

We had to wait for the 16th A.C. to cross Pearl River on the Pontoon Bridge. We had orders to be ready to march at 1/2 hours notice, during the night. Did not feel well today. Our Adj. and three men while out foraging today took two prisoners.

26th. Got up at 5 A.M. No orders to leave yet. I had the diarrhea all night. Left camp at 10 A.M. crossed Pearl River (3 miles) at 2 P.M., got into camp near Canton about 8 P.M. We marched 16 miles. The Pontoon Bridge over the river is a first rate one. The roads are good but very dusty. I rode the Pony all day, very tired at night. Had a half pound of crackers dealt out to each man tonight. We have had less than three pounds of crackers since we left Meridian on the 20th. Fine weather.

27th. Had a good rest and felt better this morning. We laid in camp till three P.M. when we moved two miles to the South and camped near a stream of water and near the R.R. Canton is a very pleasant looking town, it contains a good many fine Residences, and the trees and shrubbery are kept trimmed the best that I have seen any where. Sent letter No. 66 to be mailed at Big Black, by M. Maloney. We were suddenly called to Arms, just after I had got into bed. We got into line in quick time and went away towards town (and) we had not gone far when we were ordered back. It was a false alarm.

28th. Sunday. Our Brigade was ordered out this morning to tear up R.R. We tore up from 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile and piled up the ties and rails and set fire to them. At 2 P.M. we were ordered to Camp, and immediately moved our camp 1/2 a mile nearer town. Saw the ruins of the Round House, Machine Shops, depot, 24 locomotives and some cars, besides other property destroyed by our Army. It is the greatest destruction of property that I have seen in the war. Part of it was destroyed by A cavalry force last summer, under Col. Winslow of the 4th Iowa Cavalry. I was quite sick today with diarrhea.

29th. Rainy and Chilly. Regt. mustered for pay. We lay in

Camp all day. Weather disagreeable and cold. We received a mail today, the first that we have had since we left Big Black. I got three letters Nos. 53 and 54 from my Wife and one from the Boys at home, informing me of James^s marriage with Miss May Suydam. After dark news came to camp that Adjutant Smith and his party of mounted men were attacked by Rebel cavalry, and it is feared cut off. We were ordered out immediately to a mile outside of our lines, and to rescue them if possible. We started and had gone a short distance when we were ordered back to camp, as we were too late to assist them, and it is feared that some if not all are captured.

19th. A frosty night, ice formed 9/8 of an inch in thickness. did not sleep good on account of severe cough. We were relieved at 1 1/2 P.M. by some of the 45th Regt. went to camp and found that the boys had foraged two sheep for the Co. and "Halk" was trying to roast them over a fire with live coals in it but they were awfully cooked and not much tougher than sole leather. tonight heard the cheering news that we were to start on our return to Big Black at 6 A.M. to morrow. I was sick

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t. A rainy night. Slept good on a bed of cotton. Soon after breakfast the 5 left Companies of our Regt. were ordered out to the relief of the Adjutant and his party. We marched through the rain and mud a mile from camp when we saw him and some of the men near the R. R. making for camp. We hailed them and they came to us. We then turned back and went to camp. 7 of the Boys of our Regt. are supposed to be captured, among them is Wilder of Co. H and Randall of Co. E. 5 of the party were wounded. One of Co. D^s men shot in the leg, came in with the Adj. Those that escaped lost their horses. They lay all night in a swamp without any covering but the clothes they had on. We left camp at noon and got into camp at 10 P. M. on Mr. Montgomery^s Plantation having marched only 4 or 5 miles. Got to bed at 12 O. clock At Canton saw some rails wound around some trees.

1d. Slept on a bed of corn leaves. Got up at 5 A. M. Started out at 7 A. M. Our Division in the advance of the 17th A. C. There was some Artillery firing in our Rear this morning. After marching 12 miles we halted 4 or 5 hours on the top of a hill. There were some Reb cavalry seen on our Left flank. They took two stragglers prisoners. We got into camp at 9 P. M. at Queens Hills, having marched 17 miles today. We passed through Livingston at noon. Our troops burnt a house filled with cotton. Weather pleasant.

d. Ordered to be ready to start at 6 1/2 A. M. About 9 our Brigade marched to the rear and formed in line of battle on the side of Queens Hill. We lay there till 12 (noon) and after the entire Army had crossed the creek, we started to cross also. The 2nd Brigade of our division Rear Guard. We had no trouble with the enemy. A few cavalry were seen at a distance. We passed through Brownsville about 4 P. M. and got into camp at 7 P. M. a mile west of Queens Church, having marched 15 miles. Weather pleasant.

4th. Cloudy but no rain. This morning we started at 8 A. M. Our Regt. Rear Guard. We passed Edward Station at 10 1/2 A. M. and crossed Big Black about 2 P. M. and got into our tents as soon as possible. We have been gone 30 days and marched more than 300 miles. The 47th Ills. have been occupying our quarters but left soon after we got there. A lot of socks are in camp sent by the Ladies of Aurora to Co. s H and E. Nearly every man got a pair, with a letter, a darning needle, and yarn, and thread and pins in each pair. Soon after getting into camp I washed all over and got on clean shirt, Drawers and the Stockings and felt a good deal refreshed. Got a letter from Damon, one from Potter, and one from Carpenter written on the back of a song. Had soft Bread and butter for dinner.

5th. Cool and pleasant. Got Lieut. Potters Photograph. The Co. are busy today fixing and cleaning up their quarters which we find to be very dirty. Wrote letter 67 to my Wife. Co. H drew lots for a furlough. It fell to John Miles.

6th. Sunday. Warm and pleasant. Preaching at 10 1/2 by the Rev. Mr. Ten Brock. Prayer meeting in the evening. The Regt. drew clothing. I drew a Hat, a pair of Pants, and a pair of Socks.

7th. Warm and pleasant. Cleaned my gun. Geo. W. Slate returned to the Co. today. Our Regt. had dress parade today for the first time since Feb. 2nd.

8th. Warm and pleasant. Lieut. Col. Hower started home today. Spent part of the day in copying my diary.

9th. Cloudy and rainy. Got a pass and went to Vicksburg. Saw Carpenter on the Hospital Boat "R. C. Wood" going home on a furlough. Sent a message by him, and got a half a pound of Tea of him. Got back to camp at 4 P. M. The Veteran troops are being paid off today. I was detailed for Picket tomorrow.

10th. Was posted on the Messenger ferry road. Wrote a letter.

to my three Brothers in Brooklyn N. Y. Weather pleasant nearly all day.

11th. Pleasant. Was relieved at 8 1/2 A.M. Went to camp and found that the 5 left companies of our Regt. had gone to Edward Station for Lumber to make a shelter to eat under. They came upon a few Reb cavalry Pickets and fired on them. They got back at 2 P.M. When the 5 right Co. s went for the same purpose, they got back an hour after Sundown.

12th. Pleasant. Wrote letter No. 68 to my Wife enclosing the letter that came in my stockings, two sheets of my diary, and some flowers.

13th. Sunday. Pleasant. Preaching at 10 1/2 A.M. by the Chaplain. The Pickets from the 20th Ills. were relieved this morning by a detail from our Regt. The Veterans of the 20th started for home tonight on a special train for Vicksburg. I saw and spoke with Lieut. J. B. Bailey before they left.

14th. Pleasant.

15th. Cool and blustering. Wrote a letter to Chas. G. Bowman. Today New U. S. Rifle Muskets and new accoutrements were issued to our Regiment. Co. H mostly got those made by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Co. They are well made and beautifully finished.

16th. A cool night. On Picket. Posted south of the R. R. at Bovina, in the afternoon hearing several shots in quick succession, we thought that the next Post was attached and got our guns ready but it proved only to be one of the First Kansas Boys firing off his revolver. A pleasant day.

17th. Heard cannonading in the night in the direction of the River. Sent a letter to Lieut. Potter. The Veterans of the 45th Ills. started for home this afternoon.

18th. Pleasant. Wrote a letter to T. G. Damon of Aurora. The

non-Veterans of the 2nd Brigade came out here today and camped in the 45th camp.

19th. Cloudy. The Veterans of the 31st Ills. started at sunrise this morning for home. Wrote letter No. 69 to my Wife and sent a Mobile paper and a letter in it. Received letters No. 55 and 56 from home. While we were on Dress Parade tonight the Rebs made a dash on our Cavalry Pickets. We distinctly heard the firing. Co. s A and F were sent across the river to reinforce the Pickets. The Rebs came charging up to within 300 yards of our Cavalry, when they wheeled about and went back. They fired only two shots. The rest of the firing was done by our Cavalry.

20th. Sunday. On Picket at the Big Black Bridge. The Rebs still within sight and hearing of our Cavalry Pickets. When the Officer of the day was at the Outpost they came in sight yelling and swinging their hats. Heard heavy cannonading in the direction of Vicksburg. Weather cold and rainy.

21st. A rainy night. We were relieved at 8 A.M., felt unwell all day. Weather raw and cold.

22nd. Weather more pleasant. Major Mann, Capt. Kendall and others went out across Big Black with a flag of truce in answer to one sent in yesterday by the Rebs, to arrange for the exchange of wounded prisoners taken on the late expedition to Meridian. Those captured at Canton belonging to our Regt. are at some place on the Alabama River. The Orderlies came back drunk. The 1st Minn. Battery and part of the 16th Wis. Infty. came here tonight.

23^d. Pleasant. Five Ambulances went out under a flag of truce to bring back some of our wounded at Clinton and Jackson, but came back before noon without them. The Rebs were not ready.

24th. On Picket, on the third Post South of the R. R. at Bovina. Rainy through the day. John Fitzgerald of Co. G was shot by a man belonging to the 20th Ills. He died during this night. A

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recruit belonging to Co. D accidentally Shot himself in the arm while on Picket. A Scouting party of the 1st Kansas went to Baldwin^s Ferry 6 miles below here. They returned after dark. It is reported that the Rebs are trying to cross the river somewhere below.

15th. By order, I kept awake all night. We were relieved at 9 A.M. At daylight another Scouting party went out. Weather pleasant.

16th. Pleasant. Fired at the target and cleaned my gun. This morning we enlarged our tent.

17th. Sunday. A beautiful day. Preaching in the morning by the Chaplain, Bible Class in the afternoon, prayer meeting in the evening.

18th. Windy. The Colonel^s horse was stolen or got loose himself, and started across the Pontoon Bridge on a gallop. The Cavalry Pickets fired at him twice but he with another horse escaped into Rebeldom. The 8th Mich. Battery start for home today. A Circus Co. came out today and put up their tent. I wrote letter No. 70 to my Wife enclosing a sheet of my diary.

19th. On Picket at the Bridge. A party of about a dozen Rebs, four of them Officers, came in with a flag of truce. They were escorted to Gen. Dennis^s Head Quarters. One of the Officers had his revolver stolen while there. Five Ambulances and a supply wagon went out under a flag of truce to get our wounded at C and J. Weather Windy.

20th. Pleasant. A couple of Reb deserters came in at daylight this A.M. A Rebel Officer passed out just as we were relieved at 8.

21st. Changable weather. High winds with hail and rain in the afternoon.

1st. Cloudy. The Ambulance train that went out on the 29th of March returned today with some of our wounded. The Ill. Battallion of non-Veterans has received marching orders.

2nd. Pleasant. Seven deserters from the Rebel Army came in today.

3^d. Sunday. On Picket at the Bridge last night. Came off this morning at daylight. A flag of truce came to our Picket lines today. One of Co. D^s men was buried this afternoon. Weather Blustering.

4th. A heavy rain last night. Got letter No. 57 from my Wife. Orders came this afternoon for the Regt. to be ready to march to Vicksburg at 7 1/2 O. clock tomorrow morning.

5th. Pleasant. Our "Excelsior" flag was given up this morning as we are no longer in the 3^d Division. The non-Veterans of the 1st and 2nd Brigades went in to Vicksburg first. We got our tents, Lumber &c on board and started about 2 P.M. I was detailed with four men to load and unload the company property. We went into camp on a hill in the rear of the City Hospital. We are assigned to do Garrison duty in Vicksburg and its defenses. Gen. Maltby is our Brigadier. A Brigade of the 4th Division and Bolton^s Battery took our place at Black River.

6th. Pleasant. Occupied the day in building up my tent and making a bunk. A train loaded with Soldiers went out to Big Black this P.M. Got a letter from Potter. Wrote 74 to my Wife.

7th. April showers. Got a letter from James^s Wife. Wrote one to Mother.

8th. A heavy rain last night. On Picket today at "Fort Hill". Went over to our old camp ground near the "White house" and

got some water from the spring that we used during the siege. Got some pieces of the "Pemberton Oak". A party of Navy Officers visited Fort Hill while we were there. One of the Boys gave one of them a piece of bone for a relic of the place. Picked up some battered up bullets on the fort. Weather windy.

th. A clear and cold night. Was relieved at 9 A.M. by the 7th Mo. Morgan, Gregory, and Rake returned to the Co. for duty. I jammed my finger with dumb bells. Windy and raw.

0th. Sunday. Went to the Episcopal Church this morning and in two prayer books I saw the word "United" scratched out where ever it occurred. In the afternoon I went to the Presbyterian Church and witnessed the Ordination of three Negro ruling Elders for the colored Presbyterian Church, also the marriage of a colored couple. T. I. Sloan came to the Regt. today.

1th. Fair and windy. Went on board the Gunboat "Switzerland". 64 men were detailed from our Regt. to Guard Ordnance stored in town.

2th. Warm and Cloudy. Wrote a letter to Potter.

3th. Pleasant. Made a visit to the City Hospital. My Watch came today by mail.

4th. Received letter No. 59 from my Wife. Sent letter No. 72. Put Watch pockets in my pants.

5th. Pleasant. Paid a visit to Batteries Grant and Castle on the South side of the town. Battery Castle will mount 8 to 10 Guns one of which is a huge Pivot Gun in the center of the work. It is nearly finished. There is a Splendid view to be had from the parapet for miles both up and down the river. Battery Grant is twice as large a fort than the other but is not so near finished. At present only two Pivot Guns are mounted in it. It is south of Battery Castle. They both command a great range of country and when finished will be almost impregnable.

16th. Pleasant. Wm. Carpenter got back from home this morning bringing a trunk full of nick nacks for the Boys. He presented me with some Cherry Preserves, Grapes &c, and brought a package of Tea from T. G. Damon. This afternoon I helped fit up the chapel tent for Preaching tomorrow. Heard tidings of Uncle Charles^s folks.

17th. Sunday. Warm and clear. The Co. drew for furloughs this morning. I drew a chance and changed off with Geo. Rake. Bammer also drew one. On Picket. Was posted on the brow of a hill in the rear of our last summers Camp ground, now planted with cotton.

18th. Warm. Was relieved at 9 A.M. Went down to the River and saw the Gunboats "Scott" and "Choctaw".

19th. Pleasant. Brigade Inspection at 10 A.M.

20th. Pleasant. Battalion drill this morning. 85 Recruits came to the Regt. today. Orderly Campbell came tonight.

21st. Mailed letter No. 73 this morning. Wrote a letter to James^s Wife. Walked to the River and saw some of the sick and wounded from the Red River Expedition.

22nd. Very Windy. Partly wrote a letter to my Wife.

23d. Pleasant.

24th. Sunday. Pleasant. Preaching by the Chaplain at 10 1/2 A.M. Went to the colored Presbyterian service and visited their S. School in the afternoon. Attended prayer meeting in the evening in our Chapel tent.

25th. Warm. On Picket on the Reb line of Breastworks we have a first rate view of the River. Saw some heavy Artillery practice by the Negroes. They did good shooting. One shot went right to the mark and all the others were very close. The mark was about a mile off.

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- 26th Warm. Was relieved at 9 O. clock. Had a taste of strawberries. The 4th Iowa Cavalry are ordered to Memphis. 8 or 10 Boats came down the river while I was on Picket.
- 27th Warm again. It is rumored that Big Black is to be evacuated by our troops. We had a baked Rice Pudding for dinner today.
- 28th Very warm. Copied my diary to the 26th. Big Black evacuated today. Cotton Speculators and Negroes rushing into Vicksburg.
- 29th Mailed letter No. 74 to my Wife. A train loaded with soldiers came from Big Black this morning. Got a letter from Uncle Chas. Suydam and one from William. Attended meeting in the evening.
- 30th Weather warm. Answered Uncle Charles^s letter. Towards evening the Regt. marched to Gens. Slocum and Mc Arthurs Head Quarters and paid our Respects.

my finger was unimpaired.
10th Sunday. Went to the Episcopal Church this morning and in two prayer books I saw the words "United" scratched out wherever it occurred. In the afternoon I went to the Presbyterian Church and witnessed the Ordination of three Negro ruling Elders for the Colored Presbyterian Church, also the marriage of a Colored couple. J. O. Moan came to the Regt. today

st. Sunday. Pleasant. On Picket near Fort Hill. Went outside the Pickets to see the Monument that is to be erected on the spot where Gens. Grant and Pemberton agreed on the terms of the surrender of Vicksburg. The Inscription is

Site of Interview between

Major General

U. S. Grant, U. S. A.

and

Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton July 4th

1863.

- 2nd A cold night. Was relieved at 9 A.M. Today our camp was moved to the north side of the Valley road in an Apple Orchard between the Fortifications and Cemetery. A pleasant day.
- 3^d. Pleasant. Received orders to be ready to march tomorrow morning with 10 days rations. Wrote a letter to William and No. 75 to my Wife. Bought a pair Suspenders.
- 4th. Started at 6 1/2 A.M. 124th Rear Guard. Weather warm and roads dusty. Marched 22 miles and camped about Sundown in an Orchard. Had a good wash and went to bed at 8 P.M.
- 5th. Got up at 3 A.M. and as soon as we could get breakfast, started to join the rest of the expedition which camped 3 or 4 miles in advance of us. We came up with them at 5. We marched 25 miles and got into camp before sundown. The cavalry skirmished some with the enemy during the day. After dark I was detailed on Guard at Div. Head Quarters.

6th. Was relieved at 4 A.M., marched at 6. Rode part of the way in the Amunition Wagon. Camped by a creek 17 miles from where we started. Weather very warm. 5 Rebs were captured by a squad of our Cavalry on the road after the main body had passed. They were put there to pick up stragglers, and came near capturing one of McArthurs Staff Officers. The Cavalry rode up just in time to save him.

7th. Started at 4 A.M. and got to Benton, 10 miles east of Yazoo City at 11 A.M. The Rebs made a stand here and our cavalry engaged them. The enemy had Artillery and were using it when we came up. We marched through the town at quick time and got into line in the rear of Boltons Battery. Skirmishers were thrown out and the Rebs fell back. We, the 124th, advanced in line of battle across a cornfield and then filed out into the road and followed them about 4 miles beyond the town, and then returned to the town and camped in an Orchard, feet very sore. One of the 7th Ohio Battery was killed, and Lieut. Pomeroy of the 72nd badly wounded by a shell. The enemy left two of their dead. One was killed by a bullet. The other had the back part of his head shot away by a shell, so that his brains were left on the ground nearly whole where he was killed. One of our Artillery shots dismounted one of their Guns by breaking the axle. They had to get it off by hitching a rope to it and dragging it on the ground for four miles. A Rebel courier with dispatches from Gen. Lee to Adj. Gen. Cooper was captured this morning by our cavalry. He did not know that we were there and rode right up to our men. Weather warm, and very dusty.

8th. Sunday. Lieut. Pomeroy died last night. The captured dispatches state that there had been a bloody battle on the Rapidan and that Gen. Grant had crossed with three Corps. At 11 A.M. we were ordered to be ready to march at a moments notice, but were not ordered out. After dark we were alarmed by Picket firing. It proved to be our own Cavalry who had been scouting out to Big Black River. The enemy had crossed the River and destroyed the Ferry.

9th. Laid in camp till the middle of the afternoon, when Picket firing was heard and we were ordered out. We advanced half a mile and formed in line of battle. The firing soon ceased and we went into camp just in advance of the 7th Ohio Battery. Weather pleasant.

10th. Cloudy and Showery. Picket firing all through the day. Reb cavalry scouts are seen on the other side of the ploughed field in front of our camp about half a mile off. Some of the Boys from our Regt. Volunteered to go and drive them off. The Rebs retreated and rain coming on pretty hard our Boys returned. Made a shelter of a length of fence, and Rubbers, and a bed of Oak leaves and twigs.

11th. A cool night. Slept as well as could be expected. Another party Volunteered this morning to go and see what the Rebs were about. They advanced as skirmishers to a building that the Rebs were near a good deal and found that it had corn in. The Adj. and Orderly Campbell set fire to it. They saw two Co.^s of Reb. cavalry on the right but were not molested by them. One Gun of the 7th Ohio was brought out to the Picket lines and shelled the woods and building. I went to a hole and washed myself all over, and my shirt and stockings. It is reported that we have drawn 10 days more rations.

12th. 29 years old today. A fine morning. The 124th ordered to report to Col. Coats at 5 O'clock A.M. for special duty. Started at 5 1/2 towards Big Black. Went 9 miles and halted. Some Cavalry and Artillery were sent to Big Black to destroy the Ferry. After two hours we went 2 1/2 miles north and took the road to Benton. Got into camp at 2 1/2 P.M. tired and dirty, sore-footed and mad. A ration of Whiskey was issued and some got tight on the strength of it. Went to bed at 8.

13th. Got up at four. After we got to bed last night orders came to march at 5 A.M. with three days rations in haversack and but one team. Boys mad and talk savage. About 8 our cavalry came up with the Rebs and had a heavy skirmish with them

in a large open field 4 miles east of Benton. The Infantry was formed in battle order and the Rebs retreated. Some of our Artillery was in action. A captain of the Negro Cavalry was wounded in the bowels. At noon the Rebs made another stand in an open field. All our force was deployed in line of battle and marched nearly two miles in line. Some of our Infantry skirmishers were in action this time. The Rebs threw some shells at us. I went outside of our Cavalry Pickets for water. Three of the 1st Kansas went with me. I got nearly a quart of Milk and drank it. Marched 16 miles and camped in front of a Reb surgeon^s house near Vaughn Station. Just after sunset a few Rebs came to the edge of the woods and fired into our camp. Weather warm.

4th. Had a rousing good bed of straw and slept first rate. I got up at 4 A.M. Had inspection of Cartridge boxes. A part of the Cavalry and the 11th Ill. Inftry. started at 5 to burn the R.R. Bridge over Big Black but they found the Rebs in Stockade forts and the canebrake so thick that it was difficult to approach. There was only a path wide enough for one man leading to it. They had some skirmishing in which we lost three killed. They returned without burning the Bridge. The rest of the troops left camp at 7 A.M. and marched to Deasonville, where we halted for them to join us, which they did at 1 P.M. At 2 we started for Benton, which we reached at Sundown and stopped at our old camp, having marched 12 miles. Weather pleasant. At Deasonville there are earth works sufficient to hold two or three thousand troops and embrasures for 6 Guns.

5th. Sunday. A fine morning. A Cavalry force went out towards G. this A.M. at 5 and had a skirmish before they got a mile out. At 7 1/2 we started for Yazoo City. Plank road nearly all the way. Some of our Boys saw the dead body of a Negro lying in a small creek in the woods near the road. He was probably killed in the fight of the 4th of March. We got to Yazoo City at noon and camped near the fort held by the 11th in the fight of the 4th of March.

16th. Pleasant. Got a pass and went to see the town. Three Boats of the Marine Brigade and a Gunboat are here. The marks of Shot, Shell, and Minnies give proof of the fierceness of the fight here. The Mansion house, which the Rebs got possession of, is riddled the worst. Today the Court House and one or two other were burned down. The Gunboat went up the River and shelled the woods.

17th. Pleasant. Several houses burned down this evening. We received Orders to be ready to march at 5 A.M. tomorrow.

18th. Started at 6 A.M. We had several showers this morning which made the roads slippery and muddy and marching hard. As we advanced the roads became more dry and where we camped it was as dusty as if there had been no rain. We camped at "Liverpool Heights" 14 miles from Y. City, but taking the wrong road we came 6 miles out of the way making 20 miles marching. Got into camp at 8 P.M.

19th. Got up at 4 O. clock, started at 5 marched through the woods about 8 miles and then struck the River Bottom. Passed through "Satartia", a small town on the bank of the River. Saw the smoke of the Boats following us down. Some of the Artillery horses giving out so that they had to unhitch them. We went into camp at 2 P.M. by a swift running stream 18 miles from our last nights camp. Weather hot and roads very dusty. I had sore feet and was chafed some, but I took a good wash all over and felt better.

20th. Hot and dusty. Started at 6 A.M. and marched to Haines Bluff, 16 miles, and camped on the side of a hill in front of some rifle pits. There are fortifications all along the Bluff for 7 or 8 miles up the River. The strongest is about a mile from our camp. A mile or two back I saw some large rocks, a rare thing about here. We got into camp at 2 P.M.

21st. Started at 5 A.M. towards Vicksburg. Our road was through the Leased Plantation of Gen. Smith. He has cotton planted for a mile or more on both sides of the road. We passed

"Chickasaw" Bayou and Shermans battle ground in his first attack on Vicksburg a year ago last winter. It is a rough place to fight over with trees felled in every direction and some parts of it covered with water. We got to our camp at 9 A.M. having marched 10 or 11 miles. I got three letters from my Wife, one from George and one from Lieut. P. Signed the pay Rolls today. Washed myself, put on clean clothes and then wrote No. 76 to my Wife. We drew rations of coffee, Hard Bread, and candles. No meat and no Sugar. Slim feed.

22nd Warm. Sunday. Felt unwell all day. Laying around camp.

23^d Warm and clear. Wrote a letter to George and Phebe. Bought some butter, took a walk down town. Drew 8 days rations.

24th Warm but Pleasant. The Red river troops got back last night. Took a walk down this morning to see them. They look rough as though they had seen hard service. There is 25 or 30 Boats loaded with them. They give Banks an awful name. Not one had a good word to speak for him, but all speak in praise of Gen. Smith.

25th Warm. Received letter No. 63 from my Wife in New Haven. Answered it by letter No. 77. Our Pickets were relieved at 9 O. clock tonight in order to be paid off tomorrow.

26th Pleasant. Our Regt. received four months pay today. I paid the sutler \$2.00 and \$1.00 to the company fund for cooking &c. We got orders to be ready to march at a moments notice. The 81st Ill. went on board Boats at 9 O. clock this evening to go up the river.

27th Warm. Received 4 months pay yesterday. Went to the "City Bank of Vicksburg" and bought a check of \$40.00 drawn on Kirtland & Co. N. Y., number of check was 329. Wrote letter No. 78 to my Wife, enclosed the check and mailed it. Furloughs came today for Rake and Bammer. I sent a letter and two memorandum books by Geo. Rake to Chas. Suydam.

The Co. got some Lumber and made tables, and some old tents and made a shade over them from the camp of the 81st Ill.

28th Went to town and saw some white Refugees from Red River. Some of them were very sick and nearly all looked as if they had suffered from want. They were huddled together with their goods on the bank of the River. The sick were laid on blankets in the street with no shelter from the sun or dust. Some of the party had died on the way up. Cloudy.

29th Sunday. Pleasant with cool breezes. Unwell today.

30th Warm and dusty.

31st Cool breezes with a slight shower in the afternoon. Detailed on fatigue duty.

12th 29 Years old today. A fine morning. The 1st Regt. ordered to report to Col. Costis at 8 O'clock et cetera for special duty. Started at 5 1/2 towards Big Bluffs. Went 9 miles and halted. Some Cavalry and Artillery were sent to Big Bluffs to destroy the Ferry. After two hours we went 2 1/2 miles north and took the road to Benton. Got into camp at 2 1/2 P.M. fired and digged the fort and made. A nation of Whites was killed and some got killed on the strength of it. Went to bed at 8.

JUNE, 1864

- 1st Weather Warm.
- 2nd Monthly Inspection by Brigade Inspector. A thunder shower with high winds and hail. Reported sick this A.M.
- 3^d Cloudy all day with rain occasionally.
- 4th Warm. Received letter No. 64 from home.
- 5th Sunday. Very warm. The missing letter No. 58 came today.
- 6th Showery. Wrote No. 79 to my Wife.
- 7th Pleasant, with showers.
- 8th Showers through the day. Weather comfortable. Received letter No. 65 from my Wife, also one from James^s Wife.
- 9th Warm. Showery in the afternoon.
- 10th Warm and Showery.
- 11th Ditto. Received a letter from William.
- 12th Sunday. Attended preaching at 10 1/2 A.M.
- 13th Cloudy. Wrote and mailed letter No. 80 to my Wife. Weather cool and pleasant.
- 14th Pleasant and cool. Went down town. Received 2 Papers and three pairs of socks by mail. Sent three copies of Vicksburg Herald to my Wife.
- 15th Cloudy and cool. Mailed the "Golden Shower" to my Wife.
- 16th Cool. A slight shower in the afternoon.

- 17th Cool and showery. Wrote a letter to James^s Wife. Received letter No. 66 from my Wife.
- 18th Warm.
- 19th Clear with cool winds. Attended preaching at 10 1/2 A.M. b the chaplain. Mailed No. 81 to my Wife. Sunday.
- 20th A fine breeze. Today the Capt. received information by flag of truce that W. W. Wilder of Co. H and C. W. Randall of Co. E were at Cahawba Alabama as prisoners of war.
- 21st Cloudy and Rainy.
- 22th Weather pleasant. Went down town. Was presented with a can of Black Currant preserves by Wm. Carpenter.
- 23^d On Picket at the post next the R.R. Men at work repairing the R.R. The sun shining very hot.
- 24th Warm. Relieved at 8 A.M. A Negro soldier was shot today for the murder of his Wife.
- 25th Warm. Received letter No. 66 from my Wife, also two Papers. This evening received a furlough for 30 days.
- 26th Sunday. Weather Warm. Attended preaching at 10 1/2.
- 27th Started for home. Took passage on the Steamer "W. R. Arthur" for Cairo. Took up quarters on a pile of wood in front of the Boilers. A cool place. Passed Goodrich^s Landing near sundown. Warm.
- 28th Passed Skipwith^s Landing at midnight. Passed Napoleon, Ark. at 12 1/2 P.M. A dreary, deserted looking place.
- 29th Passed Helena, Ark. at 1 A.M. Arrived at Memphis at 11 A.M. Got dinner at the Soldiers Lodge. Left M. at 2 1/2 P.M.