August the 8th 1862
South Bend, Ind.
St. Jo. Co.
B. B. Cole enlisted for three years or during the war in the United States service, of the 73rd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, and went in camp in South Bend fair ground with the regiment August 10th, staying there until August 20th, when we were marched out of camp and down through Town to the depot; after getting on board the car was soon traveling with railroad speed for Louisville, Ky., at which place we arrived the next day, marching through the city and out into the country about two miles where we went in camp; expecting to remain there several weeks and drill, but instead of that, after drawing the remainder of our uniform, and getting our guns, on the
evening of the 24th we were marched out of camp, to the L.O.L. R.R. Depot where a train was standing ready to convey us to Lexington, Ky. at which place we arrived the next morning, after riding all night, formed in line and marched from there to the fair grounds, stayed there until evening, then marched again about one mile farther south to a nice shady grove where we went in camp, and stayed there until August 20 when we had orders to go on a forced march to Richmond, where our troops had got badly whipped by Herby Smith. We left this evening about dark, marching on double quick and quick time, arriving at the Cro. river 15 miles distant next morning about 9 o'clock, a halt was ordered here to give the soldiers a chance to rest, when they were soon seen scattered around on the ground dreaming of the hardships of their
hard march the night before, but our sleep was of short duration, the rebel
soon making their appearance on the op-
posite bank in mass, planting their cannoneering to shell us. We having no cannons,
and musket range being too short to affect
any damage on them, of course a retreat
was necessary to be ordered, which was
done immediately marching back to Lex-
ington in our old camp the same
day, staying there all night and next day
until about 2 o'clock, when the news came
in camp that the rebels were coming; our
regiment, with the rest of the Brigade
was marched out to meet them, but
being disappointed were soon marched back
in camp, but for a short time, the news
was soon brought in by the Cavalry that
Herby Smith with his whole force, num-
bering about 20,000, was but a few miles
distant on the Richmond Pike marching
in Town. Our force not being sufficient
size to effect a stand, another retreat was necessary to be ordered, which was done on the evening of Sept. the 14th toward Frankfort. After marching all night in quick time, we arrived at the beautiful Town of Versailles, about sun-rise next morning, a halt was ordered about one mile previous, reaching the Village, and the regiments marched out in a beautiful grove to rest, after remaining there about two hours. A forward movement was made toward Frankfort, at which place we arrived after marching hard all day, about 10 o'clock in the evening, and marching through the City went in camp for the night, as we supposed, expecting to sleep the remaining portion of the night and get up next morning and have some thing to eat, which we had not had much of for the last two days, but not so, we were routed up about two in the morning, the news coming in
that the rebels were again marching on us, so we took up our line of march toward Louisville, with worn limbs, sleepy eyes, empty stomachs, and haversacks; our retreat was thus continued Sept. 34th and 4th, we reaching our camp about noon on the 5th within five miles of Louisville, being almost dead with sore limbs and starvation on the road. And up to Sept. 25th we camped on five different camping grounds, within 5 miles of Louisville, staying sometime a week, and sometimes two or three days at one place; part of the time digging trenches to defend ourselves from an attack of the enemy, (if such a thing should happen) at other times lounging around in camp.

On Sept 28th we left our old camp South of town, and went to the west of it, where the 20th Brigade was camped, we being transferred from the 1st Brigade and 1st Division, to the 20th Brigade and 6th Division.

We stayed there in our new camp over night.
Next day, being Sept. 6th, we left this morning for Beards town, 40 miles distant, where the rebel army commanded by Gen. Bragg was encamped, to give them battle, or drive them off, just which they might prefer.

We arrived there on Friday evening the 8th. They having the latter, had shed blood on quick time, leaving the town, and their sick in hospitals for us to take possession of.

We stayed here over night, starting next morning in pursuit of the rebels, traveling Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, when we arrived at Springfield and after driving the enemy from this place went in camp for the evening. Next morning we started again in pursuit of them, traveling all day, and night, arriving at a river called Eden Fork, on the morning of the 9th.

Stayed here about 3 hours, when we had orders to fill our canteens, and prepare for a march to Perryville, 10 miles distant, there being no water on the road, and the rebels having declared that after arriving there would