

**Page 43:**

Next came along ambulance wagons with wounded. Things began to look like work. Soon, a squad of cavalry past us on the fly. We soon reached the place where the brigade doctor stopped and the wounded was brought there as the fight took place a little farther on. Between some of the Harris Cavalry supported by a few of 1st Penn against a battalion of Rebs infantry and cavalry. We threw up our knapsacks before we reached this place left a guard over them and prepared for battle. Our men did not see the Rebs as they were behind breast works until they fired a volley from behind into our men 7 and a lieut. was killed. Lieut. Col. Kilpatrick had his horse shot we passed 3 of our men dead on the road and several horses ambulances busy. Saw one man burying his comrade, we followed the enemy double quick but they got over the bridge at Fredericksburgh and fired it before all their men got over,

**Page 44:**

18 April 1862 at Falmouth, our cavalry close on their heels. Took 5 prisoners. Killed and wounded several of the enemy. Falmouth is quite a village. The bands played Yankee Doodle going through. We camped on the heights saw the enemy retreating over the hills on Fredericksburgh side, our knapsacks did not come slept in mud all night. No cover and it rained all night. 19th the Gen. notified the authorities of Fredericksburgh to surrender or he would shell the city. They did so. Knapsacks came fine day slept well all night. 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday wet miserable day. Gen. Patrick's brigade arrived on 19<sup>th</sup> 12 hours or more behind he gave us the title of the IRON BRIGADE for making such good time. Dress parade and religious service afternoon, the Col. complimented us for doing well on our March. 21<sup>st</sup> wet a black man came in to camp and reported 40 of the enemy killed on the 18<sup>th</sup> from our shells, the battery done well. B.Battery Gibbons Regulars.

**Page 45:**

at Falmouth, April 1862. Rained very hard all day, 22<sup>nd</sup> fine. Co. Lee reported to be in command of the Rebels hereabouts, his forces said to be a Battalion of infantry and 1 cavalry, 2 Batteries of Artillery, the wenchers flocked into camp to see the soldiers and listen to the Band. 23<sup>rd</sup> fine day, Wisconsin troops brought our mail were 3 days coming, cold night and heavy wind. 24<sup>th</sup> cold morning and snowing turned to rain and rained rest of day and all night. 25<sup>th</sup> wet morning and nothing to eat. Commissary empty, no crackers, sugar or anything else. 26<sup>th</sup> Paid off \$26.00 sent mother draft for \$20.00. Report that a mail carrier was lost with the mail and drowned but he turned up. 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday fine day, dried my clothes that I washed on day before. Service at dress parade. 28<sup>th</sup> Co. Drill and Batt. 29<sup>th</sup> New Orleans reported captured, dress parade at 9 am ordered to fix up for muster and inspection at 10 AM for 30<sup>th</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup> capture of New Orleans confirmed. Rained all night and felt sick last 4 days. May 1<sup>st</sup> Review at Gen. Kings headquarters.

**Page 46:**

May 62, at Falmouth. Our brigade by Gen. McDowell and some English Nobles. Saw some held deserters in Uniform. Rain all night. 2<sup>nd</sup> Co. drill fine day Batt. at 4. 3<sup>rd</sup> hot day on guard, formed our camp into streets. Bought a knife, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> hot day bought a pair suspenders had my hair cut and drew a pair of shoes. Dress parade and service at 5. Yorktown reported evacuated got news at noon from headquarters, felt unwell all night 5<sup>th</sup> got a powder from the doctor, rained some, whole Regt got leggins, rain all night. Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> skirmish drill and Batt in afternoon all with leggins on. Number of NY troops in service so far reported by Washington Republican of May. 5<sup>th</sup> infantry, 105 Regts. Cavalry II artillery 5th Pennsylvania 68\_\_\_?\_\_\_?\_\_\_?\_\_\_ 7th Co. and Batt. Drill 8 on guard hot day. Joyful news reported McClellan drove the Rebs beyond Williamsburgh and Gen. Pope captured. 2000 Rebs near Framingham, saw John Flood.

**Page 47:**

9<sup>th</sup> hot day the Col. Marched us beyond the battleground of the 18<sup>th</sup> APL, felt sick and tired back at dark. 10<sup>th</sup> washed my clothes and got medicine from doctor. Windy, report McClellan had the Rebs surrounded. Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> hot news at night McClellan 20 miles from Richmond and the Merimac blew up. Norfolk in our possession. News by telegraph, great cheering while at supper orders came to fall in at once, cross the river. Expected a fight but countermanded. A party was out reconnoitering and drove Rebs took a Lieut. And 18 prisoners. 12<sup>th</sup> hot Co. and Batt. Drill. No papers came. 13<sup>th</sup> very hot brigade drill in afternoon. Wrote letters, 14<sup>th</sup> raining, McClellan reported 26 miles from Richmond fell back(6) 15<sup>th</sup> on guard rained all day and night. McClellan now 15 miles from Richmond, 16<sup>th</sup> fine day Batt got papers and letters. 17<sup>th</sup> fine drew a pair of drawers and got 1 pair from C. Keleher.

**Page 48:**

May 1862 at Falmouth. Gunboats Left Camp, reported repulsed, 7 miles from Richmond. 19<sup>th</sup> got cross belt and returned old one. Battalion drill by Lieut. Co C. blundered. Offers 70th to work at depot. 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> sick, Co at the depot shields div arrived. 23<sup>rd</sup> sick Gen. Auguer and Gibbons Brigades received by old Abe and others; also Shields Div was reviewed. 24<sup>th</sup> washed wet day orders to be read to march by 10am on 25<sup>th</sup>. Sunday 25 one of the 23 NY killed in the city of Fredericksburgh by the explosion of a torpedo and torn to pieces by it. At 3 pm left camp went through Fredericksburg. It is a nice place. Went over the hill and camped for the night about 6 miles south, saw J.Flood Our company acted as rear Guard. Country looked beautiful as we passed. 26<sup>th</sup> reported repulse of banks in the valley, Shields ordered back to the Valley. 27<sup>th</sup> on guard, rained hard before daylight, but day fine. 28<sup>th</sup> Hot. 29<sup>th</sup> orders to march back to Catlett station left at 10am went 15miles halted for night. 7 miles beyond Falmouth.

**Page 49:**

On March to Catlett May 62. 30<sup>th</sup> Resumed our march at 7 am. Very hot felt sick had to rest often, rained hard in evening, went about 22 miles and halted for the night about 11 miles from Cattlet. Wet night. 31<sup>st</sup>. Moved early to Catlett. Saw some of the 104th Regt. there took cars in evening for Manasses and then to White Plains going all night. Very close in the cars could hardly breathe, one man was killed and about 40 reported wounded from a collision, said to be the berdan sharpshooters. This happened before daylight on June 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. It was the intention to capture Jackson, Stonewall, but it was delayed. Left White Plains for Point Royal, valley, nice place. 150 prisoners reported taken near there at a late fight and a lot of wagons captured. We had to stand up in the cars all night, no room to lay down. Gen. Sugur wanted the engineer of the train to run through, and over a Bridge to Strasburgh at night but he refused afraid of the bridges being tampered with. Went to...

**Page 50:**

about 12 miles of Strasburgh at daylight 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer examined Bridge, found it sawed half through on underside intending to kill all on board. Heard heavy firing in distance, supposed to be Tremont and Jackson at it. Little later heard he escaped to the mountains. Saw where Col. Ashby, (rebel) lived beyond Blue Ridge. Could not repair bridge in time to answer our purpose so we were ordered back, reached Haymarket at dark. After many narrow escapes halted for night. Rain all night. 3<sup>rd</sup>, fine went to camp formed it in streets, took a good wash. Our Co. on guard at night-rain all night. 4<sup>th</sup> rain all day streams flooded and rain all night. 5<sup>th</sup> regular detail for guard begins again. Men had no meat in 3 days. 6<sup>th</sup> ordered to march at 7 am to Manenton about 12 miles went as far as Broad Run, Gibbons Brigade took the right of us, had to cross several creeks,

**Page 51:**

June 1862, at Cedar Run on march. Crossed Cedar Run on a single plank one man fell in and was nearly drowned it is the same creek we crossed before on our march near Catlett. Arrived at Waneuton 7pm Pitched tents, very tired. 7<sup>th</sup> hot day fixed up camp reported Capture of 50,000 of Beauregards Army including prisoners, deserters and ???. 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday, started for Waneuton to Church with Dunne went all over the town, pretty place. At 1 PM Met a Col. of Gibbons Brigade, told us to hurry up, as the order was issued to march, found boys all packed up left camp at 2pm. Through Warrenton to Catlett, a bad road to travel, went 12 miles halted at noon. Pitched our tents on the spot we halted at on the night of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. Dress parade at 6pm. June 10<sup>th</sup> rained all day the runs all swelled to torrents. The Gibbons Brigade...

**Page 52:**

left at 6am in rain toward Falmouth but could go only 4 or 5 miles on account of the roads. Hard for artillery. Memphis reported taken. 11<sup>th</sup> the Domince took the mail to Washington. Fine day dress parade at 6pm. 12<sup>th</sup> fine day. Jackson reported badly cut-up and Ashby killed battle between Shields and Jackson advance at Port Republic valley heavy loss both sides. 13<sup>th</sup> hot day moved camp about a mile further and while going got soaked heavy rain with thunder. Laid out camp in streets but orders came to march early next morning. 14<sup>th</sup> left early towards Falmouth hot went about 18 miles, I could not keep up had to drop out several times, all played out, but got to camp a little after the Regt. Camped about 8 miles from Falmouth got the first mail we had since we left Falmouth May 25th or Fredericksburgh 27th. Lots of letters from home, with paper and stamps heard from Leary near Richmond.

**Page 53:**

*Sunday June 62.* Up at 4am felt sick went about 6 miles tired out. Put knapsack in doctor's wagon. Got to our old camp at noon. Fixed tents. Put on guard. 16<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> NY got paid off. Took a walk to village in evening of 17<sup>th</sup>. The Brooklyn and Sharpshooters paid off. On Police. Officers all off, no drill. 18<sup>th</sup> our Regt got paid in morning. Our Co. relieved Co. B on guard at Fredericksburgh, had a good time with a few comrades at Mannix. Played on the accordin, got well used. Co. B. after they got paid relieved us again, left there about 5 pm. Rained hard going to camp a good many fights among G. Co. the hoe handles as they are nicknamed. They had it with the pioneers ( cause whiskey.) 19<sup>th</sup> fine had a picture taken, very windy in evening and rainy. 20<sup>th</sup> sent home the likeness in Capts. Box. Saw John Flood Batt. At 5 PM small party went to village after supper. 21<sup>st</sup>. Fine day washed new shirts & drawers.

**Page 54:**

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.* Hot, knapsack inspection went to Fredericksburg to church with John Flood and others of his co. (Wisconsin 6th) Saw the tomb of Washington's mother all defaced, said to be done by rebels. Lots to drink. Saw S.A. was glad to see me. Had dinner to the house, left at 4 pm late for dress parade. 23<sup>rd</sup>, on extra guard first since I enlisted. Very hot terrible thunderstorm with lightning, rain all night. Carried off the bridges across the Rappahonock. 24<sup>th</sup> fine 25<sup>th</sup> On Guard fine day. Batt. At 5 PM. Wrote home, festival mentioned in K.'s letter was to be on 24, 25, and 26, was 20 years old on 15<sup>th</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup> Note on police, my account with the US Government for clothes leaves me \$11.04 ahead of allowance. Spoke for a pass across the river 28<sup>th</sup> Got pass it was signed by Capt. King and the Col. but returned from Gen. Augers headquarters not signed as he was leaving to take the command of King's Division and promoted to Gen. Fremont Command, the latter said to have resigned. 55 June 62 at Falmouth Gen. Auger promoted.

**Page 55:**

Pope takes the command of the 3 corps. McDowells, Banks and Fremonts call the department of Virginia all the officers went over the river. I myself and Valentine took chances on the pass went to Fredericksburgh. Had a good time and a present of a handkerchief from S.A.M. stayed to dinner. New potatoes and cabbage got well used? Left at 4 PM. Promised to call soon, again on our return the provost examined our pass at the Pontoon Bridge and found fault said they knew the Gen. Signed no passes that day. After some talk they let us go. (I signed the Gen. Name on that pass myself and they could not detect it.) Got back in time for dress parade, *Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>* wet morning, inspection afternoon, hot and in parade and preaching by Chaplain of 2nd Berdans sharpshooters. 30<sup>th</sup> Muster in and inspection at 9 am all looked well.

**Page 56:**

*Sunday.* A man of Co E. drowned in the Rappahonock while bathing buried today at 1 pm. Batt drill at 5 a committee of 3 from each Regt in the Brigade appointed to arrange for a little time on the 4th of July and some fireworks from our Regt, Major Shyster and Capt. Landon. *July 1st* fine day drill and inspection at 8 am. The Gen. told the committee not to incur any expense, as we might not be here on the 4th. Saw J.Flood and took a walk to the Pontoon Bridge after supper. Went to the Village. 2<sup>nd</sup> Rain all day, went to Fredericksburgh with Valentine. Good time at S.A.M. and had tea there and a present of a gold ring. Left at 6 pm asked to call on 4<sup>th</sup>. Went on guard at 11 pm in Joe Boyce's place. Rained all night. 3<sup>rd</sup>. fine day heavy fighting reported before Richmond Magruder Rebel Gen. With 2000 prisoners reported taken. Continued fighting for 3 days, great excitement. Richmond reported taken but false, next came news.

**Page 57:**

At. Falmouth, McClellans retreat to James River. McClellan fell back to James River, near 30 miles from Richmond fighting all the way, orders to us, no duty on the 4<sup>th</sup> except Guard. At Midnight bands in the vicinity struck up National An. And at sunrise salutes fired, 4<sup>th</sup> hot day on Police, in afternoon went with Valentine to Fredericksburgh, good time plenty to eat and drink got picture from S.A.M. Went to the quarters of the Construction corps good many. Tight in the city. Crossed the railroad bridge on return to camp, saw Baltimore Sun (paper) it stated McClellan had 7 day fight before Richmond, loss estimated at 20,000 and Rebs 25,000. Got to camp after dark saw some fire on the gunboat on river. 5<sup>th</sup> hot day washed clothes, got letters and answered them. 6<sup>th</sup> very hot 97 in the shade, no papers came. Had news from McClellans army, inspection at 8 am.

**Page 58:**

July 62 at Falmouth. 7<sup>th</sup> very hot went to see dam above Falmouth. Saw where Washington used to mold cannons, time of Revolution. Splendid view along river. Stopped at the butchers headquarters and got some meat. Very hot 105 in shade. Back at noon. Vicksburgh reported taken, not confirmed also Fort Darling . Jackson reported killed our loss reported 15,000 in 7 days fight. Rebs 20,000. McClellan reported all right, he issues another address to his army. Orders read to us that Gen. Augur was to leave us and take Command of a division under Banks, late Siegel Div. Our men felt sorry to lose Gen. Augur, Col. Sullivan of 24th NY in command of the Brigade until a General is appointed. 8<sup>th</sup> hot Brigade in line to bid Gen. Augur goodbye. All wore white gloves. He rode down the line, hat off, followed by staff, all the men cheered and was soon dismissed. The Col.'s and all field officers of Brigade called on him.

**Page 59:**

July 6. Very hot, 105 in shade McClellan reported advanced 7 mile since 4th. 9<sup>th</sup> very hot on guard. Nothing new. 10<sup>th</sup> very hot orders on dress parade to be ready to march at a moment's notice and wagons carry 10 days rations. Quartermaster ordered to pack up everything to be ready to leave. 11<sup>th</sup> no passes allowed. Went with Valentine to Fredericksburgh, crossed in a boat saw, S.A.M. Good time plenty to eat and drink. Came back in evening. Crossed in a boat Co.B of our Regt on Provost duty at city ,all the others sent to join their Regt. John Flood sent to Fredericksburgh to hospital. Cool night. 12<sup>th</sup> fine, wash day, after supper took a walk to the river, saw Mr. Arnold from Lansingburgh. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Regt. inspections at 8am. Hot day all sick in camp sent to hospital at Fredericksburgh all ready now to leave.

**Page 60:**

**McClellans Address. #2 , Harrisons Landing July 4th 1862**

"Soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. You achievements for the last 10 days have illustrated the valor and endurance of America Soldiers attacked by Superior Forces and without hope of Reinforcements you have succeeded in changing your base of operations by a flank movement regarded as the most hazardous of military exceptions. You have saved all your material.. All your trains and all your guns except a few lost in battle taking in return guns and colors from the enemy upon the march. Although you have been assailed with fury by men of your own race and nations skillfully masked and led under every disadvantage of numbers and positions, you have also in every conflict beaten back your for with enormous slaughter. Your conduct ranks you with the celebrated armies of history. No one will question that..."

**Page 61:**

" Each of you with pride say I belonged to the Army of the Potomac. You have reached the real base. Complete in organization and unimpaired in spirit the enemy may at any time attack you we are prepared to meet them. I have personally established your lives. Let them come and we will convert their repulse into a final defeat. Your government is strengthening you with the resources of a great people on this our Nations birth day we dedicate to our foes who are rebels against the best interest of mankind that this, our army shale enter the Capital of the so called Confederacy, that our National Constitution shall prevail and that the Union which alone can secure internal peace and external security to each state MUST AND SHALL BE PRESERVED COST WHAT IT MAY IN TIME TREASURE AND BLOOD "

George B McClellan. Commander.

**Page 62:**

JULY 1862 AT FALMOUTH  
NAME OF BATTLES FOUGHT BEFORE RICHMOND.

Thursday June 26 Battle of Mechanicsville  
Friday June 27 Gaines Mills  
Sat June 28 Chickahominy  
Sunday 29 peach orchard and Savage's station  
Monday 30th White Creek swamp & creek  
July 1 Charles City Cross Roads and Turkey Bend.

Monday July 14<sup>th</sup> on Guard In Ladlies Place. Hot day 15<sup>th</sup> washed clothes very hot. Officers packed their tents and sent them off ,but they cam back again. Rain hard at night. 16<sup>th</sup> fine day on police. 17<sup>th</sup> fine

day went to Fredericksburgh with Valentine. Good time all day at ,M \_\_\_\_? They were all getting ready to go to Staunton to see friends. Would start at 4 AM on 18<sup>th</sup> rained all afternoon. Left at 6 pm got to camp at dark. 18<sup>th</sup> got letters from home, it rained some. 19<sup>th</sup> fine day washed. 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday fine day all quiet, wrote letters. 21<sup>st</sup> fine day all quiet. 22<sup>nd</sup> on guard, no news from Richmond, letters from home, times dull.

**Page 63:**

July 62. July 23<sup>rd</sup> Capt. Mansfield of 2nd Wisconsin ordered under arrest while acting as provost Marshall, he granted passes to citizens through the line to the enemy. 4 or 5 prominent citizens also arrested. No more passes issued to cross the River. The Harris Light Cavalry made another bold dash beyond Beaver Dam destroyed a rebel camp, took 5 prisoners and killed 4 men. 2 companies of the 14th went about 12 or 14 miles with them a few days ago. Same cavalry destroyed part of the railroad near Beaver Dam and a depot captured. 300 barrels flour, a Capt. Sergt, and 3 privates. Gen. Pope at the City of Fredericksburgh today said to be popular with the Army. 24<sup>th</sup> on Police, ordered to start after dinner in light marching orders. 2 days rations on expedition to consist of Cavalry. The 4th Regulars Battery B infantry, 2nd Wisconsin 23rd NY & 30th Regt left at 3pm.

**Page 64:**

Stopped at S.A.M. as we passed through Fredericksburgh. Went about 12 miles felt sick and very tired. Lay out all night in a field, no covering. It poured rain during the night. Woke up in the morning very stiff, hardly able to move, sharpshooters passed on ahead of us, 25<sup>th</sup> went as far as where the roads branched off near long woods. Our Regt halted, ordered to stay there until another Regt. relieved us. The others followed up the plank road our Co. was sent up a bye road about a mile to another sharpshooters wounded a Reb Lieut. And killed one. Man it looked like as if we were in for it red hot-scouts came in and reported the enemy in too strong a force to give theirs battle. Were within 2 or 3 miles of Grange Court House, distance about 40 miles from Fredericksburgh, as our instructions was to find out the enemy's strength not to bring on an engagement if there were too many for us.

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branch. Kept on the look out and threw up barricades in the road at Noon. 6th Wisconsin relieved us and we followed on main body. Marched on when at 8 PM Gen. Gibbons orderly met with our Adj. and told him to report to the Gen. The Col. told us how far we had to go about 8 miles farther and likely to have a fight in the morning. We felt in trim.