Burke's Civil War Journal

Curtis R. Burke's Journal

[The Confederate captives, including Burke and his father, go down the Ohio by steamboat and reach Cincinnati on Thursday, July 23. Many friends and relations from Lexington, Kentucky, come alongside the steamers to see the men. However, says Burke, "They were not allowed to come aboard nor stay longer than ten minutes in talking distance" (p. 218). At Cincinnati the prisoners transfer to a train—"About forty prisoners to each box car, and two guards to each door" (p. 218). Burke and another man are cheated of $1 by a "sympathizing friend" in the crowd of observers who agreed to purchase food for them. A guard tells the men that they are going to Camp Morton, Indianapolis, Indiana; they reach there on July 23.]

Thursday July 23d, 1863. . . . We arri[v]ed in the depot at Indianapolis about twelve o'clock at night, where the seventy first Indiana infantry awaited us, and they marched us through the brightly lighted city to Camp Morton about three miles in the country. I thought the city was a very nice place from what little I saw of it. On arriving in camp Morton a strong guard was put around us and every man spread down his blanket, if he had one, where he stood and slept the balance of the night.

Friday July 24th, 1863. Weather pleasant. On waking I took a minute survey of our temporary home. The Camp was in a level

1 In editing this journal the typescript has been followed exactly except as here indicated. Dates for the entries in the typescript are located on the right side of the page and divide the entries; dates are relocated in the text published here primarily to save space. Only a few very obvious typing errors have been corrected; otherwise misspellings have been retained. Capitalization is also unchanged. Burke's use of the apostrophe in the possessive is quite erratic; the typescript is followed without change. Names of people given within brackets in text are supplied by Burke elsewhere in the journal. Names and place names supplied or identified from an outside source are given correctly in notes. Where text has been paraphrased or omitted in the journal published here, significant events are briefly summarized within brackets. These summaries include only events which Burke's journal relates. Page numbers from the typescript are indicated in parentheses when the journal is quoted in the summaries. Dates quoted in the space periods indicate that entries have been omitted and that summaries have been judged unnecessary. The consistent date readily indicates the total time lapse of both summaries and omissions. Notes are entirely omitted for various names and events which could not be adequately identified rather than include merely negative remarks.

2 Camp Morton, approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Indianapolis, was established in April, 1861, to receive the Indiana volunteers for the Union army. Since 1859 the area had been the state fairgrounds. In February, 1862, the camp was taken over by the Federal government for a prison camp. It was used only until August, 1862, when a general exchange of prisoners took place. Although the camp was in bad physical condition, it was again designated for Confederate prisoners beginning in January, 1863, and thereafter as needed. Hattie Lou Whitlow and Joseph R. H. Moore, Camp Morton 1863-1865: Indianapolis Prison Camp (Indiana Historical Society Publications, Vol. XIII, No. 3; Indianapolis, 1940), 277-283.

3 The Seventy-first Regiment of Indiana volunteers was mustered into the service as infantry on August 13, 1862. After two engagements in Kentucky the regiment returned to Indianapolis in early 1863, where it remained until August 20 when it was transferred to the 27th Infantry.
piece of land with a large ditch or drain running through it. There was a few scattering trees. Some hospital buildings stood about the center and headquarters was on the south side of the camp and fronting on the street. There was five long one story barracks between the ditch and the high fence on the west, and long one story barracks on the north and east forming part of the fence on those sides. The guards were quartered in these. There was a few other buildings scattered through camp. I thought the camp was about four hundred yards square. We received an army cracker and a small piece of fat meat each for our breakfast. Then the Yanks commenced taking the prisoners in small squads through a building and taking everything from them and then passing them to another part of the camp. The rest of us soon found out what was going on, and we went to work hiding our money and destroying other things. The guards noticed us and informed us. Then Adjutant Roberson of the 71st Indiana came out and made a speech to us, saying that every man that had money taken from him would get it back in small sums or in checks on the camp sutler store. The Confederate money he would not take at all, but things that were new that we had gotten in Indiana or Ohio on Morgan's raid were taken under the head of captured Federal property, and ended in saying that the guards were instructed to shoot anyone they caught hiding or destroying anything. This made the boys move about very carefully. I had already hid three dollars in green backs in the lining of my gray jacket and one hundred and sixty dollars in Confederate of my fathers, by pressing it into a small wad and wrapping thread all over it. I had one dollar and twenty-five cents in Lincoln scrip loose in my pocket, so I thought I would spend part of it before it was taken away from me, so I spent seventy-five cents at the sutler store for pies, cakes, apples, etc. which I divided with my father (Edward D. Burke who was a sergeant in Morgan's body guards) and my mess. There was about a dozen basket hucksters hovering around the guard lines, also a one horse spring wagon load of bread, pies, cakes, cheese, apples, etc. The boys spent their money freely expecting it to be taken from them if they kept it. When my squads turn came to be searched we went into the house where five or six Yankee sergeants were searching the men. If a man had two handkerchiefs the best one was taken. Nearly every knife that was not able to call chickens was taken regardless of our private rights. Some of the sergeants kept account of the

*Lieutenant Edward J. Robinson was appointed assistant commissary of prisoners in early July, 1863. He arrived on July 8 amid confusion, which was heightened by the arrival of Morgan's men as prisoners. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (10 vols., Washington, 1890-1901), Ser. II, Vol. VI, 196. The eight volumes of Series II consist of prisoner of war records. The set is cited hereafter as Official Records.
money that they took and the men’s names that they took it from, but others did not thus pocketing the money for their own benefit as fast as they took it. A sergeant called me to him. My hat, my gray jacket and my boots were taken off and went through the strictest examination possible. The sergeant found the three dollars greenback and cut it out of the lining of my jacket, also the fifty cent bill left in the pocket, but not the Confederate money tied up in thread. Then he felt my sock feet, shirt, collar and cuffs and running his hands all over the seams of my pantaloons. He told me to put my things on. The things in my pockets had been emptied out on a bench. He picked out what he wanted and then told me to put the rest back in my pockets, and I did so. He kept several things that I had brought from Tennessee. Next my haversack was emptied out. It contained nothing but my journal and a couple of big ginger cakes. My heart was in my mouth as he picked up my journal and asked me what it was. I told him that it was only a journal of camp life that I would like to keep. He said that I might keep it as it would be interesting some time. I felt greatly relieved. He then told me that he was done with me, and called up another prisoner, and I skipped out. I left in such bad humor that I forgot to make the sergeant take down my name and amount taken. I passed out another door and joined the crowd that had been searched. The rest experienced about the same that I did. We then crossed the ditch and were quartered in two of the long one story barracks. They were without floors. The bunks were only two deep and wide enough for three or four men to sleep in. We could nearly stand up in them. They were ranged on each side of the house with the foot slanting a little towards the center of the building leaving a passage of about six feet in width in the center and running the whole length of the building. Myself, Henry [Harrison] White, and Levi [Leven P.] Young got a good top bunk. It being preferable to bottom bunks. The camp was supplied with plenty water. I saw six pumps, all the water was hard. We had the privilege of using three of the pumps. Late in the evening a sutler store opened for our benefit and the prisoners bought a good many pies, cakes, etc. at high prices. We, Morgan’s men were the only prisoners in camp except a few at the hospital. We were about six hundred strong. I slept well in our hard bunk.

[The men settle into the camp drawing daily rations to be cooked with “scrap of wood” outside. Burke mentions often the hard plank bed with only one blanket for three men because his comfort was stolen through a fence while airing on July 27. Some of the men get sutler checks for money confiscated in the search, but Burke is unable to identify the sergeant who searched him and so loses his money. On July 29 report of General John H. Morgan’s capture is circulated through the camp.]

Thursday July 30th, 1863. Weather pleasant. David Hickey [or Hicky] and several others put up work benches to make finder rings on. They use gutta percha buttons and a fine grade of cannel coal. The balance of the boys spent what time they had left cooking and eating, in spittoon quotes, playing cards, marbles and other games. I spent most of my leisure time writing in my journal and some letters. Our sutler got out of bread, and father gave me some money to get some Yank off of guard duty to buy it for me at the Yankee sutler store, which was on the other side of the guard line. I asked a guard on his beat to let some one go to his sutler store for me, and he advised me not to trust my money with anyone loafing around the guard lines, if I did I would be swindled out of it. I took his advice and returned to my quarters. We slept uncomfortable.

Sunday August 2nd, 1863. Weather pleasant. I saw three bodies taken from the dead house. The bodies were those of prisoners and were in plain stained boxes used for the same purpose more than once. I was told that the bodies that came from the hospital were left in the position in which they died. No attempt to put the bodies in good shape. There was an average of two deaths per day at the hospital. Parson James A. Orr a private in Smith’s Fifth Ky cavalry delivered a good sermon to us in the open air under one of the shade trees. His text was, “Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest” Mathew Eleventh chapter and twenty eight verse. We could hear the city church bells. After supper we retired to our hard bunks.

[Burke reports that all regiments received tin cups on August 5. Quirk’s

\[\text{\textsuperscript{6}}\text{Morgan’s men "were subjected to the thorough search which all prisoners had to undergo. This one proved unusually productive, for spoils of the raid began to appear in little wads of greenbacks—$20 extracted from one man's pipe bowl, $1.150 from another's canteen." Winslow and Moore, \textit{Camp Morton 1864-1865}, 322.}

\[\text{\textsuperscript{6}}\text{Burke seems to be in error. According to the monthly report for July, 1863, from Camp Morton there were 111 prisoners in camp; 1,165 were added, presumably from Morgan's Raid. \textit{Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. VIII, 991.}}

\[\text{\textsuperscript{7}}\text{Morgan surrendered to a captain of the Ohio militia on July 26, 1863. He and several of his officers were placed in the Ohio State Penitentiary at Columbus. Morgan escaped with six other men on November 20-21 and returned to Confederate lines. Basil W. Duke, \textit{A History of Morgan's Cavalry} (Bloomington, 1960), 457-58, 467, 485-88.}

\[\text{\textsuperscript{8}}\text{The inadequate hospital facilities are discussed by Winslow and Moore. \textit{Camp Morton 1864-1865}, 324-32.}

\[\text{\textsuperscript{9}}\text{Colonel Dabney Howard Smith's Fifth Kentucky Cavalry had joined Morgan in February, 1863, and had participated in Morgan's Raid into Indiana and Ohio in July, 1863. Duke, \textit{A History of Morgan's Cavalry}, 268, 448-49.} \]
Scouts have been attached to the Fourteenth Kentucky Cavalry for roll call purposes.

Thursday August 6th, 1863. Weather pleasant. An order was issued this morning to the effect that no one would be allowed to write except to father, mother, sister, brother, or guardian. This order was issued because the mail matter was getting too large. Too many writing to their sweethearts. Geo. Cunningham of Co. A this regiment (14th Ky.) was visited by his wife and child, but he was only allowed to talk with his wife across the guard line. A Yankee handed him his child. A fine girl of only two summers. It was the first time that he had ever seen it. He took it to the barracks and let his friends see it. He appeared very proud of it. He then sent it back and his wife and child returned to the city. The night was rather chilly.

[Burke’s father receives their first communication from home, and Burke answers it immediately. Burke reports several fist fights on August 9 over the use of cooking implements. In order to keep awake at night the guards call out the hour and often fire their rifles. Comments Burke: “One of these balls came uncomfortably close to our heads as we lay in our bunks about midnight” (p. 225).]

Monday August 10th, 1863. Weather windy. Another lot of prisoners arrived in camp. Lev Young brought Theodore Meuron of Glenn’s Scouts into the mess, making four in the mess. Some of the Vicksburg infantry prisoners put their names down to take the Yankee oath, and were hissed and hooted at by all of Morgan’s men. The Yanks were camped all around the prison. I mounted the barracks today and saw an infantry regiment on dress parade. They had a good brass band. Then a six gun battery of six pound brass guns came on drill and the whole battery fired four or five times. They appeared to be very well drilled. Then a few companies of cavalry also came out and took their turn at drill.

16 The campaign around Vicksburg had been going on since December, 1862, In May and June, 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant directed several assaults and finally laid siege to the city. On July 4, 1863, Confederate General John C. Pemberton surrendered the besieged city. Mark Mayo Boatner III, The Civil War Dictionary (New York, 1959), 871-77.

11 On December 8, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln offered pardon by proclamation to rebels who would take and maintain the following oath of allegiance: “I do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the union of the States thereunder, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God.” Officers, officials, and certain others of the Confederacy were excluded. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. VI, 680-82.
Tuesday August 11th, 1863. Weather pleasant. We had a better dinner today then usual. I did most of the cooking. Some officers came in after dinner to find from the prisoners how the sutler sold things to us. They said they wished to regulate the sutler prices on his goods. The sutler had been asking exorbitant prices. Several of the boys made out a list of the prices they had been paying the sutler, and I started to give it to the officers, but they crossed the guard line before I reached them, and the guard would not take it or send it to them. They all seemed to be quarrelling which should have entire sway in swindling the prisoners, Headquarters or the sutler. The sutler talked of bringing charges against some of the officers for swindling us out of most of the money, clothing, etc. that was sent to us from our homes, and the officers tried to turn the sutler out for selling his goods too high, but things went on as usual.

Thursday August 13th, 1863. Weather pleasant. A new order was issued this morning that no more money or clothing would be allowed to be received by the prisoners and all such money and clothing would be sent back by order of Gen. Burnside. The camp express office was piled up with boxes for prisoners. What became of them I should guess. I spent most of the day writing in my journal. In the evening's mail I received a letter from my mother in Lexington, Ky. with five dollars taken out of it at headquarters, and the following notice written on the blank sheet. "Please direct how to return the money. John Hansel Lieut. and A. A. D. C." I immediately dropped him the necessary directions through the camp postoffice, but at the same time I was certain that the money would never be sent home. I felt mad enough to rob a Yank of his last cent if I had half a chance. So far I had never taken a prisoners money. Two prisoners had a fight in the infantry barracks over a frying pan and one of them was dangerously cut. The other then hid to try to escape the expected search by the Yanks.

Friday August 14th, 1863. Weather pleasant. After breakfast we were all called out in line all over the camp and Adjutant Roberson and a prisoner examined us to find out the man that did the cutting yesterday, but they failed. I had a slight touch of the toothache for the first time in my life. In the evening we were all called out again. We were put on the opposite side of the ditch from our barracks and a guard searched the barracks to see that everybody was out in line. Then we were marched across a bridge at the lower end of the ditch single file past this prisoner who said that he knew the man if he saw him and would tell on him, but they failed to find the right man again, and we were sent back to our barracks. The man was caught afterwards to my surprise in our barracks with some of my regiment at supper, by a spy prisoner and taken to headquarters under arrest. The man that got cut and the spy that helped the Yanks in the search were both accused by the loyal rebs of trying to take the Yankee oath. I wrote a letter home in answer to my money letter. We slept cool and sore boned.

[Burke's mother writes that she is sending a box of provisions. On August 16 Burke and other prisoners clean up the yard after the guard threatens them with a bayonet.]

Monday August 17th, 1863. Weather pleasant. We had roll call after breakfast as usual. A strong rumor prevails in camp that we are to be moved somewhere to some other prison camp. About dinner time an order came for the 14th and several other Kentucky regiments to get ready to move immediately. Everything soon got into a hubbub, the boys all getting their things together and the web's or infantry prisoners gathering up what things we left as they were to remain. I went to the Yankee officers and got them to promise that when my box came to send it back, or forward it on to the camp that we went to, leaving them all necessary directions. Then dropping a letter in the postoffice for home. We all fell in line with our baggage and were marched out of the camp gate to the railroad in the suburbs of the City of Indianapolis, and within a hundred yards of Camp Carrington where we halted and set on the ground to rest. Camp Carrington was filled with Yankee conscripts and new recruits. They had plank shanties or houses, built square and about one and a half stories high. All made the same way presenting an agreeable uniformity. Streets running through the camp like a well laid off town. It was dusk when the cars came up. Next to the locomotive were box cars and the last four cars were passenger. My regiment was in front and we got the passenger cars. I secured a seat and the cars backed down to the city to the depot for something and then moved forward again. As we passed Camp Carrington a crowd cheered us and we cheered back. Their camp lights soon faded from our view as we swiftly sped on our way we knew not where. We then settled ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would admit to get some sleep. The boys

12 General Ambrose E. Burnside was commander of the Army of the Ohio from March 56 to December 12, 1863. Battle, The Civil War Dictionary, 107.
13 Assistant Aide de Camp.
14 Camp Carrington was one of several depots for Union soldiers near Indianapolis. Winslow and Moore, Camp Morton 1861-1865, 316.
commenced singing and sang everything they could think of till about midnight. One by one they dropped off to sleep till the singing ceased entirely. A prisoner jumped over board and was fired at by the guard. I think he escaped. The cars stopped at Lafayette, Ind. The guard got us some water. The gas lights were lit. It appeared to be quite a place. We moved on and I slept a little.

Tuesday August 18th, 1863. Weather pleasant. Before sun up I noticed that we were going through a prairie country, level and without fencing. I could only see a few bushes as far as I could see on either side. After sun up I saw several trains on the tracks crossing the track that we were on. We stopped a few minutes at the town of Westville. The country is much better wooded here. Just before reaching Michigan city I noticed that the country was getting very sandy. We passed the Penitentiary\textsuperscript{13} and entered the city. We got a glimpse of lake Michigan. I saw several houses nearly covered with sand that had settled around them in the lake starms. Two kid gloved negro gents of the city stopped and took a good look at us. The cars stopped about ten minutes. The guards at our door tried to hook some watermelons from a box car load that stopped near us, but our train moved too soon. We passed the Penitentiary again and took the Chicago road. The guards said that we were going to Camp Douglas near Chicago, Ill.\textsuperscript{14} The cars run along the lake shore for some distance before we got to the suburbs of Chicago where we got out. I could see the city and a few sailing boats but no large crafts. We were marched about four hundred yards inland and arrived at the gate of Camp Douglas on lake street. I saw two street cars and several carriages of city folks open and in we marched. The camp appeared pretty large, with a high fence running around it. I saw a postoffice, barber shop, picture

\textsuperscript{13} The second Indiana state prison was established at Michigan City in 1859. Emma Lou Thornburgh, \textit{Indians in the Civil War Era}, 1850-1865 (Indianapolis, 1985), 588.

\textsuperscript{14} Camp Douglas was "four miles south of [the] center of [the] city of Chicago, Ill., one-eighth of a mile east of [the] shore of Lake Michigan. . . . established March, 1862. . . . Water . . . supply deficient, there being but three hydrants in camp. . . . Drainage—very deficient, but works are in progress which will materially improve it. . . . much rain, high winds. . . . [Barracks] utterly insufficient for present number. . . . very few of the prison barracks are heated at all. Sinks, construction—bad; excavations twenty feet long, six feet wide, four feet deep; not closed in. . . . prisoners generally filthy." This medical inspection from October 9, 1863, elaborates on most of these points; the comments on barracks shall suffice: "all the prisoners' barracks are greatly in need of repair; they are open and have hardly a window among them. A number of the bunks are so mutilated as to be useless; much of the flooring and siding is removed and the open fire-places in the cook-houses are in a dilapidated condition; the roof of all require repairs." Conditions do improve during Burke's stay as subsequent inspections substantiate. \textit{Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. VI, 372, 374, 371-74.}

\textit{William Brooks in 1873 determined the exact boundaries of the camp relative to existing Chicago. William Brooks, "History of Camp Douglass," \textit{Reminiscences of Chicago During the Civil War} (Chicago, 1914), 160, 162-67.}
Thursday August 20th, 1863. Weather pleasant. I rose early and found the ground inside of the square covered with the beds of the new comers. They brought some letters from the Camp Morton post-office and among them one for me dated the 12th inst. from home. We became very hungry before the rations was issued to us today. A good many citizens and ladies came to take a look at Morgan's men. In the evening Parson Orr held forth in the square and a good many of the boys attended, and service was given out for the next day. We have reliable news of Gen. Meads retreat towards Washington. 18 I and Lev Young slept together and slept chilly and uncomfortable.

Friday August 21st, 1863. Weather pleasant. This is thanksgiving day appointed by president Davis for fasting and prayer throughout the Confederacy. 19 Some said that there was meeting but I saw none. We were made to move from our nice little room into the long room of another barracks with our regiment to make room for the new comers. Which was not so pleasant. We stubbornly held possession of our room till the Yanks made us get out. White and Maeron got a top bunk and I and Lev got a second or middle bunk. The night was chilly.

(Burke writes to Camp Morton on August 22 about the box and money which he had not received.)

Monday August 24th, 1863. Weather cool and windy. In the morning the guard line between us and the sutlers and the rest of the camp was removed, and I and Henry White concluded to go on a raid through the unoccupied part of the camp to get some cooking utensils. At one place an Indian guard halted us, and I started to tell him that we were only going to an empty barrack to hunt for something to cook in. When he levelled his gun at us saying, "You want to go back there now quick or I'll blow your damned heads off". We immediately turned back without saying another word. We expected every minute to hear the Indian's gun crack. We then visited an empty hospital where we got the following articles, viz: four tin cups, three tin plates, two spoons, four knives, one fork, one stew pan, one half gailon tin bucket, and a small camp kettle with a couple of nail holes in the side near the top. We returned to our quarters and scoured them all up while the other boys got supper. The night was chilly.

[26] The Civil War Dictionary, 595, 664. Presumably this is misinterpretation of the movements after Gettysburg.

21 On July 25, 1863, President Jefferson Davis by proclamation declared August 21 "as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer." Were there at least nine other such proclamations throughout the war. James D. Richardson (ed. and comp.), A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Confederate Including the Diplomatic Correspondence, 1861-1865 (2 vols., Nashville, 1906), I, 325.

[27] A report of December, 1863, indicates that besides the Federal surgeons at the camp there were five volunteer surgeons from among the Confederate prisoners. Only three were identified in accompanying papers; Pettus, Thomas P. Holloway, and John L. Cook. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. VI, 785, 778-806. Holloway later testified in the congressional investigation of the treatment of prisoners of war. Ibid., Vol. VII, 335, 348.

21 Pratt and Ballard were in Burke's mess.
standing water off. Pa got a letter from home dated the seventh inst. with one dollar marked on the envelope as taken out at headquarters. I took the envelope to Postmaster Shanks and he wrote me an order on the sutler for the amount in sutler checks. I took the order to the sutler and he sent it to headquarters to be approved before I was allowed to have the checks. In this way the prisoners did not get the money that came to headquarters for them, but it was taken out and the amount marked on the envelope. Then we had to take sutler's checks for it and pay whatever the sutler choose to ask for his goods, which made the profit very large. After supper I went to the sutler's but my order had not been approved yet. I felt unwell all day the effects of my bad cold. I made a plank pillow in the shape of a writing desk. About nine o'clock it rained a little and I retired and rested better than I did the night before.

[Burke finally gets his sutler's goods on Monday, September 14 and has plenty of bread and milk. Burke reports that infantry prisoners are working on a ditch for water pipes. Young receives a box from Lexington on September 16 which includes two blankets for Burke; they eat well and sleep comfortably. Burke complains: "We had to get all of our water at the hydrants on the opposite side of camp about three hundred yards, and in passing through the main square the wind would nearly blow us over" (p. 237).]

Friday September 18th, 1863. Weather cool and wintry. I mounted a fresh sand pile near the new ditch and got a glimpse of the lake. The waves were running high. I then got some pitch from the workmen to mend some leaks in our pitch paper roof. I melted it and got up on the house and had just molded one leak when a guard on the fence parapet saw me and levelled his gun at me saying, "You want to get down off of there." I immediately concluded I did and dropped everything and by falling and climbing together reached the ground before you could have said "Jack Roberson." The guards had orders to shoot any person on the roof of the barracks after warning them, and the guards sometimes shoot without any warning. I thought I could get through with my job before the guards saw me. A cart load or two of boxes and bundles for the prisoners in our square came in every day and were distributed to the owners. Henry White made biscuits for supper, an unusual occurrence. I had a light chill but no fever. The night was chilly.

[Burke has chills and takes quinine again. On September 22 the prisoners receive news of General Braxton Bragg's Confederate victory at Chickamauga, Tennessee.]


Wednesday September 23, 1863. Weather clear and wintry. We were alarmed by a rumor that spread through camp that we were to start for Rock Island in an hour, but it soon quieted down. I saw in the morning papers that the people in the city was very much alarmed by a rumor that six hundred of us had gotten out of prison. After supper about forty of the boys got into a game of paddling each other but the guards soon stopped them, and made them go to their bunks.

Thursday September 24th, 1863. Weather pleasant. Eleven hundred prisoners arrived here from Cumberland gap. Gen. Frazer surrendered them and the gap without a fight, because they were surrounded. The day closed cool and wintry.

[Once again Burke and part of his regiment changes quarters because of the new prisoners. Burke compliments the post office facilities at the camp. On October 1 Burke manages to speak for a few minutes to some visitors from Lexington. Only prisoners who had agreed to take the oath of allegiance were supposed to have or converse with visitors.]

Friday October 2d, 1863. Weather cool and wintry. I received a letter from home dated September 24th with one dollar marked on the envelope. I took the envelope to headquarters and got one dollar in sutler's checks for it without having the trouble that I had with the last I received. I requested Ma to send me money in small sums to ensure my getting it. There was a meeting at the Chapel and I went. Religious papers were distributed to the congregation and parson James Orr had a lot of books which he wished to put in a library to be drawn out by members of a religious society that he was about to form. The object of this society is to improve the morals of the camp. No one but a member could draw books from the library. After service the congregation was notified that all that wished to join the society could remain and give in their names. About thirty of us gave in our names and drew a book each. We were notified to attend on the morning of the next day to elect officers for the society. The day closed cloudy and it rained hard during the night.

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23 Construction of a depot for prisoners of war on Rock Island, Illinois, was begun in July, 1863. Problems with water were anticipated, and the barracks were directed to be "mere shanties" and constructed as quickly as possible. The first prisoners did not arrive until December 3, 1863. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. VI, 115, 196, 939.

24 Probably this is just a rumor since no correspondence about it has been found in the Official Records for the period.

Monday October 5th, 1863. Weather cloudy, cool and windy. I felt had all day, and late in the evening a light chill came on. At night I and Lev. Young received a complimentary ticket to Jack [John] Curds Negro Minstrels. I felt a little like having a chill, but I thought I would go to the show and see if the excitement would not drive the threatening chill off. On arriving at the barracks where the show was I found some three or four hundred prisoners crowded around the door waiting for it to open. I got into the crowd to keep the cool wind off of me and when the show opened I was carried in with the crowd. The pressure was so great that I had doubts as to whether I would get through without getting my ribs or a limb broken. One man fainted and several others were squashed so that they could hardly talk. I never before saw such crowding. Everyone wanted to get front seats. Several persons climbed over the heads of the crowd and went in. The price of admission was fifteen cents in Yankee money or three dollars in Confederate money. On getting in I found the seats all full. The seats were made to slant up from the stage making the last row of seats about five feet from the floor and the men were standing on these so that I could not see anything. I climbed up on a rafter, but could not see any better. The performances commenced and the seats commenced breaking down with a crash. I heard that one man got his arm broken. The Yanks broke in by the back way. The show [w]as about half over when the Lieutenant of the guard with a few guards came in at the side door on the stage in the midst of the contrabands and said, “What does all of this noise here mean at this time a night? You want to get out of here everyone of you. I've received no orders to let this thing go on.” Jack Curd then pulled out his permit from Col. De Land to show it to the Lieu- tenant, but the Lieutenant would not look at it, but said “Get out of here you black ruffle shirted ——.” So each one of the band grabbed something and left before myself and others in the back part of the room hardly knew what was the matter, and we all went back to our quarters glad to get out of the crowd.

[Burke doses himself with quinine for his chills for several days. He is annoyed by the almost continual presence of card players. Complaints are frequent about the inadequacy of the water supply: “There was only three hydrons for the whole camp, two for the prisoners, and one for the Yankee” (p. 242). Waiting in line for two or three hours for water is not unusual. On October 11 after visiting several other messes Burke concludes that it looks “like living at home with the exception of the card playing” (p. 242). On October 13 Burke writes that “After dark there was an extra set of guards unknown to us” (p. 242).]

Thursday October 15th, 1863. Weather pleasant. There was a large Union flag raised on the Douglas Institute in honor of the election of
guard around them with orders to shoot any person that sit down. The Yanks were trying to make the men tell who the headmen in the digging was. After standing several hours a guard fired into the crowd without cause, wounding three of Clukes regiment severely. There was at least a dozen different reasons given for shooting. I could not learn the truth about the affair. Some fifteen or twenty finally step out and acknowledged being the principal diggers and were sent to the dungeon. The rest were sent back to their barracks.

Wednesday November 11th, 1863. Weather pleasant. About dinner time the Yankee barracks in the main square took fire and attracted a large crowd of prisoners. The Yanks got scared for fear the prisoners would try to break out and brought out the company of Indians belonging to the first Michigan sharp shooters. They loaded their guns at the same time ordering the crowd to disperse to their quarters, and we did so on a double quick. The Indians came down and the white officer in command put them on guard around the square. Then came in and notified us that if we left the square we would be shot. I could see the fire from the kitchen. The frame barracks and pitched roof made a heavy cloud of smoke. The fire was stopped by cutting the barracks in two, after burning about three hundred feet of barracks and kitchens. Some of the new fence and Mrs. Finley's cotton sateen [shop?] was burned also. Most everything in the buildings got burned as the fire spread rapidly. The fire was accidental and caught from a stove pipe. As soon as things got quieted down again the extra guards were taken off. I received a letter from home from brother Alonzo dated the seventh inst.

Thursday November 12th, 1863. Weather pleasant. Wrote home; nothing of interest.

Morgan's War Song.


Ye sons of the South, take your weapons in hand;
The foot of the foe [for] hath insulted your land:
Sound! Sound the loud alarm!
Arise! Arise and arm!

29 Basil W. Duke, one of Morgan's staff officers, was captured at Buffington Island. Duke, A History of Morgan's Cavalry, 452.
Let the hand of each freeman grasp the sword to maintain
Those rights which once lost, he can never regain.

Chorus—Gather fast 'neath our flag
For it is God's own decree
That it's folds shall still float
O'er a land that is free!

See ye not those dark clouds which now threaten the sky?
Hear ye not that stern thunder now bursting so nigh?
Shout! Shout your battle cry!
Win! Win this fight or die!
What our fathers achieved our own valor can keep,
And we'll save our fair land or we'll sleep our last sleep!

Chorus.

On our hearts, and our arms and our God we rely,
And a nation shall rise, or a people shall die.
Form! Form the serried line!
Advance! Advance our proud ensign
To your country devote every life that she gave,
Let the land they invade give their army it's grave.

Chorus.

Though their plunder paid hordes came to ravage our land,
Give our fields to the spoiler, our homes to the brand,
Our Souls are all aglow,
To face the hireling foe.
Give the robbers to know that we never Will yield,
While arms of our Southerm a weapon can wield.

Chorus.

From our far Southern shore now arises a prayer;
While the cry of our women fills with anguish the air.
Oh! list that pleading voice.
Each youth now make his choice;
Now tamely submit like a coward or slave,
Or rise and resist like the free and the brave.

Chorus.

Kentucky! Kentucky! can you suffer the sight
Of your sisters insulted, your friends in the fight?
Awake! be free again!
Oh! break the tyrant chain;
Let each hand seize the sword it drew for the right
From the homes of your fathers drive the dastard in flight.

Chorus.

[Burke's and another mess collect $12 to purchase a cooking stove and utensils

through a woman in Chicago. Many prisoners are busy cleaning up on November
14 and 16—with the bribe of a few drams of liquor—for the expected visit of
Colonel Hoffman. The prisoners receive their cooking stove on November 16 and
are pleased with the results.]

Col. De Land came down and called us all out in line front of our
barracks to look for tunnels. The barracks were searched, but no
 tunnels found, and we were dismissed to return to our barracks.

Friday November 20th, 1863. Weather cloudy. About dark Col. De
Land and Capt. Rines our commissary of prisoners 81 came down
and made the whole regiment fall out in line in front of the barracks.
Then we were marched under guard about a hundred yards out of
the square toward the sutler store. The night was chilly and the most of
us had thrown a blanket over us not knowing how long we would
have to stand out. The Yanks were looking for some of Dukes regiment
who had dressed up to escape and come down to our square and
had been reported by some traitor as being among the fourteenth Ky.
(or Dick Morgan's regiment.) 82 The Yanks caught Wm. Overton,
Chas. Steel, and Tho's Von dressed in citizens suits and marched them
off to the guard house, and we were permitted to return to our barr-
hacks having been out about an hour and a half.

Sunday November 22d, 1863. Weather pleasant. An hour before
dark my regiment was called out in line and marched to the main
square in front of headquarters. The most of us did not know what
it was for, but Col. De Land soon called for four or five of our men by
name. Three were in ranks and stepped out. The Yankees said that
these men had threatened to hang a man by the name of Stovall be-
longing to my regiment for telling on some of the boys that were try-
ing to escape. The Yankees said that they would protect Stovall, and
they tied the three men up by the thumbs to the railing of the stand
around the flag pole. Then sent Pa (our Sergeant Major) and Ser-
geant Wm. Miller back to our quarters to find the other two men
called for with the pleasing information that if they did not find the
men soon that they would be tied up by the thumbs in their places.
The men that were tied stood it over a half an hour in silence and then

82 Colonel Richard C. Morgan's regiment was formed in April, 1863, and Burke's company was attached to it at that time. Duke, A History of Morgan's
Cavalry, 371-73.
commence groaning and hollowing. It made me almost sick to hear them. Several times the Yankee officers asked them if they were ready to tell what they knew, and they answered that they knew nothing to tell. A Yankee surgeon examined them to see how much they could stand. There were some citizens standing around and they tried to get Col. De Land to take the men down. The men were taken down after having been tied up so that they had to partly tip toe for an hour. One of the boys fainted, and another threw up all over himself. Their names were James Allen, John Sweeney, and Wm. Wason. Col. De Land gave us a lecture about threatening any person that choose to tell of our escaping and told us to return to our quarters and find the other two men or he would surely bring us back and make us stand out all night. We returned to our quarters and the two men, who had just returned from a visit to another square went to headquarters and gave themselves up and received their share of the punishment. They were let down when this traitor Stovall said that he forgive them.

Monday November 23d, 1863. Weather a little cool. Stovall did not return to the regiment but stays somewhere about headquarters for fear of our men.

Tuesday November 24th, 1863. Weather cool and windy. A Yankee Sergeant at roll call read a strict order against our escaping. I wrote to John Cantillon of Richmond, Kentucky. Late in the evening our whole barracks had to move to let it be fixed up for the hatchet brigade (the hired prisoners. We call them the chain gang.) We had to get quarters wherever we could in the square. I and nine of my mess found room with part of Smith's regiment, and put up our stove. We had a good many tricks to move. The stove was in the long room and we got bunks near it among co. C. Ezekiel and Hatty Hutchison [M. Hutcherson] slept over at number eight barracks with our regiment. Some of company C, Smith's boys had a fiddle and struck up a dance after supper. The men with their hats off represented the ladies.

[On November 26 Burke notes that "This is the Yankee thanksgiving day, but I have not noticed any demonstrations" (p. 252). On November 28 the rumor spreads of Morgan's escape from prison. There is a disturbance during the night of December 2.]

Thursday December 3d, 1863. Weather pleasant. I learned that one hundred and two prisoners escaped last night. I went a few doors above here and saw the tunnel. It was commenced in one of the small rooms in the bottom of a bunk and run out under the kitchen and guard line and came up just outside of the fence. If they had come up two feet back they would have been seen by the guard. The Yankees were so mad that they came around and tore down all of the partitions and throwing all of the little rooms into one big room in each barrack. They also tore up the floors except under the bunks, and we enjoyed ourselves by jumping around on the sleepers. Col. De Land said that he would turn us all out in the weather if we did not quit digging out. The night air had free range through the barracks, but I slept well.

Friday December 4th, 1863. Weather pleasant. We were all marched to the main square in front of headquarters where we found all of the prisoners from the other square also in line. All of the Yankee Lieuts. and Sergeants were set to work searching us. Some took our knives, money, etc. and put it on paper, but others kept no account. Like was done at Camp Morton. Then they came around again and took every good coat in the crowd, and distributed some thin cottonade pepper and salt jackets, and some thin black ridiculous looking tight spade tail Yankee coats in the place of their warm coats received from home. Some photographs were even taken from our men. In the meantime a squad of Yankees and work hands searched our quarters and took all the good clothing they found, and the work hands stole some of the men's rations. All of the axes, wood saws, and spades were taken away, depriving us of the means of cutting up our wood and cleaning up our quarters. They left a few rakes I believe and said that we could comb our heads with them.

[On December 9 workmen tear out the rest of the flooring in the barracks. The men are allowed to fill in with sand in place of a floor. Burke mentions a large swelling in his arm on December 10. The sutler's store is closed on December 12 except to sell out present stock.]

Sunday December 13th, 1863. Weather rainy. I went to Doctor Pettis and had my pet (the swelling in the pit of my right arm) examined, and he said it was not ready to be lanced. I also got a prescription to get some cough medicine in a bottle. I had been annoyed by a severe cough for several nights. I went to the drugstore and the clerk gave me about two inches of a stick of licorice and told me that...
it would do me more good. They were playing cards and I suppose
did not wish to stop to put up the prescription.

[On December 17 Burke records: “The barber shop and news stand closed
up today, and the sale of stamps, envelopes, and paper discontinued” (p. 256).
However, the prisoners may buy “extras” for greenbacks at the commissaries after
eleven o’clock on ration days” (p. 256). Burke begins laying in articles for a
Christmas dinner on December 22; his messmate, Henry White, has a $7 order
on the commissary for them to use. On December 24 Burke bakes pies and
doughnuts.]

The prospects for a dull Christmas were large. The cry of
Christmas gift was seldom heard, and when it was, it was given more
as a salute or a joke. No gifts being expected. When Pa came over
to get Sergeants Miller and [George W.] Browns morning reports, I
called him and invited him to take dinner with us. A Yankee Lieu-
tenant came in to examine the barracks and asked us if any of us
were engaged in the go-fur business (he meant digging out.) I got
the following articles on the order today, 10 candles, one bottle
of pepper sauce, two lbs. of coffee, 7 lbs. sugar, 1 paper of black pepper,
1 paper of allspice, 1 lb. butter, and one lb. lard—$2.45. Pa came
over and made me present a pair buckskin cavalry gloves, a pair
of socks, a fancy shawl pin, and a fifty cent cutler ticket. I did not
get dinner till late. The stove was so crowded by the other messes.
My bill of fare was, biscuits, tea, beans and bacon, buttered bakers-
bread, toasted, molasses, boiled onions laid in butter, cheese, peach
pie, apple pie, onion pie, plain doughnuts, and sweet doughnuts.
The tea cups, mugs and glasses were refilled and Henry White offered
the following toast.

Toast of Morgan’s men,

Unclaimed by the land that bore us,
Lost in the land we find,
The brave have gone before us,
Cowards are left behind.
Then stand to your glasses, steady,
Here’s a health to those we prize,
Here’s a toast to the dead already,
And here’s to the next that dies.

My guests were well pleased. There was nothing going on at night
except several men hollowing New York. The effects of too much
mean whiskey aboard.

[On December 26 Burke learns “that nothing would be sold at the commis-
saries after today” (p. 258).]

Tuesday December 29th, 1863. Weather cold and windy with some
snow. I got the balance of the order on the commissary filled and
copied off three southern songs for the rebel clerk for his attention
to filling our order properly. I and Henry White concluded to build
a swinging bunk across the barracks near the roof for the safety of
the contents of our cupboard. We nailed up the rafters for the new
bunk after dusk. Henry White made a raid on the lumber pile where
the new hospital is being erected and we walked on the planks to
make them look old, so the Yanks would not notice it.

Friday January 1st, 1864. New Year’s day. Weather bitter cold.
The snow in some places was four or five feet deep, and a regular gale
was blowing it about in drifts so that it nearly took a man’s breath
from him to go even a hundred yards. Six or seven of the guards
froze on their beats last night and this morning, so that they had to
be taken to the Yankee hospital. I put a pot of dried peaches to cooking
on the stove to make a big peach roll for dinner. Near twelve
o’clock a guard was put at every door in the barracks and no one
allowed to go out except for fuel, water or a case of absolute neces-
sity. The severity of the weather remains unchanged, and I think
these guards were taken from the fence to keep from freezing and
put at the doors to prevent our escaping. I and Henry White eat our
peach roll by ourselves. I intended to invite Pa and others in my bar-
rack to take dinner with us, but the blockade cut off my communica-
tion. The men had to carry all the fuel and water they used, and some
came near freezing at it. They had to go about four hundred
yards to the wood yard by details. The wood and coal had always
been hauled to us till today. At dusk as officer came around and noti-
fied us and the guards that in half an hour no one would be allowed
outside of our barracks under any pretext whatever till daylight.
The night was very cold, but the guards kept the coal stoves red hot all
night, which kept the barracks warm, and we slept well.

Sunday January 3rd, 1864. Weather cold, but moderated a little since

[25 Hoffman's report of November 15 indicates that "Two additional buildings,
with enlarged accommodations for dispensary, store-rooms, laundry, etc., are being
erected." Ibid., 634. A February 1, 1864, inspection reports "A new hospital for
prisoners... in process of erection, containing four wards, with necessary ac-
cessories; each ward 100 by 28 by 13 1/2 feet in dimensions, accommodating a total
of 182 patients; will be well ventilated and in every respect well adapted for its
purpose." Ibid., 909.]
yesterday. The snow lies frozen mostly in drifts, some of them five feet high and so hard that a man can stand on them. A Yankee Sergeant came around to all the barracks and read a long list of new rules or orders signed by Brig. Gen. Orme and H. Burr Assistant Adjutant Gen. Commanding Post of Chicago. Co. De Land and the other officers at headquarters still remains in office. The substance of the new orders are as follows: 1st that we must only write every thirteen days and then only one letter of two pages of note paper each. The whole number of prisoners in camp were divided into thirteen squads each having a certain day to write. 2d. That we cannot visit the other squares unless we get a pass from the officer of the day. 3d. That we must be in our barracks by half past five o’clock p.m. and put all lights and fires out at the beating of the drum at eight o’clock p. m. and no one allowed out side of the barracks till day, except to go to the sink. A man in company F. Clukes eight Kentucky badly cut a comrade in a personal quarrel.

[Burke reports on January 6 that the guards have found more tunnels. He gets paper, stamps, and envelopes from headquarters for the $1 he receives from home.]

Friday January 8th, 1864. Weather cold. We have had rumors for several days that all prisoners of war were ordered to Point Lookout, under Gen. Butler’s jurisdiction to be kept till the Confederate Government will consent to recognize Butler and exchange negro soldiers captured. As far as I can learn most of the prisoners would rather remain prisoners a year longer than be exchanged through Beat Butler (as we call him) for negro troops.

Saturday January 9th, 1864. Weather cool. The ground has thawed some leaving standing water. There is a foolish rumor circulated through camp by some mischievous person to the effect that the whole number of prisoners in camp had to draw beans to get ten black beans. The persons getting the black beans to be shot, in retaliation for ten men reported shot at Richmond, Virginia. Absurd rumors of various kinds are often circulated through camp.

[Burke mentions extra guards on January 10 and more stringent requirements for visiting other prisoners. On January 17 Burke expresses the fear that many prisoners at Rock Island and Douglas will take the oath of allegiance because of a newspaper report he has seen. “After a very dark night we sometimes find a newspaper in the yard waded tightly over a rock that had been thrown over the fence” comments Burke on January 18. (p. 262). The next day Burke observes the raising of a kitchen with subsequent killing of rats: “Two of the men gathered them up to clean them up to eat them. I understand that rat eating is very extensively carried on in the other squares, but my curiosity has never made me taste any rats yet” (p. 263). He later mentions that men “clean them like squirrels and let them soak well in salt water” (p. 263). Remodeling of the camp begins on January 20. Burke is twenty-two on January 24; that day the Yankees began moving his barrack and the prisoners are moved in and out for several days.]

Wednesday January 27th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We had to move out before breakfast. The whole number of barracks three hundred feet in all in length have the rollers under them and a capstan on each side near one end to pull them along. The Yanks told us to lay hold and help them and some of the men did so, but were ordered around so roughly that they quit, then the Yanks swore that we should not sleep in the barracks while being moved because we would not work. I received a letter from home dated the twenty-first inst. and a notice from headquarters of some things for myself and Pa at the express office. Six or seven of us passed the guards with Pa, and got our goods, etc. I got nearly everything that my letter called for. There was some apples in my box and the examiner gave me one and Pa one and a Yank sitting by wanted one of them, till the examiner told him that there was more in the box. We were not allowed to have the boxes for fear they had false bottoms etc. with money or contraband news in them. In the evening a good many of the men took their things outside of the square on a grass plot and erected some sheds out of old timber to sleep under. A lot of us got up on the new hospital on the sly and saw the lake, city and surrounding country. The country outside of the city as far as I could see was nearly level and thinly settled. Near dusk an officer came around and made us all move back in the old square where the mud was six in. deep to spend the night. I and Henry White took our blankets over to number eight barrack where most of the fourteenth Ky. were and slept in an empty bottom bunk. This barrack with barracks No. nine and ten will also
be moved as soon as our five barracks reach their new position. I did not think that so long a string of buildings could be moved without breaking to pieces. The rats kept me awake most of the night running around my head.

[Burke's barrack is in place on February 4. On February 6 Burke helps put short legs on the barrack and lay the floor; his father moves into Burke's barrack. The moving of other barracks continues. On February 11 Burke names the only three men of the Fourteenth Kentucky who have taken the oath of allegiance.]

Sunday February 14th, 1864. Weather pleasant. A case of smallpox was taken outside of the camp to the smallpox hospital, from the next barracks below us, and several others are reported, causing considerable uneasiness among the prisoners, and the Yanks themselves. Some Yankee surgeon came around and vaccinated nearly all of the fifth and fourteenth Ky. reg'ts. I concluded to put it off to see how it served others, not believing that the matter was pure. Pa as Sergeant Major of the fourteenth Ky. got permission to build or partition of a room in number eight barrack for his mess. So five or six of us made a double floor and a partition making a room ten feet wide by twenty-five feet long, with one window back and one window and a door front. The prisoners were marched out by regiments and vaccinated. In times of peace this used to be Valentine day, but I see nothing here to remind me of such old times.

[Burke mentions more cases of smallpox on February 15 and 16. Burke and his father are now part of a mess of eight men; the mess receives a small coal stove for its room from the guards and pilfers a barrel of coal that infantry prisoners have left outside. The room is improved with shelves and a desk, and the coal stove is traded for an old cooking stove.]

Monday February 22d, 1864. Weather pleasant. The prisoners are amusing themselves out of doors at running, jumping, flying kites, and playing ball. Mrs. Finnelly's new sutler store opened today with prices very high. We made up a mess fund of four dollars in Yankee money and I took charge of it as secretary and treasurer for the mess. I got some things today at the sutler's for the mess. In times of peace this day was always celebrated as Washington's birthday, but I have not seen the slightest signs of any demonstration whatever on the part of the Yankees, but we still honor his memory.

Saturday February 27th, 1864. Weather cloudy. The whole camp ground was nearly covered with standing water, looking almost like a large pond. The Yankee roll call sergeant had some trouble to get our regiment out in line in the mud. Last night four prisoners tried to escape. They put two ladders against the fence and two got away, and one John Cecil of Co. K, eight Ky., was mortally wounded, and the other man reached his quarters without detection. The Yankees are busy raising their barracks higher with jack screws. We were two feet from the ground before, but now we will be five feet. This is being done to prevent us from digging out under the floors. The barracks will be set on six inch timber legs so that the Yanks can see under them. There is some twenty odd new Yankee barracks being erected in their part of the camp. I received a letter from Miss D. R. of Richmond Ky. The night was cold, and the ground froze up.

Sunday February 28th, 1864. Weather pleasant. Sun out. The Yanks are at work as usual today. We have good news of a severe Yankee defeat in Florida. Jno. Cecil shot yesterday died at the hospital today. Most of us washed and shaved up. Each of us generally washed once a week.

Monday February 29th, 1864. Weather cool. An old two story sutler store, and about two hundred feet of barracks and kitchens, also some sheds, wood, etc. were all burned in the Yankee part of camp today. Two steam fire engines and two hand engines were soon on hand. The evening paper stated that the sutler store was used as a carpenter shop, and a workman made a fire in the stove and went up stairs. By some means the shavings around the stove took fire and he was driven from the house by the smoke before he could save the tools. I made six dried apple pies today. A man or two escapes some way or other nearly every night.

[On March 1 Burke's regiment receives tickets for ten days rations which is unusual. Burke states on March 3 that new headquarter's officers are coming in and things will probably be harder. Prisoners receive "positive instructions to write but one page of note paper" on March 5 (p. 272). There are new roll call officers on March 6.]

Monday March 7th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We were kept out in the mud at roll call two hours again. The sutler store opened late in the day. I could not get to the counter and I got a friend in ahead of

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38 Union troops under General Truman Seymour landed at Jacksonville, Florida, on February 7, 1864, and moved inland unopposed. On February 20 they were defeated by Confederate troops at Olustee, Florida. Boineer, The Civil War Dictionary, 668.

me to make my purchases for me. We received the following additional orders:
1st. to rise at sound of bugle at sunrise.
2d. roll call " " " one hour after.
3d. dismissal " " " and breakfast.
4th. fatigue detail at 8 o'clock A. M.
5th. recall of " 12 M
6th. dinner " 12½ P. M.
7th. fatigue detail " 7 M
8th. recall " 5 "
9th. supper detail at 5½ o'clock P. M.
10th. lights out " 7 "

Forty four more prisoners arrived today and were crowded in with the fourteenth Ky. as company F, they are a good looking set of men. Some of them were captured with paroles given them by the Yankees on a former occasion in their pockets, also writing from the Confederate authorities recognizing their paroles, and their being rearrested was a violation of the rules of war.

[On March 8 Burke mentions that men often get only empty envelopes in the mail. "The letters having been taken out at headquarters by the examiners on account of their being too long or containing contraband news" (p. 273).]

Friday March 11th, 1864. Weather cool and cloudy. We had to attend roll call in a misty rain and snow. We drew beef and light bread and had soup for dinner. We draw beef and light bread nearly every other day. We use the checker board mostly in the mess now to kill time. Cards are rarely played. The smallpox is raging moderately. Only four cases were taken from this square today. The mud on the way to and from the sutler store and sink is about eight or ten inches deep and no prospects of its drying up soon. This may encourage the spread of the smallpox. I hear of a man or two escaping every few nights, altho' it had become a very difficult matter to get out.

Saturday March 12th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We are still kept at roll call as long as usual. An order was read to us at roll call requesting all that wanted to take the oath to report to Col. Wm. Hoffman at Washington City D. C. by letter, stating why they wanted to take the oath, etc. etc. etc. I learn that about two thirds of the prisoners sent to the smallpox hospital have died, and that there is about forty cases in the hospital now. There has been several escaped from the barracks.

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the prairie on recovering. It rained after dark. Arguments, puzzles and hard questions are all the go this two or three days past to kill time.

Sunday March 13th, 1864. Weather cool. A little snow on the ground. There is a rumor in camp that the Yankee army under Sherman has been defeated with heavy loss, and that we will be exchanged, soon, and we are inclined to put some confidence in the rumor on account of the oaths being offered to us.41

Monday March 14th, 1864. Weather cool. Our Yankee sergeant brought six spades, one rake and two wheelbarrows and called for a detail of nine men to dig a ditch in front of the barracks. The detail was taken from company A in a alphabetical order. They dug sixty feet of ditch by twelve o'clock, and were dismissed. At one o'clock company C furnished the detail of nine men till five o'clock, and dug one hundred and fifty feet of ditch. James Allen, myself, Henry W. Beach, Chas. Byrne [or Byrne], Jas. [James C.] J. Beeler, Jack Cudr, Edwin [or Edward] Colgan, Jorden [or Jordan] Cook and Frank Davis [or Davies] were the detail. Jack Cudr was as usual in his comic mood, and took charge of us. The Yankee sergeant kept near us boosing the job. Jack Cudr kept his eye on him and when he turned his back Jack would give the word rest and when he turned towards us Jack gave the word work. The Yank kept pretty close most of the evening. Jack stopt to blow a little and wiping the sweat from his eyes he said, "I told the sergeant my name was spelled with a K. instead of a C, but he wouldn't believe it." We were dismissed at five o'clock. The night was cold.

[Burke on March 16 reports learning that some of the First Michigan Sharpshooters have deserted because ordered to the front. Burke mentions a weekly literary association in one square. On March 14 Burke's barracks receive two iron boilers to use for washing clothes: "There is six feet of pipe to each, and they look like locomotives on a small scale at a distance" (p. 575).]

Monday March 21st, 1864. Weather cool. Companies D. and E. furnished nine men each on detail to clean up around the barracks. The boys in the next room are making a little newspaper called The Prisoners Vidette.42 It is on a sheet of foolscap and written with the

41 From February 3 to March 5, 1864, General William T. Sherman conducted a successful campaign around Meridian, Mississippi. Federal troops under General William Sooy Smith were supposed to join Sherman but were defeated ignominiously by Confederate cavalry at West Point, Mississippi, on February 21, 1864. Boaner, The Civil War Dictionary, 543-44, 905-906.

42 Morgan's men occasionally published a newspaper called the Vidette after August, 1862. Orders, promotions, notices, accounts of battles, and, according to Duke, "the most profound and brilliant speculations on the political future, and
pen altogether. It contains all of the camp rumors, original poetry, songs, and jokes, advertisement, etc. A good thing to kill time with.

Tuesday March 22d, 1864. Weather pleasant. This morning the mess made new rules by which the mess was to be governed. Each member was assigned to certain duties. Myself, Wm. C. McConathy and Geo. C. Fallis are the regular cooks, each cooking every third day. Wm. Miller draws rations. Henry Beach washes dishes. Henry White brings water. Old Jerry Murphy and Pa saws and splits the wood. By a new order we had to be in line for roll call by the time the bugle sounded. Five minutes after the sound to fall in. Then all of the Yankee sergeants assisted by their two corporals and four privates each commenced counting of and calling the roll. The rebel sergeant majors accounting to the Yanks for the missing in their respective squads or regiments. As soon as the Yankee sergeants are through they gather in an open space between the two squares leaving the prisoners in line, and the bugle sounds for all to return to their barracks. When all the Yankee sergeants report, this is a signal for a general stampede for the barracks.

Wednesday March 23d, 1864. Weather very pleasant. Twelve men escaped from the dungeon last night by means of a tunnel. Three of them passed out after day light, but for day light coming too soon for them everybody in the dungeon would have escaped. The hole was soon discovered after day light and filled up. I visited David Hickey's mess and [saw] a snow white mouse with pink eyes under a tumbler. It was the size of a common mouse and was caught in the coal box. The butler store is closed and Mrs. Finley is moving out of our part of the camp. Some rebs bent on mischief got a back window of the noter store open and cleared the shelves as far as they could reach in every direction, and late in the evening some more broke in at a side door and got a few things and escaped without being caught. The Yanks say that they will be another butler store at the same place by a man who will sell a good variety of fruits, tobacco, dry goods, etc. John Messick of Co. A. and fifteen others were released from the dungeon and sent to their regiments.

Thursday March 24, 1864. Weather pleasant. Last night some of Morgan's men broke a hot stove from the butler store and put it up in one of their kitchens. The new butler commenced moving in. He brought in a wagon load of tobacco, apples and other things and stored them in his back room. While he was in the front room fixing shelves, etc. the boys came near stealing everything he had. Capt. Sponable\(^*\) saw them and laughed. He said, "That sfurer might as well learn how to deal with the prisoners now as any other time. They are cutting his eye teeth, but I bet he'll tax them pretty heavy to pay for it." Henry White brought the water and I washed mine and his clothes. Some men belonging to Scott's Brigade\(^*\) are in this line of barracks and have been ordered by the Yanks to report to the fourteenth for roll call and rations, and they did not like it. They and some of the disaffected in the old fourteenth got up a petition to Pa to resign his place as Sergeant Major to one of Scott's men. The petition was signed by about one third of the regiment and among them the would be sergeant major. His name is John H. Miller. Pa got hold of the petition and showed it to the roll call sergeant and he told him to continue on regardless of the petition. Pa says that he would not act any longer under any consideration. The butler name is Luman Burr.

Friday March 25th, 1864. Weather pleasant. Eleck Edgar raised subscription of three dollars and sent to the city by our Yankee roll call sergeant and bought a gum foot ball. It is now going the rounds in a crowd of some three or four hundred men in the center of this square and many a skinned and bruised shin will be the result of it. The new butler sells his goods very high. He issued his first checks today. They are on thin paper and are steel engraved and harder to counterfeit than those used by the other butlers.

\(^*\) This probably refers to Colonel John Scott under whom some of Morgan's men fought at Chickamauga in September, 1863. \(\) Duke, A History of Morgan's Cavalry, 509-10.
would find every hole that they dug, and its was no use to dig them. The hole was filled up by pressing the rebs standing around into service. The men that dug it say that it would have been through on the outside of the fence in one night more. They had been detained a couple of nights on account of water rising in the hole. The ground being still very wet from the recent rains. There was only a few rebs that knew where the hole was, but there was a good many that suspected that there was one somewhere in that neighborhood and so put on their best cloths for two or three nights past, in the hope of finding it, and escaping. The diggers were afraid of traitorous spies and worked secretly. Many true men were not posted. They were out slipping around as soon as it was well dark to learn something, and whenever they heard a noise or saw a Yankee patrol they would dodge into the nearest barracks like scared rats. Some rascally fellow played what would have been a severe joke on one Robert Lowery of Company A. of this regiment, had he succeeded in escaping. "Sceash! soap for sale," were written on his back in large letters with chalk or soap. Of course, this would have caused his arrest on the first appearance of day light. I received a letter from home from Brother Alonzo dated the 24th inst. The Chicago papers the Post and Tribune gives an account of the rebel Gen. Forest capturing Paducah, Ky. and the city nearly burned down in the fight. 45

Monday March 28th, 1864. Weather rainy. We all had to stand out in the rain and mud at roll call nearly two hours. There was a lot of stray letters came in the fourteenth of mail and I took the responsibility on myself of distributing them to their owners in other regiments. There is a dead letter office in the other square kept by Gillespie the sergeant major of the Chicaumga square or part of it. I stop in to see my friend John F. Clarer of second Ky., who by the way is one of the best silver smiths in camp. He has tools and a work bench in his room and I generally find him at work making gutta-percha rings, breastpins, etc. ornamenting them with fancy sets of gold, silver, and pearl. I saw some engraved stars, crescents, shields, etc. for hat ornaments of gold and silver. There is about thirty ring makers in camp, but the most of them have no tools fit for the busi-

45 Chicago newspapers with regular war news were the Tribune, Times, Journal and Post. The Tribune was the leading Republican newspaper. After December, 1861, the Tribune began regular morning, afternoon, and evening editions. The Times was a "Southern" because of its editor, Wash. F. Storrey. It had been suppressed for two days—June 23, 1863—by order of Burnside. J. Cutler Andrews, The North Reports the Civil War (Pittsburgh, 1865), 25-30, 34. See also "Suppression of the Times," Reminiscences of Chicago During the Civil War, 151-59. Forrest occupied Paducah on March 25 and unsuccessfully tried to take nearby Fort Anderson. The Comte de Paris, History of the Civil War in America (4 vols., Philadelphia, 1868), IV, 470-72.

ness. The Yanks are tearing down all of the kitchens near the fence now to prevent any more holes being dug in that quarter. It rained most all day making it very muddy and disagreeable under foot. Yankee patrols are very thick in camp during the night.

Tuesday March 29th, 1864. Weather cloudy. My mess is out of meat and sugar and we don't draw rations till first of April, so we have to buy five pounds of sugar and eight or ten pounds of fat meat every other day extra. We buy from the infantry prisoners at the rates of ten cents per pound for sugar and from five to seven cents per pound for fat meat. The infantry from the extreme south need a little cash to buy things they cannot draw, so they save up part of their rations and sell them. We Kentuckians etc. living north of the army lines had a better chance to get money from our friends, so we generally fare better than they. The game of checkers still holds its own as the principle lever of killing time. It has been raining and hailing most of the day.

Wednesday March 30th, 1864. Weather cloudy. The mess succeeded in buying some sugar and bacon. I visited some friends in the second Ky. and found the Yanks tearing down their kitchens and cutting the long barracks all around the square into sections or barracks, about ninety feet in length for the purpose of moving them into the square and arranging them so as to form streets between them. The barracks will be put on five foot posts and have a double floor put in them. They have been without floors since about the first of December last. 46 As I passed the sutler store I saw Cap. Bushnell paying tickets to the men, on their envelopes. The money is taken out at headquarters and the amount marked on the envelopes. The prisoners then takes the envelopes to the sutler store and draws the amount in tickets. There was an unusually large crowd at the sutler's window today. The nearest ones to the window held their envelopes in their hands, the others stuck their envelopes in split sticks and poked them in. One man had a stick about seven feet long. He being on the outside of the crowd. All were eager to be paid off first. The Yanks issued clothing (mostly underclothing) to the reb work hands, as part payment for their work. They also receive a certain quantity of tobacco per week. I am very well satisfied from what I have seen and heard, that a large portion of the clothing taken from us is given to these reb workmen in payment for building the new fence, etc.

Thursday March 31st, 1864. Weather cloudy. All the regimental rolls were made out a new by order from headquarters, causing rumor of an exchange to be circulated through camp. We drew meal, flour, meat, potatoes, and hominy, part of ten days' rations. Today the Chicago Post and Tribune contain glowing accounts of the copperhead or Southern Sympathizer disturbance in the southern counties of this state, Illinois. The union men seem to have got the worst of the melee.47

There is a lot of "April fooling" on the first. On April 2 Burke walks through camp and notes the prisoner pie merchants around the sutler's store and the "reb gambling tables" throughout the camp. Burke mentions the delivery of tents to the camp and the consequent rumor that prisoners will have to live in tents.48

Sunday April 3d, 1864. Weather a little cool. We were kept out at roll call three hours and a quarter to find one missing man. When the bugle sounded to break ranks several of the regiment hollowed for joy and two of the guards threatened to shoot them. We have a mean set of guards with one exception, a little corporal by the name of Norton. We nicknamed the four privates, viz: Old red, Jack Curd in disguise, Hessian Dutchman, and the Wild Irishman. Old red alias O'Hara is the most vindictive. He is always on the alert, watching for a chance to shoot somebody. I often hear it whispered through the ranks, look out, here come Old red. He bayoneted several of the men, and we have no particular love for him. A sergeant, two corporals, and five privates have charge of us, most of them I have named above, have to guard us at roll call, make details to clean up in and around the barracks, and see that our rations and fuel are hauled to us. They also patrol the camp at night, and are independent of the regular guards on the parapet. Just at dark I took a walk through camp to see how the lamps at the foot of the fence threw their light. I found that the lamps were so close together and the light so brilliant that it would be almost impossible to get to the fence without being discovered by the guards on top. I was standing in the shade of one of the barracks arguing to myself the chances of dropping on the ground close to the fence in the darkest place and quietly digging under or cutting a plank, when Major Skinner49 and two other officers turned a corner near me with a lamp. The Major asked me where No. ten barrack was. I told him I did not know. He then said never mind, and passed on. I followed at some distance and passed them, halted at the door of one of the Chickamauga prisoners, where religious meeting was going on. I could see the officers I had just passed, in conversation with some reb. Another prisoner passed them and came to where I stood. He said that one of the officers asked the reb if he (the reb) had not applied for the oath. I made up my mind that the reb was a treacherous scoundrel giving information to the Yankees, and returned to my quarters.

Burke states on April 4 that the Rebel sergeant majors sent a petition to Major Skinner to change roll call so men need not remain outside for two or three hours in bad weather; there was no answer. On April 5 a prisoner steals $200 in sutler checks, and retribution on the prisoners is threatened but not carried out. Burke records that "The Chicago morning and evening papers are kept for sale at the sutler's at ten cents each. They are the Post, Tribune and Journal. The Tribune is a copperhead paper and its sale forbidden in camp since the first of September last. It has been smuggled in on a good many occasions at some risk." (pp. 282-84.)

Sunday April 10th, 1864. Weather cloudy. Three or four reb are standing on barrel heads at the gate as a punishment for various offences. One of them for being caught with several canteens of the over joyful that he had bought secretly from some guard. Several of the reb workmen are at work by the carpenter shop framing some small buildings for the Yanks. The balance of the rations are being issued to the squads that did not finish yesterday. There is rumors afloat that Gen. Morgan and forces are near Bighill, Ky.50 There has been a low railing about 18 inches high put all around the camp about ten feet from the fence on the inside. It is called the dead line. Any person caught between the railing and the fence is liable to be shot without warning. If our hat blows over a guard must get it or we loose it. Two ladies escorted by an officer passed through the principal part of our camp, and as usual created some excitement among the reb. One of the ladies actually of her own free will and accord deliberately kissed a reb. My stars how the rest of us envied him. When they came to the crowd near the gate to go out, some reb cried out, "Give way to the right and left, let the artillery pass."

Monday April 11th, 1864. Weather pleasant. The sun is out and the

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49 Major Lewis C. Skinner belonged to the Eighth Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps. Ibid., 57.

50 Morgan was given command of the Department of Southwestern Virginia, including a portion of East Tennessee. He apparently was not in Kentucky at this time. Duke, A History of Morgan's Cavalry, 514-15.
mud is drying up fast. Everything looks lively. There is a large list of express goods advertised to be distributed to the owners at the usual hour (Eleven o'clock A.M.) I notice that a couple of the large dwellings just out side of the fence on Cottage Grove ave. are being repaired and painted, indicating that pleasant weather is expected. The slop or soap grease man drives a two horse team around every day or two. He is paid by the government (that is the federal government) to pick up and haul off all the offals in camp, and to save trouble he pays the men smoking tobacco, which is nothing more than tobacco stems ground up to save the soap grease, etc. separate in barrels till he calls for it. A man that takes him a bucket full soap grease gets a hand full of tobacco, and a man that takes him a barrel full of soap grease only gets about twice as much. So most of them have adopted the plan of taking him a hand full or a plate full at a time. It pays better. Every wagon, carriage, cart, etc. that comes in camp has a guard on it till it leaves. To see that nothing is given to the rebs. The wagons and carts belonging to the camp are driven by Yanks, and require no guards.

Tuesday April 12th, 1864. Weather cool and cloudy. I wrote to Henry C. Metcalfe of Lexington, Ky. Three of Chinaluts men24 were caught trying to make their escape last night. Today they and another for some other offence were balled and chained and put to work at the dirt pile in the center of the square filling the carts that are hauling off the dirt. The chain to each iron ball or block is four or five feet long and very stout, with a clasp to lock and unlock to fit around the ankle at one end. The ball looks as if it will eight about fifty-six pounds. The men have leather straps tied to their balls to enable them to carry them about when they have to move more than the length of the chain. The men call their balls and chains their time pieces. One of them takes his off on the sly by means of a fiddle string which he doubles and twists in the key hole of the clasp, and unlocks it whenever the Yanks are not about. One of his friends wished to see how it fit on his own ankle, so he sprung the lock and after satisfying himself he proceeded with the assistance of the owner to unlock it with the fiddle string, and it was with some difficulty and a great deal of anxiety to the wearer that it yielded to their efforts. The string having broken three or four times. There is all kinds of rumors about an exchange being agreed upon. Some persons seem to take a delight in starting rumors, and if they hear anything no matter how unreasonable they never rest till they have spread it all over camp. My friend James D— though a well meaning fellow is one of this class that I have noticed particularly. A detail cleaned out the ditches leading from the hydrons, but a good many of the men as usual took the nearest cut to the hydrons jumping or walking across the ditches, which broke in the edges and checked up the free drainage of water. The Patroits getting out of patience telling the men to go around and cross the ditches at the wagon crossing commenced punishing all that they caught jumping by making them jump across the ditch thirty or forty times in quick succession, then making them cross at the wagon crossing.

Thursday April 14th, 1864. Weather tolerable pleasant. After the roll was called and we were expecting every minute to hear the bugle sound for dismissal, the Yankee sergeant and corporals commenced searching our barracks. In about half an hour they came out with a hand full of money nearly all Confederate that they found and had taken from the sick men in the barracks. Then they commenced at the head of the regiment searching men separately by running their hands into the men's pockets, feeling over their clothing, and turning them over to a private who made them sit on a barrel and pull off their boots. Then shaking the boots and feeling around their feet the men then put on their boots and formed a new line of two ranks as fast as they passed through the mill. The search was so unexpected that the men had but little time to prepare for it, but most of them succeeded in hiding their money, some about their clothes and others in the mud at their feet. Every cent of every description that was found except sutler's checks was taken. I had the satisfaction of knowing that they got nothing from me. Pa was searched also, but through respect as the Sergeant Major they did not make him pull off his boots. As soon as they finished searching our regiment we were dismissed. After standing out about four hours with orders to stay in our barracks till all of the regiments were searched. It was about an hour and a half before all of the regiments were dismissed, then the men went out and dug up their money. I understand that the Yanks got twenty-three thousand five hundred and forty dollars in all from the prisoners. No one appears to know what this indiscriminate robbery is for. This is the second time it has occurred to us in this camp. I have notified lately that a good many of the men that signed the petition some time since requesting the Sergeant Major to resign in favor of a stranger in Scott's command by the name of John H. Miller who himself signed the petition still lounge as usual in our room and on the beds, borrow and cook on the stove, sleep in the

room and ask unusual favors of him. Today he hid a pocketbook by request for one of these men, and risked his own in his pocket. The Chicago papers brings the news that Gen. Forrest has captured Fort Pillow and garrison. There is a great deal of noise about the negroes being killed. 33

Friday April 15th, 1864. Weather pleasant. There was a rumor in camp last night and this morning that all of our extra clothing would be taken from us. A good many believed it and domed their best, but roll call passed off without anything being confiscated. We are afraid all the time of being robbed.

Saturday April 16th, 1864. Weather cool, spitting snow most all day, with lively snowing for an hour late in the evening. The four men with balls and chains have to work every day like convicts. There is a new dungeon or guard house nearly completed in this square. It sits on short posts about eighteen inches high and is made of heavy timbers. The room is about eight feet square and seven feet high, with a door in front, and two diamond shaped windows or air holes on two sides of it. The Yanks call it the monitor, but we call it the four of diamonds.

Sunday April 17th, 1864. Weather pleasant. While at roll call the following order was posted on the different barracks and public places.

NOTICE TO PRISONERS OF WAR.
1st—All money either paper or specie found in the possession of any prisoner of war after April 19th, 12 o'clock (M) will be confiscated.
2d—Prisoners will be allowed to turn over to Lt. H. Proseus all money in their possession, giving at the same time the amount and kind of money and name of company and regiment. All money turned over as above stated will be CREDITED to the owner.

Wells Sponge Capt.
Inspector General.
The men laugh at the order and say that they will chalk their money to Sponable as the experience of the past has taught them to be their own guardians. The day closed wet and rainy.

Monday April 18th, 1864. Weather pleasant. It is the Fourteenth writing day. There were more letters than there is men in the regiment handed in, and they all had to be given back and each man give no

33 Forrest commanded what has been called a "massacre" at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, on April 12, 1864. "The Committee on the Conduct of the War concluded that the Confederates were guilty of atrocities which included murdering most of the garrison after it surrendered, burying Negro soldiers alive, and setting fire to tents containing Federal wounded." Northeners tend to agree; southerners, to disagree. Bate, The Civil War Dictionary, 295-96.

in one letter. There is some of companies E. and F. that live in our lines and have to write by flag of truce. They do not write every time and often give in letters for us Kentuckians. In that way we pass extra letters. Several prisoners went out on the oath today and several others that had applied for it refused to take it, and they were balled and chained. I see the American express wagon unloading boxes, etc. at the express office nearly every day. It rained some during the day. I received a letter from home, with one dollar marked on the envelope.

Tuesday April 19th, 1864. Weather pleasant. I went to the sutler's and drew a dollar's worth of checks on my envelope without any trouble. As usual on every day like this there is a good many at work washing clothes. The Yanks made the gamblers at the sutler store scatter and piled up their home made tables in the center of the square at the lumber pile. David Thompson and several others were pressed in to work in the Yankee camp. The city papers brings us the news of a disastrous Federal defeat at the Battle of Mansfield or Pleasant Hill, La. 34 We see every day speeches from prominent congressmen, in the congress of the United States advocating the peace policy. 34 A prisoner was put in the four of diamonds today for selling several suits of clothes that were sent to other persons, in his care by some benevolent person or persons in Kentucky.

Wednesday April 20th, 1864. Weather pleasant. The gamblers seem to have been effectually scattered as there is no tables in operation today. Squads of our men overseen by Yanks are busy with rakes, brooms, spades, and wheelbarrows cleaning up around the barracks. I volunteered for exercise and wheeled six or seven loads of dirt to the dirt pile, then fell in with a lot of men carrying empty ration barrels outside the gate into the Yankee camp just to see how things looked out there since the fence was put up. The Old Yankee post Chaplain Rev. E. B. Tuttle drove around through camp in a buggy and distributed a large number of religious newspapers. Some of the reading we respect but most of it, the abolition articles we read with the utmost contempt. A prisoner went to captain Sponable and wished to turn over his money in accordance with the order. The Capt. sent for Lt. H. Proseus. The Lt. came and set down the fellow's

33 On April 8, 1864, Confederate General Richard Taylor successfully halted a Federal force outside of Mansfield, Louisiana, at Sabine Cross Roads. On April 9 Taylor's force was repulsed when it attacked the Federal force at Pleasant Hill. The Federal advance was stopped and Federal losses were high. Ibid., 715-16.
34 The record in the Congressional Globe of proceedings of the first session of the Thirty-eighth Congress from early April, 1864, to this date contains matters pertaining to the war, but nothing has been found regarding a peace policy as suggested by Burke.
name, company and regiment, then asked how much he had, expecting a big haul. The fellow answered that he had fifty cents in Sparta, Tenn. money, and was immediately impressed by the rapid application of the Lieut.'s boot to his rear, and a shower of curses, with the idea that he had better make himself scarce, and he acted accordingly. This is the only person that I have heard of offering to turn over anything.

Thursday April 21st, 1864. Weather pleasant. I received notice that my name was on the express list, so I repaired to the office and waited with the crowd till my name was called. I got a hat and a pair of cavalry boots all that I sent for. The hat fit, but the boots were number eight, two sizes too large. I think I can trade them for number sixes. A large fine looking porker was unfortunate enough to get into the camp and was run nearly to death by the men, who had as much fun out of it as they could get before it was turned out the gate. They then commenced hunting the hole that the hog came through, but were driven back. A reb string band consisting of two violins, two guitars, and a flute in the next room furnished good music from dark till bed time.

Friday April 22d, 1864. Weather cloudy. It rained part of the day. The smallpox is a little on the increase. After lights out the brass band in the Yankee camp played six or eight pieces. It sounded very clear and distinct in the still night air. Gen. Dan. E. Sickles of the Washington city. Tragedy notoriety has been speaking in Chicago and visited the camp yesterday in company with Gen. Orme. I suppose the band is serenading one or both of these distinguished men.

Saturday April 23d, 1864. Weather cloudy. I received a letter from my uncle Wm. H. Burke of Canton, Ohio, who came to see me while I was a prisoner at Murfreesboro, Tenn. He was then acting Brigade Quarter Master, but has since resigned and returned home. His son Augustus and his son-in-law Mr. Myers have resigned also their positions in the Yankee army. The spirits of the prisoners as a mass are good. We are still more confident of the success of our cause, and all we want is to be exchanged. Most of the men that have at different time applied for the oath since our residence here, now say that they will not take it. I understand there has been about fifteen hundred

applications for the oath out of the six thousand prisoners that the commander of the Camp Col. Strong claims to have here.

Monday April 25th, 1864. Weather cloudy. It is very disagreeable under foot. Raining most all day. The evening papers were not allowed to be sold in camp. There is strong rumors afloat that the Confederates have recaptured the City of Plymouth North Carolina and a large number of prisoners, arms, etc., etc. The Yanks are unusually cross. They made the men quit talking in the barracks after lights out.

Tuesday April 26th, 1864. Weather pleasant. This morning's papers give the account of the fight in North Carolina. The Confederates captured Brigadier Gen. Wessel and two thousand five hundred men and officers of less rank. The city of Plymouth and Fort Williams with twenty-five guns and a large quantity of small arms, ammunition, provisions, etc. were also captured. The Federals also had three gunboats sunk by the new Confederate iron clad ram Roanoke. One of the prisoners was caught sitting on the lumber pile whittling the lumber and he was taken to the gate and put up on a barrel head, then a hard barrel stave was given him with instructions to whittle constantly till he was dismisseed. He was whittling very leisurely when I saw him. He was kept about three hours. Several of the prisoners went out on the oath today, or "swallowed the dog," as some of the boys call it.

Thursday April 28th, 1864. Weather pleasant. Notice was given for all the men in camp that belonged to Louisiana regiments to report in line at two o'clock p.m. They did so about thirty-five strong, and were marched to the express office where some clothing were distributed to them. It was rumored that a committee from New Orleans brought the clothing for destitute Louisianians. A good many has gone out on the oath in the last four or five days.


Friday April 29th, 1864. Weather pleasant. I wrote home and spent part of the day washing clothes for Pa and myself. Henry W. Beach received a fine box of provisions from home of ham, bread, biscuits, pies, cakes, sausage, chickens, pickles, oranges, sardines, bottled tomato catsup, some books, etc., so our mess will live high for awhile. I saw two toys out on end of a barrack below here that were worked by the wind, representing a negro and a white man striking at each other with paddles, and the harder the wind blows the faster they strike. We drew ten days' rations today. Our candles are cut off, and we received meal instead of the portion of flour we were in the habit of getting, and all pickled pork instead of beef, three times in the ten days. The mud has nearly all been dried up.

[Burke's barracks receives pitch sheeting to mend the roof. He mentions that five men of the Fourteenth Kentucky died of smallpox in April.]

Thursday May 5th, 1864. Weather pleasant. A procession of thirty citizens walked in two ranks through the principal part of camp headed by Major Skinner. A prisoner put on citizens clothes and came near passing out the gate with them as they left and escaping, but some short minded prisoner in the crowd standing by howled at him and caused the Yanks to notice him, and ordered him back. Notice was given us that no more lights would be allowed after sun down, and we must go early to bed.

Friday May 6th, 1864. Weather pleasant. A lake breeze set in before dinner suddenly changing the air a little cool. We are all very eager to hear the news of the great battle between Gens. Grant and Lee in front of Richmond, Virginia. We are confident of Lee's success and the impregnability of Richmond. Geo. Fallis has just been released from working. He has been working six days as a punishment for remarking while working on detail that he would make some Yankee prisoner work with interest some day or other. The guard happened to overhear him, and reported him to Lieut. Proseus who made him work the six days.

Wednesday May 11th, 1864. Weather pleasant. Elijah Watkins, Pa and Wm. Gibbons, made a neat head piece of wood for the grave of Wm. Wasson. I learn that the bodies of all smallpox cases are not allowed to be transported till a certain time expires. One of the Yankee corporals found a ladder under the barracks just below us in a place where I had been in the habit of passing under it a good many times during the day and did not discover it, but the Yanks are searching every place for ladders. A new building about fifty feet long by twenty-five feet wide also a small addition on one end twelve feet square has just been completed near the gate. The express office occupies part of it and the tool shop and drug store the rest of it. We all received proper notice that no more boots would be allowed to be received, and those that were on the way could be sold or traded for shoes.

Thursday May 12th, 1864. Weather pleasant. A Yank came in our room and conscripted Arthur Johnston and Wm. Brown to work. It happened that both were visitors. A quarrel took place in Smith's barracks between Joseph McCarney and Doctor Scroggin, in which they came to blows. When Abner Scroggin the Doctor's brother attacked McCarney also, who then drew his knife and cut both Scroggins severely before the fight was stopped. Abner being cut the worst struck out for the drug store and McCarney started to go over in the other square, but he was stopped in the center of the square and conscripted to fill the dirt cart by a Yank who knew nothing of the fight. The Yanks soon heard of it and Lieut. Proseus and a sergeant soon afterwards came up to McCarney and asked him something. Then the sergeant drew his pistol and the Lieut. asked him for his knife, and on receiving it struck McCarney in the face, and with oaths told him to double quick to the dungeon (or the four of diamonds). McCarney started and the Lieut. commenced kicking him in a most brutal manner. McCarney then struck out in a brisk trot and the Lieut. followed kicking him at almost every step till they reached the dungeon, a distance of about one hundred yards. Then kicking him several times more the Lieut. opened the door and kicked him in. Soon some officers gathered around and took him out, pulled his clothes off, and searched him. He dressed again and they kicked and cuffed him around awhile and put him back in the dungeon. Several went in with him and ties his foot and head together with the assurance that he would be shot. A crowd of prisoners had collected in the square and had witnessed the Lieutenant's brutal treatment of McCarney. They were dispersed by the patrols with pistols drawn. The crowd dispersed sullenly but quietly to their quarters, knowing that they were powerless to interfere, but feeling very indignant at the treatment McCarney had received. In the meantime Doctor

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58 The events at this time refer to the Battle of Wilderness, Virginia, from May 5-7, 1864. Federal losses were estimated at 12,868 out of 201,896. Grant withdrew. From May 7-20, 1864, these two armies engaged in the Spotsylvania campaign as Grant continued to try to open the way to Richmond, the Confederate capital. 1862, 919-25.
Scroggin had his wound dressed and Abner was sent in an ambulance to the hospital.

Friday May 13th, 1864. Weather pleasant. I wrote to my aunt Mrs. Susan Miller of Medina Co. Ohia. Conscripiting today heavy. The evening papers claim a federal victory over Lee, making some of the men look down in the mouth, but a careful examination of the complicated reports and dispatches we deny it. Soon after a rumor was circulated that Grant was retreating. After dark myself and others counted forty odd skyrockets that were sent up from some public square or house in the city over the supposed federal victory of Grant in Virginia.

[Burke reports that "The improvements in camp are going rapidly on by forced labor," and he "can't even write in peace" avoiding the conscripting guards (p. 296). There are several barracks searches.]

Thursday May 19th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We had an unusually long roll call. The news is good Gen. Siegal has been cut to pieces by Gen. Breckinridge. 59 Butler has been driven into his earthworks near City Point, Virginia, with the loss of Brigadier Gen. Heckman and nearly all of his brigade captured, also a heavy loss in killed and wounded. 60 Sherman's losses are heavy in advancing on Johnson. 61 Gold is quoted at $1.85 in New York. 62 Abner Scroggin has died of his wounds. He said that he was in the wrong and requested that nothing be done with Joseph McCarney. We drew ten days' rations. I received some writing materials, cakes, pickles, etc. from home.

59 At New Market, Virginia, on May 15, 1864. Federal General Franz Siegel was defeated by troops under General John C. Breckinridge. Ibid. p. 588.
60 This report concerns the events connected with Drewry's Bluff, Virginia, from May 12-16, 1864. Butler was defeated by Confederate forces under General Pierre G. Beauregard. General Charles A. Heckman was captured in the battle on May 16. Ibid., 247-49, 391-92.
61 This probably refers to the events around Resaca, Georgia, from May 13-16, 1864. Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston "dropped back skillfully before Sherman's overwhelming strength" in the Atlanta campaign. Ibid., 691-92, 441.
62 Burke quotes the price of gold from May 19, at $1.83, until July 11, at $2.83; the price rises gradually over that period. The changes in the price of gold reflect changes in the valuation of the Federal government's paper money and credit. Although there were many factors to be considered, the price of gold was greatly dependent upon war and government news. Burke's rise in price indicates a decrease in Federal monetary stability. The highest value of gold—the lowest value of currency—during the war was reached in July, 1864. Speculation is gold took place all over the country, but the price of gold current in New York markets was reported by telegraph to most large towns in the United States and was considered authoritative. Wesley Clair Mitchell, A History of the Greenbacks, with special reference to the economic consequences of their issue: 1862-65 (Chicago, 1903), 182-238.

Saturday May 21st, 1864. Weather very warm. Henry Beach received a box of provisions from home (Lexington, Ky.) Federal papers put Grant's loss before Richmond at 76,000. Up to the present date gold is firm at $1.83. Some two or three hundred prisoners are worked in camp daily. The hydrons are in bad working order at present, and it is tedious work to get sufficient water for necessary purposes. A notice was posted on the sutler's door to effect that all that have checks must spend them by Monday next, when the store will close. Gen. Orme has resigned on account of bad health, and Col. B. J. Sweet of the invalid corps is his successor in command of the Post of Chicago. 63 Some of Col. Sweet's friends are expected to succeed the present sutler, Mr. Luman Burr.

['A small new one story daguerrean gallery" is completed on May 23 (p. 298).

Tuesday May 24th, 1864. Weather pleasant. At roll call we were notified to fall out again at 1 o'clock p.m. to have a general count. Most of us donned our best cloths as a precautionary measure, as we expected to have the barracks searched during our absence. At the appointed time the bugle sounded and we fell in line. The different regiments and squads all marched into our square and were formed in lines running parallel with our own. There was ten or twelve lines two deep, each stretching across the prison square making quite a show of Confederate troops. The Daguerreanist then took a picture of the whole crowd. We were counted off and divided into squads of one hundred and sixty-five each. A small squad had to be added to the old fourteenth to make the required number. Companies E, F, and Scotts men formed a squad with Sergeant John H. Miller in charge of them. Pa has only to attend to our squad. We were out four hours but were allowed to sit down part of the time. After we were dismissed I learned that the total was 5,227 prisoners in camp. 64 Gold is quoted at $1.85% today.

[Burke and the other prisoners help move their barracks to Walnut Square. Burr, the sutler, closes out on May 25. On May 28 Burke's regiment is moved from its "comfortable quarters into an old rickety dirty barracks" (p. 298). The stove is set up outside.]

63 Orme retired from the service, and command of the post of Chicago was turned over to Colonel Benjamin J. Sweet, Eighth Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps—Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. VII, 102. The invalid Corps was begun in April, 1863, in order to utilize men unfit for full combat duty. Because of unfortunate correspondences with the designation "Inspected—Condemned" for disabled Union property, the name was changed to Veteran Reserve Corps in March, 1864. Bostier, The Civil War Dictionary, 876.
64 Monthly returns indicate that 5,277 prisoners were on hand May 31, 1864. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. VIII, 996.
Monday May 30th, 1864. Weather windy. I volunteered to help push a barrack that was on its way across the square. I worked two hours and quit. We drew rations for ten days. The following is what my mess of eight gets for the ten days: Meal 24 cups, pickle-pork 22 lbs, hominy 4 qts, fresh beef 18 lbs, light bread 24 loaves, parched coffee 4 pts, molasses 3 pts, sugar 5 qts, salt 1 qt, potatoes 1 peck. No soap, flour, candles, pepper, peas, beans, or vinegar were issued this time. Our beef and bread is not all issued at once, but we draw them in three different drawings during the ten days, so that we get them tolerable fresh. It is impossible to stand out five minutes without getting our eyes and faces full of sand and dust. I notice that nearly all the Yanks wear grey green goggles to protect their eyes. The sand blows about in drifts. I often think that the Yanks were not much to blame for wishing to go prospecting in the South, as their own country at least this part of it is not fit to live in. Gold is quoted by the evening papers at $1.91 ¼. A considerable rise.

{There is an attempted escape and several incidents of brutality by the guards.}

On June 4 Burke’s barrack is being moved again.86

Sunday June 5th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We have had short roll calls for the last week, but this morning all the prisoners were marched in two lines around the whole prison near the dead line, and several columns through the square. Then Capt. Sponable assisted by Lieut. Prosser and some sergeants and corporals belonging to the patrol guard, counted the prisoners off in squads of 100 each. As soon as a squad was counted the left was advanced about six paces, the right standing firm, making a quarter right wheel, then they were allowed to sit down. When all were counted we were notified that a blue jacket had been stolen from the workshop, and that we would be kept w[h]ere we were till who got it or where it was. This was news to me and it appeared to be the same with everybody else. An hour passed off and no tidings of the jacket. Capt. Sponable then told us that he would let us go to our quarters, and if the jacket was not found by one o’clock he would call us all out again. We were glad to get off for the most of us had not eaten breakfast yet. My mess was just pouring out the coffee when the roll came bugle sounded. When we returned we found everything cold and the fire out. I went to the express office and when my name was called I went in. The Yankee took a handful of cigars out of my box and then gave it to me. On arriving at my barrack I found the box to contain the following articles: A gray jacket and vest, and some socks, soap, crackers, marbles, and two novels for myself. A hat, socks, soap, thread, a pair of shoes, and a part of a box of cigars for Pa. Also a hat and a pair of shoes for Estus Garrett of 2d Kentucky, which I immediately delivered to him in person. Everything came that the list called for. The box was started from Lexington, Ky. on the 1st inst. making only three days on the way as it arrived at the express office yesterday. Shanks is now writing at the express office. We were not called out again. I think the jacket was found. There was no work done today. We moved our stove into the barrack.

Monday June 6th, 1864. Weather a little cool. I got Robert Lowery of Co A to cut my hair tolerable short. I hear that a good part of the camp is out of rations, and it will be three or four days till we draw again. Gold is quoted at $1.94. After the retiring bugle sounded the Yanks were strict.

Tuesday June 7th, 1864. Weather pleasant. I received a letter from home with a check in it on the sutler for one dollar. A large crowd of prisoners have been conscripted to work, and they are moving the barracks around on quick time. A lot of us took a measure of ourselves. I came out just five feet seven inches, not any taller than I was a year ago. We had to take all the stoves, boxes, barrels, etc. out of the barrack to make room for the carpenters, who commenced at the opposite end of the barrack from my bunk knocking down a couple of tiers of bunks at a time, and putting them up to suit the Yanks, at the same time altering the windows and remodeling the whole concern. They will not reach me till some time tomorrow. The papers say that the U. S. Government can’t afford to issue any more coffee, sugar, or molasses.86 This is certainly very unwise news to us. The night was chilly.

Wednesday June 8th, 1864. Weather cloudy. I received a letter from John Cantillon of Richmond, Ky. The carpenters are at work again today. After dinner a Yankee told some of the men that we would have to move into the barrack opposite us, which caused a stampede to secure bunks. I got a middle bunk. The regiment that was in it moved to another barrack and gave us full possession, and we moved in. The barrack was very dirty and the balance of the evening was

86 On June 1, 1864, Hoffman issued a circular listing new rations for prisoners: tea, sugar, and coffee were restricted to the sick and wounded; molasses was eliminated. The savings gained from this reduction was to go into the prison fund, used for improving the camp. Ibid., 183-84, 73. Correspondence in May about the reduction says nothing about specific financial motives; the tea, coffee, and sugar were eliminated "to reduce the ration to that issued by the rebel Government to their own troops." Ibid., 151, 150-51.
spent in cleaning out. It is also old and rickety and will have to be put on posts and remodeled. Both ends are now open. The Cleveland, Ohio convention nominated Fremont and Cockeran, and the Baltimore, Maryland convention nominated Lincoln and Johnson, to run on the 6th of November next for the office of President and vice president of the United States. The Chicago Illinois convention has not met yet.\textsuperscript{62} Gold is quoted at $1.95\textsuperscript{3}$. The night was chilly.

Thursday June 9th, 1864. Weather pleasant. I wrote home. We drew rations, but no coffee, sugar, or molasses. Morgan is in Kentucky with a scattered force and has had possession of Mt. Sterling, Winchester, Crab Orchard, Richmond, Maysville, Cynthiana, Paris, and is near Lexington.\textsuperscript{63} Gold is quoted at $1.97\textsuperscript{3}$. I got up on a barric with some work hands and had a fine view of the lake and country. I saw a crowd collected at the race track nearby waiting for a race. The country looked green and the houses looked clean and comfortable. The people walking about as if there was no war going on, and here I have been wasting part of the prime of life in this miserable place a prisoner, and not knowing how much longer I will be forced to remain. I could not help envying them their liberty, yet I try to be contented.

(The new sutler is Benjamin Nightingale; his goods are "interesting" but expensive. It is rumored on June 11 that there will be an inspection and confiscation of extra clothes on the next day.)

Sunday June 12th, 1864. Weather pleasant. The roll call was short and all passed off quietly. Nearly all of us had our best clothes on and were agreeably disappointed. Some of the boys say that they dressed up to see Mr. Fred. Douglas\textsuperscript{64} (Colored) but they were disappointed. Every time a man dressed up he is asked if he is expecting to see Fred. Douglas. It is now a common phrase.

\textsuperscript{62} On June 7, 1864, the regular Republican convention met in Baltimore, Maryland, and nominated Lincoln and Andrew Johnson for the ticket. Renegade or radical Republicans had met at Cleveland, Ohio, on May 31 and nominated John C. Fremont and John Cockeran to run in the November election. After postponing the July 4 convention, Democrats met in Chicago on August 29 and nominated General George B. McClellan and George H. Pendleton of Ohio. J. G. Randall and David Donald, The Civil War and Reconstruction (Boston, 1961), 468, 474.

\textsuperscript{63} Morgan began his "last" or "June raid" into Kentucky in late May, 1864. He reached Cynthiana and captured the Federal garrison under General Edward H. Hobson on June 11. Morgan was forced to begin his retreat back to Virginia on June 12 when he suffered heavy losses against a superior Federal force. He was killed on September 4, 1864, in Greenville, Tennessee. Duke, History of Morgan's Cavalry, 518-28, 539.

\textsuperscript{64} Frederick Douglass had escaped from slavery and eventually bought his freedom. He became an antislavery leader and during the war he recruited Negro regiments. Boerner, The Civil War Dictionary, 246.

Monday June 13th, 1864. Weather pleasant. At roll call Frank Boyd of Company A was reported to have died at the hospital. The morning papers say that Morgan captured Gen. Hobson and 1500 men at Cynthiana, Ky. The capital is also threatened. An order was issued to the prisoners to burn all the old clothes laying about the barracks. About a two horse wagon load was soon collected in the square and burned.

Tuesday June 14th, 1864. Weather pleasant. A few yards of the fence was taken down and three old barracks from the Yankee camp were rolled in and the fence immediately put up again. We have good news from Gen. Forrest. He routed Gen. Sturges army and captured about 6000 prisoners, with artillery, wagons, etc. The Battle took place at Guntown, Miss.\textsuperscript{70} Two carriages full of ladies and a lady on horse back drove through camp this evening. Citizens and ladies often appear on the parapet through the day and take a look at us. They are always accompanied by an officer and only stay a few minutes. They are not allowed to speak to us or we to them.

(Burke receives a note from Frank Boyd contradicting his death.)

Friday June 17th, 1864. Weather pleasant. Our rations have given out, and we are living on scraps. There has been a good deal of clothing issued by the Yanks to the needy in the last four or five days, consisting of shoes, dark blue pants, gray jackets or coats, high crowned gray hats, cotton drawers, woolen shirts, and a few socks, by the rules of war. When a Government holds prisoners of war a certain length of time or till they become needy, the Government is required to clothe them. So we have a right to the clothing. Most of the workhends have been working for clothing which they could have gotten without working if they had only waited. The majority of the prisoners are against working for the Yankees in any form. Two prisoners got into the Yankee camp and escaped over the fence by means of a ladder where there was no guard. I did not learn their names. I coughed part of the night.

[Burke gets some cough medicine at the drugstore. Again there are rumors that extra clothes will be confiscated. Carpenters are still working on the barracks.]

Monday June 20th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We all dressed up to see Fred, but roll call passed off as usual, nothing taken. The men in

\textsuperscript{70} A Confederate force under Forrest defeated a much larger force under General Samuel D. Sturgis on June 10, 1864, at Brice's Cross Roads near Guntown, Mississippi. Ibid., 85.
the other end of the barrack from me were ordered to go to another barrack to give the carpenters room to work. When the alarm was given we all charged for the empty barrack to secure bunks. I run myself out of breath without getting a bunk and then learned that my end of the barrack would not have to move just now. After dinner, however, the workmen commenced on my end of the barrack first, knocking down the bunks right and left hardly giving us time to move out. Henry White secured a bunk in the vacant end of the barrack, where also most of the men left out found bunks. I and Henry put a few minutes work on our bunk and made it tolerable comfortable. This part of the barrack is very old and shackling and leans considerably to one side, a hard wind would make it dangerous to stay in. In a few minutes after the bugle at sun down sounded the Yankees rocked the barrack because we were talking. They often threaten to shoot in the barrack.

Tuesday June 21st, 1864. Weather warm. It is Henry White’s day to cook. He says that he hates to cook, and would rather take a whipping. He fried his pork and threw out his grease instead of saving it, sliced the light bread, filled the cups with water and breakfast was ready. I had eaten and was lying in my bunk when I heard the “lie” passed pretty freely at the table, but I had become so accustomed to hearing this in different parts of the barrack and elsewhere without bring on a fight, that I paid no attention to it until I heard scuffling accompanied by the falling of the stove pipe. When I saw Geo. Fallis and Henry White engaged in a regular fistfight, I jumped out of the bunk in time to help part them. No damage done. Fallis received a scratch on his hand. It seems they quarreled about some plates being rusty. At any rate they upset a kettle of hot water for me and frying pans, pots, etc. of other messes getting breakfast. All soon quieted down. In a few hours afterwards the papers came in and I left my wash tub to hear the news read. A division of Gen. Burnside’s corps captured and the Federal loss in two days, 8,000 men killed and wounded, with any corresponding benefit, etc. when all at once a crash was heard and men came running from the next room saying, “The house is falling, get out.” The whole end of the barrack near us was out, so as quick as a thought we all jumped out, tumbled out and anyway to get out, some on their feet but more not. I and two or three others lit on a big iron boiler and fell off. Others lit on lumber piles, slop barrels, boxes, etc. In fact, such a getting out I never did see. We soon found that we had been deceived by the falling of only a few planks torn down by the workmen. Then came the laugh. No damage was done except knocking down the stove pipe again, and a few skinned shins, sprained ankles, and wrists. My left foot felt very unpleasant for awhile on account of its coming in contact with a sharp edge of the big boiler rather forcibly. All was soon quiet again, and I finished washing. We drew bread for three meals for my mess of seven. I got eight loaves. The Yanks are still conscripting the men to dig ditches, level off ground, etc. We try to dodge the conscripting Yanks and can generally tell them when we see them. I have escaped entirely thus far. Hellow here come one now conscripting right and left to remove a lumber pile. Myself and several others slipped out to where the carpenters were at work and commenced picking up pieces of plank and laying them down again. I picked up a hatchet and went to hammering away on the heads of nails already driven while others held planks to be sawed, etc. as if we were doing terrible execution, when we were doing nothing, and as soon as the Yank turned his back, we all decamped, but those that were conscripted had to work till the lumber was all removed, so I have escaped once more. The evening papers say that Gen. Hancock has retired from the field on account of an old wound. Gold is now quoted at $2.08. This is I believe the longest day in the year.

Wednesday June 22d, 1864. Weather pleasant. At roll call thirty men were detailed from our regiment to grade the street in front of our barrack, commencing at the head of the roll all the A’s B’s and part of the C’s were taken. At eight o’clock we fell in line and marched to the tool house where we were supplied with picks, spades, shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows. I chose a shovel. Then we marched back and went to work. We dug a ditch or drain on each side of the street close to the barracks, and threw the dirt into the center of the street, which was then raked so as to make it in an oval shape to throw the rain off into the drains on each side of the street. The day became very warm, and we sweat freely and rested often, for none of us appeared to be hurting ourselves working. At the 12 o’clock bugle sound we were dismissed for dinner, after taking the tools back. At 2 o’clock we fell in line again and marched to the tool house and got our tools and went to work. Altogether several Yanks were with us as we worked very leisurely till the 6 o’clock bugle sounded, when we put our tools in the tool house and were dismissed. We did more than we

72 Presumably, this refers to a portion of the Petersburg, Virginia, assault of June 15-18. Burnside was relieved of duty for mishandling troops during this battle. Grant was actually directing the battle, and Federal losses were 1,688 dead, 8,513 wounded, and 1,185 captured or missing. Ibid., 107, 646, 644-46.

73 Federal General Winfield S. Hancock received a wound at the Battle of Gettysburg, which broke out and incapacitated him during the Petersburg assault of June 17. Ibid., 645.
expected to do. Gold is quoted at $2.35. I retired early very much
fatigued.

Thursday June 23d, 1864. Weather pleasant. It is my day to cook
and I felt stiff and sore, the effects of working yesterday. Henry
Beach received by letter the bad news of the death of his mother,
who died at 11 o’clock on the night of the 18th inst. Such news comes
harder to a person in our situation than it would otherwise, to be so
near home and not allowed to see the last remains of our friends.
The day became warm and I sweat good fashion getting dinner. We still
eat two meals as usual.

[On June 25 Burke comments on the small number of smallpox cases; he be-
lieves “the general health of the camp is increasing” (p. 309).] The papers are
stopped on this day; this is, as usual, interpreted as a sign favorable to the southern
cause. The men are switching bunks again. The barracks are now all so
similar that there are “some laughable mistakes incurred by the men’s not noticing
the numbers and getting into the wrong barracks” (p. 310).]

Monday June 27th, 1864. Weather a little cool and windy. Time like
a sweeping billow, rolls steadily on, and nothing as yet intervenes to
break the dull monopoly [monotony] of our prison life. Every day
nearly the same thing is repeated. Our fare is poor, mostly bread and
water and a small quantity. The sutler sells butter at 65 cents per
lb. and other things in proportion.

Tuesday June 28th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We drew a loaf of
light bread per man for one day. I got up on a barrack and had a
view of the country. The Yanks have fixed a frame near the gate
with a scantling across it edge up, and about four feet from the
ground, which they made our men ride whenever the men do any-
things that does not please them. It is called “The mule.” Men have
set it on till they fainted and fell off. It is like riding a sharp top
fence.

Wednesday June 29th, 1864. Weather pleasant. James Terpin the
patrol in charge of our barrack No. 27 made us throw all the cooking
utensils, boxes, bottles, old clothes etc. out in a pile, and scour up all
the plates, cups, spoons, etc. and put them in our bunks. A few vine-
gar bottles, cigar boxes and scoured coffee pots were allowed to be
kept. Nearly all of our shelves were knocked down, and we have a
general clean up. Notice was given us that if any person was caught
in the kitchen except the cooks and water details after today they
would be punished. The kitchen for each Barrack had been partitioned
off of the end of each barrack.

Thursday June 30, 1864. Weather cloudy with some light showers.
We are all out of rations and had to go without breakfast. The kitch-
en is furnished with a two pound boiler and a cooking stove. Henry
Elder our commissary sergeant has charge of the kitchen. The fol-
lowing men volunteered to cook under him. Geo. Kersey from Co. A.,
Bolin [G] Roberts from Co. B., Robert Feuston from Co. C., Ed Force
from Co. D. and Gabriel Williams from squad 24. Rations for ten
days were hauled to the kitchen. The first meal, a late dinner con-
sisted of a small piece of yellow corn bread and fat pickle pork per
man. We drew it through a slide window between the kitchen and the
barrack, in a messes of ten, and it was then divided by the heads of the
messes to suit the men. James Allen is the head of mess No. 7. The
mess that I and Henry White are in, but we draw our rite to-
gether and eat it in our bunk or on the floor. My old mess has dis-
handed. Pa and Falles are together, Beach and Miller are together,
and old Jerry Murphy is by himself. Gold is quoted at $2.50. It
rained some during the day and nearly all night, with some thunder
and lightening.

Saturday July 2d, 1864. Weather pleasant. At roll call every morn-
ing six men are detailed for the day. Two to bring water and cut
wood for the kitchen, two to keep the barrack and street in front well
swept, two to carry off the slop water. Then comes breakfast. We
got light bread and pork. I notice that all of the guards on the fence
have lately been furnished with a revolver each, extra.24 We had
several very interesting dancing sets, men with their hats off repre-
senting the ladies. The music was furnished by two fiddles and a
guitar. We got corn bread, beef and pot liquor for dinner. Then the
barrack was scoured out. I felt bad all day. After dark the Yanks
sent up some rockets from the other square and from the city. I as-
sume they have commenced to celebrate the 4th, as tomorrow is Sunday.

24 On June 2, 1864, Sweet wrote to Hoffman complaining that a recent escape
attempt was abetted by the prisoners’ knowledge that the guards’ rifles were
“worthless.” The guns had been condemned but new ones had not been supplied.
The guards were given revolvers to compensate for the faulty weapons. 1864, 187-
88.
Sunday July 3d, 1864. Weather pleasant. We got sour hash that soured during the night and sour light bread. We have the news of Gen. Harker's death in Georgia, and a rumor that our Capt. Thomas Quirk was a prisoner and severely wounded at Mt. Sterling, Ky. We got corn bread and pork for dinner. As usual on Sunday evenings there was a good many citizens and ladies made their appearance on the parapet, and a crowd of prisoners collected near the sutler store to get a look at them or rather the ladies. After dark I saw some rockets and heard some promiscuous fireing of small arms. I did not rest well.

Monday July 4th, 1864. Weather pleasant. At day break the bells in the City commenced ringing and thirteen rounds was fired by a light piece of artillery in the Yankee square. I also heard cannon and small arms in the City. All the flags are up. At 12 o'clock about thirty two rounds was fired by two small pieces in the Yankee camp or square. We had light bread, pork and hominy for dinner. There was speaking in the Yankee square and music by the band, and something going on at the Dutch garden where there is a band braying also, and last but not least races were going on, at the track southwest of us.

A man from my regiment and two others had their heads through a hole in the roof of an empty barrack hugely enjoying the races, when a Yankee caught them, and put them in the dungeon till morning. Ten rounds were fired in the Yankee square. I heard a few small arms and firecrackers all evening. No work was done except by the details for the barracks. Some fifers belonging to the web-feet in the barrack behind us played some very lively pieces with their well handled fifes, for their own amusement. No news. A lady on the parapet yesterday took a fancy to a prisoner by the name of Derbis and sent him a basket of provisions and a bouquet today. Several sets were danced in the barrack. There is plenty of good fiddlers in the regiment. A balloon went up and got out of our sight just as the retiring bugle sounded. About dusk twenty one rounds was fired from the Yankee square and a good deal of rockets, fire crackers, etc. from both camp and city. The boys in their barrack sang Dixie Star Spangled Banner.

DIXIE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming
Whose cross bars and leaven stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the breastworks we watched, were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.

Chorus—Oh, say, doth that cross spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the slave.

On the fort dimly seen, thro' the mists of the night,
Where the foes' haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fits-ful-ly blows half conceals, half dis-closes?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glo-ry reflect-ed, now shines on the stream.

Chorus—Oh, say, doth that cross spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the slave.

And where is that band who so vaunt-ingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country they'd leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps pol-li-son,
No refuge could save the hireling and slave.
From the terrors of fight, or the gloom of the grave.

Chorus—And the cross spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the slave.

Oh, thus be it ever when heroes shall stand
Between their loved home and wild war's de-ja-tion;
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the pow'r that hath [made] and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just.
And this be our mot-to: "In God is our trust!"

Chorus—And the cross-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the slave.

Tuesday July 5th, 1864. Weather pleasant. We had light bread and pork for breakfast. Gen. Siegel has been defeated again. This time by Gen. Ewel. We got corn bread, beef and pot liquor for dinner. Three men from another barrack came in with a flute, banjo and a fiddle and gave us some good music for an hour or so. It is reported that a good many of the officers at headquarters' belonging to the

17 On his Washington Raid, June 27-August 7, 1864, Confederate General Jubal A. Early forced Siegel to concentrate forces at Maryland Heights, near Harpers Ferry, on July 4. Early then crossed the Potomac River into Maryland at another location on July 5. Bontser, The Civil War Dictionary, 255. Early had taken over command of the 11th Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia from General Richard S. Ewell on May 29, 1864. Ibid., 189.
Veteran Reserve Corps alias the Invalid Corps have been promoted, and officers and men have been ordered to be in readiness to go to the front as soon as the two regiments of Illinois one hundred day men arrive to take their places as guards here. They do not seem to relish the idea of going to the front, and if there is any pretext by which they can keep from going, they will avail themselves of it. I felt unwell all night.

[The men spend the day under the barrack to escape the heat inside of it.]

Thursday July 7th, 1864. Weather cloudy. About sun rise it rained enough to lay the dust well, and then cleared off. We got light bread and pork for breakfast. A few daily papers are smuggled in to us nearly every day. Wilson and Cortz Yankee cavalry made a raid near Richmond, and lost 2,000 men with artillery and wagons. I saw an account of Sherman's terrible repulses at Kennesaw Mountain Ga. We got corn bread, beef and pot liquor. I have given the variety of rations we receive for a week, and do not think it necessary to continue. If we get better I will mention it, but I do not think we will. If there is any change it is more apt to be for the worse. The cooks are able and willing to give us good meals if they were furnished with better materials. The evening paper say that Gen. Ewel has crossed the Potomac into Maryland at Point of Rocks with 30,000 men. Gold is quoted at $2.70. Grant has not taken Petersburg, Va. nor Sherman Marietta, Ga. The Chicago convention has been postponed till the latter part of next month. I feel better.

Friday July 8th, 1864. Weather pleasant. I and Henry White washed twenty-three pieces of clothing. The trains belonging to Hunter and Siegel have been captured by the Confederates in Virginia. The U. S. ship Kearsarge sunk the C. S. ship Alabama in a fight near the English Channel, but Capt. Simms and most of his crew got aboard of the English coasting vessel, before the Kearsage came up, and was taken to England, where Capt. Simms received a fine sword from his friends.

Sunday July 10th, 1864. Weather rainy. The bugle sounded for roll call, but before we could form the line we were dismissed on account of the rain. It soon after cleared up and the balance of the day was warm. There are heavy exchange rumors afloat. It is also rumored that five Northern States have refused to furnish any more men and money till an exchange of prisoners is affected. James Hicks a comic lad in my barrack, after cutting up a good many dices left and in five minutes I saw a Yank make him mount the wooden mule. Gold is quoted at $2.74 1/2.

Monday July 11th, 1864. Weather pleasant. The confederate troops are raiding in Maryland. They have burned Gov. Bradford's residence four miles from Baltimore by way of retaliation for the burning of the residence of Gov. Letcher of Virginia. They also defeated Gen. Wallace and captured Brig. Gen. Tyler and 1000 prisoners. Gen. Wallace has destroyed his artillery and is retreating to Baltimore. All the banks in that city have put their effects on board of a boat in the bay for safety. Gen. Sherman has done nothing since his defeat at Kennesaw Mountain, Ga. Gold is quoted at $2.83.

Tuesday July 12th, 1864. Weather pleasant. The Confederates in Maryland have captured a good many towns and cut off the railroads and telegraph communications with Baltimore, Washington and the North. A large number of railroad bridges have been destroyed. A large amount of cattle, goods, and some eight or ten thousand horses have been collected and sent to the Confederate camps in Virginia. A good many trains have been captured. In one of them Major Gen.
Franklin and other Yankee officers were captured.85 The pickets at
the chain bridge near Washington City were run in. The papers
seem to be uneasy about the capitol.

Wednesday July 13th, 1864. Weather pleasant. Rumors that Wash-
ington City is in the hands of the Confederates. The Confederate
privateer Florida, Capt. Maury commanding, captured five prizes off
the coast of Delaware in the last two weeks.86 After the retiring
bugele sounds here in the evening, the patrols are in the habit of sitting
on a bench at the end of the barrack below us, so yesterday evening
some of the prisoners thought that they would have some fun at the
Yanks expense. They put a lot of pins in the bench and when the
Yanks sat on it several of them got badly stuck. Then the whole bar-
rack was called out in line and the guilty ones soon found. They were
then made to sit on the pins all night, and work all day today.

Saturday July 16th, 1864. Weather pleasant. The first thing that I
noticed this morning was a crowd of new prisoners in the open square
with a guard around them. The most of them were still sleeping on
the ground. No one was allowed to speak to them till they were drawn
up in line and searched for their money, papers, etc. Then they were
put in barracks. They arrived last night and number about 330.
They were captured at Kennesaw Mountain, Ga., near the first of this
month, and from long fighting, digging and traveling, they are a very
dirty looking set. They report that our army is in the best of spirits
with plenty of eat. It rained at night.

[A new ruling states that anyone caught with clothes on after the retiring
bugele will be put in the dungeon for the night.]

Monday July 18th, 1864. Weather rainy. I am one of the six detailed
today, and carrying off the waste water fell to Henry Beach and my-
self. It is the easiest job of the detail, as there is only about five bar-
rels to carry off. About 12 o’clock 600 more prisoners arrived. They
were searched and quartered in the old barracks lately moved in and
not yet repaired, but the workmen are at work on them. Some of the
prisoners are Morgan’s men who were captured in his late raid into
Kentucky and are better dressed than the rest, but the most of them
came from Johnson’s army in Tenn. and were captured at different
times, and from all I can learn a good many of them did not try as
hard as they might have tried to keep from being captured.87 Frank
Foushee of Lexington, Ky was among the new prisoners. He says
that he belongs to Capt. Quirk’s new company and that the Captain
was neither wounded nor taken prisoner as reported, but that he en-
tered Kentucky with about fifty men, part of the old company, and
left the state with about one hundred men all mounted having re-
cruited in Lexington and other places to that number. Foushee has
taken quarters with us, and the men crowd around him with thousands
of questions which the retiring bugle only stopped. The Yanks
tried hard to catch somebody with their clothes on altho it was not yet
dark when the bugle blew. I came near forgetting that I received a
letter this morning from Uncle Wm. H. Burke of Canton Ohio con-
taining a favor of ten dollars which by the way is very agreeable in
a place like this. It rained some during the night.

Tuesday July 19th, 1864. Weather rainy. We were kept out at roll
call two hours, during which time all of the men belonging to the
work squad were collected together to put them in a barrack by them-
selves, and the places in the different barracks that they vacated were
to be filled by the men whose barrack they were about to occupy, but
the arrangement caused so much dissatisfaction that the order was
countermanded. This is the first anniversary of my capture. One
year ago today the Fourteenth Ky. cavalry with stragglers from other
regiments of Morgan’s command surrendered near Buffington Island
Ohio. It seems almost a life time to look back over the many dis-
comforts of the past year, and although I have lead a dull monotonous
life, yet I can recall a few comforts for which I am thankful, 1st.
My general good health with generally enough to eat, and 2d. The
privilege of corresponding with friends and receiving provisions,
clothing, etc. The men kept Foursee well pided with questions all
day. We have learned more from him of our interests south than
from six months home correspondence. Our writing days are so far
apart and we have to write and receive such short letters, that it is
very little satisfaction to us to write. The Yanks make us keep the
camp very clean, and are always on the alert to catch any prisoners
that may break any of the many rules and regulations.

PRISONERS’ REFRAIN.

O when shall we be free again,
To mount our fiery steeds?
And sweep like lightning o'er the plain

85 General William B. Franklin was captured by Early’s men on July 11, 1864.
He was on sick leave and escaped the following night. (ibid, 203-204.
86 The C. S. S. Florida was commanded at this time by Lieutenant Charles
Manigault Morris. For details about the prize see Morris’ report of July 13, 1864.
87 Johnston commanded the Army of Tennessee from December 27, 1863, until
To fight the foe that feeds—
On our fair land, and dares to face—
Our cannons boom, and rifles flash!
We yet will teach them 'tis our place,
To win the day by one bold dash.
Joyful indeed will be the hour,
When we march forth from here.
One year, we've felt the tyrant's power.
Another year, and he shall fear
The vengeance of our own right arms;
Nor shall his minions be—
On southern soil, where spreads the charms
Of life; of hope, and Liberty.