DIARY OF SAILSBURY PRISON

BY
JAMES W. EBERHART
Also
Co "G" 191st Pa.
Vet. Volunter.

Edited by FLORENCE C. MCLAUGHLIN

During his imprisonment in Southern camps from August 1864 until March 1865, Sergt. James W. Eberhart neatly penciled the daily camp routine in his pocket-size gray cloth diary, missing only a few days at the time of parole and during the trek from Salisbury, North Carolina, to the federal lines. One wonders how he had the will to make daily entries and how he could hold on to his little book and his pencil stub, despite the magpie thievery of the prison camps.

His diary takes on a poignant contemporary quality with our newspaper and television coverage of the return of American prisoners of war from Asian prison camps in 1973.

Sergt. Eberhart's spelling and punctuation have been preserved throughout, with two exceptions: the first word of each sentence has been capitalised, and for clarity a period has been added at the end of each sentence. Sergt. Eberhart underscored certain words in the diary to emphasize their importance to him. These words have been italicized in the text. Editorial comments are also italicized and are enclosed in brackets.

Miss McLaughlin has reviewed many books and contributed many articles to the magazine. Her work on this diary has, indeed, been a "labor of love."—Editor

1 Sergt. James W. Eberhart's diary was presented to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania by Dr. Robert M. and Mrs. Margaret Laughlin, 836 Elm Spring Road, Pittsburgh.
DEFENSES OF RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG.
On the inside cover of the diary, Sergt. Eberhart pasted a yellowed newspaper clipping from an unknown, undated newspaper:

**A GLORIOUS RECORD**

The Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, which consisted of fifteen regiments — that is, thirteen of infantry, one of artillery and one of cavalry, and were conventionally known as Gov. Curtin’s "pets," has but two of the original fifteen colonels living. They are Col. McCalmont, of Franklin, and Col. Mann, of Philadelphia. United States Senator Quay went out as a lieutenant of Company F, in the Tenth P.R.C. The famous and original Bucktail regiment belonged to this division and was the thirteenth. It was almost annihilated three or four times during the war. The division lost more men in killed and wounded during the war than any other division in any army, North or South. During the seven days' battles under Gen. McClellan it lost 66 per cent of its entire number. Gen. George A. McCall commanded the division, Gen. Reynolds, the First Brigade, Gen. Meade the Second and Gen. E. O. C. Ord the third. Gen. Reynolds was killed at Gettysburg, Gen. Meade died at Philadelphia and Gen. Ord at Havana, Fla.

The diary begins on August 18, 1864, with orders to move about 4:00 a.m., "Direction South." At noon, the troops came to the Weldon Railroad. Although the Weldon Railroad tracks had been considerably damaged, the Confederates had been bringing supplies to within twenty miles of Petersburg, then hauling them to Petersburg. About 1:00 p.m., when the Union batteries commenced firing, the men were drawn up in lines and deployed as skirmishers, advancing through thick woods until fired upon. The line finally established a position and dug little pits in sight of the Confederate rifle pits. The Union soldiers lay in their pits all night in the skirmish line, although it had rained almost all day.

The details of the capture and of the beginning of imprisonment form the entry of Friday, August 19, 1864:

All quiet during the night untill about 2 am. The Rebs tried to advance. The whole line opened on them and drove them back to thier Rifle pits & Remained all day in the same position untill about 3 pm. The Colonel said we would be Relieved about dark & at four one of the boys went back to make some coffee & had his fire made & pot on & came a Running back & told us the woods was full of Rebels in the Rear of us. So we soon found it was true & our officer told us to get back & stop at the breast works at the edge of the woods. We started & came on two line of battle of Rebs. We took some prisoners from thier skirmishers that had been sent to pick us up & got a general & went on and came up to thier Battle line & had to surrender. They marched us to the right and Rear on a double quick. As our Batteries was a

shelling the wood we went in fearfully & glad to get out of it. Got out in
an open field & found all of our officers our general & some 4 or 5
hundred prisoners. It Rained about all day. I put on my Rubber
blanket a going out & a Rebel came behind me & caught hold of one
corner & jerked. Its string broke & he run, but I could not follow him.
Had on a new hat got from home by mail a few days before. A Rebel
tried to steal that but I was too quick for him. They march us back to
thier Breast work at Petersburg & stoped a while. An officer came to
me & said I had a nice hat. I told him yes. He wanted to trade. I
thought I might want it before I would get out. He told me that they
would take it from me at Richmond & he would give me 2 dollars in
our money & 15 in his & his hat all the money he had. So I traded
with him. They marched us to Petersburg near the Canal & Camped
all night. In the night 4 of (us) were a laying togeather & had 2
blankets over & 2 under us. A Rebel came in & tried to steal a
blanket & Dave Ritchie was on the outside & he got up and knocked
the Johnnie down. He went out a howling & got his gun & wanted to
come and kill the Yank. The Rebel officer came & took him away. So
we had a quiet night. 48 men & 2 officers of our Company were taken.

[It was “on to Richmond” after the prisoners had been stripped
of practically all of their belongings. The diary entry of Sunday,
August 21, described a stopover at “Libey” prison, occupied mainly
by Northern officers. Their ultimate destination was Belle Island, the
main prison in the South before the laying out of Andersonville.
“There, on the sandy and low stretches of the island, forbidden access
to the high and pleasant wooded portions, without any adequate shelt-
er, thousands of the youth of the Northern armies languished in capt-
ivity. At that point the James is a tempestuous and angry stream,
leaping and foaming over the rocks . . . and many a Union soldier
perished in the yellow, turbid waters of the James in a vain effort to
swim the river.” ]

Saturday Aug 20—
Rained nearly all night. About 9 am our names were taken & every-
thing but our haversacks and tin cup. Some boys cut thier blankets &
Knapsack in string & the Rebs came in among us & said they would
shoot any one caught a doing so. I had an overcoat Blanket taken from

3 Dr. Clarence E. Macartney, Highways and Byways of the Civil War (Pitts-
burgh, 1938), 241.
me. Brought two more lot of prisoners in about 2000 altogether. About 2 pm we started to the depot about 3 miles from here & arrived at the Station near 4 pm about 20 miles from Richmond. We got on open cars. Started 4½ pm. Commenced to Rain & Rained until we arrived at Richmond about 6 pm & was taken to a prison on leaving station. The Room 40 X 100. We had one hundred in here to night.

Sunday Aug 21—
About 9 am the other squad came in our Room and made it a Jam. About 10 am we were taken to Libey just across the street. We go in the upper story. The Room about the size of the other one. Are about 300 in this Room. One of Butlers Niggers in the same room with us. He is a Sergeant. Has charge of the room about noon. [General Benjamin Franklin Butler had solved the problem of runaway slaves by having them declared contraband and therefore usable property.4 Negroes were ultimately used as road builders, pickets, government blacksmiths, scouts, teamsters, soldiers, launderers, cattle drivers, cooks, wagoneers, and soldiers.]

They gave us some thing to eat the first we have got from them. Corn Bread & Boid beef. After dinner our names were taken & the Room swept up. We number all told 299 in this Room. After wards we were given Corn Bread & Bean Soup. Then we were drawn up in line. A clerk there. Pen ink & Book on a little table & the officer said any one that had any money watches or Valuables to come and give to the clerk name co & he would get them when exchanged. A few did so. And told us to lay everything we had in front of us in a pile. A couple of men went along and search your clothes and looked over your pile & what he wanted he threwed out in a pile in centre of Room. Took our coffee & haversacks & as soon as they were through with us we had to pick up what he left & go in another room. As soon as they were done they marched us over to Belle Island divided in Squads of 50. Sergt More has charge of our squad. Arrived about 8 pm. Laid down on ground in open air to sleep.

[James Eberhart began on August 22 the first of many entries about the daily pea soup and fat pork, food which would seem like a banquet to him when he arrived at Salisbury Prison in North Carolina.

On occasion, repetitious entries about food will be omitted. By August 24, at least 3,500 men were crowded on Belle Island, sleeping on the wet ground.

Monday Aug 22—
Up about day light. Got a few sticks & tried to make a cup of coffee. About 10 am they commenced to put tents 5 squads in one Row or 10 men to a tent. 1 pm issued Rations 1/2 loaf Bread to a man. 1 Bucket Pea Soup some fat pork. At 5 pm. it commenced to Rain. Rained about 2 hours. We laid down on the wet ground in a Row spoon fashion for the night. Hot & sultry untill dark.

Tuesday 23—
Slept pretty fair considering the dampness of the ground. Very cloudy. Sun came out Bright and very hot all day. At 10 they issued our Ration 1/4 loaf Corn Bread & fat pork. Another squad came in. Altogether on the Island 3150 or 63 Squads of 50 men. Gave us 2 buckets of Rice Soup & 4 1/2 loaf Bread. Putting up more tents.

Wednesday Aug 24—
Sun came out very hot & good prospects of being a hot day. Got our breakfast at 10 am. About 3 pm another squad of Yanks were brought in and swells the number up to 3500 on the Island & 4½ got our other meal. . . . They day wore a way as usual.

Thursday 25 Aug—
Got up about 6.20. Went to the River & washed. Nothing of note transpired. Got our days Ration at 1 pm. At dark it commenced to rain. It was very acceptable as it made it much pleasanter although it made the ground very wet for us to sleep on.

Friday 26 Aug. 8th day.
Not much sleep on account of Rain & wet ground. We were all turned out on the green along the edge of River outside of camp. Guard marched [us?] back in single file & counted. They posted a paper on that gate that no Rations would be issued until the man was found that struck Sergt Mark (Rebel) yesterday while he was a selling Bread in camp. 4 shots was fired from the guards last night. They killed one man & wounded one of our men. 3 pm no Rations yet & no prospects of getting any at 6 pm they drew more tents and our squad
(40) had a Sibley tent to put up & they called out for Sergts for Rations got our tent up to sleep in another man shot this afternoon by one of the guards 25 men in a tent [A Sibley tent is a “light tent of conical shape kept erected on a tripod with a ventilating device at top and sometimes with a vertical drop near the bottom.”]

Saturday Aug. 27—
We were wakened up a little after day light and taken out to the Same place & counted again. Cool & Cloudy & sighns of more Rain. Rained most of last night. At 10 am issued one meal. At 3 pm got soup & Bread. About all the Bean & Pea Soup we get here is a live with worms. It looks hard to have to drink it but must in order to keep life in. This morning they planted 2 cannon on the hill on the Island, over looking our camp. Have 4 over the River on Richmond side a bearing on us. Heard they were a looking for a raid from our Cavalry. A train of cars passed over the bridge loaded with yanks. There were 14 cars with them. Supposed to be 1000 or 1200. [These soldiers were probably taken at Ream’s Station, Virginia, in a Union attempt to destroy the Weldon Railroad on August 25. Over 1,700 men were taken prisoners.]

Sunday August 28—
We were turned out again at Sun up & Counted over again. This far I believe only 3 missing. Great Rumors in Camp in Regards to exchanges & parole but I think there is no truth in any of them. Sun bright. Not so hot. A strong wind a blowing makes it coll & pleasant. 10.30 am drew our morning meal. They hoisted the Rebel flag over us today. The flag is Red Bars on field is blue 13 stars on them. 4 pm got our Soup and corn bread. Bread selling $5 a loaf. I made an effort to get some bread but did not get it. The day pased of pleasantly. Had a prayer meeting in camp. Good attendance

[On August 29, Sergt. Eberhart recorded that citizens were “a guarding us,” relieved by regulars from in front of Petersburg. There were 5,900 Yanks on the island by this time. The men were curious about the very heavy artillery beyond Richmond.]

Teusday, Aug 30—
Tolerable cold during the nights & mornings untill the sun gets up.

6 Catton, Grant.
Then it gets hot. Did not have to be counted today. 10 am drew Rations 21 loaves. They have to be cut in 4 parts and it is hard to make them all the same but must be done or there will sure be a fuss. Some of the boys have lost thier cup stolen and have to draw thier soup in thier shoe. It looks hard. Only 2 buckets of Soup in stead of 4 for 100 men. A slight shower about 4 pm. Nothing of interest the rest of day. After we had retired for the night some one in a tent close by raised a big noise. They had a fight. One man got hurt considerable. There was a fire in Richmond sometime before 12 oclock. The gaurd says the central depot & two blocks were burned down.

Wendsday Aug 31—
It is getting to be so cold at night that we cannot sleep without blankets, (and we have none at all). And does not warm up in the morning befor 8 am. Bread trade a going on brisk behind our tent. $9.00 per loaf. Gren back apples 2 for 1.00. . . . Saw in a Richmond paper the Commissioners of Exchange meets today. . . . There were some artillery firing beyond Richmond. Very heavy. Could not tell what it was. Wrote a couple of letters home one to Miss Gillmore but they say all are burnt & are not sent at all. Tried to wash one of my shirts at the River but it was worse after I got done than when I commenced. Water so muddy, & no soap. So I have given up of ever trying to wash clothes. Traded one shirt off for 4 lb of Tobacco a pie & a loaf of bread. I divided the tobacco a mong the boys.

Thursday Sept 1—
Up early on account of getting cold. Saw a Richmond paper and it stated the commissioners met the Rebel commissioners. Only proposed to exchange man for man & officer for officer but our Commissioners had no instructions from the goverment whatever. . . . [Edwin M. Stanton, General Grant, and many others in Washington believed that discontinuance of exchange of prisoners would help to end the war.] The bells are a ringing in Richmond & smoke could be seen from camp. Another fire. Let our tent down & fixed it to make it warmer. Reports says in evening papers we are to (be) exchanged immediately.

[Friday, Sept. 2, 1864, was a day filled with barter and bustle, with another fire in the distance at Richmond. The heat of summer was leaving. The price of bread fell to three loaves for one dollar. The same old corn bread and meat made a monotonous appearance. And]
Darby made arrangements with a Reb by name of Davis for Bread. He bought one loaf corn Bread & small piece of Pork. Just at dark he was to bring one every night for 4 nights.

[Saturday was another day of ringing bells in Richmond.] 25 of our men went to Richmond to work for the government; at 4 pm drew Soup 2 buckets & 21 loaves. . . . Sergt Hazen got a Black bug in his ear in the night & he could not get it out. I thought he would go crazy. Two men held him down & filled his ear full of water & in a short time the bug drowned & came out.

[On Sunday, September 4, after the usual entries about the weather and food, Darby gave each one of his friends one-half loaf of the four obtained by trading in his hat; and Sergt. Eberhart bought a small piece of Corn Bread and meat. There was a prayer meeting with a "pretty large attendance."]

Monday Sept 5th—
. . . Heard that Atlanta was taken. It was published in this morning paper at 11 am. . . . About the hottest we have had so far. Day passed away sloly. The Richmond papers stated Atlanta was evacuated on the 1st Sept & Hardee corps had been driven from thier position with a loss of 9 guns. . . .

Tuesday Sept 6—
Cloudy & cold. Slight sprinkle of rain. Turned out to be counted. A large light could be seen in Richmond & bells a Ringing. Anotheer fire. Sick call immediately after we counted. Our Squad are all in pretty good health. Only one man gon to the hospital yet. At 2 pm Moore drew one days Rations of Bread 45 loves & Meat. At 3 pm, we drew Soup. . . . In the Evening it got very cold. Fix up the tent to make it a little warmer. Sergts drew an extra ration today.

Wendsday Sept 7—
Rained all night. Sun came out this morning in all its glory. We are a going to have a hot day. Sick call at 8 am. One man in our tent Malon Lynch brot to hospital. 2 men sick in our squad. . . . The Bells began to Ring in the city & a large smoke could be seen. Annother large fire at 4 pm. . . . Saw a Richmond paper. No news except the Death of John Morgan and Several pieces on McClelland Nomanation. [John
VIEW OF RICHMOND, VA., FROM THE PRISON CAMP AT BELLE ISLE, JAMES RIVER.
Morgan was Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan, leader of Confederate raiders, who died on September 4, 1864. For his defeat of the federal force at Hartville, Tennessee, in 1862, he had been appointed brigadier general and given command of a cavalry division.\footnote{DAB, s.v. “Morgan, Gen. John Hunt.”}

Thursday Sept 8—

... Turned out to be counted and to police camp. Sick call at 9 am. Kept us out nearly all day. Very hot while out. Washed Shirt socks & handkerchief. ... I sold my gold Ring for $4.—. Traded the Wheat Bread for Corn Bread...

Friday Sept 9—

Turned out again this morning for the purpose of fixing camp arranging tents. Sick call 9 am. ... The thing got mixed up. We did not get our tents. While out 12 men tried to escape by swimming to a little Island. They were found out & brot back but were not punished. The men did not get in untill after dark.

[September 10 and 11 were carbon copies of other days on Belle Island. The first was mainly spent in reestablishing their tent site and tidying up the grounds around the tents. On Sunday, Sergt. Eberhart gave his soup to Jerry. He “had diarea very bad and had no appetite.”]

Mond. Sept 12— 25 day of captivity

Slept very little last night on account of Diarea & pain in the stomach. Up early & turned out at 7 & prospects of a hot day. Sick call at 9 am. 2 men sick in the Squad. ... Cloudy and windy. At 4 drew Bean Soup & Soft Bread (24). Build a fire & boiled my Soup & Bread togeather & made a pretty good Supper. A Sudden Change to the weather. Very cold.

Teusday 13—

... The Meat has been Cut down from \(\frac{1}{3}\) to \(\frac{1}{4}\) lbs. Nothing of any Note. Untill 4 pm then drew Soup 14 & Bread (24). 79 men went to Richmond to day but no one knows what for. Report Says 6 took the oath. The Sergts of Squads met and appointed a Committee to get up a petition to the Authorities to parole us. The Sergt to Sign it.
Wendsday Sept 14—
   ... Sick call 9 am. 3 men sick. ... Nothing of Note until 3 pm.
Drew soup 12 & Bread 24. The day was cool & pleasant & the evening warm.
Staid out & walkd around until about 8 pm. In the evening heavy cannonading could be heard. It appears to be close & many are the speculations as to wheare it is.

Thursday Sept 15—
Passed a very pleasant night last night. Up at 7 am. Old Sol out in all his glory & prospects of a hot day before us. The Diorea has nearly Stoped on me & I feel a great deal better this morning. ... Some Says the paper states Gen lee has evacuated Petersburg. [Actually, the two armies were facing each other in the trenches before Petersburg from September 1 through October 30, 1864. The surrender occurred on April 2, 1865.] At 4 pm they issued Soup 2 & Bread 23 & it was Miserable Sour. ... 

Friday Sept 16—
Slept well up to 3½ this morning & the Bells were a ringing & making a big fuss in the City. Supposed to be another large fire. Sick call at 9 am. At 11 drew Soft Bread 24 & Soup 2. After Eating we drew 2 extra buckets of Soup. This is the 29 day of captivity. In the evening got very cool & after dark it was Very Chilley. ... The 18 Va was Relieved to night by the Militia.

[The next four days, September 17-20, were completely routine. On September 19, Sergt. Eberhart remarked that he felt better that evening than for some time, that the diarrhea had nearly stopped.]

Wendsday Sept 21—
Bells made a great fuss in the city last night. No light could be Seen. Could not make out what it was for. ... At 10½ Drew our Breakfast. Soft Bread the best we have got yet & fresh Beef 1 bucket at 1 pm. We drew 1 bucket of meat. Extra. Made Coffee out of the crust of Bread. At 4 pm we drew Soft Bread the Same kind we drew this morning & Soup Beans. Mad coff a gain to night. ... 

[September 22 through 25 were merely days.]

8 William H. Price, Civil War Handbook (Fairfax, Va., 1961), 68-69. Hereafter, all battle dates have been verified in this handbook.
Monday, Sept 26—
Slept tolerable well considering the weather. Up at 7 & turned out to be counted. Morning clear & cool. All in at 9. Cannonading heard in the direction of Petersburg. Sick call at 9. 6 men sick. 2 sent to Gen Hospital. Ross & Lemley. The day clear & warm. . . . 2 men Sent to us to fill up our Squad.

Teusday Sept 27—
Slept pretty well but it was pretty cold. . . . The sickness of camp is pretty large but the mortality is very small. A great Many sent to gen Hospital. The no of Men in camp at first was 5191. It has come down to 4724. . . . Cannonading heard in direction of Petersburg. 2 men sent to gen Hospt. Bulford & McGlynch. . . .

Wendsday Sept 28—
All quiet during night. Slept well. Up before Sun rise & washed. . . . Some one stole my tin cup. Richey & Darnell tried to escape. They dug a hole while we were out this morning & had themselves covered up with a hole to breathe through. Some one informed on them & the Rebs went a Jabbing thier swords & Bayonets in the ground untill they found them & then put a gaurd on them & kept them all day & night. Sent to Richmond & had some of the big Rebs to come & See a Yankey trick.

Thursday Sept 29—
Up at 7 am and turned out. Not as early as usual. Richey & Darnell were still in the Hole when we went out this morning. Dick gave them something to eat. . . . They tore down our old tents & commenced to putting up better ones & quit at 2 pm. . . . After eating Soup gave us tents & we Soon put them up. A tent to 100 men. Cannonading very heavy all day. Richey & Darnell in camp again.

Friday Sept 30th 1864—
. . . Last night they planted 2 guns on the hill over looking our camp. 2 men of our Squad sent to gen Hospital. Morgan & Phillips. . . . In afternoon 7 squads of new men from Libby came in. Found one man among them that we knew. . . . Very heavy fireing all Day.

[Saturday, October 1, was uneventful.]
Sunday Oct 2—

... At 5 drew our Ration of 25 & fresh Beef 1 Bucket the largest Ration we ever had yet. A new Q master was put in to day. Sun down drew our bean soup, with the fresh beef we drew 1 quart of Salt.

Mon Oct 3—
Up befor Drum beat & washed. ... One man killed & one wounded last night. ... About 300 more prisoners came in at 1 pm. All told 5600. Commenced to Rain & quit about dark. ...

Teusday Oct 4—
Up at daylight. Drum beat Revelie at 6 am. ... 100 men sent a way with 3 days Ration. Myers & Cooper of our Co went with them. ...

Wendsday Oct 5—
5 squads 500 men Sent away at 3 am with 2 days Ration. Destination Supposed to be North Carolina. ...

Oct 6—left Belle Island.
We were wakened up this morning & Drew 2 days R—(100) of Corn Bred & 1 Day of Meat 1 qt of Salt. At 5 am we marched out of Camp 9 Squads 900 Men. Down the RR to Manchester & Stoped there. Very warm during fore noon. At 1 pm it clouded up and Slightly Sprinkled.
About 2 pm another squad come from the Island. . . . We did not get aboard untill nearly dark. 75 men were put in a car. We got off about dark.

Friday Oct 7—
Rain all night. 10 of our Co escaped from our Car Sergt Moore Corp Darnell Francis Darby Mittchell Richey Elgin Link Axton & Warman. We arrived at Danvill about 10 am & Changed Cars and Run all day and arrived in Greensboro about 12 m. and marched 1 mile & Camped 50 mile from Salisbury.

Sat Oct 8—
The night was very Cold & Spent in walking around to keep warm. About 11 am we marched back to the Depot & shipped to Salisbury. We got on top of Cars. Started about 12 m. . . . Arrived at Sun down 51 miles from Greensboro. We were on the W. [Weldon] & NC RR 280 miles from Richmond to Salisbury. We were nearly frozen having been on top of the Cars 7 hours. We were formed in to line & marched to the prison about ¼ mile from De-Pot & Counted off in squads of 100. Ours was 10 Squad 5 Division. The Camp is a pleasant one ¼ in Shade tree large oak and one high brick building a Cotton factory with 5 brick Double tenement Houses around the oak grove. The officers Quarter are in rear or north side with a gaurd line in between us. Our Ration all gone. So nothing to eat tonight. The gaurds treated us mean as they would not let the pedlers sell to us but bought from them & Sold to us for four times thier worth. R Jolliff Sold his watch for $100. The women along the road treated us Very Kindly waving thier Handkerchief to us. Men are Scarce. I counted 18 women at 3 houses & not a man to be seen. The Crops along road appear to be pretty good. Saw a negro woman a plowing corn & pottaes. I found some wheat in the Cars and parched it & made coffee out of it. And laid down. Tryed to Sleep but no go. To cold. Got up & walked around to keep warm.

Salesbury Prison

Sunday Oct 9—
Passed the night pretty much the same as last night. I layed down & Slep untill I got cold. Then I would take a turn around the camp to warm up. Morning clear and Cool. At 8 am all Squads fill in & was counted by the Quarter Master. Then we drew Rations. Bred 1 day. 50 loaves. 2 bucket of beef. at 1 pm 400 more came in. I suppose there
CAMPBELL OF THE CAROLINAS.
about 6000 here now. At 3½ drew 4 Buckets of Rice Soup. It was not worth anything. To thin. Evening Cool. 8 I layed down.

Monday Oct 10—
The night was very cold but I managed to get some sleep but I nearly froze myself. Morning clear & very Cold. Made Jerry some tea out of Bark White oak. At 8, drum beat for all to fall in line. Was counted off for Ration. Drew nothing but Solf Bread 50 loaves. Toasted Some. Jerry in the Hospital. Sun came out and made it Very Comfortable. Slept the most of the morning in our corner of yard. In the main building cotton factory they had confined there Deserters. They were taken a way to day. At 4 pm Drew 1 pt of Rice Soup. Directly after Soup Jolliff Springer Rutter & myself got in the C. factory & Slept on the 3d floor which will hold 300 on a floor. . . .

Tuesday Oct 11—
Slept very well. Better than I have any night yet. I got up at 3 am to get water. It is very Scarce in the wells, & the gaurds would not let any one out untill 7 am. Got out & got some water. Made a pot of crust coffee at 9. Fell in & was counted off by the Q.M. At 10 Issued bread & nothing else. 50 loaves. Very hot all day. At 1 pm commenced to Issue Soup but it did not Reach us. We had to do without. Report says they are a going to parole us. This is the hardest hole we was Ever in. No water & only ½ loaf of Bread all day. Evening clear & cool.

Wednesday Oct 12—

[On October 13, nothing unusual happened.]

[On Friday, October 14, the prisoners had bread, meat, and rice soup. On October 15, they drew warm bread and one-half pint of molasses. The first appearance of lice:] we would get out in the sun and take our Shirts off to hunt the grey back & then our pants next. Could not do any washing. Hard Job to get enough to wash your face. [Somebody stole Sergt. Eberhart's tin cup.]
Sunday Oct 16—

... at 12 drew Soup Rice. One of our officers was shot by the gaurd to day. ... The mortality of camp when we first came was light. It has been increasing every day. It will average 12 a day now. At 12, drew wood.

Monday Oct 17—

[Tuesday, October 18, was uneventful.]

Wensday Oct 19—
Up at 3 am. Quite cold. At 9 went to Doctors. Got some pills for Diapha. . . . R Jolliff got in the Hospital. 552 more prisoners came in the afternoon. Dick Moore Dan Elgin & Link among them. The officers were all Sent away to day.

Thursday, Oct 20—
... One man Shot Somtime in the night for some cause or other. 10 men escaped by the Sink & 3 of them brot back. I Suppose the rest got a way. They say 25. Men left to day, from wood train & the gaurd went with them.

Friday Oct 21—
... At 9, drew our Bread & Molases. Traded molases for meat. Nothing else during the day. ... Sickness in Camp increasing Every day. And the mortality is also increasing. They haul them out by the wagon load. 12 to 15 all naked.

Saturday Oct 22—
Very cold & slept by turns to keep the fire up all night. Burned up all the wood we had saved. ... Cold all day. ... After dark wind fell. Drew wood.

Sunday Oct 23—
Slept better Last night although it was colder than usual. ... Warm during the day. Drew Soup at 2 pm & wood in the evening. A Minister
& a Lady Came in to Camp to day and held a short service. Was glad to hear them.

Monday Oct 24—

... Got Flour in stead of Bread. Nearly all the Camp got flour. 1 Barrel for 200 men. Mixed it with water & made cakes & baked in the ashes. They issued two tents Sibley to the Squad. The first tent we have had in this camp. They are crouded at night. All lay on right side spoon fashion all night. Drew wood at 4 pm.

Tuesday Oct 25—

Slept very well considering the Crowded tent. ... at 9 Drew Flour & Molases. Tom Springer & I mixed ours togeather & Baked some Cake and Dumplings. Picked up a Bone in the Camp and pounded it up & boiled it for the Marrow for our dumpling Soup.

Wednesday Oct 26—

... The day passed a way slowly. We did not get our ration until 4 pm. Got Flour Molasses & Rice Soup. No Salt. Salt worth $5.00 a pint.

Thursday Oct 27—

Morning cloudy & Sprinkling Rain. Made a bucket of Dumpling. Meadwell of our Co died last night. Average 100 per week. All or the most died from Diorhea & Disentary. Niesly of our Co died to day. Continued raining at interval pretty hard all day. 590 more Prisoners came from Richmond. Captured in the Vally Oct 19. [A battle was fought at Cedar Creek on this day. General Jubal Early had caught Sheridan's men off guard while Sheridan was absent. Then followed Sheridan's famous ride to save the day and to win a decisive victory. 9] We drew bread Hot from the Oven & Rice Soup.

Friday Oct 28—

Rained nearly all night. At Sun up the Sun Came out nice & warm, & dried Every thing up for us. Has been Very Muddy & disagreeable. Went to the ded house this morning & Counted 22 died last night. They Hauled out 27. At 10 am we drew a good Ration of Beef and Muttin. At 1 pm drew Soup. The day wore away. It was very pleasant but we drew no Bread. Counted at 4 pm.

9 Bruce Catton, This Hallowed Ground (New York, 1955), 353.
Saturday Oct 29—
Up at daylight. Morning pleasant but quite cool. No Bread & Flour. But 13 died. At 11 am we drew Beef. At 1 got a pint of Rice Soup. At 3 got another pint of Soup. Bakers went to work. No bread issued except to Hospitals Squad. Counted at 5 pm.

Sunday Oct 30—
Up early & drew water for tobacco at the well until I got enough. Drew Bread & Soup to day. No service to day.

Monday Oct 31—
Morning Cool & Pleasant. Drew Bread at 8 am & Soup at 12. Jerry Jones died to day. Our division in line & to day Put up our tent by the Hospital. Drew wood. Counted at 4 pm.

Tuesday Nov 1 64—
Up Early & went Down to See Rawley. Found him much better. Morning coll & pleasant. At 10 am we drew hard tack, 6 to a man. At 11 our Soup Rice. Pleasant all day. Counted off at 5 & drew wood.

Wednesday Nov 2—
Got up this morning & found it raining at 9. . . . Rained Steady all day. A cold driving Rain. The tent smoked so we could hardly stay in it. Just at dark we drew flour. And very mean flour sour & musty. Tom Dick & I made a pot of dumplings. Dryed our canvas & retired. Very little to eat today. Only raw flour. N. Patterson died to day from Cookstown Pa.

Thursday Nov 3—
Rained very little during the night. I slept very little on account of the smoke. Morning very cold & cloudy. Look as if it was a going to Rain a gain. Camp very muddy and disagreeable. Made Rawley a Cup of Beef tea & found him a good deal better. This morning at 11 we drew a Ration of Hard tack. They run 7 to a man. At dusk made a bucket of Soup. After dark it rained very hard for a while.

Friday Nov 4—
Slept very well. Morning Clear & Cool. Sun Came out but not very warm. . . . In evening it Clouded up & Rained Very hard. After dark 700 more prisoners came from Richmond. We drew no bread to day. They cannot begin to feed what is here now.
Saturday Nov 5—
Up at Reveille. Morning Clear & Cool. At 8 we drew a Ration of beef. The Sun Came out & made it very pleasing. A great many are a taking the oath & Volunteering for the Rebels army. They are to do garrison Duty. This morning the working squad are digging the ditch around the Camp. They are now digging dreans through Camp. At 11 we got a Ration of Soup. At 2 we drew bread hot from the ovens. At night drew wood. Green pine.

Sunday Nov 6—
... B F Finlen [ ?] of our Co died last night. At 10 we drew a ration of Rice Soup. At 12 we drew one beef Paunch for trip. It had never been cleaned not even washed. But the Boys took it and ate it. Report came 1,000 Sick & Wounded Exchanged to day at Savannah. How I wish I were there. At 2 Received corn meal 1 Pint to a man. The Drums beat to fall in and we were counted. Made a pot of mush after we Returned. Some one stole our Salt.

Monday Nov 7—
... Some 600 more prisoners came during the night. Captured Oct 27. [On October 27, there was a battle at Hatcher's Run, South Side Railroad, Virginia; and on October 27 and 28, one at Fair Oaks, near Richmond, Virginia.] They Report everything favorable in side of our lines. They had a general Engagement on Oct 27/64. Rawley still getting better. Made a pot of mush & baked a cake early this morning from yesterday meal. At 3 drew Soup. At 5 drew Corn bread right from the oven. The loaves were larger than we got at belle Island but it was not as good. No Salt in it. Baked too quick & Sour.

Tuesday Nov 8—
Up at day light & made a cup of crust coffee. Too[k] a turn around camp. At 9 am we drew soup. Nothing else all day to all Prisoners. The Presidential Election there is a great deal of Speculation as to who will be Elected. The weather is Just like it always was at Election day. Cloudy & Drisling rain all day. The Navy officers that was here for a few days was sent away.

Wednesday Nov 9—
... 30 barels of corn meal came last night & the Bakers right to work. They issued nothing but Soup yesterday. Have a new Quarter
Master. This morning at 11 we drew our Ration of Corn Bread $\frac{1}{2}$ Flour & Corn. At 1 drew Soup with plenty of Rice in it & Pork boiled with it. Evening Cloudy & warm.

Thursday Nov 10—
Rained a good deal through the night. Morning clear & strong wind a blowing. It dryed the mud very quick. We had no fire in the tent and we slept very well as the night was warm. At 9 am we drew Rice Soup. It was very good. Had Salt in it. Drew a Ration of Beef & Mutton & shortly afterward drew Corn Bread. The day was very warm. I suppose the warmest we have had since we came here. Drew wood this evening.

Friday Nov 11—
Up at Revellie. Morning Clear & Very Sharp. At 10 am we drew Ration Corn Bread. The Bread was made much better than any we have had before. $\frac{1}{2}$ Flour & Corn & Baked well. At 12 we drew our Ration of Rice Soup. Went out & Carried in a big Stick of pine. Rawley is very low to day.

Saturday Nov 12—
... Our Ration was Salt Beef. At 11 drew good Rice Soup. Drew wood at 5 pm.

Sunday Nov 13—
... At 8 we drew our Ration of Bread. At 9 am we drew a Ration of beef. Half of it was Raw. At 10 drew Rice Soup. The day was Chilley & wore slowly away. Drew wood in Evening. No Service of anny kind to day.

Monday Nov 14—
Morning Cold. It froze some last night. At 8 Drew our Ration of Corn Bread. It was not half baked & very smal loaves. Yesterday we drew Salt & Part of Camp got potatoes instead of meat. The men are dying faster than ever. 185 last week. Average 26 per day. We drew Rice Soup this afternoon.

Tuesday Nov 15—
Up Very Early. Went to the well & Drew water for tobacco. Got quite a lot & sold it & bought $\frac{1}{2}$ loaf of Bread from a Jonny. Rawley
Jollif & John Malone both dead this morning. At 11 am drew Rice & Cabbage Soup. At 4 drew Corn bread. The day was pleasant but quite cool.

[The entries of November 16 and 17 are without event.]

Friday Nov 18—
Slept pretty good last night. At 9 we drew Bread & meat. The day was very pleasant. At 1 pm drew Soup. Rice. And drew wood in the evening. Went out for L. J. S. as he is not at all well. Poor boy. I am afraid he will not hold out untill the End. Who will "God only Knows."

Saturday Nov 19—
Last night it Rained the most of the night & Stopped for a while about 8 am. . . . Went and got a Doctor to Come & See Tom Springer. Gave him som medicine. Will try & get him in one of the buildings as Soon as he can.

Sunday Nov 21—
Cold morning. Tom not as bright this morning. He gave me his book to keep & bring home for him. I told him I would do so if I lived to get out. We only drew Rice Soup to day. W. Patterson of our Co died to day.

Monday Nov 22—
Weather a little warmer but very muddy. Went out & carried in wood for Tom. Drew a Ration of Flour & Rice Soup to day. It is strange layed down last night feeling pretty good & got up this morning could not talk above a whisper. I had a cold but seem to be better of it.

Teusday Nov 23—
Weather a little brighter this morning. News came Lincoln was Re Elected. Great Rejoicing & Cheering through out the Camp. No Rations of anny Kind to day. Tom not as well.

Wendsday Nov 24—
A Cold Rain last night. Towards evening it froze Ice on the oak trees that it broke off big limbs. They would fall through the night. My the poor Men that has no Shelter of anny kind to night God, have
mercy on them. I got a letter from home to day. Glad to hear from them. “If I was only with them now how thankfull I would bee.” Says they had put in some stamps & 50 cent & would send me money if I could get it at all but no money or Stamp either but letter was welcome. No Rations To day again of any description.

Thursday Nov 25—
A little warmer to day. But very muddy. The mortality of camp is Very great. From 40 to 50 a day. How long will we last. My side pained me a good deal, and I sold Bread & tobacco & got 5 dollars & bought a fly blister for my side. Put it on for a while and drew it a little Red but not blistered any. [For Chest Congestions Make a poultice of kerosene, turpentine, and pure lard (the latter prevents blistering). Use wool cloth soaked with the mixture. Place cheesecloth on chest for protection, and then add the wool poultice. There are many similar chest poultices, all of them to draw more blood to the lungs and thus relieve congestion.] So I had to take the pocket out of my pants for a rag to cover it and found a bone in the mud and broke it up & boil to get grease to grese the rag with. Got up at daylight and drew water for tobacco. This morning we drew a Ration of Soup and Bread. This 11 am at noon when the Rebel Relief Came in our Squad & Some next to us Jumped on them & took thier guns from them & got 14 guns & a few from the Post inside. We tried to get out. But the boys Camped near the gate did not know anything about it and came a running towards us instead of Secureing the gates. So we failed. They opened on us with one cannon. Blank shot first, but the next Shots was Schrapnel. We had 28 men killed about 70 odd wounded. Shot some 3 of the Rebels off the fence. Tom wanted me to get a mule and come back for him if we got out. I told him I would do so but none of us got out. We were ordered to get in our holes & Stay there on pain of being Shot.

Friday Nov 26—100 day
Up early & went to the well & drew water for tobacco. The wells are about 20 ft deep & you had to have a String & Bucket or quart tin with bale to it only way to get water in camp. The well would be dry by 7 am that you could hardly fill a cup, no Rations drawn to day. Came in with a Regt of 3 or 4 hundred to get the guns. Some were brok

around the trees & some thrown down the wells. Got some of our men to go down & get them. Gave them a Ration of Bread to do so.

Saturday Nov 27—
Weather a little warmer & a drying up. Some Squads drew a Ration of Bread & Soup but [our?] Squad did not get any. I had the Doctor to see Tom to day. He said he would get him in a Hospt. building as soon a Vacant place was. More recruiting to day. Went out for wood to day. For Tut Rutter.

Sunday Nov 28—
Sun out bright & warm this morning. I bugged some for myself and Tom S. Drew Soup & Bread this morning. I walked up to the grove. A Minister & Lady came in to camp & held a little Service. It was pleasant to see a Lady once more & to think of her a coming in such a hole as this. I Could not Sing any So as to be heard although I knew the Hymns on account of my Voice. The Doctor came about 4 & told me to bring my friend right along. He had a place for him in the brick building so I got Dick Moore and we got him in and he thanked me and gave me an ambrotype a piece of watch Chain a pen along with his book to bring home for him. I wanted to stay with him but he said no as I had enough to take care of myself. Stayed till Dark and he asked his Savior to relieve him of his pain. I left him at dark. Told I would come in the

Monday Nov 29
morning. Up at daylight and went in to see Tom & he was a dying & could not Speak but seemed to know me by his Eyes. I stayed a while & got a lock of his hair & he was Carried to the dead House. Weather a little warmer to day. Drew Bread & Soup today. In Evenig got wood. Tom Springer died to day—Nov 29, 1864 one of my Messmates & Bro Sergts.

Teusday Nov 30—
I could not sing a song so as to be heard.

I knew the hymn, the account of my voice.

The doctor came about 4 and told me to bring my friend right along.

He had a place for him in the brick building.

I got Dick more and we got him in and he thanked me and gave me an ambrotype, a piece of watch chain & pin and belonging with his boot to bring home for him. I wanted to stay with him but he said no as I had enough to take care of myself.

I stayed till dark and he asked his Sanin to release him by this.
Monday Nov 29 from [illegible]

I had left him at dark

He would come in the

Morning but at daylight

the guard went in to set him

and he was a dying and

Could not speak but

showed to know me

by two eyes. I stayed a

while and got a lock of

his hair and he was

Carried to the dead house

rather a little warmer

today. A strong bread & soup

to day, in evening got wood

Tom Springer died today-

Nov 29 1864 one of my

Wesimates & Bro Sargent
Wednesday Dec 1—105 day

... The death rates have been very heavy the last week. Went to Doctors to get some pills for Diorhea. I am accumulating them so if I get so I cannot walk, I will have some. Are a good pill to check it but he will only give you one at a time. Drew Raw flour and Rice Soup to day.

Thursday Dec 2—106
Morning brighter. Has appearance of fine day. 9 am got Bread corn, at 12 drew Soup. Dont get meat very often now. I exercise a good deal a walking around Camp as I get Stiff if Set down. Some set on there hunkers all day before the little fire and get so stiff that they Cannot Straiten up. Have one man that way now that Cannot Straiten. We tried to get him up so to walk him around, but he yelled so and plead with us we let him alone—W Winkleman Died to day. I got his bible.

Friday Dec 3—107
Morning Cloudy & Cold appearance. Needs of Rain. A man went past our Squad with a quarter of Mutton. One man remarked there goes Blood Money. He went to his quarters & after a while came back with 30 or 40 of his chums & wanted to fight so we all got out with Sticks Bricks & annything we could get our hands on for them ready for the fray. The gaurds on the fence said if we did not disperse that croud he would fire in to them and pulled up his gun. So they went to thier places again. Drew Bread & Soup to day.

Saturday Dec 4—108
Rained through the night last night. A cold Rain. Recruiting nearly every day. A great deal of Sickness in Camp. Drew Very dark Bread & it was sweet. Seemed to be made from Sorgum Seed Flour & it was sweet. Was not bad to eat if we would only get more of it. Drew Rice Soup at 2 pm. Drew wood this Evening. Went out for wood. Picked up too big a stick. Got the Rebel gaurd to help me on my Shoulder & fell against the wood pile. So I had to get him to take it off my neck. He said, I guess Yank you will tote a smaller stick—so I did. Was too weak—

[From now on the entries are brief.]
Sunday Dec 5—109
A bright morning. Went to the well & drew water for tobacco. Got quite a lot. Traded tobacco for some bread & made a quart of Crust Coffe. Drew a Ration of Bread and meat this 11 am & at 2 pm got Soup ½ pt to a man. Day passed off quiet. No Service in camp to day.

Monday Dec 6—110 day a prisoner
Did not Sleep very good last night. Ground damp and have to lay on one side all night. It makes one Hip Bones very Sore. I look at mine to see if they are coming through the Skin or not. Made a pad to put under my hips at night. Use my Shoes & hat for a pillow at night. Drew our Ration of Bread & Soup this morning. It don't last very long & then a long wait for the next meal. Drew wood this Evening & was Counted off.

Teusday Dec 7—111
More rain through the night. Camp very muddy & disagreeable. Brot Some prisoners in from Andersonville. They look very hard. I thought they were negroes are so black from the pine smoke. Drew flour this Morning at 12. Got Soup. Days drag a long very slow. Got wood this Evening.—

Wensday Dec 8—112
Up early & went to the well & drew water for tobacco or anything I can get. Got a part of Ration of Bread, from one. Heard some one a crying Murder in the night two or 3 times & then all was quiet. Heard there was a man killed for the paltry little Sum of money [he] had. At 11 drew Corn Bread & got Soup. Rice Soup but it is very thin and no Salt in it. I H Rholand died today.

Thursday Dec 9—113
A bright and clear morning. Appearances of clearing up. Hope it may & dry up the mud. Some got a Ration of Corn Bread & Soup to day. Was Counted and drew wood. F. Dunbert died to day.

Friday Dec 10—114
Morning Clear & Cold. Frosty this morning but Sun is a comming out bright. Got our Bread & Some meat Beef, this morning. Got Soup at 2 pm & drew wood this evening.
Saturday Dec 11—115
Up early & went to the well & got water & made a cup of Crust Coffe. Got our Bread & Soup this morning. They issued some clothing to us that the Government had sent to us but the Rebs Stole the most of it. I got a blous & a blanket with annother man, so we can be a little more comfortable now at night.

Dec 12—116 day
Slep later, & pretty good. Slep warmer. Drew Corn Bread about 10 am & beef. And drew Soup Rice. About 2 pm was counted and got our Ration of wood.

Dec 13—1864—117 day
Up early & went to the well and drew water for tobaco. Drew Soup & Corn Bread. Every thing quiet to day.

Dec 14—118 day
A cold raw day. Rained Some & So Cold. Nothing to eat to day. Came in and wanted recruits. Boys are a getting discouraged with the treatment here. Am glad Darby, Ritchey and the boys that escaped are not here. Hope they got home all save—

Dec 15—119 day
Has moderated through the night and warmer but Very muddy & Damp. Drew Ration of Rice Soup & Raw flour. So we had a time to bake it. Wood scarce today.

Dec 16—120 day
Up early & went & Drew water for tobacco. Got quite a lot & gave the boys some that are sick & cant go. Got corn bread and Soup today. A man Shot by the gaurds to day for coming to close to the line. A genuine murder.

Dec 17 121 day—
I went out to day to Carry in Some wood for one of the Boys as he was not able to go & the men are So Selfish if a man is dying they think he must do his Share of his work. Drew Corn bread & soup. A little more rain again.
Dec 18—122 day—
Up Early Not Much Sleep last night. Cold & damp. Drew our Rations of Soup Bread & Some meat. The first for a week. Went out after wood to day. Everything quiet to day.

Dec 19 123 day
Rested Better last night. Sun out Bright & warm. Done some bugging to clean up what I can. Drew Rice Soup & Soft Bread.

Dec 20 124 day—
Up early and went & drew water at the well for tobacco. Got a goodly portion. I share with some of the boys. Got our Ration of Rice Soup & Corn Bread. Weather warm & drying up. Counted off to day.

Dec 21 125 day—
Up bright & Early. Am not a feeling very well. Pain in my breast. It is a bright Sunny day. Got my bugging done. Drew our Rations of Corn bread & Rice Soup but no Chris Kinkle for us this year. Oh if I only had what is left at my Mothers table how happy I could bee—to night.

Dec 22 126 day—
Another day before us. How will it end. It is a little cloudy. Looks as it may Rain. Have finished a bugging. Got a ration of Corn bread & Rice Soup. Sold \( \frac{1}{2} \) of my bread to buy some Salt. Went out after wood to day for Tute Rutter as he is not very well.

Dec 23 127 day—
Up early and went to the well to draw water. Got a double handfull of chews of tobacco for my work. We drew our Ration of Corn bread & Soup Rice. The Mortality Seems to be increasing in the Camp. A Cold Rain today. Got a piece of canvas from the bottom of the tent & wear it around my feet to keep my feet dry. Counted off today.

Dec 24 128 day—
Up Early. And washed & took a walk around the Camp for Exercise. Got our Ration of Corn Bred & Rice Soup about 11 am. Bugged to day in the afternoon. Held my clothes over the fire. Oh how they do crack.
Dec 25, 1887
Up early and had a good wash. I got in the kitchen done and cleaned up the best I could. About 9 o'clock if I was on time. Some of the things I should of have to do. Nothing would be too good for them to give. For the best but alas it cannot be so. Nothing to eat to day. It's a hard Christmas for us. We must keep up our spirits you know.弯曲 on the S. Allen done some trading of beans and a cold pie got a molasses pic of 15 sweet potatoes. So far pretty well. Love to all. Quinn said to day - 03 - 08. 191
Dec 25 129 day—
Up Early & had a good wash. Got my bugging done & cleaned up the best I could. A bright day. Oh if I was only home the good things I should of have to day. Nothing would be too good for them to give to me—but alas it cannot be so. Nothing to Eat to day. Tis a hard Christmas for us. But we must keep up our spirits. God have Mercy on us A Men. Done some trading of Buttons & a gold pen. Got a molases pie & 5 Sweet potatoes. So fared pretty well after all. G Quinn died to day—of Co “G” 191.

Dec 26 130 day—
Up early. Drew some water for tobacco & got Enough to wash myself. Went out after wood to day on my own account. They gave us Soup & Corn Bread to. Oh how good it was. There was some 15 men escaped from the wood train yesterday. I hope they will get through all Safe. Fell in & was Counted.

Dec 27 131 day—
Had not a very good nights Rest last night. My hips seem so sore as though the bones would come through the skin. We got soup & Corn bread a gain to day.

Dec 28 132 day—
Rested better. Up Early & had a wash. Feel somewhat refreshed. Drew Rice Soup & Corn bread & some beef to day. How good it tasted. Took a good walk around Camp for exercise. Am a feeling pretty fair. If I only had my Voice.

Dec 29 133 day—
Up Early and got water to wash with. Weather dark cold & Raw. Was counted to day. And got Ration of Rice Soup & Corn Bread. I went out Side to help to carry in water in afternoon. Glad to get out Side of the pen.

Dec 30 134 day—
Up Early. Went to the well and Drew water to wash with & a cup to drink. Fell in Early & was Counted off. Drew Soup to day but nothing else all day. Bread did not go around. A great many of our boys are a Complaining & death Rates is high. How much longer are we to remain here.
Dec 31 135 day—
Weather a little brighter than has been for some days past. Drew our Ration of Bread & Soup today with some little meat for a N-Year Gift I presume. Oh if we were only Home. What a treat it would be for us.

January 1st 1865 136 day—
Oh for a happ. New Year. Can this be one for us. God forbid. Tis a cold Raw day & the boys are a going fast on acc of Exposure & grub. We had a Recruiting officer at gate. Want Recruits. Nothing to eat to day. Tis a good day to fast on. [There never seems to be any food distributed on a recruiting day.]

Jan 2 137 day—
A little better than yesterday. Got Corn Bread & Rice Soup. 40 men hauled out from the dead House.

Jan 3 [Sergt. Eberhart stops counting his days of imprisonment.]
Same as yesterday. Drew Rations and feeling some better. Weather cool. Looks like Rain. 33 died to day.

Jan 4 1865
A Cold Morning & Raining. Got our Ration of Bread & Rice Soup about 11 am.

Jan 5—
Weather Damp & Cold. Had a hard Rain yesterday and a wet bed last night to sleep on. Sun is a coming out. Hope it may be a bright Day.

Jan 6—
It has been a clear day with the Sun Shine and warmer. Done some bugging today. Hope to sleep better. 28 hauled out to day.

Jany 7—
Up Early & got Water before camp up. Ration Bred & R. Soup. 39 hauled out to day.

[Sergt. Eberhart now begins to “bunch” his entries, probably because of weakness and despair.]
Jany 8-9-10—
About the Same. Weather nice. 80 hauled out the last 3 days.

11-12-13—
Recruiting has been a going on. Missed Ration one day of the three. 97 died the 3 days.

14-15-16—
The last 2 day we have had Rain and it is cold. Went out & carried in wood today for a comrad. 125 these 4 days, Jan 18-19-20-21—

Weather Cleared & fine. Got our Ration of Corn Bread & Soup pretty Regular the last few days. 140 has been hauled out Jany 23 to 31. We have missed our Ration one day this week. 250 has died this week. There wont be many of us left.

Feby 1 to 8—
They have been a bringing some men from Andersonvill here. Have fared farely well for Rations this week.

9-16—
Have more Rain & very disagreeable weather. Missed Ration 3 days this week.

17-21 Weather has been nice. Got our Rations.

Feb 22—
G. Washington birth Day. Was called in line & Read a Parole for us not to try & Escape as they were a going to Exchange. What glad news. I drew Ration & Issued the same 2 day to walk 50 miles to Greensboro. Let us out about 12. Walked untill dark and camped in woods. We have plenty of wood & a good fire although it was a Rain-ing. Rested fairly well.

Feby 26—
Arrived at Greensboro. All hungry. After dark they gave us Molasses & Corn Meal to eat. Slept in wood all night with a good fire.
Mch 2nd—
We all signed a parole & put us on the cars & took us to our lines near the Black River. Came in through the Colord troops. What a Joyous deliverance when we once more saw old Glory. I never Saw it more beautifull.

[Ser. Eberhart’s next entry is a list of prisoners who died at Salisbury, North Carolina, from November 7, 1864, until February 22, 1865.

He then added details that, in his haste to reach the federal lines, he had either temporarily omitted, or felt should be restated:]

Paroled Feb 22/65 9 am and left camp with four Days Ration 2 loaves of Bread, & about ¼ lb of Raw Pork to walk 50 mile before we could get on the cars. Left Prison about 2 PM. Reached our lines
The Lord brought us back to the camp and then conducted us to Wellington about 3 miles and got all we wanted to eat. Stayed one night and took a stream for Anopolis mt.

15 March 1865.

I am home on furlough. Thanks be the Lord, and God that brought me home again.
about 8 or 10 of March at Wilmington N. C. What a glorious Sight it was to see Old Glory a waving when we got off the Rebel cars. [In another restatement, he placed the federal lines near the Black River.

Next in the diary he entered the organized Roll of Company G, 8 PRV 6 Rank and what happened to them; the list of Co. G Mustered out, 8 Regiment; the list of the Company captured on August 19, 1864, in Company G, not captured.

Next is his list of Engagements participated in by Company G, 8th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteers, since its organization.

Then he makes an addition to his March 2 entry:] the Colord troops fed us and then we went to Wilmington about 3 miles and got all we wanted to eat. Stayed one night and took the steamer for Anopolis Md.

18 March 1865 I am home on furlough. Thanks be Mercifull God that Brought Me Home again.

[Pasted on the inside of the back cover is:

James W. Eberhart
14 East Stockton Ave. Allegheny Pa.]

Salisbury prison was just one small prison in the North and South with thousands of deaths, through the belief of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, General U.S. Grant, and other war leaders that stopping prisoner exchange would shorten the war.

Yet prisoners have always been the pawns of war. Once they furnished the galley slaves and laborers of the Roman Empire. Kings and princes in the Middle Ages were prime objects for ransom. The Viet Cong recently used American prisoners as pawns for advantageous terms.

During the recent return of American prisoners of war from Viet Cong camps, a reporter interviewed Major F. Harold Kushner, a United States Army doctor held prisoner by the Viet Cong for five and one-half years. He spoke of the mental anguish: "Two of the men died because it was too hard to live. They both told me, 'Doc, I cannot hack it any more. It's just too hard to live.' They just lay down in bed and within a matter of weeks they were dead.

"He said that other prisoners . . . even slapped them to get them
mad in hopes of inspiring some motivation to live. But nothing worked. . . .”

Not so Sergt. Eberhart. From the first, he was determined to survive, keeping himself as clean as possible, and as active as possible, by volunteering for wood and water duty. When the food ration of the day was flour only, he contrived dumplings from flour and the marrow of a discarded bone. He also thought of others, not himself, in his care of the sick. His diary must have helped — what details to enter and how to write them. But the greatest factor of all was his simple belief in a God who would bring him back to home and family.

11 Pittsburgh Press, Apr. 4.
IN COMMEMORATION

GIFT

IN MEMORY OF

JOHN W. HARPSTER

FROM

MISS EVELYN F. EVANS