This book was purchased in
Beaufort, S. C. for the sum
D. J. Palmer, 25th Iowa Inft.
Vol. 3d Brig. 1st Div, 15 A. C.
Army of the Tenn.
FROM THE 25TH IOWA INFANTRY

Bridgeport, Ala., Dec. 17, 1863

Mr. Dunham: We arrived at this post -- direct from Chattanooga, on the 6th inst., at which time Col. Palmer informed us that we would remain here a week, and probably longer. The week flew rapidly by, and since its expiration we have been in a state of uncertainty. From what information I can gather through outside sources, there is a probability that we will remain here at least another week. The boys have been making good use of their time, and gone into temporary winter quarters.

Clothing, camp and garrison equipage is being shipped to this point, to thoroughly fit out the entire 15th Army Corps. We have received a complete out fit, and the boys are fully prepared "to brave the Southern wintry blasts, as well as bullets."

As regards our future destination, nothing reliable is known. Some think we will go to Huntsville, Alabama, others to Eastport, Tennessee, while others think nothing. And from what intelligence I can gather through headquarters, in regard to it, I am inclined to co-incide with the latter named persons.

Bridgeport is truly a "tented city", there not being a solitary house in it. The railroad bridge across the Tennessee River, at this point, has been repaired. It is a fine structure.

Provisions and vegetables are very scarce -- in
fact we can get nothing but our spare rations. Butter is selling at 75 cents per lb. and scarce at that.

The health of the regiment is excellent, but few cases of sickness, and those not of a serious character.

The place of Col. Stone, now commanding the 3d Brigade of this Division, is well and satisfactorily filled by Col. Palmer. — He is an able commander and highly esteemed.

The weather for the past few days, has been quite unfavorable. Last night we were visited by a heavy thunder storm. It is now growing colder.

From present indications we begin to think that we will have a very dull Christmas, but we will try and have as merry a one as possible.

Tonight as I am sitting in my "cotton castle," with the bright and cheerful fire — made with rails from some poor Reb's fence — in my rude, but comfortable fireplace, casting its genial warmth throughout the apartment, the brilliant rays from my — ten cent — taper penetrating to the darkest corners of my 'chebang'. My thoughts have been strolling back into the past — flying to the home we left. And, after indulging my fancies to some extent, in drawing comparisons, I have settled down to the conviction "That, notwithstanding, we may be fully provided with all the necessaries of life, surrounded by kind friends and merry comrades, favored by Dame fortune and the occupant of our own domicile, "There's no place like Home, sweet Home."
Although we have a glowing fire to sit before, and the proprietor of a splendid Duck mansion kindly presented to us by our Uncle, and sufficient of "Uncle Samuels Quilts" to protect us from the cold chilly winds of December we miss the loved ones at home.

How little we thought of that home, of its importance, its benefits, comforts and advantages before we went forth into the "tented field" to battle for it and our nation honor, compared with our feelings after a year separation from it. The ties that bounds us then, have by experience been strengthened ten fold Yea, we can now appreciate that home, and that tender loving, patient, prudent mother, that strict, upright, and judicious father, are likewise appreciated.
Camp near Woodville, Ala
Jan 3d 1864

Dear Parents

Again I write. Am well weigh 165 lb. good weight for a boy. Co. A. is doing fine. Geo Currie is well. Alex H. is orderly for Col Stone now. he is well & is well liked. Alex is a find boy & a good Soldier. Capt. Dick is with the Co. looking well. Lt. Young is well in fact all present are well.

Well what kind of a time had you on Christmas & New Y'ra. I had a "gay" time. On Christmas we were marching. Stopped a short time for dinner. during our Dinner Col. Stone & staff rode along. Dismounted & warmed by our fire; partook of our Christmas dinner which consisted of as follows: Biscuit, fried ham (cold) apple butter (canned) & coffee. Oh: what a christmas dinner. May be you think we didn't relish it?

I can ans. "Guess we did." although there wasn't any "Turkey" sticking in our teeth. I didn't state whether or not we were in a house Tent or out of doors. Well I'll tell you a little; so you'll understand how we do on a march.

We get up in the morning at Reveille which sounds when ordered. Get our Breakfast "strike" tents & load & prepare for moving. A haversack - carried by one of the "colored lads" is filled with "Grub" for us at noon. Along about noon the command stops & if cold build fires of rails & call on "Horae" to bring along the "Haversack" & so we partake of what is there-in. after we get through picking our teeth we're offagain.
Well after we'd ate our Christmas dinner we were picking our teeth as aforesaid, when Col. Stone saw some of the boys playing marbles & he proposed that we play a game for who would get the Oysters -- first opertunity -- All agreed to the proposition & the Marbles were procured the persons engaged were Col. Stone, Maj. Perkins, Capt. P (Maj's Brother) Adj't Snow & the "subscriber". It was fun for the boys to see the officers playing marbles. The whole Reg'nt gathered around. It was quite exciting. The "Oysters" fell on Capt. Perkins.

Camped within 5 mi. of Larkins that night. Had for supper "Chicken Pot Pie" (Qr's in a house) Oh! how we enjoyed it. After supper things were cleared off & "violin & darkies" were brought in & had a regular "nigger holiday night." which we all enjoyed greatly. Causing us all to express in actions if not in words; "who wouldn't be a soldier."

Arrived here 29th Dec. 1863 went into camp. began preparing for winter Q'rs. weather clear & cool on 30th it rained 31st & it rained, making things very disagreeable. New Yr's morning cold. ground frozen. I must give you a few items about our "New Yr Dinner."

I didn't tell you where we had this huge dinner. Well we got the use of a citizen's house that was near his table & fireplace & some of his dishes &c. His name is Maples. We invited Col. Stone & Staff. We had a good time. Before eating a nice "milk Punch" was passed
& we drank to the following toast

"The Union of Hearts the union of Hands
And the flag of our union forever."

Mr. Maples family partook with us. It consisted of the Father & Mother. Son & two "Bucksom" young girls. How strange it seemed to be having such a fine dinner in a house & above all to have some of the "fair sex" wait on you. better think we enjoyed it.

Oh! how different this New Yr than last.

If I remember last year we had orders to Storm Meyns Bluff for a breakfast Job as for dinner many of us would not have enjoyed had the order been executed, but we are to be thankful it was countermanded. My dinner last y'r was "Hard Tack" & "Soy Belly" a very scant at that. I never wrote you half of our sufferings during last winter's campaigns. The Officers suffered much worse than the men "those days," for they drew rations & we had to buy ours & no money to buy with. Meals on the boats were 50 & 75 cts a piece. Many a day I went hungry just because I hadn't a $ dol. but I took mighty good care that I didn't get out of money since. Now I'm getting along finely although it costs considerable to live, yet I don't mind that as long as I can be comfortable.

Last New Y'r we were moving round & as the old saying is as "we spend the first day we'll do the whole year." Well I think we carried that out to the letter last y'r. Now see how it'll be this time. we had
orders to go into Winter Q'res & remain 2 or 3 months. Maybe this year we get to rest. I hope so. I think if any troops in the U. S. Service need a little rest it is the 15th A. C. I presume not a corps in the service now has the same history of the 15th A. C.

Other troops may talk as they please about hard times, but let them take the military history of the 15th A. C. & I think it'll compare well. Had every Gen. in the army been as energetic as Gen Sherman; the Rebellion would have been nearer over. A great many do not like Sherman; but I think he is a loyal man & his whole heart is in the cause. although he's hard on his troops he seems to think his men can stand anything (Indeed I believe they can). He has not com'd now of our Corps, he is in command of the Dept. of Tenn. Gen. Jno. A. Logan commands the 15th Corps. I think however it is not bettering our condition much as Gen. Logan has the reputation of being a fighting man.

I understand the 2nd Iowa has all re-enlisted. I Glory in their spunk. I like to see it, as it'll have a great effect on the termination of the War. I rec'd notice that Uncle Wm. was discharged at St. Louis. I'm glad of it. I heard from Alex H. that he was at your house not able to get away on account of the Snow. I haven't had a letter (from home) since mother's that spoke of Aunt Jane & father being gone to St. Louis, that Berry hadn't been heard of. I'm so glad he got discharged
for he had an idea, - I think - that I could get him home if I wanted too. But I tell you its very little influence I could have in getting Gen. Sherman either furlough or discharge.

I presume you've [seen] Lt. Anderson ere this. he got a nice little wound.

I'm glad to tell you I heard from Hugh, he's doing fine & wrote to the Dr. to send him a blank furlough that the Surg. in charge said he'd give him a furlough. I wrote him a letter & gave him a little advice about being in a hurry about getting home. I wish you to write often to him as it will add greatly in passing time away. I'd hate to see him start out too quick & cause a relapse. Make aunt's folks write often whether they get ans. or not. I've encouraged the boys to write often & comfort him. Hugh is such a noble boy.

You've probably seen Bazel Tipton. I hope he'll get recruits enough to fill up Co "A" to 100. I had a talk with Barnhouse a son of old Barnhouse's you'll remember who lived near aunts in Ohio. Yo remember there were two sons of his in the 9th Iowa. He gave me a history of some of the Carroll Co. folks. Henry (son of John Salts given) & Adam (Son of old Henry) both joined the army & died. Mike is still at home. also "little Dave" (my old cronie). Mandy is married & living in Iowa. I rec'd a letter from Anne Palmer. She wrote me a nice letter giving me a history of maters & things.
The Kelly's are Copperheads. She says of all that was enrolled in their township for the draft have got exempted except 5 & there are 8 called for as their proportion, & she says Joe is one of the 5 that did not ask exemption. So I "spose he's a gone Sucker". But Anne says his father will buy him off. Oh! wouldn't I like to be bought for $300. Well poor Joe I think it is not his fault. I wounder at some parents: that they do not think of the feelings of their sons in such a crisis as this.

One of Baxter's Sons (Carrollton) was killed at Ringgold. I think he belonged to the 7th Ohio. Phillip Capper belongs to the 8th Ohio. I might have seen him had I known it in time. I will endeavor to see him. I may find more acquaintances. Let me know all about how Christmas & New Y'rs was spent & how the recruiting & drafting is getting alone.

Any of the draft that you can turn in this direction do so & oblige. You will see Bazel Tipton or Anderson who can tell you all about the 25th & me & any one else.

Write often & tell all the news you can think let me know all about the stock & if Toss is alive & of any account. how my colts are getting along & how financial matters are with you.

I am your affectionate Son
David

Address
Lt. Col Palmer
25th Iowa Vol's 1st Div. 15th A. C. Via Nashville, Tenn.
H'Q'rs 25th Iowa Vol's
Near Woodville, Ala., January 10, '64

Dear Parents:

What's the matter? I haven't had any word for a long time. I'm feeling lonesome. What can this mean? Has every person forgotten that there is a soldier in Uncle Sam's Service that likes to hear from someone whom he feels an interest in? I'd better stop or you'll think I'm getting "homesick."

Am in good spirits. All are complaining of not receiving letters. I think there must be a snow storm on the R. R. some place. Co. A's boys are well & in good spirits. I "apose" I might speak of the Reg't now as I'm commanding it. Well the Regiment is doing fine (with the exception of a few cases of Typhoid fever) I do think it is one of the best Regim'ts in the Service. You may think I'm prejudiced but I'm not. In fact we've less men punished and better discipline than any other in the Div. I believe that if this Regim'nt was given a chance to reinlist as "Veterans" that 4/5th of all present would do it. I had to punish a man the other day. His crime was disobedience of orders. He would not go on guard when detailed and ordered by his Lieut. (Commanding Co.) Well you would hardly guess what he had to do. Well after I'd invested the case, I found him guilty and had a guard ordered who tied a rail across his back & marched him up and down camp all day and part of the night and then called him up and asked him if he thought
he would hereafter obey all lawfull orders of his superior officer, to which he answered, yes! After giving him a moral lecture let him go. You may think I'm rather a small pattern to be issuing such orders, but if you were here a while you'd see that I know how.

Well I've got along fine so far and think I'm capable of getting along as well as any other commander of a Reg'm't in this Brig. I don't wish you to show this letter to any one as they might think I was rather conceaty. I nearly mention this to you, as you will take it as I mean. You know that I never aspired & never tried to go aster than my abilities allowed.

Col. Stone is still com'd'g the Brig. and is well qualified. I like to command the Reg'n better than I did, as I feel more competent.

I think some of applying for a leave of absence if I get my suit soon. I've never got that nice suit yet. Ain't that too bad. I think however I'll get it soon, if so I may come home. I'd like to visit home a short time but have no desire to be at home to stay until this "cruel war is over."

Believe me to be your affectionate and ever sincere son,

David,

My Kind Parents
Washington, Iowa.
Dear Father,

This is the "birthday" of Geo. Washington, "The Father of his Country." I thought I must write a few lines & let you know that his name is not forgotten among the solders of this date. I wrote to you the day after arriving here & told you that I'd write a long one in a day or two giving you a synopsis of our march to this place but alas: again we are under marching orders & know not the minute we'll start. So I can not write much this time. I have had no word from any one since leaving Woodville, Ala. except one from Frank about whom I told you. I believe I'd be glad if I could get time to ans. all my correspondents. I'm somewhat behind, but I'll make that all right when the "war is over."

...I understood from David Boyer that every one thought I was coming home on a "Lieue of Absence." That they all thought it was no trouble for an officer to get home, that he only had to ask. I'd like to inform those folks that it is harder for an officer (in our corps) to get off than for an enlisted man. One half of them will not believe that I expect, but it is nevertheless true.

I'd be mighty glad to go home if I had a "Lieue of Absence" but never intend going untill then.

We get butter & eggs from the citizens. We have pretty good living.
My compliments to every one except the Copperheads.

Write often. A letter from my parents is always read first if I get more than one letter at a time.

Very truly Yours Son,

David

S. R. Palmer,

Address

25th Iowa Vol's
Detachment 15th A. C.
Gen. Mathias Com'd'g
Nashville, Tenn.
H'd Q'rs 25th, Iowa Vol's
Cleveland, Tenn.

Feb. 26th, 1864

Dear Father,

Yours of the 12th inst. is just read. Glad to get a letter at last it being the first mail we have read since we left Woodville. I read several letters...

One from Sam K. Sam is Q. M. Serg't now, his letter was dated Feb. 2nd, 20 Miles above Vicksburgh. They were kind of fooled about being furloughed after reinlisting to bad, ain't it? but then one consolation is that I think they'll not have another three yrs to serve. Jas. Palmer is still at home & says nothing about going to war. I have an idea that there is not a great amount of Palmer blood flowing in his veins. Do you know if any of the Scotts are in the army?

You say "you'd like to have been along with the "Nobl 25th down through Ala. but that you would not liked to have seen them run." but that

"They who fights & runs away
May live to fight another day."

Now I wish to inform you, (if you have heard different) that the "Noble 25th did not run away, neither was it ever known to run only toward the Enemies of its Government. If you took your impression from my letter you took a false impression & if you heard it through any other sources I wish to know the particulars.
H'd Q'rs 25th Iowa Vol's
Cleveland, Tenn.
Feb. 26th 1864

Dear Father,

Yours of the 12th inst. is just rec'd. Glad to get a letter at last it being the first mail we have rec'd since we left Woodville. I rec'd several letters.

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You say "you'd like to have been along with the "Nobl 25th" down through Ala. but that you would not liked to have seen them run." but that

"They who fights & runs away
May live to fight another day."

Now I wish to inform you, (if you have heard different) that the "Noble 25th" did not run away, neither was it ever known to run only toward the Enemies of its Government. If you took your impression from my letter YOU TOOK A FALSE IMPRESSION &
And how you got the impression there were only a few Rebs? about 5000 troops (Inf't & cav'l) in our command. While the Reb's had 12000 Cav'l & mounted Inft & artillery. (this I learned from a spy of Gen. Logans.)

We had not an ambulance or wagon in which to haul a wounded man, if we had had any & besides our orders were not to enter into an engagement.

Now if you call that running I'd like to have a Reg'mt such as my father. wouldn't I? I have written two or three letters since arriving here. The last one I wrote you I told you we had marching orders. We are still under the same orders but getting your letter I thought I would ans. immediately.

We have a chaplain & a very vigilant one too but circumstances interfere very much. this Reg'mt somehow has the "Luck" to be moving a greater portion of their time. There are a great many deserters from the rebel Army coming in every day. All tell about the same story that is the the Confederacy is "Flayed out."

I feel greatly encouraged with the way things are being conducted now. I think the "never to be conquered South" is drawing its last breath. I have great faith in Gen. Sherman. he'll stir up something down among them yet. Gen. Grant goes considerabl on Gen. Sherman too. I believe him to be a true patriot. they call him "Crazy" somtimes but I just wish we had a few more such "crazy" Gen'l's this thing would terminate much sooner.
Our duty is pretty heavy now, we have quite an amount of Picketing to do. There are no troops here now but our detachment & even part of them are gone on an expedition. I heard they had a fight I have not learned the particulars. I wrote to Jennie the other day. I'm glad Hugh has got home. I hope he may entirely recover. Hugh is a noble boy.

I hear that Berry has gone to Penn, to get married how is that? I think he'd better wait till this war is over. "Uncle Sam" may want him before long & then he'd hate to leave his "row". My opinion is that Thomson might keep up the credit of the Palmers by enlisting.

Did Hazel Lipton ever deliver that coat to you? If not please remind him of it for me, he will remember it. . I wish you to appropriate my money to whatever you think best & not put it to interest if you need it to lift any of those notes.

You did never say whether you reed the last I sent. I sent it in the p'ckg sent from Bridgport by Lt. Anderson. I think $150. please let me know. my horse was pretty well run down but is picking up a little. . enclosed you'll please fine my application for "leave of absence" which was returned to me today. I sent it just for a curiosity. you need not return it. just as I expected that Sherman would think I'd better not go. Well all right, you know.

Affectionately,

David.
I rec'd the postage stamps

Gen Matthias is a good Gen'l.

There will be no chance for me now (to get a lave of absence untill after the Spring campaign.

Co. A. is all right.

Write soon & often & good long letters. Speak of everything. it is always interesting.
Woodville, Ala
Mar. 11th, 1864

My Dear Parents:

Again I write it will be a short one this time. It is very late I have been down at Brig. H'd Q's hav'g a little fun. Col Stone is now com'd'g the 2nd Brig. further particulars I'll give in my next.

Alma Alma says she is going to Vicksburgh. She speaks very highly of My Parents. Very glad to hear it.

We are transferred now into another Brig. I rec'd a note from J. Farley. He is at Louden, Tenn. He did not reenlist. Got a letter from Frank he has re-enlisted glory in his spunk.

My compliments to every body.

Yours son

D. J. Palmer

Lt. Col. Gm'd g Reg.

My Parents.

P. S. The above is the way I sign my name to papers when I want to put on stilts.

Dave.
Woodville, Ala
April 23rd, 1864

Dear Parents:

I reg'd mother's letter of the 11th & 12th April. Was glad to hear from you. I am still on the Court martial I think I will soon be done with it now. I hope so at least. I don't like to be trying men for "disobedience of orders" & "Desertion" &c. You know the punishment for such fellows is pretty hard. Lt. Steele arrived to day. He says he passed all those fellows (Recruiting officers) at Louisville, Ky. I supose Tipton will be along with them I am looking for them now every day. Thompson also I supose. Bully for him. I glory in his spunk "think his head is cut square ways of the leather.

Berry J. will think it is "rough marrying" to be taken sick right away, won't he? Co. A. is getting along finely some of them however have the mumps but are getting along pretty well. Geo. Currie is a fine fellow & makes a good soldier, stands it well.

We had a Grand Review day before yesterday, by Gen. Logan. He pronounced our Div. the best he has yet reviewed. He thought the camp of our Reg. was the best in the Div. That's a big thing, aint it? Col. Stone is not yet back. Col. Carakdon of the 9th Iowa Vol's is com'd g our Brig. now. There is some talk of a move again. I don't know what will grow out of it. I still have an idea that the 15th A. C. will get to rest this summer. However, if Gen. Sherman should
get into trouble, I'll bet we'll be called on. He thinks we're "old fight" himself, you know.

I understand Gen. Dodge's Div. is likely to be sent to the front. I think it is time they would do a little they have been having a good time now, ever since we have been out. Let them have a turn, it will "break in" those recruits they have been getting. That will kind of fool the Recruits won't it?

I have not yet rec'd any copies of the "United Presbyterian." We have got a new set of colors for our Reg. Our old one is nearly worn out. Did I ever tell you about the No. of bullet holes there were made in it? Well I have forgotten now, but I think it was 27. The staff was shot into two twice & struck several other times.

I enclosed a splinter of the staff which I wish you to preserve, it was knocked off by a bullet. The color bearer now is a little fellow from Co. "C" named Hinkle. I tell you he is a noble boy, he was a private when he carried them at Ringgold & I made him a corporal for his conduct there. I intend making him a Serg't in a few days, he is such a brave little fellow, he is quit young.

Many compliments to all.

I remain your affectionate son.

D. J. Palmer.

S. R. & M. Palmer,
Washington, Iowa.
I receive postage stamps in every letter.
Acworth, Ga.
June 7th, 1864

My Dear Parents:

Yesterday I received a letter from you dated 24th ult. I was glad to know that you were all well. I also received a letter from Mary Palmer (James's Mary). The reason she wrote was, Joe was in the 100 day's call & asked her to ans. my letter.

I wrote you some 5 days ago, while we were laying in reserve. We were ordered into the front Pitts the next day & that night the Rebs evacuated & moved toward Atlanta. We then pulled up stakes & moved to the R. R. which we found at this place, called Acworth. It is a nice little place. We find a great many of the houses vacated. No inhabitant at all only females & children.

Gen. Hooker is said to be at Maryetta. We are likely to remain here a day or two. I supose to get the wounded sent off on the cars. Some of the boys in Co. "A" got word that Jimmie Palmer joined the 100 day men. How is that?

I wrote you that Jim McKee died of some kind of conjection. Co. "A" boys are getting along well. Those stands it well. I tell you we have had some pretty hard fighting. I can not attempt to tell you any of the particulars at present.

It is coming up a rain & I am writing "out of doors" & I must prepare to quit. We have no tents along & have to take things as they come. Please give me
Capt. Hope's address if you can. I want to write to him & have him keep Henry. I do not want him to come to the 25th... I hope he may get along well & get muster in. I think maybe 100 days will satisfy him.

I would be glad if he would get home safe again. I felt considerable interest in him.

I have not heard from Frank for a long time. I know not where he is. I thank All for her respects, give her mind in return. My compliments to the new "school marm". I had a letter from Belle. She said Uncle Wm. was getting quite well, I am glad to hear it.

Remember me to all the friends.

Very Truly Yours son,

Affectionately.

D. Jas. Palmer

S. R. Palmer

Address: 25th Iowa Inft.
1st Div. 15th A. C.
Near "Big Shanty" Station, Ga.

June 12th, 1864

Dear Parents:

They sent word down from H'd Q'rs a few minutes ago that there was a chance to send letters. So I thought I must write a few lines.

I wrote you on the 8th while at Acworth. I will tell you now what will probably surprise you, that while I was writing my letter on the 8th I stopped to study a while and noticed a small 4 shooter (which belonged to the Serg't Maj.) laying on the desk, which I picked up and commenced examining (as you will be apt to say "fond of curiosities") and by some way accidentally put it off. The ball (a small one) passing through the forefinger and somewhat injuring the upper joint. It will be pretty sore I expect but so far it is doing finly.

I am still on duty with the Reg. and expect to be during the campaigne unless somthing worse than a finger gets wrong.

The enemy are now on "Kinasaw Mountain" fortified and we around the foot of the mountain "bounding" away when we can get a chance. Our Brig. is in reserve to day but will be put in the front this evening. The boys of Co. A. are well. I presume they will all write today as they have a chance.

The cars have caught up with us again, so we need not be without "grub", I suppose. I rec'd a small mail yesterday. I rec'd a letter from Bob Kilgore, he was in
Naches, Miss, and was well. We are about 8 miles from Acworth and 27 miles from Atlanta. That's getting down pretty well into the "Confederacy" Ain't it?

I suppose Lt. Young is at home by this time. Tell him the Co. is all right and give him my compliments.

Tell Cousins Rachel, Jennie and Bell that I owe them all letters but that I cannot write to any one now but my parents and they will please excuse me.

Very truly yours

Son

D. J. Palmer
Near "Big Shanty" Station Ga.
June 14th, '64

Dear Parents:

Again I have an opportunity of sending of a letter. The Enemy are still holding us at bay here. Our Works & theirs are close together. We can see them very readily moving to & fro. There were several deserters come into our lines last night. They report the army in a poor & disheartened condition. A Capt. & two Lt's. & one whole Co. of the 54th Virginia came over last night. They reported that a great many would like to get away.

My hand is doing well.

My respects to all.

Yours truly,

D. J. Palmer.
has no fighting to do. We have been hearing of some fine success on the Potomac. That's what we Western boys like to hear. We think it is time for that Eastern Army to be doing something.

I suppose Henry is home by this time.

Co. A. boys are well. All the neighbor boys are well. My compliments to all & my best wishes for your well-fare. I close. You need not look for so many letters now while we are laying still. I am as ever your Son truly,

D. J. Palmer

To

S. R. Palmer

I have not had a letter for some time.
My Dear Parents:

Three more days & two yrs of our time will have expired. Then the boys will begin to count months.

Well the Maj. has not yet made his appearance but I look for him today if he does come I'll put my application in at once & I am in hopes it will go through. Gen. Logan has gone home, leaving the Corps commanded by Osterhouse & I learned to day that Howard was also going & that would leave Osterhouse in command of the Army of the Tenn. Then it will be his say so whether I go or not & I fear him a little for if there is any sign of a move he will not let me off.

Six of the officers of the Reg. have already gone & about four more that want to go. I intend applying for 30 days if that be granted me I will not ask any more. Young Dr. Marsh you remember he used to be at Keokuk (he is now act. Surg. of our Reg.) He applied the other day & stated as his reasons that he wanted to get married. It caused considerable laughter at the different Head Qr's. I had thought of making that excuse & perhaps it would be more apt to go through, but I'm afraid they might want to hold me to it & I think that would hardly suit me yet awhile.

I had a letter from Al. G. the other day. She seems to be getting along well.

I also had one from Frank. He is still at Brazure City. He's having easy times this summer, that is he
Near Atlanta, Ga.
Nov. 7\textsuperscript{th}, '64

My Dear Parents:

I have just time to write a word. I am in good health. Am about to go on another campaign. I do not know where.

Co. A. boys are well.

We will be paid off soon.

Cook got back the other day looking well. King is not back here yet.

I will write every opportunity.

Yours, &c.

D. J. Palmer

To S. R. Palmer.
My Dear Father & Mother

Another Rebell city "gone up". The enemy evacuated on the night of the 20th & the morning of the 21st. We marched in & occupied. My Dear Parents! Many a life probably was saved by their evacuation, for we were making preparations to assault their works on the 21st. & no doubt many of us would have fallen in the charge, but we would have shaurly been victorious, for their works were none of the best & we would certainly have taken them. This is one of the finest Cities we have seen in the South. It is a beautiful place. A great many citizens are in it & I understand a great many Refugees who had come here for safty, "but Lo! the "Yankys came hither too." I had a letter written on the 20th to send you but I tore it up. I though I must wait and tell you about the city. We are looking for a mail again. I will mail this first opertunity. The news is very encouraging from every point. I think the war must close ere long. I will write you more particulars again.

My compliments to all

Yours truly

Dave Jas. Palmer
25th Iowa Inf. Vol
1st Div. 15th A. C.
Army of the Tenn.
To Sam'l Robt. Palmer,
Washington, Iowa.
December 24th, '64 5 o'clock P.M.

I have an opportunity of mailing this now. We have just come off a big review by Gen. Sherman. Tomorrow is Christmas. We are going to have a turkey tonight -- Christmas Eve. I think we move soon, perhaps for Charleston. Remember me to all.

I am Your Son

truly

David.
Savannah, Ga.

Dec. 29th, 1864

My dear Parents:

I take pleasure in writing you another letter hoping it may find you as it leaves me enjoying the holidays to the utmost. I have good health.

I had a dinner today of fresh Oysters. Oh! but didn't they go good. I fell so full now I can hardly write. We sent a couple men with a team down to the coast yesterday & got about 8 bushels & we are having a good time. We have a cow now & have milk for our coffee. We also have mush and milk for supper now & then. That you may bet goes good.

There is a prospect of our remaining here some time. If so we'll enjoy ourselves highly. We have not had a mail for some time. I have an opportunity of sending this by a man going on furlough. I think it will go more direct.

There are a great No. of citizens here & a heap of produce. It is said there is enough cotton here to bear the expenses of the government for 2 or 3 days. That is a big thing.

The news is good about the Rebell forces under Gen. Hood, also from all other sources. I think the "confederacy" will have to give up.

We are very busy now fixing camp & drilling. We were reviewed the other day by Gen. Sherman.
Savannah, Ga.
Dec. 29th, 1864

My dear Parents:

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The news is good about the Rebell forces under Gen. Hood, also from all other sources. I think the "confederacy" will have to give up.

We are very busy now fixing camp & drilling. We were reviewed the other day by Gen. Sherman.
Col. Stone took command of the Brigade today.

I do not know how long it will last.

Co. "A" boys are well...

I sent some money by express in the package that Co. A. sent. Call at the bank & you can get it.

I must close my compliments to all, and believe me

Truly your son,

David

To S. R. Palmer
My Dear Parents:

I am not writing very often now, Am I? Well excuse me, this is a great place to wile away time. I have had more fun & enjoyment since being here than any other place since I have been in the army. Lots of good things to eat such as oysters, clams, crabs &c. I expect you think those are great things for a white man to live on, but I think it is "gay & festive" living.

I am thinking long for a letter from home & many other places too. "What can the matter be."

I guess I am elected for my full term without a "leave of absence". Well Dear Parents, I would love to be with you but I live in hopes of having that pleasure some time.

We had another review yesterday by Gen. Woods (just our Brigade alone Col. Stone Com'd'g. Our Reg. (or I might say My Reg. now) rather laid the ballance in the shade, on good marching, general apperance & soldierly bearing. Gen Woods made a minute inspection of Arms & accoutrements and he gave the Reg. the praise in the whole Div. & more than all he said Co. "A" was the best Co. he had inspected. Says he "There is not a dirty gun in it." Now you see my praises heretofore were not amiss. I tell you it maid Co "A" feel mighty good. That was a big thing for to have the General say they were the best. The boys are all in good health. We are to have another review tomorrow by Gen. Howard who commands the army Tenn.
Gen. Osterhaus is still com'dg the corps. I have a chance of sending this up by the Adjt. of the Ninth Iowa who is mustered out. He will take it safe to New York & that will be a good lift. I had a letter from Mag. Farley a short time ago. Jimmie H. is well & a fine little soldier he is. Oh! I think so much of that Co. I can scarcely say enough about it & I expect you think so sometimes. Capt. Young & Leiut. Anderson are well.

I had a letter from Al. Glasgow since communication opened. She seems to be enjoying herself hugely, among the Contrabands". I expect that just suits her.

I guess we will soon leave here. The 17th Corps has been moving for several days.

There are very heavy works being put up around the city. There are 7000 men detailed daily out of our Corps for fatigue duty, to put up those works.

I expect we'll have to go & help Buttler out of his muss now. That old "Squint Eyed Stick in the mud." That is speaking disraspectful of my superior officer somewhat but I can't help it & I think you will not circulate it on me. Sherman says, "If he had a Div. Commander in his army that would have acted as Buttler did he would have dismissed him from the Service."

Oh! that was too bad to loose such a "golden opertunity". I tell you "crazy Sherman" is my man. Buttler sent to Sherman for reinforcements to take Wilmington & Sherman answered him that when he (Sherman) wanted that place he would go & take it.
I must tell you a little anecdote about him since coming to this city. One day shortly after our occupying the city, a man (citizen) I suppose probably a Minister came to Sherman & asked if he might have divine services in the city on the next Sunday? Certainly says the Gen. he then wished to know if there would be any objections to using their old prayer which had in it a petition for President Davis. No! says the Gen. "Jeff Davis & the Devil need all the prayers they can possibly get." And the old gentleman went of satisfied with his conversation with the Gen.

Many others of similar character I might tell you but I expect you see them all in the papers & more too.

Col. Stone is now com'd'g the Brigade & Major Perkins is on Gen. Woods staff. So you see I am all alone with the old 25th. I think it is going to be a permanent thing now for the Col. as Col. Williamson is gone to Washington City to be mustered out & that leaves Stone the ranking Col. in this Brigade.

This is one of the finest cities I was ever in. Such fine "schrubbery" of every nature & very fine buildings. I can not get my photograph taken here. I wish I could get one taken now I think you would hardly know me I am fat & hearty. I never felt better in my life & never enjoyed myself any better since I have been in the army than since I have been here. This is the finest part of the Southern Confederacy we have been in yet.
But dear me! The country through the state of Ga. is nothing to compare with the north. I tell you we laid a lot of it waist as we came along. I must tell you another story, it happened while we were after Hood up toward Chattanooga.

One of our Soldiers had foraged on a sack of potatoes at a house where there was a woman (Sesesh of course) living & she stole the sack of potatoes from the soldier while he was looking around for something else & ran into the house & emptied them out & hid the sack. The Soldier soon discovered his potatoes were missing & came to look, saw his potatoes but no sack. He wanted the lady to give him the sack but she talked saucy to him & would not & he became a little enraged & he just caught hold of her threw her down & tore off her petticoat & tied up one end and filled his potatoes in it & left.

I think I have written enough nonsense & I will close hoping this may find you both well.

Very truly yours

David.
Beaufort, S. C.

Jan 19th, 1865

Dearest Parents:

I rec'd yours of Jan 2nd a few days ago. Was truly glad to hear from you & to know that you were well & had rec'd my letter. I have written several that I suppose you have ear this.

Why Mother! I am astonished at you! What in the world can you be thinking about in asking me to resign at the present time. I could not think of anything of the kind. Why can you ask me to leave those boys whom I brought into the service. That I could not do.

Nothing would afford me as much pleasure as to see my Dear Parents, but I do not think it would be right to resign in order to do so.

As soon as the present campaign is over I will endeavor to go home on a "leave of absence."

Horace is not with me now. I have another whose name is George. He is a good boy, better than Horace.

Bully for Lee Richey. He is entitled to a wife.

He has served his country long enough.

There are some very fine looking "She Rebell" in Savannah, Ga. There are nothing of that kind in this city except "School Marms" (nigger). I have not made the acquaintance of any of them yet.

Co. A. Boys are well. Geo Currie joined us a few days ago. He looks pretty well.
It is raining & the tent leaks & I must close.

I remain as ever

Truly yours,

D. Jas. Palmer
1st Div. 15th A. C.
via New York.

To S. R. P. & M. Palmer.
Washington, Iowa.
Beaufort, S. C.
Jan 21st. 1865

Dear Parents:

There is a probability of our moving tomorrow & I thought I'd just write a few lines to night for fear I might not have an opportunity for some time. I wrote you the other day & sent it by a man of the Reg. who was going home on furlough. You will get it soon I think. I have been down to the city of Beaufort several times. It is quite a thriving little place. It is run principally by contraband. This is an island called "Port Royal". It is worked by colored people. The 17th Army Corps has gone out ahead I heard they had a fight out there yesterday & drove the Rebs.

Co. "A" boys are well. Cal has not made his appearance yet. I'd like to see him very well. Capt. Young & Lt. Anderson are well. The Co. was complimented in Gen. Orders at last Monthly inspection for their appearance & the manner in which they kept their arms.

We are living well now. We get plenty to eat of everything. Just think of having fresh oysters until we are almost tired of them. We have them every meal both raw, stewed & fried, with all the necessary "seasoning".

Well we've got the good news again of Wilmington's being in our possession. Thats going into the effections of the Confederacy pretty well ain't it? We also got the news that one of our vessels had been lost, containing over 260 lives 4 only of whom were saved. I have not
learned the particulars I fear some of our soldiers might have been on it. I hope none of our Reg. were on her.

I should have been glad to have been at home a short time this winter while sleiging was good. I think I could have taking a little of the "singer" out of those "hosses" for father. How are they getting along any how. Can't they make a sleigh "spin"?

I will be glad to hear of Jennie's getting a school. If I get home before it is out I will certainly pay her a visit. How is "Master Jim" getting along? Give him my compliments and tell him to keep "them big gala straight." If they are boisterous just squeeze 'em, that's all they want.

My best respects to Henry. Tell him be a good boy & learn fast. I think he is learning to write & compose very fast.

What kind of weather have you been having this winter? The weather here for the past few days has been very stormy & wet making it rather disagreeable. It is pretty cool tonight & I have no fire in my "cotton Chebang," so I think I will close hoping this may find you flourishing.

With respects to all I remain.

Truly Yours Son.

Dave. Jas Palmer
25th Iowa Inf. Vol.
1st Div. 15th A. C.
Via New York.

P. S. I still keep getting the stamps you send. I thank your for them.
Goldsboro, Md.

Mar. 30th 1865

My Dear Parents:

I have an opportunity of sending this by an officer who is going up. I will but have time to write a little just enough to let you know where & how I am.

I just got back today with my Reg. from Kinston. We were down in charge of the Corps supply train. We had a pretty good time. On our return I found 9 letters waiting me. I have not read them all yet. I will attend to them after a little. In the mail, also, I read a lot of Photos I had taken at Beaufort, S. C., one of which I enclose. It is the opinion of everyone that I look rather surly. I am a little of that opinion myself. It was a pretty cold day & I had to wait my turn for a while & I remember I felt a little surly at time. It may be that is the cause. I will not attempt to get a "Leave" this time, as I understand we will "strake out" on another campaign pretty soon & I would hate to be absent during a campaign & besides I am the only field officer now with the Reg. & it would be difficult for me to get away under those circumstances. I guess I can finish my time out any how. I believe I wrote you about Moses Demarc of Co. A losing a leg in the fight at Bentonville. Geo. Currie was also wounded. Last account they were doing well. The Reg. lost pretty heavy, 24 in all. Horton of Co. I who was substitute for Seber was killed. That is too bad aint it? The Captain is waiting & I must close.
My compliments to every one who enquires.
I am as ever,

Yours, D. J. Palmer

To
My Parents
(Slip enclosed.)
Ref: of S. R. Palmer the sum of One Hundred ($100)
Dollars.
Goldsboro, N. C.
April 7th, 1865

My Dear Parents:

I have not written you for some time. We have been so busy making camp &c. &c. I have just been up to see the wounded boys. Moses Memarce is doing fine. Geo. Curri has been sent off some days ago. He was getting along well.

I have been receiving quite a lot of mail for a while back. Mail came in by the bushels when we arrived here.

Co. A. boys are well. Cal Kilgore is with us now. He had sent those socks from Nashville by David Quinn & He was taken prisoner. So the socks "went up".

Please send me another pr. I think the best way is by mail.

Glorious news. We are now hearing from Richmond. I think they may give credit to Sherman for hastening the evacuation of Richmond. Although I suppose the Potomac fellows will not think so. Well all right if they do the fighting. I am willing they should have the glory, but one thing is certain had Lee not got out the time he did, we would have been after him. The order was to be ready by the 10th for a campaign, and every one was under the impression we were going to Richmond or as near there as we could get. I have an idea they'll find different fighting if they retreat down this way. It would be fun for our boys to have Lee's army "try us on" here.
I expect this news will change the programme of our coming campaign. I expect if Lee goes to come toward Raleigh that Sherman will "go for him." If so we'll be apt to have some hard fighting yet. I presume the confederate army will now try to occupy Ga. They can have Atlanta now, but I think they'll find it a little out of order. The same way with Columbia, S. C. I think they'd better give the thing up. In my opinion they're about "played."

There are large bets being made now regarding the closing of the war. It is generally thought we will not more than get to serve our time out anyhow.

I am sorry you do not like Capt. Dick. I think you must be hard on him. I have made some inquiry about how he was liked & they said well. Now perhaps Henry tell[ed] too much at home. You know how mean that is, at least you know my opinion about it.

We had a review today. It passed off very well.

There is a talk that Gen. Howard is to be taken away from us & put in com'd of the 14th & 20th Corps. If that be so I expect Gen Logan will command the Army Tenn. That will suit us well. Both officers & men think a great deal of Gen. Jno A. I do not know who will then command our corps.

It is getting late and I will close hoping this may find you well.

I am truly your son,

Dave.
Raleigh, N. C.
April 19th, 1865

My Dear Parents:

I have just read your of the 29th of March. Was glad to hear from "sweet home" once more & to know you had got my letter from Fayetteville.

I have written a time or two since that & have read several letters from you since. Last night was the first mail we got since we left Goldsboro. We have been here at this place since the 14th on suspense awaiting Johnson's surrender. I am informed that he has done so.

Oh! what good news! for us, at any rate. How rejoiced we were to hear of the capture of Lee's Army. We had marching orders from here on the morning of the 15th & even part of the troop were on the move when orders were countermanded, and that Johnson had sent in a flag of truce wanting to know on what terms he could capitulate & so negotiations have been going on ever since. It seems that Gen. Hampton was not in favor of surrendering his horses & tried to make them out as private stock, but Sherman "Couldn't See it." So this morning I learn that he (Johnson) has "caved". "bully for him!" I say.

It is the idea of many that it will not be long until we are all at home but my opinion is that we that is the troop of the "62 Call" will all serve out their time, as there will be troops needed to garrison this Southern Confederacy for two or three months anyhow after peace is declared. So you see I
think we will get that job, as the regular army is not sufficiently strong. I have understood that the regular Army was to be increased to 100,000 white troops & all the colored that could be organized if that be true we will have a pretty formidable army.

The other day we read the said news of the assassination of the chief Magistrate of our glorious republic. What a terrible state of affairs. I can hardly realize that it be true, yet I suppose it is. Well it is a sad affair yet I think it will not affect the progress of the war; if anything I think it will bring it to a close sooner, for I believe that a great many of the influential men in the South will make that an excuse to come back.

I sent my photo in a letter from Goldsboro. It was a poor one. I expect you'll not know any it. As soon as we are regularly in camp I will write again.

I am yours &c.

D. J. Palmer

25th Iowa Inft.
Near Manchester, Va.
May 12th, 1865

My Dear Parents:

I embrace another opportunity of writing you a short letter. We expect to move from here tomorrow are going to Alexandria. There they say to be mustered out but I think not soon.

We made a very quick march from Raleigh to Petersburg. You will see accounts of it in the papers. We arrived in Petersburg last Sabbath lay there over Monday. It is a "right smart place". It was not much destroyed by our troops. I think from what I can observe there has been no harder fighting here than was done by Sherman's Army. The great trouble was the Western correspondence did not know how to tell it. We are now encamped within a mile of Manchester, Va. This is a small town on the opposite side of the James River from Richmond. I was over to visit Richmond & it is a real nice city. A good portion of the main public buildings were burned when they evacuated.

Saw the Statues of Washington, Henry, Mason & Jefferson, also Henry Clay. They were in the square. The statue of Washington is truly a magnificent thing. He is mounted on a fine large horse facing south. The Capitol building is not much of a place. The confed. states might have afforded better.

We expect to March through tomorrow. The citizens seem to be reconciled very much to the Yanks.
This letter you will notice is written in "doble quick time." I expect you can hardly read it but I want to ride down town yet tonight & see the "fashions" as father would say. I'd like to give you a lecture in favor of Sherman but I have not time. I am happy to see by the papers however he is coming out all right. Those who can not speak favorably of him do not speak at all.

I hope to be home before long & can then talk to you & tell you all the little "nancy goats" that has happened on our different campaigns &c &c.

I have not read a letter from you since I left Raleigh. I read one letter in yesterday's mail.

I learned the 8th Iowa was in a severe engagement down near Mobile but what the casualties were I could not learn.

My compliments to all the folks, and believe me As ever

Yours truly,

D. J. Palmer

To S. R. Palmer & Margret Palmer,

Washington, Iowa.