Thursday, 22

was down town last night. It is a fine place. weather cold. get orders to lay off camp properly. that is the indications of a "Stay". Our camp is in the Suburbs west of town. rumors that our Div. is to be left to garrison the City. Oh: that it come true!
FRIDAY, 23

Weather moderating a little. Receive orders to prepare for a review tomorrow by Gen. Sherman.

SATURDAY, 24

Our (15th) Corps was reviewed by Maj. Gen. Sherman. We made a good appearance.

SUNDAY, 25

Christmas. Took an oyster dinner at Col. Gage's, 29th St. No. Weather pleasant.
Sunday, January 1, 1865

Are in camp at Savannah, Ga. Have a big New Yrs. Dinner of Turkey stuffed with oysters & oysters fried & stewed & many other things that were nice. have a good time while at Savannah, Ga. remain there untill the 10th Jan. when we move down the Thunder Bolt Road to the landing at Ft. Thunder Bolt. There go into camp preparatory to embarking.
Tuesday, January 10, 1865

Do not fix up regular camp. The most of the Div. Embark for Beaufort, S. C. our Reg. is kep for fatigue duty loading boats. We remain there untill the 16th inst.
Monday, January 16, 1865

Embark on the steamer "Louise" for Beaufort. Have a very pleasant ride. The sea is very calm. very few of the men get seasick. arrive at Beaufort at 5½ F. M. have to march 3 miles to camp. the night very cold. do not get into camp till after dark. have a very nice place to camp. wood scarce. See Adjt. Snow. his wound is entirely well.
Tuesday, January 17, 1865.

Pay the City of Beaufort a visit. It is a very nice place. A great many "Negro School mams" are on duty at Beaufort.

Weather pleasant.

Wednesday, January 18, 1865.

Thursday, January 19, 1865

Still in camp near Beaufort, South Carolina.
Rains all day making it very disagreeable.
Hear the news of the capture of Ft. Fisher by Gen. Terry. What glorious news.
Friday, January 20, 1865

Morning wet & cloudy. no signs of moving. Rains nearly all day. Get the news of Wilmington being in our possession. That’s rather going into the effections of the "Confederacy".

Saturday, January 21, 1865

Sunday, January 22, 1865

Still raining. what awful weather. Have orders to draw five d'ye rations. that's some sign of a move. Are not receiving any mail.

Monday, January 23, 1865

Weather clears up cold. hear of a mail for us. Gen. Sherman arrives in the city. don't know how soon we move.
Tuesday, January 24, 1865

Weather cold & clear. The "Rebs" are playing "sharp" on us. They are cutting the levees & letting the water in on our troops as they advance. I do not know what effect it will have on our movements.
Wednesday, January 25, 1865
Still camped near Beaufort. Weather cold & clear. Received a mail. I got one letter from home.

Thursday, January 26, 1865
Still in camp at Beaufort. Have orders to be ready to move tomorrow at 8 O. C. A. M.
Weather cold.
Friday, January 31, 1865

Move out at 8 A.M. in the direction of Gardners Corners. Move about 15 miles. Go into camp near the Corners. Weather cold. Men marched very fast on account of its being so cold. Can hear some fighting off at a distance. None but our Div. is out from Beaufort yet.

Oakey pg 672 When we trod cheerily into the untrodden land of South Carolina, the foragers began to assume their wonted spirit. We were proud of our foragers. They constituted a picked force from each regiment, under an officer selected for the command, and were remarkable for intelligence, spirit, and daring. Before daylight, mounted on horses captured on the plantations, they were in the saddle and away, covering the country sometimes seven miles in advance. Although I have said "in the saddle," many a forager had nothing better than a bit of carpet and a rope hatler; yet this simplicity of equipment did not abate his power of carrying off hams and sweet-potatoes in the face of the enemy. The foragers were also important as a sort of advance guard, for they formed virtually a curtain of mounted infantry screening us from the inquisitive eyes of parties of Wheeler's cavalry, with whom they did not hesitate to engage when it was a question of a rich plantation.

When compelled to retire, they resorted to all the tricks of infantry skirmishers, and summoned reinforcements of foragers from other regiments to help drive the "Johnny's" out. When success crowned their efforts, the plantation was promptly stripped of live stock and eatables. The natives were accustomed to bury provisions, for they feared their own soldiers quite as much as they feared ours. These subterranean stores were readily discovered by the practiced "Yankee" eye. The appearance of the ground and a little probing with a ramrod or a bayonet soon decided whether to dig. Teams were improvised; carts and vehicles of all sorts were pressed into service and loaded with provisions. If any antiquated militia uniforms were discovered, they were promptly donned, and a comical procession escorted the valuable train of booty to the point where the brigade was expected to bivouac for the night. The regimentals of the past, even to those of revolutionary times, were often conspicuous.
Friday, January 27, 1865

Move out at 8 A.M. in the direction of Gardners Corners. Move about 15 miles. Go into camp near the Corners. Weather cold. Men marched very fast on account of its being so cold. Can hear some fighting off at a distance. None but our Div. is out from Beaufort yet.

At this time General Lee addressed the following letter to the Governor of South Carolina, Columbia.

HIS EXCELLENCY, A. G. MAGRATH, Governor of South Carolina, Columbia. 1

Sir:

I received today your letter of the 16th inst., and regret exceedingly to learn the present condition of affairs in the South. I infer from your letter that you consider me able to send an army to arrest the march of General Sherman. If such was the case I should not have waited for your application, for I lament as much as you do his past success, and see the injury that may result from his further progress. I have no troops except those with this department, within which my operations are confined. According to your statement of General Sherman's force, it would require this whole army to oppose him. It is now confronted by General Grant with a far superior army. If it was transferred to South Carolina, I do not believe General Grant would remain idle on the James River.
Saturday, January 28, 1865


Sunday, January 29, 1865

Weather cold. Part of the 3rd Div. move out to where we are in camp. During the night we receive orders to be ready to move by 6 A.M. tomorrow.

It would be as easy for him to move his army south as for General Sherman to advance north. You can judge whether the condition of affairs would be benefited by a concentration of the two large Federal armies in South Carolina with the rest of the Confederacy stripped of defense. But should Charleston fall into the hands of the enemy, as grievous as would be the blow and as painful the result, I cannot concur in the opinion of your Excellency that our cause would necessarily be lost. Should our whole coast fall in the possession of our enemies, with our people true, firm and united, the war could be continued and our purpose accomplished. As long as our armies are unsubdued and sustained, the Confederacy is safe. I therefore think it bad policy to shut our troops within intrenchments, where they
Monday, January 30, 1865
Move out at 6 A.M. as ordered toward Pocatahoga Station. Pass the station a small place on the Charleston & Savannah R. R. Pass a number of Foster's troops. You ought to have seen them how they looked on "Sherman's" troops with astonishment. They say they would give anything to belong to Sherman's army. They think we are the awfulest set of men ever lived. go into camp at McPhersonville, S. C.

can be besieged with superior forces, and prefer operating in the field. I recommend this course in South Carolina, and advise that every effort be made to prevent General Sherman reaching Charleston by contesting his advance. The last return made by General Hardee of his force which I have seen, gave his entire strength 20,500 of all arms; with 5000 South Carolina militia which he expected, and 1500 Georgia troops under General G. W. Smith, he would have 27,000. This is exclusive of Connor's brigade and Butler's division sent from this army, which ought to swell his force to 33,000. But I think it might be still further increased by a general turnout of all the men in Georgia and South Carolina, and that Sherman could be resisted until General Beauregard could arrive with reinforcements from the West.

I see no cause for depression or despondency, but
Tuesday, January 31, 1865

Remain in camp all day. Have a nice place to camp. Have a fine deserted house for H'd Q'rs. A beautiful pine grove for a camp. Day becomes veary pleasant. The enemy are hovering 'round us. McPhersonville is a kind of a summer's resort for the citizens. Receive orders to be ready to move at 7 A.M.

abundant reason for renewed exertion and unyielding resistance. With great respect, Your Excellency's obedient servant.

R. E. Lee, General."
Wednesday, February 1, 1865

Move at 7 A.M. toward Hickory town P.O. find the road Blockaded by the falling of timber by the Enemy. have some skirmishing pass Hickory town P.O. had quite a skirmish there. Our forces get one man killed & 9th Iowa one man wounded. March about 15 miles & go into camp & put up works. weather dry & pleasant.

Oakley: pg 674 - Our work was incomplete while the Carolinas, except at a few points on the sea-coast, had not felt the rough contact of war. Huhuhuhuh

The beginning of our march in S. C. was pleasant, the weather favorable, and the country productive. Sometimes at the midday halt a stray pig that had cunningly evaded the foragers would venture forth in the belief of having escaped "the cruel war," and would find his error too late. Instantly an armed mob would set upon him, and his piercing shrikes would melt away in the scramble for fresh prok.
Thursday, February 2, 1865

The 2nd Div. go ahead today. We do not get started until 3 P.M. march about 7 miles & camp. are after night getting into camp. We get considerable of forage off the country. Get orders to be ready to move out an Early hour tomorrow morning. during the night it rains.
Friday, February 3, 1865

Move out at 7 A.M. Our Reg. rear guard. Raininig making the roads very heavy & day disagreeable for troops to march. Marched about 13 miles. have very bad roads. are after night getting into camp. Meet with no opposition of any account today. The citizens say the Naps are just drawing us on. That they are getting Sherman's army where they want them.

Oakey pg 675 The sun grew dim, and the rain came and continued. A few of our excellent foragers were reported captured by Wheeler’s cavalry, while we sank deeper and deeper in the mud as we approached the S-- swamp. which lay between us and the Charleston and Augusta railroad.
Move out at 6 A. M. Still raining. Our foragers have a skirmish with the Enemy. March to Beaufort Bridge a distance of about 10 miles where the Enemy had very strong works. Go into camp & proceed to "corderoying" the swamp. At this place it was expected they would give us a hard fight but the 17th Corps having effected a crossing to our right causing them to evacuate in our front get the Bridge finished & orders to move at 7 A. M. tomorrow.

Takey pg 675. The divisions got across by swimming, wading, and floating and effected lodgments in spite of the Enemy's fire. An overwhelming mass of drenched and muddy veterans swept away the enemy, while the rest of our force xxx got the trains and artillery over by corderoying, pontooning, and bridging. It seemed a grand day's work to have accomplished as we xxx sank down that night in our dry bivouac. Wounded sent back, with a strong escort, to Pocotaligo.

We destroyed about 40 miles of the C. and Augusta railroad, and by threatening points beyond the route we intended to take, we deluded the enemy into concentrating at Augusta, and other places, while we marched rapidly away, leaving him well behind, and nothing but Wade Hampton's cavalry, and the more formidable obstacle of the Saluda river and its swamps between us and Columbia, our next objective.
Sunday, February 5, 1866

Morning pleasant. Move out at 7 A.M.
Cross the Swamp & Beaufort Bridge. The Enemy had a very strong position. Cannot see why the left it. Our foragers have some skirmishing. have a couple men wounded. March about 4 miles & go into camp & throw up works. It is said we are 15 miles from the R. R. Arrive in camp about 10 A.M. lay there the balance of the day. got a good rest.

Oakey: pg 673 On an occasion when our brigade - several parties of foragers consolidating themselves, captured a town from the enemy's cavalry, and occupied the neighboring plantations. Before the arrival of the main column hostilities had ceased; order had been restored, and more arrangements were made to receive the army. Our regiment in the advance was confronted by a picket dressed in continental uniform who waved his plumed hat in response to the gibes of the men, and galloped away on his bare akc mule to apprise his comrades of our approach. We marched into town and rested on each side of the main street. Presently a forager, in ancient militia uniform indicating high rank, debouched from a side street to do the honors of the occasion. He was mounted on a raw boned horse with a bit of carpet for a saddle. His old plumed hat in hand, he rode with gracious dignity though the street, as if reviewing the brigade. After him came a family carriage laden with hams, sweet potatoes, and other provisions and drawn by two horses, a mule, and a cow, the two latter ridden by postilions.
Monday, February 6, 1865

Move out at 7 A.M. March on the left hand side of the train. The third Div. is ahead of us. They had some skirmishing. The 10th Iowa charged them & routed them completely. Make a march of about 8 miles & go into camp in the woods. During the night it rains. Have orders to move at 6 A.M. Our Div. will have the lead. We expect some fighting. The Enemy does not seem to be retarding our march any.
Tuesday, February 9, 1865

Move out at 7 A.M. toward Bamburgh, a station on the R.R. Our Div in advance have but very little fighting. enter Bamburgh. It is a very small place. we pass to the North Side of the R.R. about 1 mile & go into camp & put up works. the reserve troops proceed to tear up the R.R.

Have intimations that we will remain a day or two. Rains all day. very bad marching.

By this time the accustomed business of "tearing up the railroads" had become a science. Major General Henry W. Slocum, gives the following detailed instructions:

"Lost the most effectual and expeditious method of destroying railroad tracks should become one of the lost arts, I will here give a few rules for the guidance of officers who may in future be charged with this important duty. It should be remembered that these rules are the result of long experience and close observation.

"A detail of men to do the work should be made on the evening before operations are to commence. The number to be detailed being, of course, dependent upon the amount of work to be done. I estimate that one thousand men can easily destroy about five miles of track per day, and do it thoroughly."
Wednesday, February 8, 1865

Morning clear & cool. Remain all day in camp within 1 mile of Savannah. Send out forage details. get plenty of meat & Potatoes. have good living. Take a ride into the country. see some fine looking ladies. heard them play on the piano. The citizens are wishing peace was declared. They say if it is not declared Soon Sherman will have the whole country destroyed. They say commissioners have gone to make overtures of peace & they think it will be around soon.

"Before going out in the morning the men should be supplied with a good breakfast, for it has been discovered that soldiers are more efficient at this work, as well as on the battle-field, when their stomachs are full than when they are empty. The question as to the food to be given the men for breakfast is not important, but I suggest roast turkeys, chickens, fresh eggs, and coffee for the reason that in an enemy's country such a breakfast will cause no unpleasantness between the commissary and the soldiers, inasmuch as the commissary will only be required to provide the coffee. In fact it has been discovered that an army moving through a hostile but fertile country, having an efficient corps of foragers, requires but few articles of food, such as hard-tack, coffee, salt, pepper, and sugar."
Thursday, February 9, 1865

Move at 7 A. M. A westerly direction. toward Augusta, Ga. along the R. R. go through Blackville. make a march of about 20 miles & tear up a lot of R. R. that is a big day's work.

Have no trouble with the Enemy. Go into camp at Graham's Station. day very cold.

"Your detail should be divided into three sections of about equal numbers. I will suppose the detail to consist of three thousand men. The first thing to be done is to reverse the relative positions of the ties and iron rails, placing the ties up and the rails under them. To do this, Section No. 1, consisting of one thousand men, is distributed along one side of the track, one man at the end of each tie. At a given signal each man seizes a tie, lifts it gently till it assumes a vertical position, and then at another signal pushes it forward so that when it falls the ties will be over the rails. Then each man loosens his tie from the rail.

"This done, Section No. 1 moves forward to another portion of the road, and Section No. 2 advances and is distributed along the portion of the road recently occupied by Section No. 1. The duty of the second section is to collect the ties, place them in piles of about thirty ties each -- place the rails on the top of these piles,
Friday, February 10, 1865

Morning clear & cool. do not move today. Our Brigade is inspected today. part of it tears up R. R. The other Brigades are employed also at tearing up R. R. Gen Sherman says he is in no hurrah that he wants "Sherman's Corkscrew" on every Rail. His H'd Q'rs are near us. Al Denson of this Reg. who was taken prisoner made his escape & returned this evening. they had taken him as far as Orangeville. he exchanged his suit for a Rebel suit.

the center of each rail being over the center of the pile, and then set fire to the ties. Section No. 2 then follows No. 1.

"As soon as the rails are sufficiently heated, Section No. 3 takes the place of No. 2; and upon this devolves the most important duty, viz., the effectual destruction of the rail. This section should be in command of an efficient officer who will see that the work is not slighted. Unless closely watched, soldiers will content themselves with simply bending the rails around trees. This should never be permitted. A rail which is simply bent can easily be restored to its original shape. No rail should be regarded as properly treated till it has assumed the shape of a doughnut; it must not only be bent but twisted."
Saturday, February 11, 1865

Move at 7 A. M. toward "Holem's Bridge" on the South fork of the Edisto River. Cross about 12 O'Clock. We then took a direction N. E. toward Orangeville. Cross 2 mile swamp & camp near Bullfight pond, having marched a distance of about 20 miles & are 15 miles from Holmen's Bridge. Had a great deal of swamp to cross. It was 9½ P. M. when we got into camp. Have good living. get plenty of forage. Rec'd a letter from Ford of Jan 12th '65 also one from Joe Palmer.

"To do the twisting Poe's railroad hooks are necessary, for it has been found that the soldiers will not seize the hot iron bare-handed. This, however, is the only thing looking toward the destruction of peroperty which I ever knew a man in Sherman's army to decline doing. With Poe's hooks a double twist can be given to a rail, which precludes all hope of restoring it to its former shape except by re-rolling."

Having effectually destroyed over sixty miles of railroads in this section, the army started for Columbia, each corps taking a separate road. The difficulties encountered in the swamps were compensated in some measure by "pleanty of forage." And the confident spirit engendered by the march to the sea reached new heights as the men found themselves in the "Heart of the Confederacy". Each regiment, as it entered South Carolina, gave three
Sunday, February 12, 1865

Move out at 7 A.M. toward Orangburgh. The 2nd & 3rd Div. are ahead of us. Their advance has trouble at the River "The north fork" of the Little "Edisto". Our Div. takes another road alongside & get close to the river & camp. In a short time get orders to move out without teams for the purpose of effecting a crossing. We got but a little ways when we were ordered back to camp that the 2nd Div. had effected a crossing. We lay in camp until 12 midnight & then moved across the River & camp within 3/4 of a mile of it.

- cheers. South Carolina, they felt sure, was the state which had done more than all others to bring upon the country a state of war.
Monday, February 13, 1865

Move out at 8½ A. M. north west toward Sandy Run. The fourth Div. in our front.

We pass through a better country - principally pine - can see at a distance a large Turpentines Establishment on fire. They make it from the sap from those pine trees.

Make a march of about 15 miles.
Tuesday, February 14, 1865

Move out at 6 A.M. on a "by road" toward "Sandy Run" P. O. Our Brigade in rear of the train. pass the P. O. & march about 5 miles & camp. have some skirmishing. After getting into camp our Fickets were attacked & part of the [unreadable] taken. we fell in & sent out skirmishers & they soon left & let us rest quietly over night.
Wednesday, February 15, 1865

Move at 7 A.M. find the Enemy soon after
leaving camp & skirmished with them on to
near Congaree Creek where the 7th brought
us to a stand. Our Brigade was sent off
to the left. The 4th Iowa deployed as
skirmishers & crossed the creek above the
Enemy & flanked their position, causing
them to evacuate. We then cross the creek
& 4 Co's of the 25th were sent out & drove
them back until dark. When we go into
camp in sight of Columbia.
Thursday, February 16, 1865

The 25th was sent out as support to a Sec. of Artillery. We moved down close to the River opposite town & threw out skirmishers & commenced shelling the City. The whole Div. then moved down the Enemy still contest our Crossing. In the Evening our Div. moves up the River & cross the Salado River above the fork & our Brig. was detailed to lay a pontoon across Broad River. Worked all night & did not get a crossing until 3 A.M. tomorrow.
Friday, February 17, 1865

Commenced crossing the troops at 3 A. M. the 31st Iowa 1st. after the Brigade all got over we pushed forward & had some fighting but succeeded in driving the Enemy & Capturing the City. The Mayor surrendered the City at 10-15 A. M. & Our Brigade marched in with the old Stars & Stripes floating in the Breeze. during the night the city got on fire by accident & burned a great portion of it. Our Brig. return.
after being relieved we went into camp out of town about a mile & a ¼. nothing of interest going on. the Gen'ls hate it about the towns being burned. Some blame our Brigade for it, but it was the negroes & refugees. the refugees who had come here from Charleston & Savannah, Ga. We released quite a no. of our men who were prisoners.
Sunday, February 10, 1865

Remain in Camp near the city. Go up to see
the ruins of the city. It was nearly all
burnt. That is the main portion of the City.
A great many of the citizens are turned out.
Quite a no. are making preparations to go
with us. We captured quite an amount of
provision & stores of all kinds & a number
of locomotion. Weather fine.
Monday, February 20, 1865

Have orders to be ready to move at any moment.
We move about noon in a North East direction.
Make a march of about 15 miles & go into camp.
have a lot of female refugees to stay with us
over night. They find camp life pretty rough.
One of the Ladies proves to be one who had
assisted in Secreting some of our Prisoners
untill they made their Escape.
Weather fine.

"Every day as we marched on," says Slocum, "we could see, on each side of our line of march crowds of refugees coming to us through roads and across the fields, bringing with them all their earthly goods, and many goods which were not theirs. Horses, mules, cows, dogs, old family carriages, carts, and whatever they thought might be of use to them were seized upon and brought to us. They were allowed to follow in rear of the column, and at times they were almost equal in numbers to the army they were following. As singular, comical, and pitiable a spectacle was never before presented. One day a large family of slaves came through the fields to join us.
The head of the family, a venerable negro, was mounted on a mule, and safely stowed away behind him in pockets or bags attached to the blanket which covered the mule were two little pickaninnies, one on each side. This gave
Tuesday, February 21, 1865
Move at 7 A. M. Wainsboro road. Keep up along the Charlotte & S. C. R. R. pass through a poor country. nothing for our foragers to get. go into camp near Longtown.

Wednesday, February 22, 1865
Washington's birthday. 1 yr. ago we were in Cleveland Tenn. having a good time. today we are on the march.
Make a march of about 15 miles & go into camp near the Wateree river.
Have no trouble in effecting a crossing at Peay's ferry. weather pleasant.

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To a most important invention, i. e. "the best way of transporting pickaninnies."

"On the next day a mule appeared in column, covered by a blanket with two pockets on each side, each containing a little negro. Very soon old tentflies or strong canvas was used instead of the blanket, and often ten or fifteen pockets were attached to each side, so that nothing of the mule was visible except the head, tail, and feet, all else being covered by the black woolly heads and bright shining eyes of the little darkies.

"Occasionally a cow was made to take the place of the mule; this was a decided improvement as the cow furnished rations as well as transportation for the babies."
Thursday, February 23, 1865

Cross the river on the pontoon at an early hour. Our Regt. is detailed as provost guard for the Div. to "gobble" all unauthorized stock passed through Liberty Hill, make a march of about 12 miles. Our Brigade is ordered to camp near Gen. Howard's Hd Q'rs as a guard the balance of the Div. goes 5 miles ahead. Rains during the night making it very muddy. Get plenty to eat off the country. We are camped on Patterson's plantation.

"Old stages, family carriages, carts and lumber wagons filled with bedding, cooking-utensils and "traps" of all kinds, with men, women, and children loaded with bundles, made up the balance of the refugee train which followed in our rear. As all the bridges were burned in front of us our pontoon-trains were in constant use, and the bridges could be left but a short time for the use of the refugees. A scramble for precedence in crossing the bridge always occurred. The firing of a musket or pistol in the rear would bring to the refugees visions of guerrillas, and then came a panic. As our bridges were not supplied with guard rails, occasionally a mule would be crowded off, and with its precious load, would float down the river."
Friday, February 24, 1865

Rains all day. We wait for a pontoon train which we are ordered to guard through the 17th A. C. passes on our left.
Gen. Howard moves on early in the morning.
The pontoon train gets up about 8 P. M.
We get orders to be ready to move at 6 A. M. in the morning.
Saturday, February 25, 1865

Move at 6 A.M. on the Flat Rock road. We pass Flat Rock; it is a very romantic scene. Our direction is a little S.W.

We have considerable trouble clearing the road for the pontoon train. We make a march of 20½ mi. A camp near Gen. Howard again. The Enemy had made a charge on the 3rd Div. Expecting to find the pontoon train but fortunately failed in hitting us.
Sunday, February 26, 1865
Move out in morning at 7 A. M. toward Lynch's Creek. arrived at the Creek about 4 A. M. The rain had raised the Creek. Some of our Div. were captured today. will have to wait untill the Bridge is repar'd -- Tiller's bridge" --

Clears up during the day. quite warm.

Monday, February 27, 1865
Remain in camp today. nothing of interest transpiring.

Tuesday, February 28, 1865
Still camped on the W. Side of the River.
Reg. Mustered today for pay.
Wednesday, March 1, 1865

Sent out foragers to a grist mill to grind some corn. At 4 P.M. move about ½ mile & camped near the creek.

Have a couple Refugees (women) with our Reg. Since we left Columbia. One of them, Mrs. Petree, is in a family way, we are looking for it to come off every day. It is to be adopted as the "child" of the Reg.
Thursday, March 2, 1865

Move out at 7 A.M. cross Lynches's Creek. have a pretty hard time. it is very muddy & bad. move on the driest road to Cheraw. arrive at Black Creek, about 10 miles, have to delay here to get the bridge fixed, during which time the memorable event occured. Our Refugee Mrs. Betres gave birth to a little girl and she called it Iowa in honor of our Reg. That is certainly an Event for History. Cross the Creek & go into camp about 1½ mi. from it. the mother & little girl are reported doing fine.
Friday, March 3, 1865

Move at 6 A.M. our Reg. in advance of the Div. on the direct road to Cheraw. made a march of about 21 miles & camped near where the Enemies works. the 17th A. C. had routed them & they had gone on the other side of the Pee Dee River & there expected to give us fight. Are within 4 mi. of Cheraw. The enemy had evacuated this morning leaving 17 Pieces of Artillery & a great many stand of Arms.

"On the 3rd of March we arrived at Cheraw," says General Slucom. 1 "There we found a large supply of stores sent up from Charleston for safe-keeping. Among the stores was a large quantity of very old wine of the best quality, which had been kept in the cellars of Charleston many years, with no thought on the part of the owners that in its old age it would be drunk from tin cups by Yankee soldiers. Fortunately for the whole army, the wine was discovered by the Seventeenth Corps and fell into the hands of the generous and chivalrous commander of that corps, -- General Frank P. Blair, -- who distributed it with the spirit of liberality and fairness characteristic of him."

1 Page 687.
Friday, March 3, 1865

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Oakley pg 675 - It was not uncommon to hear shots at the head of the column. The foragers would come tumbling back, and ride alongside the regiment, adding to the noisy talk their account of what they had seen, and dividing among their comrades such things as they had managed to bring away in their narrow escape from capture. A staff officer would gallop down the roadside like a man who had forgotten something which must be recovered in a hurry. At the sound of the colonel's ringing voice, silence was instant and mos absolute. Sabers flashed from their scabbards, the men brought their guns to "carry" and the Battalion swung into line at the roadside; cats, fighting-cocks, and frying pans passed to the rear rank; officers and sergeants buzzed round their companies to see that the guns were loaded and the men ready for action. The color-sergeant loosened the water-proof cover of the battle-flag, a battery of artillery flew past on its way to the front, following the returning staff-officer, and we soon heard the familiar bang of shells.

We marched into Cheraw with music and with colors flying. Stacking arms in the main street, we proceeded to supper, while the engineers laid the pontoons across the Pee Dee River. The railing of the Town Pump, and the remains of a buggy, said to belong to Mr. Lincoln's brother-in-law, Dr. Todd, were quickly reduced to kindling wood to boil the coffee.
Saturday, March 4, 1865

Move at 3 P. M. up to Cheraw about 5 miles. go into camp near town. it is a small town. Not so nice as Columbia. found a great many munitions of War. take a visit through the town.

Sunday, March 5, 1865

We lay in camp at Cheraw.

Monday, March 6, 1865

Move out at 6 A. M. down to the River. have to wait a short time during which time there was an explosion killing & wounding about 20 of our men & one or two women & children. it was a terrible explosion. Cross the river on a pontoon & move out about 4 miles & camp.

J. H. Hicks
Tuesday, March 7, 1866

Move out at 7 A. M. toward Fayetteville.

Make a march of about 8 Mi. & go into camp near Snake Creek.

Saw a paper of the 2nd Fayetteville. They still persist in thinking "they have Sherman where they want him" but they are mighty careful not to get in our way very much.
Wednesday, March 9, 1865

Move at an early hour. rained very hard nearly all day. do not get into camp at all had to stop by the way, the train nearly all "stuck in the mud." rained all night. only got a couple of hours sleep.

Cross over into North Carolina. find a richer country.

[Signature]
Thursday, March 9, 1965

Morning dry. have to put the troops to work to help out with the wagons. as soon as they are out we move on. roads very bad. rained very hard. in the afternoon have to make a march of about 10 miles & it raining. roads in a miserable condition. do not get into camp until 1 A. M. on the 10th. That's two nights sleep gone up. We only got an hour & a half of sleep.
Friday, March 10, 1865

Reveille at 3 A.M. but do not get off untill about 8.

Cross Lumber river & go out about 6 miles & camp. pass through some pretty good country. The country generally is better in North Carolina than in S. C.

roads pretty bad. does not rain today.

Oakey pg 677 - A mile from the Lumber River the country, already flooded ankle-deep, was rendered still more inshopitable by a steady downpour of rain. The bridges had been partly destroyed by the enemy, and partly swept away by the flood. An attempt to carry heavy arm wagons and artillery across this dreary lake might have seemed rather foolhardy, but we went to work without loss of time. The engineers were promptly floated out to the river, to direct the rebuilding of bridges, and the woods all along the line of each column soon rang with the noise of axes. Tress quickly became logs, and were brought to the submerged roadway. No matter if logs disappeared in the floating mud; thousands more were coming from all sides. Soon the artillery and wagons were jolting over the wooden causeway.

It was mid night before we saw the last wagon over the bridge by the light of our pine torches. It seemed as if that last wagon was never to bet got over. It came bounding and bumping along, its six mules smoking and blowing in the black misty air. The teamster, mounted on one of the wheelers, guided his team with a single rein and addressed each mule by name, reminding the animal of his faults, and accusing him of having among other perculiarties, "a black military heart." Every sentence of his oath-adorned rhetoric was punctuated with a dexterous whip-lash.
Saturday, March 11, 1865

Move out at an Early hour. Cross a swamp, are then followed by the 3rd Div. Rebs charge into the rear of the 3rd Div. & captured some of them. Have considerable of swampy country. Our Brig. has no work to do today but the other Brigades have a good deal of repairing at the Roads. make a march of about 9 miles. get into camp by 9 P. M. A great many negroes are following us "Striking for freedom."

beautiful day overhead. get the news that the 14th A. C. foragers took Fayetteville this morning.
Sunday, March 12, 1865

Move at 6 A. M. toward Fayetteville. After going about 3 miles the roads are good. Pass through Little Rock Fish Creek, a small village situation on Little Rock fish Creek. A large cotton factory had been there & nearly all the town was filled with factory girls. Our Reg. is guarding train today. The country is very poor. We go into camp within 2 miles of Fayetteville. Weather fine.
Monday, March 13, 1865

Remain in camp all day. Pay the City a visit.
It is a very old fashioned town not near so large as Columbia S. C. The troops do not show a disposition of burning as they did in S. C. There is a detail busy bombarding down the Arsenal buildings. There is a fine stream of very fine water running through the town on which are several Mills. They are all worked by our soldiers making meal & flour.

Oakey pg. 673 At Fayetteville, N. C. the foragers as usual had been over the ground several hours before the head of column arrived, and xxx had found a broken down grist mill. They had the old wheel hoisted into its place and put the mill in working orders. Several parties from other regiments had been admitted as working members, and teams of all sorts were busy collecting and bringing in corn and carrying away meal for distribution. This bit of enterprise was so pleasing to the troops that plenty of volunteers were ready to relieve the different gangs, and the demand was so great as to keep the mill at work all night by the light of pine-knot fires and torches.
Tuesday, March 14, 1865

Move across the river in the afternoon. Get orders to dispose of our refugees. They are to be sent to Wilmington. Also all the negroes. My what a lot of them & what awful looking specimens there are. We will have to dispose of Mrs. Petres & our little "Iowa" (her daughter). All our Div. Supply train is to be sent to Wilmington for supplies & we go for Goldsboro. Rains during the night.

"Three or four days prior to our arrival at Fayetteville," says Slocum, "General Sherman had received information that Wilmington was in possession of General Terry, and had sent two messengers with letters informing Terry when he would probably be at Fayetteville. Both messengers arrived safely at Wilmington, and on Sunday, the day after our arrival at Fayetteville, the shrill whistle of a steamboat floating the Stars and Stripes announced that we were once more in communication with our own friends. As she came up, the banks of the river were lined by our soldiers, who made the welkin ring with their cheers.

"The opening of communication with Wilmington not only brought us our mails and a supply of clothing, but enabled us to send to a place of safety thousands
Wednesday, March 15, 1865

Today is occupied in disposing of Refugees &c. Raining very hard nearly all day. Sent Mrs. Petres & "hers" off by boat. The ballance are loaded into Bugies & wagons & prepared to send them through to the coast. We are all glad to get rid of them. Have an opportunity of sending mail off.

of refugees and contrabands who were following the army and seriously embarassing it. We were dependent upon the country for our supplies of food and forage, and every one not connected with the army was a source of weakness to it.

"On several occasions on the march from Atlanta we had been compelled to drive thousands of colored people back, not from lack of sympathy with them, but simply as a matter of safety to the army. The refugee train following in rear of the army was one of the most singular features of the march. Long before the war, the slaves of the South had a system of communication by which important information was transmitted from one section of the country to another. The advance of Sherman's army through a section never before visited by a Union soldier was known far and wide many miles in advance of us. It was natural that these poor creatures, seeking a place of safety, should flee to the army, and endeavor to keep in sight of it."
Thursday, March 16, 1865

Move out at 7 A. M. still raining. roads very bad.

Our train is very small today. All the Suply train having been sent for suplies. Make a march of about 15 miles crossing south river. Men have to wade the river. it was about 3 feet deep. had to detail two Co's to assist all the wagons across the river. Did not get into camp untill after 9 O'Clock P. M. have a wet field to camp in.

"Having destroyed thoroughly the arsenal buildings machine-shops, and foundries at Fayetteville," says Slocum, "we crossed the Cape Fear River and resumed our march. We were now entering upon the last stage of the great march which was to unite the Army of the West with that of the East in front of Richmond. If this march could be successfully accomplished the Confederacy was doomed. General Sherman did not hope or expect to accomplish it without a struggle. He anticipated an attack and made provision for it. He ordered me to send my baggage-trains under a strong escort by an interior road on my right, and to keep at least four divisions with their artillery on my left, ready for an attack."
Friday, March 17, 1865

Move out at 6 A.M. roads very bad. our progress very slow. have to corduroy the roads principally all the way. Saw a citizen by the wayside. asked him how far to Goldsboro. he said "35 mi. but he didn't reckon we'ans'd have much trouble getin in there as he haddn't hearn the Rebs had vacinated it" (evacuate). day clear over head. roads get better. pass part of the 20th Corps train. they say they were in a big fight. We make a march of about 11 miles.
Saturday, March 10, 1865

Move out at 7 A. M. following the 2nd & 3rd Div’s. Pass through some pretty good country. Forage seems to be plenty. Came across a man who had buried all his children fearing the Yanks would kill them. He said the Rabs told him to do so. Our foragers dug them up. I never saw so ignorant or as seemingly God forsaken people as are in the South. Southern papers seem to think Sherman’s days are numbered.

Make a march of about 12 mi.

Oakley pg 677

As we advanced into the wild pine regions of N. C. the natives seemed wonderfully impressed at seeing every road filled with marching troops, artillery, and wagon trains. They looked destitute enough as they stood in blank amazement gazing upon the "Yanks" marching by. The scene before us was very striking; the resin pits were on fire, and great columns of black smoke rose high into the air, spreading and mingling together in gray clouds, and suggesting the roof and pillars of a vast temple. All traces of habitation were left behind as we marched into that grand forest with its beautiful carpet of pine-needles. The strait trunks of the pine trees shot up to a great height, and then spread out into a green roof that kept us in perpetual shade. As night came on we found that the resinous sap in the cavities cut in the trees to receive it, had been lighted by "bummers" in our advance. The effect of these peculiar watch-fires on every side, several feet above the ground, with flames licking their way up the tall trunks, was peculiarly striking and beautiful. But it was sad to see this wanton destruction of property which, like the firing of the resin pits, was the work of "bummers" who were marauding through the country committing every sort of outrages. There was no restraint except with the column or the regular foraging parties. We had no communications and could have no safeguards. The country was necessarily left to take care of itself, and became a "howling waste." The "coffee-coolers of the Army of the Potomac were archangels compared to our bummers" who often fell to the tender mercies of Wheeler’s cavalry, and were never heard of again, earning a fate richly deserved.
Sunday, March 19, 1865

Move out at 6 A.M. following the 3rd Div. Have some trouble with the roads. have to corduroy the principle part of the Road. hear some very heavy fighting on our left. it is the 14th Corps. it is reported that they are driving the "Jno'es" this way. if so we will get a call. about 2 P.M. a squad of rebs drove in our foragers & attacked the column. They soon fled & we again moved on in peace. Go into camp & put up works within 11 mi. of Goldsboro.

"Hardy was retreating before us," says Slocum, having for his rear-guard a brigade composed of the troops which had garrisoned Charleston, commanded by Colonel Alfred Rhett. Kilpatrick's cavalry was in advance of the left wing, and during the day some of the skirmishers had come suddenly upon Colonel Rhett, accompanied by a few of his men, and had captured him. Rhett before the war had been one of the editors of the Charleston "Mercury," one of the strongest secession papers of the South. He was sent by Kilpatrick to General Sherman. Sherman while stationed in Charleston before the war had been acquainted with Rhett, and not wishing to have him under his immediate charge, he sent him to me. Rhett spent that night in my tent, and as I had also been

1 - page 691
stationed at Fort Moultrie in 1854 and '55, and had often met him, we had a long chat over old times and about common acquaintances in Charleston.

"The following morning Rhett was sent to the rear in charge of the cavalry. He was handsomely dressed in the Confederate uniform, with a pair of high boots beautifully stitched. He was deeply mortified at having been "gobbled up" without a chance to fight.

"One of my staff told me that he saw Rhett a few days later, trudging along under guard, but the beautiful boots were missing, -- a soldier had exchanged a very coarse pair of army shoes for them. Rhett said that in all his troubles he had one consolation, that of knowing that no one of Sherman's men could get on those boots..."

"General Sherman directed me to send a brigade to the left in order to get in rear of the intrenchments, which was done and resulted in the retreat of the enemy and in the capture of Macbeth's Charleston Battery and 217 of Rhett's men. The Confederates were found behind another line of works a short distance in rear of the first, and we went into camp in their immediate front. During the night Hardee retreated, leaving 108 dead for us to bury and 68 wounded..."

"Our march to this point had been toward Raleigh. We now took the road leading to Goldsboro... The resistance to our advance became very stubborn. I believed that
the force in my front consisted only of cavalry with
a few pieces of artillery. Fearing that the firing
would be heard by General Sherman and cause the other
wing of the army to delay its march, I sent Major E.
W. Guindon of my staff to General Sherman to tell
him that I had met a strong force of cavalry, but
that I should not need assistance. Soon after the
bearer of the message had left me, word came from
Carlin that he had developed a strong force of the
enemy in an entrenched position.

"About the same time one of my officers brought
to me an emaciated, sickly appearing young man about
twenty-two years of age, dressed in Confederate gray.
He had expressed great anxiety to see the commanding
officer at once. I asked him what he had to say. He
said he had been in the Union army, had been taken
prisoner, and while sick and in prison had been
induced to enlist in the Confederate service. He
said he had enlisted with the intention of deserting
when a good opportunity presented itself, believing
he should die if he remained in prison. He said he
had formerly enlisted in Syracuse, New York, and had
entered the service at the commencement of the war, in a
company raised by Captain Butler. While I was talking
with him one of my aides, Major William G. Tracy, rode
up and at once recognized the deserter as an old
acquaintance whom he had known at Syracuse before the
war.

"I asked how he knew General Johnston was in command
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1 - page 691
Monday, March 20, 1865

Move out at 7 A.M. Our Div. in the lead. Strike the Fayetteville & Goldsboro road & go west toward the firing we heard yesterday. Soon meet the Enemy & skirmish with them for 3 or 4 mi. where we ran against their works. Opened communication with the 4th Corps & our Regt. was deployed as skirmishers in front of our Brig. & pushed forward & drove the Rebs. out of their front. The Regt. lost 24 men but we held our ground. Were relieved after dark by a detail from the Brigade. Men are tired not having rested since early morn.

and what he knew as to the strength of his force. He said General Johnston rode along the line early that morning and that the officers had told all the men that "Old Joe" had caught one of Sherman's wings beyond the reach of support, that he intended to smash that wing and then go for the other. The man stated that he had had no chance of escaping till that morning, and had come to me to warn me of my danger. He said 'There is a very large force immediately in your front, all under command of General Joe Johnston.'

"A line for defense was at once selected, and as the troops came up they were placed in position and ordered to collect fence-rails and everything else available for barricades. The men used their tin cups and hands as shovels, and needed no urging to induce
Tuesday, March 21, 1865

Looks like rain. advance the line during the day. Our Reg. not engaged today. Brigade drove the Enemy out of their skirmish pits taking some prisoners. They state this is the hardest fighting ever they had & they have been on the Potomac. They fight better than any Rebs we have come across. Day rainy. Seems to be crowding the Jonies all day.

them to work. . .

"The enemy fought bravely, but their line had become somewhat broken in advancing through the woods, and when they came up to our line, posted behind slight intrenchments, they received a fire which compelled them to fall back. The assaults were repeated over and over again until a late hour, each assault finding us better prepared for resistance. During the night Hazen reported to me, and was placed on the right. . .

"On the 21st in the morning the right wing arrived. This wing had marched twenty miles over bad roads, skirmishing most of the way with the enemy. On the 21st General Johnston found Sherman's army united, and in position on three sides of him. On the other was Mill Creek. Our troops were pressed closely to the works of the enemy, and the entire day was spent in skirmishing."
Wednesday, March 22, 1865

Find the Enemy gone from our front.
follow them up to Bentonville. they burned
the Bridges on their retreat. recapture
a great many of our wounded who had been
taken from the 14th Corps. remain there
untill near night & then return to our
former works & camp for the night. get
a good night's sleep. no enemy bother us.

"During the night of the 21st the enemy crossed
Mill Creek and retreated toward Raleigh. The plans
of the enemy to surprise us and destroy our army in
detail were well formed and well executed, and
would have been more successful had not the men of
Sherman's army been veterans, and the equals in courage
and endurance of any soldiers of this or any other
country." H. W. S.

A post-script by Wade Hampton, Lieutenant General,
Confederate States Army, may well be inserted here. "I
"Of course General Johnston's only object in making
this fight," he says, "was to cripple the enemy and
to impede his advance; and I think that... if his
orders had been executed promptly, he would have
inflicted a very heavy, if not an irretrievable,
disaster on the Fourteenth and the Twentieth Corps. .
The infantry forces of General Johnston amounted to
Thursday, March 23, 1865

Move out at 6 A.M. toward falling water church. passed the same ground the Rebs had attacked us on the 19th. Our Reg. holds the post of honor today that is bringing up the rear. The Enemy's Cav. does not bother us any. Our Reg. was left at the church to guard the rear & Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs.

about 14,100 men, and they were composed of three separate commands which had never acted together. These troops, concentrated only recently for the first time, were stationed at and near Smithfield, eighteen miles from the field where the battle was fought, and it was from these points that General Johnston moved them to strike a veteran army numbering about 60,000 men.

"In the last two days of the fight he was confronted by the whole of Sherman's army. It must be remember, too, that General Schofield was in supporting distance of Sherman with 26,000 men. Few soldiers would have adopted the bold measure resorted to by General Johnston and none could have carried it out more skillfully than he did."
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"During the night Hardee retreated, leaving 108 dead for us to bury, and 68 wounded... "Our march to this point had been toward Raleigh. We now took the road leading to Goldsboro. ... The resistance to our advance became very stubborn. I believed that the force in my front consisted only of cavalry with a few pieces of artillery. Fearing that the firing would be heard by General Sherman and cause the other wing of the army to delay its march, I sent
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"I asked how he knew General Johnston was in command and what he knew as to the strength of his force. He said General Johnston rode along the line early that morning and that the officers had told all the men that "Old Joe" had caught one of Sherman's wings beyond the reach of support, that he intended to smash that wing and then go for the other. The man stated that he had had no chance of escaping till that morning, and had come to me to warn me of my danger. He said, 'There is a very large force immediately in your front, all under command of General Joe Johnston.' "

"A line for defense was at once selected, and as the troops came up they were placed in position and ordered to collect fence-rails and everything else available for barricades. The men used their tin cups and hands as shovels, and needed no urging to induce them to work."
Friday, March 24, 1865

Our Div. is detained for a while on account of Gen. Terry reporting a force in his rear. It finally proved a false alarm & we moved on to the River (Muse). Our Brigade is detailed to remain on the W. side until further orders.

Saturday, March 25, 1865

Still remain near the Bridge.
Sunday, March 26, 1865
At 4 P. M. move across up to Goldsboro. go into camp temporarily. During the night receive an order that our Brig. is to guard the Corps suply train to Kinston for supplies a distance of 26 miles. think we will get but little rest during our stay.

Monday, March 27, 1865
Move out in charge of train at 6 A. M. men all get to ride the wagons being empty. March to within 6 miles of Kinston & camp. The Enemy does not trouble us.
Tuesday, March 28, 1965

Morning at 5 A.M. Start into town. The Enemy reported going to attack the train but do not. Commence loading as soon as we get in.

The troops there are all Eastern boys have never been "far from home." take ride up through town. it's a pretty nice little place but nothing to the northern Ville's.
Wednesday, March 29, 1865

Get ready to start back about 11 A.M. boys have fun "raging" those chaps from the coast. They think Sherman's men are hard customers. Move out of town about 15 miles & camp for the night near White Station on the R. R.

Thursday, March 30, 1865

Move out at 6½ A.M. arrive in town at about 2 P.M. go into our regular camp & have to proceed to fixing up camp. Rains nearly all day, but the roads are so dusty that it only helps the run of the wagons.

Friday, March 31, 1865

Still in camp at Goldsboro. Weather pleasant. got lots of mail.
Saturday, April 1, 1865

Weather fine. are awaiting news from the army of the Potomac.

Thursday, April 6, 1865

Still in camp at Goldsboro. receive the news about the fall of Richmond, Va. Said to be official this time. I hope it is.
This day three y're ago the battle of Shiloh was fought. I will always remember that.
Friday, April 7, 1865

Still the news comes pouring in from Grant. Glorious news it is.

We expect to be going for Johnson's forces pretty soon.

Our Brigade was reviewed this P. M. The 29th got the praise for doing the best marching of any.

Saturday, April 8, 1865

Still we are getting flattering news from Grant. Our troops are being well supplied with clothing &c. &c. Our camps fixed up in good shape.
Sunday, April 9, 1865

About 12 O'Clock at night we got orders to move at 5 O'clock A. M. tomorrow.

Monday, April 10, 1865

Move out at 6 A. M. go through town & then go north & south East. Make a march of 16½ miles. have considerable of skirmishing with the Enemy. None of our men hurt. killed one of the "Jnoies" & wounded some. Rains during the night.
Tuesday, April 11, 1865

Move out at 5 A. M. Still raining a little. Change our direction somewhat. move west & north. W. most of the day. have nothing but skirmishing today. go into camp before night in a kind of a swamp.
Wednesday, April 12, 1865

Move out at an early hour on the direct road to Raleigh. Have no trouble with the Enemy today. Go into camp within 5 miles of Raleigh. Receive the news of the Surrender of Lee’s Army to Gen. Grant. Gloriosquashus to us. How the boys do "yell." There are rumors tonight that Johnson is going to "gave" too.

Weather pleasant.
Thursday, April 13, 1965

Move into town in the morning. Passed Gen. Sherman in review as he stood at the State house. We made a pretty good appearance.

We move out N. W. of town about 3 mi. & camp.

So back to visit the city. It is a very pretty city.

Have orders to move at an early hour in the morning.
Friday, April 14, 1865

Part of the troops got on the move when the order is countermanded in consequence of a flag of truce from Johnson wishing terms of capitulation. So the troops go into camp again.

Expecting every hour to hear that Johnson had "caved."

Saturday, April 15, 1865
Still in camp. Negotiations going on.
Weather pleasant.

Sunday, April 16, 1865
Weather fine. still awaiting the Jonnies to come to terms. why the delay we know not but there is little no doubt but that negotiations are being made & that it will terminate all right.
Monday, April 17, 1865

Remain in camp near Raleigh, N. C.
negotiations for the capitulations of
Johnson's army are going on.
Near the sad news of the assassination of
President Lincoln. What a terrible affair.
I fear it will result bad for the South.
Tuesday, April 19, 1865
Receive an order from Gen. Sherman that hostilities had ceased. That in a few days he would be able to conduct us to our homes.

Wednesday, April 20, 1865
Move our camp to about 3 miles N. E. of town & go into camp permanently.

Thursday, April 20, 1865
Nothing new transpiring. have fine weather.
Sunday, April 23, 1865

Monday, April 24, 1865
Gen. Grant arrives today bringing the news that the President would not accept the arrangements made by Sherman & Johnson.

Tuesday, April 25, 1865
Are partially reviewed by Gen. Grant. The boys thought he looked just like he used to about Vicksburgh, Miss.

Wednesday, April 26, 1865
Nothing of importance going on. We are expecting every day to go for Johnson.
Thursday, April 27, 1865

Receive the news of Johnson's surrender. Guns & everything else almost is fired. men nearly all go wild with enthusiasm. they all think the war is over & they can do as they please. The citizens of N. C. seem to be glad too although they express themselves as being well satisfied with the way they are treated by our troops.
Friday, April 22, 1865

Receive orders to march at 7 A. M. tomorrow, to Washington, D. C. via Petersburg & Richmond Va. All foraging is stopped. The general belief is that we are going to W. to be mustered out. Weather is pleasant. Have a brigade drill this P. M. a very good one.
Saturday, April 22, 1865

Move out at 7 A.M. on the Oxford road, cross the Nuese River & go into camp at Rogers X roads about 12 miles from Raleigh.

The day was very pleasant making the march agreeable. Today's papers denounce Sherman for the kind of terms he agreed to with Johnson.
Sunday, April 30, 1865

Remain in camp at Rogers X roads today & muster the Reg. for pay.

Capt. Ritter returns from Leave of Ab.

He says the mass of the People North are down on Sherman. I think they do not understand it at all.
Monday, May 1, 1865

Move out at 5 A.M. our Div. takes a road to itself to the right of the balance of the army. Cross "Tor River" make a march of about 24 miles & camp for the night about 7 miles from Louisburgh. pass through a pretty fine country. See a great many People. they seem glad to see us & to know the war is over. Saw some of N. C.'s "Most beautiful." Go into camp in a pine thicket about 5 o'clock.

Tuesday, May 2, 1865

Move about this morning at 4½ A.M. Pass through a pretty fine country. see some beautiful residences. Our Brigade has the advance. march very fast. It seems as if there were a race on hands. pass Shady grove and go into camp near it. We marched 28 miles. boys are very tired. I think it is pretty hard after Gen's Sherman & Howard saying the march would be easy. Most of our march was on "by roads."

Wednesday, May 3, 1865

Move out at daylight on the road toward Halifax, part of the day & Then leave it on our right. The negroes come from all sec. to see us pass. They are perfectly
wild with Excitement. Some of them do not know what they are doing. Do not march so far today. Send out & buy some butter & Eggs which go nice. Make march of about 22 miles & camp near the Roanoke River.

**Thursday, May 4, 1865**

Have to detaine awhile on the laying of the pontoons. Our Div. does not move until 3 P. M. Cross the River. pass over the Va. line & camp about 12 miles from the River. Saw some of Va's "most beautiful." They seem eager for papers. Gave them a pictorial which delighted them very much. The band played "The Gal we left behind" for their edification. They moved their Little White Handkerchief's at us. Saw some of the "F. R. V's."

**Friday, May 5, 1865**

Move out at 4½ A. M. pass through Lawrenceville. The county seat of Brunswick Co. cross over "Heron" river. have splendid roads. rains a little laying the dust nicely. The troops behave finely. The Citizens think a great deal of Gen. Howard. they think he is conducting the march so well. Make a march of about 26 miles & camp.
Saturday, May 6, 1865
Move out at an early hour. have to go down the River (Notaway) some miles before crossing. Move on and go into camp on Stony River. Marched about 25 miles. fine weather for marching.

Sunday, May 7, 1865
Move at 5 A.M. go on by roads across to the Main pike runing to Petersburgh. arrive in Petersburgh, a distance of 20 miles, about 2½ P. M. Petersburgh is a pretty fine town. I visited it. got a good warm meal & ice cream &c. &c. That is somthing new for any of Sherman's Army.

Monday, May 8, 1865
Lay in camp at Petersburgh today. nothing exciting. The northern papers have let go their hold on Sherman. They now think he's not so "crazy".
I thought they'd have to come to time.

Tuesday, May 9, 1865
Move out at 7 A.M. pass in review through the streets (Gen. Howard reviewed.) troops make a very good appearance. March about 12 miles & camp for the night. that's rather a slim march.
Wednesday, May 10, 1865

Move to within a mile of Manchester, Va.
This is a small town on the opposite side of the James R. from Richmond. go down on a visit to Richmond. it is a beautiful city. a great portion of it, prominent part of it, was burned. was to see the Capitol. Saw the statue of Washington, Henry Mason & Jefferson. the statue of W. is a magnificent thing.

Thursday, May 11, 1865

Remain in camp today. Make another visit. took dinner at the Spotswood house. got a pretty good dinner. visited several other prominent portions of the town. The people seem to be very well reconciled to the Yanks. 20th & 14th Corps pass through on their way to Alexandria. Sherman met us here. he has now gone to Alexandria. Sherman's all right. Rains hard during the night.

Friday, May 12, 1865

Make another visit to town. Things seem to be prospering.
Call on some Ladies. have a good time.
Take dinner at the Spotswood house.
Saturday, May 13, 1865
March at 8 A.M. through Richmond. pass the statue of Gen. Washington. carry arms as we march by. After passing through I return with Dr. Marsh to the best ice cream saloon in town. get some cream & strawberries & cake. Marched north on the plank road. go about 12 miles from town & camp making a march of about 15 Miles. Cross what they called the Chickanawmery.

Sunday, May 14, 1865
Move out at 6 A.M. roads pretty bad. travel in eastwardly direction. pass over the ground on which McClellan fought so much. Make a march of about 6 miles & camp near Hanover Court house. My opinion is from the looks of the ground that they did not do such hard fighting as was represented.

Monday, May 15, 1865
Move out at 8 A.M. pass Hanover Court House. It was built in 1735. Cross the Pamunkey River & the Mattapoin. go through some very fine country. Get the news of the capture of Jeff. Davis. that's glorious news. Some of the citizens like it while others think badly about it, they think we ought to pardon him.