

**DIARY: TENTH BOOK
JOHN H. MERRELL
WESTMORELAND
ONEIDA CO.
N.Y.**

JOHN H. MERRELL
BATTERY H 1ST OHIO VOLUNTEERS U.
RESERVE ARTILLERY
A. OF P.

Sunday 10th April 1864

This has been quite a pleasant day. Had Co. inspection at 2 o'clock p.m. Coz. Albert was down to see me this afternoon. I received a letter from his brother George who is now up in northern Ohio on a pleasant trip. No mail this evening as the bridge across the Rappahannock is not safe for the cars to cross.

Monday 11th April 1864

Cleaning up in front of our quarters has been the order of the day. The intention is I believe to make a parade ground. The Veterans received their computation for rations today which amounted to over \$7.00. Had a long talk with John Wiltse this afternoon. He told me of many things which transpired while he was at home that I was surprised to hear. This is the 2nd day that we have been without mail.

Tuesday 12th April 1864

I am Corporal of the Guard today. The men are all at work policing up in front of their quarters. Had assembly this forenoon when every man had to fall in. There was several formations. I was promoted to sergeant and assigned to Detachment F. I drilled my detachment this afternoon for two hours. Rec'd a letter & paper this afternoon from M.E.B. and answered it. Went up to H.Q. and had a chat with Al this evening.

Wednesday 13th April 1864

Drilled at the manual of the piece this forenoon. Everything went off very well considering the number of new men we had to drill. Had foot drill this afternoon. Ewing was out with us. Not much going on today more than usual. Have just made out a new requisition for two new guns and expect them on in a few days without fail.

Thursday 14th April 1864

I went over to the picture gallery and had my figure [?] taken. Do not like it very well. But think that I shall send it home and have it photographed as I wish to get a number taken for the boys. We turned over all our surplus clothing today, and had inspection this afternoon. I had command of the left section. Everything indicates a move soon. The roads are drying up fast. Got two months' pay today.

Friday 15th April 1864

This is a very beautiful day today. I wrote a letter this morning to Mollie, sent her some photographs. I took the left section out to drill this forenoon. Had C & L[?] guns. Ewing came out after I had got out and drilled us for nearly two hours. Everything went off very nicely indeed. Got some new horses this afternoon and we have got our section (The Left) well horsed. Had a short shower this evening.

Saturday 16th April 1864

Woke up and found it raining this morning and it has rained all day, but not very hard. We got some new harness this afternoon for the left section. Some of the boys got on a big drunk last night and one of them (Con Cary)[?] was tied up to the fifth wheel for four hours. I received three letters this evening from M.E.B., Mollie, & Adela. Went up to Brigade H.Q. this evening and had a good chat with Al.

Sunday 17th April 1864

Wrote a letter this morning and went out on inspection at 10 o'clock a.m. by Major Fitshue. Had orders to go after our guns to the station today but did not get but one as the other lost off the cars coming out from Washington. There does not any one seem to know where it dropped off but they have telegraphed for another. Our harness has all come today too. I went over to church this evening with Wiltse.

Monday 18th April 1864

Have been very busy today fitting out my gun & harness. The gun came along about noon. We were reviewed this afternoon by Gen. Grant. Everything went off very nicely. Our battery never looked better in the world than it does at present. I received a letter this evening from Turner who is now at Washington. This is a very beautiful day, one of the warmest of the season.

Tuesday 19th April 1864

Went out and drilled this forenoon for three hours and done much better than we expected we could do. Have been in camp all of this afternoon working on my gun and caisson, getting everything fixed up for a march. Wrote a letter to Mollie this evening and enclosed some photographs of the boys. I also sent off my diary by mail. Took a walk with Wiltse this evening.

Wednesday 20th April 1864

We had a good drill at the manual of the piece this forenoon. My Detachment is learning very fast and Lieutenant spoke very highly of the manner in which they were progressing. Had mounted drill this afternoon for three hours. Did not get back in camp until 5 o'clock p.m.

Thursday 21st April 1864

Went out to shoot at target this forenoon. Shot four rounds apiece, and done very well, much better than when we were out the other time. We got back to camp at 1 o'clock p.m., shot a target with our revolvers this afternoon at 50 paces, hit the mark nearly every time. Adjutant General Whittlesee came over just as we were getting through shooting and

ordered us to stop. Said when we wanted to shoot our revolvers that we must have an order from him. Wrote a letter to Adela. Rec'd a letter this evening from A.C.

Friday 22nd April 1864

Inspection this morning at 10:30 by Lieut.-Col. Monroe which lasted until 1 o'clock. He was very particular in everything and seemed much pleased with the appearance of our battery. We have laid around camp this afternoon with nothing to do. There was another new recruit arrived to the battery this evening. His name is Clark, from Sylvania. A very young looking fellow.

Saturday 23rd April 1864

We were ordered out to shoot at targets this forenoon, shot five rounds apiece. Done some very good shooting indeed. Distance 1800 yards. Got back at camp at 1 o'clock p.m. and at 5 o'clock were ordered out to shoot again. Did not take out the caissons but mounted the cannoneers in horses and went out on double quick. Fired 7 rounds and returned just before dark. The last shot that was fired exploded in front of the target and made one hole in the right corner. I received a letter this evening from M.E.B.

Sunday 24th April 1864

I wrote a letter this morning to M.E.B. Have been in my tent all the time today but what I have had to be out attending to my detachment. There is but very little going on in camp today. The heavy artillery of the Reserve were all out on review this forenoon and made a very pretty appearance indeed.

Monday 25th April 1864

We had a long drill this afternoon for nearly three hours. Went off nearly a mile from camp and had a very good drill ground. Wrote a letter to A.C. and one to Turner. Had a long talk with Philip Simmons this evening and he told me of many things which transpired while he was at home that I had not heard of before.

Tuesday 26th April 1864

Had to clean up camp and park this forenoon which took nearly all the time. I went up and had Sam Lalley[?] fix my teeth this afternoon. Had six filled which took him some two hours. He charged me eight dollars but has done a pretty good job. There was drill at manual of the piece this afternoon. J.S. Pray has been here nearly all day. He is now stationed at Culpeper at H.Q. of the Army. Likes his new position very much.

Wednesday 27th April 1864

Had drill this forenoon at 10 o'clock. Mounted. This afternoon we have had to fix up our harness repository for review tomorrow which comes off at 11 o'clock. The 2nd Brigade was reviewed this afternoon and made a very good appearance indeed. I went out to see the 15th N.Y. Heavies drill this afternoon. They are over 2000 strong and make a grand show as they are very well drilled. We drilled at the manual of the piece a short time this afternoon.

Thursday 28th April 1864

Being reviewed by Gen. Hunt is the order of the day. The entire Reserve was out and made a grand show. We returned to camp at 1 p.m. Assembly sounded at 3 o'clock when we all fell in and was much surprised by the orders that were read to us. First Lieutenant Dorsey of Battery E of this Regiment is promoted to Captain and assigned to this Battery. Richard promoted to 1st Lieut. and assigned to Battery E. Cousin Albert is first Lieut. in this Battery. We all feel very sorry for Ewing for he has been doing all in his power to bring this Battery up since he has been in command and has succeeded in [it] well and we are now the 2nd best Battery in this Army (so says the Inspector). We have all signed a petition for Ewing to remain with us.

Friday 29th April 1864

This forenoon was ----- spent at mounted drill which lasted for three hours. This afternoon we have done but little more than to lay around camp. It is reported that we leave here next Monday when I presume we will make an advance upon the Enemy. Lt. Ewing is trying to have the order countermanded which was received and read yesterday from Col. Barnett assigning Dorsey to the Battery.

Saturday 30th April 1864

We mustered for pay this forenoon. One division of the 5th Corps passed here on their way to Culpeper today. I wrote a letter this forenoon to Miss Ann Dils for Philip Blackstone, also wrote one to Mollie and answered one that I received from M.E.B. this evening. We have to go to the river now to water our horses as the small streams are all dried up so as not to be fit for a horse to drink in.

Sunday 1st May 1864

Have inspection at 10 o'clock a.m. The 1st Division of the 5th Corps passed here on their way to Culpeper this forenoon. This has been a most beautiful day with but little going on more than usual. I have spent most of the time in my tent reading. Received a letter from Wm. Turner this evening. It was mostly on women[?]. We had a nice sing in Bart's[?] tent this evening. Coz. Albert was down to see me this afternoon.

Monday 2nd May 1864

There has been no drill today. There has been but very little going on of importance. I received a letter this evening from sister Mollie and answered it. We have a heavy gale of wind and some rain this evening, never saw the dust fly thicker in my life than it does this evening. Most of the boys got wet going to water tonight.

Tuesday 3rd May 1864

Drill this forenoon at 10 o'clock. I drilled my detachment at changing the wheels. Had mounted inspection this afternoon by Lt. Ewing. Orders this evening to have everything in readiness to move. Had some orders read to us from Gen. Meade relative to the move which were very good indeed. There was one very stringent order which stated that any person who tried to sneak out of the coming contest would be shot to death without any trial.

Wednesday 4th May 1864

Up this morning at 12:30 when we received orders to be ready to move in one hour. We did not get started until 4 o'clock when we marched to Brandy Station and took the road to Ely's Ford at which point we reached at 5 o'clock p.m. Crossed the river over pontoon bridge and went on in the direction of Chancellorsville four miles and camped for the night by the way side in a piece of woods. We got in park at 9 o'clock p.m. The 2nd Corps are in advance of us.

Thursday 5th May 1864

Reveille this morning at 4 o'clock at which time we got up and fed our horses and got breakfast. We rested very well indeed last night. Wiltse is my partner now. Harnessed our teams and hitched up expecting to move at once but did not get started until 10 o'clock a.m. when we again advanced. Passed Chancellorsville about noon and continued on towards Fredericksburg, went some two miles when we were ordered back. Went to Chancellorsville and took the flank road to Culpeper. Went some three miles and went into park. The ball opened on our right about noon today, mostly cannonading at first and at 3 o'clock p.m. the musketry began which continued until after dark. The heavy fighting seems to be mostly in one place about a mile in advance of us. We have been expecting to be called on to take position but as there is no good position for artillery we have had to remain inactive. The entire Reserve Artillery is in park here. The wounded began to come to the rear just before dark. They report it very heavy fighting.

Friday 6th May 1864

We unhitched and unharnessed last night and rested very well indeed. The ball opened this morning at daylight full as heavy as ever and continued until nearly noon. Our men have drove the Rebs some three miles but have again fell back to their old position which we now hold and the firing has ceased. At 4 p.m. we were ordered to go to Ely's Ford to guard a train. Just as we were leaving the musketry began again full as heavy as ever. There was also some cannonading. We reached the ford just after dark and went into position on the south side of the river. There is a large baggage train here which belongs to the Reserve Artillery and Cavalry. It is reported that several of our generals are killed and wounded but we have none of the reports confirmed. The roads are awful dusty which makes it very disagreeable traveling. We have an infantry guard from the 4th N.Y. to guard our park tonight. As near as we can ascertain everything is working well at the front and our men hold all their positions.

Saturday 7th May 1864

A large portion of the train left for the front early this morning. Saw a regiment of negro soldiers this morning for the first time. They were guarding a train to the front. They look much better than I thought they would. We kept our position until 12 o'clock when we returned to Chancellorsville. The train has all gone back to the front and we are covering the rear. Have two regiments of Negroes to support our battery. We got to Chancellorsville at 5 o'clock p.m. and went into camp, unharnessed, and took a good rest. Left camp this evening at 8 o'clock and joined the reserve as they came along. Marched in the direction of Spotsylvania Court House. Arrived at Halls Church or Pine Grove Church at 2 o'clock in the morning. Our men are in very good spirits and are driving the Rebels. There is very

heavy loss on both sides. Everything is working lovely and the Jonnies are skedaddling the best they know how.

Sunday 8th May 1864

Up this morning at daybreak. Watered and fed our horses, had breakfast, and then fixed up our tarpaulin and laid in the shade. The 6th Corps are passing to the front today. There is considerable fighting today. There is 2500 prisoners passed here today. They look very well and are well dressed. There is a great many wounded men that are marching along with the army and the ambulances are filled but no way of getting them to Washington as our communication is not open now. The ambulances are sent to Aquia Creek with cavalry to support and guard them. Picksley and I buried a man that died in the ambulance here. The train stopped here about an hour and in the meantime the fellow died of wounds received on the 5th. He was wounded in five places and had his right mind until the last. His name is Samuel Boyd, 45th N.Y. The 6th N.Y. boys picked out one of their men from among the Jonnies as they were passed by here today. He deserted from their regiment last week and found the Rebels and was taken prisoner by our men. He was tried before a drumhead courtmartial and it is expected that he will be shot. There has been considerable fighting today. We have been laying quiet.

Monday 9th May 1864

We have remained quiet all day but there has been a great deal of fighting out to the front. General Sedgwick was killed this morning while in front with his Corps. They sent back here for boards for his coffin which they got off from the church. Very heavy fighting at the front just before dark. Gen. Grant passed towards the front this afternoon. He is very commonly dressed. Reports are very favorable today from the front. The firing ceased just after dark.

Tuesday 10th May 1864

There was some very heavy musketry last night. This has been the hardest day's fighting since the battle commenced. There has been constant cannonading and heavy musketry all day. We have been waiting very patiently to be called up to do our portion of the fighting. Have been harnessed nearly all day. Orders this evening to move. Started at 8 o'clock and went back to the flank road some four miles and camped again. There is a great many wounded going to the rear today. Fredericksburg seems to be their destination.

Wednesday 11th May 1864

There was 2000 prisoners passed here today that were captured yesterday. They were not very well dressed. They belonged to Ewel's Corps and many of them seemed to be glad that they are taken. There was some artillery officers among them and they state that we took 12 pieces of theirs yesterday but could not get them off the field. Our forage is now ordered down to 5 lbs. per day and our horses are falling away very fast. Not much fighting this morning. The fighting is very heavy this afternoon with a great deal of cannonading. It commenced to rain this afternoon and continued all this evening which has laid the dust very nicely. We have all pitched our shelter tents this evening and find it very nice as it rains so hard. Two of our teams went to Belle Plains for forage today.

Thursday 12th May 1864

This has been one of the hardest day's fighting that we have had since we crossed the river. We took 6000 prisoners and several pieces of artillery this morning. The cannonading has been very heavy all day. The most of our wounded have been taken to Fredericksburg and report says that the town is filled with them. We received news this evening that Richmond is in our possession. Had orders to march at 6 o'clock p.m. We went in the direction of Fredericksburg and again went in camp. It still continues to rain but we fixed up our tents the best we could and bunked down. Everything seems to be working favorable for us. There is some musketry this evening but not very heavy. Some of the Light 12 pounders[?] were sent out to the front this afternoon from the Reserve.

Friday 13th May 1864

Everything seems quiet in front this morning. I saw 12 pieces of artillery that the 2nd Corps took from the Rebels yesterday. There was six Light 12 pounders, three parots[?] and three griffin[?] or U.S. regulation guns. The ammunition chests were all filled with ammunition put up in the best of style. I got several fuses which I intend to send home the first opportunity that I have. I wrote two short letters this forenoon to M.E.B. and one home. There is some fighting this afternoon but tis very light compared to that of yesterday. There is a large train of ambulances loaded with wounded passed here on their way to Fredericksburg this afternoon. It has rained quite hard most of the afternoon. There was some more prisoners passed here this evening, about 200 in all. One field officer among them and several lieutenants.

Saturday 14th May 1864

We had boots in saddles last night at 9 o'clock when we packed up and had everything in readiness to move. Had to lay around all night in the rain and got started this morning just at daybreak. Went down towards Fredericksburg and went in camp in a large field some two miles from where we stayed last night. We went off this forenoon and got a lot of corn and fodder for our horses. Cleaned out one old secesh entirely. It has been pleasant most of the day yet we have had two or three short showers. The fighting has been about the same as yesterday. Saw one brigade of infantry going up to the front today. They came from towards Fredericksburg and have not been in the fight yet. I received a letter today from Adela Merrell. This is the first mail that we have had for ten days. There was a congratulatory order read to us this evening from Gen. Meade stating that we have taken 18 pieces of artillery, 8,000 prisoners, and have driven the Rebels from their strongholds. Our new Captain (Dorsey) arrived this evening. He is a fine looking officer. I was talking with a lot of rebel prisoners that were captured yesterday. They are a jolly set of fellows and all talk and seem pleased that they are through fighting and in our hands. They all want to see the war ended on any terms.

Sunday 15th May 1864

Reveille this morning at 4 o'clock when we received orders to hitch up our harness and waited until 12 o'clock [P.]M. before we marched. Went in the direction of Fredericksburg at which place we reached at 5 o'clock, passed through and went in camp just east of the town about half a mile in a large field. The roads are getting to be very bad. It has rained considerable today. Some fighting going on out to the front. It is reported

again that Richmond is in our possession and we have it from pretty good authority. I have been looking at the earthworks that the Rebels put up here over a year ago, and find them much stronger than I ever supposed they were when we were trying to take them a year ago last December. Our teams came up today from Belle Plains loaded with forage and commissaries which us much. This is beautiful farming country in rear of Fredericksburg and the grass is nearly knee high. Saw several regiments of new troops going to the front today.

Monday 16th May 1864

We have laid in camp all day today with but little to do. Our new Capt. takes command today. Think that we shall like him very well. Reinforcements are going to the front in large numbers today. This has been a very pleasant day and the roads are drying up very fast. There has been but very little fighting today. They seem to be getting in readiness for another advance soon. Our troops lay out some ten miles from here in entrenchments.

Tuesday 17th May 1864

We were all very much surprised this morning by receiving orders to turn in two of our guns but keep the caissons. The left section was the one to be turned over so I am now without a gun but have charge of the caisson. I had to go to Belle Plains with Lt. Richard this morning to turn them in. We turned in the limber chests at the brigade ammunition train. Arrived at Belle Plains a little after noon when we turned in our guns and harness, but had to wait overnight before we could turn in our horses. We went in camp on a high bluff near by. Went down to an eating saloon this evening and had a good supper. There was six of us together and we had a pretty lively time. The batteries of this army have all been ordered to f--- guns and the Artillery Reserve is broken up and the batteries are assigned to different Corps. We are put in the 6th Corps.

Wednesday 18th May 1864

We all rested first rate last evening and as soon as we got our breakfast we took our horses down to the landing and turned them in to the Quarter master. Started back for the battery at 10 o'clock a.m. Had to go rather slow as six of our men (drivers) had to walk. We got back to Fredericksburg at 2 p.m. and found our battery had gone to the 6th Corps. Went yesterday morning just after we left it. We stopped just back of Fredericksburg and got some dinner and then started on again to find our battery. Arrived at the 6th Corps just before dark and found our battery on the left in position but all ready to move. We limbered up and marched about a mile and went in camp. Received a large mail this evening. I got three letters, two from M.E.B. and one from A.C. We are all very tired this evening. The 2nd Corp had a hard fight this morning and drove the Rebels out of two lines of breastworks. The cannonading was very heavy. Mosby's Guerrillas came in last night near Belle Plains and charged on a train nearby where we were camped.

Thursday 19th May 1864

Reveille this morning at 4 o'clock when we received orders to feed and harness our horses. We had everything in readiness to move at 5 o'clock but did not get started until 1 o'clock p.m. when we crossed the Ny River and went in park on the south side on a high

bluff about half a mile from the River. We laid here all day and just after dark we were ordered to march, but the order was soon countermanded and we pitched our tents and bunked down for the night. There was some heavy fighting on our right and rear this afternoon about 5 o'clock. It appears that the Rebels charged on our supply train but they did not get any of the wagons off with them although they killed several of the team horses. Our men soon charged on them and drove them back with considerable loss. We took several prisoners. Our left has advanced several miles today and everything is working finely. I wrote a letter this evening to M.E.B.

Friday 20th May 1864

There was some very heavy fighting this morning in our extreme right but did not last for more than an hour. This afternoon everything is quiet in front. They have burned two or three houses here and are fortifying this place very strong for some unknown reason to me. This is a beautiful day. We harnessed and hitched up this morning at 4 o'clock and remained so until 3 o'clock this afternoon when we received orders to unhitch which we did. We also pitched our tents. I wrote two letters, one to Mollie and one to Adela Merrell. We are having most splendid water here but our rations are rather scarce. Hash[?] beef is our meat ration and has been ever since we started on this campaign. The baggage trains are carrying up supplies to the front today which is about a mile south of this point. I was talking with a fellow in battery G 1st Rhode Island by name of King[?] this evening. They were in the fight the 12th and fired over 1000 rounds. Did not have a man killed [but a number hurt?].

Saturday 21st May 1864

Up this morning at 1[?] o'clock. Fed our horses and harnessed and hitched up. There was a detail made of 40 men from each battery to go out and throw up breastworks. They were gone nearly all of the forenoon. Have put up a nice line of works. We broke camp just after noon, went a little further back from the river and took position. Then went to work and threw up gun covers. Just as we had got them completed we were ordered to another place to be in readiness to take a new position as the Enemy were charging[?] not[?] under[?] works. The fight lasted for nearly half an hour when the Rebels retreated and the firing ceased. This is [several words illegible] infantry have all gone but part of the 6th Corps to off to our left and we left in that direction ourselves. Just after dark saw some Rebel prisoners that was took this evening and they state that Lee is very strongly[?] fortified . . . [remainder of page too faded to read].

Sunday 22nd May 1864

We marched all night and reached Guiney's Station this morning at daylight where we stopped and fed and got some breakfast. Our Corps (the 6th) is marching with us. The army is making a flanking movement and we are marching very fast. We marched some 10 miles direct south of the station and went in camp at 6 o'clock for the night. The boys have done a good deal of foraging today and have succeeded well in getting a good deal of forage and a few fowls. There is some rebel's fortifications that are very formidable near Guiney's Station, also a few along our south[?]. Burnside's Corps is in our rear and left. We are picking up a good many Rebel stragglers who seem to be very much pleased to get in our hands and thereby get rid[?] of fighting. The most of them are N.C. troops and

are very tired of the war, willing to see it end on any terms so that they can ----- get home to their friends.

Monday 23rd May 1864

Resumed the march this morning at 7 o'clock. Went almost directly south. Marched rather slow today as the roads were so filled with infantry. While we were stopping this noon to take a little rest I looked off to my right and saw a person coming out of the woods carrying a pole with a white paper on the end of it. The boys all said that it was a darkie but I did not believe it so I rode out and met him and found it to be a Rebel. He was almost scared to death when I first saw him and said he thought he would put up a white paper and reckoned that we would not shoot him. I told him that he was all right, that I would take care of him. I took him back to the road[?] and turned him over to a Col. commanding a brigade. I had quite a talk with him. He belongs to the 45th N.C. Ewel's Corps, says that he is tired of fighting and was bound to get out of the rebel service. We marched until 8 o'clock p.m. and went in camp near the North Anna River some three miles from Hanover Junction. There was very heavy fighting just before night at the River but our men held their positions well and took 300 prisoners. I went into a house today and found me a Rebel officer's jacket which is almost new. One of our wagons broke down this evening and I had to go back and assist in getting it along, which I did with the assistance of some 15 men.

Tuesday 24th May 1864

We pulled out this morning at sunrise, did not have time to get our breakfast. Went up on the riverbank and remained there in park. Soon had orders to unhitch and unharness. There being a piece of woods nearby we went in there and remained in the shade all day with the exception of an hour or two that we were off foraging. We went to an old secesh plantation and got flour, corn meal, a nice fat porker, and several other things, all of which were very -aluble[?]. Had a splendid dinner and supper. Some of the men had the audacity to plunder the house which was a perfect shame as they tore up a large portion of the furniture. We left camp this afternoon at 5 o'clock and crossed the river on a pontoon bridge, advanced nearly half a mile and went in camp for the night. I saw General Grant today as he was coming up from the left and crossed the pontoon bridge going to the right. He is very commonly dressed and has but a small bodyguard. There has been heavy fighting down on our left today. Our right is advancing with but little resistance.

Wednesday 25th May 1864

Up this morning at 3 o'clock and fed, harnessed, got breakfast, and again advanced towards the R.R. leading from Richmond to Gordonsville, crossed it and turned to the left in the direction of Hanover Junction, continued on some two miles and stopped in the road just in rear of our line of battle. Here we remained all day. Just at dark we turned in a field to the right and camped. Had just got our tents pitched and bunked down when orders came for us to march at once. We all got out and in a short time was on the road. Went back on the same road that we came out on and across the river at the same place (----- Ford) that we crossed it. Went up on the hill and formed in park. Here we remained all night with our horses hitched up expecting every moment when we should be ordered to move in. There has been but very little firing today on the right but more to the left.

Thursday 26th May 1864

We did not get much rest last evening as we were so on the move. Had a very heavy thunder this morning and the most of us got nicely wet through, but it cleared off at 8 o'clock and we were soon on the move. Went down the river in an easterly direction. Arrived at Chesterfield station just before noon. Here we went in camp, unhitched and unharnessed, got some good corn fodder for our horses, the first coarse feed that they have had for several days. The boys have set fire to the Depot here and burned it to ashes. Do not know who done it or whether any one ordered it burned or not. We all had a good sleep this afternoon as we were waiting for the cavalry to pass ere we move. We are to move with the cavalry now. I believe and many think that we are making for the James River. Part of the 6th Corps is with us. We broke camp just at dark and marched with the 1st Division 6th Corps, crossed the R.R. which leads from Fredericksburg to Richmond. We marched very fast in a south easterly direction. Continued marching all night and some of our boys got pretty sleepy. There was some musketry on our right not but a short distance off. We all received orders to be very quiet and not make any unnecessary noise. I never saw infantry march better and faster in my life. There is scarce any straggling at all. Our battery is the only one in advance and is divided, one section going in advance and the other in rear of the brigade.

Friday 27th May 1864

We marched all last night and stopped this morning just at daybreak, had breakfast and again resumed our march. It has been most awful warm today and many of the infantry have been sunstroke. We stopped at one place and got a load of corn in the ear. I got some nice fresh fish that I found packed away very nicely in ice. Presume that they were saved for me. We reached the Pamunkey River at noon. Crossed the pontoon and went in camp on the south side. We have marched 31[?] miles in eighteen hours. This is very nice country through here and vegetation is very forward[?] indeed. Cherries are just beginning to get ripe. Saw six Rebels that were taken prisoner here this forenoon. They belonged to cavalry and are well dressed. We have remained quiet all the afternoon. I never enjoyed sleeping more in my life. Our infantry have advanced a short distance and are laying quiet. The Cavalry is out a good ways from the Ford. This is Endfield's Ford. We can hear heavy cannonading in the direction of Richmond.

Saturday 28th May 1864

Roused out this morning at 4 o'clock but have no orders to move. Laid around in camp all day and got well rested. The 5th Corps are passing here today and continue right on towards the front. We had orders to march at 4 o'clock p.m. at which time we started, went out towards the front about two miles and went in camp again for the night. The rest of our Corps has come up and we are now with the Artillery Brigade. The whole army is now in this vicinity and are fortifying out at the front. But little fighting today. Several of our men have been off scouting for forage today and did not get back until dark. Some of them were arrested by the 2nd Corps and placed under guard. When they returned the Captain placed them under guard and made them walk for three hours in the heat with the guard in the park. Saw some 200 prisoners that were taken today at the front.

Sunday 29th May 1864

Up this morning at 4 o'clock, got all ready to move and remained so until 8 o'clock when we were ordered to unhitch and unharness, which we did, and remained quiet in camp all day. We went to the river and took a good wash and changed our clothes which makes us feel much better. There has been no fighting to the front today. Our force has advanced some and are fortifying as they go along. The soldiers have cleaned out an old secesh that lives here, tearing nearly everything to pieces that he has in his home.

Monday 30th May 1864

Orders to march this morning at 5 o'clock. We went in a southeasterly direction and struck the R.R. that runs from Richmond to Lynchburg. There we remained in park until two o'clock until the infantry had torn up a few miles of the R.R. track. We then moved off in a south direction and did not stop until almost night when we came up near the front. Here we got coffee and received some mail. (Rec'd letter from M.E.B.). Just after dark we went out to the right and went in position in line of battle with our infantry. Remained hitched and harnessed. There has been a great deal of cannonading this afternoon. Musketry was light. Several of our horses were poisoned today by eating sweet locus[t] and Sergt. Lewis' horse died from the effects. Corpl. Parmlee is unwell and is staying back with the wagons. His face is swelled very badly. Dr. says that he will have to be very careful of himself and not take cold. This has been a very warm day.

Tuesday 31st May 1864

The men lay at their posts all last night as we expected an attack. Horses have not been unhitched since yesterday morning. The pickets had quite a skirmish about two o'clock last night but it did not last but for a few moments as the rebels did not think it proper to advance on our lines. I wrote three letters today to Mollie, M.E.B. & A.C. There has been some pretty hard fighting upon our left today. We remained quiet all day, ready at a moment's notice to open fire should the Jonnies advance on our lines. There was quite a fight this evening out on our picket line. Quite a number of our men wounded. We took a few Rebel prisoners. We still remain by our guns ready any time to open fire upon the Enemy. Our horses are nearly tired out as they have been in harness so long. We were routed out this evening at 11 o'clock and marched in an easterly direction with our Corps.

Wednesday 1st June 1864

We marched from 11 o'clock last night until this morning when we stopped and had breakfast and again resumed the march, travelled in a southwesterly direction on the direct road to Richmond. Soon came up to the Cavalry which were engaged heavily with the rebel Infantry. We arrived at the front at 12 o'clock, laid in park while our infantry were getting in position. Between 8 & 9 o'clock the Rebels opened fire on us --- with one battery. We soon got in position and was the first battery that opened on the Rebels. Soon all of our batteries were in position and then there was one of the heaviest artillery duels of this campaign. Our infantry charged at 7 o'clock and continued rushing[?] until midnight when the firing ceased. Our loss is one killed and two wounded. Corporal W.L. Perris of Detachment A was killed at the beginning of the fight just as he had sighted his gun the 4th time. He was killed by a piece of shell that exploded in front of our battery, the piece

striking his left shoulder and passing through his body, coming out just above his right hip bone. He was killed instantly. Our two Lieutenants were wounded, Cousin Albert wounded in the left foot by a shell. It is a very bad wound and will take a long time to heal. Lieut. Richard was wounded by a shell on the right arm. It did not cut the flesh but bruised his arm very badly. I have been packing ammunition from the caissons to the limber, never worked harder in my life. My detachment are at work with the guns of the other detachments. Never saw men stand up to the work better in my life. Our battery has fired 940 rounds of ammunition this afternoon. The guns are so hot that we can not bear our hands on them. I went off with Pixley and Harris to fill our caissons with ammunition and we did not get back until three o'clock in the morning. Our men have driven the Rebels a short ways and still hold them. The 18th Army Corps arrived here just before dark. It is commanded by General Smith. They are from Butler's Army.

Thursday 2nd June 1864

I did not get but one hour's sleep last night but I feel much better for it, as I was completely tired out when we returned with the ammunition. We have thrown up good breastworks for our guns. The boys worked the greatest part of the night. This place is called Coal Harbor Cross Roads [Cold Harbor]. We buried Perris near the old t--that stands --- of the first[?] corner of the road. We miss him very much indeed as he was always so joyous and merry. The 2nd Corps are coming up this morning. The Rebels fired a few shell this morning but without much effect. Lt. Richard came up this morning, his arm in a sling. Is not wounded very severely. There has been a good deal of skirmishing today and this evening some heavy fighting on our right, supposed to be the 5th Corps. We have unharnessed our caisson horses for the first time this evening for 84 hours. I went over to the hospital this afternoon to see Cousin Albert but was a little too late to see him as he had been taken to White House Landing about an hour before I got there. We are having a thunder shower this evening which makes everything very pleasant after being in the dust so long. We have not fired a gun today but still keep in the same position that we took yesterday. It is reported that we took a brigade of infantry today on our left. We could hear some heavy fighting in that direction. Our lines are being strongly fortified all along the front and the general opinion is that we will soon advance upon the Jonnies.

Friday 3rd June 1864

We were up this morning at 5 o'clock. The cannonading opened at daybreak and was soon followed by heavy musketry which has been kept up all day and most of the time along the whole length of our lines. Did not get a chance to use our Battery at all today but had to lay quiet under hot firing. Cousin Albert did not get through to White House yesterday. The ambulance train went part way and found the road so blockaded with wagon trains that they had to return to the hospital again. I went over this forenoon and saw him. He is in pretty good spirits. Has got a very bad wound. The ball of his left foot is taken off clean to the bone and will doubtless lay him up for a long time. He will get home as soon as he can. Our forage train came up this afternoon and we now have plenty of feed for our horses. Generals Grant and Meade passed just in rear of our battery twice today. Saw an Indian that is on General Grant's staff. He is a very intelligent looking person. We unharnessed our horses this evening at 10 o'clock. I saw the 117th N.Y. as they passed here. They have just come up from Butler's[?] Div.[?]. Had a short talk with

Joe Petch who informed me that Charlie Law was killed and Lt. Frank Lay was taken prisoner at the fight near Petersburg when they were with General Butler. Our lines have been advanced some today. The Rebels made a desperate charge just to the right of us this evening but were repulsed with very heavy loss, leaving their killed and wounded on the field in our possession. It has been quite cool today which makes it very nice for our wounded. The Rebels threw a shell in the battery to our right this morning and blew up two rear[?] chests of a caisson, killed one man and wounded another very seriously.

Saturday 4th June 1864

Hitched up this morning at 2 o'clock, remained so until 8 o'clock and then unharnessed our caisson horses, leaving the rest hitched up to the limbers. Our men are still throwing up breastworks. There has been firing all day on both sides. Our supply trains are coming up now from White House and this army is well supplied with provisions. There was some heavy musketry this evening on our right center. We received mail this evening. I got two letters from M.E.B., wrote a letter to Mollie.

Sunday 5th June 1864

Harnessed up this morning the same as yesterday and laid around our tents all day. There was a great deal of cannonading this morning and the sharpshooters have been at work all day. They wounded a four of our men. I saw one artilleryman that was shot through the head and was as crazy as a loon when they were carrying him to the rear on a stretcher. I saw the 3rd N.Y. Regt. this afternoon, they have only about 200 men left. Charlie Cousser[?] returned from the hospital today. He looks very well indeed. Has been four weeks finding the battery. The Rebels made another desperate charge on our left this evening and the minie balls came over like hail in a severe storm, but they were repulsed as usual with heavy loss. Wrote a letter to M.E.B. and received one from Mollie this evening. Our men still continue to strengthen their earthworks and the sharp shooters are busily engaged picking off every person that makes himself visible.

Monday 6th June 1864

Up this morning very early. The Rebels have thrown a great many shell today and some of them struck very close to us. Sergeant Harris received his commission as Lieutenant today. Do not know whether he will be mustered today or not. He has gone back to the wagons and left me in charge of the caissons. I received a letter today from M.E.B. Our mail now comes to us regularly every day. There is heavy cannonading on our extreme left this afternoon. Our cavalry is on our extreme left and it is reported that the 4th[?] Corps are with them.

Tuesday 7th June 1864

We were woke up this morning by rebel shells which exploded over our heads. There was quite a number of infantry wounded by them. The Rebels made another charge on our left this morning at 10 o'clock which continued for 3/4 of an hour. We repulsed them with very heavy loss. The Rebels have annoyed[?] us very much with their shell today. There is heavy cannonading on our extreme left today. Supplies are coming up in large quantities.

Wednesday 8th June 1864

Two of our guns (the right section) went out to the extreme front this morning at 4 o'clock. Lieutenant Harris went out with them, leaving me in charge of the caissons. I went out to see their position this morning. When I first got there the Johnnies were at work on their breastworks and many of them were sitting around looking at our men who were up on our works. I had not been there but a few moments when the rebels opened on us with their artillery. The first shot went over the fort about a foot, did not explode at all. The 2nd shot came through the left of the embrasure and exploded just as it came through. It threw the dust all over us. One piece of shell passed through Harris' haversack completely riddling it in pieces. I got a piece of something side of my face which was anything but agreeable to me. They threw several shell but without any serious effect. I remained there for nearly an hour and then returned. Fixed up the park this afternoon and had a picket line put up for our horses. The cannoneers all went out this evening and went to digging. There has been the least firing today of any day since we have been at this place. I wrote a letter this afternoon to M.E.B.

Thursday 9th June 1864

Up this morning at 6 o'clock. Had a first rate sleep last night. My cannoneers were out digging on the fort all night and did not get in this morning until 7 o'clock, all pretty well tired out. The 9th Corps took about 2,000 prisoners on our extreme right last night. They were marched to the White House guarded by the Negroes which did not seem to suit their fancy very much. I took out the horses of the caissons of the right section this evening to relieve them of the guns. I got back at 1 o'clock. Lt. Harris was mustered today and now wears his uniform. Not very much fighting today more than sharp shooting which was very lively. Sam Cass was over to see us today. The division of cavalry that he is with remains back in camp but the other two divisions are out on a reconnaissance. He did not know where they had gone. Supplies are coming up in abundance and we are soon to have full rations of everything. The center section went out this evening and relieved the right section but will return in the morning.

Friday 10th June 1864

The right section went over to their guns again this morning and the center section came back. The horses were also changed again. But very little going on here today more than usual. Considerable cannonading today but not so much sharpshooting as usual. We have drawn full rations today for the first time in six weeks. Report says that we are to leave this place soon but no one seems to have the least idea of where we are going to. Our two guns returned from the extreme front this evening at 10 o'clock. We fired a few shots today which struck right in the Rebels' works.

Saturday 11th June 1864

The men have all been supplied with clothing today. The infantry are at work putting up a long line of breastworks just to our rear. It is reported that we are to change our base of supplies again and that they are putting up these works in order to hold our position here on the right until the greater part of the army swings around on our extreme left forming a new base on the James River. The firing today is the same as usual. Not very warm today.

Sunday 12th June 1864

The 18th A. C. is moving back, supposed to be going to the rear and left. There has been considerable cannonading today but mostly by our men. I wrote a letter this morning to Mollie. We got three new horses today, very good ones. We are to leave at dark and I have got everything in readiness. The 6th corps is the last to leave this place. Our men have to level down their gun courses just before we leave this place. We left camp at the time above mentioned and marched all night.

Monday 13th June 1864

We stopped this morning at 4 o'clock and had coffee when we again resumed the march. We have marched pretty fast and our men and horses are pretty well used up. Some five or six of our horses have played out today so that we had to leave them behind by the wayside. Our infantry are marching with us. We crossed the Chickahominy at 5 o'clock p.m. and went in camp about a mile on the south side for the night. We have passed over some most awful poor country today. Vegetation looks very bad.

Tuesday 14th June 1864

Broke camp this morning at 6 o'clock. Marched in a south direction. Went in camp at 12 o'clock p.m.[?] some three miles from the James River. We have been at work policing up our camp and everything looks as though we might stay here a day or two. The water is very bad indeed and it is very hard to get any that is fit to drink. The country is much richer as we near the river. Have passed some very wealthy plantations today. We can hear the whistle of the propeller[?] on the river very plain. We have received daily papers today, the first in six weeks.

Wednesday 15th June 1864

We were much surprised this morning by receiving orders to march. Left camp at 4 o'clock, went down to the river and halted until the train of the 9th and 6th Corps crossed. We crossed on the pontoon bridge below Harrisburg Landing. The river is about 3/4 of a mile wide here. There is a large number of transports here. There is also one gun boat, the Atlanta. She lays just to the left of the bridge. After we crossed the river we went about a mile and camped in a beautiful field where the grass is over a foot high. Our supply trains came up this evening and we are again well supplied with plenty of grub[?]. The water is very bad indeed about here. There is only one spring here and that is dipped so low that the water remains muddy all the time.

Thursday 16th June 1864

Had a splendid sleep last night and did not get up this morning until 6 o'clock. Have laid still all day. There is a large number of troops passing up the river on transports. Our supply train still continues to come in and the whole flat here is covered with baggage wagons. I went down to the river this afternoon a fishing, did not have very good luck. We received orders to march just at dark and at 8 o'clock we started in the direction of Petersburg. Marched all night, never was so sleepy before in my life, and was asleep about half of the way on the march.

Friday 17th June 1864

We stopped this morning near Mount Hope Church and got breakfast, watered our horses, and again resumed our march. We continued on in a south westerly direction until 10 o'clock when we stopped in a field and stayed until after dinner, when we continued on towards Petersburg. We went in park some two miles in rear of where the 18th A.C. are fighting. Here we unharnessed and remained until 6 o'clock p.m. when we were ordered to the front. We relieved the 18th Corps. There has been hard fighting here for the last three[?] days and our men have been very successful. Have taken 34 guns of the Jonnies and a large number of prisoners. We are within one mile of Petersburg and are shelling the enemy. Our men went in position just at dark on the ----- . I saw a negro battery today, the first that I have seen. [This page was written in the margins so that it is hard to tell which sentence comes in which order].

Saturday 18th June 1864

The Capt. gave me charge of the caissons when the guns went in position last night. We are just in rear of the guns behind breastworks and are very well protected. Our battery opened on the enemy this morning with very good effect. Our whole line advanced this forenoon for nearly a mile. Our battery took a new position on the Appomattox where they have a splendid range[?] on the City and railroad bridge. They fired 280 rounds this afternoon. The rebel shot and shell came over us very fast and many of them struck very close to us, but none of our men were hurt. I received a letter this evening from M.E.B.[?]

Sunday 19th June 1864

The ball opened this morning at 5 o'clock, mostly cannonading and sharp shooting. Our battery opened on a train of cars that were coming into Petersburg and stopped them very sudden[?]. One of our men (Radcliff) was wounded by a minie ball. It passed through his right breast just below his shoulder bone. It is not considered fatal. He was immediately sent to the hospital where he will have the best of care. Two more men wounded this afternoon, Gerrin & Jay. The former was wounded in the thigh and the latter in the right side. Some heavy musketry this evening. I had to change the limbers of the center section this evening.

Monday 20th June 1864

Our men have all been at work hard all night on their gun covers and are getting up very formidable works. The ball opened very heavy at 10 o'clock a.m. and continued until nearly 1 p.m. We had two more men wounded, Chas. Courser[?] and Mark[?] Lockwood. Courser was hit with a shell taking his right leg off just below the knee, also tearing a large piece of flesh out of his right thigh. A piece of the same shell struck Lockwood and tore all of the calf of his leg off. The bone was slightly fractured. I soon got an ambulance and had them taken to the hospital where their wounds were immediately dressed. Our limbers ----- got out of ammunition and I had to go up with four limbers to fill them. I moved the caissons off to the right out of range of the rebel batteries. This has been the hottest day's fight that we have had. Our battery has been relieved this evening after three days hard fighting. We moved back about a mile and a half and went in camp with the whole battery. Received a letter from M.E.B. and answered it. I also wrote a letter home.

Tuesday 21st June 1864

The firing this morning is very slow but about noon the Rebels opened heavy on us, but our batteries soon dried them up. I never saw shell explode better than the ones thrown from our batteries. Nearly every one of them strike right in the Rebel posts and raise a heavy cloud of dust. There was some 30 P[ounders?] came up from City Point[?] last night and went in to one of the posts here. They done splendid work today. Sam Cass was over to see us today. He lays up to the left some 7 miles with the cavalry. President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton are at H.Q of the 6th Corps this afternoon. We had orders this evening to be ready to march at 9 o'clock but did not get started until nearly midnight when we marched in a southerly direction. I received two letters this evening, one from Mollie and one from Turner[?] This has been a very warm day indeed. I have laid in my tent the greater part of the time today and have got pretty well rested. There appears to be some big move on foot by the way that things are moving at present. There is a large force going to the left. We were relieved at this place by the 8th[?] Corps.

Wednesday 22nd June 1864

We marched until daylight this morning when we stopped and had a lunch. Came about 10 miles last night. We resumed the march again at 12 noon, went up to the front and went in park. Here we remained until nearly dark when we were ordered back to where we were at noon. The Rebels tried very hard to break our lines between the 2nd and 5th Corps but after charging several times in succession they gave it up as a bad job. We unhitched and unharnessed at 9 o'clock p.m. and bunked down for the night. The water here is very bad indeed, can scarce get enough to cook with.

Thursday 23rd June 1864

This has been a most awful warm day. We hitched up this morning at 2 o'clock and remained so all day, expecting orders every moment to move. Not very much fighting going on today, mostly skirmishing on our right. We had orders to unhitch just after dark and let our horses remain so all night. We pitched our tent and have made calculation on having a good night's rest. The rebels still continue to desert and it is nothing strange to see a squad of from 10 to 12 coming in any time of the day. So endeth the 10th Diary.

Kitty Wells

1st Verse

You ask what makes this darky ----
Why he like others am not gay
What makes the tears flow down his cheek
From early dawn till close of day
My story darkies you shall year
For in my memory best it dwells
Twill cause you all to drop a tear
On the grave of my sweet Kitty Wells

Chorus:

While the birds are singing in the morning
And the myrtle and the ivy are in bloom
When the sun on the hill was a dancing
It was then we laid her in the tomb.

2nd Verse

I never shall forget the day
That we together roamed the dell
I kissed her cheek and named the day
That I should marry Kitty Wells
But death came in my cabin door
And took from me my joy and pride
And when I found she was no more
Then I laid my banjo down and cried

Chorus

3rd Verse

I often wished that I was dead
And laid beside her in the tomb
The sorrow that bows down my head
Is silent in the midnight gloom
The springtime has no charm for me
Though flowers are roaming[?] in the dell
For that bright form I do not see
Tis the form of my sweet Kitty Wells.

Chorus

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