Diary of Creed T. Davis, Private Second Company Richmond Howitzers.

May 4, 1864.—On the march from Barboursville, Orange county, at which place we have been camped since we left winter quarters, at Frederickshall, Louisa county, Va.

May 5.—Received orders to march yesterday at 4 o'clock, it is said, to get grazing for the horses. We were to have camped at Haxall's farm, but received later orders to march to the front. Went into camp last night within three miles of Orange Courthouse. It is the impression in our company that a big battle will be fought before Saturday night. Marched this A. M. at 5 o'clock. At this time we are within four miles of the line of battle. A great battle is expected at any moment. Heavy cannonading can be heard in every direction.

May 6.—We are in camp on Mine Run. Musketery and cannonading can be heard all along the lines. The men of our company are as cheerful as if there was no prospect of a battle. A soldier, who has just come into the battery, reports that the army has been engaged at Locust Grove and vicinity. Seven hundred prisoners passed us yesterday going to the rear. They were good-looking men. Several officers were among them. An ambulance passed us this morning, containing General Peogram, who is said to be mortally wounded. We have marched only three miles to-day. This morning muskets were put into our hands, and we were hurried, at a rapid rate, ahead of the battery. During the day we camped temporarily. But little firing can now be heard on the lines.

May 7.—We are preparing to move. The horses are hitched, and everything is in readiness. We had a breakfast of hardtack and coffee. The whole army seems to be on the move. Brigade after brigade is passing. Seven o'clock, the battery halted, and we went into park. Since we parked, an occasional spent ball has passed over the battery. While in park one of Captain Dance's men was wounded by a spent ball. A forced march is expected to-night.

May 8.—As was expected, we marched all last night. We are now at Verdiersville, having marched twelve miles. We
passed many wounded Yankees lying in the wayside hospitals, who cheered lustily as we passed, supposing we were retreating. We are ready to move at a moment's notice. Our horses' heads are turned toward Fredericksburg. Some of our men think we are falling back on Richmond.

*May 9.*—Marched fifteen miles yesterday, and went into camp near Shady Run, which is about twelve miles from Spotsylvania Courthouse. Have had nothing to eat to-day but crackers. Though within a short distance of the fighting yesterday, have not heard the particulars. Have just halted at Spotsylvania Courthouse, about two hundred yards in rear of the line of battle. A Yankee battery, which was in sight as we passed over a hill, near here, shelled us furiously, but we passed safely without the loss of a man or a horse.

*May 10.*—We are now near Spotsylvania Courthouse, and in position on the line of battle. General Ramseur's North Carolina brigade supports our battery. We are behind slight breastworks, thrown up by the infantry before we went into position. At 12 o'clock brisk skirmishing is going on in front of us. The Third Company of Howitzers, on our right, opened on the enemy for awhile. A Yankee battery in their front replied briskly.

*May 11.*—Last evening about twilight the enemy assaulted our works, broke our lines (General Johnson's division), and captured the Third Company of Richmond Howitzers. The Third Company was on our right, say about one hundred yards. As they charged, our battery opened upon them with an enfilade fire. Soon after the capture of this part of our lines our infantry returned, charged the enemy, and recaptured the Third Company, thus restoring our lines. Ramseur's brigade, our support, behaved badly, as when the enemy fell back from our works they refused to charge them, although General Ramseur, sword in hand, jumped over our breastworks and ordered them to follow him. Another charge is expected momentarily.

*May 13.*—In position near Spotsylvania Courthouse. Our battery was engaged in a great battle yesterday. The old soldiers of our company say it is the most sanguinary battle it has ever been the fortune of the company to engage in. Our company warmly engaged all the time. The battery had many men wounded.
May 14.—The battery is still in position at Spotsylvania Courthouse, on the line of battle. Our men are completely worn out for want of food and rest.

May 16.—In same position. The firing which we have heard for the past four or five days so continuously has ceased, and there is now a precious lull of the horrible roar.

May 17.—The battery is still in position on the line of battle. We are behind slight breastworks.

May 18.—The enemy advanced on our front this morning and made a slight assault upon our position. They were handsomely repulsed, our battery doing splendid service. The enemy charged right in our front. They left many dead. They have entrenched themselves five hundred yards in our front, and are still throwing up breastworks. About an hour ago twenty of them deserted and came into our lines. They report Grant's army demoralized. At this moment all is quiet, and we are expecting to fall back.

May 19.—In position at Spotsylvania Courthouse. We have just learned that Major Watson, the former captain of our battery, and latterly major of our battalion, who was wounded on the evening of the 10th, is dead. He was wounded while working one of the guns of the Third Company just before they were captured. Colonel Hardaway, of our battalion, is in the rear, from a wound received in the battle of the 12th. We have just learned that the enemy is leaving our left.

May 20.—General Ewell made a reconnoissance in force near us last night. He found the enemy, had a little fight, and fell back.

May 21.—The wagon train and ambulances moved this morning. The ambulances are crowded with the wounded. Our company puzzled and guessing what comes next. Some of us think we are falling back upon Richmond. Others think we are going to reinforce the right wing of the army.

May 22.—We are moving in the direction of Richmond, and our corps is near Hanover Junction.

May 23.—Our battery is posted in sight of Hanover Junction. Both armies seem to be drifting towards Richmond. Some of the men think we are bound for the White House. We can hear firing at Hanover Junction. The Yankees are following us closely. General Grant seems determined to finish the war this spring.
May 24.—In camp at Taylorsville, Hanover county. We are in readiness to march. Cavalry are passing us in a gallop to the front. Later in the day our horses turned out to graze. This looks as if we will not march to-night. Late Richmond papers in camp to-day.

May 25.—We have returned to Hanover Junction, and have gone into park in a small piece of pines. We expect every moment to move.

May 26.—Yesterday evening the battery went into position near Hanover Junction. We threw up breastworks. Skirmishers were in front of us. Last night we had an alarm. One of the skirmishers fired at a hog. The report of his musket alarmed our part of the line, and we expected the enemy upon us every moment. Rained all day and all last night.

May 27.—Slept in the trenches last night. The horses are hitched, and we expect to move. The Yankees are moving upon our right. 10 A.M., we are on the march. General R. E. Lee passed our battalion a few moments ago. He was going in the direction of Richmond. Have gone into camp at Atlee’s Station, on the Virginia Central railroad, having marched about twenty miles.

May 28.—Reveille at 3 A.M. The battery horses are in bad condition. Two of them are now down and cannot get up. They have had but little to eat since we left Spotsylvania Court-house. The Yankees are following us closely. At 12 M. we are in park on the Mechanicsville turnpike eight miles from Richmond. We marched from Atlee’s Station here to-day. Our horses look as if they cannot go much further. It is said the Yankees are making for Richmond.

May 29.—In camp on Mechanicsville turnpike eight miles from Richmond. Have received orders to march. Everything is in readiness to move. Drew two days’ rations, which means a long march. Firing is heard in the direction of Hanover Court-house. A battalion of artillery has just passed us going in that direction.

May 30.—After two or three orders to move, each of which was countermanded, we find ourselves in the same camp, and a meaner one we never occupied. We are now so near Richmond that our men are in a fever to run the blockade.

May 31.—Contrary to our expectations, we find ourselves in the same old camp on Bosher’s farm. Heavy firing is heard
in our front this morning. 5 P. M.—Have just gone into position on Johnson's farm, five miles southeast of the camp of this A. M. William Smith, a nephew of James A. Seddon, Secretary of War of the Confederate States, joined our company this morning as a private. Since going into position we have thrown up breastworks. Our boys are running the blockade to Richmond by wholesale.

June 1.—Remained in position yesterday long enough to throw up breastworks for some other battery to occupy. Marched all last night and find ourselves this morning only one mile from where we started. We travelled the wrong road. During a halt last night many of the men fell asleep and were left. A cavalry fight is reported to have taken place last night on our right. Cannonading was heard in that direction.

June 2.—Remained in camp last night until 7 P. M., when orders came to march. We were no sooner started than the order was countermanded, and we went into park about one mile from the lines. We are again ordered to the front. The first and second detachments have just taken position. Had a great scare in camp last night. One of the Rockbridge company came in and reported the Yankee cavalry upon us.

June 3.—Last evening the battalion was again engaged. Our infantry charged the enemy in front of us.

Later—5 P. M.—Have been firing on the enemy all day from behind our breastworks. Nobody hurt. Our position is on the Old Church road.

June 4.—Still in the trenches on the Old Church road, having fallen back from our advanced position of last night, which was about four hundred yards in advance of the breastworks and between the two lines of battle. We have not slept four hours in the past forty-eight. Some prisoners have been captured in front of us, and to our surprise they were New Englanders and not foreigners.

June 5.—Plenty of rain and no rest. Alarms every night. Preaching is the order of the day, and some man is holding forth at this moment near our company. Everything seems quiet in front of us. Only one shell has passed over us today.

June 6.—Our battery was relieved last night, but it will only be a twenty-four hours' respite. For a wonder, we have been at the rear for twelve hours. Have orders to move.
Later.—We are marching to Cold Harbor, where a great battle is said to have been fought a day or two ago. The Yankee army is swinging around to Petersburg, and we are following.

June 7.—Rained all last night. The company received two recruits this morning, McKenna and Hutcheson. Expect to move this evening.

June 8.—Griffin’s Battery, of our battalion, was engaged yesterday. Our company followed him in through mistake, I am told. We got into a hot little place, though our company did not fire a shot. We were under artillery and musket fire. Patterson was wounded. Julian McCarthy had his horse shot under him, and had to dismount and leave him.

June 9.—We are now in the neighborhood of Gaines’ Mill, and in park a short distance from the line of battle. Our battery to-day voted one day’s rations to the poor of Richmond. Signal guns were fired all last night at half-hour intervals.

June 10.—Went into camp last night on Gaines’ farm at 8 o’clock. We are camped on the same ground McClellan occupied two years ago. His camp debris is still strewn around our camp. Our tent-cloths are spread on his old tent-poles, which stand just as he left them on his famous retreat.

June 12.—Still in camp near Gaines’ farm. Brisk skirmishing and occasional shelling between some batteries near is going on. It is Sunday, and the Rev. Dr. Leyburn is preaching in camp. Men of the Howitzer company are running the blockade to Richmond. They report Richmond a hot place for soldiers without leave of absence. Rain expected.

June 13.—Our corps moved last night. We are now camped on Williamsburg turnpike, five miles from this morning’s camp. We hear that Braxton’s and Nelson’s battalions are ordered to the Valley. We are glad that we are to stay near Richmond. Preaching in camp to-day by Rev. Dr. Hoge, of Richmond. A religious feeling pervades the camp. We have a rumor that we are to move to Brook turnpike. We are still on the Williamsburg road.

June 14-15.—We still occupy our camp on the Williamsburg road. We are pleasantly located, except for water. We are camped in an old Yankee camp, used by them two years ago. Such camp debris as knapsacks, canteens and cartridges are lying
around just as they left it. Potso arrived in camp to-day. All hands were glad to see so good a fellow.

**June 16.**—Moved camp this morning to James M. Taylor's farm, one mile from Chaffin's Bluff and eight miles from Richmond. It is said we came here to recruit our horses, and the grazing is really fine.

**July 17.**—Still in camp at Taylor's farm. We are pleasantly located. Plenty of water, good grazing for the horses, and the weather fine.

**June 18.**—Same camp. As we are so near Richmond the boys are running the blockade by wholesale.

**June 19.**—We are quietly snoozing in our old camp, Taylor's mill. We hear that we are to be transferred to the local defence. Everything quiet in front. Camp very much troubled with flies. It is announced that Rev. Drs. Brown and Duncan will preach to-day.

**June 20.**—Same camp, Taylor's farm. We hear that the Yankees are concentrating around Petersburg.

**June 21.**—Our battery is moving down James river. It is reported that we will attack the gunboats. The battery is expected to return to the old camp to-night.

**June 22.**—The battery has not yet returned to camp. We hear to-day that the Yankees are advancing up the north side of the river (James). Health of the company very poor. Our Surgeon, Dr. Roscoe, is full of business in his line; chills and fevers.

**June 23.**—Battery still down the river; where, is not known by our party on detail.

**June 25.**—The battery has returned to the old camp at Taylor's mill. The trip down the river turned out to be a wild-goose chase. They took position on Charles City road and fired into a gunboat, doing it no injury. We hear that General Grant is entrenching around Petersburg, Va.

**June 26.**—To-day is Sunday. Dr. White, our chaplain, officiated. Camp, Taylor's mill.

**June 27.**—The battery has gone into Richmond to have gun-carriages repaired. A slight shower of rain this evening.

**June 28.**—Battery still in Richmond undergoing repairs.

**June 29.**—Have not moved camp to-day.

**June 30.**—Still at Taylor's farm.
July 2.—All quiet. Nearly all the company down with dysentery. The well men, for the most part, are running the blockade to Richmond.

July 3.—Still at Taylor's farm.

July 4.—The battery has moved a short distance down the river. Talk about a big battle near Petersburg.

July 20.—Battery still at Taylor's farm.

July 21.—News in company that our battery is to be detached from First Virginia Artillery and transferred to Cutshaw's battalion.

July 22.—In camp at New Market Heights, located conveniently to good water and good grazing for horses. Cavalry skirmishing is going on about one mile east of us. To-day Captain Jones decided that there should be no more changing places between cannoneers and drivers, as heretofore. It has been the custom to drive three months and act as cannoneers three months.

July 23.—The Yankees are again reported as advancing up the north side of the river. This morning they threw a shell among our horses as they were grazing in a field. The horses were stampeded. Several shells passed over camp.

Later.—Moved camp a mile further down the river. Our wagon train has not arrived and we are without rations.

July 24.—We are encamped in a small body of woods, pines, on the Darbytown road, about nine miles from Richmond.

July 25.—In same camp. Sergeant John S. Ellett and Joe Maxey, who were wounded at Spotsylvania Courthouse 12th May, returned to the company this morning. Rained last night.

July 26.—Garber's Battery was ordered to the front yesterday, and Captain Fry's left this morning. Our battery and the Alabama detachment, with the Whitworth guns, is what remains of the battalion in the old camp, and we expect orders every moment to move. A hundred-pound shell was thrown from the gunboats into our camp to-day. Heavy skirmishing is going on down the river. The enemy fired signal guns all last night at half-hour intervals. An engagement is expected daily.

July 27.—Moved last night at 12 o'clock and marched to Pickett's gate, down the river. When day dawned we retraced our steps. Skirmishing down the river. One of Colonel Car-
ter's couriers has just dashed into camp and reported the Rockbridge Artillery, which was in position not far from us, captured. Rations have not come up yet and we have had no breakfast.

July 28.—Came to this place, Libby's Hill, yesterday, and the battery has gone into position. We are on a high hill; a commanding elevation. The Yankees have been manoeuvring in a field before us nearly all day. Both cavalry and infantry have been actively moving about right before our eyes. Our guns could easily reach them, but we have no orders to fire. The gunboats in front of us have been firing at us all day, but we are secure behind earthworks. A land battery, just opposite, also opened on us, but we did not reply.

July 29.—Still in position on Libby's Hill. All quiet to-day. Neither the gunboat nor the land battery have fired on us to-day. Kindness fully appreciated.

July 30.—The land battery in front of us complimented us this morning by opening upon us briskly. They fired with unusual precision, the shot and shell just skimming our earthworks. Nobody hurt.

Later.—Our pickets have been advanced, and the enemy found to have vamoosed. No battery in front of us now! The company is being greatly strengthened by the return of convalescent men from the hospitals.

July 31.—We have gone into camp near the second line of works environing Richmond. We are about three miles from the city. Yesterday, before we left Libby's Hill, the gunboats gave us a parting salute. One-hundred-pound shells fell freely around us for a while, scattering dust in every direction.

August 1.—Contrary to expectation, we are on the march again, whither no one so much as conjectures. It is enough to know that we are leaving Richmond, the heaven of our company, behind us.

August 2.—We have gone into camp at Four-Mile Creek Church, about eight miles from Richmond. Bad camp for water and grazing. The water we use is brought over a half-mile. Captain Jones promises a furlough to one man in every fifty.

August 3.—We returned to our old position, on Libby's Hill, yesterday at 12 M. All quiet in front of us, and even the gun-
boats have not molested us. An old grey-headed man, named Atkisson, a conscript (?), joined us to-day.

August 4.—All quiet in front. Not even picket firing. One of the Yankee transports is just passing up the river. Preaching on the lines. Very warm weather.

August 5.—Still in position on Libby's Hill, sometimes called New Market Heights. Captain Fry's company, of our battalion, has returned from down the river. They fired on the Yankee transports.

7 P. M.—Tremendous cannonading is heard in the direction of Petersburg.

August 6.—Large volumes of smoke seen rising on the south side of the James. It is presumed the Yankees are burning everything that comes within their reach.

August 7.—In readiness to move. Some of our men say we are bound for the Valley of Virginia.

August 8.—In Richmond. The battery arrived here last night at 11 o'clock, and halted near the Central Railroad depot until morning. The Valley of Virginia is now known to be our destination. Our guns will be sent to Culpeper county by rail, and the horses will be ridden there by the drivers. The Richmond men of the Howitzers have permission to remain till to-morrow morning to visit their homes.

August 9.—Started from Richmond, and arrived here at Gordonsville this evening without accident. We are now awaiting a change of locomotives before proceeding to Culpeper Courthouse.

August 10.—Arrived at Mitchell's Station last night at 11 o'clock. Before going into camp we took the battery off the cars. We are camped in the woods and very far from water. Captain Fry is in command of the battalion, Colonel Cutshaw being absent. General Kershaw's division is camped near us. It is said that in future we will be attached to his division. Have drawn two days' rations of crackers and meat. David Clarke, who was wounded May 12th at Spotsylvania Courthouse, returned to the company to-day.

August 11.—Our horses arrived to-day at 2 P. M. At 5 P. M. we marched, but marched only a few miles. We are now in camp near Culpeper Courthouse.

August 12.—Have just marched through Culpeper Court-
house, and have gone into camp one mile north of the town. Our horses are pretty well worn out. It is said that Sperryville will be our destination to-morrow.

August 13.—Greatly to everybody’s disappointment, after going into camp last night we had to pull up stakes and resume our march. We marched until 10 P. M., and went into camp, after which the horses had to be turned out to graze, as we had no feed for them, and the cannoneers had to guard them. During the march we had a severe thunder-storm and got a thorough drenching.

August 14.—Moved yesterday and marched rapidly, having made about twenty miles with our poor broken-down horses. Went into camp near the little town of Flint Hill, at the foot of the Blue Ridge. Five men gave out yesterday on the march. The horses completely broken down.

August 15.—Marched yesterday and located in the evening near Front Royal, Warren county. The march was severe on men and horses. During the day we could see the Yankees moving about in the valley below. The Yankees occupied Front Royal yesterday, but were driven out by our infantry.

August 16.—Have not moved to-day. The Yankees are reported in possession of Chester Gap, which is in our rear, and through which we passed in crossing the mountains.

August 17.—On the march again. We are within four miles of Winchester. Skirmishing in front of us. We have been pressing the enemy closely all day. Saw a good many of their dead lying on the roadside. We also passed many smoking ruins. The Yankees burn all barns, hay-stacks, etc., that happen in their way. Poor Valley!! Firing heard in the direction of Winchester. Gen. Early is in the neighborhood.

August 18.—We are camped one mile from Winchester. Gen. Early forced the enemy out of the town last night. The wagon train is in motion. It is thought we are going into Pennsylvania. Rain.

August 19.—Gen. Early’s army is camped around Winchester. We occupy camp of yesterday. It is raining and the weather is cold enough to sleep under blankets.

August 21.—Orders last night to be ready to move this morning at 3 o’clock. The infantry blockaded the road, and we did not get in motion until 5 o’clock. Marched about five miles and came up with the Yankees. The infantry are ahead, skirmishing with them, and we are close up with the skirmishers. A Yankee battery opened on us, but soon limbered up and galloped off. Have just halted in the Yankee camp, and we are feasting on the beef and crackers left behind by them—some of the meat being in frying-pans on the fire. On the march to-day we passed a great many dead horses killed in the running fight yesterday and to-day. We saw also many dead Yankees lying on the roadside. We are now near Summit Point.

August 22.—Marched this morning at daylight and have marched to within one mile of Charlestown, where we have halted. David Clark left us yesterday at Summit Point, his old wound, received May 12th, having broken out afresh. Had a tremendous rain to-day. We are living splendidly upon good beef and crackers found in abandoned Yankee camps upon the roadside.

August 23.—In same camp of yesterday. To our great delight, we get plenty of apples from the orchards in the neighborhood, and the Yankee beef and crackers have not yet given out. Rained yesterday, and to-day our blankets, &c., are stretched out to dry. Good camping ground.

August 24.—Did not move last night. Struck tents last evening to move at 5 o’clock, but did not march out. Orders countermanded. So we are still near Charlestown. Squirrel shooting is the amusement of Joe Maxey and some others of the boys.

August 25.—The company was roused up this morning at 3 o’clock, with orders to move out at once. At 5 A. M. we took position on a hill one mile from Charlestown. Remained in position an hour, when we were ordered back, and went into camp near that of this morning. Richmond papers are in camp to-day.

August 26.—This morning moved from camp, and went into position on a hill one mile northeast of Charlestown. We can see the Yankee camps at Bolivar Heights. Firing heard in the direction of the Potomac river. General Early is reported to have crossed over into Maryland.

August 27.—The battery had a considerable skirmish yester-
day evening. The Yankee cavalry and infantry charged our skirmish line just in front of our battery. Some fine shots were fired at them. However, in the main, our shots tumbled. We aimed at a daring color-bearer, who was made to trail his colors upon the ground, the shots fell so near him. We fired more than a hundred shots. Our army is falling back to Winchester.

August 28.—We have just gone into camp two miles south of Brucetown. We have a rumor in camp that we are to be ordered back to Richmond. Richmond papers in camp to-day. They contain news of the peace negotiations now going on. Drew to-day good rations of beef and flour.

August 29.—In same camp as yesterday, and a good one it is. Wood and water convenient, and a good apple-orchard is hard by. Battery moved yesterday at the head of the column. John Otto, a Dutchman, one of the best soldiers in the company, deserted yesterday. He had been heard to say he would desert unless he could get wheat-bread to eat. He could not eat cornbread. Corn-meal is now issued to the company.

August 30.—Still in camp near Brucetown. Had orders to move this morning. Howitzers to-day are discussing the result of the Chicago Convention, which is convened to nominate President and Vice-President of the United States. It was to meet yesterday.

August 31.—Captain Garber’s battery left this morning, moving towards Winchester. Chicago Convention is all the talk.

September 1.—We have returned to our camp at Winchester. We came here in great haste, leaving our camp at Brucetown in confusion. The Yankees having been reported in the vicinity and advancing, our whole army has fallen back to Winchester. It is thought that we will be ordered to Richmond. Lieut. Henry Jones returned to the company to-day, having been absent on sick leave about two months.

September 2.—We had orders to move last night, and everything was in readiness, but we did not get out of camp—the order being countermanded. Kershaw’s Division marched out to meet the enemy, but did not find him. The Richmond papers are filled with accounts of the peace negotiations.

September 3.—Orders to move last night, and marched to within a mile of Berryville turnpike, when we again turned our faces to Winchester, and soon after went into our old camp. Our
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camp-ground has been used alternately by both armies many times. They are badly located for wood and water. This region is completely devastated.

September 4.—Moved out of camp last night and up the Berryville pike to within five miles of Berryville, when we came to a halt, as sharp skirmishing commenced in our front. Our infantry soon pressed the enemy into town, capturing their works. Gen. Humphrey, of the Mississippi brigade, was wounded, and passed us a few moments ago, in an ambulance going to the rear. Fry's and Garber's batteries of our Battalion were engaged. Captain Garber was wounded. Our battery was in position, but did not fire, though one of the enemy's batteries played upon us a while without any damage save a big scare.

September 5.—Our troops are moving to the right and we are marching with them. Rained last night.

September 6.—We have again gone into camp near Winchester. Still raining and a sharp wind is blowing from the North. We feel that winter is upon us. Our boys are felling trees and every mess has a good fire. All who happen to have axes are sharpening them for the winter campaign among the noble trees of this cold region. Winter quarters is a prominent topic of conversation with us. Where and when is the question. We have just learned from Northern papers that General McClellan has been nominated for President, and Pendleton, of Ohio for Vice-President of the United States, by the Chicago convention.

September 7.—In camp near Winchester. It is clear again, to our great delight, and camp is strewn with blankets spread out to dry.

September 8.—Same camp, where we expect to remain some time on account of the poor condition of our horses. Some of them die every night. No forage in the valley. Our horses subsist principally by grazing. Rained last night and is raining now.

September 9.—We have a glorious day of sunshine. Cleared up at 8 this morning. Colonel Carter has arrived and it is said he will take charge of the artillery of the Second Corps at once. General Long is absent on sick leave. The fall of Atlanta, Ga., is the topic of conversation in camp to-day. Plenty of good apples in the neighborhood and we take at will.

September 10.—Same camp, near Winchester. Aleck, our
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cook, promises us a beef-head stew this evening—always a big thing with us. Firing is heard in the direction of Martinsburg.

September 11.—Same camp. Another heavy rain last night, which nearly floated us out of our tents. Blankets and everything wet this morning. Preaching in camp.

September 12.—We seem to be a fixture. No talk of moving. It has turned very cold, and the boys are huddled around their mess-fires. Winter quarters is now all the talk.

September 13.—The Yankee cavalry dashed almost into our camp to-day. They rode all around us in a devil-may-care sort of a way. They came within a quarter of a mile of our camp and captured a part of the Fifth South Carolina Regiment, which was doing picket duty. We went into position to receive them, but soon went back again to camp.

September 14.—Nothing has occurred to-day to disturb our repose. We have daily drills. The command would rather march than drill.

September 15.—Have been marching, and have just gone into camp on the Shenandoah river. Had reveille this morning at 4 o'clock, and were soon on the way to Front Royal. It is supposed we are on the march to Richmond. Rained last night.

September 16.—Marched this morning at 5 o'clock. Forded the north branch of the Shenandoah at Buckner's Ford. The river was somewhat swollen and about waist deep. We crossed the Shenandoah proper about two miles above Front Royal, fording. We are now in Luray Valley, and have just gone into camp. We marched over miserable roads. Rained again last night.

September 17.—We have just gone into camp at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We expect to go through Thornton's Gap to-morrow. The march has been a fatiguing one. Many of our horses gave out completely on the road. Only four to a gun now. Sergeants have been dismounted and their horses hitched to the guns. All the feed the horses get now they graze from the fields.

September 18.—Marched from Luray, through Woodvllle, over the Blue Ridge Mountains. We have marched seventeen miles, and crossed with less difficulty than we expected. We expect to reach Culpeper Courthouse to-morrow, when it is
thought the battery will be put on the cars and hurried to Richmond.

_Sevenber 19._—After marching fifteen miles to-day, we find ourselves again at Culpeper. Before we entered, our infantry forced the Yankees out of the town. They were only raiding this vicinity, hoping to catch a wagon train. Garber's battery went into position and fired a few rounds at them. They burnt Rapidan bridge before they left.

_Sevenber 20._—In camp near Culpeper C. H. We expect to camp somewhere on the Rapidan to-night. Horses had no feed last night.

_Sevenber 21._—We are in camp near the burnt Rapidan bridge. We got here last night at 8 o'clock and expect to move at any moment.

_Sevenber 22._—Still in camp on the Rapidan river, burnt bridge. We have been so constantly on duty that we have had no opportunity to wash our clothes, and consequently we are troubled with vermin. Many are also suffering with the itch. Rained last night.

_Sevenber 23._—In Gordonsville again, for the third time this campaign. We marched to-day at least fifteen miles, over the muddiest of roads. It rained while we were on the march.

_Sevenber 24._—Much to our disappointment, we do not go to Richmond. We hear Gen. Early has been whipped and is now retracing his steps to the valley. We have just gone into camp near Stanardsville. We have marched to-day quite nineteen miles. Rained in the forenoon and the roads now are in a terrible condition.

_Sevenber 25._—We have just gone into camp near McGaheysville, having marched from Stanardsville here. We crossed the mountains at Swift Run Gap. Several of our horses gave out on the march. Their places have been supplied by mules taken from the ordnance wagons, which were left at Gordonsville. Gen. Early's army is reported demoralized.

_Sevenber 26._—Had reveille this morning at 3 o'clock. Have just gone into position at Port Republic. We can plainly see the enemy in line of battle. We can also see a Yankee battery. During a charge of the cavalry, which could be seen from our position, Captain Garber had one of his men killed. While in
position a young lady in the neighborhood came into our battery in company with an officer. Although cannon balls were flying over her head, she calmly surveyed the Yankee line of battle. While looking at them, shading her eyes from the sunlight with her hand, the Yankees were almost in speaking distance.

September 27.—Camped in Brown’s Gap last night. Our horses have been hitched and standing at the guns all day, expecting to move momentarily.

September 28.—Marched last night and went into camp near Port Republic. Commenced march at 3 A.M. Marched through Port Republic, and then through Mount Meridian, and then through New Hope. We rested near Mount Meridian and then marched through Waynesboro, at which place the infantry met the enemy and drove them through the town.

Later, 10 P.M.—Have just gone into camp on the north side of the river, near Waynesboro. Last part of the march was made over terrible roads at a double-quick, following the infantry as they drove the enemy. We are now up with Gen. Early’s army.

September 29.—Rested well in camp last night, though it rained at 10 A.M. Moved camp to south side of the river, and are now one mile from Waynesboro. Good camp for wood and water, and good grazing.

September 30.—Orders to move this morning at 3 o’clock. Horses were hitched, but we soon unhitched and turned them out in a field near by. Passed some dead Yankees. Rained last night.

October 1.—Rained last night and this morning. Had reveille this morning at 3 A.M., but did not get started till 6 A.M. For three hours we stood in the road in the rain, waiting to get started. Have just arrived at Mt. Sidney, on the Valley pike, and gone into camp. Although it rained, we have moved about fifteen miles.

October 2.—We are camped near Mt. Sidney, on a high hill. The battery is parked some distance from the camp, our horses not being able to pull it to our high camping-ground.

October 3.—Still in camp at Mt. Sidney. Rained last night. Most of our company are sick.

October 4.—Same camp. Dress parade this evening. Rained in the forenoon.
October 5.—Orders to march this A. M. Everything was made ready, but orders were countermanded, and we are in same camp.

October 6.—Marched at 10 A. M., and have gone into camp near Harrisonburg. Smoking ruins everywhere on the pike to be seen.

October 7.—On the march for New Market. Passed many dead horses on the road. These horses were killed in the running fight going on ahead of us.

October 8.—In camp near New Market, having marched about twenty miles. Weather cold. Sharp wind from north. Hailstorm to-day.

October 9.—Sunday. Camped near New Market.

October 10.—Had an alarm last night. Yankee cavalry was reported in the vicinity, and we hitched in a great hurry and marched two miles up the pike to meet them, but soon returned to our old camp. Frost last night.

October 11.—Still in camp near New Market.

October 12.—Last night received orders to cook two days’ rations. We are marching towards Winchester. Have halted at Woodstock. Still more dead horses on the roadside from the fighting ahead.

October 13.—Reveille this morning at 4 o’clock and marched immediately, and have halted at Fisher’s Hill, in sight of Strasburg. The Yankees are only a short distance ahead. We can see the smoke from their guns. A battery is firing.

October 14.—In camp at Fisher’s Hill, behind the line of battle. Captain Fry’s battery was engaged this morning, and he had three men wounded.

October 15.—In camp at Fisher’s Hill. The enemy has left our front.

October 16.—Same camp. Last night ordered to cook two days’ rations, but did not move.

October 17.—Commenced to follow the army at 3 A. M., and have just halted on a high hill north of Strasburg. A big battle is expected. Musketry can now be heard. Two of our guns have been ordered forward.

October 20.—As expected, an engagement took place yesterday near Strasburg. Our battery was engaged, and was the last to leave the field. We did not move until our infantry had
swept past us, leaving us no support whatever. We continued to fire at the enemy until they were within two hundred yards of us, when we were ordered by Lieutenant Henry Jones to limber up and retreat up the pike. As the road ahead of us was blocked up by a wagon train, most of our pieces fell into the hands of the enemy, who already had possession of the pike. Lieutenant Jones then ordered the men to save themselves as best they could. Loss of the company in killed and wounded not now known.

October 21.—Have caught up with the battery, or what is left of it, which we find at New Market. In the battle of the 19th we lost our entire battery, save one caisson, brought out by Tom Leftwich. Thirty of our men are now missing, most of whom are supposed to have betaken themselves to the Massanutton Mountain after Lieutenant Jones ordered them to save themselves.

October 22.—Our company is too much crippled to move to-day. Some of the missing men are coming in. John Davis and Walford were killed, some of the men having seen them fall from their horses.

October 23.—Still in camp near New Market. Weather cold. Company in tatters. No blankets scarcely in the company, the men having lost them in the late fight.

October 24.—Moved camp one mile east of New Market. Rained last night.

October 25.—Same camp. Everybody out of heart.

October 26.—Discipline is being restored. Regular roll-calls and drills are now required daily. None of the missing came in to-day.

October 27.—Same camp. Cold and cloudy day. Most of the company are rolled up in blankets and stored away in their tents.

October 28.—Same camp. Perfect hurricane is blowing from the north. In order to get the benefit of our fires, we have had to hedge them in with brush fences, as the wind blows the smoke and cinders in every direction.

October 29.—Company drills have been resumed. During the day we have four roll-calls, two drills, and dress parade, with the usual detachment details. We have no rations.

October 30.—General Early, in a late order, which was read
Richmond Howitzer Battalion.

on dress-parade, says he did not intend to include the artillery in his strictures upon his army for their conduct in the battle of the 19th, at Strasburg. Same camp.

October 31.—Camp near New Market. Muster to-day. Pay-rolls have been signed. Some of the company have not drawn a dollar for more than ten months. Heavy frost last night.

November 1.—Moved camps three miles southeast New Market, a short distance from an old camp on the side of the Massanutten mountains. We can't find any level place on which to spread our blankets. Huge boulders loom up in every direction. Plenty of wood and water near by.

November 2.—Horrible weather to-day. Some recompense in that there are no drills. It is simply impossible to keep warm.

November 3.—Rained to-day. Many of the company are without even fly tents. Fierce northwest winds prevail. No drills.

November 4.—Same camp. Rained last night, but the sun shines to-day.

November 5.—Cold. Snow fell this morning. We have about fifty dollars per man. Colonel Carter inspected men and horses this A. M.

November 6.—Same camp. Lieutenant McRae returned to camp this A. M., after an absence of six months on sick leave. Freezing cold, even around the big fires.

November 7.—Same camp. The wind blew violently last night, scattering our fires in every direction. At midnight the woods were discovered to be on fire. Bugler John T. Jones sounded the assembly, and our men were marched out to fight the fire, which was extinguished, and the men returned to camp.

November 8.—The wind is blowing, without the least consistency, first in one direction and then in another. Our camp is completely enveloped in smoke. Short rations is the order of the day. They hardly keep body and soul together. We can hear cannonading in Fort Valley. The Yankees are raiding over there.

November 9.—The wind still blowing a gale. Mr. Mordecai came up this evening and his wagons are expected to-night. Rained last night.

November 10.—Orders last night to cook two days' rations.
Diary of Creed T. Davis.

Reveille this morning at 3 o'clock. Marched at 5 A.M. Have camped near Woodstock. Cloudy weather.

November 11.—Marched this morning at 5 o'clock and have made twenty miles. Camped midway between Newtown and Middletown. Passed during the day the old battle ground of October 19th. The spot where Walford fell was pointed out.

November 12.—Reveille at 4 A.M., and horses hitched in a hurry.

9 A.M.—Orders to unhitch and turn horses out to graze. Again orders to move and again countermanded; so we are in same camp. Sharp skirmishing in direction of Newtown.

November 13.—Last night, after we had made up good fires and made up our minds to a good night's rest, received orders to move, and marched rapidly till 11 P.M., when we went into camp at the foot of a small mountain two miles south of Fisher Hill. Notwithstanding the fact that we did not get into camp till 11 P.M., we had reveille at 3 A.M. and are now on the march. Snow at intervals during the day.

November 14.—Camped last night near Mt. Jackson. The army is now moving in the direction of Staunton. We are halted in the road four miles above New Market.

November 15.—In camp near New Market. Our camp ground is lovely, being in a basin or hollow in the side of the Massanutton, so that we are walled in from the winds. Wood and water near by.

November 16.—Same camp. Cold and clear.

November 17.—Richmond papers in camp. They announce the re-election of Lincoln to the Presidency. Kershaw's Division is said to have left the valley.

November 18.——, a Richmond boy, joined the company to-day.

November 19.—Snow to-day, which fell rapidly for a while. The health of the company is excellent, though the men are insufficiently clothed.

November 20.—Same camp. Raining to day.

November 21.—Captain Jones returned to camp to-day from Richmond, where he has been since the battle of 19th October, having been wounded there.

November 22.—Same camp. We were surprised this morning to find the ground covered with snow. The enemy are reported
advancing. Our infantry has gone up the pike to meet them. The battery is ready for action.

November 23.—The infantry has returned and gone into camp. The enemy advanced to Rudd's Hill, where they met our troops and turned back. They were only a raiding party. Ground covered with snow.

November 24.—Have moved camp to the south end of the Massanutton mountains. We are near Harrisonburg. The main army is at New Market. The weather is very cold.

November 25.—We are snugly ensconced in our new camp, which is about five miles northeast of Harrisonburg. We have fixed ourselves for a long stay. David Clark was again forced by his old wound to leave the company.

November 26.—Same camp. Raining.

November 27.—Sunday, but no preaching in camp. No Chaplain.

November 28.—Same camp, and a pretty day.

November 29.—Short rations. No flour is issued. Many of the men are barefooted, with no prospect of getting shoes.

November 30.—Same camp. No rations yet. Roll-call is dispensed with so as to allow the men to forage.

December 1.—In camp near Harrisonburg. Corporal Robinson, of the King William Artillery, has been appointed to the Sergeantcy of the Third Detachment. Old Howitzers protested against the appointment, as he was not a Howitzer, and a new man. Corporal Chappell has been appointed in his stead, and the appointment gives satisfaction. No charges against Robinson, except that he is not a Howitzer.

December 2–3.—Rainy, cold day. Everybody is hugging the fire closely. Company poorly clad.

December 4.—Sunday. Preaching in camp by Dr. Gilmer, Chaplain Braxton's Artillery.

December 5.—Moved this morning, marching on the Keezletown road. Have gone into camp near McGaheysville. Marched twelve miles. Good weather to-day.

December 6–7.—We are pleasantly camped on the slope of a hill near McGaheysville. Wood and water near by.

December 8–9.—Many of the company are to-day making excursions to Weir's Cave, which is about ten miles distant.

December 10.—Same camp. Ground covered with snow.
December 11.—Same camp. Topic of conversation among the men is the withdrawal of Gordon’s and Pegram’s Divisions from the Valley. Very cold weather.

December 12.—A cold north wind is sweeping through the camp. Ground covered with snow several inches deep.

December 13.—No mails from Richmond to day.

December 14.—Reveille at 6 o’clock A. M. Have been marching nearly all day on the Keezletown road. Struck the Valley pike at the willow pump, near which place we have gone into camp. Fishersville is our destination.

December 15–16.—We are marching in the direction of Staunton.

December 17.—We have gone into camp near Fishersville, Augusta county, Va., and are busily engaged building winter quarters.

December 18.—Although it is Sunday, we are hard at work on our winter quarters.

December 19.—Still engaged building our winter quarters. We are building without tools and without nails. The roofs will be weighted on.

December 20.—Hard at work on winter quarters, cutting down trees and “daubing” the walls of our houses. Half of the company is detailed this morning to build stables for the horses.

December 21.—Yesterday we were surprised to receive orders to move. Marched at 10 A. M. Marched through Staunton and to within a mile of Mt. Crawford, where we went into camp at 6 P. M. It commenced to hail this morning at 2 o’clock and the ground is now covered with it to the depth of several inches. Have just gone into camp about two miles above Harrisonburg.

Bitter cold.

December 22.—Commenced to march at 6 A. M. and have gone into camp two miles above Mt. Sidney. Our horses made the march with the greatest difficulty, the snow on the pike having been closely packed by that part of the army which preceded us. Hundreds of times the poor animals fell to the ground. We made the march two steps forward and one backward, as it were.

December 23.—We returned to the old camp at Fishersville last night more dead than alive. Our suffering on this last march was terrible. Communication with Richmond is cut off. The Yankee cavalry is said to be at Gordonsville.
December 24.—News of the fall of Savannah in camp to-day. Everybody gloomy. Last night had to scrape up the snow to get a place upon which to spread our blankets.

December 25.—Christmas day, to be sure. Rations to-day one-half pound pork, one pound flour, a few grains of coffee, an infinitesimally small quantity of sugar.

December 26.—The whole company is to-day detailed to work on the stables. It seems that the horses are to be provided for before the men, as our own quarters are not yet built. Rained last night.

December 27.—Most of our houses are now finished, save the daubing of them with mud.

December 28.—Moved into our quarters this morning. Details for work on stables still made. Commenced to rain at 4 P. M.

December 29.—Snowing.

December 30.—All hands snug in quarters.

December 31.—Commenced raining again last night, and it has been falling all day.

So ends the year 1864, with the Howitzers in their winter quarters at Fishersville, Augusta county, Va.

January 1, 1865.—New-Year's day, and nothing more.

January 2.—We have been on another wood-chopping expedition—this time in the neighborhood for a gentlemen named Hamilton, who for our services promises to give flour and bacon. We are getting independent of the Confederate States Government for rations. Poor thing—she does the best she can for us.

January 3.—Not even a detachment detail to-day. Snowing slowly all day.

January 5.—Rev. Mr. Abell is in camp to-day, scattering his tracts, &c. He occasionally preaches. We hear there will soon be a chance for "horse detail."

January 6.—Rained last night and during the day.

January 7.—No army movements in the Valley. Weather cold and windy.

January 9.—It is now definitely known that all men who are in artillery corps who are willing to take home and feed during the winter a battery horse, will be given a furlough till the spring campaign opens. In our company there are more applicants for horses than animals, and we are now waiting with some
Diary of Creed T. Davis.

eagerness for Captain Jones to make known the successful applicants.

January 12.—The horses have been assigned or drawn for by the men. This morning we put our guns on the cars, so that they may be removed for safe keeping should the enemy make a raid.

January 13.—Yesterday, after putting the guns on the cars, all the boys who had drawn horses set out for home in squads and singly. I am among the lucky ones who drew horses but did not get a saddle, as there were not enough for all. So I am on the road bareback with a poor horse, bound for Richmond, via Staunton. I leave the company in winter quarters at Fishersville. Heaven help them!

March 30.—Arrived at Fort Clifton to-day; have not had time to examine the Fort and the surrounding country. A Yankee fort is just across the river (Appomattox) from us. We can see their men moving about very plainly. There seemed to be heavy fighting on our right last night, judging from the artillery thunder. Have not yet heard the result.

March 31.—I have walked around our position at Fort Clifton and do not like it at all. The Yankees in front of us occupy higher eminences than that upon which our fort is located. However, I know nothing about it. All the horse-detail men have not yet arrived.

April 1.—Our fort is quiet, though there is a rumor of our forces abandoning this portion of the lines. But camp always has rumors. It is thought that we—that is, our company—will be sent further to the right, where almost constant skirmishing or fighting has been going on the last four weeks. We will leave the fort with some regrets, as our Yankee neighbors at this point do not seem inclined to disturb our repose in our dear little bomb-proofs under the hill. We live underground like ground-hogs. The enemy have not fired a shot in this direction, I am told, for six months, nor do we fire at them. Yet we are in sight and almost in speaking distance—the Appomattox intervening.

April 2.—While on guard last night I witnessed a grand bombardment of our lines by the enemy. It lasted nearly all night, and the very earth trembled. It is impossible for me to describe the bursting mortar shells, &c., &c. The heavens were illum-
in the flash of the guns. I thought the world would fall to pieces. The attack commenced at 10 P. M. The gunboats on the left added their thunder to that of the land batteries at 11 P. M. We have it now that the enemy last night captured four miles of our works and killed General A. P. Hill in the fight. I can see large fires in Petersburg. I am informed that our people are destroying the tobacco in the town. This looks like the evacuation of the place.

April 3.—The battle of yesterday proved almost as disastrous as was at first reported, and they say, that not only is Petersburg evacuated but also poor old Richmond—that sweet morsel for which the Yankee world has worked so long and patiently. It is said they occupied Richmond this morning, our troops having destroyed much of the town, before evacuating it, as well as all Government property. We evacuated Fort Clifton last night at 10 o’clock. Perfect silence reigned at the time. A silence that I thought would suffocate me. We marched the balance of the night and to-day we are in Chesterfield county near the Appomattox river. It is said we will retreat to Farmville.

April 4.—Richmond is certainly evacuated and our army is in full retreat—whither no one knows. Sickness, hunger and privation of every kind has completely demoralized the army, or rather the handful of men, left General Lee. Camped last night near Oak Grove Church, Amelia county, one mile from the Danville railroad and two miles above Chester Station. The roads are in a terrible condition, and our horses are completely broken down. It is feared that we will now lose our wagons.

April 5.—Have marched but a short distance to-day. Our artillery battalion has been converted into an infantry regiment, and our men are now armed with muskets. The men, as they leave Richmond, believe that the cause is gone, and desert in great numbers. At least fifteen men have left our company alone. (Who?) We are drawing no rations. This morning we had corn on the husk issued to us, each man getting about one ear. We were drawn up in line of battle this evening, and had slight skirmishing.

April 8.—I am a prisoner of war. I write this in the prison camp near Burkeville Junction. On the 6th, being quite worn out and broken down, the battalion marched ahead of me. After straggling some time I found our wagon train and marched
with it, hoping to catch up with the company at night. In the evening the Yankees, who had been marching parallel with and on both sides of us all day, closed in on us and captured the whole wagon train, numbering many hundred wagons and ambulances. The wildest confusion reigned among the drivers. As the Yankees were all around us, nothing could be done. Many of the horses were cut loose from the wagons, and as they galloped away riderless over the fields were shot down. Notwithstanding I was in the enemy's hands some time, I rallied my strength and escaped to the woods, where I slept, with many stragglers or lost men like myself, till the morning. On the morning of the 7th, while attempting to get across the Appomattox, we were gobbled up by the enemy, under the very nose of whose advanced line we had slept the last night. My captor, who was a Pennsylvania Dutchman, treated me with great magnanimity, giving me crackers and parched coffee. It is useless to say I was almost famished.

NOTE.—For remainder of Creed T. Davis's experience, including several months in prison at various places, see his personal diary, in his possession.—Ed.

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Diaries of John Waldrop, Second Company, and Wm. Y. Mordecai, Second Company, Combined.

March 24, 1862.—Found company at Wynne's mill, three miles from Y. T. Rain.

March 25—6.—Cloudy. At Wynne's mill.

March 27.—Clear, cold. Enemy advancing in large force.

March 28.—Reached camp at Wynne's mill, about three miles from Yorktown. Fine day. Put guns in position in breastworks.

March 29.—Camped at Wynne's mill. Rain in evening. Enemy reported to have fallen back.

March 30.—Rained all night 29th. Still raining. Heavy firing heard in direction of Newport News. Third detachment moved to dam nearer Yorktown.

March 31.—Company and Third detachment as above.

April 1.—Tuesday. Weather fine. Camped same place.