Mary L. Harrison
Index Review
80 entries
200 references
Go with the wind
For many years
I have traveled
1862

Camp 2 miles from Big Blue July 7th 1862
36th Brigade Commanded by Col. Belsam

In writing the few following lines I wish to write of the places I've seen, the things I have seen, the trials and hardships which I have gone thru to do this, I must look back to the past and come gradually up to the present. I wish much to put down in plain unpainted language my experience in the Army.

On the 6th day of March 1862 we were to start out from home and all day long we made my preparations for my departure with the Crescent Regiment. However, by the time the time the time the Town Clock had tolled the hour of Twelve I had made all of my arrangements and bid adieu to all my intimate friends. We started up Town in my way home, there to remain but a few hours to eat my starting dinner and take my final farewell. Oh what a good dinner it was too. But how little did I foresee it, for then I had not tasted of the camp life of a Soldier or had I even tasted of his Salt Bacon. The few hours which I had to remain with my home folks fairly flew by the time arrived for my Good Bye. Arriving at the Armory of Co. EB we filed into line and marched to Poydras St. where we formed into a sentimental line and marched thru the streets amid the cheers and waving of handkerchiefs from the crowd of some women and children who had formed along the line of march to the Depot.
many near the eyes that wept that night—many, I heard, ‘good-byes’ were uttered. The ice was great but a way was soon made through it, then we filedly arrived at the Jackson Depot. Where we again bid all hands good-bye off to west the wars. The first night aboard the cars we passed without a wink of sleep, for many were the bottles broken there which caused the ‘Jolly’ to flow freely from all hands. After taking on the train for three days nights we arrived at Jackson, Tenn., which place we were ordered to report to, disembarking we were encamped on a green. Then awaited orders, which by the way were not long in coming. These orders were that we should return to Grand Junction then await the further orders of General G. T. Beauregard. Our encampment was fixed at three miles from the Depot. In the way I forgot to mention that I was one of those detailed to go forward to clear up the camp so as to have every thing in readiness for the balance of the troops who were to follow on in the afternoon. Now this was the first time that I ever remember to have been put regularly at any kind of work, much less chopping down timber, scrub oak, but notwithstanding I went to work in good earnest and got more accomplished than I had any idea I was capable of doing. We had here a very pretty encampment, with an abundance of fine water for all purposes. Our camp was arranged in the neatest and best style, in fact
...were in what I should now call most comfortable quarters, but then we did not then know it, for we grumbled daily at ourselves at every meal but tomorrow this did not prevent our timing so we managed to pass the 8 or 10 days which we remained here. Every day counted ‘How long would it be’ before four ninths days expired. We had seen enough—we had had enough—we should want no more. Camp life, in fact, we were completely disgusted, but our body could tell us that when we had gone through six or eight months that we would like it probably but in this way we at times consoled ourselves. The time ran slowly but surely away. Two weeks passed away. The orders from Gen. Beauregard finally came.

Yes they came, they were, to move in two hours. Thus of course there was all into a state of instant excitement. Where jumped to pack knapsacks to strike tents, this was done, the watch said 12 m. at night. Oh! how disconsolate we were at breaking up Camp at such a time of night! We did think it terrible. It was outrageous to be aroused from our beds to fight. To march into the Junction, three good long miles, but we could not help it. I forced march” said the Col. by the way a mean dog and off we started. Thunders in the distance but we gained the Junction without an accident except that a young mean accidentally shot himself thru the leg by which sad accident he was fortunate enough to gain his discharge. I have often wished that I had been in his place at the wound was slight and the result was fatal.
We, that is, all who could get in, slept in the floor of the miserable hotel dining room the remainder of the night. We did not remain long waiting for the train was soon ready to transport us to the most miserable town of Smith. The train came, we were again outdone by the miserable official cars which they had fixed up for us. Now all the way from our city it must be known in miniature; had been furnished with the finest first-class passenger cars—nicely cushioned seats, etc. But we did not see how in the world nice gentlemen could get along in such things. For the bed made for more than the area originally by the transportation of stock. So such things as molasses barrels. For a miserable cold day made much more so. I by the falling of a steady rain. To make a long story short, we were jacked away like sardines in a box. After a two days hard work arrived at Cornell only about thirty miles from the junction. There were not many troops at Cornell when we arrived although although we, from grumness, placed their numbers at about thirty-five thousand. I think we came the gallerm yellows that one started from home in such an expedition but that we did not know for in reality we had seen no real hard shifts. We did not know what it was. We pitched tents about a mile to the rear of the ground against fixed ourselves with as much comfort as a soldier can do. Laid ourselves down to have an easy time at a seat. But soon the smell didn't came again this time.
They were to go out on Cigarette Duty. This was our first attempt at this; as we had heard such awful fearful stories about it we began to think that our last moments had arrived. Oh, how much I wish I could go but there was no way of helping it. It went out. The first camp we made was about 12 miles from Farm town and did not get there until late at night. The wagons could not move with any degree of swiftness on account of the extreme heaviness of the roads. This was one of the most fatiguing marches to me that I remember to have had as we had been all day long moving over the space of 12 miles. At this camp we remained, doing Cigarette duty for some three or four days, probably a week, but am not certain as to the exact length of time I remained. And then changed our position to a farther some two miles farther out. Here at these two camps we did have awful times. I started us on the face for the wagons had not followed us as we hadn't anything at all to eat. And it was considered too risky a piece of business to go far from the Camps to buy anything. Our Col said he didn't much care whether we stayed or not, here were none, thanks and many thanks to their names and Andrew Cagnes and Louis Claindon came into four relief with some provisions which they had purchased with their own funds, presented to the Company. Among the things was some big freshening I think it was one of the best and nicest morsels I ever put in my
It was a great piece of kindness on their part and all hands felt it. We dubbed this the "Camp Starvation" to this day any man in the whole regiment will understand you when I say of Camp Starvation. We remained on this line about six weeks days usually a very long time, but I can safely say that when we got back to our tents at Cornville we were fully satisfied.

With just one duty this another the time ran slowly away. This time came 25 change Camp again, just because the Brigadier wished it we did it, but it was only a short distance 3/2 mile farther to the east of the town. We here fixed up our Camp in what is called a line of battle style, with tents unmatched in long straight lines forming nicely laid off streets. Here we remained occasionally doing Potatoes duty or working upon the fortifications which were being thrown up around the place, so as to make it more tenable in case of attack. This latter work went mighty hard to many a boy and we at first I make, for the use of such implements was new to us by practise at least we were called the "Pike driving regiment" so we understood the rest of the gille better than the shorel tricks. In this way, I say we wore away the time up to the 1st of April then of a sudden Orders came to cook and prepare five days rations to be made over to march at a moments notice. It was work the boys must do, all things were in order with two days ration in our haversacks five in the wagons. I had about a week prunes
I was sent to the rear with all the heavy and unnecessary baggage of the regiment. I had only arrived the evening of the 3rd, about two hours previous. Our marching consequently had not the time or opportunity of making our preparations for the march, but with a few hard crackers in my haversack, announced myself to Capt. Haynes as being ready. The line of march was taken up, with Col. Marshall. J. Smith at its head, and the men in good spirits. As any band of brothers you ever saw, but numbered only 75 privates to our regiment; the largest in the field--nearly eleven hundred men all well and beautifully uniformed with flags flying and drums beating. We knew or at least we supposed there was to be a fight, of course, as raw recruits always are we were very anxious for it, the weather was bad and the roads muddy; but all day long, sometimes half the night we marched with drum and drum. It was the 3rd night, as on the 2nd and 3rd we had been marching and sleeping in the rain and mud almost an inch deep, from the time we started which was Thursday, 3rd to Saturday night it was raining with the utmost force, and it was cold and chill as mid winter.

About three in the afternoon of Saturday the 5th we halted and began our preparations for the night. For an awful cold night, to make it worse no fires were allowed. Our imaginations were excited and our brains feverish, for we were then laying within 1/2 mile of the Federal camp, and their drums could be plainly heard throughout the whole night, as if they were marching to and fro. I did not sleep any that night--I could not for too well did I know what the morning light would bring forth.
our men did that, any one might have supposed them to have been old hands at it. The battle was raging with all its fury thick on our right & centre. The very 10 a.m. seemed to ring with the awful sounds. These often show how could be plainly heard coming from the troops, three of course were ours as they always accompany the charge & capture of a battery or some chosen point of the enemy. Batteries were taken over & our men blood flowed as freely as water—this was about the hour of 12 m. on the 6th—I alleged came with dashing speed to tell us to “Off—and” to the scene of all this triumvirate. I remember his words—they were to move as quickly as possible as the future of the day might depend upon us. Thus up and away we went at a furious speed towards the scene of carnage.

Texas a long way that. must go over hills. The day was warm & most of the high hills of the rear were almost gone out of sight. It was not long now before we struck the first rise of the field I think amid the dead. The dying was Our brave & generous Beaugard, standing amid his staff on a stump, as we filed past him he gave some words of encouragement & remnant at about a mile from where we saw him we were drawn up in line. I then stood up under our first fire. The rifle, canister & grape were every where falling the large trees around us. the fire got too severe too fell back in some little confusion, but soon rallied & returned to our former position. When we were ordered to charge an old log house in the behind which
the enemy had taken position. I had not said that the house was gained to the enemy with it. We again fell back as they were a skirt of woods were forming a most murderous fire into our ranks. The enemy were flying thick & soon men's friends fall all around me-Tivas he that young Grimes had his head completely ripped by a solid shot—retained our position until ordered forward again—this time the Gallant, Lightning & Polk led us on—this was the Command of Major經 Prichard—we were brought to bear on his right flanks—pouring in a heavy fire, we brought him to the "White Flag" by our timely movement—we had cut off all chance of his escape. He came forward & made his surrender—Jesus within fifty feet of him. He then said that we had that day whipped the floor

of the United States Army. He said "chew boys, chew as much as you can. Fit for you have done well. We did not chew this out of respect to the fallen chief—My feelings were glowing. To think that I had assisted in the capture of so great an enemy as my country. His command was supposed to be the finest body of men in their service. One of their number remarked that he could not see how mere boys like us could contend with men of their size & age. Our reg. marched thru their Camp, but did not remain long. It was approaching evening—a swift & rapid fire was going on to our front & one or two shots at time in getting thru them. Here again we encountered a terrific fire of Cannister & Conical balls. They flew by like hail over thru us & supporting battery which was attempting to silence us.
But night at last closed around us

- for the nights the battle ceased,
- but only to commence on the mor-
- row. As night came we were marched
- into their camps. I told to sleep as best
- we could. Before going to sleep how-
- ever our hungry stomachs told us they
- were suffering, as we had had nothing
- for some 48 hours with speaking.

- To this effect there was a detail of men
- made from each company to go
- collect up blankets & provisions for
- the men. Myself & Ed were on this
- detail. Off we went stumbling
- through tents over the dead.
- After walking for 40 minutes
- we came across a Commissaries tent
- filled with anything a soldier might
- call for. For thin we went. We got
- blankets & provisions & returned to
- quarters where they met with a
- most hearty welcome. It was a strange
- thing to me to be walking over the farms
- of the dead. All around that night
- you could see their little fires laying
- out. We slept tolerably well about
- night as we were in good tents & secure
- from the falling rain which was falling
- outside. Morning came, cloudy
- & gloomy & how faint all hands did
- look. Their faces were so dirty, all burned
- eara with gasified & ant - line had not
- been washed since leaving but at Camp.
- I was uncertain whether the battle could
- be renewed again that morning or not.
- The time was running away, the
- sun had begun its ascent. It was not
- long the ed we began moving from
- one point to another, first at a drags
- quick. That common line, we had
- been out now for almost 48 days
- than been marching continually
night day; sleeping in the mud. Letter without anything to satiate our craving appetite. We were broken down; many could not stand for stiffness of limbs kept space so they fell out of ranks until they rested. Themselves. They pitched in to the fight which had been renewed was again going on at a furious rate. The musketry on both sides fought desperately we against six muskets as we tested the ground on this previous day to rejoin their lost camps. During the night on the 2nd they had been largely reinforced. We on the contrary did not move could not show a front of more than 15 to 18 thousand effective men. While they had fully 70 thousand. For a late horn in the day we drew them back, but this they came on as every time bringing reinforcements this day we refused all their parol lines. The battle raged furiously until about 3 o'clock in the evening of the 7th when a sudden as if an agreement had been made the roar of artillery and infantry ceased. Both parties seem to break off simultaneously and the cease was given for our retreat as it was effected in admirable order. Our men seemed to take it as coolly as anything in the world. We commenced our march homeward, after bidding Thilts got up the same night we marched to Monterey a town some two miles from the scene of action. There I sat myself crouched into an old shed which was crowded to death by the number it contained. The rain poured down all night long & the shed proved too hot little sufferable. Standing in the rain here we laid all night until daylight next morning we started to Corinth which was still some ten or twelve distant
Innovate roads or such deep mud in my life. Without any exaggeration it was a knee deep all the way from Montgomery to Corinth, with water sometimes a waist deep. That on this road we tried soldiers travelled, but suffice it to be said we gained the Crescent Regt encampment about three in the evening. Our feet were so much swollen by excessive walking that when we pulled our boots from our feet remained stile for a while we found we could not walk – I set back from the battle of Shiloh safely. I can say so my desire to be in a battle was more than gratified. I don’t care if it falls to my lot to never see in any other battle.

It was three o’clock days were all the men arrived in Camp. Of course it was difficult to contain the number in killed or wounded. But it was often heard from as the

125 in all. 25 killed dead. 84 wounded. 57 balance missing. May state here that some of the wounded have since died from their effects, and among them is Capt. Andrew Haynes. He was a brave & a generous man. In a duel between & his many friends. The many knew then he fell into his that fatal fight. Peace be with you Andrew, my friend – We had some dew in the service just one month, the 16th March we marched in & on the 20th April we cut loose at the Tampus – Our regt was taken down with the many diseases prevalent in Camp, after the battle we have many since turned out more than 500 men. The time we fancied at Corinth was occupied by doing Quartermaster fatigue duty upon the entrenchments. & it was slowly steadily away while the time arrived for the Evacuation. This had been going on for fully three weeks to prepare for the final evacuation, which took place on the 28th May 62. It was effected in fine style.
We did it without the loss of a single man. I don't
about this time been appointed Brigade Quartermist-
I came to my place among the wagons to
from it. The weather was very warm & the
iments were severely, but, comparatively
ooking had quite an easy time as I had a
good four mule wagon in which I could carry
worldly goods. We took it leisurely along, stopping at the heat of the day to
rest & make the mules to cook dinner. It
seemed more like a picnic than anything
I have seen in the Army. The march to
this place a distance of some 45 miles, occu-
spired about 12 to 15 days, as we stopped off
on the banks of a beautiful creek for some
few or six days to water the mules & allow
the mules to come up from which we made our way
to this romantic spot, the scene of a great
battle between the Creek & Cherokees.

Indians. The country around is beautifu-
ly one of the most productive parts of
the cultivated Countries in the State of Miss.
Our Regt has, since the capture of its kind
of enlistment been "Conscripted" for the
time of the Civil War with the War. The
are in my glowing spirits about it, but at
battal forces has the go in the Army they
cannot, of course help themselves to the
all astonish to have the men out as to
return a gain to the kind embrace of
"Home Sweet Home." These few lines can
only present to the reader a mere outline
of the battle of the Battle of the many days.

We passed thru on the #4 April, I regret the loss of my
Captain more than anything else that happened
in my sight. He was cool & collected in the hour of danger & might
have always been seen teaching his men
by the front. Immortalize so well his just
rebel to one for not keeping his line - I
had picked out a good sight
I was looking on at the trial right with curiosity when he called to me to fall in at kind play thus. I did so, for I felt the kindness of his reach. This must end this letter to these pages—

Head Quarters 3rd Brigade
Ordnance Department, July 16th 62
\[ \frac{3}{2} \times 200 = 600 \]

\[ \frac{6}{200} = 0.03 \]

\[ \frac{4}{3} = 1 \frac{1}{3} \]

\[ \frac{3}{5} = 0.6 \]

\[ \frac{4}{5} = 0.8 \]

\[ \frac{3}{5} = 0.6 \]

\[ \frac{12}{6} = 2 \]

\[ \frac{12}{6} = 2 \]

\[ \frac{8}{6} = 1 \frac{1}{3} \]

\[ \frac{13}{12} \times 12 = 13 \]

\[ \frac{23}{12} = 1 \frac{11}{12} \]

\[ \frac{369}{13} = 27 \frac{12}{13} \]

\[ \frac{13}{12} = 1 \frac{1}{12} \]

\[ \frac{29}{12} = 2 \frac{11}{12} \]

\[ \frac{81}{27} = 3 \]

\[ \frac{81}{27} = 3 \]

\[ 0.8 \]

\[ 0.8 \]

\[ 0.8 \]

\[ 1 \]

\[ 117 \]

\[ 0.8 \]

\[ 2 \]