CIVIL WAR PRIVATE DIARY OF JOHN L. RYNQ
Member, 3rd Brigade Band, 3rd Division, 2d Corps
Enlisted Company C, 126th New York Infantry, Volunteers
FOREWORD

The following copy of the Private Diary of John L. Ryno (Aug. 1862–Jan. 1864) of Interlaken, N.Y., was transcribed from a handwritten copy prepared from the original. It was provided through the courtesy of Mr. Maurice L. Patterson, historian, Interlaken (N.Y.) Historical Society. It remains the property of the Interlaken Historical Society and is displayed along with other memorabilia of Mr. Ryno at the society's headquarters.

Although care has been taken to preserve the accuracy of Mr. Ryno's words, the difficulty in reading both his handwriting and that of the transcriber makes it difficult to determine some names and places. Where possible, parenthetical references have been inserted to clarify or make accurate Mr. Ryno's impressions.

This is a remarkable record of the daily life of a Federal soldier in some of the bloodiest conflicts of the American Civil War. The horror of Gettysburg or the tragedy of soldiers being shot or hanged for desertion pales when Mr. Ryno reveals that a soldier's priorities lie in survival. For instance he speaks of watching a man shot for desertion, then Mr. Ryno states unashamedly that, "We had apple dumplings for dinner."

I was particularly thrilled to note his references to Bill Covert, a fellow soldier who could be my great-great-grandfather. However, the official records of Company C, 126th New York Regiment Infantry Volunteers, places Corp. William H. Covert in the hospital from July 29, 1864 to Oct. 16, 1864 recovering from typhoid fever. The Wm. (or Bill) Covert as well as John Covert mentioned were most probably William H. Covert's first cousins. My William H. Covert was son of Matthias Covert of Farmerville and his wife, the former Jemima Duckworth of Niagara County, NY. He was grandson of Bergun Covert, who migrated to Seneca County from Somerset County, N.J. in 1791, first settling in Ovid.

This copy is provided for the edification of those who are interested in Mr. Ryno, his unit, or indeed the everyday life of a Union soldier. Mr. Patterson remarks that no one seems to know what became of Mr. Ryno's diary for 1865, if indeed he continued to keep one. I trust this effort will serve as some repayment to Mr. Patterson and the Interlaken Historical Society for its many courtesies to descendants of Tunis Jans Coevors (Covert). Tunis Jans was first among the thousands of Coverts now living from coast to coast, including Frederick, Md., where Mr. Ryno and my several Confederate and Union ancestors so often marched, camped and indeed fought to the death for "their honor." It is only through God's good grace that we survived the tragedy of the great War of the Rebellion.—NORMAN M. COVERT, Frederick, MD, August 1986.
Diary August 1862-January 1863

To John L. Ryno

"May Angels poise on gentle wing,
to hear the burden of the sigh.
Joy to thy sorrowing spirit bring,
and guide thee to a cloudless sky.
"May gentle whispers greet, in language pure
and yet sublime thine ear,
the hand of love erase each tear,
along the sweeping path of time."

August 3, 1862
Annie E. Rappleye

Aug 13, 1862 - Sunday. Camp Swift. It is very pleasant today. I got my uniform this morning.

Aug 28 - Left Geneva at 8 o'clock, arrived Elmira at 4 o'clock, marched down many of back streets. Sat down on corner and took something to eat and await further orders.

Sept 15 - Maryland Heights—went in battle at sunrise, ceased firing at 8 AM., commenced again at 10 for one hour and we were ordered to fall back. Names of wounded in Co. C. Capt. W. Scott, Lieut. Louns bury, Peter Rappleye, R. C. Dimmick, Conrad Gunderman.

Sept 15 - Harpers Ferry. Surrendered to Stonewall Jackson. Left Ferry the 16th for Frederick, distance 21 miles. Left Frederick for Naplus (Annapolis).

Sept 16 (?) - Every man ordered up at 4 am. and fell in for long march. Marched 40 miles. Stacked arms and ordered back to camp.

Sept 20 - Today we are at Ellicott's Mills waiting for cars to go to Annapolis. 2000 Rebs went by today bound for Washington.

Sept 21 - Left Ellicott's Mills for Annapolis.

Sept 28 - Received of Captain Scott one pair shoes.

Sept 29 - Left Annapolis for Chicago.

Nov 29, 1862 - left Camp Douglas, Chicago, Ill.

April 27, 1863 - Centreville, Va.: Band played for guard mounting. The boys got two gals beer. They feel pretty well.

May 1, 1863 - The 125 Reg't came in from Schenectedy.Tonight the band went down to serenade General Abercrombie. After we got through he called us in and gave us a drink.
May 2 - We have news from Hookers Army. He has flanked the Rebels at Fredericksburg and has portion of his army between Lee and Richmond.

May 3 - Sunday. Tonight finds me in Washington after a pleasant little walk from Centreville to Union Mills. There we took the cars for Alexandria from there the steamer down the Potomac to Washington.

May 4 - Sent 30 dollars home this afternoon by mail. 2500 Rebels arrived in city taken by Hooker. We got two months back pay today.


May 6 - Keep to bed most of day by severe pain in my head.

May 9 - This morning got an order from Col Willard that the Brigade Band will be required to practice 4 hours a day.

May 10 - Sunday. The Band went up to the 125th Reg tonight to play for their parade. After that was over they had preaching. The Band played "Old Hundred" that pleased the boys very much.

May 11 - Tonight we went down to serenade General Abercrombie. After we got through he called us in and gave us some beer. The boys are out on the porch singing. It makes me think of old times.

May 13 - Tonight we had a Brigade Review. Went out at 8 and came in at 12. All infantry and batteries were out. After the review we all had separate drills. We had a fine show.

May 15 - By request of General Hays the Band went on hill by the Fort and played tonight.

May 17 - Five of us went down to the creek bathing, but the water was cool and didn't stay long.

May 21 - Weather warm. We had a temperance lecture tonight for two hours.

May 25 - The pickets brought in two Rebs this morning.

May 27 - A regiment of infantry went out to look for the Rebs. Found and we captured one, the other escaped in his shirrtail.

May 28 - Good news from Vicksburg. Gen. Pemberton had offered to surrender the city if Grant would allow his Army to march out. Grant refused feeling confident that he could take both city and Pemberton's Army.

May 31 - The day has been warm and pleasant. Tonight the Band went to the 126 Regiment to play for dress parade. After that we played several pieces for the ladies then came home feeling fine. So rounds up the month of May.

June 4 - Last night the band played for an ____ then went up to headquarters and played for the General's wife. She came into camp last night.

June 6 - The weather today has been quite cool. We had a picnic this afternoon with about twenty ladies present. Had a good time and good supper. Wound up with a nice dance. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. General Abercrombie and General Hays were present.
June 8 - Had another picnic today. There were about thirty ladies present. Had a good time. Lighted candles were placed around stage in the evening and they danced until the General came around and said all officers and men must be in their camps by taps. A grand good supper and time.

June 9 - The band played at funeral of a private of 8th Massachusetts Battery. Died in morning, buried at 6 this eve.

June 10 - A rebel came in camp direct from Stewarts' (J.E.B. Stuart) Cavalry.

June 11 - We are going to play for the 111 Regiment tonight dress parade.

June 15 - Part of Hookers Army came in camp today; Eleventh and Third corps. They had a long and dusty march. Some of the poor fellows were most starved. We gave them what we had. We saw dust and smoke over to the Bull Run Mountains, supposed it was the Rebel Lee marching for Harpers Ferry. He left Fredericksburg for parts unknown.

June 16 - The Eighth Army Corp came in today. There are now about 40,000 men in and about here. They are having a dance at the Fort tonight.

June 17 - Two corps of Hookers Army left this morning and other troops have been coming in all day. They have another dance up the Fort tonight. I got excused as I don't feel very well.

June 18 - Our cavalry had a fight at Leesburg. They captured nearly four hundred and part are here now.

June 18 - The Second Army Corp came in today, among them several I knew. Among them my old friend F.M. Lewis. I had him come to our quarters and stay all night.

June 20 - The Second Corps left today in the direction of Bull Run. Heavy cannonading heard from Aldie.

June 21 - Heavy firing most of the day in direction of Snickers Gap. A large force of Sickels Cavalry with one battery have gone in that direction.

June 23 - No troops here except our Brigade.

June 24 - We are getting ready to march. The Third Division of the 6th Army Corps came in to relieve us.

June 26 - We bid adieu to Old Centreville. It has rained very hard all day. We saw a few Rebs yesterday. They picked up two or three yesterday. They took one of our horns from George Chadwick. We are now at Edwards Ferry on the Potomac and will cross tonight. We have no pontoons so will have to wade the River. We crossed the Potomac at two this morning and marched until daylight then layed down on the cold wet grass to try to sleep.

June 27 - We are getting ready to start our march. Tents are struck and blankets done up. We marched 15 miles in afternoon and halted about ten on a high piece of ground near Sugarloaf Mountain.

June 28 - Frederick [Md.] City. We are encamped on the bank of the river.
June 29 - We got up at two o'clock this morning. We have had breakfast. We left Frederick at 8 o'clock and marched through several small villages, Liberty, Johnstown and Uniontown making a march of 33 miles. The men are very tired and hundreds of them fell out by the way.

July 1, 1863 - We struck tents in morning at 7 and marched until 11, then awaited further orders. We marched back to Uniontown [Md.] then turned around and marched back to Taneytown [Md.] and fell out. The Regiment went on to Hagerstown where they expect a battle.

July 2 - I am at Taneytown this morning and feeling rather poorly. The artillery was passing all night. I left Taneyville this morning and came to where the men were fighting [Gettysburg]. They had a very hard battle and our troops drove them two or three miles. The musketry has ceased but batteries are playing on them. I have tried hard to find my Brigade but cannot find them tonight.

July 3 - Cannonading commenced this morning at four and lasted until six in the afternoon then a general engagement took place which lasted nearly an hour. The Rebs made a charge on us and we drove them back with great slaughter. We took a large number of prisoners during the fighting. Eugene Holton was wounded in the afternoon with a piece of shell. I was up all night with the wounded but will join my company tomorrow.

July 4 - Skirmishing has been going on all day. The boys have brought in several of our dead today.

July 5 - All quiet this morning. The Rebs have left and our troops are burying their dead this morning. We left camp at 6 p.m. and marched six miles and encamped for night.

July 6 - We had a heavy rain which wet us to the skin. We marched at 5 this morning. Short of provisions some haven't had anything to eat for two days. We marched about twenty miles today.

July 7 - We got up at four and marched at five. We are now in a field at Taneytown going back the same way we came.

July 8 - We marched to Frederick a distance of 24 miles.

July 9 - Left camp near Frederick at 5 o'clock. Saw a Rebel spy hung from a tree about a mile out of town. His name was Richardson. They have his son and another spy which they will hang today. I had to fall out because of severe pain in my breast. I am now at Burkittsville 14 miles from Frederick. I got some supper then went to join the Brigade. I found them over the mountain.

July 10 - We left camp this morning at 8 o'clock. Our Regiment was detailed to guard the baggage train. We are encamped on the old battlefield of Antietam.

July 11 - We left camp at 6 and marched a few miles when we came to a halt to await orders. I went on picket duty in the afternoon and was released at dark.

July 12 - Our Division is drawn up in a line of battle in a cornfield. We marched to a large wheatfield then layed down to
sleep. Called up at 10 oclock in the night to dig breastworks until two in the morning then layed down to sleep again. In the morning our Regiment was ordered to fall back a few miles.

July 13 - We left camp at 2 oclock and marched about half mile where we threw up another line of earthworks.

July 14 - We struck tents this morning and marched five miles. The whole army is on the move after the Rebels. They crossed the Potomac at Williamsport.

July 15 - We left camp at 6 and marched within one mile of Harpers Ferry, a distance of 30 miles on the Maryland side.

July 18 - We crossed the river at Harpers Ferry and are in Old Virginia again. We camped in Lovettsville.

July 20 - We marched about 12 miles and encamped in a clover field near Snickers Gap about one mile from Bloomfield.

July 22 - We marched about 10 miles and encamped in Ashby’s Gap.

July 23 - We marched about 15 miles and encamped at Manassas Gap. The Fifth Corps had a fight here last night. We expected to have one today but the Rebs left in the night and are no where to be found this a.m.

July 24 - We marched 6 miles and encamped near a little town called Linden.

July 25 - Marched at 5 oclock in the morning to White Plains, a distance of 15 miles.

July 26 - Left White Plains at 4 in the morning and marched to Warrenton Junction. A distance of 23 miles.

July 30 - Marched to Elktown, 8 miles.

July 31 - Marched 5 or 6 miles and camped.

Aug. 1 - We backtrack to Elktown.

Aug. 2-17 - We have been doing pickett duty on the Dumfries-Culpeper Road.

Aug. 20 - We have dress parade today first since we left Centreville.

Aug. 22 - General inspection today by the General commanding the camp.

Aug. 23 - Came off guard duty at 6 and had inspection at 7 AM.

Aug. 24 - I was detached today to play in the (3d) Brigade Band.

Aug. 30 - We went to meeting at Division Hqs. After the preaching, Gen. Owen made a short but good speech.

Sept. 2 - This morning we packed up. It was rumored that the Rebels had crossed the river and coming this way.

Sept. 3 - Kilpatrick had a fight with Stewarts Cavalry and drove them back across the river.

Sept. 4 - A detail went out to look for Rebels. They returned tonight with a Reb and a horse.

Sept. 5 - A scouting party brought in two more Rebs.

Sept. 8 - Firing heard in direction of Warrenton.

Sept. 13 - We crossed the Rappahannock this morning at 7 oclock and marched to Brandy Station. Hard fighting has been
going on all day with our Cavalry. Drove the Rebels beyond Culpeper and captured 4 guns and 75 prisoners.

Sep. 15 - We are still at Culpeper. It is just one year ago today we surrendered at Harpers Ferry.

Sep. 16 - We marched from Culpeper and encamped on the east side of Cedar Mt.

Sep. 17 - Marched at 8 o'clock two or three miles to the Rapidan where we found plenty of Rebs. The Brigade went on picket duty and the Band guarded headquarters. Some firing on picket line.

Sep. 22 - Heavy firing going on all day. The First Corps was engaged and chased the Rebels 10 miles.

Sep. 28 - All quiet for several days. Had Brigade drill today reviewed by General Oliver.

Oct. 2 - A cool wet day. A deserter was shot at Headquarters of the First Division this afternoon. Three balls passed through his heart and two through his head killing him instantly.

Oct. 3 - Mortimer Rappleye came over to our camp today and had supper with us.

Oct. 4 - Nick Wilkins came over to see us. He is in the sutler business in the 2nd Division.

Oct. 5 - Chadwick and Salisbury went to Baltimore to get new instruments for our band. The Sixth Corp came in this afternoon to relieve us. We leave soon.

Oct. 6 - We marched beyond Culpeper a distance of 12 miles.

Oct. 9 - Chad and George returned last night with new instruments and they are nice indeed. Had orders to draw clothing and five days rations and be ready to march.

Oct. 10 - Marched 4 miles and halted for night.

Oct 11 - Marched at daylight. Crossed the Rappahannock about 1 o'clock and on to Bealton Station.

Oct 12 - Guarded a wagon train this p.m.

Oct 13 - Marched at daylight until after dark.

Oct 14 - We marched at daylight and were attacked by Rebels at Auburn in front and rear. The fight lasted two hours and the Rebels were driven off. Our column marched to Bristoe Station where we were again attacked in our rear. They were driven back and punished severely. Our losses were 22 wounded and two killed. Lt. Cosby of Gen Owen's staff was instantly killed by a sharpshooter. We marched all night and crossed Bull Run Creek at 4 o'clock in the morning and encamped 2 miles from Centreville.

Oct 15-16 - Skirmishes around for two days. Heavy firing in direction of Warrenton. Kilpatricks Cavalry attacked the enemy.

Oct 17 - A pontoon bridge was layed across Bull Run for artillery and cavalry to cross. Many crossed last night. It is thought we'll cross tomorrow.

Oct 18 - We were ordered up at 3 in the morning to cross the bridge, but for some reason didn't go.

Oct 19 - We crossed Bull Run at Blackberry Ford and marched to Bristoe Station. Heavy firing was heard in direction of Gainesville all afternoon.
Oct 20 - We marched at daylight about 10 miles then stopped for breakfast. We forded three streams and passed through the little town of Greenville and encamped after march of 20 miles.

Oct 21 - Lee has recrossed the Rappahannock and burned everything behind him.

Oct 23 - Struck tents and marched about 7 AM. and are encamped 3 miles from Warrenton.

Oct. 24 - Have orders to march in the morning with 21 days rations.

Oct. 25 - General inspection of arms and clothing.

Oct. 26 - This evening we serenaded General Warren.

Oct. 27 - Today General Owen inspected our Brigade. Today we drew eight days rations.

Oct. 28 - No movement today because of damage done by Lee to Orange and Alexandria RR during his retreat to Rappahannock. We had dress parade with whole Regiment out.

Oct. 30 - Had Brigade Drill this AM. This evening went over to serenade the Cols. of the 111 (NY) Regiment.

Nov. 1-3 - Drilled each day.

Nov. 4 - As usual we had a Brigade drill. This afternoon the Band was ordered to Headquarters. We found there several officers who wanted a little music. We played several pieces then some of the officers here called on to speak. Among them Brig Dies [Dix?], General Owens, Col. Sawyer, and others. While speaking three other bands arrived and we all played Yankee Doodle and other pieces. All had plenty to drink and felt good and retired about 12 o'clock.

Nov. 7 - Broke camp at 4 o'clock and marched at 7. firing commenced about two and lasted until dark without much loss on either side - hard march with wind and dust.

Nov. 8 - Marched at daylight, crossed the Rappahannock at 7 oclock and advanced slowly. Later we made rapid progress and encamped at Brandy Station. The Cavalry has fought all day and firing tonight at Culpeper Court House.

Nov. 9 - We broke camp and marched at 7:30. We crossed Mountain Run, a small stream 30 feet wide. Cold today. Mountains covered with snow that fell last night.

Nov. 10 - Cold and clear. Mike (Stout), George and myself went to work this morning to put up a stockade. All the boys are busy putting up their tents and firing up for cold weather.

Nov. 12 - The Band played at dress parade. Tonight we played up the line and the 125 Drum Corp played back. We had to play without Chad [John Chadwick, leader]. He is sick in the hospital.

Nov. 16 - Luie came over the play with us today. We had a good dinner today, Broiled beef, fried beef, then we had a little Commissary to top off with.

Nov. 17 - All quiet today. The Rebs are entrenched on the south side of the Rapidan and will give us a battle when we attempt to cross, but we think Gen Meade is the man to drive them out of their holes.
Nov. 19 - The General sent for us to play for him tonight. Two or three daughters of Old Virginia were present and asked us to play Dixie for them. We played that then played Yankee Doodle for them. They thought that beautiful having never heard it before.

Nov. 21 - It has rained hard two days. It will stop movement of Army for some days.

Nov. 22 - Sunday. We had preaching by Chaplain Brown. The Band played several pieces. We had three ladies present. The Corps drew overcoats tonight and are fitted for fall campaign.

Nov. 24 - We have orders to march at daylight. Took tents down and ready to go when orders were countermanded. We put tents back up, but not until everyone was soaked to the skin.

Nov. 25 - Mud is drying fast. We will probably move in a day or two.

Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving. We broke camp and marched at Daylight. Crossed the Rapidan at Germanna Ford.

Nov. 27 - We marched at sunrise. Skirmishing began at 10 AM. and lasted all day. Our men holding their own. When the fighting began the Band detailed to take the wounded off the field.

Nov. 28 - Rebels fell back 2 miles and made a stand on a high ridge. Skirmish began at 8:00 and continued all day with very few wounded in our division. This morning we were detailed to take the wounded off the field. We were out all day with nothing to eat.

Nov. 29 - The 2nd Corp was returned to take possession of our left. The Rebels tried to flank us. The Bands were left behind with the ambulance train.

Nov. 30 - Moved up to the front - some artillery firing today.

Dec. 1, 1863 - Very little fighting today. The Rebels have a strong position and seem a considerable force. General Meade ordered General Warren to charge the enemy position and take it. General Warren told him he could take it but he wouldn't have any 2nd Corp left. He did not try it. Our orders came to march at 8:30 PM. We crossed the Rapidan about 4:00 in the morning and marched to daylight. The train pulled in park to feed and we lay down to sleep. We slept 1/2 hour and ordered to march without breakfast as there wasn't rations. Met Capt. Thompson at 2 PM. who gave us hardtack, bread and sugar and stopped for breakfast. At 5 the train went into the park and we started for our old home at Mountain Run. Our stockade was in good order. We put up tents ate supper and layed down to rest.

Dec. 7 - We broke camp this morning and marched two miles and camped on a high hill where there is plenty of wood and timber to stockade with. The night was very cold and we had all we could do to keep warm.

Dec. 8 - Today George, Mike, and myself have been firing our tent. It will be quite comfortable. Cold nights now.

Dec. 9 - Our shanty is about finished.
Dec. 15 - Capt. [Winfield] Scott and Harrison Rappleye got the furloughs today and will start home tomorrow. We heard today we will fall back to Centreville.

Dec. 16 - Chadwick played with us today the first time in several wks.

Dec. 17 - It has rained all day. We could hardly keep dry. Salisbury and Wineger got a can of oysters today so we had an oyster supper. Salisbury ate 40 and Winegar not quite so many.

Dec. 18 - A deserter was shot out of First Division.

Dec. 19 - Cold today. George, Mike and myself worked on our tent again and tonight it is finished and a good tent it is too. But the chimney is wrong end up like the old woman who tried to drown herself by standing on her feet. It smokes so we can't hardly see.

Dec. 20 - We played at guard mounting today and our instruments froze up in spite of everything we could do, but we got through with it after a fashion.

Dec. 21 - Col. Crandle1 sent his compliments to the Band tonight in a bottle - long life to the Col. The Band gave General Owen a serenade last night. He is in command of the Division. From there we went to Capt. Thompson, from there to Col. Beards and Major Browns. Had a good time and returned to camp at 12 o'clock.

Dec. 22 - The boys quite sober today after their serenade.

Dec. 23 - Ground covered with snow. Chimney smokes again today so it is impossible to live in it.

Dec. 24 - Weather continues cold. Received letter from Annie today stating that my box is on the road. Will be glad when it gets here as I need my boots very much. The band gave a serenade tonight for Headquarters of the 125th Regiment and as usual had a good time.

Dec. 25 - Chad invited Luie and George to dine with him today. He got up a Christmas dinner. Bentley and Winegar dined with us today. We had codfish balls, new soft bread, butter, peach sauce, cheese, coffee and cake. Tonight the Band went out serenading the different regiments. The 39th were all drunk so we didn't stay long there.

Dec. 26 - Very quiet around camp this morning. I guess the boys had too much Christmas.

Dec. 28 - Got up this morning and found about 6" of mud and water in our tent bottom. Discovered a spring in one corner of fireplace. Last night an order came through that there would be no more furloughs. The boys put on a long face about it.

Dec. 29 - Got up and boiled potatoes, fried a small piece of meat and boiled coffee for my breakfast. It is warm today but the mud is from 2 to 5 feet deep on the level.

Dec. 30 - We drew 5 days rations this afternoon - beans, potatoes, sugar, coffee, pepper.

JANUARY 1, 1864 - Today finds us encamped on Dumpling Mountain 2 miles from Stevensburg and 4 miles from Culpeper. The mountains
were covered with snow but before night all but disappeared, went over to the Company tonight and had a molasses candy pull. When I got back I found Bentley and Winegar in my tent eating apple pies, head cheese, oysters, and coffee. I joined in with them. Had a good time.

Jan. 2 - Got up in time for this morning's guard mounting but did not play. The instruments would freeze just laying in our tent.

Jan. 3 - Got up this morning at 8 o'clock and played for guard mounting. Went down and saw Capt. Scott for a furlough. He made one out for me to take to Capt Seabury. He thought it would go through. The Band played at a funeral this afternoon in the 111 Regiment. We had a short sermon by Chaplain Brown after which we marched to the grave. The soldiers fired the usual salutes over the grave then we played a charge. Salisbury and Bentley bought some oysters and we were invited to have some which we did without further invitation.

Jan. 4 - This has been a very stormy day. It commenced about 10 and snowed until dark. Mort, George and I went to work and cut up a nice pile of wood so we are prepared.

Jan. 5 - My things came today from home. They were received with great joy. The boots and shirts are bully. The boots fit first rate. Long life to Culner. Went to Division Headquarters last night and serenaded the General and his wife. He sent out a large coffee pot full of whiskey. After playing we started for camp. Got as far as the Commissary, playing a piece. We were called in and given some bottles and most of the boys took a nip. Then we played again and again were given punch. This wound up our evening performance.

(END OF DIARY NO. 1)
DIARY NO. 2
Sgt. John L. Ryno
3rd Brigade Band, 3rd Division
II US Army Corps

Friday Jan. 1, 1864 - I wish you a happy New Year, dear one, Annie. Today finds us encamped on Dumplin Mountain, 2 miles from Stevensburg and 4 miles from Culpeper. This morning snow could be seen on the mountain beyond Culpeper but before night it all disappeared. Went over to the Company this evening, found Capt. Scott making Molasses Candy. When I returned I found Bentley and Winegar in my tent with lots of good things to eat. I joined in, had a good time, and retired about 12 o'clock.

Jan. 2 - Got up this morning in time for guard mounting, but did not go out because it was cold. Salisbury and myself went down to Division Headquarters to get our boxes but they didn't come in. The mud was 2 to 4 feet on the level.

Jan. 3 - Got up this morning about 8 AM. Played for guard mounting then I went to see the Captain, told him I wanted a furlough. He made it out for me. I took it to Capt. Seabury, C.C.Q. He said he would tend to it. The band played at a funeral this PM in the 11th Regiment. Had a short sermon by Chaplain Brown after which we marched to the grave. The soldiers fired the usual salutes then started for camp at quick time. Had oysters for supper tonight.

Jan. 4 - It began snowing about 11 AM and continued until after dark. Mike, George and myself have been cutting wood most of the day. We have a fine lot of it and are well prepared for the storm.

Jan. 5 - Snow about 4" deep this AM. The long looked for box came tonight. Found everything in good order but my pile of butter. They had punched a hole in it to see if there was whiskey in it. The band serenaded General Hays and his lady tonight. He sent Pomp out with a large coffee pot full of whiskey. All could drink without money or without price. On the way back gave Capt. Thompson a call. We were invited in and had a little milk punch and returned all safe home.

Jan. 6 - Warm and pleasant this AM. Snow nearly all gone. My furlough came back disapproved by Maj. General Hancock, furloughs are all played out for this winter. Eugene came in tonight. He is looking first rate but seems lame yet [from wound suffered at Gettysburg]. We had an order last night to report to Division Headquarters at 7:30 to play for picket mounting. I received a letter from Annie last night which was due last Thursday.

Jan. 7 - Reported to Division Headquarters this AM at 7:30 to play for picket mounting but could not play, it was so cold. Our
Instruments would freeze so we couldn’t stir the valves. We played for guard mounting at 8:00.

Friday Jan. 8, 1864 — It commenced snowing last night about 8. The snow this AM is 4" deep. We are having severe cold weather now. Eugene played with us at guard mounting this AM. for the first time. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Jan. 9 — Nothing of importance transpired today. Harrison Rappleye gave me some tea today that Uncle Tunis sent to the boys from Farmer Village, NY. The day has been quite warm.

Jan. 10 — Sunday. Went out to play for Guard Mounting this a.m. but were unable to do so on account of the cold. Played about half a piece and our instruments froze up and we marched back to our quarters. The 125th Drum Corps took our place.

Jan. 11 — Warm and pleasant today. The snow is nearly all gone. Received a letter from Annie last night also a photograph of C.C. Tolles.

Jan. 12 — The weather continued warm and pleasant. My furlough returned disapproved with the promise that I should have one as soon as the soldiers return that are now home on furlough. I wrote to Annie during the day.

Jan. 13 — Nothing of importance transpired today. Warm and pleasant.

Jan. 14 — Got up this AM. at 6 1/2 and mounted Picket then went to Division Hdqtrs and mounted picket there at 7 1/2 o’clock then came back to camp and played for our Brigade guard. We serenaded Major General Warren last night. He called us into his tent and gave us something to drink then played our eight pieces then returned to camp.

Jan. 15 — Friday. The band played for two funerals today. One at the 111 Regiment and one at 33. Sermon by Chaplain Brown of the 11th. This PM. we serenaded General Hays and his wife. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Jan. 16 — Warm and pleasant today. It is very muddy around camp.

Jan. 17 — Sunday. Warm and pleasant. I received a letter from Annie tonight, also her photograph.

Jan. 18 — It commenced raining last night about 12 and has rained all day. Nothing of importance has happened today.

Jan. 19 — No rain today. The wind has blown a gale all day and blowing hard tonight.

Jan. 20 — The band played at guard mounting at the usual hour. The Col. of the Garibaldi Regiment came in today. The Regiment was drawn up in a line and Major Brown presented the Regiment after which they marched to their quarters, the band playing as they passed. There was a funeral in the same Regiment today and the band played as usual. Salisbury’s box came tonight and we are living on top shelf again.

Jan 21 — Thursday. Nothing of importance has transpired today. I received a letter from Annie tonight, also one from Jas. M. Rappleye.
Jan. 22 - Friday. This has been a pleasant warm day. The mud is drying up fast and the road will soon be quite passable. General Owen returned to the Brigade this afternoon and the Band gave him a serenade in the evening.

Jan. 23 - The weather continues warm and pleasant.

Jan. 24 - Sunday. A warm pleasant day. The Brigade went to Division Headquarters at 10 1/2 o’clock meeting. At 4 PM, we had preaching by Rev. McDudal from New York.

Jan. 25 - The band serenaded General Owen last night and also Col. McDougal.

Jan. 26 - Tuesday. The weather continues warm and pleasant. About 50 new recruits came in last night for the 39th Regiment. Also a lot for 10th NY.

Jan. 27 - Chad’s box came in this afternoon. It was a beautiful box and the two cans of boiled milk were spoiled. We went to Division Hdgtrs tonight and gave General Hays a serenade. His wife and another lady were present. He sent Pomp out with beer which was gladly accepted.

Jan. 28 - Two of Lewis’s band came over today to make arrangements for the ball that is to be at Corps Headquarters the 15th of next month. Our band and Lewis’ are to furnish the dance music and the First Division the (?) music. Received a letter from Annie last night.

Jan. 29 - Friday. The day has been very warm for this time of year. We had Brigade drill this afternoon. There were quite a number of ladies present. The drill lasted nearly two hours after which we marched to Camp pretty tired.

Jan. 30 - It was raining this AM. when I got up but not very hard. Lewis’ band came over this afternoon to practice. Some of the boys stayed until after dinner. The Brigade [colors?] passed tonight. The Band played down the lines and the Drum Corps back.

Jan. 31 - Sunday. A little rainy today. We had preaching this afternoon at Brigade Headquarters. Mrs. Hays, her sister and two other ladies were present. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

Feb. 1 - Monday. It continues to rain this AM. so we didn’t play for guard mounting. We had our practice in the General’s cook’s tent this afternoon.

Feb. 2 - We had dress parade at the usual hour tonight. Several ladies were present to see the parade. Tonight we are having heavy thunderstorms and it looks like rain. It begins to patter on the roof of the tent now.

Feb. 3 - Very windy this AM. Our chimney smoked so we couldn’t stay in our tent. We cooked our breakfast in Frank’s tent. The Band went over to the first Brigade this PM. A Sword was presented to the Colonel of the 7th Virginia Regiment.

General Owen and Col. Sawyer were called on to speak after which the band played the Star Spangled Banner and The Red, White, And Blue, then the beer came next.

Feb. 4 - Today has been cold and windy. This AM. after guard mounting the Band went over to the 2nd Brigade to practice with
Lewis' band. They took us up in the ambulances and returned about sundown. I received a letter from Annie....

Feb. 5 - Friday. We had an addition to our Band today. A Dutchman was detailed from the 38th Regiment. General Owen had a small party last night. There were 8 or 10 ladies present - had dancing and singing. The evening passed off very pleasantly.

Feb. 6 - Orders came this AM. to march promptly at 7. The Band got ready to go but General Owen said we need not go. Heavy skirmishing was going on all day until 5 PM. When the Rebels made a charge at our Division and drove them acrossed the river. Corp. Chestnut of Co. C. was killed by a shell. Lieut Sheets of Hay's staff was wounded in the breast during the charge. Frank Rappleye started for home on a 10-day furlough this AM. It has rained nearly all day.

Feb. 7 - Warm and pleasant this AM. Heavy firing was heard about 10 AM. in direction of Raccoon Ford. Our Brigade returned to camp this PM. feeling first rate. Co. C. did not lose but one man killed. Received a letter from Annie last night.

Feb. 8 - All quiet in front today. The troops have all returned to camp. Andrew Chestnut was buried this afternoon. He was killed by a bursting shell. It entered his right breast passing through his heart and coming out at the left hip.

Feb. 9 - Played for guard mounting at the usual time this AM. Eugene got his barrel this afternoon. It had some dried fruit, a pair of socks, and dried beef in it. I bought a cap cover today for which I am to pay $2.50.

Feb. 10 - Wednesday. Warm and pleasant today. Had Brigade drill this afternoon. General Owen made a short speech to the men for their good conduct in the last battle acrossed the Rapidan.

Feb. 11 - Clear and cold this AM. Lewis Band came over to practice. The general let us have his cook tent to practice in. They all came down to our quarters and took dinner with us. I received a letter from Annie today.

Feb. 12 - It looks very much like rain this AM. The Band went town to Division Hqurters this afternoon to receive the 1st Delaware Regiment. They had been home on furlough and returned this PM. We played for Brigade Guard Mounting at 3 PM. Hays sent up for the Band tonight. He wanted some music so of course we had to travel.

Feb. 13 - This has been a warm beautiful day. The band went to Division Headquarters this am to mount picket. The first Brigade band and all the Drum Corps in both Brigades were there. Had Brigade Mounting at 2 PM. I received a letter from home tonight.

Feb. 14 - Sunday - The weather continues warm and pleasant. Went to meeting this morning to Division Headquarters. The speaker was a stranger to me. Came home, got dinner and went down to hospital to play for the sick and wounded. There were about 200 wounded in the last battle across the Rapidan out of
our corps. The hospital is a beautiful place and fixed very nice. Received a letter from home.

Feb. 15 - Monday - Mounted picket this AM. and had Brigade Mounting at 10. Men from our Division and those from the 1st, have been at work all day throughing (?) up earth works on the mountain. It has snowed all day but melted as fast as it fell.

Feb. 16 - We went to Division Headquarters this AM. to mount picket. This has been a very windy day. It blew down most of the tents at Headquarters.

Feb. 17 - This has been another cold windy day. We have not had any fire in our tent today. It smoked so we couldn’t live in it. The Band went to Div Hdqtrs this AM. to Mount Picket but did not play on account of the cold. I have had a toothache today and feel pretty bad tonight.

Feb. 18 - The weather continues cold. Went up to 1st Brigade today to practice in Lewis Band. While we were playing Major General Warren and wife, General Hays and wife came in to hear us. Frank got home tonight. I received a letter from Annie....

Feb. 19 - Went to Div Hdqtrs to play for Picket Mounting but could not on account of the severe cold this morning.

Feb. 20 - Saturday - Today has been quite warm. Lewis Band came over today to practice with our band. We had a good long practice. Got them up a good dinner of beans, pork, boiled beef, coffee, bread and butter + co. as Alf used to say.

Feb 21 - Weather warm and pleasant. Went to Div Hdqtrs this AM. to Mount Picket. Did not get the letter due me tonight.

Feb 22 - The weather continues warm. General Owen had the Brigade drawn up in a line in front of Brigade hdqters and made quite a lengthy speach to them in regard to war. It was a good speech and he made lots of fun for the boys. The great Corps dance came off last night. It was a fine affair. Generals Mead, Warren, Sedgwick and several other major generals were present. Also Sec of War Wells, Gov. Sprague and President Lincoln [?]. Everything passed off in good order. About 200 ladies were present and about 300 officers - danced til nearly dawn. Returned to camp all feeling bully.

Feb 23 - Grand Review of 2nd Corps today. Mounted Picket this morning at Div Hdqters. When we got back we had orders to fall in immediately to play for review. The Corp was marched nearly half a mile beyond Stevensburg where the troops were reviewed by General Mead. The day was warm and the review passed off very pleasantly.

Feb 24 - It has been very windy today. Our chimney smoked so we had to put fire out. The Band played for Picket Mounting in AM. The paymaster is here paying off the Brigade. The 126th were paid today. I payed Cole today, the Sutler of the 125th, $3.00 for Cap and Cloth.

Feb 25 - Nothing of importance transpired today. Weather cool and wind high. Received letter from Annie today.
Feb 26 - Friday - This has been a cold windy day and our chimney smoked us out again today so we had to put our fire out. We gave General Hays a serenade this evening but we didn’t see Pomp.

Feb 27 - Warm and pleasant today. It is reported that the 1st and 3rd Corps have moved to the front. The Band played at a funeral in the 11th Regiment. We received orders tonight to hold ourselves in readiness to march at moments notice.

Feb 28 - Sunday - The weather continues warm. F. M. Lewis called here this afternoon.

Feb 29 - Cold and cloudy today. Looks like snow. General Owen gave the Band two bottles of whiskey this AM. We were mustered for pay today. I sent $27.00 home in a letter. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 1 - It has rained all day and is snowing tonight. Everything seems quiet at front.

March 2 - Warm and pleasant today. It was reported that the Rebels had crossed the Rapidan and moving this way. We had orders to keep things packed so as to be able to move at moments notice.

March 3 - The weather continues warm. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 4 - It continues warm and pleasant. Two thieves were marched around camp today with the word "thief" on their backs while the drum corps played the Rogues March.

March 5 - We had a little rain this AM. then it cleared off about noon and pleasant the rest of the day. The two thieves were marched around camp again to the tune of Rogue's March. Salisbury got his furlough tonight and will start home in the morning.

March 6 - Sunday - Had meeting today at 11 o'clock in front of Brigade Hdqters. Preaching by Chaplain Harrison of 126th. G. W. Salisbury started home this AM. on a 10 day furlough. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 7 - Warm and pleasant. Played for Picket Mounted this AM.

March 8 - We did not play for Guard Mounted on account of the rain.

March 9 - Warm and pleasant today. We had Brigade drill this PM. after which we marched up to parade grounds where we were drawn up in a line. Capt. Seabury read an order that soldiers from New York State would be allowed to vote hereafter. We went serenading this evening to 1st Brigade Hdqters then to Col. Beach, Lieut. Stanton, Col. Miser and Capt. Jones where he gave us some good beer.

March 10 - Thursday. This has been a cold rainy day, hardly been out of our tents. Orders came today for the women to leave camp as soon as practical.

March 11 - It has rained nearly all day. We went to Division Hdqters this AM. to mount picket.
March 12 - Warm and pleasant. Nothing of importance transpired.


March 14 - Cold and windy today. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 15 - Went to Div Hdqters to Mount Picket this AM. Cool and windy.

March 16 - Wednesday - Cold and windy. Our chimney smoked all day so we couldn't live in our tent.

March 17 - Clear and cold. Salisbury returned this PM. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 18 - Weather beautiful. We had a report that Stewart's Cavalry had crossed at Germanna Ford. Our Brigade was in line of battle this afternoon but hearing no more of Stewart they went back to camp about sundown.

March 19 - The weather continues warm and pleasant. General Owen went home this AM. on a ten day leave of absence.

March 20 - Sunday - Another beautiful day. Very windy tonight.

March 21 - It continues warm and pleasant. Nothing of importance transpired today.

March 22 - Cold and windy today. Commenced snowing at 4 PM. and snowing tonight very hard. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 23 - Snow 12" deep on level this AM. but day quite warm so some of it is gone. The boys in the Brigade have had a great time snowballing this afternoon. Several got badly hurt.

March 24 - Snow nearly all gone. John Coffin, Saul June, Ed Ross, Ben Tucker and Hull boy came in tonight with a squad for the 111 Regiment. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 25 - Friday. Cold and cloudy this AM. Started raining at 4 PM - still raining - 9 PM.

March 26 - Cold and windy today. The 3rd Division is being broken up. Our Brigade goes in the First Division. Col. Frank commands it now. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

March 27 - Sunday. This has been a warm, pleasant day. The snow is all gone and mud is pretty much dried up. We went to Division Hdqters last night and gave General Hays a serenade. Before we left the 1st Brigade Band come over and played several pieces. Our Band matters still look dubious but we hope for the best.

March 28 - Monday. The weather continues warm and pleasant. We went down in the 1st Division last night and gave Col. Frank a serenade. Our Band matters look a little better. The Commander is in favor of the band and wants us to stay with him.

March 29 - It commenced raining about 10 AM. and rained all day. The wind blew very hard and drove the rain through our tent
and wet our blankets badly. It was the hardest storm we've had all winter. General Owen returned tonight.

March 30 - Got up this AM. with wet feet and wet blankets. The rain drove through our tent and wet us. Our tent floor was covered with 4" of water. Played for Retreat at Hdqters of the 39th Regiment by order of Col. Frank. We gave Col. Frank a serenade tonight.

March 31 - Thursday. It has been quite pleasant today. The mud is drying fast. Gen. Owen left us today. We played a few pieces for him before he left. He spoke to us and said he was sorry to leave us but thought it was all for the best. A number of recruits come in tonight for 11th, 126th, 125th Regiments. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

April 1 - Cold and rainy today. Col. Frank moved his headquarters up here today. We went up to the cook tent tonight and played a long time for him. ??? night playing for retreat.

April 2 - Ground covered with snow. It rained from noon until 3 PM. Two companies come in today for the 11th Regiment. They have been on detached service since Centreville. Our chimney smoked today as usual and the blankets are all wet by the rain we had. What a happy life the soldiers!

April 3 - Sunday. Warm and pleasant today. I went over to 4th Artillery this PM. to see their band. We played at Hdqters this afternoon. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

April 4 - It commenced raining at 10 AM. and rained all day. We got out of wood and had to chop stumps. Our old tent leaks and we have 4" of water on the floor.

April 5 - We mounted Guard in the rain. Our chimney smokes as usual, our tent leaks, the blankets are wet and water 4" deep in our tent. George Salisbury feels very bad because he didn't enlist several years ago.

April 6 - It rained until noon when it turned warm and pleasant. The paymaster is in camp which always makes the boys feel good. Capt. Scott got back last night.

April 7 - Thursday. A warm, pleasant day. Went up to the cook tent tonight and played two hours. Chad, Salisbury, Frank, and George sang several pieces for the staff officers and a lady, wife of one of the staff. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

April 8 - It took about two hours and a half to Mount Guard this AM. At 8 we went to the drill ground and drilled for a hour in marching. This PM. at 2 we did the same. Went up to cook tent as usual and played two hours tonight. We had a little tachelly [?], which didn't go bad. The Regiment was paid off today.

April 9 - General Grant was to Review us today (the 2nd Corp) but it was postponed because of storm. It has rained very hard and wind blew all day. Our tent leaks like a riddle. Blankets all wet and no wood to make a fire. Everything lovely and the goose hangs high. I sent $25.00 home tonight by mail.

April 10 - Warm and pleasant. The Brigade was inspected this AM. by Col. Frank. I drew a pair of pants and a rubber blanket
off the company this PM. We had no mail tonight as the freshet swept away the bridge so they could not cross the stream.

April 11 - Monday. The Brigade had a drill this PM. but we didn’t go out. No mail today.

April 12 - The weather continues warm. Salisbury and myself had our pictures taken this PM. We played at the 57th Regiment dress parade last night after which we went to Col. Frank’s and played several pieces for him. They passed the commissary around twice. We played in the cooks tent tonight until about 10 PM. Had two lady visitors. I had a letter from Annie tonight and also one from home.

April 13 - Our Brigade was reviewed this PM. by Col. Frank. The Band played while the troops passed the reviewing officers. Everything passed off very nicely.

April 14 - Thursday. Warm and pleasant. The Band played for dress parade on the drill ground for the whole Brigade at sundown. We went to General Owen’s Hdqters and gave him a serenade tonight. Received a letter from Annie.

April 15 - Our Brigade was reviewed this PM. by General Barlow commanding the 1st Division.

April 16 - We did not play for Guard Mounting this AM. because of rain. We played at Hdqters again tonight. Capt. Jones made the Band a gift of twenty pieces of music this AM. Bully for Capt. Jones.

April 17 - Clear and pleasant. Played for Guard Mounting this AM., first picket, then Camp Guard. I did not get my letter tonight.

April 19 - Tuesday. Beautiful day. Our Division reviewed today by Maj. General Hancock. After passing up and down the lines Col. Frank ordered to fall out and not pass reviewing officer so we all tumbled out to wait for our Brigade to come along which it did in a short time and we filled in and marched to camp.

April 20 - Pleasant. Mortimer Rappleye stayed with us tonight. He has just returned from the west. We played for dress parade this PM. on parade ground.

April 21 - Warm and pleasant. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

April 22 - It has been very warm today. We did not have any Guard Mounting this morning. Our Corp was reviewed by General Grant this PM. The Band marched to and from the grounds but did not pass in review.

April 23 - Warm and pleasant. I received a good long letter from Annie tonight.

April 24 - Sunday. Twelve Rebels came in our lines last night. They looked pretty hard up. They say there are more that will come if they get a chance. We went to the 39th Regiment and played a while for Col. Frank, then came back and played for our ladies at hdqters. They leave in the morning. It [?] now and raining very hard (11 PM.). Look out for wet blankets tonight!
April 25 - I went over to 2nd Division today to see a man hung. The Division was drawn up in a square around the scaffold and he was around it in a wagon sitting on his coffin while the band played the death march. We went up to the 126th tonight and played for Major Brown. After we got through, we went to his tent where we had refreshments. We felt pretty well! Officers and all. Old Herman got in the Guard House and Ike Van Wice (?) came near it.

April 26 - Tuesday - Warm and dry. They let Herman out of the Guard House this AM. He felt pretty sore and thought he'd do better in the future. We had Division drill this PM. The Band went out but were not allowed to play while troops were drilling.

April 27 - Warm and pleasant.

April 28 - Quite cool today. Herman went to the hospital this AM. Had Division drill this PM., after which we had dress parade. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

April 29 - Cold this morning. Wore our overcoats at Guard Mounting. Had Division drill this PM. after which we had dress parade. We played in the cooks tent this evening.

April 30 - We had no Guard Mounting this AM. We were mustered for pay. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

May 1 - Sunday. Warm and pleasant. 20 new recruits came in today for the 125th. I received a letter from home.

May 2 - Monday. We did not play for guard mounting this AM. Chad being sick, we had to take our stockade down and put our tents on the ground. We are falling back to first principals. We had an awful storm this afternoon that blew most of the tents at Hqters down and many through the Brigade.

May 3 - Warm and pleasant. Chad went to the hospital this AM. so we played Guard Mounting without him. We had orders this afternoon to be ready to march at 11 PM. Everything ready and prepared to march at moments notice.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER CAMPAIGN, WILDERNESS, SPOTSYLVANIA, COLD HARBOR, PETERSBURG, ETC.

May 4, 1864 - Wednesday. We broke camp and marched last night at 11:20 PM. Crossed the Rapidan at Elys Ford about 8 AM. Went in camp at 10 AM. at old Chancellorsville Battlefield close to the house where General Hooker had his headquarters. It is a strong position with earth works thrown up for miles each way and the bones of our brave men are bleaching on the ground. They have never been buried.

May 5 - Marched about 8 AM. Marched very slow until 3 PM. when we halted. Two Regiments of our Brigade went into picket duty. The Cavalry were fighting on our left and infantry on our right. The 55th and 111th were engaged and lost very heavily. General Hays was killed and the Col. of the 57th. We marched until about dark and arrived on the field at 11 PM. and relieved the two regiments that were engaged in the afternoon. We are in the Big Wilderness; fighting all done in the woods.
May 5 - Fighting commenced at 4:15 AM. and kept up steady all day. We went to the hospital this AM. and all the musicians were detailed to take the wounded off the field. Our Brigade suffered very much. Burt Huff Co. C 125th Regiment was killed.

May 7 - No fighting today. Quite a number of wounded were brought in this AM. who were wounded yesterday afternoon. The sick and wounded were out to the rear tonight. The hospital was broken up and joined our Brigade. The men lay in the trenches all night expecting the Rebels to attack.

May 8 - Sunday. This AM. the 5th Corps moved to our left. As soon as they passed, the 2nd moved up as far as Todds Tavern where we found the cavalry skirmishing with the enemy. Our Division was thrown in the line of battle at sundown and had a hard musket fight in which the 126th took part. Generals Grant and Meade moved to the front this AM. All musicians were ordered to the hospital tonight to take care of the wounded.

May 9 - All quiet this AM. They broke up the hospital this afternoon and moved forward about 3 miles when the enemy opened up on our Division with artillery and musket. It didn't last long. The Rebels were routed and our boys followed them close about 2 miles when another fight took place and lasted until dark. We followed these until 11 PM. and went in camp. The Rebels are in full retreat toward Richmond. The roads are very dusty and weather warm.

May 10 - Heavy fighting all along the line today. Our Division was pressed so hard they had to fall back nearly half a mile where they held the enemy in check. Band [?] and Wyckoff of 126th Co. came in wounded. Col. Frank was relieved this PM. for getting drunk. The hospital was moved 3 or 4 times today to get out of range of enemy shells. At 5 PM. the Rebels made a charge the whole length of our line but were repulsed and driven back.

May 11 - Wednesday. Heavy skirmishing today but no general engagement. All the wounded were sent to Fredericksburg this PM. to be shipped to different hospitals up north. Col. Brown is in command of our Brigade now, our men hold the ground that they were driven from yesterday. Capt. Arnold lost one gun. The first gun the 2nd Corps ever lost.

May 12 - This morning the 2nd Corps made a charge at 4 AM. at the left, cut the enemy lines, capturing 5,000 prisoners and 48 pieces of artillery. Among the prisoners were 3 generals. The fighting has kept up all day. Capt. Jones of the 125th was shot in the charge. The Band boys have been working hard all day putting up tents for the wounded. It has rained all day. [ED: Spottsylvania, Bloody Angle].

May 13 - Friday. Heavy skirmishing has been going on all day but no general engagement. They are sending off all the wounded tonight. The roads are getting very muddy as it has rained for 3 days. We received our mail this PM. which made our boys feel bully. I received two from Annie.
May 14 - Got up at daylight, packed up ready to march, moved the hospital nearer the front. We got on wrong road and marched 4 miles out of our way. There has been some skirmishing and some cannonading today but no general engagement.

May 15 - Our Corps moved to the left about 5 miles this AM. They moved the hospital up within half mile of the river and went into camp. We had a hard rain which lasted two hours. We encamped tonight within a few rods of General Grant’s Hdqters. John Smith was mustered and reported to his Regiment tonight. We drew 8 hardtack and a little sugar tonight. We are hard up for rations. Not much fighting today.

May 16 - We moved about 1/4 of a mile and established a hospital in a large field. There was no fighting today for our Corps. A lot of wounded came in tonight that were left at the 2nd hospital when we moved. They were very bad off. The Rebels had payed them a visit and had taken all their sugar and coffee. We played a few pieces tonight, the first we have played since we broke camp.

May 17 - Tuesday. No fighting today. The Band went up to Hdqters this afternoon to play but just as we got there they had orders to move. We were playing tonight and General Barlow rode up and told us not to play any more until we had orders from him. He told the Division Band the same. Our Division moved to the right tonight. They expect a big battle tomorrow.

May 18 - Another hard battle today. It started at 4:30 AM. and lasted all day. Our Corps went in a charge and carved two lines of breast works. The loss in our Division was 400 killed and wounded. Capt. Scott was wounded in the early part of engagement. I carried him from the field to the hospital, the distance of a mile and a half. After we got to bed tonight we had to get up take down the hospital tents and get ready to move. We had a shower during the night.

May 19 - Moved the hospital about a mile and a half this PM. The Rebels made a dash on our wagon train but were repulsed by the 1st Main Artillery. About 25 or 30 were brought into our hospital wounded. The Rebels made a charge at our right just at dark and were driven back with great slaughter.

May 20 - No fighting today. The wounded have been coming in all day. Those that were wounded in last night’s fight.

May 21 - We marched all night and this AM. At 8 AM., we crossed the Fredericksburg and Richmond Railroad near Guiney’s Station. We passed through Bowling Green.

May 21 - Saturday. Continue about 2 PM. It’s a smart town with 1500 inhabitants before the war. The country all along was beautiful as I’ve ever seen in Virginia. Corn looked very well - some nearly a foot high. We passed several large wheat fields and some were in blossom. We passed through Milford Station while the sun was an hour high. Crossed the Matta River just beyond the town and went in camp for the night. Our Cavalry had a fight with
the enemy but drove them off. The Rebs threw a few shells tonight but they did no damage.

May 22 - We had a little skirmishing this AM. Eight Rebels made a charge on our Corps last night and they were all captured. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

May 23 - Monday. Marched this AM. at 7:30 as far as North Anna River where we found enemy posted strong on opposite side of the river. Heavy skirmishing began and the enemy pickets were driven in, then the enemy made an advance across the river and made a charge on our lines. They were badly punished and fell back our boys close to their heels and took their first line of earth works and held them. It was the hardest battle we have had during the campaign.

May 24 - Hard fighting all day. Our Division lost few in comparison with other Divisions. We had a hard thunderstowm at dark that lasted for an hour.

May 25 - Wednesday. Moved the hospital on the banks of the river this AM. Skirmishing has been going on all day but no general engagement. Hard shower tonight.

May 26 - Skirmishing has kept up all day and at sundown had a brisk fight killing and wounding quite a number on our side. We drew 6 days rations tonight. The report is we are going on a long march.

May 27 - They broke up the hospital last night about 10 and marched all night but we did not go far this AM. Our troops crossed the river and about 10 started to march and marched til sundown. Stopped to make coffee and rest for an hour then moved forward until 1 AM. and went in camp.

May 28 - Got up this AM. and went half a mile to a swamp and got some mud and water to make coffee. Marched at 4:30 AM. recrossed the Hornquarter Creek about 10:00 AM. and at 2 PM. crossed the Pamunkey River where we found our troops in a line of skirmish with the enemy. The Bands were ordered back to the ambulance trains for the night.

May 29 - No fighting today. Our Division moved 4 miles today and we followed them up tonight and went in camp at 10 PM. in a large field where our Cavalry had a fight with Stewart a few days ago.

May 30 - Marched about (?) miles this AM. and established a hospital. There has been hard fighting today. Our Brigade were on the skirmish line til dark. Quite a number of wounded have been brought in. I received two letters from Annie tonight.

May 31 - Tuesday. Fighting commenced early this AM. and kept up all day. The Band has been busy all day putting up tents for the wounded. Heavy cannonading was heard tonight on our left. It was supposed to be near Ft. Darling. Our line of battle advanced two miles today. They took two lines of the enemy works.

June 1, 1864 - Hard fighting today all along the line. We took down tents this PM. marched at 6, went into camp at 12 midnight, layed down in sand and dust to sleep til daylight.
June 2 - Marched this AM. at 6 and at 1 PM. we established a hospital near Balls Tavern on the Whitehouse-Richmond Rd. There has been hard fighting today and the wounded are coming in fast.

June 3 - Hard fighting all day. Great many wounded have been brought in. The Band has been busy all day putting up tents for the sick and wounded. Heavy cannonading could be heard to our left which lasted until long after dark.

June 4 - Very little fighting today. Nearly all the wounded were sent to White House this AM. We had a fine rain tonight.

June 5 - Very warm today. Lieut Hantoon was wounded this AM. through breast by sharpshooter. Skirmishing all day. Had preaching today at hospital by man from New York. The Rebels made a charge about 8 but were driven back with heavy loss.

June 6 - Moved about two miles this afternoon and established hospital at Dr. Taylor’s Plantation. He is a brother of old General Taylor. Lieut Hantoon (?) died tonight. He has had 7 horses shot from under him during the campaign.

June 7 - Tuesday. Very few wounded came in today. Some cannonading but little musketry. General Warren’s Corps moved to the left this AM. It was supposed to take a position near Bottom’s Bridge. I went to the front today for rations and while there received a letter from Annie.

June 8 - Very warm today. There was heavy cannonading tonight for two hours. We drew beans, cabbage, potatoes, and dried apples today. It was a great treat to the boys.

June 9 - Warm and dry. Little fighting today. The drummers that had thrown away their instruments on the march were called out and sent to the front with musket and spade.

June 10 - It has been very warm today with little fighting. I guess the sharpshooters were glad to lay back in the shade. The Bands were all busy this PM. putting bunks in the hospital tents.

June 11 - All sick and wounded were sent to White House this afternoon. It looks like a move tonight. Heavy cannonading was heard in direction of Fort Darling at sundown. The Band played at the hospital tonight. I received a letter from Annie this morning.

June 12 - Quite cool today. We took down hospital at 3 PM. and started our march at 6:30 PM. We marched as far as Black Creek and were obliged to stop there. The road was blockaded so we could not get along. Burnside’s train was ahead of us. The dust so deep which made it very hard to march.

June 13 - Monday. We marched at 8:30 and went in camp at 10 PM. after marching 16 miles. On the way we passed St. Peters [ED: St. Marys] Church where George Washington was married.

June 14 - Marched about 7 this AM. Went as far as Chickahominy and ordered back to train. Part of 6th Corps train was parked at river bank waiting for pontoon train to come up. Two or three of us went out and killed a pig this AM. He was rather thin but edible.

June 15 - Crossed the river this PM. at Coles Ferry at sundown and marched to James River 15 miles. Salisbury, Eugene,
Little Chad and myself fell out. It is fine farming country between the two rivers. The wheat and corn looked fine. We passed Charles City Courthouse and Gaines Mills on our march. Went into camp about 2 AM. The Division was strung out for about 5 miles. The river at Coles Ferry is 1220 feet wide.

June 16 - Joined the train about sunrise this AM. but found few of the boys. Most of them came up before we crossed the river. The crossing commenced in the night but we did not cross until 1 AM. We crossed on a pontoon. It took 101 boats 20 feet to reach across. I saw the Rebel Ram Atlanta in the river. It was captured by our gun boats last winter. Our march was paid through beautiful country. Salisbury and I fell out as we were unable to keep up with the train. There has been a large battle fought today near Petersburg. Col Baird was killed in a charge tonight. Albert Huff, Hudson Swick, Clarkson Swick and George Smith of Company C were wounded.

June 17 - Friday. Salisbury and I got up early this morning and started to search for our hospital which we found about 10 AM. As soon as we got our knapsacks off the Doctors wanted some tents put up and we have been without rations for 24 hours and were very tired and hungry. John Coffin was brought in the afternoon with a mortal wound. There has been hard fighting all day. The 2nd and the 9th Corps made a charge tonight and took two lines and held them but we lost heavily doing it.

June 18 - Hard fighting all day. The Rebels are driven within a mile of Petersburg. A great many wounded have come in today. John Coffin died this AM. Sylvester Tucker was wounded in the first days of battle and died in the field. Our Regiment reported 31 for duty tonight.

June 19 - Very little fighting today. The wounded were all sent to City Point this AM. Drew rations today - pork, beans, cabbage, coffee, sugar, hard bread and a little whiskey. I received a letter from Annie this AM.

June 20 - Monday. It has been very warm and the skirmishers have been very quiet today.

June 21 - Weather very warm. We broke up the hospital this PM. and moved to the left about 7 miles. Our march was rapid and the roads dusty. We stopped at a large farm house where there was a fine garden and lots of cherries. I dug a mess of potatoes by moonlight and would have got a lot of peas and cherries but the guard came around and chased us out. Our Brigade was on a skirmish line tonight and quite a number wounded.

June 22 - Very little fighting today until tonight. The Rebels charged our works and were repulsed with heavy losses. John C. Smith came in the hospital this AM. sick and worn out from hard work. Capt. Brown of the 126th Regt was killed this PM. while chasing the enemy. The wounded are coming in quite fast tonight. The Division Band played a few pieces tonight which made us think of our homes and loved ones far away.
June 23 - Little fighting here today but heavy firing was heard to our right. I received a letter and handkerchief from Annie this AM.

June 24 - This has been the hottest day of the season. Cannonading opened very heavy this AM. on the extreme right and also on our left which lasted an hour. There was little musket firing in our front today. The doctors got scared and had us take down all the tents ready to march but the excitement died down and the drivers were ordered to unhitch and feed.

June 25 - Saturday. Very warm today. Water very scarce and wells dry. We have had to dig holes in the swamp and let water seep in in order to get any. Marc Andrus, Salisbury and myself went after rations the forenoon. There was hard fighting tonight about 8 o'clock on the right which lasted an hour.

June 26 - It has been very quiet today all along the line until about 8 PM. when they opened with muskets and artillery very heavy until nearly morning. The Band was ordered to Brigade Hqtrs this PM. to play for a meeting. It looked like rain and we played a few pieces and returned to camp. We played at the hospital and Dr. Porter sent out a nice pail of beer. We drew a ration of soft bread today.

June 27 - We were ordered to Brigade Hqtrs this AM. The 2nd Corps have gone into camp for a few days and all the bands have been ordered to the front. Our left rests on Black Water Creek so there's no danger of the enemy flanking us. Heavy firing has gone on all day on our right. Lee seems determined to turn our right flank but then seems to [illegible]. There isn't any danger of it.

June 28 - Very quiet along the lines today. We played three times at Brigade Hqters today and once in the Irish Brigade.

June 29 - Wednesday. Cool and pleasant today. Heavy cannonading was heard early this morning on the left. It supposed to be our cavalry on the railroad. The Band played at Brigade Hqters tonight.

June 30 - Very quiet today. The troops were mustered this AM. for pay. The sutlers have come up and the boys are daily expecting the paymaster. We played twice at Brigade Hqters today.

July 1, 1864 - Today has been very warm indeed. Little firing today. Everything quiet around camp.

July 2 - Warm today. F.M. Rappleye, Charlie Powers and myself went down to the Division Band to get our instruments fixed. I received a letter from Annie this morning.

July 3 - Sunday. This has been another warm day. Water very scarce so we Band boys thought we would dig a well so this PM. We, Marc Andrus, Mike Stout and myself commenced and worked until sundown then we played for church. Chaplain Brown preached.

July 4, 1864 - Very quiet today. We finished our well this AM. after digging 12 feet. We have plenty of water and cold. All
the officers of our Brigade got drunk tonight and kept us playing til 12 o’clock.

July 5 - James Cass came over to see us this PM. He is stopping now at Hdqters of 5th Corps. We had to put another barrel in our well this morning as the water had run over the first one we put in and kept it muddy.

July 6 - Hardly a gun has been fired today. Very warm and dry.

July 7 - We played for inspection this AM. before breakfast. After that Salisbury and I put us up a low house and bunk. There has been some picket fighting tonight.

July 8 - Very warm today. About 3 PM. the Rebels made a charge but were repulsed with heavy loss. They were very quiet during the night.

July 9, 1864 - Saturday. No fighting today. Weather Warm.

July 10 - Had meeting at Brigade Hdqters this PM. preaching by Chaplain Harrison of the 125th Regiment.

July 11 - Warm today until 4 PM. when it clouded up and we had a little rain but not enough to lay the dust. It looks like more tonight.

July 12 - We had orders this morning at 3 o’clock to get ready to march about daylight. We went up to the sutler and he gave us cans of fruit, turkey, oysters and lemons and a lot of sugar. We ate what we could for breakfast and the rest we took with us. We marched about 7 AM. The Band and Pioneers marched together. The troops left before daylight. We marched 2 or 3 miles and lay there all day. We had a few drops of rain tonight.

July 13 - Marched this AM. at 6. Marched 5 hours with dust knee deep and the sun hot. We went in camp near Petersburg.

July 14 - Thursday. Very warm day and very quiet in front.

July 15 - There has been more cannonading today than usual. Our troops have been tearing down old Rebel fortifications and the Rebs have been annoying them all day with shells. About 100 recruits came in today for the 57th Regiment in our Brigade.

July 16 - Not as warm as usual. The Rebs continue to throw shells in our ranks but they did very little damage. Ansel Codding was over to see us today. Salisbury and myself had a bully good dinner, boiled cabbage, potatoes and pork. We got the cabbage from the Sanitary Commission. Such dinners do soldiers good. I received a letter and handkerchief from Annie tonight.

July 17 - Nothing of importance transpired today. Our boys have been busy all day digging a well.

July 18 - Very quiet today with little shelling. It looks like rain.

July 19 - It commenced to rain this AM. at 6 and rained until 3 PM. There has been some shelling.

July 20 - Heavy cannonading all day. Our Brigade has been to work digging a road for the ammunition train to pass to and from
the forts without being seen by the Rebs. Ben Swarthout and Henry Peterson were over to see us this AM. They are looking first rate and feeling well. General Butler and staff passed here this PM. We had a little rain which cooled the air.

July 21, 1864 - Cool and pleasant this AM. Very little fighting today but tonight about 10 our batteries opened up on the Rebel works beyond Petersburg which lasted all night. I received a letter from Annie.

July 22, 1864 - They opened up on the Rebels about sundown with cannon and musketry quite briskly. It lasted an hour then all resumed its usual quiet.

July 23 - It has been quiet all day. Frank and Bill Covert went over to the 148 Regiment this AM. They came back this PM. feeling very rich for some cause or another.

July 24 - Cool and pleasant. Little fighting. Lester Wilson was over to see us today. His Regiment just came in from New Orleans. It commenced raining at 5 PM. and rained all night with heavy wind. We got as wet as we could very well. Frank's house blew down in the night on the stretcher carriers. They came out of their tent on a dead run. Supposing the Rebs were after them. Received letter from Annie tonight.

July 25 - Cold and wet this AM. There has been a good deal of cannonading and skirmishing today.

July 26 - We had orders this AM. to get ready to march at 3 AM. At 2:30 AM. all was ready and the 2nd Corps was again on the move. We crossed the Appomattox just after dark and marched across country for 8 miles and crossed the James River on pontoons at Curl's Neck at 2 AM. and went in camp about 1/2 mile from River making a rapid march of 20 miles. Many men fell out and are coming up this morning. James Henry Leffler and Sebe VanNostrand (?) were over to us today.

July 27 - Wednesday. We fell in this AM. and formed a line of battle and advanced nearly 1/4 mile where our artillery opened on the Rebs and soon had a reply from them. Their shells began to burst around us much too thick for our comfort, we thought, so the Band went over to the River banks. One of our gunboats threw a few shells and soon the Rebel Battery was silenced. There was skirmishing for two hours.

July 28 - Our Cavalry had a fight this morning with the enemy near Malvern Hill and got part of the heights and captured 500 prisoners. About 10 AM. they were seen throwing up earth works on the left 3 miles from the river. One of the gunboats opened up on them which made them dance around until they got their wagons out of the way. Generals Grant and Meade went up the river this PM. on a steamer. One of our monitors lay just above us watching for Rebs. She carries 2 - 15" guns.

July 29 - The Band was ordered to Brigade Hdqtrs this AM. after dinner we went up and played a few pieces then went out to the breastworks to see the Johnnies. They seem to be very busy throwing up entrenchments. Our men opened up two of our batteries
on them but they did not reply. At 8 PM. we recrossed the James
and took our back track to Petersburg crossing the Appomattox
River at 11 PM. I kept up with the Brigade until daylight then
Frank and I fell out to rest a while. The march was very rapid
and hundreds of men fell out.

July 30 - Saturday. Frank and I joined the Brigade this
morning about 6 AM. We stopped a while to rest and fell asleep
and did not wake up until the booming of cannon disturbed our
quiet repose. Nearly all of our batteries opened up on the Rebel
works in front of Petersburg and kept it up nearly all day. The
musketry was very heavy at times. The colored troops made several
charges but have not heard the results yet. We drew 4 days
rations today. The Johnnies slung the shells at us pretty lively
and we had to move out.

July 31 - Our Division moved to their old camp last night. We
of the Band lay back in the woods and did not move to camp until
this AM. Eugene went to the hospital this PM. We had orders to be
ready to march at a moments notice and he thought he wasn’t able
today. It has been very warm indeed - all quiet on the front.

Aug. 1 - Very warm today. We played at Col Hieler’s Hdqters
this evening.

Aug 2 - This AM. Chas Powers and myself went over to hospital
and Eugene came back with us. Another warm day with little firing
from either side. We had a fine shower this eve which cooled
things off.

Aug 3 - Wednesday. Uncommonly quiet at front. We had dress
parade for Brigade tonight. There was some misunderstanding about
it. We trooped the length of our Battalion and when we got at the
right of the Brigade the Adjunct (adjutant) General came up and
said the orders were to troop the whole length of the Brigade.
Had guard mounting at 8 o’clock this morning.

Aug 4 - We had a meeting in front of Brigade Hdqters this AM.
it being the day appointed by the President for fasting and
prayer. Nearly all the Brigade were out with strict attention to
preaching. No firing on picket line today. I received a letter
from Annie tonight.

Aug 5 - Very quiet at front all day until 5 PM. when the Rebs
blew up one of our small forts but our men were too smart for
them. Our men were aware that the fort was mined and took all the
guns out and replaced them with wooden guns. It proved a complete
failure on the part of the Johnnies. Our Brigade marched out to
support the line but when we got there the fun was over and we
returned to camp.

Aug 6 - Little firing today. Lieut Decker was over to see us
in the evening.

Aug 7 - Very warm today. Had meeting at Brigade Hdqters
tonight. The preacher was a stranger to me.

Aug 8 - Very warm today and quiet. After we got to bed
tonight they sent for us to play at Hdqters. They were all pretty
drunk. Received a letter from Annie tonight.
Aug 9 - Tuesday. Eugene and I took dinner with Jake Wilkins and Henry Dunham today. The officers had another spree last night and kept us playing two or three hours.

Aug 10 - The Paymaster came in today which made the boys feel good. I went to company tonight and signed payroll and will probably be paid tomorrow. John Covert and James Cass were here today and reported all quiet in front of 5th Corps.

Aug 11 - We were paid today and now will live again. Cannonading brisk today. Received letter from Annie.

Aug 12 - We broke camp at 5 PM. and encamped on the bank of the James at City Point. The afternoon was very warm. They marched us slow but a great many fell out and are coming in this morning.

Aug 13 - We marched down to City Point Landing this AM. and at 11 AM. got aboard a transport and sailed nearly a mile until 10 PM. when the dispatch boat came along and gave orders to the Captain of the steamer that we would leave for Deep Bottom at 10. General Barlow ordered the Band on upper deck well forward. We had a cool place and plenty of room.

August 14, 1864 - We landed this morning at 1 AM. at Deep Bottom and marched up the bank and stopped until the whole Corps was landed, then started for the front. Soon met the Rebels skirmish line and had quite a brisk fight. We took our old position on the bank of the River where we were about three weeks ago. About 140 in our Division were wounded. Brisk artillery fight tonight in which our gunboats took part and soon silenced the rebel batteries.

Monday, August 16, 1864 - This AM. Stout, Gilman, Eugene and myself went over to a Rebel cornfield and got all the green corn we could carry. We found an ice house and a fine lot of ______. We loaded ourselves down with Rebel property and started for camp. Not much fighting today. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Aug 16 - There has been fighting today. The 10th have been engaged all day and took the line of the enemy works but lost heavily in doing it. About 300 prisoners were shipped today for Washington. They were mostly from Hill’s Corps and a nasty dirty set they were, too.

Aug 17, 1864 - Quiet today with the exception of an occasional shot from gun boats. About 3 PM. we had one of the hardest gales I ever saw. It blew our tents all down and also hospital tents. It lasted for half hour then it commenced to rain and rained all night. Frank, Alf, and Johnny went up to the Brigade tonight after rations and didn’t get back until 4 AM.

Aug 18 - Thursday. Charles Powers and myself have been fishing nearly all day. We had fishermen’s luck – The Johnnies made a charge at our boys tonight and were repulsed with heavy losses.

Aug 19 - Went over to the cornfield today and got some corn. It commenced to rain before I got back and got good and wet. I
caught 2 fish today after fishing about 4 hours. The flag of truce boat went up the river this PM.

Aug 20 - Fished a little this AM, with no luck so gave it up as a bad job. Things look very much like a move tonight.

Aug 21 - We recrossed the James last night in advance of the troops, supposing they would take the old route, but they took a different route and we marched all the way on our own hook. We got to our old camp about 6 AM. We got breakfast and by that time the troops had got in. After an hour's rest, orders came to fall in, we marched to the left of the line near Weldon Railroad where we halted for the night. The Rebels charged a Warren Corps this AM. 3 times and were repulsed each time with heavy losses. We captured some of them.

Aug 22 - Very quiet today. Our men have been busy to work throwing up works. Our Division has been tearing up the railroad all afternoon. I sent my allotment home today. We had a hard rain this PM. and we got wet to the skin.

Aug 23 - Little firing today. Our Division is near Reams Station tearing up the railroad. Wm. Covert, Charles Powers and John Ryno went after rations this afternoon on the Jerusalem Plank Road.

Aug 24 - We hear from our Division once in a while. Tonight we heard they were 3 miles below Reams Station tearing up the W.RR.

Thursday, August 25, 1864 - About 5 PM, heavy firing was heard on our left and soon the wounded began to appear which told us plainly that our boys were engaged and having a hard time. The Rebels charged our works 7 times and the last time succeeded in driving our men from their positions. They paid dearly for it. We lost some guns, but how many is not known yet. The leader of the 2nd N.Y. Band was wounded in the early part of engagement.

Aug 26 - The fight at Reams Station yesterday was not as bad as first anticipated. Our loss was not very heavy while that of the Rebels was great in killed and wounded. We lost 5 or 6 guns and a few prisoners that were on picket. The leader of the 2nd N.Y. Band died on way to hospital. We joined the Brigade tonight. We had a hard rain during the night which was not very pleasant to those that had no tent up and we were of that unhappy number.

Aug 27 - This AM we went to work and put up our tents. Just as we got them up orders came to move. We marched nearly back to our old camp and put our tents up again. The camp is a beautiful one and we can see the City of Petersburg from our quarters. I received a letter from Annie stating my folks were very sick.

Sunday Aug 28, 1864 - I had ague [ache?] this afternoon and don't feel very bully.

Aug 29 - All quiet in front today. Had practice at our old camp this PM. Very heavy cannonading tonight in front of Petersburg which lasted until nearly 12. I received a letter from Annie.
Aug 30 - There has been scarcely any firing today. Played for dress parade tonight for the 111, 125, and 126 Regiments. They are consolidating all three to make one small regiment.

Aug 31 - We were mustered for pay today at the Regiment. I had $14.00 coming for clothing. Very quiet at front today.

September 1, 1864 - Very quiet at front. Our batteries exchanged a few shots tonight with the Johnnies but it did not last long. Received a letter from Annie this AM.

Sep 2 - This morning the Brigade was marched about half a mile from camp to see a deserter shot from the 4th U.S. Artillery. The whole Division was drawn up in a hollow square and in a few moments the Division Band came down the road playing the death march. Just behind came the convict. He seemed to feel very bad. He marched up to the grave and when everything was in order, the order was given to fire killing him instantly. We were then marched by the corpse on our way back to camp. We had apple dumplings for dinner today.

Sep 3 - We got up this AM before daylight and played a few pieces. The Brigade went out to work on the fort and the band remained in camp.

Sep 4 - Warm and pleasant today. I was waked up out of a sound sleep tonight by the booming of cannon and the playing of Bands and Drum Corps in every direction and we soon too got orders to get our instruments and play a few pieces. It was an order from General Grant to fire one hundred guns in honor of Shermans victory at Atlanta. The Rebs replied briskly to our guns but it didn't last long and then everything resumed its usual quietness. I received a letter from Annie.

Monday, September 5, 1864 - This AM George Salisbury, Charles Powers and myself went over to the train to get some bread, potatoes and ... The wagon had just gone to the depot after rations so we did not get anything. When we got back our Brigade had just got orders to march so we packed up and left, too. We marched to the left as far as the Williams house where we stopped for the night. Our Brigade were to work all night on breast works. It rained during the night and we all got soaked to the skin.

Sep 6 - Cold and Wet this morning. Our Brigade is still on duty in the trenches. Moved to the left this PM about 2 miles. Our Brigade was relieved tonight and had a good rest.

Sep 7 - Our Brigade went on duty again this AM. and worked all day. 500 or 600 recruits came in for our Brigade tonight.

Sep 8 - Lieut Decker and J.C. Smith had an argument this afternoon in regard to the Chicago platform (Presidential nominations). Decker rather got the best of him. We played at Brigade Hdqtrs tonight for the first since George Chadwick left us. Salisbury just handed me a letter so will stop to read it.

Friday September 9, 1964 - Moved this morning to Blackwater Plantation and went in camp. This PM. the Johnnies shelled our camp but no one was hurt. The new recruits manifested a good deal
of uneasiness and the old ones too. We had taken up quarters in an old house close by headquarters. Power, Gilman, Andrews and myself slept up in the garrett. When the Johnnies shelled us we dug down. We got down pretty lively tonight about one o'clock.

Sep 10 - Very little firing today. We heard that George Chadwick had gone to Washington.

Sep 11 - Very little fighting today except the usual picket firing.

Sep 12 - There has been a good deal of firing on picket line today. Quite a number of our men were wounded. About 200 recruits came in tonight for the 111 Regiment. They are all substitutes and came out for the money, so they say. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Sep 13 - Picket firing heavy today. The rifle balls strike all around us. Several have been hit in camp. We had Brigade dress parade tonight. The Band played but did not troop off.

Sep 14 - Little picket firing today. About 5 PM. the Johnnies opened on our camp with shot and shell but did no damage that I heard of. One of there shells struck in the yard near several of us boys but didn't happen to burst so no one was hurt.

Sep 15 - Thursday. This AM. all the musicians in the Division were ordered to report at Division Hdqtrs for what purpose we know not. A few minutes after we had reported, the Adjunct [sic] General came out and said he wanted all the Bands to play together, also the drum corps. So we all played a few pieces together and then returned to camp not knowing what it was all about. Several men were hit by spent balls from the enemy. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Sep 16, 1864 - Very little picket firing. We had no dress parade this afternoon. The Brigade went out on picket tonight.

Sep. 17 - Very quiet along the front. Several trains came in tonight loaded with soldiers. The army is being filled up fast by recruits.

Sep. 18 - Had Brigade Guard Mounting at 8 AM. in front of Brigade Hdqters. There has been very little firing today. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Sep 19 - Very quiet at front today. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Sep 20 - This afternoon all the Bands in our Division were ordered to Division Hdqters to play a few pieces on account of Sheridan's victory in the Shenandoah Valley. The Division Band played at our Hdqters tonight. No fighting today.

Sep 21 - We had a fine shower tonight.

Sep 22 - The Rebels seemed very quiet for several days past. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Sep 23 - Friday. We had a little cannonading tonight but no one was hurt that we heard of. I received two papers from home tonight.

Sep 24 - We received orders this afternoon to march at dark. We moved out at dark to the right of our camp and our corps
relieved the 10th corps. We arrived at our destination at 2 AM, and after hunting a long time for a place to stop we found a house a negro had just vacated. Charles Powers, G.W. Salisbury, Marc Andruss, Bill Covert and myself took possession.

Sept 25 - The paymaster is in this morning and we expect to get our pay in a day or two. There has been heavy firing in the direction of Dutch Gap today but the results are unknown yet. A portion of our Brigade moved to the right last night. We have pleasant quarters and hope to remain here for some time.

Sept 26 - There has been a good deal of picket firing today. This afternoon the Johnnies opened up with artillery on our boys. Several shells passed over our quarters but did no damage. We kept pretty close in our holes. I received a letter and paper from Annie tonight. Our Regiment was paid off today.

Sept 27 - The Johnnies burst several shells over our quarters today but no one was hurt. There has been little picket firing since our Corps relieved the 10th. The Rebs seem to have particular spite against the negro troops and would fire on them whenever they could see them. Lt. Sterling of 111 Regiment was wounded today by one of our own shells.

Sept 28 - Wednesday. Heavy musketry was heard tonight on the left and continued for some time then the artillery opening and the musketry ceased. The firing on the left seems to make them up in front of our Division. For an hour and a half the shot and shells came screaming and bursting over our heads. One of the 7th Heavy Artillery band boys had his leg torn off by a mortar shell.

Sept 29 - The troop was all under arms this AM. and ready to move at 4 AM. but for some reason or other we did not go. The Hdqters of the Army has been in the saddle all day and the troops ready to move. The Johnnies gave us another shelling tonight but it didn't amount to much. The sutlers are getting scared and leaving as fast as they can. Eugene and I bought a half bushel of sweet potatoes for 50 cts. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Sept 30 - Heavy firing commenced at 1:00 PM. and lasted long after dark. It is reported that Warren advanced two miles and held his lines. Patrick Lynch was shot today for deserting. He had jumped several bounties and was sentenced once before to be shot but was pardoned by the President. He belonged to 64 N.Y.S. Our Brigade went out tonight for support in case of an attack.

Oct 1, 1864 - Heavy firing was again heard this morning to the left which lasted until 12:00. We haven't heard particulars of the battle but there has been little firing at our front. A heavy rain set in this AM. and lasted all day and the greater part of the night. It makes it very bad for the soldiers in the trenches. The mud is knee deep and no chance to keep out of it.

Oct 2 - Sunday. Our batteries opened up all along the line this AM. but they got no reply from the Johnnies so they stopped after firing a few rounds. The skirmishers have been very quiet today with scarcely a musket being fired. Our line is very light
in front of the city. The men are deployed five paces apart. The rest of the troops have gone left and right of our line. We played at Hdqters this afternoon, the first since we came here.

Oct 3 - There has been no firing today. The Johnnies have been very quiet for several days. Some think they are evacuating Petersburg. We went over the hill and had a practice this evening. I washed my shirt this AM. and had to dry it by the fire. The day has been damp and rainy.

Oct 4 - We had our usual practice this AM. After this we, G.W. Salisbury, F.M. Rappleye, Charles Gilman, Isaac Van Wice and myself went over to Battery No. 4 which is situated on a high piece of ground that overlooks the City of Petersburg and the country beyond. We had a fine view of the Rebel Ft. Clifton and their works around the city. They are very strong but seem to have very few Rebs in them. One of our batteries has been firing at the Rebels all day but they have not returned the fire.

Oct 4 - Tuesday. Frank went to the hospital today. G.W. Salisbury received a letter from Bentley tonight stating that George Chadwich was well and playing in a band in Washington and would not be back with us again. The boys all felt pretty mad about it.

Oct 5 - All quiet except the usual picket firing and that is kept up nearly all the time. I had apple dumplings for dinner today. Bill Rodgers came back today. He is a Lieut on the staff and was Captain in the Wilderness May 6 and been in Richmond until lately. He was a prisoner and was exchanged and returned to the Brigade. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Oct 7 - This morning early cannonading could be heard on the right of the line in Butler's department, which lasted until noon. One report is that the Rebels charged his works and were repulsed. Another is that they drove him from his position and advanced 4 miles but we have nothing reliable.

Oct 8 - The day has been cold and windy and puts us in mind of approaching winter. We played at Brigade Hdqters this morning. Capt. Huston is our Adjunct General now. Lieut Michel's time is up and he will leave for home soon.

Oct 9 - Sunday. This has been a cold day for this time of year. Very little firing today. 150 recruits came in for the 111th Regiment this evening. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Oct 10 - The weather continues cold. Last night was the coldest night we have had this fall. The troops suffer from the cold in the trenches but they will soon get their winter clothing then they will be more comfortable. We had some cannonading tonight but no one was hurt.

Oct 11 - Nothing of importance transpired today. 150 recruits came in for 111th Regiment tonight. We got a man out of them to play in the Band by the name of Moosh. Both sides opened with artillery about 8 PM. Several of Johnnie's shells burst close by but no one was hurt. No Hdqters mail tonight and Frank was very disappointed.
Oct 12 - All quiet in front tonight. Recruits continue to come in tonight for the 111th. 150 Recruits. It is raining quite hard tonight which will make it very bad for the men in the trenches.

Oct 13 - Nothing of importance has transpired today. Eugene and I took a walk over to the Regiment this afternoon and on the way back stopped to get some gum from a pine tree. A rebel sharpshooter shot at us twice and we soon got out of that. We played at Brigade Hqters this evening. We have a Colonel from the 2nd Division commanding the Brigade now. I have not yet learned his name. Received a letter from Annie tonight.

Oct 14 - Friday. Went up to Fort Stedman today and took a look at the Johnnies through the loop holes in the fort. Several balls passed over my head and struck in the bark. They then opened with their mortors battery and I made my way back to my quarters. Today has been cold and chilly. About 100 recruits came in tonight for the 63, 68, and 111 Regiments.

Oct 15 - Little firing today. Our mortar batteries opened up tonight about 8 on the Rebel works but could not get a reply from them. I received a letter from Annie tonight and a letter from sister Sarah.

Oct 16 - No cannonading and very little skirmishing today. I heard the church bells ringing for church this morning and it made me think of many times we have listened to the sweet music at home. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Oct 17 - This morning Charles Powers, Frank, Marc Andruss, Mike Stout, and myself went up to the Regiment and put in five good votes for Uncle Abe. Covert put one in for McClellan. Our mortar batteries opened tonight and gave the Johnnies a good shelling. They replied briskly but did no damage.

Oct 18 - There has been some artillery firing today. The Rebels continue to fire on our working party every night but they do little damage. They keep us fellows in the rear dodging shells right lively. Simeon Holton was here this afternoon. He is one of the candidates from the county to take the votes of the Regiment but he was a little late. They had sent their votes off the day before.

Oct 19 - Wednesday. A dark gloomy day. We have been expecting orders to return to our Regiment all day. There is an order from Army Hqters to return all enlisted men in bands to their Regiments. Tonight we got our orders and the old Third Brigade Band is once more broken up. It was sad news for us but it can't be helped.

Oct 20 - Tonight finds us still in our old quarters...orders from Hqters. Lieut Michel came up to our quarters this morning and told us to keep cool, they would make an effort to keep us. We did keep cool. The boys feel pretty well over our misfortune. Our batteries fired one hundred guns in honor of Sheridan's victory in the Valley. I received a letter from Annie tonight.
Oct 21 - We have heard nothing from our Band matters today but are anxiously waiting orders. I made some apple dumplings for dinner and Bill Denal came over and took dinner with us. He brought over a tumbler of jelly that his mother sent him. The Johnnies shelled us a little this afternoon. One shell burst very near and a piece struck close by our shanty and burned itself into the ground nearly a foot. We had a little rain during the night with a heavy wind.

Oct 22 - Still another day finds us in the old quarters. Our officers at Brigade Hdqters sent a request to Army Hdqters asking permission to keep the band. We expect to hear from it tonight. The Johnnies have got a new battery in position and gave us a good shelling this PM. One shell passed through a tent close by but did not further damage. They shelled us for an hour or more. There were several in the Brigade wounded and one or two killed. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Oct 23 - Glorious news tonight. Our request was granted by General Mead and we are to remain as the Third Brigade Band. I suppose will hold a day of rejoicing tomorrow. They were in high spirits tonight. There has been little firing today. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Oct 24 - The blues have left the boys. They feel first rate over the news. We received orders to be ready to march at dark. The AG came up about dark and told us to report to the Jones house. We got there about 9 PM. Salisbury and I made up our bed on the ground and layed down to sleep. We did not sleep much as it was so very cold. We felt the cold very much after laying in a warm barn for so long.

Oct 25 - We got up at an early hour, made coffee, and marched 1/2 mile nearer the front. Salisbury and I went to work and put us up a house. About the time we got it done, we received orders to move. We reported to Brigade Hdqters and from there to the Chever house on the Black Water Plantation. We stopped there a few moments when the A.A.6. come out and said they wanted to make a show of us. Our lines are very weak and every tent helps to make a show. Our Division relieved the 2nd Division and now hold the line from the Appomattox River to the Fifth Corps, a distance of 10 miles.

Oct 26, 1864 - Wednesday. This morning we drew 7 days rations. The trains are all ordered to City Point. All seem to think we are on the eve of a big battle. The 2nd and 3rd Divisions moved to the left at 2 PM. There has been very little skirmishing in our front. Several balls have struck in our camp, but no one was hurt. Col. McDougal arrived while we were playing at Brigade Hdqters.

Oct 27 - Early this morning heavy firing was on the left. The musketry was heavy at times. We could only hear the heaviest of it as it was ten miles away. The cannonading lasted until long after dark and was very rapid. Our men charged the works in front of Petersburg tonight and took one fort and line of works but the
Rebels came up with a strong force and our men were obliged to fall back. They captured quite a few prisoners, among them a Rebel Col. and Major. Our loss was very small.

Oct 28 - A few wounded have been brought in this AM. that were wounded last night. The 2nd and 3rd Divisions have returned to their old camp. The general opinion is that that got badly handled on the left. The Band occupied the drummers quarters and when they came we had to dig out. We went down by Brigade Hdqters and slept in the brest works and came near freezing to death.

Oct 29 - Got up early this morning and went to work on stockade, C.H. Powers, Wm Covert, G.W. Salisbury and myself put up a shanty and will probably stay here one day. It has been very quiet in front today. The troops on both sides are glad to get rest.

Oct 30 - Sunday. The weather is warm and pleasant. We could hear the Church bells ringing in Petersburg this AM. Our Brigade was relieved by the 3rd Division last night. We marched as far as the Jones house and lay there all night. It was very cold and frosty and we suffered very much. The Johnnies gobbled up two or three hundred of our pickets last night and occupied the line but our men charged them out again with but little loss.

Oct 31 - Got up cold and hungry this AM. and marched to the Williams house about three miles from our old camp. We made some coffee then went over to the Regiment and where mustered for pay. The 126th are in Fort Patrick Kelly. The Brigade are in different forts along the line on the flank.

Nov. 1, 1864 - Nothing of importance has occurred today. We are in the rear where we don't hear much firing as usual. The 68, 63, and 85 Regiments have been taken out of our Brigade today. They compose the old 2nd Brigade again. I received a letter from sister Julia tonight.

Nov 2 - A cold rain set in at 10 AM. and continued all day. Salisbury and myself works on our stockade until the rain drove us off. We will have a cold wet bed tonight. The ground got wet before we got our tents up.

Nov 3 - The rain still continues and it is cold. We slept on the ground, not a very comfortable bed for this cold rainy season. We expect to have better quarters in a few days. I received a letter from Annie.

Nov 4 - All hands have been cutting timber today for the stockade - the adjunct General told us this would probably be our winter quarters. We boys don't think so. We think we will probably move 14 times yet.

Nov 5 - Our Division was reviewed by General Hancock this forenoon. Our Band played for the occasion. Everything passed off very well. The Troops gave three cheers for the General after which we moved back to camp. I bought a bushel of oysters tonight and we all had a good feast. We had to hurry them down as we got orders to move just after we got them. Our Brigade moved in the
rear of Fort Rice [?]. The 2nd Division had a sharp skirmish just as we got up to the front which lasted nearly all night.

Nov 6 - We got up this AM. frozen and reported to Hqtrs then got some breakfast. Then we moved behind some former Rebel works and put up our tents. They told us to fix up for two or three days then we'll probably go back to the Williams House. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Nov 7 - It began raining at 6 AM. and rained all day. The usual picket firing is kept up in front of Fort Hell.

Nov 8 - This morning the Rebels sent in a flag of truce asking permission to take the dead from the field. They were killed Saturday night. I went up to Fort Martin to see the Johnny's but got there a little late. I believe they picked up 17 of our men and 74 of their own.

Nov 9 - Wednesday. We received orders this afternoon to practice the same number of hours that the troops drill in our Brigade. Also the Band will play each morning at 7 AM. and each afternoon at 5:15 PM. Our picket line charged the Johnny's last night and drove them from their picket posts. This morning they occupied the Rebel works which they captured.

Nov 10 - Warm and pleasant today. We hear good news from the North. Abraham Lincoln was reelected President without a doubt and Fenton Banner of N.Y. Several of our Band boys serenaded Gen. Hancock at his Hqtrs last eve. He leaves the Corps in a few days. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Nov 11 - Nothing of importance transpired today.

Nov 12 - A cold rainy day. Fort Hell opened up right lively this AM. on the Johnny's but it lasted only a short time. Little picket firing today. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Nov 13 - Had preaching at Brigade Hqtrs this afternoon by a Capt from N.Y. State 38th. The Band played Old Hundred and several other pieces after meeting.

Nov 14 - The Band went up to Fort Patrick Kelly this afternoon to play for inspection. We did not stay long as the Captain was expecting ladies and officers who did not come. We came back by the way of the 3rd Brigade Commissary and some of the boys got comfortably tight.

Nov 15 - Tuesday. The Division Band serenaded our Hqtrs last night. After they left Col. MacDougal sent our Band over to the 111th and 38 Regiments. We had a good time. Some of the boys were pretty tight before they went over and going there did not help them much.

Nov 16 - The Rebs shelled us a little this pm. but did no damage. The Brigade drew clothing today but I was one of the unlucky one and did not get any. I bought an overcoat tonight for $3 from a stranger. I borrowed the money off O.C. Smith.

Nov 17 - Our Brigade received orders this morning to put up stockades for winter quarters. They moved out of the woods in the field where they are busy blearing up the ground for a camp. Marc
Andruss and myself went over to the train and found an old ax to put up our stockade. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Nov 18 - We received orders this afternoon to hold ourself in readiness to move at a moments notice. We expected to move under cover of darkness but a heavy rain set in just at night fall so we did not move. The Rebels are moving and it is generally thought they are evacuating Petersburg. The storm will probably stop the movement for several days.

Nov 19 - No movement today. It has rained all day and night. The roads are getting to be very muddy. We had no mail tonight. 

The mail boat is aground near Fortress Monroe.

Nov 20 - Sunday. It continues to rain and the roads are very bad. The troops are still under marching orders but the rain will put the move off. My furlough came today approved for fifteen days.

Nov 21 - Took the cars this morning at Mead Station for City Point. Took the boat for Fortress Monroe. Changed boats and sailed to Baltimore.

Nov 22 - Expect to be in Baltimore by tomorrow morning.

Nov 23 - Took the railroad to Elmira. Arrived home at noon. I found Annie had gone to town. I concluded to go there, too. They were very much surprised to see me; I think happily surprised. They were all glad to see me. Lewis Emmons and wife spent the night with us.

Nov 24, 1864 - Today is Thanksgiving. Attended services at the Dutch Church. J.B. Smith preached an excellent sermon.

Attended a Jubilee at the Town Hall in the evening to rejoice over our recent election. Hall well filled. Tables also.

Nov 25, 1864 to December 3, 1864 - Blank.

Dec 4 - Went to church this AM. my wife and her folks stayed at Bible Class. I went up to see Leffler and he made me stay until after dinner. We had roast turkey. My wife and I stayed home tonight and packed up my satchel. Her father gave me $15 in green backs to pay my way back to the front.

Dec 5 - Monday. Left home this AM. for the front. Indel took me to the west lake [Seneca]. We got there 2 hours before the boat was due so Indel left before the boat came.

Dec 6 - Took the cars at Elmira at 5:30 arrived in Baltimore at 11:30 AM. A freight train ran off the track and detained us 4 hours so we had to take the afternoon boat.

Dec 7 - Arrived at camp at 5 PM. and found the boys all well and glad to see me. The Corps had moved 7 miles to the left on the Weldon Railroad close to the Rebel lines. We got orders to pack up and be ready to move but we did not move.

Dec 8 - We are still under marching orders and expect to move in a day or two.

Dec 9 - We were awakened at 4 AM. and ordered to get ready to march at 6 AM. Our Division advanced 4 or 5 miles to the left on the Squad Level (?) Road where the advanced guard met the enemy and skirmishing commenced at once. At dark we took a position and
lay all night. We passed one of the most miserable nights I ever saw. It snowed all night and we lay in the mud and water till daylight.

Dec 10 - Got up this morning and found 2 or 3 inches of snow on my blankets. I had to try several times before I could get up they were so heavy. We returned to our old camp about 4 and found everything in good order except the bottom of our tent was messy. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Dec 11 - Sunday. It has not thawed much and the ground is covered with snow. We had no guard mounting this morning. The officers did not get up in time.

Dec 12 - It froze very hard last night. It has been the coldest day of the season. We have a good stockade and manage to keep comfortable.

Dec 13 - The weather continues cold. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Dec 14 - It has been quite warm today. This afternoon we fixed up our street, put ditches on each side and threw the dirt on the center so the water will run off and keep it dry. John C. Smith was pathmaster.

Dec 15 - A warm pleasant day. They are putting up a scaffold to hang 3 deserters tomorrow a few rods from our quarters. They are to be executed at noon.

Dec 16 - The three deserters were executed at 12 oclock today. The whole Division was drawn up to witness it. Two of them died very hard. Nothing further has transpired today.

Dec 17 - Horton and I drew rations this PM.

Dec 18 - This has been a warm pleasant day. Had Brigade dress parade at 4 PM. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Dec 19 - Had dress parade at 4 PM. Wrote to Annie during the day.

Dec 20 - Very quiet day in camp. We had no dress parade tonight. Frank Rappleye returned tonight. He has been home on a 15-day furlough.

Dec 21 - Woke up at 4 AM. raining very hard and has rained all day. We had no guard mounting this AM.

Dec 22, 1864 - Very cold day. They are working on the scaffold again today. They are to hang three more men tomorrow. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Dec 23 - This has been a very cold day. We could not play for Guard Mounting as the instruments would freeze as soon as they were taken out in the cold. 3 more deserters were executed today at 12 oclock. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Dec 24 - The weather continues cold. We could not play for guard mounting this AM. on account of the cold. Frank Horton and myself went after wood this afternoon. The Col sent down for the Band tonight at midnight to play at Hdqters.

Dec 25 - Today is Christmas and a very nice day it is. We have sufficient butter, pork, coffee and oysters for dinner. Played at Hdqters in the afternoon and at 4:30 PM. had dress
parade after which the Brigade passed in review. I received a letter from Annie tonight.

Dec 26 - Rain today. About 150 Rebel deserters came over last night.

Dec 27 - A fine warm day. We heard this AM. that the Rebels were to commence sharpshooting. A deserter brought the news that they were to shoot every Yankee they saw but have not commenced yet. They will find that two can play this game.

Dec 28 - Wednesday. Had a practice this AM. at 10. but we did not do much as rain chased us off. Rebel deserters continue to come in. It is raining very hard tonight. I received a letter from Annie this afternoon.

Dec 29, 1864 - Thursday. Nothing of importance has transpired today.

Dec 30 - This has been a cold windy day. A deserter out of the 5th New Hampshire was executed today at noon. I received a letter from Annie this morning.

Dec 31, 1864 - Woke up this morning at 4 and found it raining quite hard. We did not play for Guard Mounting. The rain lasted until nearly dark, when it commenced to snow. Tonight the ground is white and the wind blowing a perfect gale. Salisbury and I sit by the fire writing to our loved ones at home. Went to bed about 11 PM. and at 1 AM. were called up to play at Hqtrs for a lot of drunken officers.

So ends the year of 1864.

[John Ryno's Diary for 1865 has not been found. From other sources we know the 3rd Brigade continued in the fight ending up at Appomattox, where the Band had the honor of signalling the official end of hostilities.]

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