HEADQUARTERS

No. 3. Camp Lacy Marshal

My Journal

Oct. 28th Laid a bed untill Seven oclock. Got up feeling as well as could be expected after being up such a bad night. Got a pass about Eleven oclock to go down town. Undertook to hunt up that comfoater for Mrs Rogers but was attacked Suddenly with Diarhea and was compeled to return to camp in haste. Laid down in my Bunk for an hour or so and felt better. A little rain with considerable wind makes it Disagreeable being out to day

Oct. 29th ..... Got up feeling quite well. Rain continues lightly confining us to our barracks; with no exercise but eat and lounge around which makes us feel dull The boys bought a ball to day so as to have some exercise. This afternoon Detailed to help build some Bunks in the Hospital which is a comfortable rest. Building on the Fair ground. A number of boys sick home brews Algarobes

Oct 30th ... Second Sunday in camp. Just returned from church in company with a dozen or more others. In camp the scenes of last Sunday are reenacted. Considerable dissatisfaction manifesting itself in both Rank & File Begin to show some signs of organizing Also some signs of a general Bust-up Rain continues to fall unabated making it very disagreeable. Spent most of the day Scribbling

Oct 31st Roll call at 6 oclock, found I had been detailed for guard duty for 24 hours It is hard to be up every 3d or 4th night but have to stand it. Last night the boys confiscated some Potatoes 2 Chickens & a Turkey So might if they dont get more they will be to blame for if they want to pass my Post I shant hinder them for the reason we dont get half rations. Many a meal has consisted of merely a piece of Bakers Bread. We can have Coffee if we can get a cup to drink in

But there is only 30 cups for over two men So some get cheated out of it. Sometimes however we get meat and Beans. We have been deluded with the cry that we have ordered them and they will be here tomorrow, until our patience is most exhausted. We have given the Officers some broad hints which I guess they took. And if things dont go different in less than a week there will be a row in camp. Weather a little more pleasant to day, but a little rainy by spells. A Sutler set up a shop on the ground to day. Joe. Barker and myself had some plain talk with Capt. Watson this morning. The Capt got quite huffy. You may look for us home before election if we have to come on a french furlow. It is rumored in camp to night that we have received marching orders. That we are to report at Detroit in anticipation of a Rebel Raid from Canada. But I can not credit it

Nov. 1st. Last night was very cold and frosty to stand guard, feel the effects of it this morning. Detailed a double portion of Guards to prevent [illegible] besides the officers came round every hour and sometimes oftener to see that every Guard was on his post Caught 18 men during the night, most of which are on guard to day. This morning the Sun rose clear and we are having the first pleasant day we have had in a week. Nothing to do all day but to play ball to settle our meals This afternoon the mustering officer arrived from Jackson. looks more like business to day

Nov. 2nd. Drilled a half hour this afternoon forenoon, the first in a week. This afternoon Signed the pay Roll. Boys little afraid to do it for fear of being traped. I never saw so much Jealousy before as exists here.

Corban is sick to day. Shows symtoms of Measles The health of the rest of the boys is quite good

No. 4

Journal

Camp Lacy - Marshal

Nov. 2nd This morning had potatoes and Tea in addition to our Bread. Detailed again for Guard duty.. This afternoon organized and received our Government Bounty, would have got ~~out~~ the remainder of our Local Bounty but Hall wanted to go to Detroit to get permission to give us furlows and had not time to pay us before the Cars went out. Drew our Setingout which consists of a tin Plate Cup Knife Fork and Spoon. Stood out nearly 3 hours in the night when the air was so full of Snow one could hardly see - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Nov. 4th ~~Had~~ for breakfast Pork, Potatoes, Bread, & Coffee, on clean tables. Rather disagreeable in camp to day because the Snow Storm huddles us all in our barracks which is darkened with Tobacco Smoke. Snow about 4 inches delp and is still falling but melts most as fast as it falls. Passed down Town this forenoon to make some Chrutches for H. Doyle. Marched to town this afternoon to partake of a free dinner at the

Capt. Hall has returned and this evening we receive the remainder of our Local Bounty Monday we go to Detroit where we shall Vote thence some where dont know where

Sunday Nov. 6th

Camp all astir this morning, preparations for our departure to morrow for Detroit, we know not positively what we are going into Events are not revealed to a Soldier any faster than they transpire A few are brushing up for church. But the majority are writing farewells to dear friends at home. With my little experience I think there is no class of persons enjoy themselves better than the soldier Still they need the sympathy of the people. With the man who has any atchments to the place of his childhood, no amount of enjoyment can drown the thoughts of home. My next will be from Detroit

Tracy House by the Democrats who are having a Mass meeting here to day. Leading their Procession were 22 Yoke of Oxen & a Span of Mules drawing a wagon with a box similar to a car with Brake & all other appendages, loaded with Confederates representing Old Abe; Treasury and War departments &c. &c. followed by a white Darkey on Jacks, with plenty of whiskey blowing off in huzzahs for Little Mac. Stoped Snowing and the wind sounds quite wintry. Declamation this evening by Mr Rich. Piece termed "The Maniac". well executed

Nov. 5th Our games again to day, but the weather being quite pleasant it will not be a very bad job. Signed a Dollars to buy a sword for 1st Lieut. Brackenbush (a brother of Mattie's) also 2 Dollars to buy one for Capt Watson. Thats the way the money goes in the Army. Saw the first punishment inflicted on a Soldier. Two drunken Boys were tied to a beam in the guard house with hands the length of their arms over their heads

No 5. Journal

Camp Lacy, Marshal.

Nov. 7th ,,,,, On the old camp ground yet Great activity displayed this forenoon. all bustle and commotion. every one packing his knapsack preparatory to a forward movement. Every thing in readiness and company drawn up in line, when we received a telegram countermanding previous marching orders. So after a hard days work we find ourselves still in camp Lacy. It became my painful duty to day to arrest 3 men & keep them under guard all day. One for deserting; One for leaving his post; & the other for letting men escape past his Beat. No rest for me to night

Nov. 8. Just like most other Elections . rained allday. have been so busy all day I have not had a chance to Sleep any feel the need of it very much.

This forenoon I went down town and done some trading. Election going of quietly this afternoon Polls were opened in camp

By choosing three inspectors and Clerk with assistant I was chosen Clerk of the Board. John Wood one of the inspectors Sixty three Ballots cast Forty five for Lincoln & Eighteen for McClellan. Things wear the appearance to night of our going as far South as Washington or Pittsburg immediately

Nov 9th. Slept very hard last night find it still raining very hard Packe our knapsacks once more and bid adieu to Camp Lacy at 12 oclock marched to the depot in as hard a rain as I ever saw. Loaded us into Cars where we set till 5 oclock before we start arrived at Detroit at 11. Went aboard immediately of the Steamer Morning Star Wind blows such a gale we shall not start till morning

Nov. 10 Arose feeling well and in good Glee. Spent the morning quite proffitably in answering things I never

saw before. We met Capt Hall here. He says we are going to Washington but we shall surely get a furlough to come home We place no sure reliance on it In the middle of the day we run up the River about 3 miles to land the boat which gave us quite a view of the City. All the sight we shall get as we are not permitted to step off the boat Gale has continued all day so we are here yet (7 Oclock eve), I am glad to hear that Alganse has done so nobly (452)

for Lincoln

Nov 11th. Find ourselves this morning in Cleveland at 6 Oclock. Went fastenings at 9 Oclock last night. Had a rough time No incident of importance on the route Marched to the Depot to await the train to take us on our way to the Capital. Started at one oclock for Pittsburg where we arrived about 8 in the evening. On the cars we mutually swore to stand by each

other if they undertook to put us in Irish.
and we would lay in jail until the end of our
service before we would take a Musket in our hand
Capts. Watson & Burnham spoke to the same effect when
we gave them 3 times 3 such hearty cheers as seldom
is ever heard. Our course lay along the Ohio River
with Steamers plying up and down its glassy surface
while on the left of our track was a continued range
of Hills. In places they would rise a hundred feet
above the track all solid Rock and project clear
over the Cars. Here we begin to come into the
Coal mines. It is ere seen all over the mountains
the very ground seems to burn like wood
Marched to the Depot. to the soldiers Home where
we spread our blankets for the night

Nov. 21st... Called up at 2 oclock to eat a breakfast
prepared at the soldiers home, (a place where soldiers
can eat & sleep without expense) and took the cars
for Harrisburg. this is the crookedest track
I ever saw- zigzagging its way through the
Alleghanies, at times turning a complete horse
shoe, at others diving through the mountains where
all was total darkness. we passed through two tunnels
1 mile in length. They drove around

See next number

Journal No 6

Nov. 12

Those Short Curves where on one side the mountains rose to a considerable hight & on the other the decent was as great — the fastest I ever rode in my life. Here the Scenery surpases any thing I ever imagined It is worth four Dollars to any man that never has been away from home just to ride over this road. Fires are still to be seen on the mountains, the smoke from which, together with smoke from Locomotive make me sick. Arrived at Harrisburgh at noon, took dinner at the S. Home, Marched to the Baltimore Depot. Loaded us into a freight car where we stayed till dark. [illegible] us a poor miserable pony engine that could not go more than five miles without stoping to repair or get up Steam, so we were sixteen hours going about 80 miles arriving at Baltimore Nov. 13th. This morning first Corlan Broke out with the measles very sick together with two others. Baltimore is

a Splendid city. I had quite a view of it Marching through the whole length to the Washington Depot. took dinner at the Soldiers Home. Here we were obliged to leave the three sick Boys at the Hospital. Saw about 50 Rebel deserters they looked hard. Got aboard the Cars for Washington at five, where we arrived at 7 without accident. Put up in some nice white washed Barracks where we shall Stay for further orders

Nov. 14th Arose feeling well as usual. I can but feel thankful for the good health I have enjoyed since leaving home Last evening a Christian Commission man presented the Soldiers with a Testament each Got a pass to go down Town. Had an outside view of Capitol Buildings, Post Office & Patent Office. Had not time to go through them. Find Capt Hall has fooled us as we expected. But we calculate to match him if it costs us all the money we can raise. This evening the Christian

Commission man came in again & presented us with a small Hymn Book. We sung some Hymns & a Temperance Song. after which he gave us quite a Temperance Lecture He appears like a good man. We invited him to come again.

Nov. 15th. Small Squad of us Boys went down town this morning on a French Pass to see if we were obliged to take arms different from what we enlisted for. After consulting a Lawyer we went to our Michigan State Agent Mr. Kellog (also Representative) who will go with us at 11 o'clock to see Secretary Stanton and intercede for us. Came back to camp to await the hour Agent [redacted] ded to Telegraph Gov. Blair his This evening fifteen or twenty of us had a jolly old Sing Retired at 9.

Nov. 16 Slept rather uncomfortable last night on account of the cold. I fail to see much difference in the temperature of this place and Mich. Went out out of camp twice to day

with a squad of boys that wished to see the City. It is necessary to send some one with a pas to prevent their being picked up by Policemen & Patrole Guards which are continually scouring the City for deserters A soldier cant go far here without a Pas ~~which I have~~ me a good sight of the Metropolis Went through the Capitol Building Patent Office Post Office, round the outside of Old Abe's mansion & Treasury Department. Saw many interesting & curious things. To night our guns has arrived, or rather guns the Government propose to furnish us, not the guns we were promised but one about half way between a Musket & a Rifle, A Rifle with a Bayonet attached, Heard nothing from Col Blair yet But guess we shall have to accept the guns however much it goes against the grain We shall probaly leave here before long for City Point

Direct your letters Washington D, C,
Co, A Halls Indp, S,S,

"Journal No. 1"

"Soldiers Rest, Washington D. C."

Nov. 17th... Kept close in the Barracks all day This afternoon drew our arms & accouterments Guns not just what we expected when we enlisted. but find we are obliged to to take just such Guns as the Government is a mind to furnish. So long as they recognize us as Independent Sharp Shooters Our Guns are the Springfield Rifle. They have a bayonet affixed to them which makes the boys growl considerable

Nov. 18th... No Sleep last night being on duty. Went down to the Capitol again this forenoon and took a more thorough view of the interior of the Capitol. The furniture of the rooms and the Finish of the walls exceeds anything I ever saw before. together with the Statues of Washington Hancock and Lafayette & others makes a grand sight

Nov 21st Prepared to leave our camp
And started about 2 oclock for the
wharf. went aboard the Steamer Webster
drew 40 rounds of Ammunition and Started
down the Potomac. Boys all huddled
in in the lower deck. No place to
sleep but on the wet floor. Paid half a
Dollar for a bunk in the lower Cabin
where I slept comfortable. Passed through
through the rough waters of Chesapeake Bay
without knowing anything about it. Arose at 7
in morning found the Boat tied to the wharf
close by Fortress Monroe. Its gigantic
walls with its iron sentinels and fleet of
Iron Clads on the Bay looked Considerable
warlike. loaded more Soldiers & freight and
steered our course up the James River
arriving at City Point after a pleasant voyage
of nearly 24 hours. This City has about a dozen
framed houses & the rest is tents. Camped in a
tent large enough to hold the whole of us by
lying pretty close

In the evening went to the Theater with Lieut. Quackenbush Ebnathan George & Joseph Barker. Scenes were well enacted, and nothing in all the performances repugnant to the most refined

Nov 15th.... Expected to have started surely to day for City Point but for some reason I know not what we are to this time. Staid in Barracks all day Spent considerable time sewing for myself & others. In the evening we had two short but pithy discourses one from a man by the name of Benjamin S. Snyder of Home N.Y. I should judge from his remarks that he was a believer in the Advent doctrine. Had a good time singing some old familiar hymns such as Out on the Ocean Rest for the Weary &c.

Sunday Nov. 20th. Rained all day consequently been confined close in Camp all day Been the longest dullest day I have seen yet in the service. nothing going on all day except short Services this forenoon by a U.S. Commission man. But did not amount to much. Wrote to Elvira

Nov. 23d Passed a miserable night. Never suffered so much with the cold. froze nearly as hard as I ever knew it to on such this season of the year. Without any breakfast we marched about 1½ miles towards Petersburg and struck our tents. We are just in the rear of the first line of fortifications about 6 or 7 miles from Petersburg in an easterly Direction. Tents are thick all the way from City Point toward Petersburg as far as I can see. every few minutes we can hear the booming of their large guns.

Nov. 24 Thanksgiving day; at ten oclock City Point we had Pork Coffee & Bread Elnathan George, Jerome Tift & myself have worked all the afternoon cooling up a log hut and covering it with our tent cloth Got a comfortable dwelling but dont know how long we shall enjoy it. Elnathan, Jerome, Corlew. John Wood & myself expect to camp together. John went to the Hospital last night with a bad face, afraid it is Erysipiles

Journal No 8

City Point Nov 25th 1864

After breakfast went down to the 5th Corps Hospital to see how John Wood was found him a little better. Every thing in the Hospital looks neat & in order The General Hospital is composed of tents capable of holding about 20 invalids set in regular order with it Streets laid off into wards forming a City as large as Quincy. Been considerable heavy firing in the direction of Butlers army

Nov 26th Been very busy day with me Running round Camp all forenoon on duty. This afternoon we finished our hut by building a Stick fireplace & Chimney This evening our house looks quite bright and Cheerful like home. Been overflowed with visitors. Capt of Co A & Orderly of Co B. joined with us in a good Sing. After which we had about 40 rounds of Stories. More heavy firing this afternoon than usual

Nov. 27th ... First Sunday in City Point
But rather of a curious Sunday. Any
quantity of Six Mule Teams going to the
woods with a full complement of hands
with axes to cut timber for Barracks
and large Trains continually going to
and from the front. And as for the
cannonading there has been more than any
other day since I have been here
Off South of Petersburg near the Weldon
R. R. And also Butler shelling the woods
along the James River some 4 or five miles
distant from where we could actually hear
the shrieking of the shells. Went to the
P.O. this afternoon but got no word from home

Nov. 28 .... Went out to drill for the first time
since we arrived at Dixie. When all at
once musket firing broke out as fast as corn
would pop over a hot fire down to the front
The Rebs made a charge on our lines. We captured
the rebel Gen. Singleton and fifty men. Don't know
how great a loss in killed & wounded on either side

Went down to City Point this afternoon and had some ambrotypes taken which I intend to send home. Picket firing continues this evening very briskly.....

Nov. 29th Weather very pleasant. Seems like Spring weather so much. Been round all day in my shirt sleeves. Lounging on a loafer like manner for want of something to do Jerome got a letter from home, the first one from Algansee. Boys all very anxious to hear from D. If you want to keep the soldier in good cheer you must write often.

Nov 30th Drilled some this forenoon. It is quite a curiosity to see us as we drill. Different from any other branch of service This afternoon polished the grounds around our tent and made them cleaner than our dooryard. Weather is warm and dry. Wrote a letter this evening to Orrin

Dec, 1st Busy this forenoon mudding our hut. We now have a comfortable

little log house about 8 by 10 made covered with our tent and made fire place in one corner.

This afternoon Ethathan, Jerome and myself went down to the City to get some Negative to send home by John Wood who got a furlow to day and is going to start in the morning Chemicals out of order so we could not get them taken, will have to go again in the morning. Boys all writing their evening letters to send by John

Dec. 2nd So cloudy this morning I cant be able to get a Negative taken consequently we shall have to do without for the present

Journal No. 5

City Point Va. Dec. 2d 1864

Spent the forenoon rather idly but had quite a busy afternoon. Drilled a couple hours and was resting a while preparatory to going out again when we were quitely suddenly as well as agreeably surprised by Lieut. Fish Roswell. Hank, Doyle and a dozen others Boys that we left behind came unexpectedly upon us; it cheered our hearts more than a little to meet friends and hear from home for the first time Dress parade at four for the first time also

Dec. 3d ... Nothing of importance happened to day. Drilled a little last fore Slept more. Parade at four

Sunday Dec. 4th ... Preaching on the ground at Eleven A.M. Inspection of arms at 2 P.M. At 4½ Oclock Dress Parade. A part of Sheridan army arrived here to day from the Valley. Weather pleasant movements look like business

Dec. 5th After drill Elnathan and myself went down to the City while there the 6th Corps came marching up from the wharf and as a matter of course we stood Gaping at them when all at once some one yells out "There is Nate George Co I" On looking around we discovered Hen, Nichols Co K Clark H. Vanlaw Co K Brink Thompkins, Jay Becker, Had a good long visit with them in the evening as they Camped close by us

Dec. 6th Every thing passed off about as usual excepting troops coming in thicker and faster every day. A portion of Gen. Sheridan army is being transported from the Valley to the front of Petersburg. Weather continues good

Dec. 7th All quiet in Camp to day. commenced raining about middle of the forenoon. But has cleared off again to night. Received Orders to night to have four days Rations in readiness

Dec 8th Considerable excitement in Camp to day But the boys keep it smith'd close to themselves But the Pinegrant Storm shocks will open the theatre when it does burst We have been snowbound all the way from the beginning. But now we have got the Office in the light, but they have so much the advantage of us. I expect they'll wiggle out of it They drew up in line to day to see how many of us would volunteer to go to the front, at least so they said. But we thot it carried more. Visited to day by some of the 1st Mich. S.S. Officers who are trying to see us. but they will get it in the head again before ever made

Dec. 9th Boys have been at work all day, the result of which will take days to accomplish Have just experienced one of the severest changes in the weather from warm to cold that I ever saw except on New Years

And to m[illegible] are getting d[illegible]
[illegible] Sh[illegible] a 1[illegible] t. Rawl with o[illegible]
log Cabi[illegible] an[illegible] tick[illegible] re p[illegible] are Com-
f[illegible] tive Co[illegible]
10th Weather very disagreeable every da
day until about 4 oclock when the
Camp was suddenly Startled by [illegible]
[illegible] t. Puget [illegible]
[illegible] tain [illegible] Soon [illegible]
the Cars distan[illegible] t ½ [illegible]
by the side of the track like 3 tra[illegible]
i[illegible] and nearly froze. went to work and [illegible] a
good roaring fire, but [illegible] m
could enjoy [illegible]
to the Depot not [illegible]
Cowart on the tri[illegible] spread my [illegible]
on the ground and layed do[illegible]
fairly snoring when the [illegible] all m
the Cars are coming [illegible]
have seen some Sevble [illegible] to get things done up again
Rode on open cars covered with Snow also began
to rain got completely chilled by the time we
got to Meads Station about 6 or 7 miles

Journal No 10

Camp near City Point Dec 11th 1864.

After leaving our Cars last night we marched about 3 miles to get out in order to keep from under the Rebel guns, we lie down in line of Battle &c. right in expectation of an engagement but were disappointed. Rained very hard all night. Spread our blankets on the ground about 1 oclock in the morning and lay down for a little sleep, which I presume I got in less than five minutes. Since then we have moved down the hill about 20 rods out of sight a little as we stand we are in easy range of their guns. Don't know but there will be no engagement & we were ordered into some vacant Barracks where we made ourselves quite comfortable after fetching wood on our backs a mile & a half. — — —

Dec 12th Extremely cold this morning. A great change in the weather & a nice time to live in tents in March, about 100 got

Dec. 16th /64 Worked a little more on our new house got two letters to day one from Jane and one from Baird. Called up about 10 oclock and marched to Bermuda Hundred Distant about 8 miles on a forced march nearly knocked the whole of us. Layed down about 4 oclock in morn. Sat. Dec. 17th spent the time fixing a place to stay. Don't know why we were rushed out here with such rapidity, unless they expected an attack here and was disappointed. Bermuda hundred is the name of a place on the James River. it is also near Dutch Gap where Butler is digging his Canal in order to get passed Fort Darling where the Rebs are very strong. Which forms the right of a line of Breastworks, the left of which extend nearly to the R. R. running from Richmond to Petersburg. Which of course is strongly defended By the Rebs also. We are situated near the center within range of the Rebs Shells and their long ranged rifles also. But so far they have let us alone and we thrive

orders and started back for City Point where we arrive about sundown a more contented as well as a happier set of men

Dec 13th ... Arose later than usual, Boys feel somewhat used up on account of their exposure. Nothing to do to day but rest

Dec 14th ... Went in company with a number others about three miles after timber to build us a new house or rather to build an addition to the Headquarters. for we are going to quarter with the Captain and first Lieutenant. Considerble heavy firing to day all along the lines

Dec. 15th ... Worked some on our new house But would call it a small days work if I had been at home. Unless we are actually needed at the front, this will be our winter quarters. Weather continues quite cold. My health does not seem to be at all impaired by our late raid.

The first day after our arrival here a Maine sharp shooter about as long in the service as ourselves but I guess a little more curious, ventured to go down on the Picket line to see what he could when a Rebel S.S. put a ball through low the calf of his leg

Dec 19. Quartermaster at City Point sent no provision to make up ten days rations so I think we shall stay here a little while Brit Gen. Benham says he will have us back to the City again

received a letter to day from Elvira

Dec. 20. We are here yet at B. H.

Journal No. 11.

Camp near Bermuda Hundred Dec. 21st/64

Awoke this morning and found it raining very hard, My blanket was quite wet where it had leaked on me. Rained all day, Nothing of importance transpired only that Jerome Tifft was taken to the Hospital, Recd a letter from Elvira yesterday.

Dec 22nd Another severe change in the weather such as I should judge old Virginia was subject to. I notice after every rain Storm we have a very cold Spell But what is more singular very few boys take cold. last night I slept where I had to hold my hair on to prevent its being carried off by the wind as cold as it was and yet took no cold. About 1 oclock went out to Battalion drill for the first time immediately after coming back into Camp we received orders to be

in readiness to start for City Point at daylight next morning which of course suited the boys right well.

Dec. 23d 64 Long time before day light the camp was all astir cooking their Breakfasts and before the time appointed all was prepared and anxiously awaiting that old order forward marche. It is a very pleasent day and to all outward appearances are gay and happy in perfect harmony with the feelings of the whole company for they feel almost as if they were going home when they get headed for their old camping ground. Our course lay for some 3 or 4 miles along a line of breastworks among which was forts Mead and Cummings which gave us a fair view of modern plans of Defences it being the first time that we have marched in this country in

daylight we of course improved the opportunity. We also passed close by Butlers Lookout a Structure about 30 ft. square at the bottom and about 100 ft. high from the top of which he can see into Richmond and Petersburg. At Point of Rocks Lieut. went into the Hospital to see Jerome, he was doing well. Arrived at our camp a little before noon After resting a while we again pitched our tents where we could feel at home

Dec. 24th Been quite busy polesing and repairing up things generally about our camp. Went out with the whole company and loaded and shot our muskets at a target the first time my gun has been loaded

Roswell and I went down to the city in hopes of getting that box of goodies for Christmas but to our disappointment it had not arrived

Dec 25th ..... A merry Christmas
Weather very pleasant; Clear Sky
Soft Spring like air; and every
thing, but home-friends here to make
it a merry holiday. Been a very busy
day. had to pack every thing and come out
to general inspection at noon. About 2
oclock had the honor of dining with such
distinguished men as Capt. Watson and
1st Lieut. Brackenbush Officers of Co. A.
Dress Parade at four after which we took a
Stroll down to the Hospital and in passing
by the burying ground Lieut. showed me
(where Wm Barnes lays)

Dec. 26th ..... Awoke and found to our great
surprise that it was raining. Been
quite foggy and dark all day. Finished
our new house to day so we are ready
at any time to leave and if we are
not called away it will be different
from what they have done before
All well

Journal No 13

Defences City Point. Jan. 8th 1865

Sabbath day. And if we were in hearing of Church Bells and in sight of Church going people it would be such a day as every one would hail with joy. Weather so beautiful, Air so Springlike It is perfectly refreshing. But Sunday with us is a day of Work instead of Rest as we have an inspection of Arms and Knapsacks Blankets and indeed of everything that belongs to a soldier. Which took place at ½ past Nine oclock in morning to day. All this in addition to our common every day Duty.

Attended public services at two oclock over to the 3d Maine Battery. Dress Parade at Four

In the evening attended the Prayer meeting in our Camp which is held three evenings in a week.

Jan. 9th

Another beautiful day. But with some indications of a Storm. To day I got my Negative from the Artists which I intend to send home by Capt. Watson in a few days. Also received a

letter from aunt Kesia Something I have been
Can ans. it to day looking for for a long time. Which is about the third
or fourth letter I have received from home when I
ought to have had three times that number
It seems as though you ought to write certainly
once a week. But will not complain. But rather
praise for doing well considering circumstances

Jan. 14th /11

Another beautiful day. Every thing is quiet here at present. No firing of any consequence on the lines. but still the Rebel army must be diminishing considerably and at a rate too that must use them up sooner or later. To day over one hundred Deserters were shipped north. and that was no uncommon circumstance. Almost every day a Squad is brought into City Point

Received a letter from Mortimer

Jan. 15th /11

Another beautiful Sabbath. And the Soldiers are all out on inspection the same as usual. Except three of the principal Officers in these Defences. Viz, Capt. Watson Corp. Sift an ~~and~~ and Sgt Draper all of Co. A. Halls Bat, Md. S.S. Who propose to take a bit of Adventure - do after breakfast and going through with ~~all the~~ the Scrubbing Brushing and all the paraphanlia pertaining to Officers of our Rank. Each of us mounted a Mule and Started for the front. And came

and started for the front. Our course lay through Desolated plantations. Pine woods over creeks as well as up and down their gravelly beds (This is one of the countries) If it was not for one thing that is War War it would be a pleasant trip as well as a curiosity to come down here and go home when one pleased, Well after about 2 hours ride we came up to the Head Quarters of the 1st Mich

Regt. of Sharp shooters. They lay immediately behind the Breastworks in front of Petersburg and almost within hailing distance of it That part of the country is very broken, hills of no very great altitude but steep sides which gives it a rough appearance Found that Box you sent to us and one for another fellow in C. B. Strapped them to our Mules and came back to Camp In the evening went to the Hospital to see Roswell because he expect to go to some northern hospital to morrow

Jan. 16th
17th
18th
" " Weather continues pleasant
Numerous rumors afloat regarding recent victories and peace propositions. some true and doubtless many untrue
About noon on the 18th considerable of a Racket was kicked up in honor of the surrender of Fort Fisher
These rumors constitute about all the life of Camp now adays
Think I shall discontinue this simple excuse for a diary for a while at least as there is not doings enough to make it worth while as It is becoming Stale to me and grief it did to you a long time ago

P. S. That Negative has not started yet and don't know when it will

doings enough to make it worth while as
It is becoming stale to me and guess it did
to you a long time ago

P. S. That Negative has not started yet and dont
know when it will unless I send it by mail
Think I will wait a few days and see if
Capt. is coming home or no

A. W. L.

Jan. 10th Scrabbled out of bed this morning in the greatest haste imaginable, when we were sleeping O! how sweet. all hand of us and hang on to our Canvas with all our might. It began to rain in the night and about daylight the wind raised to almost a hurricane making our little transitory shelter shake to its very — I was going to say foundations — But I can find no such thing in Virginia this time of the year. the very ground will wash from under one and leave him like a specter standing on the air
Has rained very hard all day. Mud unfathomable
Confining us very closely within doors

Jan. 11th
" 12th
" 13th } Weather as pleasent as Spring. It does not seem much like winter. but rather feel lost. Can hardly tell in what part of the year we are. Time flies very fast. Weeks never paped away so fast before. And it is not only the case with me but appears to be a general thing throughout the Camp

Lieut. J. W. Brackenbush went up to the 5th A.C. to see his Brother but found that he was dead. He was killed in that Raid on the South side Rail Road the same time that we were called to go up near Petersburg

Capt. Watson in a few days. Also received a letter from aunt Rosa Something I have been looking for for a long time. Which is about the third or fourth letter I have received from home when I ought to have had three times that number

Rec'd and ans. in 5 days

It seems as though you ought to write certainly once a week. But will not complain. But rather praise for doing well considering Circumstances

A Leaf from my Journal № 14

City Point Va. Feb. 5th 1865

Sunday

Was sent up to the 1st Mich. S.S. on an errant, and of course improved the opportunity to make a short visit but had to return early. Got back about 4 oclock. Soon left than an hour to the great surprise of all we were ordered to strike our tents take nothing but our Blankets and three days rations and join the Brigade at the Rail Road. After some delay and every thing in readiness we commenced our march. About Eight oclock we halted on the Lines near Meads Station close by Fort Hell (The same place we went on our first Raid) and spread our blankets for the night

Feb. 6th 1865

Arose at one most ice. Air very cold and chilly No wood nearer than a mile But nothing seems too great when necessity calls. We soon had a cheerful fire

which with a little hot Coffee made us feel better. About Eleven oclock ordered to fall in and we were soon off again. Headed towards the left where they were are fighting just now. Did not know but what we should find some worse place than Hell. Marched in a Circuitous rout untill nearly sundown when we halted for night as we supposed on the Line of works near Parks Station. Stacked arms Built fires and preparing Supper. when the order came to fall in. Some Swearing Marched nearly a mile and finally found where they wanted us. Stacked arms again Cooked a little Supper. Gathered up a large pile of brush and made my bed on it.

Feb. 7th 65.

Rested Complete. Called up at four oclock & formed in line behind the Breastworks in readiness for the Johnies until after Broad day-light. No Johnies Came. Heavy Sleet falling & continued all day wetting the Boys to the very hide. Dined on

are only 3 or 4 miles from where we lay the first night; on a direct line. Can hear the firing on the extreme left

Feb. 8th 65.

Storm continued most of the night making it difficult to keep a fire. Not very agreeable To day the wind blows very cold nearly freezing their clothes to them. About the middle of the afternoon ordered into comfortable Quarters

Feb. 9th

Boys about half sick after their exposure but enjoying their more than Mansions hugely

Feb. 10th

Weather fair off quite pleasant
Went about a mile to see a deserter Shot He with fifteen others had burroughed in the ground & stole their living. they had about two months provisions on hand when discovered
Got back to camp and found two letters awaiting me, one from Mort. & one from Corban

Feb. 11th 1865

Marching orders came again at Eight oclock Everything packed in a few minutes and marched out of Camp a little way & laid there until most noon waiting to get them in that was out on Picket Boys feel Gay & Happy because we are headed towards City Point. At 5 oclock finds ourselves once more in our old Camp feeling as well as if nothing had happened found two letters awaiting me here also from Jane & Davis

Feb. 12th

Very cold with a high wind Got Sunday Letter from home this morning Spent most of the day writing

John S. Wood arrived in camp this afternoon & brought me a nice present from home for which I am very thankful both to giver & Conveyor