

Civil War Diary of Edward Burns, Private
51st Illinois Infantry
November 1861 to October 1863

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1862

Edward Burnes. Chicago, Ill.

I enlisted on Nov. 5th, 1861. I entered Camp Douglas on the 6th. There went through a course of military instruction 'till Feb. 14th, 1862, when we started for Cairo. Here we remained a few days, in some old rickety barracks which was called Camp McClelland. Here we received our arms and equipments and tents.

We then went across the Ohio River, on the Kentucky Shore, and cleared about twenty acres of land, and pitched our new tents, and called it Camp Cullum, the first of our camp life in the field.

On March 4th, 1862, we started to Bertrand, MO., a distance of twenty miles on the Cairo & Fulton R.R. We marched about half way, and rode on the cars the other half. This was our first march with heavy knapsacks. Here we remained six days, living up to the strictest military requirements.

March 10th we started for New Madrid, where we joined Pope's Army. Here we got pretty well inured to camp life.

March 27th, we had a Grand Review by Genl. Pope. Weather pleasant.

April 1862

April 7th, we started for Tiptonville. We got on the steamboat at 8 o'clock, where we remained until the old Coronado and Pittsburg, who so daringly run the blockade at Island No. 10, a few nights previous, had drove the Rebels out of their fort and breastworks on the opposite side of the river, when we crossed and landed on their works.

We found their guns all dismounted. We immediately started in pursuit of the retreating Rebels. We pressed hard on them all day, 'till night. They wheeled off into the woods. Our First Brigade pressed on ahead of them, to Tiptonville, 2 miles further, and they were surrounded.

The next morning the Rebels sent in their surrender. Then our Brigade, the Second Brigade, formed a hollow square, and received 4,000 Rebs. And a (gay) looking set they were. The next morning, after a hard night's rain, we got on the steamboats with the prisoners, and started back to New Madrid. We sent the prisoners north, and remained three days in camp.

Then we pulled up stakes again, and started on the steamboats down the river for Fort Pillow. On the 12th we arrived at Fort Pillow, and found that we could do nothing with a land force, so we were ordered forthwith to Corinth.

We arrived at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn. on the 22nd of April, where we went into camp. We were 10 days on the boat, raining the most of the time. Here we rested a few days, then we advanced on the

28th four miles, and camped in the woods. Slept one night without tents.

April 29th. Today we pitched tents, cleaned up camp, done washing etc.

April 30th. Nothing of importance occurred.

May 1862

May 1st. We struck tents and started on again today. We marched six miles. Co. K. went out on picket.

May 2nd. Today we came back two miles, and camped on a hill.

May 3rd. Marching Orders again, with one day's rations. Today we came on the Rebels, captured their camp equipage, and drove them three miles. Genl. Payne commanding. Then we retreated back about 3 miles, which was 6 miles in advance of our last camp. Here we went into a cornfield, and slept in the open air.

May 4th. Was Sunday. Raining all day. No tents come yet. We got sopping wet. This was the first time every man had to cook for himself.

May 5th. Today our tents and luggage came. We camped in the edge of the woods, by a peach orchard, a beautiful place.

May 6th & 7th. Nothing worth note, except cleaning camp etc.

May 8th. We marched out in strong force, to reconnoiter. We went within a mile of Corinth, before we found any Rebels. We made them hunt their holes. Then we went back to camp again, very late.

May 9th. Today we struck tents, and packed up everything, to make a general advance. We went out about a mile and a half, onto a large field, where we intended to camp. We unstrung knapsacks. There was about six thousand of us. Part of the 51st and part of the 42nd Ill. were sent out as skirmishers to reconnoiter the woods all around, when Lo, to our amazement there was two batteries planted before us, and about twenty-five thousand infantry marching up in division column. And we had to make the best retreat we could, through terrible fire. leaving our knapsacks on the field, for the Rebels to rummage. So we went back to camp, and remained quiet 'til May 13th.

May 13th . Today Co. K. went out on picket. On the 14th the whole Regt. went out on picket, which made 48 hours for us. We felt tired out. May 15th & 16th passed off quietly.

May 17th . This morning orders to march again, with two days' rations. We went out about a mile, when we came to a halt, and sat in the shade an hour, then returned to camp. While I write this, orders come to strike tents and move everything forward to Farmington, where we arrived at sundown. We stacked arms, and went to work throwing up breastworks. We worked 'till 12 o'clock at night. On this night, there was a line of breastworks made, about 16 miles in extent.

May 18th . This morning Sunday, very fine. I was on detail to throw up breastworks for battery. Worked hard all day. Sharp firing on picket line. Nothing further worthy of note occurred until May 23rd.

May 23rd. Our Regt. went on picket. We were on the extreme left of the line, where we came in close proximity with the Rebels lines. They kept firing at us all day, and we returned an occasional shot, but nothing serious occurred, except that we got a good soaking, for it rained all the time we were out. 16th Mich. Regt. relieved us. All quiet now 'till May 28th.

May 28th. Today we marched out in strong force and attacked the Enemy, driving them to their fortifications. Then there was a heavy artillery fight, which lasted about five hours, during which they made a charge on one of our batteries. But they got repulsed, with heavy loss on their side. Our loss very light. We took several prisoners, then the scene closed for the night. We threw up breastworks.

May 29th. This morning our men buried 60 dead Secesh. There was only five of our men killed, and 20 wounded. There is a great deal of cannonading today and occasional musketry. The 51st was kept in reserve, but we were routed out of bow houses every little while by a roar of volleys. In the evening there was a bright light in Corinth, and a great deal of hollowing. No casualties today.

May 30th. This morning there arose a great volume of smoke over Corinth. Pretty soon we heard a report of a cannonading, but it proved to be some shells they left in the R.R. depot, which they set fire to, before they skedaddled. They burned up all their equipments and stores that they couldn't take with them. We started in pursuit of them about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We followed them to Tusculmbia River. Our advance had a skirmish with them. They destroyed the bridge, and so we had to halt and bivouac for the night, at eleven o'clock. We slept on our arms.

May 31st. Today our engineers were busy making bridges, so we had a day's rest. Beauregard and Hardie is before us, the two bullies of the South.

June 1862

June 1st. We started after them again today. We followed them to Rienzi, where we camped for the night. The next morning we pressed on again, as far as Booneville, where we halted for a few days, to rest and give the Rebels a chance to get away from us by the way.

June 3rd. We went after them again. We marched about 10 miles, when our advance encountered a lot of their cavalry. Their loss, five prisoners, one man killed – our loss, one man killed, and two horses. We returned to Booneville the same evening, pretty well tuckered out. We remained about a week, without tents. We then moved back three miles northwest of Booneville, where we remained another week, living in bow houses. Booneville is 35 miles from Corinth (south). From here, we marched back to Big Springs, within six miles of Corinth. Here the time passed off very pleasantly for five or six weeks. About the 20th of June, I was in the creek to wash, and I stayed in too long, so the next day I had a chill and fever. But soon broke it off. There was several men died from the same effect, while we were in this camp. Here is where Rosecrans took command of Pope's Army.

July 1862

The Fourth of July, 1862, passed off here, very dull and monotonous. We had our tents, in this camp.

July 21st. We got Marching Orders to go to Decatur, Alabama. We were on the march eight days. Our progress was slow, on account of hot weather. On the twenty-ninth we arrived at our destination, which is 8 miles from Courtland, on the Charleston & Memphis R.R., and 12 from Decatur.

Here we camped at the bridge over Mallard's Creek. Companies K. & H stopped here, the balance of the Regt. went further on toward Decatur.

Capt. Rose being a very gentlemanly sort of a fellow, and neighborly, every planter he would call on for cotton, would hitch up his mules and oxen, and tote it right to our camp. With which cotton, we built a strong fort and called it Fort Rose.

We had as many as 50 Negroes to work some days, chopping down trees, making our abatis all around our fort. Here we had all the fruit and melons we wanted..

On the 22nd of August the Paymaster came around, and paid us. On the 25th, the 22nd Regt. Ill. Vol. came and relieved us, so we were ordered on to Decatur, to join the Regt.

We arrived on the 27th of August. Here we remained, living high, until Genl. Palmer came, and took command of us on the 5th of September, when we started on the march for Nashville, a distance of a hundred and forty-five miles.

September 1862

Sept. 5th. We marched 23 miles. Weather very hot. Saturday, 6th, passed through Athens, Al., marched 15 miles. Went into camp at 2 P.M. Here 2nd Brigade joined us. Sunday, 7th, whole Division started on, passing through Guerilla Hollow, The 16th Ill. Regt. was fired on, wounding 4 men. Forded Elk River, and passed through Elkton. Marched 25 miles.

Monday, 8th, passed through Pulaski City. Met more guerillas, killed one, took one prisoner. No one hurt on our side. Marched 19 miles.

Tuesday, 9th, passed through Lindenville and Columbia. Guerillas attack our rear guard, coming into Columbia, and killed one of our men of the 42nd Ill., who returned the fire, and made them pay dear for it. Killed and wounded several, and captured a wagon loaded with flour and whiskey. Marched 22 miles.

Wednesday, 10th, this morning the Rebels pitched into our rear again, and captured a company wagon of the 14th Mich. Regt. We had to open one of our batteries on them, before they gave us any peace. Marched 16 miles.

Thursday, 11th, passed through Franklin. In this place we were greeted by the ladies with sweet smiles and Union flags. We marched 23 miles today, and camped within 2 miles of Nashville, our feet tired and sore. Rainy night.

Friday, 12th . This morning we turned out of our wet blankets, a rough looking set. But the day turned out fine and warm, so we soon got things in order. Then, to help the matter, we had to go on Brigade Drill, on account of some scallywag firing off his piece, by order of Col. Roberts, Commanding Brigade.

Sept. 13th. Today all quiet. Weather fine and warm. We took a good rest.

Sunday, 14th, This morning we had Regiment Inspection and Battalion Drill, because Pud, the drummer boy, fired a gun in camp. This is a plan to maintain discipline.

Monday 15th. Our Regt. went out on picket on the Nolensville Pike. All quiet. Weather very fine.

Tuesday 16th. Regt. went into Nashville, and camped on College Hill. I was detailed to go out on forage train. Returned at ___ o'clock.

Wednesday 17th. All quiet today. Dress Parade at 4 o'clock. Our camp commands a view of the whole city.

Thursday 18th. Nothing occurred today worthy of note. The city reservoir (water works) is on College Hill. Weather clear.

Friday 19th. Went on picket on Lebanon Pike, Comp. K on the left, extending from the pike to Cumberland River.

Saturday 20th. Returned to camp. It is a beautiful country, around Nashville.

Sunday 21st. On fatigue duty. Nashville is called the City of Rocks.

Monday 22nd. Went foraging 12 miles on Lebanon Pike. Nashville is the Capitol of Tennessee.

Tuesday 23rd. On picket again. The State House is situated in the center and overlooks the whole city.

Wednesday 24th. Returned to camp. All quiet. Weather pleasant.

Thursday 25th. Now comes the old everlasting Camp Guard. Plague on it.

Friday 26th. Part of Regt. went on forage train. I remained in camp.

Saturday 27th. Pleasant weather. All quiet in camp.

Sunday 28th. I went to church. Flag of Truce came in from the Rebels, demanding the surrender of the city forthwith, but nary surrender.

Monday 29th . On fatigue duty. Another flag of truce, demanding the immediate and unconditional surrender of the city, but not accepted.

Tuesday 30th. All quiet in camp. Two Brigades went out and attacked the Rebels at Lavergne, 17 miles from here, and took 200 prisoners and two pieces of artillery and all their camp equipage. They didn't send another Flag of Truce.

November 1862

Nov. 1st. During the preceding month there has nothing transpired worthy of note. We done our regular turns of duty, camp guard, picket guard, and foraging alternately. Not a day, hardly, for rest.

On the 5th we were on picket, and the Rebels attacked us at three o'clock, but we held them at bay, 'till our forces came out and gave them a sound thrashing, and captured 400 of them, with several pieces of artillery. This is the time they were going to capture the city, but they made a slight mistake. All quiet now on the Potomac.

Nov. 7th. We went to Mitchelville for supplies, a distance of forty miles. There was four Regiments of us, and 800 teams. We arrived there at dark. We camped in the woods. It was a very cold night. It took us two days to get back. On our return, we met a train of 500 teams, going out after more supplies. Road awful dusty.

Nov. 11th. We had General Review, and shooting at targets.

Nov. 12th. I wrote a letter to Chicago, Albany and Washington. On Oct. 18th we moved into a large brick barracks, where we remained for a month.

Nov. 19th. We moved back to our old camp ground. Nothing further of importance occurred until

Dec. 10th. Then came marching orders. We marched seven miles south of Nashville to Camp Sheridan, where we remained, going through the duties of camp life until

Dec 24th. We got orders to march at daylight. We struck tents, packed up everything on the wagons, and started. Went about half a mile, and turned back to camp again. Order countermanded. This night we

slept in the open air.

Christmas morning we concluded we were not going to march, so we pitched our tents again and settled down for keeps.

Dec. 26th . This morning we struck tents again, packed all our baggage on the wagons, and sent it to Nashville, except our blankets and haversacks, as then we knew what was up. We marched to Nolensville, drove the Rebels from the place, with considerable loss on their side. We took one piece of artillery. Our loss, very light. We camped on a high mountain, two miles south of the town. Raining heavy all night.

Dec. 27th. This morning we started on again, with wet clothes and blankets. Today we followed them six miles, to within half a mile of Triune. Hard skirmishing all the way, and continual raining. Here we went into camp for the night. And the planters' fences had to pay for the want of cord wood. Tonight we slept in wet blankets.

Dec. 28th – Sunday. Today turned out fine and clear. The boys found a planter who had a warehouse full of Rebel stores and tobacco. So, our provision train not being up with us, they laid in a supply of bacon, ham and tobacco. Here we rested all day and night, and dried our clothes and blankets.

Dec. 29th. Today we marched about 15 miles over a hard and soft, rough and smooth road. We started early, went about two miles on the backtrack, then took a road to the right, towards Murfreesboro. We arrived about a mile and a half in front of the Enemy. At night we slept on our arms.

Dec. 30th. Was rather dull and drizzly. Today we marched onto the memorable field of Stone River. And behold, here we were met,

By hardy hosts and bold,
But they tried and tried and swayed
In vain,
To hold a field strewed
With the slain.

We advanced, and on we went,
We pressed the Foe without
Relent.
We deployed and rallied,
And dreary was the sound,
But when night closed in,
We held the battleground.

The 31st of December,
We will all well remember.
The last day of the year,
1862. At sunrise
The raging battle
Commenced anew.

We advanced and they
Advanced, and fearful
Was the rage.
It will be seen forever
On historic page.

Our first advance upon the

Foe, was a noble charge.
We drove him from a strong
Position, and his loss was very large.
The day was ours and
Also the fight.
If sleepy Johnson had
Not let them turn the right.

About this time we changed
Position, to renew the fight,
When brave Colonel Roberts fell,
In defense of his Country's
Right.

Now as we were 'most surrounded,
Our position became
Emergent.
While we're marching
By the right flank, we
Lost our Color Sargent.

We now withdrew from
This bloody field, amid
The roar and rattle.
We marched out on the
Pike, and changed our
Line of battle.

Here we found a lot of Butter-
Nuts, about five thousand
Strong.
The 51st and 27th made
A charge, and drove them
Out. It did not take us
Long.

Now, in conclusion of this
Little work, I've done
The best I knew,
To show you how we
Closed the year 1862.

P.S. When we came out on the pike, we found our whole right wing all in disorder, with about five thousand Rebels lying in the Cedars, peppering away at them, when the 51st & 27th, and one Company of the 22nd Ill., went in and drove them out, and saved the day.

Now, when I say we saved the day, I mean it. For if the Rebels had made one more demonstration, they would have no doubt dispersed our whole right and center, and probably the whole Army. As they operated today, all together on our right and center, but owing to the extraordinary generalship of Rosecrans, and his quick perception of movements, we would have lost that battle. For he was everywhere, conspicuous for his daring and courage. And his orders were obeyed strictly and rapidly.

Thursday, January 1, 1863

Stone River, near Murfreesboro, Tenn. This morning, went under arms at three o'clock, ready for an attack. After breakfast we made a barricade of fence rails and rocks. The Rebs came out in the afternoon, but we whipped them and took 100 prisoners.

Friday, January 2 Today, Co. K. was out on picket, or rather, skirmishing. But they were pretty far quiet in front of us, as they were operating on our left, where they got terribly whipped.

Saturday, January 3 Today they made another demonstration on our left, which was for the purpose of covering their retreat from Murfreesboro. This was the last of the fighting on Stone River.

Sunday, January 4 Today the last of the Rebels left Murfreesboro, and we devoted our time to rest and cleaning up, for there was not one of us washed a hand or face since the day the battle commenced.

Monday, January 5 Today all is quiet, but we are short of rations on account of our train being destroyed on the 31st by the Rebels. The dead was buried on today, a duty which did not fall on me.

Tuesday, January 6 Today our provision and baggage trains arrived from Nashville. We marched through Murfreesboro, and camped 3 miles south on the Shelbyville pike.

Wednesday, January 7 Today we cleaned up camp, pitched our tents, and settled down in good style. We are camped in a grove of heavy timber.

Thursday, January 8 I wrote a letter home, and went foraging in the afternoon. Had to pick the corn off the stalks. Nothing further worthy of note.

Friday, January 9 I received a letter of Johnny, and answered it. I was then detailed on fatigue duty.

Saturday, January 10 All quiet today. I done my washing. Stone River is a nice little stream, about eighty feet wide, and fordable most any place.

Sunday, January 11 Weather fine and warm. Cannonading heard, out south of us. Long roll beat, we all fell in under arms, but no move made.

Monday, January 12 All quiet in camp today. Nothing occurred worthy of note.

Tuesday, January 13 I wrote a letter home, and another to Grand Rapids. Weather fine.

Wednesday, January 14 Went on picket at the bridge on Salem Pike. Rained all day and all night. Relieved guard every hour.

Thursday, January 15 We returned to camp. Heavy rain all day, and very cold, snow in the evening.

Friday, January 16 Very cold this morning, with more snow. Wrote a letter for Old Cook.

Saturday, January 17 Passed off quietly. We had a debate in the evening. Question was that the mariners compass is more beneficial to man than the printing press.

Sunday, January 18 All quiet today. Received a letter with medal from Albany.

Monday, January 19 I wrote a letter to Albany. Weather very fine. I have no important news today, therefore I will resign.

Tuesday, January 20 Went on picket again. Steady rain all the time we was out.

Wednesday, January 21 All quiet again. Camp life is a tedious life.

Thursday, January 22 I was on guard at Headquarters. Nothing dangerous transpired.

Friday, January 23 Regiment went on picket. I remained on guard at Headquarters.

Saturday, January 24 More rain. We had another debate in the evening. The question was, which will a man gain the most knowledge, or reading or traveling.

Sunday, January 25 Nothing of importance for today. Weather pleasant. Camp quiet.

Monday, January 26 We went out on Battalion Drill, by Capt. McWilliams.

Tuesday, January 27 Weather continues fine. I wrote another letter for Archibald Cook.

Wednesday, January 28 Today we went out foraging, seven miles on the Shelbyville Pike. The Rebels attacked us, but we kept them back, and got a full train.

Thursday, January 29 I done my washing again. I had no money to pay a Negro for doing it, and I concluded I wouldn't run in debt for it.

Friday, January 30 Well, I believe I have nothing very particular to write for today, so I won't write anything.

Saturday, January 31 Today we went on picket again. We had a pretty good time. We saw no Secesh. Weather pleasant.

Sunday, February 1, 1863

I wrote a letter Father Burns, for information of my family.

Monday, February 2 As there has nothing of interest transpired today, I will write nothing.

Tuesday, February 3 Today, went out on picket again. No trouble around the lines.

Wednesday, February 4 Today the 2nd Brigade went on a forage train, and had a pretty hot time of it, so our Brigade had to go out and help them.

Thursday, February 5 Well I declare, here we are on picket again. I don't see what's the use of it, the Rebels daresn't come near us.

Friday, February 6 Today we return to camp, and as we have nothing else to do, we will take a good rest.

Saturday, February 7 Today peace and quietness reigns all over the camp. Another debate. Question, which affords the most pleasure, memory of the past or hopes of the future.

Sunday, February 8 Well, today brings forth nothing new. We have roll call three times a day. Weather fine.

Monday, February 9 Well, as this is a fine day, I will write something, if not more or any other man.

Tuesday, February 10 Today we went out on picket on the west branch of Stone River. Nobody hurt.

Wednesday, February 11 We returned to camp this morning, got our breakfast, and took it easy the rest of the day.

Thursday, February 12 Today we went foraging ten miles southwest from here. It rained all day, but we got our train full, and had no trouble. We returned safe.

Friday, February 13 The whole Brigade went out to Salem, on picket duty for five days, but the five days turned out to be eleven days. 51st took the first tour on duty.

Saturday, February 14 This morning we rigged up our shelter tents, and we had inspection of arms and equipments in the afternoon.

Sunday, February 15 This is most a salubrious morning, and after I got shaved and slicked up, me and Tabler and Thompson took a stroll in the woods. It made me feel all over homesick.

Monday, February 16 Today we had Company Drill in manual of arms. In the afternoon we had Battalion Drill. It rained so hard in the night, the water flowed into our tent, and drove us out.

Tuesday, February 17 This morning we moved our tent on dry ground. Rain, rain, rain all day. Tonight we got drowned out again, so I struck a bee-line for the picket reserve where they had a good fire to warm myself.

Wednesday, February 18 Today turned out fine and warm, so we went to work and made a bed of rails. We had no more trouble on account of rain.

Thursday, February 19 Today, me and Jones and Old Widger, and two or three others, went away in a corn field, and found a commissary (a two-year-old), and drew some fresh beef. Battalion Drill afternoon.

Friday, February 20 This morning we had Company Drill. The rest of the day I worked hard, chopping wood to make a fire.

Saturday, February 21 This morning it commenced raining again, and we had to go on picket. Today I received intelligence of the death of my wife, for the first time.

Sunday, February 22 Today weather dull and cold. We kept up a good fire. We had a hot discussion on the powers of steam, water and animal.

Monday, February 23 Today I wrote a letter to Chicago, and received a letter from Albany. Camp very muddy. Weather clear.

Tuesday, February 24 Today went foraging out on the mountains about seven miles west. We got our train full.

Wednesday, February 25 We were relieved from Salem, by the Second Brigade. We returned to old camp on Stone River.

Thursday, February 26 Went on picket again, west of Stone River. No trouble, all quiet. Heavy rain.

Friday, February 27 Today we returned to camp. I am afraid this will not be very interesting to my reader. There is too much of one thing over and over.

Saturday, February 28 We had General Inspection and Mustering For Pay. As long as I have nothing of interest to write, you can't blame me for not writing.

Sunday, March 1, 1863

The Regt. went out on forage train. I did not go, I was detailed for a week, Superintendent of the Culinary Department.

Monday, March 2 Received four month's pay, up to the first of January. Weather fine. It is curious how some of the boys will find a place to fill their canteens, when they have money.

Tuesday, March 3 Today we received marching orders. We had an election for Roll of Honor. Burnes, Ebert, Patterson, Stack and Thompson elected.

Wednesday, March 4 This morning we started on the march at 8 o'clock. We went out as far as Salem, and halted for the Cavalry and Artillery. Then we marched to within three miles of Eagleville.

Thursday, March 5 We arose at three o'clock this morning, got breakfast and started at 5 A.M. Marched into Eagleville and camped near the town, and remained 'til next morning. Our Cavalry captured a Rebel camp, 40 prisoners and ten wagons. Nobody hurt on our side.

Friday, March 6 We marched 5 miles to Nolensville Pike, where we halted, and our Regt. went on picket, and remained overnight. (Heavy rain.) Here we were twenty-seven miles from Murfreesboro.

Saturday, March 7 Today we marched at 12 o'clock, passed through Triune, and took a byroad towards Franklin. Camped 6 miles west of Triune. I drew rations for company. Awful heavy rain. Camped on a hill.

Sunday, March 8 Started at sunrise and marched within 2 miles of Franklin. Rain in the forenoon, roads awful muddy. Went into camp at 2 o'clock. Here there was five stacks of straw, which soon took legs and disappeared.

Monday, March 9 We started at 8 A.M., passed through the city of Franklin. I saw some of my old Michigan associates. Passed through the village of Spring Hill, and went into camp. Our advance had skirmish with the Enemy.

Tuesday, March 10 Today we started at 12 o'clock and went within 5 miles of Columbia. Camped on high hill. Rebels in sight. Heavy rain again. After several changes of position, we pitched tent. We were all wet.

Wednesday, March 11 This morning our artillery fired a few shots to find out where the Enemy was, but he was safe on the south side of Rutherford creek. General Granger commanding our forces. Weather clear.

Thursday, March 12 Started back for Franklin at 8 o'clock. Marched 19 miles in 6 hours. Passed through the city and camped a mile northwest of the town. Weather fine and warm.

Friday, March 13 We started forward again today. We marched through Triune, and camped two miles south on Nolensville Pike.

Saturday, March 14 We started to Murfreesboro. We marched through Eaglesville. We arrived at our old camp at 6 o'clock in the evening. We marched 28 miles today.

Sunday, March 15 Well, here we are again, in our old camp on Stone River. All quiet today, as we were tired and footsore. We are resting and taking it easy.

Monday, March 16 All quiet today on our side. I don't know what the Rebels are doing, but I reckon they are alright on the goose question.

Tuesday, March 17 Today, on picket on the west branch of Stone River. Alright along the lines. Weather fine. Patrick's Day.

Wednesday, March 18 Today we changed our camp about a mile nearer Murfreesboro. After about an hour's flanking and wheeling, we finally got in shape to pitch our tents.

Thursday, March 19 We have a prettier camp now, than we had before. All quiet on Stone River. Wrote a letter to Albany. Air cloudy.

Friday, March 20 A city of tents is a splendid city, all but the splendid, and that is a pity.
(poetry)

Saturday, March 21 This morning early, our picket line was attacked. Our Brigade, with several others, went out on the double-quick and made them skedaddle.

Sunday, March 22 Today we went out on picket again. A few Rebels made their appearance, but soon vanished.

Monday, March 23 We had a Grand Review today by General Rosecrans. Old Rosey is our man, where e'er he leads, we'll show our deeds, Old Rosey is our man.

Tuesday, March 24 Camp Shaeffer is the name of our new camp. It is a fine place to live, for them that likes it, but I would rather be excused.

Wednesday, March 25 Today we had Company Drill. The boys enjoy themselves playing ball, pitching quoits, or rather horseshoes, and so forth.

Thursday, March 26 Went out to Salem, on picket for five days. We camped in a beautiful Cedar grove, and how delightful it was. I declare.

Friday, March 27 All quiet in camp today. I have no more to say, so I guess I will put my book away.

Saturday, March 28 Today I wrote a letter to Washington. The 27th is on picket today. All quiet.

Sunday, March 29 There was a few shots fired on the picket line, but it did not amount to anything. All quiet.

Monday, March 30 51st on picket today. Very cold, with some snow. Nothing further of importance.

Tuesday, March 31 Today we returned to Camp Shaeffer on Stone River. Nobody hurt.

Wednesday, April 1. 1863

We had Battalion Drill today. Hello: there's General Rosecrans, coming up the pike with his whole staff. Hee hee hee (April Fool).

Thursday, April 2 Today we had a Grand Brigade Skirmish Drill, with artillery. It was a fine sight. Weather clear.

Friday, April 3 Battalion Drill in the forenoon, Dress Parade in the afternoon

Saturday, April 4 We went out on picket, and found all quiet around the lines, howsomever, nevertheless and notwithstanding..

Sunday, April 5 We had Inspection of Arms and Equipments in the forenoon, and Dress Parade in the afternoon, Easter Sunday.

Monday, April 6 Battalion Drill again today. I tell you they are gaming us through in the drill business. Weather fine.

Tuesday, April 7 Battalion Drill. Well, I guess I will have nothing to write for the future, but Battalion Drill.

Wednesday, April 8 Today we graded our Company street, and then came Battalion Drill. The ever memorable Battalion Drill. Weather clear.

Thursday, April 9 On picket today. We heard cannonading out towards Triune. All quiet around the lines.

Friday, April 10 Tranquility reigns over the canvass city today. The woods begin to come out in their Summer styles.

Saturday, April 11 Today, cleaned up the campgrounds. We had Dress Parade in the afternoon. Weather clear and healthy.

Sunday, April 12 Was a pleasant day. Had Inspection in the forenoon. Nothing to do but reading in the afternoon.

Monday, April 13 Today is a fine day, for Battalion Drill in the morning, and Dress Parade in the afternoon. How interesting it is.

Tuesday, April 14 Went on picket today again. Some firing during the night, but guess their objects were imaginary.

Wednesday, April 15 I have nothing to write today, so I guess I will wait 'til tomorrow, and see what it will bring forth.

Thursday, April 16 Well, Battalion Drill again. I tell you, this is a fine disciplined army, and well it may, for it gets drilling enough.

Friday, April 17 Today, the same thing over again, Battalion Drill in the forenoon, Sword Presentation to General Sheridan in the afternoon.

Saturday, April 18 All quiet on Stone River. Hard crackers for breakfast, and Battalion Drill for dinner, and Dress Parade for supper.

Sunday, April 19 This morning we had Company Inspection. No Battalion Drill, for a wonder. I wrote a letter to Albany.

Monday, April 20 Today we went out to Salem, for 6 days picket duty. Weather clear and healthy. 22nd and 27th first on duty.

Tuesday, April 21 Today, 51st and 42nd on duty. We have two Quaker guns rigged on some old wagon wheels, to scare the Secesh.

Wednesday, April 22 Today, the Second Brigade went out on a scout on the Salem Pike. They had some skirmishing towards evening.

Thursday, April 23 All quiet around the lines this morning. Weather fine and clear. We go on duty every other day.

Friday, April 24 Nothing new for today. We have a nice camp in a heavy timber grove.

Saturday, April 25 We packed up everything, and took it on the return with us. We were relieved at 10 o'clock. We arrived at Stone River Camp at noon.

Sunday, April 26 This morning we had Inspection in the morning and Dress Parade in the afternoon.

Monday, April 27 Today our big tents were taken away. We rigged up our shelter tents. I received a letter from Washington, and answered it.

Tuesday, April 28 All quiet in camp. Heavy rain last night, rather muddy today. Dress Parade in the afternoon. Weather dull.

Wednesday, April 29 Our camp of little tents looks nicer than the big ones, and much nicer to live in. (Battalion Drill) Cloudy.

Thursday, April 30 Today received a letter Albany and answered it, and wrote to Memphis. Then went out on picket. No trouble on the lines.

Friday, May 1, 1863

Received a letter from Washington, and wrote another. Nothing worthy of note occurred. Weather clear. Wrote a letter for Old Cook.

Saturday, May 2 Wrote to Grand Rapids today. We had Brigade Inspection, with knapsacks. Company K. best company in the Regt., best drilled, best looking, and everything else.

Sunday, May 3 This morning we had Inspection of Arms again, and then Dress Parade in the afternoon. Weather warm, with bracing winds.

Monday, May 4 This morning very warm. I was on fatigue duty, leveling off parade grounds. This afternoon it rained very hard, cleared off in the evening.

Tuesday, May 5 Wrote to Albany. Heavy rain last night. This morning cool and cloudy. We had Brigade Drill in the forenoon, Dress Parade in the afternoon. Fine and warm.

Wednesday, May 6 Sent paper to Albany. This morning was very cold and continued so all day, with occasional chilly rain showers. Today we enclosed our street with Cedar shade trees. Vedette killed on Shelbyville Pike.

Thursday, May 7 This morning we went out on picket. Rainy and cold all day. I stayed four hours, from eight to twelve at night. Some firing on the Middleton Road. Night very dark.

Friday, May 8 Today fine and warm. Went out to Salem for Cedar trees to decorate our camp. News from the Rapahannock very conflicting and unsatisfactory.

Saturday, May 9 Camp all quiet today. Dress Parade in the afternoon. Sent my overcoat to Nashville for storage. Weather warm in daytime, nights very cold. War news not discouraging.

Sunday, May 10 This morning we had Company Inspection at nine o'clock. Col. Raymond read dispatch from Rapahannock. We gave three cheers for Hooker and his Army.

Monday, May 11 Received letter from Albany. This morning very fine. We had Brigade Drill in the forenoon and Dress Parade in the afternoon. We was visited by some Chicago ladies.

Tuesday, May 12 Wrote to Chicago. Today we had a nice Brigade Drill from 7 o'clock until nine in the cool of the morning. Weather very warm. War news more favorable.

Wednesday, May 13 This morning the camp all a'bustle for picket. All quiet around the lines. Heavy rain during the night. I awoke about three o'clock, and found myself in a puddle of water. All wet.

Thursday, May 14 This morning the sun arose, with all its splendor and magnificence. We returned to camp in good order. Had Dress Parade in the afternoon. All quiet around Murfreesboro. War news, vague.

Friday, May 15 We had Brigade Drill from seven o'clock 'till nine, and Skirmish Drill in the afternoon, and Dress Parade in the evening. Weather warm.

Saturday, May 16 We had Brigade Drill in the forenoon. In the afternoon we prepared for Inspection. Weather fine and warm. Nothing further worthy of note. War news rather dull.

Sunday, May 17 We had Inspection of Arms, Equipments and Knapsacks. No news of importance. Today I took a scout through the woods, all alone. Weather beautiful.

Monday, May 18 On picket. I witnessed a Negro funeral. A very affecting exhibition of human feeling and affection. All quiet around the lines. No news.

Tuesday, May 19 This morning we returned to camp alright. I received a letter from New York. My brother safe from the Army of the Potomac. Wrote to N.Y.

Wednesday, May 20 Today Brigade Drill in forenoon and Skirmish Drill in the afternoon. The evening, we got marching orders. Weather very fine.

Thursday, May 21 Well, today brought forth nothing unusual. We had Brigade Drill from seven 'till nine o'clock. War news favorable. I wrote a letter to Albany, N.Y.

Friday, May 22 Well, this morning we marched, but it was only to the picket line, where we stopped and went on picket. I was Supernumerary. 4th Regular Cavalry took 200 Rebels and 400 horses, and broke up their nest.

Saturday, May 23 All quiet around the lines. This morning we returned to camp all safe. There was a few shots fired during the night. Weather very warm. Rumor of a great battle between Grant and Johnston.

Sunday, May 24 I was detailed to work on fortifications, but the order was countermanded, so we returned to camp. Had Dress Parade in the afternoon. Received a letter from Albany of the 10th, answered the same.

Monday, May 25 Today I was detailed to work in the convalescent camp. Weather very warm. This is a great place for whirlwind glorious news from Vicksburg.

Tuesday, May 26 This morning we went out on the picket again. There was a few shots fired during the night, at shadows I reckon. The news from Vicksburg confirmed. Weather is very hot.

Wednesday, May 27 We returned to camp, nobody hurt. The roads are awful dusty. Grant's Army is achieving a great victory. Received a letter from Chicago. I was on guard in the evening.

Thursday, May 28 This day was a day of idleness with me. Very warm weather. Bombardment of Vicksburg still going on. Pemberton offers a conditional surrender, which is not accepted by Grant. The Army of the Cumberland is commanded by General Rosecrans.

Friday, May 29 After a heavy rain last night, this morning being moist and cooling enough to make it pleasant, so we thought we would march out to Salem for five days of picket duty. We arrived in good order.

Saturday, May 30 This morning we went out on the old picket line, the reserve stationed at the old brick house on a plantation near Salem. More heavy rain today.

Sunday, May 31 Today all is quiet and serenity around the picket line. The weather is very mild and pleasant, with cool and bracing winds. The rumor of Grant's death, through Rebel channels, not credited. All quiet.

Monday, June 1, 1863

It is our turn to go out on picket again today. There is a field of wheat here, without the sign of a fence around it. There is a deep feeling of anxiety felt here, for Grant's Army. Weather fine and warm.

Tuesday, June 2 This morning we had a heavy thunder shower. We were relieved by the 21st Michigan, 1st Brigade, so we returned to Camp Shaeffer at 10 o'clock. We pitched our tents anew, and made ourselves as comfortable as possible.

Wednesday, June 3 This morning turned out fine. We built a bower over our little tents, which makes them cool and very pleasant. The war news today gives us hopes, the fall of Vicksburg reported, Tom Payne, come from Nashville.

Thursday, June 4 This morning we received marching orders, with three days' rations in haversacks, and four in knapsacks, and five in wagons. Cannonading heard out in front. Received a letter from Albany and one from New York, and answered the same.

Friday, June 5 Bright and early, we arose, folded our blankets and prepared for the march. But we waited in suspense until the drummers beat the dinner call, and then 'til retreat. So we didn't move. No fighting today. Raining in the afternoon and evening.

Saturday, June 6 Today came in clear and bright, and passed off pleasant, without a fight. Most of the day I laid off in the shade. Night came in. We had no Dress Parade. I wrote a letter to my brother, and I expected to receive another. News from Vicksburg very encouraging. Weather fine.

Sunday, June 7 All quiet today. We had Inspection of Arms and Knapsacks and Haversacks. The war news generally favorable. Wrote a letter for Archibald Cook. I think the war will soon end. Co. K. is the most moral company in the 51st Regiment.

Monday, June 8 Today all is quiet. There is a death-like tranquility over this Army, a dreadful silence that is very oppressive, as if in anticipation of some terrible shock. May it be the death-crash of the whole Southern Confederacy.

Tuesday, June 9 Today all is quiet in camp, but by some such mismanagement of the Commissary Department, we fell short of bacon today. But I am happy to say the boys endured the loss with great patience and fortitude.

Wednesday, June 10 This morning it commenced raining after Roll Call, and continued 'till afternoon. Then it cleared off, and we had Dress Parade in the evening. I took a walk to the First Brigade. The war news today was unimportant. Nights cool.

Thursday, June 11 This morning, after Roll Call I went to Divine Service Mass to the 24th _____ Regt. Had Brigade Drill in forenoon and Skirmish Drill in the afternoon. Vicksburg reported captured.

Friday, June 12 All quiet on Stone River. Brigade Drill again this morning, and Company Drill in the afternoon. The weather warm, fine and clear. The boys are all fat, hearty and in good cheer. The war news of today is unimportant.

Saturday, June 13 Today we had a Brigade Review by Col. Bradley. Clerk Wicks returned. Stone River running low. Weather warm. No news from Vicksburg. It is curious I don't get a letter from home.

Sunday, June 14 We packed knapsacks this morning and marched to the Salem picket line. We arrived in good order. We pitched our tents, cleaned our camp, and rested. A man of the 27th Ill. _____ by a large limb which fell from a tree.

Monday, June 15 We had a very heavy rainstorm last night. This morning we went out on the picket line. All quiet in front. The weather is very warm. No news from Grant's Army. We stay six days on picket duty this time.

Tuesday, June 16 This morning we were relieved by our right wing. We had Inspection in the afternoon. Report of the Rebel Lee moving up into Pennsylvania. The best move he could make for the Union, 'cause it will wake up the North to their duty.

Wednesday, June 17 On picket this morning again. Some firing during the night. As I lay here on my ____ couch, which is made of fence rails, I am thinking of home. Lee's Army reported invading Pennsylvania. No news from Vicksburg.

Thursday, June 18 All quiet around the lines. Got relieved at seven o'clock. Heavy rain last night. I had a great argument in favor of McClellan and Gov. Seymour. The Rebels seem to be getting desperate. I hope Grant and Banks will be able to hold out.

Friday, June 19 Seven o'clock in the morning finds me pacing back and forth between these two old forest giants, thoughtful, and watchful, intent on the sly, prowling Foe. Report of the evacuation of Pennsylvania by the Rebels.

Saturday, June 20 We were relieved this morning by the 88th Ill. of the First Brigade. We returned to camp on Stone River, and all is quiet again. The news is favorable from the Mississippi. Weather fine.

Sunday, June 21 This morning we had Inspection. Weather fine and warm. I wrote a letter on politics to Albany. We had Dress Parade in the evening. Co. K. highly complimented for neatness and good order, by order of Genl. McCook. War news favorable.

Monday, June 22 Today fine and clear. Nothing occurred worthy of note. Very little war news today, although what there was, was encouraging. I was not very well myself today.

Tuesday, June 23 We had Battalion Drill this morning. I wrote a letter for Cook. We got marching orders, with six day's rations. I think we will make a go of it this time. We hope for rain, to lay the dust.

Wednesday, June 24 Today we marched 8 miles on the Shelbyville Pike. We met the Rebels, had a skirmish. We were then relieved by a force from the right, so we marched east 4 miles, to Millersville, where we camped for the night. Heavy cannonading heard on the left. Raining.

Thursday, June 25 Reveille at half-past two, and we were under arms at three o'clock. We remained here all day. The fence rails were not spared for fire. It continued to rain hard until noon, then it cleared off. Hard fighting out in front. All quiet with us.

Friday, June 26 This morning we were up bright and early, got breakfast and prepared to march about nine o'clock. It commenced a tremendous rainstorm, and we started in the middle of it, and marched about half a mile and returned in the evening, and camped for night.

Saturday, June 27 Reveille at two, and marched at three o'clock. We continued the march east to the Manchester Pike, then through Hoover's gap, a distance altogether of 12 miles, to Beech grove. Here we camped for the night.

Sunday, June 28 Our Regt. was detailed to guard the train through to Manchester, a distance of 13 miles today. We arrived at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We stacked arms, and all broke for the river, Duck River, to have a good old wash under the dam. We had a regular shower bath.

Monday, June 29 Manchester, Tennessee. This morning we had Inspection of Arms.. We then started for Tullahoma. We had a pretty rough time of it, after fording and paddling several creeks, and marching 6 miles. We went into camp pretty tired. Wrote to N.Y.

Tuesday, June 30 Today the 51st goes on picket. We remained on post 'till about five o'clock, when we were called in, and moved forward about a mile nearer the Enemy. Here we camped for the night, and made ourselves to-home.

Wednesday, July 1, 1863

This morning we marched into Tullahoma. The Rebs all left today. The prisoners keep coming in from every direction. They were 25 thousand strong at this point. Our Brigade was the first to march into the town. We are on half-rations for five days.

Thursday, July 2 This morning we started on the march again, in pursuit of the Rebs. We went south to Winchester Springs. We found the bridge across Elk River burned, so we had to go to the ford, about four miles northeast.

Friday, July 3 We forded Elk River this morning, which is two hundred feet wide, and nearly waist deep, and very rapid. And two others about one hundred feet wide each. We passed through the town of Winchester, and camped at Cowan Station, a distance of twelve miles.

Saturday, July 4 Cowan Station, Tennessee. Here we celebrate The Fourth. Our batteries fired the National Salute, by order of Old Rosy, notwithstanding it rained the most of the day. Our Company was on picket. The Rebs keep coming in by squads.

Sunday, July 5 All quiet this morning. I don't feel very well myself. This is another day of rest. The news today from the Potomac and the Mississippi is rather favorable. This is a great country for large springs. Wrote to Albany.

Monday, July 6 The 51st and 42nd went out on a foraging expedition, on account of short rations. We took 25 teams. We traveled about 25 miles through the mountains before we got loaded. We camped for the night near a great spring. This is a poor country for forage.

Tuesday, July 7 This morning we finished loading our train, and returned to our new camp McCowan Station. It rained very heavy in the afternoon. The news of the fall of Vicksburg was received with great joy, and firing of cannons.

Wednesday, July 8 The news of Vicksburg confirmed. Also the overthrow of Lee's Army. Great cannonading this morning at four o'clock, in honor of the national arms. We stand under arms from 4 'till 6 o'clock every morning. Heavy rain.

Thursday, July 9 Today we march to Beersheba Springs, about 8 miles southeast, on the Cumberland Mountains, to the Episcopal University of the South. The cornerstone was laid before the war broke out, and so remains ever since.

Friday, July 10 Beersheba Springs is a beautiful watering place for summer. Today we marched about six miles south toward Bridgeport, where we went into camp at 11 o'clock. I saw the place J.A. Murrell killed Wood and threwed him over the precipice.

Saturday, July 11 Today is spent in resting and picking whortle berries 'till evening, then Co. K. went out on picket. Huckleberries grows on these mountains in great abundance. I can pick a quart in 15 minutes.

Sunday, July 12 All quiet today on the mountains. It is a poor country here for forage. The war news is very good today. Lee reported captured. More heavy rain today. We were relieved from picket at five o'clock.

Monday, July 13 Today all is quietness and dullness in camp, with considerable heavy rain. Bragg lost about 15,000 of his troops during his retreat from Shelbyville. Our mounted infantry harassed them terribly. Heavy rain all day.

Tuesday, July 14 Today, on account of hard roads and the poor and destitute state of the country, we have to march back to the University, as we can't get forage and provision along fast enough.

Wednesday, July 15 We were on picket out on the R.Road. All quiet. Weather fine and clear. Refugees and deserters from the Rebel Army are coming in to us in large bodies all the time. The Southern Confed gone up, done gone up.

Thursday, July 16 Today all quiet in camp. The nights are almost freezing cold, here in the middle of July. Wrote a letter to Albany. The news of the fall of Port Hudson and Charleston came today. The cornerstone of the University is overthrown, and the documents taken out.

Friday, July 17 This morning all is quiet and tranquility on the Cumberland Mountains. The cornerstone of the University of the South, has been overthrown and the contents taken out by some unmitigated rascal.

Saturday, July 18 Today I commence the superintendence of cooking and drawing rations for one week, during which term I am relieved from all other military duty. The cars came through today to Cowan Station. War news very favorable. Weather very fine. Recd. paper from Albany.

Sunday, July 19 Today the 51st and 42nd Ill., with a section of Houghtalling's Battery, went out to Jump Off, on a reconnaissance, and remained overnight. I stayed in camp. All quiet and lonesome. No news of importance today.

Monday, July 20 The Regt. returned to camp, without discovering any movement of the Rebels. Weather continues fine. The Third Brigade got great praise for prompt movements and strict compliance with General Orders.

Tuesday, July 21 It rained heavy last night. This morning fine and clear. We had Inspection in the afternoon. It is just one year ago today, since we started on the march from Big Springs to Decatur, Alabama. War news continues favorable.

Wednesday, July 22 All quiet on the Cumberland Mountains. We signed the payrolls today. Well, the old McClellan plan of the war has to be carried out after all, the popular generalship, and the criticism of the Northern Press notwithstanding.

Thursday, July 23 The Southern Confederacy is, like the University of the South, played out. The cornerstone is Tennessee marble. The soldiers broke it up, and made rings and small ornaments of it. We received pay today.

Friday, July 24 These mountains is about three miles wide on top. It is a beautiful and healthy place to live. The scenery through the valleys is grand, most sublime. Co. K. out on picket today. All quiet in camp. Weather warm. Wrote to New York.

Saturday, July 25 All quiet on the mountains. The Rebel deserters and citizens still keep coming in, in large numbers. War news rather favorable. Weather cool, with some rain. Wrote to Albany. Nothing further worthy of note.

Sunday, July 26 Came is rather gloomy and rainy. Me and Jones, our Orderly, strolled off in the woods, after Huckleberries. We cut hickory canes with my new knife, and returned to camp. War news unimportant.

Monday, July 27 When this cruel war is over, and peace shall be restored, we'll return to our happy homes, to meet our friends once more, the friends that love us dearly. We return from the war, to go again no more.

Tuesday, July 28 Today our Company was on picket. All quiet on the mountains. There is talk of our moving towards Bridgeport, Alabama. Albany, No. 51 Lancaster St.

Wednesday, July 29 All quiet today. We had Dress Parade in the afternoon, and Marching Orders, with three days' rations. New York, No. 129 Christie St.

Thursday July 30 We were up this morning at three O.C., and off at 4 O.C.. We arrived at Blue Spring at 12 O.C., where we remained two hours for dinner. Distance, 13 miles. We camped for night at the mouth of Battle Creek, nine miles further. 22 miles.

Friday, July 31 Today we arrived at Bridgeport at 11 O.C. Weather is terrible warm. Secesh on the opposite side of the river. Chicago, P.O. Box 290.

Saturday, August 1, 1863

All quiet at Bridgeport. Our Regt. went on picket at one O.C. Our boys converse with the Rebel pickets, across the river. I received a letter of the 15th ult. from Albany.

Sunday, August 2 All quiet today at Bridgeport. The Rebels keep very quiet on the other side. There is an island in the river right here, which the R.R. crosses. The cars came through to this point today. Wrote to Albany.

Monday, August 3 The weather is awful warm here in the daytime, but cool and pleasant nights. The bridge across the Tennessee is eighty rods long. The Rebels begin to be more talkative than they were. Wrote to Chicago.

Tuesday, August 4 Today we are all building bowers over our tents. I was to work for the Colonel. No train through today. All quiet on the Tennessee. The main channel of the river is on the south side of the island.

Wednesday, August 5 All quiet today around Bridgeport. There is six spans of the great bridge across the Tennessee destroyed. There was nothing occurred today in camp worthy of note. Weather fine.

Thursday, August 6 Today was occupied in putting up bowers over our tents, and Co. street. Weather very warm. No news of importance today. All quiet hereabouts.

Friday, August 7 Today we go out on picket again. We go on picket every sixth day. Genl. Rosecrans arrived here today. We expect another move very soon.

Saturday, August 8 All quiet this morning. The cars are running regular to this point. There are three small forts at this place, which were constructed by the Rebels.

Sunday, August 9 Today all quiet on the Tennessee. We had Inspection of Arms and Equipments. Wrote a letter for Cook, and wrote to Albany. Weather very warm.

Monday, August 10 Nothing new occurred today. This is the dullest camp we have had yet. This is the hottest weather we had this summer. The war news is generally encouraging.

Tuesday, August 11 Today we went out on picket. All quiet. The Rebels keep very quiet on the other side of the river. No news of importance today concerning the war. Some rain.

Wednesday, August 12 Just as we got our camp fixed up good, we get Marching Orders again. We are to have eight days' rations, and an extra pair of shoes. We expect a long march. We had Dress Parade.

Thursday, August 13 All quiet in camp. There is hardly anything transpiring worthy of notice. It is very dull and monotonous. I was on Fatigue Duty in the forenoon. Heavy rain in the afternoon.

Friday, August 14 This day was a very lonesome day for me, until along in the afternoon I received a letter from Albany. I spent the rest of the day reading and writing an answer.

Saturday, August 15 About 12 o'clock last night, we were suddenly awoke from our peaceful slumbers, by the loud thundering of our artillery, and to see the bridge across the south channel of the Tenn. burn down. Wrote to Albany.

Sunday, August 16 This morning all is quiet. A Flag of Truce crossed the river three times today. But for what purpose is not known. Deserters say there is hundreds of men ready to come to us, as soon as the opportunity offers.

Monday, August 17 This is a very fine day. All quiet in front. Kind Reader, if you will bear patiently with me to the end, you will find this a very interesting little book. The war news is rather uninteresting.

Tuesday, August 18 All quiet on the Tennessee. The water is getting pretty low. The Rebels still keep coming across to us. We treat them very kindly. I wish they would all desert, and come over to us.

Wednesday, August 19 On picket today again. Weather very warm. We have got Marching Orders, but when we get there, I will tell you where we are going. There's a little bug here they call Chiggers. They are awful to bite.

Thursday, August 20 After returning to camp this morning, we packed our knapsacks and sent them on the cars to Stevenson. Now we are ready for the march. Here is your mule.

Friday, August 21 Today Genl. Rosecrans, McCook and Old Cavalry Stanley, as Rosy calls him, came here in their Dummy Car. They mounted horses, and went to hunt a ford to cross the river. Weather cloudy, a little rain.

Saturday, August 22 All quiet here today. About midnight, we saw a great light up the river and heard heavy cannonading. Our men burned a bridge, and had a fight with the Rebels.

Sunday, August 23 This morning we had Inspection of Arms. Weather warm. Genl. Rosecrans came here today again, in a great hurry. There is a great movement expected. The Rebels have left from the opposite side of the river.

Monday, August 24 Our men crossed the river today, and exchanged a few shots with some Reb cavalry. Threw a few shells over from the battery, and started their boots away from there. Received a letter from Albany, and one from New York.

Tuesday, August 25 All quiet today at this point. Rosecrans came here, and went up the river on horseback. The Signal Corps are very busy to work. There is a big movement expected. Wrote letters to Albany and New York.

Wednesday, August 26 This morning I was detailed on Fatigue Duty, to work on the breastworks. Weather pleasant, considerable windy. Nights very cool. Sumpter reported in ruins. Nothing further of importance. Rebel deserters still coming in.

Thursday, August 27 On picket today, and all quiet. Thirty-one Rebels came in, and were sent to direct to Rosecrans. They had some valuable information from Bragg's Army. We got our blankets back from Stevenson, on account of the cold nights.

Friday, August 28 14 more Rebs came in this morning. Rosecrans and all his Maj. Generals were here today. I had a chat with the Rebel prisoners. They talk very dispondingly of the Southern Confederacy.

Saturday, August 29 Today two regiments of cavalry forded the river. Several pontoons were launched, the pontoon bridge in progress of construction. The Rebel pickets 13 miles from this place. Weather getting cool.

Sunday, August 30 This morning the 51st had to go on picket again. 42nd cutting bridge timber. The couriers are kept busy. Cars running regular two or three times a day. Everything going at a rapid rate.

Monday, August 31 A large train of pontoons came in here last night. Today Bridgeport is all alive with busyness, building two bridges. Chattanooga reported evacuated. The telegraph wire was extended across the river today. Wrote to Albany.

Tuesday, September 1, 1863

Every available hand is employed today. The work goes on vigorously. There is two flat boats being built to carry locomotives and cars across the river. The weather is very dry, and the roads awful dusty. Some rain needed.

Wednesday, September 2 The men worked all night. The bridges are finished this morning. I was on guard last night. The order has come to march immediately. We crossed the river, marched four miles, and camped at the foot of Racoon Mountain.

Thursday, September 3 Our pontoon bridge broke down last night, and let 6 wagons in the river. This is called Hog Jaw Valley. Here we remain until the bridge is repaired. It's an awful hot hole here to camp in. There is a good spring here, but no fruits or vegetables.

Friday, September 4 I eat so much green corn yesterday, I had the bellyache last night. Our train has arrived, and we are up and off again at 9 O.C. The mountain is a mile and a half to the top. The ascent about 30 degrees from the level. Marched 6 miles and camped for the night. Very dusty.

Saturday, September 5 Today the 51st is Rear Guard. We marched about 12 miles over the mountain, through clouds of dust, over rocks and deep gulches. We made a bridge out of a sawmill. We camped in Lookout Valley, near a large spring. Several wagons got broke, coming down the mountain.

Sunday, September 6 Today we rested 'til noon, then we started on again. We marched through Trenton, GA., a nice little town. Here we beheld some fair and pleasant looking countenances. We marched 8 miles south, and camped on Lookout Creek. The Secesh feeling prevails here strongly.

Monday, September 7 This morning we arose bright and early, and started on again. We marched about 4 miles south, and went into camp again on the same creek. The scenery through these mountains and valleys is very grand. Here we find considerable fruits and vegetables.

Tuesday, September 8 Camp on Lookout Creek, Dade County, Georgia. Here we remain until further orders. All is quiet. I wrote a letter to Albany, and the balance of the day I spent as easy as I could, lying around in the shade, reading and smoking.

Wednesday, September 9 All quiet today. Nothing transpired worthy of note until evening. We then went on picket. Our picket duty is very light these days. We expect to move again in the morning. The weather is very warm.

Thursday, September 10 This morning at four o'clock, the order came to march immediately. Some got their breakfast, and some did not. We marched 20 miles today, and camped on the South Lookout Range, near a creek.

Friday, September 11 We are up and off again this morning, at the peep of day. There is two large creeks on this mountain. We marched twelve miles today. We crossed Shinbone Valley, and camped at Alpine. Our cavalry had a fight at this place.

Saturday, September 12 This morning all is quiet. We are under arms every morning at four o'clock, to guard against surprise. The Rebs are about 7 miles from here, in heavy force. Our Division is to be held in reserve.