

JOHN H. MERRELL DIARY BOOK TWO

Monday 16th December 1861

Just got my first book written through. The boys were up this morning at 5 o'clock and had their breakfast. Started for Cincinnati to get their horses. I was very busy getting our feed from the depot, got very tired. After supper there was six of us that went to visit the boys so we each got a horse and started. Rode some four miles before we came to them, they was having an awful time with the mules. When they got to Cincinnati they found that there was not but 5 out of 20 that had ever had a harness on so they had to break them. They had an awful time of it, for they could not get them to go at all until they whipped them almost to death before they would give up, but they drove them home. With our line we came around by the hospital which was out of our way a good deal. Got into camp, turned out our horses and got to bed about 11 o'clock. The boys were very tired and soon got asleep.

Tuesday 17th December 1861

Up quite early, had roll call, then went and watered the horses. Rode them down to the river which is about 3/4 of a mile. We fed them, then had breakfast, after which the Captain set us at work on slicking up stables. Had a lot of mangers to finish which we began the day before. Got them done by noon, then had dinner. In the afternoon I was detailed to see that the bunks were all cleaned out. Had quite a time at it. I had 6 men with me and we did not get through until 3 o'clock. Then I went out to the stables, found the boys riding the horses, so I took a hand at it. I rode about half a dozen different ones, then got ready for dress parade, after which we took the horses to water. Did not get them taken care of until after dark. It made the cooks somewhat mad to think that we did not get around so that they could get their dishes done before dark. Played chess with Sam, beat him. Danced schottische with Harlow Boyce - it seemed like old times. Fiddled some, then retired.

Wednesday 18th December 1862

Up early in the morning. The boys took care of the horses after which we cleaned up all the rubbish. Then the Lieutenant picked out the horses for the detachments. We get all bay horses and swell ones too. At 11 o'clock went out to get in readiness to salute a Cleveland battery. We had to wait until 1 o'clock before they came along, then we all (some 30 of us) fired 2 cartridges a piece, the first time that we had shot our guns. Every gun went off well but detachment C. They tried a long while before they could get it to go, but finally they succeeded in getting it off after the Colonel had given the command "cease firing." The Colonel was sure mad to think that they should fire after he gave the command to cease and he told them that he would have them in the guardhouse if they did not mind, and said if they could not keep their ears open a little better. It made them feel quite cheap, and we call them the Guard House Detachment now which takes them down considerable. We took our guns in and helped them in line, then went and rode horses again until dress parade, after which we took them to water, fed them. Had supper, wrote a letter to Ell Knapp. Sold my fiddle to Hutchison for 4 dollars. It did not cost me anything as I got 9

dollars to boot for the one that I traded for it, as that was all that I paid for my first one. I read some in the evening. I received a letter from Alsma Cass.

Thursday 19th December 1861

Up in the morning, helped water the horses, then returned and wrote a letter to M.E.B., had a talk with Corlett Riley's Father, find him to be a fine man. Did not drill at all today as it rained some last night and made it slippery getting about. Had dress parade at the usual hour. Nothing of importance transpired this day.

Friday 20th December 1861

Up at the usual hour. Took care of Harris' horse, had breakfast, rode several horses, then came to my bunk and read the news. Captain went home and tonight they telegraphed for him to return as we expect to go south in a few days, some five batteries of us. Everything passed off quietly today yet there was considerable excitement about our going away South. Had our men with their teams drawing gravel to put under our horses to keep it dry. Commenced to help Phy Norton mark the knapsacks. We mark them with the Company letter and the name of the Regiment. Colonel wants us to go through the whole Regiment and mark them all which is going to make quite a job for us as there is some 600 or 800 of them here in camp. Marked all of our Company and then retired.

Saturday 21st December 1861

After roll call took all my cannoneers and cleaned my gun which took nearly all the forenoon. The drivers were training their horses in the afternoon. There was an regimental inspection or review which lasted all the afternoon. We had all our horses hitched up before our fences. It made a string something like a mile long. We paraded around all over the whole campground. Had some trouble with some of the detachments but our detachment went good all the while. We returned just at dark somewhat tired and cold. I dressed my gun, covered it over with the tarpaulin, then went in and had supper, played chess with Sam and beat him, then we read a chapter, wrote some, and retired.

Sunday 22nd December 1861

Found the snow some two inches deep. Helped take care of the horses as usual, then read the news. Had inspection at 9 o'clock by the Lieutenants and at 11 o'clock the Colonel and staff came around and we had our barracks examined. The Colonel spoke well of them, and chose our quarters for the place to have preaching, which came off at half past one in the afternoon. We had an excellent sermon. There was quite a number in from other Batteries. Set around until time to take care of the horses, then had supper. Went into a ---- building and had our Bible class which was quite interesting, lasted about 2 hours. Returned and retired.

Monday 23rd December 1861

Quite rainy in the afternoon. Had my likeness taken and sent to M.E. Brewer. Wrote to Ev Brewer. Stood as Corporal of the stable Guard. Sam Cass is sick, had a headache. I relieved my Guards every 4 hours, it made it quite easy for me as I had them come and call me up whenever they wanted to be relieved.

Tuesday 24th December 1861

Had nothing of importance to do. Went out and saw one battery shoot at target. I could see the balls very plain in the air. They looked about as large as goose eggs. Read the papers nearly all day. Had battalion drill at 4 o'clock, then I had to make out a list and give a description of every man in our Detachment, which took me nearly all the evening. At 9 o'clock I went and helped Phy Norton look over his books which took until 11 o'clock. I was very tired and went to bed as soon as I read a chapter.

Wednesday 25th December 1861, Christmas.

My day to cook . Worked all day hard. Two of us cooked for 82[?] men. There was about half a dozen of our men that were drunk. Where they got their liquor no one but themselves knew. They stole our sugar but we searched until we found it in one of the other cook's boxes. But he was so drunk that he did not know sugar from anything else. Did not have any dress parade as the Colonel had a good deal of company. I received a letter from Matilda W. After supper we had a stag dance, then I went in my bunk and talked with Sam Cass, read a chapter, roll call, then retired.

Thursday 26th December 1861

No drill in the forenoon. After dinner we drilled with our horses and guns. They all went off well. After drill we got ready for dress parade. Passed a review, had supper, took care of the horses, which took until it was quite dark.

Friday 27th December 1861

Took out our detachment and drilled them a spell, then took the gun and drilled with that. I acted as sergeant, made it go much better than I expected. Did not drill with the horses in the afternoon but put up our picket rope in front of our stable to clean our horses with. Did not do much work. Dress parade as usual, evening passed off as usual.

Saturday 28th December 1861

Corporal of the Guard which kept me busy all day and night. Had some good times at night in taking around my relief. Most of them were Dutch, they act like cattle. Got to bed at 11 o'clock. Slept until guard mounting when Sam came and called me up.

Sunday 29th December 1861

Relieved my guards, then got ready for Sunday inspection. Acted as sergeant, then went to my bunk. Made up my mind that I would read the Bible through so I commenced with the determination of succeeding in my undertaking. At two o'clock had preaching in our quarters. It was quite interesting. The C--- returned the night before and brought a large quantity of provision with him, so he set a table and invited Detachments A and B to eat with him. I never enjoyed a meal more in my life than I did that. Everything that a person could wish for and enough too. Nothing more of importance transpired through the day. Prayer meeting at Capt. Robertson's in the evening but we did not attend as we had our Bible class which was very interesting.

Monday 30th December 1861

Took our horses over to the shop to get them shod. The rest of our boys were out at target shooting nearby the shop. The first and only shot they made killed one of Company M's men, tore his shoulder off. It was the Major's doing for he commanded fire. The boys told him that there was a company drilling between the gun and target but he told them to fire which caused the awful deed. The man was on his horse, the wheel team of the gun. It knocked him off his horse. The men got a rope and swore that they would hang the Major but he got out of their way. It was detachment C that made the shot, the first shot they ever made. There was not more drill today. Dress parade as usual then I took care of the horses and in the evening played chess with Phy Norton, beat him. Sam Cass and I went to our bunk and read a few chapters.

Tuesday 31st December 1861

Quite a cold morning. Had a review at 11 o'clock and had our company mustered in the afternoon, which took until nearly night. Had no dress parade. Read several chapters, then played chess a while and retired.

Wednesday 1st January 1862

Drilled all the forenoon with the horses and gun. In the afternoon drilled our horses without the guns. Then a Lieutenant came and they took 4 of our men. Said that they enlisted under him first. Our Captain was awful mad, said that he thought it was a smart trick and it was a long while [word omitted] he would let them go away with the Lieutenant. There was some 5 or 6 boys that got put in the guardhouse for getting drunk. Matt Corlett returned from Toledo. Will Smith and Perigo went home on furlough. John Wilcox got a furlough tonight and starts in the morning for home. There is some 15 of our boys away on furlough now. At night I played chess with Sam, wrote to Alsma, read a letter from Barbara Ann.

Thursday 2nd January 1862

I was Corporal of the guard. On the third relief went out and drilled with Detachment E & F. Drove one of their teams. Had a fine drill. Got my guard on at one o'clock, then went and did my washing which took nearly an hour. Tied a couple of fellows hands that were in the guardhouse for they would not stay any other way, but soon fixed them. One got out by kicking a board off from the guardhouse and deserted but they caught him about a mile from camp. He was hid by the side of the river in among some logs. Got him back and tied him. Orderly returned just at dark with two new recruits. Nothing of much importance transpired through the night.

Friday 3rd January 1862

One Regiment of cavalry came in just at daybreak. I relieved my guard at 9 o'clock, then went in and had my breakfast and laid around nearly all day. Felt sure sleepy. At night I watered 4 horses, ate supper, then went to my bunk and read a few chapters in the testaments, then went over and had a sing with John Edmonds, then retired.

Saturday 4th January 1862

There is about two inches of snow on the ground this morning; quite cold. I do not feel very well and took some pills last night. There is 6 boys sick with the measles and one with the Billious fever. No drill today. Had an inspection of the horses, found several that were not shod right so we had them taken over to the Blacksmith and had them shod over again. ---- more new recruits. Nothing of much importance transpired today.

Sunday 5th January 1862

Had morning inspection at 9 o'clock, then took a horse and got Albert to go with me up to Cousin John's. Found them all well. We had a very nice dinner and a good time, as we usually do when we go up there. When I returned I helped take care of the horses. I wrote a letter to Father, read several chapters in the Bible, then retired.

Monday 6th January 1862

Quite cool this morning, some[?] snowy. Drilled in the afternoon. Nothing of much importance transpired today.

Tuesday 7th January 1862

My turn to cook, had a very good time, got up some good meals. Albert Morton[?] helped and we had some gay times out in the kitchen with the rest of the cooks. At night I played chess with Sam Cass, beat him twice, then I read several chapters in the Bible and retired.

Wednesday 8th January 1862

We went out and drilled, had a good time of it, returned just before noon. Had dinner, then all the boys that were out with the gun that day that the major shot that man had to go over to Head Quarters to give in their testimony. They was gone nearly all the afternoon. I did not do anything until it was time to water the horses, then I went and helped take down our detachment. About seven o'clock at night our Company with all the rest were called out the same as on dress parade. Then we marched by sections around to the Colonel's quarters and gave him three cheers. Then we called on Colonel Barnett for a speech. He came out and made a short speech, then we cheered him, and called on Lt. Col. and he came out and said a few words thanking us for our kindness. We cheered him then called on the major. He came out and spoke as follows: I know very well that you did not come here to see me, and if you expect me to make you a speech, you will get very much disappointed. (Pretty good for the Major). We fired several guns, the Band played a few good pieces, then we were marched back again, all enjoying it very much. Next into quarters, had roll call, then went to my bunk and read.

Thursday 9th January 1862

It has been thawing all night and this morning it is very wet and muddy. I did not go out scarce at all. This forenoon all that I done was to find out all the things that wanted fixing about my gun, then I read the rest of the forenoon. In the afternoon I played chess with John Edmonds, beat him every other time. The left and center sections were out a drilling with the horses. At four o'clock had dress parade, assigned the ranks and had a deserter drummed out of camp. They first brought[sic] him in between the ranks, shaved

one half of his head, then marched him round all over the camp ground, then took him outside of the ground and let him go. Such groaning I never heard before. We got some of their infantry to march him out as they had guns and we were without. We dismissed parade, then took care of the horses and had supper. Went in to my bunk, made a trade with Lew Jacobs, of watch chains, got ten shillings to boot. Went over and had a sing with John Edwards, as I generally do every night, roll call, then retired. Slept sound.

Friday 10th January 1862

Very pleasant, warm. I did not do much of anything today but read the paper and help water the horses. Played chess some, wrote one letter to Harlow, received one from him and one from Stanley[?]. Nothing of importance transpired today. Was a few nice girls where I went to water the horses but my heart did not palpitate at all.

Saturday 11th January 1862

A very nice morning. The whole Battery went out to drill. While were drilling we saw two Cavalry men throwed off their horses. It is very nubby[?] and they acted as though they were hurt some, but they got up and limped along toward where their --- Company was to which he belonged. They were practicing the skirmish drill. We drilled until 11 o'clock when it began to rain, then we went to our quarters. Two of our horses died this morning. They have been sick for quite a while. Took Charley Bemis to the Hospital. He has the measles but has got nearly over them and the Dr. thinks that he will have the lung fever if he's not taken care of better, so we took him away to the hospital. John Wilcox arrived th---. I went over to the Depot and helped him bring over his boxes which he brought from home with lots of things which was sent to us. One person fainted away of the cold and did not come to --- --- ---- an hour.

Sunday 12th January 1862

Got up and found it raining. Went out, helped take care of the horses. Came in and had breakfast, then fixed my bunk. Did not go to help water. Phylenzo Norton came to me and wanted me to help look over his books, said that we should probably go away in two or 3 days, so I went and helped him which took until afternoon before we got through. Then helped get dinner, opened two boxes that John Wilcox brought and found everything that one could ask for. Cakes, pies, pickles, sweet walnuts, meats f--- Kitty[?] sent me. We ate and ate but could not devour more than half of them. That boy that got throwed off his horse yesterday died of the bruises which he received. The boys are all relieved that they are going away. Had our bible class as usual.

Monday 13th January 1862

Very cold, cold this morning. Practiced drill calls a spell then went out and drilled afoot. It was quite cool so we did not stay but a short time. Got my things fixed about the gun, had pie for dinner. Did not do anything scarcely this afternoon until dress parade when we all went out, then the Adjutant told me to put a fellow in the guard house so I went and got him, but the Adjutant excused him for his misconduct and let him go without having him put in the guardhouse. At night I helped Phy Norton about his books which took nearly all the

evening. I received a letter from E. Brewer, wrote one to Standley. Orders for going away tomorrow are countermanded.

Tuesday 14th January 1862

Helped take care of the horses in the morning, then my head commenced to ache. I took an emetic of oil of lobelia which made me vomit quite hard several times. In the afternoon, just before night, there were orders came for two of our Batteries to leave. There was a good deal of excitement all the evening as the boys were packing up their things. Our boys are wishing they could go too. Companies F & M were the ones that left.

Wednesday 15th January 1862

The excitement still prevails with the two Batteries that are about to leave. We gave them three cheers just before they left. Last night there was two persons (a man and his wife) got run over by the cars. They were walking along the R.R.. right at a bend in the road and the engineer did not see them in time to stop the engine. They were both killed instantly. I do not feel very well today, took some pills this morning, sat around most of the day. Received two letters, one from A.C. & one from E.G.S.

Thursday 16th January 1862

The coldest morning that I have seen since I came in camp. Went out at target shooting, shot several times but did not hit the target at all, so only used the smooth bore guns and one rifle one. The adjoining battery came out with their steel guns and shot very close to the target. It made our Company feel ashamed of their brass guns. Came in just before noon, had dinner, then went out again. Had a tip top drill this afternoon, all things went off well. Returned just before night, had supper, then went to my bunk and read some, had a chat with Harris. He wanted me to act as sergeant of the guard.

Friday 17th January 1862

Got up and went to the stable, had the horses cleaned and harnessed before breakfast, after which had them watered and hitched up before the guns went out to shoot. The smooth bores did not make any very good shots as we found our cartridges were not of a heft as there was nearly half a pound more of powder in some than others. We drilled all day today. I made it go much better than I expected I should, did not make a mistake. Nothing of importance transpired this evening. John Edmonds came over and read two chapters and we had a quite a discussion upon them. My throat is awful sore. One of my cheeks are swelled up quite large and pains me considerable.

Saturday 18th January 1862

My throat is no better. My cheek remains puffed up about as large as my fist. I did not do much today but lay in my bunk. It rained nearly all night. The camp is covered with water and awful muddy. One or two company of Cavalry came in this morning. I received a letter from W.E.B.[M.E.B.?] this afternoon. Nothing of importance occurred this day. Colonel Jerome got kicked with a horse just below the knee. It cut clear through to the bone.

Sunday 19th January 1862

My throat is some better this morning. I went up to the Dr. He gave me some heartshorn which seems to help it a good deal. I wrote a letter to Everett Brewer and at 1 o'clock we had our bible class in one of the vacated barracks. It was very interesting. Read several chapters, also some in the newspaper. Along towards night Wm. Corlett came up in my bunk and we had a long talk about the owning[?] things in the bible. I could not help feeling deeply upon the subject of which we were discussing.

Monday 20th January 1862

My throat is much better. I have been using heartshorn to bring down the swelling. Just received orders to march to Romney[?] Va. I have been sewing and fixing my things nearly all day. Went up to see Charlie Bemis. He is getting along quite well, says that he wants to go home as soon as he is able to leave the Hospital. There is not quite as much excitement among the boys as there usually is when they receive marching orders for they have been fooled so many times that they don't believe that they will go this time, but I think we will and have got our baggage wagons partly packed. Wrote a letter to A.C. The wind[?] is about a ---.

Tuesday 21st January 1862

Up at 5 o'clock in the morning, got our things ready, all the guns greased, and at 9 o'clock started for Cincinnati. Had an awful time in getting started as Robison's horses balked a great deal and the roads were very bad. Did not get into Cincinnati until 9 o'clock at night, nearly tired out. There was no rest until we got all our guns and horses loaded on the boat. We took the Jacob Stader, a splendid boat. Took us until 3 o'clock in the morning to get loaded. When we were ----ing along the road there was a great many that came out to feed us. Some would bring us pie and some cake to treat us. It made us feel as though we were among friends in good earnest. I rode Phy's horse about half the way.

Wednesday 22nd January 1862

We started early this morning from Cincinnati. Every small place and every house along the river we could see handkerchiefs hung and hurrahing. The first town of any importance was Ripley. The most of the houses were along the river. set in the water [?]. The next place was Maysville, quite a pretty town. Some one family that we supposed to be secesh they came out, stood and looked at us but did not cheer at all. We all wanted to get off and throw them in the River, but could not stop. We would fire our guns at all the small places. About 9 o'clock at night we got out of coal and had to stop a boat and buy a little, but could not get much. Started along river up within 3 miles of Portsmouth. Had to tie up for [remainder illegible].

Thursday 23rd January 1862

Our Lieutenant and two men have gone up to Portsmouth after coal. We shot several guns before they returned. They got along with the coal at 10 o'clock. Brought several revolvers with them. we shot our guns several times as soon as they came in sight. Found 3 of Robisons horses dead in the boat. They were packed in so close that they could not get around to tend to them at all. When we got at Portsmouth they chartered the Bostmon[?] and we put our horses on her. Stayed there nearly 4 hours, saw many pretty

females. Saw McCall. He came on the boat and I had quite a chat with him. The Major had me take charge of the firing of the guns. The first place after we left Portsmouth was Wheelersburg. There I shot a few rounds. It is situated on the Ohio side. The next place was Greensburg[?], we saluted them also; we then came to Ironton, that is quite a large place. Stopped just below there to coal up & got to Ironton about 9 o'clock, then I came on Corporal of the Guard, stood my hours.

Friday 24th January 1862

This morning we arrived at Gallipolis about daylight, saw the Kanawha River which empties in at that point. We shot a few guns. The next place that we came to was Point Pleasant. We stopped and let off an infantry company which came from Cincinnati with us. We let them off, shot a few guns, and started on. Arrived at Pomeroy O side[??] at 10 o'clock, got a supply of coal, then started on. Saw several very nice places and good land along the river. I never saw [word omitted] pretty residents in my life. Will Mann is quite sick. I have given him an emetic, it's made him feel much better. We arrived at Parkersburg at 9 o'clock this night. Shot a few guns. We found our Captain here, told us that we need not unload until morning so Sam and I went to bed.

Saturday 25th January 1862

We have been all day in getting unloaded. I took quite a walk around the town. Our barracks are about a mile from the town depot.

Sunday 26th January 1862

Went to church at the Episcopale's. Went off something like it [used?] to at Hampton. Saw several very aristocratic people, had quite a good choir. Sam went with me. Not much excitement here today. Battery L left this afternoon but got stopped about 4 miles from here by the washing away of a bridge.

Monday 27th January 1862

Orders for us to leave this day so we have been very busy all day fixing and loading our guns and horses. I went down into the City this morning, bought me some gloves and got my watch fixed. We packed up and got started at 9 o'clock in the evening. Rode all night, slept most of the time. We went through several tunnels, the longest one was nearly a mile.

Tuesday 28th January 1862

We came through several very pretty cities, one of the most important was Grafton [West Virginia]. Rode all day on the cars. Had one horse die in the cars, had to stop and take him out. Had a telegraph dispatch for some kegs of brandy that some of our boys stole. I got up and found it by order of the Lieutenant. There was lots of candy, tea, nearly a bushel of cigars, and 50 lbs. of loaf sugar. The boys were awful mad when they found out that they were taken and sent back to Parkersburg. There was considerable snow in the mountains. Piedmont was the next place of any importance. There was quite a number of soldiers there expecting an attack from the enemy. Then we came to New Creek[?] where we expected to stop, but the Captain got a telegraph dispatch to go on to

Camp Kelley. Got there at 12 o'clock at night, then had to unload our battery and horses, which took until after daylight.

Wednesday 29th January 1862

Pitched our tents this day and got our horses and guns parked. The muddiest hole I ever saw in my life. Got a lot of straw and hay and made it quite comfortable for us. Horses in the mud up to their knees. Slept first rate I tell you.

Thursday 30th January 1862

This day went off about the same. Was about sick with a cold but got around and put my ammunition in the chest of the piece.

Friday 31st January 1862

Got ready to move. Took us all day before we got all our things moved. Have a nice place some half a mile from our camp.

Saturday 1st February 1862

Took a squad of men and went to the old camp to load up grain. Stayed there all day, went without my dinner which made my supper relish first rate.

Sunday 2nd February 1862

Received a letter from home. Answered it right off. Had Bible class just after dinner, it was very interesting. Went into the tent and read all the afternoon. At night I went to the river and sat down and thought over many things of which I had done and the many trials which we will have to pass through. Filled many of the boys' canteens for them and then went back. Found them telling stories as usual and laughing.

Monday 3rd February 1862

Took care of our horses with the rest of the boys, then we had orders to make a bush house [?] for our horses. We worked all day hard and did not get it finished. I was never more tired in my life. Had a good fire in the tent this eve and we all set around and told stories.

Tuesday 4th February 1862

I have an awful sore throat which disables me so that I cant work scarce at all. Our boys worked all day on the shed which they began yesterday. There is quite a number sick with colds as usual. We received orders to prepare for a march in the morning. The cooks are getting days' rations cooked up for us. Miller worked nearly all night cooking.

Wednesday 5th February 1862

My throat is so sore that I am not able to do scarce anything. I went down and helped fix my shell so that they would be ready for the field. Had all our guns taken up to the railroad to be loaded. We expect the cars to take us -- now every moment. Our horses are harnessed and ready for the start. It is now 7 o'clock and the cars have not come after

us yet. Just received orders to take off the harness and let the horses eat. Harris is quite sick. He has got a hard fever.

Thursday 6th February 1862

The first thing that I do is to go up to the brick house where Harris is. He's some better this morning. My throat is worse than ever. I had the Doctor come and see me. He told me to bathe my throat inside and out with salt and vinegar. I applied it all day, but without receiving any benefit from it, and towards night Lieut. Morton favored me with his kindness by going and getting the Doctor to come down and see me. He lanced my throat twice, thought that it would get along. We do not know when we shall leave this camp. Our guns are all ready to be loaded on the he cars. Sam Cass came down and slept with me tonight. Will Mann is quite sick, has been down ever since we left Camp Dennison.

Friday 7th February 1862

My throat is much better this morning. Doctor was down to see me, thought that I was getting along well. Said that I need put nothing on my throat. I stayed around all day, did not feel very well, and along in the afternoon the other side of my throat commenced to swell up again. I begin to feel about discouraged to think that I can't go along.

Saturday 8th February 1862

My throat is about the same. There is a large number of troops moving on towards Romney this afternoon. We hear that our forces are at that point and have orders to be ready to move in the morning some sixteen miles up the R.R. where they expect a battle. I have made up my mind to go along.

Sunday 9th February 1862

We loaded our guns this morning in the cars and started our horses by the road for a place called Paw Paw Town. We arrived here at two o'clock in the afternoon. There is some 19 thousand soldiers here. My throat was a little better this morning but now it is worse a great deal.

Monday 10th February 1862

My throat is no better today. It is swelled up so that I can scarce eat at all, it hurts so. I went over to the Doctor and got him to lance it for me. He told me to put in salt and water inside and out which I did but it did no good. We had two of our pickets taken last night about 4 miles from here by the Rebels. There is a large force of Rebels within ten miles of this place. I shall try and go back to Patterson's Creek tomorrow if I can.

Tuesday 11th February 1862

I am about discouraged. My throat is no better as I eat[?] and I don't see as I can go back to Patterson's Creek. I have no appetite scarcely and I don't know what to do. Our Company has inspection at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The fort[?] all comes out together and they are having a sort of a review I believe. Gil Jacobs has returned. He brought a new reservist with him. His name is William Pierce. He is a smart looking fellow, has joined detachment C.

Wednesday 12th February

My throat is not much better today. The doctor of the 8th Regiment called to see me, said that I had the mumps but I don't believe it at all. He told me not to eat anything, but put on a poultice of crackers. So I went to work and fixed up a poultice and put it on my neck. It made it feel much better and at night I put on another one which took all the soreness out of my throat.

Thursday 13th February 1862

I received a letter from Harlow this morning, the first letter that I have received for a week or more. There is report that we[?] shall leave tomorrow. There is 7 Regiments that have gone along this evening advancing towards Winchester. I am some better today. Our boys are troubled with colds very much.

Friday 14th February 1862

We have just heard that our troops have got 50 prisoners. There is one Colonel, one Lt. Colonel, one Adjutant General, and some 20 Captains, the rest were privates. They killed some 25 Rebels. We only lost two and one slightly wounded. I am considerable better today yet I am quite weak yet. Wrote a letter to Harlow this day. There is report that we shall stay here for quite a while.

Saturday 15th February 1862

There was one of the Cavalry that was out in the engagement yesterday that stayed with us all night. He was very tired. It snowed all this forenoon. The snow is four inches deep. We have sent off all the prisoners to Syn--- City Island.

Sunday 16th February 1862

This is a beautiful day. The sun shines out so pleasant that it seems almost like spring. The snow is about 4 inches deep. It makes it seem some like home along towards spring. Stayed in the tent nearly all day, read several books, among the others was a sermon of Billie Codet's[?].

Monday 17th February 1862

Sergeant Harris came back this morning. We was all very glad to see him back again. He is somewhat weak yet. Received good news from Kentucky, our forces have taken 18,000 prisoners. We had a good time cheering for our good luck. It has rained nearly all day to day which made it very disagreeable for us as our tents leak some. I received a letter from B.A., wrote one to Brigham.

Tuesday 18th February 1862

This is a beautiful day. We have been at work at making sheds for our horses. Got it fixed up right nice. I wrote a letter to Thomas. There is some talk of our going to Kentucky yet we don't know whether it is true or not.

Wednesday 19th February 1862

This is an awful stormy day. I have been out to get some laurel roots to make a pipe of. Our boys have got a pig today. It was one that they captured. We have had all the fresh pork that we want. I finished reading Ma--- G--nea (a Novel) which was very interesting. Made some finger rings which I shall send home. Sam received a letter from --- - which he let me read.

Thursday 20th February 1862

Quite warm and pleasant. Never saw such changes in the weather. I worked for the detachment today. Joseph Briner is very sick with the colic and suffered a great deal. We gave him pain killer which eased him after a short time, yet he suffered a great deal. We received the news of Price's force being taken in Mo. Great time cheering throughout the camp.

Friday 21st February 1862

Nothing of importance transpired this day. The Captain went to Cumberland to see the sick boys which we left there.

Saturday 22nd February 1862

Washington's birthday. We had to go up on the hill and fire 10[?] guns in the morning at daybreak, then we had to prepare for inspection. There was a general inspection of all the troops at this post. The General made us a speech and gave us to understand that their main dependence[?] depends upon us. Said that the infantry would protect our guns and ammunition but we had got to do the fighting. He made a speech to every one of the Regiments. The 67th have had a flag presented to them this forenoon. They cheered their Colonel when he gave it to them and made them a speech. I went up in the woods with some of the boys and took a good wash all over. It made me feel much better. About 11 o'clock E. Jacobs was taken sick with a colic. I never saw a man that seemed to be in so much pain in my life. They set up with him all night.

Sunday 23rd February 1862

We had our inspection this morning. Captain called us gunners up and told us that he wanted us to see to our guns and have them ready to shoot at an hour's notice. I read the most of the day. Had Bible class [word omitted] afternoon up in the woods.

Monday 24th February 1862

Went and fixed up a stable for our horses, worked all day but did not finish it. I made a pipe for Phy's father out of laurel. Briner is quite sick.

Tuesday 25th February 1862

Work at the shed again. I took care of Briner, he is no better. One section went out to drill. We continued at work at the shed as usual, got our horses in tonight. I was on as Corporal of the guard.

Wednesday 26th February 1862

Covered the shed and then had a resting spell. Still continue to receive news from Kentucky. Great victory over the Rebels.

Thursday 27th February 1862

My day to cook, had a good time. Went out and drilled this afternoon with the guns. Everything went off well.

Friday 28th February 1862

Very cold and windy day. Had general inspection at 3 o'clock. Old Major made a great show when he got us all out.

Saturday 1st March 1862

A very nice day. I made pipes and rings in the forenoon. I was up about 3 hours in the night grinding coffee. The captain came down and told us to have two days' rations cooked. About 2 o'clock we had orders to march and we thought that we were having more march than usual. We started about 3 o'clock and traveled until 9 o'clock in the evening, some 9 miles. Had a very nice camp ground, built up a large fire, spread out our tarpaulin, and went to sleep. Never slept better in my life.

Sunday 2nd March 1862

Woke up in the morning at the sound of the bugle. Helped feed the horses, then made some coffee and had a good breakfast, after which we went around the camp to see what could be seen. There is splendid scenery, some beautiful ranges of mountains. At 9 o'clock we had orders to move back to Paw Paw. We did not like it much. We had not gone far before we learned that General Lander was dead, which was doubtless the reason of our returning. We got back about 9 o'clock at night very tired, never slept better in my life. Had a good time but did not see any fight at all.

Monday 3rd March 1862

All went out with our guns to pay our last respects to General Lander. Had to stay until 3 o'clock. Liked to have frozen it was so cold. There was some 20,000 soldiers out which made a great show.

Tuesday 4th March 1862

The boys got the Captain to get them some sutler's checks so they went and spent about \$75.00 in a hurry. Nothing of importance occurred.

Wednesday 5th March 1862

It snowed nearly all day so we stayed in the tents and made pipes and rings. I sold a pair of books to a boy in the 67th Regt. for \$3.00, cost me \$2.60.

Thursday 6th March 1862

A splendid day. Had orders to move, got our guns down at the Depot, had them loaded. Watched for a chance to load our horses and stayed there until 9 o'clock at night

when we had orders to take our horses back to the stable. Turned out our team and then Sam and I fixed up a bed on the cars under the guns and we had a good sleep.

Friday 7th March 1862

Got up in the morning and had cup of coffee, after breakfast which was 8 o'clock. Went up and looked after the horses, found that they were fed so I went back to the cars again. Stayed around until noon when we had orders to get our horses and load them. I went in to the stable, told the boys to get their horses to the cars. I took down one span and got them on the first ones. We had to wait until dark before we got out.

Saturday 8th March 1862

Woke up this morning and found ourselves at Hancock. It is a very pretty place just across the river. We made a kettle of coffee, had a good breakfast, and got ready to start on again but no go, so we took a tramp around the camp. Saw one of the Rebels' entrenchments. It was quite small, would not hold more than 75 men. We got started about 4 'clock and we travel very fast. Went over a new bridge that had been built where the Rebels had burned one. We arrived at Back[?] Creek just after dark. Our guns and horses were unloaded so we went up and camped on the bank of the Potomac. Had a good sleep.

Sunday 9th March 1862

Up at daybreak, fed and harnessed our horses, ready to go to Martinsburg which is some 5 miles. Had to wait until 12 o'clock for infantry to pass when we went on. Got in Martinsburg, had a splendid time, such a nice place to camp. I stopped on the way and got a loaf of bread. It was the best bread that I have [word omitted] since I came in the service. Had a good cup of coffee, then bunked down on the ground.

Monday 10th March 1862

Woke up this morning, found it raining, so after breakfast we built us a shed with our tarpaulin. Just as we got it fixed up nice and then it stopped raining, so about a half a dozen of us went down to town. Saw some nice young ladies, all pretended to be unionist. When I came back I bought a nice flag for our gun. There is some very nice land around here, very level.

Tuesday 11th March 1862

A very nice day, this. I received a letter from M.E.B. and one from E.E.B. They reminded me of home and old times. Had orders to move at 12 o'clock so we got all ready, horses hitched up, waited until 1 o'clock when we had orders to unhitch. Do not know when we shall go. All our boys have gone out after hay for their horses. We had inspection of our horses and then there was one that had to clean his horses, and then go an wash himself (A. Cooper). I cooked a lot of beans for supper. Just as I had got them cooked [words omitted in original] so we took a few and got ready and in a half an hour we were off. Went through the Town, saw many of the opposite sex. Traveled until 11 o'clock, then camped on a nice gravelly hill close by a small stream. Put down our tarpaulins and went to sleep after getting a good cup of coffee.

Wednesday 12th March 1862

Up this morning at 4 o'clock and fed our teams and got ready to start, then I went and helped kill a beef critter. It dressed 900 lbs., very fat. We traveled on and stopped about noon some 6 miles from Winchester to let the infantry rest. There was a lot of us that went into the yard of an old secesh. We had not been there long before we heard the chickens squall at the barn and the old man ran out to see what was the matter. Found the boys at his chickens but they ran and put them in the chest, and about that time the battery started up a little so he could not tell who or where they went to. But soon the Captain came up and the old man told him about it, and he asked the boys who got them but they would not tell, so the Orderly came and told him that it was some of Dt. C[?]. Then he went and made them bring them back and ask the old man's pardon. They felt rather sheepish about it, I tell you. The Battery ---- at a -----and just before we got ready to start Wm. Pierce and Wm. Smith had a fight. Smith got very badly hurt. All done by Smith's foolishness. We got to Winchester at 4 o'clock where we camped.

Thursday 13th March 1862

A very nice day. I went around and saw the Rebel fortifications. They were very poorly put up. They were put around a house that is well built and commands the pike for 5 miles.

Friday 14th March 1862

Had orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice as the rebels are fighting out about 5 miles from this place, but we did not have a chance.

Saturday 15th March 1862

We all went down to the city today. Was disappointed by seeing the town. It is no such place as I expected to see. It is quite a large place but there is nothing going on at all. We stayed an hour and concluded that we had seen everything there was to be seen.

Sunday 16th March 1862

I wrote some letters, read, sat in my tent all day. At night I went over to the 67th with Chipper, saw his friend Cary[?].

Monday 17th March 1862

Had to get ready for a review at 2 o'clock. I went out in Sergeant's place as he was sick. Was gone 3 hours, had a good time, but did not get to see the General as he had more important business to attend to.

Tuesday 18th March 1862

Had orders this morning to march on at ten o'clock, so we were ready and started at the time mentioned. We saw many of the females. They looked as though they were seeing their last day. We marched until 3 o'clock when we started on a run. I tell you we went as though something were up, but we found that there was nothing but a few cavalry ahead, and troops were having a sort of a skirmish with them. We went on until a little after dark when we camped close by a bridge some two miles from Strasburg. Expecting to open fire on the enemy in the morning. Slept first rate. I was wakened up sometime in the night by the burning of my[?] blankets.

Wednesday 19th March 1862

At daybreak we were ordered to feed our teams and get them ready to march at 7 o'clock, which was the time when we started. It commenced to rain in the morning and drizzled all day long. We arrived at Winchester at 4 o'clock. The folks along the road look awful sour. We stopped and we got a bag of beans of an old secesh. They were tip top.

Thursday 20th March 1862

We lay in camp, nothing of importance transpired this day.

Friday 21st March 1862

There was some talk of our making another move this day but it was just talk. Sam Cass is sick. He was taken with a hard headache, has some fever.

Saturday 22nd March 1862

Sam is no better this morning, has a high fever. I went over to see the Doctor, got some medicine for Phil Simmon. The Doctor came and saw Sam and sent over some medicine to him. Car has gone with Phy Norton after forage to Mg.[?]. Had orders to move our battery back on a dry place which we did after dinner. At 3 o'clock we made an advance through town and opened fire on the enemy. They returned the fire once or twice, then we stopped; silenced them. Went up on the hill and gave them some more after which we returned back almost to town and camped all night. The report is that they have 60 killed. We have one man and one horse killed.

Sunday 23rd March 1862

I had charge of the piece as Harris is sick and has gone back to the old camp. Had orders to hitch up and go over the other side of the pike. Went over there and commenced to fixing[?] for staying a while, but just as we had got our horses taken care of we had orders to hitch up for we heard the rebels' guns and thought that they were going to flank us. So we got our guns in position and ready to commence firing on them. Our other batteries were on ahead firing all the time upon the enemy. About noon we had orders to advance. We went up on the pike about a mile, then had orders to return back on a high hill where the enemy had made a fort. We stayed there until nearly dark. Our artillery was playing upon them all the while and at 3 o'clock the infantry made a charge, taking one gun if not more, and killing a large number of them. About dark we were ordered on and as we were going we could see the ambulances loaded with the dead and wounded. Some were groaning and seemed to be in a great deal of pain. We went up on the battlefield and saw them carrying the dead off. One man had his head shot right off with a cannon ball. I could hear the wounded scream upon the battlefield quite plain. We camped close to where they had the fight, and wanted to go over where they had the hardest fight but could not leave our guns. Some of our boys went and got some guns and other things of the secesh. In the morning we had orders to move out.

Monday 24th March 1862

Went up on the hill and opened fire upon the rebels. Shot some 80 rounds when the rebels left and we after them. Followed them until dark, firing upon them every little while. We camped at Cedar Creek 2 miles from Strasburg. We killed five of the rebels by shooting off across the creek where the Rebels had a position with their guns.

Tuesday 25th March 1862

Up early this morning, had our teams fed and got ready to move on towards the Rebels. Got into Strasburg and heard the Rebels' guns shooting at us. There was two of our guns on ahead of our main force. They shot at them a few times which soon stopped them. Then we made our advance on them but did not go but a short distance at a time. We camped at the west side of Strasburg up on a hill.

Wednesday 26th March 1862

Stayed around all day, heard a few guns ahead, they were our advance guard. I had a lot of shell to pack which took nearly all the afternoon as we had to f---- them. I received two letters, one from home and one from A.C.

Thursday 27th March 1862

Had orders to move on. Went some three miles and then camped. Unharnessed and set down on the ground again. It is a beautiful day, very warm and pleasant. I wrote a letter home to Mate. Slept out on the ground as usual.

Friday 28th March 1862

Stayed around as usual. Received our tents just at night and pitched them.

Saturday 29th March 1862

Quite rainy. Went off after hay with the detachment, but did not find any that we could get as there was a guard over it. Harris is not very well, has some fever and ague. My turn to stand as corporal, had a rainy night of it.

Sunday 30th March 1862

Stormed nearly all day. Stayed in my tent and read most of the time. Went after hay with Phy Norton, got a half ton on horseback.

Monday 31st March 1862

This is a beautiful day. I have been busy all day at work getting hay, attending to the horses and washing my clothes. Had orders to march on about 4 o'clock. Got all ready to start and then the order was countermanded so we had to unhitch and wait a while.

Tuesday 1st April 1862

Up very early this morning with orders to march at 8 o'clock. Everything was ready at 8 o.c. and then we had to wait until 10 o'clock before we got started. We marched very slow all day on account of the infantry. Got 4 miles from Woodstock south[?]. The above named place is a small town but looks very neat. We stopped there nearly an hour. I went

up in a house to see where one of our shell went. It went in one room, struck against a stove, and then burst it and then flew into another room breaking everything in both rooms.

Wednesday 2nd April 1862

Up at the usual hour. Had a good breakfast then got our things ready for march again. One of our batteries fired seven rounds at the enemy who did not return the compliment. We lost one man while at work on the bridge across the Stone Creek. Had orders to unhitch the horses so we sat around the fire, cooked pudding and beans for dinner. Right after dinner we were ordered to hitch up again, which we did, and started on again towards the enemy. We went out as far as the pickets. Placed the guns and fired a few rounds at some rebel Cavalry. Made them skedaddle pretty fast, too. Received a letter from Mate.

Thursday 3rd April 1862

A very nice day. The Rebel Cavalry are in plain sight. Our infantry are shooting at them. They are very bold in coming out. We shot several guns at the Rebels which soon silenced their guns. They can't stand our fire at all. Had a good old time fooling around watching the enemy, seeing them come out of the woods and look a while, then get back.

Friday 4th April 1862

Very warm and pleasant. We sat around all the morning as lazy as usual. We all went out after some corn just out of the woods and as we had all got out there so they could see us they commenced to shoot at us. We just got up and traveled for our guns and give them a few shell which did not seem to suit them too much. They opened fire upon us again this afternoon. Their shell came in very thick and fast until we got at work at our guns, when they soon stopped and got out of sight.

Saturday 5th April 1862

Woke up and found it raining, but as luck would have it we put up our tarpaulins last night which kept us dry as could be. I went out but could not see as many Rebels as I did yesterday. Along in the afternoon they commenced to fire at us again from a new place. The shell came in some fast but we soon silenced them with our guns. They shot twice right into a house, one ball went through a woman's dress. It liked to have scared her to death. I received a letter from M.E.B.

Sunday 6th April 1862

Set around and watched the Rebels. Wrote a letter to M.E.B. Read some which passed away the day.

Monday 7th April 1862

All quiet until about 10 o'clock when we saw where the rebels were fixing one of their guns, then we all got to our posts and then looked at them quite a while. Finally they opened fire upon us but we soon stopped them after we got our guns at work. After we got our

dinner we moved back some farther. It rained all the while, made it very disagreeable for us, yet we succeeded in getting our tents up which made it very nice for us.

Tuesday 8th April 1862

Rained all night and all day. I received a letter from Harlow. They were all well. At night we went out after hay. We got a good lot of it.

Wednesday 9th April 1862

Still continues to rain and snow. We moved our tents up on a dry place. I wrote two letters, one to Harlow and one to Brigham. Went out after hay again. We lost one horse this morning. A tree fell across his back and killed him instantly. Good news from Island No. IV. They say that it is in our possession.

Thursday 10th April 1862

We all went out after forage with Lt. Norton. Had to go some 5 miles to get it. Each one of us got two bundles on horseback, also a load of corn. This is a beautiful day, so warm and pleasant.

Friday 11th April 1862

Very warm and pleasant. I do not feel very well today, rather weak. I do not know what is the matter with me. A lot of our boys went out after hay again. I am Corporal of the Guard. I traded off my watch for a fiddle, then traded my fiddle for another fiddle. Got 5 dollars to boot.

Saturday 12th April 1862

The first move was to take our battery over to Dann's headquarters. Found a nice place for our battery near by, so we moved everything we had. There is quite a number of our boys quite sick, but are getting along very well. Our major is under arrest for insulting Lt. Col. Dann, but the General released him.

Sunday 13th April 1862

I have not been very well this day. Did not get out much. Our boys went out after hay, did not get back until most dark. They brought back a good load of hay each one of them. The 62nd Regiment got paid off today, all feel well about it.

Monday 14th April 1862

Sit around as usual. In the afternoon we had orders to move. We went out some farther towards the picket[?], stayed all night in a hollow. Two of the detachments went ahead but the Rebels commenced to fire at us while we were in the woods, so the Captain ordered us back, and all stopped together in a valley.

Tuesday 15th April 1862

Had orders to move again. Went up still farther, almost in sight of the Rebels, and camped. Had a very nice place. It rained some this day. I went over to the 62nd and got some cough medicine. I have got a very bad cough and cold.

Wednesday 16th April 1862

A very pleasant[?] April day, nearly as warm as summer. Had orders to go and shell a barn & house which suits us tip top. Expect to have considerable fun. I received two letters. One from A.C. & one from B.A. Had orders to move at 11:00 at night so that we did not get much sleep. We crossed the creek at midnight in pursuit of the rebels. Traveled all night. It was nice moonlight.

Thursday 17th April 1862

We kept right on after the rebels all day, drove them like sheep. They would stop and fire at us occasionally and then push on. We got at Mt. Jackson at 12 o'clock. There they tried to burn a bridge for us but our cavalry pushed them so close that they did not succeed in getting it afire. In the afternoon the right section went on with the skirmishers, but they were too far ahead for us to get a chance to fire at them. We returned as far as New Town, where we camped for the night.

Friday 18th April 1862

A very nice morning. We waited for marching orders but they did not come this day. In the afternoon it commenced to rain, rained a spell, and then stopped. We captured a lot of fat cattle from the Rebels, some 40 -----. I was Corporal of the 148 Guard.

Saturday 19th April 1862

Had orders to move over across the mountains. It rained nearly all the while we were going over there. Found a nice place to camp. We had to guard a bridge. Fixed up a good place to sleep. Slept well, found it some wet. In the morning our cavalry shot one rebel and took a prisoner coming out here.

Sunday 20th April 1862

Our boys got a lot of chickens and we had a good breakfast. We also came across a turkey which made us a good meal. I went out and caught some fish, then took Harris's horse and went with Newton Ames over to a Union man's house. Had a good supper and talked an hour or two, then came away. Had a tip top time. It seemed more like home than any place that I have seen for a long while.

Monday 21st April 1862

It rained the most of the time today. Boys got a good sleep which went very well. Had all we wanted to eat. Had two of our Cavalry taken prisoners by Jackson's cavalry.

Tuesday 22nd April 1862

A pleasant day, the sun shone out bright and warm. Lt. Norton came out and paid us off. It makes the boys feel well to think that they have got a little money. In the afternoon we went after hay, got

a good lot of it. Saw a nigger funeral, it seemed rather funny the way they went on. I wrote a letter to A.C. There was a man came and wanted to know if we had been killing his sheep. He said that he had lost 3 of them but we we did not know anything about it.

END SECOND BOOK, JOHN H. MERRELL DIARY