DIARY OF CAPTAIN HUGH BLACK,  
6th FLORIDA INFANTRY (CONFEDERATE)  

...We left Riccoes Bluff, June 12th and arrived at Columbus, Georgia on the 16th at 3 oclock PM. We remained on board of the boat until the morning of the 17th when we took the cars for Chattanooga Tennessee arriving there on the night of the 18th at 10 oclock. Early on the morning of the 20th we were ordered to cook rations for two days; this occupied the 19th and early on the morning of the 20th we left Chattanooga, for Shell Mound where it was reported the enemy to be concentrating a large force for the purpose of crossing the river and making an attack upon Chattanooga; and arrived at Shell Mound late on the morning of the 20th and went into camps for the night. The distance from Chattanooga to Shell Mound is twenty on (sic) miles, and the length of time occupied in going from Chattanooga was caused by the cars running off the track at two different times. The first car that ran off slightly injured one man; the next that ran off was the car that I was in but fortunately did no harm. Late in the night of the 20th we received orders to be up and in line at daylight next morning, for the purpose of crossing the Tennessee river and attacking the enemy at Bridgeport on the 21st. The order was promptly obeyed and at daylight all were in lines and ready for the March. At daylight the pickets (sic) commenced firing and the enemy commenced retreating. Our Regiment remained in lines until 10 oclock a.m. when we were ordered to break ranks and enter camps for the night. The cause of this was an order from General Smith, ordering us back to Chattanooga and from there to Knoxville. Early on the morning of the 22nd we left Shell Mound and arrived at Chattanooga at 12 oclock M. and remained at Chattanooga until late on the evening of the 23rd when we embarked on board the cars for Knoxville, and arrived at Knoxville early on the morning of the 24th. We remained here doing Guard Duty until August 14th when we received orders to take up our line of march for Clinton a distance of eighteen miles. At 12 oclock on the morning of the 14th of August our Regiment took up their line of march for Clinton arriving there at 4 oclock p.m. on the same day. Immediately after our arrival at Clinton we were ordered to prepare three days rations for the purpose of marching to Big Creek Gap a distance of nineteen miles. This order began to arouse our curiosity for we had thought that we would not be sent any further than Clinton. Our rations were cooked and on the morning of the 15th we took up our line of March for Big Creek Gap; arriving there at 4 oclock on the evening of the 16th. Upon our arrival at the Gap we were informed that the mass of our army had passed and were passing through the Gap, and were going into Kentucky, whereupon we were ordered to cook rations and be ready for taking up our line of
March at dark; rations were cooked and we remained in camps awaiting marching orders until 10 o'clock that night when we were informed by our Colonel that we might sleep until morning which information was very agreeable to us as we were much fatigued and in great need of sleep, we therefore spread our blankets and slept very comfortable until next morning. Morning came and we remained in camps awaiting orders until 6 o'clock on the evening of the 17th when we were ordered to take up our line of march for the purpose of crossing the Mountain that night. Our columns were put in motion and at dark we commenced ascending the Mountains and at Midnight we had crossed over the mountains and reached the valley on the opposite side of the Mountains where we were ordered to encamp and assist the wagons across the Mountains. We remained at this Encampment from the 17th to the 21st when we were ordered to take up our line of march for Boston Kentucky, where we arrived on the 22nd and encamped for the night. The forces who had gone in advance of our lines had a small skirmish with a squad of Union men, killing and wounding the most of their number and taking the rest prisoner. On the morning of the 23rd we took up our line of march for Barbourville Kentucky, arriving there on the evening of the 24th.

Our rations had been pretty scarce during our stay in the Mountains and had to be cooked upon Rocks, ramrods and sticks—we thought that hard, but upon our arrival at Barbourville we were informed that we could get nothing to eat here but Green corn and beef and not much of that, but our forces had succeeded in capturing a large amount of coffee and sugar which added a great deal to our comfort. Early on the morning of the 25th we were ordered to take up our line of march for Williamsburg a small town that we had left to our left on the Rout from Boston to Barbourville, and we retraced our steps for thirteen miles and turned to our right on the Williamsburg road. It was reported in Barbourville that there was two Regiments of Yankee Soldiers Stationed at Williamsburg and the 6th and 7th Florida Regts. and one piece of the "Marion Artillery" were sent to attack them. Late on the evening of the 26th we were in gun shot of Williamsburg. Consequently our Brigade was formed in line of battle and ordered to march into the Town which was done in a brave and spirited manner, but there was to our surprise no Yankees found there except a few stragglers that had been cut off from their commands and were taken prisoner by our Regiment. After the charge was over we retired a short distance from Town and Encamped for the night. We got whiskey and everything that we could wish to make us comfortable and consequently we had a considerable jollification. We rested here in quietness until late on the evening of the 27th when our peace was disturbed by the appearance of small bodies of soldiers on the opposite bank of the river, when we were called to arms and our artillery were soon
sending destruction into their ranks. The Enemy refused to reply to our firing and commenced retreating. Consequently we returned to our camp where we remained until early on the Morning of the 28th when we took up our line of March for Loudon, upon reaching the State road leading from Lexington to Cumberland Gap, we were informed that our forces who were in advance were awaiting for the reinforcements for the purpose of attacking the enemy near Richmond Kentucky, and we were immediately ordered to March in quick time to the scene of action. We arrived at Loudon late on the night of the 29th, tired and hungry, and received there for our rations four ounces of beef and one biscuit; this treatment began to get our boys but they were soon folded in the arms of Morphius. Early on the morning of the 30th we set out with the expectation of reaching Rock Castle river a distance of fourteen miles, that day; but alas! the silence of the heavens were soon broken by the loud and continued roar of cannon in the direction of Richmond Ky, which foretold to the war-worn soldiers that there was hard fighting ahead. This seemed to animate our boys with a renewed spirit and all went on finely during the day. At sunset we arrived at Rock Castle river, and received orders to have rations cooked and be ready to march again at 11 o'clock that night. This was an unpleasant order to us as we had been deprived of a great deal of sleep and was tired down. The distance from Rock Castle river to the battle ground and we had orders to be there at sunrise on the next morning. At 11 o'clock we took up our line of march for the scene of action and marched until daylight the next morning when we were within a short distance of the battle ground of the previous day (Saturday, Aug. 31). At daylight we were permitted to sleep for one hour, at the expiration of which time information was received that our forces had gained a decisive victory over the enemy. This news prolonged our rest for a while longer, when we were again put in motion and marched to a small stream near where we encamped on the night of August 31st. On Monday Morning September 1st we took up our line of march for Richmond Kentucky, where the prisoners and armaments that were captured on Saturday were kept, and arrived at Richmond late Monday evening. In going to Richmond we passed over the well fought battle field of August 30th; the ground was strewn with the dead and dying soldiers--some were being buried--others were [dying? ] others with their legs and arms being cut off. Their sufferings were great but they received every attention that could be given to them by the kind and generous citizens of the surrounding country. The citizens were both willing and able to minister to their wants. Every church in the Town and surrounding country were converted into Military Hospitals, and in every hospital that could be established there was piles of arms and legs as high as the tables. Upon our arrival at Richmond, our Brass Band commenced playing "Dixie" and the
citizens greeted us with loud and continued applause for the rebel soldiers and southern Confederacy. The number of prisoners taken in this fight was five thousand and forty-three together with ten thousand stand of small arms, nine pieces of Artillery and a large amount of munitions war. The citizens were exceedingly kind to our soldiers, both sick and well, giving them every luxury that the country could afford. Our camps were visited by the Ladies both old and young, rich and poor, bring (sic) with them everything they could spare and inviting the soldiers to visit them at home and receive their hospitabilities at home. We remained at Richmond from the first until the 4th of September, when we took up our line of march for Lexington arriving at Lexington September 6th. Upon our arrival in the city the streets were crowded with men, women and children to greet our coming. We were received amidst loud and continued applause, waving (sic) of handkerchiefs, throwing up of hats, hurrahs for rebel soldiers and Confederacy. It was here that we had no need of drawing rations from the Military stores but were fed by the people of the Town and surrounding country, who brought everything that was necessary to make us comfortable in the eating line. It was not our fate to remain with these good people. At 2 o'clock AM on the morning of the 7th inst. we took up our line of march for Lebanon, a distance of eighty miles. On the route to Lebanon we passed through Nicholsville, thence to Bryantville, thence to Danville and thence to Parksville. Upon our arrival at Parksville we were informed that the enemy had evacuated Lebanon, and we were then ordered to turn our course and march to Frankfort the Capitol of the State taking Perryville, Harrodsburg, Lawrenceburg and several other small towns in our route. We arrived at Perryville on the 10th inst. where we were well provided for by the people. We remained at Perryville during the evening and night of the 10th, during which time we had any quantity of good provisions and whiskey and, in consequence of our many luxuries, we had a considerable jollification. Perryville has since been made a scene of strife and bloodshed. It is the place where the forces under General Bragg had a heavy battle in which many of them fell victim to their country's cause. It is the place where Neill Black, was wounded and left after our retreat from Kentucky. Early on the morning of the 11th we left Perryville enroute for Frankfort and after marching hard for two days we arrived at Frankfort on the 13th. Our reception at this place was very cold in consequence of the large Union population of the City. Frankfort is the Capitol of the State and consequently is a place of great importance to the people of the State. It contains a great deal of wealth, but it is not a place of gay appearance. We remained here doing Guard Duty until Oct. 4th. This day (Oct. 4) will never fade from my memory, it being the day appointed for the inauguration of the rebel Military Governor Hawes. The hour appointed for his
inauguration was eleven in the morning; at which time everything had been arranged and the governor was inaugurated amidst the booming of cannon, playing of Brass Bands and loud and continuous applause of the people---the scene was a grand one but had scarcely passed away before the firing of hostile cannon commenced nine miles from Frankfort on the Louisville road. This was kept up for about two hours when it ceased and all was calm for awhile. Precisely at 6 o'clock PM the Railroad and Turnpike bridges were set on fire and our heavy columns of Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry, were put in Motion. At 12 o'clock that night we arrived at Versailles a distance of fourteen miles from Frankfort. We remained here until morning when we again took up our line of march for Salvisa, a small Town on the Lebanon and Frankfort road, and arrived at Camp near Salvisa late on the night of the 5th inst., completely worn out. We remained at this Camp until late on the evening of the 7th, when we received information that the Enemy was in pursuit of our Columns and that they had arrived at Versailles. We received orders for marching immediately, and late on the evening of the 7th we took up our line of march for Versailles. We marched all night and at 2 o'clock PM on the 8th we arrived at Versailles, tired and hungry, but upon our arrival we found that the enemy had turned their course and gone in the direction of Lawrenceburg. Whereupon we stopped (sic) and commenced drawing and cooking rations, but had not finished drawing our rations before we were ordered to march again. At 3 o'clock PM, we again took up our line of march for Lawrenceburg. At sunset on the same evening we arrived upon the banks of Dix river and again commenced preparing to cook rations but had not commenced fairly before we were again forced to march, this order was illegible due to a crease in the paper. I never was so tired in my life before. We marched about three miles and stopped (sic) in an old field in sight of the enemy's camp. Some of the men cooked rations and others did not, in fact they were not able. At 2 o'clock the same night we were again up and in lines for marching. We marched about three miles further for the purpose of gaining a good position for battle in the morning and were then halted. The men were not halted five minutes before two thirds of them were asleep. At the dawn of day the pickets (sic) commenced fighting, and our columns commenced moving forward and the enemy commenced retreating. We followed them until 2 o'clock PM when we were ordered to our former Encampment near Salvia where our wagons and most of our provisions were. The Enemy force in this affair was estimated at 20,000 our force fifteen thousand. We arrived at our Camp near Salvisa at Sunset and upon our arrival there we met orders to march straight on to Harrodsburg for the purpose of reinforcing Gen. Bragg so that a decisive battle might be fought the next day. The distance was 12 miles to Harrodsburg and General Smith sent word to General Bragg that his troops were broken down and that he would not move his army until 2
oclock that night. We therefore went into Camps and rested until 2 o'clock that night when we were again set in motion. I suffered terribly that night from chill and fever. We arrived at Harrodsburg late on the evening of the 10th and encamped there for the night. Next morning the Entire army of Kentucky commenced retreating in the direction of Bryantville. I remained in Harrodsburg on the night of the 10th as I was very sick and slept late the next morning and when I awok (sic) the whole army had left me and I was informed....