Note Book

Liberty Cap, Mammoth Hot Springs.

Property of _____________________________
Volume Three

A Continuance of Anecdotes

And Incidents of the

Civil War

With Extracts from Diary Kept

Bay

John E. Williams

11th and 16th Indiana Infantry
May 16: Clear and pleasant. We marched at day-light. The whole Army moving to the front on different roads. Our Division on the extreme left. With General Frank Blair's Division marching in our rear in support. We marched five miles and encountered the enemy advanced posts whom we drove in. We deployed into line of battle and threw out skirmishers who were soon briskly engaged with the enemy. At 10 A.M. Artillery fighting all along the lines of battle of the two Armies. And at noon the Battle is raging severely in front of and on Harvey's, Carr's and Hunter's Divisions of our 13th Army Corps and Sologan's Division of McPherson's 17th Army Corps all to our immediate right. Nothing but heavy skirmishing and artillery fighting by and in front of our Division. Heavy bodides of the enemy have appeared in our front moving to the right. The enemy appear to be massing against our center. General Smith shelled the enemy big.
Incident of the Battle.

When we received word down the line of battle during the engagement on our right—that Horsey’s Division was going after a battery in his front—that was annoying the line. Our Division and Blairs supporting Division were lying down awaiting orders. So Sergeant Barr Buckingham and myself with others went out to a nearly hill and climbing onto a rail fence had a fine view of the battle field to our right. We could see our line of battle for more than a mile across the cotton fields. We could see all of Burns Horsey’s and Hunterhouse’s Divisions of the 13th Army Corps and a part of Logan’s Division of the 17th Army Corps. Our troops were in two lines of battle with a Brigade of Infantry drawn up in echelon as a reserve to support the line where needed. The rear line of battle were lying down in open order—General McCleman’s staff and escort—and General Horsey and staff were in crew in the rear of the troops. But the other Head Quarter's
were not in sight - The whole front line of Battle was blazing with musketry fire and the Batteries posted at intervals and on elevations along the line were also a mass of flame and smoke. And we could hear but not see the answering fire of the enemy from their lines of Battle on the hills at Baker's Creek where they held a strong position well covered with timber. The uproar was terrific. Now and then the wind lifted the smoke of Battle and we could distinctly see the long blazing lines of blue clad men. Here and there a dark object lying on the ground that marked the spot where some brave fellow had given his life for his Country. The Artillerists looked like demons as they rushed to and fro among the blaze and smoke of the roaring guns. The view was grand and with the roar of Battle even to a seasoned Soldier somewhat terrific. When the lines advanced in support of Hovey's Charge the men went forward with a rush shoving as they advanced.
and disappeared within the wood - then our batteries in the centre ceased firing and Men was suspense until the renewed cheering of Hovey's men told us that the battery had been taken and the enemy driven off. Here the mistake was made. There was no holding of Hovey's men who pursued the enemy - Carr's and Austermuhlen divisions protecting Hovey's flanks stopped to rearrange and align their division lines - but before the mistake could be rectified the enemy had massed against Hovey and outflanked him and forced his division to retire - fortunately Hovey had a division of highly disciplined veteran troops and there was no panic - and the men fell back in a leisurely manner turning now and then and giving the johnnies as good as they sent - When Hovey again got into line with Carr and Austermuhlen all three divisions fell back together - It was just at this time when the enemy closed in on our retreating troops that the tumult and uproar broke out afresh and
Hell broke loose again. And we could tell that the firing was approaching which told the tale of disaster. When our lines reappeared out of the woods in apparent disorder, it looked to our anxious eyes like defeat, and we wondered why General Grant did not send our two idle divisions here on the left to outflank the enemy's right wing and thus relieve our center. But General Grant knew that was running his battle and he knew his business. Sergeant Buckingham with a serious look on his face turned and looking at the sun said, "If I had a string tied to you, I would jerk you down quiet." His idea was that if darkness came on it might possibly save us from defeat just then. Something occurred that electrified us. Some mounted officers of Hovey's Division rode in among the retreating troops and collected the Regimental Standards and then rode back to a point in the cotton field and grouped the standards all in a bunch and the men as they came in line with the colors faced about.
and aligned themselves and when the yelling Yankees came out of the woods poured such a shower of bullets into their faces as changed their ideas of an easy victory—just then a great signal smoke was seen far to the rear and Hell broke out as our whole army advanced to the charge with great cheering.

And the enemy being outflanked on his left and the enemy lines were broken and fled from the field of battle in defeat. The victory was complete but the loss in killed and wounded was enormous. Hooker's Division alone losing seventeen hundred men.

It soon became evident why General Grant did not use the two idle divisions on our left instead of Crook's Division on our right to outflank the enemy at the crisis of the Battle. If he had outflanked the enemy's right wing General Pemberton's Army would have been driven to the east to form a junction with Joe Johnston, as it was Pemberton was driven into Dickensburg just what General Grant wanted after having engaged him in a disastrous battle outside of his works.
The Battle of
Champion Hills - Miss.
With the charge, capture of the Battery. The repulse, and the rally of Honey's Division.

1911.

From a war diary.
On May 16th, 1863 took place the engagement or Battle of Champion Hills, Miss., during General Grant's campaign to gain the rear of Vicksburg. The enemy held a very strong position on Batter's Creek where General Grant attacked and after a bloody engagement lasting nearly all day gained a complete victory.

From

The Diary of

John C. Williams

Adjutant 16th Indiana Infantry Volunteers.

Copied in 1911
May 16th, 1863. We marched at daylight. The whole Army marching to the front and moving on different roads. Our Division on the extreme left with Frank Blair's Division marching in our rear in support. We marched five miles and encountered the enemy's advanced posts, whom we drove in—we deployed into line of battle and threw out a line of skirmishers who were soon briskly engaged with the enemy's skirmishers. At 10 A.M. heavy artillery fighting all along the line of the two Armies and at noon the battle is raging severely in front of us. Carr and Austerlitz's Divisions of our 13th Corps and Logan's Division of McPherson's 17th Corps all to our immediate right. Nothing but skirmishing and heavy artillery in front of our Division. Heavy bodies of the enemy have appeared in our front moving to the right, and General Smith vigorously shelled them as they passed. The enemy appears to be marching against our Centre. At 4 P.M. the battle is yet raging with great fury to our right. We have advanced our Division one half mile under
A heavy artillery fire. The line of battle has been advanced at all points and some artillery and prisoners taken. At a little after 4 p.m. Hovey's Division made a charge and captured a field battery. The enemy massed against Hovey. The latter being unsupported and for an hour took place one of the most terrific contests it has been my lot to witness. The musketry was a continuous roar and crash. Completely drowning the artillery fire. Hovey was forced back for a mile but rallied and the whole line advancing and Crocker's Division of McPherson's Corps outflanking the enemy's line on their left. The enemy's lines were broken and driven from the field in great confusion abandoning artillery and small arms on the field.

Incident of the Battle. The volley of Hovey's Division.

When we received word down the line during the battle that Hovey's Division was going after one of the enemy's batteries that was annoying our line and in his front. Our Division and the supporting Division of Grant.
Blair was lying down awaiting orders. So Sargeant Barr and Buckingham and myself and some others went onto a nearby hill and climbing onto a rail fence we had a fine view of the battle field to our right. We could see our line of battle for more than a mile across the cotton fields. We could see all of Carr's, Hovey's, and Auster-hans' Divisions of our 13th Corps and a part of Logan's Division of McPherson's 17th Corps. Our troops were in two lines of battle with a brigade of infantry drawn up in echelon as a reserve to support any portion of the line where needed. General Meckleberrand, Staff and Escort and General Hovey and Staff were in view in the rear of their troops but the other Head Quarters were not in sight. The whole advanced line was blazing with Armament fire and the Batteries posted at intervals along the line were a mass of smoke and flame. And we could hear but not see the answering fire of the enemy from their lines of battle on the hills at Batters Creek where they held a strong position.
well covered with heavy timber. The uproar was terrific. Now and then the wind cleared the field of smoke of battle and we could see the long blue blazing lines. The cannons looked like demons as they rushed to and fro among the guns of the Batteries. With here and there a dark object lying quiet on the ground that marked the spot where a man had given his life for his country. The view was grand and with uproar of battle somewhat terrifying even to a seasoned soldier. When the lines advanced in support of Hoye's charge the men went forward with a rush, cheering as they advanced and disappeared within the wood, and our Batteries ceased firing. And then there was suspense until the renewed cheering of Hoye's men told us that the enemy's battery had been captured and the enemy driven away. Here the mistake was made. There was no stopping of Hoye's men who pursued the enemy while Carr and Chuter, Tannen, and divisions who were covering Hoye's flanks marched to align and rectify their lines.
Before the mistake could be rectified the enemy had massed and outflanked Hovey's division and forced it to retire. Fortunately Hovey had a division of highly disciplined Artisan troops and there was no panic and the men fell back in a leisurely manner turning now and then and giving the Johnnies as good as they sent. When Hovey got into line again with Carr and Busslers and all three divisions fell back together. It was just at this time that the tumult and uproar of battle broke out afresh and hell broke loose as the enemy closed in on our retreating lines and we could hear that the firing was approaching and which told the tale of disaster. When our lines reappeared out of the woods in apparent disorder it looked to our anxious eyes like defeat and we wondered why General Grant did not use one of the idle divisions here on our left as a diversion in favor of the center. But General Grant and not us was running this battlefield and he knew his business.
Sergeant Buckingham with a serious look on his face turned and looking at the sun said "If I had a string tied to you I would have you down quick." His idea was that it might come on it might possibly save us from defeat-just Then something occurred that electrified us. Some Mounted Officers of Henry's Division rode in among the retreating troops and collected the regimental standards and then rode back to a point in the cotton field and grouped the Color's all in a bunch and the men as they came into line with the Color's faced about and aligned themselves and when the yelling Johnny's came out of the woods poured an enfilade of bullets into their faces that changed their ideas of an easy victory and hell broke loose again as just at this time a great signal smoke appeared far to the rear and our whole army rushed forward to the charge amid great cheering. Again the voice of the American people and the enemies line broke and fled from the field defeated and in
great confusion existing in artillery, small arms, and prisoners in great numbers on the field. The losses on both armies in killed and wounded was very heavy. Hooy's Division alone lost seventeen hundred men.

It soon became apparent why General Grant did not use Smith's and Blair's Divisions on our left instead of Crook's Division of the 17th Corps on our right. If he had placed them on our right and the enemy's right General Pemberton's army would have been driven to the east to form a junction with Gen. Joe Johnson, as it was Pemberton's Army was driven into Petersburg where Grant soon had him cornered up.

General Grant's strategy in manoeuvring to keep the enemy's armies separate and defeating them in detail was marvelous. And his grand tactics on the battlefield was of the highest order. He forced the enemy to do just what he wanted them to do. Almost the same as if he commanded their armies. The future historian will rank this campaign to gain the rear of Richmond and one of the greatest in military history.
I say in my diary of the war.

General Grant in crossing the Mississippi River with his army and cutting loose from his base of supplies is taking a tremendous risk. But that he is a bold, able, and skillful soldier his past military career and all of his movements thus far in this campaign shows. He will have to meet three separate armies of the enemy. That under General Bowen now at Grand Gulf. The one under General Peabody in Richburg and the one under General Johnston now advancing from Jackson. All these commanders are able and skillful soldiers and whose combined forces far exceed that of General Grant's army. But these armies are widely separated and General Grant has surprised the enemy by his rapid and unexpected movements and the route taken. No one without seeing could believe that he could move a great army of fifty thousand men over the route he has taken—through swamps, across backwater, marching his men on narrow levees where the men had to march in single file and when there was not
bridges and roads making them out of material at hand.
Transporting troops on steam boats down narrow and
crooked bayous where the water was so swift that
the boats had to be snubbed bow and stern to pre
vent the boats from being dashed to pieces against
the trees—so they did not know where to look
for him until he suddenly appeared before Grand
Bndel. Then crossing a great river in the face of the
enemy without cavalry or artillery until he defeats
an army and gains a foothold on the other bank—
There is plenty of ammunition but the army will have to
live off the country as it advances until a new
base of supplies can be established. General Shen
man with his Corps is making a demonstration up
the Yazoo River to hold Tombon ton in Vicksburg until
we can dispose of General Bowen's army. And then
he will hasten to join us.

After the fall of Vicksburg Mr. Lincoln wrote
to General Grant: "When you crossed the river
I thought you were wrong. Now I wish to publicly
acknowledge that you were right and that I
was wrong."
General Grant transported the 18th and 19th Corps across the Mississippi River on gunboats and a few shattered transports that had run the blockade at Vicksburg and Grand Gulf and pushed out into the interior without Cavalry or Artillery. Every body on foot. Even General Grant himself. General Bowen promptly marched out to meet the invader and the two armies came in contact at Magnolia Hills near Port Gibson where General Grant gained a decisive victory—practically destroying Bowen's Army from further use in this Campaign—when Sherman came up on May 11th with his Corps General Grant sent him direct against Johnston marching from Jackson to form a junction with the Vicksburg Army. Grant followed slowly with the 18th and 19th Corps and as he expected these movements deceived Pemberton who now believed that Grant's first objective was Jackson, the State Capital so he moved out of Vicksburg with his Army to fall upon Grant's rear. This was in accord with Grant's plans who wanted to engage the enemy outside their works—and as soon as Pemberton crossed the Black River Grant turned...
and fell upon him at Champion Hill gaining a great victory and driving Pemberton into Picke-

burg. Then followed that wonderful siege. For forty six days the digging and mining went patiently on while shot and shell poured into the doomed city from all sides until the 3rd day of July when all arrange-

ments were complete for the final assault on the next day. and Pemberton surrendered. The great Campaign had netted a powerful fortified city - the gateway to Letas-Metica and Europe and through which flowed great quantities of arms, ammunition and military stores of all kinds and great droves of Letas Cattle to feed the eastern armies of the Rebellion. A great depot of supplies. And had opened the great River "which now flowed inverted to the Sea" split the Confederacy in twain - captured fully fifty thousand prisoners and a vast quantity of artillery. And was no doubt even without Gettysburg the turning point in the war.

John E. Wilkins
11th and 16th Indiana Infantry
May 1864

Carbine has been attached to our Brigade. May 2. We have been relieved from duty on out posts to give us a necessary rest. The horses are suffering for the want of forage there being little to issue. Our communications by River has been closed. The enemy has established a blockade twenty six miles down the River and on yesterday captured and burned a transport. They also got a large mail. We are pushing out large detachments on both the Henderson Hill and Cpahoeses road to get into touch with the enemy. The general impression is that we will have to get out of there quick. A force of Infantry went down the River in a transport but the enemy was too strongly posted to attack and returned.

May 6th. Our Brigade marched yesterday evening to relieve the Fourth Brigade on duty with General Smith's Army Corps on the Cpahoeses road and heavy skirmishing between Smith's Troops and the enemy yesterday and to day. Heavy Cannonsading down the River all day yesterday. The enemy at the Blockade captured two of the light armored gun boats.
May 18th:—

and one transport. Our loss in killed, wounded and prisoners being heavy—It is likely we will have to fight our way out of the trap that Banks has got us into. This we are amply able to do.

May 11th:—visited Alexandria yesterday evening and was mistaken as a first lieutenant and adjutant of the regiment. The brigade was relieved from duty with several Smith troops on May 9th having had some severe fighting at Monroe's plantation. The enemy being driven back on the Upsalmas road; some fighting on the right wing the past few days and the enemy forced to retire several miles. All of bagage has been placed on the transports and we have orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice. A division of infantry has marched down the river road and gone into camp a few miles below.

May 12th:—We are entirely out of forage for the horses, and they are suffering for the want of it. The wing dam across the river is a success and the fleet is safe below the falls. All got through except one large hospital boat that
Grounded and was dismantled and destroyed.  
May 13. -- We marched at daylight. Thousands of
bales of cotton stacked up on the levee has been
bored and the high wind has carried the burn-
ing cotton to all parts of Alexandria and the town.
is a mass of flames as we are leaving. Our Brigade
has the advance of the Army. We struck the enemy
twelve miles out on the River road. We have ob-
structed the road by falling trees across it and
the twelfth Illinois Cavalry is engaging them
while the Pioneer Corps are removing the ob-
structions. It sounded like a Brigade going into
action when those Magazine guns of the 12th Illinois
began to pop and we wondered what the Johnny
thought. There is heavy cannonading above and
below on the River. The Infantry is up and going
into camp and we are in bivouac at the obstructions.

May 14. -- We marched at daylight and went into
immediate action with the enemy and skirmished
all day as we pushed them back to the River
MacRae and after a sharp fight outflanked and
drove them from their position and at dark
have gone into bivouac inside their works.
May 13th.

They were strongly posted having good Rifle pits put up with ditches and embasures cut in the levee for Artillery to Command the River. The two captured Gun Boats lay partly sunk in the Channel but the Fleet will get through without Trouble. There has been heavy fighting in the area all day. The enemy under the Robber Longrattle occupied the opposite side of the River and poured a continuous shower of balls into our unarmed Transports and Hospital Boats killing the sick and wounded. The Gun Boats could not reach them on account of the high levees.

May 15th. - We marched at daylight and leaving the River by changing direction to the right, marched twelve miles to Marksville and found the enemy in force in front of and occupying the town. Two more Brigades of Cavalry was brought into action and we forced them through the town and two miles beyond into an open prairie. Both sides received reinforce. ments of Infantry and Artillery and a sharp engagement ensued lasting well into the night.
With considerable loss and without further success. At 10 P.M. we are bivouacking on the field. This day's engagement was a spectacular one—each line of battle consisted mostly of mounted men extending for miles far out on the open prairie. And the moving lines as the struggle moved to and fro presented a magnificent show. The infantry are up and bivouacking immediately in our rear and we have orders to advance at daylight and bring on a general engagement as if it is the general impression that General Taylor's Army is in our front.

May 16th: In the saddle at daylight and advancing in line of battle across the beautiful prairie. Not an enemy to be seen. The Sixth Missouri Cavalry deployed to the front as skirmishers. The cavalry division at least four thousand men in long lines of battle as far as the eye can see. The infantry moving in column to our rear. Passing over the beautiful prairie for three miles and approaching the fire on the opposite side and when about one quarter of a mile
May 1864.

Of the same. There was suddenly opened on us from the woods at least eighteen pieces of Artillery. The whole line came to a stand and we sat like statues in the saddle during a most furious Cannonade - Shells crossing the air in every direction went hurtling over and through our ranks. The long lines with waving banners and guidons. The sun flashing from Sabre and Carbine. The booming of the Cannon. The whole Army and immense wagon train of Sixteen Hundred baggage wagons closing up in our rear made a grand and magnificent show. We remained in line covering the formation of the Army for Battle. The Infantry Divisions formed in three long lines with one Division in reserve and drawn up in echelon so as to be prepared to act in support of any part of the line that might require it. And to the rear of that the wagon train will closed up and yet to the rear of the wagon train is the sturdy western of the 13th Army Corps as a rear
guard - It is seldom that one has the opportunity to witness such a sight on a field of battle. With one sweep of the eye cloud be seen thirty thousand infantry, four of five thousand cavalry, two hundred pieces of artillery, and sixteen hundred baggage wagons. And now from the rear centre a flag of the Signal Corps is seen in motion. It is repeated all along the line and the whole array advances as one. Those who think this Army demoralized and disheartened should have seen it today. It was worth a lifetime to witness its movements. And there was not a man there that the odds be what it may but was confident of victory. At another wave of that Signal Flag the infantry halted and the covering cavalry swept like great wings to the flanks and Battery after Battery open on the enemy's position and for an hour the roar of a score of Batteries mingled and the enemy's artillery silenced a cloud of skirmishers spring fourth from the long advanced line and disappear.
May 15th.

within the woods - a rattling discharge a few dropping shots and all is over. The enemy had disappeared. They could not stand that terrible array about to be hurled against them and gone off in retreat by the Chaneyville road and escaped. All were disappointed as all wished for a battle being sure of success our Brigade again went to the advance up the Yellow Bayou road and we are now dismounted at 6 P.M. and resting for an hour.

May 17th. - We advanced last night up and crossed the Yellow Bayou on a small ferry, we marched twenty miles yesterday and last night and bivouacked on the bank of the Yellow Bayou and now covering the building of a pontoon bridge. In the saddle at daylight and marched eight miles to the Atchafalaya River and have gone into camp on its bank. The gun boat and transport fleets are here. The latter was roughly handled on the way down being fired on all the
May 18th. - Cloudy and windy. The enemy attacked General Smith's Army Corps in camp on the opposite side of the Yellow Bayou to day, and a severe engagement took place. General Smith obtaining a complete victory and captured a large number of prisoners.

May 19th. - Clear. An attack expected on our left flank - Our Brigade holds the left. The Regiment is out post. The balance of the Brigade and a Division of Infantry made a reconnaissance to the left this morning without finding the enemy in force. There not being enough pontoon boats to bridge the Atchafalaya River, a bridge has been made by anchoring the fleet of steam boats out in the stream side by side from bank to bank and laying the stringers and floor of the bridge across the bows of the boats and making a fine substantial passage way and rather a novelty. All the trains are crossing - also some infantry on the other
May 18, 64:

As much property as we did on the retreat—They did this to prevent baled cotton from falling into our hands—and there was property destroyed on the retreat that there is no doubt that the enemy destroyed themselves but which will be laid to us. At one place on the retreat we came to a plantation where the negro quarters were on each side of a narrow road for a long distance and just as our ordnance train entered the narrow roadway between the houses the two lines of houses burst into flame and it was necessary for the teamsters to dash through at a full gallop with their loads of ammunition as a great risk of blowing up the entire train. There is no doubt the whole thing was prepared and set on fire for the purpose of blowing up the train. We also have men with us who has been prisoners of war and had been half starved and otherwise shamefully mistreated by the enemy and no doubt they had a good deal to do with the destruction of property—we have some bad men with us. That is to be expected in a large Army.
But as a rule our men are quiet, orderly soldiers and not disposed to wantonly destroy property. I have not known of a single instance in all my military life where persons male or female have been mistreated by our troops. There are most likely such cases but so few that not one came under my observation.

He remained in Camp at Morganje Bend until June 4th when all the Infantry Divisions having embarked on transports for New Orleans. Our Division of Cavalry took up its line of March down the west bank of the river and reached and crossed over to New Orleans where the Cavalry Division was broken up and the 16th Indiana was assigned to duty within the defenses of Orleans and did patrol duty in the City of New Orleans. It was about this time that I was offered the position of Assistant Adjutant General at the Head Quarters of the Cavalry Camp of Instruction and Distribution. I was quite an
Honor but I declined it. Thinking that I was entitled to a little rest after all the hard work I had done. Our work in the city was easy and pleasant and we enjoyed the beautiful and pleasant living city. On the Fourth of July there was a great celebration in the city not only of the National holiday but of the inauguration of the first Free State Governor of Louisiana, Governor Hahn. There was a great gathering of citizens and soldiers at Lafayette Square where speeches were made, and a fine concert by two large Brass Bands. The fine Drum Corps of the first United States Infantry, accompanied by two full Batteries of 12 lb Napoleon guns. The Napoleon guns were discharged from a red board like a braze and took the place of the Brass drums. All the glass in the vicinity was shattered. Prof. Silliman, the greatest band master of the day, had charge of the music. It was a novelty and I enjoyed it. We did duty in the city until July 24th when we received orders to take post at Thibodaux.
In the Bayou La Fontache about 30 miles west of the city, but just within the defenses of Orleans, and we did garrison duty here. Scouting, chasing, and fighting them when we could corner them which was not often. And in one of these, a detachment from our regiment and a detachment from a New York regiment came together in the night and mistaking each other for the enemy, a fight took place in which Captain John X. Thompson was killed, one of my best and most intimate friends. Capt. Thompson was a brave and gallant soul. Who after passing through twenty-three general engagements and under fire more than a hundred times without receiving a scratch, and when the war was virtually over, to be killed in an obscure skirmish by our own men. The pity of it.

On June 5, 1865, on orders, the regiment was concentrated at New Orleans for muster out. On June 17, a great fleet of
Ocean steamships sixty in number with Weitzel's 23rd Colored Army Corps on board on their way to Texas was passing up the River all day affording a fine sight and on the 23rd a great fleet of River transports passed down the River with the fourth Army Corps passed down and went into camp at Chalmette. They are also on the way to Texas and with General Sheridan now in command of this Department it looks like that someone will get hurt if the French and Austrians do not get out of Mexico. On June 30: Twenty-four Officers and four hundred enlisted men were mustered out of the United States Military Service by Captain A. McAlister, Assistant Commissary of Munitions and one hundred and ninety-two recruits was transferred.

On July 1st we embarked on River transport and got off at daylight as we were stationed in the lower section of the city we steamed around the entire crescent and
Some Remarks.

Napoleon or Wellington judging from their sayings and campaigns would neither of them have crossed the Mississippi River under the same conditions that Grant did. Napoleon said the bead is upon the side of the heaviest Battalions and he took good care always to have the heaviest Battalions at the point of contact. And he would not move without his artillery or cavalry. Wellington said an army moves upon its belly. Meaning that a Soldier would not fight on an empty Stomach. Perhaps some soldiers might not. But it does not apply to the American Soldier. Grant’s men at Donaldson won on empty stomachs. And General Grant describes the situation at Chattanooga when he relieved Rosecrans and took command of the Army at that time as that the men were illing on parched
Corn and Beef dried on the hoof. And yet within a few days he took that Army and won the important Battle of Orchard Knob which gave him an advanced line to assault Missionary Ridge. And these same men went up Missionary Ridge and drove Bragg’s fine Army to destruction. Wellington would have acquired a thousand baggage wagons to transport subsistence for that Army. And by the time he could have got his train to the point of crossing the enemy would have been so strong he could not have crossed at all.

General Grant knew that the heaviest battle lines were on the other side. And he gained his first victory without artillery or cavalry.

Grant’s strategy in manoeuvring to keep the enemy armies separate and defeating them in detail was masterly. And his grand tactics on the battlefield was of the highest order. He forced the enemy to do just what he wanted them to do almost the same.
as if he commanded their Armies. The future Historian will rank this Campaign to gain the near of Petersburg as one of the greatest in Military History.

General Grant transported the 13th and 17th Army Corps across the Mississippi River on the Sun boats and a few shattered transports that had run the Blockade at Petersburg and Grand Gulf and pushed out into the interior without Cavalry or Artillery. Every body on foot even General Grant himself with a horse could be captured for him.

General Bowen with his Army promptly marched out of Grand Gulf to meet the invader.

The two Armies came in contact at Magnolia Hills near Port Gibson where Grant gained a decisive victory—practically destroying Bowen's Army for further use as an Army in this Campaign.

Then the Cavalry and Artillery of the Army was pushed across the River as fast as the Transports could carry them over and the
Army was itself again. When Sherman came up with the 16th Army Corps on May 12th General Grant sent him direct against General Joe Johnston marching from Jackson to form a junction with the Petersburg Army under General Pemberton. General Grant followed slowly with the 13th and 17th Army Corps and as Grant intended these movements deceived General Pemberton who now believed that Grant's first objective was Jackson the State Capitol. So Pemberton marched out of Petersburg with his army to fall upon Grant's rear. This was in accord with Grant's plans who wanted to engage the enemy outside his works. And as soon as Pemberton crossed the James River Grant turned on him at Champion Hills gaining a great victory and driving Pemberton back into Petersburg. Then followed that wonderful Siege — wonderful for its short duration but objects accomplished — for forty-six days the digging and the mining went patiently on while an avalanche of
shot and shell was poured into the doomed city from every side - while General Joe Johnston impatiently threatened the rear - Jeant could be said to have a rear to his Army - and when on the third day of July everything was ready for the final assault on the next day Pemberton saw the useless expense of blood and surrendered - The great campaign had ended and netted a powerfully fortified City - The Gateway to Texas Mexico and Europe - And through this gateway poured a constant stream of baled cotton going to Europe and in return vast quantities of arms ammunition and military stores of all kinds - And great droves of cattle to supply and feed the Armies of the Rebellion in the East - Vicksburg was also a great depot of supplies for the enemy - and The Campaign had opened the great River which now flowed inverted to the Sea - Also split the Confederacy in twain
never again to be reunited in Rebellion. Captured fully fifty thousand prisoners in all during the campaign—A vast quantity of Artillery—and was no doubt even without Gettysburg, the turning point in the war.

John E. Wilkins.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 16th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.