During Nov. 1862. Gen. Grant was occupied with the enemy in Mid., now commanded by Gen. J. C. Pemberton. He began his moves upon Vicksburg. Pemberton had 40,000 men on the Texas heights. Grant's Army was the 13th Corps. Its right wing was composed of 3 Divisions: Gen. A. J. Smith, 2 Brigades; 2 Div., Morgan's 2nd Indians. 3 Div., W. Morgan. 3rd. Smallest. Grant moved as far south as Oxford, Miss., when Van Dorn's Cavalry burned Holly Springs. Gen. Grant returned to Grand Junction, Holly Springs.


Dec. 18, 1862.

The Army of the Tennessee was divided into two:
13th in March. 15th in May. 15th in June.


[Handwritten notes and diagrams on the page]
The hill on which the Rees is to encamp is a very pleasant spot, of the highest ground around except on the east where about 3/4 of a mile away there is a thickly wooded hill which overlooks ours. Our hill appears to have been cleared for a pasture, there are perhaps 20 acres in all of cleared, grassy land sloping down from the hill into a plain on the E.S. 1/2 with a little creek on the east, just beyond that the track of the W.T. & D. R. R. was lying unused silent.

Orders were given to construct a permanent camp for winter. Forts were put up at first - then log houses were built - by the men fitted up with bunks; the boards were made by splitting out 6 x 24 Shakes from white oak logs sawn into blocks about 4 ft. long. There also made good shingles - some of the men constructed fireplaces & chimneys out of sticks & mud - "a la white" - A fine large hospital was erected from an old store in Rienzi - It was torn down & the materials hauled to our camp. It had wards, kitchen & medicine room. But this came later - the men also built kitchens for each company - Quartermaster's depositories - Guard house - a Book store - A Masonic lodge - Officers quarters - Stables - a fort. Surrounded the whole with a palisade of huge split logs. There is a magnificent spring not far away so that we have the best of water. Rations are abundant & of good quality - The first thing done in all this work was to build the palisade - Great White Oak logs from the adjacent forest were cut into 12 ft. lengths & split.
CAMP DAVIES Dec 1862.

The halves were pointed at one end, a notch cut in each side, or edge. The half logs
were then set into a narrow ditch 4 feet deep, so as to bring the edges, which were bevelled
away some so as to cut the thin edge away & fit the logs closely together. The
notches meeting formed a loop hole about 4 ft. from the ground, through which
before a rifle, the balisade then formed was 8 ft. high from the ground. Holes
held by the 4 ft. in ground. There were 3 gates. One N., one E. & one S.
They were formed of massive logs bolted with iron hoops. Requiring 3
more to spacious the walls with ease. These were closed at night &
opened in the morning. 2 men at each gate stood guard night & day.

When the balisade was complete the men built their log house quarters,

Kitchen - Q. M. Store House &c. - The Officers had many servants
who built quarters for the officers & did other work. In fact the
Camp had a great many Negroes in it. After this the hospital
was built, & my pulled down our old & worn tents & put
into our houses. After all this was done, the fort was built
& 8 guns placed upon it. And when this was finished the store was built. Then the Masonic Hall & the Theatre, or Amusement Hall

wherein were such shows as the Men come & controv. - debates &c.

But when these things were done other improvements came on. A
large target--firing range was built for target practice. So
all were busy as bees. The winter through, & the health of
the men was good, & passed. The one sickness being
a dumb ague & biliousness, brought on by picker duty
in the Tusculumia Loulanes South 4 miles of Camp
While the men had to go out a considerable distance
which to be in the fog's rain. The winter was mild.
Jan. 1863

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

I there was considerable rain. To obviate the effects of exposure to the Malaria each picket guard as he comes in from his post in the morning is given a gill of whiskey containing 1/2 an ounce of quinine & 2 grains of capricium. I mixed & dispensed with it may during the winter 3 bottles of whiskey.

During the month of February I went on detail as a Hospital Steward with a column of cavalry, about 1400 strong, a battery of mountain Artillery under the command of Col. Conkling on a raid to Tuscumbia & Florence, Ala., about 50 m. e. of Corinth on the M. C. R. R. I was mounted as a cavalryman in genuine cavalry service. We left Corinth at the beginning of February in a magnificent long line the cavalry moving out in column of fours, sabers & spurs rattling, buggling, ringing.

Dr. Pogue went as the Surgeon of the expedition. We had 6 ambulances. On over the hills we trotted through the woods, out into the wide country, past farms & places of which seemed never to have felt the war. Rain came on a continued day after day for several days, the roads became very muddy. The splash from the horses hoofs covered us with mud.

I had often wondered why the cavalry wore furnished boots, the infantry shoes. It seemed as if the infantry bring on foot would need the shoes more. But on this trip I learned why - the infantryman gets his feet wet indeed. But will keep those maps marching. His shoes also are lighter to carry & easier to walk in giving the ankles more freedom.
Cavalry Raid to Tuscumbia, Ala. Febr. 1863

And the cavalrymen feet become quite round. They are also liable to get on
from the splash of mud water from the horses' hoofs. The leg of the boot
needs to be high to prevent the splash from getting into the feet. & cavalry

Camp Davis Miss.

March 28th, 1863.

Dear Sister,

A few days since I received your letter and was very glad to hear from you and to know you were
well and getting along so finely. If you are contented
with your place you had better stay there by all means.
I like to earn the love and good will of all around you.
A week or two ago I was out on a cavalry expedition or
said as some call it. We were 1400 strong and had
20 pieces of light artillery with us. (12 pounders) We traveled
about 150 miles took the town of Tuscumbia in Ala-
na. We had a little skirmish there and had one
man killed and one wounded. We killed 3
of the rebels. We stayed there three days and then
started back to Corinth. We had several little skirmishes along the road but had no one killed.
We were 14 days out. We had no tents along so
we had to take it out on the ground and it rained
most of the time so we had a pretty rough march.

Camping is the life of a soldier. We have a very beautiful
Camp here. We keep it clean and nice. I have planted
pine trees all along in rows. We are going to have
a large hospital built of plank and then we can
move our sick out of the tents. You asked me
when I don't get married. I am much too young
to think of marriage yet. I must earn more money
so I will have a nice home to go in. I will be 18.
There was considerable rain. To obviate the effects of exposure to the malaria each picket guard was he comes in from his post in the morning is given a dose of quinine in everyone's manner of drinking water every day during.

years old the 5th of next June. I get a letter from Cousin Oscar once in a while. He is living at Erastus in Sheffield, Ill. His sisters, you know, I suppose, are living with their father & mother in Minnesota, they are all well. You said you were you never could pay me for that little money I never want any pay but your love are alone as far as earthly relations go and we share together. We have both got to make our own in the world and putting our trust in God can as it were. In the army I only get a few wages but when I get out I can get in a drug store and make a great deal more, but any term of enlistment will not go out in less than a year so I will not write to Uncle Erastus anymore or you coming to live with him. I am very far away from where you can get your board and some little besides Persimmon in your stovemate and writing while you can. In this letter I will send you two dollars and I wish you would get Daguerréotype taken and send to me and I will send you mine. Send my best respect to hands and send my love to all my friends around there. Write soon. Adieu yore letter as before.

From your ever affectionate

Brother, A.M. Bill.
SECESSION

Cavalry RAID to Tuscaloosa, Ala. Feb. 1863

But a cavalryman's feet become quite numb. They are also liable to get wet - from the splash of mud or water from the horse's hooves. The leg of the boot needs to be high to prevent the splash from getting into the feet. A cavalryman's boots are as muddy as if he walked but the leather will soon dry after the water. Also a Cavalryman has now thus to dismount to arrange saddlebridle etc. and he may have to step into a pool of water. He needs boots for if the Mounted 1st Md. Feet Cavalry ranks might soon be thin from loss.

On the way out I became acquainted with an English soldier, who had served in the Crimean, where he was a member of Lord Cardigan's Light Horse Squadron, and took part in the glorious charge of the 60th upon the Russian Batteries in the valley. He was wounded by a pistol shot through the wrist, & a bayonet thrust in the thigh - a bronze silver medal given him by the Czar. He says he kept his horse unharmed until they nearly reached the Russian Guns. Then the pistol shot struck him, & he could not guide his horse. He lost his saber drawn on his horse was lost on with others he became involved in the smoke & in the Russian infantry. Then he said, it wasn't hard cut anywhere - there. He could not tell friend from foe. Horses were frantic. Sneaking his horse fell. He received a bayonet in his thigh. He thought he was on beyond the guns then a fell to the ground. Then he lay crawling up under a gun for protection from feet. During the night he crawled out to where he was picked up. He got well. I came to America & joined the Cavalry in the Federal service. On this trip he was afflicted with boils so that he could not ride his horse, but was obliged to lay in one of the ambulances; but he did not want to turn his horse over which was a very fine bay, so asked me to take this.
CAVALRY RAID TO TUSCUMBIA, ALA. FEB. 1863

Horse ride him—saying that he would purchase a steed for me. Accordingly I turned over my horse which was a very good one, a true and proper soldier. It was a perfectly trained horse, very well kept, with no trouble. I was as well off as the colonel himself.

The rains had swollen the creeks so that a vessel had to be driven by oarsmen. Often in the swift current men were thrown from their horses. A reckless horse would pull the cowboy off. Harriet pulled back. But my horse bore me across the most places with perfect ease. Drawn up on his back, keeping well to the neck, I could keep quite dry—though for most of the time during the night we were soaked that we did not mind the rains.

On this trip we stopped over night at a plantation entirely not occupied by either army. There were a large barn full of corn sheet fodder in bundles, 9 barrels of corn, ricks full of husked corn. The entire cornfield itself was richly out of the forest. Among also for some firewood hams cured in wood ashes, packed away in the kitchen floor. They helped themselves of course. Dem rifles that guns were taken. Some Guerilla prisoners died in the woods.

Next morning we went on.

At Tuscumbia a small rebel force was stationed. After 5 miles out the picket guard was encountered & driven in about a half mile further, the Charge into the town began. The Ambulances had to take the rear—
Camp Davis Miss.
Wednesday-March 25th 1865.

Dear Uncle,

My dear, I received your kind letter today. Having an opportunity I thought I might as well answer it immediately, for there may not be another chance for us to hear much news here. The papers tell about the same story over and over again. A few weeks ago I was out on a cavalry expedition, or, as some call them, we were gone 14 days and traveled every day excepting two. We started from Corinth, our force numbered almost 400 men, all mounted, consisting of the 9th Battalion, Ohio Cavalry, 9th Independent Cavalry, Company A, Newell's Battalion of 10th Missouri Cavalry, Company G, 3rd Mississippi Light Artillery. We traveled on an average of 20 miles per day. The country through which we passed the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd day was very poor. Most all the farms & houses were either deserted or the houses burned. There were some places where the nice large mansion had been burned & the folks were living in their negro quarters, most all deserted entirely. When we got into Alabama it was more hilly and rocky with numerous large creeks over which nice substantial bridges had been built. And in all the valleys and low grounds were farms, all occupied and the inhabitants far from being harmed & there was plenty of chickens, turkeys, bees, sheep, hogs, cattle, salt and sweet potatoes. I did not see one Irish potato on the march. Taking scarcely any provision with us we of course had to forage off of the people for food for ourselves & horses. We could get plenty of corn bread & milk flour was a very scarce article and none but the wealthiest families had it. The poorer classes which seem almost a distinct tribe from the rich live on...
had tried to make them believe that the greater
mass of the people had been deceived. Said he though
the North was wrong and the South was wrong,
but that the South had more of right & justice in
their side, that the thing had progressed too far
to ever return, & that they to day were stronger than
they were a year ago. I told him that their cause was
utterly hopeless and would end in their total ruin
sooner or later. The people around our camp are
of course good Union men as long as our army
stays here but more are very averse to "flock to our
standard" or materially to aid us in any other way.

Well we start in southeastern two days when we heard of
the approach of Van Dorn with some cavalry and we are
"Kinder bedadled" we went back to Corinth on
the same road we came, burning all the bridges
behind us. We had a little skirmishing for
two days but no one hurt. We arrived all safe in
Corinth with a train 4 miles long consisting
of Confiscated waggons loaded with Confiscated
Cotton & driven by Confiscated "niggers". I was
ordered to go with our regimental Surgeon and was
appointed Surgeon for the trip. Since I have
become a "democrat" but not one of the upper
head kind which we soldiers hate worse than
the rebels themselves and which they will find
out to their sorrow some day if they don't
stop their croaking. Our regiment is very healthy
there being but two or three sick in it all the
Sheffield boys are well. I sincerely hope you
will escape the Conscription bill but there are
some in that town whom I wish could be
brought in the field as men who could leave
as well as better than some whom have already gone
I am very glad to hear from you again. What is going on? I have a letter from the man who lives in the house next door to my own. He says he is very well and that the weather is fine. Please write and let me know how you and your family are getting along. I hope you are all well and happy. My regards to your friends. I trust you will find this letter satisfactory. Please write soon.

Yours sincerely,
[Signature]

[Address]

P.S. I have just received a letter from the man who lives in the house next door to my own. He says he is very well and that the weather is fine. Please write and let me know how you and your family are getting along. I hope you are all well and happy. My regards to your friends. I trust you will find this letter satisfactory. Please write soon.

Yours sincerely,
[Signature]

[Address]
small guard of partially sick men, on lame, or sick horses to protect them from a surprise in rear. There was quite a sharp skirmish in front, but our men coming on overran the small rebel force & chased them to the river, where they got across to Florence. My horse being pretty good & sure footed carried me past many of the cavalry men in the charge, as all galloped full speed up the road & into town. A few companies went on other roads - but I saw none of the fighting. Our men, The Cold 3 Rebels were killed, a few more wounded. I rode up to the little battery, saw the Mountain Howitzers throw a cone shell at a house about 500 yards away. It was about all the little big mouthed guns could do to get the shell over there - but the shell burst admirably.

We remained in Tuscumbia a couple or three days - the pleasant little town itself was pretty thoroughly ransacked. Private houses occupied were not disturbed - but all stores suffered. I went into a large well stocked drugstore. Cavalrymen were emptying the bottles with the backs of their sabers - down cellar the oils garnished the paint, some flowing from a dozen barrels, & the mixture was 4 inches deep on the floor. Upstairs we found the proprietors apartment. He was a bachelor, judged from the appearances, & the pictures on the walls. He had fled precipitately. The bedding & clothing etc. were rapidly appropriated by Cavalrymen - a trunk in one corner was closed, locked, & strapped, & had probably been left by oversight. A couple of sabers dried in the sun, & the bachelor's shirts, collars etc. - as magic, the trunk was overturned & a roll of something in paper met across the floor. A Cavalryman picked it up, broke it, & found his hands.
RETURN FROM TUSCUMBLA.

full of silver halves & quarter dollars - the rest rolling on the floor & quickly grabbed up by Cavalry men. I stood in the doorway & saw this plunder. It was considered perfectly lawful, & as much as to take from storage. When our train stopped I went in to look see - picking the rubbish over with a stick & saw another roll which I picked up & opened. It was a roll of Confederate Bank notes, 500$. I stuffed it in my pocket, selling part of it afterward for 100$ in greenbacks, but using most of it to buy pies & dinners from citizens, often paying 1$ for a dinner.

The surrounding farms were thoroughly cleared of horses, mules - wagons - negroes - livestock - cotton & then we left to return to Corinth. We had a train of plunder - armies long - our 40,000 bales of cotton in bales.

A great many wagons had to be abandoned on the muddy & bad roads returning - there, with many bales of cotton were burned. We finally arrived in Corinth & reported our plunder. The 6 ambulances were full of sick & wounded men. These were sent to the Field Hospital.

My friend the Eng. Cavalryman was now well able for service. I returned on horse - reporting myself back to our own Sharpshooter's camp. We were out some 14 or 20 days away from all communications whatever.

The Spring of 1863 came on. Space, found us all domiciled luxuriously in our camp - which had been christened CAMP DAVIES.