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Diary of My Three
Years Camp Life

W. E. Coker

1862
Aug
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20 Mr. Strick home till to day, visiting our friends and bidding them farewell, and to day came down to Staten Island commencing our three year Campaign

28 By invitation we went to Huntington S. to a reception by the friends of Co. "E & D". We had a splendid time, some good speaking and everything you could think of for dinner. Started back about 4 O'clk. Stopped at Jamaica where I found my folks and a large number of friends to welcome me. Got back to our Camp about 8 O'clk.

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DIARY OF MY THREE YEARS CAMP LIFE

W. E. OAKLEY

1862

- Aug. 11 A call having been made by the President for 300,000 men to help put down the war, I felt it my duty to go. So Chapman, Webb and myself went down to the City and tried to go in the 40th New York Reg't but could not get in. So we stopped in 308 Broadway where they were trying to raise a company called the "MONITORS", which we liked very much. A man by the name of W Howland was Capt.. We put our names down, were examined and passed. Went down to Staten Island got our uniform and went home as soldiers of the US.
- Aug. 20 We stayed home till today, visiting our friends and bidding them farewell, and today came down to Staten Island commencing our three years campaign.
- Aug. 28 By invitation our Co went to Huntington to a reception by the friends of Co's "E"& "A". We had a splendid time, some good speaking and everything you could think of for dinner. Started back about 4 o'clock. Stopped at Jamaica, where I found my folks and a large number of friends to welcome me. Got back to our camp about 8 o'clock.
- Aug. 30 Chat, Webb and I got a pass to go home and stay till Monday; of course my folks made a great time over me and we were sorry when the time came for me to return.
- Sept. 2 The whole Reg't started for New York at 9 o'clock A.M. We marched up Broadway to 12th Street where we were presented with our colors and some very good speeches made. Among them one by S. S. Woodford who is the Col. of our Reg't.. The lady who presented the flags had lemonade and sandwiches passed around among the boys. We then went to Park Barracks, had dinner there then marched back to camp on Staten Island.
- Sept. 6 Received our guns and equipment today.
- Sept. 7 Had an inspection this morning and church this afternoon. E. Frances preached, he is our chaplain.
- Sept. 9 My folks all came down to see me today bringing Tom Rider with them. Tom stayed all night. Received orders to march tomorrow.
- Sept. 10 Got ready to march and started down to the dock. Went aboard the steamer *Kill Van Kull* and bid good-by to our pleasant camp on Staten Island. Landed at Elizabeth at 8 o'clock. Started for Baltimore at 10 o'clock P.M. At which place we arrived at 6 o'clock the next night, passing through some pleasant places and cheered as we went along. We had supper at the Soldier's Relief. Then took cars for Washington. Arrived at 12 o'clock

the next day. We stayed there till 7 o'clock having a miserable dinner at the Soldiers Retreat. We then started for Fort Ethan Allen. Arrived there at 12 o'clock. The marching was fearful on us boys as we were not used to it and when we got there we laid right down and slept.

- Sept. 13 We marched into our camp about one mile from Fort Ethan Allen, and we called our camp "Camp Morgan". It is situated on a high hill 10 miles from Washington.
- Sept. 17 Webb was taken very sick.
since killed
- Oct. 1 Got a box of good things from Chat's father. I tell you they were gay.
- Oct. 4 Dan Webb and another Orange County boy came to see us.
- Oct. 13 I got a box from home, very acceptable.
- Oct. 15 Will Windover and Tom Monday from Metuchen ,NJ came over to see us.
- Oct. 17 Got orders to pack knapsacks, strike tents and be ready to move at 12 o'clock. Started at 12 o'clock and arrived at Minors Hill (6 miles) at three o'clock.
- Oct. 21 Received orders to have our tents struck and be ready to march at 10 o'clock. Started and arrived at our camp at Tiptons Hill at 2 o'clock (4 miles). Saw Geo. Simpson as we marched along. He came to see me this morning. He is Lt. in the 133. Called our camp "Camp Bliss".
- Oct. 22 Went on picket for the first time.
- Nov. 8 Webb got a box today.
- Nov. 15 Webb got a box with a pair of mittens for each from home.
- Nov. 21 I received a box of mittens for Co "A" with a large fruit cake from a Mrs. Higie.
- Nov. 26 Got another box. Chat got a box from home with a turkey and a chicken in it. It was a Thanksgiving box.
- Nov. 27 Webb and Chat were on guard. As Chat could not get off, Webb and I had to eat our turkey alone.
- Dec 3 Capt. Howland having resigned on account of his health, left today. He appeared to feel very bad.
- Dec 11 The Adjutant was promoted Capt. of Co "B".

- Dec 23 Today got our "A" tents and commenced putting them up.
- Dec 25 Christmas, was on picket today.
- Dec 26 Oakey got a box with a turkey from Mrs. Cornell.
- Dec 28 10 o'clock at night received orders to march; packed knapsacks and started at 12 o'clock. Sent out Co "E" as skirmishers, did not meet any Rebs. Arrived at Annadale, spread blankets and went to sleep. Started back to old Camp Bliss at 8 o'clock.
- Dec 30 Bought a stove today.

1863

- Jan 1 Had a grand flag raising today. Speeches from Mr. Repton and Col. Woodford.
- Jan 23 Went to Alexandria on a pass. Was much disappointed in the place. It is dirty and filthy. However I had a good time. Met some of the boys and we had a good dinner. Saw the house where Elsworth was shot.
- Feb. 3 Chat's box arrived today. Was glad as good rations were getting low.
- Feb. 11 Got paid off to the 1st Jan, \$61.10. Went out on picket, was relieved in about an hour and got back to camp at 6 1/2 o'clock. Was tired out. We are going to march tomorrow. Webb got a box at 7 o'clock.
- Feb. 12 Left Camp Bliss at 11 o'clock and arrived at Fairfax Seminary at 2 o'clock (6 miles). Did not go with the Reg't, was left with the wagons so I rode all the way.
- Feb. 13 Father, Uncle Webb and Mr. Chapman popped in on us. I tell you we were glad to see them. We walked around and saw all there was to be seen and got a 24 hour pass for Washington the next day.
- Feb. 14 Started for Alexandria at 8 o'clock. Met our fathers and went to Washington. Enjoyed ourselves very much. Went to the Ebbet House, then took a stroll around town. Saw the Patent Office and all the other buildings. Called on the President, shook hands with old Abe. Stayed there all night, bid our fathers good bye and then went back to camp. Found the Reg't had moved about a mile, and called the camp "Camp Gurney". The other camp we called "Camp Hood".
- Mar 12 Chat got a box.
- Mar 28 Rained all day. At 4 o'clock got orders. Started at 4 1/2. Marched until 10 when we stopped at Falls Church all night.

- Mar 29 Got up at 5 o'clock, had breakfast, started at 6 o'clock and arrived Vienna at noon, marched 14 miles. Put up tents went to sleep. Were roused up at 11 o'clock, marched 1/2 mile, loaded and stacked our arms, tried to sleep, but could not. It was bitter cold and I passed a miserable night.
- Mar 30 Went to camp at 6 o'clock, received orders to go on picket. I had to stand 26 hours had the hardest time one could imagine. Commenced snowing at 11 o'clock P M and snowed all night. While on picket the Reg't moved 1/2 mile.
- April 1 Chat arrived in camp. We marched to Alexandria and then took the cars to Vienna, he did not come when we did as he was sick.
- April 11 Got orders to march back to Camp Gurney at 2 o'clock. The Reg't went, I did not go with them as I was left to guard the Col.'s cook house. Rode the QM's horse back to camp. Enjoyed myself very much, made me think of home. Chat and I both got a box.
- April 15 Received orders to march at three in the morning, started at 4 o'clock for Alexandria. Went on board the transport *Utica* and started at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
- April 16 Woke up and found we were aground. Got part of the boys on another boat then the *Lady Lincoln* pulled the *Utica* off. All got aboard and we started again.
- April 17 Passed Fort Monroe, arrived at Norfolk 3 PM. Then took the cars and arrived at Suffolk. Then marched 1/2 mile and camped all night.
- April 18 We marched 1 1/2 miles and encamped in the woods.
- April 20 Webb was detailed as Provost Guard.
- April 24 Called out in the morning expecting to be attacked, some Reg't crossed the Nansemond. In the night the long roll beat turned out but nothing occurred.
- April 25 Called up at 3 o'clock, stayed up till daylight and are going to do so as long as we stay here.
- April 27 Marched at 1 o'clock at night about a mile, lay down and went to sleep. Woke up and was surprised by seeing Ben Duryea, he is in the 169 Reg't. He called to see me often. I also met Abe Uncles, he is in the Dodge's Mounted Rifles.
- May 1 I saw quite a large fight near Fort Nansemond
- May 3 I saw a fight across the Nansemond, quite a number killed.

- May 4 We were woke up at 2 o'clock and marched toward the Reb rifle pits expecting to fight every minute. We chased them 10 miles, captured about 200 men and burnt down all the houses. Turned round and marched back to camp, got there at 1 o'clock completely played out. The men got whiskey, but I did not take mine.
- May 5 At 8 o'clock AM we struck tents and marched to the railroad stayed there all day. At night we got aboard cars. The cars were open and it rained fearfully, got wet through, arrived at Norfolk at 1 1/2 o'clock, waited an hour on the cars, then went aboard the transport *Express*. I laid down and went to sleep.
- May 6 Was detailed on guard at the cook house and had first rate living. Passed Fort Monroe and went up the York River. Passed Yorktown and landed at West Point at 2 o'clock. Every man was furnished a with shovel which we carried 1 1/2 (miles) then went to work and built a rifle pit. Then made camp in the woods. Saw Gen. Dix for the first time.
- May 13 We went out on a fatigue last night. When the rain fell in torrents we came in camp and stayed the rest of the night.
- May 14 Went out on picket last night on the Pamunkey. Got 'lousey' on board the *Express*, threw my shirt away.
- May 16 Move camp today about 100 yards. We had a prayer meeting to night which Col. Gurney attended. First meeting since leaving Alexandria.
- May 27 We came on picket in the woods. I am at Headquarters. Counter sign last night "Grenton, tonight" Lexington
- May 29 Countersign tonight "Utah".
- May 31 Got orders to be ready to move at 9 o'clock.
- June 1 We moved today down to the dock. Took the transport *Belvidere* to Yorktown. Arrived here last night, marched two miles and then lay down. Report says we go to Williamsburg.
- June 7 We were flooded last night, had a very hard rain. Named the camp "Camp Howland"
- June 8 Fired at the target today, I hit it once, fired twice. We received orders to get ready to march. Marched at 10 o'clock. Marched to Williamsburg, 12 miles, arrived there at 1 1/2 o'clock. Very hard march, one man died from the effects of it.
- June 11 We received orders to march. Started at 5 o'clock, passed Fort Magurder, also through Williamsburg, quite a large place but used up. Chat is not with us, he was left

sick at Yorktown. We marched till 11 o'clock. At half past 6 ("A" was skirmishing) we met the Rebs. Had a sharp little fight. Brookstaver of our company was wounded in the breast. Felt a little queer the first fire I was ever under. We fell back 5 miles, marched in all 30 miles, felt completely played out.

June 12 Co "I" came in today. They had been separated from us. They were skirmishers, Jacob Rice was missing. They say he was shot by the Rebs. Marched three miles neared Williamsburg. I had a talk with a seach (?) lady. She said salt was 90 cents a LB, butter \$1.50, eggs \$1.50 a doz., sugar \$2.20, coffee \$5.00.

June 13 This morning a squad of Cavalry went out and got the body of Jacob Rice. He was shot through the belly. He died at 9 this morning, so the woman said where his body was. Gen. Gordan tied two men up of Co "I" for taking a few onions out of a garden.

June 16 15 of Co "A" took 5 bushwhackers to Williamsburg, one of them pretended to be a minister, another a discharged Sgt. I was with them, marched 10 miles, started at 4 AM. Met a fellow I knew by the name of Nichols from Flushing in the 139, gave us some fresh bread which came good as we were short. Rode back in wagons.

June 17 Went on picket today.

June 18 Came in from picket to get paid off. Did not go out again. 5 Reb deserters came in today, they were better dressed than any I had seen. Gen. Gordon went out to see the place where we had the fight. He says he saw three new made graves, where the deserters that came in say we wounded 3.

June 23 We had quite a storm today. Report says on to Richmond.

June 24 We moved last night at 11 o'clock toward Richmond. Marched stopped in the woods at 3 1/2, marched 11 miles.

June 26 Moved yesterday at 5 PM. About 10,000 men passed the place where we were encamped, after they had passed we packed and started. We have been in light marching order since leaving Williamsburg. Marched 3 miles and then encamped, we are off again this morning. The country since leaving Yorktown is very pretty, the best I have seen in VA. Very level no stones, you can hardly see a stone in a march to two miles. We moved to Cumberland about 12 miles, 5 miles from White House.

June 27 Rained all night, got quite wet. We formed line at 7 o'clock marched to White House and arrived at 11 AM. Gen. Keys stayed on the right side of me. Like him very much, troops cheered him as they passed.

July 1 We are still at W-H, 16 miles from Richmond. Troops arriving in transports all the time. Ben Duryea arrived today (169). He came to see me. All the Reg't except two or three left today. Something is up.

- July 3 We came out on picket last night at 11 PM. Were having a splendid time The 143 has just come to relieve us, we do not like it. Had a fight last night, we hear 8 of the 139 were killed.
- July 4 I commenced the day by getting up and roll call, then went to bed again and got up at 6 o'clock. Got breakfast, lit my pipe, read 5 chapters in the bible. Returned thanks for the many mercies received, cleaned my gun then went and took a swim in the Pamunkey. After that laid off till noon. Attended roll call, a salute of 40 guns was fired. Had nothing to do but loaf all day. Had dress parade then supper. At nine o'clock lit barrels, then fell in and marched to the Col.'s tent. Had a speech from most of the officers, then returned for the night. Report says we go to Penn.
- July 6 Came on picket yesterday at 4 o'clock, on the Richmond Railroad. Plenty of Blackberries, I picked a quart last night. Webb picked the same this morning. Countersign last night "Richmond".
- July 8 Last night at 12 o'clock we were ordered to leave the post and come in camp. We started, it commenced raining before we got to camp. We were wet through. Stacked arms and stayed till 6 this morning. Chat came out day before yesterday and was detailed with the wagons. The whole Division moved. We are at present at New Kent Courthouse. We tore the Richmond Railroad up for 4 or 5 miles and sent it down on transports. Roads are awful muddy. Started at 11 o'clock and marched to Barnsville where we stayed an hour and then marched to Brunt Ordinary, marching 17 miles in 5 hours. Marched 23 miles today, feel awful tired.
- July 9 Started at 5 AM and marched two miles the other side of Williamsburg,. Marched 15 miles, feel played out. Arrived at 1 o'clock are going to stay all night.
- July 10 Started at 5 AM and marched to Yorktown where we are now waiting for transport (10 AM) at the dock. Have just got our knapsacks, they are all right. 22 of Co "A's" boys fell out yesterday. Marched today 11 miles, do not feel much fatigued.
- July 11 We came on the transport *John Brooks* last night at 6 PM and arrived at Washington 6 o'clock today. Have had a first rate time. Was left behind to load the wagons. The Reg't has gone on , I am here yet (6 PM).
- July 12 We left Washington at 3 AM and have stopped on the road 5 miles from Washington, we were up all night loading the train. I got supper at the Soldiers Retreat. We are laying 3 miles from Frederick waiting for orders. We are having a hard thunder storm. Yesterday we came through some very pretty places and saw a great many ladies, more than I ever saw before. I am much pleased with Maryland, it is hilly and rocky and the scenery is splendid, a great change from the Peninsula. The ladies are very Patriotic. They cheer us as we pass along, it makes one think of home.

- July 13 We arrived at Frederick at 11 o'clock and started for the Reg't. Found they had marched on. Turned in our knapsacks and followed them, put up at Middletown all night. Started the next morning at 5 o'clock and went out to Williamsport. Found the Corps, but could not find the Reg't. Marched 35 miles in two days.
- July 16 Found the Reg't, marched back to Middletown camped down in the valley, we are in the 11 Corps, 1st Division, 1st Brigade, Army of the Potomac. We marched to Berlin, arrived there this noon. Have now marched three days from daylight until dark. Saw a great many pretty girls, they had tubs of water all along the road. Maryland is a very pretty place, scenery beautiful but hard marching. We got out to Williamsport time enough to get some of Lee's guard but his main force escaped. A lady in Hagerstown said we might have captured the whole of Lee's Army as he had no ammunition for his cannon and only a round or two round for his men as he could not get them across the river.
- July 19 We left Berlin at 5 AM crossed the Potomac on pontoons. They are boats with planks laid on. We marched about 15 miles. It was awful hot and nearly killed us.
- July 20 We marched at 6 o'clock AM. I heard that 12 men died yesterday on the hard marching. Marched quite easy today, stopped at Bull Run Creek passing Snicker Gap. Started after dinner and stopped at Hq. Saw Gen. Howard for the first time. He commands our Corps (11). He has but one arm. Marched 12 miles. Played Col. Woodford's horse out.
- July 22 We got orders to get ready for picket at 4 o'clock as the Reb Cavalry made a raid in and took 15 of our men and three sutters wagons. We started at 5 PM. Marched very fast, crossed Bull Run Creek. Stacked arms and we laid down for the night. We got orders to pack up right away. Marched three more miles and Co A was stationed by a hotel named the Mountain House by J Eaton at the celebrated Gilead Springs. We were stationed in a garden rummaged it pretty well. I got some beets, cucumbers and radishes, some of the boys got chickens. We started back for camp at 10 AM. Co "A" was rear guard. We hunted for six men that were lost, but could not find them. Took about 50 farmers with us and marched back to camp, arrived there at 1:30 PM. Marched today 12 miles.
- July 23 Started at 9 AM. Marched to White Plains, stayed and had supper and started again. The roads were perfectly awful just like peapack, very stony and hilly. No bottom to the mud with a great many streams to wade. Marched until 12 o'clock at night and was completely used up. Marched in all 25 miles. Geo. Devoe was sent home for the drafted men for our Reg't.
- July 25 Marched again today. Started at 3:30 AM for Warrington Junction. Arrived at 1:30 PM. Marched 15 miles.
- July 31 We are still at Warrington Junction. The most difficult thing is to get good water it being low land and springs being scarce. I hear we are to be transferred to the 2nd

Corps. Went out on picket yesterday. Came in today and found the Reg't had moved camp to the other side of the railroad.

- Aug. 2 We marched yesterday at 5 o'clock. Marched to Catlett Station, turned off and marched towards Greenwich. It was very hot and we marched very fast. A great many dropped out and some died. Gen. Gordon does not know how to march men. We stopped in a woods the other side of Greenwich, rested an hour and marched back half mile and then got dinner. After dinner we were marched back through Greenwich to a large field. The whole division stacked arms and rested out in the sun. After while we were ordered to fall in. Then they brought a man right in front of us and shot him for desertion. After he was shot the whole division passed his body, platoon front. We then marched to a field and camped all night.
- Aug. 3 The bugle sounded at 1 o'clock AM and at 3 we started to march back to Warrington. Marched the first 4 or 5 miles very fast, without rest. After that marched slower. I feel very bad, the sun has affected me so. The last two days have been the warmest I have ever felt.
- Aug. 6 The gun sounded at 12 1/2 AM. At 4 AM we started. Marched to Catlett Station. Stayed there till ten and then started for Warrington Junction where we got aboard the cars. Report says we go to Charleston.
- Aug. 7 Arrived at Alexandria at 6 last night. Dr Biglow came to see us.
- Aug. 9 We left Alexandria on the 7th at 4 o'clock on the *John Tucker*. Arrived at Fort Monroe at 6 PM on the 8 th. Arrived at Newport News at 1 o'clock, got paid off and landed there.
- Aug. 11 We are still at Newport News. Ned Smith came to see us yesterday. He is Master Mate 1, a surprise to me. Just one year ago today I enlisted.
- Aug. 15 We are in Charleston harbor on board the *Empire City*. We came aboard at 4 o'clock last Tuesday. Arrived at Fort Monroe at 12 o'clock at night. Started for Charleston, had quite a pleasant trip. 2 1/2 Reg'ts aboard. The officers took half the ship. Had Gen. Gordon on. We were quite crowded. Had our coffee cooked twice a day. First time I was out of sight of land, made me feel quite lonely. Saw plenty of sharks, 10 & 12 feet long. We lay at present just in side the blocking fleet. We are transferred to another steamer, the *Escort*. We came aboard in small boats, quite rough.
- Aug. 17 We are landed on Folly Island. Encamped near the surf. I go in twice a day, reminds me of Rockaway. Dave Simpson was here to see me, stayed all day. There is heavy firing at Sumter.
- Aug. 20 We are still at Folly Island. Came out on picket last night. They are firing from the Fort near us across the river.

- Aug. 22 Came in from picket today. The Reg't had moved on to the landing right close to Dave Simpson. Our camp is only 10 yards from the surf. Dave gave me a paper of flour, pepper, nutmeg and a new shirt.
- Aug. 31 We got our mail for the first time since we left Newport News.
- Sept. 2 We started from camp for a raid. Got aboard the steam boat and had just started for Long Island when we were ordered back to camp.
- Sept. 5 We left camp at 1 AM. Were transported across to Coles Island on the *Planter*. (The one the nigger run the blockade from Charleston in and came in our lines, his name was Small) and then went three miles out on picket. Could see the shells burst on Morris Island.
- Sept. 6 Came in to camp this morning. Suffered a great deal from the mosquitoes and bad water also. The cannonading kept me awake. We were stationed right across the stream from the Rebs picket. I waived my hat with them. W C Wood was put in the guard house for undertaking to exchange papers with them. Lt. Abercrombie and some others talked with them. I walked right out on the edge of the water to get a barrel and they did not disturb me. There are a great many small doves and mocking birds here. Saw Fort Moultrie blow up.
- Sept. 7 Came out on picket today
- Sept. 12 Dave sent me over two papers of tobacco and a NEW SOUTH.
- Sept. 18 Came in from picket today. Had a hard time, it rained fearfully. I went over to see Dave the other day, had a first rate time. He gave me a mosquito net. I stayed 24 hours over my pals.
- Sept. 30 We got bread for the first time since leaving Yorktown, July 11th. I am on light duty on account of being ruptured.
- Oct. 9 We had quite an alarm last night on picket. A Reb fired his gun, but it subsided as it was an accident.
- Oct. 13 Our knapsacks arrived completely gutted of everything. I lost a overcoat, dress coat, shirt, shelter tent, portfolio, razor, brush, etc. Dave Simpson has left. Report says Gen. Gordon is superseded by Gen. Schimmelfennig and our old commander Col. Vongelson has command of the Brigade. We were ordered out on the picket line last night and got back this morning at 7, nothing occurred.
- Oct. 14 We were out again last night, called out at 12 o'clock. I had command of the three outposts. Raining very hard which made it unpleasant.

- Oct. 19 Was to prayer meeting last night, have not missed going in two weeks. Enjoyed it very much. Webb, Cooper and I went. Webb got up and asked the prayers of the meeting. I think he is fast becoming a follower of our dear savior. I got up and prayed. Had quit a large meeting. I think there is a quite an interest on the subject in the Reg't. Another man got up and asked an interest in our prayers.
- Oct. 20 I went to meeting again.. Smith went with me. Webb was prayed for. A man from the hospital got up and spoke. He was very much affected when he spoke of his dead mother. She had often prayed for him. Oh mother if you knew the force of your example. His name was Salter of Co "G" . He became converted in the hospital. I got up and spoke but did not accomplish anything. Feel discouraged. I find that I have not got the talent, but hope I may be useful in some other way. The meetings do me a great deal of good. I was surprised to see Al Walden there as he said to Smith; "Smith don't you get converted, if you do I will kick you out of the tent". As we were going to meeting I hope they both will see the folly of their ways and turn to the Lord.
- Oct. 21 We have a sick Sgt. in our Co. (Nelson). He looks very bad and of course feels homesick. Yesterday I boiled some potatoes and mashed them for him. He eat some of them. Last night I cooked some beefsteak. He seemed to relish it. This morning I boiled him some ham and tea, also some hot lemonade. I went to prayer meeting, was just getting interested when I swallowed a mouthful of tobacco juice, so I had to leave. Al Walden & Hefferman were there. Wrote out a furlough on the plea of my rupture, but the Dr would not sign it as he said sick furloughs were not allowed. Saw the Capt., said he would see the Major and see if he would grant one.
- Oct. 26 Did not go on picket with the Co, took care of Sgt. Nelson. Made some tea and cooked some ham for his dinner. Made some tea for his supper. He stayed all night in my tent. I had to get up twice with him, he is so weak he cannot turn himself. Made some tea and ham for him this morning. Got some powder and shaved him. The Major had an inspection, he was very strict, they say he was intoxicated.
- Oct. 27 200 men of the 107 Ohio came over to help us do picket duty.
- Oct. 28 My long expected box arrived today. All the things came in good order. It has been on the way since July 11th. Webb got a box with a package for me. Also a package for me in a box Chat got.
- Oct. 29 Went to meeting to night, had a good meeting. Done me a good deal of good. Gen. Gillmore is firing quite heavy again.
- Oct. 30 Went to meeting tonight, had a very interesting time. The hymns reminded one of home. The meeting done me a good deal of good and I feel happier. Got new cartridge boxes to day.

- Nov. 4 I did not go on picket to day with the Co. Went to prayer meeting tonight. We had by far the most interesting meeting we have had. Got up and spoke, feel quite encouraged. Many other young beginners got up to. I played cards last night, am determined to give it up, not because I think it is wrong, but it may have a bad influence. They catch some large fish, about 2 feet long, called red drum here, but I do not care for fishing any more. I have but three pursuits and thoughts; My God, My Country and My Home.
- Nov. 5 Went to meeting tonight, had a very large meeting and a very good one. Feel it has done me good. The Rebs have built three batteries to fire on us. We found out as they were firing a salute of 36 guns in honor of the arrival of Jeff Davis. He also visited the picket line. Webb had him within shooting distance. The way we found it out was, it was in the CHARLESTON MERCURY.
- Nov. 6 Moved camp today so as to make it better. Seems to me we are going to stay all winter. The boys got whiskey today. I did not take any. They put lime juice in as the scurvy had appeared. Went up to see Nelson, he feels quite bad.
- Nov. 7 The minister that comes here and distributes the American Messenger compliments our tent. He said that everything looked so tidy, neat and comfortable. I went in swimming today. It is as warm as August north. We lost one man by death in our Co since we have been in the service. His name was G W Bailey, he was about 40 years old. Went to prayer meeting, but the meeting was broken up by Sutrelle insulting Colgate. I left when it commenced.
- Nov. 8 Went to prayer meeting again tonight. It was very interesting until Sutrelle got up and insulted the meeting. He is doing a good deal of harm. The meeting did not do me any good. Gillmore is firing quite lively
- Nov. 9 Practiced firing at a mark. I made the best shot hit the eye made the next to best last time, distance 200 yd.
- Nov. 23 I am now going to record the saddest thing since I have been in the service. Sgt. Nelson is dead, one of our very best men. He died yesterday morning at 4 o'clock and was buried in the afternoon. It was the largest funeral in the Reg't. We had a brass band and flag at half mast and no dress parade. Two of our men, Green & Winor, were captured last night by the Rebs on the Patrol Bridge.
- Nov. 25 I was out on picket yesterday, at the shell fort. Sgt. Concklen of Co "E" has gotten out. Gurney, Capt. Weston & Lt. Young came on today. He came in to see me just now, he brought me, from home, a knife, fork and spoon. Also, a pair of mittens for Webb & I. Also a card and letter from Mary. Today is Thanksgiving, how different it is from last year, nothing but good rations. Pitts of Co "K" caught three raccoons which weighed 52 1/2 lb.. Got whiskey rations. I did not drink mine. Treated Webb to a sugar

if he would not drink his. Went in O'Mill's tent and spent the evening . We had some lemonade, cakes, fig paste and raisons. Also smoked my pipe.

- Nov. 29 Had a hard thunder shower last night. Commenced raining yesterday morning and lasted until tonight. I went out on picket to the shell fort, but had to come in as I had cramps in my stomach.
- Dec 1 Very heavy firing from all the Forts around here. Reports says in honor of the Victory of Grant over Bragg.
- Dec 2 Had a grand review by Col. Gurney, after which was read the sentence of two of Co "D" men (Sheppard & Dutch). They were condemned to be shot for sleeping on post, but through some mistake they escaped.
- Dec 4 One of our men (Half) received his discharge and left today. Our boys went to Segarville and got pews out of a church there to put in a church we are building.
- Dec 8 Got paid off today, number of my check 272.
- Dec 9 There is a man in our Reg't (Warrington) who was with Twiggs in Texas in the regular army. It was disbanded and he went to New Orleans and was paid off. After spending his money he was induced to join the 7 LA Reg't. He then was sent to Bull Run, fought against us. He went through a great many trials as he was suspected of being a Union man. He was in the Rebel service 11 months when he deserted to our side when Mac went up the Penn. When he came in our lines he was recognized by Gen. Stoneman who was his old Capt.. He stayed with the army until they got to Harrison Landing, then he came home and joined our Reg't. He says there were 15 or 20 men from New York and New Jersey, but they did not have the courage to desert. He says there are a great many the same way.
- Dec 15 I got word night before last that I was to come home to recruit. We were to go yesterday, but were disappointed. I went to church tonight. Our Chapel is done, we have a pulpit, seats and six lamps. It reminds one of home, it looks so natural.
- Dec 16 Went to meeting in our Chapel, quite interesting meeting.
- Dec 17 We had a singing school last night in the chapel led by Lt. Youngs. It seemed like old times once more. Col. Gurney was there, it seemed as it I was home. We sang the Hymn Col. Gurney composed. Here it is:

"Be still ye angry floods be still
and calmed the oceans swell,
Upon this Isle of sand we build
A house where God may dwell.

Tho plain and humble it may be
Yet God will dwell therein,
and here accept the humble prayer
That may be breathed to him.

Tis not the splendor of the house
nor richly gilded aisles,
that in attracts the mighty God
or surely wins His smile.

Here comrades we will gladly meet
and wisdom's lessons learn,
and meekly sit at Jesus feet
while still our campfires burn.

And now to God we dedicate
the temple we have raised,
here let our songs and prayers ascend
and Gods great name be praised."

(Composed by Col. Gurney for the dedication
of our chapel on Coles Island, South Carolina)

Dec 19 A man in Co "E" died today (Sprague). A victim of misplaced confidence or in other words, his wife proved faithless which worried him so that it killed him.

Dec 20 The dedication came off today. We had five chaplains and also a large attendance and it was very interesting. The dedicating sermon was preached by Rev Mr. Taylor, Pres of Christian Com in this Dept. The text was from the 19th chapter of Rev, part of the 6 & 7 verses; "For the Lord God, omnipotent reignth, Let us be glad and rejoice and give honour to him ". Was to prayer meeting to night. The chapel was crowded, the meeting was very interesting and done me a good deal of good.

Dec 21 Was on guard today and have been relieved, as I believe I am going to New York to recruit. It was a surprise to me as I had given it up. Got bad news from home, Debbie is worse. I did not sleep much on account of it and when I did, I dreamed about her.

Dec 22 We left Coles Island at 12 AM yesterday and came to Hilton Head on the *Beaufort*. Arrived here last night at 8 o'clock and slept on the steamer. I did not sleep very well as the horses kept pawing my blanket. Went to see Dave Simpson, he looks well. I did not find him in camp so I went to the Fort and found him working there. Capt. just asked me if I had any money. I told him no, he handed me \$5.00. We are on board the *Fulton* and have just started, 10 minutes to 11 o'clock.

Dec 24 We have just passed Hatteras, the sea is very rough, heavy wind, three quarters of the men are sick. Met the orderly of Ben Duryea's Co.

Dec 25 We are just passing Sandy Hook, the voyage has been very rough. The climate is very cold, quite a difference from South Carolina. Capt. Jack has been sea sick. I hope to be in Jamaica tonight to tea.

Dec 27 I am home now. I arrived at the dock at 4 o'clock on the 25th. Started for the cars, got there time enough to go home in the 5 o'clock train. I met Mrs. Waldo who told me my dear sister Deb was dead and buried, it almost knocked me down. Mrs. Waldo was very kind to me. Such a screeching time as the folks made over me. Went to New York yesterday and got some clothes and in the evening called to see Annie Chapman. She made a terrible time over me. Went to church this morning, it was the first time I have been to church since I left home. Went to Sunday school this afternoon, but Mr. Reeve drove me out.

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Apr 10 Received orders on Friday to leave with the next steamer.

May 6 Left home today for New York to go to Charleston per steamer *Fulton*. We left New York for the Dept. South at 10 o'clock. Have been home since Dec 25, 1863. Had a splendid time and am well satisfied with my visit. 4 PM out of sight of New York. God only knows if I will see it again.

May 7 Was on guard yesterday, put me on before I got out of NY harbor. Slept first rate on the boards of the deck.

May 8 Quite pleasant today, but different from last Sunday. Do not like it here, warm water to drink, mixed up with niggers and besides a little homesick. Made it quite unpleasant. Have not arrived off Hatteras yet. Sail very slow as we have a Brig in tow. We have Divine Service this morning at 11 o'clock. The only thing that reminds of home and Sunday there. We also had an inspection by Capt. Long. One man has the small pox. Passed Hatteras at 4 o'clock. We have a colored Minister on board with us. He addressed the colored portion of troops, it was short but very good. Better than I expected.

May 9 Spent a very good night, but was woke up rather early. The weather very warm and pleasant. Quite a change from New York.

May 10 Spent a very good night, the best I have spent yet. Slept all night, until daylight, 7 AM. We are in sight of Folly Island. We are now at Port Royal, 3 1/2 PM. Saw some of the torpedoes in the harbor. I saw Underhill, he is detailed at h'qtrs. He told me 4 of our men were blown up by a torpedo. One had to have his arm amputated, another had his eyes badly cut. The others were not hurt so bad. We are now aboard the *Cannonics*

laying at anchor off Hilton Head. I got my dinner while on land. Al Walden is on board going to the Reg't. He has been here 4 months, he looks very (word missing) now. While writing this I am sitting on some 300 lb. bombshells, of which there are 500 more.

May 11 Had a splendid sleep and expect to have a good time as we are not crowded. Saw some pelicans here for the first in my life at liberty. Plenty of flies here.

May 12 6 AM have just left Hilton Head for Folly Island, laid here since day before yesterday. Slept quite well last night, but had to move on account of the rain. 2 1/2 AM we are at the landing opposite Coles Island. Everything looks natural here. We have started again and are landed at Brawnee Landing. We are going to march to the end of Folley Island and then take a boat across. It is about 2 miles. We are here to the Reg't, 3 AM. Saw Webb and some others, most of the boys are at Folly I. cutting wood. The tents are better than ever before, am well satisfied here. The fleas are very troublesome indeed. 7 Rebs came in yesterday.

May 15 The boys came in yesterday. They made a great time over me. Chat came with them, he looks well.

May 16 Went to church last night, was very much pleased with our new chaplain. Enjoyed meeting very much. Today the boys played a game of baseball, the first I have seen in a long time. Cooper & Hefferman have been discharged and Jones & Jarvis have died while I was home.

May 17 Went in bathing in the surf. Went to prayer meeting in the evening, felt much better, think it strengthens me.

May 18 We awoke this morning hearing reports that Lee was whipped by Grant. The *Arago* has just arrived and such may be the news. Anyhow the *Ironsides* fired a grand salute for some good news, it is grand hearing salutes being fired. Flags are flying with a great deal of excitement. Grant has defeated Lee at last, well the war must end soon.

May 21 I am on guard today. We heard grand news, it is that Richmond is taken and we have captured Lee. I hope it is true. I had blackberries for dinner, we have had them for three weeks. We played ball yesterday, I was chosen umpire.

May 22 The boys went out on a raid last night, but did not accomplish anything. The *Wehawken* was sunk right opposite our camp. They have commenced raising it. In the evening I went to church, it did me a good deal of good. It was a meeting with a good deal of interest. Wessells requested prayers for an unconverted sister.

May 26 I visited Forts Wagner & Gregg. They shelled the Forts while I was there. I came in and found the Reg't all under arrest for stealing condensed milk of the sutter. This afternoon the Major had every man turned out and drilled them until four o'clock. He says he will drill them until he finds out who stole it. Tomorrow he drills them with knapsacks.

- May 30 We opened our mess room today. I have charge of it. I have a man detailed every day to help me. We have new dishes, forks, knives and cups. They cost us \$23.00. The boys are very much pleased with it. Had blackberries today.
- May 31 Gen. Foster passed here today in review. He takes command of the Department relieving Gen. Gillmore.
- June 1 They keep drilling yet on account of the milk. We have all signed a paper not buying anything of the sutter and then the Major has given orders for no one to leave camp without a pass, countersigned by him, but we will out general him yet. They do not drill with knapsacks as the Dr will not allow it.
- June 4 Today I am 20 years old. It makes me feel sad to think I am out (of) my teens.
- June 7 The Rebs have opened fire, very lively; so have we. The ram has appeared, we can see it very plainly from the camp. The "MONITORS" have prepared for battle.
- June 8 Today has been the warmest I have yet experienced. The Inspector General was here today and said that Co "A's" mess room & cook house was the nicest thing he had ever seen. I felt quite proud as I had charge of them. That ram as I supposed was nothing but a steamboat carrying supplies to Sumter and ran aground there. Our batteries opened and destroyed her. I have a piece of her rudder wheel. Only 15 months from today and we will be free again.
- June 9 The old saying over again; "It never rains but pours" As I was washing the dishes Capt. came to me and said "Oakey you are detailed in the Ordnance Dept.". About a half hour after and order came detailing me as postmaster with Loftwood, who I was detailed by I do not know. I will try to describe it: the first place we have two wall tents and everything convenient. We also have a nice horse with a man to take care of him. We go down to Folly Island every day. Wood one day and I the next. The Post Office is a responsible position and another thing. here we are respected by officers, which has never been so with me before. It is not "come out of that tent or I will buck & gag you" but "will you please do this or that" so I am something big for once. We have a good mess room and a darky to wait on us. As I said before "it never rains but pours". I never had what we soldiers call a "big thing" before. I was always with the Co and when anyone was detailed for a good place I was passed over, so it went on for 16 months. All of a sudden luck changed, as Webb says "Every dog has his day" and mine has come at last. First going home, then the mess room and now Post Master of Morris Island. Catch me taking a Sgt. position, I would not exchange with any Sgt. in the Reg't. Nor would I take a discharge while I am having such a good time.
- June 10 Letter from home. God bless my father and mother. May I at sometime be able to repay them for what they have done for me. Every now and then the thought steals

to me, perhaps I may never return to them, but one comfort and that is knowing how they would mourn my fall. They would still be proud to think, "Will done his duty".

- June 11 Took my first turn to Folly Island this afternoon, was caught in a tremendous thunder shower so I was initiated nicely. Brought Capt. Hewelt's horse back with me. I feel quite sore after riding 18 miles, but will get used to it. 4 Reb deserters came in just now, they looked pleased.
- June 16 A rather amusing scene occurred today. The Major of the 33rd U.S.C.T. came in here today, took off his hat asked if there was any mail for his Reg't. Then bowed himself out of the door. I guess he took me for some big officer and I rather guess I can put on as many airs as anybody. Had a very pleasant ride to Folly Island yesterday.
- June 17 I was taken for Col. Gurney by a couple of Officers. Post Office is a big thing. By an order from Gen. Foster, all citizens must drill and they all came down to the Post Office to report. It is fun to see all the sutters try to get exempt. I became acquainted with the Rev Mr. DeForest, the chief agent for the Christian Com. I like him very much indeed. The 21st USCT are ordered away, that takes one cook, I am not sorry.
- June 18 The 21st are not going, only their officers. Sgt. Barker of Co' "D" was in here today, he has a Com. in the 149th New York as 1st Lt. I was up in the lookout on Folly Island today. It is 150 feet high, the sight was grand.
- June 20 The bank in front of our tent is washing away, it washed 10 feet yesterday. Where Gen. Gillmore's H'qrs was is 200 yards in the ocean. The island is gradually washing away.
- June 29 One of the 22nd Penn shot one of Co "D" by accident. We are in a state of excitement here as we are under orders to raid James Island.
- July 1 To night about 6 o'clock there was some stir here. The Provo Guard were all turned out. The reason was the 54th Mass refused to fight, but it was settled very easy. The 54 & 21 left for Folly Island tonight and tomorrow we go in small boats to charge Fort Johnson. It is a desperate thing as there is no retreating. God only knows who will get out safe as there will be great slaughter before we take the Fort, and if we do not take it. But soldiers must not think of that. We must take it or there is no hope for us..
- July 3 Last night we made that great charge, got defeated through drunkenness and cowardliness of our officers. Sake of our Co was wounded, he was in the boat with me. The Rebs threw shell very lively at us. I was within 15 yards of the Fort and narrowly escaped being taken prisoner. There was 136 enlisted men, Calvary Lt. Col., Adj. and three line officers killed, wounded and missing.
- July 4 Today is the grand 4th of July and to tell the truth I never have spent such a poor one in my life. It seemed almost like Sunday. The boys had no heart to enjoy it after

yesterdays disgraceful retreat. I hope and pray if God spares my life that next year I may be enjoying myself at home and more war.

- July 11 There is nothing new here. Repulsed at Fort Johnson, repulsed at John's Island and repulsed at James Island and probably lost 500 men by the operation. I am sorry to say it, but I think there appears to be a course of blunders in this department. But I believe the main object was accomplished and that was to draw reinforcements to Charleston and weaken some other point, but the question is, did it pay to lose so many men for such an objective.
- July 12 Good news from the north today. The pirate *Alabama* is sunk and Ewell with it. Divisions are in Maryland. I think that will wake the folks up. They want waking up bad. Two Union prisoners escaped and came in today. They were taken in Virginia and escaped coming down here. They must be brave boys to try and escape right in the heart of Rebeldom. Day before yesterday we captured a blockade runner loaded with cotton and tobacco. There is quite an excitement in our Reg't to go in the Navy. Some have gone already and 60 more are going in a few days. I think we will lose a good many men. Lt. Easton came in here just now and said he dreamt I was shot. We were marching in the Army of the Potomac and I told the Capt. I could march no farther on account of my rupture. He told me to fall out. I did and they ordered me to go on and I refused to. So they tried me by court martial and sentenced me to be shot. I was set on my coffin with the grave dug and I was shot, he said it looked true. Quite curious
- July 14 The Rebs are shelling our camp, but no one is hurt yet. Yesterday they killed two of the 54th Mass while they were eating their dinner. The lumber just passed here to build the jail for the Reb officers who are to be put here in retaliation for those put in Charleston. They will be here soon, tomorrow I hear. Had quite a compliment from the Chaplain of the 21 USCT. I was saying about my having some friends left, he said that was not surprising as he took a liking to me the first time he saw me.
- July 16 We got a mail today. I rode yesterday the old sickish horse captured at Fort Wagner. 5 men wounded today, one had his leg off
- July 17 Nothing new today. Did not have any church, hard to tell if it is Sunday or not. Chat & Webb came down to spend the evening with me. They talk something of joining the Navy, but have given it up. Had a sudden and sever thunder shower just now. Has been quite cool today.
- July 18 Have nothing much to say. Has been quite cool. We have watermelon for dinner for the first time. Cpl. Finley is very sick, do not expect him to live.
- July 19 Poor Cpl. Finley is dead. That makes three of our best men. It seem our best men die. Perhaps it is a warning for us to prepare for that great change that awaits us all. God's ways are not our ways, let us take council and be wise. We have tonight some

good news from Reb rumors; they say 40,000 men are advancing against Washington, that will wake the people up.

- July 20 The blockade fleet gave chase to a vessel this afternoon, fired at her. Whether they caught her or not I do not know.
- July 21 Bought me a handsome pair of spurs. Have got a new horse, a large white one, very hard headed and spirited. We have had two sever thunder showers today. Some of the sharpest lighting I ever heard. The signal station blew down, one of the men was hurt on the head badly.
- July 22 Cpl. Sammis has just arrived from New York, he did not bring my watch. Has been very windy today which makes it very unpleasant. We got a mail today. I got two letters today.
- July 24 I went to camp tonight to church, was very much pleased with the sermon of Chaplain Jones. I find there is a good deal of religious feeling among the boys. Webb feels quite serious and I found Chat reading his testament. God grant that the three of us may return home good Christians.
- July 26 Went down to Folly today, horse stumbled and fell throwing me off. Col. Gurney issued orders for all detailed men to wear the uniform. That knocks me of a coat and straw hat which I had.
- July 27 Nothing new today 4 Reb deserters came in. We hear that Atlanta was evacuated by the Rebs.
- July 28 Had new tomatoes and onions and as much watermelon as I could cram.
- July 29 Went up to camp to meeting tonight. We had a good meeting until Younger & crazy Criss got up and spoiled the good effect.
- July 30 Mail arrived. I got a letter from home, Addie, Kate Ayers, Damon.
- July 31 Ward and I punished two watermelons today. Francis the barber came in and shaved me, also shampooed. This is the third time and he will take no pay. Major Thompson came in to see me. 61 men of our Reg't went in the Navy today.
- Aug. 1 Gen. Schimmelfennig has moved his H'qrs up to this island. He is going to put up his tent on the other side of mine. I feel quite honored, Gen. on one side, Col. Gurney & Promar on the other.
- Aug. 3 I saw something today that I never saw before and that is an exchange of prisoners. The Reb tug came outside with the white flag flying and the *Cosmopolitan* went out to meet her and exchanged their prisoners. Some Union Officers escaped from

Charleston. One Capt. and Lt. came in last night. They had been prisoners 15 mos and appeared to be glad and looked well.

- Aug. 5 Mail arrived. I got three letters; one from Annie, Hendrickson and Vandergaw. I also got a box from home. Was much pleased. The list is 2 shirts, 1 box chewing, 5 lb. smoking, hair oil, toilet soap, horseradish, cap, shoes. album. chocolate, maple sugar, thread & needles. Also some things for Webb. Elderidge left us today to take his Commission as 2nd Lt. in 23 U S C Troops.
- Aug. 6 I hear that tonight at 10 o'clock they blow up the dock and obstructions at Sumter. I hope they succeed. Chaplain Jones was in here tonight.
- Aug. 7 I was up in church tonight, had a fine sermon from Chaplain Jones, his text was from the 15th chapter, 1st Cor, 26th verse. "And the last enemy that shall be conquered is death". I could write it all down I remembered it so well. God grant it may do me good. There is a good deal of religious interest in the Reg't. Over to the left battery they have prayer meetings twice a day.
- Aug. 9 A blockade runner undertook to run the blockade last night, but got ashore and our boys sunk her.
- Aug. 10 Tonight the fleet were signaling with lights, it looked beautiful. Chat is down for Provo Guard and took tea with me, Webb also.
- Aug. 11 Mail arrived. I got two letters; one from home with a card from Eliza Wooley. One from Kate Aymar. News by the steamer, Grant repulsed.
- Aug. 12 Had a first rate dinner today, stuffed veal, potatoes and watermelon. I went to prayer meeting tonight, very interesting with the exception Brown. Reynolds and Tare spoke.
- Aug. 13 I had some peaches and grapes for the first time this season. Tonight they undertake to blow up the obstructions for the 2nd time. The first time they failed and I think they will this time, but hope not as I would like to see Sumter fall.
- Aug. 14 Went out to take a ride to see Sgt. Mosse, Co "E". Stopped on the way to hear Chaplain Jones, he preached the (word missing) did last Sunday to us.
- Aug. 16 We got a mail. I received one letter from mother and one from Sue. There is some excitement on the island. The 32nd are ordered off. Col. Gurney requested the Gen. to let our Reg't go, but he did not. Wood and I demolished three watermelons today.
- Aug. 17 The 32nd left today and with it left Bill our cook, so I cooked dinner today. Had for dinner; potatoes, ham, green corm and squash.

Aug. 18 Our Co is turned into a rocket battery. I am glad of it and think the boys will have easier times. Col. Hoyt, who was taken prisoner at Fort Johnson, was exchanged and returned today.

Aug. 23 I was out to the fleet today in order to get the mail on the Mass. I went aboard the *John Adams*. Co "H" boys rowed me out. Had quite a nice little sail, but got a little wet coming through the breakers. It has been quite cool today with a little rain.

Aug. 24 Mail arrived, I got 4 letters; Kate, Slute, Annie, Damon and mother. We hear that Mobile is taken. Hope it is true. Feel quite anxious about the coming election.

Aug. 25 Today at sunrise a salute of 40 guns was fired, also at sunset, in honor of the victory at Mobile. Had watermelon today that was 5 feet around one way and 2 1/2 the other.

Aug. 26 Had another watermelon today. Was up to prayer meeting tonight, had a very interesting time. Webb got up and spoke.

Aug. 28 I was up to meeting tonight, had one of the best meetings I ever attended. I got up and spoke and prayed and I have resolved from this night, God helping me, to take part in meetings. Webb also got up and asked the prayers of the meetings. I hear today that the Capt. of the boat who was bringing the 600 Reb prisoners down here ran aground at North Carolina to let the Rebs escape. They put him in irons as soon as he arrived, he ought to be shot.

Aug. 29 They sent up a torpedo to Sumter last night, but it exploded too soon. The fuse was too short so I suppose they will try it again. It had 44 lb. of powder. This is the third or fourth time. Perhaps by the time the war ends they will succeed.

Aug. 31 Today we had a hail storm, we picked up stones big as walnuts.

Sept. 1 The Rebs shell Pains Dock every night, sometimes 40 shells in a night. Co "A's" boys do picket duty there, but none are hurt yet.

Sept 2 The mail arrived today. I received 5 letters; one from Mame, Eliza Shelton, Fan Gardner, Ella (unknown, one of Fan Gardner's friends), and Hendrickson. It has been quite cool the last few days. We have plenty of ice water now.

Sept. 4 Three Reb deserters came in today and one yesterday. Yesterday a flag of truce boat went in and brought out a lot of refugees from Charleston. The 56th NY Vols. are on Folley Island, coming up here. Report says to relieve us and we go to Beaufort.

- Sept. 5 We have not gone away yet. The report is we are going to stay, but that Col. Van Wyck relieves Gurney who is going home on a furlough. Mr. Hoadley gave me some ice today and told me to come every day for it.
- Sept. 6 Stevenson of our "C" got a furlough tonight. We had a severe thunder shower last night. One of the Pioneer Corps was struck. We also had one tonight, but not as severe. It has been very hot today. Mr. Hoadley furnished me with 15 lb. of ice a day. Gen. Sayton relieved Schimmelfennig who goes north with the next steamer.
- Sept. 7 The 600 Reb officers arrived today to go to the front. Their guards were niggers, some were fine looking men. I went to see Col. Van Wyck, was much pleased with him.
- Sept. 8 Today I have been two years in the service, one more year and I shall be free. There is an expedition from the Navy in small tugs. I do not know where they are going, they have the tugs lined with hay and barricaded with bales. Good news, we hear Atlanta and Fort Morgan captured and Hood whipped.
- Sept. 9 An expedition goes out tomorrow. 126 men from our Reg't. Where they go no one knows. I was to meeting tonight, a regular old Methodist of the worst kind, did not enjoy myself very much.
- Sept. 10 Mail arrived today. I got three letters; Annie, Vandergaw and Mame. Also 8 for Fred Clinton and two last week. The boys left on that expedition. Report says they went to Bulls Bay. Webb & Chat went, all I hope is that they all may come back safe. Quite cool and pleasant today.
- Sept. 12 Was down to Folly Island today. Have got another horse. This is the sixth one I have had since I have been here. Mail today. Fred Clinton got two letters. The boys came back today, safe and sound.
- Sept. 13 Was out to the fleet with the mail, had a pleasant sail.
- Sept. 14 Was up to meeting tonight, had a first rate one. I always feel better after a good meeting. Got another horse today. He belonged to Uncle Sam, was captured by the Rebs, recaptured by us, was condemned and turned out to die. Got well and is now a good horse.
- Sept. 15 Took the Wagon Master's sulky and took a ride today. Seemed like old times. The Reb sharpshooters begin to peg at our boys. The fleet are signaling tonight.
- Sept. 19 Got a certificate of my disability from the Dr. Capt. Jack wrote it. Got a letter from mother, also six for Fred Clinton.

- Sept. 22 A part of the 3rd Reg't Art left for home today. Our band escorted them to the dock. They appeared to feel quite gay. The 600 Reb officers left today on the Gen. Hooker.
- Sept. 23 Those Reb officers all came back today. Mail arrived. Letter from Jennie Aymer. The band serenaded Gen. Sailor to night.
- Sept. 26 Was over to see Mercer today. Stayed to dinner, had a splendid dinner also wine. He is 1st Mate of one of the wrecking vessels.
- Sept. 28 Was down to Folly Island today for the first time in a long while. I suppose I will have to give up my position.
- Sept. 29 Report says we go to Beaufort. Nothing new here, good news.
- Oct. 1 Sheridan. We got a mail today. Letter from Pa, two for Fred Clinton. We have all drawn new dress coats. Col. Gurney went home today. We had orders from Capt. Fowler to leave the mess.
- Oct. 4 Mail arrived, a letter from Kate Sleete and Ma. We are in the Quartermasters keep like it very well so far. Three men were killed up to the front today.
- Oct. 7 Gen. Sailor has been relieved by Gen. Scammon. One of Co "G's" men by the name of Grayson was wounded by the Reb sharpshooters on Sumter. Gen. Saxton's brother-in-law, a 1st Lt. in the Reg Cavalry, was exchanged the other day. He has been a prisoner 17 months. He went north by the *Arago*.
- Oct. 8 I was down to the Gen. Hooker, the Capt. had his wife and two little children with him, one was just like little Allie. I stayed there all the morning playing with them. They cried when I left them. Their mother, Mrs. Rose, was a perfect lady. We got paid off today, I received \$ 87.07. It is cold tonight. The news down here is very encouraging, I think there is a chance of the war ending soon if they make me a present of a few more bottles of Catawba wine, as they did tonight.
- Oct. 9 Today has been very cold. Had a very pleasant evening. Some of Co "A's" boys were here. Went down to Folly Island today. Grayer, Birdsall and McBride of our Co went home on a furlough today. Folly is going to my house.
- Oct. 11 Got a mail today, 4 letters; Ma , Kate Aymar, Vandergaw and Ettie Douglas. Chaplain Jones was in here tonight and we got a gallon ale, he and I finished it. The more I see of him the more I like him.
- Oct. 14 Webb and Chat were here today and we had a jolly time. We had a gal of ale, cakes, milk ice and we all enjoyed it. Gen. Foster was down here today. Lt. Collins just told me it was certain we were going to Beaufort. Quite warm and pleasant today.

- Oct. 15 Two of the 52nd Penn deserted from the Fort Gregg and went over to the Rebs. They were formerly rebels and came over to our side, joined the Reg't and now have gone back. Rev Mr. DeForest of the Christian Comm preached his farewell sermon to our Reg't. Went, but could not get in.
- Oct. 17 I called with Webb on Col. Van Wyck today, had a very pleasant call. He goes home tomorrow, Col. Woodford also. Called on him again with Chaplain Jones. There is a good deal of excitement in the Reg't today as they are voting. I had some of the Oranges that grow down here today, they are small and sour. Quite cool and pleasant today.
- Oct. 19 Col. Van Wyck left for the north today. One of our men was brought in dying. He was shot by the sharpshooters at Sumter. All hands had a grand time at the Post Quartermasters last night presenting Lt. Widensaul and Capt. Fowler with gold watches. All got drunk. Col. Van Wyck also had one presented to him by the men in his Reg't whose time was out. Chaplain DeForest had a farewell address, he goes to Florida as a missionary. I gave him \$10.00 to help him along. Underhill came down from the H'qtrs tonight. Our Reg't goes to Beaufort tomorrow. Mail arrived, I received two letters, from Seal and Hendrickson.
- Oct. 20 Everything is in confusion. They say our Reg't leaves tomorrow at 12 o'clock, but I do not believe they will go in a day or two yet. The 157th Reg't goes today. They have all their baggage aboard and will leave soon. They take the 600 Reb prisoners with them. We in the Post Office have had no orders yet. Chaplain Jones is getting up a paper to Capt. Robinson requesting him to retain us. Quite warm today.
- Oct. 21 The Reg't has gone at last. We are still here at the Post Office. I think our chances of staying here are very small. I think Chaplain Jones has failed in his endeavors to keep us here. I feel sorry to leave him. Quite cool today.
- Oct. 23 We have at last been relieved and, I believe, go to Beaufort tomorrow. To tell the truth I am not sorry as I feel very lonely here without Co "A". We were relieved by Lt. Jewett of the 54th Mass. I went down to Folly Island for the last time today and went to Capt. Mercer's for dinner. Dinner was splendid.
- Oct. 25 3 PM, we have at last left Morris Island for good. Post Master is played out for me. I have been here since 9th June and have had a pleasant time, but do not regret leaving as I feel lonely without the boys. Wood and I have secured a stateroom and are now in style, but it will not last long. It will be private Oakey. However, I guess I can stand it. Good-bye to Morris Island, I may never see it again.
- Oct. 26 We have arrived at Hilton Head, 7 AM. Had a splendid night rest in our stateroom on a feather bed with white sheets, also splendid supper. Two Col.'s and any quantity of other officers tried to get my room last night, but could not get it. There were

but two rooms, Capt. Bogert and Lt. Osborne, who is very sick, had the other one. I got Capt. Bogert his supper. I have had a gay old time so far and for once liked the officers. Col. Hoyt and Col. Beard took supper with me, the first time I have eaten with a Col. since I have been in the service. 10 AM, have at last arrived at Beaufort. We had a splendid sail, plantations on both sides, shrouded with trees. Beaufort is indeed a beautiful place, a large village or city handsome houses, magnificent large shade trees which reach each other and make a grand arch. I cannot do it justice. The Reg't is encamped just outside of town, but have not got settled yet. Their tents are pitched on the ground and are not fixed yet. I found 4 letters awaiting me, from home; Annie, Ettie, Douglas and Martha Stewart.

Oct. 27 Well we have been all day fixing up our tent. Have to finished it yet, but it is more comfortable. Today has been quite unpleasant, showers all day. The strangest thing I have seen here is our spring, it is right in the creek and at high tide salt water surrounds it, but it does not get the least salty, it is splendid water. I like Beaufort so far very well indeed, it is larger than Jamaica and handsomer. Saw a cotton plantation for the first time. Was to church tonight seemed quite like home. It is a very nice little chapel. There were 4 ladies there and I mean to get acquainted with them.

Oct. 28 Was on guard today for the first time in a long while, got quite tired. Lt. Osborne was discharged for sickness today.

Oct. 29 Came off guard this morning and cleaned my gun. Was to singing school tonight, had a good time.

Oct. 30 Today is Sunday, had inspection and then went to church. Had a good sermon. Quite a number of ladies were present, Gen. Saxton and wife were there.

Nov. 1 Came off guard this morning was Col.'s orderly. Went to meeting had a very pleasant time, The meeting was very interesting. Went in town today on a pass, went all through the place, it is pretty.

Nov. 2 We had quite an unpleasant day rained very hard, but it did not prevent our having a singing school. We had a real nice time at the Post Chaplain's house.

Nov. 5 Came of guard this morning. Had a nasty time as it rained very hard and I stood post. Went to meeting last night, had a small but interesting one. Mail arrived, I got two letters from home and Het. We went down to singing school and had a pleasant time. It was the Post Chaplains house. There were nine ladies present, so I got acquainted with those four as I said I would and five more besides. Two of the ladies, Misses King and Richardson, sung a piece by themselves.

Nov. 7 Was on guard yesterday, but got off and went to church in the evening. Chaplain Harris gave us a good sermon.

- Nov. 8 Webb was promoted to a Cpl. today. I am glad of it, he deserves it. The officers and picked men of A & B played a match of baseball, the privates beat 18 runs. Was to meeting tonight and my prayer to God is that it may do me good. Chaplain Harris, our Post Chaplain, goes to Morris Island tomorrow. The Major went to Hilton Head today. Today is election day north, by this time it is decided who is our next president. I have no doubt it is Abe. What a time there is there, here all is quiet.
- Nov. 9 Was on guard today, was picked for Col. orderly, so had a pleasant time.
- Nov. 13 Came off guard today, was Col.'s orderly again. Went to church twice today, Chaplain Harris preaches in the morning, Richardson at night. Very cold tonight.
- Nov. 14 Was detailed in the telegraph office today to report tomorrow. I also got Chat detailed in the sanitary commission.
- Nov. 15 I am in the telegraph office, think I shall like it here. We have a nice house to live in and that is a good deal. Does not seem like soldiering, think my duty will be night watchman, to watch from two o'clock AM until morning.
- Nov. 17 I like my place very much, I have nothing to do but watch my 4 hours every night. Have all the rest of the time to myself. Was to prayer meeting tonight a good meeting, but the men were rather backward in speaking.
- Nov. 18 Mail arrived, one letter from home. Was to meeting tonight, may it do me good.
- Nov. 22 It is very cold today, we have had very stormy weather lately. Mail arrived, one letter from Vandergaw. Froze quite hard today.
- Nov. 23 Today has been very cold. This afternoon Wessells and I went and took a long ride and it was a pleasant one. We have three horses here I can use at any time. Mail arrived, letters from Ettie, Douglas and Martha Stewart.
- Nov. 24 Today was Thanksgiving and I had a good time. I went up and spent most of the day with the Reg't and saw the review by Saxton. He presented the 26 USCT with a flag. He thinks a good deal of the colored troops. Our Reg't raised a flag staff, also a flag. Chaplain Willis preached a short sermon in the morning. They had a variety of games; bag race, wheel barrow race, foot race, greased pole, wrestling etc. We had a gay chicken dinner with potatoes, turnips, pumpkin pie, tea. In the evening we had preaching in the chapel, the day passed very pleasantly.
- Nov. 26 It was quite warm today, quite a change from those bitter cold days. There is an expedition filing out for some place. Two operators to from our office. I received a letter from Rev Jones.

Nov. 27 Today is Sunday. I went to church. Truly as a friend said of me, "His life is not very consistent". Alas, I feel true God helps me to be better. In the sermon this morning the Chaplain said that out of 8 persons who came here, the last was buried this morning. They came here together two years ago. The mail came today, one letter from home. Frazer also came, he brought me a quilt and two handkerchiefs, my folks were all well when he left them. We have heard from Sherman, he is only 58 miles from here. There is an expedition going from here to meet him. I think our Reg't goes too.

Nov. 28 Mail arrived, a letter from mother. There has been grand times here the last few days. The expedition is starting for some where, no one knows where. I wish I dare tell Webb, but I dare not. It is Pocotaligo Bridge. All the Morris Island boys have gone. The 127 has not gone yet, but is ready, waiting transportation. Webb goes and is the only one of us three that goes. I only hope he gets back safe.

Nov. 29 The boys are off. They started at six this morning. They have gone to Pocotaligo Bridge to cut off communications between Charleston and Savannah. Beaufort is now guarded by civilians, it looks funny. They have also gone to the front as Cavalry.

Nov. 30 Heavy firing towards where the boys are. We have just received a dispatch to be ready for wounded. God only knows who they are, perhaps some of my friends, but I sincerely hope not. Wild rumors are afloat in regard to the expedition, but nothing official. Mail arrived, letter for Fred Clinton.

Dec 1 From all I can learn, the expedition so far is a failure. Wounded are all arriving, as far as I can learn nearly 600 wounded have arrived at here and at the Head. Wild rumors are afloat. Lt. Batterson was wounded in the back of the head, he is here at the hospital. He says he saw Jessie Platt laying dead with the top of his head blown off. Also, George Howell was wounded in the leg. They say there are 75 of our Reg't killed & wounded. I am terribly worried about Webb.

Dec 2 I cannot tell what is going on at the front as we have no news from there, but any quantity of wild rumors. I saw Lt. Batterson today, he says the boys done nobly, but could not give me any information. The boys are not advancing, they have as much as they can do to hold their own.

Dec 3 Nothing much from the front. We are getting the worst of it as far as I can learn. Haswell & Kennedy of our Co wounded. Bromley came from the front yesterday, all was quiet when he left there. We hear Sherman is on the rear of the Rebs. From all I can learn the boys have gotten in to a hornets nest, but the boys are doing bravely, "good"

Dec 4 Had a very pleasant day, but did not go to church as there is none but colored. Chat came to see me in the morning. In the afternoon went down and was introduced to Mrs. Marsh. Made myself very pleasant and got an invitation to call often. I also called on the Mrs. Harris, she was very pleasant and asked me to call again. I tell you what it

comes quite natural to call on the ladies. I like the change from Morris Island on that account. Expect to go to Boyd's Neck, next boat.

- Dec 5 Mail arrived today, three letters; Het ,Hendrickson, and Delia Tribune. Today has been just like spring. I had the exquisite pleasure of spending the morning with Mrs. Harris and Miss Marshall. I was going to the front tomorrow but all the boats have been ordered away suddenly and can't go.
- Dec 6 Very heavy firing to the front today, but do not know the news. Hope for the best. I took a row over to Parris Island today, stopped at Smith's plantation going out also Gullies Plantation on Parris Island coming back to stopped at popes plantation. Parris Island is six miles.
- Dec 7 Today has been quite warm. There is heavy fighting to the front. The *Cosmopolitan* is expected with 14 officers and 51 men. wounded, this makes nearly 1000. All the men that are left are to be sent to the front. We caught three spies today, so that makes them doubly watchful.
- Dec 8 Tonight they have our donation party and for the first time I wished myself home. We had a good fiddler here who played all the evening. We got a couple of little nigs in and they dance just gay. Johnnie sung some songs, but with all this my heart is heavy from all I can learn. Our Reg't is badly cut up ,but they have won a name. One of the 54th told me if it had not been for our Reg't we would have been defeated. When we first landed the Rebs charged our Reg't time after time, but could not budge them. Col. Gurney, Capt. Smith, Capt. Frisk and Dr Dayton are wounded. As far as I can learn Webb is safe. Thank God for that.
- Dec 9 Alas, Webb is badly wounded they woke me up and said he was here. I went out and at last I found him at No 4 hospital. He is wounded through the body, passing through both lungs, entering one side and coming out the other. He talks quite well and breathes freely and I have strong hopes of his getting well, but cannot tell much about it yet. The ball has been taken out. May he be prepared for what God sees fit to do with him. I hear today that Harwell's wound is mortal. Fredenberg, Cowan and Reed are also wounded. Our Reg't is badly cut up, about 50 came here to night . Capt. Henry & Lt. Sammis are also wounded. The fighting is terrible. In looking for Webb I saw some sights I shall never forget.
- Dec 10 Nothing new. Webb is about the same, no change yet. Called on Mrs. Harris and Miss Richardson to get some things for the sick. Mail came. Letters from home; Annie and one from Webb written on the battlefield.
- Dec 11 Webb is better today and the Dr told me he was out of danger, but cannot believe it yet. Went to church today, but did not like it, it was all nigger, Mrs. Harris, Miss Richardson and myself went through the hospital, also stayed a long while with Webb. I

had quite a surprise today, meet Skid Hendrickson with 1st Lt. shoulder straps on, he has charge of the hospital next door to my house.

Dec 12 Today I hear that Hallan is killed, also Capt. Long and Dave Fair wounded. Our Reg't went into the fight 409 strong and up to Friday had 206 killed, wounded and missing. Webb is better today and I have strong hopes of his getting well. We have good news from Sherman, he is at Savannah. Gen. Foster has gone down to see him. We have official dispatches from Gen. Howard. We hear today that our boys have it all their own way at Pocotaligo having captured the railroad. Our telegraph is within a mile of it.

Dec 13 Left Beaufort today on the Mayflower for the front. Left the dock at 4 o'clock, arrived at the Head. Went to see Underhill, but could not find him. Met Col. Woodford. Went back to the dock. We then went to St Helena, then went back to Hilton Head and at last started for the front.

Dec 14 Arrived here (I don't know what to call it) at daylight. Went to the telegraph office, found Trey here. Then went from there to see Roche, then from there to see Havens and from there the front to see the Reg't. Found the boys in the best of spirits and encamped behind breastworks. Saw Gen. Hatch, do not think much of him. This place out here is all heavy woods, the boys must have fought hard to gain it. Went back to Roche and in the evening Capt. Gillmore came there. The list in our Co are killed Jesse Platt & Haltan. Wounded Geo. Howell, ankle, G Haswell, right lung, D Zarr, thigh, Webb, side, Reed, rectum, Cowan, leg, Kedenburg, leg. List of the Reg't 11 officers wounded, 20 men killed, 106 wounded, 2 missing. Left the front at 11 o'clock, arrived at Hilton Head 3 in the morning.

Dec 15 Stayed at the telegraph office last night. Went to see Underhill. Stayed to breakfast with him, then went to see the boys in the hospital. Haswell was better than I expected, was sitting up. Left Hilton Head at 1 1/2 o'clock on the *Philadelphia* for Beaufort. Run aground in the creek and did not get there until 7 o'clock. Found Webb about the same, a little weaker perhaps.

Dec 16 Visited the hospital again today. Our boys are doing finely with the exception of Webb and I really do not know what to think about him. Mrs. Harris, Miss King and I called on him in the afternoon and encouraged him as we could, poor fellow. He looks gaunt, but suffers a good deal. Wessells and myself spent part of the evening with Mrs. H and Miss K. Had a great scare here, thought the Rebs were in Beaufort.

Dec 17 All about the same. I think Webb is a good deal better, but as yet cannot tell much about him. Poor fellow, what he suffers, no mortal can tell and so patiently too.

Dec 18 We are going to put up a telegraph line to connect with Sherman. Webb seem to me to be a good deal better and my hope grows stronger and stronger every day that he will get well.

- Dec 19 The Dr. does not give me much encouragement about Webb. I guess he doubts his getting over it, but I will hope for the best. McGoaine came in from the Ferry tonight and we had two bottles of sherry wine and some homemade cake, it was gay.
- Dec 20 Gen. Sherman is at Hilton Head, it seems quite strange to hear that. Mail arrived, three letters; from mother, Kate Sleete and Martha Stewart. Webb seems to be easier.
- Dec 21 Webb is no better today, I wish his father could come on here. I am afraid he will not live. A lot of Sherman's wounded came in today. The weather is a good deal cooler.
- Dec 22 We hear today that Savannah is ours, but not officially. Webb is no better and I hardly think he will live. He is shot through the lungs, his breath escaping from his wound. Alas, it makes a dull pain at my heart to say what I do in those words, but I am afraid it is true. Would that I could save him, how willingly I would sacrifice everything to do it.
- Dec 23 A letter from Seal today. Webb is gradually growing worse. He is crazy most of the time. May he at last find rest and that peace which passeth all understanding.
- Dec 24 I have today to record the saddest thing that has yet been put in this book. Dear Webb died today. When I look at these words I feel like exclaiming " My burden is greater than I can bear". A 10 o'clock and 6 minutes he passed away. I was with him when he died. He passed off as peaceful as if he was going to sleep and in fact it was going to sleep, "Asleep in Jesus". He was a Christian and I feel he was prepared to go to his master. He was insensible for the last two days, rallying but once and then only to say "Thank you Oak" (words I shall never forget) for a glass of water I gave him. I have made arrangements to send his remains home, will have a metallic case here tomorrow. Wessells and I dressed him in full uniform to be buried. In him I lost one of my best friends,, only Chat and me are now left. May God in his mercy spare our lives to return, but above all prepare us for what he sees fit to inflict on us. Tomorrow is Christmas, alas this is the second one that I have spent mourning for dear ones that have gone. But his will be done, he doeth all things well and chasteneth those he loveth and no doubt he has done this for some good purpose, but it is hard, very hard. I also have the news of Dave Simpson's death in the hands of the Rebels. It is a sad, sad Christmas. Webb is better off than God for that.
- Dec 25 Christmas and such a Christmas as I have spent, Sunday too. May I never spend another one like it. Poor Chat was to see me, he feels very bad. We have not buried Webb's remains yet, the case has not arrived. I heard today for the first time that Webb in his wanderings called continually for me during the whole time I was absent. Mine was the only name he mentioned. The Dr says we have got to bury the remains tomorrow whether the case comes or not. It rained very hard last night. The only thing that reminded me of Christmas was the turkey.

Dec 26 The case for Webb has not arrived. We put the remains in a large box on ice and expect to have the funeral tomorrow.

Dec 27 Webb's remains are at last buried, but through his body has gone his good deeds remain engraved on our memory. The funeral was at two o'clock, we had the brass band in attendance. We wrapped him in the dear old flag which he freely gave his life to uphold. We had a large attendance.

Dec 28 Rained very hard this morning. Went out to Port Royal Ferry and stayed to dinner with "Mc". I think the ride is one of the handsomest I ever took, the road is smooth, lined with trees. Coming back I got wet through and through.

Dec 31 Today is the last of 1864 and may I, if my life is spared, see a happier ending than I did to '63 & '64; and may the lessons I have learned in these years make me look to heaven more earnestly and fire my thoughts there, where some of my dearest friends have gone.

1865

Jan 1 Good bye old '64 and may '65 be better than it and all years continue so to do as long as I live. I heartily wish all a happy New Year. I have spent quite a pleasant time take it all through. In the morning Chat came down here, after that I had a dinner at which I had turkey. After dinner went up to see Wessells and must take some turkey with him. I then went down to see Chat and Mrs. Marsh said when she had time she wanted to see me. Found out from Chat that she wanted to lecture me on being extravagant, smoking etc. She will find smoking a hard subject to talk to about as I like it to well to give it up to please her or any one else. Does she hate to see me have a little enjoyment? Suppose everyone who I went to see wanted to give me a lecture, how often do you suppose I would go to see them. It does not do for any of my friends to interest themselves about my affairs to much. After I came back from there, I went up to supper with Wessells and we had a high old supper, turkey, good butter, sweetmeats, plum pudding & ending up with apples and oranges topping off with a good old smoke. Then we went to church and had a sermon from Chaplain Harris, do not think much of him as a preacher.

Jan 3 I took the mail down to the hospital today. Got two letters; mother & Hendrickson. There was some heavy firing just now over to Pocotaligo, but do not know what it was. Part of Gen. Howard's (the 17th) Army Corps have just arrived here, the rest will arrive today, they are going to go across Port Royal Ferry. Gen. Howard is here in person. I should like to see him, he is my old commander.

Jan 5 Well, well what do you think. I have been spending the evening with the girls and Mrs. Richardson and such a time as we had was awful to behold, I tell you what it as gay. Particularly Miss Foote, who I took the liberty of kissing before I came away. I don't

know when I enjoyed myself so much. We came away (Wessells & I) about 1 1/2 o'clock. There were 5 ladies present. Gen. Sherman was here today. There are lively times here. We are going to have 18,000 men and 12,000 animals here going to make a advance this way.

- Jan 6 More troops, they continue to arrive all the time. Was to Hilton Head today, went after a box of mine, had quite a pleasant sail. Called of Underhill, got my box and started back at 1 o'clock, but did not get off until nearly 8 o'clock. Became aquatinted with some of Sherman's officers coming down. One of them, a Maj. of the 32nd Wis., made himself very agreeable. My box came in good condition, the contents are mints, salmon, 2 pr drawers, butter, tobacco, pickles, ham, cheese, suspenders, buckwheat flour, wheat flour, bedtick, pillow, lamp, slippers, musk, soap and cakes. Am much pleased with it.
- Jan 7 Mail arrived, two letters; mother and Annie Jones. She is the sister of Jones who died in our Co. I sent the girls at Mrs. Richardson some of my cake and got a smashing note in return. The 33rd USCT are coming here today.
- Jan 8 Went to church this morning. A Mr. Jessup came here today and told me if I got the permit I could send Webb's body home on the *Nincus*. Thanks to Chat who sent him here. Telegraphed to Woodford and got the permit, disinterred the remains and took them to No. 4 Dead House and shall put them on the steamer tomorrow. Went to church this evening. Came home with Miss Foote. Wessells and I went in and stayed until 10 o'clock, had a glorious time. Took my usual kiss.
- Jan 9 Very nasty weather, stormy and windy. I have at last got Webb's body off. I put it aboard today on the *Nincus* with all necessary papers. *The Star of the West* arrived today bringing Sue Stanton, Dr Master, Gen. Meigs and a Tres for Savannah. Gen. Stone of Iowa has also been here. Brom was drunk tonight, the first time anything of that sort happened and I hope it will be the last. Letter from mother today.
- Jan 10 Rec'd a letter from "Sis" today. All quiet along the lines. Rained all day. Gen. Frank Blair has the house next to us. Fighting Johnnie Logan relieves Howard. How different Beaufort looks now while all these troops here from what it did.
- Jan 12 Was out again to Mrs. Richardson's and spent the evening. Had a very pleasant evening. A operator on Gen. Howard's staff spent most of his time in our office. He is well posted and can give very interesting accounts of the campaign
- Jan 13 Mail came, letter for Martha Stewart. The whole of the 17th Corps moved today. They are now crossing Port Royal Ferry. Was to meeting tonight rather dull. I hear our Reg't is going to Savannah. Brom and Bush went out to fix the telegraph line. We have a good deal of trouble with it since Sherman arrived. The men tear it down.
- Jan 14 Mail arrived, letters from Uncle Webb, Seal and Ben. Have heard nothing from the 17th corps yet.

- Jan 15 Today is Sunday and it did really seem like Sunday. In the morning we had a sermon from the Rev Mr. Ellis from Grants Hq. Gift from Isaah 1st. "To everyone that thursteth etc." It was splendid. The house was crowded, more ladies than ever attended before. I sincerely hope the sermon may do me good. In the evening the house was more than crowded. A good many had to go away and even more ladies were present. Colgate played the melodeon, also led the singing, Chaplain Harris made a few remarks and then a Major of Gen. Howard's staff occupied the rest of the evening. He did speak splendidly and the remarks were applicable to me. I only hope they may do me good as there is room for improvement. There was no room for me so I had to sit on the pulpit facing all the young ladies, rather embarrassing for a modest young man like me. The singing was something extra. After church I of course went home with Hattie Foote and therefore had to go in and spend the rest of the evening. Great soldiering ain't it. I spent a very pleasant evening, and came away about 10 1/2 o'clock. Rather hard, but really I couldn't help it. Of course I had my usual kiss.
- Jan 16 Not much going on today. Gen. Saxton is being promoting to a Maj. Gen. Made Hattie Foote a present of a handkerchief and perfumery @ 0.75 for doing some sewing for me. Gen. Howard has taken Pototaligo with the loss of about 200 men.
- Jan 17 We hear good news today from Wilmington. Gen. Terry has captured Fort Fisher with 1780 prisoners, 75 Gens and one Maj. Gen. He lost 200 men. Everything is cheering, but one who would enjoy the good news alas is gone. They are going to raise a new Colored Reg't down here. Woodford for Col., Bogert for Lt. Col., Cronck for QM and Cronell a Lt. high old Reg't.
- Jan 18 The ladies of Beaufort are raising a Soldiers Aid Society. They met at our house.
- Jan 20 Rain, rain, rain. Nothing but rain the last three days. Brom and Mac were tight last night, had quite a funny time. The steamer *Melville* was lost coming here. Among those lost coming here were Col. Strong and son, from our house., B K See, Post Master and his wife, they were just married. Over 80 passengers were lost. I know a good many of them. I sent my first telegraph message tonight. I have learned to telegraph quite well.
- Jan 21 It has at last stopped raining. Mail came today. Three letters; Uncle Webb, Kate Sleete and Ettie Douglas. Called on Hattie Foote, spent a pleasant evening got. home 11 o'clock. Poor Mrs. Strong, I feel very sorry for her. When Brom gave her the list with her husbands name on I thought I would go crazy. The steamer brings news of Edward S Everitt's death, he is a sad loss.
- Jan 22 We had quite a nice morning. I went to church. Chaplain Harris, he gave quite a good sermon. Quite a number were out. Colgate played the melodeon. Charlie led the singing, After church Mrs. Marsh sent for me to see about someone's body, who died in the hospital. Stayed there quite a while to see Chat. Got two papers of chewing and two of smoking tobacco from them. While there, it commenced raining again. Went to church

tonight. Rained very hard, but Hattie was there. Underhill took to go home with her. We ran into trees fences etc. it was so dark. Received a hint to call on her and take her to church, so I engaged her for next Sunday. Chaplain Harris preached the text, "We can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us". Quite a large number were out despite the rain.

- Jan 23 Sherman arrived here today. He goes to the front on Wednesday to start his new campaign.
- Jan 24 I went out on the line with Bromley. Got it fixed, then they tore it down again. Stayed to dinner with Mac. It is quite cold today, but clear.
- Jan 25 Mail arrived, two letters; Mame & Jim Vandergaw. Gen. Saxton is to be relieved by Gen. Potter so that will change things again. Nothing new. Rather cold.
- Jan 26 Bush has received the appointment of line repairer at St. Helena and I am now alone. I am going to try and get Colgate here. Wessells and I called on the ladies again tonight, had a very nice time.
- Jan 28 Quite cold for this climate, some ice. Wessells and I went out and took a ride. Did not stay up all night. Told the officer of the day the line was not working. Johnnie is going to try and get me detailed from Dept. HQ. Hope he succeeds as I want some pay, have spent a good deal of money since I came to Beaufort. If I get the detail I shall send for my other coat and will not expect to save any money. Sent a dispatch today. They did not break me once, quite good for me.
- Jan 29 Mail arrived bringing me 4 letters; Pa, Seal, Ben Webb and Hendrickson. Today is Sunday, I went to church this morning to Dr Reck's church. Chaplain Willis preached. Chaplain Harris has gone to the front so no church in the chapel. The young ladies were there, walked home with them. This afternoon went to sleep and this evening took Miss Hattie Foote to church, the first lady I have taken to church since '62. Chaplain Willis preached in the chapel. His sermon was rather long, but good. Did not listen with usual interest, do not know why unless I have got women on the brain. I am not in love with any of them, would not marry any one I have seen down here, but I like the society of ladies. Of course I went in after church, spent a very pleasant evening. All I am afraid of is Hattie thinks to much of me, as I can't fall in love so long as I think so much of Annie. I have cut two poor fellows out with Hattie clean, ain't I doing wrong as long as I do not intend marring her. Perhaps it is, but I can't help it.
- Jan 30 Wessells and I took a ride. Called on Skid Hendrickson this morning, had some wine and a good old talk. Got a letter from mother today. Went down to see Chat this afternoon and had a long talk with him. We talked of Webb and other matters. Enjoyed myself very much today. Quite cold.

- Jan 31 Sgt. Moore came from the Reg't today. He has the appointment of 2nd Lt. in Woodford's Reg't, but will not take it. Three out of our CO have them: Henderson, Goory and Moore. Henderson is taking his, the rest refusing. The weather has been more moderate than usual.
- Feb. 1 Went to church, but very few there. Went home with Hattie, spent a very pleasant evening. Came home 11 o'clock.
- Feb. 2 We went to the chapel tonight and had a good sing, after which Wessells and I adjourned to the young ladies and had a good time. I took the young ladies to the chapel, Misses Foote, Richardson and Marsh.
- Feb. 3 Nothing new to day , all quiet. " (entry in Morse code) "
- Feb. 4 Gen. Hatch's forces are on the move again, also Gen. Blair's . They have had quite a little fight out there. Roche is back and Johnnie leaves here to take some other office. Do not think I shall like Roche as well as Johnnie, although he is a very nice fellow. Got a letter from Hattie tonight.
- Feb. 5 Today is Sunday. Went to church this morning, heard a very good sermon from the Rev Mr. Dewey. Wessells is ordered to the front. I shall feel lonely without him. I may go myself soon. I am quite sleepy tonight as I was up nearly all night last night trying to send a message to the Head to a new operator. Took Hattie to church, after service we adjourned to her house. Got home 11 o'clock. Lt. Eaton was there, he came home with Miss King. Was introduced to Kathie Judd and Miss Jordon. Kathie is very handsome, the belle of Beaufort.
- Feb. 6 Another letter from Hattie, think the joke is being carried to far. We had some ale & cigars on Col. Jackson account tonight. Letter from mother and Uncle Webb today.
- Feb. 7 Went down to see Hattie as she wished me to in her letter. Showed her a letter from home in which it spoke of my being engaged. She appeared to feel bad about it. I think she thinks to much of me.
- Feb. 8 Went to prayer meeting, had quite a good one. Saw Hattie home, spent the evening. Had a good time, came away 11 o'clock.
- Feb. 11 Gen. Gillmore is back in the Dept. and is commanding. Gen. E E Potter is Commander Beaufort. Quite warm and pleasant to day. Went and had some cards taken as they did not cast me anything.
- Feb. 12 Today is Sunday, one of the pleasantest days we have had in a long while,. Went to church this morning and heard Harris preach the best sermon I ever heard him preach. His sermon just suited my case, he spoke about half way Christians and I am sorry to say I think I am one of them. I do not love my savior enough, when he ought to be in my

thoughts always. I am thinking about almost everything else. As he truly says, leaving that to chaplains. God give me a warmer heart, filled with love to him who suffered and died that I might live. I took Hattie to church tonight (I am drinking my usual cup of coffee, 12 o'clock at night). Chaplain Willis preached a first rate sermon. After church we went home, but did not stay very late, as she was not well. Got home a little after ten. She gave me one of her cards. I asked one of the young ladies what the text was she said, it was 3 Chapter, 1st John. So after she went out of the room, Henderson and I looked for it, rather a huge joke on us. I am having a high old times for a soldier. I hear heavy firing to the front, I guess some fighting. The Rebs made a raid in and shot the Quartermaster of the 102nd USCT. I knew him well. They also hung two of the 25th Ohio Reg't.

Feb. 13 Nothing new. Mail arrived received a letter from Annie, also Mame.

Feb. 14 Today has been a poor day, rained all day so I went to sleep in the afternoon. Chat called to see me. The *Fulton* arrived tonight with the mail, I hope to get some more letters tomorrow. She brings the news that Grant has had another victory. Gen. Gillmore has made another advance on James Island. Some wounded came here to night. Every Gen. who has had command of this Dept. has made an advance there, but have never done anything yet. We will see what Gillmore's second trial well be.

Feb. 15 All quiet. Gen. Gillmore visited here today. Letter from Wessells. Went to prayer meeting, not a very good one. Saw Hattie home from church, spent a pleasant evening, getting deeper and deeper.

Feb. 16 This morning Mr. Elmendorf came to see me. He left Jamaica on the 10th so he saw my folks lately. Brought me \$10.00 which came very good. We are having splendid weather, warm enough to be pleasant. Went to see Chat today.

Feb. 18 Today has been a beautiful day, warm and nice. Chaplain Willis called to see me and we had quite a little chat together. This morning I took a horse and took a ride of 18 miles to Jericho Point. The road was hard and good traveling and as I had a good horse I enjoyed it. The road was mostly through woods of live oak trees hung with moss which looked like drapery. There are but two houses on the road. The houses themselves are not very nice, but the plantation must have been superb. I got dinner of a darkey out there, he gave me 4 eggs and some hominy. I had a good appetite and enjoyed it very much.

Feb. 19 Sunday, hurrah. Charleston is our glorious news, everything looks bright to us. Went to church this morning, had the Episcopal from, do not like it at all. Also took Hattie to church tonight. Chaplain Harris preached from the text "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid". We had a very good sermon. After the meeting we adjourned to Cher House and came home at the reasonable hour of 1 1/2 o'clock. Quite early for a soldier. By the way, Billy Patterson and Hugo played a good joke on me. They sent a tissue form to Hattie with the words "to the consul of eleven" (there being 11

ladies in the house). "Tutor" or rather "Toot her" "complements of telegraph". Quite a joke.

Feb. 20 The news of the capture of Charleston is confirmed. It has at last fallen. I would burn it if I could. It has been very pleasant today. I took a little ride for exercise.

Feb. 21 Mail arrived. Letter from Mame and Sis. I also got one from Hattie. Brom got his discharge today. Hattie and I called on Misses Judd and Gordon. Spent a very pleasant evening indeed. Got home 1 1/2 o'clock. Quite warm and pleasant today.

Feb. 22 Hattie and I went out horseback riding today. We took the orderlies for her and Lt. Gorgas for me. We had a good long ride to Jericho Point, I enjoyed it very much. Went to prayer meeting, but it was very dull, some good remarks however. Very pleasant today.

Feb. 23 Lt. Gorgas and I made a call at Mrs. Richardson's tonight. He appeared to be much pleased with it, we did in fact have a good time. We came away about 10 o'clock. We are having quite a storm tonight.

Feb. 26 Today is Sunday. We had the news last night that Wilmington was captured with 400 prisoners. Also that Lee is evacuating Richmond, how true I do not know. We had a splendid sermon from Mr. Bartlett of the 130th N Y Vols. from text

(this section was cut out of the diary by someone - W E OAKLEY ??)

spent a very pleasant day.

Mar 1 Mail arrived, letter from Aunt C. Was to prayer meeting, Chaplain Willis and Colgate spoke very touchingly of Webb. After meeting Lt. Gorgas and I called on the young ladies and spent a very pleasant evening. I hear all the detailed men are going to be returned to the Reg't at Charleston, where it is now stationed. The men are stationed in houses having no tents

Mar 2 Mail arrived, one letter from mother. We have had horrid weather the last week, hardly seen the sun at all. Capt. Hack is here fixing up all the boys things to do take down to Charleston with him. According to all accounts the boys are going to have a "Big Thing" there. They are living in houses and everything is nice. I am glad of it, they deserve it. In the Gen. Orders that were read, Gen. Sherman said that they were thus favored because they fought so nobly and bravely in the field, and so they did May they stay there the rest of their time.

Mar 3 Received three letters today from Vandergaw, Jones Parham and Loftwood. It has been clear today for a wonder. Roche and Bromley go in the next boat north. We have a new operator coming here tomorrow, his name is Morris.

Mar 4 The new operator came today. I like him very well. He seems like a very nice man he has just been furloughed from the Army of the Potomac. Brom & Roche go home tomorrow. I am not sorry as I do not like them.

(other side of the page with the section cut out !)

Mar 5 Today is Sunday. Roche and Brom left here today for good. Also, most of the detailed men of our Reg't. It will be quite lonely here without them I think I shall stay but not certain. Went to church this morning. Chaplain Willis preached from the 30 Chap, Rev 20. Quite a good sermon. Elmendorf went with me. Rev Mr. Richardson preached this evening from the 1st Chap of Hebrews, 2nd verse, a real good sermon for him. I took Hattie to church, Gorgas took Miss King. Got home at 11 o'clock. I expect Hattie and I will take a horseback ride tomorrow if it is clear. Been quite warm and pleasant today.

Mar 6 Heard my name was sent to Dept. Hq to be detached. Hattie and I went out riding along with Miss King and Gorgas. We went to Grey Hill and called on Hattie Bullard. It is about 7 miles from here and we had a nice ride. McMurry came over and we introduced him. We got some nice bouquets and a very pleasant call indeed. Gorgas' buggy broke down. We hear tonight that Sherman has had a large fight. Sherman gained the day. Lost 17,000 on each side. It must have been a very hard fight.

Mar 7 Was detailed today from Dept. Hq. How are you 127th, just high. Called on Hattie today by request. Chat got a box with a coat in it for me. Went down this evening with a dispatch for Davenport, he treated me to a glass of ale and a cigar. Rec'd. orders from District Hq to report to my Reg't, but of course did not obey them.

Mar 8 Rained all day. This afternoon went down to see Chat and had some cake Annie sent on and it went gay. I have a civilian suit which I wear now this evening. Lt. Gorgas and I made a call on our house and spent a very pleasant evening. Came away 11 1/2 o'clock. Mail arrived. Letter from Henderson.

Mar 10 Mail arrived, letter from Mame, Seal, Ettie Douglas and Underhill. Received two neckties from Mame. Gorgas and I called at our house tonight, had a nice time. Weather fine, in good spirits. News of the capture of Early's entire force by Sherman. I tell you what, CSA looks dull at present. Col. Jackson has called at my house.

Mar 11 All quiet. Quite regular in my habits, go to bed at 4 AM. Get up at 1 o'clock. Breakfast at 1, dinner at 6, supper at 12 at night.

Mar 12 Sunday. Went to church this morning, had a good sermon from Harris. Warm and pleasant to day. Chat and two other of our boys spent the afternoon with me. Went to church to night with Hattie. Chaplain Bartlett preached from the 20 Chap of Exodus, 7 Verse, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain". He also spoke about Johnson getting drunk and give it to our Army Officers in general, and he hauled them

over the coals fearfully. Col. Blair saw Miss King to church and also spent part of the evening. I left 1 1/2 o'clock and spent one of my most pleasant evenings.

Mar 13 Took a good ride on horseback. Mail came, letters from Wessells and Kate Steele. All quiet. No news, only Andrew Johnson our Vice President got drunk, big thing.

Mar 14 Gorgas and I went to our house and spent the evening. Col. Blair was up to see me this afternoon and had quite a pleasant chat. The only thing is I am to much with officers for my own good. Time passes along rapidly and I am having gay old times. "Only a private' and three horses and two servants. " How are you Oak". Everyone here feel sorry that the 127th has gone, away so do I. Morris and I get along splendidly, I like him very much indeed.

Mar 15 Went out horseback riding with Hattie today, had a good time. Gorgas took Hattie Richardson. We went to Smith's Plantation, also to alligator swamp. The plantation is one of the prettiest I ever saw. Got home at dusk.

Mar 16 Gorgas and I called on our house again tonight. Met three new young ladies and spent a very pleasant evening. Came home 10 o'clock. It has rained hard all day and has been quite dull and dreary.

Mar 17 Started this morning for the Head in the *Neptune*, a miserable craft, without any breakfast. Stopped at St. Helena and got to Hilton Head to late to get any dinner. Stopped at the office, found them all drunk. Went up to see Underhill, had a very pleasant chat with him. Went to the Provo Mar Gen. and got a Dept. Pass. Then went back to the telegraph office, they all went out and left me in charge of the office. Done all the business. When went down to the dock, no boat for Beaufort, but the *Loyalist* was going to Charleston so I concluded to go there. Have had nothing to eat all day. Underhill came down to see me and when he found I had nothing to eat and no money, he kindly lent me \$ 1.00 and then ran up and got me some crackers. I shall never forget his kindness to me. Left Hilton Head at 10 o'clock. No place to sleep nor blanket or overcoat to wear, felt very cold.

Mar 18 Passed a miserable night, did not get much sleep. Passed close to old Sumter and Battery "A" which used to shell our camp so much. Arrived at Charleston about 9 o'clock. Charleston has been a very handsome place indeed, about half of it is burned down, but it is a very pretty place yet. Scarcely a house but what has been struck by our shells. Town very lively, almost as if I was in New York. Struck for the workhouse where our Reg't is quartered, found the boys nicely situated but the house was very dark. Saw Maj. and Capt. Little. greeted me very well. Was treated very well by all the officers, find a great difference between a private and a telegraph operator. After seeing me all the boys went to see Wessells, who is with Batterson away from the post. Col. Woodford Commanding. Found him handsomely situated in one of the handsomest houses in town, the King mansion, "Cor Meeting and George Streets. After talking with him a while took

another ramble around town. Stopped to see Loftwood at the Pro Mar, had a good talk with him. Went around to see his house. He lived in gay style house, well furnished. All the detailed men have got a good thing of it, those in the Co having it quite hard, only one day off and one on. Took dinner with Wood and after coming from dinner who should I meet but Joe Underhill from Jamaica. So we took a ramble and had a good talk about matters and etc. at old Jamaica. Then took a stroll down the battery and saw that 100 LB cannon that the Rebs burst before leaving. Then went up and went through some of the houses. Saw some of the finest houses I ever saw inside and out. Went up King St. and nothing must I do but take dinner with him so we had a good dinner, also some grape wine and some hot cigars. Joe Underhill is a Ensign in the navy. I was glad to see him and enjoyed seeing him very much. We then parted and I saw all my Morris Island friends, if I undertook to name them it would fill the book. They all seemed glad to see me. I then returned to Col. Woodford's Hq where Wessells was staying and he has the nicest room one could imagine, everything you could think of in it. (I also saw Chaplain Jones who made a terrible time over me). Then Wessells and I fixed up and I went to see Capt. Little who wanted to see me on some business in finishing up Webb's accounts. Then Sgt. O'Niell and I went down to the church. When I got in the building I was very much surprised, it is the handsomest church in Charleston and was not injured by our shells. The church cost \$60,000. It is the Post church and Chaplain Willis is the Post Chaplain, but what surprised me most is a splendid organ, in perfect order, which cost \$5,000. We went there to sing, while I was looking around low and behold Wessells came in with four young ladies and soon the number swelled to nine. Sgt. Reeve brought a Miss Rice, a ministers daughter. I was introduced to them all, but took a particular liking to a Miss Jennie Webb, a very pretty girl. A sister to Wessells girl, her name being Lou or Lousia. Sgt. Reese played the organ and it was a splendid one. After singing about 1 1/2 hours we saw the ladies home. I taking Jennie Webb and Wessells taking Lou her sister. So after going home with them we of course went in and it was nearly 1 o'clock when Webb and I got home. Just think of my flirting with a young lady whose friends are fighting against us, they (the ladies) have taken the oath and I suppose they are all right. The whole nine of them were very pleasant indeed. There are a great many women in Charleston, but I am sorry to say that the proportion of them are of loose morals, worse than New York.

Mar 19 Today is Sunday. So after a good night rest got ready and went to church. Sat in the choir and saw my ladies again. The church is very large and was well attended. Chaplain Willis gave us a good sermon. Went to where the Reg't is quartered again this afternoon. Saw Frazer who spoke about my folks and wished to be remembered to them. He also gave me a fly net which he had captured and carried all through the marches for me. After which went back to the King mansion and then called at Grey's, one of our telegraph operators whose mother lives here in a fine brick house. Spent a very pleasant time. From there went down to the telegraph office, stayed a little while then went back to the King mansion. In the evening went down after Jennie Webb (Wessells taking Lou) and took her to church, also saw her home. Wessells and I did not get home until 12 o'clock.

- Mar 20 Got up early this morning intending to go to Beaufort. Laid around the dock nearly all day, so I went back to the King mansion. In the evening quite a number of the boys met there and had a good sing. Met Lt. Haviland and from what he said I guess he thought I dressed rather well for a private.
- Mar 21 Went down to the dock again today. Laid around there nearly all day. Got completely tired out, but no boat for Beaufort. In the evening Dunbar (he, Colgate and Wessells room together) went out to spend the evening or I should say to take a walk and then we stopped to see Stevenson. So we discussed war prospects, etc. over some Madeira Sherry and hardtack, spent a very pleasant evening indeed.
- Mar 22 Was down to the dock today, no success. Feel disgusted, I want to get home. Went around and called on the boys again so the day passed off. In the evening I again went after Jennie Webb and girls. A number of us went around to our splendid church and had a good sing. Wessells and I saw the Misses Webb's home and spent a very pleasant evening.
- Mar 23 This morning went down to the dock again right after breakfast (did not live very good here) found the steamer *Planter*, Gen. Saxton's boat, was going direct to Beaufort. Forgot to say 75 Senators and Brig Generals from Washington visited Charleston yesterday, among them Gen. Sherman's brother. I had quite a talk with Sen. Chandler from New York. Also Gen. Saxton had a grand nigger procession which was perfectly disgusting. Got aboard the *Planter* and we started for home, but had to put in at Edisto Island on account of the weather. Concluded to try an inland route, 30 miles farther, but thought that was better than waiting. So we started and after getting aground two or three times we ran aground so hard that we will have to wait until morning, which was awful for me, as I have had nothing to eat since 7 o'clock this morning. However, cannot help it so, will make the best of it.
- Mar 24 Started again this morning. Feel awful empty about my bread basket, but it can't be helped. The creek grows very narrow, sometimes so narrow you could step off shore from either side. Get aground every 5 minutes, but will have to wait patiently, but awful hungry. Saw the first alligator I ever saw free, he was about 10 feet long. Arrived at Beaufort at three o'clock and the first thing I pitched for was something to eat. Have not had a morsel to eat in 31 hours but an all right now. Found everything here all right, take it all through. I had a good time and enjoyed myself very much. Miss Lou Webb fixed me some japonicas for a young lady, she fixed them so that they would keep, but I lost them. Found a letter here from mother, feel worried about my diary Col. Jackson took home as my folks say nothing about it. Would not lose it for all the pay U S have given me. Called on Hattie, found things all right there. Spent a nice evening and got home by 10 o'clock.
- Mar 26 Got up at 12 o'clock today and Gorgas, Patterson and I went out and took a ride to the Barnwell Plantation, about 11 miles from here. It was a beautiful drive and the best one I have had yet. If the folks north, particularly Annie, were here they would go crazy over it. Immense live oak trees covered with moss. Tonight Hattie and I went to

church. We had a splendid sermon from a stranger, the best I have heard in a long while.
Got home about 10 o'clock

- Mar 28 Today I have been gardening, seems like old times again. Time passes slowly, only a little over 5 months and I shall be free. Called this evening on Hattie, had a good time.
- Mar 29 Gorgas and I took a ride to day around town. This evening Hattie and I called on Miss Judd and Gordon, had a very pleasant time. Saw today peas in blossom. What would the folks think of that. Not warm and pleasant today, little rain.
- Apr 1 Gorgas received marching orders today, he goes tomorrow. He and I called at our house, but they were not home.
- Apr 2 Lt. Gorgas and Patterson left today. I felt very sorry as we have spent a very pleasant 60 days together. The remaining lot of Sherman's Army left with them and it makes Beaufort look quite dull. They had a big time before they left, a good many got drunk. Went to see McMurray today, he is in hospital, has an abscess on his leg. Hattie and I went to church tonight. She thinks to much of me as a friend.
- Apr 3 Johnnie Corneleson came back here today, looks the same as ever. Spent the evening with Chat.
- Apr 4 Mail came, four letters: Annie, Jones, Martha Stewart with her "Carte", father and mother.
- Apr 5 Another operator came today. There is now four of us and nothing to do, big thing. Called by invitation on Hattie. I am getting tired of her sending notes for me to come and see her, she is not very well. Only 5 more months and then.
- Apr 6 All quiet today. Spent the evening with Elmendorf, had a very pleasant time. He has a good piano and a German who plays splendidly was playing it.
- Apr 7 Quite warm. Loafed as usual all day. This evening went to call on Katie Judd, but she was not home so called on Hattie. Had a very agreeable time. We received the news of the evacuation of Richmond tonight, do not know how true it is.
- Apr 8 Johnnie and I went out and took a ride. Chat was up to see me this evening.
- Apr 9 Glorious news if true, Richmond has fallen with 25,000 prisoners, 500 cannon. Old Abe is there. I only hope it is so. We had quite a time in Beaufort at noon today, a national salute of 34 guns was fired from Fort Duane in honor of the capture by the Union forces under Wetzel. Everyone seemed pleased and a good deal of enthusiasm was manifested. Maj. Umans of the 26th USCT had the immediate command of the battery and everything passed off to the perfect satisfaction of everyone. I rode out to see the

salute. I went to see Hattie. We did not go to church as she did not feel well. Rained all the afternoon.

Apr 10 Was down to see Chat and spent the evening with him. We had a good talk of what we were going to do when we get home, also had the last of Annie's cake.

Apr 11 Mail arrived bringing me five letters, from mother, Seal, Vandergaw, Hendrickson, and Ettie Douglas. All good letters. Gen. Anderson has just arrived. News of the capture of Richmond, New York is crazy over it. Called on Miss Judd and Gordon tonight, had a very pleasant time indeed both very nice girls. Going to have a grand time at Sumter raising the old flag they took down four years ago. Would go but have no money, alas.

Apr 12 Gen. Anderson & Dix were here today. Rec'd a letter from Damon. Called on Hattie tonight, had a pleasant time. No more news.

Apr 13 Very pleasant today, quite warm.. Rec'd a letter from Kate Steele. Spent the evening with Chat, had a long talk.

Apr 15 Hurrah. Lee captured and his whole army. He is in Old Capital Prison at Washington. The news came today. Lt. Chamberlain was so overjoyed that he sent us 5 quarts of the best whisky, sent down and got some milk and had two pitchers of milk punch. CSA must soon sizzle up. Called on Hattie and spent a very pleasant evening. If she will send for me I will go and she must suffer the consequences.

Apr 16 Went to church tonight with Hattie. Mr. Richardson preached, it was almost as good as none at all, but managed to get through it. Nothing new, all quiet.

Apr 18 Gloomy news. Abraham Lincoln is assigned and dead. Sec Seward also, but is not dead yet, things are coming to a pretty pass. All the flags are at half mast, bells have been tolled and everything looks gloomy. What a difference between this and the glorious victories we have had lately. Wessells came here tonight from Charleston, quite an agreeable surprise. I was very Glad to see him. We called on the ladies tonight and had a very pleasant time. Mail came today, letter from Mame & Martha Stewart.

Apr 19 Wessells and I again called at our house. We spent a very pleasant evening. I have discovered that Hattie loves me. I am very, very sorry. I must have a talk with her and then we part forever. I have even gone so far as to request to be relieved from here so as to be out of the way. I did this all thoughtlessly and would not for the world had it happen, but it must be stopped now and forever and it shall be.

Apr 20 Capt. Gillmore gave me no satisfaction in regard to my being relieved, but I am going to try my best to go. Called on Misses Judd & Grodon tonight, spent a very pleasant evening indeed. Quite warm today. Wessells left here today to return to Charleston.

Apr 21 Glorious news today. Joe Johnson and his whole army has surrendered to Sherman and Gillmore is ordered to suspend hostilities, that they are looking for a permanent peace. It looks like getting home before our time is out, which of course I don't object to. I had quite a surprise today, I met Major Wood and his wife, had quite a pleasant chat with them and was very glad to see them. The worst of it was I was in civilian clothes, but it can't be helped.

Apr 23 Was to church this morning and I enjoyed it much, for the wonder Chaplain Harris preached a good sermon. Went down to see Chat, he is going to try and get his discharge and go home. In the evening went down to see Hattie Foote, but she had not returned from Charleston yet. I am Miss King, she looks awful and has the consumption. Merciful heavens what a death to die, but it is so she told me herself. She did not expect she would ever get well. Poor girl, how sorry I feel for her. I have never met a stranger I took such interest in. I feel as bad as if she was my sister, but Skid Hendrickson said there was no hope for her. Instead of being sent to my Reg't, Capt. Gillmore told me I was to be detailed to Dept. HQ which I do not like, that is worse than where I am now. I shall see Hattie I think tonight and then.

Apr 24 Called on Skid Hendrickson today and we had quite a little talk together. Called on Hattie, but she had not returned yet. So called on the Misses Judd and Gordon and spent a very pleasant evening with them.

Apr 25 We have received the news that instead of surrendering, Joe Johnston suckered Sherman and escaped. So hostilities have again commenced. So the war won't end as soon as I expected it would. This morning I called at Katie Judd's school and instead of spending a few moments, as I expected, I stayed all the morning and to tell the truth I had a very pleasant time indeed. We talked a good deal. After school we visited Miss Newcomb's room and then stopped at Miss Gordon's school and I walked home with them. This evening I called on Miss King, the girls have not returned from Charleston yet. I has quite a pleasant talk with her. She looks better, perhaps God may be merciful and answer my prayer.

Apr 26 We hear today that Gen. Ord relieves Gen. Gillmore and tonight it is contradicted. Miss King is no better I am sorry to say. Spent the evening with Skid Hendrickson. had quite a pleasant time.

Apr 27 Came across a man from Hempstead by the name of Jerome, he is a Lt. in the 26th USCT. Called on Miss King, but she was not able to see me. Elmendorf goes home in this steamer. Chat has gone to Hilton Head to try and get his discharge, hope he succeeds.

Apr 28 God has answered my prayers to a great extent. Miss King is a good deal better. To Him give all praise. I went out to pick blackberries for her today and after getting only four berries I was discouraged and I set down and prayed. Then walking a little further. I

found God had signally answered my prayer as I found as many as I wanted. I got over a quart of good ripe ones. I called to see Miss King this afternoon. Indeed she looks much better and is going home in this steamer. I shall go as far as the Head with her. I got a bottle of Port wine for her tonight.

- Apr 29 Called to see Miss King again today, she does not appear any better today. God help the poor girl. I stayed there to supper for the first time. "Ria" starts for New York tomorrow morning.
- Apr 30 Went to Hilton Head with "Ria". Mr. Richardson could not get her transportation, so I saw the Gen. and got it for her. May her journey be prosperous and may she yet get better is my prayer. I saw Underhill and stayed to dinner with him. Also saw Chat, think he will go north by next steamer. Met Hattie Richardson & Foote and came from the Head with them. Hattie and I had our final meeting and it passed off better than I expected, not with standing the tears.
- May 1 Went down to Miss Judd's school, stayed there a while and then went to Miss Gordon's. Spent a very pleasant morning. Can't say whether it was the teachers or the school. Got my Dept. pass today, Underhill sent it to me.
- May 2 Steamer *Dan Webster* arrived. J W Boothe was shot that is good news. Spent the evening with Misses Judd & Gordon had a splendid time. Got two shirts and pair of slippers from Sam Com. Quite pleasant today, warm.
- May 3 My box came today, in it were two linen coats, 2 shirts, 4 pair stockings, cake, tobacco, soap, cocoa, sugar, hair oil, perfumery, etc. All came in good style and am much pleased with it all.
- May 4 Mail came today, letter from father with \$ 10.00 in it, about as good news as I could have. We hear by the steamer that all the enlisted men are to be mustered out, hope so. Took a good ride today, cool and pleasant.
- May 5 All sorts of rumors afloat. They say we are going home soon and I hope so. All sick soldiers to be discharged. I was to Lt. Helena and spent the day. Had a pleasant day, got just as many blackberries as I could cram down and they treated me very well indeed. I got a letter from Hattie Foote, she wants me to come and see her. I really can't see it, so that drops the question.
- May 6 I have at last got my orders to go to my Reg't and while I am glad to leave feel quite sorry to leave the many friends I have made while here. I have through Miss Foote been forced to resign my good position. I no doubt have done the best I could, but am very sorry to leave the company of Misses Judd & Gordon. The former I have formed quite a friendship with and I think a good deal of, and the many other friends and shall always remember the operators of "B" office who have done all they could to make it pleasant and agreeable for me. They will always be held in grateful remembrance by me

and I hope their journey through life may be as pleasant as they have made mine while at Beaufort. I called on Misses Judd & Gordon tonight to bid them the final farewell and they seemed very sorry to have me leave them. Shall go to the Head in the morning and then bid Beaufort good bye, perhaps forever.

- May 7 Left Beaufort this morning at 8 1/2 o'clock. Bid H.C T. good bye, am a little sorry to leave the place. Arrived a Hilton Head at 11 o'clock and left all my things on the dock and went up to see Underhill. Stayed to dinner with him and after dinner he & I went to a Sunday school of niggers. Saw some ladies that I knew and had a pleasant chat with them. Came back, went to supper with Kelly of Co "B" and then went to the hospital to see Chat, but he had gone down to the boat to go north. Went down to see him. Just saw him as the boat left the dock and then went up and am going to sleep with Underhill..
- May 8 Am still at Hilton Head. Am going to try and go to Savannah tomorrow and if I cannot get off, will go to Charleston. It rained quite hard today.
- May 9 Still at Hilton Head waiting to go to Savannah. Got up this morning not feeling very well. Saw Waterbury and had quite a talk with him. Did not eat any breakfast, they told me a boat was going to Savannah. Took my things down to the dock, but found there was no boat. So came back again and laid around the A A Gen. office all morning and in going to dinner somebody says "Hello Will" and who should it be but Ed Steele. I never was more surprised in my life than when I saw him here, he looked the same old fellow as ever. So I turned around and walked down to the dock with him. He was going north in the *Fulton*. We hardly had time to get there and as soon as he got on she was off. Went back and got dinner. Had a good pot pie for dinner which I enjoyed accordingly. After dinner took a nap. Went down to the office and found there was a steamer going to Savannah at 6 o'clock, so I went up and got my things and got on the steamer *Sylph* and at 8 o'clock we started. We had quite a number of Rebs aboard who were going home. At night we laid off and are to start at daylight.
- May 10 We passed Fort Pulaski this morning and I saw it for the first time. It is a very large and commanding looking fort. We passed the obstructions at 7 o'clock this AM in the Savannah River and also passed Fort Jackson and any quantity of other forts on the river and arrived at Savannah about 8 o'clock. I went to the telegraph office which is the third custom house. Left my things there and then started on a ramble around town. Went up Abercorn Street and came across the 103rd USCT and met Johnnie Henderson, Moore and a lot of my old comrades who were officers in that Reg't. They treated me so well I concluded to stay with them. Moore was Officer of the Day. We had a bottle of wine with some eggs. Saw any quantity of my old friends. Stayed to dinner, who should I meet but Stevens the dentist's brother so we had a good talk and a couple of glasses of ale and some cigars over it. He was superintendent of the bakery here and wished me to say nothing about seeing him out here. The dinner today was a tasty one. I had new potatoes for the first time this year. They tasted good. After dinner we had some more wine & cigars and then I took another ramble down town. I went through the park which

is beautiful. Then went Bull St. through all the little groves. I had a good look at the Pulaski Monument which is well worthy of that noble Pole who came to fight our battles for us and who was killed here. After rambling around some time I went to the telegraph office. Dressed up and then came back to camp through the park in which there is a splendid fountain. Savannah is by far the handsomest city I ever saw. Elegant shade trees and two rows of trees in the street and then a road on each side making four rows of trees. Very wide streets and in perfect harmony. Everything is regular and the city splendidly laid out and beats by far anything I have ever seen. No place I can compare with it. We had supper and after it I called on Hattie Bullard, Miss Jennings, Minin and Armstrong. Spent a very pleasant evening and they appeared to be glad to see me and in fact we had a gay old time. I came back to camp at 11 o'clock well pleased with my visit. So far I could not have had a pleasanter time and everyone seemed to try and make it pleasant for me and they succeeded and I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

May 11 Stayed with Henderson all night. Got up in the morning and the first thing was milk punch then had breakfast, which was good. After staying a little longer I took another ramble through town then went to the telegraph office. Stayed there about an hour then went down to the dock and got aboard the steamer *Sylph* for Hilton Head. We had a pleasant trip. We had a large number of Rebs officers aboard with us, one of them a Maj. Gen. I had some long arguments with them. They will allow that they were badly whipped, but nothing further. One of them was a nephew of the Pres of the Shoe & Leather Bank, another was son of a minister at Richmond. Arrived at the Head at 5 o'clock, went up and took supper with Underhill, then got aboard the *Anna Maria* for Charleston. Then it commenced raining very hard, but at last we started at 11 o'clock.

May 12 We had a very pleasant trip and arrived at Charleston at 7 o'clock this AM. I took my things, left them at the Harbor Masters office. Then started up to see Wessells & took my breakfast with him and then went and reported my self to Capt. Little as Wessells had a detail on for me. Then went and saw the boys. They were glad to see me and I was supplied with a musket right away. Then went down town and saw Frazer. Then called on W G Wood and then went back to see Wessells. Then went down to the telegraph office, but did not see any of them. Then went and got a cart and brought my things up to the quarters. Had my room assigned me and now am a soldier in earnest and intend being a good one and try and do my duty up to the handle. Was on guard tonight so commenced soldiering as soon as I arrived.

May 13 Went down to the U S Mil Tel. and saw Kingsbury. Had quite a pleasant time. No dress parade.

May 14 On guard again today. Went down to the USMT, but I guess there is no change as they are full. Saw Barker Van Vorhees, he has command of the vessel here. Went up to see Wessells, but he was not in.

May 15 Came off guard this morning. Quite hot today. Cleaned up and then laid off, duty quite light. I am detailed in the Bakery which duty is quite easy, 3 hours every other night.

I was up to see Wessells tonight. The weather is quite warm, almost too much so to be pleasant.

- May 17 Two of us started this morning and went blackberrying to James Island. Got a boat at the foot of Elliot St. Rowed across and then picked blackberries for about an hour. Laid off a while then went in swimming. Then came back. I do not think much of James Island, all sand and Forts, but I never saw blackberries so thick as there are there. Got back about 4 o'clock pretty well tired out. There is a report that Jeff Davis is captured, he was found in Little Washington dressed in women's clothes. He passed through here today on his way to the Head.
- May 18 Was on guard last night. Mail came today, 5 letters for me; Sewall, "Ria", Vandergaw, Seal and father with \$10.00 in it. Feel first rate, have but three hours duty to do in 48 hours. Quite warm today.
- May 21 Went to the chapel to church this morning. Chaplain preached quite a good sermon. Went again in the evening, we had a sermon from the text; "And they crucified him". Very good indeed. Saw a number of ladies I knew, but abided them and did not speak. Wild rumors as to one going home, but I will not believe we are going until we start.
- May 22 Was at the bakery last night had a pleasant time. The rumor is still raging about our going home. There was a large fire last night at a sutters, a good many of our boys got tight. A letter from mother today, like the rest thinks we are going home. Well perhaps it is true. Went down to market day before yesterday and got some blackberries, green peas, radishes and onions, all they cost me was 30 cents. Went down there today and got some sweet potatoes, new potatoes, squashes and radishes and all it cost me was 40 cents. So things are very cheap and I can live quite good. Rumors are on the increase in regard to our going home. Went down to see Tom Birdsall, spent quite a pleasant evening. Awful hot tonight.
- May 24 Was at the bakery last night, slept most of the time. More fuss about the niggers today. Went down to the market today, got some potatoes, radishes, peas, plums, and blackberries, they are almost gone. Also had some ice cream. Went up and spent the evening with Wessells and am now going to bed.
- May 25 There is a lady here who is sister to the man who keeps the Motowauk House at east New York. Reports about our going home have died out. Got 4 letters today; Martha Stewart, Ettie Douglas with her card, a good one from "sister Ria" and one from Wessells which had gone to New York by mistake.
- May 26 Was at the bakery last night, had quite a pleasant time. Rained real hard. Got my loaf of twist as usual.

May 28 Quite nice and cool today . It is Sunday. Went to Grace church this morning.. The church was crowded. There was a good deal of style there. I did not think the Charleston ladies could afford such style. Service was quite long. Did not go to church this afternoon, but went to sleep. Had inspection this afternoon and Capt. told us that Gurney was made a Bot Brig Gen., Woodford is the same, two Brig Gen. out of our Reg't. Went to church this evening , Chaplain Willis preached from the text; "Let not your heart be troubled". He was quite tedious as it was the second time I had heard it. Dunbar is discharged by order of the Pres. Johnnie Comeleson has charge of a telegraph office here in Charleston. I must go and see him tomorrow.

May 30 Came from the bakery this morning. Was to see Comeleson. Had a grand review this afternoon by Gen. Gurney and Hatch. We had considerable period of a drill, feel quite tired out. I ordered 1000 cigars to be sent preparatory to my going home.

June 1 Three letters from Chat, he is still in Washington, but hopes to be in Jamaica soon. To say I feel lonely with out Webb and him would not commence to express it. I am getting more and more anxious to go home. A good long letter from "sister Ria" and one from Hendrickson. Skid has gone home for a little while. Awful hot here.

June 3 Came from the bakery this morning. More rumors about our going home, but I am afraid like all others they will die out. They say we are going to be paid next week, I hope so. I went down to the battery to hear our band play for the first time since I have been here. Quite a number of ladies and gents were present.

June 4 I am today 21 years old, how I wish it was 17, but that cannot be. Ever as long as I live shall I forget the last three years and though I am proud of what I have done I cannot forget what I have gone through, and in looking back can hardly believe that a man could go through what I have and live. There are many sad recollections in that time. I have lost most of my dearest friends and the memory of them shall always be dear to me. Well I commenced the day by getting two letters from "sister Ria" and Mame. I then went down to the bath house and took a good bath then dressed and went down to see Wessells but he had gone to church as it was Sunday. After church came out I stayed a little while with Wessells then came home and got dinner. Laid around a while then went down to church and heard another sermon from Chaplain Willis. Then came home and found 75 men getting ready to go down to the Charleston Hotel and there they presented us with a flag. I went home and spent the evening with Wessells. We had some cocoa, bread and butter then came home and to finish up am going to the bakery . I think it is very reliable that we will be home by the 4th of July, Saw Lou & Jennie Webb, but did not speak to them as I have given up ladies society for the present anyway.

June 7 A letter from Lt. Gorgas today. Was down to see Wessells today, saw the order in regard to our going home. He thinks that we will not be ready in a month, he also heard a report that Gen. Gillmore had sent a request to keep us until our time is out. Woe be to this Dept. if it is true, the boys won't stand it.

- June 9 The muster rolls are here and so is the officer, so I think I shall spend the 4 July home.
- June 10 Went down to the battery to hear the music. After that Lewis Hall and I took a walk up King St. to see the style.
- June 11 Today is Sunday. I went to church this morning, the Chaplain preached from 1st Kings, 18th Chap, 21st Verse; "How long hast ye between two opinions". This is the second time I have heard it, quite a great fault of the Chaplain's. In the afternoon I was going to church when Joe Underhill came to see me and stayed all the afternoon. Then in the evening I walked down to the dock with him. He lent me \$5.00 which was quite good as I had not a single cent. He is going home in a few days. He asked me to come down and see him tomorrow.
- June 12 Still talking about going home, but it don't seem to come. Went down to Market today, got some cucumbers, radishes, tomatoes, plums, figs apples, pears, etc.
- June 13 Went down to the battery to night to hear the band play. Then came back to quarters. Some of the boys are on a tear and there is lively times.
- June 14 Mail came today, three letters; from "sister Ria", and two from mother. We had the Sec of Treas of the CSA in jail here, guarded by our boys.
- June 17 Rumor says we go home on the Fulton next trip, a week from next Monday. Do not feel very well, have a heavy cold and some fever. Had an inspection yesterday on Citadel Green. Got a letter from Damon today.
- June 18 Was to church today. Chaplain Willis was long and tedious and it was very warm. Hope it is my last Sunday in Charleston. Spent the afternoon in Charleston with Wessells. He does not think with the rest of them that we will go by the Fulton's next trip north.
- June 20 Mail came today, I got no letters from home. I guess they think we are on our way north. I got four letters; from Damon, Seal, "Sister Ria", Ettie Douglas. I am going to send all my things home today or tomorrow.
- June 25 Went to church this afternoon to hear Chaplain Willis' farewell sermon. The text was from Eph 3 & 15, quite long but very good indeed. They say we leave the first part of this week for certain. I hope so as I am tired of waiting. It has been very stormy the last few days.
- June 27 There has been quite an excitement today. All the new recruits were ordered in line with all their things, after falling in they were ordered to be ready to be transferred to the 54th NY Vols. tomorrow. The report now is that we do not leave until next Tuesday in the *Arago*.

- June 28 Stopped at the Muster-out rolls , all finished up. We are now ready to go home. I think we leave on the *Arago*. Mail came today, three letters, but none from home. One from "Sister Ria", Chat and Kate Steele.
- June 29 The recruits were transferred this morning. They seemed quite sorry to leave us. Quite a good deal of excitement turning in all the things we do not need. Rec'd. orders from Gen. Gillmore that we must be at the Head by Sunday night. Spent the evening with Wessells.
- June 30 We are mustered out. Have been relieved from duty and have orders to leave by 9 AM tomorrow, so this is my last night in Charleston.
- July 1 Woke up early this morning and commenced packing up. Got breakfast then at 9 we fell in. At 11 we formed line and at half past we marched down to the dock. The 165 Reg't arrived just as we left, but did not have time to see any of my friends in it. Got aboard the steamer *Clyde* at 1 1/2. We started bidding good bye to Charleston. On board a navy officer stole 50 lb. of ice for us so we had a good time. Went to bed about 8 o'clock.
- July 2 Arrived at Hilton Head at 6 this morning. We now lay on the sand by the dock, have just had breakfast.
- July 3 Laid around all day yesterday. Had dress parade and at dress parade the most disgraceful affair happened. Sgt. Ashfield of Co "C" while on board the steamer interfered with Lt. Prouly and for this he was marched up before the line and his stripes torn off. Considerable feeling was manifested and after parade the boys gave three cheers for Ashfield and three groans for the Col. As far as I can find out Ashfield was in the right. He is kept in close confinement until we get north. There to be turned over to the military authorities. I was on guard last night. Laid around all day, had dress parade tonight then had orders to get ready to move. About 7 o'clock we marched down to the dock, laid there until 10. Woodford came down and shook hands with me, he wanted to be remembered to father and all other Jamaica people. Got aboard the *Oneida* and was taken from her to the *Northern Light*. When we got aboard I took a bunk and am now going to sleep.
- July 4 Started at 4 o'clock this morning for New York. Does not seem much like the 4th to me, everything is so quiet. Quite warm. They undertook to have a grand time on board this noon, but failed. The order of exercises was:

- I National Salute
- II Announcement by Gen. Gurney
- III Music by the band; "Hail Columbia"
- IV Prayer
- V National Hymn; "America"
- VI Address by Chaplain Willis

- VII Music; "Star Spangled Banner"
- VIII Benediction
- IX Music by the band

No one cheered Gurney's speech. The prayer and address were quite good.

July 5 Slept all night. Laid around all day constantly thinking of home. That is all I think about now. This evening we had a prayer meeting and a very good meeting it was, with one exception, and that was on the next floor below us all our officers were drunk and were singing vulgar songs and dancing and the Major's wife was drunk amongst them. A disgrace to our Reg't. After meeting we collected and had a good sing: "The Old House at Home", "Seeing Nellie Home", "Victory at Last", "Home Sweet Home". Then W T Wood was called on and made a splendid speech. Then they called on me. I made some foolish remark, they then called up Harris. He made some remarks about shoulder straps. Then Underhill spoke very well indeed. I was then called on again and made some more foolish speeches. Concklin then spoke very good. The Reeves sang the "Flag of Our Union", then Chaplain Willis spoke. Then Tom Warner. Then Ben Moore made a fool of himself bringing in niggers. Then Pain spoke a few words. Wessells also, Dunbar declined. Capt. Fisk added a joke. Finished up with the "Star Spangled Banner". Then an officer of the vessel said he had a few words to say and that was that he had carried 20,000 troops and he never had a Reg't which conducted themselves in such an orderly manner or kept themselves so neat. In fact it was one of the most pleasant times I have spent since I have been out and will not soon be forgotten.

July 6 Spent the day quite pleasantly, nice and cool. This evening we presented the Capt., 1st and 2nd Mate with a set of resolutions thanking them for the kindness to us while on the steamer *Northern Light*.

July 7 Arrived in New York at 6 o'clock this morning and saw the old place. We laid around the dock all the morning, until 10 o'clock, when we fell in and marched up Broadway. We were warmly welcomed by all. Marched up to the Armory of the 7th Reg't where we stacked arms, disbanded and I started for home. I got in the cars and started when we got to Bond St. Pa and Fannie jumped in the cars. We got home and there was a terrible fuss and they all seemed glad to see me and I am mighty glad to get home. Went to bed quite early.

July 8 Got up, laid around all morning. In the afternoon went down to report. Chat went with me, we went to the armory, saw all the boys. Then they gave us a splendid dinner, music by the 7th Reg't Band. At 6 o'clock we were let off until Monday at 8 o'clock, when we are to be mustered out and paid off.

July 9 Stayed all night at Mrs. Rhodes. She seemed very glad to see me. Chat stayed with me. This morning I came up, got home time enough to go to church.

July 18 Went own the city today, got my discharge and was paid in full. So this ends my diary of the Campaign. So I bid farewell to **SOLDIERING.**

W. E. OAKY