

Rufus Coombs Ames Diary
1861-1885
pages 103-138

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day. heavy firing on our right not a great ways off¹.

September 18-62

Raining we advanced a short distance and then received orders to go on Peakett close to Antietam Creek on the Sharpsburg side, this was the battle field and the dead were lying on the ground as they had fallen during the day. we was not actively engaged during the day, but was under fire and was supporting the center.

September 19-62

the sun rose very pleasant this morning and we have had a fine day. early this morning before the sun got up a Sivelins with a Flag of truce, came up to our lines close to where I was posted. he told us that the Rebels was retreating across the River. we being on picket were displayed as skirmishers and advanced over the rest of yesterday battle field, through Sharpsburg and then was relieved by the cavalry. then we went back from where we started from joined the

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Brigade and started over the road again and continued on to the Potomac River where we stopped for the night. in the last battle the Union Army was 85000 the first day the Rebel Army was not so strong but the last day they was reinforced by Jackson making their Army stronger than ours. our loss in killed wounded and missing were 12,000².

September 20-62

early this morning our Division forded the Potomac River. just below Shepardsstoyne. the water was generally about two feet deep with an uneven bottom so we would find in some places three or four feet. with the current running quite swift. after getting across we formed in line on the Virginia shore. in a belt of woods that lined the River and then came an open field and across that field was the Rebels. as quick as we advanced they commenced to fire at us, and we not being properly supported fell back to the

¹ Sept 17 was the date of the deadliest single-day battle in American History: 22,717 dead or missing that one day. Outnumbered, Lee fought McLellan to a standstill, due to Lee's maneuvering of forces and McLellan holding back reinforcements. Although the outcome was not an outright victory, it was enough for Lincoln to announce the Emancipation Proclamation on Sept. 22.

² The number of casualties is quite accurate. Although sources vary, the Union army outnumbered Rebels 75,000-81,000 to 38,000- 56,000. It was typical of McLellan to overstate the enemy force and use that as an excuse for his lack of aggressive action.

waters edge where we received orders to return to the Maryland side, the rebels firing at us all the time we were getting across. that caused considerable excitement soldiers floundering in the water and balls striking in every direction. but we got across that is the most of us there was some killed and some wounded Moses Veazie was wounded in the foot. the Ball struck between the sole of his shoe and his foot causing a wound but not very serious. he was sent to the Hospital now I stand alone as far as Camp 100 is concerned. the way we got that number was when we were camping at Halls Hill, we received wedge tents and when we formed our Company Grounds, ours was situated so we proposed it would be No 1 and Moses put that number on soon afterward the Captain came and said we would have to change our number for the Sergeants tent was to be Number one. then Moses added two zeros and ever after that we were called tent 100 boys.

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September 21–62

pleasant day and nothing to do. in afternoon I went on a raid and killed a fat sheep carried it to the company and had it cooked for all hands. went on picket on the bank of the river and behind me 4 or 5 rods was the Atrodue Canal that follows the River down by the ford

September 22–62

fine weather now. still on picket as flag of Truce and 6 Ambulances was sent over the River to day to get our wounded but the Rebels would not acknowledge it and they came back but in a couple of hours they went back and accomplished their mission. there was a number detailed to go over and bury the dead. there were 500 Rebels sent here to day to be delivered up to their friends. they were halted close by me until arrangements could be made, and while they were here I was one that stood guard over them I had quite a talk with one that seemed quite well posted but at first he was evasive he thought

that he would not be allowed to talk as he thought but I told him to speak his mind. he then told me that he did not like the Yankees and he would fight us as long as he lived. yes until every hair in my head is gray. he was soon sent across and I suppose he was happy again at sundown was relieved from picket and went to camp.

September 23–62

I was detailed this forenoon to pitch the Colonels Quarters. our Regiment moved a short distance to day and are now on the highway. went to a well to fill my canteen. there were two or three hundred Soldiers on the same business I bought a small dipper that was considered perfectly right in time of war., 1886. I brought it home with me and it has been used as a Coffee measure up to the present time. and the canteen that I drew in

February 1862. last winter I had it decerated and it hangs in the siting room. the Captain is making out the payrols. got a letter from Mother to day with one dollar

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September 24 –62

some Rain to day hered that Richmond was taken. President Lincoln ishued a Proclamation on the 22 stating that all Slaves in the Suthern States should be Free. I went to Sharpsburg to day and bought a loaf of bread an went in the Hospitle to see Moses. he is Quite discouraged and said he was never agoing to get out his foot is better but he has got a Duair [diarrhea?]. the regiment numbers 200 at present.

September 25 –62

Pleasant. orders came to detail 12 men and two Noncommision officers for peakett duty that taks me. we went on post in front of Shepardstown. two miles up the River from our camps.

September 28 –62

pleasent in forenoon and rained in afternoon. I made a greater to day to grate corn are for jonie cakes peace of twin an a nail. some Artillery went acrost the River and

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came back before dark

October 1st 62

fine untill afternoon then had a shower. hurd distent Artillery acrost the River. some of our company are talking of leaving co B and joyning Company G. (all wind)

October 12–62

Quite cool last night. the 129 regiment Pennsylvania that is camped clost to us went to Hagerstown in a hurry last night. the report is that the rebs are in Penn. hurd that the 7th Maine had gon home

October 13 – 62

quite cool with some rain through the night. the 129 got back in the might. I am on camp guard counter sign Fredricks

October 15 – 62

overcest and cool. 7 detailed to go on pikett Alvin and myself included in the evening I went to house after bread but got a pie

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October 16 – 62

pleasant but windy the 129 went across the River to day. there has been heavy firing towards Harpers Ferry all day. bought 4 loaves of bread and a can of butter; orders to be ready with one days rations to march in a moments notice.

October 17-62

A fine day. 5 detailed for picket duty including Alvin and myself. we was posted on the Bank of the Potomac River in front of Shepherdstown there is a dam across the River here and we are post at the Maryland end this noon our attention was attracted by something coming across the dam sometimes it was staggering about then it would jump and then get down on all fours but all the time kept coming towards us we watched it very long and soon see it was a man. when he got across we took charge of him and asked him what was the matter he said he had the St. Vitus dance and he belonged to Shepherdstown

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and wanted to see our General we gave him some hard bread which in eating he came very near choking for he eat as he walked. and it was very hard for him to talk. he was a young man not over 24 and was a smart and healthy looking man any one would not suppose that he had such a disease. we was suspicious of him, thinking that he might be a spy. and took this way to get inside of our lines. we took him to the Generals Head Quarters, there was two Pennsylvania men came here after the Bodies of their sons that were killed in the advance across the River, September 20.

October 18-62

Pleasant and warm days but cool nights, a little to much cool, we drew some fresh meat to day, there has been Quite a Force across the River the last two days and they came back last night

October 20-62

James Collins our orderly has been home on a Furlow. got back

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to day. since he has been home he has got married. he brought me a piece of his wedding cake, and five me \$5 that Mother sent by him

October 22-62

our regiment was called up early this morning to go on foot to build a Bridge across the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.

October 30-62

fine weather. here we are bound for Virginia. the whole Army is on the move. we left camp in the afternoon and marched within two miles of Harpers Ferry and halted for the night I have been rear guard³

October 31–62

pleasant and warm. we took up the line of march at 8 this morn and crossed the Potomac at 4 o'clock. going through Harpers Ferry

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and continued on five miles further and camped

November 2nd 62

fine day. we were turned out early and our Regiment was detailed as rear guard to our Division. we waited until it had marched by us then we started in rear of the teams. heavy firing in advance.

November 3 – 62

we marched all night and got up with the Brigade at sunrise and stopped just long enough for me to make a dish of coffee. we had a good time through the night robbing the Sutlers I got 5 cans of sardines and some sweet potatoes. we are now at Sneakersville⁴ heavy firing in advance

November 4 –62

a fine day. we fell in to march but the order was countermanded. our Regiment and the 5th Mass Battery had a squabble among themselves

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Snickersville November 5–62

overcast and looks like rain. there was a detail made to go with the teams as guard. very firing in advance.

November 6 – 62

Rained hard last night. called into line this morn and marched through Dellmont and Middletown then halted and lied down cold and wet with nothing to eat

³ Lincoln visited McLellan in Sharpsburg in early Oct. to prod him into pursuing Lee. On Oct. 6, General in Chief of the Army, Halleck follows up with an order "that you cross the Potomac and give battle to the enemy". McLellan refused giving typical excuses and delayed until Oct. 28. *The Long Road to Antietam* by Richard Slotkin, Liveright, NY 2012, pages 383, 427-428

⁴ Snickersville, now known as Bluemont, VA. Snickers Gap is a low point in the Blue Ridge Mtns and served as a path between No. Virginia and Shenandoah Valley. The Union forces are following Stonewall Jackson's retreat into the Shenandoah Valley.

November 7 – 62

Raining and cold. started very early on the march. it has snowed Quite hard through the day. we got some hard bread in afternoon. before dark we halted in the woods pitched ponches, and got some hay to lie on. I was then detailed as camp guard 9th relief.

November 8–62

overcast and cold. started early this morning. marched 9 miles passed through New Baltimore heavy firing in the advance. it seems to keep about the same distence

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November 9 –62

very cold. turned out very early before daylight but did not start untill sun rise went three miles and halted in the road and pitched ponchoes, in afternoon the wind went down and the sun came out and it is Quite warm. Alvin went on a raid and got a Calf

November 10 – 62

pleasent, and warm. started this morn at 7 oclock to go on a grand Review. General Maclellan is relieved of his comand. heavy firing in advance. General Maclellan Farewell address.

Officers and Soldirs of the Army of the Potomac
an order of the President devolves upon Major General Burnside the comand of the Army. in parting form you I cannot express the love and gratitude I bear you. as an Army you have grown up under my care. in you I have never found doubt or coldness. the Battles you have fought under my command will proudly live in our nations history. The glory you have achieved our mutual

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perils and fatigues, the graves of our comrades fallen in Battle and by disease, the broken forms of those whom wounds and sickness have disabled The strongest associations which can exist among men unite us still by an indissoluble tie. we shall ever be comrades in supporting the Constitution of our country and the nationality of its people.

George B. Mcelellan
Major General U.S.A

November 11–62

Quite a warm day. Company drill in forenoon and dress prade before dark. heavy firing in advance all day. I think this has been the hungrest day I ever see. I hunted among the teems and found some hard bread surched it over and found some that I could eat. the Army has got the Blues they have lost their favorite General. and there is all mes a meeting among the soldirs. I have herd hundreds sway they would do no more duty. but it is no

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use to talk that way. if you belong to Uncle Samuel you have got to do as he sais. now we are under General Burnside.

November 12–62

to day the 5th Corps had a grand Review. General Porter has been relieved of his comand they say he discharged orders at the 2nd Bull Run. but I think he suffers from being a friend to General Mcclellan during the prade I was put in Company G to even up the Companys.⁵

November 13– 62

last night the wind blew very hard and a tree fell within a cuple of feet of my tent. Co inspection in forenoon and Co drill in afternoon

November 15–62

cleare and windy. we had a grand review to day Gen Buturfield⁶ takes comand of the 5th corps. General Johnson, Rebel, is reported neare Harpers Fery.

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November 17 –62

Raing we started early this morning Alvin George Croford and I detailed as Provo Guard. passed through Warrenton Village at 8 oclock then went through Warrenton junction making 16 miles captured some Prisenors. and halted for the night heavy firing in the advance

November 18–62

A light and drisly rain all day. started about 10 oclock. went five miles and Pitched Ponchoes. we passed four houses to day one Brick the other three Log

November 20–62

Rained hard all last night and some raine to day. for the last few days we have had but very little to eat owing to the condition of the roads. and as we was not expected to move. I took my gun and started with the determination of having something to eat I went 4 or 5 miles I came acrost a Cow feading in a field but as Quick as she see me she started

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⁵ General John Fitz Porter was a close associate of McClellan's; partially blamed by Pope for the disaster of 2nd Bull Run he was relieved of command (after receiving conflicting and confusing orders from General Pope.) He was reinstated by his friend McClellan. After Burnside replaced McClellan, Porter was court-martialed for disobedience and misconduct at 2nd Bull Run; convicted and dismissed from the Army. He was exonerated in 1878.

⁶ Major General Daniel Butterfield

for the house. I followed her and when I got in front of the house there was a young woman come out and begged me not to take the cow. the story she told and her tears saved the cow. she said when the Army got there they had a number of cattle but the Yankies had killed all but this cow they saved her by keeping her in the house. but as they had not seen any Soldirs for a day or so they thought it was saft in letting her out. all they had to eat was the milk and some corn. I left her and a short distence from there I came acrost a large flock of Sheap and a numbr of soldirs on the same business I was on we drove the sheap up in a corner of a fence and I droped on one knee intending to shoot through the flock. I was the only one that had a gun. but the boys thought it would not do. we would have the Provo Guard upon us. so I lied my gun down and we drewed our knives and formed a line

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and made a charge on the sheap each one grabed his prize. but there was a very few that had grip enough to hold on while the rest of the flock was hoofing it over their heads when the battle ended all I had to prove that I was in it was a hand full of wool and a sheapy smell but in looking over my comrads I see I was not all alone in that respect. I then took my gun and a Sergeant and I started for the sheap which had started for the center of the field. my intentions then was to get them cornered again where I could shoot a numbr and get into the wood before the Provo could get there the sergeant run down a small sheap and just as he grabed him I herd the clatter of Sabors and looked over my and see a numbr of mounted Provo coming for us. I sung out Provo and started for the woods. the sergeant threw his sheap on his back and started to. we had about 100 yards to go before we go to a

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fence. as Quick as we got into the woods, he killed his sheap and then we struck out on a bea line into the depth of the forest. the Provo had been delaied by the fence but when we got well started we could hear them raterling among the bushes. after runing about one mile we stopt got breath and comenced to feel our way back. but our sheap was gon we then went to where we had them cornered and I got a Quarter and started for camp

November 22-62

had orders to march packed up. then the order was countermindeed. I was then detailed to go on Fertig. then we was ordered to pack up and march then we had orders to pitch Ponchoes, then orders came to detail tow men for Pikett. then that order was countermindeed plenty of orders and nothing to eat.

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November 23-62

pleasent but cold we started on a march early this morning with nothing to eat. in afternoon had hardbread delt out to us. halted at dark and pitched Ponchoes.

November 24–62

Clear over head but cold. we drew Rations to day and we was in need of them. pitched my Poncho in better shape. this has been a day of rest.

November 25–62

overcast but warm. has the apparence of Rain there has been a large numbr of Beef cattle drove up to day and the Boochers are killing them. Dress prade at sundown.

November 26–62

rained stidy all night Alvin and I detailed for camp guard. Company inspection this forenoon

November 27–62

Thanksgiving in Maine. came off camp guard countersign Melvill

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herd that Moses Veazie was dead now two of my camp mates are dead and one is discharged

November 30–62

pleasant but cold. Joseph Grindle has arived. he has been a Prisenor Alvin bumed a Axe to day a tool we need

December 1st 62

Cloudy. we started on the march this morning and at night stopt on the ground where we was on November 23

December 2 –62

we have been on a scout since yesterday morning. and got back to our Bragade at 3 oclock this afternoon

December 4–62

pleasent and warm I went to work to build a log shantie to day.

Falmouth Dec 5–62

rain and snow all day. Alvin and George Collins and myself went on camp guard. my Post was at the Bregade Comisary we bumed considble and

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George was arested

Falmouth Dec 6–62

pleasant but wet under foot got relieved this morn. we bumed Potatoes hardbread Pork and Beans. and a tin pole I stole the pail from a nigroe. we had a new Color presented to us to day, with the Battles on it that the regiment has been in

Falmouth Dec 9-62

worked on our Log Cabin to day. there is 4 of us Charles Veazie Joseph Grindle Alvin and me. it is to be 6-12 4 feet high and we dig down two feet so it will be 6 feet high during the day we hered that we was going to march and we stopt work, a short time then went at it again. we then hered that the two years men were agoing to be sent home inside of 30 days.

Falmouth Dec 10-62

pleasant and warmer. orders came to be redy to march acrost the Rapihanoc River, with 60 rounds of cartridges and three days rations but the day passed

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and we did not march

Battle of Fredericksburgh Dec 11-62

we are ling 5 miles back from the river and in front of Fredericksburgh this morning at 2 oclock we was routed up to march. the Artillery comenced at that time to shell the City. we left camp at sunrise and went clost to the River where we staid all day clost to where we were August 21. the Army is divided in three parts one crosses above the city and one below. 5th Corps in center

December 12 - 62

our troops have possession of the City for the Rebels have fell back a short distence. but our troops have not all got over yet.

December 13-62

pleasant day. we crossed the River this forenoon on Pontoon bridge in front of the City. we had Artillery stationed on our side and they kept up a content fire over our heads. some of their shots fell short and struck

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in our ranks, after we got acrost and in the city, we marched out of it through a gullie that as dug out for a rail road track. and the Rebels had a good chance on us untill we got through into the open field there was a number kiled and wounded before we got out. just as we got out of the cut Liet. Downs of company E was wounded in his left arm and when he got where I as he asked me to hold on the stub and get him to the rear. I throwed my gun in the hollow of my left arm and clenched my hands around the stub. and got him into the City in a house that our folks was using as a Hospitle. then I took his over coat off and the peace of shell that had cut his arm off excepting a small pease of flesh droped out. the house was full of wounded. I went from that room into one where there was a

Surgeon, at his work. he had a man on a table and had just finished cutting his arm off. he had his sleeves rolled up and he was all covered in blood, and one corner of the

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table he had a pile of hardbread and between his cutting he would take a bite. when this Soldier was taken off the table he praised the surgeon for his skill while he called on for the next. there was a number of legs and arms thrown up in the corner of the room. in going from that house I passed a number used for the same purpose. and the streets were full of wounded going for them. when I got back of the City, I undertook to cross the field to get to the Regiment that was lying down in a hollow. but as quick as I showed myself the Rebels commenced to fire at me and I fell back behind a house, and while I was thinking whether to go ahead or not, Gen Griffin came up with a few of his aides and undertook what I had just given up but they did not get any further than I did before they turned. thus I felt better I waited till after dark, and then I started again. it was overcast and very dark and when I went over the field the dead were lying where they had fallen through the day. I thought of the money they had with them for the army was paid off the day

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before, and I had a good chance to get it and as it turned out it all went into the Rebels hands the next morning but I expected to go into battle the next day. in passing one fellow the thought struck me that it was Alvin and I got down to look him in the face, and felt relieved. he was lying on his side his elbow on the ground, and his head was resting on his hand. but was dead. I went on and joined the Regiment, where we stopped but a short time. they had been lying ever since I had been gone. by keeping snug the Rebels could not hit them.⁷

Fredericksburgh Dec 14–62

we left the Battle field last night at about 10 o'clock and came into the City and halted in the streets. it was raining and very dark. we broke ranks and I went and sat on the front door step of a large nice house and while I was sitting there I reached up and found the door was not fastened I whispered to a couple of the boys and we went in. one had a piece of candle which we lit then we took the door

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to our right and went in a very nice room. a piano and stuffed furniture we knew there was no one living in the house for when we made the attack the inhabitants all left. we went from that room through on hung full of pictures went to the kitchen from there down

⁷ Dec 13 1862 was another disastrous loss for the Union. Burnside's strategy was a full frontal assault at Marye's Heights where the Rebels had the higher ground and were dug in. The strategy failed and in spite of superior numbers the Union Army was forced to withdraw. (www.civilwar.org Civil War Trust numbers the casualties 13,353 Union vs. 4,576 CSA)

suller and back going into every room untill we got to the third story we was hunting for something to eat and while we was surching we hered some one grone we followed the sound and came to a room where there was a sick Union soldir. he was very sick with a fevar he had haled the bed off on the floor and was ling on it. we asked him a few Questions and continued our surch as we went back, but found nothing to eat. when we got back to the street the Regiment was just falling in we took our places in the ranks and went acrost the River just as we got acrost we passed a numbr of our wounded on the side of the road where they had been left out in the cold rain. we went to our old camp ground.

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Falmouth Dec 17-62

it was pleasent in forenoon and Snowed in afternoon. Joseph Grindle Alvin and I comenced a new camp to day. Lieut Geo I Brown arived to the co to day. he has been home on a furflow

Falmouth Dec 18-62

Quite cold. got in our new camp to day. I was detailed to head Quarters to cut wood. my weight 153. including overcoat.

Falmouth Dec 21-62

Fine day we got up a lot of wood in our camp for a rainy day. Colonel Burns Act Brigidear General. marched out a good place for us to camp but Old Hooker⁸ would not let us camp there

December 22-62

we had orders to pack up this morn and we have moved one half mile. and comenced a new camp the same size of the last one.

December 23-62

Alvin went after bords and Jo and I went after rocks to build our fireplace and chimney with.

December 25-62

Fogy I started early this morning after boards the bords we have used about our camp we have lugged from a barn over one mile off and they are hard wood bords at that. in afternoon I was detailed for fertig whiskie delt out.

December 20 62

we finished our chimny to day and dug out the tent tow feet deap, and made bunks. we are to have baked beens in morn.

December 28-62

⁸ Major General Joseph Hooker

find day I went on Provo Guard. Devine Services at 10. Dress prade at sundown, and the names of stragerlers red off in the last Battle. 7 from our Company sentenced to loose one months pay and one months fertig. herd around the

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fire that we was agoing back to Arlington Hights.

December 30 –62

I got relieved early this morning and at one oclock our regiment started on a scout. at 9 in eve got to the place where we were on the last scout.

December 31–62

early this morning we crossed the Raphanoc River at Richards Ford and went inside of the Rebels line of piket, capturing a number of their pikets. made a circle of 7 or 8 miles, coming out on the River at Kellies Ford, above from where we crossed. we surprised our post while they were cooking and I got two Flapjacks all hot. made of flour and water, when we got back on our side we camped. I think that this is something big when a little Regiment like ours can duck inside of the Rebel pekets taking same. make as long a -ing as we did and not loose a man

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January 1st 1863

very pleasent we left Kellies Ford at sunrise and arived at our tents at 2 oclock in the afternoon called 20 miles

January 2–63

A fine day and warm. we was musterd in by the Colonel we have orders to be redy to march in a moments notice. our Regiment is building a guard house.

January 3–63

Fine day still to work on guard house got a letter from home. washed some cloths. Company Inspection

January 5–63

another warm day. went over to the Stone Barn. after mails. Dress prade and orders to drill hereafter.

January 8–63

More fine, I am on camp guard Alvin on Pekett. Regiment on Review

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January 9–63

More warm, the Regiment on fertig. I came off guard this John Bridges is here visiting his son

January 10–63

A Rainy day. Alvin went on Pekett the 8 and has not got in yet

January 16–63

pleasent we have orders to march at an early hour tomorrow. we have had those orders about every day since the 2.

January 2—63

overcast. I have been on guard got releived this noon and at noon started on that long threatened march. Alvin staid in camp he is not well. we went 4 miles then halted for the night. the roads are in offal shape never see them do mudy

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January 21–63

rained very hard all night. we fell in early this morning and went one mile and halted. the Army is stuk in the mud. we are advancing on Fredericksburg under Burnside and we are agoing up rive to cross on the Ford

January 22–63

it has rained hard all night and all day. we are camped in Ponchoes in the woods. we are stuck in the mud it is so mudy that it takes 4 mules to hall a government wagon on a road that has been used two hours. the rebels have found out that we are stuck and they have a Sign on this side of the River, in big letters (Burnside Stuck in the Mud)

January 23–63

Still she Rains. the regiment is out Cordrying⁹ the Road back to camp. I did not go out for last night we got to throwing fire brands and I got hit over

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the Eye and am obliged to were my eye in a sling

January 24 –63

This is the first pleasent day we have had for Quite a while. we have been corderying and building Bridges for the last three days, in order to get to camp

January 28–63

our Regiment started on pekett early this morning in a heavy snow storm. we went 5 miles and Company B. was put in reserve in a field I and three others went to the rear

⁹ A “corduroy” road is made up of sand and logs.

about one half mile down in a hollow by a Brook in the woods. after picking out a good chance on the bank of the creek we built a large fire when it had got burned down some we shifted it and then built a brush camp over the drye place. we then made a large fire at the mouth of our camp. by that time is was Quite late and we turned in.

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January 30-63

cleared off and is Quite pleasent we had a fine nights rest. we have one foot of snow on the ground we are still in the woods and had our Raitions sent to us.

January 31-63

we got releived this morning and have got back to camp that has been the most agreable Peakett I ever was on. sined the par Rold and got paid of/ hered that General Burnside¹⁰ had rezined and General Hooker takes comand.

February 1-63

overcast with the appeerence of Rain O Webber went to the Regimental Hospitle sick to day.

Feb. 10-63

fine day. since the 1st nothing of any importance has hapened. went on guard to day at Division Head Quarters bought a Diary 50 cents Peck of cards 75 cents.

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February 17-63

Rained through the night and snowed through the day 6 inches on the ground Alvin sit up with O Webber last night he is very sick. his discharge came yesterday but it will never do him any good.

Feb. 19-63

A Rainy day. received a letter from home dated the 11 the snow is most all gon a detail to work on guard house bought 10 lbs Flour 40 cents sent a letter home

Feb. 22-63

the whole Regiment went on Pekett yesterday. last night I slept on the ground with my blanket over me and when I woke up this morning I found that I had been sleaping under 8 or 10 inches of snow. I slept very well and did not wake up untill they comenced firing a National sulute in camp in honor of Washington. I was one of the first to rise and when

¹⁰ He was actually relieved of command due to the debacle Dec 13 and his second failed attempt which became known as the "Mud March". Assigned to the Army's Dept of Ohio, he later redeemed himself in a successful defence of Knoxville, defeating Longstreet. (www.civilwar.org Civil War Trust)

I came to look around for my comrades it looked as if they had all been buried just before it snowed