April 3 - May 18, 1862
Camp near Hampton
Apr. 18, 1862 10 PM.

Far as the eye can reach, the sky is bright with the glare of camp fires of soldiers preparing rations for to morrow journey. Yes to morrow journey.

My at 10 we once more advance. I suppose on Richmond.

4th We were informed the mig that we had a Brigadier Gen. C Berry. I was right glad to hear it fearing it might have been a worse man. We left camp at the appointed time & are now 10 PM. We are beyond Big Bethel. Our march has been through a country in
many respects. Pleasant but at this water is very bad and is all nearly stagnant covered with green scum. The land is perfectly level at high tide and not more than 10 ft above the ocean. The march was slow and tedious halts were frequent on account of difficulty with baggage artillery. I saw the spot where Major Winthrop lost his life are said to have fallen. We shifted at sundown and supper made a cup of coffee and moved forward all night. I presume we shall advance again before morning. We shall fight to-morrow if the Rebel
Some of the Rebs struggled badly & many of the men threw away their overcoats, hankkerchiefs &c. Our Regt. marched in good order & picked up more than they threw away. Poe had a fracas with a lot of quartermasters & a train of wagons & marched 2 of them off our ground at the point of the bayonet.

5th. We were up a little before 5 am, but did not march till 7 am. Then did not march more than 1 1/2 miles before we halted. Five Regts. Regulars & abt. above 100 pieces of artillery crossed us. There was a very heavy shower of rain while we were waiting. We left abt. 11 30 am, now at 3 PM, find ourselves near York.
town. We have marched abt 11 miles over a very bad road—
Farming open & still brickly abt—9 Am at Yorktown & Wayne's M'ills & has been continued to this
time. Mean abt ½ mile ni near of a part of our batteries—
These shot & shells fall near us occasionally. Within 10 rods
or such a small'd. I have seen 1 man who was killed
I would not be surprised if we got shells
into our camp before nig.
6th. The nig opener very bright &
pain. I slept pretty well last night—
Our baggage did not come but
I took the precaution to pick up a
good blanket by the roadside &
found it of great service there.
washed, eaten my breakfast, filled my canteen & made sundry little preparations for whatever the day may bring forth. TheOur balloon is up nearly all the time surveying the enemies works. There has been no firing this day except a few shots by the sharpshooters.

Moon. Not more than a half day cannon shots have been fired to day. Three of our prisoners were shot this Wig. Battle, sheep we have been driven in from the country around & we have plenty of meat but no bread. They mean for us eating raw corn as subsistence. There is a swamp between here & Big Bethel through which the road is almost impassable.
Whether we are waiting for some 15's pieces of artillery which are still on the road or out of respect to the Sabbath I cannot tell. A wounded man was just carried past. Virgin tories are far larger on the map than in reality. We passed little Bethel without seeing it & found only one house at Big Bethel. There was former another but it is now burned. Sundown there have been a few cannon shots since noon but none very near us. I saw 4 men brought in who were either killed or wounded. At 3 PM there were very heavy volleys of musketry at 2 miles on our left. We fell on that position & watched.
to more soon broke ranks against
prepared for supper which indeed is
on great affair as much as it assuming
of nothing but muddy water & beef
without salt - I have often been within
anything to eat but hard biscuit & pond
very well to have nothing but fresh
meat is more unpleasant. By reason
of having the junior Div. General
of the Corps & the junior Brigadier
Gen. of the Div. we are the rear bri-
ade of the rear Div. Consequently
our wagons are the last to arrive
Slop - The mg. is cold with a
raw east wind - Several of the men
were sick last night from eating
too much warm meat. Without salt.
There were 100 musket shots fired in quick suc-
cession. I presume the rebels were
firing at our pickets & to find by
a return fire where they were posted
all is quiet this night. I am told they
are getting heavy siege guns in
position & making various pre-
liminary movements. 4 P.M.
only a few scattering shots to
today. This delay is unsosome.
There is still great trouble about
rations except beef. There is no
bread of any sort. Some of the
Regts. are boiling wheat. There are
plenty of rations at the mouth
of the river 10 miles off & teams
are trying to get through with
them. It takes 2 days to make
the journey & 6 Miles cannot
drawn more than 1200 lbs. I think
they would do better to pack the
provisions than to draw with it.
A great many mules are killed by the present mode. There is a heavy, cold, east rain falling but all the tents (shelter) are pitched & we are completely comfortable. We need only bread & coffee to be well off. & breakers 3 inches square & of the usual thickness sell readily at $3 a piece but there are none for sale. The man who has one looks on it with misery eagerly & holds it light as if afraid some one would take it away. There is an abundance of meat but it does not satisfy the stomach. The cook got 2 potatoes this morning to them cooked but they were stolen before he could eat them & fire some however that don't hardship.
a
which indeed are not serious
must be light compared with
those of our Revolutionary
Partners at this place. If they
could endure so much to
found the Government we
can with light hearts bear
bear the small privations
necessary to defend it.
The general impression is
that the battle will be severe
but there is evidently a de-
termination to die sooner
than retreat. The
This Regt is far different now
from what it was at the bat-
ttle in July. Then they were
alone with curiosity & excite-
ment the moment firing
commanded it whether it was
near them or not. Now unless it be unusually heavy it is hardly noticed.

It rained hard all night. It is very cold and the rain lacks little of being snow. The clay mud is everywhere full 2 inches deep, very slippery. Many of the tents were flooded & the men driven out because they could not be properly drained. It was one of the worst nights we have ever seen. And one can hardly expect a more disagreeable day. There is no fighting to day. Each man had 5 hand crackers this Morn. All are very impatient for action. Four P.M. it takes little to make a soldier happy. The leaner have turned bringing a pound of tobacco.
For man report that coffee & sugar will be here to-night.

This, although the mud is still deep, the weather cold & misty,

wood scarce, has made the

men to all appearance as

happy as larks. A soldier

milk his coffee very much. I
drink myself been testimony to its

virtues here though I rarely
drank it at home. After

to-dome day or a night of

cold & exposure nothing seems
to revive men like a cup of

hot coffee. Give as much as good food as you please

they do not feel like themselves

without their coffee. I stunned

a good cup of an hour ago.

It was the first since yesterday.
mg't did me more good than
than all I have eaten during
the time. I have no doubt that in large quantities it
may be injurious. I have
just as little doubt that a few
for breakfast & the same for
suppers, especially when there
is marching or other labor to
be done, prevents disease &
is a desirable & necessary
stimulant. If I were all home
again where I could get good
water & fruits & a variety of
food I should drink but
little of it. 9 P.M. The coffee &
sugar have come. The snow
is still melting me without
money but the camp is all
ditched & the men have taken

bought enough in their tent
to keep them off the damp
ground. One of the luckiest
things imaginable was the
purchase of the Atlantic for
April just before I started.
Last night and today I have read
It nearly through. I should
have had a lonesome time
without it. I cannot get the
idea out of my head that we are
in some danger of surprise
on these stormy nights. It is
certain that we have a number
of de luxe enemy parties
in number before us.
It is so dark.
Not much noise is made by
The wind is known.
be impossible under any circumstances to get a Regi-
into line without some delay
& confusion. Which of course
would be increased by a sud-
den clash of the enemy.
In 10 minutes after the first
alarm they could be on our

camp.

The storm still con-
continues with little intermee-
The sun has not shone once
since it commenced. The air
is full of fog & mist. The
smoke from a thousand fires
drifts along the ground &
almost suffices to blind the
Mind. Mind, mind, mind... its
on every side. There is not a
foot of hard ground anywhere.
We are all the dirtiest lot of men I ever saw. Those who have been used to camping out in small parties do not understand our difficulties. I could take 6 men with our blankets go into the woods where there are bushes & fuel in abundance, make a place & build a great fire & keep up such a storm as comfortably as any one could. We have to go onto the open field take the ground as it comes & carry our from 1/4 to 1/2 a mile on our backs. The enemy tried to disturb our pickets last night. They brought out a Ref. kept up a steady fire near our homs. The pickets wisely lay close & did not return the fire.
The enemy unable to find where they were did not advance any further. One of our men was slightly wounded. It has
out. This Regt. has not yet been on picket here—It should like in good weather. Some men seem born to be shot— I saw one killed by a shell today who was walking alone in the open field more than 30 rods from any other men. There was only one shell fired in that direction during the day and I assure not at him. As his ill luck would have it he was just under it when it burst & a fragment struck him on the head, killing him almost instantly.
Only a few scattering shots have been fired today. These merely for annoyance or to ascertain ranges. The works are too strong for our field artillery, we can do little till the range pieces are in position. This will take some days. Col. Poe is assisting in this work. The engineering generally. The old battle field of the Revolution is in full view a little to our right & mean by 10th last night we had an army pleasant episode & one common to Ingenous. It was learned in some way that the enemy intended to surprise us. The T. A. man order came to form & were as quickly as possible in a very short time we
were in line & marched to the supposed point of attack without a loud word being said to anyone.
The other Regts. of our Div. were soon on hand together with 24 field pieces. All were posted so as to be concealed as much as possible. The pickets were ordered to give way without resistance. The enemy came with a heavy force which passed just a private wood. They sent a picket line into a piece of wood where they remained for abt an hour. After looking at them they very cautiously withdrew without further demonstration much to our regret.
We after being out 2 hours in a very cold wind & rain were not able to regain sheltering after we found the enemy had fallen back.
This Morn, we had several squalls of snow. But at 11 m. it brightened up a little & the sun is out at intervals. We moved our camp back at 1/2 mile into the woods to-day. We shall here be out of the reach of both wind & shells. Some of the privates of the 4th. Maine were so chilled when they were relieved that they were unable to walk & were brought in on stretchers.

11th. The wagons came in last night with crackers & coffee. The men had good quarters & plenty of wood. We were unusually jolly. Weather fine but a hard frost last night. We were kept fairly busy, P.M. There were quite a number of shells thrown, mostly by the enemy. The long call was
beats twice & we came out on our line of battle each time. The Federals were driven back at several points & 2 of the 63P&I & 1 of the 5th were killed. There was skirmishing along the whole line.

12th. Our Regt. came on pickets last night. Only 2 shots have been fired at this time (8 A.M.) by us. There are 3 fort & battery pits within 1/2 of a mile of us but we are screened from their view. Some sharpshooters have just been sent to the front & I presume we shall soon hear from them. They make such warm work for the gunners. It is the fort & battery pits that they cannot compel the the darkness to conceal the loading.
We are relieved to together with the Marine to have the credit from Gen. McLellan of keeping the best line of the siege. There is no doubt that the conduct of the 6th Pa. Aug. 8th of this on the day before was cowardly in the extreme a disgrace to both officers. I might have shot a rebel picker but it being against of course did not. Indeed I am not sure whether I would have shot him any hour under the circumstances. He was off all 30 rods from me standing by a tree looking very cunningly off toward where he undoubtedly supposed our lines were. I have crept up behind some fallen trees out flanked him immediately.
He had a sort of innocent, harmless look which would have made it a little hard to shoot him though I have not the least doubt he would have shot me if he had have seen me. I would like above all things to belong to the sharpshooters. I am sometimes almost tempted to throw up my commissions for the sake of joining them. I know that with a good gun I could shoot on the average a half dozen men per day during this siege. These good sharpshooters will often render a line more unsteady than a battery of artillery. Still it is day! We have smaller annoyances that we can get provisions in. I believe this is the first day.
since we left Hampton that I have had enough to eat. I have great faith in Gen. McClellan still there are matters all which I have my own thoughts & speculations. I do not believe Napoleon would have spent so much time in preparation. Indeed everybody knows he would not know equally well that the would have succeeded? Would you Baldeck or in many others we can mention have waited so long if not would it have been better or worse for us. Might Manassas & Norfolk have been taken last fall & the cleared of the Rebels & War it once expeditious to wait till after they were beaten in the north. Now present delay a part of a great plan for overwhelming.
We all know that an immediate delay means defeat to the invader & victory to ourselves. Knowing this, seeing our delay without knowing the cause, it is but natural, in view of the vast expense & the dangers of foreign interference & the unexpected misfortunes in which every nation is liable, that many should feel anxious & some should have serious misgivings.

I wait with confidence but not without emotion, the perfect accomplishment of our much honored general's plan of operations. So far as we are personally concerned we are very impatient of delay. I feel perfectly prepared for any fate in the field.
to see the glorious D. flag flying amid shouts of victory over your town or to die on that field where my times of old better soldiers than I have given their lives to their country. All I ask is strength of hand & heart to bear me honorably to the end which is appointed for me. For the D. Regt in particular I hope a high & honorable part in the action. They are in all respects deserving of it. "More but soldiers can know how sensitive the men of a good Regt are of its reputation. Amulet or reproach are mischievous."

Provisions are now landed at Railroad Point only at 4 miles from where they were easily obtained. A large part of the road had to be
crossways from 3 to 4 lines but is now quite good. I read a good long letter from Arthur this night, which with its welcome news of all well at home made Sunday a very pleasant day. You cannot get out 20 men of this Regt to divine service, unless it be a funeral, they will play cards the all day, almost to an man swear beyond every thing I ever heard elsewhere. But steal every thing they can put their hands on. Still there is a large and passionate kind of rude religious feeling. Perhaps it is more allied to situation yet such as it is I have not doubt there is more of it than ever existed with the same men before elsewhere. - Stop
14th. Have been engaged at the Countermarchal to-day. Weather very warm and fine. We have lived well this day at least. Our light batteries have thrown all 100 shells to-day to keep the enemy off some new works which they are attempting to erect. They succeeded during the night in cutting down a small piece of woods which obstructed the range of their batteries. We took from very ragged prisoners to-day. None of our men so far as I can learn have been hurt.

15th. A light shower of rain in the morning, but the day was warm and fine. We were on Countermarchal. There was considerable firing by light batteries on the left during night.
The men Regt. went on picket at dark & I got permission to go along.

16th Weather very warmer.

Brick Battery by light batteries on the left & all which the enemy replied. We cannot see the guns of either party but can very distinctly see the shells explode.

One shrapnel struck in the wood near us but did no harm to.

At 9 a.m. we changed our position a short distance to be more out of the way. Soon after that a 12 inch shell struck very near me (Co. J, on reserve) but did not burst.

At 1 p.m. there is little firing through it had been brisk till after 12. At 11:30 Sergt. Bischoff of Co. F was killed while standing near our battery.
himself to sick to go on picket last night but came out to day in disobedience of orders to see the artillery practice. In consequence of going where he thought not to he was cut entirely in two by a ball from the enemy. Not a man abt. the battery has been hurt. He was a fine young man a most cases a good non-com officer. He had long had a presentiment of his fate though a young man was tired of life often expressed a wish that the appointed time would come. Yesterday Mrg he said he knew he should be killed soon & twice repeated the wish that time was at hand. This Mrg he went out & was almost immediately killed. We were all that
could be found of him in his blanket. I buried him under an oak chestnut. I saw one of the Black jackets with both legs shot off. No other accident occurred to the jackets. From 4 till sundown from 150 to 200 shots were fired, from light guns. Nearly all the barracks on the left of the enemy were burned by our shells, & several of their guns dismounted. For more than an hour the shells dropped one after another into one of their forts just like clockwork, not one missing. The men inside could be seen running, creeping on their hands and knees crouching in corners, moccasins on their heads, a corner lying to escape. The Black jackets shrank with fear.
a flock of chickens when a hawk
inannes down among them
Igen. Reyes engaged the enemy at
the extreme left toward night
there was very heavy cannon-
aging. Great volleys of musketry.
The battle must have been severe.
A few heavy shells burst to the
right of us. Probably thrown
from mortars. They burst at the
height of a 100 feet. The fragments
made a great whirring. Our ball
has hung all day like an evil
spirit over their doomed works.
It must be very aggravating to have a
man just beyond their reach looking
down on every move they make
and telegraphing it as soon as made
by the Mellenas. They have a
million hit for some reason.
it will not stay up more than 2 minutes at a time, must be more vexations than useful. Senard declared when the shells began to fall near that he longed for the peace & quiet of his Michigan home.

17 The cannonading which was continued at intervals during the night opened vigorously at sunrise. It slackened off somewhat, but continued moderately all day. A heavy rifled gun which the enemy put up yesterday drove one of our light batteries off the field just in front of us in quick time. A fatigue party of 600 men was detailed to work on the entrenchments. I went along. The enemy however shelled the spot where we intended...
to work in such a manner that it was thought best to keep off it during the day. There are all sorts of reports all yesterday's work, but they are so uncertain that I will record nothing but what I know to be true.

9 1/2 P.M. It seems pretty certain that we lost 100 men killed & wounded yesterday. It works toward the left was taken by our men 9 guns spiked but it could not be held. There is still some firing on the left. It sounds wonderfully distinctly in the stillness of the night — stop.

18th. At 11 P.M., we were all woke up & ordered to be prepared to fall in on the shortest notice. Soon after midnight there was considerable noise below on the
left & we all turned out in line
at last about 10 minutes just before 1 A.M. we went back to quarters
At 3 A.M. masked musketry again
at some place we turned out again as before.

Three men Myers, Hinno & Drake concealed themselves in their tents tried to escape going out. I dont know what the Capt. will do about it but i would at least put them in a way to serve the balance of their enlistment in the District Prison. One gun of a 32 I think has been firing at intervals of about 5 minutes twice yesterday & W. with no remarkable regularity. No satisfactory act. can be obtained of the fighting last night. The story of the battle and guns is more likely to be some
thing else. There is no certainty that we were not badly repulsed. There are not a few things here which displease me. Many of our officers are tired of war want to be home. They have not the right spirit. The sight of those 3 rascals skulking away from duty exasperated me beyond all measure. It was hard indeed for me to keep from shooting one of them on the spot. Things more ably & there are many miseries. I learn also that there were some 3000 as good skulking command at the battle of Pittsburgh. There is no way only to carry out the army regulations & shoot every one that can be identified.

19th. The Regiment went on fatigue to deep & good event along although
I might have remained by reason of the court. We are building a military road along the bank of a small stream. The banks are high, by following them we approach near the enemy's rear cover. There is an old military road built by Gen. Washington on the opposite side. The road is 24 ft. wide & costs not a little digging & chopping. It is level to be level as a railroad, & with its tram & will be 40 3/4 miles long. There were old rusty cannon shot of the Revolution dug up to day. Four Regts. were at work. We were at night within 1/2 mile of one of their batteries, & heard & was hearing around, not knowing that we were already within her frontiers.
started to go to the enemies - supposing the to be ours. The were foolish enough to shoot at him before he came very near to us, that was missed him. He made excellent time back to our lines. I am glad he got off, but I believe I know have laughed myself to death if he had been taken. They fired on shot over where we were at work, but not being able to see me could do no damage. They also threw an 80 lb. shell over our camp today. It struck a little beyond the camp & plowed a furrow with a log 6 ft. in diameter, might have been concealed. They may give us trouble here with that gun. There was no cannonading last night, but after straggling about
from pickets. There has been but few cannon shots to day. It is pretty certain that with musket
my affairs of the 16th we got by from the worst of it, it rained hard to night.

20th, the Regt, has not been on duty to day. Weather moist. The firing of small arms has been pretty brisk along the lines. Our Regt goes on picket at 4 to morrow. I am on Court Martial & shall not be able to get out with them. I have read an account of the battle, of Pittsbrugh which is in many, many disgraceful. No pickets, camp full of women. 30,000 cowards. The whole affair shows a most disgraceful ignorance & insolence.
Of duty a great want of discipline in one part of the army.

2D. Court Martial am. adjourned some die. It was a dark rainy day, the Regt. barely succeeded in getting into line at the appointed hour 4 AM. for consequence Capt. Birkwood as well as all the rest went off without breakfast. As a punishment for not getting up earlier the Col. would let them have nothing to eat till 3 PM. It is no small job to get a Regt out at that time where no drums or horns are allowed to sound except for alarms. Rather speedily the weather being fine concluded to join the Co. I did so. It rained heavily nearly all night. I got well drowned, was very cold.
toward Mr. & never but one more unpleasant night on picket — There was not a gun fired, and nothing relieved the monotony of rain & drizzle from dark till daylight. At four several times I sat down on a rail, leaned up agt. a tree & patiently waited for sleep. Each time got an unusual turn close of all 15 minutes to pay for it had to walk industriously for an hour to get the chills & cold chamois out of my legs. Had only my overcoat. With a blanket I could have slept very well. We were within 200 yards of a rebel fort & & very little were not to be thought of except on fireplaces at home. Their place was usually distant. Had to laugh over demands like

...
no desire to be distinguished in war or anything connected with it. Our men with their usual desire of conversation prevailed yesterday the rebel surgeons soon found them to be from a Georgia Regt. which they often met at Muncie's Hill. They talked for more than an hour but finally some of them laid down their arms and shook hands on middle ground. They then for a while parted, agreed that being old acquaintances & as much as each knew the other could show if he was a friend to them would mutually refrain from hostilities while opposite each other. I don't like such meetings for various reasons. They take the first out of war. The weather has been growing all
day. At 12 noon to day I had been
in the service. B1 We went on fatigue at
7 a.m. building an other road.
The men worked well. A few
shots were fired at us when we
were returning. A 60 lb. rifle
shot & a heavy shell struck
near us but no one was
injured. A raw recruit in our
platoon was down the line several
times in great trepidation not
knowing exactly what ought to
be done but evidently of the opinion
that it was no time to be idle.
We have 2 luckless fellows who
have come down to take their
first lessons in shotting. We
have not taken them out yet
yesterday was the anniversary.
of my enlistment - I cannot say that matters are with me have during the past year been very adverse. Many things have been different from what I expected. Nothing was more remote from my thoughts a year ago than becoming a soldier by profession. I then looked forward only to 3 months in the service now I rarely attempt to look through the uncertainty of my future. The army has so soon become a home to me. I often think this true of friends & other scenes but cannot determine with certainty. If ever I shall see them again. That sort of tremulousness, quick beating of the heart which I once felt at the sound of bullets
has gone. I feel as though the destined one is pretty sure to come sooner than sooner or later & I have no more anxiety about the particular time than I would have had all the approaches of death by any other cause. When it comes I will try to meet it decently & till that time I will indulge in my vain fears outside of speculations.

24th: For some reason unknown to me we were all called up at 8 a.m. & stood in line till after daylight. Such things are becoming far more common than pleasant. I met my good friend Dave Briggs today. His pig came up East tonight. He wears a very cheerful expression.
looks which he attributes to hard work, but I more than half suspect that the peculiar music of shells which he hears in close proximity for the first time is a far more fruitful cause of his melancholy. He declared he would much rather be back in Mich., again at work for the Squire. I went on fatigue at noon with 80 men. Gen. McClellan came where we were at work. We were engaged in throwing up a redoubt within 3/4 of a mile of one of the enemy forts. They neglected to cut down the wood & under the cover we work unseen. Five hundred men will work day & night till it is completed. Shells have been falling haphazard over the country.
around about in small minutes. Bt no one was hurt so far as I could see through there were several narrow escape. The paymaster, a very welcome visitor, to night handed me the needful for jam. Feb 1st I was reduced to $2.00

26th Walter cold Sunday.

Nothing in particular has happened except that we have been a little better than usual. Howard (alias fishy) as detailed to go to stores at 4 P.M. to make out the pay. He was a little light at the time & reported euphemistically that he was devoid of assistance in all matters affairs. As for looking the last syllable. He all spoiled the word for hours.

26th Vere was to go to work but returned as very poor azlaced.
The news near enough to a
smart little optimist to hear all that was done without being
in any danger himself. He had
very glowing words to give of his own
now escaped. A Major, Capt., with
15 prisoners with him, 15 to the
3 killed, 9 wounded. The number
of prisoners are making
great strides in the world. The labor
and its bearing too much more
trouble than we could tell them
or acknowledge. The fear of it creates
not a little uneasiness. If it was
outside the roads our commo-
cdictions at Shiloh Point would be
destroyed some of our troops much
in increased, this a cold, dismal,
graying day. All the occupants grew
that some I have solicited themselves
in their blankets & gone to bed to keep warm. I have not tried that way but find it very cold sitting up.

2nd Lind. was spent une.
Pickets. It was cold, the confederates shelled our battery with some solid shrapnel shells & also musketry; some heavy shells from the gunboats made a great cock

C. their works. our forward line

to nearly completed. a general bombardment continued but the fire was not the fire of 7 1/2's. The night was cold, but the moon is fine. The lines were quiet except a few shots from the gun boats. The rebels threw a 12 inch shell at the work in vain. This day, but without effect.

A shell burst near my position.
yesterday when he was bringing out a haid of coffs I frightend him
brilli. "Good Heav d'at gur, an thar d'at gur. I dint want a
draft de frith but if any more
ten fallers come I hab to fling
hin". I dont dislike the animal
so bad as I used to. They are very
covenient to have around & I
have more hearty laffs out of
more than from all other sources
stop 29th. Mather fine. We were called
out at 3½ A.M. & remained in line
till after daylight. The scenery is
beginning to make its appearance
but saliens of potatoes & onions
are gow opened once in this day
which will soon arrest its
progress.
8th. We all went on fatigue
at 4 1/2 miles remained 12 hours.

There was a cold drizzling rain from the east. It was in consequence a very bad time to dig trenches. A considerable number of shells were thrown at 1/2 mile to our right. I saw a burst of 2 Ports wounded by the explosion of one but knowing no further damage. Our gun boats replied from the river below. I am very much surprised that they did not fire on us as we were in plain view of their works & not over 1000 yds distant.

We returned to camp at 3 P.M. were mustered for pay. Soffer was very acceptable after 11/3 hours work and hard crackers. As any good fortune would have it, after much trouble.
I succeeded in getting to the
"Atlantic" for May 1st this
The weather is cold.
May 1st. The Atlantic storms are
by no means so agreeable as
Atlantic Mountains. We were not
called up last night, although the can-
nonading was very heavy at one
time. "Breakfast time. The Rebs fired
pretty briskly this morning from batteries
on the right. I find that I now
weigh 178 lbs being 6 lbs heavier
than when I left Camp Wicks.
The Rebs kept up a regular
but moderate fire all night.
We are guarding the trenches near
where we used to picket. One
of the 88th N.Y. was killed here last night. I see by the way the trees are cut off, the stockade in which I slept, when last we were in pickets is knocked to pieces. That there has been some blank "work since we left. The front is slack on both sides now more than a half day shot for an hour. We are well protected in the trenches, but for which many might be hurt. At 6 a.m. the firing became more lively. Two 10-in. shells were thrown by the enemy with return. Very little harm was done as far as I know. We were called out at 8 this A.M.

3 P.M. We came off guard soon after sunrise. A very quiet night we had. No one from the Boes.
Much, which Regt now got together, was killed or wounded, but one of the B's had his trousers near all torn off him by a shell. They fired 8 8 in. with shells most of the time, with very accurate aim, but we were very careful and thus escaped. The whizzing of the shells was very rapid like the rapid tearing of a stout piece of cambric. On the right they were plainly visible from the time they left the gun. The firing to day has been kept active, but several shells have fallen near our camp. Gen. Kearny of Maj. Gen. now commands our Div. Gen. Hamilton remonstrated so strongly against our being compelled to work to hard that he has
been arrested & sent to Washington. He asserted that all things considered we were worked beyond human endurance. When we first came here a great number of cattle, sheep, hogs &c were killed all about the wood. The salt of which with that of dead animals horses as well as the necessary accumulations of filth at large camps all combine to render the air unwholesome, even sometimes at night. The stench is almost insupportable. This is made still worse by the low, marshy nature of the ground, the heavy rains & hot sultry days which invariably follow. There is not much sickness yet but it can hardly fail to come.
4th Early this morning came news that Yorktown was evacuated. Our troops at once commenced pouring into the works & soon cavalry were put in pursuit.

I am on Brigade Guard. The guard is now dismissed. The tents struck & we are (at 3 PM) ready & eager to march. Just before we started the bands struck up a national air. It was the first music we had heard since we left Hampton. The men burst out spontaneously with cheering. At 4 PM we left & moved out through Yorktown. It was no small gratification to enter those works which had held us in check.
for a month. They are of a very formidableげる, surpassing any of our works on the Potomac. There were a large No. of guns still mounted & the fields were covered with tents & hastily abandoned stores & articles baggage. There was a large amt. burned but not nearly a small part of the whole. New made graves were abundant - The stench all the camp was intolerable. The ground, roads & in fact every place were filled with torpedoes. Several men were killed by them. Signes were posted & guards placed all around to warn of them.

We camped 2 miles aboveVisit 3 We were up at 8 Am, at which time it commenced to
to rain. We moved off at all cost.

Rain continued till midnight without intermission. We moved on rapidly over the worst road I have ever seen. It is no exaggeration to say that I was many times in the main road in mud to my knees. It required great exertion to urge on the men so as to keep them in the ranks. There was considerable commanders in front.

Aids were every few minutes coming back to urge us on.

When we were within 3 miles of the battle field the men all took off everything not absolutely necessary for the fight. We finished on the eastern side of this distance at an hour. There was hardly a man who
Dick fumble headlong at least once. They looked as wild like human terms as any men I ever saw. All were drenched with rancid to the skin & cased with mud to waist at least. The troops we were to relieve had been fighting five hours & were tired & nearly out of ammunition, had pouco & held their own with difficulty. So rapid was the march that we had not more than 800 men in line. Co. F & G were at once sent into the dense pine woods to support the skirmishers of the 3d. Michigan. The firing was heavy & we had not advanced a rod into the woods. When Capt. Moore of Co. F fell shot through the leg & an aid to Gen. Kearney who attempted to have
as the way was instantly killed

Hearing discharged this volly

we moved to the right across the
road & deployed as skirmishers after
an hour we moved forward

into a thick pine slashing in

which the fight was raging.

It was full of our men & great

care was necessary in firing.

The men of course all concealed

themselves among the brush

logs, trees &c. &c.

We saw what

we supposed to be the firing of the

enemy in front. I was just about to
give the order to commence firing

when one of their officers rose

up waved his cap & cried for "Go

don't fire on your own men."

This he repeated 3 times & we desisted

from firing. During all this time,
They were pouring into our men in another direction. A Co. of the 38th N.Y. now gave way and fell back hurriedly on our line. The Rebels suffering that the whole line was retreating at once rose to pursue. About 20 of them, “gray coated chaps,” started to come down a little open place to space toward us. Our men fired on them at about 20 rods, killing several big one Serg x  addt. They immediately dodged behind the logs x addt. 20 minutes of very sharp firing from perhaps 200 on our side ensued. During that time more than 20 balls struck within 5 feet of me several within a foot. The enemy then fell back one formed the rear they
by Gen Kearney

road the edge of the skedding. The men then opened on us with shot and shell which they had lately taken in no other than paralyzing.

We lay down where I saw only 1 man killed by their fire. The shots nearly all passed from 5 to 10 ft over our ears. We lay here till after dark, and as well as most of the men by this time became so chilled by the rain exhausted by our exertions to arrive on the field in time, that our legs and arms were cramping, so that we could scarce by see them. We had them now driven them entirely out of the wood. I was determined not to give them a chance to come back.

The Rgs were stiff and wore all mangled together in the woods skeding. Sti Young of Co. F with 2 sh/ and 11 men I will
Five of our men were all there, east of the Mick. I at that point. There was a motley crowd from other Regts at one time under our command but as it became dark they all crept off but our own men. After dark the 40th N.Y. came and relieved us. Now came a search after our comrades, I succeeded in finding the Major shot. He, the hospital surgeon, many killed, wounded but the Regt except about a dozen men in the darkness of the woods could not be found. I was never nearer dead with cold thunger. I however found about a dozen men of our Regt who had a fire did not look further. I wound and died myself the best I could which was not very well as it rained in torrents, till midnight.
At that time, it cleared up & a soldier who was a stranger to me made me a big cup full of coffee, the last he had, and unmasked gave offered it to me. I look it and gave him a dollar. It completely renewed and warmed me. After that I kept warm till morning. I did not sleep at all but passed the night cleaning my sword & pistol reading all my old letters from home.

6th. I started at daylight to look up comrades and find who was alive who was dead. I soon found that I was generally reported among the latter. I quickly found Capt. Benson & Saward and soon after we had collected 28 officers and
250 corporals & privates. One or two came
had more, but others only 8, or 10 men. The aggregate of the Regt. at that time was 196 men for duty. Two hours later, the no. was increased to 800 by 5 P.M., it was at 450. Of the Regt. some where between 50 and 100 hundred are killed or wounded. Our Go. Corp. Wallace is killed. Pvt. Josh Willson loses an arm & others are unaccounted for. The enemy retreated during the night & are押ed through their works at an early hour this Morn. We are now bivouaced near Williamsburg. Victory was with us but dearly won. Michigan thank God old her whole duty. Where I went back from the front, not found the woods, the road side strewed with dead & the moans & cries of
The wounded could be heard on all sides. They were scattered around among the logs & brush so that it was almost impossible to get at them if there had been any one to do it. Those who engaged in the battle were so cold & used up that they would not attempt to care for any but themselves, such as they could. They would cover up with blankets, give water to drink & leave as comfortable as possible but they would not turn one of their comrades unless they were agonizing. Many died through the night who were only slightly wounded who might number other circumstances have been saved. Several arms & legs were lying on stumps & logs by the roadside.
where they had been amputated. Our men and the enemy were mixed together as the ground was fought over two or three times backward and forward for the space of half a mile in width, and two or three times that length. The dead lay in all postures, but most of them on their backs, their heads thrown back, mouth slightly open, elbows on the ground by the sides, with the hands, folded or lying loosely across the breast or frequently one of them placed over the wound. A few had guns, sticks, cist, or their guns, slashed in the firmly in their hands. Some hands were crossed as in prayer, some stretched up at full length. One I saw standing on his hand and knee with his head cut off.
Two men were found lying opposite each other with each his bayonet through the other's body.

The weather fair. We are still encamped as before at a mile below Williamsburgh. All our wounded are supposed to have been cared for and their dead are buried. Those of the enemy will most of them be buried to-day. Their loss must exceed ours.

Thirty were in pile, 65 in another 150 in another. This morning, which had been collected for burial, was piling over the front of the field from which they were taken. I saw 113 bodies which were not collected. The dead are also lying along the road in the streets of Williamsburgh.
at which place are 600 of their wounded. Our men are becoming
mildiatious & revengeful very fast at the sight of their dead
comrades & dislike ever to help bury
the enemy's dead. The prisoners
are driven into Williamsburgh
faster than they can be taken
care of. The men are very impa-
tient at our delay & wish to join
the pursuit. We shall do so as
soon as provisions arrive.
The eagerness of the men for battle
can hardly be conceived.
The coolness & bravery of Gen. Kent
are who commanded our Divi-
is unsurpassed by any thing in the
war. He repeatedly rode up to the
advance in plain view, where
the almost every man who was


himself was shot in an instant. He was as cool as if it had been a review. The colonel had never seen him till that day. The first they saw of him was just as we came up and joined our line. The bullets were flying very thick as he came up to Col. Poe and ordered him to send 200 here & 300 there. I ordered to another place & keep the others here. He then turned to us and said I want you to drive those blackguards to hell at once. Remember the code does. Will you do it? He was answered by a yell which reached the enemy's line, above the roar of the battle & we believe I know that as to many of them.
The answer was order was carried out in full.

As we passed Gen. Heintzleman, on the run coming in he was more enthusiastic than I ever supposed he could be. He swung his hat in an arched for Michigan most dully & swore as hard as ever saying, "give them hell, I'll give the sleat. Don't wait to shoot." We would have been very glad of a chance to use bayonets but could not do it. Gen. Berry & Col. Poe are highly praised. The conduct of Capt. Benson & Lt. Leward was, most admirable. If any doubted ever existed all doubt is dispelled. The men look on him with pride. Benson is fairly crazy with
rage & hatred toward Secesh.

One of our recruits, Charles Allen, was found dead to-day & buried. He was a very fine boy, a student when he enlisted. He had been in the war but 2 weeks. The fields are strewn with guns, accoutrements, knapsacks, haversacks, coats, caps & every sort of soldiers property. Everything indicates that they left in great haste.

Sir, I am still pretty tired & sore but owing to so many of the officers being sick & wounded I was compelled to go on guard duty to-day at Williamsburg. It is a queer place, nearly as large as Keokuk, & like that the site of the State Insane Asylum. A college. The inhabitants...
are strongly secessionists. Business is suspended. One can buy nothing except of Germans of whom there are but few. The inhabitants have plenty of provisions for their prisoners and wounded of whom a large number are here confined. Guard duty here is very busy work a mixture of everything. This is a very old, but pleasant place containing many things of interest if one had an opportunity to look about.

I was up nearly all night and got very little to eat. I was very tired this morning. At 11 a.m., the Regiments started on the march to invade Richmond. We have traveled at a moderate rate with frequent halts till sundown.
I had the most tremendous time on guard that I ever had. We saw 2 cannon & caissons, several wagons, numerous boxes & barrels & loose carting which the enemy were compelled to abandon. We met several small squads of prisoners coming under care of escort of cavalry. One lot of 5 were marching along alone. They said the Regt. went off &left them while they eating their breakfast & they thought it would be easier to travel this way than the other way accordingly. One of artillery whom they brough it was very slender but nice.
private seemed very joyful and entirely resigned to the fortunes of war. 10th. We after sundown marched on 3 miles & camped near some Court House (forget the name) in a very large, rolling open field. I think I have never seen as fine a camping ground. The plain is dry & undulating, almost a sea of wood & fine shade close at hand also a clean brook for washing none of the finest springs I ever saw. The day was warm but very fine. The roads good & water abundant of the best quality. The provisions could be had by the inhabitants. White flags were hoisted at all the houses for this section. The troops were civil &
and orderly. The country is beautiful, in good times must have been a fruitful & pleasant. We camped an hour before sun down in an oat field 17 miles from Williamsburgh. There are still some decent waggons shewn by the way but not so many as yesterday. We have made but 19 miles since yesterday, but as we are near the rear of the army that is doing very well. We are now from 40 to 45 miles from Richmond & our adven is probably 15 miles nearer. Our loss on the 5th as near as can be learned is 18 killed, 39 wounded & 165 missing.
The killed. The killed.

Our Brigade in the late battle are now reported as killed 65; wounded 208. Missing and probably killed 73. The 2 was held in reserve and lost but one man. The loss of the other 3 Regt. is killed & wounded, without the missing, is about one-fourth of the whole force engaged, including the missing it is at least 1/4 of the whole. One tenth is regarded as a heavy loss. I wonder if we are to remain here to do as I understand I dislike that. I cannot rest easy till we are in Richmond but the freedmen, D.C. imperatively demands rest. We must also stop and wait for new missions from the War Dept. (9) of infantry, one of howitzers.
Several batteries have opened during the day. The main body of the army is moving.

12th. Eight o'clock A.M. A large pontoon bridge train went along this way. Very stringent orders have been issued about stragglers & marauders. They will of course have to be cut out as quickly as possible. The farmers should be with rigor. As to the marauders I care less. The men have seen the bodies of their wounded comrades mangled, pierced with scores of bayonets when they were lying helpless. Both at Williamsburg & West Point Officers & men who were but slightly wounded were cut from earth.
I have never known a man to insult or injure their dead or wounded. I do know that their dead were buried as decently and quickly as he could be. I know that their wounded were well cared for. I have known our men to watch with them night after night when they were themselves tired and exhausted. I was glad to see it. I would scorn to take any advantage of a prisoner or a wounded man however dishonorable may have been his conduct. For those who are well and under arms, I have no mercy. I can shoot them with as little concern as I would a wolf on a hunt. There is no unfair dishonorable
one of warfare which they did
not expect on the 6th. They also
played flags of truce & fired on
our men they approached
them. They repeatedly called to
us that they were our men to
prevent our firing. By laying
down their arms & pretenting to surrender they drew
our men in to ambush where
they were shot by others of their
Regts, as well as by those who
pretended to surrender.
Could any one hesitate to shoot
such men? Gen. Kearney well
understood their feelings which
he alluded to the torpedo.
A good deal has been said &
have men in the late fight, I
saw some but more like Iper
Keeney. It was not rushing. Do one would call it so, it was at cool, deliberate well time. Stop

13th We are still in this cursed out field. I hoped this dig would have found us 20 miles near Richmond. At 9 am we get orders to move at 10.2. Moved all 7 1/2 miles halted 12 stacked arms. After all that is said all to some marches they are not so bad as lying hour after hour on the bare ground just flowing in a crooking stream without trees or bushes for shelter. One loses all patience & suffers both in body & mind. We marched but 2 miles this day. Camped in the open fields near the road. Our boys went on foot several miles at night.
14th. We were considerably troubled by great numbers of mosquitoes. Woodticks are however our greatest annoyance. It is impossible to keep cleam of them. The night was perfectly quiet & very warm. The roads are dusty. We marched soon after 11 A.M. & made 6 to 8 miles with only a half of 10 minutes. It rained gently. The road was excellent & we have never had a finer march. We have a very fine ground & a place where our advance fought the enemy 4 days ago. It was only a skirmish & there was no sign of it save a few bullet marks on the trees & a few dead horses.
15th. We were called up at 4 A.M., marched at 6. It has been snowing all day. Begins at 10 P.M. to be cold. Did not march more than 400 miles. Are now bivouac on a large flat near one of the enemy's bivouac on the Pamunkey River. There are here some 30 sail vessels & a large number of gunboats & large steamers. We landed at New Kent Court Yard. Where were 200 fathoms of good oak & even saw. The roads are bad again. This rain will retard operations again. We are very unfortunate. The only wonder is that there was not a battle today. Capt. Benson saw at Williamsburg the bodies of our men whose horses had been taken from them.
I saw to-day a lt. from the 4th Mich. who at West Point saw more than 150 of our men with their throats cut, others with their eyes dug out; others whose private parts were cut off and forced into their mouths. Can such men dream of success? Have we any hopes but the gallows, any mercy except at the point? They belong to the country, they are worthy a home, a country or a God.

16th. I dined all night but it is fair this Morn. This is a peculiar life in some respects, particularly in this that when one gets a chance to eat a meal he will if prudent.
The thing be possible and put any all his stomachs will contain for he never knows where or where he will get the next. I think this all the most important period of the war. I believe we are just at a turning point where great energy & caution must be combined. The enemy are driven near to the last ditch. They are desperate & will fight desperately if at all, both here at Corinth & defeat on any great delay at either place will almost certainly bring our foreign recognition & if not would certainly double the numbers, the courage & the hopes of the Rebel army. It is of the highest importance that his battle
should be hazarded any where unless certain success. If there
be any doubt of the result at hand, by all means let us first
fight the battle of Richmond or Chickahominy. One battle will
really decides both. Our progress since the 1st of Jan. up to
the latest news has been most
glorious still by single false
steps or false hope of complete success
might be ruined. If Wallace is
beaten it will require almost
speckled & entire new
yr to take Richmond or perhaps
let in own on the peninsula.
I have no doubt of the result. The scales are balanced,
but we have the weight which
will incline them most.
effectually? It cannot be denied that Gen. Johnson has concluded his retreat in a masterly manner. Four hours after they left Yorktown we were in pursuit. Two hours later our cavalry attacked their rear guard. We have never allowed them to get out of sight since. They have been pursued to the utmost by every practicable point of cavalry and light artillery supported by infantry. Still their loss of baggage and stores has been considerable. Troops were sent with all haste to West Point to cut them off. The men were on board the transports before Lym was evacuated and moved with out delay. Still their loss of baggage and stores has not been
heary as the number of prisoners will not exceed 3000 perhaps not more than 3000 exclusive of the wounded. Nothing has surprised me more than the astonishment, incomprehensible stolidity or untruthfulness of newspaper accounts - whether as shown by their accounts of the battle of Wm. T. I have seen several dramas all hardly a single statement was true. Their unalloyed falsity surpass what the human mind is supposed capable of to tell a long story without ever accidentally relapsing into truth. Hancock's brigade fought in the cornfield, made a brilliant charge.
perhaps 300 men. Of this there are many different accounts. It is spoken of as constituting nearly the whole battle. As a matter of fact the greater part of the fighting was on the left where the cop was from 1600 to 1800. The battle continued more than twice as long. This is hardly mentioned. Our brigades lost 346 & but for one ace in the NY Tribune no one would have known that it was in the battle at all. Gen. Kearney from Gen. McDowell says that we saved the army from defeat — Kearney is unmeasured in his praise. There is (damaged), an account of this in the Tribune which edited us more highly than we deserve. I saw in the Herald a list...
20 names purporting to be the killed & wounded of the Irish that some place not distinctly stated. Not one of the names is correctly given.

17th Warm & quiet. Artillery was firing all day. The regulars & muzzled. Bombarders (5th NY) moved on to the front.

18th Very hot. We have plenty of provisions & can buy anything we wish at the landing. The Pamunkey is not more than 20 to 25 rods wide but is so deep that large vessels run up close to the shore & unload without the aid of lights or a wharf. We are supplied here with as little trouble as if we were at Ft. Monroe.
The enemy are concentrating a large force on the Chickahominy for which reason I think we shall fight them at some other point. I hope the day will soon come. It is better to hasten matters at first as possible. I have now no fear of being able to face whatever may be in store for me.

The time has been when I did not know I had some misgivings of the manner in which it might be affected by the near approach of danger. There was for just a moment a thought of home, a choking sensation in the throat and almost a tear. It was for a moment only. There was a slight quiver of excitement for a moment after that.
Then all was cool & still the mental
or moral pangs which death could
have brought on that day were
Jampt. In the next four hours
I was never more calm, good-
natured, complacent-happy.

I remember distinctly that I
spoke to the men in a tone far less
harsh than usual. But the orders
were obeyed more readily owing
perhaps to the unnatural calm
they. There was a feeling of a
pleasant eagerness & desire to
push on, to kill as many of
the enemy as possible. It was
as much pleasure to see them
fall as to win a point in a game.

It was not a revengeful
malignant joy, but was more
the less interested.
I think I was never more completely master of myself. I believe that all I did was as well done as I could do it. Stop
Dear Brother,

I am well, the real you will be seen. The foregoing times of writing—ill-readable—will have to handle
they broke how I have become. I have learned that your
I have learned from your letter some days since
I need

My sincere love to all.

Very affectionately,

[Signature]

[Stamp]
Andrew Beckford 60.4.5.
J. Aslin. 60.6.
R. Kent. 60.6.

Corp. C. A. Wallace killed by musket ball just below left collar bone and out at the back of the neck.

Prf. C. A. Allen killed by bayonet in leg, A. Wellson, right arm shattered by musket ball.

May 4th, 1862
Prt. O. C. H. Anderson promoted Capt. vice Wallace killed.
Sergt. Major R.D. Johnson was promoted B.Dt. assigned to Co. A. 
May 3rd was wounded in the shoulder by buckshot.

May 5th Capt. W.R. Morse Co. F
Leg broken by a musket ball.

May 5th Capt. Wm. Mcbramy Co. F

7 G. Wounded in the thigh.

May 5th Capt. C.H. Keedean
Wounded slightly in the thigh by musket ball.
Aptly, April 13th, 1862, Recd.

5th Recruits
Apt 21st
6th Recruits.

Recruits for Co. D.
Apt. 22d 1862
Charles Allen
Joseph Hallic

The 11th, Private, Edward Smith.
Killed at Millars Mills.

The 12th, Pvt. 26th 1862

Williamsburg May 5th 1862.
Killed 18 & wounded 39 Wounded 12.
Mar. 18th. 1821

6 lbs. corn
2 lbs. salt
1 1/2 lbs. bran
2 lbs. salt

5 cwt.

1/12 = 12 1/12
Road paid to Rob. Rich Feb. 21st Kent $100
25th Sarg. Zachaverne $60
26th Capt. Pinto $0.50
Sarg. Mich. Johnson $0.50
Capt. Whipple $50
Sarg. B. Johnson $1.00

10th Capt. Whipple $50
11th Capt. B. Johnson $5.00
17th Capt. Whipple $50

$346
$347
$246
$264
$1730
$1350