

Extracts from The Civil War Diary of W. H. Flint,
2nd Battery Vermont Light Artillery

1861

April 8 - Commenced work on town hall in Brandon, Vt.

April 19 - Enlisted for 3 months in the first Vt. regt. in co. with Channcey Stanley then he and I went up to Leicester, Vt. there was a meeting last night held in town hall for the purpose of enlisting men in answer to a call for 75,000 men by President Lincoln. I should have been one of the first to enlist but my father was with me and objected but after talking the matter over during the night, he withdrew his objections and I promptly reported for enlistment. I will say that while my father was in sympathy with the Union cause and in favor of the call for troops he did not think I was old enough, and being a minor he disliked to give his consent, but after I enlisted, he and my mother gave me all the encouragement they could. The co. to which I belonged was under Capt. Joseph Bush. The Co. commenced drilling at once both forenoon, afternoon and evening. the town is filled with people wearing badges and talking of the firing on Ft. Sumpter [sic].

April 27 - I was sworn into U.S. service.

April 28 - Sunday Whole Co. went to Cong. church.

May 2 - Went in camp at Rutland Fairgrounds. [On this date speaks of the interest his step-grandfather, Beach took in him; speaks of his goodness of heart and how he cried when he came to say good bye.]

May 3 - Quartered last night in Rutland Armory - 10 companies all under command of Col. John W. Phelps. To-day pitched tents on fair ground - I was told to do the cooking for the Co. That kind of work not suiting me I was relieved.

May 8 - To-day we were mustered into the service of the U.S. for 3 months.

May 9 - Broke camp - went aboard cars for New York disembarked both at Granville and at Troy, N.Y. Boys welcome to everything in city. It seemed to me that this had been one of the greatest days in my life, not having ever been away from Vermont before.

May 10 - We arrived at New York City at 8 a.m. and marched directly to City Hall all the way from depot down Broadway. The streets were jammed with people, flags and banners flying from every window and the crowd shouted themselves hoarse at the fine appearance of the 1st Vt. Regt.

Every soldier wore a sprig of evergreen in his coat lapel, everything free to the boys here as in Troy. Asked and rec'd permission to visit Aunt Mary Gromcke at Williamsburg - stayed over night with her.

May 11 - On board steamer Alabama - left for Fortress Monroe. It was a delightful trip down the Bay. To many of us it was the first time we had ever been in New York or on board an ocean steamer.

May 12 - Many seasick.

May 13 - Arrived Fort Monroe.

May 18 - Quartered in Hygea Hotel.

May 20 - One of Bradford co. boys died - first in regt.

May 23 - Went with expedition to Hampton when Rebs, saw us coming they set fire to bridge. Col. Phelps rushed squad to bridge on double quick put out fire so we were able to cross.

May 26 - An alarm at camp a little east of Hampton village - shots exchanged - did not see enemy.

May 27 - Struck camp and went by boat up James River to Newport News. My co. advance guard - went into camp in large wheat field.

May 28-June 15 - Making entrenchments - responding to alarms-drilling.

Jun 17-30 - Drills - work on camp - inspections.

July 2 - Division inspected by Gen. B. F. Butler ordered out with Knapsacks on - stood in line 2 hrs in very hot sun. It was said that Gen. Butler's daughter who was with him said "Trot them round again Papa," she was so delighted with the review.

July 3-Aug 4 - Drills - dress parades - inspection - guard duty - work on entrenchments - prayer meetings - police duty.

August 5 - Struck tents on board steamer - left Newport News.

August 6 - Arrived in New York - by rail to Brattleboro.

August 7-10 - Drills.

August 16 - Mustered out after being paid by U.S. paymaster.

August 17 - Arrived in Brandon during night - met at depot by good no. of citizens and band - marched in formation round town - we're given a dinner at new Town Hall. After which the boys of Co. G first Vt. Volunteers War of Rebellion separated each having made up his mind what to do in regard to reenlisting as the war was still going on. As for myself I had determined not to re-enlist. Three months of soldiering I thought was my part in putting down the Rebellion. As I rewrite this diary after the War, I can see that I little knew what I would do, as the following pages will show.

August 18 - Sept 8 - Helping father with work on barn and on farm.

Sept 9 - Commenced work on Town Hall.

Sept 10-Oct. 21 - Working in Brandon on Town Hall.

Oct. 22 - Enlisted again for three years under Capt. L. R. Sayles in Sprayer's R.I. cavalry in company with Ed Bickford and Silas Miller. I feel it my duty to offer my services as the war is still going on and our troops seem to be repulsed - 800,000 [sic] volunteers are calls for by Pres. Lincoln.

Oct. 23-Nov. 22 - Some drilling - visiting friends.

Nov 23 - Informed that the quota for R.I. cavalry was full and that we would not be obliged to go to war. But all but two of the company enlisted then and there in what was to be the 2nd Vt. Light Artillery.

Nov. 24-Dec. 13 - Drills - visits - church - dances.

Dec. 14 - Battery rec'd uniforms - co. elected officers - lacking their votes for a commission - I took my place in the Battery as 9th-Corporal.

Dec. 22 - Drilling - visiting - church.

Dec. 23 - Went to Salisbury to see my parents. I am nineteen years old to-day.

Dec. 24 - Went to Brandon - paid \$93.17 by U. S. paymaster.

Dec. 25 - Started for Lowell by way of Burlington & Montpelier. My father was in Brandon to see me off again for the War. He said that he should never see me again. I was inclined to be light hearted about it but still I had some misgivings as three years is a long time and the war was growing fiercer than ever.

Dec. 26 - Arrived in Lowell - camped on fair grounds just outside of city.

Dec. 27 - Ground covered with snow - about a foot deep. We had Sibly tents with galvanized iron tent poles with a round sheet iron stove at the bottom. The pole served as a stove pipe. With from 12 to 18 men in a tent and plenty of wood we were able to keep comfortable during the day but at night unless some one of the boys kept watch the fire went out, then there were some cold soldiers. I thought that we had a hard time in the three months service but it was a picnic compared to the experiences we were now undergoing.

Dec. 27-Jan. 31 - Drills - guard duty - trips to city.

1862

Feb. 1 - Promoted to 1st Corporal.

Feb. 5 - Rec'd our knapsacks, canteens and blankets before this each soldier had his own bed clothing he brought from home.

Feb. 6 - To Boston and on board ship Idaho.

Feb. 7 - In Boston Harbor, Capt. L.R. Sayles ordered to report in Burlington.

Feb. 8 - Set sail for Ship Island, Mississippi. First time many of the boys were ever on shipboard.

Feb. 9-28 - On board ship Idaho sent letters home on picket boat.

March 1 - Came in sight of Key West.

March 2-7 - On shipboard - hard winds, waves seem mountain high.

March 8 - In sight of land during day - ran aground in night.

March 9 - At night all but 33 men in each company went ashore on Ship Island. I was left on board in charge of 2nd Vt. Battery men. We worked all night getting the provisions out of the bottom of the ship.

March 10 - Quantities of government stores unloaded - thrown overboard then ship was towed into the harbor without much damage to her. With the exception of being seasick for a short time I enjoyed the trip from New York.

March 11 - I went back on ship Idaho again and brought off what things remained that belong to our battery - went into camp.

March 12 - In camp on Ship Island, Miss. which is one complete body of sane as far as the eye can reach with the ocean howling on all sides of us. It is dreary enough.

March 13 - Went with squad of men to other end of Island after wood. Carried wood all day to beach to be towed to camp; was out all night and was taken sick in the night.

March 14 - Came back to camp at noon the wind blowing hard - sound of ocean deafening.

March 15 - High wind and tide reached out camp every tent blown down - had to get out in hurry - saved baggage but much work for a while - sadder lot of fellows never seen than those of 2nd Vt. Battery - cold & wet through after getting our tents on high ground I made my way in the dark to a Mass. regt. and they gave me shelter for the rest of the night.

March 16 - Two men buried here to-day - first soldiers funeral we had ever seen and "many tears could be seen as the brave boys were laid to rest away from home and kindred in the white sand on Ship Island."

March 17-April 8 - Drill - inspection - unloading cannons.

April 9 - Ship Island - whole division reviewed - B. F. Butler in command - "a grand sight extending for miles up the Island."

April 10-12 - Drills - fitting shells at magazine.

April 13 - Promoted to sergeant to-day in lace of F. W. Noyes who was discharged.

April 14 - Orders to march - rec'd my warrant at 6th sergeant to-day from Col. Stephen Thomas of the 8th Vt. regt at this time. - 2nd & 3d batteries belonged to the 8th regt.

April 15-16 - Looking for boat to go to Ft. Jackson - filled shells.

April 17 - Embarked on steam boat Henry Lewis.

April 18-19 - Steam pipes burst and repaired - could not run long after repairs - fired I guess as signal of distress - dropped one of our 20# guns (parapet) to help hold the boat as anchors - were not sufficient.

April 20 - Steamer Saxon towed us to mouth of Mississippi. We could hear firing at Fort Jackson.

April 21 - Saxon took us up the river to where our fleet was anchored firing at Ft. Jackson and St. Phillip.

April 22-27 - On board Henry Lewis - on shore for wood to fire boilers - troops transferred from Great Republic to gunboat Colorado, etc.

April 28 - On Henry Lewis in sight of Fort Jackson. Rebels set fire to & blew up a steam boat & floating battery. After bombarding Forts Jackson & St. Phillip for 6 days and nights Farragut on the morning of Apr. 24 about 3 A.M. passed the forts.

April 29-May 1 - In river at quarantine above Ft. Jackson - filled shells part of the day - passed Magnolia plantation.

May 2 - Arrived in New Orleans - disembarked at once & went into position on wharf on Levee.

May 3 - Encamped near Canal St. battery remained on levee - took stroll about city.

May 4 - Battery ordered to U.S. mint - went into camp there.

May 5 - Quartered in U.S. mint - steam board Henry Lewis sunk to-day. When we think about the old shell, the bursting of the steam pipe the rough weather and our voyage on this boat we thank God that we arrived here safely.

May 6 - Took a stroll about city - placed under arrest on my return - Capt. Chase has come to have me reduced to the ranks.

May 7 - Released from arrest to-day by order of Capt. Holcomb - no reason given for my arrest - I asked no questions - went down to Evans House to see Lieut. B. N. Dyer.

May 8 - Sergeants rec'd side arms to-day - My detachment with one other ordered to St. Charles Hotel to do guard duty - Gen. Butler had headquarters there. We stationed one piece on each corner facing St. Charles St. and we were quartered in the basement.

May 9-17 - Guard duty - drilling - went for shot & ammunition.

May 18 - Went to U. S. mint with morning report - went to Custom House on drill.

May 19 - Went with morning report to U. S. mint headquarters.

May 20 - My detachment by order of Gen. Butler detailed to convey some confiscated liquors to his rooms in Hotel. It did not all reach him - all of the boys kept what they would with safety conceal - while Gen. Butler was enjoying the good things of the city, we boys had our fun.

May 21-30 - Quartered at St. Charles Hotel - guard duty - after mail, etc.

May 31 - Went to sign payroll then embarked on the steam boat G. A. Sheldon & started for Camp Parapet near Carrollton, La. The whole battery came also.

June 1 - Landed and went into camp near river bank inside fortifications. The place fell into our hands when New Orleans surrendered. It is about 8 miles up the river from New Orleans. I went out to the 1st Vt. Regt[?]. They are quartered [sic] outside the parapet.

June 2-21 - Camp Parapet - building shelter co. street - guard duty - drills - inspections.

June 22 - Sold an old watch I had for \$14.00.

June 23 - I had guard duty, etc.

June 26 - Moved our quarters to-day out into what we would call a swamp at home - breast works extend down into low grounds from the river.

June 27 - Built a bower over our quarters - cleaned up camp - made port holes in breast works.

June 28 - Cleaning up camp.

June 29 - Battery inspected to-day. I went to New Orleans, to Carrollton & back to camp.

June 30-July 13 - Guard duty - inspection - made a coffin.

July 14 - Lieut. B. N. Dyer & Lieut. Smith court marshalled - both had to go.

July 15 - To court marshal - not called on to testify.

July 16 - John W. Chase aspired to be 1st Lieut. when battery was 1st organized but Dyer was elected & Smith was 2d Lieut. and John A. Inalty 3d Lieut. There were several candidates for 4th place and I came within 3 votes of being elected instead of Chase - this explains his dislike for them as well as me.

July 17-23 - Camp Parapet guard duty - etc.

July 24 - Chauncey Stanley and I went to Gen. J. W. Phelps headquarters & reported Capt. Chase & Capt. Holcomb of our battery. We claimed they had been taking rations that belonged to battery. Gen. Phelps talked like a father to us - gave us some good advice and promised to look into the matter. Gen. Phelps presented me with a copy of instructions for field artillery.

July 25-August 21 - Guard duty - charge of negroes getting guns into position.

August 22 - Battery rec'd sabers to-day.

August 23-25 - Drilled some men on guns, etc. August 26 - Went to sick call - first time since my enlistment - sick with chills and fever - excused from duty.

August 27-Sept. 12 - Saber practice - guard duty, etc.

Sept. 13 - Death of Joseph Matot at Camp Parapet - went to graveyard and set some headboards at graves of boys who belonged to 2d Vt. Battery.

Sept. 14-18 - Guard duty - dismounting Rebel cannon, etc.

Sept. 19 - Our Camp is about 1/2 mile back from Miss. River in the swamp.

Sept. 20 - Our mess rec'd potatoes for the first time since we left Boston last February.

Sept. 22 - Inspection - went after vegetables outside lines.

Sept. 23 - Sick again - went to Surgeon's call and was excused from duty - had chills and fever.

Sept. 24 - Excused from duty after visit to surgeon.

Sept. 25 - Rec'd some thing from home - sent in a box to W. S. Alden a comrade from Leicester, Vt.

Sept. 26 - Guard duty.

Sept. 27 - Police duty - taken sick again.

Sept. 28 - Hard sick excused from duty - in my quarters all day.

Sept. 29 - Sent for ambulance & went to hospital which was in a brick house near the river in an orange grove.

Sept. 30-Oct. 8 - Sick in hospital.

Oct. 9 - Returned to my company.

Oct. 10-Nov. 7 - Battery inspection - drills - fix up quarters - to Carrollton with reports.

Nov. 8 - Trouble with Sergt. Maj. Perry Baker - only a question of time when I would be reduced to the ranks.

Nov. 9-23 - Still under arrest.

Nov. 24 - Struck tents & marched to New Orleans went into camp at Annunciation Square. Still under arrest but after reaching the city I left camp & went down to Canal St. & back to camp. I also went to theater in evening.

Nov. 25-27 - Still under arrest.

Nov. 28 - At retreat to-night on dress parade by order of Capt. Holcomb I was reduced to the ranks after being kept under arrest 20 days for disrespectful language to superior officers.

Nov. 29 - Took my place in ranks as private.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1 - Guard duty - to Customs House - theater in evening.

Dec. 2 - Commenced practice on bugle - battery inspection - rounds - city.

Dec. 3 - Practice on bugle.

Dec. 4 - Preferred charges against Lieut. John Chase regarding unlawful appropriation of supplies, etc. - charges dismissed.

Dec. 5-17 - Camp drills - to headquarters reports, etc.

Dec. 18 - Sick with chills & fever.

Dec. 19 - Sick with chills & fever.

Dec. 20 - Chase told Sergt.. Maj. Baker to give me a pair of horses - that I never could learn to play the bugle - Baker selected pair of horses in the battery.

Dec. 21-28 - Guard duty loading the battery on the Honduras.

Dec. 29 - On Honduras lying at Jackson St. Then started for Galveston, TX.

Dec. 30-Jan. 1 (1863) - Trip to Galveston - city captured by Rebels all our fleet ordered back to New Orleans.

1863

Jan. 2-4 - Trip back to New Orleans.

Jan. 5 - Battery unloaded - camp at Factor's Cotton Press.

Jan. 6-10 - Guard duty - etc.

Jan. 11 - Detailed as orderly for chief of artillery for the day.

Jan. 12 - In camp.

Jan. 13 - Taken sick again - chills & fever.

Jan. 14-15 - In camp.

Jan. 16 - Battery given orders to march at daylight.

Jan. 17 - Battery ordered out on drill.

Jan. 18 - Waiting orders - Battery inspected by one of Gen. Banks' staff.

Jan. 19-24 - Sick again went to hospital.

Jan. 25 - On board steamer Laurel Hill - went up river.

Jan. 26 - Arrived at Donaldson, La. - went into camp near river.

Jan. 27-Feb. 7 - Battery drill - guard duty.

Feb. 8 - Battery inspection - went over to fort to raising of flag - then went over the Bayou into the town, took a stroll down the river met some girls went with one of them to her home.

Feb. 9-13 - Battery drill - guard duty, etc.

Feb. 14 - Taken sick & went back to quarters - did not answer to my name at retreat & Lieut. Chase ordered me to guard house. But was released by order of surgeon.

Feb. 15-18 - Sick - excused from duty.

Feb. 19-Mar 1 - Battery drills - guard duty - building stables for horses.

March 2 - Struck tents and embarked for Baton Rouge went into camp near U.S. Barracks.

March 3 - Regulating our camp at Baton Rouge. I was recommended as bugler Frank J. Hubbard was ill. This circumstance indicates to me that Capt. Holcomb knew my ability entitled me to be something better than private. He often told me when I was Sergt. that I was the best drilled man in the battery.

Mar. 4-8 - Inspection - bugle practice.

Mar. 9 - Battery had orders to cook six days rations & be ready to march.

Mar. 10 - Practiced bugle calls.

Mar. 11 - Went on drill for first time as bugler in just a week I had mastered the bugle calls to satisfaction of Capt. Holcomb.

Mar. 12 - All troops reviewed by Gen. Banks to-day.

Mar. 13 - Struck tents started for Port Hudson.

Mar. 14 - On march to Port Hudson.

Mar. 15 - Last night about midnight mortars & gun boats commenced to shell Port Hudson - within about six miles of Port Hudson during night we were a frightened lot of boys.

Mar. 10-19 - Still camped near Port Hudson.

Mar. 20 - Arrived at Baton Rouge - camped about a mile south of City.

Mar. 21-27 - In camp - drills, etc.

Mar. 28-29 - In guard house [unjustly accused he thought]

Mar. 30 - Released from guard house.

Apr. 1-10 - Drill with battery - cleaned camp - about town.

Apr. 11 - Building floors & fixing up quarters.

Apr. 12-30 - Drills - inspections.

May 1 - 6 mos. pa to-day. My pay \$89.60.

May 2 - A portion of 6th & 7th Ill. Cavalry came in to-day. They had marched from Gen. Grant's army in Tenn. They brought in 75 prisoners with them - cheering all over camp.

May 3-17 - Battery drill - cavalry drill - inspected.

May 18 - Broke camp to-day - started for Port Hudson - marched 13 miles - bivouacked for night with Gen.. Dudley's brigade. I'm about sick with fever & ague.

May 19 - Went about 3 miles - exchanged shots with Rebel pickets.

May 20 - Center section of our battery came up from Baton Rouge to-day.

May 21 - Battle of Plane Store near Port Hudson - was ordered as bugler to hold Lieut. Chase's horse and one other that Lieut. Tenney rode. To manage my own and the other two with shots & shell flying in all directions was about all I could attend to. After about an hour at my request I took Corp. Edwin Ayer's place as gunner and continued at the gun until the battle ended - not a man in our battery killed - camped on battlefield.

May 22 - A flag of truce from Rebel Gen. Gardner's com. at Port Hudson for permission to bury their dead - granted - all quiet.

May 23 - Still in the field awaiting events, took stroll outside picket lines - news of Gen. Grant closing in on Vicksburg was read to-day - all quiet inside our lines.

May 24 - Went with Capt. Holcomb of our battery to the extreme right of our line & put 18 N.Y. Battery into position - fired few shots into Port Hudson and enemy returned it - Capt. & I under fire 5 hours. Then returned to battery. Capt. Holcomb was made chief of artillery & I was ordered to discontinue bugle calls & act as orderly for him.

May 25-26 - In field in front of Port Hudson - heavy firing on our right and occasionally a shot from the enemy all along the line.

May 27 - First attempt to storm Port Hudson - Bombardment of Fort Hudson commenced this morning - our troops expecting to carry the works after shelling the works all the forenoon - a general assault was ordered in the afternoon - our battery was in the fight but in the rear of the infantry so we did not feel the awful effects of lead and iron hurled at the troops in front, though several shots passed under our guns. The attempt to carry the works was a dismal failure. During the fight Capt. Holcomb took the 5th gun - went within 500 yards of the Fort - fired several shots and every man returned unhurt.

May 28 - Flag of truce to bury dead left on field - 1863

June 5 - Taken sick again with chills and fever. The mortar boats on the river bombarded Port Hudson to-night.

June 6 - Sick with chills and fever but helped F. J. Hubbard & Prosper Fales fix up our tent.

June 7 - Sick with chills and fever.

June 8 - Went to Gen. Banks' headquarters twice also went to the front and back.

June 9 - Chills & fever - firing all along the line this afternoon.

June 10 - Sharp firing during the night.

June 11 - Went to front - 2nd Battery dismantled one of the enemy's heavy guns.

June 12 - To the front and back.

June 13 - Went to front to learn if breastworks were ready for our Battery. They were & our battery moved into them during the fight. The works are built of cotton bales and earth large enough for our 6 guns & only 300 yards from the rebel earth works.

June 14 - We have settled down to the Siege of Port Hudson. Battery opened fire on the Rebels at 3 A.M. & fired until daylight on brigade - made a feint to carry works. Rebel sharpshooters kept up constant fire during the day. The battery fired several shots during the day. I went to rear once, this was rather a dangerous procedure as we were obliged to pass an open space that the Rebel sharpshooters covered most of the time.

June 15 - Our battery fired occasionally a shot during the day. Gen. Banks sent in a flag of truce to-day with some provisions and medicine for our sick and wounded in Port Hudson. I went to Gen. Arnold's headquarters in rear with a report from Capt. Holcomb - firing by sharpshooters on both sides.

June 30 - Heavy firing on our left by our troops last night. Capt. Holcomb went out in front and met a Rebel Maj. Buckner an officer that he knew in the regular army.

July 1 - Heavy firing on left - sharpshooters troublesome.

July 2 - It was learned the Rebels dreaded our battery for the execution it did.

July 3 - Went to Gen. Auger's headquarters.

July 4 - National salute fired at Gen. Banks' Headquarters in our rear at sunrise. Adj. Gen. Halstead came into our quarters and read the Declaration of Independence after which our battery fired 34 guns - firing all along line to-day.

July 5 - Sergt. Daskane & I went into country back of Port Hudson some six miles after green corn. Our men sent into Port Hudson some medicines & provisions to our sick and wounded prisoners under flag of truce.

July 6 - Heavy firing on the left. Sharpshooters troublesome.

July 7 - Rec'd news that Gen. Grant had captured Vicksburg to-day - there was long and loud cheering all along the line. The 116 N.Y. Regt Band came into our quarters & played several national airs.

July 8 - Last night I met Rebel between our lines and had a long talk with him. He belonged to one of the Arkansas regt's. During the day Rebel Gen. Gardner sent in a flag of truce but Gen. Banks refused to receive it, but Gen. Gardner said he would surrender - Everyone nearly wild with excitement.

July 9 - Marched into Port Hudson this morning - Rebels drawn up in line with Arms grounded - 7,000 prisoners surrendered with the Fort - many of them glad that the end had come - so were many of our boys. We had been under fire day & night since May 27-1863. Many of our boys went bathing in Mississippi River with the Rebels that only a day before were in arms against each other.

July 10 - In camp on river bank or bluff - troops leaving all day.

July 11 - By order of Capt. Holcomb I lent my horse to an officer to go to headquarters - when he came back he did not tie him securely. When I wanted him could not find him - at Battle of Plane Store I captured an officer's blanket - a splendid one - this with the horse saddle & bridles are all gone. The horse was one of the best in the Battery, the saddle a new McBellan.

July 12 - Helping sutler - looking some for horse.

July 13 - Rebels leaving all day - I received a good tent from an officer - Not able to find my horse - Officers say I will be obliged to find it or pay for it. Help sutler.

July 14 - Picking up guns & caissons - helping sutler - put up tent for him.

July 15 - Our battery fired salute - the occasion was the coming into the Union of [West] Virginia - helped sutler.

July 16-18 - Helping sutler.

July 19 - The battery inspected - went over to 3d Louisiana guard to see Capt. Blake - a friend of mine.

July 20-24 - Helped sutler.

July 25 - Paymaster arrived to-day - four months pay - amt. for me \$52.00.

July 26-30 - All Quiet.

July 31 - Lieut. Dyer gave me orders to take charge of the sick call - go to hospital with prescriptions - have them put up & give to men & act as Steward for Battery. This was done to impose more duty upon me as I was bugler at time.

August 1-3 - Orders to be ready to move - all excitement.

August 4 - [A long account of meeting some of the enemy forces, losing men and guns and horses and finally reaching camp by making their way through Rebel lines - their camp fires all about them.]

August 5 - Word from Lieut. Dyer who was wounded night before and left at a farm house, that he wanted some Confederate money - boys chipped in what they had also sent some gold & silver.

August 6 - Capt. Holcomb with 13 cavalry men went out to Jackson under a flag of truce to look after Lieut. Dyer, he having been paroled but not t

August 7-12 - Inspection - attended surgeons call after medicine - to outpost with medicine for Lieut. Dyer who is still in Jackson.

August 13 - Was called up about midnight - went to Provost Marshall, to lower landing with an order to Maj. Gen. Did - went to Gen. Andrew's quarters - to Jackson with a flag of truce after Lieut. Dyer - arrived there about 11 A.M. saw the college & back to Port Hudson. I went as bugler for he truce party.

August 14-26 - Acting as bugler and steward for the battery.

August 27-28 - A. A. Rocaster and I got a furlough to go to Baton Rouge. Boat not stopping at Baton Rouge - had to have transportation back from New Orleans.

August 29 - Back at Baton Rouge - Chills & fever.

August 30 - About town - made call - returned to Port Hudson.

August 31 - Sick call - to hospital after medicine on drill with Battery.

Sept. 1-8 - Duties as steward & bugler as usual.

Sept. 9 - Began medicine chest for Battery - regular work besides.

Sept. 10-11 - Regular duties - works on chest.

Sept. 12 - Finished medicine chest - attended sick care - made out monthly reports and took them to MEdical Directors.

Sept. 13-19 - Duties as bugler & acting hospital steward.

Sept. 20 - Attended surgeon's call - went on inspection - made an application to be appointed Steward for the Battery. It was approved by Lieut. Tenney commanding the Battery.

Sept. 21-Oct. 8 - Moved camp quarters - inspection - fired at boats going up river but did not stop here.

Oct. 9 - Lieut. John W. Chase arrived from Vermont last night - his wife is with him.

Oct. 10-11 - Inspection - all quiet.

Oct. 12 - Men presented Capt. P. E. Holcomb with a fine sword - he having been promoted to be Maj. of a Texas Cavalry Regt. - after a few words of advise to the men he turned the Battery over to Lieut. J. W. Chase.

Oct. 13 - I am Bugler and acting hospital steward but now that Capt. Holcomb has left us and the Battery is commanded by Lieut. Chase, I may be obliged to take my place in the ranks again, however, I shall try to profit by my past experience.

Oct. 14-24 - All quiet - cold & rainy.

Oct. 25 - Inspection - new potatoes & bake beef for dinner.

Oct. 26-31 All quiet - Battery paid off \$26.00 to Sept. 1.

Nov. 1 - Inspection by Lieut. Chase. This evening Lorenzo Dow, D. W. Carr, and A. F. Wallace came into my quarters & we bought a pound of candy and had a good camp fire all by ourselves.

Nov. 2 - Need supply of medicine for Battery & two wall tents.

Nov. 3-4 - All quiet.

Nov. 5 - Rec'd box from home.

Nov. 6-8 - All quiet - inspection.

Nov. 9 - Reviewed to-day by Adj. Gen. Thomas, Washington, D.C.

Nov. 10-18 - All quiet - built floor in my tent.

Nov. 19-28 - All quiet - sick.

Nov. 24 - All quiet - some better.

Nov. 25 - All quiet.

Nov. 26 - A. B. Canfield and I went up to medical directors and got some things for our sick. Four of our boys chipped in and had a turkey for dinner. We had a good time.

1864

Jan. 1, 1864 -- Capt. Chase's wife made some mince pies for the boys which were much appreciated.

Jan. 2-5 - Inspections - etc.

Jan. 6 - Snow fell 1 1/2 inches last night - something that has not happened since 1854, we were told. We rigged up a jumper and had a sleigh ride.

Jan. 7-12 - All quiet - inspection.

Jan. 13 - There was some excitement to-day and the Battery was ordered to be ready for an attack from the enemy. It was a false alarm.

Jan. 14-Feb. 19 - All quiet - inspection - getting flooring for hose sheds - target firing on river bank.

Feb. 20 - Re-enlisted as a veteran for 3 years am to receive \$402.00 bounty and 30 days furlough in Vt. 13 others re-enlisted.

Feb. 21-25 - All quiet - 22 Feb. Battery went up to Provost Marshall and voted for B. F. Flanders for Gov. of Louisiana.

Feb. 26 - Mustered into U. S. Veteran Service.

Feb. 27-March 20 - Quiet - men vaccinated - attending sick calls - inspections.

March 21 - Battery ordered on review ground to see swords taken from Maj. of 18th U. S. Infantry. Besides taking his sword his buttons were cut from his coat - this done by order of court marshal, for conduct unbecoming an officer & gentleman.

Mar. 22-24 - Quiet - sick calls.

Mar. 25 - Rec'd veteran furlough.

Mar. 26-27 - Waiting for transportation.

Mar. 28 - Arrived at New Orleans about 5 A.M. - brought some things to take with us - then went about some.

Mar. 29 - Staid at Union Headquarters last night - bound for New York & home.

Mar. 30-Apr. 1 - Anchored for night at Key West.

April 2-8 - On ship bound for New York.

April 9 - Arrived at New York at 3 P.M. - went to soldiers home No. 199 Broadway - about city some.

April 10-11 - In New York.

April 12 - Arrived at Brattleboro.

April 13 - Last -- called on my friend Frank Willard & by invitation I spent the evening at Mr. & Mrs. Cune's - had the honor of being introduced to Ex.-Gov. Holbrook.

April 14 - Arrived at father's at dark.

April 16-May 12 - Visited friend in VT. & N.H.

May 13 - Started back to seat of war.

May 14 - Attended dance at Putney last night.

May 15 - At hotel and barracks.

May 16 - Took train for Montpelier.

May 17-18 - In Berlin, Barre back to Brattleboro.

May 20 - Rec'd \$20.00 from father.

May 21-23 - Still in Brattleboro waiting orders to start for Port Hudson.

May 24 - After 50 days furlough in Vt. started for New Orleans.

May 25 - Arrived in New York - visited Aunt Mary.

May 26 - On steamer McClellan until June 2.

June 3 - Arrived at mouth of Miss. river at daylight - Arrived New Orleans at sundown.

June 4-6 - At camp in city.

June 7 - Went to St. Charles theatre last eve. - went on board steamer.

June 8 - Started for Port Hudson at night.

June 9 - Arrived at Baton Rouge this morning - arrived at Port Hudson 6 P.M. and reported in 2nd Vt. Battery. The boys were all glad to see me back and many questions were asked, about friends. This ends my furlough and duties of soldiers life begins again.

June 10 - Went to the 81st U.S.C. Infantry to see my friend Surgeon, Dr. D. E. Palmer - told him of my visit to his home in N.H. while I was in Vt. - had an enjoyable visit with him.

June 11-26 - All quiet - visit again to Dr. Palmer - inspection.

June 27 - Went over to 73 U.S. Infantry to see Dr. R. M. Huntington about being hospital steward of his regt.

June 28 - Made application for above position - was approved by Dr. Huntington and Capt. Chase.

June 29-July 5 - With 73 U.S.C. Infantry sick with diarrhoea (sic).

July 6 - To see Dr. Palmer.

July 7-8 - Regular duties.

July 9 - It is just one year to-day since we marched into Port Hudson after a long seige and the surrender of Gen. Gardner to Gen. Banks.

July 10-17 - Acting hospital steward - helped sutler - to medial directors with weekly report.

July 18 - Received my discharge from 2d Vt. Battery as private to enable me to re-enlist as hospital steward in the 73d U.S.C. Infantry.

July 19 - Packed up our Medical and hospital stores and went on board the steam boat N.C. Thomas - the regt. having been ordered to Morganza La. I went down to 2d Vt. Battery and took leave of boys whom I had served with since the Battery was organized, Dec. 1861. Our regt left Port Hudson at 5 P.M.

July 20 - Arrived at Morganza last night - disembarked at 8 P.M. this morning and went into camp. Morganza is Located on the Miss. River about 25 miles from Port Hudson - fort being built here.

July 21 - Alarm last night - troops quickly in position a force sent out this morning and some firing on our front.

July 22-23 - All quiet.

July 24 - Re-enlisted in 73d U.S.C. Infantry and was appointed hospital steward and rec'd my warrant as such from Lieut. Col. H. C. Merriam commanding regt. My warrant (sic) is dated July 12, 1864.

July 26 - Maj. P. E. Holcomb paid me a visit to-day. He wants me to join regular army and said he would make me orderly sergt of his company - he being a Capt. in the Army.

July 27-August 7 - All quiet - short furlough to see boys at Port Hudson - sick with chills and fever when there.

August 8 - Returned to Morganza.

August 9-31 - All Quiet - Moved camp about 1/2 mile - fixing up quarters.

Sept. 1 - Commenced making mahogany desk for Dr. Huntington of lumber we took from doors in house we tore down.

Sept. 2-6 - All quiet - worked on Dr. Huntington's desk.

Sept. 7 - National salute fired here to-day on receipt of news that Atlanta Ga. was taken by Gen. Sherman.

Sept. 8-Oct. 4 - Quiet most of the time - building barracks.

Oct. 5 - Just escape capture by Rebels [- details given].

Oct. 6 - Some fighting at Bayou Sara yesterday our forces driven back.

Oct. 7-13 - Quiet - rebuilt floor in tent - taking inventory of medicines, etc.

Oct. 14 - My weight 162 lbs.

Oct. 15-18 - Fixing up quarters, etc.

Oct. 19 - While out after lumber the other day I secured a large box stove and a steam pipe. The back end of stove was broken so bricked it up and put up the steam pipe for a chimney and have the best warmed quarters in camp.

Oct. 20-25 - All quiet - work on my quarters also helped surgeon fix up his quarters.

Oct. 26 - Went down to mustering officers quarters and after making out the muster roll myself. I was mustered into the service for three years from the 12th day of July 1864 as Hospital Steward of the 73d U.S.C. Infantry.

Oct. 27-Nov. 21 - Usual work - review - general review by Gen. Ullman.

Nov. 22 - REbels captured or wounded some of our men on picket duty and captured 50 heads of cattle.

Nov. 23 - Lieut. shot last night - buried to-day.

Nov. 24-Dec 1 - Nothing of note.

Dec. 2 - Rec'd a check for \$125.00 from John B. Page State Treas. of Vt., it being state pay commuted and due me instead of \$7.00 per month which state promised.

Dec. 3-18 - Reg't on expedition to mouth of Red River - I remained in camp.

Dec. 19 - Gave \$15.00 for a pair of cavalry boots.

Dec. 20-24 - All quiet.

Dec. 25 - Capt. Guest and I went to the outpost and took dinner with Mr. Maloney's people - there was quite a gathering of ladies from the neighborhood - had a very enjoyable time.

Dec. 26-31 - All quiet.

1865

January 1, 1865 -- Well pleased with my position as hospital steward. My pay is \$33.00 a month with board and clothes.

Jan. 2-8 - Drew rations - after lumber - called at Mr. Maloney's.

Jan. 9 - Capt. Geo. Guest was shot last night while going the grand rounds by one of his own men. The sentinel challenged him but he did not hear him. He died instantly. I was sent for and went with an ambulance for remains.

Jan. 10-15 - Work on Headquarters building.

Jan. 16 - Col. H. C. Merriam gave me a dress coat.

Jan. 17 - Sold my watch to A. E. Garrison for \$75.00.

Jan. 18-30 - Nothing of note - help on headquarters building.

Jan. 31 - Went on inspection, with knapsack for first time since I belonged to Regt. I protested but Col. ordered me to appear in line. No other hospital stewards here has to go on inspection and I think this will be the last time I will.

Feb. 1-3 - Nothing of note.

Feb. 4 - Application for furlough approved.

Feb. 5 - To Port Hudson and stopped with 2d Vt. Battery boys.

Feb. 6 - Went to Baton Rouge.

Feb. 7 - Started on steamer for New Orleans.

Feb. 8 - Arrived in New Orleans went to see 7th Vt. Regt. and others.

Feb. 9-12 - visiting.

Feb. 13 - Took steamer for Morganza.

Feb. 14 - Arrived at Morganza.

Feb. 15-16 - Went down to 2d N.Y. Cavalry.

Feb. 17 - All quiet.

Feb. 18 - Inspection - went down to 2d N.Y. Cavalry.

Feb. 19-22 - Nothing of note -drew 10 days rations.

Feb. 23 - Rec'd order last night to proceed to Algiers, La. Packed up all our hospital stores and lay in wait for transportation.

Feb. 25 - Began embarking on steamer Adriatic.

Feb. 26 - Started down river leaving Morganza with many regrets as we have enjoyed ourselves very much during my stay.

Feb. 27 - Arrived at Algiers about 2 P.M.

Feb. 28 - Disembarked.

March 1 - In New Orleans last night - visited Globe Ball room, French Opera House and St. Charles theatre.

March 2-10 - Arrangements for transportation to and arrival at Fort Barrancas, Florida.

March 11 - Gen. Andrews division left here to-day.

March 12 - Went to Gen. hospital and back - took charge of Col's mess to-day.

March 13-17 - In camp - visiting stewards, etc.

March 18 - Rec'd orders to proceed to Pensacola - worked all day packing up our medicines and getting ready to march.

March 19 - Crossed Pensacola Bay - fording it - arrived at Pensacola 4 P.M.

March 20 - Ready to march at daylight - started at 10 A.M. marched 8 miles - nobody seems to know where we are going but whole army is on the move.

March 21 - Hard rains - roads rough - woke up in the night with water covering nearly my whole body.

March 22 - Marched about 6 miles to-day - rec'd mail - I had 4 letters - enemy reported in our immediate front.

March 23 - Took up line of march at daylight about 9 A.M. - firing was heard in front - advance guard drove Rebel pickets and we halted at noon at Pine Barren Creek and repaired bridge.

March 24 - Our men repairing bridge.

March 25 - The cavalry went across the creek last night - We started about daylight and at about 10 A.M. our advance met the enemy and gave them battle. This was at Michael Creek. The enemy fell back about a mile and made another stand. Our troops captured one Brig. Gen. one Col. one Maj. and about 100 men. Here the enemy tried to burn the bridge but our cavalry made it too hot for them.

March 26 - Marched at daylight saw no enemy to-day - went into camp to-day at noon - Brig. Gen. Pile and a party went out on a foraging expedition - brought in 16 heads of cattle and a few sheep.

March 27 - On march at daylight - Our cavalry went to the town of Pollard and burned the same. 2d Maine Cavalry passed us to-day. They had 150 prisoners with them. We have made about 12 miles a day so far.

March 28-April 2 - On road to Ft. Blakely Alabama (on 1/3 rations - Mar. 30) - Many miles of road corduroyed - houses burned - found torpedoes left by enemy.

April 2 - Arrived at Ft. Blakely yesterday - skirmishing commenced at daylight - all troops ordered to front and in sight of Rebel earthworks - enemy fired shells all day. Maj. E. E. Adams was wounded in foot.

April 3 - Skirmishing all night and all day - troops dug rifle juts last night. 22 men wounded in our division yesterday.

April 4 - Enemy firing all last night - skirmishing all the time.

April 5 - Skirmishing all day - Two killed and 82 wounded in 82d Regt - only 3 of our men wounded. Dr. J. P. Paine Surgeon of our regt and myself are stationed in the center of the brigade and all wounded are brought to these quarters for treatment. We are located in a sort of ravine and have a rough shelter for hospital - shot and shell passing over our heads.

April 6-7 - Skirmishing - firing of shells from Rebel gunboats.

April 8 - Had horse which Dr. Huntington let me take on this campagne, stolen to-day.

April 9 - Heavy firing on both sides. Spanish Ft. captured last night - we took about 2,000 prisoners - Our whole line made a charge on Ft. Blakely and took the works, my regt being the first to plant a flag on Rebel works. Our batteries kept up a continual firing to prevent the enemy escaping across to Mobile - we captured 2,000 prisoners.

April 10 - Rebels made to locate torpedoes they had planted.

April 11 - Capt. John Brown of Co. G our regt who was shot on the 9th during the charge was buried to-day.

April 12 - The divisions left here to-day. The Stars and Stripes wave over Mobile, Ala. the city having surrendered at 2 P.M. to-day to Gen. Canby.

April 13 - Moved camp across ravine - went to town of Blakely and all over Rebel fortifications - torpedoes had been planted all along their works where they expected our troops would have to pass.

April 14 - Went to Blakely landing - troops embarking for Mobile, Ala.

April 15-16 - In camp - writing letters to my friends.

April 17 - Rec'd news of surrender of Gen. Lee to Gen. Grant. 200 guns fired in honor of the good news.

April 20 - Rec'd news of assassination of Pres. Lincoln.

April 21-22 - Anchored at mouth of Tombigbee River to-night.

April 23-24 - On steamer going up Alabama River went ashore and took chickens turkeys, pigs, cattle - few shots fired by bushwhackers.

April 25 - Disembarked at Black's Bluffs and commenced marching towards Camden, Alabama.

April 26 - Marched 7 miles last night and went into camp - arrived at Camden, the people frightened half to death seeing colored soldiers.

April 27-28 - On way to Mobile by boat - went ashore at King's landing - had a little chat with some ladies that were Rebel and no mistake - had the good fortune to secure a basket of eggs from a negro here.

April 30 - On steamer - Col. had me arrested for going ashore without permission.

May 1-3 - On steamer - arrived at Mobile - orders for my release. I fail to see when Col. has made anything by arresting me as I did not have anything to do and enjoyed trip down river. He is a strict disp.

May 4 - Our regt quartered on grounds of a rich plantation and my quarters in the kitchen of the mansion - went to Mobile - about city Bebel Gen. Dick Taylor surrendered to-day to Gen. Canby.

May 5 - Same quarters - having gay time.

May 6-8 - Quiet - the regt paid off my pay \$251.55.

May 9 - Sent money to several persons to-day.

May 10-12 - Same quarters.

May 13 - Went to Mobile - sent \$50.00 to my father.

May 14 - Visited by Ed. Hendry and Ed. Ayers - Fine Dining that my cooks prepared - good visit.

May 15-18 - Same quarters - all quiet.

May 19 - All officers of my Regt met to-day in our quarters - had enjoyable time.

May 20 - Broke camp - went 6 miles below Mobile in camp at Magnolia race course.

May 21 - Jointed my Regt at Magnolia to-day.

May 22-24 - All quiet.

May 25 - Govt ordinance depot blown up here (Mobile) to-day - Houses wrecked, people killed - I was in the city and in vicinity about one hour before the calamity.

May 26 - Quiet in camp.

May 27 - In the city - Mobile to-day shells still bursting.

May 28 - Took a stroll down shell road to a watering place visited by crowds from City.

May 29-Jun 1 - In camp.

June 2 - Gen. review all troops by Gen. Granger and Chief Justice Chase.

June 3-10 - Quiet in camp.

June 11 - Broke camp and went to Mobile - embarked for New Orleans.

June 12 - Bound for New Orleans.

June 13 - Regt in camp at Carrollton.

June 14 - Put my medical stores on board boat and went to Carrollton.

June 15-20 - All quiet in camp.

June 21 - Embarked for Baton Rouge.

June 22 - Arrived Baton Rouge.

June 23 - Bound for Vicksburg.

June 24 - Arrived at Vicksburg.

June 25 - Strolled about Vicksburg saw dugouts Rebels lived in during seige.

June 26 - In barracks in Vicksburg.

June 27 - Orders to proceed to Jackson, Miss. - I was ordered to remain behind with sick of Regt - took some back to Vicksburg.

June 28-29 - At Black River - waiting transportation to Jackson, Miss.

June 30 - Started with ambulance and one man with our hospital stores for Jackson, Miss.

July 1 - Arrived Jackson.

July 2-6 - Camp all quiet.

July 7 - Commenced boarding at house near camp - I furnish the rations and have them cooked at the house.

July 8-19 - Quiet in camp.

July 20 - moved camp to City of Jackson.

July 21 - Found boarding place near camp.

July 22 - All quiet.

July 23 - Orders to pack up and take cars for Columbus, Miss.

July 24 - Disembarked at Meridian.

July 25 - Waiting for Transportation to Columbus.

July 26 - Arrived at Columbus - I stand at depot with medical stores.

July 27 - Beautiful place for camp - while passing through city Rebel women showed their contempt by drawing their veils quickly and turning their backs.

July 28-29-30 - In camp - help sutler, etc.

July 31 - Put under arrest for disobeying one of the drunken orders given by Dr. Moore, a contract surgeon.

August 1 - Released by Capt. Nichols in command of Regt. - Orders to proceed to Corinth.

August 2-9 - Stops at several places and arrival at Mobile last night.

August 10-12 - In camp.

August 13 - On steamer for New Orleans.

August 14-21 - In camp near Carrollton - helped sutler when not needed in hospital.

August 22 - Moved my quarters and dispensary into house. When here in October 1862 I was in the house next to this one which was then used as hospital.

August 23-Sept. 17 - In camp regular duties in hospital.

Sept. 18-21 - Sick in quarters.

Sept. 22-24 - Feeling better - able to work some.

Sept. 25 - My Regt. consolidated with another - I hope to be discharged

Sept. 26 - Paid last night \$132.00.

Sept. 27-Oct. 1 - In camp or trips to New Orleans.

Oct. 2 - Ordered to report to 96th colored Infantry for duty.

Oct. 3 - Duty as hospital steward with 96th Colored Infantry.

Oct. 4 - Went to New Orleans and back to Carrollton and helped Dr. Bushnell make out his yearly report - went back to my regt. at Greenville.

Oct. 5 - Lieut. Col. Fabricola commander of regt asked me if I wish to remain in service. I said I wished to be discharged - asked Dr. Bushnell to tell Col. to keep his steward and let me go.

Oct. 6-20 - Trips to New Orleans - after mustered out clothes, etc.

Oct. 21 - Mustered out of U.S. Service by Capt. A. McAllister.

Oct. 22 - Stayed in New Orleans last night - got my trunk told Dr. Bushnell my best friend -- good bye -- and all officers of 73d U.S.C. Infantry. Left for home to-day.

Oct. 23 - Discharge papers dated Sept. 23, 1865.

Oct. 24-25 - Waiting to be paid off rec'd to-day \$488.75 (for hospital steward \$121.00) (Traveling allowance to Rutland \$140.80) clothing not taken of govt \$76.96, (Bounty due \$150.00). Home by way of Miss. River and St. Louis.

Oct. 26 - Passed Baton Rouge and Port Hudson - memories of weeks and months passed there.

Oct. 27-Nov. 2 - Arrived St. Louis.

Nov. 3 - Took train for Chicago.

Nov. 4 - Arrived Chicago - many receptions from clerk at Sherman House when he found I was from Vermont.

Nov. 5 - Left Chicago.

Nov. 6 - Arrived Detroit.

Nov. 7 - Arrived Albany early this morning - went to Troy and took Troy and Boston train for Rutland and arrived Brandon Vt. 2:30 - took train for Leicester to my home after absence 4 years 3 months 10 days in service of U.S. Army.