Transcript
of 1863
Diary
A "G. I." VIEW OF THE CIVIL WAR:

THE DIARY OF ALFRED NOBLE:

Company C, 24th Michigan Volunteers,
1st Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Army Corps,
Army of the Potomac.
"THE DIARY OF ALFRED NOBLE":

January - 1865.

JANUARY

1-
We have kept New Year's by working on our house. We have got it so nearly done that we moved into it & built a fire in the fireplace. Wonder what the folks at home are doing tonight.

2-
Worked on the house again today. We have got it most done but it isn't furnished yet. It is reported that we are ordered into winter quarters & that Jeff gives us 60 days in which to get out of Va.

3-
We have passed the day in getting out timber for furniture. It is pretty difficult to get an ax to use as every one in the company has 3 or 4 catchers.

4-
To day is Sunday so we have stopped work. There is no preaching as the day is very windy & most of the boys are busy building huts. The fireplace smokes badly.

5-
We have put up our bunk & to night we shall lay down to sleep off of the ground for the first in over 4 months. We have just finished a sumptuous supper of beef, potatoes, hard bread & gravy.

6-
Nothing remarkable has happened to day. About noon it began to rain but towards night it stopped, & a fiery sunset promises fair weather.
JANUARY

-7-
This forenoon there was a brigade drill. While the brigade was out, Gen. Wadsworth sent an orderly to tell them that Vicksburg & Murfreesboro are ours.

-8-
We went down to the landing to night. It is about a mile from here & I expected to find it quite a business place, but we found it to be quite the contrary.

-9-
Lt /Col./ Flanigan arrived from Detroit with things from home for the 24th: The large storier's tent is full of boxes that he brought.

JANUARY

-10-
This morning the boxes brought by the Lt. Col. were opened & the packages were distributed. We in our tent fared very well as Johnny & I got things from home & Tim was remembered by Mrs. Olds & Horace Smith.

-11-
The several companies were ordered to fall in without arms to hear orders read. The officers lately promoted received their commissions, among them 1st Lt. Hoyt to be captain. No preaching to day.

-12-
This morning we got up a load of wood, had it drawn by one of the teams. Inspection of arms in the afternoon. Hereafter we have company drill from 8 till 10 o'clock A.M.
JANUARY

-15-

The company were drilled in skirmish drill from 8 o'clock till 10 A.M. In the afternoon Eldridge & I got out some stuff for stools. We propose to have our house well furnished.

-14-

We finished the stools this morning. There was battalion drill this forenoon from 6 o'clock till 10 & company drill in the afternoon from half past 2 till 4 o'clock.

-15-

The men were called out for drill this morning but were dismissed by the Col. who gave them the day to wash in. Notwithstanding there was brigade drill from 2 till 3 1/2 P.M.

JANUARY

-16-

The company went out on picket at one o'clock P.M. Eldridge was detailed as guard to the wagons, but was ordered to report at Brigade headquarters & was finally marched to /the/ division Hospital. He called on us this evening, /nantly/. He thinks he is detailed perma-

-17-

Eldridge came up to the camp this morning & got his rubber blanket &c. Last night was about the coldest night we have had & I think our boys who are out on picket must have suffered from cold.

-18-

We are under orders to march at the earliest possible moment to morrow morning. Eldridge has gone to the General Hospital at Acqua creek as Hospital Attendant.
JANUARY

-19-
We packed up this morning but the orders for marching were countermanded for 24 hours. Battalion drill at 9 o'clock A.M. probably the last at this camp. We expect to leave in the morning without fail.

-20-
We struck tents at half past 10 & marched at noon toward Falmouth. Halted for the night the other side of the R.R. after going 10 or 12 miles. The rain began to pour down just before we stopped.

-21-
The rain poured in under us in the night as we lay in our tents & it has rained all day. Marched at 9 o'clock A.M. & waded 3 or 4 miles in the mud toward Falmouth.

-22-
We remained in camp to day & bushed ourselves in drying our clothes. The mud is awful. 2 of our teams have just managed to get through with 6 horses to the wagon. The rebs have come down to the river & offered to build the bridge half way.

-23-
Struck tents at 7½ & marched at 8 o'clock this morning. We found it unusually marching but much better than we expected. Arrived at dark at Camp Isabella after going 14 miles & found our quarters occupied by the 25th Ohio.

-24-
The Ohioans left at noon giving us peaceable possession of our huts. They left us a pail & broom & lots of other furniture. We think they that they have paid good rent.
JANUARY

25-
Inspection of arms this morning as is usual Sunday morning. We are getting things in shape again. Everything is as quiet as a Sunday in Michigan.

26-
Inspection of arms at 9 o'clock A.M. by the "Inspector General of the Army of the Potomac." This is the warmest & pleasantest day we have had for a long time.

JANUARY

28-
It seems that winter has at last set in. To day it rains & snows both together & the ground is in a beautiful moist condition. the citoyens say we've got to catch it now.

The snow fell thick & fast all night & this morning it was 6 or 8 inches deep. Capt. Hayt has received a letter from Wilson who is at the camp of the 20th Mich. with our boxes.

27-
Nothing going on in camp. No news except what we get up ourselves, which isn't very important. The weather is stormy & the rich soil is well stirred up.

29-
The Captain is going up to the 20th to see about the things. He got back after dark. Says the things are coming to Bellplain (?) tomorrow.
JANUARY

-51-

The teams went up to Beliplain to day but returned without the things. The snow is fast disappearing. Doig & four others from our Co. are out hunting deserters.

Winter so long expected & delayed at last came upon us on this eventful night of the 20th. Since our return from the "March in the Mud" the roads have been in an awful condition. It would be impossible to move artillery.
FEBRUARY

1.
Dress parade at 9 A.M. 15 of those who fell out of the ranks without permission on the march towards Palmoth were called out in front of the lines & heard their sentences read.

2.
John Bartlett has gone up to the 20th & will see to the boxes. Doig got back about 4 P.M. The expedition consisting of the Lt. Col. & 50 men went out beyond the picket lines & captured 9 deserters & 2 seceh.

3.
Out on police went out east in the woods, chopping poles for a stable at brigade headquarters. I got back about 5 P.M. & found Wilson had arrived with the long expected boxes.

4.
Policing it again to day, fixing stables at brigade headquarters. There was a large lot of stragglers sentenced & reprimanded by the Col. on dress parade most of them were sentenced to lose from $3 to $5 of their pay.

5.
It snowed in the morning after ward changing to rain. We drew a day's ration of hard bread the first Uncles Sam has furnished us since leaving Camp Shearer.

6.
No inspection of arms this morning on account of the mud. This is the muddiest time we have yet seen.
-7-
Battalion drill in the morning by Lt. Col. Flanagan. Afternoon with the wagon on over into the Ohio camps & loaded up a load of wood of wood. Our tent got a supply that will last over Sunday.

-8-
To day is Sunday & barring the mud a pleasant day. No preaching in our reg't to day. Our old Adj't J. J. Barns went on duty this morning, making his first appearance on inspection.

-9-
Dress parade this afternoon. Weather very warm & pleasant. The opinion is gaining ground that we shall leave for Washington or Mississippi soon.

-10-
On police duty all day loading wood for the ovens of the brigade bakery. This is the warmest day we have had in a long time. Dress parade at 4 P.M. as usual.

-11-
We drew some more sweet bread to day, the only remarkable event that has happened. The weather is rainy as usual. Nothing else.

-12-
Dance [-] says that 500 men are to be detailed from the 24th 400 to go to that place towards which Alk [-] got his molasses & 100 to go in the cavalry. Made a raise of some flour.
FEBRUARY

-13-  
Battalion drill this afternoon. Presenting genius, Lt. Col. Flanagan. About half the reg't got tired of drilling & fell out. Dress parade at 4 1/2 PM. as is the custom.

-14-  
On guard to day first time since leaving Camp Shearer. The boys are beginning to enjoy themselves playing ball. The weather is a little cool for comfort. The clouds threaten another storm.

-15-  
Sunday - No preaching to day, as the Chaplain has gone home. He has preached but one sermon since we have been in this camp. Weather rainy.

-16-  
Better weather to day. Company drill in the forenoon. In the afternoon battalion drill. In the evening received orders to go on picket next morning at 7 o'clock.

-17-  
Went out on picket. Started about 8 o'clock with 3 inches of snow on the ground & still mowening. Went about 5 miles to the extreme left of the picket line. My post is down on the beach.

-18-  
It rains to day. It's an awful time for pickets. We stand on post 2 hrs. & are off 6. Got a mail while out on my post 2 letters.
-19-
We were relieved about 11 o'clock this forenoon and came back by way of the river shore making the distance about 2½ miles. We were glad to get rid of the job as it has not been been a very pleasant one. & snow after wood.

-20-
To night on dress parade Charles Root received his sentence, to lose 6 mos. pay & to perform hard labor for the space of 60 days, will a ball 30 lbs. in weight fastened to his right leg by a chain 6 feet long.

-21-
This morning 7 men of our Brigade were drummed out of camp /service 5 of whom had their heads shaved in the presence of the whole brigade.

-22-
Sunday. Snowing to day & the ground is covered to the depth of about 5 inches. It was rather tough diving in the wind.

-23-
To day we got up a big pile of wood. Johnny & I worked nearly all the forenoon. The snow is thawing a little & the roads are somewhat mixed up.

-24-
Quite warm to day. We are ordered out on picket to morrow. Got a log drawn by 4th one of the teams this afternoon.
FEBRUARY

-25-
We got all ready
to go out on picket
when the order was
countermanded.
The weather looks
rather doubtful for
the next day or two
we will have rain
probably.

-26-
It commenced to
rain last night in
the night & to day
the snow is most
all gone. 7 non-com-
missioned officers &
15 privates from this co.
go out on picket to-
morrow. I escape.

-27-
The company went
out on picket this
morning at 7 o’clock.
To night 2 non-comis-
sioned officers return to
camp with 8 privates.
Fighting reported at Vicksburg.

FEBRUARY

-28-
This morning we
were called out with
knapsacks &c. for dress
parade, inspection
of arms & were mus-
tered in for 2 months
more pay – There is
four months pay
now due to us.

-29-

The weather
has at last settled
for the xin is
settling down upon
us, continually.
The roads have
not improved in
condition during
the past month –
The Government
now owes us four
months pay.
"THE DIARY OF ALFRED NOBLE";

March - 1863

MARCH

-1-
On guard to day. Those who were out on picket came in to day. This morning the weather was rainy and the prospect ahead was rather muddy, but about noon the rain ceased.

-2-
To day the usual routine of company drill in the forenoon & in the afternoon battalion drill & dress parade. The weather is pleasant & mud drying. Came off guard this morning.

-5-
Company inspection of arms this forenoon by Lieut. Safford. At night Wilson Eldridge's box arrived. Johnny takes charge of it as Tim is in hospital at Washington.

-6-
Drill, drill & dress parade as usual.

-4-
Everything quiet on the Rappahannock. We sold most of Wilson's things to day, realizing between $6 & $7 therefrom which we shall send him after pay day. Lt. Col. Flanigan leaves for home to day.

-7-
To day battalion drill in the forenoon by Acting Major E. B. Wright. He beats Flanigan all to pieces. in the afternoon company drill and dress parade at 4 1/2 o' clock P.M.
MARCH

-7-
Inspection of arms by one of Gen Meredith's staff. The weather is lowery & rainy. Got up Sunday's wood but got caught in the rain in doing it. I am detailed for guard to morrow.

-8-
Sunday. On guard to day, weather lowery & threatening. I have to stand on post for 2 hrs. from 3 till 5 P.M. & then my guarding for this time is done.

-9-
Came off guard to day & employed my time the rest of the day doing nothing. Homer Smith came down to see us from the 16th.

MARCH

-10-
Elder May got back from Michigan to night. He brought no boxes through as it was expected he would, for they were not allowed to leave Detroit. So we must wait in patience.

-11-
This morning the Col. called us together to read some resolutions which were unanimously passed, in support of a vigorous prosecution of the war, the conscript law, & expressing confidence in General Hooker.

-12-
This morning on battalion /drill/ the company officers were ordered to explain to the men the various movements in loading & firing. After drill I did my this week's washing.
MARCH

-13-
Inspection of arms & battalion drill. The weather is very cold and windy, about the coldest we have experienced & it is rather cold marching in the wind.

-14-
This forenoon the companies were drilled by the officers of other companies. No drill in the afternoon & we brought up a Sunday's supply of wood.

-15-
Our Co. had two loads of wood drawn this forenoon which were divided amongst the men as a ration. We are to be reviewed by Gen. Hooker some day this week.

[Crossed out: J.O.N.]

MARCH

-16-
Two loads of wood were drawn for the co. & were rationed out amongst the tents. We are to be reviewed by Gen. Hooker some day this week. To-morrow we have 15 shots apiece at a target.

-17-
Went target shooting to day & fired 5 shots apiece. We find the guns are very inaccurate, no two shooting alike & no gun shooting alike.

-18-
On guard to day. The company went out to fire at the target. The teams drew 2 loads of wood for the company of which we got but little as it was rallied on.
MARCH

-19-
We went out to shoot at the target today. I hit it once. After we got back to camp we had dress parade & afterwards battalion drill near the camp ground.

-20-
The weather is stormy; some snow. More wood was drawn for the company to day, but it was poor trash, not half enough to last until Monday.

-21-
Rain, melting the snow as fast as possible. Johnny & I got up a supply of wood to last over Sunday.

-22-
Stormy in the morning but along towards noon it cleared off. No preaching. There are many signs & rumors of moving. No very significant orders yet.

-23-
To day orders were read to the effect that in the contemplated movement, the officers should be supplied with shelter tents & 10 days rations &c. The privates were directed to send their superfluous baggage to Washington.

-24-
To day Bartlett, Ryder, Roter & I put up our overcoats & a few other traps in a box to send to Wash. I sent an overcoat, blouse, map, fork, &c. The weather is warm, but looks rather rainy.
MARCH

-25-
I was on guard
today. Johnny & I
pulled away the
banking from the
upper side of our
shebang & chinked &
mudded it up. drill
in the afternoon.

-26-
Our dress parade
to night. Gen Meredith
appeared with his staff
& introduced some
resolutions denouncing
copperheads at the
North, &c which were
wound up with 3 cheers
for the Union, Gen Hooker & Meredith.

-27-
To day I received
my box which was sent
in care of Elder Way.
In the afternoon, we
had knapsack drill
& rec'd orders to get
ready for review by Gen
Hooker.

MARCH

-28-
Eight men from
the Co. went out on
picket this morning
to be gone for 3 days. They
are having a hard
time to day as the
rain just pours
down, preventing the
review by Gen Hooker.

-29-
Elder Way made
an appointment
for preaching at 2 P.M.
but the weather, otherwise
fair, was so windy
that it was postponed
until to night, to be
held at the quarter
master's tent.

-30-
After I had filled
my diary for the day
yesterday afternoon,
we were called out
on the parade to hear
a few remarks by Gov. Norton
of Ind. Knapsack drill in
the forenoon.
MARCH

-31-

We were surprised this morning to find 3 or 4 inches of snow on the ground, which was fast disappearing in a heavy rainstorm. Our pickets came in this forenoon. The Colv- has returned-after
"THE DIARY OF ALFRED NOBLE": (Continued) April - 1863

APRIL

-1- April fool day.
The Col. got back this afternoon after noon 10 days absence. On dress parade he made a short speech, relating the expressions of Johnson Maynard & Com. Poole that the rebellion will soon be crushed.

APRIL

-4- Drill in the forenoon. Johnny & I went up to Division Headquarters to get a gun fixed but got it spoiled instead. The weather clear cold & windy, a fine specimen of Virginia April.

-2- Our division was reviewed to day by Gen. Hooker. We had to cut to the picket line to find a spot of level ground large enough for the review.

-5- No excitement to day. The snow which came last night prevented preaching. Towards evening Elder Way came around distributing papers.

-3- No drill to day we have the day for wash day. Dress parade in the afternoon noon as an order from Gen Meredith was read commanding the reg't for their appearance on the review.

-6- Johnny & I find ourselves in the camp of the 16th Mich. to night, much against Safford's will. They have got the nicest camp I have ever seen.
APRIL

-7-
We returned home this afternoon, after having an excellent visit. We heard preaching last night by a corporal in the 16th, the first sermon I have heard in 3 months.

-8-
I have been at work all day cleaning up my gun & the shanty. I did attend the battalion drill this forenoon. To night we have orders to prepare for review to-morrow by the President & Gen

-9-
The review came off to day. The President & his wife & Gen Hooker & his staff were present. It was a review of at least two divisions. were-present.

APRIL

-10-
Went down to the landing this afternoon & got back just before drill. About 1/3 of the battalion were absent without leave & the Col. would not drill the rest. At dress parade we have stringent orders on the matter.

-11-
Accoding to orders last night we have morning inspection at 8 o'clock A.M. every day & 4 hrs. of drill during the day & we must keep ourselves polished up. The weather for the past few days has been rather extra.

-12-
Only 2 inspections to day, one in the morning by the Col. & one in the afternoon by Lt. Col. Cross, inspector Gen of the Corps. Preaching this morning by the Chaplain.
APRIL

-13-
Inspection this morning according to orders. No drill today on account of the excellent appearance we made on inspection yesterday. Ramora of marching & "Signs" are plenty.

-14-
Drill in the forenoon. After drill we have the rest of the day to get ready to march to morrow morning. Had my likeness taken this afternoon & sent it home.

-15-
Last night a rain set in which continued all day today & prevented out marching. We expect to leave as soon as the weather clears.

APRIL

-16-
Inspection this morning. The /CoA/ officers were ordered to turn over their A tents immediately. Towards night we hear that the tents were ordered back again & we are likely to stay a while yet.

-17-
This forenoon we went out on knapsack drill, about a mile from camp. After getting out on the ground, we laid down & rested until it was time to come back to camp.

-18-
"A short battalion drill" this forenoon after inspection, and then we had the rest of the day to ourselves for wash day. More signs of marching again.
-19-

Preaching this afternoon on Co. A's grounds, the 3rd sermon in Camp Isabella. We are ordered to pack up as if for a march to go out on kensapeck drill in the morning, a long drill we fear.

-20-

This morning we started out as ordered not knowing whether we should come back or not, but when we got to Brig. H'd'q'rs it commenced to sprinkle & we faced for camp. We don't understand this "last movement."

-21-

The day passed off quietly till evening when we were ordered to pack up to be ready to start at any time in the night. Rifle pits have been thrown up just South of the camp.

-22-

At 1/2 P.M. we were ordered to fall in immediately with 3 days rations & blankets & tents /we/ went out to the picket lines, where we were joined by the 14th Brooklyn. We went to the Rappahannock by of [sig] King George C.H. - a march of 23 miles. Col. Morrow is in command. 320 men cross the river to /morrow.

-23-

We were called/up/ from our bivouac at about daylight & the men that were detailed to cross, built the pontoons carried them to the river & crossed over to Fort Royal. 2 co.'s of reb. cav. skeddædled & we captured 4 or 5 prisoners, & some horses & mules. At 9 A.M. we faced for camp with our booty.

-24-

The fearful rain which began yesterday morning, still continues with few intermissions. We are all very sore from our forced march of 50 miles to Fort Conway & back. We signed the pay rolls this afternoon.
APRIL

-25-

We are paid off to
day, receiving 4 months
pay. The rest of the day
we spend down at the
landing, having as good
a time as possible. We
had a ir-regular oyster
supper.

-26-

Inspection of arms
by Capt. Richardson
of Gen. Meredith's staff
at 1 o'clock F.M. This
prevents preaching.
The companies that
did not get their pay
yesterday, were paid off
this morning.

-27-

On guard to day.
The regiment went
out on drill & an order
from Gen Reynolds was
read, praising the
24th & the 14th Brooklyn
for their last night.

APRIL

-28-

We marched to
day at noon and
camped for the night
about 1/2 miles from
the river & 2 miles
below where we crossed
on the 12th of Dec.
last.

[Note: From April 28 to July 16 inclusive
all entries are made in pencil except
July 9 and July 10. J.O.W.]

-29-

At 11 o'clock last night we
were called up & started for
the river, going steady by jerks (?)
At daylight we doublequicked
& deployed along the river bank
& fired at the reb's on the opposite
side. the 24th & the 6th Wis. cross-
ed the river in boats & drove
the reb's out of the rifle pits on the
hill.

-30-

This morning we changed our
location from the ditch where we
had been lying the day before
& took one a little farther to the
left & commenced throwing
up a stone wall & earthworks. At sleep.
3 o'clock A.M. May 1st we laid down to
"THE DIARY OF ALFRED NOBLE": (Continued) May - 1863

MAY

-1-
We got up at daylight & finished entrenchments & after eating breakfast went out on picket. 2 rebels came into our picket lines about 10 o’clock A.M. The rebels have not fired a gun to day.

-2-
This morning there was considerable artillery firing. We withdrew from our position on the south bank went up 7 miles above Fredericksburg on our way to reinforce Hooker. We bivouacked 9 P.M. about 2 miles from the river at /

MAY

-4-
This morning we moved to the right a mile or two & occupied a position in front. An attack is apprehended in the direction of U.S. ford across the Rapidan, about 1 mile distant.

-5-
To day we remained in the same position until most night when we were relieved by the 22nd N.J. & we joined the left wing farther toward the right.

-6-
We were called up at 2½ A.M. & retreated across the river. The wheel army has been withdrawn & we camp for the night in the camp of Jan. 21-22.
MAY

7
We marched in the morning at 8 o'clock & passing by Falmouth & White Oak Church camped for the night near the place where we stopped for the night of Apr. 28th.

10
Sunday - Inspection in the morning by Lt. Col. Flanagan, preaching in the afternoon & dress parade at 3 ½ P.M. Capt. Hoyt got back about sundown. Also Capt. Merritt CO. H.

8
We lie here all day. The weather is chilly & cloudy. Our whole corp lies near here which looks as though we might move soon. We get mail 3 times in the course of the day. Inspection at 10 A.M.

11
Everything is fearfully quiet to day. the weather is very warm & we pass the day as lazily as we can. we drew a "right smart" of soft bread in the afternoon.

9
This is about the laziest day yet. The air is hot & sultry as August at home & we pass the day as easy as possible.

12
We had company drill in the manual of arms from 7 ½ until 9 A.M. The weather is if possible hotter than it was yesterday.
MAY

-15-
We went out on picket this morning down on the river bank about 3/4 of a mile above where we crossed on the 29th of April. We find rebel pickets on the opposite shore & quite communicative.

-14-
The rebel pickets were relieved this forenoon by the 13th Georgia. This new set are mum, under orders probably. We had a drenching shower this afternoon & it is very cold to night.

-15-
We were relieved this morning by the 7th & 19th & have returned to camp. Great descent on a sutler about half a mile from here.

-16-
This has been a busy day. We moved camp out in the woods & put up "Summer Quarters". We had inspection by Lt. Yankees. No signs of moving yet, although our six day rations are carefully kept.

-17-
Inspection of arms this morning at 7am. Meeting in the afternoon and prayer meeting in the evening.

-18-
On police, cutting poles for the hospital bunks. There was a temperance meeting in the camp of the 6th in the evening. Speakers were Hart of Co. D & Jones of the 8th.
---19---

There is a vast amount of politing done to day, fixing up dress parade ground &c. Prayer meeting this evening. As it was very late when it commenced I did not attend.

---20---

I reported for duty this morning & went on police, but was obliged to stop in about an hour after, as I am about sick with a bad cold. The boys have done a good job to day, & the grounds look quite neat.

---21---

This morning about 3½ o'clock the regt was called up & ordered to get ready to march in an hour in light marching order. All the Brig. except the 7th has gone. All com. by Col. Morrows.

---22---

I feel a little better to day, but am obliged to "vocalize" in a whisper. Brigham & Pinkerton came in this afternoon. They had to cave in after going about 12 miles towards King George C.H. - The Brigade was almost on a double quick.

---23---

No further news from the Brigade yet. I went on duty this morning & am on guard. Although there are many men left near camp yet all seems solitary (as the grave). Prayer meeting this evening.

---24---

To day Lt. Yemans preached a very good sermon. To-day's paper reports 4 victories for Grant & the capture of the last line of rifle pits. No news from the Brigade yet.
MAY

25
No news from the Brigade yet, that we can rely on. To day we hear of the final capture of Vicksburg. Hurrah for Gen Grant. The news was rece'd with cheering in all the camps within hearing.

26
The reg't came in this forenoon dusty & worn out, having traveled 150 miles in 5½ days. Most of the marching was done in 4 days, prospect of a fine job in cleaning up.

27
The paymaster came to day. This evening we are signing the pay-rolls. Union meeting in the evening, speaking by the Rev. Mr. Blades Lt Barns of the 6th & others.

28
The pay rolls were completed this morn- ing. Gov. Blair, Wife & daughter arrived to day. The Gov. addressed us on dress parade. At night the Reg't & Brig. bands endeavor to entertain them.

29
Gov. Blair left this morning early. We were paid off this afternoon. The Capt. treated us to cigars & cider & we tred to get a treat out of Safford, but we found it a thing that he couldn't see.

30
Review of the corps this morning. After the review, the Col. appoint- ed drill hours, at 6½ A.M. & after dress parade which is at 4 P. M. In the evening are ordered to go on picket to morrow.
MAY

-31-
March for the
picket line at 9½ A.M.
we are stationed on
the river bank about
2 miles below Fredericks-
burg. The rebs are mm
speechless. We relieved
the 95th N. Y.
JUNE

-1-
All quiet on the
Bappahamock to day
No excitement ex-
cept badly scaring
a Jersey guard at
a secesh house, but
such a light job that
it is no relief to the
general feeling of dullness

-2-
We were relieved
this forenoon by the
2nd Wis. From them
we learn that we are
the 1st Brigade in the
Army. Prayer meeting
in the evening but I
am too tired and
sleepy to go.

-3-
We were pretty
sleepy this morning &
woke up just in
time to go on drill
Lt. Col. Flanigan presiding.
Morrow has gone to
Washington.

-4-
We were called up
at 2 1/2 A.M. to draw rations
and get ready to march
at daylight. We struck
tents &c & stacked arms in
the company grounds. At
11 A.M. the order was
countermanded & we
put up our tents again.

-5-
A portion of the
6th Corps crossed the
river this afternoon, at
the place where we
crossed last winter.
in the evening we
have orders to be ready
to march at 4 o'clock
in the morning.

-6-
We were routed out
this morning at 2 1/2 A.M.
and reenacted the
role of day before
yesterday. It is reported
to night that the 6th
corps is coming back.
JUNE

-7-
Elder May preached an excellent sermon to day to a large number from the 24th 2nd & 6th. In the evening there was a prayer meeting also largely attended. Inspection in the forenoon.

-8-
Nothing but drill to day by Lt. Col. Flanigan Col. Morrow is in command of the brigade

-9-
Drill and dress parade. prayer meeting in the evening. Our rations are carefully kept up to the amount req'd by the order.

JUNE

-10-
Drill in the forenoon by Lt. Col. Flanigan, in the afternoon after dress parade Col. Morrow drilled the regiment, making fewer blunders than his second in com.

-11-
At dress parade the proceedings of court martial against a member of the 19th were read sentencing him to be shot for desertion. We have orders to to (sic) dispose of all our extra clothing.

-12-
We broke camp before daylight & took the road to Warrenton after marching 20 miles. On the road the Div. halted to witness the execution of a private in the 19th for desertion.
JUNE

-13-
We were called up this morning at 3 started on the march for Bealeton Station & after crossing the R. R. halted 2 or 3 miles this side for the night.

-14-
We started for Warren- ton Junction at 7 o'clock where we arrived at noon in the afternoon we passed Cullets where Pope's train was captured last summer At Midnight we were yet upon the road toward Manassas [sic].

-15-
We marched until Sunrise & then stopped for 3 or 4 hours at Manassas Junction. The march was resumed in the afternoon until we reached Centerville where we stopped for the night.

-16-
We rest to day at Centerville, near the old reb fortifications, I am on guard at Brig. Headquarters, guarding prisoners. In the evening we receive orders to march at Sunrise.

-17-
We started at Sun rise on the Leesburg road after going about 12 miles the order was changed so that our destination was Guilford Station. The weather was hot & many were sunstruck.

-18-
We rest again to day at 3 A. M. we were called up but soon subsided into quietude. We hear that 1200 (?) men have died from the heat in yesterday's march in this corps.
JUNE

-19-
We marched about 4 miles up the railroad to day and camped near a muddy creek. No good water within a mile. By numerous signs just before & just after dark this seems to be a land of meat & honey.

-20-
Called up at 3 A.M. and were ready to march at daylight, but staid the rest of the day. Considerable rain last night and to day.

-21-
About midnight we got our back mail. I got 2 letters & 4 papers. We have heard heavy firing towards Snickers or Ashby's gap all day.

JUNE

-22-
This morning about 250 men went from the reg't out on picket. About two P.M. I with 3 others from the Co. were detailed to go out and guard cross roads east of camp.

-23-
Remain here to day. There is but little guarding to do & the country affords the best living we have had in Virginia.

-24-
This afternoon we went about 2½ miles & got supper. When we got back we found our squad had been relieved by a detachment from the 2nd.
-25-
We started from Broad run in the morning, crossed the Potomac at Edward's Ferry & stopped for dinner a mile this side, saw Hough, Burr, Farley & Farrell. Stopped at night at Barnes.

-26-
Got up before daylight and started towards Frederick. Stopped for dinner at Greenfield Mills & camped for night at Jefferson in Middletown valley.

-27-
Marched from Jefferson to Middletown about 8 or 10 miles, arriving about noon.

-28-
In the afternoon we marched from Middletown to Frederick, about 8 miles. We did not rally on the fences so wood was bought for us by Gen. Wadsworth.

-29-
A long & tiresome march in mud, from Frederick to Emmetsburg, 25 miles. We are now 1 mile from the Pa. line.

-30-
We marched about half way to Gensburg & drew up in line of battle but we were mustered for pay. I am on Brig. rear guard.
"THE DIARY OF ALFRED NOBLE" (Continued)  July - 1863

JULY

-1-
We marched this morning & found the rebs near Gettysburg. After a desperate engagement we were overpowered with superior numbers & had to fall back behind the town. I was in the rear guard & went into battle with the 6th.

-2-
To day we threw up a slight breastwork & remained here to day. Our reg't numbers 100 men, not a field officer left. In the afternoon the enemy tried to break our left & failing in this, attacked the right, but failed also in that.

-3-
The enemy renewed the attack on our right to day, but was driven back with awful slaughter. Very heavy cannonading in the afternoon.

-4-
Everything is very quiet to day, the rebs left the town in a hurry & forgot to parole the Col. so he will come back to us. No news yet from Johnny.

-5-
Heill came in this morning, wounded & says that Johnny is killed. Afternoon we moved to the left about a mile. Pomeroy came in & says he saw Johnny fall. Alfred was killed near the 2nd.

-6-
We moved about 8 [2] miles to Emmetsburg. At night our reg't went out on picket.

(This entry is written over an erasure. - J.O.N.)
JULY

-7-
We marched 30 miles to day, crossing the Blue Ridge and camped in Middletown valley 6 miles from Middletown. A rainy night sets in.

-8-
In the forenoon we marched in the rain 1 mile beyond Middletown & went into camp, but in the afternoon started again for South mountain pass & camped on the western side & threw up fortifications.

-9-
Remained here at South Mountain to day. Saw Norton Marshall & Reub Farwell this afternoon.

JULY

-10-
This morning we marched through Boonsboro towards Hagers town, and drew up in line of battle about 5 miles from the latter place, to the right of the pike.

-11-
We lay here behind our fortifications to day. There was a little cannonading to day out in front.

-12-
Start out about 10 A.M. & cross Antietam Creek at Funkstown near which we draw up in line of battle. There is some skirmish firing in front.
JULY

-13-
We lie here quietly
to day. The reb's threw
3 or 4 shell[*] at our
skimmishers who were
picking off their cannon-
eers.

-14-
To day we
marched to Williams-
port to find that the
reb's have escaped.
The hog has got away
& we the whipet run
up to the fence and
bark.

-15-
Started this morn-
ing on the back track
and camp for the
night near Crampton's [*]
Gap.

JULY

-16-
We passed through
Crampton Gap this
morning & camped
about near [*] old "Camp
Hickey" on the road
to Harpers Ferry. I
went over to the 16th
this afternoon.

-17-
Laying around all
day to day, Eating &
sleeping. Pinkerton &
I ate a right smart
lot of pancakes, which
was the principal
duty of the day. This
afternoon the [blurred] 5th
corps broke camp & crossed
the river.

-18-
This morning we
were called up about
3 o'clock, & at daylight
started for Va. We crossed
at Harlin, passed through
Lovettsville & put up about
hoon near Waterford.
JULY

-19-
To day we left Waterford and marched 7 miles to Harmony Church on the Leesburg & Snickers Gap turnpike. I was detailed to go out on picket, we were marched about 3 miles to get 1 mile from camp.

-20-
We were called up at 4 to get breakfast & be ready to march. In about an hour a staff officer came up & said the troops were 1/2 hours ahead. we raced about 4 miles & overtook them. We stopped near Middleburg on the Aldie pike.

-21-
This morning I was sent out on picket again, the ones who should have gone having absconded. this time we marched 5 miles to get 1/2, rather ahead of the performance day before yesterday.

JULY

-22-
I was on post 4 hrs to day. After I was relieved I went outside of the line to a house & had a long talk of brag [?] with a secesh [?] when I got back to the line the picket had been drawn in so I shouldered my traps & took a bee line for camp. The troops had gone on and after an 8 mile race I overtook the reg't. We stop for camp at White Plains on the Manassas Junction R.R. [?]

-23-
Yesterday Gen Newton issued orders that every man found straggling without a pass should be shot without ceremony. I believe none are dead yet.
This morning we were sent as train guard and got into Warrenton about night. We are drawn up in line of battle supporting batteries.

-24-
To day for a wonder we have a day of rest, or nearly so. The only move being a change of camp about half a mile.
JULY

-25-
We were routed up about daylight to get ready to march; finally got started at about 8 A.M. for Warrenton Junction. After a short but barbarously conducted march we went into camp near the junction.

-26-
There is some prospect of our remaining here a few days, till supplies can be brought on. To night we rec'd a large mail. All of our back mail has been received.

-27-
We remain here yet & no immediate prospect of moving. Another mail was expect-ed to night but failed to come to time.

JULY

-28-
The pontoons came up on the R.R. to day, giving rise to rumors of an advance across the river at Rappahannock Station. Lt. [7] (Co. H) came up last night from Michigan, he says the Col has great confidence of success in getting the reg't home.

-29-
"All quiet," nothing of interest around here or in the papers. The air has been rather torrid, even in the shade of our houses, of which shade I have taken full advantage all day.

-30-
The record for yesterday will apply to the condition of things to day exactly.
JULY

-31-
Ditto as yesterday.
the Mich. Cav. went by
this afternoon. I saw
Bert Hough, Farwell & Farley.
To night we got the
tidings of Alfred Ryder's
death in the Hospital
at Gettysburg.
AUGUST

1st
We started from the Junction at 5 A.M. & went a little to the right of Rappahannock Station near the river. The 167th [?] were not going to start this morning, but by means of the 6th 2nd & 7th Cutter finally persuaded them to come.

2nd
Started this morning before breakfast & crossed the river on pontoons near Rappahannock Station & took position in line of battle on a hill in the afternoon we moved camp & then went out on picket.

3rd
This morning we accumulated some provisions of the secesh citizens. We are not relieved to day & every thing is quiet.

AUGUST

4th
This morning we bought some goods of a secesh with Currency. the poor old rascal has taken $400 the last 2 or 3 days. We were relieved about noon by the 167th.

5th
The army of the Potomac was reinforced to day by the departure of the 167th for home. These valiant fellows will now beat their swords into plowshares & resume the peaceful occupations for which their hearts have yearned so long.

6th
I had a swim in the muddy Rappahannock this afternoon the only very important event that has happened.
AUGUST

-7-

The Col. got back to night in the midst of a rainstorm. He talks in a way that makes our homeward journey look rather dubious. The band came up most here with him & will be up in the morning.

-8-

The band came up this morning & filled the air with their beatified & infernal music. At night we moved out on reserve picket near where we laid on the 2nd.

-9-

Orrin [?] Dority [?] came over to day. He belongs to the artillery & his battery is within a few rods of us. Our Paymaster is on the other side of the river.

AUGUST

-10-

This afternoon we relieved a Secesh cow of some milk contrary to the law but in accordance with the practice of the country. The 6th Wis. mutler came up in the evening & Nelson [?] by becoming a member of that reg't bought us [?] cane of condensed milk[?]

-11-

We were paid off this morning. I rec'd the sum of $16.41 (?) for the proceeds of two months wages (the clothing acc't). I sent home $9.41.

-12-

We were relieved this morning by the 7th & recrossed the river. Our camp is 20 or 25 rods from the pontoon bridge & we have to get wood & water from the other side.
AUGUST

-15-
We had a powerful rain last night the water poured in on us from the leaves & bushes at the back end of the tent.
There is no news of importance, either local or from the regions beyond Washington.

-16-
Every thing quiet to day.
At night I had to go on guard a few rods off.

-14-
This forenoon we put up a gable end to our house & added a bedstead, to the great amusement of Co. C. However, the laugh was ours after we got it in the tent.

-17-
Sunday passed quietly in camp & to day is Ditto.
To morrow we expect to be relieved.

-15-
Was detailed to go out on picket this afternoon morning, & we take the position occupied by the 6th the last time we were over.

-18-
We were relieved this morning & returned to camp. Indiana sutler came up this afternoon but during dress parade & inspection we lost the chance to buy.
-19-
Passage & I went over to the Div. Hospital this afternoon to see Charley Cogswell. When we were coming back we saw troops & the Corps Colors in motion & when we got back to camp we found everything packed up, & arms stacked ready to meet an expected advance of the rebs.

-20-
We find ourselves here yet to day notwithstanding the scare yesterday. Probably Comissary was the cause of it. We have drill to night by the Col. during the excitement yesterday the Col. of the picket line came & wanted to know what was up to cause so much stir.

-21-
This morning a detail was made for picket we are on reserve on the ground occupied by the 2nd Brigade during the first week of Aug.

-22-
All quiet to day. The weather is pretty warm as I am in the shade about 20 rods from where we are camped.

-23-
Sunday. Homer Smith came down from the 16th to day.

-24-
We were relieved to day about noon. After we got back we employed the rest of the day in cleaning up the filth in our tent that had accumulated during our absence.
AUGUST

-28-
On police this forenoon cleaning up for the Col.'s tent, & digging the well deeper. At last we have got a good supply of water.

AUGUST

-28-
This morning we were relieved by the 7th Wis. After we got back to camp the rest of the day was occupied in moving tents & c.

-26-
Went out on picket this forenoon on the picket line. I am on the farthest post of our Div. The Cav. picket is about a mile in front.

-29-
To day we finished our work cleaning up the street, digging ditches & c. At night a detail of 8 men was called for to go on picket next morning. I am elected of course.

-27-
We went out beyond the Cav. picket & got some green corn. This evening a reb. deserter came in.

-30-
Before crossing the river we had to endure grand guard mount for about two hours with knapsacks on. We are put put on garrison guard at a secesh house in the breastworks.
AUGUST

-31-

Relieved from guard duty this morning by a squad from the 6th, but we hold our original position in the shade by the house. To day is the day the troops are mustered for pay & I presume we are mustered on the other side of the river. At least we know nothing to the contrary. the details from some of the other reg'ts were mustered here.
"THE DIARY OF ALFRED NOBLE" (Continued) September - 1863.

SEPTEMBER

-1-
Things remain "in statu quo" & there is a report in the paper that Lee is across the river at Fort Conway (opposite Fort Royal) with 50,000 men. Just a year ago to day we made our first entry into Virginia.

-2-
We were relieved this morning & managed to get back in Camp before being detailed again. No news in the paper except the reported death of Guerrilla Mosby "from wounds rec'd in action."

-3-
According to precedent we were detailed on picket again this morning, endured the torture of grand guard mount & went out on the picket line, my post being the farthest of our Div. I did not feel very well & one of the boys came from reserve in my place.

-4-
I went back to the reserve this morning where I shall stay until we go into camp. Am on guard at night from 9 to 10. I got a letter from home with $1.00 in postage Stamps enough to pay my debts.

-5-
We were relieved this morning by the 7th Wis. We hear that our Camp has been pronounced by the Inspector to be "the d - d - t nastiest Camp in the Army of the Potomac."

-6-
The team is at work drawing cedar bushes to fix up the Camp. I suppose we have got to remove the foul stain from the name of the Camp.
SEPTEMBER

-7-
There was a small detail from the reg't for picket. I, for a wonder, escaped, but probably only to be elected to morrow.

-8-
All the Co. in camp had to go over the river this morning on garrison duty. We are in the shade of the trees between the two houses on the hill.

-9-
On guard to day 2 hrs on & 4 off. In the afternoon I went back to Camp a little while. No news.

SEPTEMBER

-10-
Came off guard this morning. the officers are around taking the descrip- tion of the boxes of clothing we sent off to Washington last spring they say we will get them in a few days.

-11-
We were relieved this morning by the sharpshooters. the Pay master arrived in Camp this afternoon he will pay imme-

-12-
This morning we signed the Muster roll & were paid off this afternoon. We are under orders to be ready to march early to morrow morning. the 2nd Corps is back a little ways in the woods.
SEPTEMBER
-13-
This morning the 2nd Corps went toward Culpepper there was considerable Artillery firing & it is said we captured 1000 men & 3 cannon. We are near the phâket line, out for two days.

-14-
Some rob prisoners about 100, went by here this afternoon. Last night some passed through the lines, & to night a powerful lookout will be kept.

-15-
We were relieved this forenoon, the remainder of the 2nd Corps (including the 7th Mich, Inf.) went by across the river to day. Our garrison is dismissed to day.

SEPTEMBER
-16-
We were called up this morning at 4 o'clock & at daylight we were on the march toward Culpepper. we camped about noon 4 or 5 miles to the left of the C. H.

-17-
The bamer presentation came off at 5 o'clock P.M. After the presentation the officers had a big drink proposing toast, drinking health & feeling good generally. To morrow the privates are to have theirs.

-18-
Commenced raining in the night & continued until noon. At 9 A.M. the Col. came around & told those who wanted something to drink to go over to the grove where they had a grand brigade drunk.
SEPTEMBER

19-
We moved Camp to day about 40 rods.
I have been on brigade guard the last 24 hrs. The
guard extends around the brigade but have no
orders whatever. - A stern military necessity this
guard is.

20-
Sunday. Dress parade in the forenoon, orders from
Division H'dq'rs for inspection every day & 3½ hrs drill.
The overcoats &c that we sent off to Washington
for storage last Spring came in to day. Preaching in
the Afternoon by Chaplain Way.

21-
Inspection, drill & parade according to orders.
In the evening we have marching orders & draw
rations to make 8 days supply. The Cav. went towards the
Rapidan on reconnaissance. Col. Morrow & Capt. Edwards went with
them.

22-
We heard considerable firing this afternoon beyond
the mountain. Suppose it is the cavalry. We
have not heard any thing from them yet.
The paper brings news that the rebs have attacked
Rosecrans & are having a hard battle.

23-
The Col. came back to day, the cav. did not go beyond the
Rapidan. It found the rebels in force, a
large body of them having just come up from Orange C.H.

24-
About noon to day we suddenly had
orders to pack up & march. We moved to
within a mile of
Hococoa F'd & occupied the camp just vacated
by the 12th Corp.
SEPTEMBER

-25-
Contrary to our expectations, we remained here all day.
It is supposed the 12th Corps has gone to Tennessee to join Rosecrans as they took the cars for Alexandria after turning over all their useless (?) goods.

-26-
No move to day, but no signs of staying long. The rebels are busy across the river throwing up fortifications and planting batteries & many think we will be shelled in two or three days.

-27-
Preaching to day both by our Chaplain and the 7th's. We had a small mail, the first first for 3 or 4 days, Nothing for me.

SEPTEMBER

-28-
Pooler & I were detailed this morning to go on guard at Div. ordnance train. Are about 1½ miles from camp.
A large mail to night. I am the recipient of 3 or 4 letters & papers & a hat.

-29-
Move about half a mile to day, the right of the 2nd Brigade occupy the place where we were. Our Brig. is about 3/4 of a mile from here. on guard 2 hrs. in the afternoon.

-30-
Nothing to put "on record" to day.
OCTOBER

1.
Same as yesterday except that I came on guard 2 hrs again this afternoon.

2.
It commenced rain-ing in the night & continued all the fore-noon to day. 15 of us are ordered back to the reg't. I am the elected from our company.

3.
Washed & built a tent to day. Going out guerrillas hunting to morrow.

4.
Hunted for guerrillas but found none. Preaching this afternoon.

5.
Meeting of the Brigade this afternoon for the purpose of consider ing the last order relating to Vet Vols, by which old Vets may reenlist & go home to recruit & reorganize.

6.
Detailed on picket for two days. Am on post about 3 miles from Camp down the river.
OCTOBER

-7-
On picket. The rebels are having quite a jollification across the river.

-8-
Every thing very quiet across the river to day. Relieved in the afternoon and return to camp.

-9-
Have orders to day to be ready to march at a moment notice. In the evening we draw 5 days rations to make 8 from to morrow morning. On guard at the Col's tent to night.

OCTOBER

-10-
We were called up before day light & at 8 A.M. marched down toward the Rapidan & laid in the woods all day. At night on the picket detail. just after dark the pickets were drawn in & a retreat is made to Aney [?] Mountain.

-11-
Retreat to the Rappahannock & cross at Kelly's Ford at sundown. the cavalry covered the rear, our brigade being the rear of the infantry column.

-12-
Sleep and rest all day.
OCTOBER

-15-
Started on the march at 1 o'clock A.M.
Passed Bealeton at sunrise
Warrenton Junction
at 10 A.M. & camp at
Bristor [?] at 9 P.M.

-14-
We were called up before daylight
to draw rations & marched at sunrise
for Centerville where we arrived at noon
the 2nd Corps had a fight out toward the front this afternoon.

-15-
Moved to the right in front of the village in the fortifications.

OCTOBER

-16-
Policing & fixing up to receive visitors
raining all day.
Gen. Meredith
got back & will take Command of the Division
tomorrow according to report.

-17-
Nothing new to day. - Gen Meredith will not command the Division
but is ordered to Washington.
We have had no mail since leaving
Kelly's Ford, 12th.

-18-
Had a large mail to night. I was made happy by 4 letters & 2 papers.
In the afternoon and night we drew to make 8 days rations.
OCTOBER

-19-
Marched to day up Warrenton pike to Gainesville [?], thence to Hay Market on the Manassas Gap R. R. Cavalry fighting all day in front toward night after we had got into camp they were driven back to our Corps. I was on the skirmish line all night.

-20-
We marched at about 3 P.M. passed through Thoroughfare Gap in the evening & got into camp about half past 10.

-21-
Moved camp about half a mile & went into camp to the left of the new Baltimore road, about 1 mile from the Gap.

-22-
This morning I rallied on some potatoes & while washing them was caught by the guard taken to Brigade H'dq'rs thence to Reg'tl ditto, & sent back to the Co without serious loss of life.

-23-
Inspection to day. Nothing else.

-24-
At daylight we were called up & soon after started for Brentville about 1 hour after we had reached that place we were ordered back to Bristol[?]
OCTOBER

25-

Preaching in the afternoon. At night a number of convalescents came in to our Co. Charley Cogswell & Hessenden. Cogswell tents with Dobbins & me.

26-

All quiet, except a little camomading off toward Alexandria.

27-

I was taken sick in the night last night & I feel pretty miserable to day. Move our tents into streets this afternoon.

28-

Nothing to write to day.

29-

Washed, & made myself generally useful to myself. A whiskey ration was issued this afternoon. In consequence we had dress parade & brigade guard ordered "a la Rapidan" (Sept. 16)

30-

Our Reg't & the 6th Wisconsin were sent towards Gatletts to guard the R.R. Our post is about 4 miles from Gatletts near Kettle Run.
OCTOBER

-31-

Mustered for pay
to day. I am sent
to the house of a seedy
Englishman as safeguard.
Can't find much to
guard. the rebs &
Yanks together have
left him pretty destitute.
NOVEMBER

1. The company has gone on post about half a mile down the track. No papers have we seen since leaving Bristow(?).

2. All quiet on safeguard. I am pretty sick all day.

3. Ditto as yesterday.

4. Still quiet. Papers state the recommencement of the attack on Charleston.

5. The company were relieved of duty on the R.R. & we went back to rest within a mile of Catlett. We have orders to be ready to march at daylight to morrow morning.

6. We were called up at daylight & packed up ready to march. We were put under arms at 10 A.M. on a false alarm after which we went into camp.


NOVEMBER

-7-
We were called up before daylight and marched to near Kelly’s Ford. I rode in an ambulance. Some fighting in the afternoon towards the Station & we captured 1200 men & a battery of the rebels.

-8-
About 2 o’clock the 2nd brigade were called up, and we, a little while before daylight crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly’s Ford & Camp near Brandy Station. I rode in the ambulance again.

-9-
In the evening we marched to Beverly Ford. Gen Meredith came up just after our arrival to take command of the brigade.

NOVEMBER

-10-
Paymaster Stoul arrived in the evening. Seven men are called for from the Co. to work on the R.R. for 6 days.

-11-
Signed the payrolls this morning & one Co. was paid off in the afternoon.

-12-
Paid off this morning. Sent my allotment home this afternoon.
NOVEMBER

-15-
    All quiet to day. Cutler takes command of the Brigade & Mene-dith of the Division.

-14-
    Went out on picket. Commenced to rain in the afternoon & continued about half the night.

-15-
    Cannonading this morning out in front. We got an axe & cut some wood & made ourselves as comfortable as possible.

-16-
    The picket line was advanced about a mile. Cause, new picket officer.

-17-
    We were relieved this forenoon. Potter[?] & I took a little exercise in the line of carrying boards to camp.
    The most pleasant way of taking such recreation is without knapsacks.

-18-
    Another working party was sent out to the Station to finish off a fort.
    Seven men are called for to do some more to morrow.
NOVEMBER

-19-
The fatigue party was not called out. To night another detail for the same purpose was made & a second for picket I am elected for fatigue.

-20-
On fatigue tearing down reb rifle pits at Mappamoomock Station.

-21-
All quiet at Beverly Ford.

-22-
Gen Meredith left the Division, to take the position of Military Governor of Michigan & Indiana. He took leave of the 19th this afternoon.

-23-
On picket for three days. Our post is out beyond the old Senators, to the right.

-24-
The pickets were drawn in at 3 A.M. & reached camp about daylight, in the midst of a rain storm to find everything packed up to move. The order was countermanded & we went out on picket again.
-25-
Every thing quiet to day. Nothing further is known about marching. There was an eclipse of the moon this morning while we were on post.
The rain has ceased the clouds cleared away & fine weather in prospect.

-26-
We were called in this morning at 3 o'clock.
At sunrise we marched for the Rapidan & went into camp for the night at 8 o'clock in the evening. We are somewhere near Ely's Ford.

-27-
Crossed the Rapidan before daylight, marched down the plank toward Chancellorsville, then South to the Orange C.H. plank, then west 4 or 5 miles & after an hour or two for rest, crossed north to the pike & went into camp for the night 2 1/2 miles east of Locust Grove.

-28-
Called up at 4 A.M. and marched up the pike to Locust Grove then turned to left, where the reg't deployed as skirmishers & secured the country between the pike & plank for 4 or 5 miles & finally drew up in line of battle & one of the reserve lines.

-29-
Called up again at 4 A.M. & after daylight moved a few rods to the front, in the rear of the 2nd brigade, no firing except on the skirmish line.

-30-
The ball was opened at 6 o'clock by cannonading all along the line but the rebels failed to respond except by a few shots, no musketry fighting.
Two guns were fired this morning. At 5 A.M. we started for the Rapidan & on reaching it at Germanna Ford went into camp near the river.

Called up at daylight & crossed the river. Our brigade was sent up the river to Kitomil's ford, for what purpose we know not. A little cannonading was heard above us across the river.

Marched toward Kelly's Ford & went into camp just after crossing Mountain Creek. Got lots lots of mail to day.

Moved camp about 1/2 miles & commenced putting up winter quarters.

Building houses until afternoon when we were ordered to be ready to march at a moment's notice. No march to day however.

No march yet. being Sunday we rest from our labors.
DECEMBER

-7-
Getting out timber for our shanty.

-8-
Putting up shanties. The Col. got back to day.

-9-
Dittos on yeasterday except the clause relating to the Col.
We put up our tent & slept in our own shebang.

DECEMBER

-10-
Built up the chimney a foot or two & put up a bunk.

-11-
Nothing to make memorable to day. Principal employment, putting around the shanty.

-12-
Built up the chimney higher. Weather is rather rainy.
In the evening we widened the bunk.
DECEMBER

-13-
Lots of rain last night & this morning we found about 8 inches of water in the shanty. We dug a ditch around the tent & the flood fell. Brigade church service this afternoon.

-14-
On fatigue, working out building shanties for the officers (without shoulder straps)

-15-
On picket, by some mischance, on reserve. Old Davy brought up a load of goods this afternoon. Great excitement in the 29th.

DECEMBER

-16-
The reserve was moved out toward the front by day, to follow the picket line which is now out to Mountain Creek.

-17-
Commenced raining toward morning & continued all day. We were relieved about noon & waded back to camp.

-18-
A deserter from the 70th N.Y. was shot this afternoon, between here & the Ford.

Another excitement to day on the Vet. Vol. question.
On fatigue, laying corduroy road, cold lazy work & a cold day to work in.

Sunday preaching near Brigade H'q'rs. The Vet. Vol. excitement continues: great results anticipated the 24th going in 80

Nothing very exciting except the final bursting of the Veteran Volunteer bubble the little 24th played out, forgotten.

Nothing to make history of to day.

Just as we were starting after wood this afternoon the order came to pack up everything but our tents. In the evening we had orders to be ready to march at 6 in the morning.

Marched at sunrise to Culpeper via Brandy Station. I was sent out of our Co on picket toward the Rapidan.
DECEMBER

-25-

Came in from picket this afternoon. - Had a Christmas dinner for the small sum of $1.00. - Col. Robinson says we are to build winter quarters, - query how can we build houses without timber.

-26-

Moved camp this morning about a half a mile, & immediately commenced operations against the timber.

-27-

Rainy, building almost entirely suspended. we go [sic]

DECEMBER

-28-

More rain. In the morning Nile & I were detailed for picket to morrow.

-29-

On picket. the day is clear & warm promises us a good time out. We were at first on reserve in Bott's barn but were afterward sent to the reserve on the right where we find ourselves in a mud hole.

-30-

Did not have a very pleasant sleep last night, the ground is rather damp. to day we built a [sic] bunk.
DECEMBER

-51-

Commenced to rain this morning a little before daylight. We got up & folded things, then counted the minutes that passed before we were relieved. At noon we were relieved by the 2nd Brigade Chaps & waded into camp.

Our house not being up we availed ourselves of John Bartlett’s hospitality & slept in his tent. Where the New Year found us.