

E 475  
E 2

E 475

.53

.D73

Copy 1

.I

f

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 013 702 232 1

Hollinger  
pH 8.5  
Mill Run F3-1955

E 475

.53

.D73

Copy 1

SANITARY COMMISSION,

No. 71.

---

# REPORT

ON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE

SANITARY COMMISSION

DURING AND AFTER THE

BATTLES AT GETTYSBURG,

JULY 1st, 2d and 3d, 1863.

---

NEW YORK:

WM. C. BRYANT & Co., PRINTERS, 41 NASSAU STREET, CORNER OF LIBERTY.

1863.



# REPORT.

---

F. LAW OLMSTEAD, Esq.,

*General Secretary, Sanitary Commission :*

SIR,—When the Army of the Potomac broke camp at Falmouth, to commence the campaign which terminated in the battle of Gettysburg, the operations of the Commission in connection with this army again assumed a most active and laborious character. The evacuation of Aquia, necessitated the withdrawal of its large stock of stores, accumulated at that place and at Falmouth ; and the instantaneous removal of the thousands of sick and wounded from the Corps Hospital at Potomac Creek, called for an unusual amount of labor from its Relief Corps.

I have already reported, in a communication to the Executive Committee, dated June 17, that all our stores had been safely removed to this city from Aquia, by means of our transport the steamer *Elizabeth*, and that we had furnished substantial food to over 8,000 sick and wounded soldiers, at Lodge No. 5 of the Commission, situated at Sixth Street Wharf, where all of the transports brought the inmates of the Corps Hospitals on their way to the General Hospitals of this District. This work of transportation began Saturday, June 13, and continued unceasingly until Monday night, the 15. Coffee, bread, hot beef soup, lemonade, were provided in quantities to meet the demands of all, and on the arrival of the boats, each invalid was questioned as to his wants, and his wishes complied with. The continuous labor of these two days severely taxed the strength of those engaged in it.

While a portion of our force was thus occupied in removing

the stores, and another portion in dispensing refreshments to the arriving thousands, a third party was engaged in following the marching columns, ready to lend assistance whenever it might be needed.

The short halt made by the army in the vicinity of Fairfax Court House permitted us to accumulate stores at that point. When the march was again resumed, our wagons with a replenished stock, continued to follow in the rear of the column.

Dr. Alex. McDonald, who was temporarily in charge of our station at Aquia, as soon as he had reported the removal of our stores from that point, rejoined the Corps in the field. I quote from his report a résumé of our operations with the army, until it crossed the Potomac at Edwards' Ferry.

"On Monday, the 22d inst. (June), two wagons loaded with hospital stores, in care of Messrs. Bush and Scandlin, and accompanied by Mr. Bellows, were sent to Fairfax Court House; on Tuesday another load accompanied by Messrs. Hoag, Paige, Holbrook and myself, proceeded to the same point, arriving at 4 P. M., and on Wednesday, a mule train with forage was sent in charge of Mr. Clampitt.

"Our intention was to leave one wagon with relief agent and storekeeper at Fairfax, to send a similar force to Centreville and Thoroughfare Gap, and another to Gunn Springs and Aldie; but on arriving at Fairfax we were advised by Genl. Sedgwick to remain where we then were, as the roads were not safe without an escort. Acting on this advice, we remained at Fairfax, issuing stores to the hospitals of the Sixth and Cavalry Corps, which were much in need of such supplies as we then had.

"Found the Cavalry Hospital located on a slightly elevated hill, well shaded, with good water, though not in large quantity, well drained, clean, raised beds, and the men in a very comfortable condition; but few severe cases; camp was well policed and neatly laid out; surgeons active and efficient; good nurses; clean, well ventilated tents; everything in good order, but in want of supplies.

"The hospital of the Sixth Corps was established on a new plan—the men being kept in the ambulances, ready for immediate transportation. This plan was still an experiment, and

had not been fully tested, but so far as one could judge from observation and the experience and statements of surgeons in charge, should deem it a good one and well worthy a more extended trial. Ambulances were well parked on a gently sloping piece of ground, kept in good order, and the men seemed to be very comfortably situated, except that they needed more blankets.

“We supplied each of these and some of the regimental hospitals from our stock, and at a time when there were no other means of their obtaining the much needed articles. The issues at Fairfax were to such an extent as to enable us to pack nearly all the remaining stock in two wagons and send one nearly empty with the mule train to Washington to be reloaded.

“Thursday morning visited Headquarters, and was there advised to send empty wagons and mules to Washington, to start with loaded wagons and follow in the train of the Reserve Artillery. \* \* \* Moved with train and camped at night on top of a hill this side of Edwards’ Ferry, placed a guard over our stores and horses, and laid down to rest, most of us having been on the road thirty-one hours without food or sleep, except such as we could catch during the halts.

“Saturday, moved on to Poolesville, where we arrived at 10 A. M. This point having been designated as a good one for an issue-station, a room was engaged, and before the wagons were unloaded two requisitions came in, the surgeons being very glad to get something for their men. All stores in the town were closed by order of the General Commanding, and the Commission was the only source from which they could obtain anything.”

For the purpose of keeping our stock up, another wagon load was sent up from Washington Friday afternoon, to intercept our train at Poolesville, Dr. McDonald having informed us from Fairfax that he should make that point. This wagon succeeded in getting through safely, although the road was very insecure, a long Government train being seized a few hours after our wagon had passed a certain point in the road by a body of Stuart’s cavalry. It reached Poolesville, accompanied by Major Bush and Mr. Clampitt, Saturday afternoon. One wagon was then returned to Washington for repairs. Sunday

morning the army and trains moving on rapidly, our stores were again packed, and the wagons proceeded together to Frederick, arriving there the same evening.

It will be remembered that just previous to this time, before our forces had crossed the Potomac, the enemy had attacked and routed Gen. Milroy's command at Winchester, and the forces at Harper's Ferry and vicinity had been withdrawn into the entrenchments on Maryland Heights, where they were in some respects beleaguered.

"On the 18th of June," writes Dr. L. H. Steiner, our Chief Inspector with the Army of the Potomac, "I received a telegram from Dr. C. F. H. Campbell, Surg. U. S. Vols., Med. Director, Gen. Kelly's command, stating that he needed 'lint, stimulants, and bandages.' This telegram was sent in answer to an inquiry made by me, whether I could aid him. Securing the use of a wagon and mule team from Alfred F. Brengle, of Frederick, I dispatched, June 19, quite a large quantity of brandy, sherry, whiskey, chocolate, condensed milk, tea, lint, and bandages, to Maryland Heights. James Gall, Jr., relief agent, accompanied the stores, and Mr. Brengle drove the team. They reached their destination safely. Mr. Gall remained on the Heights with his stores. Mr. Brengle was seized by some of the enemy's cavalry on his return, his team and wagons were confiscated, and himself seized as a prisoner, and sent to Richmond. He still remains a prisoner."

The menacing attitude of the enemy, pointing toward another invasion of Maryland, and possibly of Pennsylvania, necessitated a rapid concentration of an opposing force in its front. The President called for 100,000 militia for this purpose. The first troops under this call left New York on the 17th June. In anticipation of the accumulation of a large body of troops in the neighborhood of Harrisburg, I dispatched, on the 17th, Dr. Wm. F. Swalm, Inspector of the Sanitary Commission, with Mr. Isaac Harris, Relief Agent, to that point. They arrived at Harrisburg before any troops, and made diligent preparation to lend such assistance as might be required. They remained on the ground till the enemy had recrossed the Potomac into Virginia, and the militia had been recalled to their several States. They advanced with our advancing columns to Carlisle,



Shippensburg, Chambersburg, and Boonsborough, visiting camps and hospitals, and pushing forward such extra governmental supplies as were found wanting. The accompanying reports exhibit the activity, and the relief afforded by Dr. Swalm and Mr. Harris to the hurriedly constructed hospital organizations of the militia forces.

The main body of the enemy having crossed the Potomac near Williamsport, about the 27th of the month, the design and direction of the movement began to be apparent. Our own army was at this time in the vicinity of Frederick city, Md., and was moving northward, as rapidly as possible, to meet the equally rapid advance of the opposing forces.

Our Chief Inspector, Dr. Lewis H. Steiner, was at Frederick. Dr. Alex. McDonald had joined him. The wagons of the Commission, which had followed in the train of the army, had reached Frederick and reported to Dr. Steiner. It was still doubtful where the collision between the opposing forces would take place. We were prepared to do our work in the front and in the rear, but the emergency might arise in an unexpected point, and we wished to be prepared.

A demonstration of the enemy upon the Northern Central Railroad (Baltimore and Harrisburg), determined me to send out a relief agent in that direction. Accordingly, Mr. James Gall, who had returned from Maryland Heights, was, on the 27th June, ordered to proceed along the line of that road, to push forward in whatever direction he should learn that a conflict was impending, to acquaint himself with the position of affairs, and to keep the Central office informed of the necessity of forwarding supplies and agents.

Mr. Gall was enabled to proceed only to Parkton by rail, from thence he walked to York, a distance of twenty-eight miles. Upon entering the town, he found it, to his surprise, in possession of the enemy. The following observations, made by Mr. Gall, upon the condition and appearance of the soldiers composing the division of the rebel troops occupying York, I quote from his report:

“ Believing that a battle would take place at or near York, I determined—as there was no other means of getting there—to push forward on foot. I started from Parkton at nine o'clock

on Sunday morning, and reached York at four o'clock in the afternoon, and found, to my surprise and regret, that the city was already in the possession of rebel troops. The force occupying York was Gen. Early's division of Ewell's corps, consisting of five brigades of infantry, three batteries of artillery, and part of two regiments of cavalry—in all about 9,000 men and 18 pieces of artillery. Gordon's brigade, accompanied by a battery of artillery, and part of a regiment of cavalry, passed through the city, and pushed on in the direction of Wrightsville. Post's brigade, composed chiefly of North Carolina men, was quartered near the barracks, and did guard duty near the city. Two batteries of artillery were parked in a field called the 'Fair Grounds.' The other three brigades were camped outside the city, and commanding the various roads leading to it.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ On entering the town General Early made a levy upon the citizens, promising, in the event of its being complied with promptly, to spare all private property in the city; otherwise he would allow his men to take such things as they needed, and would not be responsible for the conduct of his men while they remained in the city. The beef, flour and other articles, and \$28,000 in money were speedily collected, and handed over to the rebels. The General expressed himself satisfied with what he had received, and scrupulously kept his word in regard to the safety of private property. Nothing belonging to any citizen was touched; no one was molested in the streets; all was as quiet and orderly as if there were no soldiers there. I am satisfied that the behavior of North Carolina troops who did guard-duty in York during the rebel occupation was better than that of the majority of our own troops when quartered in our own cities.

“ On Monday the rebels were busy in carting off the levied articles. About 4 P. M., Gordon's brigade returned from Wrightsville, bringing with them some horses and cattle which they had picked up on the way. They had about eight supply and ammunition wagons, and twelve ambulances with them. Many of the latter were marked U. S. The ambulances were all filled with men, who had apparently given out on the way. Physically, the men looked about equal to the generality of our

own troops, and there were fewer boys among them. Their dress was a wretched mixture of all cuts and colors. There was not the slightest attempt at uniformity in this respect. Every man seemed to have put on whatever he could get hold of, without regard to shape or color. I noticed a pretty large sprinkling of blue pants among them, some of those, doubtless, that were left by Milroy at Winchester. Their shoes, as a general thing, were poor; some of the men were entirely barefooted. Their equipments were light as compared with those of our men. They consisted of a thin woolen blanket, coiled up and slung from the shoulder in the form of a sash, a haversack slung from the opposite shoulder, and a cartridge box. The whole cannot weigh more than twelve or fourteen pounds. Is it strange, then, that with such light loads they should be able to make longer and more rapid marches than our men? The marching of the men was irregular and careless; their arms were rusty and ill-kept. Their whole appearance was greatly inferior to that of our soldiers.

“During Monday I visited the ‘Fair Grounds,’ as also the camp of a Louisiana brigade, situated about a mile from the city. The supply wagons were drawn up in a sort of straggling hollow square, in the centre of which the men stacked their arms in company lines, and in this way formed their camp. There were no tents for the men, and but very few for the officers. The men were busy cooking their dinner, which consisted of fresh beef (part of the York levy), wheat griddle cakes raised with soda, and cold water. No coffee or sugar had been issued to the men for a long time. The meat was mostly prepared by frying, and was generally very plentifully salted. The cooking is generally done in squads, or messes of five or six, and on the march the labor of carrying the cooking utensils is equally divided among them. The men expressed themselves perfectly satisfied with this kind of food, and said they greatly preferred the bread prepared in the way they do it, to the crackers issued to the Union soldier. I question if their bread is as healthy and nourishing as the army biscuit. I asked one of the men how he got along without a *shelter tent*. His answer was, ‘first rate.’ ‘In the first place,’ said he, ‘I wouldn’t *tote* one, and in the second place, I feel just as well, if not better,

without it.' 'But how do you manage when it rains?' I inquired. 'Wall,' said he, 'me and this other man has a gum blanket atween us; when it rains we spread one of our woolen blankets on the ground to lie on, then we spread the other woolen blanket over us, and the gum blanket over that, and the rain can't tech us.' And this is the way the rebel army (with the exception of a few of the most important officers) sleeps. Everything that will trammel or impede the movement of the army is discarded, no matter what the consequences may be to the men. In conversation with one of the officers, I mentioned about the want of tents in his army, and asked whether any bad effects were apparent from it. He said he thought not. On the contrary, he considered the army in better condition now than ever before. Granting the truth of what the officer said about the condition of the rebel army, I very much doubt the correctness of his conclusions. The present good condition of the rebel army is more likely to be due to the following circumstances: First, the army has been lying still all winter, under good shelter; has been tolerably well fed and clothed, and in this way has had a chance to recuperate after the fatiguing campaigns of last summer. Second, most of the weakly men, who could not stand a day's march without being sent to the rear, have been either discharged or have died, thus leaving a smaller portion of those remaining liable to disease. Third, since that portion of the rebel army (Ewell's corps) moved from behind Fredericksburg, on the 4th of June last, it has been favored with remarkably fine weather; has been stimulated with almost uninterrupted success in its movements; has been marching through a rich and fertile country, and, by levying on the inhabitants of which, the soldiers have been able to procure an abundance of good wholesome food, better, perhaps, than they had for many months. These, and not the want of tents, are probably the causes which give to the rebel army its present healthy tone. Under ordinary circumstances, I have no doubt the want of shelter would prove rather a detriment to the army than otherwise.

"In further conversation with the Louisiana officer, I ascertained that this was the corps which moved down through the Shenandoah valley, surprised Milroy at Winchester, and was

the first to cross the Potomac at Shepardstown into Maryland. He informed me that his own and the North Carolina brigade were armed entirely with Enfield rifles taken at Winchester after Milroy's retreat. In speaking of our soldiers, the same officer remarked: They are too-well fed, too-well clothed, and have far too much to carry." That our men are too well fed I do not believe, neither that they are too well clothed; that they have too much to carry I can very well believe, after witnessing the march of the army of the Potomac to Chancellorsville. Each man had eight days rations to carry, besides sixty rounds of ammunition, musket, woolen blanket, rubber blanket, overcoat, extra shirt, drawers, socks, and shelter tent, amounting in all to about sixty pounds. Think of men (and boys too) staggering along under such a load, at the rate of fifteen to twenty miles a day.

\* \* \* \* \*

"About nine o'clock Monday night, the guards were withdrawn from the hotels and liquor shops, and the whole of the North Carolina brigade shortly after left the city in the same direction as Gordon's brigade. On Tuesday morning, about four o'clock the last remaining brigade passed through the city with flags flying and band playing, and took the road to Carlisle. The other two brigades it was supposed had gone off in the direction of Gettysburg.

"The city was now clear of rebels, except some stragglers who purposely staid behind, or were too drunk to go with their commands.

"While Genl. Early scrupulously kept his agreement with the citizens of York, as to the protection of private property in the city, he did not prevent his troopers from visiting the farms outside the city and taking such horses and mules as they required. The rebel cavalry, as a general thing, are splendidly mounted, better, I think, than the Union cavalry, and their free and easy manner of procuring fresh horses explains it."

Mr. Gall not being able to communicate with us by telegraph, except from Baltimore, reported in person, and was immediately ordered to join Dr. Steiner at Frederick.

The anticipated battle was now near at hand. Supplies were accumulated at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and

Washington. Mr. Knapp was at Philadelphia, and Mr. O. C. Bullard at Baltimore, both with efficient assistants ready to respond to all demands.

The supply train following the army had reached Frederick city, and was under the orders of Dr. Steiner. Its subsequent operations during the battle week I give in the words of Dr. Steiner from his report already referred to.

“June 28. The supply train, with stores from Washington, reported to me during the day, being in charge of Messrs. Bush, Hoag, and Clampitt. Desiring to retain Clampitt to assist me in my work in Frederick, I detached him from the train, which then started off, accompanied by Messrs. Hoag and Bush. The benefits afforded by these supplies to the wounded, to whom they were distributed under fire, during the battles of Gettysburg, July 2d and 3d, by Mr. Hoag, cannot be expressed in words, and the receipted requisitions of the surgeons who employed these stores on that occasion, are sufficient evidence of the utility of being prepared for such emergencies.

“On Saturday, July 4, two wagons reported to me from Washington, being accompanied by Dr. Alex. McDonald, (sanitary inspector,) and Messrs. James Gall, Jr., and Rev. Mr. Scandlin, (relief agents.) Having been informed that a car load of supplies had been forwarded to Westminster, Md., I ordered one wagon, under the direction of Mr. Gall, to that place, with the view of having it then filled with supplies and thence to proceed to Gettysburg. The second wagon was loaded from the Frederick storehouse, and dispatched under the charge of Dr. McDonald, via Emmittsburg to Gettysburg. Dr. McDonald was provided with instructions to take charge of our operations in the field, and was supplied with discretionary powers. Rev. Mr. Scandlin accompanied the second wagon. The first wagon safely reached Gettysburg, the second was seized by a party of the enemy's cavalry, in or near Emmittsburg, its stores and the horses of the party confiscated, and Dr. McDonald, Mr. Scandlin, Leonard Brink, (the teamster,) with a colored boy, Moses Gardner, were taken to Richmond, where they are held as prisoners.”

The report of the first pitched engagement of the contend-

ing forces, on the 1st July, reached us the following morning. A freight car (No. 816) was immediately loaded and dispatched to Westminster, leaving Washington in the night, in charge of Mr. S. Bacon. Mr. Hovey followed the next morning in passenger train, and reached Westminster about noon July 3d. Owing to a delay at Baltimore of the government freight train, the car was thirty hours *en route*.

On Sunday, the 5th July, another car (No. 1499), loaded with assorted supplies, was sent to Westminster, in charge of Mr. George G. Edgerly, and a third car-load to Frederick, to the care of Dr. Steiner.

These were the supplies which reached the army immediately subsequent to the battle, before the railway leading direct to Gettysburg was put in repair, and before any communication was open, except through the long and tedious process of hauling by wagons.

What was done by our force in the field, during and immediately after the battle, up to the time when I arrived at Gettysburg, I shall give in the words of those who performed the labor.

Mr. Hoag who was in charge of the wagons, sent out by Dr. Steiner from Frederick, gives the following account :

“ I left Frederick City in charge of two wagons, well loaded, July 29. We fell in with the 12th army corps supply train, but owing to its moving slowly, did not get more than six miles before we were obliged to put up for the night.

“ Tuesday we moved more rapidly, passed through Taneytown, and out on the road to Emmittsburg, overtook the 3d corps in camp, on the banks of the Monocacy. Next morning, Wednesday, I obtained permission to bring my wagons in just behind the headquarters' teams, and kept with them to or near Gettysburg, where we arrived about nine o'clock, P. M. All was quiet until four o'clock P. M., Thursday, when a heavy firing commenced on our left, where the 'rebs' were trying a flank movement. As soon as the wounded began to come in, I started out with the wagons to distribute the stores. We reached five different hospitals, which were all we were able to find that night, and early in the morning three others, which exhausted our stores. We were just in time to do the most

good possible, as the government wagons had been sent back ten miles, and many of the hospitals were not supplied with material sufficient for immediate use. (The hospitals supplied were division hospitals of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 5th, 11th and 12th corps.)

“ On telling the surgeons that I was on hand with sanitary stores, I was almost invariably greeted with expressions like the following, ‘ You could never have come at a better time,’ and once on mentioning sanitary stores, I received two hearty welcome slaps on the shoulder, one from the medical director of the corps, and the other the surgeon of the division.”

Major Bush, who accompanied Mr. Hoag, gives his account in the following words :

“ Monday morning, June 29. Mr. Hoag and myself left Frederick with two wagon loads, in connection with the train of the 12th corps, by order of General Williams to Dr. Steiner. Reached Taneytown, Md., Tuesday, P. M., June 30.

“ Wednesday morning, July 1, and first day of the battle, I was informed, while at General Meade’s headquarters’ by an orderly just arrived from this place (Gettysburg), that an attack and a battle was expected here that day, as the cavalry with the 1st and 11th corps had already reached this place. I left Mr. Hoag and our wagons in the train of headquarters’ (to which they had been transferred from that of the 12th army corps), and rode to Littlestown, Pa., thence to this place, arriving at ‘ Cemetery Hill,’ where a portion of our batteries were situated, about 11 P. M., just as the rebel prisoners who were captured by our cavalry and the 11th corps, in the first engagement of that day were approaching said hill. The battle soon commenced between the first corps and General Hill’s (rebel) southwest of the Seminary, which was fought steadily and bravely by the first corps, until it finally retreated with severe loss between two and three P. M. Its commander, General Reynolds, was among the killed.

“ The rebels then rallied in the rear of the Seminary and College Hill, during which time the eleventh corps formed a line between the college and the town, making the fences their line of defence. The rebel forces advanced over this hill in mass about four P. M., formed in line of battle, when they marched



firmly towards the eleventh corps, which retired into the town without making any formidable resistance, and the rebel troops took possession of Gettysburg, when the fighting of the first day ceased. I now made search for our wagons, but in the vast concourse I was unable to find them that night. (Most of the wounded of this day's fight, were carried into the churches and public buildings of the town, under the organization of the first and cavalry corps, and were prisoners at the close of the day.)

"The 3d and 12th corps arrived during the afternoon, but too late to enter into battle.

"Thursday, July 2d, and second day of the battle. The 2d corps arrived by the Taneytown road, below Cemetery Hill at day break. The 5th corps arrived two miles from town, on the Baltimore Pike about ten A. M. One division of the 6th corps on the same Pike from Westminster, at two P. M.

"The battle opened about 4 P. M. Found our wagons early in the afternoon. As soon as the surgeons had decided upon the different points where the Corps Hospitals were to be formed, Mr. Hoag moved the wagons to them at once, and commenced to issue our stores, which consisted chiefly of concentrated beef soup, stimulants, crackers, condensed milk, concentrated coffee, corn-starch, farina, shirts, drawers, stockings, towels, blankets, quilts, bandages and lint. We hastened from one hospital to another, as rapidly as possible, issuing to each a proportion of our stores, until the supply was nearly exhausted, when, upon consultation with Mr. Hoag, it was decided that I should start for the nearest point from which a telegram could be sent to Washington, ordering up more supplies. Frederiek was spoken of, but upon inquiry at different points, it was considered unsafe to go there, as the rebel cavalry were in possession of the roads in that direction. I then decided to go to Westminster, learning that several of the New York newspaper reporters were about starting for the same place, and learning that the telegraph was in operation from that place to Baltimore. I left the battle-field late in the evening, arrived in Westminster early in the morning of Friday, and soon learned, to our disappointment, that no telegraph was there, and the first train did not leave for Baltimore till 12 M. Arrived in Baltimore just in

time to take the express train to Washington. Found that a car had already been loaded with stores and started for Westminster, under the direction of Messrs. Hovey and Bacon.

"This car arrived at Westminster, Saturday, July 4, when Mr. Hovey procured three Government wagons, and that evening started with three full loads of stores, arriving early next morning (Sunday) at the 1st, 2d, and 3d Corps Hospitals. By your orders, I left Washington by the 11 A. M. train, July 4, arriving at Relay, in time for the 2 P. M. train, for Westminster. Owing to a misunderstanding between the two conductors on the road, the trains waited for each other at either end of the road, so that we did not get started from the Relay until 8 o'clock Sunday morning, arriving at Westminster at 10 A. M., where I found Mr. Bacon in charge of the remainder of the car-load of stores. About noon our four-mule team came in from Frederick, in charge of Mr. Gall. It was immediately loaded, and early in the morning I left with it, in company of Mr. Gall, Mr. Bacon still remaining in charge at Westminster.

"A school-house was taken on the Baltimore pike, near the different Corps Hospitals, and about three miles out from Gettysburg, and from it our stores were thereafter issued, until the opening of the railroad permitted our reaching the field by that route, when, on Tuesday morning, July 7, a storehouse was taken in town, and the school-house closed."

In the meantime, Mr. Hoag had been to Frederick with the two wagons, and had returned with full loads to the school-house, where the stores brought by him were issued.

Mr. Hovey, after delivering his loads to the three Corps Hospitals, returned to Westminster and took three more loads, and Mr. Gall made a second trip with the four-mule team, which took the remainder of the first car-load sent from Washington.

Twelve wagon loads of extra governmental supplies were therefore taken on to the battle-field, previous to the opening of the railroad to Gettysburg, and before they could reach the wounded from any other direction. Of these, eight wagon loads were taken from Westminster, and four from Frederick, including the two which were on the field during the battle, and the supplies from which were issued under fire, and to the hos-

pitals the nearest to the line of battle. The last of these stores were given to a hospital to the left of our line, just in the rear of Weed's Hill, where General Weed fell.

The second car-load sent up in care of Mr. Edgerly, was by him transferred to Mr. Bacon, who, after unloading it, had it reloaded, and by the advice of Major Painter, Post-Quartermaster, sent around by rail to Gettysburg.

On Monday, July 6, I left Washington for Baltimore to meet yourself and Mr. Knapp. Upon consultation, it was deemed advisable that I should proceed at once to Gettysburg. In company, therefore, with Mr. Bullard, Mr. Murray, Mr. Barton, and two Germans, sent to our aid by Mr. Hitz, of Washington, I left Baltimore on Monday evening, upon a freight train, containing two loaded cars for the Commission.

Heavy trains, heavy grades, delays of all kinds, prevented us from reaching Gettysburg before late Tuesday afternoon. The temporary terminus of the railway was then over a mile from the town, and to this terminus crowds of slightly wounded men came, limping, dragging themselves along, silent, weary, worn. The moment the cars stopped, the crowd of weary and wounded soldiers accumulated there, indicated that point as a place for a Relief Lodge. I immediately had two of our largest tents, together capable of sheltering seventy-five men, pitched, stoves erected, and a lodge established. The wise foresight of Mr. Knapp had included these articles among the first invoice. The two Germans, whose names I have unfortunately lost, volunteered as cooks. That night our tents were full, and we had the great satisfaction of not only affording shelter and attention to the wounded, but also supplying good nutritious food to those within our tents, and those who had taken refuge on the cars.

While our tents were being raised, Mr. E. B. Fairchild rode down from the village to ascertain if there had been any arrivals by the train, and found us in the midst of our preparations. He reported the arrival of Dr. Bellows and Dr. Agnew from Harrisburg, the position of our field station at the school-house, and the presence of Messrs. Johnson, Biddle, Edgerly, Hoag, Gall, Paige and Hovey, (relief agents,) at our storehouse in the town. The lodge established, I left it in charge of Mr. O. C. Bullard, who was assisted by Mr. Murray and Mr.

Barton, and the Germans from Washington, and reported to Dr. Bellows.

The next day, our store-house was given up to the Provost Marshal, and another room on Baltimore street was by his permission taken. The latter place, the store of Messrs. Fahnestock & Co.—the largest in the town—became the centre of the busiest scene which I have ever witnessed in connection with the Commission. Car-load after car-load of supplies were brought to this place, till shelves and counter and floor up to the ceiling were filled, till there was barely a passage-way between the piles of boxes and barrels, till the sidewalk was monopolized and even the street encroached upon. These supplies were the outpourings of a grateful people. This abundant overflow of the generous remembrance of those at home to those in the army was distributed in the same generous manner as it was contributed. Each morning the supply wagons of the division and corps hospitals were before the door, and each day they went away laden with such articles as were desired to meet their wants. If the articles needed one day were not in our possession at the time, they were immediately telegraphed for, and by the next train of cars thereafter they were ready to be delivered. Thus, tons of ice, mutton, poultry, fish, vegetables, soft bread, eggs, butter, and a variety of other articles of substantial and delicate food were provided for the wounded, with thousands of suits of clothing of all kinds and hospital furniture in quantity to meet the emergency. It was a grand sight to see this exhibition of the tender care of the people for the people's braves. It was a bit of home feeling, of home bounty, brought to the tent, put into the hand of the wounded soldier. I feel grateful that I was permitted to participate in this work.

Mr. H. P. Dechert was placed in charge of this store-house and was assisted permanently by Messrs. Edgerly, Bacon, Murray and Bowers, with a detail of four soldiers. To this force, at first were added Messrs. Johnson, Biddle, Gall, and Paige. These latter gentlemen were afterwards hospital visitors, for a few days, when they left to join the army of the Potomac in its advance, as relief agents.

The accompanying tabulated statement of the issues to the

different hospitals, as prepared by Mr. Dechert, will exhibit the amount and character of the articles supplied.

The lodge, which was established at the temporary terminus of the railway on Tuesday, was continued there until Friday, when the burned bridge which had prevented the cars from running into town was replaced by a new structure, and the cars resumed their regular runnings to the station. On Thursday I had a tent and flie erected near the dépôt in preparation for the change in the terminus of the road, and on Saturday the lodge out of town was discontinued and the tents used there added to those near the dépôt. This second lodge was in successful operation on Friday, though it was not generally made use of till Saturday.

Between Tuesday and Saturday noon we provided at our first lodge, good beef soup, coffee and fresh bread, for over 3,000 slightly wounded soldiers whose injuries did not prevent them from walking to this point, while we sheltered each night about fifty more serious cases, which had been brought down by ambulance, and whose wounds required the attention of a surgeon. We were fortunate in having during these days the volunteer aid of Dr. Hooper, from Boston, who devoted himself to this latter work. Mr. Clark, from New Hampshire, Mr. Hawkins, from Media, Pa., and Mr. Shippen, from Pittsburg, also lent their assistance, and all these gentlemen materially aided us at this and at the second lodge until it was fully organized.

With the transfer of our material to town, the irregular organization was changed to a permanent working basis. Dr. W. F. Cheney, who arrived on the 10th, was placed in charge of the camp. He brought with him seven assistants, Messrs. Latz, Cooley, McGuinness, Chesebro, Blakeley, Sherwin, Freshoner, from Canandaigua, N. Y. To these were added Messrs. Reisinger and Hall, from Baltimore, and four detailed soldiers. Cooks had arrived, a large shed for a kitchen had been erected, and full preparations were made for feeding any number. Every facility was granted us by the medical officers of the post and by the commissary. Additional tents were erected, drains made, straw procured, and shelter prepared for 150 men. A store tent was placed near the hospital tents, and given into the

charge of two New York ladies, whose long experience on the Commission's transports during the Peninsular campaign of last summer, had made them familiar with all of the requirements of this camp. The cars stopped immediately in front of our camp, and distant but a few feet from it.

During the ten days subsequent to the establishment of this lodge, over 5,000 soldiers (Union and Rebel) received food either in our tents or on the cars, and an average of over 100 remained in our tents each night and had their wounds dressed and more or less clothing distributed to them.

This lodge was continued until all the wounded capable of being removed were transferred from the Corps Hospitals to the General Hospitals of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Harrisburg, and York.

When the General Field Hospital was decided upon for the reception of all those whose serious wounds prevented them from being removed, I asked for a place to be assigned us in the plan, and before leaving Gettysburg saw two of our tents erected in the camp, one for our stores, the other for the ladies who would be in charge. This design has been effectually carried out.

Our plan of operation and our labors were in Gettysburg as they have been elsewhere, divided into those of inquiry and relief. The latter, from our experience, was subdivided into general and special relief. The first of these was to be extended by issues from our store-house directly to Corps Hospitals, in bulk, according to the ascertained necessities, and the latter took the direction of attending to those of the wounded—by far the greater number—who, capable of being transported from the field of battle, were daily removed, until only the more serious cases remained. I have already given the history of the store-house and lodge. The tabulated statement of the issues from the former, and the number assisted and relieved at the latter, will tell how well the organization worked. Few left the region of Gettysburg without receiving some material aid from us, either in food or clothing.

Our trained permanent corps rendered this work easy and immediate. This would not have been possible, in the same time, with a body of men unaccustomed to and ignorant of the

work. The large number of volunteers who came to our assistance, under the direction of those already familiar with the work, fell readily into the line of duty, and soon became efficient co-workers.

The labor of inquiry required the daily visitation of the hospitals, consultation with the medical officers as to the most efficient manner in which we could aid them, the character and quantity of the supplies most needed, the daily movement in the population of the hospitals under their command, with the character and severity of the injuries, and all such information in relation to the disposition of the wounded as would assist us in making our preparations.

Beside the visits of inquiry to the hospitals, a list of the names and wounds of all the inmates of each hospital was taken and forwarded to the office of the Hospital Directory in Washington, and we held ourselves in readiness to attend to messages of inquiry sent to us from any direction, in regard to any wounded man in these hospitals. This work was performed by Mr. Dooley, from the Directory office. Messrs. Stille, Struthers, Hazlehurst, Dullus, Beitler, and Tracy, from Philadelphia, and Messrs. Hosford, Myers, and Braman, from New York, assisted in this labor as well as at the lodge, and in attending to special cases.

The duty of visiting the Confederate Hospitals was assigned to Dr. Gordon Winslow, who reported to me soon after I arrived. The following communication, addressed by him to me, will give briefly the result of his inquiries :

“ Gettysburg, July 22, 1863.

“ Sir,—Agreeably to your instructions, I have inspected the several Confederate Hospitals in the vicinity of Gettysburg, and have indicated, on the accompanying map, the locality, division, General who was in command, surgeon in charge, and number of wounded.

“ It appears that the aggregate of wounded, at the time of my visits, was 5,452, occupying some twenty-four (24) separate camps, over an area of some twelve miles. The wounds, in a large proportion of cases, are severe.

“ Amputations and resections are frequent. The corps of Con-

federate Surgeons are, as a body, intelligent and attentive. The hospitals are generally in barns, outhouses, and dilapidated tents. Some few cases are in dwellings. I cannot speak favorably of their camp police. Often there is a deplorable want of cleanliness. Especially in barns and outhouses, vermin and putrid matter are disgustingly offensive. As fast as means of transportation can be had, those who are capable of being removed will be placed in more comfortable quarters. Some hundreds are being removed daily. Every provision is made by the Sanitary Commission for their comfort during their stay at the Depot Lodge, and those who are placed directly in the cars are furnished wholesome food. I am pleased to report that the surgeons have in every instance spoken in the highest terms of praise of the efforts made for their relief and comfort.”\*

In this connection, I may state that subsequent to these visits, Dr. Winslow procured the signature of every Confederate Surgeon to a petition to Gen. Lee for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. McDonald, Mr. Scandlin, Mr. Brengle, Leonard Brink, and Moses Gardner, who had been taken prisoners while acting in their humane office, as non-combatants, and ready to extend assistance to all wounded alike. This

---

\* The hospitals visited by Dr. Winslow were situated as below, and contained the number of wounded as indicated in the following table :

Location.	Division.	Surgeon.	No.
Cashtown . . . . .	Genl. Parine's . . . . .	Dr. Wilson . . . . .	171
On Chambersburg Road . . . . .	“ Porcher's . . . . .	Dr. Ward . . . . .	700
On Mummasburg “ . . . . .	“ Rhode's . . . . .	Dr. Hayes . . . . .	800
In Penn. College . . . . .	“ Heath's . . . . .	Dr. Smiley . . . . .	700
Hunterstown Road . . . . .	“ Johnson's . . . . .	Dr. Whitehead . . . . .	311
Fairfield . . . . .	“ . . . . .	“ . . . . .	50
Fairfield Road . . . . .	Part of Genl. Johnson's . . . . .	Dr. Stewart . . . . .	135
“ “ . . . . .	“ Early's . . . . .	Dr. Potts . . . . .	259
“ “ . . . . .	“ Anderson's . . . . .	Dr. Mines . . . . .	111
“ “ . . . . .	“ McLaw's . . . . .	Dr. Patterson . . . . .	700
“ “ . . . . .	“ Hood's . . . . .	Dr. Means . . . . .	515
Total . . . . .			5,452



petition has been forwarded through the proper authorities, with the advice and consent of our own officers for the exchange of prisoners. A month has elapsed, but so far no notice has been taken by the Confederate officers of the wishes of their surgeons in our hands.

The hospitals containing our own wounded were visited by Messrs. Johnson, Biddle, Murray, Paige, Gall, Fairchild, and myself. Some of them were also visited by yourself and Mr. Knapp, who separately came to Gettysburg, and accompanied me in my rounds.

The hospital organizations were mostly in tents, taking some farmer's house and barn as a nucleus.\* For several days immediately succeeding the battle, there was a great deficiency in

\* The *First Corps* Hospital was divided. A portion was in the town, occupying several churches and the Court-House. These buildings contained the wounded of the battle of July 1st. The number estimated, including those in private houses, was 400 to 450. The second portion was about 2½ miles from the town on the Baltimore pike. The First Division was in and about the White Church and Lightner's house; the Second Division in and about Peter Conover's house; and the Third Division had Jonathan Young's house for its centre. There were in these divisions 2,379 wounded, of whom 260 were confederates. Dr. Ward was the Surgeon in charge.

The *Second Corps* Hospital was situated on the banks of Rock Creek, in tents, about 80 rods north of the house indicated on the map as that of Isaac Schriever. It contained about 4,500 wounded, of whom 1,000 were rebels, Dr. Justin Dwinelle was the Surgeon in charge. There were three divisions consolidated.

The *Third Corps* Hospital was on high ground south of Schwartz's house, about 100 rods above the junction of White's Creek with Rock Creek, on Schwietzel's farm. It contained 2,550 wounded; of these, 259 were rebels. Dr. Hildreth was Surgeon in charge. There were two divisions only, under separate organization, but remote from each other only by a narrow ravine.

The *Fifth Corps* Hospital was in three divisions. The First Division was on Mr. Little's farm, north of the house, and south of White's Creek, and about 100 rods east of Third Corps. The Second Division was south of Mrs. Jesse Clapsaddle's house, across Lonsy Run, about 100 rods south of White's Creek. The Third Division was about half a mile west of Two Taverns, on Jesse Werley's farm. This Division Hospital was the most remote of all the Union hospitals from the town of Gettysburg. They contained together 1,400 wounded, including 75 rebels. Dr. Clark, Surgeon in charge.

tents, and a sad want of most of the necessities of a hospital both in food and furniture. This latter we attempted to fill so far as our limited resources would go. The want was incident to the campaign, and not the result of neglect. Another difficulty, inseparable from the campaign was the small number of medical officers left upon the ground, to take charge of the large number of wounded. The battle ended, and the enemy on the retreat, the advance of our forces required the presence of a large proportion of the medical officers to meet the demands of another battle which seemed imminent. Those left behind had to divide their attention among our own wounded

The three divisions of the *Sixth Corps* Hospital were, the First, about the house of John Frastle, near Peach Orchard, and the Second and Third Divisions in tents near by. There were 300 inmates. Dr. Chamberlain, Surgeon, in charge.

The *Eleventh Corps* Hospital occupied the house and farm of Geo. Spangler. The divisions were consolidated under the charge of Dr. Armstrong. It contained 1,900 wounded, of whom 100 were said to be confederates.

The *Twelfth Corps* Hospital was under the charge of Dr. Ernest Goodman. Its three divisions, under separate organizations, were together around the house of Geo. Bushman. It contained 1,131 wounded, including 125 rebels.

The *Cavalry Corps* Hospital was in town, and occupied the Presbyterian Church on Baltimore street, and the two school-houses in the immediate vicinity. It was under the charge of Dr. Rulison, and the three buildings contained 300 of our wounded.

These figures are approximative only, as that was all we sought for at the time. The number of wounded whose wants—beyond those that a beneficent government cared for—we were anxious to supply, can be stated briefly as follows:

First	Corps (2 portions)	2,519	Union, 260	Confederates,	. . .	2,779
Second	"	3,500	" 1,000	"	. . .	4,500
Third	"	2,300	" 250	"	. . .	2,550
Fifth	"	1,325	" 75	"	. . .	1,400
Sixth	"	300	"	"	. . .	300
Eleventh	"	1,800	" 100	"	. . .	1,900
Twelfth	"	1,006	" 125	"	. . .	1,131
Cavalry	"	300	"	"	. . .	300
Total . . .		13,050	1,810			14,860

and those of the enemy who had fallen into our hands, the number of Confederate surgeons left behind being inadequate to their care. In previous battles there has always been a full quota, if not the entire medical corps of the army, to attend to the wounded.

The labor, the anxiety, the responsibility imposed upon the surgeons after the battle of Gettysburg were from the position of affairs, greater than after any other battle of the war. The devotion, the solicitude, the unceasing efforts to remedy the defects of the situation, the untiring attentions to the wounded upon their part, were so marked as to be apparent to all who visited the hospitals. It must be remembered that these same officers had endured the privations and fatigues of the long forced marches with the rest of the army; that they had shared its dangers, for one medical officer from each regiment follows it into battle, and is liable to the accidents of war, as has been repeatedly and fatally the case; that its field hospitals are often from the changes of the line of battle, brought under the fire of the enemy, and that while in this situation, these surgeons are called upon to exercise the calmest judgment, to perform the most critical and serious operations, and this quickly and continuously. The battle ceasing, their labors continue. While other officers are sleeping, renewing their strength for further efforts, the medical are still toiling. They have to improvise hospitals from the rudest materials, are obliged to make "bricks without straw," to surmount seeming impossibilities. The work is unending, both by day and night, the anxiety is constant, the strain upon both the physical and mental faculties, unceasing. Thus, after this battle, operators had to be held up while performing the operations, and fainted from exhaustion, the operation finished. One completed his labors to be seized with partial paralysis, the penalty of his over-exertion.

While his duties are as arduous, his exposure as great, and the mortality from disease and injury as large as among staff officers of similar rank, the surgeon has no prospect of promotion, of a brevet, or an honorable mention, to stimulate him. His duties are performed quietly, unostentatiously. He does his duty for his country's sake, for the sake of humanity.

The consciousness of having nobly performed this great duty is well nigh his only, as it must ever be his highest reward. The medical corps of the army is well deserving of this slight tribute.

Respectfully,

J. H. DOUGLAS,  
Associate Secretary San. Com.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 15, 1863.

## TABULATED STATEMENT OF ISSUES.

---

The following is a statement of the quantities of the principal articles distributed by the Commission to the wounded upon the field at Gettysburg, subsequent to the battle. The perishable articles, (amounting to over 60 tons) were taken to the ground in refrigerating cars.

### *Of Articles of Clothing, etc., viz.:*

Of Drawers, (woolen).....	5,310 pairs.
“ “ (cotton).....	1,833 “
“ Shirts, (woolen).....	7,158
“ “ (cotton).....	3,266
“ Pillows.....	2,114
“ Pillow Cases.....	264
“ Bed Sacks.....	1,630
“ Blankets.....	1,007
“ Sheets.....	274
“ Wrappers.....	508
“ Handkerchiefs.....	2,659
“ Stockings, (woolen).....	3,560 pairs.
“ “ (cotton).....	2,258 “
“ Bed Utensils.....	728
“ Towels and Napkins.....	10,000
“ Sponges.....	2,300
“ Combs.....	1,500
“ Buckets.....	200
“ Soap, (Castile).....	250 pounds.
“ Oil Silk.....	300 yards.
“ Tin Basins, Cups, etc.....	7,000
“ Old Linen, Bandages, etc.....	110 barrels.
“ Water Tanks.....	7
“ Water Coolers.....	46

Of Bay Rum and Cologne Water.....	225 bottles.
“ Fans.....	3,500
“ Chloride of Lime.....	11 barrels.
“ Shoes and Slippers.....	4,000 pairs.
“ Crutches.....	1,200
“ Lanthorns.....	180
“ Candles.....	350 pounds.
“ Canvas.....	300 sq. y'ds.
“ Musquito Netting.....	648 pieces.
“ Paper.....	237 quires.
“ Pants, Coats, Hats.....	189 pieces.
“ Plaster.....	16 rolls.

*Of Articles of Sustenance, viz.:*

Of Fresh Poultry and Mutton.....	11,000 pounds.
“ “ Butter.....	6,430 “
“ “ Eggs, (chiefly collected for the occasion at farm-houses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey).....	8,500 dozens.
“ “ Garden Vegetables.....	675 bushels.
“ “ Berries.....	48 “
“ “ Bread.....	12,900 loaves.
“ Ice.....	20,000 pounds.
“ Concentrated Beef Soup.....	3,800 “
“ “ Milk.....	12,500 “
“ Prepared Farinaceous Food.....	7,000 “
“ Dried Fruit.....	3,500 “
“ Jellies and Conserves.....	2,000 jars.
“ Tamarinds.....	750 gallons.
“ Lemons.....	116 boxes.
“ Oranges.....	46 “
“ Coffee.....	850 pounds.
“ Chocolate.....	831 “
“ Tea.....	426 “
“ White Sugar.....	6,800 “
“ Syrups, (Lemon, etc.).....	785 bottles.
“ Brandy.....	1,250 “
“ Whiskey.....	1,168 “
“ Wine.....	1,148 “
“ Ale.....	600 gallons.

Of Biscuit, Crackers, and Rusk.....	134 barrels.
“ Preserved Meats.....	500 pounds.
“ Preserved Fish.....	3,600 “
“ Pickles.....	400 gallons.
“ Tobacco.....	100 pounds.
“ Tobacco Pipes.....	1,000
“ Indian Meal.....	1,621 pounds.
“ Starch.....	1,074 “
“ Codfish.....	3,848 “
“ Canned Fruit.....	582 cans.
“ “ Oysters.....	72 “
“ Brandy Peaches.....	303 jars.
“ Catsup.....	43 “
“ Vinegar.....	24 bottles.
“ Jamaica Ginger.....	43 jars.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 013 702 232 1