FOREWORD

Charles Henry Snedeker, 1835 - 1898, enlisted in the Union Army on August 4, 1862, and served as a member of Co. H, 124th Regiment of Illinois Infantry until mustered out, with the rank of Sergeant, on August 15, 1865.

In preparing the manuscript, our endeavor has been to retain as nearly as possible the spelling, the punctuation, and capitalization as it appears in the original.

Working with the Diary has been a rewarding experience and it is hoped that all who read it may be inspired by it.
THE CIVIL WAR DIARY

of CHARLES HENRY SNEDEKER

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26th. Pleasant weather. Quite extensive Rifle Pits were dug by our troops last night. Canonading and Sharpshooting as usual. No advance today. Mailed letter No. 30.

27th. Co. H and two other Co.'s from the 124th detailed last night to work on fortifications in front of "Shirley's house". Worked till daybreak and went back to quarters a tired sett. Nothing unusual today. Weather warm and clear.

28th. Weather fair. Received letter No. 22 from home. Sent home letter No. 31. Today men are at work throwing up intrenchments in front of our Regt. Co. H detailed to go out to the rear on Picket. Went out 3 or 4 miles on the Bridgeport road. Got to our Post just after sundown. Dust in the road two or three inches deep.

29th. Weather fair and warm. Went out and gathered Plums and Blackberries. Plums are very plenty both white and red. In the afternoon we were moved out a mile or so farther and were reinforced by two more companies. Heavy firing in the direction of Vicksburg this morning. Had Plum Sauce and Blackberries and sugar for Supper.

30th. Fair and warm. Alarm by the sentinels twice in the night. The reserve called into line both times, and the last time we marched out beyond the outposts to reconnoitre, but not being able to discover any enemy, we marched back and laid down on our Arms. Nothing more occurred to alarm us. Our sentinels said that they saw men with guns moving around. Got some Mulberries and stewed them. We were relieved at 5 P.M. by 5 companies of the 10th Mo. Arrived in camp at 7 O'clock.

31st. Sunday. Clear and hot. Was aroused at 2 1/2 O'clock this morning by our Artillery opening fire on the Rebs. It was kept up for an hour a perfect roar after which it gradually ceased. Some cannonading all through the day. The Rebels fired a few shots in return.
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10th. Rainy. Received letter No. 23 and one from Mother. Not much cannonading, but very lively sharpshooting.

11th. Pleasant. One 9 inch Siege Gun mounted and at work battering down "Fort Hill".

12th. Pleasant. The Rebels have thrown a few shells towards our "Big Gun", but has not hurt anybody yet. Got a letter from Bro. George.

13th. Clear. Washed my clothes. Our Regt. exchanged their old guns for new Enfield Rifles. The Regt. detailed for sharpshooting and Picket to go in at 6 1/2 A.M. tomorrow and stay on duty 24 hours.

14th. Warm. Sunday. "Philips" of Co. C wounded in the face. I was detailed to stand on Picket at night outside the breastworks. The Rebs threw quite a number of 9 inch shells some of which struck very close to our Hospital.

15th. Rainy in the morning pleasant the rest of the day. Wrote a letter to Bro. George. Co. H to go on fatigue duty tomorrow at 4 A.M.

16th. Pleasant. Co. H aroused at 3 A.M. to go for fatigue duty on the trench leading to the Rebel Fort. In the afternoon they threw two "Hand Grenades" at us from the Fort. They fell short 50 feet and exploded doing no damage. We are now within 100 feet of the Fort.

17th. Fair. Several 9 inch shells bursted over our camp today. One piece weighing two or three pounds struck about 5 feet from where I was sitting. No one was struck by them. Very heavy cannonading part of the day. I had a billious attack.

2nd. Clear and warm. Went on Picket at 3 P.M. in the Rifle Pits. The Rebs tried to capture a Battery on our left, but were repulsed. There was a large fire in Vicksburg about midnight. I could distinctly hear the fire bells ringing in the city. I drew a pair of Shoes, 1 pair of socks, a shirt, Hat and Rubber Blanket. Our Artillery played a lively tune on the Rebels about Sundown. The "Lumbard Brothers" were here and sang the "Battle cry of freedom".


4th. Weather warm. Nothing but the usual routine.

5th. Warm. A moveable car for sharpshooters was put up last night. It is mounted on wheels and protected by cotton Bales. It was put up in front of the Rebel fort. Co. H detailed on Picket.

6th. Very oppressive weather. Was quite un-(well) all night and through the day. Wrote letter No. 32.


8th. Warm again. Our Mortar Boats shelled the city all night. One man in Co. B Killed, and one of Co. H wounded in the leg just at night.
18th. A large fire in the city last night. The Rebs opened a gun on our right from behind a cotton Fort. Our Gunners shelled them and set their fort on fire. Got letter No. 24.

19th. Weather warm. Wrote letter No. 23 (33) and posted it. Got some canebrakes and make a bed. Regt. ordered to be ready for sharpshooting tomorrow morning.

20th. Regt. ordered into line at 4 A.M. and marched into the trenches. Artillery commenced firing at the same time all along the line and continued without intermission till 10 A.M. We were kept in the trench till near noon, when we were put on duty sharpshooting. A Squad of men at work digging into the side of the Fort. One of the 45 Ills. shot dead on the top of the Fort, while trying to shoot inside. One of Co. E's men shot through both thighs accidentally by our own sharpshooters.

21st. Sunday. Carpenter and myself on Picket last night in the extreme advance. Hand Grenades were thrown at us, from the Fort. We were relieved about 5 A.M. by the 23rd Ind. Quite a number of shot & shell was thrown into our camp today, but no one was hurt. Wrote a letter to Mother and mailed it. Weather warm.

22nd. Fair. Last night a bullet passed through Carpenter's Rubber Blanket and G. Orme's boot they were on the top of our shanty. Very rapid sharpshooting on our right this morning. The Rebs fired by volleys. I was detailed to go after Lumber for Hospital Bunks, but could not get any inside of the Picket lines. Saw the remains of a large rebel camp.

23rd. Detailed as Guard to the Paymaster. We received two months pay, up to May 1st. The Rebs fired several solid shot into our camp today. One of which cut the ridge pole of Lieut. Howard's tent in two, and smashed up Co. H's oven. Nobody hurt.

24th. Rainy last night. There was quite a sharp engagement on our left between 10 and 12 last night. It lasted over an hour. Major Pattison paid me $8.35 for my subsistence money. Sent $26.00 by Express to my Wife in New Haven. The 124th Regt. are out sharpshooting and on Picket. Our Gunboats and Mortarboats are shelling the town pretty lively.

25th. Warm. Wrote letter No. 34. Our Co. stood Picket last night in the hole that was dug into the Fort. Between 3 and 4 P.M. we were ordered into the trenches, soon after which the Fort blew up making a breach in one end of it. The 45th Ills. advanced and took possession of the outside of the breach and opened a brisk fire on the rebels. They were relieved after two hours or more by the 31st Ills. and they by others so that a continual fire was kept up all night. The Lieut. Col. of the 45th was badly wounded and the Major was killed. The Lieut. Col. of the 31st was severely wounded in the side and arm by a Hand Grenade. The 124th went to Quarters and slept on Arms.

26th. Had a good rest. Got up at daylight and got Breakfast. Co. I and H ordered to the breach about 7 A.M. and staid one hour firing over the bank into the Fort and rifle pits as fast as we could load. One of the 45th Ills. was killed and one of Co. I 124th badly wounded while we were out this time. From this time till near night the 124th were fighting in the breach by reliefs. Near sundown we were ordered to fall back to the Rifle Pits. The Rebels threw Hand Grenades among us killing some and wounding a great many of our Regt. quite a number of whom were badly mangled. The miners were at work all day digging another mine to blow it up again. We were relieved at night by the 3rd Brigade.

27th. Warm. Our Regt. laid in camp today and rested. The Boys were pretty well tired out. I was unwell with a fever. Our troop did not fight in the breach today as the position could be held just as well from the rifle Pits. Hand Grenades were thrown both by our men and the Rebs. In yesterday's action our Regt. lost 49 in killed and wounded. Two were killed outright and two have since died and there are several more that will probably die soon. Co. H had 7 wounded most of them slightly. None killed.