

MARCHES

E." we started early on

BATTERY E.

1st O. V. L. A.

From Diary of E. M. Strong, Delta, O.

THE ATLAS PRINTING CO., DELTA, OHIO.

COMRADES :

The idea of preparing the "Marches of Battery E" was first

suggested at the reunion held in Oberlin, O., Dec. 31st, 1890; and as I had

kept a diary during the three years from '61 to '64, the subject was assigned to

me as part of the programme arranged for our next reunion, to be held during

the encampment at Detroit in 1891.

I began reading the diary for the first time since the war, and sketched

such items as I thought would bring back to the minds of the comrades a pic-

ture of the places we visited and the trials, hardships, and incidents of the

many long marches we endured. I soon found that the story would be as long

as some of the marches were, but enjoyed the reading so much that I finished

it as ordered.

Our reunion at Detroit was so limited in time by the programme of the

encampment that we could hardly go over "the marches," and as many of the

comrades wished to have a copy, it was ordered printed. Something over

eleven dollars being raised for that purpose. Hoping this will serve to revive

many pleasing as well as painful memories and settle disputed dates among

the comrades, I remain,

Yours Truly,

E. M. STRONG.

Marches of Battery "E"

we started
early on
d. n.

The order for our first march was given at dress parade in Camp Dennison Nov. 14, 1861, and in an hour we had everything packed, and was on the road to Cincinnati; where we arrived at 11 o'clock p. m. We slept in the City barracks, and at 4 o'clock in the morning the center section packed our ammunition and embarked on the steamer Telegraph in company with the 41st, O. V. I., Col. Hazen.

The right and left sections were sent to Jeffersonville, Ind., but how or when, I am unable to say. The ride up the Ohio was not hard marching, but with 1,200 men and 50 horses packed on a small boat, we were made acquainted with raw bacon andhardtack washed down with river water.

Nov. 16, at 2 o'clock a. m. the boat stopped at the mouth of the Big Sandy, where it lay until day-light. Then proceeded on past Guyandott, and stopped at Col. Jenkins' farm, landed, and made a hunt for him. Captured eight horses and some apples, but—no Jenkins. We then proceeded up the river and the next day arrived at Gallipolis. Here we unloaded and the guns were stationed on the river to prevent any boats from going down. Several were stopped. The Telegraph made several trips to Jenkins' farm.

Nov. 23. The Captain and fourteen men went down to an old "Secesher's" and captured two Rebs. On the 25th orders were given at sunset and at 10 in the evening we had everything on board the Telegraph. This spoiled a Thanksgiving dinner which the good people were preparing for us.

Nov. 26. On the passage down the river we noticed the ruins of Wyandott, which the Rebels had burned. We arrived at Cincinnati at 11 p. m. The next morning Captain Edgerton left for Columbus, and at noon we steamed down the river towards Louisville, where we arrived some time in

The morning of the 28th was rainy, but we unloaded from the wagon, and drove to the Louisville & Nashville depot where the boys feasted us on ham sandwiches and coffee for our Thanksgiving. We then started for our camp five miles south, where we arrived with the rain still falling. About dark some of the wagons came and we put up three tents.

Here is where the boys killed their first secession pig, and set fire to an old stub of a tree which came near getting the whole of us in the guard house.

Dec. 4. We marched back through Louisville, crossed the river and joined the rest of the Battery at Evansville, Ind. On the 6th we pulled up stakes, recrossed the river and marched six miles east of town to Capt. Terrel's Artillery camp. He showed us greenies how to put on style, and tried to drill some of the ambition out of us. We called him Cap. "Terrible." But with all the drilling we found secession potatoes, roasted them evenings etc. Draw our first pay.

Dec. 17. Orders to draw rations and prepare to leave. We ate our breakfast a little after midnight and marched to the depot, began loading about 8 a. m. and at 1 p. m. leave for Green river. Jim Hurd got hurt to-day. Arrived at Bacon Creek at midnight, unload and try to get a little sleep under the tarpaulins.

Dec. 19. To-day we move into camp with Gen. O. M. Mitchel's brigade at this camp, many of the boys were sick. Peck lost his arm. The weather was cold, rainy and disagreeable. I got a furlough home, and was not with the Battery on the march from here to Murfreesboro, Tenn. The route was down the Louisville and Nashville pike to Nashville then south-east to Murfreesboro, where I rejoined the company April 1st. Gen. Mitchel was rebuilding the railroad bridge at that place. When it was completed the brigade left for Shelbyville at 2 p. m., April 30, went into camp at 8 in the evening without tents. Next morning started early, passed through Shelbyville about noon,

the people seemed glad to see us, the first "Yanks" they had ever seen. At night went into camp, then had to move to another place.

April 9. Roll call at 4 a. m. everything packed for the march, we started towards Fayetteville and at 4 p. m. stopped for the night. Were out early on the road and reached Fayetteville about noon. Crossed the river and encamped on the ground occupied by Gen. Jackson's army on his way to New Orleans in the war of 1812. We remained here till the 14th, when we started for Huntsville, Ala., over mud roads of the worst description and slept in an old church at night.

At 4 a. m. the 15th we are out again, crossed the state line and into Ala., about 9 a. m., and at five in the afternoon arrived at Gen. Mitchel's headquarters near Huntsville. Here we first learned of the battle of Shiloh. More than a week before that Gen. Mitchel had captured 17 locomotives, several trains at the round house, and some 200 rebels.

On the 16th we received orders to pack up, and moved camp about a mile, and parked our guns on a hill commanding a wide view of the beautiful hills and valleys surrounding the city, then a detail of men had to go back and clean up the ground where we had camped. (probably somebody's dooryard).

April 18. We had orders to pack in haste, and were soon on the road to the west; went about ten miles and camped in an old rebel camping place. Raining hard. (By the end of the year we knew better than to occupy a rebel camp). Morning of the 19th it was still raining, in fact it rained all day, and we traveled on through the mud, arrived at the railroad embankment two or three miles from the Tennessee river, where were baggage wagons for two brigades waiting to get over the river. No dry ground except the railroad embankment. On the 20th about noon the train came for us and we loaded the right and center sections, took them across the river, and returned for the rest. We camped in and around a house a little below the bridge and near Decatur.

April 24. The right section was sent above town; the river rising, baggage trains moving back across the bridge. Infantry splitting plank and piling kindlings along the bridge. The next day George Stacey and one of the

other boys jumped aboard an old flat boat and took a free ride. On the 26th. prepared a place on the east bank to station the guns. Some of the boys came near getting swamped in the small boat, the river was very high. The next day we moved the guns across the river and took our positions and when the last team had crossed, fire was set to the bridge and in less than an hour the whole structure was in the river. It was 1760 feet long. We fired a few rounds at some cavalry that appeared on the other side, then moved back on the railroad track across Swan lake, the whole country was flooded.

28th. Unloaded our amunition chests and took them to the platform waiting for the train to take us out of the swamp. Sometime in the evening of the 29th the long roll sounded and we hitched up and got ready to fight and watched and waited for the Johnnies—till morning.

30th. The train arrived, we loaded up, bid the swamp and misquitos good-bye and stopped at Huntsville, where we fixed up camp and tried to make up for lost sleep. At 2 p. m., next day orders came to "pack up and hitch up double quick." In less than half an hour we were on the road towards Athens, Ala., marched until midnight then halted and fed, rested a couple of hours, then on again; halted for breakfast near where the 12th Ohio had a fight the day before; arrived at Athens about 9 a. m.

May 2nd is the day Gen. Turchin told his brigade to "Rest at ease, for two hours I shuts mine eyes." Very likely most of the boys found something that day which is kept as a memento of our trip to Athens. We remained here for three weeks. Gen. Turchin and Capt. Edgerton were courtmartialed for allowing the men to raid the town. Almost every night a section of the battery had to go out on picket.

May 26th, 1862. We are called out at 4 a. m. and at 6 we are on the road towards Fayetteville, Tenn. Poor looking country and awful roads. We marched 20 miles and camped in an open field. The next morning out early and a little after noon we reached Fayetteville and took our old camp ground. Detachment A went back to escort the train in.

30th. Detachment E. went with the train to Shelbyville; Frank Root

started for home, discharged; W. W. Beach and J. B. Wilson had their paper nearly ready to issue from the office of the Fayetteville Herald.

31st. One of the 18th Ohio boys drowned. Gen. Negley's brigade arrived.

June 1st. Paid off. Got orders to be ready to march at four the next morning and started out on time. Went east towards Winchester Tenn. At Salem, twenty miles, halted for the night. Received news of Bill Hadlock's death.

3rd. We were out at 3 a. m. and on the road at 4. Negley's brigade in the advance, and passed through Winchester before noon. The roads were hilly and rough; went twenty-one miles before going into camp.

4th. On the road again by daylight and about 9 o'clock began to climb the mountain; terrible rough. When we reached the summit rain began to fall, and continued all the rest of the day. We descended into Battle creek valley after dark, and encamped by the Big Spring about midnight. Negley's brigade captured ten prisoners.

5th. We left camp about 8 this morning and reached Jasper, Tenn., eleven miles, at noon, nine miles further on we camped for the night and had turkeys for supper.

6th. Pulled up stakes at daylight and traveled up the Sequatchie valley twenty miles, crossed the river and camped at the foot of Waldron's ridge; Negley in the advance. We saw a school house to-day.

June 7th. Drew out of camp at 2 a. m., climbed the mountain before sunrise, marched across the top sixteen miles, and ate our dinner, with Chattanooga and miles of the Tennessee valley in sight below us. We went down a most dangerous road and at 3 p. m. took our position on a hill commanding the city. When we opened fire the Rebs answered promptly with their guns in the fort. My piece fired 53 rounds, then we drew back a little and slept under arms.

8th. The center section was ordered to go back up the mountain, but the trains hindered us and it was sundown when we reached the top. Marched across, fed at midnight and got into camp in the Sequatchie valley at 3 a. m.

On the 9th we were on the road again at sunrise, and made Jasper at dark—thirty miles. The left section was back with Negley's brigade.

10th. This morning we left Jasper about 10 o'clock and seven miles out we crossed Battle creek on a log pontoon, and took the road to Stevenson, Ala., and went into camp nine miles from that place: Frank Cunningham refused to go on guard; he was too sleepy. On the 11th we passed through Stevenson and at Crow creek while we were ferrying the battery across on a little flat boat, orders came for us to return. We hustled back and got into Stevenson about 10 at night. I was on guard and saw the total eclipse of the moon.

12th. About noon to-day we took the back track towards Jasper, and camped in our old place nine miles out. On the 13th we were on the road again, Col. Sill commanding our brigade and halted for dinner at Battle creek, and arrived in Jasper about 4 p. m.

14th. Col. Sill and Lieut. Ransom rode down to the river opposite Shell Mound and reported 1,500 Rebs there. The 4th O. C. and part of the 10th arrived to-day.

15th and 16th. Cleaning up and repairing, filled our ammunition chests and at 10 o'clock in the evening were ordered out and stood by our guns all night. 5,000 Rebs reported coming.

17th. Inspection by Col. Sill; Al Randal's horse was drowned. 18th. I accompanied the right section to the river where the Rebs had killed and captured several of our pickets. On the 20th another section went to the river, found nothing.

June 21st. Two more pieces went to the river with the 24th Ills., and found the Rebels crossing. We left Jasper about noon and when we got to Battle creek the Johnnies tried to stop us, but a few shells drove them back; we crossed the creek and took position on a low hill not far from the river.

22nd. Built breast-works for our pieces. A. S. King and myself measured the distance to the old house on the other side of the river, 968 yards from the old howitzer. We were changed from one place to another several times, firing at the Rebs across the river at every opportunity. On July 15 we were put

on short rations; Murfreesboro bridge gone, and Buel's army lies between us and Stevenson. On the 25th we were moved to an old "slashing," assigned to McCook's Division, and cleared up a few acres of ground.

Aug. 4th. Lieut. Dorsey, Willard Welcher and John Houghton started for home, recruiting. Aug. 7, heard of Gen. A. McCook's death.

20th. McCook's and Crittenden's Divisions started towards Jasper, and our battery was moved back and occupied its old quarters near Battle creek. We built stables, and fixed up for comfort. The rest of the army passing us, but at 2 on the morning of the 24th we were ordered to follow. The battery wagon was left behind. We came over the old road towards Deckherd and Winchester; we had to double teams to get up the mountain and at night only three pieces were at the top. The 25th the right section went on and we joined them at night at Deckherd.

Aug. 26. Waited to-day for our baggage wagons and detachment E, and they came up just before night. Clouds of dust marked the route of the army. Baggage trains swarmed in every direction. We remained at Deckherd until the 31st, had to carry water a mile for coffee. Watson and Converse came up with the battery wagon. A little darkey boy was accidentally shot in our camp. We left Deckherd at 2 a. m. and passed Winchester at daylight; went into camp at Tulahoma.

Sept. 1st. Start out at 3 a. m. guarding an immense wagon train. Wheelock captured a mule to-day and rode him in triumph along the line, but the mule stopped so suddenly that Johnny sailed over his head and the mule went back to his pasture. "Johnny! where's your mule?" was the song for a long time. At Shelbyville we occupied our old camp.

Sept. 2nd. On the road again at 2 a. m., march 22 miles and camp at 2 p. m. The train keeps coming in and folding 'till after midnight. The musical voice of the "army love" is to be heard in all directions.

3rd. One continuous stream of wagons and artillery. 10th O. C. passed us.

4th. We drew new horses, Loomis' Battery arrived.

5th. About 2 p. m. we started along, little at a time, camped at 9 in the

evening, 5 miles north of Murfreesboro. 6th. At 1:30 a. m. we were routed out, marched about 12 miles and camped. 7th. Marched 10 miles and stopped 2 miles from Nashville.

8th. About noon we moved on through town and went out east of the city. I rode in the ambulance for the first time.

10th. To-day we went back towards Murfreesboro a mile or two and were assigned to 5th brigade, McCook's Division. The brigade then passed through town, crossed the Cumberland river and traveled north 'till night.

11th. At noon we resumed the march on the Louisville & Nashville pike. At Tyree springs the whole Division went into camp. On the 13th we started at 1 with our brigade in the advance and marched rather slow, went into camp near the Tennessee line, in sight of Gen. Thomas' Division.

13th. This morning the eighth section led the Division. Reached Franklin about noon and camped at 4 p. m. Were called out at midnight and four miles from camp formed line of battle. Then went on again and when we stopped at night were three miles from Bowling Green, Ky. Drew rations of flour and pork. On the 15th we went about a mile west of town and halted. Here we got some peaches, and had time to bake some pancakes on a shingle, and bathe ourselves in the river.

The next day Gen. Wood's Division passed us and crossed the river, and we were ordered to be ready to move at 3 p. m. We hitched up and waited until 3 the next morning before we started; then crossed the river, passed our baggage wagons and Gen. Rousseau's Division and marched until near dark. It rained hard all the evening; we had no blankets nor tents, nor supper and tried to sleep under the pieces.

18th. Up before light, had an ear of green corn, and pork for breakfast. Rumors that Bragg was at Green river with forty thousand men and had captured the garrison of four thousand. We failed to move 'till afternoon. Had three days' rations of flour dished out to us then marched 'till after dark. Passed Bell Station and our old Division, Gen. Mitchell's. Slept under the tarpaulins. On the 19th we lay in camp. The paroled prisoners from Green river past to the rear, four thousand, two hundred of them. I found one of

our cows and got some milk for supper. The water we had to use was from a pond where the rebels had left a lot of dead mules.

20th. Rumors of Bragg's movements were affirmed and contradicted. We drew half rations of flour and pork, sat up until midnight and got part of it cooked.

21st. Were routed out at 4 this morning and received a good *cussing* because the rations were not all cooked. Hitched up, packed up, and *staid* until 4 p. m., before we started. About 8 in the evening we took another road and marched faster. Camped at 2 a. m. two miles from Green river.

22nd. To-day we passed the place where Gen. Willich whipped the Rebs last fall, and where there was a fight yesterday. Crossed Green river and camped at Bacon creek. On the 23rd out at 4 a. m., on the road to Elizabethtown: we met lots of parolled Rebs. We made 25 miles to-day. Gen. Buell passed and gave the captain particular fits for allowing the boys to ride. Bragg's army is too days ahead of us. We pass many infantry stragglers worn out and foot sore. At night we drew three days' rations of flour and set the cook to baking. He got about one "kill devil" apiece made and we had to start again. We were in the advance the 24th on the road to West Point on the Ohio river where we arrived a little after dark and the thirsty boys gave cheer after cheer, so did the mules. Sat up 'till after 12, baking "sinkers" for tomorrow.

25th. Started at 8 this morning for Louisville. In passing through West Point a bridge broke down and it took until 3 p. m. to repair it. We come on ten or 12 miles and then struck off to the river and went into camp. On the 26th we soon got out to the pike and arrived in Louisville about noon, and were glad to buy something to eat. Lieut. Dorsey met us. Recruits are here all right. Went into camp just above town near the river. New regiments crossing the pontoon bridge, and the town seemed full of soldiers. We rested here four days, got some new clothes and discarded our "infested" garments. The new recruits were assigned to their places. We heard news from home, and made a business of resting.

Oct. 1st, 1862. This morning we were early out on the Lexington pike.

marched seventeen miles and came upon some Rebs. The right half battery came into position and gave them a few rounds. when they withdrew: we followed them a while and then went back to camp. Next day we were in the rear of the Division. Rained all the afternoon, and we passed through Shelbyville, Ky. The citizens cheered us and fed all they could. Encamped near the town. Staid here the 3rd.

4th. Our brigade marched towards Frankfort nine miles when we came to a little burg where the Johnnies tried to stop us. We opened on them and killed and wounded a number and captured 16. Remained here all night. The boys found some hams and a lot of canned fruit which added to our fare.

Oct. 5th. This morning we took the back track, and three miles from Shelbyville the brigade encamped in a beautiful grove: after a while we signed the pay-roll, and in the evening we received our little THIRTEEN DOLLARS per month. It must be that we enlisted just for the money we could get. Think of it! Thirteen dollars per month. On the 6th we started out for Frankfort and marched twenty miles pretty fast and camped on a hill near the town. The plank had been removed from the bridge and had to be replaced. On the 7th we crossed the river and went through town, passed the state house where two days before the Rebs had organized a Secession Legislature and resolved Kentucky out of the union. Out about three miles we unhitched and lay down to rest.

8th. At 1 o'clock this morning we moved back through town and turned south. We were in the rear of the Division. The advance had a skirmish. Col. Jacobs of the 9th Ky. Cav. was wounded. We then struck to the right over a very hilly country and rough roads: at night camped in a corn field pretty tired.

9th. We had gone but a few miles when the rear of our train was attacked, we were formed in line of battle while the train passed us; we went on over the hills and heard there had been fighting ahead. A little after dark went into camp.

10th. To-day we traveled in every direction and only got about twelve-

miles. The train was sent to Bradstown and our knapsacks went along. It rained a number of times during the night.

11th. At 2 this morning we were again on the move about 6; we overtook the other two brigades. At noon we passed a small town 5 miles from the battle ground and saw some of the men who were in the fight. Gen's Rousseau's and Mitchel's Divisions under McCook. We went on, passed over the field where many of the Rebel soldiers were still unburied; their bodies black from drinking whisky and gunpowder. Encamped near the field of Perryville.

12th Went on towards Perryville: for more than a mile the road was strewn with broken artillery, wagons, guns, cartridge boxes and dead horses with here and there a dead Rebel. Near town some one picked up one of Loomis' shells, nearly three miles from his position on the field. From here we moved towards Harrisburgh. While waiting on the road the boys surrounded a sutler wagon and very nearly bought him out, at any rate his load was lighter. Encamped near town of Harrodsburg.

13th. This morning we were on the road to Danville. At noon the wagons came to us and we had some meat for dinner, fixed up the tarpaulins and slept very well.

14th. After long waiting we got on the move, passed through Danville and went into camp at 9 in the evening, one of our mess (C. E. Strong) was a little off his feed and I cooked him a couple of chickens.

15th. Started early, after marching five miles came to Stanford, we could hear heavy firing: took the road to Crab Orchard and reached there about dark. Came on three or four miles and stopped for the night. We remained here three days, washed our clothes and endeavored to free ourselves from the "animated Kentucky soil."

19th. Moved camp. 20th, marched back through Crab Orchard and Stanford, and into our camp of the 14th. Some of the boys had cheese to sell, but the sutler—didn't. 21st. Out early, hitched along little at a time and halt-

ed near Danville for the baggage train to pass, then came on four miles towards Perryville.

22nd. To-day we passed through Perryville and took the Lebanon road. Had to wait for train to pass, then went off the road a couple of miles and camped beside a fine stream. Here we secured fresh pork for supper.

23rd. Followed down the Rolling Fork to Bradfordsville, which the Rebs had burned, and camped at the creek five miles from Lebanon. 24th. Fred Converse was sent to Louisville, sick. We took another road, passed through Newmarket, and the baggage train crossed Salt river, went by Rousseau's division, crossed over a ridge of beautiful hills to a branch of Green river and camped near Pincham.

25th. Our tents came to us to-day and we pitched them and for the first time since Aug. 24th, slept under tents. The rain that night turned to snow and it froze quite hard. 26th. Rested in camp and in the evening received orders to march.

27th. Froze quite hard last night. We got away by sunrise and marched until we crossed Green river, and a mile beyond we went into camp early in the afternoon. Several mutton for supper.

28th. Crossed the Little Barren river and fixed camp for the night when orders came for us to move on. We drove on five miles and camped near a large strawstack.

Oct. 29th. A little after noon to-day we reached the L. & N. pike near where we were camped 6 weeks ago, passed Glasgow Station and halted for the night on Mitchel's old camp ground of February.

30th. Out early and stood waiting till 10 o'clock before we started, came on to Dripping Springs and camped back in the fields.

31st. Early start down the pike, crossed the Barren river at ford above Bowling Green, passed through town and camped at Big Spring, three miles south. On Nov. 1st and 2nd we visited Lost river cave where the first grist mill in Kentucky was built, and made one more grand effort to drown or boil

out the insects infesting our garments. 3rd. Israel Henry and Pat Nugent were sent home discharged.

4th. Out at daylight and double quicked down the pike towards Franklin. Passed through the town at 3 p. m. and at 4 went into camp. They counted us out twenty-five rails to burn.

5th. To-day we passed Tyree Springs and went into camp in an old field. the dry weeds and grass came near causing a big fire. Some fields did burn over. To-day, 6th, our brigade was in the center. Slow moving. we got within eight miles of Nashville, and camped near the place we did on our way north. Saw a lady expelled from the lines. 7th. Early start. met a long forage train, and about noon arrived at river above the city of Nashville. Here we fixed for permanent camp. hauled up wood, fixed beds in our tents, cleared up a few acres of land and retired to rest. At 10 p. m. the assembly call aroused us, and orders were passed to pack up every thing as quick as possible and hitch up. We passed down the river to the bridge, crossed and went up through town and at 10:50 the whole brigade and its belongings "rested at ease" on College Hill.

8th. After breakfast we marched back to our old camp, found the wood and beds all appropriated. Staid here a week. The boys visited town as often as they could get a pass. There were many attractions there. I know of one party of boys that "did" the town so thoroughly that we had to get a "bus" to bring us back to camp.

16. At 6 in the morning we were on the road through Nashville, marched out on the Murfreesboro pike to the Insane asylum where we had a little skirmish before we went into camp, with some Rebel Cavalry.

19th. At midnight last night we were ordered out and went on a cross road to another pike where we formed line with the 29th Ind. for support. Staid until near noon, the right section had some fighting near Lavergne.

21st. Moved to new camp, Jake Harris and Chas. Brown were sent to hospital. 24th. Right half battery went with two regiments on the Lebanon pike foraging.

27th. This morning our brigade was all on the road by sunrise, we marched

out towards Murfreesboro six miles. Encountered some Rebel cavalry, but after a few rounds from the battery they retired, and we followed them to Lavergne where they opened on us with a battery. We soon came to "front on center" and returned their fire with interest for half an hour when they fell back. Only one of our boys was slightly injured with a piece of shell. We got back to camp about dark.

29th. Out before light and went across lots to the Nolinsville pike, pitched our tents and cleared up another piece of ground for somebody.

Dec. 4th. Left section out foraging. 6th. Part of the battery was out foraging, had a sharp skirmish but got back all right. 9th. Center section was out after forage, went six or eight miles and loaded without trouble, rainy and wet all day. 10th. Out before daylight, packed up and returned towards Nashville a mile or two when we pitched our tents and cleaned up another piece of ground.

13th. Boys out foraging I was on guard. 15th. Whole battery out foraging. Some firing but we got train loaded all right. 20th. Out again with division train all day, arrived at camp about night, 22nd. At daylight the whole battery was out with division train, after we had the train loaded the Rebs charged us but the left section gave them a few rounds and they fell back, nobody hurt.

Dec. 24th. Packed up everything this morning and went out a short distance, then came back, had orders not to pitch our tents. At dark we put them up and slept until Christmas, which we spent in camp.

26th. Packed up again and about 8 a. m. was on the road in the rear of our division. It rained a good share of the day. The advance found quite a force of Rebels and the firing was pretty sharp. At night we camped near where the lines had been.

27th. To-day we were in the advance and we soon found the Johnnies, who opened on us quite briskly. The battery was placed on a hill commanding their position to the left of the road and we soon returned their compliments and intimated that their presence was offensive to us. They seemed to take the hint, for they soon left the road unobstructed and we passed on

through Nolinsville. It rained nearly all day. At night we built fires and dried our clothes.

28th. We foraged around the country, secured a large amount of corn the Rebs had gathered and we secured smoked hams. Sunday 29th. Came back two or three miles and took a cross road towards Murfreesboro. Road very rough and slow marching. went into camp about 10. was not allowed to build fires and we slept on the tarpaulin without blankets. It rained nearly all night.

30th. Moved on two or three miles then halted. The rest of the division came up and we went on. Stopping often, listening to the roar of the battle we were slowly approaching. The wounded who could were straggling back out of range past our waiting columns. Near night we took our places on the extreme right of the line, the very last of our Division to enter the storm of lead. We came to "Action front" and were told to dislodge a Rebel battery that had been annoying our men all the p. m. Never were guns served with a better will. The long suppressed excitement of the boys was worked off in a way that was extremely surprising to that particular Rebel battery. After they had disappeared we moved the guns back to the line of Infantry among some scattering trees and with nerves a little less tense we ate our supper and slept by the guns.

As a battery this finished our marching for nearly nine months. Not a few of the boys had made their last march. A description of the fight, the route, the capture of some, escape of others and the return to Nashville of the remnants of Battery E belongs not to these chronicles.

When we next take the road part of our captured comrades have returned from a Rebel prison. Some were left there, victims to a southern prison policy that would have depopulated the north with small pox. Others disabled by privations were discharged.

Sept. 21st, 1863. While at dinner in camp at Nashville, orders came for us to report at Stevenson, Ala. The battle of Chickamauga was in progress. Gen. Granger's reserves were being rushed to the front. We loaded the battery

and its belongings on the cars and all night we rode among the pieces on flat cars, or on the top of box cars.

22nd. Arrived at Stevenson at noon, unloaded and the left Section was ordered to Battle creek, and the rest of us went into a fort near the town. Until the 25th we foraged and worked on the fort, the left Section returned to-day.

26th. The left Section was sent back to Battle creek and as some of their men had gone foraging others had to take their places.

Oct. 6th. At 4 in the morning we got orders to have three days' rations ready by daylight. (We had flour and fresh beef). We went to the depot and loaded the battery without tents and started towards Nashville, after Wheeler's Cavalry: unloaded after dark above Tulahoma and got a little sleep. On the 7th, 8th and 9th we chased around through that part of Tennessee. Then returned from Deckherd Station to Stevenson. The diary is so blurred on these pages that I can make out but few particulars.

10th. We were out this morning at 4 and on the road to Battle creek. Met part of the 11th Corps going from Bridgeport to Stevenson. We passed our old camp near the creek and stopped for the night at the Spring.

11th. Moved down by the river put up tents and policed up the camp. Are getting half rations.

13th. Election day in Ohio. Brough and Valandigham are up for governor. Our election was quiet, rained nearly all day. There were sixty-three votes cast in the battery, all for Brough.

18th. The left Section returned and the teams were sent to Stevenson for ten days' rations, orders to leave. 19th. Rations arrived about noon and we head towards Jasper, pass through the town on the road up the Sequatchie valley. Camp five miles above Jasper, roads muddy.

20th. March all day through awful mud holes so close together that there was but one the whole distance. Camped on the bank of the Sequatchie. The 21st we crossed over and camped near the foot of the mountain. Here we lay for two or three weeks. The teams and part of the men were out all the time after forage and rations. The road was so bad that it took six days to go to

Bridgeport and return, while the forage teams were gone seven or eight days. Besides every day a large detail was sent to work on the mountain road, corduroying it to the top with chestnut rails, and making the grades more passable.

Nov. 11th. Out at 4 packing and getting breakfast, at first peep of day we started up the mountain. We had to double teams at the start, and the Infantry were obliged to assist at every turn. It was near noon when the pieces arrived at the top. Then we had to return for the caissons and took it all day to get to the top.

12th. This morning the battery wagon and forage were still behind but we came on. The roads are awful. We are on Grant's "cracker line," which accounts for the condition of the roads, we get across the top an hour before sundown, and again enjoyed the view of the Tennessee valley, the city and old Look Out mountain. Went into camp at the foot of the mountain.

13th. From here we took the road that led to Dallas ten miles, with the usual amount of trouble and mud we arrived about 3 p. m. and put up our tents.

14th. The teams went to Chattanooga for forage. Phil French and myself accompanying them. We spent one night with the "sharp shooters." Saw the Rebs firing their big guns from the top of Lookout. Went down to the landing and saw Hooker's corps preparing to scale the cloud topped Lookout. Loaded up and next night camped four miles above Chattanooga near the 125th Ills., and 2nd Mich. Battery. In the morning the Rebs opened a battery from the other side of the river on the camp. The Michigan Battery soon sent back a prompt reply, they were calling the roll in their park when the Rebs opened fire. It was soon over, the Johnnys pulled back out of range. Everybody is on short rations.

20th. I went with some of the boys to graze the horses. Could find no eatables in the country, so I stole a couple of ears of corn from the horses and ground it on our coffee mill and made my supper of it.

18th. Sergeant Welchen has gone home to recruit. Sergeant Beach is orderly for Major Edgerton, who is Chief of Artillery in Sheridan's Division. Our

Sergeant Webber is acting as 1st Sergt. which leaves Corp. Strong in charge of Detachment C. From 18th of Nov. to the 25th we had nothing to eat but two ears of corn each. morning and night. The last three days we could hear the continuous roar of artillery, as Hooker's men swarmed above the clouds on the at the foot of old Lookout.

24th. The Quartermaster issued clothing and we remained here until 4 p. m. when we loaded part of the caissons on the cars and the rest moved on over the base of the mountain.

25th. Passed several camps, stopped and visited the boys in the 7th Ohio. Saw where Hooker's men went up the mountain. The Rebel rifle pits were in sight. At night we camped at the long tressel work near White Side, where the boys of Detachment F had turkey for supper, rained all night. In the morning part of the wagons and some of the caissons were loaded on the cars, the rest went on, and the night of the 27th we got to bridgeport. The battery was pretty well scattered and the tents had not arrived the night of the 31st when so many soldiers froze to death all over the country.

From this camp the three years men who did not re-enlist started for home eight months later. Who kept the journeys of the Battery for the next year I am unaware.