

Div 33. Officers Barracks.
Fort Delaware, Del.

Oct 14th 1864

At this late day, I would take a retrospective glance over the past Six Months, and after recording a few of the Incidents which Memory brings back, I would daily add, whatever of interest transpires, in these Prison Barracks.

On the 30th April 1864, our Brigade, then on James Island S.C., rec^d orders to march. destination said to be some point in No. Ca.; accordingly We moved about Midnight from the comfortable Camp and Log houses of our Regiment, by way of the New Bridge, to Charleston. After a halt of a few hours, which enabled us all to take parting interviews with friends, We took the Cars at the N.E.R.R. Depot, leaving our dear old City about 10 A.M. May 1st, with Colors flying, Bands playing Martial Airs, and the Multitude sending up heartfelt prayers for our welfare. The Train, having on board

"Cars", and a portion of the Eutaw Rgt., the people of Charleston were specially interested.

We passed safely over the Road, and arrived, without any occurrence of special moment, at Wilmington on the second day; passing through the City, We marched to our proposed Camping ground about two or three miles beyond, arriving after dark, and during a shower of rain. We soon disposed of ourselves, as comfortably as circumstances would permit, in the deserted huts, passing a tolerable night.

The next day, the Sabbath, was spent quietly in Camp, without any special Religious Exercises. On Monday, all who could procure permits, and many who could not, repaired to the City, with various intents, chiefly pleasure seeking.

The City did not strike us favorably, by contrast no doubt, with our dearly loved home; but We were very kindly entertained by many old friends whom We met.

We hurried near Wilmington, ^{four days} when an Order came for us to move in haste to Petersburg Va. We accordingly took the Cars; the Train upon which

our Reg^t was, arriving at day-light on the 7th; We then heard that a portion of our Brigade, the 21st, and three Companies of 25th, had handsomely repulsed a larger force of the Enemy, on the previous Afternoon, at Fort Walthal Junction, about seven Miles off.

We immediately marched to reinforce our gallant comrades; arriving upon the scene, We advanced, and skirmished with the Enemy a little during the forenoon. We then took up our position along the Rail-Road at the Junction. The Regiments in Line belonging to our Brigade, were the 21st, 25th, & 27th S.C.

The Enemy were soon seen advancing upon our position, with a splendid Line; another Line was observed moving to our Left, to flank us; this movement was met by a slight change of position on our part; the Battle now opened briskly; the Enemy using no Artillery, We having but one Piece, and little Ammunition; After a short, but severe Engagement, the Enemy fell back in some confusion, and We remained Masters of the field.

The fight was scarcely over, when the 11th Regt. and 7th Batta, both of our Brigade, arrived on the Scene. Having marched as rapidly as possible from their point

of Debarkation. Night even closed upon the Scene, and our tired Men, after a frugal meal, lay upon their Arms to obtain some repose. In this Affair, among other noble Martyrs, our Regt. lost Lt A. H. Mastum an a Gallant Officer, and eminently worthy and pious Christian. Our Company had none killed, several Wounded, and one captured, while straggling early in the day. At Midnight, we were all quietly aroused, having formed, we fell back to Swift Creek, a large force of Negroes having been previously engaged in erecting Breastworks.

May 9th. A portion of our Brigade to-day made a Reconnoissance across the Creek. The Enemy were found in very heavy force, and after a severe fight, our Men retired, suffering rather heavily; our Regt. was not engaged.

May 10th. Butler left his position in our front.

May 11th. We took up the line of March towards Drewry's Bluff. That Night bivouacked in the Road.

May 12th. Marched into the Breastworks around Drewry's Bluff, during a terrible Shower of Rain.

13th. The Enemy appeared in our front, and skirmishing commenced; in the Afternoon heard loud cheering along the Enemy's Line, which Prisoners subsequent

taken, said, was caused by the news, of the capture of Richmond, published in General Orders ~

14th Sharpshooting continues; prolonged Cheering along the Line announces the arrival of Gen^l Beauregard, who rides into the Works amidst the whizzing of bullets and bursting of shells. His presence inspires the Troops with the greatest enthusiasm. Private McAttee of our Company was killed to-day, by a Sharpshooter. Mr Pinkney Brown of Co "A", also fell about same time.

15th. The Rain, which had fallen heavily for three days has ceased, but the Trenches remain in a horrid condition. Lt A. St. J. Lance of our Reg^t was killed to-day by a random shot passing over the Works. Lt S. Seay died on Picket of Appopley. At dark, Amunition was distributed.

16th At day break, We were in Line. From the indications around us, it was evident that a general Engagement was about to commence. Our Troops were in fine spirits, and confident of success. Our Brigade soon advanced, and became hotly engaged. The Enemy were pressed at all points, and at last gave way in disorder along his whole Line. Genl Whiting, it was said, had been ordered to move up from Petersburg, with Six Thousand Men, to

cut off Butler's retreat, but he only had an unimportant Skirmish, with a portion of the retreating Column.

The Enemy's loss was heavy, ours comparatively light.

Our Brigade captured five Napoleon Guns, besides a large number of Prisoners, Stores, &c.

We remained on the field that day and night, the Men supplying themselves with Articles of Comfort from the stores left by the flying foe.

17th. We followed the direction of Butler's retreat that Afternoon, took position near Bermuda Hundreds; our Line extending from the James, to the Appomattox Rivers; enclosing Butler's forces in the Neck, formed by the junction of the two rivers.

20th. A Detachment from our Reg^t, was ordered to man two 30 Pounder Parrott Guns at Howlett's Bluff, on the James River, near Dutch Gap; I was sent with the Detachment; Capt B. W. Palmer, in Command.

Our Detachment stopped at Howlett's Bluff about three Weeks; the Enemy's Fleet lying about a mile below. They shelled us occasionally, with their Heavy Guns, doing no damage. This Place was made perfectly desolate before the Yankees left it - The Dwellings, a

new, and elegant one, furnished in the best manner, was completely riddled by the Enemy's Shells, no Outbuilding was so small or insignificant to furnish them a Target. Every living thing had been killed or carried off, except one poor Sheep, which some of our Men found in the Woods; She was soon dispatched, and furnished an excellent repast for us. A delightful Spring, below the Bluff, furnished an abundant supply of cool Water, to which we could always add Ice, from the Ice House on the Premises. Altogether, our short term here was a pleasant sojourn.

31st. Early in the Morning, news came, that our Brigade was en Route to Richmond: no orders for us, but as Lt. Rippon had reported two days previously, I concluded that my duty was to rejoin my Company. I accordingly set out, and soon found that the Brigade had gone to Chester Station. I arrived at the latter point, in time to join my Regt., We were soon speeding on our way. Arrived at Richmond, We passed through the City, taking the Mechanicsville Turnpike. That Night We bivouacked near Gainie's Mill.

June 1st. Not having been well, when We started, the March prostrated me, and I went to the Rear, where I

remained two days.

June 3rd Reported for duty, found the Brigade in Line of Battle near Cold Harbor. The Enemy attacked our Line furiously, at different points, with his forces Massed in heavy Columns, but without success; he was repulsed with great loss at all points, while our loss was very small. Our Brigade was not actively engaged, but we suffered somewhat, from random shots; among others, our Reg^t lost our gallant Adjutant, Mason Smith, who fell, mortally wounded, while extending an Order.

The success of this days operations, was considered, most signal; the loss of the Enemy was variously estimated at from ten, to twenty thousand; while one thousand covered our entire loss. After Nightfall, was sent out on Picket, remained twenty four hours, which passed off quietly.

June 4th Found the Reg^t completing a line of Breast works, upon which they had worked all the previous day under fire of the Enemy's Sharpshooters. About Mid-day, while they were so employed, Private J. A. Sappard, a gallant Soldier, and estimable young man fell a victim to an unerring shot from the Enemy's Line.

Fort Delaware, Del. Dec 3rd 1864

My Dear Niece

Yours of the 19th Ult reached me on the 29th, and I assure you, gave me much pleasure; it was the first I had rec^d from home since yours Mother's of the 18th Sept. I am glad that the Rings came safely to hand, I presume your Aunt rec^d hers, but you do not mention it: I have not heard a word from her, directly or indirectly, since I have been here, although I have written her frequently. It was superfluous to mention your improvement, under your new Teacher, the Style of your Letter evinces that, but in letters, do not consume so much space in my address. The little Note, which you added, in reference to the Box of Tobacco, your Father had forwarded, was rec^d with acclamation by my Informants, I presume it is the same, which I requested Lt Col B. to send me: We can get it here, but it is very inferior, and costs a great deal. I am happy to hear of your improvement in Music, I long to hear some, but I fear that pleasure is reserved for a more distant future. I rec^d some time ago a few Books from a kind Lady friend, with whom I correspond, they have added much to my limited resources of employment and amusement. I requested Lt Col B. to write your Father, after his Exchange, and let you all know how I was situated here; such information from me, would not be contraband, but I am obliged to write with a view to my Letters being gazed at frequently before you receive them. You must write me often, you do not know, with what pleasure, a few words from home are rec^d within the precincts of a Prison. I have written to Elmira, to enquire of Henry Jordan, but can gain no information of him, I fear hear no more. Remember me kindly to all enquiring friends, and to the Servants at home. With much Love to all. I remain Affectionately Jas. C. Saltus.

Miss Rosalie Robinson
Augusta
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