Bennett, Van S.
Diary, 1864;
Oct. 3-12
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Day Journal
W S Bennett
bapt. ca. 5/12th Wis.

15.05
Oct 3d. Have been busy making and forwarding my returns for Sept. 1st. My return for 6th & 7th Equipage lacks only the Inspector’s report which will be ready this evening.

Received orders today to restore all baggage in Atlanta and be ready to move at an early hour tomorrow morning. The whole Army of the Tenth is under orders to move the then that for aught I know...
It seems the enemy has crossed the Chattahoochee and is making demonstrations in the direction of Rome & Kingston. This cannot be permitted because it endangers our communications. The move is a bold one on the part of the rebels and they need more strategic skill & determined bravery than they have displayed during the last six months to insure their escaping our old Chief Sherman. Writing January 5th.
Oct 4th. Sent my 166th S. Idaho. Return last night. Was awakendi very suddenly at 3 A.M. by the infernal rattle of those discordant drums. Ordered first to march at 5:30, then 5:15, and finally at 4:40 while eating the last “square” meal for nobody knows how long. The order rings “fall in, fall in,” and I hastily drop my coat at a wistful look at my bit of broiled ham and in strictest secrecy repeat “fall in.” And on five minutes we are wallowing.
through mud ankle deep, caused by the heavy rain which fell during the early part of the night. First hour was rather dark. Men stumbled down and rolled over each other in the rutted mud but bore all with commendable cheerful-up good humor. Marched twenty-two miles and encamped in the work thrown up by the enemy for the defense of the shanties in July last. The 15th A.C. is behind the 14th A.C. (Army of the Cumberland) has gone on to Marietta, Ga.
news of the enemy.

just two years ago today the "Marching Twelfth" left Humboldt to
bowl for Bolivia to
ake part in the friendly but
despoiling campaign of
the following fall and winter. Our abject effusion of
orations date too far to
back than then though we
considered ourselves "old
soldiers." Many of the
"Green Read" have hopes that
this retrograde movement
will give us a few months
rest i.e. garrison duty.
Oct 5th. Started from camp at 4.30 AM. marched seven or eight miles and took position on the Marietta and Sandtown pike in the old trenches left by the enemy months ago. They are much more formidable works than we ever built. Ditches are six feet wide, parapets are from eight to ten feet thick and surmounted by a heavy head log. An immovable abattis formed of small trees runs along the front of the en-
.live their line. It is evi-
dence that even at that
remote day when they affect
ed to despise our Skil,
strength and courage the
rebels had a mortal dread
for Yankee bayonets when
threatened by Yankee muscle.
We lay here all day ex-
pecting orders and listen-
ing to the thousand
rumors ever afloat in
bivouac. 2d Brig. has gone
to the front for picket. 4th
Div. has taken position
on our left.
Oct 6th. Have lain here in the rain all day sometimes sometimes listening to the rich jokes of witty soldiers who are doubtfully witty when very uncomfortable or very tired and sometimes dozing an hour away only half protected from the annoying rain drops. Where have I been? Occasionally a rumor of fighting reaches us but nothing reliable has been received today except that the enemy has been strongly held.
to abandon the railroad as far as Acworth. Allston was in our possession yet at five o'clock P.M. and the Gen. Bondy signaled that he can hold it against any odds a reasonable length of time. Men have been very uncomfortable today still they have had some rareseen chasing rabbit dogs and sachottle almost mating this with boring paper xerox unmercifulfully they have managed to light night without the lines.
Oct. 7th. Again we have lain all day on the same ground with preparations completed to move at a minute's notice. "Seven up" played on a hunchow with Dr. Rogers, Capt. Price, and Dr. Reynolds. Blake also has helped to pass the dull hours.

The enemy made an assault on the works at Allatoona today but were repulsed with heavy loss, leaving 300 dead on the field among them one Gen., two Captes and one Lt. Col. They lost
several thousand prisoners and a number of pieces of artillery. Our loss is six hundred killed, wounded and missing. Such is the substance of the report received at Div. Hd. Qrs. — The supposition that the rebels were going to try and break our communications in the neighborhood of Kingston is rapidly fading. They are as far north as appears as they have any desire to go.

John Henthorn Died
yesterday in hospital at Marietta of Chronic Diarrhea. His death is wholly chargeable to the medical faculty of the Regt. It has been perfectly plain for months that he must be sent north or die, still he has been kept. Such brutal cruelty is so common that it has ceased to elicit more than a hating remark. Dr. Rogers will have this and scores of similar murders to answer for. Poor Seth Meilburg is following
rapidly in the same path. It is discouraging to see good soldiers and estimable men dying almost daily and yet be powerless to help them. I suppose it must be looked upon as one of the evils inseparable from war. It is certainly insufficient to wear our own even for a moment, from the glorious and righteous cause in which we are engaged. God will surely bless our efforts to restore peace.
The 4th Div. marched in the direction of Campbell Springs at 5 o'clock A.M. to learn something of the position of the enemy in that district and about his probable operations at other points. If a force is found there it will indicate that "yanks" will be recrossing the Chatahoochee very soon, if not they will probably turn up in the vicinity of Kingston about the 1st. Gen. Thomas will meet them at that point if not sooner.
Oct 5th. We were under arms at daylight but remained in bivouac all day without receiving orders. At 11 AM the 14th Din returned and reported to have been out fifteen miles without seeing any rebel. The 15th NC marched in the direction of Marietta. It is supposed it will take positions between Renesow and Leas Mts. will have to travel fast or late as the Corps moved at 5 PM. The day has been cold and raw. Decr
two days, national air Ph
and received orders to
move at seven tomorrow
row morning. Lt. Thayer
died in hospital at Marietta
yesterday. He was wounded
Aug. 13th in front of Atlanta.
The bullet entered the right side
about the fourth rib a little
back of the middle of
the side and was found in
the vicinity of the lower ex-
tremity of the spinal column. An abscess had formed back of
his kidneys which contained
a gallon of pus when he died.
Oct. 9th. Sunday. Broke brushes three miles southeast of Marietta at 6 A.M. and marched moderately to 9 a.m. when L. Edgar, Eno, H. F. Strong, the former is quite low, the latter has been a left wrist which to greet his old comrades. Ten leapt to Mr. Glenn and Berry and L. M. Phelps all of the 32nd Ill. Capt. Mrs. has resigned and is now waiting for the Railroad to be repaired before going home. He is jubilant over his "success." Yes, I know in his
circumstances I could not
leave the service but as I am
situated I may him his free-
dom. — The day has been
beautiful, the sun bright,
the air clear and comfort-
able cool and the roads in
the best condition imagin-
able. Autumn weather in
this latitude is glorious.
Scurpapes any thing I ever
saw except our Ohio.
Indian Summer. It
lasts so much longer here
that is makes up in
harb for the dreaming con-
tendril of our "smoky season." I do not wonder that the Southern man, so devotedly attached to their native land. It is a great pity they should not possess into what goodness enough to induce them to live peaceably under so good a government as ours. After leaving Marietta we marched much faster than before, camping near Big Shanty about an hour before sun set. While panning the work we built in June.
last when advancing cautiously on Reno saw many old memories both pleasant and unpleasant came rapidly to mind. Recollections of the many brave, noble fellows who have gone since then came a deep shadow to rest on my spirit. Many of my own Company have been placed here to compass within the three past months. Our animals are very much reduced. We have helped fully thirty today that were dead or dying of exhaustion.
Oct 10th. The whole Army of the Tennessee has lain in camp today with heavy fatigue duties repairing the railroad. The track is being laid at the rate of a mile and a half a day. Assuming that the progress is equally as rapid at the other end of the break trains will be running in three days. It is to be earnestly hoped the men are suffering for rations. Received orders at sunset to be ready to move at a
moments noticed. I have been preparing a Diary for 1864 from Lt. Hay's in place of my own book. It is difficult because his is so brief; it only tells where we were. At certain dates what hours of certain days we started on certain marches and where, and at what hour we camped. All else must be furnished by one's memory. Received orders at seven A.M. to move at six. By now morning, an hour later, the time was changed to 7:30.
but at ten o'clock we were removed from slick by the cry "pack up and be ready to move immediately." At 10:30 we started off and marched till four next morning when we camped at Averill. The night was pretty chilly and as we marched very slow, the column suffered a great deal from cold and fatigue. I fell asleep several times while walking along and several times when halted I slept to thinking the column had moved a great distance.
It was not till I ran again, and
expect some other unfortunate
mate, commandant, and a
great many horses and mules
from the batteries and trains
wagon and were dropped
left where they dropped.
Guns, caissons, baggage
wagon were drawn over
the poor animals necks
and limbs. I was a
number that were still
living, and with their legs
cut completely off. The
road was lined on both
sides by bleeding men who
had become too much worn to go further, Oct. 11th. As soon as the train came up, which was about fifteen minutes after we started, a man, I suppose, my blankets and myself, but had only just commenced to sleep when I was called to breakfast. So I tried to again after eating but our fellows, that is, members of our crew, being together, I had to bid alarmer good by till a better opportunity should present itself. At noon
o'clock we fell in and started up the road at a rapid pace which was kept up till 11.30 when we were halted in an open field on the left of the pike in sight of Allatoona to make coffee. About 11.30 we started again passing through Allatoona Gap between at the station a number of rebels wounded the 7th. Among them is a woman who received three gun shot wounds during the assault of that day one of which, received in the knee, rendered the arm
putation of not a day, but a
lower limit necessary. I
ever before appreciated the beauty of
the medical profession. It is
well for the peace of mind
of a certain dear, good lady
the woman's mouth that
she was not a member of
the amputating board at
Alatoona that at. She is cur-
rently reported that the
lady (?) sympthy for with
the rebel cause is rapidly
lagging ours. maybe from
the death of her husband. May
befriend all her relations, maybe.
We crossed the Etowah on a bridge built by lines erected on our way south the 1st of
June last. It is about one hundred fifty yards below the
point where the Cameron pontoon bridge was anchored. The 3d
Div. bivouacked about five
miles north of the river
at 4 P.M. Shortly one half of the command was detailed
the road side from one to
two miles back. Consisting of hard bread,
fried bacon & coffee at noon.
These are conflicting rumors.
concerning the state of our affairs in the east. One is
that Grant has Lee's army shut up in Rich-
mond without a hope of escape or any thy give battle.
If this be true the demoral-
ization, if not the annihi-
lation, of the rebel army
of Va. is certain. The other
is that Lee is evacuating
the Capital he has so long and
so successfully defend-
ed and is bringing his army
into East Tenn. by way of
Knoxville R. Such a
mon.
would compel Gen. Sherman to leave this section of Ga. and probably the whole state to defend Tennessee but it would be greatly advantageous to the interests of our Government because it would get the rebel armies together and our strength could be concentrated and we should crush them whereas they dared to make a stand. I have no faith that either summer is true. They are both too good.

The 18th Wis. Bat. is stationed at Eltona Bridge.
Oct. 12th, Awoke at five o'clock and in a few minutes was dressed & washed. At 5:30 Col. Bryant Lovely's 26th Light Calvary come to the Regt. to said we should have moved a quarter of an hour before to comply with orders, but as the leading Brigs. we not yet movin' we could eat our breakfast. All hands immedi- ately fell to but had not filled our plates before an order came to move at once & started off to our lines with our eating anymore.
was in the woods possible human. We drew on till with
in six miles of Rome where
we camped for the night at
eight P.M. There was slow
but heavy firing in the main
ity of Rome during the after
noon. The men were very
tired and without rations
but received one day's sup-
ply of hard bread and beef not
this line which supplied
their wants for the time
being. Shipped with Edi
Jay and Bill Woodruff on
account of the towers
the by having prepaid our
men's train to bring rations and forage from Ring-
ton. Our baggage was sent
to Rome by railroad. The
boys woke me up two days
since the night to catch Cle-
rus fellows. Think I'll hire
to one of them after the war.
R received a large small
which gladdened the boys'
hearts amazingly. It is
the finest they have had this
month. I read a letter
from any...
and a score from other parties among them one from E. L. and
Richland Centre Received
official notice that E. Landford has been paid for the month of
July, August, 1864 by Maj. J. T. Brown, also that
Whitney T. New was discharged from Henry U. S. A. Gen.
Hospital in Indiana on the 12th day of Aug. 1864 because of
Surgeon's certificate of disability. Any amount of
Union State tickets and other
election papers came to hand
by mail. We ready to vote 1864
Charges came against B.B. Summers, J.B. Summers, H.A. Shaffner, J. Bunn for transportation furnished by 2 M. Deps. from Chicago to Green Rock to the amount of $4.81 each. Allen Me. Boy sends Surgeon's certificate extending sick furlough twenty days. Am suffering a good deal with lameness of one ankle. It needs all my determination to keep along on these hard marches. I hope to have done with this calvary.