

Rufus Coombs Ames Diary
1861-1885
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Camp kettles covered up with a suitable amount of Port in them then put in the hole on the coles the top of the hole covered up with sticks and plenty of dirt over them then they stay untill morning then we have some of the best baked beans you ever see.

May 19 – 62

I was on camp guard last night. we started at 6 this morning and advanced 4 miles. then pitched Poncho when it began to rain, we are 18 miles from Richmond. pretty good marching at present we are clost by a Depot.

May 20 – 62

we have not marched to day. there has been a Bragade of Lancers pass to day agoing to the front. here that our folks had a battle at Bottom Bridge

May 21 – 62

a fine day. we advanced three miles then pitched Ponchos. Nothing could be more beautiful than to march through this country when it is fine weather and we have plenty

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to eat and do not have long marches sometimes through Valleys and along the Banks of beautiful Rivers. the whole Country seems to have put on its holiday robes to welcome us, flowers bloom every where species I nevr see before. Snakes of all kinds and Huming birds among the flowers and birds of song in every tree. every once and a while we pass a Plantation with an old Ghoustly house shaded by large trees and in a bed of Flowers and behind the house will be the Negrow Quartes when they see the Yankees coming they put out a white Flag. then there would be old men and women come out on the Veranda with lots of little Nigs and wach us pass. we never see any young men they are in the rebel army. we always leave a guard to a house where they request it to protect them and their property. but it is not always protected when they have a guard. this is the way things look on a pleasent day when we have enough to eat and do not have very long marches. but let things change and you feel like requesting the

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General to arm a cuple of hundred Rebel prisoners and let you exterminate them

May 22 – 62

we started early this morn. and marched 8 miles to the North and West not much nigher Richmond now than we was yesterday pitched Ponchoes in afternoon and I was detailed to help pitch the Generals tents. it began to rain hard just before night my weight 136 lbs.

May 24 – 62

to day we received Spring Field Rifles and I am on guard. we are in the 5th Corps. Fitz John Porter General 1st Division Gen Morell 1st Bragade General Martindale.

May 26 – 62

we advanced two miles to day they say we are within 9 miles of Richmond

Hanover Cort House May 27 – 62

rained all last night and this forenoon we fell in this morning before day light and marched 15 miles very bad marching.

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so much rain that the roads are fluded the ground being so level. we arived here at Hanover Cort house at about 2 oclock this afternoon, and went to work and tore up the Rail Road track for Quite a distence. and looked for the Rebels, but could not find them. then we started to go to the rear a short distence to camp for the night but we had hardly got started before an ordely came riding in hast from the front and said that the rebs were advancing on us, so we file off into the field and came to the front, formin a line of battle with the 44th New York on our right and to the right of the 44 we had two 12 Pound Brass guns. there was two Rebel Regiments showed themselves in front of us, and made a charge after firing a volley.- which scattered the 44th they braking and runing. then our Regiment fired a volley at them when the two regiments divided one going to the left and the other to the right. the one going to our left we never see afterwards, but the one that went to our right crossed the road

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into the woods and out clost to us we swung around and formed a line clost to the fence that divided the woods from the field. by that time the men to the big guns left. our enemy was a North Collina Regiment and numbered 1,000 the fence that divided us was stakes drove and brush braded in the woods and we the field we numbered 350 rifles. the battle lasted untill we had fired 80 rounds just at dark the johnies skeedadled leaving part of their wounded and the field to us, where we camped for the night. we had a numbr killed and a god meny wounded, but some very slightly. when (the rebs first showd themselves and fired at us a spent ball hit me on the leg between the knee and foot making me limp for a day or two, and during the Battle there was a ball went through my pant leg coming out 5 ½ inches from where it went in) just as the Rebels broke and run

there was a Regiment of New York Zuaves came to our assistance but the jonies had been gan five or tenn minets.¹

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Hanover Cort House May 28 – 62

this morning I went on the battle ground, and in the woods where the rebels stood, there was a detail made last night to take out the Rebel wounded, and this morning they are taking out the dead. one tree had five ded Rebs behind it they got behind it to get out of the way of our fire. but that did not protect them for we had a raking fire on them. one had a ramrod through his head. some of the Trees here ar ----agt three feet through at the But. intermixed with smaller ones, and some under brush.- these oak trees were very tall before there was any limbs, and they was spated by Rifle Balls from the roots up in the branches this showes how wild some of the firing was, but it was not all that way, for the highth of a man some of the small trees were cut down when the Rebs first showed themselves they probly was 800 yard of[f] and the volley we fired at them knocked down

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16. General Martendale was hered to say during the fight. God Bless the 2nd Maine, to day Little Mac rode up to us, took off his had and said Boys you have fought a splendid Battle. the 44 New York was a cracked Regiment pufed by all the New York papers. it was a regiment where there had been any amount of paines taken in regard to enlistment they all being about the same highth and as fine a looking lot of men as you sincerly see. but when the rebel fired their first volley, the 44 filed in behind one enuther for a minet then broke for the rear and we did not see them again that day² and about the same time the men that maned the two Big guns left. I sepose that was what caused the Rebels to make that Flank movement and come on our right. in so doing they got clost to the Guns. But they found the 2nd stod between them and the Prize and they could not get them,

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May 28 – 62

we started this moon for Gains Hill where we left May 27, and got back just before dark. I see some of the Rebel wounded this forenoon. they said that the 2nd Maine fought like Devils.

Gaines Hill May 30 – 62

¹ Rufus is describing the Battle of Hanover Courthouse. General McClellan heard a rumor that a confederate force of 17,000 were moving to Hanover Court House. Concerned it would cut off his right flank, he sent General John Fitz Porter's V corps to deal with the rebels. The strength of the rebel force was closer to 4,000. Porter's corps numbered 12,000. A victory for the Union, McClellan erroneously claimed it was against a superior force.

² A New York Times article dated May 30 claims "...The left wing of the Forty-fourth bravely held their ground. The right wing broke a little, but finally rallied."

Rained very hard through the night accompanied with hevy thunder and Lightning. struck one tent and kiled one man.

Gaines Hill May 31 – 62

Rained very hard this forenoon. this afternoon very heavy and sharp firing on our left. the enemy are trying to forse our left.³

Gaines Hill June 1st 62

we fell in this morning and advanced about half a mile to the front, where we staid untill about one. then went back to Ponches. they have been fighting on our left all day and that is why we was called to the front, to be redy in case the rebs should make an attack. after getting back I went

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to a hospital where there was 30 wounded Rebels of the Hanover Cort House

Gains Hill June 3 – 62

Rained hard all night we have orders to march. I have a sore ancle in marching to Hanover Corthouse I chafed the skin off and got cold in it and it is very sore.

Gains Hill June 6 – 62

the 1st Mishigan Regiment was put in our Bragade to day making 5 regiments

Gains Hill June 8 – 62

the boys that was taken prisinors from our Company in the Bull Run Battle have returned here to day and have got a furlow of 30 days and are going hom

Gains Hill June 10 – 62

Rained hard in the last part of the night sharp connonading on our left this forenoon. my weight 142. ancle very sore. they want me to go to the Hospitle but I shall keep out as long as possible.

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Gaines Hill June 13 – 62

sharp firing on our left this morn early the regiment went on fertig I did not go. General Macalls Division 11.000 has joyned our army.

³ Rufus's regiment was part of General Porter's V Corps and located on the east side of the Chickahominy River, so they were not involved in the Battle of Seven Pines. Confederate General Johnston planned an attack on the Union forces on the west side of the River, led by General Keyes. This was a defensive measure to keep part of McClellan's forces from reaching Richmond. The Battle ended in a draw. However, General Johnston was severely wounded and Robert E. Lee was put in command of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Gains Hill June 15 – 62

on the 13 the Rebel Cavellery made a dash on our right by Haniver Cort House. drove the small forse we had there. then they went on to Trunstalls Rail Road station on York River attacked a Rail Road train from there they went to White House and that night crossed the Chikahominy and went in side of their lines. they swept clear around our Army took some prisiners and destroyed some stores.⁴

Gains Hill June 18 – 62

we started for Mecanicsvill last night but as soon as we got there we had orders to return and got back at dark very tired.

Gains Hill June 20 – 62

we started this morning on a march went one mile and pitched Ponchoes. two men wounded in 1st Mishigan in afternoon I went on a walk

Gains Hill June 25 – 62

got orders to cook three days raitions and be redy to march in a moments notice we have received information that Rebel General Jackson is at Haniver Cort House with a large forse, and we are geting redy to march or fight.

Gains Hill June 26 – 62

very pleasent day. we received orders this morn to go on Pekett. I have not been doing any duty for Quite a while on account of my ancle only when we would march. but as it was so pleasent I thought I would go with the Boys. we started at 5 oclock. and I am on third relief. the Bragade has gon to Hanover Cort house. about two this afternoon the Rebels made an attack about one mile to the right of where I am they made their attack with great forse and the Battle lasted untill after dark. I was on high ground and could

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watch things by the smoke that rose over the trees. sometimes our lines would advance and then the Rebels. but wen the Battle ended each side seemed to of held their own, our boys had been fighting twice their number⁵. soon after dark I was taken by the Sergeant of the Guard cared to the Front down into the woods by Bever Dam Creek, and posted it was so dark I could not see my hand before me. I was on alone and it was so still that it seemed as if I was the only one living in the wourld. I hered nothing but a Bull Frog that was posted clost to me and judging from the noise he made, he must have been a monster. it seemed to me that he bellowed as loud as a Cow

June 27 – 62

⁴ This was the cavalry unit led by Jeb Stuart

⁵ June 26 is the second day of Lee's intitiative which came to be called the Seven Days Battles (June 25 – July 1). Although Lee lost more men, he succeeded in driving McClellan to retreat to Harrison's Landing.

pleasant but a hard sight for a Father, just before it began to ge—light the Sergeant come where I was and whispered (Follow me) there was no one left in my place, when I got to the Resirve where the Regiment

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was I told the Boys I thought this was a retreat. but they said it was a change of front. we fell in and started for our Ponches, and just as we got in sight of them we see our Pontoon Train was on fire. set on fire to keep it out of the rebels hands. we went into camp but did not have time to pack up our things before the Rebels were upon us. we fell in retreated a couple of miles and formed a line for battle. on a line with a deep guley, that was heavy timbered. and in front and on the other side was an open field, and sometime in the afternoon the Rebels showed themselves in front of us in two lines of Battle and made a charge. we opened fire on them and they broke and run before they got to the guley. their Coller Seargent in front of us fell and the Colors was left on the field. I started for it and the Captain called me back saying if I did not obey he would shoot me. the Colonel orderd Company A to go and get it. I swear I could of got it if I

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had been allowed, in a short time the rebels made another advance four lines deep and during the time we had been reinforced to one more line making us two. we had orders not to take any of our things off but some of the Boys around me said we will take our Harversacks off and if we have to retreat some one is to sing out haversacks we was siting down behind a three rail fence, after fighting Quite a while I looked to the right of our Regiment and see our soldirs has comenced to run. I then looked to my left and they had broke. by this time our Regiment had comenced to retreat. we had Quite a hill to go up. and when I had got part of the distince I thought of my Haversack and turned back and got it. when I picked it up the johnnies were coming up ovr the Hill pufing and blowing. they was less than 10 feet from me. I then had about 100 yards to run to get up the hill and before I got up to our lines of Artillery they moshened me to our

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side and when I got between the guns the whole line opened mowing the Rebels down in winroes⁶ this checked them and as it was about dark the fighting ended.

June 28– 62

In last nights Skedadle I lost the regiment and did not find them untill about noon to day, in the morning I got on the Cars and went to General Head Quarters There the greatest confusion seemes to provail. Cars and wagons joined in together. teamsters swearing Mule Braying and horses kicking- wounded Soldirs and Soldirs hunting for their Regiments. some hunting as the fellow hunted for work Praying to God that he would not

⁶ Winroes (windrows) small rows of cut hay or grain

find it, but all this confusion has its purpose. every one knows his place and they are loading Cars and wagons and driving to the rear saving all they can and destroying the rest. here I came across our regimental teams and went with them a short distance and found the Regiment fell in with them

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Retreated about 6 miles and halted. I have not seen Alvin since we broke and run. and cannot here any thing of him.

June 29 – 62

Cloudy over head muddy under foot and foggy around us. we had a false alarm last night. we fell in this morning went out to the road and halted our folks blow up a Magazine to day that jared the ground for miles around. heard from Alvin to day but it proved to be false.

June 30 – 62

we had two false alarms last night. some of the boys in the excitement jumped up from their sleep and started for the woods the hard marches and being without food and very little sleep is working on the Army most anything will excite them, last nights alarm was caused by some mules getting to fighting. we

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fell back in forenoon in afternoon we retraced our steps for the Rebels are jaming us in the Front, and during the afternoon the whole front were engaged, and we checked the Rebels again. we have nothing to eat

Battle Melvern Hill July 1st –62⁷

we have been under fire all day the whole Army has been engaged fighting all along our line. for a while our regiment was supporting a Battery my position was under a 12 pound Brass Gun. we was then to support the Artillery in the case that the rebels should make a charge on it. the Guns were fired as fast as they could load. I was lying on my face and every time the gun was discharged, it would lift me bodily. when I got out of that a big gun sounded like a pop gun. we are on the extreme left on Melvern Hill. Porters Corps. the line of Battle forms about half a circle, five miles long and strikes the River on the right. the Battle was very severe all afternoon and extended into the night.

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about 10 o'clock, then the rebels fell back gaining nothing and losing a great many men. we had a number killed and wounded in our Company among the killed was Drumold Richardson, a fellow that had some kind of disease hanging on him he could not sit as lie

⁷ At the Battle of Malvern Hill Confederate losses were twice those of the Union's. However, Lee had succeeded in driving McClellan further away from Richmond, ending his Peninsula Campaign.

down without he went to sleep. when he was hit we was surpering a battey and ling down, and I think he was asleep he was hit in the head and as Quick as it struck him he comenced to mumble as any one would n their sleep. he was carred to the rear and soon died never coming to himself. he was a good Comrad and when I see them lugin him off it reminded me of the time at Holls Hill when I struck a Baynot in his ancle. we was on drill and he was my fileader and every other step he would jump up and then I would lose the step, I thought I would stop his fun, so when he was about redy to make anuther jump I swung my gun Bayonet down

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intending to shove the Bayonet in between the heal of his shoe and the uper leather, but he jumped sooner than I expected, and the Bayonet went through his shoe and into his ancle clost by the **cord**, he was carred to the Hospitle. I was very sorry for he was a good fellow.

Harison Landing July 2 – 62

it comenced raining in the midle of the night. and we comenced to fall back about the same time and arived here in forenoon mud knee deep and I am completly exhausted. it seems as if I had not got over 10 hours sleep for the last 7 days, and a very little to eat.

Harison Landing July 3 – 62

The Rebels have got here and there has been Quite sharp firing along the line between their Schirmishers and our line of Peckett. we are called in to a line expecting trouble, but the Rebs think they had better let us alone we are to well situated now.

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H. L. July 4 – 62

this has been a fine day. we was called in a line for the rebels have been firing on our Peakett some to day. the whole Army is camped here in a large open field. it seemes to me that this has been the lonesomest Forth that I ever see. General McClelen issued the following address to the Army to day.

Head Quarters Army of The Potomac Camp Near Harisons Landing July 4–1862
Soldirs of the Army of the Potomac- Your achievements of the last ten days have illustrated the valor and endurance of the American Soldir. Attested by superior forces and without hope of reinforcements you have succeeded in changing your base of operations by a flank movement always regarded as the most hazardous of military expedients you have saved all your material all your trains and all your guns except a few lost in battle taking in return guns and colors from the enemy. Upon your march you have been assailed day after day with despira[te] fury by men of the same race and nation skilfully massed and led. Under every disadvantage of number and necessarily of position also you have in every conflict beaten back your foes with enormous slaughter, your conduct ranks you among the celebrated armies of history. No one will now question that each of you may always with pride say, I belong to the Army of the Potomac, you have

reached the new base complete in organization and unimpaired in spirit. the enemy may at any moment attack you. we are prepared to meet them. I have personally established your lines, let them come and we will convert their repulse into a final defeat. your Government is strengthening you with the resources of a great people. on this our nations birthday we declair to our foes who are rebels against the best interest of mankind that this army shall enter the Capital of the so cald Confederacy that our national Constitution shall prevail and that the Union which can alone insure

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internal peace and external security to each State must and shall be preserved cost what it may in time treasure and Blood.

George B. McClellan

H. L. July 7 – 62

Sharp firing dow the River to day I am on the sick list got a bad Diriea. herd that the kiled wounded and mising during the seven days amounts to 15000

H. L. July 19 – 62

Capt Mugett received a letter from Lieut Brown who was taken Prisinor at Gaines Mill. he said that Alvin was with him in Richmond. Capt Tilden has been promoted Lieut Colonel of the 16 Maine that makes Lieut Mugett Capt/ Major Chaplin has been promoted Colonel of the 18 Maine 1st Maine heavy Artillery. as our Regiment is so smal we are not to have a Major.

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H.L. July 23 – 62

we struck our Ponchoes this morning and have moved about one mile near the River and piched Ponchoes again. the Convisary is clost to us I had ding bats for supper and I wrote a letter to Mother for her to send me a box of provisions

H. L. July 27 – 62

I am obliged to go to the Doctors every day. some days I think I am geting better. but the next day I feel worse we got paid off to day and now I am agoing to have something that I can eat. Martendale our Brigadier General is apointed Military Governer of Washington. the 2nd now musters 251 Rifles.

H. L. Aug 1st – 62

Last night we was routed up by the Rebels firing at us from the opsite side of the River. they run a Batery out and comenced shelling the shiping and our camps and they handled them for all they was worth untill we got some guns to work on them which

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was about 30 minets. I turned out and put my gun togethr without a light I had taken her apart during the day to clean and had not put her together. some of the boys took to the woods, and when they got back I sepose if I had asked them where they hed been they would have said that they had been taken a walk to give them an apitite for their Breakfast.

H. L. Aug 3 – 62

distent firing we got paid off to day on the 28 July Little Mac sent the following dispatch to the Secretary of War. If I save this Army now I tell you plainly that I owe no thanks to you or to any other person in Washington. you have don your best to sacrifice this Army that Army had been saved and the Army was conscious of it.

H. L. Aug 4 – 62

fine weather. the regiment has gon over the River on pekett since the Rebels fired at us from that side

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we received orders to day to pack our knapsacks and be redy to march in light marching order. Alvin arived here to day he has been a Prisinor on Bell Island⁸ near Richmond since ~~July~~ June 27. there was a number out of our company taken at the same time. there was a cuple of Thousand on the Island and it was entirely destitute of any thing for a shade and they had no blankets and they got just enough to eat to keep them alive. his looks showes it all. I went to the Sutlers and bought some cakes and Cheese, made him come coffee and filled him up

H. L. Aug 10 – 62

since the 6 we have expected to march and have got marching orders to day. this afternoon I was detailed to help load a schooner with knapsacks. the sick have all been sent away about 12000 Ordly Sergeant James Collins is promoted to 2nd Lieut. I am glad for him he is a good Soldir

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H. L. Aug 14 – 62

the long expeted day to march has arived and it is a fine day we started at 9 this morning down the River and made 14 miles to day

August 15 – 62

very Pleasent but rather warm. we crossed the Chickehomney River this afternoon went acrost on a Pontoon Bridge it consisted of 96 Boats placed 8 paces 2.026 apart

August 16 – 62

⁸ Belle Isle is a 54 acre island in the James River in Richmond.

we left Chickehomney River early this morning and marched to Williamsburg where we are to stop for the night

August 17 – 62

marched to day from Williamsburg to York Town where we lie down for the night.

August 18 – 62

started earley this morning and got to Hampton at 4 oclock and lie down to rest.

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August 19 – 62

we left Hampton this morning and marched back over part of the ground that we traveled yesterday and stopt at New Port News, where we went on board the Steamer Massachusetts

on Board Steamer Aug 20–62

we dropped down River last night and at 10 this morning started but soon came back and anchored.

on Board Steamer Aug 22–62

started this morning and went to Augus Creek⁹ there we took the cars and went to Fredricksburg then marched two miles back and camped now we are under General Paap¹⁰ who sais his head Quarters is in his saddle.

General McClellan sent the following request to the Secetary of War.

Please say a kind word to my Army that I can repeat to them in General orders, in regard to their conduct at Yorktown Williamsburg West Point Hanivor Court House, and on the Chickahominy as well as in regard to the seven days, and the recent retreat. No one has ever said any thing to cheer them but myself

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say nothing about me, merely give my men and officers credit for what they have done, it well do you much good and will strengthen you much with them if you issue a handsome order to them in regard to what they have accomplished. They deserve it

G. B. McClellan

Major General Halleck
Washington D.C.

Major General

August 23 – 62

⁹ Aquia Creek, tributary of the Potomac

¹⁰ General John Pope recently appointed to command the Army of Virginia including McClellan's Army of the Potomac and forces from the Shenandoah and Northern Virginia. Pope's forces are in northern Virginia, McClellan has been ordered to join forces.

last night we had hardly got lied down before orders come to fall in and march and we tramped all night and passed through Falmouth heavy firing in advance

August 24 – 62

last night I slept in a Church on the march to day. marched 9 miles on a Rail Road track. had stewed Pig for supper.

August 25 – 62

we started on the march this morning went two miles then turned back went where we stoped through the night drawed four days raitions. heavy firing to the front

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August 26 – 62

very pleasent and warm. started early this morning went 10 miles and pitched Ponchoes, I was then detailed to go on Pekett

August 27 – 62

started this morning for Warrenton Junction and arived this afternoon 20 miles

August 28 – 62

we started this morning at sunrise and marched 15 miles. passed over a field where our folks had a schirmish with the johnie the dead are ling on the field¹¹ yet during the day we marched some on the Rail Road. passed a number of cars throwed off the track and the Railes tore up

August 29 – 62¹²

we have marched and counter marched all day. General Porter was ordered to make an attack here but he failed in doing it

2nd Bull Run Aug 30 –62

a fine day but a day of Battle the Battle comenced at sunrise but was not general untill afternoon. by that time we had four lines of battle 2nd Maine in

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the Forth line. we lied down in a field a short time the Rebel Artillery firing over us. we had a rise of ground in front of us, so must of their shot went over but we soon had orders to advance went a short distence and lied down again, but soon got up and made the advance. we had a peace of woods to go through. then a field to charge over before we got to the Rebels line, when we got out of the woods the three lines in our front was cut up so that there was nothing in front of us but the Rebs. and they were firing at us from

¹¹ Robert E. Lee was hoping to attack and defeat Pope's army before McClellan's forces could reach Pope and reinforce him. He sent Stonewall Jackson north. Rufus could be describing the field after the Battle of Brawner's Farm. (www.nps.gov, National Park Service)

¹² By this time Lee and General Longstreet have marched north to reinforce Jackson.

three different directions a Battery on our right and left and infantry in front. the battery on our left was firing rail Road iron, it looked almost impossible that a man could live to get across that field, but we went part of the distance and lied down so close to the Rebels that their shot went over us. we stayed there about 15 minutes and then received orders to fall back. when we got out of the way of the Rebel fire, the Regiment counted off to the number of 60. a good many were killed and wounded but

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the most had left the Ranks before we got out of the woods. we went in with 360 this ended the Battle and we fell back on Centerville in good order. a big contrast between this and the first Bull Run. the boys know their places better and are better drilled, it commenced to rain at dark a cold and disagreeable rain our wounded were left in the Rebel hands.¹³

Centerville Aug 31 – 62

a rainy day. but few guns fired on the line to day but we was under arms all day expecting trouble. the 2nd has 137 in the ranks to do duty

Centerville Sept. 2 – 62

we left Centerville early this morning and got to Fairfax at about 10, rested a couple of hours and then started for Chain Bridge passed over where our folks had a skirmish yesterday the dead are not buried. we have had a very hard days march General McClellan takes command of the Army again and the Boys are much more happy he is a great favorite with the Soldiers.

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Chain bridge Sept 3 – 62

turned out early this morning and started for Halls Hill where we arrived at noon. then there was a detail made of 10 men to go on Peakett I was one

Halls Hill Sep 4 – 62

Pleasant with a cool breeze. we have plenty of Peaches and green Corn. Alvin treed a Coon on his Post. last night, about noon the Rebel skirmishers advanced on the Peakett line and drove us in. we fell back to our Regiment and the whole Army was called out expecting an attack, but they came no farther than our Peakett line 60 recruits arrived to our Regiment to day

Halls Hill Sep 6 ° 62

another fine day. received orders to be all ready to march in a moments notice and have been in the ranks all day and part of the night expecting to march.

¹³ Just as the 1st Battle of Bull Run, the second was a defeat for the Union, and would also cause the commander, General Pope to lose his job.

Alexandria Sep 7 – 62

we left hills Hill last night at 7 o'clock and arrived here this afternoon and pitched Ponchoes after shifting grounds twice. I do not feel very well.

Alexandria Sep 8 – 62

we have had orders to march but have not started yet. the Boys are robbing the Sutlers

September 9 – 62

we started this morning for Fort Corcoran and have pitched Ponchoes about one mile from it close to the 20th Maine Regiment

September 11 – 62

a Rainy day. we moved a short distance up on a hill and our tents come and we pitched them and got things fixed up in very good shape

September 12 – 62

we got stowed away in our tents last night for a good night's rest, when we were called out to

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march. the Regiment fell in and started for Maryland for the report is that the rebels are in back of Washington. but Joseph Hackett Lewey Bruster Moses Veazie and myself declared that we would not go until morning and we lied where we were until morning then turned out cooked breakfast eat it and started across the River to Georgetown.

Georgetown Sep 13 – 62

we stopped last here in Georgetown in the 2nd Maine's Store House where we keep our extra things after turning out this morning Mos and I went to a Saloon and got breakfast, then we started through Washington after the Army through Rockvill. then stopped at a house kept by two Girls that had just moved there from New York. we got dinner there had salt fish and Potatoes we paid 50 cents a piece. then started on the Road. went through Coxvill where we got supper we then turned in

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for the night in a Hay stack

September 14 – 62

Pleasant we turned out quite early this morning and went through Clarksvill and through Hyatus Town continued on about three miles and stowed ourselves away in a hay stack for the night

September 15 – 62

we started on the road early and at about 9 oclock I went to a house bought some bread and engaged dinner for four, went to a brook that run clost by the house and washed. sit in the shade untill dinner was ready. the family consisted of the man and three grown up daughters. we sat down to a boyled dinner. after filling up we paid him his price which was 50 cents. cabage must be it [if] he made any thing out of us. we then started and came up with the Regiment which was resting along side of the road. but we soon started and went through

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Fredricks City. this is a very prety State. and the inhabitence were very pleased to see us. the Girls stood at the doors and windoes with water which they give to us with a smile after getting through the City I fell out for I was not able to keep up. this is something new for me, but since I was sick at Harison Landing I do not seem to have any strength. I joged along intill dark then got into a hay stack for the night. hered that General lee was taken Prisinor.

September 16 – 62

overcast and threatning rain all day turned out early and started on the road. went through Midle Town got up with the Regiment. passed a lot of wounded a part of the Army has been engaged to day. see about 400 Rebel prisinors. went through Goalsboro and stoped at night clost to the Battle field

September 17 – 62

rained last night and overcast to