

William P. Woodlin

Various places, 18 November 1863 to 31 December 1864.

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1863 Journal

Nov 18.

General review of troops here by Gen. Casey.

26. Thanksgiving day. A present of \$100 made to the Reg which was laid out in apples, pies & coffee. Speeches by Gov. Cannon of Del. A gentle[man] from Eng and some others.

27. went over to the Barracks to carry a flag pole, the whole Reg'.

28. A very heavy rain and a cold one followed by a cold snap of 3 days, which is just beginning to ease up this the 2nd day of Dec. tow[a]rd evening.

Dec. 5th. We have had Battalion drill for the past two days under our two Field officers. on the third there was a great row in Camp from there being [2] a little liquor brought in. on the fourth one of our Corps had his stripes ripped off for leaving the ranks without leave.

6th Sunday cold but we had an inspection which was hard to endure. in the afternoon we had meeting where I sung again as usual. with [illegible]

7th We did not drill much to day, but in the evening there was a great row, from a drunken man being struck by an officer with his sword. One of our men knocked the Capt. down; two were sent to the guard house from this Co'

8th We struck tents and moved over to our winter quarters, with our own Reg and one Co' of the New one

9th No drill to day but dress Parade at night, at which the Court Martials were read off [3]

10th No drill, but the Brass Instruments having Come I was taken in for one of them. it is still very cold and our stoves have not come yet, though they are up in the Schoolroom.

11th A very cold day. went over to the schoolroom and practiced on our instruments, in the evening we had an entertainment at the Meeting house of pictures shown through a Lantern, by means of an Oxhydrogen Blow Pipe; a very good selection.

[January] 9th [1864] The news came that we were to move to South Carolina soon.

10th We were all on inspection nearly all day; the Col said that we were to give up our guns, who belonged to the band.

11th We did not play at all as the members were nearly all gone. Shank among the rest. Whiskey held high sway here all day. At night some 100 new recruits came in, with [7] a semblance of a Band with them; and a poor one at that. the. [sic]

12th We were called up and dressed up in our Zouave Suit today, and played for Dress Parade. We also got our leggins; and gave up our guns, who belong to the band. We did not have very good success.

13th We practiced to day out in the road, and played at dress parade again. Sold vest for 10 cts. To C. Cog and Rece'd it back agan [sic].

14th We went out in the road to practice. twice to day; a ball whizzed over our heads, which made quite a sensation amongst us.

15th We played for guard mounting this morning and stopped. [8]

16th We rec'd orders to pack up this morning at roll call to be ready to move at a moments warning. [F]ell in at 10 A.M. and the start was put off until ½ past 1 P.M. . When the whole Reg was formed in line, and march out in review before the 22nd . Band playing Yankee Doodle. Paraded through Front & across Walnut Strs and took the carr[ier]s for New York where we arrived at about 9 A.M..

17th Paraded through Cort & Broadway down Canall Strs to the wharf where we shipped at night on board the City of Bath & the Promet[h]ius.

18th Sailed at 10 & 11 A.M .but the fog prevented our leaving the bay at all.

19th Started again from Sandy Hook in the morning, met rough weather all day. [9]

20th Still rough weather had to go into the hold to sleep, was a little sea sick from fat Bacon.

21st The first pleasant day we had we got our horns out and practiced; also passed Roanoke Island & Hatteras in the evening slept on deck at night.

22nd Nothin strange happened during the day.

23rd Passed Charleston at about 9 A.M., an occasional gun fired; and saw smoke rising from various points.

24th Landed at Hilton at 9 A.M. formed in line and march outside of the Entrenchments and encamped.

[February] 19th We marched this morning about 9 A.M. from Baldwinsville [19] by the way of the R. R. Saw Gen. Semour in the morning before we started. reached a station called Barbers Plantation. after passing two Turpentine distillery's [sic] and halting about ½ hour for dinner, we also passed an earthwork in process of erosion to guard a long tressel-work [sic].

20th We rec'd our rations last evening and got underway about ½ past 6 A.M. at a quick step on the left of the division, passed Sanders Station about 11 A.M., about 12 m: {as near as could be learned} from B's Plantation; we had a very rapid as well as fatiguing march; passed through a'deal turpentine forest. after this halt we were ordered forward, & soon could hear the roar of [20] Canon & the rattle of Musketry ahead of us, we were hurried up to the line of battle at the double quick and our Reg was place [sic] in the center and rec'd the hottest fire that was given; The Col. fell the Major wounded a Capt, & several lieutenants. the band and Drum Core went up to the front ahead of the Cavalry and were exposed to a very hot fire: for a while when we fell back to the R. R. until we were in danger of being taken by a flank movement of the Rebs: we got away however and had another station for a while: when we were again move [sic] a mile farther from the Battle field, which was in the front of Lake City. we built some fires there, & were halted by the Division Dr. for a while after which we moved on untill we reached the station. we left in the morning [illegible] [21] below the scene of action nearly worn out with fatigue & cold. we reached there about 1 A.M. that night and stayed untill daylight.

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[August] 12th We got Steam up about daylight and got underweigh [sic] before sunrise. the Verona which brought up the 7 MD & Gen been in our wake and then passing us as well as a great No of other boats. The scenery is very good but the Gen' character is Southern quite so. We passed Wilson's landing and one or two other forts & then Harrisons landing We soon reached City Point in 3 or four miles travel and 7 ½ miles above was our landing place Bermuda Hundred the Verona being unloaded. We soon after took up the line [78] of march for Gen. Butler's Hed Qur's about 7 miles distant through Virginia dust, which is terrible indeed. Water was very scarce and the evening was enlivened by the bombardment of Petersburg.

13th The morning was ushered in by the Monitors shelling the woods. things very uncertain about out future destiny. the Guns soon opened on us and some 8 or 9 shells were thrown in on our camp before we could get out of the way our Srgt. Major was wounded and several in the 7 U.S.C.T. We fell back about half a mile and left our dress clothes [79] and knapsacks and

moved in. height marching order we started about 11 P.M. and moved across the river on a pontoon bridge and haversacks for the night. Sunrise was ushered in by sharp skirmishing. 14th We fell back and started on a new line. Our Reg was left in the entrenchment. Our Brigade is composed of the 7 U.S.C.T. 8, 9, & 29 Conn Vol. We are not allowed to leave camp, about 5 P.M. We were ordered out about a mile & a half where the 7 & 9 made a charge the 8 being disappointed in finding any [80]thing but raffle pits [sic]. we lost no men out of our crowd. Reg We fell back about 10 P.M. to the breast works and lay all night without any trouble.

15th Still quiet in our front, but the remainder of the Brigade was moved over to the right on Strawberry plain with Hancock's corps who are to attack the Rebs who are at Malvern Hill today. Our Dr has gone over there to attend to his duties. he is Brigade Surgeon.

16th The fight still continues & the report is that Malvern Hill is taken. We are pitching tents at present. two small tents are up for the Comd Officers. everything moves about as [81] usual in camp. one man was drowned [sic] this morning by the cramp. we are going to have the sick here after today and quite a detachment of other Regts are in here. We moved out at night and forced the skirmish line out a little. had some 8 men wounded. 5 men of us went down the skirmish line under fire. the Regt. moved back about 10 P.M.

17th The 2nd Brigade moved in to our camp comprising the 97th Penn, 76th Penn & another Regt. Just at night we had rations issued and marched under heavy rain shower over the Bontown Bridge & another to the right about 4 miles [82] We halted for the night and were alarmed by heavy picket firing most of the night.

18th We were marched up to the front about a mile to some breast works where we lay all day expecting an attack which came just at sundown on the extreme right. heavy but soon change to the center where it was very fierce. Our Regt stood their ground loosing but 3 men wounded. the 9th dove them back and Charged on them. It then broke out with extreme fierceness on the left like a continued roar of musketry. the Artillery then opened and drove them back [83] the forces then fell back and entrenchments on another line farther back.

13th Things were quiet here near night when there was a fierce fire of pickets and an occasional shell. I went up on the heights in rear of our Camp & had a splendid view of Petersburg's environs [98] and surrounding country, which included a large portion of the Appomattox River valley the real town itself I could not see much of though I saw 5 steeples of

churches or some other Public buildings & a lookout. Our lines are very closely pushed up to the confines of P. there appear to be some very fine buildings there of brick the Heights make it look very picturesque worthy of a painter's pencil. Fort Clifton is reported silenced. we could see it in the distance. a relief came for the batteries in front today.

14th A fierce fire of musketry was kept up all night and about 10 A.M. this morning a fierce cannon [99]ading was commenced and kept up for about 2 hours; a No of men being wounded from our Brigade one shell rooted into our trenches being spent {Band} and one struck 2 rods to the right of us against a tree. about as brisk a fire as we have had since we have been here.

15th All quiet today, but our Regt' was Policing their camp & forming a line of Battle & drawing rations Col. Howell died this morning from injuries rec'd from falling or being thrown from his horse. We also had a Reg'tmental inspection under our New Maj. formerly Capt. Wagoner & an aid of Col Shaws. A great many flying reports in camp just now of various kinds. [100] [September]16th We practiced this morning. I got a letter from home last night. There was a little firing at noon and a little more in the afternoon. 3 of our men were wounded in the trenches by pieces of shell. One went over our camp {Band} howling. I went over into the second Divis. the first Brigade has three bands. 169,115 N.Y & 4 N.H. the first & last being consolidated in the next brigade there are only one, the 48th N.Y. formerly of 24 pieces now, of 16 as 7 of the men's times are out the next brigade has one. The 3rd N.Y. 10 piece had a splendid view of Petersburg from another point. crossed the R.R. near where the Rebs had had two Batteries planted of three guns I should judge [101] we are now putting up a 16-gun battery to the right of the R.R. going towards P. with the express purpose of paying the respects of 14 or 15 of them to P. and the remainder to fort Clifton. also a mortar Battery farther down expressly for Clifton. We saw the battery, which throws over to us so spiteful. the new battery, which we have been building over, received her guns again last night

17th All quiet this morning. A few shots fired for trial of guns or some such idea, but no harm done I had some papers come last evening. the 22nd is under marching orders.

18th the 22nd left about 9 A.M. for the purpose of going to Dup Bottom. I wrote to Capt Anderson & to J. I went out on [102] the Picket line last night our folks are putting up a tremendous sight of guns out there, and fixing guards against Cavalry.

19th A man was shott [sic] accidentally this morning in Co. D. of our Regt while in Camp cleaning guns & c. by a member of Co A. The Batteries played briskly this afternoon one shell coming down and striking the Hd. Qe'r Tent after bounding 3 times.

20th A brisk fire kept up during the afternoon by two batteries on our side. Some of them came very close to our camp. Went over my head struck the ground near the Sergt Major's & Capt. Steward but did [103] not injure them. Our Regt was ordered out again on picket on the left. during the night firing was kept up at long intervals & in the morning about Sunrise a Salute was fired from nearly every battery along our line in commemoration of Sheridans victory in the Shenandoah Valley.

21st We did not play this morning as the salute was fired and the shells came straight down to where we generally play one striking the Bombproof & another striking so close that it glanced over. one struck the Serg. Major's tent or bombproof. We practiced this forenoon, two men killed out of the 29th. Reg't Conn. Vol. [104] last night on fatigue Gen Birney rode through camp today with a portion of his staff and a little boy which I suppose was his son. {it was}

22nd The Gen was through Camp again today. another man shot through the head by sharpshooter {G. Miner} Co. G. I rec'd a letter & my folio from my Br. last night. 'A just suits. A No of the Officers rec'd their promotions at night Lieut. Col to Col. 3 Lieuts to Capts. Burrows, Richardson, Lewis, Camp of C. to 1st Lieut. & c.

23rd There was a grand Salute fired this morning from all the Batteries. the Petersburg express starting it [105] in honor of Sheridan's victory in the Shenandoah Valley. Occasional firing all day. Weather cold & damp. nothing stirring.

24th Another salute was fired this morning for some victory I could not tell whose Sheridan's over Early 2d one Raining all day. Rec'd marching orders this afternoon, we prepared at dark and about 11P.M. we were relieved by the 2nd Corps. the 111th, 126th, 37 N.Y. Regts forming the Brigade which relieved us. we marched about two miles back near the City Point R. R. where we formed for Division Organization. The 45th U.S.C.T. joining us on the next day. [106]

25th The Camp was laid out in the Old Style Cos, Strs, Pioneer Corps, Drum & Band on the right of the Regt. The new officers assumed their places today. Lieut. Shefflin as Ajut. Lieut. Richardson, Capt. Co. C, Lewis Co, F. Burrows, Co. B. The 127 will join us soon. The whole sic Regts were ordered out on a Dress Parade in the evening The Band played down the entire line & played the Brigade off the field it was a fine night; there was but one white Regt present

that the 37th N.Y. 100 day men, they were formed on the extreme left of the whole Brigade & the 45th U.S.T.C. next then came the 29th Conn., vol.[107] 9th U.S.C.T., 8th & 7th on the extreme right. It was the longest march, which we have had & play at the same time.

26th We were ordered out to Brigade guard Mount this morning the whole Brigade was inspected by Cos, three at a time Everything is being reduced to order now., Sergt. Major delivers all our mail to us now, the Officers have Co drill & rigid drill too, everyone has to come to time now. Brigade Dress Parade again in the evening. The 37th N. J. went home this afternoon & the boys got a lot of rations over there, which they left behind. Our S hat player came back also well again or nearly so, so we are full again as a band. [108]