

Hd Qrs Army of Ga  
April 12th 1865

It is but right and proper that I should keep a few notes of this eventful campaign promising to be the last great struggle of right over wrong, of Union over Secession, of life nationally over national death

We started from Goldsboro Apr 10 had skirmishing all day and rain most of the day. The country is the same old story though it is getting a little improved Irish potatoes are grown to some extent here. They are above ground already. Peas onions lettuce and the like look splendid but there is not much of them at night when we stopped they were skirmishing and some of the small balls came over to our camp

11 We started at about 6 1/2 o'clock and had skirmishing all day in front weather cloudy and some rain At night we arrived at Smithfield or rather we got in about noon guttled the place as usual and went to bed. The Johnnies what there was of them fought savage to keep our men back till they could insure safety to their wagon trains They got it across the Neuse in safety but the 75 Ind just went for them as Mr Morton styled it wherever they could see them and fairly drove them over the River many not having time to gain the bridge which they burnt I have had a good visit with Mr Morton and it was a treat I tell you He is the chaplain of the 105 O.V.I.

Apr 12 This morning we were up by 4 o'clock and after daylight Official Documents came stating that Lee had Parked his trains & artillery and stacked his arms and surrendered then such yelling one seldom hears To day we have come along the RR and tomorrow we will probably reach Raleigh But I understand that Sherman has notified Johnston of Lee's fix and I wouldn't wonder if he came in out of the Draft for protection The weather this morning was cloudy but now the sun shines bright and a cool breeze is blowing but it is quite warm

To night Gov Vance came down to Genl S. on some kind of Recapitulation and was accompanied by some Officers & prominent Citizens we are about 14 miles from Raleigh the cars that brought the Gov from Raleigh whistled long & loud and such a yelling as there was among our men is seldom heard

13 This morning we were up at 3 1/2 o'clock and I have learned some more news. After the Gov had finished business last night he started to return but the Johnnies fired on the train and he had to come back into our lines To day has been alternate between rain and pleasant weather We arrived in the Capital of NC early this P.M. I have only seen a small part, and the Capitol building at a distance It is a splendid structure built of red brick with projecting front and 2 long wings the window casings are white

The city what I have seen of it is well regulated The streets are laid out with care and very nice & clean and many of the houses show of the wealth of the owners. It dont look so demoralized as most of the Towns & Cities we have passed through To day 2 Rebel soldiers were hung for firing on our men after the city had Surrendered

*[April 12, 1865 continued]*

To night I have been out about a mile to get a Johnny Ambulance which we found in town We are going to carry a Printing Press in it It was so dark I could not tell how the city looked

14th To day it has rained some and I have been quite buisy I have had to look up Capt Bickford (the 20 Corps Commissary) and get considerable of the orders &c for the officers

The building I described as the Capitol is the Insane Asylum and instead of Red Brick it is coated with Mastic

15 To day it has rained considerable and I have been to the commissaries again. the Roads are getting bad but by the Blessing of a good God we are as far as I can learn at the end of the last Campaign in this Quarter

Reports say that Lee Johnston Hardee Wheeler and I dont know who all are surrendered Truly through God we shall do valiantly for he it is that treads down our enemies On account of this gracious interposition of Providence we look for a speedy dissolution of part of this great combination of men and means of war The country is so hilly and well shaded that I cannot tell much about the town but what I have seen of it Raleigh is a splendid city To night it is quiet and we expect many of the Rebel Prisoners in tomorrow Reports say we will not move from here till we can go nearer supplies "Now Mexico Look out."

Holy Sabbath 16th This morning the sun came out most beautiful and bright. I rose about the time it did and after tending my Mules and Breakfasting I looked into that Book that speaks to us of the love of God for sinners and instructs us in the way of life The encouragement I have recieved from time to time from the Bible I shall try to proffit by through all my future life and hope to enjoy the smiles of God even when I am called to pass through the dark valley of the shadow of Death. Beyond going to the commissary's I have had nothing to do to speak of

The weather has been pleasant all day

17th This morning the sun rose beautiful and Bright all is very quiet Johnston has not yet surrendered and Genl Sherman and the Reb Genl Cox have gone out to try and reconcile him time will tell The carrier I am told was sent for the mail yesterday I have been around Town some to day It is very thinly settled and at intervals are the habitations of the rich (costly, handsome, and in many ways calculated to captivate the eye) while the dwellings of the Poor are intermixed making the town look worse than it otherwise would

I heard that the 112th was in the neighborhood and I looked around the 23 Corps but have not seen it as yet The Weather is pleasant

18th This morning the sad news reached us that the President was assassinated on the 12th. It has cast a gloom over the whole army and made many an eye flash Vengeance on that account the city is thribble guarded and all the avenues of ingress and egress are closely watched also all most every corner of the street and between corners in order to prevent our men from laying this city as low as Columbia S.C. and should it be truth and they have any more battles

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here (as Johnston has not yet Positively surrendered) you may not expect to hear of many prisoners being taken and need not be surprised if none are This afternoon the Despatch is contradicted and the language of my heart is God grant it may be truth It is reported that some audacious rebel got to our telegraph wire cut it and annexed a battery and sent the Despatch

It is very certain that death will be the sure result of Guerrilla warfare after Johnston yields Sherman says so and that is as good authority as I want We are having a Thunderstorm to night It has been very warm all day

The Raleigh Papers are full of desire for peace and are overjoyed at Shermans grand entry into the place

19th This morning the weather is delightful again & news is of an uncertain character Reports say that Johnston and Sherman have come to terms and that the signature of the President is only wanted to complete the arrangement for a complete cessation of Hostilities in all the Western Department I hope for an honorable success The day has been very monotonous for me as I have not had to hitch up yet. On the march I have picked up some Books that I thought I had better take than let be destroyed among which are Watsons conversations, Memoir of Summerfield and a very nice copy of the Course of Time which I am bound to save if I can army life with us will soon be over "And we'll all feel gay when c\_\_\_\_y comes marching Home"

Killpatricks Train pulled out today and it is said that their destination is Knoxville Tenn

I must now hitch up to get the mail

Later, the mail business turned out to be something else It was I had to go to Corps & the Div Hd Qrs with Blank forms for the different ordnance Officers We have to start foraging in the morning at 6 o'clock good health that inestimable Blessing I still enjoy

more when I get time