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## Mss 16, Box 2, Folder 7. [unpublished]

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On the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> Batt. moved from Sugar Creek to Wittsburg. leaving my Batt. (about 150 strong) in camp alone. We remained here until the 19<sup>th</sup>, occupying the time in Shooing our Horses, foraging for our Horses & for the Negroes, (who came into camp, in large numbers,) and in patrolling the Country for a distance of 10 or 12 miles about camp.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, I received orders from the Col. to move, the next day, to Wittsburg, leaving Nails, extra Cooking utensils, and all other articles of no particular present value, behind.

We moved from Sugar Creek on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> and arrived at Wittsburg at about 2 P.M. <sup>of the same day</sup> We were obliged to Prep a few teams at Sugar Creek and along the road to convey our sick. One of ~~the~~ <sup>them</sup>, (Wm. J. Horton of Squadron D.) we were obliged to leave 6 miles from Wittsburg, he being unable to ride further. We found upon arriving at Wittsburg, that the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> Batts (with the exception of Squadron G.) had moved forward 20 miles, to Madison. This last named Squadron, moved out to join the advance, immediately after our arrival.

Here we at once commenced enrolling & organizing our Black Brigade, which had by this time become ~~very~~ numerous and troublesome; as soon as the rolls were completed, I assigned to them separate quarters, provided for stated roll calls, and appointed Dr. Mr. Hoag, Overseer of this part of the encampment.

On Wednesday the 23<sup>d</sup> finding that it would soon be impossible to forage for the immense numbers that were flocking into our camp daily, and observing that quite a proportion were women & children, who could be of no use to us whatever, I issued an order, that "no more women, or children under 15 years of age, should be admitted within our lines." We remained in camp at this point 9 days, foraging; scouring the Country in all directions for 15 or 20 miles; arresting & examining suspected characters; seizing Contraband property &c. &c. at this camp we lost two

of our men. - Pasco of Squadron E. drowned, and - Moon of Squadron F. who died in Hospital. On the 28th I rec<sup>d</sup>. orders from the Col. to move forward on the next day to Madison, and from thence to the Sanguilla Ferry, where a guide would be left to direct us on. The order further stated that "there was no haste, march slowly", I accordingly started on the morn. of the 29th, moved out 12 miles & halted to feed. Then a Courier came in from Madison with dispatches from the Col. ordering me "to send back to Chalk Bluffs, a Lieut. & 20 men, to pick up & take through, the sick left along the road, & also to carry dispatches". I immediately detailed Lieut. Porter with 20 men from Squadron I. and sent them back as directed. (This detachment I have since learned were attacked by superior numbers and routed, at Jonsboro on Saturday the 2<sup>d</sup> Aug. Five of the number have reported back to camp, the bal. are still missing.) Upon arriving at Madison, I found the Col. who ordered us into camp at that place, (the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> Batts having moved forward to Marianna, ~~the roads were very bad~~) The Col. remained here with us until Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup>. when he left on the "Carl" for Wheelock, leaving with me verbal orders, to move on slowly, to Marianna, as soon as the roads should be in good condition. The next afternoon I moved the Wagons to the top of the hills south of Madison on the Marianna road, & detailed Squadron B. as train guard. The next morn. (Saturday Aug 2<sup>d</sup>) I moved my command forward towards Marianna. After proceeding about 2 miles I met a Courier with orders from the St. Col. "not to cross my command over the Sanguilla Ferry, without the most positive orders from the Col. as we would possibly be sent back up the ridge". I accordingly decided to camp on the north bank of the Sanguilla and await further orders. (as my orders from the Col. were somewhat indefinite



own number, not a single muscle, quivered with fear,  
and not a single man of that little command, ever once  
thought, that there was such a word as "surrender", in  
the English language, with no probable prospect of escape,  
being entirely surrounded, by such an immensely  
superior force. yet I discovered, upon all sides of me,  
as I moved around among the boys, that firm compression  
of lip and determination of expression, that assured  
me, that their comrades who had fallen, would be gloriously  
avenged. History has failed to record an instance, of the display  
of more cool, resolute & determined courage, than was exhibited  
upon this occasion.

Official report of this case, as furnished in  
War of the Rebellion Official Record. A the Union &  
Confederate Armies. Series. 1. Vol. 13.

about 500 lbs. each. The officers who were sent out to burn the Cotton, told the owners that the Confederate government would pay for all the Cotton burned! We expected when we left the Cape to have some pretty tall fighting between that place & this, if we succeeded in getting through at all, as we understood there was about 2000 or 2500 troops scattered along at different points along our route. But with the exception of 3 or 4 Skirmishes, we have had no fun at all. The Country through which we came, was full of Conscripts, but they were all new troops, but partially organized, and poorly armed, and could not be prevailed upon to "face the music". They all fled back into the bottoms as we approached. We have taken a good many of their Officers, Prisoners, and I think our trip here will have the effect to break up entirely, a good many Companies that were partially formed, and I am satisfied that if the Col. would exclude negroes entirely from the Camp, and have nothing whatever to do with them, that our march through this portion of Ark. would have a good effect. The course he is pursuing however in receiving all that come, and refusing to give them up, is irritating the People wonderfully, and whether it will result favorably or otherwise, is a serious question. But enough upon the Nigger question, you know my views upon this subject, and can judge how my present employment, so far as this feature of it is concerned, must grind upon my feelings. My health for the last 6 or 8 days has not been quite as good as usual, I have been slightly troubled with the Diarrhoea, a very common trouble in this climate, during

the warm weather, I am decidedly better at  
present however, and think in a day or two by  
keeping quiet, I will be all right again. The Col.  
is very kind, and insists upon my keeping still  
and taking care of myself: Notwithstanding our  
old difficulties, I am obliged to say, that his conduct  
and deportment towards me since I have been in  
the Regiment, has been of the most kind & gentlemanly  
character, and he allows no opportunity to pass, of  
doing me a favor, without improving it, My dear  
Brother could do no more, I only wish he was a  
good Democrat. When I shall have an opportunity  
to send this letter, I cannot tell, perhaps I will have  
to carry it back to the Cape myself, but at all events  
will have it ready if an opportunity does offer,  
I received your kind letter (sent by Charlie Russell) also  
Mr. Durlin's, yesterday, a train came through from the  
Cape, they were very welcome, I can assure you,  
How I like to hear from all the dear ones at home, &  
especially to hear you are all well, The weather is  
very warm, thermometer stands at 100° in the shade,  
but our boys don't seem to mind it much, they stand  
it as well or better even, than they used to, the extreme  
hot weather in Wisconsin, kindest regards to all the  
friends, and lots of kisses for the children, Tell Myra  
I certainly should have given my permission for her  
to attend that dancing school, provided it was a  
respectable institution, but I knew I could not get  
an answer back in time, I am very much obliged  
for that neat little letter of hers, also for Mary's,  
Tell Brookway I have not received his letter yet, but  
expect it is somewhere on the road, Did the package  
of money (\$1100.) I sent from Bloomfield, get through  
safe? Good By -

Kindly of Helen M. & John  
Apple - Package not quite  
open yet.

Henry S. Eggleston