

THE CIVIL WAR DIARY

of

JOHN W. TOWNSEND

also

LETTERS

(sent and received)

*John W. Townsend to Genl. Stems and Hood's
Great Grandfather*

*W. Scott and Lyndell P. Hood's
Great, Great, Grandfather*

*Forrest Jacob and Lyden Alexandra Huffman's
Great, Great Great Grandfather*

Transcribers note

In copying the diary and letters, I found some of the words illegible, at which time I substituted ---, or followed a doubtful word with ? .

Doris Stensrud.

Names of the Members of Co. A. N.Y.S.Vol.

March the 1st. 1862

Serg. Dean, H.B. Promoted
Serg. Hulse, D.M.
Serg. Byram, C.M.
Serg. Burdin, J
Corp. Harrison
Corp. Miller, J.C. Promoted
Corp. Campbell, Joe Discharged
Corp. Fletcher, R.E. Dead
Corp. Tomar, W.A. Reduced
Corp. Evans, Th. Reduced
Corp. Dunmore Th. Dead
Corp. Teameraux, I.V.
Wagoner Johnson, Ed. Discharged
Drummer Forsyth, Ed
Private Adams, M.B.
Private Ansley, J.P.
Private Brewer
Private Busk, J.W.
Private Butler, J.A.
Private Brown, John Promoted to Capt. from Corp. & Serg.
Private Carr, A.H.
Private Christenden, F.
Private Christenden, H.
Private Christler dead
Private Clark, Discharged
Private Clausen, N.V. Promoted
Private Dean, Wm.
Private Denham, J.
Private Durham dead
Private Fetzner D.J. Promoted
Private Gerow, J.N.
Private Houlsey, C.W. Promoted
Private Holloran reduced
Private Henderson W.M.
Private Kiley discharged
Private Kelley J.W. promoted
Private Lake, J.F.
Private Lewis, Ed.
Private McMullen, Ed.
Private Miller, J.M.
Private Miller Ed.
Private Miller H.
Private Osburn, E.
Private Phelps, A.C.
Private Pevice, Edwin
Private Popple, W.S.
Private Powers, H.

Private Robbertson, J.R.
Private Slaught H.
Private Smith, J.
Private Storry, John
Private Stary, Jake
Private Turner, John
Private Turner, R.M.
Private Turner, W.H. promoted
Private Townsend, J.W. Promoted
Private Van Huysen, C.
Private Watkins, Joe
Private Watkins, Geo.
Private Wheeler, A.
Private Whitehorn, L.S.
Private Williams, H.

Detail of Bulk Lashers to lay bridge at Banks Ford on the
Rappahannock

Jan. the 13th, 1863

Sergt. John W. Townsend
Corpl Turner, W.H.
Private Starry, John
Private Lake, J.A.
Private Turner, R.M.
Private McMullen, Ed.
Private Gray, Geo. B.
Private Miller, Ed.
Private Miller J.M.
Private Hathaway, Wm.
Private Starry, Jake

Detail of Bulk Lashers to lay a bridge at U.S. Ford on the
Rappahannock

April the 22nd 1863

Sergt. Townsend, J.W.
Sergt. Brown
Corpl. Turner W.H.
Corpl. Feitzer, D.J.
Private Bush, J.W.
Private Starry, John
Private Starry, Jake
Private Gray, Geo. B.
Private Miller, J.M.
Private Osborn, Eliah
Private Turner, R.M.
Private McMullin, Ed.

Detail of Bulk Lashers Bridge laid at Deep Run on the
Rappahannock

June the 5th 1863

Sergt Townsend, J.W.
Corpl Turner W.H.
Corpl Kelly J.H.
Private Bush, J.W.
Private Miller, J.M.
Private Osburn, Eliah
Private Turner R.M.

Private McMullin, Ed.
Private Lake, J.F.
Private Phelps, A.C.
Private Popple, W.S.
Private Watkins, Joe
Cableman Turner, John
Cableman Dean, Wm.
Cableman Hathaway, W.W.
Cableman Hathaway, R.

Detail to take up bridge laid at Deep Run on the Rappahannock
June the 12th 1863.

Sergt. Townsend, J.W.
Corpl. Clausen, N.V.
Private Osburn, Eliah
Private Miller, J.M.
Private Bush, John
Private Starry, John
Private McMullen, Ed.
Private Turner, R.M.
Private Phelps, A.A.
Private Butler, John

Detail of Oherimen Bridge laid of the Potomac opposite to
Harpers Ferry.

July the 12th 1863.

Sergt. Townsend, J.W.
Corpl. Clausen, N.V.
Corpl. Leameraux, I.V.
Corpl. Van Huysen, A.
Private Christenden, F.
Private Dean, Wm.
Private Drake, J.M.
Private Evans, Th.
Private Faucett, Robt.
Private Gray, Geo. B.
Private Hathaway, W.W.
Private Hathaway, Robt.
Private Henderson, W.
Private Lake, J.F.
Private Miller, J.M.
Private Osburn, Eliah
Private Tomar, W.A.
Private Watkins, Joe
Private Ward, R.C.
Private Turner, John
Private Turn, R.M.
Private William, H.
Private Forsyth, Ed.
Private Lewis, Edwin

- December the 8th 1862 A detachment under the command of Major Ira Spaulding now in camp at White Oak Church, Stafford County, Va.
- Dec. the 8th Received orders to complete three pontoon bridge trains of 30 boats each.
- Dec. the 9th Completed the trains and orders to be ready to march at a moments warning.
- Dec the 10th Received marching orders and commenced moving our trains about 2 o'clock P.M. Reached the river opposite Fredericksburg at midnight.
- Dec. the 11th About 4 A.M. commenced the construction of two pontoon bridges. At five A.M. the enemy opened a galling fire of musketry upon the pontooneers. Work was at once suspended and in obedience to orders the men sought shelter as best they could, while our artillery opened fire upon the city. Three unsuccessful attempts was made to complete the bridges resulting in the loss of many killed and wounded. In the afternoon the fourth attempt was made to complete the bridge and at the same time Lieutenant Robbins led a detachment of sharpshooters around the river in Pontoon boats. Cleared the bank of enemy sharpshooters. The bridge was then completed in 40 minutes. Our artillery played upon the town the entire day, setting the town on fire in dozens of places. Captain Perkins was killed in the first volley on the bridge. Major Brainard wounded in the arm. Captain McDonnel wounded in the arm. Captain Ford wounded in the wrist. At night the four companys, A.I.G. and H bivouacked for the night near the railroad.
- Dec. the 12th The men was rounded up and marched to the river. Commenced the construction of the second bridge which was completed at half past five, then marched back to camp at White Oak Church.
- Dec. the 13th Struck tents and moved camp to within one half mile of the Rappahannock opposite Fredericksburg. Detail sent out to guard and repair the bridges. Heard fighting the entire day.
- Dec. the 14th 1862 Orders received to fit up two pontoon bridge trains of 18 boats each.
- Dec. the 15th The army all fell back to the north side of the river. Detachment sent down to dismantle the bridges. Floated them below the old suspension bridge. Left it under guard.

Dec. the 17th Flag of truce boat sent across the river to bury our dead.

Dec, the 19th The detachment went down to the river to haul the bridge up from the river assisted by a battallion of artillery and infantry. Succeeded in getting the bridge all -?-in the hill, fortunately unmolested by the enemy.

1863

Jan. 1, 1863 Detachment of six companys of the 50th N.Y.Eng. was encamped near Falmouth Va. opposite Frederidksburg. The pontoon trains was inspected by Major Spaulding. Visited the village of Falmouth in the A.M.

Jan. 2 The detachment all out except camp guard cutting cordroy to repair roads near White Oak Church. Corporal Townsend with six men to the river in charge of flag of truce boat.

Jan 3 Orderly Sergeant D.M. Hulse received his commission of Second Lieutenant of Co. A, 50 Eng.

Jan 4 At 7 A.M.usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accutremments. At 2 P.M. General inspection.

Jan 5 Major Spaulding, Capt Geo W. Fprd and Sergeant Hewitt went to look for a location for a new campground. Lieutenant D.M.Hulse had leave of absence for three days to visit Washington. Sergt Burdin commenced acting orderly of Co C inspection of pontoons by Maj Spaulding. Co A on guard.Corp. Townsend promoted to Sergeant.

Jan. 6 Co. A clearing site for new camp, excepting Corp. and six men in charge of flag of truce boat. A search made in camp for stolen property.

Jan. 7 Broke camp and moved with our pontoons and moved into our new camp. Lieut. D.M.Hulse returned from Washington. Corp. and five men in charge of flag of truce boat.

Jan. 8 The entire day was spent in clearing of and fixing camp. Corp and five men in charge of flag of truce boat. Clothing issued to the company.

Jan 9 Detail went to the river with the intention of bringing away the pontoon boat used for flag of truce, but the order was countermanded.

- Jan. 10 The men was all busy fixing -?- excepting Corporal and five men in charge of flag of truce boat.
- Jan 11 Usual Sunday morning inspection. Co A on guard except Corporal and five men in charge of flag of truce boat. Visitors arrived from North Hector.
- Jan. 12 Sergt Burdin and myself visited Falmouth and and the camp of the 8th N.Y.
- Jan 13 Company A all out to White Oak Church loading Cordrey to build approaches for pontoon bridges. Our visitors from North Hectow started for home.
- Jan 14 Squad drill in the A.M. Inspection of teams and pontoons in the P.M. Orders to have everything in readiness to lay a bridge. Orders came to break camp at midnight and postponed until daylight. Sergt. Townsend started for the River to alert the flag of truce boat. At 7 A.M. broke camp and proceeded in company with the 15th Eng. for the Rappahannock.
- Jan. 15 Encamped for the night six miles above Falmouth. Commenced raining about midnight.
- Jan. 16 Detachment remained in camp during the day. Sent for forrage for the mules and rations for the men. Pickets posted around camp to keep citizens from seeing our train and conveying the news to the enemy.
- Jan. 17 The detachment remained in camp all day with orders to be ready to proceed on our march at a moments warning. Sergt of the guard during the night.
- Jan.18 Sunday morning we resumed our march. Encamped at night on the Warrenton and Alexandria turnpike.
- Jan. 19 Remained in camp. Co A on guard. Received marching orders. Everything ready to start when order was countermanded.
- Jan. 20 Broke camp at dark to lay a bridge near Banks Fort on the Rappahannock. Commenced raining about 8 o'clock and by midnight our train was scattered several miles apart. The roads were almost impassable and Burnside found his command stuck in the mud.
- Jan 21 The day was occupied in getting artillery into position. The engineers was assisted in getting our pontoons together on the river bank by one brigade of Gen. Sergeants Corps.

- Jan. 22 Forenoon moved and rearranged our camp. Afternoon we lifted our pontoon wagons upland. Poles under the wheels to keep them from sinking in the mud.
- Jan. 23 Sent out with a detail of ten men to replace all broken wagon tongues. Afternoon all hands busy moving pontoons out of range of the enemy cannon. masked them with cedar boughs.
- Jan 24 Broke camp about three o'clock P.M. Marched about two miles where we bivouacked for the night.
- Jan. 25 The forenoon was occupied in building Cordroy road in order to get our train over a piece of (plained?) ground. Afternoon resumed our march. Encamped on the Warrenton turnpike.
- Jan. 26 By order of General Woodberry, Lieutenant Robbins with a part of Company A went back to Banks Ford to look after pontoon property.
- Jan 27 The pontoons was started and the men under orders to proceed on march next morning.
- Jan. 28 Snow fell during the night to the depth of 14 in. Consequently we did not move. At night officer of the guard. Intelligence received of death of --Smith in hospital at Aquia Creek.
- Jan. 29 Captain George Ford and Sergt. Hulse went to locate a new camp grounds.
- Jan. 30 Broke camp. Resumed our march west into camp in the afternoon with the intention of winter quarters. The orders came that the ground had been selected for General Hookers grand divisions. Consequently next morning we had to leave.
- Jan. 31 Broke camp early in the morning. Moved about one-half mile where we encamped for winter quarters $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Stonemans Station, three miles from Falmouth Va.
- Feb. the 1st 1863 Detachment busy fixing tents. Inspection of arms and accoutrements by Captain Geo. W. Ford.
- Feb. 2nd Pontoon boats brought up and parked. Osburn, Mc Mullen and myself was detached to repair wagons. Sergt Burdin visited Aquia Creek.
- Feb. 3 Inspection of arms and accoutrements by Major Spaulding. Weather cold.

- Feb. 4 Company A went to build a bridge over Potomac Creek of pontoons. Eliah Osburn went to Bell Blair for express boxes.
- Feb. 5 Lieutenant Robbins went to Aqua Creek on business. A new lot of pontoon drivers arrived. Received a box from home containing a pair of boots ----.
- Feb. 6 A detachment of Co. A and I was sent to Potomac Creek to build a cordroy bridge.
- Feb. 7 Company A on guard. Relieved from guard at 5 P.M. The rest of detachment to work on Potomac Creek. Lieut. D.M. Hurthro? had leave of absence for three days to visit Washington.
- Feb. 8 Detachment all at work on Potomac Creek Bridge. Corporal C.W. Haulsey reported to hospital.
- Feb. 9th Detachment in command of Major Brannard, Major Spaulding left of ten day furlough. Men all out to work on Potomac creek bridge.
- Feb 10 Company A on guard. Lieut Robbins officer of the day. Sergt Miller officer of the guard. Capt Geo. W Ford in charge of the men to work on the Potomac Creek Bridge. Co. H went after the Regulars Eng. Bridge.
- Feb. 11 Lieutenant Robbins and Eliah Osburn went to report to an infantry officer to give instructions in repairing road near U.S. Ford on the Rappahannock. Captain Geo. W Ford in charge of men to work on Potomac Bridge.
- Feb. 12 Completed the Potomac bridge at two o'clock P.M. and returned to camp on the cars. Infantry in charge of Lieut. Robbins building cordroy road out side of our rebels lines.
- Feb. 13 Clothing issued to the men on the detachment. Remained quietly in camp during the day.
- Feb. 14 Received leave of absence from camp. Took the cars to Slowmans Station for Aqua Creek then to the camp of the 107.
- Feb. 15 Had our usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accutrements. Dress parade at 5 P.M. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- Feb. 16 Squad drill from nine until ten A.M. Noncommissioned officers drill in pontooneering under the instructions of Captain Fowell.

- Feb 17 Quartermasters exchanged all the horses we had left for mules to fit up our pontoon trains.
- Feb. 18 Regimental brass band --- our detachment from Aqua Creek. Details sent out to clean the snow and water from the boats.
- Feb 19 Captain Beers was promoted to the rank of Major. Lieutenant Robbins to the rank of Captain. Dress parade in the A.M.
- Feb. 20 Company A all on guard. Lieutenant Hew? officer of the day. Captain G.W. Ford detained on Gen Court Marshall at Gen. Woodberrys Headquarters. J.W. Townsend officer of the guard.
- Feb. 21 Corporal Kelly returned to his company from furlough. Aren Hanlley of North Hector visited camp. Drill and dress parade in the afternoon.
- Feb. 22 A salute was fired at --- from all the Batterys in vicinity in honor of the birth of Washington. The firing was at first mistook for the enemy.
- Feb. 23 Sergeant H.B. Dean of Co A received his discharge from the 50th Regt. Promoted Lieutenant in a Cavalry Regiment. Capt Ford attending Court Marshall.
- Feb. 24 Corp John Brown returned to his Company for duty from G.M. Department. Dress parade in the P.M.
- Feb. 25 Jacob Story received a furlough of 10 days. Intelligence received of the death of Wm. Christler in the Gem. Hospital D.C. Our pickets was --- in near Banks Ford. Artillery and infantry move to the front in ---quick. The enemy were driven back after a short resistance.
- Feb. 26 Lieutenant Robbins officer of the day. Teams sent to Bell Plains Landing for Express boxes for detachment.
- Feb. 27 Noncommissioned officers drill in the A.M. Part of Company H on guard. Lieut. Hulse Officer of the Day.
- Feb. 28 General Woodberry visited camp. Major Spaulding returned from furlough. Balance of Co. A on guard.
- March the 1st 1863. Our usual Sunday inspection was postponed on account of stormy weather. Dress parade at four oclock P.M.

- March 2 At ten A.M. we had a review by Major Spaulding, also inspection of arms and accutremments. Dress parade at 5.P.M.
- March 3 Squad drill in the A.M. Afternoon inspection of pontoons by Major Spaulding.
- March 4 Review of the noncommissioned officers, Drill on Pontooneering by Major Braniard. Detail - drivers taken from the company.
- March 5 Forenoon Squad Drill. Afternoon Battallion drill. Corp. John Brown promoted to Sergt.
- March 6 Company drill in the bayonet exercise, also noncommissioned officers drill in pontooneering. Battallion drill in the P.M.
- March 7 Jacob Starry returned from furlough. Officers drill in A.M. Battallion drill in the P.M. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- March 8 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accutremments by Capt. Ford. A part of Co. A. on guard.
- March 9 Colonel Charles B. Stuart visited our detachment from Aqua Creek. Sergt J.C.Miller received a ten day furlough. . Sergt Townsend officer of the guard.
- March 10 Inspection of streets and tents by Col Stuart. At night the band favored hin with a serenade.
- March 11 Co. A detailed to fix the officers mess tent. Dress parade in the afternoon.
- March 12 Co. drill in the forenoon. Battallion drill. Lieut. D.M. Hulse officer of the day.
- March 13 Noncommissioned officers drill in the A.M. Also officers drill afternoon. Company drill in the bayonet exercise. The band attended a funeral in an army Regt. Sergt. Byram visited Aqua Creek.
- March 14 Noncommissioned officers drill. Company drill in the bayonet exercise. Also Company S---drill. Afternoon batallion drill.
- March 15 Company inspection of arms and accutremments. A member of Company was buried near camp. Dress parade at 5 P.M.
- March 16 Officers and noncommissioned officers drill in the company drill in the bayonet exercise. Battallion drill in the afternoon.

- March 17 Officers and noncommissioned officers drill in the A.M. A skirmish took place near Banks Ford on the Rappahanock. Heavy musketry and artillery firing. The rebels was repulsed. Our loss was slight.
- March 18 Drills as usual. Heavy firing on the right. A Cavalry skirmish took place near U.S.Ford on the Rappahanock.
- March 19 Sergt F.C.Miller returned from furlough. Noncommissioned officers drill also Company Sc?-- drill in the bayonet exercise.
- March 20 Noncommissioned officers drill in the A.M. Afternoon stormed so there was comparatively little done. A member of Co. H died in hospital.
- March 21 Musketry firing heard in the vicinity of Falmouth. Lieut. D.M.Hulse officer of the day.
- March 22 Usual Sunday morning inspection. Funeral of a member of Co. H. Just as he was buried his father came. He was taken up.
- March 23 Capt. Geo. W. Ford returned from furlough. Gen. Benham our new Brigadier General. Visited our detachment inspected the company streets. Review in the afternoon.
- March 24 Noncommissioned officers drill. Also Officers drill. Battallion drill in the bayonet exercise in the P.M. Express boxes arrived for the detachment.
- March 25 Officer and noncommissioned officers drill in the A.M. Afternoon battallion drill in the bayonet exercise. James Van Fleet visited camp from the 107 Regiment.
- March 26 But little done in the A.M. Afternoon bataillion drill in the bayonet exercise. Lieut. Robbins in command of Company.
- March 27 Company school drill. Afternoon Battalion in the bayonet exercise. Gen. Benham visited camp. Major Spaulding horses was stolen.
- March 28 Rainy day. No duty done except guard duty.
- March 29 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accutremments.
- March 30 Company I struck tents moved over on the turnpike. Balance of the detachment building cordroy road. Orders to be ready to move at a moments warning.

- March 31 Regimental headquarters moved from Aqua Creek to Falmouth. Capt. Mc Donnell returned to his company being absent since the first battle of Fredricksburg from the effects of wounds.
- April 1 Broke camp and joined regimental headquarters at night. Orders to be ready to march at a moments warning. The enemy appeared in force on our picket lines.
- April 2 The day was occupied in arranging tents, grading streets etc.
- April 3 Gen. Benham returned from Washington. Orders came to grant furloughs. One train of pontoon boats moved down near the river.
- April 4 Received a furlough for ten days. Took the cars at Falmouth Va. Arrived at Aqua Creek about noon. Took the steamer but on account of head winds did not arrive in Washington until half past six, too late for the cars. Visited Washington theater at night.
- April 5 Sunday left Washington for Baltimore City where I took the cars for Harrisburg Pa. at 8 P.M.
- April 6 Arrived in Harrisburg at 2 A.M. where I remained until 2 P.M. Took the cars for Elmira N.Y.
- April 7 Arrived in Elmira at two A.M. and left for Watkins on the five o'clock train.
- April 13 Orders to be ready to move at a moments notice. The pontoons were overhauled by Co. A. Company F outside the picket lines repairing road. Large numbers of troops in motion.
- April 16 Left Aqua Creek and arrived at Falmouth Va. at 10 A.M. Reported at Regimental Headquarters. Reported to my company on the ^{WARRENTON} W?ton Pike.
- April 17 The company was one mile outside of the picket lines repairing cordroy road. Returned to camp in the evening.
- April 18 Firing on the right. A part of the detachment sent outside the pickets to work. Drill in the afternoon. All quiet along the Pappahanock.
- April 19 Usual Sun. morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Sergt. Byran returned from furlough. Divine service at two P.M. Weather warm and pleasant. Peach trees in full bloom.

April 20 Monday there was comparatively little done. It rained nearly all day. Noncommissioned officers received instructions in regard to loading infantry into boats. By practicing we found that there could be 34 men with their arms and accoutrements could be stowed into each boat in 3/4 of one minute. Orders to be ready to move at a moments notice.

April 21 Company A and I arrived to Major Spaulding. Detachment in charge of two pontoon trains. The men proceeded on the Watterman Bridge train.

April 22 There was a grand review of all the troops in the third army Corp. Two of Professor Eows balloons was up nearly all day watching the movements of the enemy. Pontoon trains all complete. Ready to move at a moments notice.

April 23 There was a telegraph discovered leading from Falmouth Va. to Fredericksburg. Rained all day. No duty done except guard duty.

April 24 No duty done except guard duty. All quiet along the Rappahanock.

April 25 Lieut. D.M.Hulse officer of the day. Sergt Byren officer of the guard. The teamsters detached from Co A returned to the company for duty. Ten rebels deserted. Came to our lines with arms and accoutrement.

April 26 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and

page missing

Reception from the enemy, but on arriving to the river, we found the enemy had abandoned their fortifications. We met with no opposition laying the bridges. Sergt Townsend with 17 men on guard to the bridge. Infantry around all night.

May 1 The bridge was crowded with infantry, artillery and cavalry all day. Gen. Joe Hooker crossed the bridge about 2 P.M. Fighting commenced about 3 P.M. Our orders was to allow nothing but infantry to cross the bridge.

May 2 Fighting commenced at daylight. It was kept up the entire day. Large number of wounded brought across the river. All of our forces was across the river except a reserve. Fighting ceased about 8 in the evening.

May 3 Fighting commenced before daylight. Kept up the entire day. Pontoon bridges thrown across the river opposite Fredericksburg. Gen. Reynolds Corps occupied the Heights at noon. Very heavy fighting all day. Our detachment moved camp nearer the bridge.

- May 4 During the night the rebels planted a battery of 6 cannons on a bluff opposite our camp. Just before daylight they opened fire upon our camp and that of a cavalry Regt. killing and wounding several. The way the boys dug out of camp was not slow. Our cavalry charged upon the rebels and captured the entire battery. Very heavy firing all day, both on the right and center. Large number of wounded brought across the bridge.
- May 5 Very heavy firing at midnight. Was kept up until daylight. Ceased until eight A.M. Commenced and was kept up the entire day. The enemy shelled our bridge at Banks Ford. Gen. Reynolds Corp fell back on the north side of the Rappahannock. Our men commenced falling back from Chancellorsville. All of the engineers down to the bridge except a camp guard. Sergt. Townsend on guard.
- May 6 Last night was dark and raining. The men all down to the bridge. The river rose six feet ----- the river eight or ten rods. Consequently the bridges had to be lengthened out. At dark our army commenced recrossing the bridge and by daylight they was all on the North side of the Rappahannock. The bridges dismantled and hauled up the hill.
- May 7 Our artillery kept up a heavy fire on the enemy the entire day from the Heights on the North side of the river to keep the enemy from getting batteries into position to shell us. The detachment busy getting Engineers property together. Slept on our arms that night. The army all moved back on their old camp grounds near Falmouth leaving our train without protection.
- May 8 Posted pickets and lay on our arms at night having not got bridge material together.
- May 9 Broke camp early in morning. Started for Falmouth with our train. Just as the last wagon left the Park the enemy commenced shelling our camp. At night we bivouacked for the night five miles from U.S. Ford.
- May 10 Proceeded on our march and arrived at our old camp on the Warrenton Pike where we stopped for dinner and waited until dark before we moved to headquarters to avoid being seen by the enemy. Arrived at headquarters at daylight Sunday Morning.
- May 11 Lieut. D.M. Hulse arrived to Co. I. Inspection of arms and accoutrements in the A.M.

- May 12 Detail from Co. A to reload their wagons. Battallion drill. Dress parade and Brigade Guard mounting. One Sergt. three Corporals and twelve men on guard.
- May 13 Remodded our camp in forenoon. One Sergt. two corporals and eighteen men on guard. General orders read on dress parade. Corp Van Heuysen left camp on ten day furlough.
- May 14 Company to work on the street grading, setting out evergreens etc. One bridge team was sent to Brewer Church. Major Beers was presented with an elegant sword and belt by his old Company H.
- May 15 The 33 Regt started for home, their turn of enlistment having expired. Took the cars at Falmouth Va. Sergt. Townsend with 20 men repacked the pontoon train.
- May 16 Gen Benhams Congratulatory orders was read to the men on dress parade for their skill and galant conduct in constructing pontoon bridges in front of the enemy during the seven days fighting on the Rappahanock.
- May 17 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Gen inspection of tents, streets, etc. Brigade Guard --?-- Dress parade.
- May 18 Gen Hooker moved his quarters over near White Oak Church. Sergt. Townsend with 20 men reported to Gen. Benhams quarters for fol--?- duty.
- May 19 Detail sent out to get bushes to decorate camp. Company drill one hour. Brigade guard mounting and dress parade as usual.
- May 20 Company drill in the bayonet exercise. Sergt. Townsend with 24 men on guard. H. Bennett and Henry Williams was courtmarshalled.
- May 21 The 50th and 15 Regt and a battallion of the Regular Engineers was reviewed by Gen Benham.
- May 22 Private Ames E Wheeler received his discharge for disability. One Sergt and 16 men from Co A repairing bridge.
- May 23 Corp Van Heusen returned from furlough. Lieut. Robbins with 12 men on fatigue duty. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- May 24 Our usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Divine service and dress parade in the afternoon.

- May 25 Sergt Townsend with 20 men on duty at Gen. Headquarters.
One of the teamsters killed by being kicked by a mule.
- May 26 Morris Malone died in the Regimental hospital. Detail
of two Corporals and 20 men from A to work at headquarters.
- May 27 Sergt John Brown left on ten day furlough. Sergt.
Purdin and myself visited Falmouth. One of our Pickets
met a Rebel in the middle of the River and exchanged papers.
- May 28 Capt. Geo. W Ford field officer of the Day. Sergt.
Townsend Officer of the Guard at Pontoon train No 1 and 2.
- May 29 Battallion drill in the forenoon. Co. A to work
caulking boats.

John W. Townsend
Co. A 50 Regt. N.Y.
Washington D.C.
Stuarts Engineers

1863

- Jan. 1 The detachment of Eng Co. of the 50th N.Y.S.Vol. was encamped near Falmouth oppoaite Fredericksburg Virginia. Everything quiet in camp. The weather pleasant. I visited Falmouth Va. The pontoons were inspected by Major Spaulding Com.
- Jan. 2 The detachment was out cutting cordroy for to repair roads near White Oak Church. Six men with myself was sent down to the river in charge of the flag of truce boat.
- Jan 3 Everything quiet in camp. Orderly Sergt D.M.Hulse received his comission of Second Lieut. of Co. A.50 Regt. N.Y.S. volunteer.
- Jan 4 At 7 A.M. we had our usual Sunday norning inspection. At 10 A.M. we had gen. inspection of arms and accoutrements. All quiet in camp.
- Jan. 5 Capt Ford, Major Spaulding and Sergt.Hewitt went to look for a new camp ground. Lieut D.M.Hulse had leave of absence to visit Washington. Sergt Burdin commenced Act. orderly. Inspection of pontoons by Major Spaulding. Co.A on guard.
- Jan. 6 Company A was out clearing off a new camp ground except a Corp. and 5 men in charge of flag of truce boat. A search mane for stolen property. Rainy weather.

- Jan. 7 We broke camp and moved about two miles where we encamped. Lieut. D.M.Hulse returned from Washington. A Corp. with five men went to the river to take charge of the flag of truce boat. Weather pleasant.
- Jan. 8 The entire day was occupied in arranging tents and clearing of the camp grounds. Five men with a Corp. in charge of the flag of truce. Weather very fine and pleasant. Clothing distributed out to the company.
- Jan. 9 Weather pleasant. In the forenoon Co. A cut cordroy to repair roads. In the afternoon there was comparatively little done. A Corp. and five men in charge of the flag of truce boat.
- Jan. 10 Detail went to the river to attend the flag of truce. Those who remained in camp were busy fixing their tents and cleaning up the camp. In the afternoon there was comparatively little done. It commenced raining about noon and rained till after dark.
- Jan. 11 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Co. A on guard except the Noncommissioned officers and the detail of five men with a Corporal to attend a flag of truce. Visitors arrived in camp from North Hector.
- Jan. 12 Sergt. Burdin and myself had a pass to visit the River and the Camp of the N.Y. ~~???~~. Very little done in camp. The weather very fine and pleasant.
- Jan. 13 A Corp with five men went to the River as usual to attend the flag of truce. Co. A went to White Oak Church to load wagons with cordroy. Our visitors from North Hector started for home.
- Jan. 14 Squad drill in the forenoon. Inspection of the teams and pontoon trains by Major Spaulding. Everything in readiness to lay our bridge across the River. At dark the order came to break camp at midnight. The order was countermanded. We were to break camp at daylight.
- Jan. 15 We broke camp and started for the Rappahannock River with our pontoon train. Also the 15th started with the train. We encamped that night six miles above Falmouth Va. Commenced raining at midnight.
- Jan. 16 Our detachment remained in camp during the day. Sent for forage for the teams and rations for the men. The 15th Regt. resumed their march in the morning. Pickets posted to keep citizens from seeing our pontoons and conveying the news to the enemy.

- Jan. 17 We remained quietly in camp during the day. Orders came to be ready to march by daylight next morning. At night I was officer of the guard.
- Jan. 18 Sunday morning we broke camp at 8 o'clock. Resumed our march, Encamped at night six miles from Falmouth on the Warrenton and Falmouth turnpike. The weather clear and cold.
- Jan 19 We remained quietly in camp the entire day. Co. A on guard. We received marching orders. Got our teams hitched to the wagons about noon when the order was countermanded. The weather clear and cold but not any snow as yet.
- Jan 20 We broke camp at dark and moved near the river with the intention of laying the bridge that night. It commenced raining and by midnight the roads were so bad we got blockaded with our train and laid up for the night. The Company was divided up in squads to work on the bridge.
- Jan. 21 There was one brigade of infantry from Gen. Segul Corp. that assisted us in getting our pontoons on the river bank. The day was occupied in getting the boats and artillery in position.
- Jan. 22 In the forenoon we moved and arranged our camp. In the afternoon we had a sweet job getting our pontoon wagons lifted up out of the mud and laid poles under them for fear they would freeze fast. It rained nearly all day.
- Jan. 23 In the forenoon four men and myself spent our time in piling new poles in wagons. In the afternoon the Company was all out moving our pontoons out of range of the enemy guns. A part of the Company on guard. Weather more pleasant.
- Jan 24 The detachment assisted by five Regt. of infantry was very busy getting our pontoons out of the mud. At three o'clock P.M. we received orders to break camp. Moved two miles and encamped for the night.
- Jan. 25 The forenoon was occupied in building Cordroy road. In the afternoon we broke camp and resumed our march. Encamped on the Warrenton and Falmouth turnpike about two miles and one half from Falmouth. Weather warm and cloudy.
- Jan. 26 By order of Gen. Woodbery a part of Co. A sent back to the River to look for engineer property. Otherwise the detachment remained in camp for rest. Rained nearly all night.

- Jan. 27 We remained in camp during the day with orders to proceed on our journey in the morning. The teams started this morning with the train. Rained all the forenoon.
- Jan. 28 Remained in camp during the day. Comparitively little duty done. Snowed all day and all night. Sergt. Townsend officer of the guard. Jake Smith died in Regimental Hospital at Aqua Creed of thyphoid fever.
- Jan. 29 Capt. Ford and Beers went to pick out a location for a new camp. We received orders to march the next morning. It stopped snowing about sunrise. The sun came out very bright. The snow melted away fast.
- Jan. 30 We broke camp in the morning. Moved about two miles where we encamped. The order came that the ground we then occupied had been --?-- by Gen. Hooker for his great division so we had to move.
- Jan. 31 We broke camp early in the morning. Moved about one half mile where we went into camp where we intended to stay for some time. Weather pleasant. Snow nearly all gone. Lieut. Hulse went back to our old camp in the woods for things that men left behind. We are now encamped $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Stonemans Station.
- Feb. 1 1863 Detachment in camp all day. The Co. busy fixing up tents. Inspection of arms and accoutrements by Capt. George W. Ford. Weather cloudy.
- Feb. 2 The pontoon boats were brought up to the camp and parked. I was detailed with Ed McMillen to prepare wagons. Sergt. Burdin went to Aqua Creek on a pass. Company detailed to put up picket ropes for the horses. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- Feb. 3 There was inspection of arms and accoutrements and knapsacks by Major Spaulding. I was to work repairing all wagons. Weather cold. Snowed a little in the morning.
- Feb. 4 Three companys went to the Potomac to build a bridge. Joe Burdin went to Aqua Creek with Lt. Robins. Eliah Asburn went to Bell Plains after express boxes for the detachment. A new lot of pontoon drivers arrived. Corp. Kelly went home on a furlough.

- Feb. 5 The three companys remained at Potomac Creek during the day. Retired to camp at night. Snowed in the forenoon. Rained in the afternoon. Rather disagreeable. Received a box from home with a pair of boots, socks, etc.
- Feb. 6 A detachment from Companies A and I sent to lay a pontoon bridge across Potomac Creek. Drew rations from Commisary. Sergt. officer of the guard. 3 Corp and 34 men from Co.A for guard.
- Feb. 7 Co. A on guard. Relieved at 5 P.M. The rest of detachment to work on Potomac Creek bridge. Sent off a lot of --?-horses. The weather pleasant and quite warm. Lieut. D.M.Hulse had leave of absence for three days.
- Feb. 8 Detachment all out to work on Potomac Creek bridge. Corpl. Haulsey sent to the hospital in the detachment. Weather warm and pleasant. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- Feb. 9 Detachment all out to work on the Potomac Creek Bridge. Major Spaulding left on a furlough. Major Branard takes count of the detachment during his absence.
- Feb. 10 Co. A on guard. Sergt. Miller officer of the guard. Lieut. Robbins officer of the day. Captain Ford comanded the detachment to work on the Potomac Creek Bridge. Co. H went after the regular bridge.
- Feb. 11 Co. A came off guard. The remainder of the detachment went out to work on the Potomac Creek Bridge. Capt. Ford commanding. Lieut. Robbins and Eliah Asburn went to report to Engineer office at U.S.Ford.
- Feb. 12 Co. A all at work on the Potomac Creek bridge. Completed the bridge by two o'clock and returned to camp. The infantry engaged building Cordroy road beyond our picket lines.
- Feb. 13 Detachment remained quietly in camp all day. Clothing drawn on a requisition that was made out and sent to Washington. Weather pleasant and cool. Drew clothing as follows -- 1 pair of shirts, 1 cap, 1 canteen.
- Feb. 14 I received leave of absence for the day. Took the morning train for Aqua Creed. Visited the camp of the 101 Regt. N.Y.Volunteers. Returned to the Creek, took the evening train and returned to camp. Co. A all on guard except the noncoms.

- Feb. 15 We had our usual Sunday inspection of arms and accoutrements and knapsacks. At 5 P.M. Dress Parade. Weather cloudy and rainy nearly all day. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- Feb. 16 From 9 until 10 o'clock Squad drill. From 10 until 11 we had Noncommissioned officer drill in Pontooneering under the instruction of Capt. Folwell. At five o'clock we had dress parade. Eliah Osburn returned from U.S. Ford for rations.
- Feb. 17 It snowed the entire day. No duty done except guard duty. Co. A remained in camp. Drew rations from the commissary.--?-- quarter --?--. Exchanged what horses we had left for mules to fit up the train.
- Feb. 18 The weather rainy and very disagreeable. There was a detail of fifteen men to clean the snow from the boats. Our Regimental Brass band arrived to the detachment.
- Feb. 19 Rained nearly all day and comparatively little duty done. Dress parade in the afternoon. March the 18th Capt. Beers of Co. H was promoted to Major. Lieut Parmer promoted to Capt. in place of Beers.
- Feb. 20 Co. A all on guard. Lieut. Hulse officer of the day. Capt. George W. Ford was attending a Gen. Courtmarshall at Gen. Woodberrys Headquarters. J Townsend Sergt of the guard.
- Feb. 21 Corporal Kelly returned to his company. Aron Handley made us a visit. In the afternoon we had company drill and dress parade.
- Feb. 22 Very stormy day. The snow fell during the night to the depth of 14 inches. All the batteries in the vicinity fired a salute in honor of the birth of George Washington. Sunday a day of rest. No duty done except to draw rations.
- Feb. 23 No duty done in camp except --?--and shoveling snow out of the boats. Capt Geo. W. Ford went to brigade headquarters to attend Court Marshall. Weather clear and cold. Sergt. H.B. Dean of Co. A 50th discharged from the Regiment.
- Feb. 24 Corp Brown returned to the company for duty from the quartermasters department. No duty done except police duty and clearing the snow out of the streets. Dress parade in the afternoon. Weather warm and pleasant.

- Feb. 25 Jacob Story received a furlough for ten days. Received notice of the death of Wm. Christler from Gen. Harfeld D.C. Our pickets were driven in by the enemy. A skirmish took place --?-- and infantry moved out to the support of Franklin Corps.
- Feb. 26 It rained nearly the entire day. Consequently no duty done in the detachment except guard duty. A wagon sent to Bell Plains for express boxes for our detachment. Lieut. Robbins officer of the day.
- Feb. 27 A part of Co A on guard. Squad drill from 8 to 10 A.M. Noncommissioned officers drill in knot tying from 10 to 11. The afternoon was occupied cleaning our guns, preparing for general inspection. Lieut. D.M. Hulse officer of the day.
- Feb. 28 Gen Woodberry visited our camp. Major Spaulding returned and took command of the detachment in the place of Major Branard. We mustered for pay by Major Spaulding. The general inspection was postponed for the present. Balance of Co. A on guard. Dress parade at 5 P.M.
- Mar. 1 No duty done in detachment except guard duty. Dress parade at four o'clock P.M. The weather pleasant and quite warm. No snow. Our usual Sunday inspection was postponed.
- Mar. 2 At 10 A.M. we had a review of our detachment. Major Spaulding acting as General and Branard as Colonel. After the review we had inspection of arms and accoutrements. The weather warm and pleasant. Quite like spring. At 5 o'clock P.M. we had dress parade.
- Mar. 3 Squad drill in the forenoon. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Inspection of pontoon trains and teams by Major Spaulding. Weather cloudy and rainy.
- Mar. 4 Forenoon Squad drill. Afternoon battalion drill and review of the noncommissioned officers. Drill in Pontooneering. Dress Parade at 5 o'clock P.M. Weather clear and cold. Detail for teamsters taken from Co. A to drive the pontoon wagons.
- Mar. 5 In forenoon we had Company drill in the Bayonet exercise. In the afternoon Battalion drill under the instruction of Major Brainard. Dress parade as usual. Weather clear and cold. Corp Brown promoted to Sergt.
- Mar. 6 The forenoon we had Company drill in the bayonet exercise. Also Noncom. officers drill in Pontooneering. The afternoon battalion drill and dress parade. Weather quite cold.

- Mar. 7 Jacob Story returned to the detachment from furlough. Officers drill in the forenoon. Afternoon Battalion drill. Dress parade postponed on account of the rain. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- March 8 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements by Capt. Ford. The articles of war was read by D.M. Hulse. Inspection of tents by Majors Spaulding and Brainard. A part of Co. A on guard. Co. A signed their clothing bill. Dress parade as usual.
- Mar. 9 Colonel Short visited camp from Aqua Creek. Sergt. J.C. Miller received his furlough. Sergt. Townsend relieved him from Guard. Detail at work building a corral and a guard tent.
- Mar. 10 Orders in the morning to police the Company streets and prepare for inspection by the Colonel Charles B. Stuart. At night the band favored him with a serenade. Company A relieved from guard. Sergt. Miller of Co. A received a furlough to visit home for 10 days. Weather stormy.
- Mar. 11 Co. A was detailed to fix up the officers mess tent. The balance of the detachment was on drill. Dress parade as usual at 5 o'clock P.M. Col. Stuart remained in camp during the day. Weather pleasant. Quite warm.
- Mar. 12 Co. drill in the forenoon. In the afternoon Battalion drill. Dress parade at 5 o'clock. Lieut. D.M. Hulse officer of the day. Col. Charles B. Stuart left our camp to review the Reg. at Aqua Creek.
- Mar. 13 Noncommissioned officers drill in the bayonet exercise from 7 o'clock till 8. From 8 till 9 officers Drill. From 11 until 12 Company Drill. From 3 to 4 Battalion Drill. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Sergt. Byron visited Headquarters at Aqua Creek. The teamsters were breaking their mules to draw the pontoons.
- Mar. 14 Noncommissioned officers drill in the forenoon also Company drill in the bayonet exercise and company school drill. Afternoon battalion drill and dress parade. Weather clear and cold.
- Mar. 15 At 10 A.M. Company inspection of arms and accoutrements. At 2 P.M. we buried a member of Co. R near our camp. Dress parade at 5 P.M. We had a thunder storm about 6 P.M.

- Mar. 16 Noncommissioned Drill in A. M. Officers Drill, Company Drill in the bayonet exercise and Company school drill. Afternoon Battallion drill and dress parade. The band went to attend a funeral in an adjoining Regt. Another member of Co. R died P.M.
- Mar. 17 Noncommissioned drill in the A.M. Also Company drill in the Bayonet exercise. Company school drill and officers drill. Afternoon battallion drill. Heavy firing of musketry and artillery in the vicinity of Banks Ford on the Rappahannock. A funeral in Co. R. Co A on guard.
- Mar. 18 Drill in the forenoon as usual. Afternoon Battallion drill and dress parade. Heavy firing in the direction of Banks Ford. General Sewell Cavalry returned from the Right. Reported the rebels down --?--.
- Mar. 19 Noncommissioned drill A.M. also officer drill, Company school drill and Co drill in the bayonet exercise. Afternoon battallion drill in the bayonet exercise. Sergt. Frank Miller returned to the Co. from 10 day furlough.
- Mar. 20 Noncommissioned officers drill A.M. The remainder of the day it stormed so that there was comparatively little done. Dress parade at 5 P.M. as usual. A member of Co. H died in the hospital. All quiet along the Rappahannock.
- Mar. 21 Weather stormy. It snowed and rained all day. Consequently there was no duty done except guard duty. Lieut. D.M. Hulse Officer of the Day. At 9 o'clock A.M. there was musketry firing heard in the vicinity of Falmouth.
- Mar 22 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. At 2 P.M. the funeral service of Private Jennings Co. H took place. Just as we had finished burying him, his father came, and the body was taken up again. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Corporal --?-- returned from furlough.
- Mar. 23 Drill in the A.M. as usual. Our new Brigadier General visited our detachment and inspected the company streets etc. Afternoon we had Battallion drill in the bayonet exercise and dress parade at 5 P.M. The Battallion passed in review. Weather warm and pleasant.
- Mar. 24 Noncommissioned officers drill in the forenoon also officer drill in afternoon. Battallion drill in the bayonet exercise. Teams sent to Bell Plains for express boxes for the detachment. Weather warm and pleasant.

- Mar. 26 The forenoon was rainy consequently there was no duty done except guard duty. Afternoon Battalion Drill and dress parade as usual. Capt. Geo. W. Ford left camp on furlough. Lieut Robbins took command of the company during Fords absence.
- Mar. 27 Co. Drill in the forenoon as usual. Afternoon we had battallion drill on the bayonet exercise and passed in review before Brigadier Gen. Benham. Both of the Majors horses was stolen.
- Mar. 28 Noncommissioned officers drill in the A.M. The remainder of the day it rained the entire day. Consequently there was no duty done except guard duty. Heavy thunder in the morning. Weather warm.
- Mar. 29 We had our usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Dress parade in the afternoon which ended the proceedings of the day. Weather pleasant but quite cold. Lieut. Hulse officer of the day.
- Mar. 30 Co I struck tents and moved over on the turnpike. The balance of the detachment was out cutting and building cordroy road. Orders were to be ready to move in the morning.
- Mar. 31 In the forenoon it snowed and rained. Consequently we did not move as was intended. Weather cleared up in the afternoon so it was more pleasant. Regimental headquarters moved up from Aqua Creed near Brigade headquarters. Capt. Mc Donnell returned to the detachment being absent since the battle of Fredricksburg in --?-- wounds received while laying our pontoon bridge. Dress parade in the P.M. as usual. Clothing drawn from the Q.M. for Co. A.
- April 1 Received orders at 8 o'clock A.M. to get ready to march. Broke camp at noon. Moved nearer to headquarters where we rejoined the Regiment again. The night before the orders came into camp about midnight to hold ourselves in readiness for the rebels were in force on out picket lines.
- April 2 The day was occupied in arranging our camp and grading the streets. Weather warm and pleasant. The order came to grant furloughs again.
- April 3 Co. A all at work on a parade ground. Gen. Benham returned from Washington. Pontoon boats moved down near the river. Weather warm and pleasant.

- April 4 Took the cars at Falmouth for Aquia Creek at 7:30 A.M.
Took the boat at Aquia Creek for Washington at 2 P.M. Arrived at Washington City at 7 P.M. where I remained over night.
- April 5 Took the cars Sunday morning and arrived in Baltimore City at 11 A.M. where I remained until 8 in the evening.
Left Baltimore at 8 P.M. arrived in Harrisburg at 2 A.M.
- April 6 Left Harrisburg at 2 A.M. Arrived at Elmira at 2 P.M. where I remained until 6 P.M. when I took the cars and arrived in Watkins at 7 A.M. in time to take the steamer for North Hector --- --- arrived at 8 A.M.
- April 7 Left Elmira at 6 A.M. arrived at Jefferson at 8 A.M. took the boat and arrived at North Hector at 8 A.M.
- April 8 3rd Brigade Commended by Brigadier Gen. Murphey. 2nd Division commended by Major Gen. Slocum. 12th Army Corps.
- April 10 Were the boys that's gay and happy
Well contented in the field
With our nations banner o'er us
And it's honor for our shield.
Your friends at home are gay and happy
They never blush to speak your name
And should you ever fall in battle
You'd ever share a soldiers fame
- April 11 To John
Let friendship like the wreath
Our hearts in union bind
Till called away by death
To dwell in fairer clime.
M.S.
Seneca
Schyler Co. N.Y.
- April 27th Pontoon trains were over-hauled by Co. A. Everything ready to move at a moments warning. Co. F and I went outside of the pickets with orders to remain until after dark. Large numbers of troops in motion. Everything indicates a forward movement on the part of Gen Hooker. One Sergt. and 8 men from Co. A on guard. Weather warm and pleasant. The balloon was up nearly all day.
- April 28 All the troops in the vicinity of Falmouth broke camp and were on the move at 3 o'clock this morning.

April 15 No idle tale must ever sever
Friends that should be Friends forever.
Pledge this vow of trust with me
Faithful unto death to be.

April 16 Left Aquia Creek at 6 A.M. Reported to Regimental headquarters at 10 A.M. Found my Company had moved to the front. Received a pass of the Col. to rejoin my Co. where I arrived at noon. The Co. encamped on the Warrenton and Falmouth Pike.

April 17 The Co. was out aide of the pickets lines ten miles, building cordroy roads. Returned to camp at night. Weather warm and pleasant. All quiet along the Rappahannock.

April 18 A part of Detachment went outside pickets to build roads, the balance remained in camp. Done nothing but drill one hour in the forenoon and Dress Parade at 5 P.M. Firing heard on the right.

April 19 Usual Sunday morning inspection at half past nine. Divine services at two P.M. Sergt. Byrum returned to camp from furlough. Weather warm and pleasant. Peach trees in full bloom.

April 20 Monday there was very little done in camp as it rained nearly all day. In the morning we completed our pontoon trains to be ready to move at a moments warning. The noncommissioned officers received instructions in regard to loading infantry in pontoon boats.

April 21 Co. A pontoon trains under the command of Capt. Waterman joined Major Spauldings detachment. The men practised in fitting the boats together they being a new kind.

April 22 No duty done in camp except guard duty. Our pontoon trains were all complete and ready to move at a moments warning. There was a grand review of the troops comprising the third army corp. There was two balloons up nearly all day watching the movements of the enemy. Weather pleasant.

April 23 Rained very hard all day, or until four P.M. Consequently there was no duty done except guard duty. There was an underground telegraph discovered that commenced from Gen. Hookers live across the river to the city of Fredericksburg. Received a letter from C.M. Wright. All quiet on the Rappahannock.

April 24 It rained nearly the entire day. No duty done except guard. Three Corpl. from Co. A on guard. Wrote letter to C.M. Wright also one to S.M. Ward and Co. No. 8 Park Row, N.Y. All Quiet along the Rappahannock.

Apr 25 Sergt. Byron and fifteen men from Co. A for guard. Sergt. D.M. Hulse Officer of the Day. The teamsters from Co. A and I were returned to their companys. Ten Rebels deserted. Came to our lines with their arms and accoutrements. Weather windy but pleasant.

Apr. 26 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Co. H. and F detailed to clear off parade grounds. Capt. Geo. W. Ford divided the Company into four equal parts. One Sergt. and two Corp. to each squad. Battallion drill in the bayonet exercise. Col. Stuart visited our detachment. The band arrived from headquarters and joined our detachment.

Apr. 27 The men worked on the Waterman Bridge. Two companys went outside the lines. One with guns and the other with hatchets and spades etc. Grand review of the troops in this vicinity. Pontoon trains were overhauled by Co. A. A large number of troops were on the move.

Apr. 28 At three o'clock the different Regt. broke camp and were on the move. Commenced to rain at 8 A.M. We received marching orders at two o'clock P.M. had the teams hooked to the trains and were waiting for the command forward. Stopped raining about 5 o'clock but remained cloudy. Broke camp at 6 P.M. Arrived near Banks Ford about 8 in the evening.

Apr. 29 Sergt. Byran, Miller, Brown and myself were sent out with parties to build approaches to the River. Worked all night. Next day we left Banks Ford about 3 P.M. and arrived at the United States Ford about 10 P.M. where we parked our train. Turned in for the night. It rained slightly all the time, consequently the roads were in a muddy condition. Three pontoon bridges were thrown across the river at Fredericksburg.

April 30 About 10 A.M. we started for the River to lay our bridge where we expected to have met with a warm reception from the enemy, but on our arrival at the River we found the enemy had abandoned his fortifications. We had no trouble in laying our bridge. Serg. Townsend with 17 men guarded the bridge tonight.

- May 1 Being relieved from guard duty in the morning. Returned to camp. The company except those just off guard were detached to work at the bridge. Kept it in repair while our army was crossing. Gen. Hooker crossed the bridge at dark. Fighting commenced about noon. Orders were not to allow anything to cross bridge except infantry in the afternoon. Received letter from sister Jane and one from S.M. Ward Park Row N.Y.
- May 2 Fighting commenced across the River to the left of Fredericksburg at daylight. Was kept up the entire day. Wounded were brought across the bridge. Our forces were nearly all over the river except a reserve. Our detachment had no duty to do except to take care of the bridge. We were mustered in for pay. Heaviest fighting of the day was from Sundown until 9 o'clock. Received a letter from May Spence.
- May 3 Fighting commenced before sunrise this morning. Partly geared(?) on the Right about noon when they commenced in the city. Pontoon bridges were thrown across the river near the city in the morning. Our troops occupied the city and Heights at noon. Very heavy fighting all the afternoon.
- May 4 During the night the Rebs planted a battery near our camp. Just before daylight they opened fire. Shelled our camp and a regt of cavalry killing six men and several horses. Our cavalry charged on the rebs and captured the battery. We moved out of their range at four o'clock P.M. They opened fire on our left. Kept up after dark. Aside from this there was but little fighting done. Large numbers of wounded brought from the field.
- May 5 Heavy firing of musketry and artillery about midnight last night also this morning. At $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 the enemy recaptured Fredericksburg heights. The enemy shelled our bridges at Banks Ford. The detachment except a camp guard went down to the river to work all night. Commenced raining 4 P.M. Cut a road to get our pontoon up from the river if it should be necessary. Sergt. Townsend with 18 men on guard. Received a letter from Lissie Townsend also one from brother Orville Townsend.
- May 6 Dark and rainy night. The River rose 6 feet. The men worked at the bridges all night. Had to lengthen them out 6 boats. The army crossing to this side of the river again. Our men fell back under cover of our artillery which kept up a heavy commandering all day. The army crossed and we pick up our bridge by 3 o'clock P.M.

- May 7 Ceased raining about ten o'clock. The detachment was all out to work with the Pontoon. Getting the boats together and parking them. The Old Guard remained on duty in place of the men who had been to work at the bridge. Orders to be ready to move at a moments warning. All quiet along the River.
- May 8 The army all marched back to their old camp ground near Falmouth. Left our train in the rear unprotected. We --?-- --?-- pickets and lay on our arms all night but were not molested. We left in the morning burning everything we could not carry. We arrived on the Warrenton and Falmouth turnpike where we bivouacked for the night.
- May 9 Early in the morning we proceeded on our march. Arrived at our old camp at 8 A.M. where we rested until five then proceeded on our way and repaired our brigade headquarters. At 3 A.M. in the morning after marching all night to avoid being seen by the Rebs as we passed Falmouth.
- May 10 Received a letter from Mrs. P.E.W. Arrived in camp with our train at three o'clock this morning. Sunday. We had the forenoon for rest and the afternoon was occupied by Companys A, I, and E in rearranging our pontoon trains. Orders to be ready to move at a moments warning. The army under Hooker have orders to have 8 days ration. Dress Parade at 5 P.M.
- May 11 Received a letter from Mother dated the 7th. Also one from John Spence of the 7. Lieut. D.M.Hulse was assigned over from Co. A. to Co. I. No duty done in A.M. In the afternoon we had inspection of arms and accoutrements. At five, dress parade. The 16th N.Y. Vol. started for Washington to be mustered out of the service. The weather very warm and dry. Addressed a letter to Lissie and O. Townsend. Addressed a letter to sister Jane.
- May 12 Detail to overhaul chefs wagons from Co. A. Afternoon battallion drill. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Brigade mounding(?) at six. One Sergt and three Corp. and twelve men from Co. H for guard.
- May 13 Mailed a letter to May Spence. Remodeled our camp in the afternoon. One Sergt one Corp and eighteen men for guard. Brigade guard mounding at six P.M. Corp A Vam Huysen received a ten day forlough. Gen. Hookers general orders read on dress parade.

- May 14 Received a letter from Ed Husten also one from Hatie Benger. The company to work on their company streets. Grading their streets etc. Afternoon it rained very hard. The 15th Regt. --?-- their bridge to Bruer Church there to wait further orders. A splendid sword and belt presented to Major Beers by the members of Co. K. All quiet along the Rappahannock/
- May 15 The Regt. was in line by six o'clock to escort the 30th Regt to the depot on their way home. Their term of enlistment had expired. Battallion drill. Detail of Sergt. Townsend and 10 men from Co. A to repack the pontoons. Dress parade at 6 P.M.
- May 16 Received a letter from Mary Tulkem and a likeness from Hattie Benyer. Battallion drill in the A.M. Guard mounting at 6 o'clock. Dress parade at five when Gen Benham order was congratulating the engineer Corp for their gallant conduct during the seven days fight on the Rappahannock. Re--?-- order read on parade.
- May 17 Usual Sunday morning inspection at 10 A.M. of arms and accoutrements tents streets and general inspection was to be in the P.M. but it --?-- us out of until --?-- Brigade guard mounting at 6 P.M. All quiet along the river.
- May 18 Mailed a letter to A.E.Wright. Mailed a letter th John D. Tolten. Gen Hooker moved his headquarters over near White Oak Church. Sergt Townsend and 20 men reported to Asst Agt. Gen for --?-- duty. Recommended Inspection by the Assist --?-- Gen. Three Corp and 23 men from A for guard.
- May 19 Mailed a letter to G.C.Townsend and to John Spence. No duty done except overhauling a few boats. Drilling one hour in the forenoon. Detail sent out with teams to get bushes to decorate the camp. Detail of the remainder of Co. A for general Brigade Guard Mounting at 6 P.M. Dress parade as usual. Mailed a letter to Maryan Fulkers also one to Enoch Moore.
- May 20 Co. drill in the forenoon in the bayonet exercise. Brigade guard mounting at 6 P.M. Sergt Townsend with 24 men from I and E on guard. Henry Williams and King Bennett sentence of court marshall received. Dress Parade at 7 P.M.
- May 21 No duty done in the forenoon except guard and police duty. Preparations made for review in the afternoon. The 50 and 15 Regt. Eng and a Battallion of Regulars Eng were reviewed by Gen. Benham. Weather very hot and dry.

- May 22 Received a letter from Jennie Foster. Thirteen men and one Sergt on detail from Co. A repairing the road. Twenty-eight men and three Corp. on guard. Brigade Guard mounting at six P.M. and dress parade at 7. Amos E Wheeler of Co. A received his discharge for disability. Weather hot and dry.
- May 23 Mailed a letter to Natalie Bueyer. Lieut Robins and twelve men from Co. A on fatigue duty at Gen Headquarters. The balance of the Co. on guard. Corp Van Huysen returned from furlough. The weather very warm and dry. All quiet on the banks of the Rappahannock.
- May 24 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements at nine o'clock A.M. Afternoon at 6 P.M. divine services and dress parade. Weather hot and dry.
- May 25 Sergt Townsend with twenty-five men on duty at brigade headquarters. Lieut Carroll of Co. C received his Commission in the 50th Regt. One of the teamsters died from the effects of a mule kicking him. Weather somewhat cooler. Rained a little during the day.
- May 26 Detail of two Corp and 20 men from Co. A to work at Gen. Headquarters. Morris Malone of Co. F died in Regimental hospital and was buried. Company signed the clothing bill. Dress parade at 7 P.M. 27 men from Co. A on guard.
- May 27 Battallion drill in the forenoon. Sergt John Brown left camp on 10 day furlough. Sergt Burdin and Townsend had leave of absence to visit Falmouth. The pickets exchanged papers.
- May 28 Received a letter from May Spence also one from Mother. Company drill in the forenoon. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Brigade guard mounting at 6 P.M. Se gt Townsend officer of the guard at Pontoon trains No. 1 and 2. Capt. Ford field officer of the day. Sergt. Byrum went to Aqua Creek for material to repair the boats.
- May 29 Battallion drill in the A.M. by Maj Spaulding. Co. A to work caulking the pontoons. A detail of men went to Aquia Creek under sealed orders. Brigade Guard Mounting at 5 P.M. Dress parade at 6 P.M. Balloon up nearly all day.
- May 30 Company drill in the A.M. A part of Co. A on guard. Brigade Guard mounting at 6 P.M. Dress parade --?--after --?-- ~~44~~?--. Weather dry and windy. Dust making it very disagreeable.

- May 31 Received a letter from E. Moore. Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements at 9 o'clock A.M.. At 6 P.M. dress parade immediately after dinner service. No duty done except guard duty. Weather windy. Co. drill in the forenoon. There was to be Battallion drill in the afternoon but postponed on account of the drst. The wind blew very hard. Sand flew in every direction. A part of Co. A on guard. Detail to work on boats.
- June 1 Mailed a letter to E. Hunter also one to Spencer Foster. Received a letter from P.E. Whight, a paper from Mrs Fulkensen. Co. drill in the A.M. by Liety Rovvins. Afternoon there was to be a battallion drill but was postponed as the wind blew very hard and the dust made it very disagreeable. A part of Co. A on guard. 10 men 1 Sergt to work at headquarters.
- June 2 Co. drill in the forenoon by Lieut Robbins. Battallion drill in the afternoon. Brigade guard mounition at six o'clock P.M. and dress parade at half past six P.M.
- June 3 Mailed a letter to P.E.Wright. Co. drill in the forenoon. Co. A all on guard and to work on the pontoons. Co. drill P.M. Brigade guard mounting and dress parade as usual.
- June 4 Addressed a letter to Mae Spence. Co. drill in the A.M. also in the P.M. Colonel Stuart --- Lieut. Col Pettis promoted to Colonel. Major Spaulding promoted to Lieut Col. Ruffus Johnson visited our camp. All quiet.
- June 5 At four o'clock A. M the Regt fell into line of battle. Broke ranks about five. Paymaster of the U. S. Army paid off the 50th Regt. Eng. Brigade guard mounting at six P.M. Dress parade at seven. N.V.Clausen visited Falmouth with Johnson.
- June 6 Received a letter from Nellie and Louisa Churchill. Also one from John Totten. Received orders to lay one pontoon bridge across the river about 10 A.M. Commenced the bridge about 6 P.M. Our artillery opened fire about 5 P.M. Finished the bridge at 8 P.M. Troops commenced crossing river.
- June 7 Mailed a letter to mother. Our artillery commenced firing this morning at 7 A.M. Sergt Townsend on guard to the bridge. Gen. Hooker crossed about dark. Sunday the 7th firing at intervals all day from our seige guns. Heavy r--- firing. The weather quite cool.

- June 8 Mailed a letter to C.M. Wright. Last night our men dug rifle pits on the south side of the Rappahannock. Our artillery fired upon the Rebs at intervals all day. Rifle pits dug on this side of the river. Co. A on guard to the bridge. The Regulars went out tonight to dig pits.
- June 9 Mailed a letter to John D. Totten also ont to Orville Townsend. Sergt Townsend on guard to the bridge and 27 men from Co. A. At five P.M. the Rebs tried to shell the bridge but were soon silenced by our batteries. Berdons S.C.-----well.
- June 10 Relieved from duty on the bridge. Our men very busily engaged in fortifying on the South side of the Rappahannock. Seige guns were heavy(?) planted on Stafford Heights. Weather warm and dry. Rufus Johnson left for home.
- June 11 Mailed a letter to Louisa. Heavy reinforcements ---- to Hookers army. Begins to look like a weak ----. Company all to the river digging rifle pits. The whole army ordered to be in readiness to move at a moments warning. Sergt. Townsend on guard at the pontoons.
- June 12 Received a letter from Sarah. Mailed one to Mattie B---. Major Beers moved his pontoon trains down to Bell Plains. Our brigade had orders to be ready to move at a moments warning. At 5 P.M. a few artillery shots were exchanged near the Bridge. Weather warm.
- June 13 Detail of two Corporals and 16 men for Bridge guard at the River. Extra pontoons were taken to Bell Plains and shipped nearly all the troop ---- toward Warrenton. John Townsend visited Falmouth. Dismantled our bridge during the night.
- June 14 Arrived back at our camp at daylight. Had breakfast and broke camp at 6 A.M. and took up our line of march for Aqua Creek north of Bell Plains. Arrived at Aqua at 4 P.M. and by midnight had our pontoons rafted. Camp ---- with a bridge for Aququam.
- June 15 Detachment all to work on the warf at Aqua Shipping. Our Engineers ----- Gen Benham left for Alexandria. We embarked on board the steamer and arrived in Alexandria at 10 the next day.
- June 16 Pitched our tents at 11 A.M. in the suburbs of the city of Alexandria and rested until 1 P.M. when we went to work and by 2 P.M. we had a pontoon train filled out ready to move to Harpers Ferry with Co. C, F and I. Josh Stevens visited our camp.

- June 17 Received a letter from Mae Spence. Detachments all busily engaged filling up our pontoon trains. No intelligence from the Army of the Potomac. Weather very warm.
- June 18 Detachment all to work reloading the wagons and ---*---on the pontoons. The orders came to take our pontoons back to their old moorings in the eastern branch of the Potomac.
- June 19 We finished loading our wagons on the pontoons at four o'clock P.M. The steamer arrived and took us in tow for Washington. We arrived at the arsenal at dark where the steamer left us to work our way up to the Navy Yard which occupied the entire night.
- June 20 This morning we landed and pitched our tents on our old camp grounds having been absent just (3 or 7)? months. The new recruits of the 15th Regt and the Regular Engineers and the 50th all occupied the Navy Yard hill. A detachment of one Sergt and 12 men from Co. A left for Harpers Ferry with pontoon.
- June 21 Co. A nearly all out on detail over at the River. Heavy firing in the direction of Sentreville and Bull Run. Dress parade, inspection, guard mounting and divine services at 5 P.M. ---*--- down to meeting.
- June 22 Sent a letter to Kate Townsend. Firing heard in the direction of Bull Run. Dan Lane visited our camp. Dress parade in the P.M. and Guard mounting as usual. Orders to have everything in readiness for Gen. inspection of arms and to maneuver to block deserters come into camp from Lees crossing.
- June 23 Detachment sent to Edwards Ferry with a pontoon train from Co H. Lieut Robbins returned from the ferry with the men that was with him. Gen. inspection of arms and accoutrements tents etc. Townsend and Osburn had a pass to visit the city until 7 P.M. Detail from Co. A on guard.
- June 24 Received orders to be ready to move at a moments notice. Sergt. Townsend with eight men overhauling wagons. Lieut Col. Pettise redeived his commission as Col. Major Spaulding received his commission as Lieut. Col. of the 50th Eng. Orders read on dress parade.
- June 25 Broke camp near Navy Yard D.C. and moved well. Our entire brigade at 5 P.M. marched all night. Came to a halt at 5 A.M. next morning at Rockville Md. where we ate breakfast and fed our mules. Commenced raining about dark and rained all night. Roads became very muddy. Several wagons capsized.

- June 26 Broke camp near Rockville and proceeded on our march and bivocked for the night near Deanstown in a church known as the Seneca Church. Sergt Burdin, Brian and myself slept in the church with orders to have our guns where we could seize them at a moments warning.
- June 27 Broke camp at Seneca Church at 7 A.M. and arrived at Poolville Md at 11 A.M. and repaired headquarters. The Rebels was driven out of Frederick by our troops. Gen Hooker ordered a pontoon train of a thousand boats. This ---*--- seem so sensible.
- June 28 The 120 Regt N.Y.vol. passed our camp. Saw Warren Reppolege and Frank Uttler. Broke camp at Poolesville Md. and proceeded on our way to Frederick City. Bivocked at night at Buckletown. Gen Hooker relieved of his command in the Army of the Potomac. Gen. Mead takes command of the army. ---*--- boats vurned at Edwards ferry.
- June 29 Broke camp at Buckeys town at 7 A.M. and encamped near Frederick City at 1 P.M. Co. A fitted out a train of 20 boats to be ready at a moments warning. Rained at intervals during the day. Co. I and C repaired our headquarters.
- June 30 Broke camp near Frederick City at midnight. Proceeded on our march, halted at noon at Liberty. Started at 2 P.M. and halted for the night at Beaver Dams. There received orders to get back to Washington as soon as we could.
- July 1 Broke camp at 7 A.M. and commenced our journey back. Passed through Liberty and came to a halt about two miles this side of New Market on the Baltimore and Frederick City Pike. Sergt. Townsend on picket during the night with 6 men from Co. A and 6 from I.
- July 2 Broke camp at 7 A.M. and proceeded on our way and at night came to a halt near Ashtown. Threw out our pickets and lay on our arms as usual. Received letters from D Bond of Compton, C. Wright, Craley(?) Mother, Sister Jennie, Lil Hustin and Mattie Bueyer.
- July 3 Broke camp at 7 A.M. and proceeded on our march and arrived inside of the fortifications of Washington at 4 P.M. and 8 P.M. arrived on our old camp B via of 7 Street tired enough to lay down and sleep.
- July 4 At sunrise a salute was fired from the guns in the Navy Yard. 21 guns at noon. A national salute was fired from the Navy Yard and all the principal forts in this vicinity. At ---*--- a salute of 21 guns from Navy Yard. Splendid fire works in the evening.

- July 5 Mailed a letter to John Spence, one to Jane Foster. Usual Sunday morning inspection at 9 A.M. Dress parade at 5 P.M. in the evening. Company went down in the city to church.
- July 6 Received orders to march. Broke camp at dark. Moved down to the depot. Bivouacked for the night near the depot. pontoons were drawn down to the depot during the night.
- July 7 Loaded our pontoons on the cars on the Washington and Ohio Road. Arrived at the relay house at noon. Stayed there until 3 P.M. Started on the Balt. and Ohio Road for Harpers Ferry. Ran all night. Commenced raining at dark. Rained very hard all night. Received the news that Vicksburg had surrendered.
- July 8 ---*-- ---*-- on the old Antitem Ground. Arrived at the Mon---*-- River and Frederick junction at 11 A.M. at Ba---town at noon and arrived at the Ferry at 3 P.M. Unloaded our pontoons from the cars. Put them into the canal. Co. A went out on scouting expedition. Three men shot by guerrillas the night before.
- July 9 Received letter from C.M.Wright, wrote to Mother. Forenoon there was but little done. Afternoon the Eng. Parties out to work on the Railroad. Afternoon moved our camp ---*-- ---*-- ---*-- ---*--. Our cars arrived from Baltimore.
- July 10 Co. A to work on the road ---*-- Harpers Ferry. Flag of truce sent across the river. Our pontoon wagons arrived at Harpers Ferry on the overland road from Washington. Co. D and C in charge of pontoon train of 10 boats. Capt. Ford went to Frederick City..
- July 11 Sent a letter to Martha Benyes also Jake Compton. Co. A out on detail to work on the Railroad. In the P.M. Major Brennard with 6 men crossed the Potomac in a Pontoon boat. The enemy did not molest them. Two trains of cars arrived loaded with artillery, also several iron clad cars for Sharpshooters. No news of importance from the battlefield.
- July 12 Our usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Sergt. Brown with ten men from A acting as Patrol guard. Weather very warm.

- July 13 At 10 A.M. Battallion Drill. Commenced raining at 11 A.M. Continued until 2 P.M. Sergt. Townsend with one Corp and six men patrolled the shore from 3 to 5 P.M. in place of Sergt. Brown. Co. C went to repair a lock in the canal ---*--- Sandy Hook. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Reports from the front state that Lee is retreating past the Potomac.
- July 14 Breakfast at 3 in the morning. Took our boats. Moved them up in front of the ferry. Commenced ---*--- them from the canal to the River. At 10 A.M. Companys A and F commenced to lay a pontoon bridge. Completed the bridge by 12 N. The enemy left after the first shot fired from our side in the afternoon. Skirmish took place between our cavalry and that of the Rebs.
- July 15 Co. A in guard to the bridge. The balance widened the approach on our side of the bridge. Afternoon Co. F ordered to pick up loose property. Gen. Lee succeeded in making his escape across the river. Reported fighting at Charles-town.
- July 16 All our extra pontoons sent to Burlin. The 126 Regt. passed through Sandy Hook also the 107 Reg. encamped near our camp. Co. F all at work getting Pontoons from the River into the canal at night. Sergt. Burdin and Townsend each took 8 men ---*--- from pontoons to report at Burlin. Large number of troops passed through Sandy Hook.
- July 17 Early in the morning a pontoon bridge composed of 74 pontoons was completed at Burlin. The army commenced crossing. Townsend and Burdin sent to Burlin with boats. Came back on the cars. Rained nearly all day. The Potomac very high. Troops crossing very rapidly on the bridge opposite Harpers Ferry. The 15th on the way to Burlin with pontoons for another bridge.
- July 18 At 8 o'clock A.M. the second bridge across the Potomac was finished at Burlin just below the first one. The army except the 12 Corp. crossed over in Virginia. Co. A at work picking up Pontoon property from the River.
- July 19 The 12 Corp. crossed the Potomac at Harpers Ferry for Virginia. Co. A to work at the Feed(?) lock $1\frac{1}{2}$ above the ferry picking up pontoon property. In the P.M. we crossed the river in a pontoon boat and visited a cave in the rocks 150 yards deep. Railroad bridge across the Potomac nearly complete.

- July 20 The lower bridge at Burlin was dismantled and taken to Washington D. C. Co A all at work at the feed lock above the ferry collecting pontoon property. A surrender took place between our pickets and the Rebs at 10 P.M. The railroad bridge opposite the ferry was completed and the cars crossed for the first time.
- July 21 Received a letter from Mrs P. Wright. Co R at work picking up pontoon property from boats loaded with anchors(?) Wagons was sent to Burlin in charge of Corp Lemareaux. Ten Rebel deserters swam the river to our lines. Our men digging Rifle pits at this end of the bridge at Burlin. Our ---*--- line is the River.
- July 22 Co. A to work picking up pontoon property. Lieut. Robbins, Sergt. Brown, Miller, Pierce and myself started with a pontoon boat down the river. Struck on a rock and the consequences was we all got a ducking. We didn't get off until two o'clock, then Capt Ford came with the life boat.
- July 23 Company to work opposite Harpers Ferry in the canal building rafts of Bord-*-- in the afternoon we sent them to Burlin. Capt Ford and 20 of the boys fell in the canal when pulling our rafts. No news of intelligence from the army. At 11 o'clock P.M. we heard cannonading in the direction of Charleston.
- July 24 Sent a letter to Lissie Townsend also one to Phebe Wright. Sergt Brown with a part of the Company to work in the A.M. In the P.M. the whole company was out picking pontoons from the River and hauling them into the canal. All the Pontoons we had in the canal up to this time *---*---*
- July 25 Carpenter detail went out to repair boats in the afternoon. The whole company went out to work. Worked until dark. Commenced raining about five o'clock accompanied with heave thunder and lightening. We all got a nice soaking. Changed cooks. Ed Mc Mullen and Dick Miner commenced cooking instead of Tom Miller and King Bennett.
- July 26 Received a letter from John Totten. Company out in the morning putting up Pontoons in Rafts. Detail took pontoons to Burlin. Pontoon bridge at Burlin was dismantled and sent to Washington. Company inspection in the afternoon. Received our back mail. Wm. E Bennett returned to the Company being absent sick in Washington.

- July 27 Mailed a letter to Mae Spence. Major Brainard left for Burlin with Co. F. Capt Ford left at Harpers Ferry in charge of the bridge. In the A. M. Co. A finished rafting the pontoon property. In the P.M. Sergt. Miller took the life boats and a crew to look for pontoon property.
- July 28 Broke camp Sandy Hook at 7 A.M. Moved over the river into Harpers Ferry and pitched our tents in a locust grove in the suburbs of the ferry. Commenced raining about 4 A.M. and rained very hard until 9 A.M. Sergt. Byram three Corporals and twelve men on bridge guard. Sergt Brown and Townsend visited Jeffersons Rock 6 P.M.
- July 29 In the forenoon the company finished the arrangements of the camp. Cleared up the rubbish etc. Afternoon detail to haul out a pontoon for repairs. Sergt Miller and three corporals for Pontoon Bridge guard. Everything quiet. No intelligence from the army.
- July 30 Sergt. Miller relieved from Pontoon Bridge guard by Townsend. The eight N.Y. Regt left Maryland heights for Baltimore. Everything quiet in Harpers Ferry and no intelligence from the army of the Potomac.
- July 31 Sergt Townsend relieved from pontoon bridge guard by Sergt Brown. The River rose so high during the day we had to overhaul the approaches of the Bridge. Haulsey and Townsend had a pass to cross over the Shenandoah Bridge a berrying(?) The prisoners camp(?) in the Engine house was released(?)
- Aug. 1 Sergt Brown relieved from pontoon Bridge guard by Sergt. Byram. Battallion of Volunteers Engineers arrived at Harpers Ferry from Washington to relieve Capt. Ford with orders for Capt Ford to report to Washington.
- Aug. 2 Broke camp at Harpers Ferry Ba. at 8 o'clock A.M. We were relieved by an independent Co. of Act. Engineers. Took the cars at the Ferry for Washingyon. Arrived at the relay house at 4 P.M. where we were detained until 9 P.M. Arrived in Washington at daylight next mornig. Received a letter from John Spence and Mother and Mattie Benyer. Received a letter from P. Wright.
- Aug. 3 Loaded our baggage on the wagons and reported to the Regt at the Navy Yard where we went into Camp on the Left of the Regiment. Weather very warm. Half of the Regt. on pontoon drill.

- Aug 4 Co. drill in the A.M. in the Bayonet and Skirmish exercise. Afternoon from 4 to 6 Battallion drill, Pontoon drill etc.
- Aug 5 Mailed a letter to Mother. From 7 until half past eight A.M. Co A, B, and C pontoon Drull. The balance of the Regt. had Company School drill from 4 to 6 Battallion Drill in pontooneering under the instruction of Maj. Beers. Dress parade at quarter past 6. Frank Chandler of the 141 Regt. visited our camp.
- Aug. 6 Mailed a letter to John Spence. Day chosen by the President for one of Thanksgiving at Prayer. Divine services in camp at 8 A.M. Dress parade in the afternoon. No other duty done in camp except guard duty and Police.
- Aug 7 Received a letter from Lib Huston. Company school drill in the forenoon Battallion pontoon drill from 4 to 6 P.M. Sergt Brown in charge of the Balkmen(?) and Townsend the Chessmen(?). Major Beers superintended the drill. Co. A drew clothing on the requisition. Weather very warm.
- Aug. 8 In the forenoon Co. A under the instructions of Lieut. Robbins and Col. Spaulding constructed a flying bridge. Afternoon there was no duty done except guard. Sergt. Burdin had a pass to visit Washington City. Dress parade as usual.
- Aug. 9 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements at 9 A.M. Detail of 8 men for guard. Afternoon guard mounting at 6 P.M. Divine services at 7 P.M.
- Aug 10 Company school drill in the forenoon from 7 until half-past 8. Battallion Pontoon drill in the afternoon from 4 until 6 o'clock P.M.
- Aug 11 Mailed a letter to E Wright. Redeived a letter from Mae Spence. Company School drill in the A.M. by Lieut. Robbins. Battallion infantry drill from 4 until 6 P.M. Sergt. Brown and Townsend visited Washington. One of the teamsters named Cox committed suicide by hanging himself.
- Aug. 12 Mailed a letter to Mattie Benyer. Pontoon Drill from 7 until 8 with the canvass boat. Sergt. Townsend had charge of 20 men as trenchmen. Afternoon Battallion Pontoon drill on the River. Townsend in charge of Buldlashers. One of the teamsters was buried.
- Aug 13 Company school drill in the A.M. Battallion drill in the afternoon. Also Company pontoon drill with the canvass boats. Dress parade as usual at 6 P.M. Signed the pay rolls at 8 P.M.

- Aug 14 Received from the government \$65.85. Received a letter from Phoebe E. Wright. Mailed a letter to Jake Creley. Canvass pontoon drill in the forenoon. Guard mounting in the A.M. Townsend Sergt. of the guard at Headquarters. Paymaster arrived and commenced paying off the men. A detachment from Co. I sent to Warrenton Junction. Received news of the fall of Sumpter.
- Aug. 15 Townsend releived from guard. No duty done in camp except guard duty. George Grays father arrived in camp. An officer of the ? Regt. shot one of his men. Joe Burdin visited Washington on a pass.
- Aug. 16 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Dress parade at 6 P.M. Divine services on the Parade grounds at 7 P.M. Daniel Lowe visited camp.
- Aug 17 Company school drill in the forenoon by Lieut. Robbins. Afternoon Battallion pontoon drill under the instruction of Maj. Brainard. Townsend in charge of No. 1 BulkLashers. Dress parade at 6 P.M. Townsend had a pass to visit the city.
- Aug 18 Co. drill Pontoon under the instruction of Capt. Tousell(?) Townsend in charge of Buld Carrier. Battallion drill from 4 to 6 Dress parade at 7 P.M. Report that the Potomac army follows(?) B ---*---.
- Aug 19 Purchased a watch for 14 dollars. Co. A went over to Alexandria Unloaded 20 pontoons from the cars. Rafted them into the River and was towed back to the a---*--- or Eastern Branch. Afternoon the companys remaining in camp constructed three pontoon bridges on s---*---. Dress parade as usual.
- Aug 20 Company school drill from 7 until half past 8 A.M. Co A assigned over in charge of the Engineer Work Shop in place of Co E. Orders read to that except on Dress Parade Co. A excused from all Drills.
- Aug 21 Co A to work cleaning out the barracks. Townsend with Cox, Henderson and Mc Millan in charge of the Wagon Shops.
- Aug 22 Saturday was occupied in putting tools in order preparing for work Monday morning.
- Aug 23 Mailed a letter to Mae Spence. Mailed a letter to Jane Porter. Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Dress parade at 6 P.M. Divine services on the Parade grounds at 7 P.M.

- Aug 24 Received a letter from Jake Creeley also one from Sate Lewison(?). Commended work in the shop. Worked on Whifeltrees. Company busy picking up engineer property. B--- pontoon drill. Practised in Rowing boats.
- Aug 25 Worked on tra---- for Canvass boats. Cox had a pass to visit the city. Received a new lot of wagon makers tools in the shop. Teams sent for lumber but returned without it. Rained a little during the night. Cool.
- Aug 26 Received a letter from Lissie Townsend. Received a letter from --*-- Bailey. Finished our transoms in the forenoon. Commenced our pontoon wagon wheels in the afternoon. A carload of lumber arrived at the Washington depot. Dispatches from Charleston put Sumpter as a heap of ruins.
- Aug 27 Mailed a letter to Phoebe Wright. Worked on pontoon wheels in the forenoon. Afternoon worked on flag staff. Teams went to the Washington Depot for lumber. Weather pleasant and cool.
- Aug 28 In the shop worked on pontoon wagon wheels. The Regt. had Company drill in the forenoon and Battallion pontoon drill in the afternoon. Teams busy hauling lumber for the shops.
- Aug 29 Worked in the shop all day on pontoon wagon wheels. Regt. had Pontoon Battallion drill. The balance of Co. G arrived in camp from Warrenton Va. leaving their bridge in charge of Pennsylvania Engineers.
- Aug 30 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Sergt Burdin, Miller, StorySergt Drake, Prince and Morell went down city to church. Dress parade as usual.
- Aug 31 Worked in the shop in the forenoon on pontoon wagon wheels. Afternoon Sergt Brown and myself had leave of absence to visit Washington D.C. Returned at 6 o'clock. Teams busy hauling lumber for the shops. Pontoon bridge laid across the Eastern Branch and took up again.
- Sept 1 Worked in the shop A.M. Pontoon wheels and flagpoles for guides. Company busy a-----and oiling harness, doing police duty around the shop etc. Regt on Battallion drill from 4 to 6 P.M. Dress parade as usual.
- Sept 2 Received a letter from Mother also one from John Totten. Worked in the shop as usual. Ed McMullen visited the city in the afternoon. The Regiment ---- Battallion Infantry drill in the afternoon.

- Sept 3 Worked in the shop on pontoon wagon wheels. Finished up the small size and commenced the large ones.
- Sept 4 Moved our tents six feet to the East. Worked in the shop as usual. Pontoon bridge of fourteen hundred feet laid across the Eastern Branch in twenty-two minutes. Gen Berker? and family traveled across. B--- got a new suit of clothes.
- Sept 5 Worked in shop on pontoon wheels and flag staffs. In the afternoon the Regt had Battallion pontoon drill. Dismantled the bridge. Constructed it again and swung it across the River in twenty minutes. Teams busy hauling lumber.
- Sept 6 Usual Sunday morning inspwction of arms eic. At 9 A.M. we had a Grand Review of our Brigade Company. In the afternoon moved a pile of lumber down to the River.
- Sept 7 Mailed a letter to Lissie Townsend also one to Sate Bradley. Worked in the shop as usual in the forenoon. Afternoon large number of --- ---. Several military officers including Gen Meigs, Gen Fee--- and Commodore Smith from the Navy. The bridge laid in 20 minutes.
- Sept 8 Photographs were taken of the bridge by a government artist in several different views. Canvass Bridge laid. Photographs taken of this also. Carpenters commenced the framing of a large government store house.
- Sept 9 Built a tent frame for Lieut Hurl Huelson. Luick(?) of the 120 visited our camp. Regt had infantry Battallion Drill. Worked on Pontoon wheels.
- Sept 10 Co A worked in the shop as usual. Teams hauled 4 tons of iron for the blacksmith department. The Regt practiced in laying the pontoon bridges. Laid them in 20 minutes. News redeived of the evacuation of Forts Wagner and Gray.
- Sept 11 Worked in the shop in the forenoon. Afternoon went downtown with Burdin, Osburn, Storey, Du--- to pick out lumber for fe---. Cox sick unable for duty. Company pontoon drill. Three teamsters were ducked into the River for stealing.
- Sept 12 Co A worked in the shop in the forenoon. Afternoon nothing done except ot clean up the shops. Very heavy shower of rain. Ha--- avout out in Washington.
- Sept 13 Sunday it rained until 9 A.M. At 10 we had our usual Sunday morning inspection of arms, tents, etc. At 4 divine services and dress parade.

- Sept 14 Received a letter from P.E.W. Worked in the shop on pontoon wagon wheels. Built a ---*--- for the Commissary Department. Ed Mc Mullin commenced to work on ch---. Weather cloudy. Orders to have all the Regt Property packed ready to move.
- Sept 15 At 10 o'clock A.M. there was an exhibition of laying a pontoon bridge before Gen. Andrews of Mass. The bridge was laid in 20 minutes. Corp Lemeraux went to Rappahannock Station with balk lashings.
- Sept 16 Mailed a letter to P.E.S. Worked in the shop as usual. Storehouse building was raised. Rained nearly all the afternoon. Warden(?) S Cox had a pass to visit the city. Co. D left with a pontoon train.
- Sept 17 Received a letter from Mae Spence and Jane Porter. Worked in the shop as usual. Corporal Lemeraux returned from the front. Sergt Burdin and Private Buck took the cars to Washington Depot for the front with 100 Ch-- and two cl--Ba--. Rained during the day.
- Sept 18 Received a letter from --- ---. Worked in the shop on chefs(?) Raived very hard nearly all day. Gen Benham visited the shop. Sergt Burdin returned from the front. Sold my watch to M. Cox. Sent to the city for tools. The troops in lines of battle to the front all day.
- Sept 19 Worked in the shop on the forenoon. Afternoon nothing done in the shops except to clean up the shops. Five thousand feet of lumber oak plank brought from the depot to the shop. Reported evacuation of Richmond. Co. G left with a pontoon train of 8 boats.
- Sept 20 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements in the barracks. Pontoon boats broke loose. Parties sent out to bring them in. Teby(?) returned to Company from hospital. Divine services at 3 P.M. Dress parade at 6 P.M.
- Sept 21 Mailed letter to Mae Spence. Worked in shop. Cox and Miller and Ansley on Chefs. Muself on wheels. Sergt. Bicin(?) with the fatigue party removed the harness(?) from workshop to store house. Weather quite cool.
- Sept 22 Worked in the shop on Chefs and pontoon wagon wheels. Issued out 6 sets of whiffletrees, 12 flag staffs. Fatigue put ---- ---- the rubber pontoon into the new store house. Bell to the ---- fireworks in the evening.

- Sept 23 Received a letter from Mother. The Regt. received marching orders to be ready to march at three o'clock P.M. The brigade broke camp at 3 o'clock P.M. Headquarters did not move until next day. Took a Canvass pontoon train with them. All the tools in the --- dept(?) was overhauled but in a more convenient place.
- Sept 24 Gen. Bengems headquarters moved at noon today. Detail of workmen from Co F and H were left in charge of Capt. Ford for duty. Fatigue party busy cleaning off the camp ground. Weather pleasant.
- Sept 25 Worked in shop on chefs and pontoon wagon wheels in the forenoon. I was e--- to fix tents. Fatigue party getting pontoon boats to the wharf. Sergt. Burdin went down town for our mail. Barracks used for hospital. Weather quite cold.
- Sept 26 Received a letter from Sate Bradley also one from Phoebe E. Wright. Worked in the shop in the forenoon. Fatigue party busy all day cleaning up pontoon property. No work done in the shops in the afternoon. A party went to the n--- meeting in the evening.
- Setp 27 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements by Capt Ford. Extracts read from the Orders of War. Squad went to church 10 A.M. Men went to meeting in the evening.
- Sept 28 Worked in the shops as usual. Fatigue squad busy piling balk. Teams busy hauling chefs.
- Sept 29 Worked in the shops as usual. The fatigue squad overhauled the ropes. Sergt Burdin and myself visited the city. Teams busy hauling lumber for chefs. In the evening squad went to church. Edwin Lewis committed to the guard house for drunkenness.
- Sept 30 Worked in shop as usual. T----went down town after paymaster but he couldn't come on account of his going over the river to pay a g--- in the first b---.
- Oct 1 Received a letter from C.M.Wright. Worked in the shops in the forenoon. Afternoon the paymaster arrived and paid of the company and sick in Hospitals. No work done in the shops in the afternoon. At one 1'clock A.M. Whites guerillas made a dash on the 16 N.Y. Cavalry. Killed three men took 25 prisoners and 60 horses.

- Oct 2 Sergt Brown and myself had a pass to visit the city. Each bought a new uniform. Paid 27 dollars. Rained very hard nearly all day. At night the wind blew the t----r--- so as to take up a canvass pontoon lying on shore.
- Oct 3 Sergt Brown Myrel S---B--- and myself visited the city. A part of Co G arrived in camp from Alexandria.
- Oct 4 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Sergt Brown and myself went to church in the forenoon. Afternoon we visited the city ---- went to church in the evening.
- Oct 5 Cox sick. Mc Mullen cut his hand. Crosley excused(?) Consequently I was left in the shop alone. At night Brown and myself had permission to go down town. Sergt Burdin bought a stove. Mike Halloran released from guard house.
- Oct 6 Worked in the shop as usual. Walter L. Cox sick over to the hospital. Bill Drew took his place at the bench. In the evening Sergt Brown and myself visited the city. Put up a block(?)
- Oct 7 Received a letter from Phoebe Wright also from Lissie Townsend. Worked in the shop as usual. James Ansley lost his picket book. Teams went to Georgetown for three loads of rock lashing shovers and are--- ----- Sent to the --- to the Regiment.
- Oct 8 Finished the pontoon wagon wheels. Ed Mc Mullen confined to guard house.. The carpenters finished the canvas boats. Scransen(?) reported to doctor. Sick with cold. Doctor Flerind(?) visited camp from headquarters.
- Oct 9 Received a letter from Sate Bradley. Work in the shop was on gearing(?). The flag was lowered at half mast account of Major Carrion death of the 15th Regt Eng. Drew Rations.
- Oct 10 All hands worked as usual in the forenoon. No duty done in afternoon. Sergt Brown with 12 men escorted Major DCarrions body to depot. Sergt Brown, Burdin and myself had a pass to visit the theater.
- Oct 11 Company fitted up a pontoon train of thirty boats in the A.M. to be transported by water. Gen. Benham visited camp. The Regt encamped outside the city on their way back to the old camp ground.

- Oct 12 All hands in the wagon shop. Worked on tent pegs for the general quarters. The Regt arrived on the ground about 10 A.M. from Rappahannock Station. Camp guard posted as usual. Burdin went down --- for rations.
- Oct 13 Worked in the shop on gearings and tent pins for Gen. Benham. Oliver Russell shot by accident. Wounded in the head. Not seriously. In the evening Joe Burdin and myself directed prayer meeting in the harness shop.
- Oct 14 Worked in the shop as usual. A wagon maker from Co. G reported to work in shop. Canfield from Co C detail to work in the shop. Mike Halleran Warden and Bennett confined to guard house. Teams hauled 5000 feet of Chefs from depot.
- Oct 15 Received a letter from Mother. Received photograph from Whitehurst Gallery. Cleaned out the wagon shop to set up another bench. Hopkins Co F reported to work in shop. Finished on Pontoon Wagon Round in the afternoon.
- Oct 16 Set up three new benches in the shop. Rained all day. Orders to fit up pontoon train of forty boats. Did not get the train fitted out until after dark. Col. Baker's detectives brought in a number of prisoners from vicinity of Leesburg.
- Oct 17 Worked in shop. Miller had a pass to visit the city. Hopkins worked on wheels. Ansley and Dean worked on sawing ne--- for wagons. Sergt Byram and myself went to prayer meeting. Reported to Gen Benham to repair his carriage.
- Oct 18 Received a letter from Mae Spence also one from Irene Ferry. Usual Sunday morning inspection. Divine services on the parade ground in the afternoon. Dress parade at four P.M. Sergt Brown and myself attended divine service in the evening.
- Oct 19 Mailed a letter to Phoebe E. Wright. Worked in shop on gearing and tent pins for headquarters. Joe Burdin had a pass to visit the city. Berry had a jubilee(?) for Townsend. In the evening Joe Burdin and myself attended prayer meeting in the harness shop.
- Oct 20 Mailed a letter to Mae Spence. Worked in shop as usual. Repaired Gen Benham's carriage. Fire down near the monument burning government store houses with 300,000 bales of hay and 75 frame, harness etc. Weather warm.

- Oct 21 Worked in shop as usual. Sent to Baltimore for spokes. Drake to work for wagon dept. Comfied reported to Cix St. for duty. Gen orders to have all the noncommissioned officers share Removal.
- Oct 22 D--- Society organized to be held in harness shop. Last night large fire in Washington. News from the Army of the Potomac. Leess army retreating. Gen Benhams revokes his order for the noncommissioned officers to reverse their s----.
- Oct 23 Major Embeck visited camp. Worked in shop as usual. Fatigue squad repairing the roof on the barracks. General inspection of the Engineer Brigade by Capt Oherter(?) inspector gen. Rained in the eveni g. Speaking school organizing.
- Oct 24 Rained all night. A great home f--- and trotting match to come off today on the usual c--- near inactive insane asylum over the Eastern Branch of Potomac.
- Oct 25 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements by Capt Ford. Also e--- and rules for articles of war read to Company. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Divine service at 4 P.M. Sergt Townsend took a squad to church in the eveni g.
- Oct 26 Worked in shop as usual. Made a wagon bay for to draw chess. The names of Co A taken to go home to vote for state officer.
- Oct 27 Worked in shop as usual. The names of those who wished to go home to vote were sent to the War Dept. from there to Secty of War. Weather cold.
- Oct 28 Worked as usual in the shop on wagons. Made a set of tent pins for Lieut. Hulse to put up G.M tent. Miller had a pass to visit Washington. Weather quite cold. D--- school in the evening.
- Oct 29 Worked in shop as usual on Chess Wagon. Wm. Dean excused by the doctor. Ruben E. Wared worked in shop in Deans place. Sergt Miller and Corp Cloven went down to the city lumber yard to pick out chess. Prayer meeting in eveni g.
- Oct 30 Sergt Burdin went to the Baltimore and Alexandria Depot with clothing to send to the front. Great excitement in camp in regard to going home to vote.

- Oct 31 Orders to be ready for inspection at 10 A.M. but in consequence of its raining it was postponed until afternoon when we mustered for pay by Col Pettis. Orders to prepare for Brigade Review Sunday at 11 A.M. No duty during the day except police.
- Nov 1 Mailed a letter to Mother. Sunday from 9 until 12 A.M. we had general Brigade review and inspection by Gen Benham in ----- . At 2 P.M. divine service on Parade Ground. Parties attended church in the city. In the evening dress parade as usual. Co A loaded a pontoon train of 20 boats after dark. Reloaded them on the cars at Warrenton.
- Nov 2 Received a letter from Mae Spence. Also a photograph. Barges arrived and all hands to work all day loading pontoons preparing boats wagons etc. Mules was shipped at the 6th St Wharf. Br--- had orders to be ready to march at 2 P.M. Co B left at noon. Corpl James Kelly received a furlough from Secretary Stanton for 6 days.
- Nov 3 Fatigue squad busy loading chess on board the barges. Two steam tugs kept steam up the entire day to tow the pontoons away. Orders come to not ship the mules until further orders. Received a box from home.
- Nov 4 Worked in shop as usual on chess wagons. Only three companys left on the ground including Co A. Steamer laying in the River with steam up ready to move at a moments notice. Lieut C.M.Hulse wife and father arrived in camp.
- Nov 5 Worked in shop as usual. The Regt all arrived back on the old camp ground. Orders for M---C---. Commenced unloading the barges. Steam tugs discharged. One of the iron clad monitors arrived at the Navy Yard for repairs. Weather windy.
- Nov 6 Worked in shop on Pontoon chess wagons. Fitted out a wagon for a French Matattuck pontoon. Canvass boat fitted up put in the river for exhibition. Wind blew very hard all day.
- Nov 7 Worked in the shop in the forenoon. Fitted up a wagon to carry a French pontoon. Gen Homer E---- to visit camp for the purpose of inspection different pontoons. Corp Clausen and myself had a pass to visit the Navy Yard. Men busy unloading barges, pontoons, wagons, etc.

- Nov 8 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Requisition for drawing clothing from Q.M. Divine service on the parade ground at 10 A.M. Dress parade at 5 P.M. Squad went down town to attend divine service in the evening.
- Nov 9 Received a letter from Lissie. Worked on pontoon wagons as usual. Fatigue squad busy fitting up a canvass pontoon train. Weather quite cold. Snowed a little during the day. 1600 prisoners arrived in town.
- Nov 10 Addressed a letter to sister Louisa. Worked in shop. Finished up the chess wagons. Commenced work on Army baggage wagons. Fitted up a wagon to carry water cask A.M. Robert Cury(?) and Albert Thesat(?) arrived in camp from North Hector. Weather quite cool.
- Nov 11 Commenced repairing the Brig(?) army wagons. Afternoon Lieut. Re--- and myself went down town to the lumber yard. Got --- hundred feet of white board lumber at 40 dollars per thousand. Sergt Byrom and Robert Cury visited the city. Weather cold.
- Nov 12 Worked on baggage wagons. Teams hauled 1200 feet of oak lumber from Clarks yard. Wm Henderson returned from furlough and was lodged in the guard house.
- Nov 13 The day was occupied as usual in the shop. Courtmarshall was conducted. Wm Hendersen was courtmarshalled. The Regt had pontoon drill. Put the Headquarters ambulance wagon to get a member of Co H. D--- in hospital.
- Nov 14 Worked in shop in forenoon. Afternoon Major Oakley U.S. paymaster paid off the Regt. I received 63 dollars. Sergt Brown and myself visited the city in the afternoon. Lent \$5.00 to J.M.Kelly. One dollar to H.Williams. Bi-- Sullivan \$3.50. A private from Co C body was escorted to the depot.
- Nov 15 Rained in the A.M. Thunder. Afternoon received a note from M-- wife and family. Inspection at 5 P.M. Dress parade at 6 P.M. Squad went down to meeting in the evening. Weather cleared up in the P.M.
- Nov 16 Worked in the shop as usual. Miller excused in the afternoon. Jovas G-- confined in guard house. Corpl Harrison under arrest. Rained in the afternoon. Pontoon drill and dress parade in the P.M.

- Nov 17 Worked in the shop as usual. Miller excused in the afternoon to repair his tent. Frank Ahen-- visited our camp. Po--- left for home on the 6 o'clock train A.M.
- Nov 18 Worked in shop as usual. Ten teams went down town to haul 3000 feet of Balk Short(?) Ten wagons --- spring the rear axle. Weather pleasant.
- Nov 19 Morgan Sherwood and A Harris of Seaburg visited camp. All the flags in the city of Washington was dressed in mourning and lowered at half mast in honor of the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg. Visited the city in the afternoon.
- Nov 20 Forenoon fitted up ten feed boxes to send to the front. Received orders to fit out 25 end boards for army wagons for the front. A lot of army and pontoon wagons came in from the front and several pontoon boats taken from the Rebels. Ansley sick. A death occurred in Co G.
- Nov 21 Mailed a letter to Mae Spence. Also one to Hattie Breuyer. All hands in the shop worked on and finished 25 end boards. Rained all day. No duty done by the fatigue party except to unload iron(?) and Sp(?)
- Nov 22 Usual Sunday morning inspection. Fitted up a spike driver to send to the front also a wagon to carry the same. Sent off a lot of end boards, feed boxes etc. Gen. Harris and Maj. Sherwood visited camp. Dress parade in the afternoon and divine services.
- Nov 23 Mailed a letter to Mother. General Brigade inspection and review by Gen Benham at 10 A.M. Afternoon resumed our work in the shop. McMullen sick. Dean on pass. Whithorn and Jim Miller confined in guard house for being absent without leave. Monitor sculled in near the Washington Navy Yard.
- Nov 24 Received a letter from Sate. Worked in shop as usual. Ed McMullin excused by doctor. W Femos(?) received forlough for 7 days. Lent \$2.00 to W Femos. Rained nearly all day.
- Nov 25 Received a letter from Louisa. Worked in shop as usual. Fatigue squad busy pitching over the hospital. Re--- to prevent its leaking. Bought lumber from Clarks lumber yard to fix tents. Joe Burdin attended a ball at the Odd fellows Hall. Good news from Chatanooga.

- Nov 26 Mailed a letter to Louisa. Also one to Sate. Thursday Nov the 26th. The day was genuinely observed as one of Thanksgiving. No duty done during the day. Dress parade in the afternoon. Divine services both forenoon and afternoon.
- Nov 27 Mailed a letter to John Creely. Worked in the shop as usual until 4 o'clock when orders was received for the Brigade to hold themselves in readiness to move at a moments warning. All hands worked all night loading barges.
- Nov 28 Received a letter from Hattie Breuyer. Worked in shop in forenoon. Afternoon no duty done by Co A. The Regt. finished loading the barges. Shipped fifteen days rations and received orders to be ready to march at midnight.
- Nov 29 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms. Dress parade in the afternoon. Company went down town to church in the evening. Frank Ohaller visited camp having his discharge on his way home.
- Nov 30 Worked in shop as usual. Order to fit up all the army wagons that we repaired with feed boxes. Marching orders remain as usual to be ready to move at any hour.
- Dec 1 Worked in shop as usual. Signed our clothing bill. A sad accident occured in which Johnny Crass(?) was severely injured. Pontoon wagon with 10 men on ran over his head. Lay senseless all day.
- Dec 2 Worked in shop as usual. Made a neckyoke for Gen Benham. The Statute of Freedom was placed upon the dome of the Capital at 12 M A salute of 35 guns was fired from a battery East of the Capital and responded to by all the surrounding forts.
- Dec 3 Received a letter from Sate Bradley. Left Washington at 11 A.M. on a pass to visit Alexandria. Saw the prisoners fleet near Alexandria. Orders to unload the Engineers property on board the barges. Gen Mead in his -----.
- Dec 4 Worked in shop as usual. Evening Joe Burdin and myself set up with John Crass. Went down town got my boots repaired. Battallion had dress parade. Fatigue squad re--- hospital.
- Dec 5 Worked in shop in forenoon. Afternoon no duty done. Daniel Lane visited camp. Salute fired in honor of the R Admiral of the Russian fleet now laying in the Potomac near Washington.

- Dec 6 At 8 A.M. the usual Sunday morning inspection was ---. We had Brigade review and inspection by Gen Benham near the Lincoln Hospital.
- Dec 7 Worked in the shop as usual. Pontoon bridge thrown across the Eastern Branch. News from John Cross favorable. C--B-- and Cox leave for the company.
- Dec 8 Mailed a letter to Sate Townsend. Worked in shop as usual. Ed McMullen had a pass to visit Washington. Evening Sergts Burdin, Brown and myself attended a lecture held at Odd Fellows Hall. Pontoon bridge swung across the Eastern Branch.
- Dec 9 Received a letter from Mother. Worked in shop as usual. Pontoon bridge swung across the Eastern Branch. M. Wescott Sergt Brown and myself set up with John Cross.
- Dec 10 Mailed a letter to Mother. Worked in shop as usual. Fatigue squad busy packing wagons and unloading them from barge. Detail from the Regt. out making/marking go---.
- Dec 11 Worked in shop as usual. Pontoon bridge swung across the River. Capt Ford, Lieut Robbins and Coark went a --- over the river. Stampede occurred among the horses at the D--- Cavalry Camp. A lot of horses broke loose and run into the river and was drowned.
- Dec 12 Worked in the shop in the A.M. Afternoon pa---the shop and yard. Salute fired from the Russian fleet in honor of the Congress. M-- visited the R-- C---.
- Dec 13 Rained in the A.M. Inspection was postponed until half past one P.M. Dress Parade in the afternoon. Lieut B-- and myself went down town to church in the eve. Text was 20 - 23 verse, 22 chapt of the book of Proverbs. What is Truth.
- Dec 14 Received orders to fit up ton(?) coal(?) to send to the front. Fisished up 20 army wagons. Fastened a --- fixture on a Chess wagon to hold on the chess. Miller received a pass.
- Dec 15 Received a letter from Lissie. Mailed a letter to Sate Bradley. Commenced the repairing of seven coal wagons. Gen Benham visited the work shops. Capt O.E.Hines came from the front. Furlough being granted.

- Dec 16 Mailed a letter to D B---. Commenced repairing coal wagons. Repaired a box for Gen. Benham. 20 men from different companys was mustered into the U.S. Service for three years. Express boxes to the front.
- Dec 17 Mailed a letter to Mother. Finished repairing the Generals chest then worked on repairing coal wagons. Rained very hard all day. We put and set up ---fence around --- ---. ---in evening.
- Dec 18 Received a letter from Phe Wright. Also one from Sate Townsend. Sergt Brown and myself had a pass to visit the city in the forenoon. Afternoon visited the Senate. Weather cloudy and rainy.
- Dec 19 Received a letter from C.M.Wright. Worked in shop in the forenoon. Afternoon po---- the shops. Gen Benham presented me with three dollars for fixing box. Last night set up with John Cross. Twelve teams hauled lumber for Chess from Eleventh St Wharf.
- Dec 20 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements at 9 A.M. Last night a squad went out on a tar and feather e---- resulting in the breaking of a leg of one of the members. Gall and Smith visited camp.
- Dec 21 Mailed a letter to niece Lissie. Mailed a letter to Graham and Co. Philadelphia. Corporal Van Huysen received his discharge for disability and left for home. Henderson left on a 20 day furlough.
- Dec 22 Received a letter from E.A.H---. Mailed a letter to Phoebe Wright. Brigade inspection by Capt. Chester. Inspection General in the forenoon. Afternoon resumed our work in the shop as usual. Corpl Smith, Co I left camp on ten day furlough. Corp Hansen very sick with fever in Hospital.
- Dec 23 Worked in shop on wagons. Ed McMullen excused. Joe Burdin received an express box. Doctor Hewitt left camp on a ten day furlough and Doctor Beers went to the front to relieve Surgeon Baum who returned to Washington.
- Dec 24 Worked in the shop in the forenoon. Had a roasted turkey for dinner. Fifteen took dinner with us. Ace Phelps, Don R.M--- received furlough.

- Dec 25 No duty done in camp. Received a pass to visit Alexandria. A very pleasant day and everybody seemed to enjoy a Merry Christmas. James Green was released from central guard house.
- Dec 26 Worked in shop. The Eastern Branch of the Potomac good skating. Luke fell in. No duty done in the afternoon. J.N. Miller received his sentence at court marshall.
- Dec 27 Usual Sunday morning inspection of arms and accoutrements. Commenced raining at 9 A.M. and rained all day.
- Dec 28 Set up a new bench in the shop for Wm Dean. Rained nearly all day. Great excitement in camp about reenlistment. Commenced to repair Chess wagons.
- Dec 29 Worked in shop. Put canvass covers on coal wagons. One hundred and 20 of the men at the front returned and reenlisted. Received their furloughs and went home.
- Dec 30 About two thirds of all the members of the 50th Regt. surveyed the ground for barracks. Lumber down to build workshop to the River.

- Dec 8, 1862 Received orders to complete 2 pontoon bridges of 30 boats each.
- Dec 9 Completed the trains today and are ordered to be in readiness at a moments warning.
- Dec 10 At 2 P.M. we commenced moving our trains reaching the river bank about 2 A.M.
- Dec 11 Commenced the bridges at about 4 A.M. At about 5 the enemy opened a galling fire of musketry. Work was suspended and in obedience to orders the men sought shelter while our artillery opened fire upon the enemy. Three

unsuccessful attempts were made to complete the bridges and resulted in the loss of a number killed and wounded. In the afternoon the fourth attempt was made at the same. Lieut. Robbins led a detachment of infantry across in pontoon boats. They cleared the banks of the sharpshooters. The bridge was laid in 60 minutes.

Dec 11 The bombardment of the City. Camp at White Oak Church. Capt. Perkins was killed instantly early in the morning. Capt Brainard was wounded very badly in the arm but Co A escaped with Private Slaughter, Cox and Hale wounded.

Dec 12 The four Companies A I G and H bivouacked for the night near the Railroad. At 2 o'clock A.M. the companies were roused up and marched to the River and at 3 o'clock commenced the second bridge, finishing at half past five. Then moved back to camp at White Oak Church.

Dec 13 Struck tents, moved camp to within one half mile of the Rappahannock River opposite to Fredericksburg. Detail sent out to guard and repair the bridges and pick up engineer property.

Dec 14 Orders received to fit up two bridge trains of 18 boats each.

Dec 15 Detail sent down to dismantle the bridge. Floated them below the suspension bridge. --- held(?) Chevy Chase.

Dec 17 Camp opposite Fredericksburg. Flag of truce crossed the river to bury the dead killed in the Battle of the 11-12-13 inst.

Dec 19 The detachment assisted by infantry and supported by one Regt of infantry and a battalion of artillery worked all night drawing pontoon boats up from the river. Fortunately unmolested by the enemy.

Banks Ford
January the 13th 1863

Detail of Baulk Lashers

Sergt J.W. Townsend
Corpl W.H. Turner
Private H Story
" J Lake
" R.M. Turner
" Ed McMullen
" G.B. Gray
" Ed Miller
" J.M. Miller
" R.M. Hathaway
" Jacob Story

Detail of Balk lashers April the 20th 1863 Laid at U.S. Ford.

Sergt J.W. Townsend
" John Brown
Corpl Turner
" Felzer
Private J. Bush
" John Story
" Jacob Story
" Geo. B. Gray
" J.M. Miller
" Eliah Osburn
" R.M. Turner
" Ed McMullen

June 12 1863 Detail to take up the bridge at Deep Run

Sergt Townsend
Corpl Clausen
Private Osburn
" Miller J.M.
" Buck
" Story Jacob
" McMullen
" Turner R.M.
" Phelps A.C.
" Butler J.

Private Ed Miller
 " J.M. Miller
 " J Turner
 " H. Williams
 " J.P. Ansley detached
 " M. Holleran "
 " A. Russell "
 " H.A. Smith

Names of the members of Co A. March the 1st 1863

Sergt: Dean H.B promoted Lieut

Hulse D.M. " "

Burdin H

Eyram E.M.

Corpl Miller F.C promoted Sergt

Cambell J

Fletcher R died at Baltimore

Harrison H.H.

Tomer W.A. reduced

Evans reduced

Dunsmore died White House

Leameraux J.W.

Wagoner Johnson Ed discharged

Driver Forsyth Ed reduced

Private Adams M.

Ansley J.H. brigade teamster

Breuer deserted

Buck J.

Butler

Brown J promoted Corpl

Car A.H.

Chrisandon H fifth Sergt

Chrysler W died Washington

Clark R absent sick

Clausen promoted Corpl

Dean Wm. discharged

Dunham J

Durham J died Alexandria Va.

Felzer D.J. promoted Corlp

Gerew J.M.

Halsey C.W promoted Corpl

Haleran Mike reduced

Henderson W.

Riley Pat detached

Kelley J.H. promoted Corpl

Lake J.F.

Lewis Ed.

Mc Mullen Ed

Miller J.M.

Miller Tho.

Osburn Eliah

Phelps A.C.

Pierce Ed

Popple W.

Private Powers Tho.
 Robertson J.
 Slaught H.
 Smith J died Aqua creek
 Story John
 Story Jake
 Turner J
 Turner R.M.
 Turner W.J. promoted Corpl
 Townsend J.W. " Sergt
 Van Huysen C. " Corp
 Watkins Joe
 Watkins Geo.
 Wheeler A
 Whitehorn L.S.
 Williams H.

Material for a bridge of 34 boats consists of 34 pontoon wagons.
 Each loaded as follows. 7 long baulk, 1 boat inside of ----
 12 balk lashing 7 rack lashing, 7 rack slide, 6 row locks, 2 spring
 lines, 5 oars, 2 boat hooks under the rear axles placed 1 anchor
 22 chess wagons loaded each of 41 chess, 2 ---, 4 trestle
 wagons loaded each 2 trestle caps, 4 legs, 4 shoes, 4 chains,
 14 claw baulks, 4 abutment wagons load of each, 2 abutment sills,
 1 trestle cap, 2 legs, 2 shoes, 2 chains, 14 short baulks.
 Tool wagons loaded with carpenters tools and entrenching tools,
 spare car--- etc. 2 traveling Barges(?)

Equipage for the bridge all told

Pontoon wagons	34
Chess	" 22
Trestle	" 8
Tool	" 4
Gar---	2
Trestle complete	12
Long Baulk	238
Short claw baulks	118
Chess	902
Abutment sills	81
Row locks	200
Oars	192
Boat hooks	100, scoop 70, pump 5, buckets 10, pickets 24,
rock sticks	240, cables 44, baulk lashings 720, si-- r--360,
six sets double tackle blocks,	6 small.

Rank and Command of Officers and Noncommissioned Officers

1st Lieut. General
2nd Major General
3rd Brigadier General
4th Colonel
5th Lieut Colonel
6 Major
7 Captain
8 First Lieut
9 Second Lieut
10 Cadet
11 Sergt Major
12 GM Sergt
13 Ordinance Sergt
14 First Sergt
15 Sergt
16 Corporel

Salutes

The National Salute is determined by the number of States. Comparing the Union at the rate of one gun for each state. The President of the United States alone is to receive a salute of 21 guns. The Vice President is to receive a salute of 19 guns. A Major General 13 guns, a Brigadier Gen, 11 guns. Officers of the Navy will be saluted according to relative rank. A National Salute will be fired at Meridian on the anniversary of the Independence of the United States at each military post and camp provided with artillery and ammunition.

Detail of chessmen bridge laid at Harpers Ferry July the 13th, 1863.

Sergt Townsend
Private Butler
Chrisiden
Dean
Drake
Evans
Fausett
Gray
Hathaway
Henderson
Lake
Miller G.M.
Osburn
Tomar
Watkins, Joe
Ward
Turner, John
Turner, Dick

Private Williams
Forsyth
Leiss
Corpl Clausen
Lemeraux
Van Huysen

Received from Government Clothing as follows

Jan 1	One cap
	2 pairs of socks
Feb 13	2 pr shirts
	1 canteen
25	1 pr pants
	1 pr shoes
Mar 10	1 uniform coat
30	1 shelter tent
May 16	1 pr shoes
22	2 pr drawers

November the 14th/63

Paymaster Oakley paid off the Regt. I received 63 dollars.

Headquarters of Detachment of 50th
N.Y. Eng Corp. near Falmouth, Va.
April the 19th

Dear Mother ,

Perhaps you are anxious to know on my safe arrival to camp.

After two days delay in Washington, I started for Aqua Creek and found myself nearly two days behind time, but I reported in Washington and received a pass of the Provost Marshal that cleared me from a court marshall.

I found my company near the River in the vicinity of Banks Ford on the Rappahannock. They were in a detachment with a part of the 50 and 15 Regt. Eng under command of Morgan Brainard. Company A. and I have been assigned to Pontoon train No. 1. We have sent all of our extra clothing to Bell Plain. There it is to be put on board a Barge for safe keeping and now we are ready for the word forward.

I have got over my cold and am well. Feel much better for my visit home and am well contented to remain in the service of my Country. The remainder of my three years 15 months seems but a little while.

I have not time to write any further at present but will write more the first opportunity. Good Bye

Respectfully yours

John W. Townsend

P.S. Write soon. I did not receive your last letter that you sent after I started from home.

P.S. I found my little \$10,5 dollars when I arrived in camp but have no way to send it home only by letter as

Sunday Nov the 13th 1861
Stuarts Engineers Regt Camp
Leesburg

Dear Mother

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 19th inst. and you may be sure I was glad to hear from you and to hear from you that all was well. I received Gilberts and Janes letters and was glad enough to hear from them but they were not from Mother. I answered Gilberts letter and will answer Janes soon. I just received hers this morning. Mother I am afraid that you worry about me. There is no need of that for I do not suffer for nothing. We have all that we can eat drink and wear. To be sure we do not get all the dainties that I would get at home, but we have no reason to complain whatever. As for our sleeping we had the worst time last Friday night. It commenced raining about noon and continued to rain and blow until this morning.

In the night the wind blew so hard it blew down a good many tents and left the boys exposed to the storm. But the old doctor came around in the morning with the liquor and set the boys all right. As for me, I slept the best that night of any night yet. Our tent stayed down all right. Our camp ground is laid out in streets. The streets are twenty feet wide. There is ten company streets. The main streets are trunpiked nicely and a trench dug across between tents so as to leave the ground where the tents are dry and nice. There is five of us in one family. Each of us has his blanket. Knapsack for a pillow so you see we sleep like pigs in the clover. Mother you wanted to know what you could do for me to make me comfortable. Mother all I want to make me comfortable is to know that you do not worry yourself about me. That is all that keeps me from enjoying myself. I have been well ever since I left home with the exception of three or four days when I went out on picketing. Not being very well when I started the march was most too much for me, but there was nobody to blame but myself, for I need not to have went if I had not have a mind to, but I was anxious to get a sight of the rebels and I think I was well paid for my pains. Mother I wish you all could have seen the sham fight we had the day before we left the heights. There was from twelve to fifteen thousand engaged. In all it was a splendid sight. It was better than all the Vanamburgh shows that I ever seen. We have been transferred from Gen Butterfield Division into General Alexander Brigade. We are now into a regular engineer brigade as we was before, we was just as likely to be put in the advance of the army as any other brigade and in fact we was just as far advanced that is our camp as any other regiment on the Arlington Heights. We were under marching orders all of the time. Several times we were ordered to march three or four times to engage the enemy and would get off four or five miles and the order would be countermanded. You may think that when we were called out at midnight expecting to engage the rebels by daylight. I suppose you think that was the time I wished myself in old Hector, but not so. It seemed to me that I should like to be in a fight in defense of my country if it was necessary and so it seemed to be. We would be wide awake at the beat of the drum, let it come when it would and into line of battle in five minutes. The business of mu----- was when we got the regiment informed into line of battlere to look to the wounded. One morning as we were expecting to march that day we were drilled how to handle a man providing he was wounded so and so. We had couches to carry a man on that you could shape in a moment of time in any shape that you wanted to. The doctor talked to us in this way that if we found a man shot in the leg or arm to let him lay and go to the one who was wounded worse. I did not like that part of the show much (perhaps this is enough of that). Were on

mansion(?) hill four weeks. What little time we stayed there it seemed like parting with my own dear friends to part with our neighboring soldiers. But I tell you they made the air ring with their shouts of "Goodbye, Goodbye". It seemed almost like home to me although there was not a dwelling house or fence to be seen. There was nothing to be seen but a multitude of soldiers and cities of tents. Each regiment has a brass band and martial band so you see there is no lack of music. The woods are mostly cut down and forts are being built on every hill. It is a sight to go around an Arlington Heights and see the breastworks and forts that are erected there. The old rifle cannon gaping at you wherever you go. They have cannon mounted on wheels here that takes eight horses to drag them. There is a rumor in the city today that General Scott has resigned his office on account of poor health. I do not know how true it is but the opinion of the most of men is that it is so. There is now two engineers regiments in the navy yard. They are going through with a general inspection. The privates are in two classes, high and low privates. The high privates are those who have a trade and get seventeen dollars a month and forty cents extra for every six hours labor, and the second class gets thirteen dollars and forty cents extra. We are building a shop to work one hundred by three hundred feet. We shall probably remain here for some time. That is how our headquarters hear. We shall be sent to work in companys just as we are wanted. We are with one mile from the capital on the eastern branch of the Potomac River. There was five thousand infantry and twelve hundred cavalry crossed the navy yard bridge today over in Maryland. The Potomac is blockaded eighteen miles down the river and their design is to break it up. They call for volunteers to help them from our regiment and I don't know but what I shall see the fun, but then we are not obliged to go, for our principal business engineering.

You said that Orville and some others talked of coming down here. If there is any prospect of their coming, I should like to have you let me know for certain. I think that it would pay them for their trouble. I would not have missed seeing what I have seen for my three years service(I came to learn see(?) and fight if near camp) I would like to know how the folks with company is getting along and how soon they intend to start for the seat of war.

Torengo and Alonzo was in the regiment when we arrived here, but have joined the artillery. When I enlisted at Elmira they were in the guardhouse for deserting. They wore the shackles until a few days ago when they were released and they joined the artillery where they will have to toe the mark. Harold Bailey is here. He is getting fat as a bear. He got a letter from his father the other day. He said that he is bound to ----- I often think of them. Tell Jacob I will

answer his letter soon. No more at present.

From your don

John Wesley Townsend
a New York Volunteer
50 Regt Company A
N.Y.Vol.
Washington D.C.
John W. Townsend

Direct your letter

One word to you

My Dear Niece

I received your kind note with Mothers letter and you may be sure I was glad to hear from you. I shall look for your letter next Saturday and I want you to write all about the young folks of Hector. I received Miss Anid Bonds complements with pleasure. Tell her I should like to have her write me a letter. Write soon.

Give my love to all the young folks. Tell them I have not forgot the picnic.

Yours truly

John Townsend.

I will send you my likeness soon.

Sunday evening Dec the 15, '61
Camp Lesly(?) Washington

Dear Mother and Friends

It is with pleasure that I take the opportunity to talk to you tonight through the instrumentality of my pen. The boys have all gone to meeting and I am alone so I thought it would be a good time for me to write as it is seldom that I have a moment to myself without being in a crowd of seven or eight hundred. The weather is very pleasant for the time of year. I have not seen a flake of snow as yet and you know that is something strange for me. We have our tent fixed with fire floors in them so we can keep as comfortable as we please in them. We have just succeeded in getting our camp grounds finished which we have got very nice. The streets and walks are all graveled and set out with evergreens. It is said to many visitors to be the handsomest camp in the city of Washington. I have sent you a picture of the camp that was taken two weeks ago today while we were on knapsack inspection which we have every Sunday afternoon at two o'clock. We are drawn up as you see in platoons on the ground that we have dress parade every day at four o'clock. I sent the picture in with a package because I could send it better which was directed to Mr John Burlins. If they should not get a chance to send it down to you, you can get it by going there. The order was yesterday that we were to go over the river tomorrow on the Maryland side

along with the New York 18 Regt and build two forts and today the news is that we are all to be sent home and be held as minute men to meet at Elmira one week in four and drill to be ready to march at a minute warning. But I do not credit the story much. We cannot tell what they will do with us nor where they will send us. For my part, as long as I am well, I am perfectly at home. I don't care where they send us. I am well satisfied if I live to see the war through unless something happens different than I know of now. I have not seen a day yet that I have been sorry that I enlisted. I don't have the dread of an engagement that I had when at home. Not that I am over anxious to get into one, but I am ready to take my part in anything that comes along. Last Friday there was a man by the name of Johnson shot on the river for attempting to desert into the Rebels lines. He got outside the camp and came upon a body of men whom he supposed to be rebels which proved to be our boys out on picket. He expressed much joy for having escaped the Union men and began to disclose information to them that would have been very valuable to the enemy. He was arrested and brought back to the Lincoln Cavalry where he belonged and was shot by eight men that belonged to the same company that he did in the presence of the entire Brigade. So much for a deserter. There has been seventy five discharged from our Regt on account of disability as many more go home on furloughs, besides some that have took French passes which reduces our Regt down pretty small. I have written two letters to James F. Galfrege and have received one. He is in the Union Hospital at Georgetown which is three miles from the capitol. His complaint is in the left side which the doctors pronounce incurable. He says that it is his privilege to quit the service any time that he has a mind to and yet attain his bounty and also his back pay. I expect another from him soon. I shall try and go down and see him in a few days.

Camp Scott near Yorktown Va.
May the 5th 1862

Dear Brother and Sister,

It is with much pleasure that I improve this opportunity to write you a few lines. You will pardon me for not writing before for it seems as though I never would get a chance to write to you. But you have not been forgotten. I often think of you and wish if you did not have a family you was with me, but you have a family to care for and it is prudent that you should remain at home with them and let them that have no one to care for respond to their countrys call. As I was the only one in the family that could go just as well as not, I thought

it was my duty to go and fight for the union and the same I would have a chance to see something of the country having always remained at home. You know that would be something of an object and what I have already seen amply repays me for all the deprivations of home and all its enjoyments. Since I left I did not think I could enjoy myself near as well as I do. To be sure we sometimes have hardships to endure, but nothing to what other Regts. do. The 50 and 15 N.Y. Regt compose our engineer Brigade. We have been side by side since we were on Halls hill in Virginia and it seems as though we were one regiment. We have been here some four weeks preparing to take Yorktown. Gen. McClellan has over one hundred thousand men here and has sent word into Yorktown for them to surrender several times which they refused to do. Last Saturday he sent in word for the last time and the result was as usual. Saturday night the town was evacuated. They fired their last gun about 9 o'clock Saturday night. Yesterday morning the stars and stripes were planted on their forts. The bombardment has been kept up for three weeks as fast as we could get our guns in position the firing would commence so as to get the range of our guns, and when our number 1 Battery only a few rods of our camp opened up on them, the fire was too hot for them so they fell back. Our men is after them on double quick. There was several of the companys from our regiment detailed by Gen. McClellan to go into the Rebels fortifications and look for the infernal machines which we were told they had fixed to blow up our men when they took possession of the town and would have killed hundreds if they had been allowed to go in as they were amind to, for our boys found a good many 13 inch shells Buried in the ground with a canvass cap fixed with a thing if touched would go off as many did. One case--a man had one of hes legs blown off and the other torn all to pieces. Several killed by the same shell. It is useless for me to attempt to write the particulars. It would take me more than a week. I will have the more to tell you when I return home which I do not think will be long. You will hear the particulars in the papers so I will bid you goodbye. Write soon.

My love to all

Yours with respect

John W. Townsend

Direct: Company A 50 Regt H.Y.Vol.
Washington D.C.

We are under marching orders. Our gun boats are here up the river.

Headquarters Engineers Brigade
May the 14th 1862
Caught in a Wheat field on the
banks of Jamaneskey(?) River

Dear Brother and Sister

It being a long time since I have received a letter from you I made up my mind that you did not receive my last for it seems that you and the Hector Miter(?) do not care much about writing as I have to write about three letters before I receive one from any of you. I sometimes think that I will not write any more letters home unless I hear from there oftener than I do. However I will write this once and shall expect an answer soon. I wish you could have been here and took dinner with me today. We had fresh fish and oysters fried in butter at 50 cents per pound, High living that U begin to think that we are not beat cooking every day. What bothers the worst is to wash the dishes and make the beds. I do not think I will ever be perfect at that. We have been enjoying ourselves finely since we have been after the Rebels and I think if we catch them we will have to throw off our knapsacks and double quick. Some of the Niggers say that the secesh are long and gaunt and run like hounds. They think they can out run our fellers. They were told that the Yankees would kill all of the colored population that were too old to sell. The rest they would take to Cuba and sell. Many believed this to be so and would tremble at the sight of the Yankees as they term us, and beg of us not to kill them. Many of the old Secesh that were left behind say that our men show more respect to them and their property than their own men did, for they pay them well for every item they get and the Secesh would take everything they could lay hands on. There is more or less contrebands coming to our camp every day. Not only negroes. Secesh soilders who say they are tired of serving in the Confederate army. Two companys of the 50th have gone to Fortress Monroe to guard prisoners. They have been there about two weeks.

We broke up camp Scott last Friday. Move up to Yorktown where we stayed until Sunday when we took the transport for West Point thirty miles up the York River where we arrived Sunday afternoon and came down on shore to await further orders. Remained on board the steamer that night. The next morning we got under way and ran twelve miles up the Famenkey River where we disembarked and pitched our tents. What do you think of McClellans Floodless Victory at Yorktown? Do you think as many do that he ought to have taken the town by storm and captured them on the spot and if you do I think you would change your opinion if you could see the fortifications. The whole town was encircled with a strong breastworks thirty feet high mounted with cannon from 40 up to two hundred pointers. It would have been folly to have attempted to have led an army up before such a fort when a little work and money would save

thousands of lives. The Rebels leaving the town as they did was just about as well as if we had taken them all prisoners, for it is evident that they cannot afford to lose the 200 guns they left and tons of ammunition. The docks were piled with shot, shell, muskets and kegs of powder which in their haste they were obliged to throw into the river. Our last guns were put in position Saturday night. About the time the Rebels left, the siege was to commence in earnest the next Monday. They kept up a heavy cannonading Saturday afternoon and the fore part of the night when all at once the firing ceased, the Star Spangled Banner was planted on the height of that old ancient town. Early on Sunday morning and for the first time in three weeks, the numerous bands of music commenced pouring forth their sweet melody. It seemed like a different place. What a contrast there was of only a few hours before when the very ground would jar under the terrific explosion of heavy siege guns. Yet it was a splendid sight to see. One that I would not have missed seeing for anything, though some of their shells would come too near to be very pleasant. There was one 200 pound shell came whizzing over our camp causing nearly every man to fall upon his face, as that is the best way to avoid the explosion of a shell. But as good luck would have it, it passed over our camp before bursting, tearing up the ground at a huge rate. Only a few raids began. The very next day the same gun burst into a thousand pieces. It must have either killed or wounded many of the men who must have been near it at the time. The Rebels planted torpedoes and shells in every place they thought we would pop, which had their desired effect in killing many of our men. Hundreds have been found and taken up and McClellan has the Secesh prisoners to work taking them out and several of them have been killed by them. The closest call that I have had was while three of us were walking around to see what we could, and at the same time looking out for these infernal machines, when one of the boys happened to step upon the cap of a hundred pound shell not more than two feet from where I stood. Fortunately for all of us the cap snapped the shell and did not explode. Say nothing of this to Mother. We have a trench dug wide enough for four men to walk abreast within a half a mile of the Rebels works. One place on the bank of the river where our trenches were within 300 feet of the Rebels rifle pit. The ground between our old camp and the town is nearly covered with pieces of shell and cannon balls. It put me in mind of a corn field covered with pumpkins as the balls are painted red. We are now thirty miles from Richmond. You doubtless have heard of the retreating rebels and the pursuit and the many skirmishes they had on the way to Richmond which resulted in the loss of many valuable lives. There is a strife between McClellan, McDouall(?) and Banks to see who

will get there first. We are to advance 20 miles farther today. Take the boats at 10 o'clock. We have our pontoon bridge with wu. The weather is very warm. There is some splendid fields of wheat. Peaches are nearly half grown. The next time I write you I hope I can head my letter Richmond the capitol of the Southern Confederacy. How that will sound! No more this time.

My best wishes to all inquiring friends

Respectfully your brother

John W. Townsend

Direct as before

Co. A 50 Regt.

Washington D.C.

N.Y.S. Vol.

Fort Monroe, June the 30th 1862

Dear Mother

It is with much pleasure that I can inform you that I am well and in good health. I received your letter in due time at the white house. Not had much of the opportunity to answer it until now. You may think strange of my letter headed Fort Monroe. The fact is that we had orders to retreat back to this point. The report was last Friday that the Rebel Jackson and his army was within five miles of the White House and the orders came to have all the sick and wounded taken on board the Hasner(?) and cover the Commisarys Wares with hay so as to burn them if necessary, also for Col. Ingalls who has command of the passes to do the best he could for he might expect an attack that night. I should have set all this down as a little rumor had it not been for the order to destroy the Commisary Warehouses. Many came and all was quiet until 3 o'clock in the afternoon when Capt Fast received a dispatch to back our ---- and go on board the barges that contained the engineer property and take all he could and burn the rest and to make the rest of his way to West Point. All the boats were moved down the river but the five gun boats which prepared for action. Saturday the Rebels attacked the Eng. with speed well and true and had possession of Amstoll Station five miles from the White House. One of the gun boats went up the river to keep a lookout. She soon gave the signal by firing a gun, for our men to burn the property and skedaddle. I believe that everything was destroyed except the White house. The steamer Nellie Bankes brought up the rearend stragglers. That is the last word I have heard from that quarter except reports which I do not have the least confidence in whatever. But much making up of boats(?) you never saw. There was ---- the river. We anchored for the first night at Qmb--- landing Thursday night at West Point. Sunday

night at Genchesteer point opposite Yorktown. This morning we came into the blue waters of Chesapeake Bay. Soon after, the grim walls of the Fortress appeared in our view. To enanchor in Hampton Roads about noon. The first thing we see when near the fort was the old union guns li--- and know they throw a four hundred and thirty pound shell. They lay outside the fort where they were pleased to keep the once dreaded Merrymack from firing between them and the Riprops. I thought that I had seen all the nice places in Virginia, but there is none compared with Fort Monroe. It covers ten acres of ground. There is several splendid mansions inside and all kinds of shade and fruit trees. I have just been ashore to see the fort and place the mileage is nearly the size of Harrisburg. The buildings are mostly government. I saw one Catholic church and three nuns. I should have been scared had I not seen the likes of them at Washington. The wall around the fort is built of granite stone. Bombproof. The dirt on top that composes(?) the bomb proof is 8 feet deep covered with a fine growth of grass and for fear that will blow away about every 20 feet there is a hundred--- parrot(?) guns. Outside the wall there is a trench sixty feet wide and that filled with water and at the main entrance the trench is one hundred and fifty feet wide covered by a long narrow bridge commanded(?) by 8 parrot guns. One volley will blow it out of sight. I have had a great curiosity to see this fort. There has been so much said about it and it is well worth a trip from old Schuyler to see. We have a splendid view of the bay, Sewells point, Newport News, the Riprops and the remains of Hampton City that was burnt by the rebels. The Bay is crowded with vessels of all kinds from the large, large ocean steamers down to the little oyster boats. We had a splendid trip all the way from Whitehouse. Distance about one hundred miles. We were three days on the way. We came slow which gave us a good opportunity to see the country each side of the river. I do think that York river and its rich farms covered with the shock of golden wheat far excells any place I have seen yet for farming and shipping purposes. The river is about the same length of Seneca Lake, about one half mile wide, except at Glenchesteer point opposite Yorktown where it is not over three quarters miles wide. The shores are white with oyster shells. I should have enjoyed the ride much better if it was not for the thought of running from the rebels. But not knowing the case I consoled myself with the thought that it was often policy to retreat. And thatstrengthened by the report that McClellan had a purpose in having the right wing to fall back and that was to let the left wing have a chance to get into Richmond and so change the White House for Richmond. But things looked rather dark. We were all anxious to get to Fort Monroe so we could get the news, but to our disappointment,

when we arrived here not a word from McClellans army have we heard. Yet there is all kinds of rumors. One is that the rebels never went near the white house. Another is that McClellan was into Richmond and ordered the ammunition to be sent there. Some think that he is under arrest etc. I have a great curiosity to know what has become of the 50th Regt. as they were on the Right wing and that too on the advance. I am not much alarmed for old Charley for he bought him a fast horse only a few days before. We shall doubtless remain here some time. I shall have to close for the boats is just going ashore that I want to go in to take my letter to the office and take a more thorough look at the places and promise you a nice interesting letter the next time.

Your affectionate son

John W. Townsend

P.S. Tell Jane I wrote her a letter the next day after receiving hers and supposed I sent it to the office, but I found it in my portfolio the day we left the white house and have not had time to write in letter.

Think not dear Mother that I suffer or want for anything. We have all we want of everything. For our meat we get the best of ham. We have flour for bread, just as we want, tea, coffee, rice, hominy, sugar, all of the very best kind. I do wish you just see how comfortably we are quartered on board the boats. You would banish all fears of our suffering for anything.

Give my regards to all inquiring friends

Yours

John W. Townsend

Direct as before. Write soon.

Excuse haste.

Hampton Creek, Aug the 26th 1862

Dear Brother and Sisters

As I have the opportunity to write I thought that I would improve it in replying to your letter that I have just received. Besides we are under marching orders and are liable to move at any moment. McClellans whole army is now pouring over the pontoon bridge that we laid across Hampton Creek last Sunday. As soon as the army passes over we will be --- take up the bridge and skedaddle for some other place. Our company is still quartered on beach(?) The Engineer boats that are now anchored in the creek near the village of Hampton in consequence of our Regt being accepted as Engineers our Regt is all broke up. There is not more than two company in a place. Our work is pretty rough sometimes, but as a general thing it is very nice

and we are mostly on the water away from the crowd of the main army. Before Sunday last we were the only soldiers near the town of Hampton except those that were on guard and they had no business to stop us. All we have to do is say we belong to the Engineers Corp as co--- of the 50th. We could pass when we pleased. For my part I am well satisfied with the 50th Regt. I enjoy myself tiptop. I am better satisfied here than I could be at home during the excitement of the war. The boys from the Chickahominy look as though they had seen rough times, but seem to be in good spirits. Glad, no doubt, to get away from the vicinity of that miserable Chickahominy Swamp. The whole army is now embarking on the transports here and at the Farbers(?) It is a thought here that we will go up the Rappahannock River with Gen Pope and Banks(?) There is about three thousand c---- arrived here from Harrisons landing within the last two days. What they intend to do with them I do not know.

The weather has been quite cool for the past four or five days - a good time for McClellan to make the move he has made and my opinion is that you will soon hear of a great victory on the Union side. As I have not got time to write any farther I will close my letter by saying that I am still enjoying the best of health and hope this will find you all the same. Excuse haste.

From your affectionate Brother
John W. Townsend
Co A 50 Regt N.Y.Vol.
Washington D.C.

Write soon and let me know what Regt the Farmerville boys enlisted in and when they start for the seat of War. Give my respects to Maryan.

Aqua Creek Va. Nov the 25th 1862

Dear Brother and Friends

It is with pleasure that I embrace the present opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know where I am and that I am enjoying good health and hope you all are favored with the same blessing. I received your ever welcome letter of the ninth sometime since but have not had time to reply until the present. We left Washington one week ago last Sunday on the Steamer Star and arrived at our destination the following Monday which proved to be Aqua Creek. We were the first troops to land. We landed under the protection of the gunboats. What few Rebels there was,

left double quick, tearing up the Railroad track and burning the bridge. Their road runs to Fredericksburg, from there direct to Richmond. We now have the road repaired to within six miles of Fredericksburg or as far as the Potomac Creek. We built one bridge near Brooks Station two hundred feet long and forty feet high. The timber we had to carry nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. One day the boys found an old Seceesh moving with two yoke of oxen. They first ask him to lend them to draw some timber. Of course he says no. He had no sooner said no than the boys had them fast to a stick of timber. It was fun for the boys, but bad luck for the old man. The inhabitants here are all rank Secesh, so we have but little sympathy for them. They have lots of hogs, sheep and cattle so you can make up your mind that we have plenty of fresh meat. We have much more privilege here than we did in Washington. One of the boys shot a squirrel the other day. The Col. told him he had a notion to arrest him for wasting his ammunition on such small game. That was not very discouraging to the boys for shooting larger game. We enjoy ourselves in active service much better than when laying idle at Washington. There is just exertion enough to make the time pass pleasantly. Sometimes we have to work pretty hard, but it is encouraging to work when we can see the benefits of our labors. We have now got one locomotive and a train of cars on the track. They made the first trip last night as far as Brooks Station. This will soon do away with teaming provisions and forrage to the Army with mules. I was on guard at a bridge that leads to the Dock Wednesday and took in papers for over eight hundred wagons, and that was not one third the number that came here for stores for the Army. So you can judge the condition of the roads and about how thick the dead mules lay. The heavy rains we have had lately have made the roads almost impassable.

Last Tuesday I had under my charge laying track ten men and twenty Niggers so you must know that I had my hands full. While we were at work at the track there was a lot of hogs huddled around a certain place. On our driving them away, we found they had dug a dead rebel out of his grave and torn him all to pieces. He had not apparently been dead more than three days. It was a sickening sight. We can hardly go --- of new made graves.

The health of our men seems to be very good. We have very comfortable quarters. All have stoves in our tents so we live as nice as you please.

We can hear more or less commandering in the direction of Fredericksburg every day and often we can hear musketry when we are out at work. Gen Burnside's have give the Rebels time to take the sick and wounded from the city and we expect hourly to hear the battle commence in earnest.

Ben Bond stayed with us last night. The 23rd Regt is now

encamped near Bells B--- where the report says we are to move to in a day or two. Excuse this short and hastily written letter. If I had the time I could fill a dozen sheets full of the items of interest that I have seen since I have been here but as I am in considerable of a hurry I will defer writing until until a more convenient time.

Give my respects to all inquiring friends.

From your affectionate brother

John W. Townsend

P.S. Write soon. Direct as before.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac
Camp near Fredericksburg Dec the 5th, 1862

Dear Mother

I received your letter of the 18th inst while we were at Aquia Creek but could not find time to reply until the present and this is a hurried one. We left Aqua Creek day before yesterday. We were ordered to Falmouth Va. from there to our brigade headquarters and are now encamped about three miles from Fredericksburg near the Rappahannock River.

We have five pontoon bridges of 25 boats each which are to be thrown across the river. Yesterday our orders were to throw three bridges across last night. The boats are all on wagons. The teams were harnessed ready to start at a moments warning. The artillery and infantry that was to cross over the river all moved within a short distance of the places where the bridges were to be laid. The Regiments of infantry were detailed to build guarding rods(?) to the approaches to the bridges. All this was to be completed in the night. Everything had the appearance of lively work. Before morning everything is as still as Death. At Falmouth the guns are all trained or pointed upon the city. We can look down through the streets and see the patrol guard. The pickets often talk with each other across the river.

Report says the reason the order was countermanded for our throwing the bridges down last night was because the rebels mistrusted our plan and had a heavy force opposite where we were to lay the bridges. It seems to me, although I don't know as I ought to say it, that we will not meet with as good success here as we usually do. The troops do not seem to feel as they did when McClellan was at the head of the army. Burnside is often in the different camps but I have not as yet heard the cheering such as Gen McClellan heard when he visited the camp.

You would not know Gen Burnside now if you had saw him after he arrived from his successful expedition at Roanoke and Hatteras. I think the care of the whole army of the Potomac

workd upon his mind something different than simply a Division General. All that I can say is that I wish him success. I dare say and maybe before you receive this letter that there will be a heavy battle fought for the possession of Fredericksburg. Our pontoon trains are all complete. They are hitching the teams on the wagons now. It looks very much as though we will see some fun tonight. I must bring my letter to a close, not for the want of news, but time.

In regards myself, I am well and enjoying the best of health and in the best of spirits. I am not in want for anything in the shape of clothing or anything else. So give yourself no uneasiness on my part. I enjoy myself much better here than while we were in Washington. Give my regards to all the family and all inquiring friends. GoodBye

John W. Townsend

Excuse my poor writing for I am in a great hurry. Write soon.

Rappahannock Dec 29th 1862

Brother Orville

You will find endlosed 50 dollars. Give Mother 25 dollars to pay Billy Blaint for a pair of boots that I intend to send my measure for soon. Also to pay the expences of a box when see fit to send for it. Please see Blaint if he makes the boots. Get them and pack them into a box. By then I --- and send them by express as soon as you can and oblige

Your brother

John W. Townsend

P.S. Have the box directed in this name

Capt George W. Ford
of Co -- Regt at ---
Washington D.C.

Write as soon as you redeive this for shall want to know if you get it. All write. We are all well and expect to lay another bridge soon across the Rappahannock.

January the 14th 1863

Dear Mother

Pardon me for not sending my letter before this. After I get it wrote, I lay it in my portfolio and forget to put it in the office.

There was quite a number from North Hector paid us a short visit the other day. Their names were as follows-John Christfield, Phillip Smelzer, Jacob Meeker, Abraham Campbell, George Niel, John Myres, Charles Stevens and Croke Leamerough. We were all