October 4 - October 17, 1861
Oct 4th 1861.

Benson was sent on fatigue duty this A.M. I don't want to go with the skirmishers. There has been a great itching among the men to get into a Cavalry 65th attached to our brigade. They were cured of it this A.M. Capt. Handy was out with the skirmishers. 80 in number. I divided them about 65 in number to charge them. They came down at full gallop till about 4 rods off the men who had formed in a square fired on them with blank cartridges. More than 20 men were hit by the waves & they were scattered in every direction.
They rallied again & came down to abt. 10 rods when the horses began to break. The men fired upon them again. This time they scattered worse than before. Two of the men were thrown. It was impossible to bring them up again. If the guns had been loaded, not a third of the men brot' pces would have escaped. These men have been drilling 2 months. Do you call such a force a fair wo? The skirmish drill is one of the finest in use. Whether you view them stretched out in a long line or spaced in their formations, little groups of four, with a bayonet...
at each corner or in their stronger groups of sections or platoons, they are active, self-reliant, sharp, vigorous, mischievous fighting. It is a curious sight to see them when firing. They are as said before deployed one in a place having a space of 5 paces between each Leman. They are then numbered off from right to left 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. At the command, commence firing the odd numbered men run forward 10 paces very quickly throw themselves down on their bellies, fire, roll over on their backs & commence loading. While these are loading,
The even numbered men run up 10 paces beyond them throw themselves down fire & commence loading. By this time the odd numbered men are ready again & on turn & advance 10 paces beyond these & throw themselves down as before & see they keep going. You will see either nothing but the smoke when they fire or their heads appearing above the weeds & grass except when they advance. This when near the enemy is always done by an oblique or zigzag movement. Good marksmen in this way make bad work with little loss to themselves. They are of course seek the shelter of all...
The trees, logs, ditches & immediate qualities of the ground which are at hand. It is said that we are to move to-morrow.

3d. I have been on fatigue duty today with Capt. Bretschneider & 100 men at Ft. Richardson. The trenches had to be deepened. It is slow work. Soldiers hate to work! The ground was hard as a stone wall. Every shovelful had to be picked up. The earth had to be raised on & abt. 20 ft. It had all to be handled over from 8 to 10 times. It is to be a pretty fine work. It will mount all 20. 82 ft. & it has 2 underground magazines.
Amands every work on this side of the river which is within 2 miles as well as the river itself.

6th Jan. We were out at roll call at 6 A.M. by a recent order all the Co. Officers are required to be present. We then went out to guard Mounting at 8 A.M. At 10 came inspection, here we were detained near 2 hours. Next inspection of quarters. Then came church for such as desired to attend. Dress parade at 3 P.M., 3 hours spent in listening to orders.

This occupied most of the day. Our new Col. is getting stricter.
every day. The weather is very hot.  We came out yesterday with a new uniform hat on. He did not know what to do with himself. It had a large silver eagle on the side which he tore off the first half. He then came into the room where Capt. Norvell his aid was. He took hold of his chaplain with both hands and lifted it off. Capt. Norvell said he with great deliberation, "What do you think of that hat? It 'had an eagle on but I thought the hat would do without any eagle so I took him off." He then jammed on the hat and went off mumbled and shaking his
head. It is astonishing what influence he has over this Regt. There is hardly anything possible to be done which they would not do or attempt at his command. It will do for a brigadier Gen. to tear the eagle off his hat, but if a drum under our Col. comes on drill parade without all the uniform which belongs to him, boots blacked, white gloves on, not a speck of dirt about him he would be sent back to his tent. This style is pretty hard on one, I must admit. I never had to spend so much time on drill before. Col. Poe sent the main to the guard
house this Mr, so quick they did not know which end they stood on because she did not move quite as quick as they ought. When not on duty at we have a good opportunity for reading study he? We are clear of all the hangars owt except the meritable Sid., Prinicipes who can no more be got rid of than one's shadow.

The weather is intensely hot at beginning to be very dry. We had skirmish drill this Mr. The sweat poured off me in streams. Capt. May has now been gone 2 days. He is going to recruit for the
Regt, but more especially to work for his appointment as Lt. Col. of the 10th Regt. May God have mercy on the country if Mayes is to be Lt. Col. The most alarming feature of the whole war is to see the men who are placed in such responsible positions. Our Capt. is not in truth qualified for a Sergeant's place in one of our Co.'s. You ought if he would work make a very good Capt. for a new Co. Look at Kellogg of our own state. It is no better than Munslaughter to send men in to the field with such a man. No man at the very least.
ought to have command of a Regt. who has not seen a year of active service, studied diligently all the time. There is not more than one in a Regt, as a rule, who would be sapably qualified in so short a time. The Col. makes the Regt. If Ellsworth had lived the Fire Zouaves would have been the best Regt. in the army. As it was they were little more than an armed mob. They fought well in one battle but never rallied afterward nor would they if they had been victorious. Gen. R. or Col. P. could make a good Regt. out of almost anything. Major
Williams would spoil the best Regt. in the service in 8 months.

Last night came a terrible storm of rain and wind, wet everything, drove some of the men out of their tents.

It is very cold this Mr. Last Poe gave the 1st lot of H a sound beating. This Mr. because he did not have their men in better shape at roll call. I saw him coming in time to put mine in good shape. They think it useful to be made to stand around as they are of late.

It is in reality easier & better for them in all respects as cold from its benefits in a military point
of view. If our Capt had have stayed till the time he would have been lifted quite off his feet if he had not moved some circumstance. I nearly laughed myself to death last night to hear Capt. Galpin of Co. C. He is a large fellow with large eyes, large mouth, full of gab, impudence & nonsense, always trying to strike his grand style & generally by means of family relations or pre-tended good breeding & abundant braap succeeding. There is some real merit about him & on the whole there is many a worse fellow in camp than Capt. Galpin. We chanced to speak of Col. Poe.
while Galpin was in, said he did you ever notice that col? He is the most wicked looking man I ever saw when you get close to him, my God, there is not one spark of human feeling or sympathy about him. If you could have seen how he looked at me this morning you never would have liked him again, all of which I much more was quoted with a long face and great solemnity of manner. We knew Galpin so well that both of us expressed at once what the trouble was. The truth of the matter was that Galpin left his guard, only at 10 P.M., went to his
sent & slept till after I went to Mr. He swore upon honor that he was so sick he could not stand on his feet. The col. excused him but informed him in very decided terms that he knew all about him & that if he was ever absent in that way again he would reduce him to the ranks.

Benson is on guard today for the first time in his life. Capt. Dillman is officer of the day. Both are wonderfully alert for fear the col. will be after them. Dillman comes out all every hour singing of Benson what he has done, seen & heard since last visit. Whether the col. has been around he has
The Col. has gone to town & Benson is very much afraid that he will come into camp from the back side or some other unusual way & find something amiss. He has a man posted well down the road to watch for him & give timely notice.

Our Co. as well as the whole Regt appear in a remarkable good health. A few except about 6 or 7 very invalids who will soon be discharged. There is hardly a sick man in our Co. The balance have become thoroughly acclimated to camp life.

Stop

I woke up this Morn. with the painful symptoms.
son that I had slept till after roll call. I scrambled on my shoes without stockings, pulled on my over coat without stopping to button my pants. I rushed out expecting to see the col. of 'Clothed in Mutiled.' Because no officers were present at roll call. I was happy to find that the orderly was just calling the men instead of making them drill in the forenoon. The weather remained cold all day. It costs terribly to keep house. I shall be disposed to quit it very soon. We have too many hands—Handy comes around to dinner.
with us alt. twice a day. He is such good military authoritiy & so full of fun & jokes that we can not decline his presence. P Gibson has been on a visit boarding with us for a week. The ghostly Presence is still hovering around all of whom together with Benson, self & servant 1 at a large sum of provisions during the week. We could get fair board for $5.00 per week at a neighboring house. It has cost us thus far $11.76 per week. I have to go on fatigue duty to morrow. There seems end of building fires. There already some 300 to 400 around
Washington & 4 new ones have just been commenced. We have done a large share of the work on 4 of them besides clearing near 1000 acres of shopping. Today we broke ground for a fifth one.

10th. The weather continues cold & rainy. We have one fire in our tents & have to resort to an increase of clothing to keep warm. We had a very interesting skirmish drill to day. Three lots were out together—drilled with the cavalry a part of the time. They & the skirmishers drill together every day.
was one of the 21st put in the guard house last night. He sent for his Capt. who came and said he "Capt. O. Connor, tell me out of the guard house." "No, I'll not do it," said Capt. O. Connor. "Go to hell you d---d son of a b---h." He replied the prisoner. "Capt. O. C. left. The prisoner turned to the Corp. of the guard who was standing near and said "Capt., you must excuse me, I wouldn't have talked to him in that way only he's my brother."

P.S. Have been reading the Atlanta, and I shot at the mark this.
Mr. with my revolver. At 100 yards I put one ball in the size of a dollar, and then within 2 inches. The other 4 varied from 4 to 7 inches. This is the first shooting I ever did with a pistol, and expect to do better after a little. I have one of Colt's best Navy Revolvers. It will shoot accurately 20 rods at that distance. Then a ball through a two-inch plank. It weighs about 4 lbs, & can be shot away of whom I bought it, it would not carry it, because it was so heavy. He would have thrown it away coming from Bull Run if I had not found
a man to carry it for him.
I know very little about
sword but I think I can
hold my own on shooting

We had a skinshill drill
and afterwards divided 2 Co.'s into platoon
and had a battalion drill on our own hook.

Orders came at 4 P.M. to move at 8 a.m.
tomorrow. I have always liked this camp
and have become so used to seeing the moon
and sun reflected from the white walls of the
capitol, the public buildings, the strong,
handsome shaft of Washington monu-
ment, the many lively brown streams
of the Smithsonian, the tall black chim-
neys of the navy yard, & the Potomac
which at a distance is a pretty stream
that I shall miss them. Not to

Milwaukee is the sight of some dozen or two batteries near by or of our neighbors. Johnson's flock of 500 little contraband black birds alight a size and always in a huddle when out done. Bare headed, half naked, half human in looks, they point clearly to the chief source of wealth. Benson would insist to stay on making a bedstead with driving some crotches in the ground & laying some poles & boards thereon. I reluctantly helped to do this last when I found that he was on a general cleaning up. Three hodled flabby & went off & read in the Atlantic. Concerning people of whom more might have been made by the Country Parsons. That wit has beyond all the faculty of getting hold of the secret.
thoughts & feelings of mine, "Oh, the unutterable sadness of the thought of what might have been"—yes, of the unutterable gladness also? Tomorrow we move against our wandering homes. I would not be surprised if we saw fighting soon. Four Regts. of cavalry & a drove of fat cattle a mile long paused us to day on the advance. I always feel sad at the approach of battle but at the same time there is an inference, I know not what, which drives one on with ever increasing eagerness as the hour approaches. Sadness is an easily concealed by light jests & marks. I have quite to much pride to tell anyone of its existence. It was thus when I enlisted. I did to go yet nothing could have prevented my going at the first call. It would seem as if there were some impulse which dam always striving against—yet always obeying at its first call.
There was a terrible storm of wind and rain last night which nearly prevented Reveille beat at 5 A.M. We had breakfast before daylight. The air was cold & clear. All the effects except the arms of our Co. (91 men) were packed in wagons promptly at 8 A.M. We started by the river road via Alexandria for our present camp. The 14th came down to the road & gave 8 guns for each Co. as a part of the band was ready to give us a farewell salute. The roads were pretty muddy but the air was so good & fine the March was very pleasant. The country was very fine. There are many interesting points both in view of the scenery & the historic associations. Our band on that of the little Mickey's played us lively tunes all the
way. The men had nothing but their guns to carry in the midst of so many new things & the jokes, storytelling on the journey was made almost before we were aware of it. We passed through Alexandria to the tune, "In Dixie's land done bound to travel." It is a quaint, old looking place but some parts of it possess considerable beauty. The ladies were out in goodly numbers wearing their best, as they always are. I know not whether it is because they are as patriotic (I guess it must be) or because they are so fond of soldiers or are simply attracted by the novelty of the thing & speak faintly so while present. Some of them I am sure were handsome or at least I know they looked so to me. Anything that wears pelisse or shawl looks pretty well
to a soldier who has been in this respect for a long time feeling P. The Mich. 5th Regt. came down from Munson's hill & have joined us here. I am sorry the Mass. 14th could not have remained with us. We agreed remarkably well. The Mass. 14th did not like us. They would never tell why but I suppose the were mad at Gen. Q, at something. I don't believe there was ever a poor Regt. went out of Mass.

13th A clear, bright, cold Sunday - I am on guard. There is another lot on with me & we do not have a very serious time. The 5th held mass this Morn. every man in the Regt. not on duty was out. All knelt down in a muddle bare headed for more than an hour.

14th There was a thaw from
last night & men on guard slept but little. I was up till 11 pm, & had a very fine time for star gazing.

We went off guard at 8:30 & went on battalion drill at 9. It was one of Major Williams characteristic drills. He marched us a mile & a half onto the top of a high hill where we went through all manner of movements many of which none ever heard of before. It was well worth the journey however to have so fine a view of the country. We could see Alexandria, Washington - some 16 miles of the river, Munsomishill and the camps of 45th Regt, some of which were more than 15 miles off. Washington is at 9 miles. Alex.
and we arrived about 8. We are near the river between Alexandria and Mt. Vernon. Benson is on picket for 2 days. I am acting Capt. I would like a rest well to go to bed but must stay up till 9 to render the Co. I had my first experience in command of a corps battalion drill to day. He went in a satisfactory manner. Two corps were reduced to the ranks to day for neglect of duty. We have mail but twice a week here. No one is allowed to go to Washington. We can purchase all necessaries in ALEX, which place by the way used to be a great slave market.
are so thick there now that one can hardly get through the street but there is very little sale for them.

15th. A very pleasant quiet day. Benson returned from picket all afternoon he was highly attached with the place - it is near Mt. Vernon. I am going on picket somewhere tomorrow. All the Regt except the pickets have to March at daylight for some place unknown with one day's rations. Lt. Prentiss says to Benson just now came some Benson direct an envelope "for me to my sister". Well where is it? I don't know says Prentiss. I haven't got any. It struck
one that it was an ingenious way of asking for it. We have not a suitable supply of rations for tomorrow (that is to say). We are just so d---d careless as Serg't Stevenson said all his brother soldiers when he saw his breeches.

16th Capt. H. Scandy, Benson & I went late last night to the hotel of the 37th procured a large stock of provisions for to day. At 2 1/2 past three this Mr. Reveille was sounded. We of course all sprung to oot-cut bed getting ready. The roll had just been called & the cooking of breakfast commenced when the order to march was countermanded.
This reminded me to picket duty again. We were to have gone out into the country about 8 miles to carry off some hay. We marched at 7 for picket duty about 4 miles in a south west direction. Mt. Vernon can be seen in the distance. Col. Cape (Dillman's) head quarters are at the house of Col. Mason of the Rebel army. The Col's young wife, slaves' property in general are in the hands of the Yankees. The lady does not seem in any very great tribulation. Have no doubt she receives many kind attentions as well cared for. The Col. has a very pretty place, like most houses in this country the Col's is all-
1/2 mile from the road. It is a very old estate. Some grave stones in the
yard bear date 1771. There
is none of that new, fresh, brick,
business look which we see at
home. There is an old look at
everything which is almost allied
to decay. I presume it is so to
some extent in all old settled coun-
tries. More beautiful springs of water
natural groves, distant scenery
can hardly be found. The house
would be called shabby in the North. It is so on
the outside but is well furnished
within. There is the usual amt.
of stuffy earthy wool heads, all of
size as usual. There must have
been a wonderfully prolific season
some 10 years since. The crops appear to be good or at least the corn. The timber is of alternate belts of oak, chestnut, and of & scrub pine & cedar. There is no enemy near here. We are posted to cut off communication & give timely notice of any advance. It is pretty dull business. One old lady with her colored servant were the only persons seen during the day. There is an interest at these hills & fields which were once trod by the Chief of his Country which is felt in no other place. His footsteps have sanctified the ground on which he trod. There is not a half hour in the day that I do not have his presence associated with the surround.
...my scenery. I hope to visit Mt. Vernon but it is very doubtful whether I can. It would do us all good to spend an hour at the grave of Washington in tears over the fate of our country.

My thought was very quiet. There has been heavy firing down the river boat times for days. There were several very heavy guns at midnight. I slept under a large chestnut log which hung on the slumps. I filled upon the side and the pine bush and in front also except a hole large enough to crawl in. Never had a finer sleep.

Oct. 17, 1861.pulse I. Kane dis charged by reason of disability.
May 1st 1861

Col. A. B. Richardson -
Brigadier Gen Aug. 1861
1st Col. C. C. Shipman Capt. in
Regulars July 1861

A. W. Williams Major -
Capt. Larned 1st Col. Sept. 1861

Orlando M. Poe Col. Sept. 1861

Co. A. May 1st 1861

Louis Dillon Capt. Sept 1861
John Rheul Capt. 1st Capt. of R.
Resigned

Göble 1st Capt. Sept 2nd 1861

J. Bergl 2nd 1861
Co. B. May 1st, 1861
Resigned to serve.
Beach, Capt. Court Martial
Dugelow, 1st Lt. Resigned
Borden 2nd Lt.

Co. B. May 1st, 1861
Cornellius Byrington Capt.
Joe Barlow, 2nd Lt. Martial
Gibman 3rd Lt.
Hodgkins 2nd Lt.

Co. D. May 1st, 1861
Humphrey Capt.
Wood 1st Lt.
Burlington 2'd Lt.

Co. E. May 1st 1861
Robt. Bretschneider Capt.
Brownell 1st Lt.
Jerome Beals 2nd Lt.

Co. F. May 1st 1861
Wm R. Morse Capt.
Turner 1st Lt.
Farrand 2nd Lt.
Co. G. May 1st 1861
John Jackson Capt. Bashined.

Morton 2nd Lt.

Clyde 2nd Lt. July 1st 1861

McCraw 3rd Lt. Sept 7th 1861

Shearon 2nd Lt. Sept 1861

Co. K. May 1st 1861

W.H. Kiser Maj. Capt. May 1861

E. Morris 1st Lt.

Seidling 2nd Lt.

Wm. R. Whipple Capt. May 1861
Co. I, May 1st, 1861
Dwight May Capt.
W.J. Handy 1st Lt.
C.T. Dake 2d
J.M. Norvell 2d

" " " Adjutant July 1861
W.J. Handy "
Norvell, Capt. 2d Lt.
W.T. Handy Capt.
W.T. Benson 1st Lt.
G.B. Hayden 2d "

Co. K, May 1st, 1861
G. W. Parks 1st Lt.
H.C. Church 2d Lt.

John Rheinle - Capt. "
H.C. Church 1st Lt. "
Rich. Eldred 2d Lt. "

Resigns Sept 26, 1861