

DIARY OF ROBERT A. MOORMAN

April 24th, 1862: Returned to my company today.

April 28: We elected company officers this morning. R.F. Lanier was elected Capt. W.E. Lanier 1st Lt., H.C. Moorman 2nd Lt., J.T. McNamee 3rd Lt. This evening we elected field officers. A.J. Vaughan Col., W.E. Morgan Lt. Col., and Peter Cole, Major. Some talk afloat of having a fight soon. Tonight we received the painful news of the death of W.S. Parham, a fellow soldier and a member of our company. He was a good soldier and much beloved by all who knew him.

April 30: Tonight Gov. Harris and Col. Hill addressed the Tenn. Vol. at this place. Gov. Harris pointed out the necessity of the conscript law and made other very appropriate remarks.

May 1: Rumors in camp of a victory at Yorktown with the loss of Gen. J.E. Johnson and Gen. Lee mortally wounded (false rumor). We are preparing for the reception of the Yankees—hope to give them a *warm* reception.

May 2: Our second Lt. is unwell today.

May 3: Heavy skirmishing heard on the right this evening. Prospect of a general engagement tomorrow. We went out to find our entrenchments this evening.

May 4: We were in the entrenchments by daylight this morning expecting the Yankees early, but they did not come. We remained there a few hours then put out a guard and returned to camp. We were again alarmed this evening but it was caused by some of Gen. Van Dorris men firing off their guns which were loaded. Perhaps they had just returned from off guard.

May 5: Three sharpshooters were detailed from the Regt. about five o'clock this evening. Our Regt. was ordered out on picket. We came out about three miles. Are in hearing of the enemy's drums.

May 6: There was a little skirmish today with pickets on our right. One Federal was killed.

May 7: Our company is on picket today. All has gone on quietly this far.

May 8: The pickets of Col. Wheeler's command commenced firing this morning, but it was only a squad of the enemy's scouting around. Mr. McDannel, one of our Regt. captured a horse from the Yankee pickets today. Firing of cannon was heard on the right this evening. From our position we supposed it near Farmington.

May 9: Chalmers and Frapier engaged the enemy near Farmington this evening and drove them back four miles. We were relieved this evening by Col. Strall and when we returned to camp we found orders to cook 3 days rations and prepare to march. Probably we will leave tomorrow.

May 10: In firing off our guns this morning one of the Banks head battery was shot, but not killed. The Commissioned officers in our Regt. were examined this evening.

May 11: Gen. Clark ordered his command out this evening that he might address them. Tonight the camp was alarmed. I understand that the pickets were driven in three quarters of a mile, which caused the alarm.

May 12: We are still preparing for the Yankee.

May 13: We had general review and inspection this evening which we will have every evening at 5½ o'clock after this. We go out as if we were going on a march.

May 14: Corporal of the guard today.

May 15: The enemy has been disturbing our pickets all day. Our regiment formed according to the reorganization today, so our command is D after this, instead of G. W.H. Reaves, a messmate of mine, went to a hospital today.

May 16: The pickets have been fighting all day. I went out on the inner picket this morning, which is about half a mile in the rear of the advance pickets.

May 17: The firing was reopened with vigor this morning which continued three or four

hours, then it ceased. We were relieved early this morning.

May 18: We were in the entrenchments by day this morning. It was reported the enemy was drawn up in line before Gen. Van Dorn. We remained out there 3 or 4 hours, then returned to camp. Tonight we sleep in the ditches.

May 19: The skirmishing seems to be heavier than for several days.

May 20: The Regt. goes on picket this evening. Our company is on post first.

May 21: The enemy drove back our Pickets, a half mile today. We supposed they were advancing to attack us. We drew up in line and the ninth Miss. was deployed in front as skirmishers which drove them back and they regained their old position. The skirmishing was very heavy.

May 22: We were relieved this evening. The skirmishing was not so heavy today as yesterday. We expected to give the enemy a *round* today, but something turned up to prevent it.

May 23: We had an alarm this morning.

May 24: Today ends my first 12 months in the service. We had general inspection this evening. It is reported that Col. Forrest with his cavalry routed two Regts. of Yankees from their camps today and destroyed everything they had which he could not pack away. He captured 80 prisoners.

May 25: This evening our Division formed in line of battle outside of the entrenchments, a little to the rear of the picket guard line. We expected to march on toward the enemy but after we formed we were ordered back to camp.

May 26: We gave up some of our tents today, I suppose to new troops. Col. Vaughan and several other members of the Regt. who had been at home, returned this evening.

May 27: We were called out this morning to see a deserter punished. His head was first shaved then 39 lashes were given to him on his bare back, then the letter D was branded on his left hip.

May 29: This evening we are ordered to the entrenchments with all our baggage and c. A detail is tonight to go back to the different camp grounds to build fires. The musicians and bugles give the regular calls tonight at camp while the troops are at the ditches.

May 30: We left the ditches last night between nine and ten o'clock and took up the line of March. We marched until sunrise this morning, then rested four or five hours and continued on our route. We passed Kossuth about three miles back and are now encamped I reckon, for the night. We begin our march this morning about ten.

May 31: We did begin our march this morning about ten o'clock and marched eight miles when we found our cook and commissary wagons gone. Various reports have reached us from Corinth, one that the Yankees have captured six of our trains of cars. Another that Price had a fight and captured 2000 prisoners.

June 1: We resumed our march by two o'clock this morning and marched to within two miles of Bal_____ where we found our baggage train. Our tents were pitched and all was ready for us when we arrived.

June 2: We cleaned up and arranged our camp to ordered this morning.

June 3: We are again ordered to cook three days rations and be ready to march at any moment.

June 4: We have general review this evening.

June 5: We send our wagons to the rear.

June 6: Gen. Maxie's and our brigade went out on picket early this morning. The Cavalry had a little skirmish. The enemy was repulsed and lost two men.

June 7: About eleven o'clock we draw in our pickets and march back to camp. When we find that the troops have all gone, we follow after them. We have passed Gentown and are now resting I expect for the night.

June 8: We were in motion by day this morning and marched to Saltillo at which place we are now.

- June 9: The Yankee cavalry fired on our pickets this morning.
- June 10: We were again marching by day this morning and reached Tupelo by one or two o'clock this evening.
- June 11: We cleaned up the camp this morning. We are digging a well for our company.
- June 12: Capt. Lanier returned to camp. Sergeant Gloster also returned.
- June 13: The officers are drilled. We drilled in both company and battalion drill today. Maj. Cole drilled the Regt.
- June 14: We go out this evening to relieve Col. Strall on out-post duty. I was detailed today to take two cavalry men to Gen. Polk for shooting contrary to orders. Gen. Polk first ordered them to be put on bread and water for twenty-four hours, but they made light of it, when Gen. Polk ordered them to be put in irons for the same time.
- June 16: We were relieved this evening by one of Gen. Maxie's Regts. The officers baggage is cut down a little.
- June 17: Nothing worthy of note.
- June 19: I went on brigade guard this morning.
- June 20: The doctor vaccinated several of the soldiers today, I among the number.
- June 21: We cut out and cleaned out a drill ground this evening.
- June 22: We had inspection this morning and brigade review this evening.
- June 23: Gen. Clark drilled the brigade this morning.
- June 24: Capt. Millan, the leader of our band returned from Mobile. He went out to have some instruments worked on.
- June 25: The Regt. court martial opened today.
- June 26: We had another brigade drill.
- June 28: I went out on brigade guard this morning. We have good news from Virginia it is read out all through the camp.
- June 29: We have general review this morning.
- June 30: News of a complete victory in Va.
- July 1: Last night after the most of us had returned we were called out to hear Adj. Clusky read a dispatch from the Sec. of War. The dispatch confirmed the report we had previously heard Clusky was ordered by Gen. Polk to state that in a few days we would march back to Tenn. and have a chance to drive the enemy from our soil. It is reported that troops are leaving today.
- July 2: We had Division drill this morning.
- July 3: The news from Virginia is very good.
- July 4: Various rumors of the battle of Richmond afloat. All of them favorable.
- July 5: A salute of thirteen guns fired to the victory at Richmond.
- July 6: We were received this morning. We had inspection this evening. J.W. Jones, a messmate, returned last night. He has been sick.
- July 7: We were relieved this morning by Gens. Bragg, Polk and Hardie.
- July 8: Gen. Clark's parting remarks were read to us this evening. He will leave tomorrow for Vicksburg.
- July 9: Gen. Clark left this morning. I am on brigade guard. Part of the Regt. goes on picket guard this evening.
- July 10: Was relieved this morning.
- July 11: The Regt. returned.
- July 12: Gen. Hardie drilled the brigade.
- July 13, 14, 15: Various rumors in camp.
- July 16: I am detailed to clean up a new camp ground. About a mile and a half further from town.
- July 17: The non-conscripts swear to their age.
- July 18: I am again detailed to work on the new camp.

July 19: I visit the 37th Miss.

July 20: Gen. review in morning. Inspection in the evening.

July 21, 22, 23: Troops are leaving.

July 24: We are ordered to cook rations.

July 25: We leave on the cars early this morning.

July 26: We arrive back at Mobile about 3 in the evening and march aboard the steamer Senator, about dark the steamer pushes off up the Alabama River.

July 27: A soldier fell over board last night. We get along very well. Today got on a sand bar once.

July 28: The boat ran aground this morning about two and remained there 7 hours. All of us had to get off and walk about three miles up the river. About one in the evening we also had to get off.

July 29: We passed _____ about 9 o'clock this morning.

July 30: We arrived at _____ a little before day this morning and left.

July 31: We changed cars at West Point at two o'clock this morning. We arrived at Atlanta this evening at 3 and left at 7.

August 1: We arrived at Chattanooga about 3 this evening and went out to camp about 3 miles from the depot.

August 2: We marched up on Lookout Mountain this morning.

August 3: I am sick today.

August 4: Today I am a little better.

August 5: On brigade guard. We are ordered to cook two days rations.

August 6: We draw one day's rations and are ordered to cook it. The order is countermanded.

August 7, 8: Troops are leaving.

August 9: We leave this morning on the cars. We pass Cleveland.

August 10: We arrive in Knoxville about day. We go out about a mile from the depot to camp.

August 13: We leave Knoxville.

August 15: We arrive near Big Creek Gap in the _____ Mountains.

[no date:] Arrive at Wilson's Pass.

August 21: We go out hunting bush whackers with little success.

August 22: We return to Bar P.M. We leave _____versville.

August 23: We arrive at Manchester.

August 24: We leave Manchester.

August 25: We arrive at London.

August 26: We leave London and reach Rock Castle River.

August 27: Having 12 miles to march on one canteen of water, we march it in the night leaving the river at 5 in the evening.

August 28: We stop within 3 or 4 miles of Big Hill about an hour before day where we rested 2 hours, then marched until our advance and enemy's met north of Big Hill. After resting there until night, we took our position in line of battle.

August 30: We continued our advance on them early. The enemy fell back to Kingston where we engaged them and put them to flight at about 11 o'clock. They rallied at Roc. Gen. Cleburne brigade commanded by Col. Hill drove them from this position. They again rallied at Richmond where they were completely routed. This being their chance, our company did well their part.

August 31: Our Regt. was detailed to serve in Richmond as police guard. About 3000 prisoners were guarded in town today. The army (except our Regt.) march on towards Lexington.

Sept. 1: Six officers detailed for the purpose are busily engaged parolling prisoners.

Sept. 2: We leave Richmond and march to the T River.

Sept. 3: We join the brigade at Lexington.
 Sept. 5: We leave Lexington.
 Sept. 6: We pass through Paris a little after sun up.
 Sept. 7: We arrive at Clint_____
 Sept. 8: We pass through Georgetown.
 Sept. 9: We arrive at Frankfort.
 Sept. 10: We leave Frankfort going back.
 Sept. 11: We pass through Georgetown.
 Sept. 12: We march two miles beyond _____
 Sept. 13: We march to the Blue Licks.
 Sept. 14: We pass Williamton and Crittenden four miles above Crittenden.
 Sept. 15: We make a general washing day of this.
 Sept. 16: The Army pass us going back to Georgetown. We follow in the rear.
 Sept. 17: We march a little in the night. It is sprinkling rain.
 Sept. 18: We arrive at the Eagles Mill on the Eagle Creek.
 Sept. 19: Washing and resting day.
 Sept. 20: Some talk of our brigade going to Cheatham.
 Sept. 21: We leave Eagle Creek. We are in camp near Gen. Johnson's residence where we encamped twice before.
 Sept. 22: We rest again today.
 Sept. 23: We with Gen. Claibornes brigade leave Gen. Johnston's and march to Frankford.
 Sept. 24: We march 13 miles today.
 Sept. 25: We march to Shelbyville and a mile and a half north west of town.
 Sept. 26: A good many ladies visited our camp.
 Sept. 29: Col. Scotts cavalry skirmished all night last night with the enemy.
 Oct. 1: After dark. The enemy in strong force are reported advancing in 3 columns. We are ordered to cook rations and pack up.
 Oct. 2: We left Shelbyville going south, at about one o'clock this morning. We arrive at Frankford at about night.
 Oct. 3: We leave Frankford.
 Oct. 4: We arrive at Harrodsville.
 Oct. 7: We are ordered to Perryville, but before we reach there we are ordered back.
 Oct. 8: We are again ordered to Perryville. Our troops repulsed the enemy there this evening.
 Oct. 9: We evacuate Perryville and fall back to F_____
 Oct. 10: We are ordered to Camp Breck, but before we get there the order is countermanded.
 Oct. 11: We are again ordered to Camp Breck, where we arrive about dark.
 Oct. 12: We cook rations and send off the sick.
 Oct. 13: We leave Camp Breck. Reach Crab Orchard.
 Oct. 14: We march 12 miles.
 Oct. 15: We march 5 miles.
 Oct. 16: We go 5 miles past London.
 Oct. 17: We go to Barbersville.
 Oct. 18: We go to Comford.
 Oct. 19: We go to Gap.
 Oct. 20: We march about 3 miles to a beautiful river.
 Oct. 21: We march to Clinch River. Which was about 16 (?) miles.
 Oct. 22: We march to Clinch River which we made.
 Oct. 23: We go within four miles of Knoxville.
 Oct. 27: Last night I had a dreadful pain in the side and was attacked with pneumonia.
 Oct. 30: The Regt. leaves on the cars.
 Nov. 2: I am left at the hospital at Knoxville. I am taken up to ward 22 and put to bed.

- Nov. 6: I am able to sit up.
- Nov. 12: I sit up all day.
- Dec. 8: Improve very fast.
- Dec. 9: I leave the hospital and go to the camp of Directions. In camp of Directions I am sent to Co. D.
- Dec. 11: On guard at the wagon yard.
- Dec. 12: I am relieved.
- Dec. 13: I am ordered to draw and cook 3 days rations. Four others also receive the same orders. All who are under Gen. Bragg.
- Dec. 14: We start to the depot this morning with the intention of going to our commands, but the agent being out when we got to his office and we not being able to get transportation concluded to go back to the camp and wait till morning.
- Dec. 15: We get transportation and leave on the cars. We managed to get in a coach to Cleveland. It was late at night when we arrived at Chattanooga and we could get nothing better than an open car to stay in.
- Dec. 16: We were not able to get on the passenger train so we had to again take the flat car as far as Bridgeport where we again miss the passenger cars so we conclude to remain till morning.
- Dec. 17: We secure our seats this morning before the passengers begin to crowd and leave Bridgeport at 10 o'clock. We arrive at Murfreesboro at about dark. I am directed to my brigade and there learn that my Regt. is sent off from the others on account of having the small-pox. Gen. Smith permits to stay there with his _____ till morning.
- Dec. 18: I find my Regt. about 4 miles from town on the railroad and find all the boys in my company well. Lt. Moorman gives me some clothes which he bought for me.
- Dec. 19: Wood and Chapman go hunting eggs for Christmas. They returned without any, but an old lady promised to save some. Tonight Woods again started out. He goes after whisky this time.
- Dec. 20: Woods comes in with one quart of whisky this evening which we all agree shall not be touched until Christmas morning.
- Dec. 21: Parson Milaken, our Chaplain, leads in divine service this morning.
- Dec. 22: We learn that Mr. J.W. Rawlings is dead, also Mr. Mason of company L. Mr. Mason died of the small-pox. Troops are leaving on the cars. We suppose they are going to Mississippi. We procured another quart of whisky today.
- Dec. 23: Doubts concerning the death of J.W. Rawlings.
- Dec. 24: Woods goes out after whisky this morning and returned in the evening without whisky, but with 4½ doz. eggs. Chapman also went out and returned with 3 doz. eggs, 3 or 4 pounds of butter and water bucket full of milk. Tonight several of the company are on a bust, having made their eggnog before Christmas arrived. I am on Regt'l guard today.
- Dec. 25: We had a fine eggnog this morning and invited most of the company around to help us enjoy it. Some of the boys unfortunately took on a little more, careful ones did not partake so freely.
- Dec. 26: Much amusement in camp. Heavy cannonading from Gen. Hardie.
- Dec. 27: We are ordered to have 3 days rations cooked by morning.
- Dec. 29: We join the Brigade at their camp.
- Dec. 30: We take our position in line of battle as reserves on the left. The cavalry are skirmishing on our wing today. Through mistake one of our batteries fired into Wharton's car killing 4 and wounding 3 or 4. Gen. McCown's division was stationed left of us this evening.
- Dec. 31: Early the enemy opened a battery. Wither's division attempted to take it and failed. Ours pitched into it and succeeded in driving them back. The fighting was heavy all day and tonight we have driven them back on every position, 2 miles. John Jones, my cousin and messmate was killed. J.O. Gloster was also killed.
- 1863 NEW YEAR

Jan. 1: We expected to be engaged early this morning, but had nothing more than shelling. We remained on the battlefield in line of battle.

Jan. 2: About the same as day before.

Jan. 3: Gen. Breckenridge engaged the enemy on the right.

Jan. 4: About one o'clock in the morning we leave for Shelbyville.

Jan. 5: We reach Shelbyville.

Jan. 8: I am sick.

Jan. 20: My health not improving any. I am detailed by the doctor to go to Rome for guard duty.

Jan. 30: I leave Shelbyville.

Feb. 1: I get to Rome where I was on duty every 3 or 4 days. We were under Capt. R_____rle. I remain at Rome until May.

May 30: I am examined by the surgeon and pronounced able for duty, and started back to my regiment on the evening train.

June 2: I join my Regt. at Shelbyville. Find the Capt. absent-sick. I find some alterations. Ours (13) regt. and 154th, consolidated. Col. A.J. Vaughan Lt. Col. Pittman and Maj. Dawson our company and Fr_____ thrown together. Capt. Lanier commanding. Lt. Moorman was promoted to First Lt. Ord.—Woods was elected 2nd Lieut. Mr. McElroy was elected 2nd Lieut in Am.F.

June 3: Ordered to cook rations, the order countermanded.

June 4: We go out to the front convenient to the fortifications. We are busily engaged digging rifle pits. Work nearly every other day.

June 26: The enemy have taken Hoovers Gap. We cook rations. We leave.

June 27: We leave Shelbyville and march towards Tullahoma. We camp tonight 4 miles from Tullahoma.

June 28: Arrive at Tullahoma.

June 29: We go to the front. Our company with 5 others. Skirmishers under Maj. Dawson. It rains very hard. We without shelter except the trees.

June 30: Tonight at 10 o'clock we leave and march all night.

July 1: About 11 o'clock we get to Alisionia.

July 2: Leave Alisionia, pass through Winchester and get to Cowan's station on the N. and C. RR.

July 3: The enemy reported at Winchester. We leave Cowan's station and camp on top of Cumberland Mountain at night.

July 4: The enemy pressing the cavalry in our rear. We are hurried on. The rear company busy keeping back the straggling cavalry. March to the Tenn. river at mouth of Battle Creek, and cross the river on pontoon.

July 5: March 5 miles to Shell mountain. See the celebrated Neckajack cave and spring. I being sick am sent to the depot to ride on the cars.

July 6: About 2 o'clock I leave on the cars for the Regt. encampment on the side of the road. I get to Chattanooga.

July 7: The Regt. having arrived we go to camp about 5 miles from town on the "Georgia road." I remain sick for several days. We commenced fortifying in a few days after we arrived, at which we are engaged every alternate day.

Aug. 21: We cook 3 days rations. The enemy has planted a battery on the opposite bank of the river and are shelling the city. Some damage done to houses and c. 2 soldiers, 5 or 6 citizens killed or wounded. A little girl was wounded. We (the Regt.) go to town. Stra_____ brigade also goes. The Regt. is posted tonight along the river bank as pickets from town to the foot of the mountain 3 miles. Only 7 companies were required to be posted along the river. Our company and the reserve two were held as reserve pickets. We halted in an open field and went to rest.

Aug. 22: The sun being very hot the Col. moves us around to a shade in plain view of the opposition.

Aug. 23: Shelling for about half an hour this evening. We move back to a grove about 200 yards. No shelling today.

Aug. 23: We get one day's rations, from camp.

Aug. 24: We being relieved go to camp.

Aug. 25: Brigade review. No shelling today.

Aug. 26: All quiet.

Aug. 27: Shelling today.

Aug. 28: All quiet.

Aug. 29: A few shells today. I join the Christian Ass. tonight. Capt. Crook read an address tonight. He was elected Pres. of the Ass.

Aug. 30: Just after dark we are ordered into line. We go to the foot of the mountain. Our company on picket. I am on the infirmary car.

Aug. 31: Early this morning we formed in line up on the mountain. Afloat the report that the enemy in front of us have fallen back. We go back to the foot of the mountain where we this evening moved our camp.

Sept. 1: Ordered to cook 3 days rations which we did in a great hurry.

Sept. 3: All quiet.

Sept. 5: Capt. Brown sees a ghost.

Sept. 6: Ordered to cook rations. About 10 o'clock we made a detail to cook and we go on picket. Soon as we get to our post, the car runs in but the enemy does not engage us. Our company deployed as skirmishers.

Sept. 7: About day light we leave pickets and fall back to the mountains. Those Yankee officers from the opposite side of the river conversed with some of our boys. The enemy came in range of our guns this evening but the shells made them get back.

Sept. 8: We leave about 9 o'clock and reach Chicamauga Creek about 11 o'clock at night.

Sept. 9: We go about cooking another days ration of flour this evening. Before we get through we have an alarm but it is false, we soon learn. We resume our cooking. Various rumors in camp. Gov. Harris talked a little this evening. He told us that the enemy is crossing over in the valley 10 miles ahead of us. It is reported that our cavalry is fighting them at Lookout Mt.

Sept. 10: The enemy's cavalry are advancing in our rear. Our Brigade goes out to drive them back. We attack arms in line of battle. It is reported that a company of the enemys cavalry were captured today near Chattanooga. Prospects of a great battle soon. Horn of Co. F. was severely injured by a wagon turning over on him. Lieut. of the 11th was stabbed by a private of the same Regt. Just after we got our blankets spread out tonight we are ordered back to where we stayed last night. The Gen. tells us that the enemy is divided and we intend to strike one portion of him this morning with our entire force. About 11 o'clock tonight we march on towards LaFayette(?).

Sept. 11: Just before day a stampede occurred with the brigade on the march. We were at rest and nearly all of the men were asleep when a team ran away with a wagon and some of the men called "clear the road" the men being suddenly awakened by the noise and the rush out of the road was so great that greatly increased the confusion and it ended in a general stampede. The artillery horses ran away and killed one man and wounded five. They damaged a caisson considerably. We arrived at LaFayette about 1. Some of our command went to Scott's battery to supply the place of those who were disabled. They were S.J. and H.C. Guwyn, Noah Stafford, C.P. Burton, J. Wilson, Elisha Davis. We draw and cook 3 days rations. Buckner trying to get to the rear of the enemy.

Sept. 12: Buckner has failed to get between the enemy and the mountain. The enemy last night recrossed the mountain.