

Head Quarters Army of Georgia
Raleigh NC April 30, 1865

Homeward bound in the morning. I will not try to tell the feelings of my heart But pray that that Providence which has hitherto up held us will still be our Guard and Guide. His promise is he will be our guide even unto death Tomorrow morning we start for Richmond Va. which place according to reports we expect to make and be ready to march from there to Washington by May 15th. It is Reckoned to be 180 miles from here to Richmond and 120 from there to Washington

Good success attending us we in a great measure will get home in time to spend the 4th of July Future revelations will prove whether or no we will be able to perform the journey with that Rapidity

May 1st 1865 How different it is from that day 1863 Then on the morning of that day we were on the memorable field of Chancellorsville and Rebeldom was in its Glory Now the war is over and we are Homebound rejoicing in the Peace that has come to us and feeling happy in the hopes of soon seeing the friends from whom we have been so long parted I for one trust it is not a vain hope but earnestly wish it speedily to become changed from the hope or anticipation to the glad reality

This is the first day out from Raleigh and we have made about 20 miles or more We were up about 3 o'clock this morning. It rained just enough to lay the dust then cleared off and we have had most beautiful weather & the roads have been of the very best

Nature seemed to rejoice with us in the glad advent of Peace and by every means in her power cheer our hearts and bid us good speed on this truly delightful campaign beside what the others have been Such traveling as we have had to day will soon bring us to the haven of rest the spot that our hearts hold most dear The country is quite hilly but beautiful & Picturesque and there is some splendid grazing land which gives the whole a substantial appearance

May 2d This morn we started about 5 1/2 o'clock and came another good bit of distance. To night I have learned the distance we have traveled yesterday 23 4/5 miles to day we come 23 3/4 something over 47 miles good for 2 days I say

It has been bright clear and delightfully cool all day and we have just "lit out" The roads are grand and the country presents more of a homelike appearance The 33d Mass Band is playing at Hd Qrs to night and their music is sweet they are playing coming through the Rye now the country now assumes a more prosperous aspect but all the inhabitants present a haggard half starved look which tells a tale of war too deep for lips to utter. Peas are in Blossom and every thing they have growing promises abundance in peace

But it is late and we have to get up generally before day so good night The place we camped at last night was a camping ground both in the Revolution and 1812

May 3d Another 24 miles is put behind us and we tired and dusty settle ourselves to remain till morn in a pleasant shade in front of an Aristocrats dwelling

[April 30, 1865 continued]

May 3d continued

It has been a beautiful day for marching We started about 5 o'clock and soon after noon we crossed the Old Va line and now can direct Va once more

We crossed the Roanoke River about a mile or so back from our present camp. It is a beautiful Stream Wide deep and as far as I could see was clear of those snags which generally line River banks and bottoms The water is the color of yellow clay What I have seen of the country along both banks shows a rich soil and what is planted looks very thrifty The fields are as green and the sun shines as bright but it is not my own native Home

The country is rather inclined to be hilly but it only serves to form some of the most beautiful landscapes the human eye ever was invited to look upon

The Forests wear a changed aspect. There are not as many Pines as there was. Mostly Oaks Gums and a kind of soft Maple. But as all are well leaved out you can imagine it most beautiful traveling in such weather as I have before described

May 4th This morn we were routed out between 2 & 3 o'clock and soon after daylight we were on the road

We have marched so far with the 20th Corps and lead

The result of our days march is we are almost 25 miles nearer Richmond It has been a most beautiful day but towards the middle it was quite warm About 4 miles back we crossed the Heron River It dont amount to much

The country is very hilly and Pine trees begin to show thick again. It is raining some now and if it stops before soaking the earth we will have some more beautiful weather Our camp ground to night is in an open field There is some nice grass and I have had my Mules out grazing

May 5th This morning the sun was obscured for once and the Rain fell some during the forenoon

This afternoon it has cleared away and is very warm We have come 28 & 61/100 miles today and are on and have passed over considerable of Grants field of operations

At the 1st town we passed through to day we saw some of the 6th corps who are doing duty at the town "Loonsburgh" I believe is the name

I have seen a train of cars from Petersburg which is only about 30 or 31 miles from here

We calculate to make Richmond by the day after tomorrow

We were up at 2 o'clock and off before 5. The country was at first quite level and towards noon tho it grew hilly yet the country is of splendid description

Wheat fields look remarkably well and I saw some that was already headed and some of the bottom leaves on the stakes were turning yellow

There has been places that we have been in to day where we could look a long distance on either side on hills dotted at intervals with wheat & corn fields

[April 30, 1865 continued]

May 6th This morning we were up soon after 1 o'clock and were on the road by daylight. I have had no means of finding out the distance but am told we came about 27 miles. The day has been beautiful but warm and to night we are about 24 miles from the converted Rebel Capital which we expect to make tomorrow.

The country although thinly settled is very rich and remarkably beautiful and the improvements are decidedly Old fashioned.

We crossed Deep Creek and the Appomattox in the course of the day.

Manchester May 7 1865

This morning we were up about 2 o'clock and by half past 4 were on the road. A little after one P.M. we entered the city which is really part of Richmond but on the south side of the James.

Libby is in ruins and the rest of the city that I can see looks fearfully demoralized.

It has been remarkably pleasant all day and as the roads were in prime order we just come along.

We did not come in by the roads that Grant operated so much on and so we have seen but few fortifications.

We expect to start for Washington about Wednesday or Thursday.

What I have seen of the city and its surroundings looks about as it used to but very much worn.

It beats my time though to hear about some expressions used by some of the Potomac boys. They say that Sherman's men don't care for Bayonets or Bullets but where ever they take a notion to go they just go.

Citizens have made applications for additional guards for their Property and one soldier made application to be relieved (he was doing guard duty) and sent to his Regt because Sherman's Army was coming.

I didn't know we had astonished the natives so much until we got here.

I am well and hope and am very eager to get to Washington and from that time to time indefinite as yet my marching is to be played out.

Yours
Charlie
Hd Qrs Army of Ga

PS since we have arrived here I have learned the marching we have done. It is reported that by the route we took it was 186 miles and we made it in 65 hours marching. What do you say to that?