and leave the dead corpses lie unburied on the ground. Such horrible deeds were continually committed, although we treated the rebel prisoners well; yea, they were better treated than our own men, for while these

had to be satisfied with crackers and pork, the rebel prisoners in Nashville and Chattanooga had wheat bread and fresh meat for food! Some of our men who had strayed from the ranks, were even driven back into the swamps to starve there! The inhabitants had all fled, endeavoring to escape the just punishment for their rebellion against the best government in the world, and those few that were captured testified that most of the rebels had despaired of their cause as lost, but did not intend to give up as long as they had one man left to fight. The enemy cannot have had a great deal of spunk, as we noticed in all the skirmishes and fights, in which they generally retreated soon after the commencement, leaving the dead and wounded in our hands. Each defeat or retreat of the rebels gave us new courage, and we went into battle sure of victory. About 3 o'clock we encamped near Springfield, 8 miles from the Savannah river.

*Dec. 6.* We left our camp at 5½ o'clock A. M., and advanced rapidly through the sand, the day being cool and pleasant, and rested but seldom in the high and inviting grass under the beautiful trees. The march in the afternoon was slower, as the road had been blocked by trees which had to be cut away before we could advance. At 4-o'clock our to-day's march ended and we camped about 35 miles from Savannah. Fighting was expected on the morrow, as the enemy was between Springfield and Savannah, and as we expected to reach his first entrenchments. The sooner we got to these entrenchments the less time the enemy got to fortify himself, and the easier was the task of taking the works. Rice we found but little, meat none at all, and as we had none in our haversacks, we had to get along as well as we could, hoping to get some to-morrow.

*Dec. 7.* We left camp at 7½ o'clock A. M., having drank coffee, but without eating anything. After marching several miles we came to a large swamp,

called by the negroes Aboneser swamp. The bridges in places where a road could not be made had been burnt, and trees felled across, making it impossible to pass but through the water, or to cut away the trees. We had a sufficient number of pioneers and laborers to do the latter work quickly, enabling us to follow our cavalry, that had gotten through the water. Our brigade was the first of infantry that had to cross, and our position not a safe one, as the cavalry had reported the enemy in force in front, and had had a sharp skirmish with the rebels. The enemy would no doubt make a stand at Springfield, a few miles distant. But we were always ready to "do good to our enemies," and after we had passed the dangerous spot, we examined our guns, put them in good order and loaded. The road became more passable now, though on both sides the swamp continued, until at once we were again stopped by a blockade of the rebels. At a place more dangerous than any former one, they had burned the bridge, and felled trees across every way, so that there was nothing else possible for us but to go through the water. The trees obstructed our way for about a quarter of a mile, and we could not see whether the rebels were on the other side of the blockade or not, but supposed they were. Our situation was most critical as we had to advance, and if the enemy lay in wait for us we must fall an easy prey to his shots, it being impossible in such places to keep in order. Our officers proposed to go through the swamp, and our men obeyed readily, knowing that the officers would die with and for the men, who had the greatest confidence in them. We got into the water and mud nearly up to our waists, and haversacks and cartridge boxes became wet, but after we had passed the first bad spot, the walking became better, and soon we were on dry land again. Not a shot was fired at us, but instead of this the town of Springfield was in our immediate front, the court house but

a few steps distant. We marched to the court house and gave three hearty cheers for the Union, stacked our arms, and went on a hunt "for something to eat." Geese and chickens were found in abundance and confiscated without "a show of law." For catching chickens we generally used our ramrods—everywhere men were seen chasing the screaming birds, or here and there a soldier was seen tumbling in his endeavors to catch "the derved things," amid the laughter of his more lucky comrade who returned to his mess with a load of fowl. Many of the inhabitants had hidden their valuables in the swamps, these we found and either taken along or destroyed. The men found hidden were taken to headquarters. The country around Springfield is very level. On our right heavy firing was heard. We camped in the place, 27 miles from Savannah, and 12 miles from the first rebel fortification in our road. The night was rainy and cool.

*Dec. 8.* Our marching hour had been fixed at 9 o'clock A. M., but as the 14th army corps and the two first divisions of our corps had to pass us, we remained quiet. The weather was very warm and we had great trouble to keep in the shade, as we had been forbidden to enter the houses. Early in the morning a heavy firing commenced on our right, and in our front the fire became very rapid at noon; from this and from the slow advancing of the troops defiling past us we supposed that there "was something the matter." Edibles were very scarce, all chickens had been eaten, and nothing else been found. Some little rice we found in the husk, and which we ground in self-made wooden mortars, with clubs, and let the wind blow the husks away; this was all we got. A lot of government mules and horses that had become unserviceable, were killed to-day so that the rebels should not get them and use them again. We left camp at 7 o'clock P. M., prepared for an unpleasant night's march, knowing that such

marches were very tiresome, even on a level road, on account of the many missteps in the darkness. We marched a couple of hundred steps and then halted, as the troops ahead of us had done. Another march of a few hundred steps, and another halt took place. The men became restless and demanded either to sleep or to march; and some left the ranks in search of food. The houses of Springfield became less with every halt; at first the near houses were set afire, then those further off, until finally a guard was sent out to put a stop to this incendiarism. We marched a few hundred paces again and again kindled fires but now with fence rails. While resting here, cavalry which had till now been in our rear, hurried past us in such numbers that we thought there would be no end of it. Cannon firing was going on in our front continually, and we were now certain that the enemy was the cause of all this delay. We commenced the march again and advanced some distance into a swamp, where the horrors of the night commenced. Two army corps with their trains were ahead of us and had made the roads literally bottomless, in some places trees had to be felled across and fence rails thrown in the road to make it passable. The night was "wrapped up in darkness," the enemy a few miles ahead, behind his entrenchments, from which we were to drive him in the morning,—no provisions were on hand, nor was there any sign that to-morrow there would be some,—instead of getting out of the swamps on dry land and hurrying to our destination, we were here "stuck in the mud," and getting in deeper as we advanced,—the night march and the last "fast days" had enervated and weakened us:—in fine, it seemed, as though every thing had conspired our destruction just at the time of reaching our resting place, Savannah.

*Dec. 9.* At 7 o'clock A. M. we reached the camp of our advance, where we prepared breakfast, con-

sisting of nothing but coffee. The provisions on our wagons were "done for," and we were told that there was no bread for us, nor would be until we had reached Savannah and had opened communications. This was poor consolation for our empty stomachs, as hunger is unpleasant even without such hardships and marching, and doubly so with them. But all grumbling could not alter the case. After a rest of half an hour we proceeded, protecting the train of the entire corps, while the first and second division went on by roads to outflank the enemy entrenched on the main road. In consequence of the swampy country our advance was very slow again, and the necessary fodder for the mules was wanting, as well as the food for the men. Our foragers returned without a single ear of corn, or piece of straw. The cannonade in our front commenced early in the morning, became very heavy about noon, but decreased gradually until it ceased entirely. At 7 o'clock P. M. we again got into a swamp, but as there was "plenty of water," we camped. We laid down without supper, but were awakened afterwards and got sweet potatoes and pork for breakfast. The swamps had become less in the afternoon, but as the country was as level as a floor, we knew that we had not passed through the last one yet. We encamped 17 miles from Savannah, and immediately after we had gone into camp, signal rockets went up several times on our right, and were answered from headquarters. The night was cold.

*Dec. 10.* We left camp at 6 o'clock with the intention either to take Savannah to-day, or else get close enough to put an end to our daily marching. The blockade of trees had been removed principally during the night, and soon we reached the fort, whence the enemy had been driven yesterday, and whence had proceeded the heavy firing heard for the last few days. Here our division halted again, in order to let the other two divisions that had returned



to the main road, defile past us. About noon we reached the Charleston and Savannah railroad; the destruction of which was commenced without molestation. Our division did not participate in this work this time but went on straight towards the city, after having found a good road. Not long afterwards we heard the enemy's cannon bark at our advance and saw on our road a rebel fort. The enemy opened on us with shell from the fort and batteries on the right and left of the fort, doing but little injury and not in the least affecting our steady advance. Finally, we halted and the regiments, that had heretofore marched by the flank were drawn in line of battle, and perhaps it was the object of our commander to make an attack on the city immediately, as the enemy's force could not be a large one. Our prisoners had been brought from Milan to Savannah and compelled to work on the entrenchments and even to shoulder a musket against their old flag—it was our purpose to liberate these. Our regiment, under Col. CASE, was ordered forward as skirmishers and to advance until further orders. The order was obeyed with alacrity, and soon we moved forward through thick underbrush and thorns in the pines, without a single shot being fired at us by rebel infantry. We could not explain this any other way than that the enemy's intention was to get us within easy range, and then pepper away at us to kill as many as possible. We expected this and were prepared for it. We advanced until a swamp prevented all further progress, from the other side of which the enemy stationed there now opened on us. The enemy, being secure behind the swamps, answered three or four times to our shots, but all balls went overhead, as at Atlanta. An attempt to wade through the swamp was not made, and would have been foolish and hazardous, as we afterwards found out on measuring the depth of the water. As a further advance was impossible without any "further orders," the line of battle behind us was wit-

drawn out of range of the enemy's balls, and went in camp. Our regiment remained on picket duty until 8 o'clock p. m., when we were relieved by other troops, and spent a rainy night, expectant of the things to-morrow.

*Dec. 11.* The weather was rainy and cool. Early in the morning the cannon of the enemy opened on us, and several 32-pound shells had the audacity to fall down in the midst of our camp, bury themselves in the ground and explode, without, however, doing any damage. A bloody day was expected, but as the order to advance did not come we remained in camp the entire day. The first division of our corps, being near the Savannah river, destroyed a rebel transport boat. The enemy's armed vessels, defending the city, commenced to shell our troops lying nearest to the river, in a most unmerciful manner, but did no damage as our men protected themselves from all shots. But few rifle shots were exchanged, as our pickets had been prohibited to fire without seeing an object worthy to fire at. Our food consisted of rice cooked in water without salt, and tasted excellently, as an empty stomach is not very particular, and as coffee, sugar and rice were the only things we had. The communication with Fort Pulaski could not be opened as long as the rebels held Fort McAllister, between us and Fort Pulaski, and before we could get victuals, so much needed by us.

*Dec. 12.* The day was very cold. Preparations were made to construct a road to Fort Pulaski, and to capture Fort McAllister. A trial was made to lay pontoons, over which provisions could be brought from South Carolina, but rebel vessels prevented it. One of the rebel vessels that had got too close to our land batteries, in the endeavor to destroy our pontoons, was compelled to surrender with crew and arms. As we expected an attack we had to be prepared for it; but the rebels seemed indisposed to cross the swamp and visit us, supposing no doubt that

they would have to pay their visit as dearly as we would if we crossed. We began to fell trees and erect breastworks during the enemy's inactivity.

*Dec. 13.* The enemy had filled the swamp in our front with water, and even inundated the road through the same, by cutting the river dam, and thus put an attack by assault out of question. The water was very deep, on some places 6—7 feet, besides this torpedoes had been put in, so that, had we ventured in, we would not only have been in danger of the canister and grape shot of the enemy, but also of the torpedoes and rifle balls. The swamp extended away to our right, and it was as impossible for the other corps to cross, as it was for ours. Nevertheless the building of a bridge across the swamp was commenced with after sundown in our front. The enemy heard the chopping and felling of trees between the two picket lines, and opened a heavy fire on our pioneers; but the swamp was low and the balls went mostly overhead of our workmen; nevertheless they were glad when, a little after 6 o'clock, the enemy's canister fire ceased, and when they could continue the work with less danger. In camp we were busy with our breastworks and had the pleasure of smelling several shells, which were fired very accurately at our campfires; the shells did no harm, as the rustling in the tree-tops gave us sufficient warning to put our heads behind the works, until the howling shell had become quiet after the explosion. The fire along the whole line was livelier in the afternoon than in the forenoon, not only the artillery fire, but also the fire of the pickets. In the night we could hear plainly the rumbling noise of wagons passing through the streets of Savannah and the clocks striking, so that it seemed as though everything was going on the accustomed way in the city, and that it was not besieged by one hundred thousand Yankees. We did not care about the capture of the city at present, we cared more for something to eat, knowing that if we

got that soon, the city would also soon be ours. We could then starve the enemy out, as all communications with the country had been cut off, and as his stores cannot have been large. After 10 o'clock the night became quiet. Our cannon that could hardly be brought in position on account of the low and wooded country, had kept quiet to-day. There was talk about the erection of a fort in our front, opposite the enemy's fort.

*Dec. 14.* The enemy went to work at day-break with the best will with his muskets and artillery, and bullets and balls and shells whistled, howled and screamed all around us. Every shot was accompanied by a yell of the rebel troops, that consisted principally of Georgia militia, and we believed that some good lies had been told them to make them feel brave and persevering, while we kept very quiet. But all shots were waste of powder, only making holes in the air, but not in the Yankee ranks. Communication had been opened yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock with Fort Pulaski, after Fort McAllister had fallen, and everybody was glad on account of getting something to eat and to wear on the morrow. The fort named had been taken by assault, by part of the 15th army corps, which had done the work so well that fort with garrison, arms, ammunition, &c. had been captured. This blow the rebels in our front must have felt severely, as the firing and yelling ceased almost entirely in the afternoon. We were the merrier in anticipation of something to eat and wear, and that our march to the sea coast—filled with privations and hardships though it had been—had been crowned by success. New zeal inspired our men, who felt able to whip the whole Confederate army, provided their stomachs were satisfied first.

*Dec. 15.* The train of wagons sent to Fort Pulaski after provisions which was expected back to-day, did not arrive, on account of the bad roads and of the half starved mules drawing the wagons. Unpleasant

as it was, it could not be remedied, knowing that the provisions would reach us by and by. We had taken possession of a rice mill on the river, and of the rice we found on a large island in the river. Our whole brigade was busy grinding and eating rice, a dish they always had put aside at Nashville and other places, preferring to buy their victuals than to eating "such stuff." The construction of the bridge across the swamp was continued to-day, as the enemy could not injure the workmen. The enemy kept quiet until the afternoon, when he again commenced his usual waste of powder and lead; our men had become so accustomed to hear the bullets whistle that they no longer minded them. A member of the 102d Illinois regiment was wounded badly yesterday when on picket, on account of his carelessness for not hiding in his rifle pit. A member of our regiment was slightly wounded in the arm. The firing, generally speaking, was very light. A number of men sent out foraging a few days ago, had not returned yet, and it was supposed that they had been captured by the rebel cavalry in our rear. This cavalry endeavored to catch such parties, and destroy our wagon trains, whenever the train guard was sufficiently small for them. Foragers going too far from camp, were captured frequently, or driven back to camp. A rumor was current that the job of taking the fort in our front by an assault would be ours in a few days, but we could get no positive information from our officers, who either knew no more than we did ourselves, or else were ordered to keep silent. Many of the men considered a successful assault of the fort an impossibility on account of the depth of the water, and did not intend to obey when ordered to advance. The first mail arrived at the headquarters of Gen. SLOCUM, commanding the 20th and 14th corps, and was expected at the brigade headquarters to-morrow.

*Dec. 16.* From the papers that some of the men had received yesterday, we received the first news

from THOMAS and HOOD's armies, since our departure from Atlanta. With the greatest joy we learned that HOOD's army had become demoralized and been cut to pieces in the battles at Nashville and Franklin, Tenn. This news caused great joy in camp and it became evident that the Confederate cause was sinking rapidly—that our government was becoming stronger in the North, while its armies were marching through rebeldom, to break the enemy's neck. The news not only gave us joy, but also the assurance that soon we could leave the bloody fields and return to our families—that soon the war, that had robbed so many mothers of their sons, so many wives of their husbands, would be over. A brigade of the first division crossed the Savannah river into South Carolina to keep the rebels there in check, and also to advance far enough so that the city could be besieged from the South Carolina side, or to draw the enemy from the city in this way. But very light firing along the picket line, and the enemy's guns remained quiet until between 8 and 10 o'clock a couple of shells were sent to us, without doing any injury. We were yet busy on our breastworks without being interrupted by the enemy; the building of the bridge was also continued, and the continued silence caused to suppose that the enemy had either retreated or was meditating an attack. Neither the one nor the other was the case. The enemy supposed perhaps, that we might finish the bridge, useless as it would be for us as long as he remained so close to the water, and could be reinforced at any moment.

*Dec. 17.* The provisions had not yet arrived and the men began to lose their patience. We spent our time improving our works and camp. Not expecting an early surrender of the city, we made everything as strong and comfortable as on former occasions, when resting on one place for some time; there was nothing wanting but provisions to make us feel comfortable in front of the rebel works on the other side of the



swamp. The underbrush was cut away, and only the shade trees left standing, as the days had been warm and even hot. The ground was made level and swept clean with branches of trees; the tents were erected in rows by companies. The enemy did not like this, and sent several shells across to us. We received the first large mail near Savannah, and almost every one got 3—4 letters from friends in the North, who never expected that the letters would reach the address at Savannah. Many letters found no owners who had died in our front or in the hospitals, or fallen in the hands of the enemy. Many of the brave fellows had always stood in our front line and were stretched out by the fire of the rebels. Others were languishing in rebel prisons, gradually approaching the gate of death—hastened on more or less by such murderers as WIRZ, of the like of which the rebel army was full, who took especial delight in torturing the helpless prisoners and to make them suffer. How different was our treatment of the rebel prisoners, who fattened on good bread, coffee and fresh beef, to enable them to shoulder the musket again against the very men who provided for them, as soon as they were exchanged. The rebels did everything to drive the workmen from the bridge, and one shell followed the other, but in vain. The night was quiet.

*Dec. 18.* The weather was very hot and everybody that had time sought a place under a shade tree. The artillery fire of the rebels had hushed entirely, and the picket fire was light. The men were busy writing letters home to their friends, and to let the Copperheads know that all sympathies for the dying rebellion were vain and useless, as we were daily drawing the rope tighter around the rebels' throats, and that we would not return North until the rebellion had been put down and until we were enjoying a lasting peace. A number of volunteers examined the depth of the swamp about 9 o'clock P. M., getting

in the water and morass up to their arms, and did not yet get to the deepest places, but returned, satisfied with the examination, and before the water went over their heads. The night was quiet, and we enjoyed a good night's rest.

*Dec 19* The weather was hot in the day, but the nights were cool without frost. Letters were sent off to-day. We were busy with our breastworks and camp. Another party volunteered to go into the swamp and were sent out to-night to examine the depth of the same in several places; they returned with the same report as the first party; that the water was too deep to wade through. Thus it seemed as if our Generals meditated an attack through the swamp, as the orders to examine the depth of the water came from them. No firing took place, not even between the pickets who had made peace and were talking, laughing and joking with each other. A suitable place for the erection of a fort was selected by some artillery officers, and to-morrow the work was to begin. The place selected was immediately in the rear of our line of pickets, on the road that we had approached towards Savannah, and where we had seen the fort, opposite which our fort was to be erected. It seemed to be the intention of the commanding officers, that the infantry should go through the swamp and attack the enemy's fort while our artillery opened a most furious fire on the same. This plan would have been successful on dry land, but to cross the swamp (an undertaking to be done but very slow.) when the water went up to and over the shoulder, wetting everything but the top of the head, must necessarily be done slowly, while we were exposed to the enemy's musket balls, shells, torpedoes, canister and grape shot from all sides in our front. The undertaking would have been a fool-hardy one, its success be very doubtful, and hundreds of lives would have been spent in vain in case of its unsuccessfulness. But the attack through the swamp had not

been ordered, nor could it be until the fort had been built.

*Dec. 20* The enemy used his cannon again and the pickets had commenced their fire again, so that a walk beyond the rifle pits became rather hazardous and dangerous. As our pickets answered every fire very promptly, it was equally dangerous for the enemy to venture from behind his works. A shell exploded where the second division was posted, and ten men were wounded or killed, the shell exploded among the group as it fell, and the pieces flew in every direction. The work on the fort was commenced early in the morning. Negroes were busy doing the earthwork, while our pioneers felled trees and got them ready for use. Another line of breastworks was commenced, for which the trees were felled at dusk. From this we supposed that the idea of taking the enemy's works by assault, had been given up, and that we were to approach the enemy as near as possible, after which our artillery could do its work better and surer. Our wagons returned from Fort Pulaski with provisions and ammunition, and we got the first piece of bread since the 30th November. The general talk was about an assault to be made to-morrow on the rebel works. Some even said that they had heard the order, and the reason for not being communicated to the regiments was that an order had so commanded it, that the regiments would not hear the order until standing at the edge of the swamp, and were ordered to go forward. The enemy ceased his fire at short intervals during the day, but after sundown the cannonade became more violent as the hours passed. The whole swamp seemed afire from the constant flashes of the enemy's artillery. This horrible noise lasted until after 1 o'clock, while the pickets remained quiet during that time and afterwards. At the hour named the silence of the grave reigned, and were very anxious to know the cause of it.

*Dec. 21.* The greater part of company D of our regiment was sent on picket last night and I was among the men sent. As long as the enemy fired during the night, we remained in our rifle pits. As soon as the fire ceased, one or two of the pickets, consisting of 3, 4 or five men each, were permitted to sleep in the pits for one hour, while the others watched. At last my turn for a nap had come, and I laid down on the bare ground, the root of a tree served as a pillow, and tired as I was, I would not have exchanged my place for a feather bed and a warm room. I was awakened by the sergeant at 4 o'clock, thereby losing half of my allotted time for sleep, and we were ordered to pack up immediately for an advance. We were now certain that an assault on the works would take place, and we expected to be the first ones ordered in the swamp, and draw the first and worst enemy's fire. The whole line of pickets was moved to the road, and here—judge our surprise!—we had to advance, but not through the swamp, but on the road through the same, to a small extent only covered with water. The enemy had fled! We soon reached the enemy's works, from which but a few hours previous a continued spitting of fire was going on, in order to prevent us from noticing the retreat too soon, and to prevent us from hearing the noise of the moving wagons and cannons. In the enemy's fort we found two large siege guns, spiked and unfit for present use. A lot of ammunition had been thrown into the water. The guns found in the fort were not the only ones captured; we found others, small and large, standing in every direction—a certain sign that the enemy did not even take time in his hasty retreat to destroy them, in order to save himself. The entire works with contents were in our hands, and right glad we were that we got possession of them without the expected bloodshed. The city was our next point, three miles distant, and we stopped but a short time

in the works. The pickets of the 2d division of our corps were ahead of us, and the first that reached Savannah; we followed after them and reached there about 6 o'clock A. M. Our joy was great, as we had expected a bloody day, but instead we were here safe and sound. The joy of the foreigners and blacks in Savannah was great, and on all sides we heard them say, "Welcome, welcome, we have prayed for you!" Invitations were extended to us by them to go with them to breakfast, and mostly accepted. Where an invitation was refused, it was renewed with another soldier, until some one went along with the good hearted man. Of course there were plenty of others in the city who would rather have chopped a finger off than give to a Union soldier to eat or drink. But we cared little for such fellows, and took what we wanted. About 400 cannons in and near the city fell into our hands, a large amount of cotton, 15 locomotives, (most of them serviceable) and many other valuable things. While we were in the city, our brigade had gone into camp a short distance west of the city, and as we had nothing particular to do here, we went out and joined our commands. A short time afterwards we were ordered to guard behind the same rebel entrenchments at the swamp, where the night before the enemy had been firing at us on the other side of the swamp. The enemy had taken the road to South Carolina, and his rear guard was crossing the bridge, when our advance entered the city. Our advance immediately went to the bridge, hoping to save the same and cut off the retreat of the rebel stragglers in town, but they found they had destroyed it after they had crossed. A number of our prisoners had made use of the confusion which reigned among the rebels, and escaped from their guards, and remained hidden in houses until they heard the enlivening strains of our brass bands in the streets. A number of rebel soldiers, not wishing to go with

the retreating army, had remained, were arrested and put under guard. Many of the inhabitants, mostly of the poorer class, had not been able to earn a livelihood for the last few weeks, and broke into several stores the night before, and helped themselves to the provisions.

*Dec. 22.* The weather was very cold and windy, and as our camp ground was in an open field, which offered no protection from wind and cold, many of our boys went into the city, partly to warm themselves, and partly to see what the rebels had left. Throughout the day men could be seen returning with bags of rice, boxes of tobacco, bottles of wine and whisky, clothes and other things, to divide with their comrades in camp. Others had gone to the city, visited families, and talked with them on the present state of rebeldom. They were of course invited to dinner and the political conversation was continued in the afternoon. Our boys spoke of our next march through South Carolina, and said that if the enemy did not surrender before the march was commenced, the whole state of South Carolina would be laid waste and burned, because this state had been the first cause of all the bloodshed and murders. Several vessels of the enemy were compelled to surrender, but our ships could not yet get to the city, on account of the blockade and the torpedoes in the water. The locations of the torpedoes were found out, and red and white flags placed there as a warning for our ships.

*Dec. 23.* The weather was again very cold, and as we had nothing to do, we went to the city again to have a chat with the citizens, or to get some more provisions. Some of the boys commenced tearing down deserted houses near the city, as at Atlanta, carried the boards to camp, where the erection of buildings was begun, as we found it rather cold here. The inhabitants accused us northerners of being the cause of the cold, as they had never before had such



cold weather here. The 15th corps had parade before Gen. SHERMAN and other generals. But the most joyful of all on such occasions were the blacks. Only those that were eye witnesses can form a correct idea about the capers the darkies cut. The sounds of the distant music called the negro from his hut, leaving everything behind them, slapping the hands and dancing as the music approached. In the mean time the music had stopped to draw breath, while the column went steadily forward. Like pillars the astonished darkies stood, sometimes breaking out in a terrible laughter, such as only darkies can, surprised at the regular step of the men and the regularity of the endless column, seeing as far as the eye could reach nothing but glittering bayonets. The music commenced again, and like a flock of frightened sheep, the black crowd rushed after the music, dancing, hopping and slapping their hands. Not knowing what to do after they had caught up to the music, they stopped but those in the rear pushed those in front, who were thus pushed towards the music band. A cramming and jamming commenced, laughter, grins and curses became loud until the city guard interfered, and the frightened darkies dispersed as fast as they had come, being afraid of the glittering bayonets..

*Dec. 24.* Gen. GEARY, commander of the second division of the 20th army corps, commanding the city, had issued orders prohibiting the soldiers from visiting the city without passes from the commanders of their regiments, signed by by the brigade commander. Only such on duty in the city were permitted to go. This order put a damper on the expectations of many of our men, desirous of spending Christmas Eve in the city, as the members of the 2d division took great delight in arresting members of the other divisions, cherishing angry feelings against them. Another order forbade the soldier to enter the private houses. A good many difficulties

were the consequence of this last order between the guards stationed at the houses, and the soldiers visiting the city. The guards had to obey their orders and were punished for disobedience if they did not. But this only increased the hatred against the 2d division, not only of the two other divisions of our corps, but also of every corps at Savannah. We had expected more of a Christmas Eve than we got. The present, Savannah, we got, and thanked God for getting it without fording the deep swamps; but we had not yet had time to make jolly over our good luck. So we managed to get up as good a Christmas party as we could, gathered around the camp fire, and one man commenced relating the events of the last year, while we listened attentively, and finishing with an eloquent appeal for our fallen comrades. This was our programme, but scarcely had the speakers began talking, when shots were heard in the direction of the road we had crossed over a few days ago. The officers, supposing an attack on our pickets, called us to arms, and in a few moments we were posted in line of battle. Although many of us laughed at these unnecessary preparations, as no one believed the enemy spunky enough to return, still we were kept in position nearly an hour, until some bright minded commander came to the conclusion that it was Christmas Eve, and the 14th corps was having a little spree in shooting from behind the former enemy's works. Satisfied that we would not be surprised, we returned to our tents, threw our guns away, but our Christmas Eve programme could not be carried through now.

*Dec. 25.* The men generally were busy building huts with boards, partly taken from houses, and partly furnished to the various regiments. Nails had been collected from houses or taken out of the stores, and nothing prevented us from having more commodious quarters than the pup tents. The hammering, sawing and digging lasted throughout

the entire day; how long we were to enjoy the huts after their erection, we could not tell, as rumors of another advance were current, and as it generally had been the case that soon after the completion of the huts we had received marching orders. But as the weather was very cold, we intended to enjoy the huts at least as long as we were here; but few huts would have been built, as every one knew that SHERMAN could not remain long on one place, if it had not been so unusually cold. A member of our division got in possession of \$10,000 in silver to-day, and sold it for paper money, getting \$20,000 for it. The man said he had gotten it in the city, but where and how he got it, neither officers nor men enquired. That man made money by the war.

*Dec. 23.* The weather was cloudy and rainy and the work on our huts continued. We commenced to drill again, and only such men were excused from drilling, as had not been able to work yesterday on account of lack of tools or on account of duty. There was much talk about an early move and many of the men did not resume the work on their huts, after they returned from drilling, placing too much belief in the reports. The rumor became verified by receiving orders to quit the work, and be ready for marching. Neither day nor hour was fixed. The men that had finished the huts after arduous and long labor, were thunderstruck; not being able to comprehend the fact, that all the labor had been done for only two nights' rest in the huts. As they had scarcely drawn breath in Savannah, been at work while there, with tattered clothes and without provisions—all this gave them the consoling thought that the march would be but a short one, and perhaps we would remain here for a couple of weeks yet.

*Dec. 27.* The principal part of the day was spent with drilling, marching by company and flank, as a grand parade was expected to take place before our departure. There was but little talk about our march-

ing to-day, but we heard that our march would go through South Carolina. It was reported that 5000 of HARDEE's rebel army had been taken prisoner by Gen. FOSTER. It will be recollected that HARDEE commanded in Savannah before our arrival, and retreated to South Carolina; FOSTER moved from Beaufort Southward, cut the number mentioned off, and took them prisoner, although HARDEE was hiding in the swamps most of the time. The news received to-day were very good generally. A flag of truce came in to-day, proposing an exchange of captive officers; the result we did not learn. The Lieut. Colonel of the 70th Indiana was promoted to the Colonelcy of said regiment, and gave to the officers of the brigade a supper. The citizens of the city held a meeting to deliberate the necessary steps for a return to the old flag. A newspaper, edited by a loyal editor, was issued to-day for the first time. The weather was warm during the day, but in the night cold and rainy. Many of the men resumed the work on their huts, expecting to remain until New Year.

*Dec. 28.* A thunder-storm commenced, followed by a heavy rain that lasted the entire day. The talk of our march was renewed, and it was generally agreed, that we would attack Charleston by land, take it, and march to Wilmington, N. C., thence to Richmond and compel it too to surrender after a four years' struggle. If this was the plan, the work was by no means a small one, particularly as South Carolina was full of swamps, and as the enemy would endeavor to molest our march and impede our progress as much as possible by blocking the roads and skirmishing, burning the bridges over creeks and rivers. &c. But we had the officers to make the plans and the men to do the work, and were confident of success. We also knew that the whole rebel army, excepting that under LEE at Richmond, was discouraged and could not offer much resistance. And if LEE had come with his whole army, we could have

entrenched ourselves and held our position, until reinforcements could reach us from GRANT'S army, following up, if it would be the case, LEE'S army as fast as it could advance. Besides this we wanted to get out of the swamps before the Summer heat created swamp fever and decimated our ranks. Such were the rumors, suppositions and propositions on the eve of every move or fight. The rain stopped in the afternoon and the drilling commenced again, in order to get some exercise; we had among us men to be found everywhere that would not move until compelled to, and unless such men were compelled they would not move for hours. After the thunder storm the weather became hot.

*Dec. 29.* The camp was cleaned and the bits of lumber and branches of trees removed, the company streets swept and ditches dug for the water. The men not busy with this, cleaned their muskets and clothes, as a parade had been announced for to-morrow. In the afternoon some drilling for the parade took place. A rebel transport from England, freighted with clothes for the rebel army, ran the blockade at Fort Pulaski, (the crew not having heard of the capture of Savannah,) and brought us a load of English "neutrality." The crew was taken prisoners. They did not find out that things had changed until they saw at Fort Jackson, (several miles below the river,) the stars and stripes flying from every prominent house and steeple; but it was too late then to return. A number of members of our regiment, I among the number, were sent as guard to the rebel works at the swamp, where the cannon had been left and where the fishing for torpedoes had continued. The night was chilly, but as we were allowed to have fires, we felt tolerably comfortable.

*Dec. 30.* The morning was clear and cold. The 20th corps had parade before Gen. SHERMAN and other Generals in the streets of Savannah. Everybody able to carry a musket had to participate, and

only such as were on picket or other duty were excused. An early move was expected now, as we heard that the parade to-day had been the only thing to keep us back. The fishing for torpedoes along our picket line was continued by men that understood the business. A number of negroes, that had helped in the erection of the works, came to us, and told the cruel treatment they and our prisoners had received from the enemy during the building of the works. The prisoners and negroes had been set to work where our fire was the most violent. They were guarded by rebel scoundrels, and if they became frightened by bullets or shells whizzing, howling or exploding near them, and the work was not done in time, they received 30—50 lashes, and had to go to work again with wounded and sore backs. Our prisoners i. e. captive Union soldiers, half starved, had to work from morning until night despite the insufferable heat, and were guarded by brutal rebels who threatened to shoot or bayonet them if they refused or fainted from weakness. Only those of them that shouldered muskets and promised to fight for the rebels received better treatment and food. Nevertheless they were guarded, as the enemy knew that the prisoners cared nothing for the rebel cause and would escape the first opportunity they would get. We were aware of this brutal treatment of our prisoners on the part of the rebels, and a negro and an eye witness of these cruelties confirmed these reports, at the same time wishing the slaveholders a place in the deepest pool of perdition. About three o'clock we were relieved from picket, and our relief told us that our division would commence the march to-morrow. In camp no one knew anything about this, and no order to that effect had as yet been published. The 14th corps was still busy cleaning up its camp.

*Dec. 31.* The noisy sounds of the drums awoke us early, several hours before daybreak, in consequence of the marching orders. After roll call we



were ordered to prepare a hasty breakfast, pack up and remain ready for the march. Such sudden order and such unexpected marching made the men in bad humor, and they very reasonably thought, that the marching orders could have been issued a day or two previous, so that the men could get everything in better readiness for the tramp. But the men knew that a soldier has to be ready for any service at any time, and that it looks bad for him to grumble or resist orders. As we had been ordered to discontinue the work on our huts, we could but expect such an order at any moment. The bad humor was soon dispelled and the men went to work preparing breakfast and packing up. Many of the boys gave the assurance never to build any more huts. At 6 o'clock we were ready, and many of the men were about to set fire to their huts, as they had always done, but this was forbidden, expecting that other troops would take our quarters. It was a certainty now, that none but our division was ordered forward, for we had scarcely left our quarters when men of the first division and of the 14th corps, took possession of the huts, who told us that they had not yet received marching orders. This was somewhat consoling, as consequently our march could not be a long one. From camp we marched to the headquarters of the division in the city, stopped a short while, and then went to the river, which we crossed. We crossed the island, about two miles wide, and came to the main channel of the Savannah river, where we halted. No bridge being there we had to wait until one had been erected. The day was windy and cold, and it was feared that by such wind a bridge could not be constructed, it became utterly impossible after the flood of the sea had set in. The work was commenced and continued, until the pontooniers met unexpected hindrances, and had to stop. The enemy had appeared on the other side, seen our work, and fired rapidly until our pontooniers stopped. A member of

the 105th Illinois was badly wounded. The rebels were protected by the houses on the other side, the stream was very wide, and our bullets could not penetrate the thick boards of the houses. A cannon was now placed close to the shore, and a few well-aimed shells accomplished what we wanted; the rebels fled, and did not return, as our cannon remained in position. A sufficient number of men of the 102d Illinois, armed with Spenser rifles, went across the river in skiffs, and kept the rebels back. The work on the bridge was commenced again, but the wind became more violent, the water commenced rising and white capped waves became frequent, so that all efforts to lay the bridge proved fruitless. As the river could not be crossed to-day, we had the consolation of crossing on the day after, and that we would remain on the island for the night. The following night no one on the rice field there will forget. The ground was loose and swampy; the wind threatened to blow everything away, camp-fires were not allowed, tents were blown down by the storm, and the cold wind threatened to freeze every one's life blood. We have spent many a night in front of the enemy, before and after the battle, more comfortable than this night in the "Sunny South." With all our hearts we greeted the morning sun, as he to some extent at least dispelled the cold, and saved us from freezing to death.

*January 1, 1865.* Another effort was made to lay the bridge, but the gale made all labor fruitless. We returned to the city where our brigade went on board of a steamer and was dispatched to the main stream, landing on the South Carolina side. From here we advanced four miles in the interior, where we halted on a plantation, and camped. The usual obstructions were found on this short march, trees had been felled across the road in places where it was difficult to remove them, and the bridges over swamp ditches had been burned, many of them were still burning as

we moved past them. This proved to us that the enemy was but a few hundred steps ahead of us, and after dark our march was continued prudently and carefully, as our brigade was the first and only one in the State of South Carolina, then as we did not know how large a force the enemy had in our front. During the whole march not a word was spoken, nor a shot fired. The night was as cold as the one before, but we could protect us now by tearing down fences and old houses for fuel, and by making a warm bed of the Spanish moss. We learned here that our march through South Carolina would not be an easy task, as we had but just left Savannah and already met obstructions, that would increase as we advanced. And although all the rebel troops that could be sent against us could not stop our advance, they could at least compel us to move slowly.

*Jan 2* We remained quietly on the plantation, the second and third brigades of the division were on the other side of the river, awaiting the completion of the bridge. Many of our men not on duty went around in the neighborhood in search of provisions. It is true, we were at the time not in want of them, but the plundering was continued, as it was our intention not to spare this State. The inhabitants of the interior, the very ones that had commenced and brought on the war, but had hitherto not felt the effects of their own work, were to be punished for their rebellion against the best Government in the world, and made to "feel like war." The work of tearing down the deserted houses was commenced here, the inhabitants had fled, leaving the crippled and very old slaves behind them. These were in a very bad situation indeed, a small quantity of rice had been left them, and sometimes not even that, but their masters had told them that they would now "soon become free." Some of our men got sight at some of the enemy's scouts who took to their heels as soon as the boys in blue appeared, our boys fol-

lowed them a short distance and then returned to camp. The rebels now turned on their pursuers in stronger numbers, but when our boys halted they kept back beyond the range of our bullets, and when a stronger force went out against the rebels, they fled again. At another point the rebels approached our pickets until fired at, when they ran away. The bridge across the river had been finished, and Gen. WARD, with the third brigade of our division, reached us in the evening. The night was frosty and cold.

*Jan. 3* The enemy had appeared in stronger numbers in our neighborhood during the night, so that he could resist small parties sent against him. One and a half mile from our front a rebel fort had been built several years ago, and was now without a garrison. The rebels in our front generally sought shelter there when pursued, as it was more difficult to drive him away from there. As the enemy appeared in our front again, company D of our regiment, was ordered to take possession of the fort (on HARDEE'S plantation.) Under the command of Capt. BURCH, we went forward, part of the company on the road, and the other part along its sides. We soon found the rebels and gave him a salute, which they answered and commenced to retreat. We reached the fort without any loss, though fired at continually. We camped near the enemy's works until evening, when several companies of reinforcements came up. The reinforcements were posted as pickets while we went to the mansion, where we quartered in the rooms, using the shingles of an out-house for fire wood. We prepared supper and slept on the floor, half of the company standing guard while the other half slept. On the walls our (Northern) Generals were pictured off in most ridiculous figures, and mottoes and inscriptions under it, that "they would bet a thousand to one that the Yankees would be driven back to Atlanta the same way they had come in

double quick, and that they would soon all be dead or in hell." This might have been possible, if our ammunition had not compelled the enemy to advance backwards.

*Jan. 4* An expedition, consisting of the right wing of the 129th Illinois, two companies of the 102d Illinois and all pickets on duty, was sent out on the main road to Hardeesville, that was in the hands of the enemy. We moved slowly along the road, some distance behind our pickets, advancing on both sides of the road in the bushes. We halted several times and advanced again cautiously, but no enemy appeared; several horses, however, shot at by our pickets were found dead in the road. We advanced with the hope of meeting and seeing the enemy somewhere to-day. After marching some distance we did come near the enemy, to a swamp, the bridges of which had been destroyed or blocked. We heard the enemy felling trees and talking on the other side of the swamp, but could not see him. It was impossible to cut away the trees, as we had no tools, and the water was too deep and dangerous and full of underbrush to wade through. We allowed the enemy this time the pleasure of supposing that he had kept us back, and returned to camp at 1 o'clock P. M. As the sun was hot, we pitched our tents. Late in the afternoon a heavy cannonade was heard in the direction of Charleston, and it was supposed that the 15th and 17th corps, sent to Beaufort, S. C., by water, had met the enemy. Our whole brigade had advanced to the fort on HARDEE'S plantation in the forenoon, while the other brigade of our division remained in the old camp ground, where they crected comfortable quarters.

*Jan. 5.* A number of men of our regiment were sent foraging, met the enemy and commenced firing; the enemy retreated but answered every shot. No one on our side was hurt. Several members of our division were taken prisoners. They had left the

camp alone, gone off too far, and were captured by the rebel scouts that lay in wait for them. The men in camp were busy writing letters, others, expecting a longer stay, commenced improving their quarters. We received no mail nor news from Savannah. The night was rainy.

*Jan. 6.* The day was rainy, we drew rations for several days, but no sugar nor coffee. There was a rumor, though disbelieved generally, that our corps would remain in or near Savannah, as a garrison. Our wagons, till now, on the other side of the river, arrived to-day.

*Jan. 7.* At 8 o'clock A. M., twelve men, under command of a sergeant, were sent to the river to confiscate all skiffs not confiscated. The object was to bring provisions from the river by way of the canal to us. The canal was navigable for small craft, and the proprietors of the plantations along its shore shipped their rice in this way to the river. In consequence of the loose and swampy soil our wagons and mules could bring but very light loads. But all skiffs, so plenty when we crossed the river, had been confiscated, and all hunting was useless. Part of the men got permission from the sergeant to return to camp, while he and the rest of the men remained to renew their hunt for skiffs in the morning. We quartered in a log cabin near the river where we slept soundly until awakened by the hot rays of the sun falling in our faces.

*Jan. 8* Our hunt for skiffs again proved fruitless, and we had to return to camp without them. There was much talk in camp about marching orders. Several attempts had been made to draw clothes, but in vain, as "the other corps have to be dressed first." These words strengthened our belief that our corps would remain, as our corps needed clothes as much as any one. Many of our men went barefooted, and their clothes were too tattered to commence another campaign in.



*Jan. 9.* A number of men of our regiment were sent out to catch fresh oysters; in order to get them they had to pass down the Savannah river, that was full of torpedoes to near fort Pulaski, where the oysters were left on the land by the tide. They left camp amid wishes for their success. The rumor that our corps was to remain in Savannah, was again current, and believed by those tired of marching; but the majority were dissatisfied with the climate, and wanted to get out of the swamps into a healthier country, before the summer season set in.

*Jan. 10.* Our camp was moved and logs for houses brought. Many of the men were rather slow to go to work on the huts, as they had been fooled at Savannah, and as it generally had been the case that soon after the completion of the huts we were ordered away. We received some paper, envelopes, religious books, tracts, thread &c. from the Christian Commission, things much in demand, but very seldom distributed. The weather was rainy and cool. Rations were drawn for three days.

*Jan. 11.* The erection of our huts was continued slowly, as but little faith was placed in the report that we were to remain. New clothes arrived but not near enough. Some of our prisoners had escaped from the enemy and approached our pickets, and one of them was shot in the supposition that they were rebels. When the others made themselves known they were admitted in our lines. A mistake like this, fatal though it became, could easily happen, as none of our men were beyond our lines at that hour unless by permission of the pickets, who of course could but believe the new comers to be rebels. The weather was cold.

*Jan. 12.* The day was beautiful, clear and warm. In the forenoon the work on the huts was continued. Others were busy cleaning the rice in a confiscated wooden mortar of its husks that were afterwards fanned away by the wind. Many gave a

negro some coffee, meat or a finger ring, for which he did this by no means easy work the whole day; and besides the darky also wanted to show his gratitude to the men that freed him from his bondage. In the afternoon the building was stopped, and the camp cleaned and ammunition drawn. The men returned with sixty bushels of oysters, that were in the skiffs and had to be brought to camp in wagons. We were delighted in anticipation of a good oyster supper to-morrow evening. In the city the preparations for a move were commenced hurriedly, and all troops clothed, and the wagons loaded with provisions and ammunition. Our corps needed new clothing very much, ere it could start through South Carolina, where perhaps for months we would not be able to draw anything in that line. KILPATRICK'S cavalry had a parade before Gen. SHERMAN in the the city, and many of our men went there with passes, to see it.

*Jan. 13.* In the forenoon company drill took place, and in the afternoon the haversacks, knapsacks, canteens and shelter tents were inspected by the brigade inspector and the old ones condemned. We received another mail and the news of lieutenant HALDEMAN'S death. It will be remembered that he was taken prisoner on the 4th of June, 1863, near Richland station, Tenn.; he was kept in prison in Richmond, Charleston and Columbia, S. C. At his last place of confinement he made an attempt to escape, after having erred about in the swamps for several days, he was captured by the enemy, in search of him. The maltreatment and privations were the cause of his death. This unexpected news caused sorrow among us, as we all had loved him. The country and the men under his command lost a patriot and a friend. Peace to his ashes! A ship load of women, whose husbands were in the rebel service, and who did not like our presence, was sent to Charleston, considering it the safest place. In

our opinion it had been a safe place long enough! Another detail was sent after oysters. The day was clear and beautiful..

*Jan. 14.* We got firewood for the regiment, and every company had to get its own wood to camp, so that the wagons would be but a short while beyond our line of pickets. We went to a house half torn down to get dry wood, with our wagons. A short distance from the house we espied several butternuts sitting, who as soon as they saw us, snatched up their guns and ran away. They had been reading letters, and were in such a hurry that they left these behind. Not supposing that there were more than three rebels near, we loaded our wagons with wood from the house, and returned to camp unmolested. In camp the rumors of an early move were current again, others said that our corps was to remain. Some were certain that we would move on the 17th inst.

*Jan. 15.* Another beautiful day. More clothes arrived but not near enough yet. In the afternoon an inspection of all our things took place. Nobody believed that we would remain, but everybody opined that we would move on the 17th.

*Jan. 16.* A rainy day. We received marching orders for to morrow morning at 8 o'clock. Cavalry crossed the river and moved with the 2d division of our corps to the right of the river. The detail returned with one hundred bushels of oysters, and we had a fine supper. In the evening we drew our rations and clothes for the march to Hardeesville, 10 miles distant.

*Jan. 17.* We packed up early and left our camp on HARDEE'S plantation at seven o'clock, to look around in South Carolina, and see how far the enemy's scouts, of which nothing had been perceived in the last few days, had retreated. Our road was clear and dry, and although leading through swamps, no obstructions had been placed in our way. The

men were all carrying a heavy load, their clothes, cooking utensils &c., not wishing to leave them, and as our to-day's march was but a short one. At four o'clock P. M. we reached Hardeesville, but the march of only 10 miles had tired us more than many other marches of double that distance. Our utensils did us good service after we had gone into camp. The town was entirely deserted—but one poor family had remained. Towns thus deserted were never spared as the desertion was the best evidence of the sympathies of the inhabitants for the rebels, and had fled from the well deserved punishment due to them. As soon as we had stacked our arms one house after the other was torn down. No fire was needed, but fire could not have consumed the houses faster than we made them tumble. Every house was full of Yankees from top to bottom, engaged in the work of destruction, and every one hurried to get a board to lie down on for the night. The houses reserved for officers quarters alone were spared. The family that had remained were not troubled in the least. A church containing a good many boards was first taken hold of, the sides taken away, the pillars chopped through, and the roof came down with a tremendous crash, amid the yells of the bystanders. In a few minutes not a board of the building was left. Rank treason had been preached from the pulpit in that church! The noise did not cease until late in the evening.

*Jan. 18.* The Charleston and Savannah railroad, passing but a short distance from Hardeesville, had been torn up completely by the enemy, thereby saving us the trouble of doing it. The rails had been put on other roads, and we were angry only at this for we would not only have destroyed the ties but, also the rails, and made them unfit for use. In the afternoon inspection of our arms and accoutrements took place. The leather had been so often saturated by water since our mustering in, that it had been

completely worn out, and was condemned. In the afternoon another camp ground was shown us, and we were busy in making our quarters comfortable. A foraging party sent out returned with but a small amount of provisions, as the rebels had either taken everything along, or destroyed it.

*Jan. 19.* Salutes were fired in Savannah upon the reception of the news of the capture of fort Fisher, near Wilmington, N. C.. We received the news quite unexpectedly, as Gen. BUTLER had considered the capture of the place an impossibility, and had withdrawn his troops. Since then no further news had been received. Such news had a good effect upon the men, and was the subject of the conversation during the day. If the enemy was not even able to hold such places as fort Fisher, we could most assuredly take Charleston and Augusta. A foraging party was sent out, as we had heard that a considerable quantity of rice had been left in the neighborhood. We started at 7 o'clock A. M. and reached the destined place, about 5 miles distant, and found the rice, sweet potatoes and several head of cattle—the latter were slaughtered on the spot. There lived a family near the place where we got our wood, whose condition would have moved even a heart of stone. The husband and wife were mulattos, though the latter's complexion was but a shade darker than that of any white woman. Both were free and had gathered a pretty good crop for the winter, but everything had been taken by the enemy, with whom and with whose cause they had no sympathy, but were friends to the Union cause. The rough household furniture, mostly made by the husband, had principally been destroyed by the rebels, and nothing was left uninjured but the roof. Two children, the oldest not more than six years of age, belonged to the family, and begged their mother with tearful eyes for bread; but not a crumb of bread had she to give, and all she could do was to

endeavor to soothe them by kissing the tears away. The poor ones were left in this condition for the purpose of starving them. Fortunately we had taken our dinner of crackers, meat and coffee along from camp, and we gave some to the starving children, who greedily commenced to gnaw the hard tack. The mother commenced to weep the more, but tears of joy were now flowing, because we had saved her little ones from starvation! She could hardly express her thanks to us, tears suffocated her voice! But we had no time to remain, and left for our wagons, telling the man to come to camp, make his wants known, and he would be assisted readily by our boys officers, as any one of them would readily have divided his rations with the sufferers. He promised to come the next day, but for some reason we never saw the man again. About 2 o'clock P. M. we reached camp and a rain set in, lasting throughout the balance of the day and night.

*Jan. 20.* The day was very rainy. The third brigade of our division was encamped on rather low ground and the camp was entirely surrounded by water. Empty wagons only, could move on the road, and fence rails and wood had to be put down for the loaded wagons. Nevertheless there was much talk of an early move; as this was the general talk of the day, we began to believe it, as such rumors were generally the forerunner of an advance, and also as it seemed to be the general desire (and the wish is the father of the thought,) to get away from an unpleasant situation. Such days as these always compelled us to remain in our tents, and as it was cold, the situation was by no means an agreeable one.

*Jan. 21.* The rain had slackened somewhat, and from time to time we could venture in the open air. Our camp was completely under water, even some tents, situated on low ground were inundated. To drain the water to some extent, we dug ditches.



Towards evening the rain ceased. It was reported for certain, that we would advance either to-morrow or the next day, and as we drew rations for five days in the evening, the reports seemed to be confirmed, as we generally drew rations for only three days. It was, also reported that LEE intended another invasion of the North. We hoped that this would be the case, knowing that his departure from the forts about Richmond would be a heavy blow to the rebellion.

*Jan. 22* The day was rainy and cool. Many of the sick, that had been left in the hospitals since our departure from Chattanooga, having recovered, returned to our brigade to-day. We received mail, and, as always on such days, there was a good deal of news told about the camp from the "neighborhood of home." About the entire day was rainy and our stay in camp compulsory. The night also was rainy.

*Jan. 23.* The rain continued, and an advance had now become impossible on account of the state of the roads, which on many places presented the appearance of a lake, making it impossible for man or beast to venture in the water without danger of drowning. The roads were made higher and ditches dug on each side, but as the country was very level, the ditches were soon filled and the water could not flow off. We were very desirous of getting away from here, so we were sworn in as soldiers and not as marines or sailors. As of old the "dry land disappeared," and dry land is the great consideration for an army, having no resting place, like SHERMAN'S. We received more new clothes, but not near enough for a promenade of several months' duration. A rumor was current, that men were to return to Savannah. The night was cold.

*Jan 24.* The rain had ceased and the air was cold and rough. A foraging party was sent out on horse back, provided with two days' rations, as it was rather problematic whether and where they would find provisions, and as the chief object was to find

out where the rebels had gone to. The men belonged to all regiments and were mounted on the pack horses and mules of the companies, that carried the cooking utensils when the army was moving. Many of them, like the riders, had become so lean in consequence of the imaginary dinners and suppers that the riders were afraid they would return muleless. We received another mail and orders to make ourselves "perfectly comfortable and at home"—in the mud! This encouraging order was no doubt given to make us have something to do and to give us exercise, and to make us overlook the "pleasantness of the situation." Of course nobody believed or even desired that we would remain here.

*Jan. 25.* A beautiful and warm day. A continual rattle of hammers, saws and axes was going on in camp. Our tents were taken away and cabins erected of pines. The men did not know whether they would be able of ever finishing the cabins, but preferred to do something than be idling about; in case we were to remain a while here, then the work would not have been for nought. The foraging party sent out yesterday returned with few provisions; they had not been able to advance very far, as the enemy had shown himself too often, with whom they had exchanged several shots. There was a camp rumor current that the enemy was leaving Charleston and fortifying Columbia and the main roads to Augusta. In the afternoon brigade drill took place before Col. CASE, who commanded a brigade for the first time to-day, Lieut. Col. FLYNN commanded the regiment.

*Jan. 26.* The day was cold and windy. As a number of men frequently left camp and remained away for a good while, an order for roll-calls five times in the day was issued, and the absentees to be punished. The order was a timely one, and we supposed that marching orders were expected at any moment, and that this frequent roll call would keep

the men in camp. Many of the men were busy with their cabins.

*Jan 27* We received marching orders for to-morrow, the pioneers started to-day to clear the roads of the trees felled across them by the rebels. The cabins were all done, and the men would rather have remained and enjoyed their work for a few days longer. "Nothing new under the sun,"—we again received marching orders immediately after we had finished the by no means easy task of building cabins. "The good of the country" was our only consolation. Towards evening another order was issued that threw a damper on all our speculations about the new campaign, and caused some to suppose that we were to remain for a couple of days yet. Instead of fixing the hour for marching we received orders to drill in the fore and afternoon, and have our guns ready for inspection every noon. But as our pioneers had left with their tools, we could but suppose that if we did not advance to-morrow we would the day after, and that the march to-morrow had been impeded by something not expected, and had only been postponed.

*Jan. 28.* Early in the morning we received a large mail, mostly letters that had long been on the way. The weather was rough and cold, and in order to spend at least one night warmly in the quarters we erected fire places. Inspection of arms took place at precisely 12 o'clock at the roll call. Company drill took place in the afternoon. In the evening orders came to be ready at 8 o'clock A. M. to-morrow, for the march, and our expectations were thus verified. We believed this order, as we had desired it, and packed everything after supper:

*Jan. 29.* We were in ranks at 7 o'clock, ready for the new promenade through South Carolina. The orders of Gen. SHERMAN were read to us, informing us that the march would be a long and dangerous one, but that we would be victorious, and that this ca-

paign would break the neck of the rebellion completely. They could be fired only by persons designated for this purpose. A little after 7 o'clock we left camp and marched the whole day very rapidly through a bushy and swampy country, but little cultivated. The few houses along our route, deserted as they were, were burned down by the men designated. After a tramp of 19 miles we camped near Robertsville.

*Jan 30.* We left camp at 7 o'clock A. M. (a wet and swampy one it had been,) reaching Robertsville at noon where we camped. Robertsville was mostly deserted, and but little harm was done as long as our brigade remained, as we did not want to build cabins, expecting that the promenade had commenced in earnest. WHEELER'S cavalry had been in the place and was driven out by our advance, capturing one man. The neighborhood of the town was higher and more dry than we were used to; but when we went out in the afternoon after provisions, we had to wade in water up to our ankles, and did not find anything else than water. From here our last letters went by way of Savannah river.

*Jan. 31.* We remained quiet at Robertsville, making the necessary preparations for our march. Some men, not satisfied with our report that the country contained nothing but water, went out, found water and brought several pounds of beef of half-starved cattle. As there was nothing to do in camp and as we were not allowed to go beyond the guards, most of us were idling about, hoping that the next day would give us something to do.

*February 1, 1865.* The day seemed to become a quiet one for us, as no arrangements for the march were made; and as we had no orders to remain we supposed that we would, as it had happened before, commence the march towards evening. This supposition kept our men together, and when the provision wagons were unloaded and we received three

days' rations, we knew that we were to remain. Company drill took place in the afternoon, and our company D marched and drilled to Robertsville, and there we quenched our thirst with cold water, and returned to camp the same day. The camp ground was cleared of the underbrush, in order to keep the men busy. Late in the afternoon we heard heavy cannonading in the direction of Charleston, though it seemed to proceed from a place close by.

*Feb. 2* We left camp near Robertsville early in the morning, moved through the town in a northerly direction, until we halted at a cross-road about noon, where we took dinner. Till here our road had been good, the country being high, but here it seemed to become lower and more swampy, and our pioneers went ahead of us, felling trees in the road for our wagons. The road had been left unobstructed by the enemy, but as we advanced in the swamp, we not only found obstructions, in some places three to four hundred feet wide, but we saw from the blazing fires that the rebels were in our immediate front, and had but just left. The continual galloping to and fro of the orderlies and staff officers, the frequent looking through spy glasses, told us that danger was near. The road the pioneers had repaired for us led in a westerly direction to the town of Lordensville, and as we advanced the obstructions became more frequent, and in consequence our advance the slower. We found more cultivated land between the swamps than near Robertsville and Hardeesville. The male inhabitants had all fled, and only the women and children been left, expecting thereby to save their property from destruction. This expectation was not wrong, as no house was injured, and but seldom one burned, unless the women showed too unbearable a rebel spirit. Nothing was taken from houses where the women and children either ran away frightened or offered everything, except what was absolutely wanted by us. But many of these so-called South

Carolina ladies used worse language and more obscene words to our boys, when they took some provisions, than the roughest and most brutal soldier ever used! On asking some of these females what they thought about the rebellion now, whether they had ever expected us here, and how strong the enemy in our front was, they would answer, that they would never give up, and in case of necessity shoulder a gun themselves to destroy SHERMAN'S army, and that the enemy in our front was strong enough for us—in fact, had we believed these members of the “tender sex,” it was folly to advance, and we ought to have returned, to escape a certain and most horrid death! But we did not rely much on such talk of the female chivaliers of South Carolina! When we ridiculed and laughed at such nonsense, the females became almost crazy, and to avoid the sight of clenched fists, or hearing of the shameful epithets, we left. They would never, under any consideration, return to Yankee allegiance. Supposing that our Northern ladies would at least have shown the same resolute spirit (of course without clothing their sentiments in such elegant South Carolina language) if the rebels had come to Illinois, we pardoned them in some degree, and hoped that these Southern females would soon form different ideas and learn better manners! While these talks were being held with the “ladies,” the road had been repaired, and we advanced again to Lordensville, of which place we were but a few miles distant. We reached higher country again, but as the marching continued as slowly as through the swamps, and as the deserted rebel camps became yet more frequent, we came to the conclusion that our advance was close to the enemy's heels. We soon found out the cause of the delay. Behind the fence to the right of the road, we found the regiments ahead of us in line of battle, and now and then a shot was heard in our front, as they had thrown out pickets, who began to feel the enemy by shots. Our regiment took posi-



tion to the left of the road and remained quietly behind a fence until the firing became more distant and the enemy's position been found out somewhat. We advanced again about two o'clock, P. M., in the direction of the town, but the more we advanced, the livelier the fire became, a sign that the enemy intended to make a stand this time, and not run as usual. We halted again until plans for driving the enemy had been adopted, who was posted at the edge of a heavy underbrush and swamp, with an open field in front, and who seemed determined to dispute our advance. The artillery opened on the rebels, as the 105th Illinois advanced to join the pickets already skirmishing on the right. Our regiment advanced as support of the 105th Illinois. After we had taken our position behind the latter regiment, while the brigade was posted a short distance back, our ever-ready and courageous Lieutenant Colonel FLYNN gave the the command: "Forward march," and the pickets and we advanced toward the enemy, several hundred steps distant, who had opened a lively fire on us. The artillery continued firing as we advanced, and the enemy gave us a general salute and disappeared in the thicket. We went in pursuit, over ditches and through swamps, sometimes wading knee-deep in water and mud, following the fire of the invisible enemy, until he again lodged at the edge of an open field behind some barricades of fence rails, which we did not notice until but a short distance from them. Our pickets advanced, and receiving a salute from the enemy, we answered, and were masters of the barricades. One rebel, shot in the leg, and not able to follow his comrades, was left and taken prisoner. But the prisoner appeared to be as spunky as ever, stating that he had a Yankee ball in his leg, and being asked if he was tired of the war now, he answered: "No!—himself and comrades would never give it up, and that he would commence hostilities again as soon as his leg permitted him, until the Northern government had been tumbled down."

As the bones were shattered, the leg was amputated on the following night. The firing ceased here, as the rebels had retreated behind the town, of which we took possession, and stopped the pursuit. About dusk the enemy again appeared, when we retreated, in order to draw him after us, and joined our brigade at the swamp. During the night the rebels retreated, too, to a place where he could dream safely of the events of the day. Rebel prisoners and wounded informed us that the enemy in our front was CLAYBOURNE'S cavalry, 8,000 strong. Our loss was ten killed and wounded, one from the 129th, four from the 105th, and five from the 102d Illinois regiments. The night was quiet.

*Feb. 3d.* We left camp about 10 o'clock, A. M., amid heavy rain, that lasted throughout the day. As we had been but three-quarters of a mile from Lordensville, we soon reached this town. The town must have been a wretched one even before the war, consisting of but few houses, either entirely deserted, or inhabited by old, half starved negroes. The enemy had knocked the windows out of many of the houses, and in some of which traces of blood of wounded rebels was visible; no wounded, however, were found. The first division led to-day. The country through which we passed in the forenoon was high, and our march would have been pleasant if the rain had not made the roads muddy and slippery. The houses were inhabited only by females and negroes, the white males being either in the army or had fled. Deserted houses, and beautiful ones among them, containing mostly all the furniture, and stables, fences, farming implements cotton mills and other buildings were burned, and provisions for man and beast confiscated in large quantities. We got everything we wanted, and crackers did no longer suit us; from flour we baked buscuit, that made the crackers unnecessary—instead of pickled pork we ate good hams—instead of resting on rocks and stumps, that had so

often made our limbs sore; we slept on downy cotton, better and sounder than any prince in a feather bed. In consequence of the continual rain, we marched but ten miles, and camped in the field of an arch traitor and rebel. As the night continued rainy and as our shelter tents were not on hand, most of our things got wet.

*Feb. 4th.* After breakfast we started at 7 o'clock, but to our great enjoyment we had to carry our clothes, made heavy by the rain, and as the day commenced clear and beautiful, a long march was to be expected. Many of the men hung their wet blankets and tents around them, in order to dry them in the air; but they soon quit the experiment, as both continually slipped from their shoulders, holding, as they did, in one hand the flour, and in the other the gun. Our division took a side road, to prevent the enemy from making an attack on the balance of the corps and train of wagons. The enemy tried yesterday to get in our rear, but was not cautious enough, and came in contact with the 17th corps, losing ten dead and wounded and ninety prisoners. It was expected that the attempt would be renewed, but the enemy had either got enough by his first attempt, or else he considered it an impossibility to get between us and the 14th corps, that was marching in a straight line with us without being seen. He kept in our front, supposing that we would certainly not leave many provisions in our rear, besides this we continued the practice of burning the bridges as soon as we had passed them. The enemy remained in our front, no doubt to have the first pick of the chickens, turkeys, hams, &c., and to let his sympathizers know what to hide from us. The country was more swampy, and we frequently waded in water and mud up to our ankles. In the forenoon we passed but few and poor looking cabins, where provisions were scarce and where poorly clad women and children were lamenting their misfortune. In the afternoon the country

became higher and wealthier, large two and three story buildings, fashionably built, were seen, but almost invariably deserted. These were fired, after the provisions had been taken from them. We were apparently in the most flourishing part of the State, that had never seen the effects of war; but after our column had passed, and each brigade been foraging, it seemed as if a whirlwind had passed over the spot, leveling and destroying everything in its course. In the evening we came in with the 17th corps, and went into camp, after a march of fifteen miles, beyond a small place called Symrna. After an excellent supper of the many confiscated provisions, we went to sleep around the high, blazing fires of fence rails.

*Feb. 5th.* A quarter after 7 o'clock we were ready for the tramp. The 1st-division was again in the advance, and it took sometime before it could stretch itself out with the train, and before our turn came. In our camp we could see that we had no lack of meat at present, but which was left behind, knowing that we would get more during the day, and that the country would not be left untouched. The day was cloudy, and the march pleasant; we hurried on to a place fifteen miles distant, where the enemy were said to be entrenched. Foragers, many of them on horseback, were sent out on both sides of the road, as soon as we started, to scour the country for provisions. The plantations near the road were cleared of everything by the columns. A number of houses, filled with cotton, were found and fired, and only those dwellings were left untouched that were inhabited. We reached the rebel works about 4 o'clock, p. m., but the enemy had been driven away before our arrival, by the 15th corps, and we passed the works unmolested. At six o'clock we encamped at Randebee, or sometimes called Rumby River, where we had reached our foragers, that were well loaded with provisions of all kinds, and had captured some horses and cattle.

*Feb. 6.* At seven o'clock we started, and went

through a swamp of a mile in length, on a high and dry road, before we crossed the river. The bridge over the river had been burnt, and a kind of an excuse of a bridge been built across. Close to the opposite shore were the remains of the formerly flourishing Rushfordbridge-village. Whether the town had been set afire by the inhabitants or not we did not learn, as the fire was almost out when our boys arrived there; these could not have been the cause of it. We found two lines of breastworks that could easily have been defended, if the enemy had had any courage and perhaps not been afraid of being outflanked. The swamps in front prevented any other approach than by the road, and this could have been defended easily. Here we remained quiet for a while, and then proceeded, destroying the deserted houses, cotton factories and other buildings as we went along. We saw nothing of the enemy; a division of the 15th corps, however, had a slight skirmish with the fugitive rebels. In the evening, the weather became rainy and cold, and we camped at seven o'clock.

*Feb. 7th.* We commenced our tenth day's march at half-past seven o'clock, expecting to reach the Charleston and Augusta railroad and the enemy. Shortly after our promenade had commenced, we crossed a very large swamp, sinking sometimes up to our knees in the morass. To make our situation the more glorious, a rain set in, and we were wetted from above as from below. Many of our wagons stuck fast very frequently, and a flood of lashes rained on the poor mules, that were deeper in the mud than the lightly loaded wagons, and could not move until assisted by human hands. Late in the afternoon we came to a line of breastworks built by the 15th corps, and to judge from the bullet marks on the trees and brush, this corps must have met a severe resistance. Here we crossed another swamp, but the road had been repaired by the men

in our front, and our troubles were less than we had expected. A couple of hours after sunset we reached the railroad, from which the enemy had been driven, and on which the last rebel trains had left Charleston to-day. Here we went into camp, wet, worn and muddy, after the severest day's march we had so far made in South Carolina. Rebel prisoners that had been captured, had not yet learned that their cause was lost, but still cherished the greatest hopes.

*Feb. 8th.* We left camp early, expecting great work, but encouraged by the certainty that every step we advanced brought the end of the rebellion nearer. Our work was to destroy all communications of the enemy, and our march to the seacoast was commenced for this object. After a breakfast of hardcrackers (our "better" provisions that we had been accustomed to for the last few days, had given out,) we were ordered to leave our equipments in camp, (each company piling the things together,) station a guard over it, and to commence the work of destruction on the road. We had scarcely left camp when an order came countermanding the first, and ordering us to take everything along. We complied, and again moved forward with picks and axes, with which to cut the heads of the iron spikes holding the rails on the ties. We then piled ten or twelve together and set them on fire. Afterwards we laid the rails across. The rails became heated in the centre, and commenced to bend, thereby being unfit for use. In order to make the destruction more complete, some of the rails we twisted, some we even saw twisted around trees—of course this was only done for fun, and not according to order. One member of Company C, of our regiment, was badly wounded by a spike being carelessly thrown and striking his head. All the other corps were busy at the same work, and after we had thus destroyed about two miles of road, we reached Graham's Station, where we pitched tents and had dinner, to go



to work again at one o'clock. The day was beautiful, and the work easy, as we knew the rebels would be injured by it, and that it would ruin him by and by. When we went to work again, we left our things behind, excepting our trusty guns, that had saved many a one of us his life, and finished many a rebel since our departure from Chattanooga. We could not find a place for our brigade to fall in and commence the destruction, and went over four miles in the direction of Augusta, but everywhere other troops were busy, and no room for us. Suddenly we were ordered to return, and we supposed that we would return to camp and remain for the night. On reaching there we were ordered to pack up, and despite of all vain talking and protesting we returned the same way, and camped about nine o'clock several miles further toward Augusta. It was so dark that one could see neither bush nor water, and the men preparing supper did not get done with their work until midnight. The night was rainy and unpleasant, and we used the damp ground for a bed.

*Feb. 9th.* At half-past seven o'clock we intended to commence destroying the road, but found the work done, either by KILPATRICK's cavalry or our infantry. After a march of several miles, we left the road and took a nearer route to Blacksville, on the same road, which we reached at one o'clock, P. M. KILPATRICK's cavalry had left the place a short time before our arrival, and destroyed several miles of road in the direction of Augusta. The rebel cavalry had told the inhabitants that the Yankees were coming to destroy their town. Our first brigade had been away from the division since yesterday, and we were the first infantry that reached Blackville, where we went into camp to await the arrival of the balance of the division. Our right wing had a fight with the enemy at Branchville, on the same road, but the rebels got worsted, and had

to fly, losing cannons, amunition, &c. A part of the Branchville and Wilmington Railroad was destroyed. The only road now open for the rebels in Charleston was the Charleston and Florence Railroad, and as this could remain open but a short while, the rebels in Charleston would be surrounded, unless they made use of the only route left for them to escape on. The inhabitants of Blackville were very accommodating. Myself and other members of the regiment were entertained by a handsome young lady, who played the piece: "When This Cruel War is Over," for us on the piano, and accompanied it with her sweet voice. The town was not destroyed, as foretold by the rebels, but a few houses and the depot were burned, and the inhabitants had no cause of complaint. Patrols went around the city day and night, and arrested every one found plundering or tearing down houses. Late in the evening we received a large mail, that had been brought by the second division of our corps. This division had been in Savannah, and since its departure most of the time with KILPATRICK's cavalry. The distance from here to Augusta is forty-seven miles, to Branchville, twelve, and to Charleston, sixty miles.

*Feb. 10th.* We left camp at seven o'clock, not knowing whether the march or the destruction of the road would be continued. We went in the direction of Augusta until we reached Willas Station, where the work of destroying the road commenced again, and was continued until night, when we went into camp with the satisfactory thought of having done injury to the rebels. KILPATRICK had a fight on the 8th of this month, and whipped the rebels, keeping them as far as possible from our front, and thus preventing an interruption in our advance. Our loss, therefore, consisted only of men, who left the column to plunder on their own hook, contrary to strict orders. These men were frequently gobbled up by the enemy. It seemed to-day as if our

campaign in South and North Carolina would have a happy result. The enemy seemed indisposed to try his luck in battle another time—his army being smaller than ours, and JOHNSTON not a general like SHERMAN. This last assertion had been proven satisfactorily at Dalton, Resaca, Marietta, Atlanta and other points, when the rebel army was strong in numbers yet, behind their own entrenchments, and on a ground chosen by themselves for battle. We were not afraid about the result of the campaign, as in the spring of 1864; the only requisites were provisions and marches that would not break us down. The men had not been able to carry all the hams, chickens, geese, turkeys, molasses, flour, &c., and had pressed negroes to assist them in carrying the provisions to camp. Others had found old wagons and buggies, and came driving to camp with a full load, and were welcomed by their comrades. A picket fired at a man endeavoring to sneak up to him, but the man escaped after the shot had been fired. In the direction of Augusta single shots were heard in the night.

*Feb. 11th.* The morning was as beautiful a spring morning as any one could desire. We broke camp at half-past eight, left the railroad and our former direction towards Augusta, and moved towards the capital of the State, Columbia. Our division took a side road and moved rapidly forward, not being troubled by many wagons, and the roads being high and dry. About noon it became very warm, and the marching unpleasant. Heavy artillery fire and musketry was heard early in the morning on our left, and we supposed that perhaps we would get hold of the rebels to-day, having been informed that rebel cavalry had been sent from Richmond against us. KILPATRICK had a fight with them. At three o'clock P. M., we reached the Yellow Stone River, that could more properly be called a swamp than a river. The bridge had been burnt, and we were compelled to

remain in camp until a new bridge had been built. Our camp was situated on a high hill—the country was more broken than formerly, though the swamps had not disappeared entirely. On looking round from our camp upon the surrounding country, a scene presented itself to our view as grand as it was awful. In every direction large clouds of smoke were seen ascending, pillar-like towards heaven, and every minute the number of these smoke pillars increased in every direction, turning day almost into night. Thus is war! We had burned but little to-day, having passed through a country not much cultivated, containing but few poor-looking houses and no provisions. Of these, however, we had plenty, not having thrown the surplus of yesterday's foraging away, and lived as well to-day as yesterday, and had sufficient left for several days more. The camp of the divisions was full of fun and music until sleep put an end to it. Two members of our cavalry wounded, had died and were buried to-day.

*Feb. 12th.* Our fifteenth day's march commenced very unpleasantly. The bridge had not been finished entirely, (as it would have required too long time to do this,) and the water was too shallow for pontoons. We had to wade two hundred to three hundred steps through water from two and a half to three feet deep, but cold as ice, and it seemed as though the water would cut our legs. The faces of our boys became dark, and many a one wished South Carolina in the deepest pool of perdition. We reached dry land without any accident, and set a fence on fire, to dry our wet clothes a little and warm ourselves. Five miles further we reached the Dean Swamp, and a small town whose name we could not learn, as no inhabitants were there to give us information. We got further news about yesterday's fight on our left. KILPATRICK had whipped the enemy gloriously, and taken a good many prisoners. KILPATRICK had lost many wounded that were mostly

brought to our hospital train. One member of the regiment had learned while foraging that horses were hidden in a swamp, and went with several other foragers after them. They got the track of the horses and the informant went in the thicket, while the others awaited his return. Shortly after a shot was heard and the men, when calling the name of the informant, got no answer. They supposed him dead, returned to the regiment and related the affair, whereupon a detail was sent out to bring the wounded or dead man back. They soon found the lost one sound who told them, that he had fired at a man in the thicket who had run away, but that it had been impossible for him to get the horses out of the thorny brush alone and his comrades had left him. We reached our regiment, when at dinner, close to the swamp in the forest. We went into camp at 7 o'clock, after a march of 15 miles, on a dusty field, whence we had to go three-fourths of a mile for water. The night was cold, but blazing fires of fence rails kept us warm.

*Feb.* 13. We left camp at 8 o'clock. Several members of the regiment had been missing for several days, and must have been taken prisoner. After a march of two miles we reached a river, behind which the enemy was said to be, who seemed indisposed to continue his retreat any longer. Although it was not our turn to take the advance, yet we were ordered forward; while the other regiments made way for us to pass. We reached the river, and found several regiments and wagons and artillery were ahead of us, but these paused too, while we advanced. About half a mile from the river the enemy fired, retreated a short distance and then halted again. A strong line of skirmishers was sent out to protect our flanks, and advanced steadily amid heavy firing towards the enemy, who was compelled to give way. Thus we drove the enemy until noon when we were ordered to go into camp. A number of foragers were daring

enough to go foraging in the rear of the enemy, knowing that the rebels would not leave much behind them. They might have been taken prisoner or even lost their life, but it seemed as though our men knew not the meaning of danger when going after provisions. They were not as fortunate this time as they had been always; the enemy had discovered them, and they escaped capture only by means of their horses, and came galloping into camp, some without hats, and some even without guns. They were heartily laughed at, when relating about their hasty retreat. Several rebels in Union officers' uniforms approached our pickets, and questioned them about their instructions, but escaped when they became known. A number of prisoners captured said they belonged to EARLY'S forces, with whom we had the fight in the morning. They showed themselves brave enough here, but would no doubt have been braver, if PHIL. SHERIDAN had not frightened them before!

*Feb. 14.* The march was commenced by our brigade at 2 o'clock P. M., as it was in the rear to-day. We expected another night march, but after a march of six miles, we found the corps in camp. The enemy had opposed us in the day, and was close in our front at night, wherein was quiet, but heavy firing was going on at our right and left. Several rebels were captured to-day. Several mounted orderlies and members of the body guard of Gen. WILLIAMS had gone too far beyond our skirmishing line, and were surrounded by the enemy, but cut their way through to our camp without any loss. A staff officer of Gen. WILLIAMS was taken prisoner. The rebels were becoming more numerous everywhere; from all corps the reports informed us that the enemy's resistance was becoming more determined, and that many foragers had been taken prisoner. We were on the road to Livingston C. H., and expected to reach there to-morrow, unless the enemy resisted. The night was rainy, and the ground an unpleasant



resting place. We had to fell trees and split wood for fire for supper.

*Feb. 15.* We commenced our march at 8½ o'clock, but shortly afterwards our advance met the enemy, that retreated only when it was high time for him to do so. The rebels were driven back amid continual firing until 2 o'clock P. M., when they made a stand behind a swamp, and fired at every one of our men on showing himself. The enemy had to be driven hence by assault, our advance being thereby one killed and two wounded. Not only in our front was a continual firing going on, but also on our right and left, occasionally intermingled with the bass voice of cannon; we judged from this that not merely cavalry was in our front, but also infantry. But the enemy had to retreat, despite of his resistance, and we advanced steadily though slowly towards the capital of the State, where we expected a larger rebel force. We left Lexington on our left, taking a nearer route to Columbia, expecting to reach it on the morrow. We lost a good deal of time in the swamp, but towards evening the country became higher and the roads more dry, and had at least a dry camp ground, when we went into camp at 6 o'clock.

*Feb. 16* We left camp at 6¾ o'clock A. M., our regiment had the advance of the whole corps. As the enemy was soon discovered in our front, we advanced as skirmishers. We expected a hot work before reaching Columbia, but the enemy was on his guard and had escaped in time to get out of the way of the 15th corps; had he remained in our front but a few hours longer, he would either have been cut to pieces or taken prisoner. The 15th corps marched on our right, on a nearer road, towards Columbia and crossed our road a few miles South of town, and must therefore have come to the crossing before our advance. The enemy had found this out in time to escape being surrounded. When we reached the 15th corps, it was in position and busy firing at the

enemy. The river prevented an immediate attack and we were compelled to go into camp without firing a single shot at the enemy entrenched on the other side. We camped on an elevation, overgrown with brush, whence we could overlook the whole city, presenting a very inviting view. The rebels suffered much from the artillery fire of the 15th and 17th corps, and had to be driven a distance back, so that our pontoons could be laid. This could not be done in day-time, and consequently we could not gain possession of the city immediately. Our 2d division erected entrenchments in our rear during the night, expecting an attack from that direction. But the night passed quiet. Foraging parties were sent out, but the men returned with tired limbs, though without provisions, after taking a good look at the country. The inhabitants along our route to-day had all fled, and their houses and property became a prey to the flames. Every body had fled to the "safe place" Columbia but now no longer safe as to-morrow's sun was to see us in possession of it.

*Feb.* 17. We left camp at 10½ o'clock A. M., foragers were sent out immediately after breakfast. The whole corps returned on the same road we had come, then took a road leading right, and reached the river after a march of six miles. A pontoon bridge had been built here the night before and crossed by the 14th corps. KILPATRICK's cavalry was just crossing as we approached the river, and we had to wait until they had passed. We crossed late at night. KILPATRICK seemed to have been pressed by the enemy under CHEATHAM, that was in his rear, and got to our front by forced marches. Columbia was taken possession of by our right wing in the forenoon, and the greater part of the city burned. All endeavors to extinguish the flames were fruitless, as they received fresh nourishment by the firing of other houses and the strong wind aided the work of destruction. Gen. SHERMAN was compelled by the flames several times

to move his headquarters. Many of the poor inhabitants thus became the victims of the rich traitors, whose houses were fired. The anger of the Great Judge was poured out upon the city of the wealthy traitors, punishing them for the infamous rebellion against a good and just Government. Lexington had been visited by our cavalry and laid in ashes yesterday. The night was restless. Shots were fired continually, and there could be no longer any doubt, that the rebels were in our rear.

*Feb. 18.* We left camp at 9 o'clock and crossed Congaree river; on the North side of the river several regiments of the first division erected entrenchments to protect the pontoon bridge. Our brigade had to halt on the North side of the river and wait until everybody had passed and the pontoons been taken up. We did not start again until in the afternoon. The day was warm and the marching unpleasant and slow, the country becoming low and swampy again. A good many men and cattle (the latter was always driven along under control of the brigade butcher) became sick suddenly; the physician ascribed the cause to the water that had been poisoned. We camped about 9 o'clock, and a fuss took place among the men about some fence rails. We had received the news from the rebels that Charleston was in possession of the Union troops.

*Feb. 19.* We left camp at 6½ o'clock A. M., our brigade taking the lead of the corps. The country became higher and more dry, making the marching easier. Although the neighborhood was inhabited more, yet but few provisions were found. We were told to-day, particularly, that there were provisions, meat and bread, but for four days in the wagons, and that these would have to last during the campaign of forty days yet before us, and that we should be very saving. After a march of four miles we came to the 14th corps, that was crossing a river. We were compelled to go into camp, although it was not later

than noon; as we had no orders to remain for the night, we supposed that we would follow the 14th corps as soon as it had crossed. We would have remained, had our leaders not made a mistake. Our division (with our brigade in the advance) was leading the corps and got on the wrong road, where the two other divisions did not follow, but took the right route. The mistake was not found out until in the afternoon; when we immediately formed and returned part of the way back, then went to the left until two hours afterwards we got on the right road, despite the brush, swamps and fence rails, in our way. We got to the balance of the corps when it had camped for the night at a river, for which a bridge had to be constructed before crossing. We camped for the night.

*Feb.* 20. An order of Gen. SHERMAN was read, ordering a lightening of our baggage wagons particularly of the many small and large tents of the officers, so that our wagons could be loaded with provisions from the country through which we passed, and that we were prepared when coming through a country where no provisions could be found. Foraging parties were detailed whose only duty was to scour the country along both sides of the road for provisions, catch and use horses for their use, if not wanted by the marching column, and who were free from all labor as long as they did their work faithfully. Whatever they brought in the evening was delivered to the quartermasters and by them distributed among the men; the surplus was put on the wagons and saved until needed. Although we had been but a short while in the advance yesterday, we formed the rear now, and instead of a day's march we had a night's march. We remained in camp until after sundown and our other men had crossed over the river, and as usual had to remain on the other side until the bridge had been taken up, and the pontoon train been put in motion ahead of us. This

night march was by no means pleasant. The night was cloudy and dark and the road for a good way swampy or wet. The guard of the train made a little light by lanterns, so that the wagons could avoid the worst and deepest mud, while we tramped our way along in the dark, sometimes getting in the deepest morass. We did not reach camp until 3 o'clock A. M., on the road to Winsboro, where we got a few hours rest.

*Feb. 21.* We commenced our tramp early in the morning, although we would rather have had a day of rest, this being the twenty-fifth day of our march. Nearly all men complained of such continuous marching, yet we were in a better condition now than while marching in Kentucky, Tennessee or Georgia, and we had less men with sore feet than ever before. The country to-day was hilly and rocky, but well settled, and contained plenty of provisions and good water. At 12 o'clock M., we reached Winsboro, a good sized town, and halted a short distance from it to take dinner. The 2d division, in the advance to-day, showed some of the old hatred against the other divisions and corps, wherever it could. They allowed no forager of the other corps to come to the city, so that the members of their own division might swallow everything. Foragers from the other divisions, were robbed of their provisions and placed under arrest. The men of the 14th corps were treated the same way. But we swore to repay them in the same coin some day and play "eye for eye, tooth for tooth." To keep our men together while here roll call was had every half hour. After an hour's rest we marched by company front and parading through town, we camped two miles further in a pinery on a hill. It was reported for certain that Gen. THOMAS had marched through East Tennessee, and was at Charlotte C. H. to-day, there to unite with us, but that LEE had left Richmond to prevent this union. We believed this report, not knowing how matters stood

in the North, and as we were expecting LEE; should he have left Richmond, we knew that GRANT's army would follow him on his heels.

*Feb. 22.* At 7 o'clock the bugles sounded the commencement of the 25th days' march. Our division was in front and our foragers had the pleasure of gathering the principal and best portion of the provisions, before the 2d division in the rear, that had taken everything at Winsboro, could get hold of any. The country was again hilly and rocky, but well settled and well provided with provisions. Negroes were pressed into service to assist in bringing the provisions to camp. Many of them awaited the column at the road, loaded with hams, flour, &c., threw their burden into the wagons, and then went off again like bees after more. The forests we passed through to-day were indeed beautiful and it was delightful to rest under the trees in the shade. The pineries that we had constantly been in since our departure from Chattanooga, were becoming scarce, and we were glad of it, as the continual smell of pitch had become unpleasant and the smoke given us a negro-like complexion. We began to hope of getting our "fair complexion" again. Our road led to Rocky Mount, which place we expected to reach to-day, in case we should not take a side road again. At 12 o'clock we reached a house, where a member of our advance had been shot by the enemy hidden there. The country was full of rebel scouts, the foraging business had become dangerous, and our foragers were surprised frequently. We seemed to be the objects of Gen. SHERMAN's especial regard, as he was with us throughout the day. He was reported to have said, that he feared no danger, if he could cross the Catawba river without resistance. This river could only be crossed on the main road from Rocky Mount to Lancaster, at all other points the shores were so high and steep that our pontoons could not be laid. At this point, we had learned, the



bridge had been burned, and the enemy on the other side strongly entrenched. To avoid this we turned to the right where at the crossing the bridge had been burned, and the enemy would be in wait for us, as we expected. We reached the river about sundown, but found no rebels there, a bridge was quickly constructed, after strong details had crossed in skiffs and were guarding the other shore, and by midnight our brigade was in the mountains and valleys of the Northern shore. We marched a distance further to make room for the other troops and train, and at 2 o'clock A. M., we camped on a hill, and rested the remainder of the night.

*Feb. 23.* We were awakened before daybreak and were ordered forward without breakfast, with the assurance, however, that the march would be but a short one. We advanced but five miles, but those five miles were severe on us, not having had sufficient rest the night before, nor any breakfast in the morning. We erected tents in a large forest, just before the rain set in. The enemy had been outflanked completely yesterday, and did not show himself until late in the afternoon, when he made several fruitless attempts to demolish our bridge, and then continued firing at our men. Gen. SHERMAN assured us that the darkest day of our campaign had passed in crossing the river safely, and that in three months he would be with us on the way to Washington.

*Feb. 24.* The rain had continued yesterday and during the night, and even to-day we had occasional showers; the roads became bad, particularly after the wagons had passed over them. We had expected that no movements would take place, as all our men had not yet crossed the river, and as the morning was rainy. At 10 o'clock we received marching orders and at 11 o'clock we advanced  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, to make room for the men that were following; the 14th corps crossed here too. We were now 15 miles in a straight line from the border of North Carolina and 25 miles

from Charlotte C. H. Seventeen of our men were murdered by the rebels a few days ago, and retaliatory measures were said would be adopted. The night was rainy and dark.

*Feb. 25.* The pickets were drawn in early, and soon the merry bugles sounded the advance. When everything was ready, orders were received to remain until further orders. The pickets had scarcely been sent out again when a heavy rain set in and prevented any further movement. The rain continued the whole day and night accompanied by heavy thunderstorms.

*Feb. 26.* The rain had not ceased yet, but the time for our rest was past, despite the threatening sky. We knew that a hard day's march was in store for us, but circumstances did not permit us to care for rain or bad roads, as the loss of a single day gave the enemy new strength, and power to impede our progress, and cause us more losses. We left the camp about 6½ o'clock. We advanced a short distance, and until the deep morass and mud and the continued rain compelled our wagons to halt until the roads had been repaired. We had not made 5 miles yet, and from here every foot of the road had to be paved with fenceraills for our wagons, whereby our pioneers and front regiments were kept busy. Our road led to Lancaster, but late in the afternoon we took a side road to the right of the city. At a crossing we found one of our men lying dead, whose throat had been cut by the rebels, who had left him there as a warning to others, knowing that we would find him. About 1 o'clock P. M. we went into camp on a battlefield of the revolution, Hanging Rock, near Lancaster. Close to our camp we found several bales of cotton hidden in the swamp, that furnished fine beds for the night. The rain had ceased and the night was clear and beautiful.

*Feb. 27.* No signals to advance were given, and we supposed, as other troops continued to move

past us, that we would form the rear, it being the turn of our division. Many of our men left camp, others commenced to wash, and yet others went foraging, to clear the country. About noon we were informed that we were to remain, and could use the day for a washing day. We were glad of this, not having had an opportunity to wash since we left Hardeesville, and in a few hours the camp presented quite a novel appearance with the drying clothes flying in the breeze in every direction, many of which had formerly ornamented rebels, but now graced Yankee bodies. Our foragers returned in the afternoon empty-handed. We remained in camp during the night, preparing for an early march on the morrow.

*Feb. 28.* The day commenced with rain again, and we could tell from that, what we would find on the march. The time we generally commenced our march was past, and we were still in camp, though ready for the "excursion in the country." At 10 o'clock the bugles sounded, and half an hour later we left our camp at Hanging Rock, our division forming the rear of the column. To march in the rear is an unpleasant job in any kind of weather. If the roads are dry, the rear gets the most of the dust; if wet, the thousands of feet and the large number of wagons ahead of you, plow the road up and make it almost bottomless. The marching went very slow, and when we went into camp at 6 o'clock P. M., we had made but 8 miles, but were more tired than if we had marched 18 or 20 miles on a good road. Our foragers made use of a mill, having gathered wheat and corn, and afterward burned it up. The country became less settled and poorer with regard to provisions, but the swamps ceased, hills and mountains and vales appeared, with plenty of clear spring water. We camped in the rain, and expected another unpleasant march on the morrow.

*March 1. 1865.* We left camp 7 o'clock A. M., our

brigade in the rear of the division, which formed the centre of the corps. The march was not quite as unpleasant as yesterday, as the roads were becoming more solid and were able to stand more rain. We advanced much faster, and were not compelled as often to stop to repair the roads before advancing farther. The country was more settled but the inhabitants had all fled, mostly to the thickest part of the woods, taking with them everything they wanted to save. A negro's information, however, soon set our foragers on the track of the fugitives, and they found more provisions in the woods than in the houses. But on such occasions the foragers were in danger of the rebels, who endeavored to protect their property, and were frequently wounded. An accident of this kind occurred to-day. A party of foragers suddenly came up to rebels, who fired at them, wounding two of our men badly with fine shot. The others pounced like tigers on the rascals, took two of them prisoner and took what they wanted and destroyed the balance. The two rebels were taken to head quarters. Such scenes occurred frequently, but as a general thing the rebels got the worst of the encounter, as our men knew that if they were taken prisoner by the rebels, they would surely be murdered in some cruel and brutal manner, particularly if captured in houses. But all these dangers could not frighten our foragers, who went as far as they pleased, no matter how dangerous the road might be, if provisions were to be had. The night was rainy.

*March 2.* We moved forward at 7 o'clock in a heavy rain, in the direction of Chesterfield, 15 miles distant. We marched five miles in the greatest hurry, then camped until dark, during which time a bridge over a large swamp was being erected. For us logs had been thrown in, and took several hours to cross, and was by no means an easy task in the darkness, as nearly every one slipped once at least

from the logs into the water, about 1 to three feet in depth. All of us got more or less wet. The march was continued on the wet road, as the rain had continued, until 11½ o'clock p. m., when we went into camp with the order to be ready at 6½ o'clock the next morning for the march.

*March 3.* After a few hours rest we were awakened to commence our 34th day's march. Our brigade formed the advance of the division, and frequently we had to lay our arms aside and go to work repairing the roads. The enemy had not shown himself for some time, nor had he blocked the road; the only hindrances were the burnt bridges, that we soon repaired, however, in a rather rude style. We expected to meet the enemy at the Great Pedee river, on to-morrow, if possible. Our neighboring corps also seemed to be unmolested, as neither artillery nor musketry fire was heard at our right or left. We reached Chesterfield at 1 o'clock p. m., a place entirely deserted; our first division had reached the town yesterday. We went into camp here. A forager of our regiment belonging to company C, had been taken prisoner several days ago by the rebels. Wearing cavalry clothes, he passed himself off for one of KILPATRICK's men, and as a few days afterwards an exchange was effected of an equal number of WHEELER's and KILPATRICK's prisoners, our comrade luckily got out of the rebel clutches, and returned to our regiment to-day. A few hours after he had been captured he was taken to WHEELER's headquarters and questioned about our strength &c. Of course he answered the questions his own way. He also stated that a member of company F, of whom no trace had been found for several days, had been with him when he was captured. He had run, and all cries of the enemy to surrender, had only increased his speed, until a bullet was sent through his head and he fell down dead. The rebels left the corpse lying where it fell, without taking further

notice of it. Rebel prisoners stated that there were 35,000 rebels in our front, commanded by Gen. JOE JOHNSTON; we did not believe this, as an army of that size would not have allowed us to advance without showing some resistance.

*March 4.* We left Chesterfield at 7 o'clock A. M., had a fine road when a few miles from the town, without meeting any resistance. At 12 o'clock we stepped over the border of South Carolina into North Carolina, and went into camp at 2 o'clock P. M., in a forest of young pines. The town of Cheraw, distant 8 miles, was taken possession of by the 17th corps, under Gen. HOWARD yesterday, after a slight skirmish. The enemy lost a number of prisoners and cannons, and was driven into North Carolina, over the Great Pedee river. Gen. HOWARD commanded the right wing of Gen. SHERMAN's army. It was reported that we would have three days rest here, but as it was mere camp rumor, not much confidence could be reposed in it.

*March 5.* We remained in camp, busy washing our clothes; others scoured the country for provisions, although we could not say that we had suffered much from want of provisions in South Carolina. As to-day was the day for the bi-monthly muster, the officers or their clerks commenced making out the muster rolls. In the direction of Cheraw a continual thunder was heard, and we supposed that the fortifications there were being blown up, or the town laid waste.

*March 6.* The explosions in the direction of Cheraw continued, and at 10 o'clock we broke camp to approach that place. We had to return to South Carolina, and marched along the border until we were near our point of destination, when we camped for supper. We had received order not to prepare for a night's rest, in order to cross the Great Pedee river as soon as possible. Nevertheless we got a few hours rest and at 12 o'clock P. M. we marched



through the half burnt town, the darkness preventing a good view at the place, and reached the south side of the river a short while before sunrise.

*March 7.* After we had crossed the river, we advanced on Rockingham and Fayetteville road, and camped in an open field to prepare breakfast. After this our brigade was detailed as guard of the wagon train. The day was warm and the road sandy, but we moved quickly forward and went into camp, after a march of 17 miles, in the neighborhood of the Lawrenceburg and Wilmington railroad. The rebels had in no wise obstructed the road, but here and there a broken vehicle of a fugitive citizen was found in the road.

*March 8.* We left camp at 9 o'clock and continued our march for Fayetteville. The country was much more thinly settled than yesterday. Immense pineries, with tremendous trees stretched everywhere, here and there diversified by a turpentine factory. There was much talk about opening communication at Fayetteville, by way of Cape Fear river with Wilmington, that was now in the hands of Union troops, according to reports of rebel prisoners. We were anxious to reach that place, expecting to remain for some time, but according to information received from negroes the place was strongly fortified. Be this as it may, we were bound to have the place, if necessary, with hard fighting; the latter we did not expect, knowing that the rebels were disheartened, and gave up their cause as lost, and that it was impossible for such troops to withstand the determined attacks of our boys. Along our route to-day incendiarism was all the rage, no houses were burned, for there were few or none about, but the pitch pine pines. The pitch had collected at the foot of some pines to the height of sometimes 8 or 10 feet, and hardened; a burning coal or match set the column of pitch afire very rapidly, and many of the trees were killed thereby. We also found

houses, where the pitch was distilled into turpentine, which were also burned. The volumes of smoke thereby created, were seen everywhere, and became so thick as almost to darken the light of the sun. The tramping through these smoky and burning woods was more difficult than through swamps and morass; we could hardly open our eyes, that were continually filled with tears and the smoke pregnant with pitch settled on our faces and hands, so that our friends in the North would sooner have thought us to be negroes than white men, had they seen us in our "glorious condition" in those pinceries. Close to the road where we halted in the afternoon, a man with a wagon and box was chased. In the box we found clothes and a large package of love letters, that gave us a good deal of merriment. We also found a number of hams and a barrel of molasses, that did us good service. The clothes were all female apparel and we left them to the proprietor who had been allowed to escape without molestation. The horse was confiscated. The afternoon and night were rainy, and we went into camp about forty miles from Fayetteville.

*March 9.* We left camp at 6 o'clock on our march to Fayetteville. The country was still thinner settled than yesterday, but all turpentine distilleries we found were set afire as well as the pitch pines. We looked like negroes and it did not make any difference whether the smoke of one or two days had settled on our skins. We heard for certain to-day that Wilmington was in possession of the Union troops, and also Fayetteville; the latter proved to be a mere rumor and untrue. We marched rapidly despite of the heavy rain, and did not go into camp until evening, when a swamp in our front compelled us to halt. When we camped we did not have a dry thread on our clothes, and we became more wet still as we were compelled to get the fire-wood out of the water, sometimes knee deep. Those with us that night will hardly forget it.

*March 10.* We commenced our march at 6 o'clock, and had to endure hardships at the start that tested the constitution of many a soldier, causing sickness either immediately or afterwards, of which but few recovered entirely, and many have died in consequence of it. We were at a swamp that bordered both sides of the Lumber river, a river like all South Carolina rivers with low shores. A bridge had been erected over the river, but we had to wade through the cold, knee deep water of the swamp. Our clothes had scarcely become dry, and were again saturated at the start this morning, and were very slowly dried by the air. But this was not the case to-day, as we had to cross six smaller swamps behind the first large one, all more or less filled with water. It was not considered worth the trouble or time to erect bridges over these swamps. The further we advanced, the worse the road became, the pioneers alone could no longer repair the roads fast enough, and the brigade had to furnish men to assist them; our company furnished twenty men. The order was obeyed with alacrity in order to get out of this land of swamps the sooner. Three Union prisoners, captured in front of Petersburg, Va., by the rebels, and held in confinement in Salisbury, N. C., had escaped from there, and were taken prisoner by our men, as they were dressed in rebel uniforms, and as their assurances of being Union soldiers were not believed. Even our commander at first thought them to be rebels, though they had told him that they had used the rebel uniforms only in order to effect their escape the better. As they had neither arms nor other equipments, and on bringing good proof that they were Union soldiers, they were finally believed and got the same liberties that we enjoyed. They had heard from the Union prisoners in Salisbury, where they had arrived but a short while before their escape, that SHERMAN was penetrating into North Carolina, and would perhaps advance to Richmond, and considered this a

good opportunity to get back to Petersburg to escape. In a very dark night they had effected their escape, but were in continual danger from armed rebels near them, and were for three weeks in the swamps where they received food and nourishment from the negroes. About noon the ground became so loose that the horses sank knee-deep along the road and could be freed with the greatest difficulty only. Cattle that had to be driven along side of the roads, sank down and many were seen with nothing but the head above ground and had to be left to die there. Almost every step of our road had to be covered with trees before we could advance. The day was cloudy. We went into camp 25 miles from Fayetteville. KILPATRICK was surprised in camp this morning by two divisions of rebel cavalry and lost a large number of men, but as the enemy commenced to plunder the tents he was overpowered at last and made to suffer for his audacity.

*March 11.* We broke camp at 6 o'clock and neared the town, being able to reach it by rapid marches; but it was not our intention to promenade 25 miles to-day. Everywhere the men were complaining of tired and sore legs and feet, our ambulance wagons were filled with men whose legs and feet did not allow them to continue the promenade, and this number increased every day. Particularly in the morning, after a rest on the damp ground, it seemed as though we could not march a mile with our baggage; but when resolved on a walk and once in motion, we found that we could stand more privations than we thought we could, and generally felt better in the evening than in the morning. Many preferred to take their cold victuals while on the march, and rest during dinner time, with the knapsack under the head, under the shade of some beautifully leaved tree. Of such pleasant rests we were to see nothing to-day. Immediately after breaking camp, we moved rapidly forward past the first divis-

ion, and took the lead. The day was beautiful and the road dried rapidly, nevertheless we were compelled frequently to repair it. We had advanced on a side road from Cheraw to Fayetteville, while the 14th corps advanced on the main road that was in a great deal better condition than our road through swamps and morasses. In the afternoon we reached the main road, and were but about 8 miles distant from the city. As this road was high and dry, the 14th corps had gotten ahead of us and the advance of this corps must have been in town by this time, but no firing was heard. It was the intention of our Generals as well as our own desire, to reach town to-day yet, we increased our speed, and arrived at Fayetteville, on the Cape Fear river, at 7 o'clock p. m., after a march of 25 miles. The city was strongly fortified, but the main force of the rebels had fled, and the foragers of the different corps found some cavalry only to drive away. A division of the 14th corps quartered in the city for the night.

*March 12.* We remained quiet in our by no means comfortable camp, shade trees and fire wood were wanting; but we were satisfied, hoping to receive a better camp ground, if we should remain here longer. A boat came up Cape Fear river from Wilmington and brought us news, the first we had received since we had left Robertsville, S. C. The same boat took a large mail from here along. The inhabitants of the town commenced hoisting the stars and stripes and seemed glad at our arrival and gave the Confederate cause up for lost. They believed that the war could last but a short while longer in case SHERMAN should advance directly towards Richmond, which they did not doubt. They said that SHERMAN had gone during the last year wherever he pleased and where he could do the most harm, and that no power of the rebels could now stop him. The children, boys as well as girls, went around the streets, crying: "Hurrah for SHERMAN and his boys;"

such were treated kindly by our men, who would have divided everything with them. But these Union inhabitants were a minority, compared to the arch-traitors of the town, whose faces showed the rebel spirit within, who kept their houses closed from our boys, but who would readily have butchered a fat calf for a rebel soldier, had he come and said: "I am an arch-traitor, and despise the infernal Yankees."

*March 13.* Marching orders were announced and the time for rest was past, not merely to move the camp, but to take up the line of march for Goldsboro, where we had communication and could get provisions from the North. We left camp on the South side of the city, marched by company front through Fayetteville and passed review of Generals SHERMAN, SLOCUM, HOWARD, and others. At 4 o'clock recrossed Cape Fear river on pontoons; both shores were lined by large numbers of negroes, of both sexes, principally those that had followed us from Georgia and South Carolina, and for which no work could be found here. We supposed that these poor half starved, and half naked figures were waiting there to be transported to Wilmington, where they might perhaps get work. After a march of two miles from the river we went into camp, in line of battle before we stacked arms, as danger was supposed to be near. The enemy was in force but two miles ahead of us. Foragers of our and the 17th corps had come up to him and been driven back by artillery fire, whereby several had been killed and wounded. An artillery man was carried past us dead, before we went into camp, killed by a grape shot. A rebel captain was taken prisoner by our company.

*March 14.* We remained quiet in camp, but two miles from Cape Fear river and Fayetteville. Our foragers had taken possession of a mill and were grinding corn fit for use. A number of prisoners and a rebel cannon fell into our hands to-day. The weather was beautiful in the forenoon, but rainy afterwards. The main force of the rebels had retreated

a short distance, but the country a short distance from our camp was full of rebel foragers and scouts, and part of our men returned for reinforcements, not being allowed to go to a plantation where provisions were plenty. Our 2d brigade went out, drove the rebels off, but nearly all the provisions had been removed. We expected a severe fight between here and Goldsboro, as it was easily perceived now that the rebels in our front were strong, consisting of all those we had driven from Savannah, Augusta and Charleston. EARLY had so sent part of his men here.

*March 14.* We left camp at 6½ o'clock A. M., the 1st and 3d division of our corps taking a side road, while the 2d division with the train went to our right on a better road with the train, that had to be guarded well now, as danger was ahead. On our road we found many barricades, held by the enemy yesterday, but evacuated to-day. About noon we came to a line of entrenchments, also evacuated. From all movements we judged that the enemy was close in our front, and did not feel much like giving way; but all these suppositions were kept to ourselves and not much talked about. We advanced until 3 o'clock when we went into camp, as the country began to become lower and more swampy. The day was threatening with rain, and we had scarcely stacked arms and gotten rid of our knapsacks, when the rain commenced and continued until night. Before we had stacked arms and thrown down our knapsacks, the greater part of KILPATRICK'S cavalry galloped past us, accompanied by the commander and staff; a short while afterwards shots were fired that increased for a while, but slacked towards night. We were certain that the strength of the enemy was known, or else we would not have gone into camp so early in the day. Two members of WHEELER'S escort were taken prisoner. Our foragers found out particularly that the enemy began to show resistance, and several parties were taken prisoner, others escaped



with the loss of their horses, mules and guns. We heard for certain that quite a number of our regiment had been captured.

*March 16.* We left our camp, 10 miles from Averysboro, at 6½ o'clock, and marched in the direction of the town. Our road was over very loose and wet ground and had become a morass by the rain, and in consequence our advance was very slow; but we never stopped to repair the road, as we had but a few headquarter wagons with us. Our cavalry was playing with the enemy again, and shot followed shot, a short time afterwards intermingled with loud cannon reports. We knew now what was ahead of us to-day, and our yesterday's suppositions were verified. KILPATRICK seemed in danger and we were ordered forward in double quick, until we got close to the scene of conflict, where we left our wagons and mules and prepared for the work in store for us. The place where the enemy was entrenched was low and well provided with water and mud, and it was very difficult to get to the proper points. The enemy based his hopes and expectations on this, much more than we would have done, had we been in his place. Our brigade took position to the right of the road, and a short distance to our right the enemy had been attacked; here the officers left their horses, and the intention was to advance. Suddenly an order came to our brigade to move to the left and seek the enemy's right flank. While we moved forward cautiously through morass and water and brush, the first and the remainder of our division took our place and awaited our flank attack. The enemy fired during this time like a set of madmen, expecting an attack in front, and considered his right flank entirely safe, as not a single shot was fired at us during our move. Although we were but a short distance from the enemy, yet we were not seen by him, as the thick brush prevented any view, and as we moved very quietly. It was difficult for us to find the end of the

rebel lines without exposing ourselves, but that sly fox, our Lieut. Col. FLYNN, every now and then looked, when we continued our march slowly and cautiously. We had continued our march for several miles in search of the end of the enemy's works, while the fire to our right had become very rapid, the enemy becoming bolder as the hours went by, until we suddenly fronted. Our pickets, with the brigade in the immediate rear, went at the enemy, a terrific yell was raised, accompanied by a no less terrific fire; the enemy, so safely lodged behind his works, fled panic-stricken without firing a shot, like so many frightened birds, leaving cannons, knapsacks, guns, horses, the killed and wounded behind him. The balls our boys sent after the fugitives halted many a one forever! The rebels could beat us running, and before we had reached his second line of entrenchments they had gathered again, and opened on us with guns and musketry fire, compelling us to halt, as we had lost all communication with our right and left. Thus far our regiment had not lost a single member. The cannon captured from the enemy were turned, and as our gunners had enough to do with their own guns, we compelled several rebel artillerymen to load and fire them, after they had been sighted by one of our sergeants. Our line had been re-established, and the enemy made an attempt to give us a flank fire, and bullets and balls went thick as hailstones over our heads, wounding several of our men. In a moment our front was changed, and the enemy driven back. After arrangements had been made to prevent an attack on the flanks, and after part of the 14th corps had joined our left, we received order to advance again, but no order to attack the enemy in his works that stretched a good way farther to our left (the enemy's right) than the works taken by us. We had scarcely commenced our advance, when the enemy opened a most furious fire, causing a loss of twenty men of our regiment, among them

several killed. The buglers sounded the advance several times, but not to attack, and as soon as we showed ourselves, a rain of bullets and balls came flying at us, compelling us to remain on the ground; nevertheless we suffered some whenever we advanced. Finally, the fire became continuous, as the enemy knew he was doing us harm. Never before had we been exposed to such a fire of shells and grape, as in that afternoon at the battle of Averysboro. The grape balls struck everywhere, above, below, in front and behind us; we remained alive only by remaining quietly on the ground. We did not advance, but we kept our ground, and after dark we erected breast-works amid a brisk fire. A heavy firing was going on at our right during the afternoon as well as in our front. Rebel soldiers had fled in the morass between the two lines of works, after we had captured the first line and sent a shower of balls after the flying rebels; then begged our men to draw them out of the swamp, but it lasted some time before we could relieve them and place them under guard with other prisoners. The rebels in our front were artillery men from Charleston, but had to handle a musket here. Our wounded were brought to neighboring houses, taken care of as well as possible; we prepared our supper amid a heavy rain that had set in, and spent the night mostly awake. The rebels fled during the night, pursued by our cavalry.

*March 17.* We went to the rebel works before sunrise and prepared our breakfast. Scouts were sent out to see if the enemy was still in the neighborhood, and did not go very far when they were fired at by the rebels who demanded to know what they wanted, retreating at the same time. We did not commence to advance until 8 o'clock A. M., and although the enemy was still in our front in small parties, yet our advance was in no way hindered, and the rebels managed to keep beyond the rage of our guns. We were on the way to Averysboro, but three miles dis-

tant from the battlefield in a southerly direction. The road was strewn with rebel dead, and ambulances, that had not been able to get away fast enough, the horses had been unhitched and the wagons left. We found the greater part of the wounded in the frame-houses on both sides of the road, all alone and without attendants, medicine, or provisions; they had been left to their fate until our surgeons took pity and attended to their wounds. In one of the ambulances we found a wounded rebel, almost dead, whom a shot had struck in the forehead, the brain oozed out of the wound over his eyes, and a few faint groans were all the poor fellow could utter. The enemy had perhaps thought him to be too far gone, to take the trouble of bringing him to a neighboring house. If the rebels acted thus towards their own comrade and messmate, what must be the tortures our poor prisoners in the rebels' hands must have suffered! Nobody will ever be able to prove that the rebels were innocent of all such barbarities and abuse, and if they escape their just due here, they will have to answer before a higher Judge for all these cruelties! We reached Averysboro at 11 o'clock A. M., where we found more rebel wounded, quartered in the deserted houses of the citizens, but under the treatment of a surgeon. Many of them were but slightly wounded and cursed their cause, Jeff. Davis and his assistants. We camped near the town. Our foragers had another set-to with the enemy, and took a number of prisoners and ammunition wagons, which they destroyed.

*March 18.* At 6½ o'clock we left camp, and returned part of the way, passing the wounded rebel in the ambulance wagon, who was now dead, then took a road to the left, and marched in an easterly direction. We had to wade on the West side of Black river, through very deep water, before we reached the bridge. The day was clear and warm, and our clothes soon dried again; but as we contin-

ued to march through a swamy country, they soon became wet again. The country was not inhabited, but full of rebel cavalry, which KILPATRICK kept clear of us. Two of our wounded of company H, died in the hospital to-day. We got no sleep and but one hour for supper, and then continued our march until 5 o'clock the next morning.

*March 19.* We left camp at 8. o'clock and had marched but a short distance, when the roar of artillery was heard in our front that gradually drew away, and finally ceased altogether. The whole 14th corps was in our front and had to do the bloody work, if such should become necessary. The roads became better and the country more thickly settled, and was better cultivated than it had been for the last few days. Provisions were not found, as the enemy had taken all away. But our foragers had gathered sufficiently for us, so that we had not wanted the provisions taken along from Savannah. But as a regiment of very hungry Yankees makes quite a reduction even of the largest pile of provisions, and as our foragers had not been able during the last few days to replenish our stock, it was time for us to reach Goldsboro. Our clothes were becoming tattered too, and many of our men could not be distinguished from rebels, being often taken for such by their own comrades and by the rebels, and thereby got out of scrapes frequently. But if a Yankee in rebel uniform was discovered to be such by the rebels, his treatment was a doubly severe one. The afternoon of our to-day's march brought more events than the forenoon, and seemed to end like the 16th of March. We had advanced briskly, although we had not had an hour's rest the night before, in order to keep up with the 14th corps, as it seemed that this corps would need our help yet, on account of the large rebel force in our front. Our forced march by double-quick, told us plainly of the events ahead of us, and the pack-mules and horses of the 14th

corps, that were not allowed to follow their brigades any more, confirmed our belief. The roar of the cannons became more violent and we saw a brigade of the 1st division, that had reached the battlefield before we did, drawn up in line of battle, marching courageously, like a solid phalanx with a steady step against the enemy, who were saluting our boys with volleys of lead. Several batteries were posted behind and to the right of this brigade, and others galloped up and were in position in a few moments. All this betokened danger and an attack from the enemy, as we had heretofore always taken our own time and measures, and had commenced the battle ourselves. Our brigade had formed the rear of the division and reached the battlefield at last, joined the left of the 2d brigade, forming the extreme left of our army. None but some of KIPATRICK'S cavalry was in the woods beyond us, to give us timely notice in case the enemy should attack our flank. After we had taken our positions and stacked arms, we were ordered to throw up breastworks, as an attack on our flank was expected. Pickets were sent out, and we went to work in earnest, and soon had our works sufficiently strong to keep double our number back. Suddenly the deafening cries of thousands, sounding as though all the demons of Hell had been let loose, were heard, followed by the terrible rattle of musketry, for the time overpowering the cries—cannons assisted to increase the noise, until it gradually slackened. The enemy had raised these yells while making an attack on the 14th corps and our 1st division, and had thus been compelled to retreat with the loss of his killed and wounded. But this first repulse did not satisfy the enemy. He gathered again, the same noise and roar and rattle of artillery and musketry was heard, so loud that we had to yell to make our nearest neighbors understand us, while the ground trembled under our feet. But our troops, who we could see plainly from our



position, stood like a solid wall, not moving an inch and compelled the enemy to beat another retreat, with the loss of his killed and wounded. This did not satisfy the enemy yet, and could not convince him of his inability to break through our lines, for he renewed the attempt six times during the afternoon and was repulsed every time. Our men seemed able to brave every danger, and if LEE had come from Richmond, even, we were in the fighting spirit to keep him back. Prisoners and deserters told us that the enemy in our front numbered 50,000, and that HARDEE had sworn to break through our lines or lose the last man. The 15th and 17th corps moved on the right towards Goldsboro. We hoped for an attack behind our works during the night, and were on guard by reliefs, but nothing occurred, and but few shots were fired along the picket line. The battle occurred near Bentonville, a small place in North Carolina, and we named the battlefield accordingly. Our loss was great, but small compared to that of the enemy, who made bayonet charges and only used his cannons when retreating and gathering again.

*March 20.* It was generally supposed that the attack would be renewed to-day, and as the attacks were generally made before daybreak, we were drawn in line of battle at 4 o'clock, in order not to let the enemy gain any advantage. In fact, we *hoped* he would come, but he did not make his appearance, and at sunrise we saw that the enemy had retreated a distance from his former position. Our line of pickets was pushed forward, and the right wing of our regiment, a company of the 79th Ohio, and one of the 102d Illinois were ordered forward as support, in case of danger. After we had advanced a distance we saw the enemy in a field, and retreated to draw him after us. But in vain, the rebels remained where they were. The enemy then fell back, perhaps to draw us on, and we accor-



dingly advanced, drove him about 500 steps, killed one rebel and took one prisoner, and then retreated again to see if we could not coax the enemy to advance against us. But the enemy remained in his old position. We had scarcely retreated the second time when the whole brigade moved up, we advanced until the brigade had taken its position, where we rejoined it, and erected breastworks. The rebel cannons opened on us occasionally, while ours remained quiet. At our right wing a heavy cannonade was going on, and we supposed that the advance on Goldsboro was being made. We drew rations as some wagons were emptied to make room for wounded, that were to be brought back to Kingston. The night was quiet.

*March 21.* We were ordered to be ready at 5½ o'clock A. M. for the march, and received fresh cartridges. Our brigade was the only one that had received marching orders. At the appointed time we were ready, but no bugle sounded the advance. It was at first believed the enemy had fled, but he was in his old position, and at 3 o'clock we fell back behind our old entrenchments, built on the 19th, where we pitched our tents. Afterwards we again advanced to our former entrenchments, although a heavy rain had commenced. Rebel cavalry was in our rear, but KILPATRICK was watching it, and prevented an attack on our wagon train. But little firing was going on in our front. We received the news that Gen. TERRY had taken Goldsboro on the 19th inst. Our wagons with wounded were sent there, and with them we expected provisions on their return. The night was dark, rainy and very unpleasant.

*March 22.* At 1 o'clock A. M. we received order to be ready, all pack horses were to be brought to the rear, and that we were to be in line of battle at daybreak. We could assign no other cause for this order than an advance, and camp rumor went that

the main force of the enemy had retreated yesterday, and only a line of pickets was in our front. At the appointed hour we arose from our miserable resting places, prepared a hasty breakfast, and when the day dawned we were ready, awaiting the command to advance. But this order did not come. The sun sent his rays smilingly on us, as though he would tell that we were again the victors and conquerors. Several rebels came to us and surrendered themselves, and brought the news that the enemy had fled. We now marched off in the direction of Goldsboro, hoping there to get the much needed rest. A number of rebel wounded were taken along. Some of them cherished the queer idea that the North would get the finishing blow now, and the South be victorious in the end. After a march of 12 miles we went into camp near the Neuse river, which we had reached after a laborious tramp of 8 miles over miserable roads. Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy.

*March 23.* We advanced towards Goldsboro at 7 o'clock A. M. The day was beautiful and pleasant for marching, but we advanced slowly, as a river had to be crossed, which always causes a good deal of delay. It was 1 o'clock P. M. before we crossed the Neuse river. The bridge formerly over the stream, called Cox's bridge, had been burned by the rebels. In the afternoon we reached Gen. SCHOFFIELD'S head quarters and the old 23d army corps, that had taken part in the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and had returned to Nashville, when HOOD advanced to that city, and had been driven back in glorious style by the 4th and 23d corps. Our joy was great when our brave companions, whose weather-beaten faces spoke volumes, rushed to us to grasp our hands. The joy of those glorious men was no less on meeting their companions of SHERMAN'S army, of which they had not seen any trace nor heard of it; they were glad, tattered and lame

as we were, from our long march and the many privations, that we were nevertheless "all right" yet. Such feelings are only felt by soldiers, who have suffered, bled and hungered with each other! The music bands commenced to play, and joy was depicted on every face, that we almost forgot that we were in the enemy's country; our joy would not have been greater, if peace had been declared that day. The marching was no longer tiresome, and we advanced rapidly until we camped at 6 o'clock.

*March 24.* At 2 o'clock A. M. some rebel shots brought us in line of battle, and we remained in this position until 7 o'clock. We left camp on our 55th day's tramp from Hardeesville, it should be our last one before reaching Goldsboro. We passed a place where a slight skirmish had taken place yesterday, and one of our killed was being buried as we passed. At 12 o'clock at noon we entered the city; our route passed SHERMAN'S head-quarters, and we paraded past with all music bands playing. Our beloved leader stood bareheaded as we passed, and returned thanks. We marched 4 miles further, in a north-easterly direction, where we camped, and immediately commenced erecting our tents, and to make everything as commodious as possible, in the expectation of remaining here at least a month. Foragers were sent out, but found more rebels than provisions, and firing was heard in every direction. Not unfrequently our men found one of our soldiers killed on the road, or wounded crying for help, and it seemed as though the enemy killed the men as quick as he captured them. Our campaign was ended, for the present at least, and our boys in buttoned uniforms would soon be properly uniformed, as it was positively asserted, that we would not advance until the whole army had been clothed anew.

*March 25.* Thanks were tendered us by Gen. SHERMAN for our indefatigable marching through

Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, through swamps, morass, forests and valleys, by day and by night, sometimes even without any food. He also thanked us for the bravery shown in the fights, and assured us that now we might have some rest after our march of five hundred miles. There was enough work to do in camp, relying on the promise of our commander that we would stop awhile here, and the erection of cabins was commenced to-day. These could not be built of boards, as at Savannah and other places, because we were four miles from Goldsboro, and no houses near our camp that we might "appropriate." But we had excellent timber and wherever there was a mill to build, there the work was commenced to erect comfortable quarters. Many of our men went in search of a hog or chicken, but came back empty handed, as the enemy had taken everything fit to eat. A number of our men were found shot or hung up on the trees, and a determination fixed in our hearts, hereafter not to take any more prisoners, but to do to them, as they were doing to our men. The commander of our division, Brig. Gen. WARD, was promoted to the post of Major General.

*March 26.* The erection of cabins were continued and preparations made to draw clothes, and cooking utensils, camp kettles, mess pans, &c., were sent after. We received the first mail since our departure from Blackville, S. C. Major HOSKINS, absent on furlough since we left the Chattahoochie river, Ga., returned to-day to our regiment.

*March 27.* The erection of the cabins was continued. Another mail arrived, and letters were written and sent off. New clothes arrived this evening and were distributed, and it seemed as though Gen. SHERMAN did not intend to remain long, as the rumor of an advance was current. Many of our men were pleased with this prospect, desiring to serve their time out with marching rather than to lie idle. Ex-

perience had taught us that marching was by far healthier, for since we had camped, nearly all complained of something, of weakness and stiffness of the limbs, while on the march they had complained merely of being tired, and "used up."

*March 28.* The weather was sultry and dark. A good many of the cabins were done, while others approached completion. A number of men went to the city, where a good many traders and suttlers had arrived.

*March 29.* The officers and clerks were busy making out the pay rolls and other papers. The day was beautiful. The rumor of an early advance was current again, but we did not place much credit in it.

*March 30.* We received another mail, and from the letters we learned that LEE had left Richmond. This was believed, and the troops were full of joy, while the music bands played half the night.

*March 31.* The camp was full of peace rumors, that LEE had been whipped out of Richmond by GRANT, the latter losing 2500 men. As we had nothing definite or positive, these rumors were believed but half.

*April 1, 1865.* The topic of our yesterday's conversation was again talked about, and so much believed that GRANT was fighting hard and trying his best to take that impenetrable city. This the papers told us, but did not mention that the work had been done, and LEE been whipped or driven out of Richmond.

*April 2.* The camp had quieted down somewhat, as also the talk about peace had ceased, but everybody was anxious to hear further news, and we eagerly awaited the next mail. In the afternoon we had dress parade for the first time for a long while.

*April 3.* The whole regiment was ordered to get fodder for the horses and mules, but we did not know where to find it, supposing that the enemy had even taken this along. We left camp early in the morning

in a westerly direction, and advanced about two miles, when we found corn and fodder sufficient, and returned to camp in the forenoon. One of our pickets was surprised at a house where he was on his post, and killed before he could fire his gun; the rebels took the gun and escaped. Gen. MOWER took command of our, the 20th corps, and we expected a parade. Our corps and the 14th, commanded by Maj. Gen. SLOCUM, now formed the Army of Georgia. We received another heavy mail, but we could get no information about the affairs between GRANT and LEE, as the news from the Virginia seat of war was old. All rumors and exciting tales failed, and everybody was anxiously awaiting something definite and true.

*April 4.* Arms and clothing was cleansed for the inspection that took place in the afternoon.

*April 5.* Everything was on the tip-toe in our camp, as the cheering of the troops in town was frequently heard, and we expected that some glad news had arrived, that we could place confidence in. But we waited in vain to hear anything.

*April 6.* Unexpectedly we were told to-day that a parade would take place before Gen. MOWER. We prepared and at 10 o'clock marched to the parade ground, where the column, consisting only of our division, was moving by regiments. Gen. MOWER soon appeared and the parade commenced. All went very well, although everybody was excited and did not think much about the movements, on account of the cheering and yells, that we heard to proceed from camp. At 1 o'clock the parade was over, and on our return to camp we learned, that it was true, Richmond had been taken, and although LEE had escaped with most of his men, yet GRANT was close at his heels, and would soon compel the former to surrender his army, stores and arms. This news was received by three cheers, and prophecies of an early peace became current everywhere. JOHNSTON, it was

said, could not fight, if LEE surrendered; but if the two armies of these Generals were to unite, one more bloody battle would have to be fought, in which we would again be victorious, and which would finish the rebellion. This last battle (if one was to take place) we expected with pleasure, for we would thereby get an opportunity to take revenge on the enemy, who would not seize the proffered rope to save him from sinking, which was his settled fate. If another battle is fought, and the enemy does not surrender, we will kill every rebel that falls in our hands, were the words of our men. The officers and leaders of the rebels were threatened most; JEFF. DAVIS and consorts could not have got past a single regiment in SHERMAN'S army, without getting a sufficient number of balls in them. Of course, we also heard the excuse of cruelty, and that DAVIS, BRECKINRIDGE, &c., ought to be imprisoned for life-time, and receive such treatment as did our prisoners in Andersonville and other places, there to meditate over their crimes. But most of the men were unwilling to try this experiment, and give the rebel friends an opportunity to assist these leaders in escaping. But all these propositions were but desires and suppositions; the arch-traitors and prime movers of the war were still at large and not yet captured, and it was very doubtful whether they ever would get in our hands, and that they would not escape their just deserts in the end, we hoped most sincerely. Other regiments were more noisy in their joy, loaded and fired their guns, filled bottles and canteens with powder and set them off, cheered GRANT and SHERMAN, threw their hats high in the air, danced, hopped and jumped, and whipped each other, until they became tired and squatted down around the camp fires for a talk. The air was filled with music until late in the night, now and then intermingled by a loud explosion or shot, until the noise gradually ceased, like a lamp without oil, and everything became quiet and sought rest.



*April 7.* But very little was talked about the fall of Richmond, that had caused so much joy yesterday, so that one should have supposed the whole story to be but a camp rumor. The camps became more lively in the afternoon, now and then a shot was fired and music bands commenced to play, the troops began to cheer again. Amid all this excitement we heard that the rebels had left all the heavy siege guns behind them, that GRANT had taken 2500 rebels prisoner, and that the town had been fired in several places by the enemy, but that the fire had after hard labor of our troops been extinguished by them. From the enemy in our front, we heard only, that he was still in possession of Raleigh, but did not fortify it; it seemed therefore not to be JOHNSTON'S intention to defend the place. The last rumors, or latest grape vines as they were called, of the day were about an early advance from Goldsboro, to prevent a junction of LEE'S and JOHNSTON'S armies. A great many believed that LEE would now lose a great many men by desertion, and also by being killed or captured by GRANT, and as the same was the case with JOHNSTON, either of them would not have been a great help for the other. It was JOHNSTON'S intention, according to the talk of the rebel prisoners, in case of necessity, to disband his army and organize them in guerrilla bands. If he should do this, he might rely on it that every rebel captured would have been treated as an outlaw, i. e. to a blue pill. The enemy would have been exterminated gradually but completely, should he attempt to continue the war in this manner, and his whole property of every description been laid waste.

*April 8.* We received the news that JEFF. DAVIS had been captured near Irvington, Ga., while endeavoring to make his escape in petticoats, by federal cavalry. As the petticoats were not made for him and too short, they did not cover his boots and spurs; he was recognized and taken prisoner. This news

caused merriment and anger; anger because DAVIS had been allowed to take off his wife's dress alive, and because he had not been made to suffer the just punishment for his crimes on the spot. Many expressed their belief, that this blood-dripping traitor would now escape the bullet or the rope. The reward of \$100,000 seemed to have been offered uselessly and to be money expended for nothing, and the future will show, that our suppositions were right, and that the leniency shown JEFF. DAVIS and the other leaders of the rebellion, will only tend to expose the Union to new dangers, and may yet cost us many valuable lives of true-hearted patriots and Union men, as in the years just passed.

*April 9.* It was asserted for certain that we would leave our present position in a few days to advance against JOHNSTON and Raleigh. A number of wounded of the different brigades that had recovered, were expected prior to our departure. In camp everything was quiet and the men were busy writing to their friends and relatives the events of the last days and hoped that soon we would commence our last march against the armed rebels.

*April 10.* We received orders to be ready at day-break the next day for our advance. These preparations occupied our time to-day, and we drew rations for three days. It was reported that a strong rebel force was in position six miles from Goldsboro, on the road to Smithfield, and as this was the road our corps, the 20th, was to take, we would perhaps get another opportunity to frighten the enemy. The recovered sick and wounded arrived to-day from Wilmington, N. C.; quite a number belonged to our regiment, and had a good deal to say about their journey from Nashville, Tenn., and about the battles at Franklin and Nashville, in which some of them had participated.

*April 11.* Our drummers gave the signal at 4½ o'clock A. M., to get ready, after we had prepared and

eaten our breakfast. Soon in every direction blazing camp fires were seen, and our boys around them busy cooking, while the others packed up. This could be done in an hour, but we generally got two hours to do it in. This morning new leather equipments, &c., were distributed among the men in need of it. At 6 o'clock the signal was given to break up, the knapsacks were buckled, the gun shouldered, and we were now ready to advance. We returned to Goldsboro, where a member of company D of our regiment had just arrived, that had been wounded and taken prisoner by the rebels while foraging some three weeks ago. The man had been taken to Smithfield and was closely guarded at first, but escaped when a good opportunity offered, and came from Smithfield to Goldsboro, 25 miles on his crutches. Here he was sent to the hospital, as his wounds had become worse in consequence of his flight. He testified of having heard from rebels, that nearly the whole force of the enemy had left Raleigh, and moved to Greensboro and neighborhood. We left the city at noon in a southwesterly direction until near the Neuse river, then we moved westward along the river over a swampy, wet road. The first division led the corps to-day. At a creek, the bridge of which had been burned, our advance met the enemy, and had a brisk skirmish, but drove the rebels back. A bridge had to be built, and we did not go into camp until 11 o'clock P. M., between Smithfield and Goldsboro, wet to the skin. The rain continued during the night, and we had great trouble to get wood for supper, and to get the wet wood to burn.

*April 12.* We were awakened at 3 o'clock A. M., and advanced at daybreak. The enemy, consisting of cavalry, had retreated, and we met no resistance, but the bad roads and the bridgeless streamlets prevented our rapid advance. The day was very hot and many men were compelled to leave the ranks, and follow as soon as they were able to. We reached

Smithfield about sundown and went into camp. We advanced the next day at 6 A. M., marched through Smithfield and crossed the Neuse river on pontoons, as the enemy had burned the railroad bridge. While marching through town we got the news that LEE had surrendered to GRANT, near Appomattox C. H., Va. This news created the greatest joy, and when we halted a few miles west of Smithfield, in an open field to rest and to await the train and rear, (we had the advance to-day,) we heard the news officially, and "three times three" were freely and heartily given, the hats went up into the air, and wild enthusiasm was seen everywhere. In our rear we heard continual shouting and cheering, as our rear passed through Smithfield and received the news, intermingled by the music of the bands. We were sure now that JOHNSTON would follow LEE'S example immediately, and our wish was that this would happen soon and without further bloodshed. We left the field in the best humor, and although the day was hot and the march continued very quick, yet no murmurs were heard, not even from those hardly able to remain in the ranks. The country between Smithfield and Raleigh, although low, was dry and beautiful, but in places too sandy to make the marching a pleasure. The woods consisted mostly of pines, and the shady repose under them, when we halted, were quite a luxury. We went into camp early in the afternoon, being but 10 miles from Raleigh. Rebel cavalry was in our front and on our left throughout the day, but did us no harm. Our cavalry, under Gen. KILPATRICK, was continually skirmishing with the enemy, whom no time was given to get a firm foothold, but was always driven back. After we had gone into camp, part of our brigade had to assist our cavalry to drive the enemy further back. When the enemy saw the infantry and cavalry advancing, it needed no order on our part to make him retreat; our cavalry advanced as far as it chose to, and the infantry returned to camp. KILPATRICK captured 60 ammunition wagons

from the enemy. The night was quiet and pleasant.

*April 13.* We left camp at 6 o'clock A. M., expecting either a bloody or a joyful day. We supposed the latter, for if the enemy knew that LEE had surrendered, and had a bit of sense left, he would not dispute our entrance in Raleigh. It seemed as though the enemy considered "prudence the mother of wisdom," and we advanced rapidly without meeting resistance, until we could see the church steeples of the city, when a couple of rapidly fired cannon shots on our right seemed to convince us of the contrary. We now supposed that we would have to take the city, but all firing ceased, and the nearer we approached the city the firmer the conviction became that no resistance would be offered. At 2 o'clock P. M., we camped near Raleigh, N. C., the city had been surrendered by the Mayor to KILPATRICK; nevertheless, a few rebels had dared to fire on our troops, these were pursued, captured and punished for their perfidy as they deserved. Later in the day the town was garrisoned by infantry, while the cavalry cleared the surrounding country of rebels, but met a decided resistance a few miles from town, the fire being brisk and continuous. Raleigh was not injured in the least and we had leave to go to town without a pass, but found a guard at every house to prevent our entrance, and that nothing was taken without permission of the proprietor. The inhabitants, although mostly rebels, that would have given their all to place us in the situation of their friends, were friendly and mild to us. The arch rebels could hardly be gotten to talk about the present situation of the rebel armies, and sought seclusion when we told them how we had driven the rebels before us, and that LEE had been compelled to surrender and that JOHNSTON, KIRBY SMITH, and others would soon have to follow LEE's example; that they would have to acknowledge the hated Yankee regime after fruitless endeavors for four years to overthrow it.

Such food was too wholesome for the soured rebel stomachs, but no replies were made. But aside from these there were many inhabitants that hated the rebellion and were really glad at the victory of the Union troops, and who hoped that the war would soon terminate. They proved their words by actions, were kind and friendly to us, gave us such things as we needed for building cabins most readily, and visited us in camp to have a chat with us. We received the news that LEE's men had been paroled immediately, and were allowed to return home, and that JOHNSTON's main force was at Hillsboro, N. C.

*April 14.* We remained in camp, while other corps moved their camps north of the city. A number of our men went to town and broke into some stores, but the provost guard stopped them. The lunatic asylum, where a number of sick soldiers were lying, was surrounded by a guard and nobody admitted. Rumors were "thick as bees" about JOHNSTON's surrender. Some said that the surrender had taken place, while others thought that JOHNSTON had refused to surrender and intended to continue the war on his own hook. Others again opined that JOHNSTON was personally in Raleigh to arrange matters for the surrender. But these were all rumors, and nobody but the commander and his immediate neighborhood knew what was going on.

*April 15.* We got marching orders, packed up, and paraded through the streets, but a rain prevented our move, and we remained in camp. In our front, north of Raleigh, a heavy cannonade was heard, and as no news came in we supposed that KILPATRICK had again found the enemy. In town JOHNSTON's arrival was looked for, and many of our men, anxious to see this great rebel, went to the depot, but waited in vain. Foraging, burning or demolishing houses or fence rails, was prohibited by an order of Gen. SHERMAN, until further orders. We judged from this that JOHNSTON intended to surrender, and

that all hostilities were to be suspended. We did not receive any positive news, and everybody was as "anxious as a granny" to "learn all about it."

*April 16.* Not much talking was going on, but anxiety was depicted on every face. These were trying times, such as we had expected, and which were now about to commence. The men were no longer quieted by mere say-so's, but all wished to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth from SHERMAN himself. A train arrived from the front with a number of rebel officers, and a short while afterwards the neighboring camps showed life, while ours remained quiet. A rumor was that JOHNSTON had capitulated, and the manifestations of joy increased as the time flew by. One cheer followed the other, the firing was as brisk as in a fight, the music bands were compelled to play, and the air was filled with all kinds of noises and tunes. We remained quiet as we wanted to hear a certainty, something about an accomplished fact, and not merely a "grape-vine." A number of our men at last went to the brigade headquarter, but Col. CASE knew no more than we did ourselves, but that the news would soon come if there was any truth in it; the brigade band was ordered to play, in case the reports should be confirmed. We anxiously awaited the first notes of our band, and our situation became very unpleasant; but all waiting was in vain. By and by the noise and music ceased in the neighboring camps, and we learned that the whole report was a hoax, and without foundation: our expectations, though not our hopes, were verified.

*April 17.* Our camp-ground had to be cleaned after breakfast, as it was expected that our stay here would be prolonged. Some of the men, not busy, went to town to learn something about the truth or untruth of JOHNSTON's surrender, but all returned with the most conflicting reports. Gen. SHERMAN had gone to JOHNSTON's head-quarters in company with



several officers, and his return was anxiously looked for. At 7 o'clock the general returned, but nothing became public in regard to the course pursued, and we had to content ourselves by hoping the best. To crown the depressed feeling of the men, rumors of an assassination of President LINCOLN became current, but this seemed too awful for belief. Yet it was evident that something must have transpired, as Secretary SEWARD had been wounded, as well as his son. Deserters of JOHNSTON'S army and paroled men of LEE'S army continued to arrive. The former knew nothing about the surrender of the army, the latter were tired of the war, and expressed the hope that JOHNSTON and KIRBY SMITH would act as sensibly as LEE had done, and thereby prevent the further unnecessary slaughter of their men.

*April 18.* Gen. SHERMAN again went to the headquarters of JOHNSTON. The particulars of the assassination of President LINCOLN, while in the theatre in Washington on the 14th inst., was published in the "Raleigh Progress" to-day. We could not believe the astounding, yea, stunning news, yesterday, but as the papers confirmed the report, we had to believe it. The effect this news of the assassination of such a beloved man as LINCOLN had upon the men under SHERMAN, is an impossibility to describe. Everything else was forgotten, and both officers and soldiers swore vengeance on the rebels, who had robbed the nation of its dearest and best citizen; they hoped that JOHNSTON would not surrender and that SHERMAN would advance immediately against him, and punish the murderer's abettors as they had well deserved. A rebel near Raleigh, expressing his satisfaction at this horrible deed, was killed instantly by our men. The least expression on the part of the rebels, was sufficient to make our men mark them as they deserved. If JEFF DAVIS had been here, he would have been sent to the deepest pool of perdition, where this arch traitor, the abettor and

assistant of cowardly assassins, belonged. It was not doubted that LEE and some of his officers knew about the premeditated assassination, and had also assisted in its execution. All the leaders of the gigantic rebellion that had cost the nation thousands of valuable lives, would have been executed had they but been in our midst. Everybody mourned over the loss of our beloved, honest president, the flags waved at half mast, and the bands played melancholy airs in memory of the good and true man that had stood for four years at the helm of the ship of state, when lashed by the furious waves of rebellion and copperheadism! When the light of peace began to dawn upon the nation, he was re-elected to his high station, as the people were satisfied that a patriot and a good man held the reins of government, despite the infamous accusations of the rebels and their northern sympathizers, the copperheads. And this good man fell by the hand of a cowardly assassin! Col. CASE intended to deliver a speech in memory of the murdered president, but later and contradicting reports caused him to postpone it until to-morrow.

*April 19.* The papers published further particulars about the assassination, and there could be no longer any doubt about its truth, much as we disliked to be forced to such a belief. Gen. HARRISON, who returned from his furlough, during which he had been promoted to general, took command of our brigade. In the evening he made a speech during which he expressed his doubt that we would get an opportunity to take revenge as armed soldiers on the enemy for the loss he had caused the northern people. The enemy, he said, knows too well that henceforward he cannot longer expect clemency, or be spared, in case he does not discontinue his hostilities. The speaker expressed the hope of the whole army when he said, he hoped that JOHNSTON would not accept SHERMAN's terms of surrender, that we

might get a chance to tame the enemy, who had given a terrible blow to the army by this foul murder,—and that we might subdue the enemy, and drive the last remains of rebel spirit out of him. COLS. CASE, DUSTIN and DOHN spoke next, (DOSTOX formerly commanded the 105th Ills. regt., but now the 2d brigade of our division,) encouraged the men and bewailed the death of the president, who would remain in grateful memory of the nation, as long as the republic existed. The assembly did not disperse until late at night, anxious to learn the events of the next day.

*April 20.* Everything and everybody wore a mournful aspect, and all merriment had fled. Even in town, where all kinds of rumors were in circulation generally, nothing else was talked about but the murder of the president in FORD'S theater. No one wanted to know anything about the surrender of JOHNSTON, but everyone desired to advance, to avenge the foul murder, to avenge the sufferings of our prisoners, to avenge our fallen comrades—the fathers of families, and to punish the rebels for their crimes and cruelties. All wanted peace, but not until the enemy had been subdued, and was at our feet, begging for mercy and pardon! We knew that in such a manner only a lasting peace could be secured, and that all our prayers that the “erring brethren” would return to loyalty, had made them more stiff-necked, and that all our sacrifices would be vain if our terms were less. Gen. SHERMAN assured us in an order that we would be on our way to Washington in a few days, but caused very little satisfaction thereby. We judged from this that JOHNSTON either had accepted the conditions of surrender, or was about to accept them. We had too much confidence in our commander to believe that his conditions would lead to anything but a lasting peace; but we would rather have given the enemy a lesson, to show him that his enormities and cruelties had

created a powerful, revengeful spirit within us! The camps were cleaned again but the building of cabins was neglected, in the expectation that it "would not pay." It was said that a grand parade would take place before we left Raleigh.

*April 21.* A grand parade was announced for tomorrow before Gen. SHERMAN. The order added that the regiments would have to appear on the parade-ground in heavy fighting order, in the expectation that this would be the last time. A heavy rain set in in the afternoon. Among the chit-chats of camp the route we would take from here to Washington formed a conspicuous part of the conversation. Most of the men were of the opinion that we would have to tramp it, as SHERMAN'S army seemed destined to march through the whole rebel territory, as we had heretofore done amid hard and continual fighting. Our leaders would no doubt think that as we had marched thus far, we might foot the distance to Washington too. Others thought differently and that the enemy had been the cause of our marching, and that the government would now take pity on us, let us return to Newbern, and thence ship to Washington. Many feared this, knowing that when soldiers are sent by water they are generally packed like herrings, and be in want of the necessary exercise and water and food. Such were the chats in camp while the men cleaned, scoured and brushed for the parade on the morrow.

*April 22.* We fell in rank early, as the parade was to take place in the forenoon, and marched to town, leaving our knapsacks and other things except the guns and equipments in camp. The parade took place in the streets of Raleigh, where a large number of lookers-on from other corps, (our corps alone was parading to-day,) of citizens of both sexes, and paroled rebel soldiers had come to be eye witness of the scene. The streets were kept clear by guards, so that one regiment after the other could advance

by company front to the court house, where Gens. SHERMAN, SLOCUM and others were scrutinizing the movements of the troops. The streets were rather rough for the parade, but as our loads were light everything passed off satisfactorily, and by noon the whole regiment was back in camp. A rumor was current in camp that we would leave next Tuesday for Richmond and Washington. This report was not believed, as no confirmation of JOHNSTON'S surrender had been received, and as we could not leave until the rebel army had been compelled to surrender. Paroled soldiers arrived daily on the way to their homes.

*April 23.* Nothing to do in camp and no "grapevines" current. Nothing positive was as yet known about the surrender of JOHNSTON, and we were surprised that all transactions were kept so secret. We could not believe that JOHNSTON intended to continue the war on his own hook, as SHERMAN had been to the rebel head-quarter several times, and would have advanced if such would be the case, and compel him to surrender. We relied on SHERMAN'S order and promise that we would be on the march to Washington in a few days, but could not comprehend the propriety of keeping the terms of surrender secret, knowing as we did that SHERMAN would offer such terms only, as would secure a lasting peace. The weather was cold.

*April 24.* The regiment received orders to go foraging, and immediately after breakfast, a number of wagons were packed for the expedition, that would last several days, as all provisions had vanished in the neighborhood of the city, and as we would have to go many miles before getting any. As I had attended to the "writing business" of the company for the captain, since we left our place between Chesterfield and Cheraw, I was free from duty, excepting when danger was nigh. I remained in camp, busy making out the papers, necessary to expedite the

business of making out the muster-rolls. The men idling about the camp, were speculating on the day of their discharge, and how they intended to meet their wives, children and friends, and the speeches they intended to make to them, in case they should get home safe. Many doubted that they would be recognized by their relatives. The beloved wife or child of one or the other had died, and they went home less cheerful than others, but all the heads of families were anxious to return to support their families again, as in former years. Such were the conversation, until, when suddenly an order of Gen. SHERMAN put a stop to them. Our neighboring regiments had received marching orders, and soon after an order came to our regimental headquarters that we would start to-morrow morning early, but not for Washington, but against JOHNSTON. The feeling of revenge again arose in the breasts of the men, because JOHNSTON had not surrendered, and all thoughts about an early discharge were soon forgotten. Several couriers were sent after our regiment that must have been a good way from camp by this time, and the regiment returned shortly after midnight. While the men were ridding themselves of their guns, &c., many promises were made that every rebel captured should be shot, if he did not surrender, as the enemy had compelled us again to commence the slaughter. Rumors became current that the Government and GRANT had refused to sanction SHERMAN's terms of surrender to JOHNSTON, and that SHERMAN would be superseded by MEADE. As we knew nothing about the terms we could not say anything as regards the justice of this step, but knew that the deposition of SHERMAN would have been a terrible if not fatal blow to our army, more so than the murder of President LINCOLN. As a general thing we considered the report untrue, knowing that a man like SHERMAN, who hated the rebellion from the bottom of his heart, could not be guilty of a crime to justify such a step,

after having led his army victoriously through Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina. Nobody cared about any sleep in the night, but prepared for the bloody conflict on the morrow.

*April 25.* As usually when on the march we were awakened early, and soon we were ready to recommence hostilities. For some reason or other we did not start until 8½ o'clock, when we left Raleigh and marched in a southwesterly direction towards Pittsboro. After the first and second divisions ahead of us had stretched out, we advanced rapidly, though it was very severe on account of the scorching rays of the sun. Neither enemy nor obstructions prevented our march, as heretofore in North and South Carolina. As usually one man after the other left the ranks to sit down on the road side to rest, and then continue the trot as soon as the limbs permitted. We advanced until nearly sunset, after having made 13 miles, when we camped in the bush near the road. We met many paroled rebel soldiers, on their way to Raleigh, who spread the report that JOHNSON had been shot by one of his own men for ordering every straggler and deserter shot. Others said that JOHNSON had left the army and sought safety in flight. These reports were not believed and proved to be untrue in the evening. The night was very noisy, and the noise of the cannons robbed us of a good deal of our sleep.

*April 26.* We remained quiet for some reason unknown to us. Foragers were detailed to scour the country for provisions and fodder, and commenced their work to-day, but nearly all returned empty-handed. The day was very warm. Deserters from JOHNSON'S army contradicted all reports of yesterday in regard to that army, that was at Greensboro, 85 miles from here. They doubted that another fight would take place, as JOHNSON'S men were tired of the war and were deserting by hundreds and leaving for their homes.



*April 27.* We remained quiet, without any prospect of an early move. From all appearances it seemed more likely that JOHNSTON had surrendered, and that we would return to Raleigh. This seemed to be confirmed, as the 105th Illinois regiment, belonging to our brigade, was ordered to pack up immediately, and escort the division wagon-train back to Raleigh, and there to resume their former camping ground. The other regiments of the brigade had not received any order to return, but the return of the provision and ammunition train seemed to indicate that we would follow, perhaps to-morrow already. It was certain that JOHNSTON had surrendered, and we expected the particulars about this event.

*April 28.* At a quarter before six we left camp for Raleigh; the weather was as warm as it had been on the day of our departure from there. Yet we performed the march more rapidly than on the 25th, at 12 o'clock M, we were at our former camping ground. Soon after our arrival it became clear that we would have to foot our way to Washington, and commence perhaps in a few days, as the camp commanders received order to make out the descriptive rolls of all sick and disabled, and hand them to the regiment surgeon, so that arrangements could be made to send the men North. With their descriptive rolls it was not necessary for them to await our arrival in New York or Washington, but could be mustered out as soon as they had been paid off, and leave for their homes. In the afternoon the pay rolls were made out, and the 30th of April (Monday) fixed as the day of our departure from here. We were to march via Richmond and Alexandria to Washington. About the surrender of JOHNSTON we could gain no particulars, and we supposed from this that SHERMAN must have made a mistake, as his army had not been officially notified of the surrender of the enemy, that we had driven through Georgia, whom we had compelled to leave Savannah, assisted his speed through

the Carolinas, and whom we had whipped on the 16th and 19th of last month at Averysboro and Bentonville, and whom we had tamed.

*April 29.* The regiment had inspection of arms and clothes, and the pay rolls were completed, although we did not expect to be paid off until we had reached Washington. We had to give up fifteen of the forty cartridges we had always had to carry with us, but a good many men thought it unnecessary to carry surplus weight and reduced the number of their cartridges yet more. Our sick and wounded and lame left Raleigh this evening for Newbern, whence they were transported by water. The morrow was fixed for our departure, while the 23d corps and KILPATRICK'S cavalry remained for a while as a garrison, and to keep the returned rebels quiet and in order.

*April 30.* We started early on our march to the North and our homes that we had left some three years ago. Before leaving an order of Gen. SHERMAN was read to us, that roll call would be held three times a day, and all absentees without leave punished. Plundering, destroying or robbing rebel property was prohibited and severely punished. The divisions had to be three to five miles apart while on the march; the marching was to be done slowly, so that every soldier could get along without becoming tired. We were assured finally, that we would be mustered out in Washington, and would soon be at home with our friends. We left at 7 o'clock, paraded through town with music, stopped at the edge of the town until 9, and then advanced. At 8 o'clock P. M. we reached the Neuse river, the bridges had broken down, and we were compelled to halt and eat our supper. Two men were killed by the breaking down of the bridge. The night was rainy, but we enjoyed a good sleep after a march of 15 miles, through a country but little inhabited. All the houses were deserted.

*May 1, 1865.* We commenced our second day's

march and crossed the river at 7 o'clock on a bridge, erected in the night, and then moved ahead rapidly to get closer to the two divisions ahead of us. The weather was warm, but the marching pleasant, as the country was more thickly settled, and the inhabitants no longer afraid and shy, but treated us kindly, and were delighted when our bands played, while passing their houses. The blacks could not content themselves with grinning, but some louder manifestations of joy were necessary for them; they came in droves, hopped and danced around the bands, until they had accompanied us several miles, when they disappeared as suddenly as they had come. After a march of 17 miles we went into camp; the night was cool and clear.

*May 2.* We did not leave camp until 8 o'clock, as our regiment formed the rear of the division. The day was cool and the promenading as pleasant and easy as yesterday. The country was well inhabited and the inhabitants (particularly the female part) were, at least outwardly, friendly, came from their houses to look at the Yankee army that had caused them so much trouble and whipped their armies continually. They came from their houses that could not be visited any more on account of SHERMAN'S order, and viewed us until some one of our boys made an insulting remark, when they turned their backs disdainfully to us. Females of the poorer class thought of doing us and themselves a favor by bringing tobacco in baskets to us and selling it for greenbacks; but these were as great a scarcity as tobacco; they had to take their loads home again, unless they took pity on us and gave part of the load away. In the morning we marched in the direction of Oxford, but left the place on our left without touching it, and camped after a march of 15 miles, being distant from Richmond 117 miles. When in camp, our thoughts turned a year back, when we left our splendid and commodious camp in Lookout Valley and commenced our first day's march against the enemy behind his works at

Dalton and Reseca. Then every one's life was in jeopardy, not knowing whether it was the will of the Almighty to allow him to be with his comrades in the evening; to-day we were on our way to our homes, with the hope of soon enjoying a lasting peace. Then most of our regiments were full, at least the rebel balls had not decimated them, now numerous graves of the fallen members spotted the route from Chattanooga through Georgia and the two Carolinas. The regiments had become small and slender, and in looking over the original company roll, many names were seen, whose bearers were either sleeping beneath the quiet sod, or who had been mustered out on account of disability. In those days the rebels and JEFF. DAVIS considered themselves unconquerable and all offers of peace were disdainfully rejected,—the States just named had not seen the devastation of war and consequences of the rebellion,—but now all the rebel armies, with the exception of a small one West of the Mississippi, had surrendered, JEFF. DAVIS was a prisoner in Fort Monroe, and Georgia and the Carolinas had gotten their full share of the evil effects of war.

*May 3.* As it was our intention to-day to reach the Roanoak river and cross, we started earlier than usual on our promenade of twenty miles. We were awakened at 3 o'clock A. M., and started at 5. About 7 we got up with the first and second division, that had been several miles ahead, but getting on the wrong road, we met them just as they were getting on the right road again. We were compelled to halt until the divisions with train had gotten out of our way. At 9 o'clock we reached Williamsboro, a small town, through which we passed with music. The negroes came flocking to us, attracted by the sound of music, and as they saw one regiment after the other pass without insulting them, they showered the "God-bless-you's" upon us. But few white inhabitants showed themselves, whether they had fled or whether

they kept away from hatred we did not learn. At 2½ o'clock we stepped over the border of North Carolina into Virginia, when we took the lead of the column, and reached Roanoke river, 7 miles from the border, before sundown. We went into camp a mile beyond the river, after a march of 25 miles. From here we had but 92 miles to Richmond. But few murmurs were heard about this rapid marching, but on the contrary all men seemed anxious to get to Washington as soon as possible, and to march even 25 or 30 miles a day to get there. The only murmur was heard about the provisions, for we had received but half rations since our departure from Raleigh, and tonight we had nothing but bread, but no meat. We were told that but a small quantity was left on the wagons, and with it we would have to be as saving as possible. The men grumbled badly and said that they could not march 25 miles a day, with no other food than coffee and crackers; they intended to go foraging on their own hook, if not provided with the proper rations.

*May 4.* We left camp at 4½ o'clock A. M., and moved in the direction of Boydston, but left this place on our right and took the road to Saffold's bridge, over the Newbern river. Our brigade led the division, and we moved through a country but little cultivated. The inhabitants were kind to us, and consisted mostly of poor families, that were, as they told us themselves, not treated better than slaves. The road was very rocky and narrow, and the men had to pass through the brush frequently and be careful about sore feet. Nevertheless we advanced rapidly, and at noon we reached the Newbern river, which we crossed on the so-called Saffold's bridge. One mile north of the river we went into camp, after having made 21 miles. The men complained a good deal about sore feet and being worn out, many became disabled from walking, while others stepped from the ranks and got along as well as they could. The

country North of the river had been visited by troops that had assisted in penning JOHNSTON, after the surrender of LEE, and left their traces everywhere. The weather was excessively hot, but a short rain cooled the air somewhat, and the night was pleasant.

*May 5.* We left camp amid a heavy thunder-storm and rain at 5 o'clock A. M., and could not move as fast as formerly, as the roads were muddy and had to be repaired in many places before our wagons could pass. Several hours later the rain ceased, the day became clear and hot, and the roads dried gradually, enabling us to move faster. At noon we took a main road for Petersburg, and made 10 miles in 3 hours. It was our intention to reach Black and White station on the Petersburg and Lynchburg R. R. and camp there; but when 8 miles from the station the 14th corps got on our road, and we were compelled to camp, after a march of 20 miles, at 2 o'clock P. M. The rapid advance and the hot weather had disqualified many of the men from marching and compelled them to leave the column, the ambulances were crowded by sick and such, whose legs would no longer perform their duty. Many had been allowed to move along at their own pleasure, with nothing but their musket, and from 2 o'clock until evening these poor fellows continued to come in limping on their feet, covered with blisters. They assured us that no march had ever worn them out to such a degree as this one. The whole blame was thrown on our leaders, and with justice, as they did not heed SHERMAN'S order at all to let the men march slowly, but did the contrary. Gen. SHERMAN was not with us, but had left Raleigh for Charleston, and our leaders had everything their own way. The men grumbled at Gen. MOWER who was the cause of this senseless hurrying, and said as there was no longer any danger of being killed by balls, they did not want to kill themselves by marching, but take their own time hereafter.

*May 6.* We left camp at 5 o'clock and reached Black and White station at 9. Here we found the first troops of the Eastern army, belonging to the 6th corps and guarding the Railroad track. We marched through the place and rested a few miles further to rest. The weather was very hot again, and many left the ranks, reported themselves sick to the surgeon, or gave up their baggage, or rested under some shade tree until able to advance again. Some, hating the epithet "straggler," compelled negroes to carry their baggage for a couple of hours, or for the balance of the day. After we had marched 14 miles, we went into camp 10 miles Southwest of the Appomatox river. The number of sick and disabled increased and all complained of being worn out, as we marched almost daily 15—20 miles until noon or early in the afternoon. If we had made the marches in the whole day, and if we had rested a couple of hours at noon during the hottest part of the day, the men would not have complained and compelled the half-starved mules and horses to drag them along in wagons. To make such marches day for day without halting, was enough to wear out the stoutest, and proved conclusively that our commander did not care for his men.

*May 7.* We were awakened at 2 o'clock A. M. by the signal, left camp at 4 and had made several miles by sunrise, before the heat commenced. Like many of my comrades I was disqualified to march, for the first time since entering the service, but ridding myself of baggage and gun managed to get along a little at least. Fortunately, the marching went slower, as the road leading to the river became lower and prevented a more rapid advance. Perhaps the thought had struck our leaders, that by slow and steady marching we could get along better than by rapid marching—a pity, that such common sense ideas seize great men's brains generally too late. At 9 o'clock A. M. we reached a line of works near the Appomatox river, that had partly been torn or fallen down.



Behind the works we saw that we were on a battlefield, each tree having bullet marks, some with branches and crowns shot off, while some had been completely shattered. The ground was covered with rotting uniforms, knapsacks, canteens, &c., and sometimes a broken carbine was seen. A short distance from here a house was visible, with a hospital flag waving from it, where we found 5 of SHERIDAN'S men that had been wounded at the fight several weeks ago. We could learn no particulars about the fight, but that the rebels made a determined stand and that the Union troops suffered greatly, before the enemy retreated. We crossed the river at 11 o'clock on pontoons, and advanced through a bushy, hilly country, until near Cloverhill, where we camped after a march of 15 miles near a coal mine.

*May 8.* We left camp at 4½ o'clock, marched through Cloverhill, a place of a few houses, and approached Richmond on a narrow bushy road, that had been but seldom used. The day became very hot, but I determined to carry my baggage and resume my place in the ranks. After vainly trying to get along after a march of 5 miles, I had to sit down, and when the brigade had passed, several of my comrades, in the same unfortunate condition with myself, came limping up to me. After we had rested awhile, we continued our march, until our failing strength again compelled us to rest. Thus we forced our wearied limbs along, until we found the regiment at 1 o'clock P. M., about going into camp. But the regiment advanced again, and I took my place in the company, and at 2 o'clock we camped at Falling Creek or Falling Water, with the order to remain here for several days. We were but 7 miles from Richmond, and could have reached the shores of the James river, if we had continued to march until night, and not cared for the sick and lame. But we found out that it was not the proper attention for the sick that made us rest, but that we had arrived here several days too

soon, and had to wait until Gen. SHERMAN would rejoin us, before we could enter Richmond and continue our march to Washington. With to-day's march the greatest suffering since entering the service ended, and which had disabled more men than the four months' campaign of last Summer from Chattanooga to Atlanta.

*May 9.* Exeruciating pain in my breast and limbs compelled me to take medicine, something I had done but very seldom since entering the service, and then only with the greatest dread. I was compelled to report myself sick, for if I had attempted to march, the weight of the baggage would have broken me down immediately. Fortunately for our regiment our surgeon was a man who had a heart and feeling for his fellow-men, and did everything in his power, while we were on our march, for the sick and broken down soldiers. The number of men seeking his assistance to-day was by no means small, and he had enough to do to get means of transportation for those not able to walk, and to write permits for those able to march, but unable to carry their baggage. Every sick soldier received a pass to-day, as we expected to receive orders to resume our march for a better camp ground. The expectation became verified, and at 9 o'clock we marched 2 miles closer to the city where we camped again, being but 5 miles from Richmond. Inspection was announced for 5 o'clock P. M., and the men kept busy thereby (except the sick) in preparing for it. We also received orders to parade through the streets of Richmond, and supposed from this that Gen. SHERMAN had returned from Charleston, and would accompany us to Washington. As the parade was to take place to-morrow, preparations were made to give all the sick transportation by water. The sick of the different regiments (among whom myself) were called around the regimental surgeon, and other names put down, whereupon the sick of our brigade were ordered to the division hospital. It was my

first time to leave the regiment for a longer period and did not expect to rejoin it before reaching Alexandria or Washington. I was very sorry for not being able to take part in the parade and the march to Washington, but it was an utter impossibility for me to do so. The division head-quarter was also used as the division hospital, and on our way there passed the head-quarter of the 3d brigade just as an orderly had fired a pistol shot at a staff officer, wounding him badly but without doubt intending to kill him. The orderly fled, but the report of the pistol had attracted a crowd, who took charge of the wounded and went in pursuit of the assassin, and captured him soon. When caught the fellow commenced to hallow and cry, professing his innocence and that his pistol had gone off without his intention; his cries "for God's sake, don't let them kill me," were indeed pitiful. He was placed under arrest, to await his punishment for his attempted murder.

*May 10.* We got a poor breakfast in the hospital, consisting of beefsteak soup with crackers. The sick of the division were again examined, and those able to march got permission to return to their regiments. But as one night's rest was not very apt to restore strength and health to the sick, but few went. We left the hospital at 9 o'clock and went to Manchester, opposite Richmond, a part on foot and the other part in wagons, and reached there at 11 o'clock. We moved through town as fast as our strength permitted, crossed the river and entered Richmond, that had cost many a brave union soldier his life, and was now to some extent burnt down. We did not get the pleasure to take a more minute view of the rebel capital, as we were ordered not to leave the shore, as the boat was ready to take us to Alexandria. We had a close view of the Libby prison and castle Thunder, where many union soldiers had been tortured to death; we passed

both prisons on our march. All union soldiers had left the cell, and rebel soldiers taken their places, guarded by union soldiers. We would like to have seen the interior, but our entrance was prohibited by the guard. After having been in Richmond for several hours, a steamer came to take us on board. We found the sick of the 2d division on board, and could hardly find room to put down our knapsacks, much less to sit down. As our and this division never agreed, quarrels and even fights soon threatened to break out, when the commanding officer, a major, seeing such an inimical feeling among the men, ordered the sick of the 3d division from the steamer, that started immediately afterwards, full enough without us. After remaining on shore several hours longer, another steamer took us on board, where we had room enough now, and left at 6 o'clock P. M. In consequence of our late departure, we lost the hoped for look at the entire rebel works along the James river. Nevertheless we got a good distance from Richmond before it became quite dark, and saw the rebel forts but a short distance apart, along the shore. The guns were yet in position, and some forts were guarded by our troops. The river was full of torpedoes, but their position was marked by little red flags; nevertheless the pilot had great trouble to avoid them, as the least touch would have blown us to atoms. The darkness prevented our seeing the works at and near City Point, and we sought rest.

*May 11.* We had remained at City Point until after midnight and were near Newport News when we awoke. The day was beautiful and warm, the shores lined with woods, interspersed here and there by a plantation, bearing visible marks either of the war or the idleness of its proprietor, as the fields were desolate and empty. Several steamers, loaded with cattle, hay, railroad wagons and machinery, passed our boat bound for Richmond. We reached

Fort Monroe at 2 o'clock P. M., where we stopped a short while to take some provisions on board. We saw several armed vessels here. When we left the tide had set in the Chesapeake bay, and soon the land disappeared on one side. The wind being favorable, the sails were set, whereby the speed of our steamer was increased. At 4 P. M. we lost sight of all land, but it soon re-appeared on one side. At 8 o'clock P. M. a storm arose, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and rain, and though the sails were fastened, many of the men became sea-sick in consequence of the plunging of the steamer. After the sails had been reefed, the steamer went ahead more steadily, and we could seek rest on the deck without running danger of rolling overboard. The storm began to abate, but dark clouds moved along the heavens, and lightning flashes for a moment illuminated the sky, while the grumbling thunder told us that the danger had not passed yet. Nevertheless we sought rest, but had scarcely fallen asleep when heavy drops of rain fell in our faces, and compelled us to hide under our oil-cloths. We were thus protected from the rain, but the water soon ran under the sides and soaked our blanket, cloak and other things, serving us as a bed. Some preferred now to take the rain standing, but when we got to the mouth of the Potomac, the weather had become so cold that they sought shelter again under their oil cloths.

*May 12.* With day-break the cold became more intense, and we could feel plainly that we had gotten out of the "sunny South." We felt the cold the severer on account of receiving nothing but cold meat and crackers yesterday; the same we got today, but hoped to reach Alexandria at noon, and then get a warm dinner. We reached Cedar Point at 7 o'clock A. M., the country was beautiful and romantic, and on the Virginia side only the deserted houses and desolated fields told us of the existence

of war. As we approached Washington, the scenes became more lovely and beautiful, we saw the men at work in the fields on the Maryland shore, and others fishing. We saw the men throw out their nets and wink at our pilot to the right and left to avoid their nets. These scenes caused us a good deal of pleasure, as we had years ago left our peaceable vocations, had been continually on the way, principally through deserted regions where we had always to be on the look out for the enemy, death or captivity. Then all thoughts of peace had fled the hearts of our men, but these scenes revived their love of peace and peaceful vocations, and they would willingly have assisted the fishermen or farmers. Our conversation now naturally turned to what we would do on our return home; this one intended to go back on the farm, the other at his trade and set up a shop for himself with the money he had saved, and some even thought of marrying! Amid such pleasant chats we steamed up the Potomac, until we reached fort Washington at 3 o'clock P. M., where the glistening guns and the thick walls of the fort attracted our attention, and we continued to gaze at it until it disappeared from view. Soon afterward the steeples of Washington appeared in sight, and at 5 P. M. we landed at Alexandria, Va. We left the boat immediately and marched through the town, all draped in mourning for the assassination of president LINCOLN, to the "Soldier's Rest," where our names were put down, and where we received a good supper. There we found over 8,000 men of SHERMAN'S army, and every steamer brought more sick and disabled soldiers from Raleigh. After supper we retired, and found the first quiet and good rest for some time.

*May 13.* At 3 o'clock A. M. we were awakened by the loud speaking of soldiers just arrived, and it was impossible to go to sleep again. We left our resting place, and soon after our breakfast was

ready, whereupon roll call was held. We then marched to convalescent camp, a mile from town, where we had to await the arrival of the main army. We found several men of our regiment, who had left us at Savannah on account of sickness, and also one member, whose whereabouts we had lost some time ago. He had been taken prisoner in North Carolina, and was paroled after a short captivity, and had been ordered by the military authorities at Alexandria to await the arrival of the regiment at the convalescent camp. We made ourselves as comfortable as possible, were divided off in companies and battalions, and frequently a corporal or sergeant commanded a company, and a lieutenant a regiment. We drew rations for several days, and after supper we chatted awhile about the army, until sleepiness put the finishing touch to our conversation.

*May 14.* We had to leave our camp place and move into some wall tents, four or five men in each tent where they could "make themselves at home." Provisions were plenty, as were also the common commodities, but as we were guarded by members of the Potomac army, who had received orders to allow no one to leave camp, we could not enjoy any liberty. Quarrels between our men and the guards were frequent on this account, but the guards could not be blamed for it, as they had to obey orders, much as they perhaps disliked it. Finally we were allowed to leave camp in day time, but not in the night. In the evening we saw, a great distance off, rockets go up, and believed them to be signals of the army that seemed to be several day's marches from us.

*May 15.* We had nothing to do and no news, as we did not get to those that could tell us any. We were in camp all day.

*May 16.* We remained in camp, and received no news. Our thoughts turned to the events of the past year, when to-day a year ago we buried our



brave comrades after the bloody battle of Resaca, and went after the retreating enemy in the evening. We heard that our army would perhaps arrive by to-morrow, and we were glad to get to our regiments every one being tired of the place and situation.

*May 17.* As the day was very hot and no shade trees in camp, we had to remain in our tents the whole day, where most of us wrote letters. The 15th army corps camped four miles from here, but the other corps were further back, but were all expected here to-morrow. There was a rumor that we would have to march to Baltimore, but this was to be but little believed.

*May 18.* Gen. SLOCUM, commander of the left wing of SHERMAN'S army, arrived at Alexandria with staff—the army being but a few miles from the city. As part of the army had taken a nearer route to Washington, but part of right wing was to pass through Alexandria. The morning was very hot, but in the afternoon a steady rain filled our tents several inches, compelling us to bail the water out with tin cups, and to throw all our things up in a heap. We had to sleep on the wet ground, but on right and left matters were still worse, and although the men deepened the ditches, yet the water increased so fast that the men were compelled to leave the tents until the rain was past and the tents could be moved. Of course we got but little rest on our soaked ground and wet blankets and clothes.

*May 19.* A large number of our men were sick again and compelled to take medicine. They complained about head-ache, catarrh and stiffness of the limbs, and the pains increased as the hours advanced, so that the surgeons had their hands full to do. I also felt worse, my pain in the breast had increased, compelling me again, much as I dreaded it, to take medicine, that was given me by the Christian Commission. We also received clothes we needed from

the Christian Commission for nothing, as well as victuals. In case any one needed paper, pen or ink, he could go to the commission, where he could get these articles every afternoon.

*May 20.* Many of the convalescents left camp without order or permission to go to their regiments, encamped, as they said, but a few miles distant. The guards could not prevent this escape *en masse*, as our men were determined to leave, whether with or without permission; they met but weak resistance. I received a present from the Christian Commission, consisting of a small bag, containing the following articles: Firstly, a little prayer-book for soldiers; secondly, a very adaptable spool of cotton; thirdly, a needle-cushion with needles, and fourthly, (by no means the latest) a letter of the lady donor, which I read with delight, and learned therefrom that the friend of the soldier and donor lived at Farmington, N. Y. The day was cloudy and rainy, and we expected the order to join our regiments hourly, being dissatisfied with the convalescent camp. The 15th corps reached here at noon and marched through the town. At 5 o'clock all members of the 20th corps received order to pack up and prepare for the march to our respective regiments, but as the marching orders did not come the men gathered and left, without any resistance by the officers, in order to reach their regiments before dark. We had learned the direction from which our division was coming, and after crossing fields and creeks and climbing over fences, we found the wagon train, where we learned the position of the various brigades, and soon after the men of the 129th Illinois had reached the regiment about 7 o'clock P. M. The division camped 4 miles west of Alexandria, on the road leading to the Bull Run battlefield.

*May 21.* The rain continued to pour down in torrents, and prevented our movements. We had the greatest trouble in preparing our meals, got wet

to the skin, and had to remain in the tents until more favorable weather commenced. We received a large mail, the first since we had left Raleigh, and all men in tents somewhat water tight were busy answering the letters, telling their friends that they would be home at latest in July, then to lay aside the armor and pursue the former peaceful vocation. Threats were again uttered against the copperheads, and in the plainest language possible they were told that their doom was sealed and that hereafter they would stand disgraced and covered with infamy in the eyes of every soldier and true union man. Whenever a train had been thrown off the track and soldiers had been killed, the cries for vengeance in the army arose anew, and we vowed, if the choice was left us between the open rebels in the field and the cowardly copperheads at home, the latter would have to answer first for their crimes! It was announced that a grand parade, our last, would take place in the streets of Washington on the 24th of May. Endeavors were made to draw new clothes for occasion, but few of the men took the clothes offered them, not considering it necessary to draw clothes for the short remainder of their time of service.

*May 22.* Those that did not draw new clothes repaired and cleaned their old uniforms, while the others received the new dresses desired. Guns and equipments were polished, and preparations made generally, to appear in a proper condition on the parade. Some said the parade was to take place on the old Bull Run battle field. The weather was very warm during the day, but the night was cool.

*May 23.* The army of the Potomac passed a review in the streets of Washington to-day, and many citizens were there witnessing it and awaiting the parade to-morrow. As inspection had been announced for the afternoon, every stain was removed from our uniforms and guns, as we had to clean everything and show it to the company commander until it was in a

proper condition. The weather was excessively hot to march through the streets of Washington, as did the army of the Potomac, where a cool draft of air could but seldom be felt. We hoped that the morrow would be cooler and better fit for the parade than to-day, as many of our men had not yet recovered entirely and would become worse at the least exertion.

*May 24.* We commenced our march towards Washington at 5 o'clock A. M., where thousands of persons, young and old, of both sexes, anxiously expected the army that had moved through a great portion of the West, fighting their way to the seacoast, that had compelled the rebels to surrender Vicksburg, Savannah, Atlanta and other strongholds, and that had shown to the states of Georgia and the Carolinas the effects of a war they themselves had provoked. We threw our knapsacks and haversacks on piles by companies, so that many could participate who otherwise could not. We left Alexandria to our right and took a nearer route to the Long Bridge that crosses the Potomac at Washington. On the way we passed Fort Richardson and other strong works. The sun became hot and our thirst, the more felt in consequence of pickled pork, almost insufferable, but many springs along our route eased it somewhat. The marching went slow and we rested frequently, as the parade was not to commence before 9 o'clock, and our corps would not be reviewed before 10 o'clock, the 15th and 17th corps being ahead of us. We reached the river at 7 o'clock and had the National Capital in all its glory and grandeur before our eyes. Before we crossed we rested on the former property of Gen. LEE, but a short distance from the palace of this great rebel, where partly hidden by the trees and foliage a flag was waving at half mast. At 9 o'clock a few cannon shots from the neighborhood of the White House informed us of the commencement of the parade, when we crossed over and were most of

us for the first time, in the National Capital. We were received in a most delightful and pleasing manner by little girls and boys, when we approached the White House, where the parade was to commence. They cheered and saluted us and brought us bouquets of flowers and water; several ventured close to our column, gave the men their hands and commenced a conversation. Our feelings were indiscribable and a heart of stone would have been melted by such love of the little ones, of which none of us had seen anything for the last three years of slaughter and murder. We had been received everywhere by treason and treachery and treated disdainfully by all but the negroes. We were compelled to cruelty, in order to compel the rebels to treat us right and as human beings. The little boys and girls wanted to know all about our campaign, where we had been, &c., and surely we could not force these dear little ones away by any harsh words. We saw that their parents were true to the union, or else the children would not have been kind to union soldiers. We halted at the White House that was shrouded in mourning drapery, where we stacked arms, awaiting our turn to "fall in." We had to halt some time, as the second division occupied the street, and the first began to move when we formed. Further ahead and in other parts of the city the music of the bands of the other corps were heard, and also the continual cheering of the lookers on. Finally the signal was given for us to fall in and the parade commenced for us. We had never seen such number of witnesses at any parade, than were in Washington that day. The divisions were about 150 steps apart, so that no interruption in the parade could take place, in case something should happen to impede the progress of a division ahead. Our brigade was the first of our division, and we could see plainly that the cavalry guard had great trouble to keep the spectators in their places and out of our way, as a continual pushing and crowding was

going on, and as everybody wanted "to see something." Hats and pocket handkerchiefs were waved, and a continual cheering saluted the brigades in our front. We were asked for name and number of the regiment, and if friends or acquaintances were among the bystanders, cheers were given by them with a good will. We could not join the cheering, much as we felt like it, but continued to march along steadily. The further we advanced the more numerous the lookers on became, not only the streets were lined, but all windows and even house tops were crowded. Innumerable flags waved from all houses and windows. One large and beautiful flag particularly attracted our attention, waving in a street we had to pass through, and bearing the inscription: "All hail to our Western Heroes," and the names of the various towns captured by them, Vicksburg, Atlanta and Savannah for instance. We were so overcome by this reception that we did not feel the heat of the sun, nor care for the thirst that commenced again. The deepest gratitude filled our hearts for these manifestations on the part of strangers to show their appreciation of our services. Amid continual cheering we proceeded steadily, now and then a bouquet was thrown to us and the officer's horses were decorated with flowers and flags. Near the mansions of high officers the command to shoulder arms was given, and as we passed hats and handkerchiefs and flags waved. At 12 o'clock we came to a point where President JOHNSON, Gens. GRANT, SHERMAN and other high officers had their places in an arbor of flowers and flags. For a quarter of a mile from this point the number of the bystanders was so great that we could scarcely force our way through by company front, but after getting through this crowd the number of spectators gradually decreased. Many of the men were too fatigued to remain in rank, and as the "fun" was mostly over they were allowed to seek a place of rest. The little boys and girls (God bless them!) now

came forward again and handed us water, milk and other beverages that were eagerly drunk with thanks to the dear little ones. About 3 o'clock we reached the end of the city. Many of us did not refuse the glass of ice water or milk, offered us by a fair hand, although we knew that it would do us more harm than good. Nevertheless we appreciated the good intentions of the donors and were filled with a deep sense of gratitude towards the citizens of Washington for this truly enthusiastic reception. We camped for the night four miles from the city, near Fort Lincoln.

*May 25.* In consequence of the parade and ice water of yesterday and the coldness of the night myself and many others were compelled to seek the assistance of the surgeon again, who gave no medicine and ordered us to remain quietly in our tents. Baltimore papers, that were read close to my tent, in speaking of yesterday's parade, stated that although the Potomac army had looked cleaner than SHERMAN'S, yet the slender, sun-burnt and ragged-looking army of SHERMAN had been applauded by the spectators more than the former, and that it had kept a better line and moved more regularly, despite of the heat and the thirst, than the Potomac army. As we had not seen the parade on the 22d, we could not judge for ourselves; but it seemed doubtful than an army but little used up by a march of a few hundred miles, should not be able to beat a tired army that had marched through a greater part of the West and South. The heat was very great, but we had shade trees to protect us from the rays of the sun. There was no duty to do, and those that could not stand idleness commenced to clean up the camping ground. We received some refreshments from the Christian Commission, among them peaches in cans that were very welcome to the sick.

*May 26.* My situation became worse, a continual headache and pain in the breast caused me to sigh



frequently, yet I did not go to the doctor, as the medicine yesterday had done no good. Despite of my appetite I was falling off continually, and it seemed as though I would be thrown on a sick bed for a long while, and would have to suffer for the privations and hardships of the campaigns now happily ended. But I thought as long as I had good appetite my constitution would help itself. The day was rainy, and we were compelled to remain in our tents. The only desire the men now had was to be mustered out of the service, and hours began to seem as long as days, and days as long as months, as we had nothing to do whatever. We did not expect to remain here long at the expense of the government, and that the mustering out would commence as soon as the necessary papers had been made out. An order to prepare the pay rolls caused much joy, as all of us were out of greenbacks that we could have used very well. It was said to our great satisfaction, that we would be mustered out of the U. S. service in Washington, and then sent to the capitals of our respective States, to be paid off there. Many prophesied that they would be home by the 25th of June. As the members of SHERMAN'S army had free access to the White House during certain hours of the day, during which the business of the departments was suspended, some of our men intended to pay a visit there to-morrow. As I felt a great deal better towards evening, it was my intention to commence making out the pay rolls in the morning.

*May 27.* My condition had improved somewhat, and I commenced to make out the pay rolls. For this purpose we used the empty artillery quarters at Fort Lincoln, as the day was rainy and the camp not suited for such work. A number of our men went to Washington immediately after breakfast to see the White House with its ornaments and antiquities; others went to the river with hooks and bait to fish; yet others made improvements in their tents, raised these

with poles so that they could enter and leave without crawling on the ground,—they raised their beds several inches from the ground to avoid the dampness arising therefrom, and to protect their health. When I had completed the pay rolls necessary for the present, my pains in breast and head commenced again, and worse than before, so that I was compelled to go to the regimental surgeon, who gave me medicine. I went to bed, and the exhaustion soon made me fall asleep, until I awoke at 12 o'clock at night, when I felt a great deal easier and better. We received several kinds of fruit from the Sanitary Commission.

*May 28.* My condition was worse to-day than in the night previous, and I had to go to the surgeon again. The medicine I got was effectless on me, and it was impossible for me to attend to making out rolls, that became necessary, the day of mustering out approaching; I could leave my bed with the greatest difficulty only. The weather was hot, and many of the men went to Washington to see the sights.

*May 29.* The work of making out the muster out rolls was commenced, but I could not assist in consequence of the pains, much as I desired to. In the afternoon my condition became better, and I hoped soon to be able to attend to the work again that I had to neglect for several days past. The Sanitary Commission distributed canned fruit and potatoes, as well as shirts, drawers, socks and handkerchiefs. But as these things were not sufficient for every member of the company, each company arranged a raffle, whereby many of the men got things they did not need at all, while others who needed a shirt or a pair of socks did not get them. Many exchanged the articles thus gotten for luxuries women offered for sale in our camp. The officers decided now, to give the articles to those in need of them only, and then, if any were left, to raffle for them. But the majority of the men protested against this, as the men in need of clothes could draw them from the government, but of course

had to pay for them as well as the others, who did not care for a couple of dollars for warm and clean clothes. The officers could not contradict this argument, as every man received the same pay that the others did, and could buy as many clothes as others, if he chose to, and return to the West equally well dressed.

*May 30.* As I felt a great deal better, though somewhat weak yet, I continued to make out the muster out papers. About dusk I became so weak that I had to seek my bed for rest. Being busy thus, I learned nothing about the rumors or news. The day was clear and warm, the night cool.

*May 31.* We continued our work on the papers, as we could not be discharged until these were made out. We received orders to have the papers ready by to-morrow, but as this was an impossibility with every company of the regiment, we paid little attention to the order. All trains that left Washington were crowded with discharged soldiers on their way home. The cheering of these men, as they passed with lightning speed the neighboring camps, could be heard distinctly by us, though we were quite a distance from the railroad; the cheering made a deep impression on our men. They could scarcely await the time when the "iron horse" would take them also to their homes, but the prospects for this event were rather poor for several days to come yet. It was no longer to be doubted that we would not be paid off in Washington, as all returning troops were sent to their respective States without pay, and only such soldiers, in possession of their descriptive rolls, and lying sick in the hospitals at Washington or elsewhere, were paid off and sent to the station nearest their homes. As the Illinois troops were sent to Chicago or Springfield to be paid off, the question, to which one of these two towns we would be sent to, created lively discussions. All the men, except those from Rock Island county, preferred Springfield, being the nearest place to their homes. The weather was very warm.

*June 1, 1865.* As our papers had to be ready by the 3d at farthest, we commenced to work on them early and with a good will for the whole day. Gen. SHERMAN issued his farewell order to his troops to-day, thanking them for their love for the union, for their fidelity to him, for enduring so bravely the privations and hardships, for their bravery in the fights, &c. He desired earnestly that no soldier would disgrace his hard earned good name by unlawful and degrading actions when at home, but that he would resume his peaceful vocation in life, to support the country in every respect, as he had assisted to suppress the rebellion, and thereby gain honor at home as he had gained laurels on the battle field. He reminded his men not to spend their hard earned savings for luxuries, but that they could appear with their old blouses and torn shirts, that had covered them on many a bloody battle field, before every good union man and woman, and would be received with higher honors than if dressed in fine and costly clothes, that were not becoming a soldier. For this well meant and timely order we gave three hearty cheers for our estimable and beloved general, and we vowed, that should necessity again occur we would again shoulder our arm, and fight under BILLY SHERMAN, and under no other general.

*June 2.* The mustering out papers, or discharge lists were completed, and it became evident that we would be mustered out of the service day after to-morrow. No news were received.

*June 3.* As the muster out rolls had not been examined yet, it was impossible for us to be mustered out to-morrow. Thousands of soldiers left Washington daily, and every one desired his turn to come next. We had no duty to do, and our men were not accustomed to remain idling about the camps; they were willing to change their guns for the mechanic's tools and the plows, and quit "soldiering." Our brigade headquarter was discontinued, and the staff

officers sent to their various regiments. The day was very warm again, but the night was unusually cool.

*June 4.* It was Sunday and no work whatever was to be done. The 102d Illinois regiment of our brigade was mustered out to-day, and expected to get transportation to Chicago day after to-morrow. The day was very warm.

*June 5.* A very tiresome day, as I had nothing more to do. The day was very hot. Gen. WARD, commander of our division, intended to take leave in an address this evening, but as he had imbibed too much "strong drink" words as well as sense were wanting or but half understood, and could not properly be called a farewell address. The listeners interrupted him several times, compelling him to hush, shook hands and turned their backs on him laughing; they were flooded by blessings or curses, or both at the same time. Brig. Gen. HARRISON and Col. DOHN of the 79th Ohio also made short speeches, dwelt on the privations, hardships and fights, and were interrupted frequently by stormy applause. The 102d Illinois prepared to go to Washington in the morning to get transportation to Chicago.

*June 6.* Our comrades of the 102d Illinois commenced their march to Washington early, and most of us were asleep and were awakened by the "good byes" of our fellow soldiers. Our pay rolls were examined to-day, and the officers supposed that we would be mustered out day after to-morrow. The 105th Illinois was mustered out to-day, and intended to leave for the west to-morrow. The weather was cool.

*June 7.* At 2 o'clock P. M. our regiment was mustered out of the United States service by Capt. BEECHER, mustering officer of our division, after a service of 2 years and 9 months (lacking one day,) having entered the service on the 8th of September, 1862. All were glad that the long hoped for hour had come,

when we would become free citizens again. Preparations were made immediately for our departure for our homes. Col. CASE sought for and received transportation for the morrow. All the men who had to serve a year or more longer, or who were but recruits, were taken away to serve out their time in some regiment of their choice. Our men joined the 16th Illinois, at the time in Kentucky, and where they were sent shortly after our departure from Washington. At 5 o'clock we received order to be ready to march to Washington at 6 o'clock the next morning. Most of us had been deceived in our expectations, for we got transportation to Chicago instead of to Springfield, Ill., the nearest place to our homes. But as most of us had never seen Chicago, and as we would find those regiments of our brigade there that had left us in the last few days, (one of which left to-day) we consoled ourselves with such thoughts. Most of us were in a good humor and could scarcely await the dawn of the next morning that would see us on our way to the West; nevertheless a depressed feeling prevailed somewhat, in consequence of the order that we would carry our arms along quite unnecessarily, for which we had no further use, and which we could have left in Washington just as well. It is true these arms had been our true and constant companions on all our marches, in all our fights, had frightened the rebel frequently and decimated their ranks often enough, but we could see no propriety in taking the arms to Chicago. The weather was pleasantly cool, but the night frosty.

*June 8.* We left camp at 6 o'clock, bidding our companions of the 79th Ohio and 70th Indiana, (the only regiments now left of our brigade, and that had to remain for several days yet,) an affectionate farewell. We were provided with provisions for our trip, but left our pans, kettles and other things which we could do without, moving to the Baltimore railroad depot, where we arrived at about 8 o'clock A.

M. Our regiment was not alone here, but the whole neighborhood of the depot was crowded with troops, that had been left on yesterday and during the night in consequence of the insufficient means of transportation. Other regiments were arriving continually, so that we began to doubt whether we would be able to get transportation or not. The trains were coupled almost continually, and almost hourly empty trains arrived from Baltimore, were filled with troops, and left amid the cheering of those that were left awaiting their turn. We had been waiting several hours in the hot sun, when we were told that we would leave in the afternoon; as the hour was not fixed, we could not leave the depot for a great distance. Our time while waiting was pleasantly occupied with conversation with the women and girls that offered refreshments to the boys, but not, as on the 24th or May, free, but as high prices as possible, seemingly to take the last picayune out of our pockets, if one was left. As most of the men were entirely out of money, they had to content themselves with chatting and joking with the females, and trying all sorts of ways to "confiscate" in a way unknown to the owner. The ire of the Washington peddlers was aroused frequently when they found a hand in their baskets, while some of the boys entertained them interestingly, and words not at all becoming the "delicate sex" were showered on the men, who answered the curses and epithets with roars of laughter. Several of these women were arrested by the provost guard for giving strong drink to the men, contrary to orders. But few of the men got anything of the luxuries offered by the women, and most of them had to be satisfied with a watery mouth. At 3 o'clock the train began to move amid the waving of hats and handkerchiefs on the part of the citizens and soldiers. As all the troops that had left before us were in freight cars, in which benches had been placed for the men,



uncomfortable as the seats were, it did not lessen our joy, knowing that the whole United States did not contain a sufficient number of passenger wagons to transport such numbers of troops in so short a time to the various parts of the country. We were satisfied with being under shelter, and as each farm-house we passed was decorated with flags and their owners waving hats and handkerchiefs our good humor remained. In all towns along the road we were received with enthusiasm. When we reached Baltimore at 6 o'clock P. M., we were well and friendly received, but not with such manifestations of love as at Washington. We were compelled to march through part of the city to reach the Harrisburgh depot, where we arrived after dark. We got into the wagons, but the departure was delayed for some reason, and most of us went to sleep. I did not wake until the train stopped next morning at York, Pa.

*June 9.* The reception in York was a pleasant one, ladies and gentlemen welcomed us, but to make the moment a more pleasant one, greenbacks were necessary, an article not in our possession. We had not taken a regular meal since we had left camp yesterday morning, and here we had neither the time nor the utensils to prepare a breakfast, and could not satisfy the cravings of our stomachs with anything else than crackers and pork, the latter somewhat raw. Women came again and offered us meat, coffee and other victuals, but as we were out of money they did but a small business, and our watery mouths were not satisfied. We reached Harrisburgh, Pa., at 7 o'clock, remained a short while, and then went arrow-like through a mountainous though thickly settled country. The inhabitants of every hamlet and town had gathered in the yard and at the depots, and saluted us by waving flags and handkerchiefs and by cheers. About dark we reached Altoona, and remained here until 10 o'clock

P. M. We got time here to prepare supper, though but few kettles and pots were on hand, and much less wood for the fire; nevertheless, every one got at least a cup of warm coffee. It had been published in the Washington papers, and we had relied on this statement, that the Christian Commission would have victuals in readiness wherever we stopped, but thus far we had been grossly deceived. After 10 o'clock the train got in motion again and sped towards Pittsburg, stopping but a few times.

*June 10.* At 6 o'clock A. M. we arrived at Pittsburg, where we were well received. Immediately after our arrival we were told that a table had been set at the City Hall, but before we went there we took possession of another train, leaving our baggage and guns there under guard, and then passed through the principal part of the city to City Hall. Here we got a breakfast prepared by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and such a one as only hungry men as we were could enjoy and appreciate. We could see that the meal had been prepared by true union men for union soldiers, though we knew that it would be the last meal we would get before reaching Chicago, where, in our own native state, we had a right to expect at least as good a reception and as good a meal. No one doubted this. After breakfast we returned to our train, and soon after steamed towards the border of Pennsylvania. The train passed through a great part of the city in slow motion, and from every house cheers and flags and hats and handkerchiefs saluted us, bidding us welcome and good-bye. To the honor of Pittsburg be it said that we were treated like its own sons, and the citizens proved that they were true union men and humane to the union soldiers. The scholars were taken to the road by their teachers, and hearty cheers saluted us as we passed these crowds of little union children, whose hurrahs for SHERMAN, s army and for the union soldiers, made a lasting impression on our

minds. May they never leave the cause of our free, glorious country! As the train moved slowly we had a good chance to take a close view at these manifestations of joy and enthusiasm, but after we had crossed the Alleghany river the train moved faster for several hours along the shores of "the beautiful river," the Ohio. At 10½ o'clock we crossed the border of Pennsylvania and entered Ohio; here also along our road the manifestations of patriotism were equally enthusiastic as in Pennsylvania. We only stopped when the water and coals had given out, and passed through a country whose beauty could have been excelled only by Paradise. Here and there we saw the farmer and his family busy in the gardens, while the waving fields of rye and wheat were visible in every direction. We here saw the peaceable husbandman at work amid his gilding grain, while but a few months ago we had seen nothing but the effects of war and desolation in the Southern states. We reached the small but handsome town of Mansfield about 6 o'clock p. m., where we stopped a short while, and then moved on to Crestline, Ohio, where we intended to stop for a longer time. We got to Crestline half an hour later. The inhabitants of Forest City must have been notified of our arrival, as we had not expected what happened here, owing to the lateness of the hour. (Forest City was the name of the next town we reached after leaving Crestline.) Here a large number of beautiful young ladies had been awaiting our arrival for some time, everyone of them holding a bouquet of flowers in her hand, to which was attached a card or slip of paper, containing the name of the donor and some patriotic words, expressing the feelings of the young lady towards the union soldiers. They also gave expression to their feelings in words that made us feel happy, coming as they did from such beautiful lips and such true and faithful union hearts. No one can appreciate such welcome but he that returns

from battle fields, and after suffering hardships and privations in every shape and form, grim death staring in his face continually, and is welcomed on his return in such a manner. It was hard for us to leave this place of true union ladies, but the shrill whistle of the locomotive compelled us to mount the cars, and all we could do was to cheer the lovely donors, whose memory will ever remain fresh in our minds. May God bless them for what they did for the 129th Illinois regiment on the 10th of June 1865. At the next town the inhabitants had also gathered at the depot, particularly the fair ladies, who came with refreshments for the sick. Here we stopped but a few minutes, and the ladies distributed their presents among those standing nearest to them. Our train went ahead rapidly, but we were kept all awake by the unevenness of the road, as it was dangerous to sleep on the benches. About midnight we crossed from Ohio into Indiana, passed Fort Wayne and Plymouth at night, and when the sun arose we were but 80 miles from Chicago, the place of our destination.

*June 11.* Every hour brought us nearer to our native State and every body was speaking about the enthusiasm with which we would be received in Chicago. Most of the men cared less for the enthusiasm and for the cheers, of which they had heard enough for the last few days, than for a good substantial breakfast, of which we were certain on our arrival at Chicago, and of which we all stood in need in consequence of our inability to prepare even a cup of coffee. We had crossed the small strip of Indiana, which the Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad runs, and were now on the level, wide and green prairies of Illinois, moving along as fast as an arrow. The country became lovelier and more beautiful as we advanced, our hearts beat expectantly, while our eyes were straining to see the church steeples of Chicago in the distance. Soon our eyes were satisfied and in a few

minutes the city with all its splendor and wealth was in full view. At 10½ o'clock we left the cars, taking knapsacks and guns along, formed and stacked arms to await what the future had in store for us and where we were to camp. Before Col. CASE had found this out several hours had passed, and we were compelled to remain near the depot, on the street, exposed to the rays of a burning sun, and it seemed as though our expectations would not be verified. For so far not one handkerchief, flag or hat was seen saluting us, and bidding us welcome in our native State, so that it seemed as though we ought even to ask permission to enter the city. We resumed our march, but not to beefsteak but to Camp Fry, three miles from Chicago. The loss of the breakfast, expected with certainty, caused a good deal of excitement among the men, and many swore not to leave the spot before having prepared a breakfast. The continual coaxing and ordering of the officers, however, forced them to enter the ranks and come along. But what a different reception was this from that at Pittsburg! We were wrong in expecting something from Chicago, what other and strange towns had done for us. Not a single cheer greeted us as we passed through the streets, and but seldom a handkerchief was waved, but so faintly that it was apparent the owner had to force himself to this external show of patriotism. Bouquets were not offered us, nay, not even a drink of water. If we had been treated the same way by the citizens of Ohio and Pennsylvania, the insult of the Chicagonians would have been felt less, but as we marched to Camp Fry, hungry and thirsty, many vowed to pay the citizens back in the same way. With sad and angry hearts we reached Camp Fry, where we were received by our old companions of the 102d and 105th Illinois with hearty and enthusiastic cheers, which we answered the same way. We stacked arms and threw down our knapsacks, and were asked by our comrades about our re-

ception in Chicago. We related everything that had transpired on our way from Washington, and what we had rightfully expected from Chicago, and how we had been received. The men of the 102d Illinois assured us that they had been treated the same way, but those of the 105th Illinois (this regiment had been organized near the city) had not only been treated the same way, but stated that the police had ordered the men off the pavement, it having been laid for citizens only, and not for the soldiers! The excitement of these two regiments was great and our words only inflamed them the more; the city was to be punished for this coldness towards the men that had fought the battles of the country, and that had given its vote for McCLELLAND, and showed too plainly that it hated the soldiers of the Union. The men went to the barracks to think about the best mode of punishing the citizens. We had to wait in Camp Fry until 2 o'clock p. m., until the barracks had been cleared for us, but which we had to clear off the filth and dirt, before we could take possession. We had scarcely moved in our quarters when a noise was heard of breaking windows and doors. We hurried to the scene and saw a great crowd of citizens and soldiers collected around the saloon near the camp, taking freely of the saloon keeper's liquors without paying for them. We saw immediately that the whole fuss was an act of revenge, but could not just at the moment find out the immediate cause. All doors of the saloon had been broken open, empty wine bottles came flying through the windows and were sent back by the outsiders, the barrels were taken out of the cellar, the heads knocked in and the wine, beer or whisky poured out on the ground, or filled in canteens. Boys and girls that had been attracted by the noise, were seen busy filling some vessel with the contents of the barrel, to drink or hurry off with it; many had imbibed too much already and were tumbling about regardless of the direction. Curses upon curses were heaped on



the citizens and the police of Chicago—more drinks were taken, whereby the men became the more incensed. Citizens that had come out in the horse-cars, looked on in surprise at the scene, were surrounded by soldiers who told them in no mild tone that they (the citizens) were the cause of this scene. The citizens professed their innocence and laid the blame on the Christian Commission, whose duty it was to give us a proper reception and provisions, the citizens having given them money for this purpose. We now learned the immediate cause of the quarrel. The officer commanding in Chicago, Gen. SWEET, whom we knew, from Gallatin, Tenn., had issued an order, prohibiting the saloon keepers to give any spirituous liquors to the soldiers. This was a difficult matter to do for the keeper of the house near our camp, as he sold his liquors to the citizens and had to refuse them to soldiers, although they asked him for it. He had called several policemen to protect him, whereby the rage of the soldiers was increased. The saloon keeper could not stand much from the soldiers, and considered himself superior to them. He lost his temper in consequence of the frequent begging for a drink, and unluckily for him, he gave vent to his political ideas, declaring that he would not have anything to do with such traitors as SHERMAN or his men. This was too much for our boys, some of them tried to jump over the counter to take hold of the bar-keeper, but were prevented by the policemen and maltreated. This noise attracted other soldiers who took the part of their comrades, the policemen got thrashed and carried away senselessly, while the saloon keeper and his assistants ran away through a back door. The noise continued to attract more soldiers, and the work of demolishing commenced. This disgraceful scene continued until night, nobody interfered, as loss of life would have been the consequence, and words did no good. Some of the men were not satisfied yet and offered themselves as leaders to go



to the city to take revenge; but no one went, though it was not considered a crime to do so. Several companies of armed soldiers had been moved to the city from another camp, as an attack was expected by the frightened Chicagonians.

*June 12.* A good many got up with a heavy head, and those that had laid in a supply of liquor, did not get over their spree for several days. The regiment delivered up the guns and equipments, and we were awaiting our pay in order to turn our back to this by no means agreeable place. A number of men went to the city to the Sanitary Fair building, where every soldier had free admission. We were assured there that no one had known anything about the arrival of the regiment, and that no preparations for the reception could therefore have been made; and as the fair was occupying every one, it was impossible to pay attention to anything else. But all these subterfuges could not appease the anger of the men. Maj. Gen. HOOKER visited our camp this afternoon, and was received with tremendous cheers by all troops, especially those that had served under him in the 20th corps on the march from Chattanooga to Atlanta. He was recognized immediately and touched by the reception he received in camp, so that it was some time before he could talk and express his thanks for the attachment and bravery of our boys, shaking hands with every one who came forward to do so. The weather was cool and pleasant.

*June 13.* The day was cloudy, and interspersed by showers of rain. Gen. SHERIDAN arrived in town where several shots apprised us of his arrival. Gov. OGLESBY appeared in camp and made a speech this afternoon. He begged the men to forget their hatred against Chicago, and to become peaceable citizens. A Chicagonian spoke after the governor, endeavoring to defend the city in regard to our "noble reception," that no one had known anything about the arrival of any Illinois troops. But when

the soldiers understood what the Chicagonian was after, cries arose and the speaker had to retire amid hisses and groans, and with the assurance that he did not cure the wound the insulting reception had made. Whether the Chicagonians really did not know the arrival of Illinois troops, I will not say; but certain it is, that every newspaper in the country published the fact that the Illinois troops would be sent to Chicago or Springfield, and remain in camp there until paid off and returning to their homes. It seems queer that everybody else should know this fact but the Chicagonians. The soldiers could not be convinced of the contrary, but believed rightly that it was lack of patriotism and Union feeling not to give the soldier, who had fought the battles of his country, a proper reception. Gen. SHERMAN, who was present in Chicago, made a speech in the Sanitary Fair building, and was loudly applauded, especially by the soldiers.

*June 14.* The 102d Illinois regiment, our companions on the promenade through Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia, was paid off to-day, and most of the members of this regiment left immediately a city so filled with "patriots." Most of our men were in town all day, where the 96th Illinois had arrived. This regiment was received somewhat better than those who had arrived here before. Nevertheless, the inspiring, soul-stirring, warm-hearted enthusiasm that leaves a lasting impression on the returning soldier's heart, which we found in Pennsylvania and Ohio, was wanting. The regiment received a meal from the Christian Commission, was shown the Sanitary Fair building, and then marched to the camp. We expected to be paid off day after to-morrow. The day was rainy.

*June 15.* Part of the 105th Illinois regiment was paid off and went home. One of the men, who had not remained with his comrades and had perhaps imbibed too much "spirit," was found dead at the

Rock Island depot, and robbed of his money. It became very unsafe for the soldiers to venture singly on the streets; they were robbed of their money in daytime and at night, and were frequently found insensible in the street. When walking, some "friend" would come to them, advise them not to take "that dangerous street," or invite them into a beer cellar where strong drink was drugged, and soon made them insensible. The troops were paid off very slow, as the paymaster in camp paid but two and three companies a day, and we were compelled to remain in a city whose mere name made us sick and of which we were tired. A scene occurred that seemed to prolong our stay. The paymaster was driven out of camp by troops that he had paid off in money the Chicago merchants refused to receive. It was said that he had exchanged the money he had received to pay off the troops with for torn and mutilated bills, or for bills of broken banks, putting the premium thus made in his own pocket. This was merely a supposition, but founded on the fact that we had never before been paid off in mutilated bills or uncurrent money, and we could not believe that the paymaster had received such money to pay the soldiers with. He was ordered out of camp, and not to return, except with better money. Several men of our regiment who had the means went home for several days; relatives of others who had found out our whereabouts came on a visit to our camp. The weather was rainy.

*June 16.* We signed the pay rolls, hoping that payment would follow to-morrow. The balance of the 105th Illinois was paid off, not in camp, but in town. The fuss in camp had brought other and good money and the mutilated bills had disappeared; the Chicago merchants no longer refused to take our money, but on the contrary tried all means to get

as much of it as possible. The 82d Illinois, or HECKER-regiment, arrived in the city to-day, and was well received.

*June 17.* Company A of our regiment was paid off and most of the members went off for home immediately. Other regiments continued to arrive daily to be paid off, and were well received and fed in the Sanitary Fair building, and then quartered in Camp DOUGLAS or FRY. The Chicagonians tried to make amends for their past sins, and were defended warmly by some of the troops that had lately arrived. Speeches were made continually and the troops lauded for their bravery; nevertheless all agreed that the reception was not as warm and glorious as those in Pennsylvania and Ohio. All those troops that had been here for several days desired their money, to get away from Chicago and to get home to forget that place entirely. The day was rainy.

*June 18.* It was Sunday and we were compelled to remain another day for our pay. To-morrow, however, if it suited Mr. paymaster, was our turn, we made preparations to leave as soon as possible after the reception of the pay. We had been to the stores, bought suits of clothes ready or made, to get them as soon as we were paid off. Everybody was in good humor in expectation of the money and an early return home. Many of us from Livingston county were thinking about the beloved wife or children or parents, whom we had left three years ago, not knowing whether we would ever see them alive again. Many of us intended to arrive home unexpectedly, in case some spy had not betrayed our presence in Chicago. For the last time, but in the best humor, we took possession of our hard beds, consisting of rough boards, and slept as soundly and sweetly as a prince in down.

*June 19.* Two companies, our company D and C,

were paid off and received their discharges. We went to the city, carrying our "duds" along, in the forenoon. As soon as we had received our pay we went to the depot, got tickets for Springfield, and at 7 o'clock P. M. we left that deplorable town called Chicago. About midnight we reached Pontiac the place where we had camped about 2 years and 9 months ago, and where we got our first lessons in handling arms. What may have been the feelings of the mother, father, wife or daughter, that awaited at this late hour our coming at the depot, and when company C moved from the cars, found the beloved husband son or father missing! The war, the bloody war had left its traces everywhere—the wife had become a widow, the daughter an orphan, the fond parent had lost their only boy! They were sleeping quietly beneath the silent sod on the battlefields in the South or along the wayside of our route from Chattanooga to Raleigh! They had fallen as victims of a conquered foe, or had fallen victims of privations and hardships! They slept the sleep that knows no waking, they had fought and died for the country, for our glorious republic! May they rest in peace!

*June 20.* We reached Springfield at 5½ o'clock A. M., left our cars and marched to the depot where we bought tickets to Jacksonville and where we got a breakfast. We left the state capital at 7, and arrived at Jacksonville in the early part of the forenoon. Here our journey by rail had an end, although we were 16 miles from Winchester and more than 20 miles to Glasgow, where most of the men of our company were at home, and wished to get there to-day yet. The few men belonging to Manchester continued their journey by railroad, while the others got vehicles for Winchester, whereby our "pile" was reduced by a couple of dollars. The teamsters of Jacksonville wanted pay, and as "returning sol-

diers" were good chickens to pluck, we had to pay accordingly. But we did not care for a couple of dollars, if only we got home in a hurry. We saw now that our relatives were not aware of our presence, or else they would most assuredly have met us at Jacksonville with wagons, and we were glad of this as we could surprise our friends the more by our sudden and unexpected appearance. After we had paid the teamsters in advance (they did not seem to place much confidence in us and were as savage after money as a tiger after blood) we left Jacksonville and proceeded on our way to Winchester as fast as the horses could pull us. We made rapid progress through the country all a-bloom with corn and wheat fields, and after a ride of three hours our eyes beheld our native town, where our company had been organized and where we had pressed the hands of friendship for the last time, years ago. A short while afterwards our teams halted at the court house of the surprised town, and here we disbanded, those in Winchester seeking their homestead, others living in the neighborhood, went home on the "same old road," to their peaceful firesides to tell their relations, "God has protected me from the enemy's bullets and has given me back to you!"

As soon as the remainder of the regiment had received pay, it left Chicago. Company II, that left Winchester at the same time we did, reached home on the 21st of June. The number of men of each company of our regiment had been reduced a good deal. Many had returned to their homes disabled or crippled, others had been compelled by sickness to return home. Many of the members of the 129th Illinois Regiment never returned home, but died in the service, and lie buried on the battlefield, or along the route of Sherman's grand march through the rebel states—they repose quietly, and may their memory fill us anew with love of freedom, love of Union, its

institutions, its patriotic men and women! May the nation ever be able to boast of such sons as shouldered the musket voluntarily in the eventful years of 1861 and 1865!

FINIS.















