

The
Civil War Diary
Of
Lieut. Francis Asbury Murphy

Foreward

As a teenager going through the public school system of New Jersey, history was not one of my favorite subjects. In fact, the only class I feared more than history was French (even then I hated the French). I much preferred studying mathematics or the sciences or the hands on approach of auto mechanics. I found it much easier to come to an answer by using a mathematical equation, chemical equation or simply taking an engine apart and putting it back together than memorizing dates in a history book. Back in high school I found history to be quite boring.

I knew of my great grandfather's diary but knew almost nothing of its content. I can remember my father telling me a few stories from it but at that time had no real desire to read it. What's more, the handwriting was rather difficult to decipher

I had not thought much of the diary until my sister, Bette, and I were helping my father move this past summer. We came across the diary as we were packing some of Dad's things. We put it aside and later that evening started to skim through it. My sister, being an English teacher, went directly to the poetry. It was difficult at first, but as we read more, the handwriting became easier and easier to understand. It still took us hours to read a couple of pages. We started to transcribe two or three of the poems and we began to get quite emotional. It had been mentioned a couple of times over the years that somehow the diary should be preserved but nothing was ever done. It was then and there, that night with my sister, that I knew I wanted to take on the project of transcribing the entire diary, to save a small piece of American history and a large piece of family history.

Suddenly history, at least Civil War History, became much less boring. It is much more interesting when you have a close family member being part of the history and writing down his accounts of it. I spent over one hundred hours reading the diary, researching the names and places in it, transcribing it and finally learning how to use a word processor to print it. I must say, I enjoyed every minute of it (except for the word processor part). I hope you enjoy reading it. Hopefully, you will get an idea of what it was like to live through the war and to get a feel for Francis himself. A man who obviously loved his country, loved his family, was a poet, had the dry "Murphy" sense of humor but (as you will see) had terrible grammar and spelling skills. I now know where I got my writing skills from - it's hereditary. Thanks Francis.

Jim Murphy, August 2005.

Brief Family History

Our Family's ancestors first came to the American Colonies in the mid 17th century. Richard Hartshorne was born in Leicestershire, England on October 21st, 1641 and immigrated to the colonies in 1666 and settled in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey. This was just six years after the first permanent settlement in N.J. (which was in Bergen, N.J.). Richard was one of the first permanent settlers in Monmouth County and was, for several years, a member of the Colonial Council and was a Representative for the Assembly.

Richard's second son, Hugh, married Catherine Tilton and they had one child named Mary.

Mary Hartshorne married Abraham Garrison and they had six children, One of them, again, named Mary. Mary Garrison (the daughter) married Timothy Murphy, who was born in Ireland on May 8th, 1749 and then immigrated here in 1770.

Three generations later, my Great Grandfather, Francis Asbury Murphy (8/1/1837-2/2/1887) was born. This is his diary. Francis married Carrie Ward (1/20/1838-11/4/1872) and they produced three sons. After Carrie died in 1872, Francis was married a second time to Josephine Silva. They had two children; Cora Bell Murphy (2/3/1876-10/13/1877) and my Grandfather, Ralph Olena Murphy (2/1/1878-2/26/1964).

Ralph Murphy married Emma L. Schojan on April 23rd, 1913 and six years later to the day, (April 23rd, 1919) their only child, my Father, Ralph Olena Murphy Jr. was born.

Ralph Jr. married Dorothy Menzel, my Mother, (5/9/1920-3/30/1995) on September 17th, 1938. They had three children; Bette June Murphy (born 7/29/1944), Ralph Olena Murphy III (born 6/8/1947) and finally me, James Glenn Murphy (born 10/17/1954). My brother, Ralph III, has two daughters and two sons, neither of which has had children yet. Hopefully one of his sons will have a son to keep our branch of the Murphy family alive.

Brief Summary Of The Peninsular Campaign

The Peninsular Campaign was the first attempt by the North to take the Confederate Capital city of Richmond, Virginia. Following the Union embarrassment at the First Battle of Bull Run (also known as the First Battle of Manassas), George B. McClellan took over command from Irvin McDowell. Early in 1862 General McClellan, who had kept the Army of the Potomac inactive during the winter, proposed a plan to transport his troops by sea to Urbana, Virginia, near the mouth of the Rappahannock River, and from there advancing onto Richmond. This plan was soon rendered unfeasible by the advance of the Confederate Army, under the command of Joseph Johnston, to the Rappahannock, so McClellan chose Fort Monroe (at the tip of the Virginia peninsula between the York and James Rivers) as the debarkation point for his offensive. President Lincoln, who preferred an overland advance, reluctantly agreed to McClellan's plan, provided that a force was left behind to protect the city of Washington. The 1st corps, under Irvin McDowell, was detached from the Army of the Potomac for that purpose.

The famed battle of the Ironclads (Monitor vs Merrimack) took place on March 9th 1862 which cleared Hampton Roads, enabling the Federal water transports to land unmolested at Fortress Monroe. Early in April 1862, McClellan had about 100,000 men at Fort Monroe. Instead of trying to break through the Confederate line across the peninsula, he prepared to siege the city of Yorktown, the strongest point in the line. As the attack was about to commence, the defending forces, under the command of Johnston, retreated up the peninsula. An indecisive, though severely contested, battle was fought at Williamsburg on May 5th as the Confederates retreated towards Richmond.

The evacuation of Yorktown opened up the York River to the Union fleet and on May 16th, McClellan established his base at White House Landing (just 20 miles east of Richmond) on the Pamunkey River. Johnston did a masterful job during the retreat in confusing the Union Army. By rapidly deploying his soldiers he conveyed the impression of possessing a much larger force than he actually had. McClellan (throughout the campaign) was cautious because he thought his army was out numbered.

In late May, Johnston was seriously wounded (Francis was also wounded at this battle) at the Battle of Seven Pines (or the Battle of Fair Oaks) and was replaced by Robert E. Lee. General Lee thwarted the reinforcements of McClellan's force by sending Stonewall Jackson on a bluff attack of Washington. McDowell stayed near to the Capital rather than joining McClellan. Jackson stopped at the Potomac River, then headed south to support Lee's Army. Lee's position was greatly enhanced by the daring reconnaissance of Jeb Stuart, the famed cavalry leader (Jeb's men would later capture Francis). An extended engagement followed in the Richmond area, called the Seven Days Battles:

June 25th: Oak Grove

June 26th: Mechanicsville

June 27th: Gaines Mills

June 29th: Savage Station (this is where Francis was captured)

June 30th: White Oak Swamp

June 30th: Frayser's Farm

July 1st: Malvern Hill

No clear victor emerged. Confederate losses were heavy, but McClellan refused to press the advantage when he had it (again believing he was out numbered). Many believe that McClellan could have easily marched into Richmond after the Seven Days Battles. At this point President Lincoln intervened, calling for the evacuation of the Union forces. Less than two months later the theater of war shifted to northern Virginia.

The Diary

- No 1 George Guerineau Murphy
Boarn Feb 1st 1861 at 1 ½ p.m. in Franklyn Ave between Myrtle and Willibie [Willoughby] Avenues East Brooklyn, Long Island, N.Y.
- 2 Commenced duty as Patrolman in the 4ht Dist.
Saturday Feb 2nd 1861.
- 3 Carrie went to Fort Schuyler July 17th. Took bord [board] in lighthouse.
Stayed three weeks.
- 4 The 1st Long Island Regt [regiment] left Fort Schuyler Aug 21st 1861 at 3 p.m. (Wednesday) for the seat of war. Stopped at Fort Hamilton over night-the right wing being there.
- 5 Thursday Aug 22nd The Regt started for Amboy on the steamer. Carrie and srs [sisters?] was at warf to see us off. A terrible storm came up just as we left the dock. We swiftly landed at South Amboy then disembarked. Took Phil. cars. Got to Philadelphia 2 a.m. Aug 23rd. The ladies of that place gave us a splendid breakfast. We stayed here about three hours then left for Baltimore. All along the road could be sean [seen] men, women, and children cheering us on. We arrived at Baltimore at 6 p.m. Aug 23rd. We marched through the city with loaded muskets. We where [were] received very kindly. They gave us lunch while we was waiting for the cars. We got to Washington Aug 24th 1861 at 1 a.m.
- 6 Saturday morning 24th we marched into camp. Our camp is situated about one mile and about north of the Capital. After striking tent I went down town to take a look at the Head Quarters of the United Stares. Our camp is cald [called] camp davis.
- 7 Sunday morning all is quiet. The boys are cleaning themselves up for church. We are allowed to go down in the city to church. I went to the 14th St. M.E. Church.
- 8 Friday Aug 30th /61 we moved our camp to Maridian [Meridian] Hill, a distance of two miles. This is cald camp Maridian.
- 9 Monday Sept 2nd struck tents again and moved our camp acrost the road. A distance of ½ mile. This is Camp Temple.

- 10 Saturday Sept 14th Struck tents at 10 a.m. marched to Queens Farms. Then went into camp. This camp is about three miles from the last one and four miles from Washington City. This camp was cald Camp Palmer.
- 11 Friday Dec 21st moved our camp acrost the road into the woods. Here we went into winter quarters. This was cald Camp Proctor.

All Accounts Lost Up To March 25th 1862

- 12 Left Camp Proctor Tuesday March 25th at 9 a.m. for Alexandria (the whole Army of the Potomac). Crost [*crossed*] long bridge. Got to Alexandria 6 p.m. We layed out in a field opposite the feemale academy all night. It was very cold and the ground was wet which maid in very uncomfortable.
- 13 Wednesday March 26th embarked on board the Daniel Webster. One of my men got kild [*killed*] by falling down the hatch way (he was buried at Fortress Monroe). Alexandria is a very old looking place. We lay in the stream all day.
- 14 Thursday 27th, maid anchor 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. and the whole fleet moved down the stream. It was a noble sight. We passed Fort Washington on the left 10 a.m., Mount Vernon on the right at 11 a.m. As we passed this sacred spot where the father of our county sleeps, the band played some national arms which made all feel sad. At 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.m. we passed Occoquan Battery, passed Cockpit Point 12:50, Aquia Crick 2:10, Mathias Point 3:30. These where [*were*] all rebel batteries destroyed by our gun boats. Nothing of importance seen after leaving the point. The seanery [*scenery*] was splendid down the river!
- 15 Friday 28th Awoak at 6 a.m. and found our vessel laying under the gunns of Fortress Monroe. We lay here in the stream all day. The officers went on shore and got something to eat at the Hygeia Hotele. About 300 vessels lay in the stream. The town is small. The rebels threw a shell at us as we lay in the stream, from Devil's Point, it fell short.
- 16 Saturday 29th got up at 7 o'clock. Went ashore got breakfast. Disembarked by 12 noon and commenced our march up the paninsula [*peninsula*]. We went through the town of Hamton [*Hampton*]. It had been burned to the ground by retreating rebels. It was a splendid town built mostly of brick. We marched within two miles of Newport News, there halted in a field. It was raining very hard all this time. We suffered much this night. We have nothing to eat and our waggons are stuck in the mud.

- 17 Sunday March 30th it is a terrible stormy day. I lay on three fence rails with my blanket over me. The rails keep me off the ground. To day we have three crackers & a small piece of fresh meat (without salt) for our days rations. I cooked my meat on the end of a stick holding it over the fire. I have been sick for two weeks and to night I am worse. I lay here in the rain with only a blanket to cover me or shield me from the storm.
- 18 Monday 31st
I got very bad last night, vomiting all night. This afternoon, the doctor finding that I was getting so bad sent me to the hospital. I went to the 1st Delaware Regt Hospital. I remained there two weeks, then went to Hygeia Hospital at the fort. Dr Mall attended me. I have got the jaundice very bad. Dr. Mall treated me very kindly. I stayed at the hospital until the 18th of April 1862 then joined my Regt which was at Yorktown.
- 19 Saturday April 19th 1862
It was a beautiful day. I went to the stoney crick & took a wash. Some firing on the right to day.
- 20 Sunday 20th
There is no service to day. Our preacher is sick. I slept most of the day. Wrote to Carrie to day. Quiet along the lines except now & then a shot from the pickets.
- 21 Monday 21st
Heavy cannonading this afternoon at Yorktown.
- 22 Tuesday 22nd
Our Regt is on picket to day. There is a great deal of picket firing to day. My post is on the bend of the Warwick River.
- 23 Wednesday 23rd
We came in from picket this morning. Our pickets talk with the rebel pickets across the river. The river is from fifty to one hundred & fifty yds wide. This river empties into the James. It is navigable up to within four miles of Yorktown.
- 24 Friday 25th
I went on fatigue to day. We are building a corduroy road from Fortress Monroe to Yorktown. They are working at the latter place day and night planting heavy seag [siege] guns.
- 25 Saturday 26th
We have plenty to eat now.

26 Thursday May 1st 1862

I am on picket to day (by chimnies). Got orders to advance our line of pickets. I threw my company out as skirmishers and occupied the woods in front. I laid with my men within 100 feet of their fort. They threw a few shells at us but hurt no one.

27 Saturday 3rd

Our forces commenced shelling Yorktown to day. The ball opened about 10 o'clock a.m.

28 Sunday 4th

The seaging was kept up all day yesterday and last night until 3 a.m. this morning upon their works. By this time it got so hot for them that they thought it best to evacuate, leaving large amount of cannon & munition of War behind them. Our Regt left camp this morning about 10 a.m. We crost below the dam. My company and company A built a bridge in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour (without a tool of any kind) over which 12 thousand troops crost. Our Regt was first over.

29 Monday 5th

Our flag was the first to move over the main works at that point. We faught all day to day. The woods are very mudy [*muddy*], every step we take we go up to our nees [*knees*]. We chase the enemy to day within six miles of Williamsburg. Loss quite heavy on both sides. We faught till dark. This is cald the Battle of Williamsburg.

30 Tuesday 6th

We where [*were*] in line at 4 o'clock this morning ready to attack the enemy. But during the night they had left, not liking the reseption we gave them the day before. We marched into Williamsburg this morning. Got there at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. From the looks of things along the road they must left in a hurry. Most of the inhabitants had left the town and gon [*gone*] with the retreating army.

31 Wednesday 7th

We went back on the battle ground and burried our dead. It was an offull [*awful*] sight to witness the dead laying mangled in every manner imaginable. All the churches & public houses where [*were*] used for hospitals. It is a fine little town. The women of the place caim for the sick & wounded of the Confederate soldiers but without life-
A hand to help our men.

32 Thursday May 8th 1862

We remain here. Quiet to day. The advance is still in search for the rebels. Willamsburg in the time of peace has 2000 inhabitants. At present it has only 450. They thaught we where [*were*] going to ravish their children was their reason for leaving.

32 Friday 9th

Our army started on our way for Richmond (after remaining here for three days for our provisions to get up). This morning at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. we marched to a place cald Burnt Ordany (?), a distance of 12 miles. Halted in a large grain field. The day is very hot. The place is like other southern towns, it has but four private houses, one store & schoolhouse.

34 Saturday 10th

Formed line at 9 a.m., marched to Barnesville, a distance of 7 miles, where the Army of the Potomac remained over Sunday. McLellan would never march his men on Sunday, only in cases of emergencies. The country through here is very fair. Barnesville is but a small place. It has two stores, schoolhouse, two blacksmith shops, twelve houses- most of them abandoned.

35 Sunday 11th

I was sent to day with a squad of men to guard a train of forage from West Point. This place (W.P.) is at the junction of the Pamunkey and Mattaponi rivers. About 200 vessels lay their ladened with government freight.

36 Monday 12th

Nothing of importance to day. Prisoners from the enemy keep coming in. Also deserters from the enemy.

37 Tuesday 13th

Formed line 8 a.m., marched to New Kent Courthouse. The day is roasting hot. We where [*were*] detained by Smith's & Porter's Devisions going in ahead of us. We marched until 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock that night and made only six miles. Road very muddy.

38 Thursday 15th

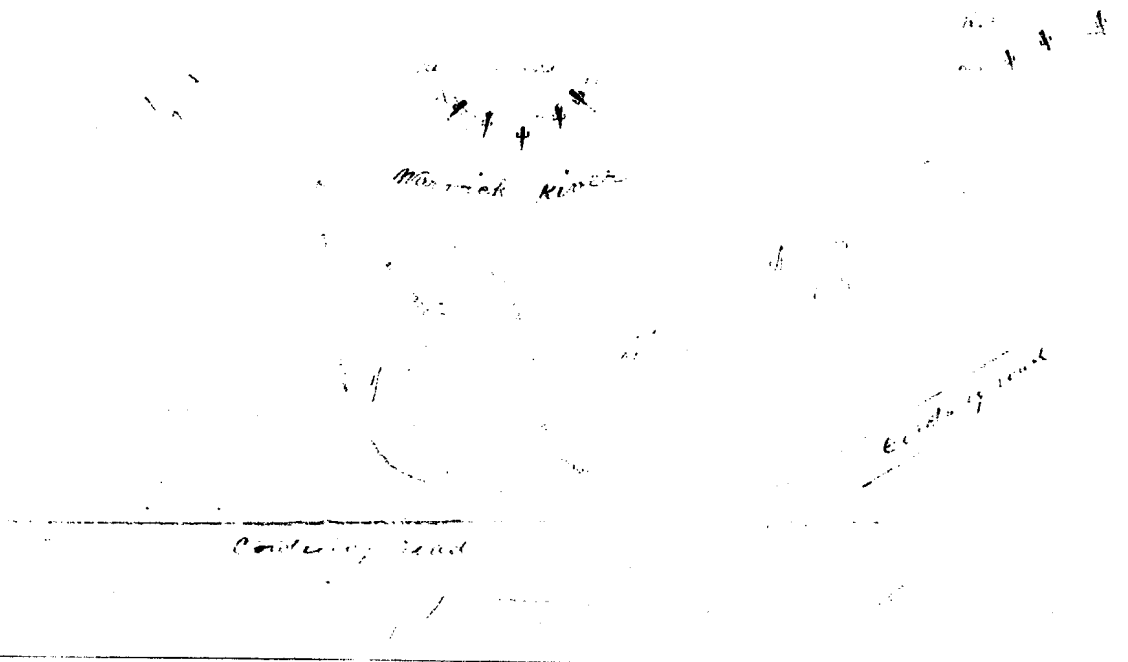
Went out to the front on a inquiry. Sene [*seen*] in force about 4 miles out. Caim upon some Rebel Cavelry. We lay out all night. The enemy fell back so we returned to camp, accomplishing all that was intended.

39 Friday May 16th 1862
Our Regt is on picket to day. We sent in some Rebel straglers. All quiet to night.

40 Saturday 17th
Our Brigade forms our Division to day, who has gone to the front.

41 Sunday 18th
I got up this morning went to the brook to a nice wash. Also washed me out a shirt & a pair of socks. We had service at 11 a.m., Text.. "One man can chase a thousand and two men put ten thousand to flight."

42 Monday 19th
Formed line at 8 a.m. marched to Cumberland Crossroads, a distance of four miles. We are 17 miles from Richmond. Heavy firing in front. Gunboats at work at City Point. Our Regt is on picket.



44 Wednesday 21st
Brook camp at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m., marched 3 miles & within one mile of Chickahominy Crick where we halted for the night. The bridge we found burned. We ree built it to day.

45 Thursday 22nd
Brook camp at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. crost Chickahominy Crick at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. We crossed at Bottom's Bridge. Marched 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Skirmished the woods, found no enemy in forse so we returned to old camp in the evening.

46 Friday March 23rd 1862

Formed line 2 ½ p.m. marched 4 miles towards Richmond. We are now within 12 miles from Richmond. Here we halt for the night. We camp on the farm of Mr. Wade.

47 Saturday 24th

Our Regt is on picket to day. All quiet in front of us. There is quite a skirmish going on over to the left of us by the R> Road [*railroad?*]. I hear there is two men kild, eighteen wounded. We are shelling the woods so as to advance our lines. We are on picket at Doctor Young's House.

48 Sunday 25th

We caim in from picket this morning 8 a.m. At 10 a.m. formed line of march We marched 3 miles to the left and encamped on the field where the fight was yesterday. This is near seven pines. All quiet during the night.

50 Tuesday May 27th 186

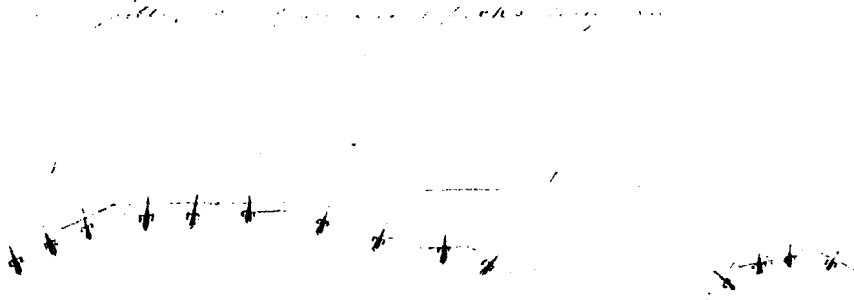
It rained hard all night. About 2 o'clock the water came rushing under me, wetting me from head to foot. I had to set up the rest of the night. It cleared off about sunrise. We had a skirmish with the pickets. Drove them in. The artillery are shelling the woods.

51 Wednesday 28th

Got up early. Hodgson & I went to the Mill Dam, took a bath. It is very hot today. Our new Brigadier (Epercrombie) takes command today. General Graham goes to Annapolis {Annapolis} a Chief of Military Instruction. We have been shelling the woods briskly all day. We advance our picket line this afternoon.

52 Thursday 29th

Our lines of defense at Five Pines, Henrico County, Va. Here lies a field of one hundred acres [acres].



53 Friday 30th

All quiet today. Yesterday three privates and one Leuit kept three rebel companies at bay one hour. At that time two of our companies reinforced them. We fired two volleys at them, killing fifteen. We then charged on them, taking several prisoners (one a Leuit). Our losses was one killed (a Major). It was very foggy and we were [were] within twenty paces of each other.

54 Saturday 31st

The Rebels came on us in force, driving in our pickets-but we brought our artillery to bear on them and soon sent them flying to the rear. While I was eating my dinner a ten lb shot (from the enemy) struck about ten paces in front of my tent, tearing up the ground, passing over my tent, striking a tree, cut it down & going on about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile hitting a horse killing him instantly then buried itself in the ground. When that came our Regt was ordered into position. Casey's division had been fighting most all morning but we thought it was nearby picket skirmishing.

But about 1 ½ o'clock it began to get pretty hot. We found the enemy was bringing on a general engagement. At 1 ½ p.m. several batteries were [were] ordered out (by Gen Casey) to the front. The enemy kept advancing. Soon Casey began to fall back and take up new positions. He (Casey) placed two 12 pound pieces in a road where the enemy was coming down. Soon as they (the rebels) got in this road, we opened on them mowing them down like grass. But they filled [filled] up the gaps made by our Grape & Cannisters and pressed steadily on. Regt after Regt was sent to the front by Casey but the overpowering numbers of rebels soon sent them in disorganized masses to the rear. With all of Gen Casey's energy and hard fighting for three long hours, he was obliged to evacuate his position and fall to the rear. Our division (Couch's) being next to him, was the next to take it. We had more time to get into position than Casey, so we were [were] waiting for them. There was a lull for about ½ hour after Casey fell back. It was well understood by our General why the lull was. The enemy was changing position to attack us. Our skirmishers were [were] sent to the front to warn us of the approach of the enemy. Artillery was sent to the front, then infantry to support the artillery. Presently, the skirmishers of the enemy and ours began to fire, the latter, falling back on the reserves until the enemy crowded us too hard. Our men made a charge sending their advance to the rear. Soon the enemy came down on us in tremendous force seemingly determined to carry every thing by storm. The ball is now open in earnest [earnest]. It is now about 2 ½ o'clock. Our Regt was laying down. The Colonel says don't fire until I can see the whites of their eyes. We lay on our faces about ten minutes when we see the Rebels coming through the woods thick as hairs on a dog's tail [tail]. They were [were] about 40 yds off. We jumped up, poured [poured] a volley in their lines which staggered them much. We then kept up a steady fire on them, holding our own and a little more, for we could see them giving way. All this time we were [were] engaging three Rebel Regts & we fought about ten minutes in this way, when to our surprise, we found that the 13th Brooklyn had given away on our right. The two Rebel Regts that was opposing them came on us, making 5 Rebel Regts against us. They turned our right flank and we were [were] obliged to fall back. We rallied again and again we were [were] obliged to retreat. We retreated about ½ mile to the rear, behind our earth works. That closed the fighting for the day. Our division fought well. Some reinforcements came up after we fell back and kept the enemy at bay until darkness set in and closed the scene [scene]. Loss on our side about ten thousand killed, wounded & taken prisoners. The enemy's loss much greater. I received two slight wounds. One on my right leg just below the knee [knee], striking bone (spent ball); one over the right eye (spent ball). Just about dark it commenced raining very hard. We were [were] obliged to lay down on the ground without any thing to shelter us. Every thing lost.

55 Sunday morning June 1st 1862

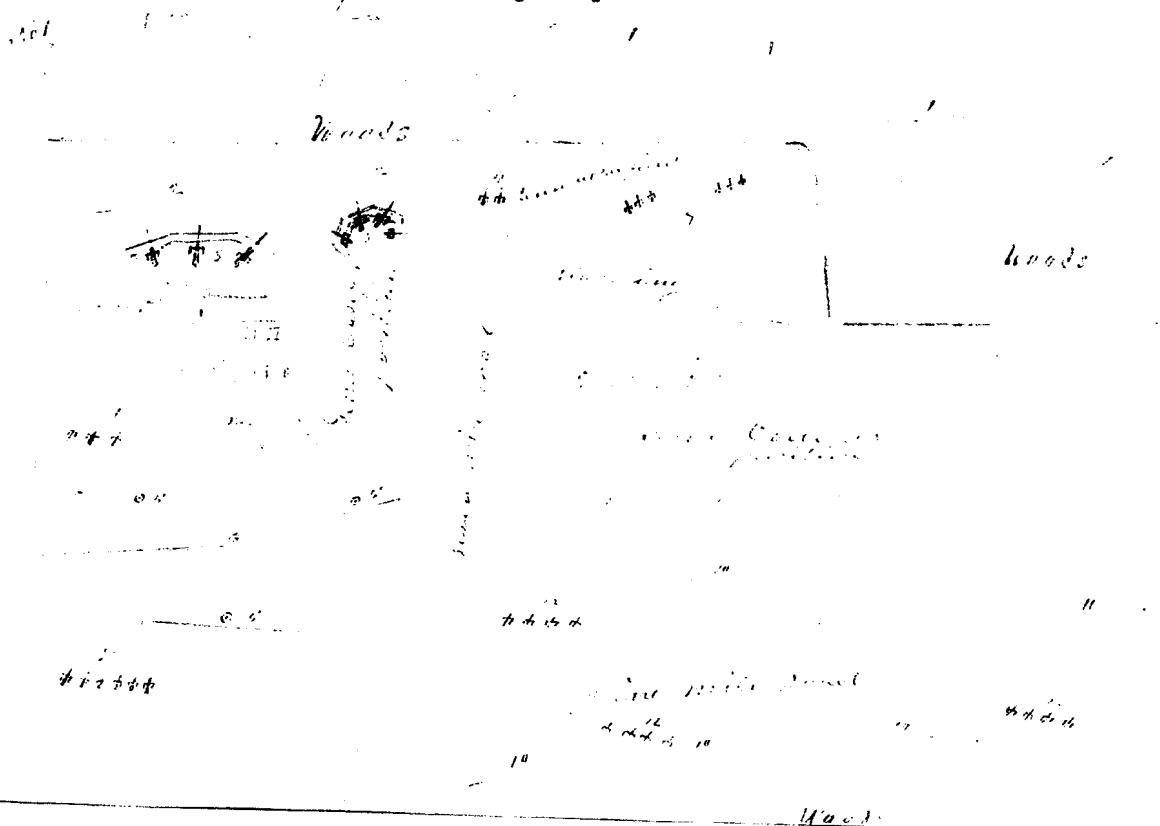
We feel cold, stiff, wet & what is worse than all, hungry (we faught all day yesterday and was obliged to lay down last night without anything to eat or any sines [signs] of getting some even in the morning). But not withstanding all that, as daylight appeared and our pickets gave us the alarm that the enemy was again coming upon us, every man jumped for his musket and in a moment we where [were] ready to meet them. The men, hungry as they where [were], forgot all and seamed to feel as much contented as though their bellys where [were] full. We where [were] reinforced during the night, so we pushed on sending in fresh troops driving the enemy like chaff before the winds. Before tenn a.m. we had driven the enemy far beyond where they started the previous day, so to day we occupy our old ground again. This ends the fight of Fair Oaks. The balance of the day is occupied in burying the dead. What a sean [scene] it presented. Union & Rebels lay around in heaps together, mangled in every form. The rebels didn't remove any of their dead. Left them for us to bury. Where are Regt faught, the rebels lay thick, showing that we done great execution. The losses in our Regt was 196 wounded, missing & kild.

Officers Wounded

Capt Varness, Co. F; Capt Reynolds, Co. D Leuit Croft, Co. A

Leuit Sullivan, Co. I, since died; Leuit Murphy, Co. B; Sergeant Major Allen

All of the wounded men where [were] sent north.



- No 1 is Rebel Brigade in position front of Casey & cough. No 2 Rifle pits. No 3 earth works.
(4) Mass battery (4) the two guns that maid such havic with the rebels as they caim down the road.
(5) Casey's Devision. (6) a bridge (7) Rhoad Island battery (8) Fifth Regulars battery
(9) rifle pits (10) Couch's Devision (11) a swamp (12) Miller's battery (12) N.J. battery

- 56 Monday June 2nd 1862
To day is devoted in burring [*burying*] the dead and getting the wounded off north. In some places the ground is completely covered. All is quiet to day. A bad stench comes off the Battle field.
- 57 Tuesday 3rd
I visted the Battle field to day. The rebels are not all burried yet. The body's where [*were*] very much Decomposed. Bad stench. Rained all last night.
- 58 Wednesday 4th
It rained all day. We have got orders to go to the rear about 2 miles in order that we may be ree equipped. We lost all our cloes [*clothes*] except what we had on our backs.
- 59 Thursday 5th
Very heavy cannonading on our right to day. It was occasioned by our troops crossing the upper Chickamoniny. Our artillery was covering them as they crossed. All quiet during the night.
- 60 Friday 6th
Moved to our camp ground back of Seven Pines. All quiet.
- 61 Saturday 7th
We have been building brest works in front of our camp. This is built of logs.
- 62 Sunday 8th
I got up this morning, wash & dressed & was just sitting down to write a letter to Carrie. I had just got my penn in hand when a volley of musketry was heard in front on Kearney's lines. We was amediatly ordered into line & marched to the front where we remained all day. We lay within 200 yds of the enemy all day & all night. We lost $\frac{1}{2}$ doz men (wounded). All quiet during the night except now and then a shot from the pickets.
- 63 Monday 9th
It is stormy to day. The rebels are throwing some shells at us to pass away their time. They do us no harm as yet. I received my commition [*commission*] to day. I sent in home by express to my wife.

64 Tuesday June 10th 1862

It rained a little this morning. A few shells where [were] fired at us yesterday & we returned them tenfold. Our sharpshooters have been pretty busy today. I have just got through my supper. I had my favorite dish- crackers & coffee. We have crackers & coffee for breakfast, coffee & crackers for dinner & crackers soaked in coffee for supper. Quite a change of diet.

65 Wednesday 11, 1862

I wrote to Carrie today. Several volleys where [were] fired by our pickets today which caused quite an excitement in our Regt. Our Regt was in line ready for an attack if there should be one.

66 Thursday 12th

We formed line and marched up the cordaroy road (on the 7 mile road). There awaited orders. We expected an attack. We lay there all day. Nothing occurred so we marched back to camp.

67 Friday 13th

Today Gen McLellan past along the lines. He caused much excitement among the troops. This morning when I got up I thought I would look and see if I could find out where the smell came from that I smelt during the night. After searching a few moments I discovered the leg of a dead Rebel sticking up out of the ground just at the end of my tent. I placed my tent there late in the evening so I did not discover it. I "removed my quarters." The Rebels shelled [shelled] our camp this morning, killed one man.

68 Saturday 14th

This has been a very hot day. I haven't had a letter from home in a week. The Herreld [Harold] Newspaper sells [sells] for 20 cts. At present, the matter is not very good just here.

69 Sunday 15th

As usual, this morning we where [were] in line expecting an attack. Some firing was going on with the pickets. It being Sunday morning, we thought they where [were] coming.

70 Monday 16th

It is a splendid day. The shower cooled the air. This morning about daylight, the Rebels sent a messenger over to us in the shape of a 12 lb shell, supposing we might oversleep ourselves. They thought they would do us a favor by waking us up.

71 Tuesday June 17th 1862

Very cold last night. I have had no letter from Carrie since the fifth. I took my company on picket this morning. I am stationed at the steam saw mill by the White Oak swamp. This swap is impassable. Only here & there a cow path through it. The head of it is about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Richmond and runs down to the Chickamoniny.

72 Wednesday 18th

All quiet last night on post, thee moon shown bright.

I lay at the root of a white oak tree,
With my blanket wrapped round me, & asleep;
At midnight I was awakened by the sting of a bee,
That warned me a better watch I should keep.

F.M.

73 Thursday 19th

I got a letter from Carrie last night. We got relieved from picket this afternoon. Had a man shot last night. I will write a few lines about it and poet [put] it in rhyme. Twas last night at Midnight when I composed it.

On Picket in front of Richmond.

I Am thinking of thee Carrie

1 tis midnight and all is dark and drear,
In this thick wood of pine;
I am thinking of you my dear,
And that cherrished boy of mine.

2 Me thinks I see him sleeping,
Close to his mothers brest;
Like oft I've seen him creeping,
Into his little nest.

3 I was thinking of you my dear,
As I went my dreary round;
I thought if your could only here [hear],
Your husbands footstep sound.

4 I know at this dead hour of night,
How frightened you would be;
To be compelled to see such sights,
As I am forsed to see.

- 5 Here lay a man stretched on the ground,
Covered with his gore;
Twas my sentry I had found,
Asleep to awake no more.
- 6 Twas then I thought of you my love,
Fore he was a husband Dear;
But now he has gon to heaven above,
No enemy to fear.
- 7 Poor John you are shot,
And by a rebel too;
But as your body lies and rots,
Your Comrads will revenge your life fore you.
- 8 I am thinking of thee Dear Wife,
While you are soundly sleeping;
And praying that God will protect your life,
And hold you in his kindly keeping.
F.M.

74 Friday 20th

Our Regt got paid to day. I received \$212.50. I sent my wife \$190 by express.
Heavy cannonading in front to day.

75 Saturday 21st

This morning I took a good wash and went down to the steam saw mill before breakfast.
The rebels caim out in force on Kearney's front this morning. We opened grape & canister
on them which sent them back doubel quick.

76 Sunday 22nd

I went to Savage Station this morning to see the Quartermaster and paymaster.

77 Monday 23rd

Their was another skirmish last night on Kearney's front. We drove them, capturing
two guns. I got one months pay from May more to day. It was for the month of may.
I sent it home.

78 Tuesday 24th

Got a letter from Carrie this morning. Very heavy thunder shower to day.

Death On The Battle Field

Written at Fair Oaks Va., two days after the fight. June 4th 1862

By Lieut. Francis Murphy

79

He lay upon the battle field, beneath the suns hot ray,
And through a deep and ghastly wound, his life blood flowed away;
Around him were the countless dead, and on the breeze there came,
Mingled with distant cannons roar, the groans of dying men;
No pillow for his aching head, on the cold sod he lay,
The death dew gathering on his brow, no hand to wipe away.
None there to catch the broken words, as from his lips they fell,
No mother, sister, wife or friend to breath(e) a last fairwell;
The name of some cherished one, was murmured in the prayer,
That faithful form, those pallid lips, was boarn upon the air.
His breath grew fainter with the tide, that flowed from out his brest,
His eyes grew dim, his lips were cold, the soldier was at rest.
Far from the bloody battle field, a mother sitteth now,
And museth in the twilight gray, and saddened is her brow;
She thinks upon the noble boy, who was her joy her pride,
Who till this fearful struggle came, had never left her side.
How gloomy is the fireside now, once by his smiles made bright,
She wonders where her boy is and is he safe to night;
She knows not of the deadly strife, on which the sun went down,
That Soldier cold and Still in death is her own cherished son.

Lieut. F.A.M.

80 Wednesday 25th

We have had the hardest fight to day that has been during the campaign. We drive the enemy from Mechanicsville to the Richmond hights. It is a current report that we go into Richmond tomorrow. Great slaughter on both sides. All the bands are playing tonight on account of the great victory to day. I am on picket. The enemy drove us in. We had quite a fight. I lost one man.

81 Thursday 26th

One of my men died to day, Fredrick Mabie. He died at 12 noon. Had a skirmish with the enemy. Fighting on the right to day. Our troops are falling back. The Rebel Jackson is on our rear. I am very sick, I have been sick for two weeks with Bilious fever.

82 Friday June 27th 1862

Still on picket. Smith got shot to day (arm broak). We come in from picket and go to the right to reinforce Porter. Our troops are falling back. Rebel Jackson is in our rear.

83 Saturday 28th

I was that sick last night that I was unable to march. I had to fall out after we got about half way. I fell in the road, perfectly exhausted. My servent (Maj Brickney) (Black) drug me in the woods. There I lay all night. In the morning I was taken to the hospital in am ambulance. My boy watched me all night. I am very weak.

84 Sunday 29th

Our troops are moving fast to the rear to the James River. They stop in front of the hospital at Savage Station. There is a large field about 90 achers [*acres*]. Our folks are waiting fore the enemy to come up. We intend to fight here. About 4 p.m. the enemy caim up and the fight commenced. The hospital is in the center of this big field and on the railroad. The enemy was on one side of us and the Union army on the other. We where [*were*] in tents, so we could see both armys. They fired right over us, our tents being lower than their possition. Some of the shots caim in out tents. One man in the next tent had his head taken off by a cannon ball. Others wounded. A great many died from fright (they being very weak from sickness amputations). The fight lasted till dark. Our troops drove them back and rested on the battle ground. We did not loos very many men. The Irish Brigade made a beautiful charge acrost the field, driving the enemy before them.

85 June 30th 1862

Last night during the night our forces fell back leaving me (and a thousand more sick and wounded) to the mercy of the rebels. At 9 o'clock I was taken prisoner by a force of Stewart's Calvary. They where [were] very sivel. They where [were] a dirty, ragged looking set. Larger portion of them with coats. They seamed to be well armed, such as they where [were]. They has shot guns-great many of them.

86 Tuesday July 1st 1862

I am little better. We can plainly here [hear] the fighting going on. The Rebels are taking what little we saved to eat. We will soon be out of rations. Large number of sitizens from Richmond caim down to see us. They stand and look at us by the hour as though they never sean [seen] a man before. They are not inclined to do any thing for us.

87 Wednesday 2nd

Very heavy firing in the direction of the James River. The Rebels don't say much about it, they think they are getting the worst of it. They find it not so pleasant to drive up after a retreating army like McLellan's. Yesterday afternoon was the heaviest cannonading I ever heard our artillery & Gunn Boats boast when playing on them.

88 Thursday 3rd

All quiet. Not a gun was heard. Our army has reached the James in safety. Tranes of waggons are constantly arriving with rebel wounded. They say there loss is 35,000 kild, wounded & missing.

89 Friday July 4th 1862

This is the day I love so well. The great independence day. Here I am confined, a prisoner of war. One year ago to day I was Officer of the Guard on South Brother Island, and to day I have a guard over me. There is no sellibration here. 8 o'clock p.m. & all is quiet like Sunday. Not a gun has been fired. Not even the sound of a fire cracker or the lights of a skyrocket or any thing to indicate that this was the day our fathers gave to us to selebrate in memory of our Country's Father. So passed this 4th day of July 1862 in Richmond.

90 Saturday 5th

Ever since Monday the cars have been going all day carrying rebel wounded to Richmond. I paid 20 cts a loaf for bread. The loves [loaves] not larger than six penny loves [loaves] here.

91 Sunday 6th

No service to day. Great many dying off. Tenn burried to day. The suffering here is great.

- 92 Monday July 7th 1862
The wounded (especially those having limbs amputated) are dying off very fast. Twenty have died. The wether is extremely hot.
- 93 Tuesday 8th
This is the warmest day we have had yet. Fifteen died to day. They say they are not going to parole us soon. Poor consideration.
- 94 Wednesday 9th
I was taken to Richmond to day. I went up in the cars. I was taken before General Winders. He poot [*put*] some questions to me concerning the army & myself but as I did not please him in my answers, he sent me down to the prison No. 6. It is a three story building (brick) formily a tobacco warehouse, situated on 18th St. near Main St, right hand side going down to the river. About 138 men in the building. All officers and all grades from Major General to 2nd Lieut. General Reynolds was there and one other. Lieut Trabue was in command of the prison (prison No. 6).
- 95 Thursday 10th
A large amount of artillery crost the bridge to day. We have prair [*prayer*] meetings twice a day. Preaching on Sunday by some of the officers. The meetings are very interesting.
- 96 Friday 11th
This has been a nice cool day. I have got the draws very bad. I have got acquainted with a Girl from the window. She lives on Main Street. They keep a millens [*millinery*] shop. She comes out in the yard under a tree and say her name is Mary Boltz. She says she is a strong union girl and will prove it if I will give her a chance. She gave me some information concerning their army.
- 97 Saturday 12th
There are 40 officers in my room. We have the top flore [*floor*]. This is wash day. We wash our own cloas.
- 98 Sunday 13th
I got up early this morning, took bath & got redy for prares. After breakfast, I took my morning walk around the room several times.
- 99 Monday 14th
Yesterday while I was looking out the window I saw men taking there wives & children to church. It made me feel quite bad to think I was shut up here. Some prisoners are going out with a flag of truce.

100 Tuesday July 15th 1862

This has been a fine day. This morning miss Mary Boltz sent me a nice cake by the barber. I am very sick to day. Mary Boltz keeps me posted.

101 Wednesday 16th

We had coarn bread & rye coffee fore breakfast, quite a treat. We have inspection every morning at 9 a.m. (hunting lice). We have lively times!

102 Thursday 17th

The city has been very lively to day. Something is in the wind. It is late so I must pick out a soft board and retire.

103 Friday 18th

The boys (my self included of corse) have been amusing ourselves in making Bows & Arrows & shooting letters out of the windows into the nabors yards to the girls. They enjoy the fun. We have nothing to do but ketch lice & think of mischief.

104 Saturday 19th

About 600 sick & wounded soldiers where [*were*] sent North to day, they go to City Point. I receive a quaker pie from Miss Mary Boltz. It was two crusts with nothing in it, Yes there was something in it. There was my freedom in it! There was a letter from that dear girl Mary, which contained a plan by which I could make my escape. I amediatly set about in trying to get some of the officers to join me in trying to get away but I met with no success & none seamed to dair [*dare*] to start the adventure. After this, every moment Mary could get to part, she would steal away in the back yard and talk with me from the window with her fingers. Mary Boltz is a girl about 18 years old, a little under the median hight & rather under the median size. Handsomely formed, with fair complexion, dark brown hair, dark eyes. She was a girl well educated and refined in her manners. In short, a modele women.

105 Sunday 20th

One more Sunday has caim around and we are not free. We had preaching to day by a Major. He gave us a good sermon.

106 Monday 21st

I went out today under a guard and visited the hospital. I got the Sgt. to take me around to Mary Boltz's house. He let me go in and stay five minutes. I sayd a good deal in that time. If he only knew what we was talking about there would have been trubble in the house. I would have been poot in irons. I bought a Gingham shirt, paid \$5.00 for it.

107 Tuesday July 22nd 1862

500 sick & wounded soldiers went North to day. It has been cold & stormy for a few days past. The men are suffering much for want of Medicines. I find no one to go with me yet.

108 Friday 25th

I have been sick for three days past, could not write.

109 Saturday 26th

I have been trying to get some one to go with me but as of yet have found none.

110 Sunday 27th

Quite an excitement in the street to day occasioned by two men fighting. The Yankeys where [*were*] much amused.

111 Monday 28th

We occupy our time by making rings and other things from boards and I have found two men to go with me. We commence operation tomorrow. Those to go is Capt Oakly and Leuit Riddle.

112 Tuesday 29th 1862

This afternoon we commenced cutting wood from round the heads of spikes which fasned [*fastened*] the heavy plank to the alleyway where we had to pass. At dark we where [*were*] all redy and all we had to do was to pool [*pull*] the plank off and go out. How anxiously we wated fore the approaching darkness. About 4 p.m. I see Mary B. down in the yard. I told her all was redy and at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock we would come out. She sayd she had all the arraignments made and she would conduct us to her friend where we could procure our disguise dregs. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock caime and we started for "Libberty or Death". The bord was let down and one by one passed noiselessly through. On tip toe we advanced through the alley (myself at the head) and as we approached the end of the alley (which led in the street), I discovered two sentries laying down, muskets at their sides. One was laying amediately acrost and the other lengthwise of the alley. For a moment I thaught all was lost, but close inspection showed to us that they where [*were*] asleep. We again advanced & stepping cairfully over them, we gained the street and made our way quickly to the place where we where [*were*] to meet our friend. Leuit Riddle, in stepping over them, accidentally hit one of them with his foot. The man awoke and jumped for his musket but he (the soldier) was so sleepy that he did not know what struck him (it was well for us he did not).

Our First Days Adventure

When we reached our friend we made all haste to the house in 17th St where the Girl intended for us to stay all night. In reaching the place, we found they had all gon to bed. We rapped at the dore [door] but we could make no one here [hear]. So fearing we might create an alarm, we told the girl to go home and we would find a place to stay all night and we would see her in the morning. We parted and each went our way. We wandered around the City until about 2 a.m. then we lay down on the seller [cellar] dors of a house in some back street. So closed the first days Adventure.

113 Wednesday 30th 2nd Day

We where [were] up by day light and went in search of Miss B's house. We soon found it but the fair damsel had not yet awakened. Lieut Riddle (a commicle fellow) picked up a small pebble and threw up to the window. The sound of it soon braught Miss B down stairs. She let us in & closed the door behind us. She proseded to get her hat & shall [shawl] on (at the same time warning not to make a noise for the folks where [were] all sleeping) and all was redy. She led the way. We passed out the back way, crost a vacant lot and then passed through the yard of the place where we had to stop. We rapped to the dore but they where [were] still asleep. After repeated raps they awoke and let us in. They where [were] all glad to see us but little time was lost in talking for they set about preparing something fore us to eat amediatly. The girl, Miss B, returned to her house to attend her domestic affairs. After breakfast we poot on our disguise dresses. We where [were] harable looking creatures in our new uniforms. The foornoon passed cheerfully, relating many anecdotes and speculating on the future. Dinner time came. We had a good dinner which I shall every remember. At 1 p.m. we bid adew to our Kind friends and started on our way for libberty. When I took the hand of Miss B and bade her fairwell the tears could be sene [seen] resting on her cheak. It was a moment before she spoke and then she sayd I am now satisfied. Ever since this wicked rebellion, I have been thinking what I could do to aid the cause of freedom & our flag. I have done what few or our secks [sex] would daired to do. I have laid myself liable to be placed under arrest and to be punished. But for that I care nothing, if you will only be cautious and get safely to your homes, I will be well rewarded. Good By.

We started for the outskirts of the City. Here we stopped and took sketches of two earth works, then we made for the old 11 mile road. When we got there we found it was guarded. They would not let us pass. We showed them our exemption passes, those we coppied from a genuine one we got at the house. These exemptions presented us to be employees in the Eagle works on government contract.

Finding these would not pass us out of the lines, we made our way back for a ways then turning to the right, we do a north east corse. We wandered along, occasionally running fowel of a picket, who would send us in another direction. After going on in this way until near dark, trying to get through (or looking where we might get through after dark) we where [were] halted by a sentry from the left (we had always been halted from the right before). He inquired of us where we where [were] going. We told him we where [were] blackburring [blackberrying?]. He asked us why we where [were] trying to get in the lines. We told him we where [were] not trying to get in. (It was then discovered that we where [were] out side of the lines-how we got through we don't know). Then he told us to go back the same way we came, which we gladly concented to do. Now we where [were] out of their lines, we made the best of the time. We walk about five miles and pooted up in a woods for the night. It is raining hard and nothing to eat. We gather up some whirtleberrys and then laid down for the night.

114 Thursday July 31st 3rd Day

We didn't rest very well last night but toward morning, being very tired, we fell asleep. When we awoke we found that during the night a rebel picket (Calvery) had been placed about fifty yds from us. We amediatly got up and made our way through the woods as quietly as possible. The rain had softened the leaves, which if it had been otherwise, we might have been herd. Our general direction was north east. We where [were] obliged to verry [vary] from it some times in order to shelter ourselves by the woods. We did not dair to take the public roads. We walked all day through woods and over fields and when night caim we where [were] whet and hungry. We crost the farm of Dr Tilor, where we stole some apples. Just after we left his farm we caim to a church house. Here we made up our minds to stay all night. There was a stove in it and after we thaught all the nabors had gon to bed, we built a big fire and dried our cloas. That was a god send.

115 Friday August 1st 1862 4th Day

We where [were] out by daylight this morning and set out in search of something to eat. We have had nothing to eat since Wednesday noon, except for the fruit that we got along the way. About noon to day we ventured to a house which proved to be a niggrow one. Here we succeeded in procuring some coarn bread and a boal of milk each. Lieut Riddle, being in delicate health, was near gone or overcaim. How we relished this dinner. After we paid our bills we proceeded on our journey. Being much strengthened by our harty dinner we where [were] enabled to proceed with grater speed.

We crossed the Chickamony yesterday about 9 a.m. We kept a north east course until we struck New Castle Ferry on the Pamunkey River. After getting something to eat at a farm house we crost the river. We crost about one mile above the ferry. We dair not go too the ferry for fear guards would be there. We swam the river. It was about 200 feet wide at that point. We went up in a field after we got over, toar down a small haystack, and cribbed in for the night. The mosketoes [*mosquitoes*] most {*almost*} ate us up.

116 Saturday August 2nd 1862 5th Day

We started at 5 a.m., taking a easterly corse (leaving the river on our right) through the country until we reached the main road to West Point. Here we caim to a house owned by Capt Carter, King William County, Va. His family consisted of wife & three sons. All in the R. [*rebel?*] army. The father is a Capt of an Artillery Company. One of his sons is a Lieut with him and the other two sons are Lieuts in infantry regiments. Their was no white folks home. They (the niggers) gave us a splendid dinner. After getting all the information we required we went our way. We walked as far as King William Court House. Here we poot up for the night at the tavern. The house was kept by a man, his name is Powell. He charged us 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars for our supper, logging & breakfast (4 of us). We paid the whole bill and went to bed in an enemy land and an enemy house.

117 Sunday August 3rd 6th Day

When we caim down to breakfast, to our surprise, we found a Rebel seated at the table. The moment he saw us he left. We pretended to notice nothing, finished our breakfast and started on our way. We had not proceeded far when we saw clouds of dust rising the hill. We maid some false steps in the road to deceive them, then jumped over in the wood, secreted ourselves from view, watched their movements. Being satisfied that we had deceived them by our tracks and seeing how determined they where [*were*] to catch us, we moved off in another direction. By inquiring a niggrow, we learned that their was another river some miles ahead. We started for that and reached it about 2 p.m. It proved to be the Mattaponi River. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the River, in a mill pond, was a small boat. This we drug down to the river & launched. We where [*were*] from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.m. getting the boat down. We got in and moored her up under the bank of the river where the bushes hung over. Here we lay waiting for it to get dark and for the tide to turn. At 7 o'clock we started down the stream, it then being quite dark. We had only one paddle. We kept it going (taking turns) until the tide began to run up, then we lay under the bank and took a nap.

118 Monday Aug 4th 1862 7th day

The senery was beautiful last night on the river. The moon shown bright. We caim down pretty rappidly while the tide lasted. The tide commenced to turn at 2 a.m. We have found another paddle. We hold up under the bank about 11 a.m. to a niggrow house and get three chickens and some brisket cooked. At 2 p.m. we stopped and went ashore to wate for the tide to turn. Here we found a deserted house. A large two story house. From papers and other things found, the house has been deserted about tenn years. Just before dark we moved down the river at a rappid rate (we found two new paddles at the deserted house). At 2 a.m. we pulled up to a stake in the river where we remained till morning, Just before we stopped last night, we went ashore at a place cald Indiantown, where we discovered that it was occupied by rebels. We saw a big light on shore. What made us go?, We wanted to see what it was. We left in a hurry.

119 Tuesday Aug. 5th 8th Day

When we awoke this morning we found ourselves within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of West Point. We road [rowed] 21 miles last night. Just as we where [were] about to start, we see a boat poot out from the shore in the direction of us. We got underway and pulled down the stream. They began to gain on us and from all appearances they where [were] after us. We poot on more steam and began to run away from them. When we got abrest of West Point the men pulled into the warf, got in a small boat, and maid after us again. One man to the sail, one to the orers [oars], they began to gain on very rappidly, they having fair wind. We got about two miles below the point and finding they soon would overtake us, we pulled into shore. When we got within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the shore they turned and went back (they knowing are pickets where [were] there). When we reached the shore we was met by a cavery picket, who drew his revolver, and politely informed us that we where [were] his prisoners. We quietly surrendered. He took us to head quarters where the officer of the picket was. On reaching there we find we where [were] in the hands of our own men and the most singular thing of all, Capt Oakly & Lieut Riddle recognized the Lieut in command of the post, (Lieut B. Gallisatt) him to an old friend and school mate. All from the same town, Pittsburgh, Penn. This was a happy meeting. What a time we had for a few moments. We gave three cheers for the old flag & c [country?]. We got breakfast at E.B. Lacy's. We gave him the boat we stole to pay for our breakfast. We where [were] furnished with horses and sent to Williamsburg where we where [were] received so kindly by Col Campbell of the 5th Pennsylvania Calvery.

This ended our Adventure.

120 Wednesday Aug. 6th 1862

We walked around town this morning. All the inhabitants (?) (?) with us, taking us to be rebel prisoners. It soon got spread around the town who we were [were] and every body wanted to get a peep at us. The Col. furnished us with horses and we took a ride out to the old battle ground.

121 Thursday Aug. 7th

This morning we started for James City Island. There to take boat for McLellan's Head Quarters. We reached there at 7 p.m. Capt Stilwell & Lieut Ford was on the boat, just getting back to the Regt after being absent since the battle of Fair Oaks. We staid at McLellan's Head Quarters all night. Gave him all the information we could, after which he gave each of us 14 days leave of absence. On our way up the James I see where Pocahontas was baptised.

122 Friday Aug. 8th

I went to my Regt today. It lays at the edge of the hill near the mill, back from Harrison's Landing. They where [were] glad as well as surprised to see me.

123 Saturday Aug. 9th

I started for home this morning at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. Arrived at Fortress Monroe 4 p.m. Left here for Baltimore 5 p.m., got there next morning. We slept on the deck, the night being very warm.

124 Sunday Aug. 10th

We intended to take a train for Washington this morning but we where [were] to late. We then poot up at Barnum's Hotele for the day. We kept our room most of the time. I was quite sick today. We occupied room 205. This is the largest & finest hotele in the city.

125 Monday Aug. 18th

We took the train 4:30 a.m. for Washington. Got there 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. Got our breakfast at Brown's Hotele. After breakfast I went to the War Department. From there to the Treasury, got 2 months pay (\$121.50). Started for home in the 3:30 train. Stopped at Baltimore and got me a suit of cloes. I baught Carrie (My Wife) a Gold Watch before I left Washington, Paid \$60.00. Also a fan which cost \$7.00. I go by way of Harrisburg.

126 Tuesday Aug. 12th 1862

I was so sick when I got to Harrisburg that I had to get out and poot up to a ho tele for the day and night. I arrived home Wednesday night Aug 13th at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock p.m. The fol ks where [were] all asleep.

Where Are Your Thoughts

- 1 How oft I've thought of thee dear Wife,
While on the cold ground I lay;
Shut up in the darkness from the strife,
That closed the previous day.

- 2 Has there a thought from you gon up,
In prare for those that's gon;
Or have you draned the thoughtless cup,
In merriment and song.

- 3 Oh no, me thinks I see thee now,
Where oft we've met in prare;
With bended nees & saddened brow,
Praying to be there.

- 4 And yet perhaps if you where [*were*] here,
You would act like many do;
You'd pass them quickly by for fear,
Some work they'd have for you.

- 5 And yet me thinks you'd be to kind,
To pass a wounded soldier by;
Yet many of your secks [*sex*] we find,
Who pass without a sigh.

F.M.

List Of Articles & their Value
In Richmond, Va. July 10th 1862

Tea per lb.	\$16.00
Sugar " "	.70
Coffee " "	2.50
Butter " "	1.00
Pepper " "	1.50
Soap " " (com. Brown)	1.50
Soda crackers	.35
Molasses per qt.	1.00
Blackberries " "	.40
Cherries " "	.60
Dried Apples " "	.65
Onions " "	.40
Green Apples " "	.25
Potatoes per bushel (new)	12.00
Bread per loaf	.20
Fine Combs a piece	1.25
Cotton Drores	2.50
Socks per pair	.75
Linnen collars (each)	.75
Matches per box	.75
Delane Shirts (dress goods 18 cts in N.Y.)	5.00
Calf Boots per pair	20.00
Ladies calf shoes " "	12.00

Many of the above articles I baught myself while I was there & paid these prices.

- 129 My servent's name was Maj Brickney. He belonged to H. Derden, Pig Point, Va. I got him at Fortress Monroe Friday April 18th 1862.
- 130 Description of the City of Richmond-
 It is a very nice city. It sets on seven hills Church Hill, Union Hill, Oregon Hill, Chocks Hill, Gamblers Hill, French Garden Hill and one other that I don't remember. The City is 3 miles long and 2 miles wide and before the war had 52,000 inhabitants.

131

Presidents Proclamation

This proclamation for the freedom of the slaves in the states now in rebellion against the U.S. government was put into effect January 1st 1863.

132

G.G. Murphy is two years old to day, Feb 1st 1863. Last Sunday he went to church for the first time. After being in church about ten minutes he began to sing Happy Day & wanted a drink, so I had to take him out and go home.

133

I bought Carrie (my wife) a set of furs at S. Lang in N.Y. on the 9th of Dec 1862. Paid \$50.00.

134

Francis A. Murphy, 2nd Lieut., Co. B., 67th N.Y.'s Vol. Tendered his resignation Sept 25th 1862 on account of Disability caused by exposure in service of the U.S. in the Paninsular Campaign. Was accepted Oct 18th 1862.

By Command of Maj General McClellan

The Peninsular Campaign
SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS

March 17, 1862	Embarkation of the Army of the Potomac commenced at Alexandria, Va.
March 26, 1862	Confederate Department of Henrico, under command of Brig. Gen. John H. Winder, extended to embrace Petersburg and vicinity.
March 27, 1862	General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army, ordered to re-enforce the Army of the Peninsula.
March 31, 1862	Blenker's division ordered to Mountain (Frémont's) Department.
April 1-2, 1862	Headquarters Army of the Potomac transferred to vicinity of Fort Monroe.
April 4, 1862	The First Army Corps (McDowell's) detached from Army of the Potomac and merged into Department of the Rappahannock. The Fifth Army Corps (Banks') merged into the Department of the Shenandoah.
	Skirmish at Howard's Mill, near Cockletown.
April 5, 1862 - May 4, 1862	Siege of Yorktown.
April 11, 1862	Confederate naval operations in Hampton Roads.
April 12, 1862	Command of General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army, extended over the Departments of Norfolk and the Peninsula.
April 22, 1862	Franklin's division arrives at Yorktown.
May 4, 1862	Skirmishes near Williamsburg.
May 5, 1862	Battle of Williamsburg.
May 6, 1862	Williamsburg occupied by the Union forces.
May 7, 1862	Engagement at West Point, Barhamsville, or Eltham's Landing.
May 7 -8, 1862	Reconnaissance to Mulberry Point, James River.
May 8, 1862	Naval demonstration upon Sewell's Point.
May 9, 1862	Norfolk evacuated by the Confederate forces.
	Skirmish at Slatersville.
May 10, 1862	Norfolk and Portsmouth occupied by the Union forces.
May 13, 1862	Skirmish at Baltimore Cross-Roads, near New Kent Court-House.
May 15, 1862	Engagement at Fort Darling, James River.
May 17, 1862	Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell ordered to move upon Richmond in co-operation with Major-General McClellan.
	Expedition up the Pamunkey River.
May 18, 1862	Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter, U.S. Army, assumes command of Fifth Army Corps (reorganized).

	Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin, U.S. Army, assumes command of Sixth Army Corps.
May 18 - 19, 1862	Reconnaissance toward Old Church.
May 19, 1862	Skirmish at City Point, James River.
	Skirmish at Gaines' Mill.
May 20 -23, 1862	Operations about Bottom's Bridge, Chickahominy River.
May 21, 1862	Advance across Bottom's Bridge.
May 22, 1862	Reconnaissance to New Castle and Hanover Ferry.
May 23, 1862	Reconnaissance from Bottom's Bridge toward Richmond.
	Reconnaissance from Bottom's Bridge to the Turkey Island Creek Bridge.
	Skirmish at Ellison's Mill, near Mechanicsville.
	Skirmish at Hogan's, near New Bridge.
May 24, 1862	McDowell's orders to move upon Richmond suspended. Skirmish at New Bridge. Skirmish at Seven Pines. Skirmish at Mechanicsville.
	Reconnaissance toward Hanover Court-House.
May 25 -26, 1862	Expedition from Bottom's Bridge to James River.
May 26, 1862	Reconnaissance toward Hanover Court-House. 27, 1862.
	Skirmish at Slash Church.
	Skirmish at White Oaks.
May 27 -29, 1862	Engagement at Hanover Court-House (27th) and operations (28th-29th) in that vicinity.
May 28, 1862	Virginia Central Railroad Bridge, on South Anna River, destroyed by Union forces.
	Destruction of Confederate supplies at Ashland.
May 29, 1862	Skirmish near Seven Pines.
	Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad Bridge, on South Anna River, destroyed.
May 30, 1862	Skirmish near Fair Oaks.
	Skirmish near Zuni.
May 31 - June 1, 1862	Battle of Fair Oaks, or Seven Pines.
June 1, 1862	General Robert E. Lee, C. S. Army, assumes command of the Army of Northern Virginia.
	The Department of Virginia extended and embraced in Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's command, Maj. Gen. John E. Wool, U.S. Army, being assigned to the Middle Department, and Maj. Gen. John A. Dix, U.S. Army, to command at Fort Monroe.
June 1 - 2, 1862	Reconnaissance beyond Seven Pines.
June 2, 1862	Expedition to Wormley's Ferry, Pamunkey River.

June 3 -7, 1862	Reconnaissance to the James River to communicate with the Union fleet.
June 5, 1862	Skirmish at New Bridge.
June 7, 1862	Reconnaissance on east bank of the Chickahominy.
June 8, 1862	Skirmish near Fair Oaks.
	Major-General McDowell ordered, under conditions stated, to operate in the direction of Richmond.
	Reconnaissance on the New Market Road.
June 11, 1862	Re-enforcements sent from Army of Northern Virginia to the Valley District.
June 12 - 13, 1862	McCall's division re-enforces the Army of the Potomac.
June 13 - 15, 1862	Stuart's raid, including skirmishes at Hawes' Shop, Old Church, and Garlick's Landing.
June 15, 1862	Reconnaissance to vicinity of New Market.
	Skirmish near Seven Pines.
	Parley between Brig. Gen. Howell Cobb, C. S. Army, and Col. Thomas M. Key, U.S. Army.
June 17, 1862	Jackson's command moves from vicinity of Staunton and Weyer's Cave for the Peninsula.
June 18, 1862	Skirmish near Fair Oaks.
	Skirmish on Nine Mile Road, near Richmond.
June 19, 1862	Skirmish on the Charles City Road, near Richmond.
June 20, 1862	Skirmish near New Bridge.
	Affair at Gill's Bluff, James River.
June 21, 1862	The Confederate Department of North Carolina extended to the south bank of James River.
	Skirmish near Fair Oaks Station.
June 22 - 23, 1862	Reconnaissance to the left of White Oak Swamp.
June 23, 1862	Operations about New Kent Court-House.
June 24, 1862	Skirmish near Mechanicsville.
June 25 - July 1, 1862	" The Seven-days' Battles."
June 27, 1862	Jackson re-enforces Army of Northern Virginia.
June 28, 1862	Expedition from Fort Monroe to open communication with Army of the Potomac.
July 2, 1862	Skirmish near New Kent Court-House. Skirmish at Malvern Hill. Affair near Haxall's Landing.
July 3, 1862	Reconnaissance from Harrison's Landing, on Charles City Road.
July 3 - 4, 1862	Skirmishes near Herring Creek, or Harrison's Landing.
July 4, 1862	Reconnaissance from Harrison's Landing.

	Skirmish at Westover.
July 5 - 6, 1862	Operations against Union shipping, James River.
July 7 - 9, 1862	Reconnaissance from Yorktown.
July 9, 1862	Reconnaissance on the Long Bridge Road.
July 10, 1862	Reconnaissance from Harrison's Landing toward White Oak Swamp and skirmish.
July 11, 1862	Reconnaissance from Harrison's Landing beyond Charles City Court-House, Va.
July 16, 1862	Reconnaissance from Westover, on the Richmond Road.
July 22, 1862	Maj. Gen. John A. Dix assumes command of the Seventh Army Corps, Department of Virginia.
	Maj. Gen. A. E. Burnside assumes command of the Ninth Army Corps.
	Affair near Westover.
July 22 - 30, 1862	Scout in King William, King and Queen, and Gloucester Counties.
July 23, 1862	Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck assumes command of the Armies of the United States.
July 29, 1862	Reconnaissance from Harrison's Landing to Saint Mary's Church.
July 30, 1862	McClellan ordered to remove his sick, etc.
	Reconnaissance from Harrison's Landing to Jones' Ford, Chickahominy River.
July 31 - August 1, 1862	Attack on Union camps and shipping between Shirley and Harrison's Landing.
August 2 - 8, 1862	Reconnaissance from Harrison's Landing and reoccupation of Malvern Hill by the Union forces.
August 3, 1862	Reconnaissance on south side of James River and skirmish at Sycamore Church.
	McClellan ordered to withdraw his forces to Aquia Creek.
August 4 - 5, 1862	Reconnaissance from Coggins Point beyond Sycamore Church.
August 5, 1862	Skirmish at White Oak Swamp Bridge.
	Engagement at Malvern Hill.
August 6, 1862	Skirmish at Malvern Hill.
August 13, 1862	Preliminary orders issued for the movement of the Army of Northern Virginia from the Peninsula.
August 14 - 15, 1862	The Third and Fifth Army Corps move from Harrison's Landing for Aquia Creek
August 14 - 19, 1862	Operations of the cavalry covering the rear of the Army of the Potomac from Harrison's Landing to Williamsburg.

August 17, 1862	Reconnaissance toward Forge Bridge.
August 20, 1862	The Fifth Army Corps embarked at Newport News.
August 21, 1862	The Third Army Corps sail from Yorktown.
August 23, 1862	The Sixth Army Corps embarked at Fort Monroe.
August 26, 1862	The Second Army Corps left Fort Monroe.

Libby Prison

Libby Prison had not been designed to be a prison. It was designed to be a warehouse and was used as such until the war. It consisted of three tenement (loft style) buildings, each 110 x 44 feet and four stories high. They were built between 1845 and 1852 by John Enders, a founder in the tobacco industry in Richmond, Virginia. Enders was killed instantly in October 1851 when he fell from a broken ladder through a hatch in the construction of the central building.

Captain Luther Libby began leasing the western building in 1854 on 3 year terms from the Ender family. Libby used the building for a grocery business and a ships chandlery and erected the sign "L. LIBBY & SON, SHIP CHANDLERS". Libby was a native of Maine and with the outbreak of war, since most of his business was with Northern ships, he closed down the operation but continued to maintain the lease.

Following the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run) so many prisoners were coming to Richmond that these buildings were commandeered for prisoner and hospital use. General Winder (Winder later questions Francis after he is captured) gave Libby 48 hours to vacate the premises. So rapidly was the building converted to its new use that the sign was not removed and the name Libby Prison came into use. The buildings were first used as a prison in March 1862. The living conditions in the prison were good at first but quickly worsened as the numbers of prisoners increased. During the War, Libby held over 125,000 men, mostly Union officers. Other prisons were known for their death toll but known could match the numbers of inmates that Libby held. The capacity of the prison was reported to be 1200 but most of the time that was exceeded. Reports in the Richmond Dispatch newspaper from mid July 1862 (when Francis was there) stated that there were 3000 prisoners being held in Libby Prison. Prisoners were not kept on the ground floors. The ground floors were used as offices, guard-rooms, and the kitchen. The upper floors held the prisoners and there are references to rooms called by them, "Streight's Room", "Milroy's Room", and "Chigamauga Room". The cellars contained cells for dangerous prisoners, spies and slaves under the sentence of death, and a carpenter shop.



Interior view of Streight's Room, Third Floor
(were Francis was held)

Libby was vacated just before the Union Army captured Richmond and following the occupation of Richmond (April 3, 1865), the Federal authorities used the prison until August 3, 1868 as an incarceratory for former Confederates.

The west building was bought by a Chicago syndicate in 1888 and beginning in December 1888 the building was taken apart. Each board, beam, brick and timber were numbered and lettered in such a manner that it could be correctly put back together again in Chicago. The contract for hauling the material was given to the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company which kept box cars on the side tracks of the old York River Line near the building. As soon as a carload was ready, it was sealed and sent to Chicago. On May 6, 1889 a train wreck near Maysville, Kentucky spilled much of the buildings materials. During May and June the rest of the building was disassembled and sent to Chicago in 132 railway freight cars. Over 600,000 bricks were shipped. Only part of the bricks were used to build the Libby Prison Museum in Chicago. The museum was highly profitable and continued to be so until 1899, when the syndicate disbanded and the Coliseum was built on the site. Many of the bricks were disposed as souvenirs and to builders. A large number went to the Chicago Historical Society, which built the North wall of their Civil War Room. The beams, timbers and most of the wood was sold to an Indiana farmer who used it to build a massive barn. The barn was torn down in December 1963.

The other two buildings of Libby Prison were used as a fertilizer company and then as an ice company. In November 1911 a bronze plaque was placed on the Crystal Ice Company building. In July 1939 the Crystal Ice Company building was torn down and the plaque was put into storage. A park was built on the original site of the prison and a sign was erected with the plaque on it along with a photo of the prison.

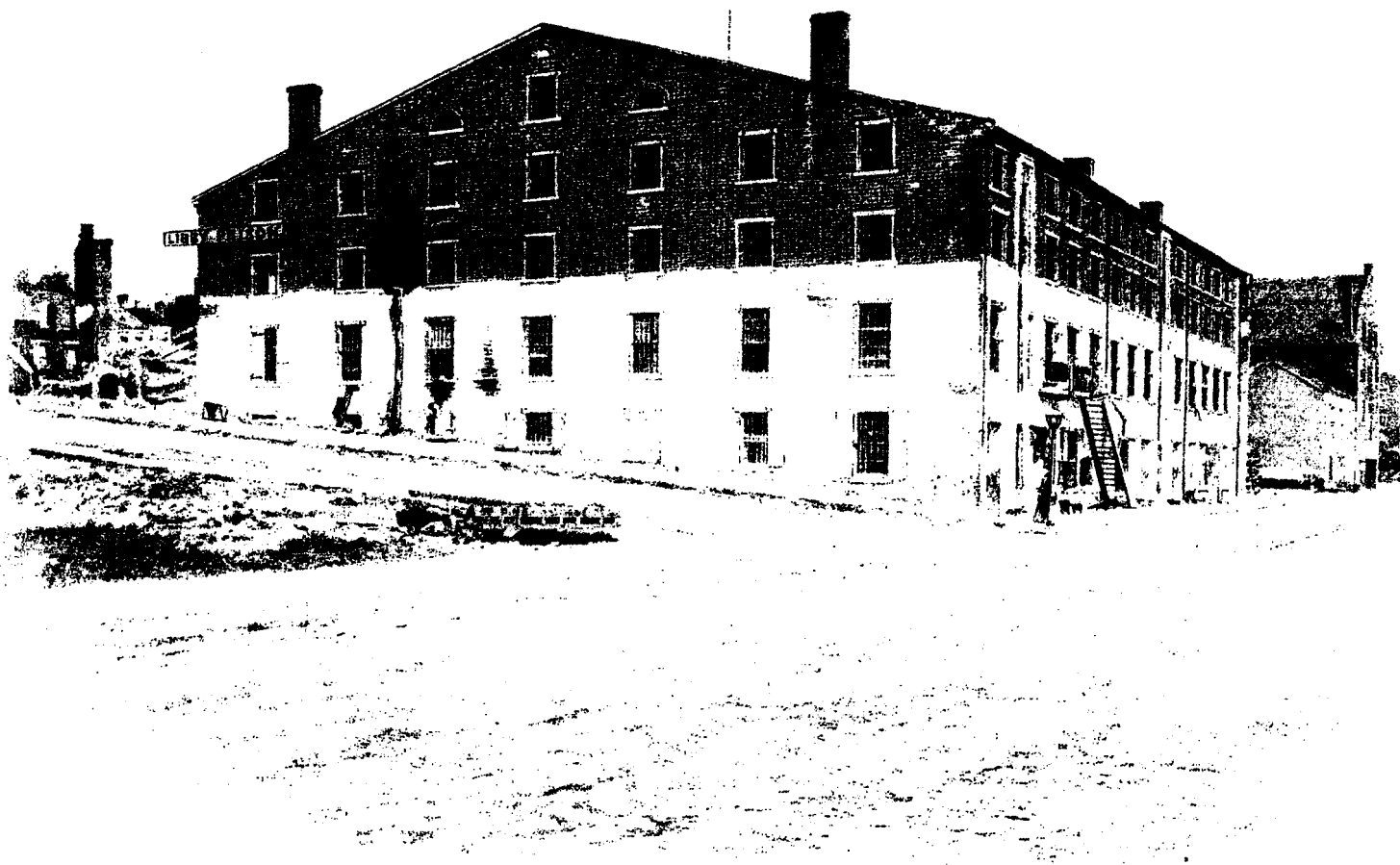
In the early 1990's the Army Corps of Engineers built a flood control wall for the city of Richmond on the site of Libby Prison. The plaque was placed on this wall and rededicated in September 1993.

With the exception of the above mentioned artifacts, all that is known to remain of the old prison are a door and a key which are in the Confederate Museum in Richmond and some miscellaneous items which are located in several institutions in Vermont and Massachusetts. Its major records are in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

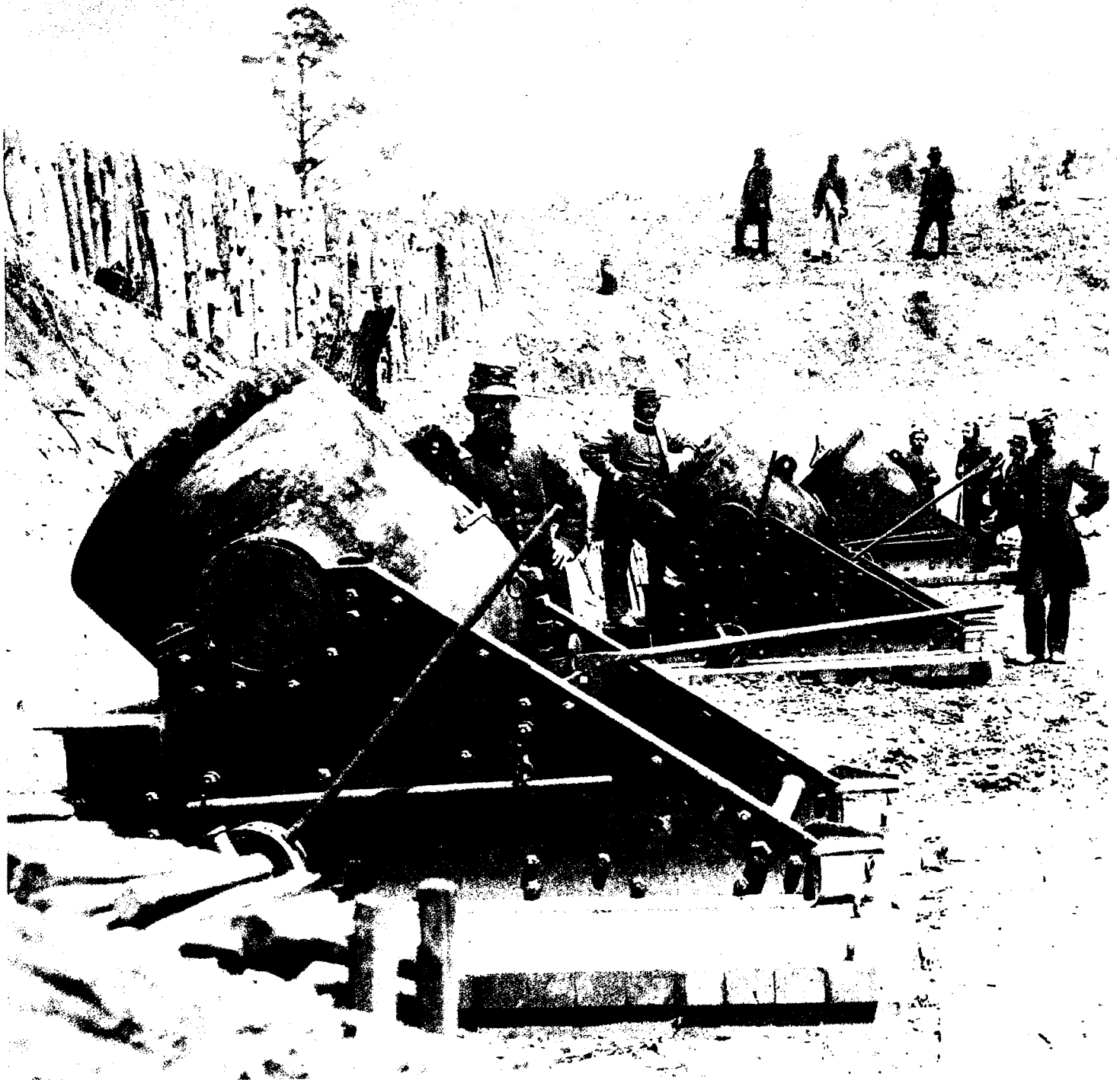
One more key does in fact exist and it is in our family's possession. It is not stated in Francis' diary how he got the key or how he used it, but the story is that he got it from his "girlfriend" Mary Boltz inside another pie. I assume he used the key to free himself from the third floor and then escaped into the alley from the first floor through the loosened planks. I have been in contact with the Confederate Museum and was told that there is no way to authenticate the key because there were no standard doors or locks used in the prison, but we know for certain that it is an original key from the famous prison.



LIBBY PRISON, NORTH SIDE.
Taken May, 1865.



LIBBY PRISON, SOUTH SIDE.
taken May, 1865.



Outside Yorktown, officers of the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery stand proudly beside their 13-inch seacoast mortars, 8½-ton monsters that could throw 220-pound shells 4,300 yards. The Federals laboriously brought up 14 batteries of heavy cannon for the siege, but the Confederates evacuated Yorktown before 13 of the units could fire a shot.



This photograph shows some of the 2,500 Union wounded at the field hospital near Savage's Station who had to be left behind when McClellan continued his retreat. They were captured; most were eventually exchanged.

The rebels had also captured 6,000 Yankees in the previous six days, and continued to pick up scores of stragglers on the morning of July 1. In the end it turned out that the Army of the Potomac, with a resilience in the face of adversity that became its hallmark, was not demoralized after all. But its commander was. McClellan wired Washington that he had been "overpowered" by "superior numbers" and that "I fear I shall be forced to abandon my material to save my men under cover of the gunboats." With his uncanny ability to read the opposing commander's mind, Lee sensed McClellan's unnerved state but mistakenly projected it upon the men in the ranks as well.

In any event, Lee's frustration made him ready to grasp at any opportunity to strike "those people" once more. Longstreet—who had emerged as Lee's most reliable subordinate in this campaign—untypically shared this aggressive mood. On the morning of July 1 Longstreet found two elevated positions north of Malvern Hill from which he thought artillery might soften up Union defenses for an infantry assault. Lee ordered the artillery to concentrate on the two knolls. But staff work broke down again; only some of the cannoners got the message, and their weak fire was soon silenced by Union batteries. Lee nevertheless ordered the assault to go forward. Confusion in the delivery of these orders meant that the attack was disjointed, with brigades advancing individually rather than together. This enabled Union artillery to pulverize nearly every attacking unit, allowing only a few enemy regiments to get close enough for infantry to cut them down. For perhaps the only time in the war, artillery fire caused more enemy casualties than rifle fire.

A portion of White Oak Swamp a dozen miles east of Richmond, where Jackson failed to advance against Union defenders on June 30.



Stalemate in the Swamp

"Seven Pines should have been a magnificent victory for us. It was really far from that, and while encouraging the soldiers in fighting and the belief in their ability to beat the enemy, it was a waste of life and a great disappointment."

MAJOR G. MOXLEY SORREL, C.S.A.

Rushing to save the battle, General Johnston led W.H.C. Whiting's troops to Fair Oaks shortly before 5 p.m. and found the place abandoned—the first encouraging sign that the general had seen all day. Now Seven Pines was only a mile away, and while Johnston was not sure of the situation there, he had at his disposal 10,000 fresh troops, enough to deliver a decisive blow.

But General Whiting suspected that Fair Oaks was not so deserted as it seemed. He had a hunch, he told Johnston, that the enemy was nearby in some strength on their left and rear, out in the impenetrable wilderness toward the Chickahominy where no Federal forces were supposed to be.

Johnston was impatient with that notion, and replied testily: "Oh, General Whiting, you are too cautious!" At that moment shells began to burst around them, pouring in from hidden artillery emplaced about 800 yards to the northeast—their left and rear. The Confederates dashed for cover.

The Federal attackers—four regiments and a battery of six guns—were fragments of Darius Couch's division. About an hour earlier, Micah Jenkins' flanking move had cut them off, Couch included, from the rest of the division. They made several attempts to fight their way back to their main force east of Seven Pines, but Couch gave it up as suicidal after two of his regimental commanders were killed.

Couch was leading the remnant up a path toward the Chickahominy when he spied

Johnston's Confederates out on the Nine Mile Road. He hastily established a line of battle on either side of a building known as the Adams House. Thus posted on a rise facing west and commanding a marshy meadow that opened toward Fair Oaks, Couch ordered his gunners—Battery H of the 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery, under Captain James Brady—to commence firing.

Whiting quickly responded, sending four regiments charging across the clearing toward the Adams House. Brady's 10-pounder Parrott guns repulsed them once, then again, but the third charge was the fiercest of all and threatened to overrun the battery. To his alarm Brady had run out of canister, the charge of lead balls so effective at close range. As a last resort he began firing regular explosive shells with the fuses set for point-blank range. The Confederates came within 20 yards of his cannon—and there the exploding shells blew them to pieces.

Nevertheless, Whiting's Confederates so far outnumbered Couch's handful that they would soon have overwhelmed the isolated Federal position had it not been for a remarkable turn of events. A long stream of blue-clad reinforcements suddenly appeared from an unexpected quarter—across the flooded Chickahominy.

**O.R.-- SERIES I--VOLUME XI/2 [S# 13]
PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN--SEVEN DAYS'
BATTLES
Report of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, U.S.
Army,
Commanding Army of the Potomac.**

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Camp at Berkeley, Va., July 15, 1862.

Brig. Gen. LORENZO THOMAS,
Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.

GENERAL: Without waiting to receive the reports of all the subordinate commanders, I submit the following very brief narrative of the operations of this army since the 25th ultimo:

On the 24th of June I received information that appeared entitled to some credit, that General Jackson was at Frederick's Hall with his entire force, consisting of his own division, with those of Ewell and Whiting, and that his intention was to attack our right flank and rear, in order to cut off our communications with the White House and throw the right wing of the army into the Chickahominy. Fortunately I had a few days before provided against this contingency, by ordering a number of transports to the James River, loaded with commissary, quartermaster, and ordnance supplies. I therefore felt free to watch the enemy closely, wait events, and act according to circumstances, feeling sure that if cut off from the Pamunkey I could gain the James River for a new base. I placed General Stoneman in command of the cavalry on the right, intrusting to his charge the picket duty toward Hanover Court-House, to give the earliest possible information of an advance of the enemy from that direction.

On the 25th General Heintzelman was directed to drive in the enemy's pickets from the woods in his front, in order to give us command of the cleared fields still farther in advance. This was gallantly and handsomely done under a stubborn resistance, the brunt of the fighting falling upon the division of Hooker. Just as the new line was gained I was called from the field by intelligence which tended strongly to confirm the belief that Jackson was really approaching. I immediately repaired to the camp of General Fitz John Porter, commanding on the right of the Chickahominy, to obtain further information and arrange the movements for the morrow. On my arrival I found that there was a strong probability of Jackson's advancing, although not a certainty of it. I therefore determined to leave our heavy guns in battery and to retain McCall's division in its strong position on Beaver Dam Creek, near Mechanicsville, posting merely small outposts to watch the crossings near Meadow Bridge and Mechanicsville and to give General McCall immediate notice of the enemy's approach. Porter's remaining troops were to be held in reserve, ready to act according to circumstances. The center and left of the army were also to be held in readiness to repulse any attack or to move to the assistance of the right. It had long before been determined to hold the position of Beaver Dam Creek in the event of being attacked on that side, for the reasons that the position was intrinsically a very strong one, was less liable to be turned on either flank than any position in advance of it, and brought the army in a more concentrated and manageable condition. The natural strength of the position had been somewhat increased by slight rifle pits and felling a little timber in front of it. With the exception of epaulements for artillery near Gaines' and Hogan's houses to act against the enemy's batteries on the right bank of the Chickahominy, there were no other artificial defenses on the left bank of that stream.

Our position on the right bank of the river had been rendered reasonably secure against assault by felling timber and the construction of slight earthworks. Measures had already been taken to secure the passage of White Oak Swamp. The right wing, under the command of General Fitz John Porter, consisted of the divisions of Morell, Sykes, and McCall, with a large part of the cavalry reserve. He had ten heavy guns in battery on the banks of the Chickahominy.

Such was the state of affairs on the morning of June 26. I was by that time satisfied that I had to deal with at least double my numbers, but so great was my confidence in the conduct of the officers, and the bravery, discipline, and devotion of my men, that I felt contented calmly to await the bursting of the coming storm, ready to profit by any fault of the enemy, and sure that I could extricate the army from any difficulty in which it might become involved.

No other course was open to me, for my information in regard to the movements of the enemy was too meager to enable me to take a decided course. I had not long to wait. During the afternoon of the 26th the enemy crossed in several columns in the vicinity of Mechanicsville and Meadow Bridge and attacked McCall in his position at Beaver Dam Creek.

His repeated efforts were constantly repulsed, with but little loss on our side, but with great slaughter on the part of the enemy. The contest ceased here about 9 p.m., the enemy leaving us in full possession of every part of the field of battle.

During the action McCall was supported by the brigades of Martin-dale and Griffin, of the division of Morell. While this was going on there were some sharp affairs of pickets on the center and left, but nothing of a serious nature.

By this time I had certain information that Jackson was rapidly advancing in strong force from Hanover Court-House; that his advance guard had probably participated in the battle of Beaver Dam Creek. This rendered that position untenable. I therefore determined still further to concentrate the army, by withdrawing Porter's command to a position near Gaines' Mill, where he could rest both his flanks on the Chickahominy and cover the most important bridges over that stream. The wagons and heavy guns were withdrawn during the night, the troops falling back to their new position early in the morning. The enemy attacked Seymour's brigade, constituting the rear guard of the division, McCall's, but were sharply repulsed, and the movement was not further molested.

In the course of the morning of the 27th I received intelligence that Longstreet's corps was at Mechanicsville, ready to move down on either bank of the Chickahominy, according to circumstances. This intelligence, and many threatening movements of the enemy on various parts of the center and left, placed a limit to the amount of the re-enforcements available for the support of Porter. Under the circumstances, it was impossible to withdraw him to the right bank of the Chickahominy by daylight. The enemy were so close upon him that the attempt would have insured the loss of a large portion of his corps, and in any event the abandonment of his position at that time would have placed our right flank and rear at the mercy of the enemy. It was necessary to fight him where we stood, to hold our position at any cost until night, and in the mean time to perfect the arrangements for the change of base to the James River.

In the report of General Porter will be found a detailed description of the field of battle at Gaines' Mill and the circumstances of that eventful contest, creditable alike to the energy of the enemy and the desperate valor of the comparatively small band that repelled the attacks of his enormous masses.

It will suffice for the purposes of this report to state that the action commenced about 2 p.m., and that during the afternoon I ordered up the division of Slocum to the support of Porter, and soon after the brigades of French and Meagher, of Richardson's division. The latter were not engaged. At a later period two brigades of Peck's division were ordered

forward, but as their services were not needed they did not cross the Chickahominy. The contest continued with varying fortunes until dark, when the enemy discontinued his attack. During the night the final withdrawal of the right wing across the Chickahominy was completed without difficulty and without confusion, a portion of the regulars remaining on the left bank until the morning of the 28th. Early on that morning the bridges were burned, and the whole army was thus concentrated on the right bank of the Chickahominy.

During the battle of Gaines' Mill the position of General Smith was warmly attacked, but the enemy was at once repulsed with loss. In the course of the night of the 27th General Keyes was ordered to cross the White Oak Swamp with the Fourth Corps and take up a position to cover the passage of the trains. Measures were also taken to increase the number of bridges across the swamp. The trains were set in motion at an early hour, and continued passing across the swamp night and day without intermission until all had crossed.

On the 28th, Porter's corps was also moved across the White Oak Swamp, and on the morning of the 29th took up a position covering the roads leading from Richmond toward the White Oak Swamp and Long Bridges.

During the night of the 28th and 29th the divisions of Slocum and McCall were ordered across the White Oak Swamp, and were placed in position to cover the passage of the remaining divisions and trains. In the course of the same night the corps of Sumner and Heintzelman and the division of Smith were ordered to fall back from their original position to an interior line resting upon Keyes' old intrenchments on the left and so arranged as to cover Savage Station. They were ordered to hold this position until dark, then to fall back across the swamp and rejoin the rest of the army. This order was not fully carried out, nor was the exact position I designated occupied by the different divisions concerned; nevertheless the result was that two attacks of the enemy---one a very determined onset--were signally repulsed by Sumner's corps, assisted in the last by Smith's division, of the Sixth Corps. These are the two actions known as the affair of Allen's Field and the battle of Savage Station. The Third Corps crossed the swamp before dark, having left its position before the hour assigned and was not in action during that day (the 29th). The Second Corps and Smith's division safely crossed the swamp during the night with all their guns and *materiel*, and brought up the rear of the wagon train. In the night of the 29th and 30th the Fourth and Fifth Corps were ordered to move to James River, to rest on that river at or near Turkey Bend and occupy a position perpendicular to the river, thus covering the Charles City road to Richmond, opening communication with the gunboats, and covering the wagon train, which was pushed as rapidly as possible upon Haxall's and Harrison's plantations.

The remaining corps were moved in the same direction and posted so as to cover the main roads leading from Richmond as well as the crossings by which the army had passed the White Oak Swamp and to guard the passage of our large trains to the James River. When the troops were in position in the afternoon before the enemy attacked they were posted about as follows: Porter with two divisions (Morell's and Sykes') and the mass of the reserve artillery on Malvern Hill (the left of the position); next Couch, with one brigade of Peck's division in reserve; next Sedgwick; then McCall, Hooker, Kearny, Slocum, Naglee's brigade, Richardson, and Smith.

During the actions which ensued at Turkey Bridge, on the New Market road (Glendale), and at White Oak Swamp, changes were made in this disposition. The result of the various actions of the 30th, during which our whole line was attacked, was that the enemy was everywhere repulsed except in his attack upon McCall's division, which, hard pressed by greatly superior numbers, and having lost three of its general officers, broke and lost most of its artillery. The gallant conduct of their comrades near by, especially Hooker's division, retrieved that mishap, and rendered it impossible for the enemy to reap any advantages from it.

By this time the last of the trains had reached Haxall's Landing, and during the night the

troops fell back to the vicinity of that place, all arriving in safety and unmolested at an early hour of the morning. They were promptly placed in position to offer battle to the enemy should he again attack, the left of the line resting on the admirable position of Malvern Hill, with a brigade in the low ground to the left watching the road to Richmond; the line then following a line of heights nearly parallel to the river and bending back through the woods nearly to the James River on our right. On the left we relied upon the natural advantages of the position. On the right, where the natural strength was less, some little cutting of timber was done and the roads blocked.

Although our force was small for so extensive a position it was necessary to hold it at any cost. When the battle commenced in the afternoon I saw that in the faces and bearing of the men which satisfied me that we were sure of victory. The attack was made upon our left and left center, and the brunt of it was borne by Porter's corps (including Hunt's reserve artillery and Tyler's heavy guns) and Couch's division, re-enforced by the brigades of Sickles and Meagher. It was desperate, brave, and determined, but so destructive was the fire of our numerous artillery, so heroic the conduct of our infantry, and so admirable the dispositions of Porter, that no troops could have carried the position. Late in the evening the enemy fell back, thoroughly beaten, with dreadful slaughter. So completely was he crushed and so great were his losses, that he has not since ventured to attack us.

Previously to the battle of Malvern I had fully consulted with Commodore Rodgers, and with him made a hasty reconnaissance of the positions on the river. The difficulty of passing our transports above City Point was so great that I determined to fall back upon the position now occupied by the army; a position, too, much less extensive than that of Malvern, and therefore permitting me to give the men the rest they so much needed. Accordingly the army fell back during the night of the 1st and 2d of July, reaching this place at an early hour on the 2d. On the 3d the troops were placed essentially in their present positions.

To the calm judgment of history and the future I leave the task of pronouncing upon this movement, confident that its verdict will be that no such difficult movement was ever more successfully executed; that no army ever fought more repeatedly, heroically, and successfully against such great odds; that no men of any race ever displayed greater discipline, endurance, patience, and cheerfulness under such hardships.

My mind cannot coin expressions of thanks and admiration warm enough or intense enough to do justice to my feelings toward the army I am so proud to command. To my countrymen I confidently commit them, convinced they will ever honor every brave man who served during those seven historic days with the Army of the Potomac. Upon whatever field it may hereafter be called upon to act I ask that it may never lose its name, but may ever be known as "The Army of the Potomac," a name which it never has nor ever will disgrace.

It is not my purpose now to make mention of distinguished services. The names of those who deserve well of their country would swell this report to too great dimensions. I will simply call attention to the invaluable services rendered by the artillery, and say that its performances have fully justified my anticipations, and prove it to be our policy to cherish and increase that arm of the service.

I cannot conclude this report without expressing my thanks to the gallant and accomplished Commodore John Rodgers for the valuable assistance rendered this army in various ways, but especially by the fire of a portion of the flotilla upon the flank of the enemy attacking Malvern Hill on the 30th of June and 1st of July. Their fire was excellent and produced very beneficial results.

I am, general, very, respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. B. McCLELLAN,

**Report of Brig. Gen. James E. B. Stuart, C. S. Army, Commanding
Cavalry Brigade, of Operations June 26-- July 10.
PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN--SEVEN DAYS' BATTLES
O.R.-- SERIES I--VOLUME XI/2 [S# 13]**

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Near Richmond, Va., July 14, 1862.

Col. R. H. CHILTON,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters Department of Virginia.

COLONEL: In compliance with the orders of the commanding general I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command from June 26 to July 10, embracing the series of battles with the Federal forces before Richmond:

The part assigned to my command is set forth in General Orders, No. 75 (confidential), of June 26, and I beg leave to congratulate the commanding general upon the signal fulfillment by our army of what was planned in that order of battle, so much so that the order itself affords a very correct history of the battle.

My command on the morning of the 26th ultimo consisted of First Virginia Cavalry, Col. Fitzhugh Lee; Third Virginia Cavalry, Col. T. F. Goode; Fourth Virginia Cavalry, Captain Chamberlayne; Fifth Virginia Cavalry, Col. T. L. Rosser; Ninth Virginia Cavalry, Col. W. H. F. Lee; Tenth Virginia Cavalry, Col. J. Lucius Davis; Cobb Legion Cavalry, Col. T. R. R. Cobb; Jeff. Davis Legion, Lieut. Col. W. T. Martin; Stuart Horse Artillery, Capt. John Pelham; a squadron of Hampton Legion Cavalry, Captain Scrivener [Screven] (attached to Fifth Virginia); three companies First North Carolina Cavalry, Lieut. Col. [James B.] Gordon.

The Third Virginia Cavalry was directed to observe the Charles City road; the Fifth Virginia and detachment First North Carolina Cavalry to watch the enemy's movements toward James River, and notify the commander nearest at hand of any attempt of the enemy to move across from White Oak Swamp to the James, and to harass and delay him *en route* till our forces could fall upon him.

The Tenth Virginia Cavalry was placed in reserve on the Nine-mile road.

With the remainder of my command, including the Horse Artillery, I marched late on the 25th, without baggage, equipped in light marching order and three days' rations in haversacks, and crossing Jackson's line of march after he had encamped, so as not to interrupt his progress, placed myself on his left flank, near Ashland.

It is proper to remark here that the commanding general had, on the occasion of my late expedition to the Pamunkey, imparted to me his design of bringing Jackson down upon the enemy's right flank and rear, and directed that I should examine the country with reference to its practicability for such a move. I therefore had studied the features of the country very thoroughly, and knew exactly how to conform my movements to Jackson's route. As that part of my former mission was confidential I made no mention of it in my former report, but it is not, I presume, out of place to remark here that the information obtained then and reported to him verbally convinced the commanding general that the enemy had no defensive works with reference to attack from that direction, the right bank of the Totopotomoy being unoccupied; that his forces were not disposed so as successfully to meet such an attack, and that the natural features of the country were favorable to such a descent.

General Jackson was placed in possession of all these facts. Having bivouacked near Ashland for the night, on the morning of the 26th-- the Jeff. Davis Legion and Fourth Virginia Cavalry having joined me here from an advanced position of observation on South Anna, which effectually screened Jackson's movements from the enemy-- my command

swept down upon Jackson's left. Extending its observations as far as the Pamunkey River road, passing Taliaferro's Mill, where the enemy had a strong picket, which fled at our approach, I reached General Jackson's line of march at the cross-roads at Dr. Shelton's in advance of his column. From Taliaferro's Mill to this point there was constant skirmishing between the enemy's pickets and my advance guard, Colonel Lee's (Company D, sharpshooters) First Virginia Cavalry, displaying the same courage and address which has already distinguished it on many occasions, killing and wounding several of the enemy without suffering any loss.

At Dr. Shelton's I awaited the arrival of General Jackson, sending a squadron in advance (Captain Irving, First Virginia Cavalry) to seize and hold the bridge at the Totopotomoy. The enemy, anticipating us, had torn up the bridge and held the opposite bank and obstructed the road, without, however, making any determined stand. Capt. W. W. Blackford, Corps of Engineers, assigned to duty with my command, set about repairing the bridge, and in half an hour, with the details furnished him, the bridge was ready.

Passing Pole Green Church, General Jackson's march led directly toward the crossing of Beaver Dam Creek, opposite Richardson's. Reaching that point, he bivouacked for the night and I disposed my command on both his flanks and rear, with five squadrons on picket, looking well toward Cold Harbor and Old Church. About sundown the enemy made his appearance near Jackson's flank, on the Old Church road, but a few rounds of shell put him to flight, and my pickets on that road were not disturbed during the night.

The next morning, General Jackson moving directly across Beaver Dam, I took a circuitous route to turn that stream, turning down, first, the Old Churchroad, both aiming for Old Cold Harbor, and directing my march so as to cover his left flank, he having formed at Beaver Dam a junction with the divisions which marched by way of Mechanicsville.

All day we were skirmishing with, killing and capturing, small detachments of the enemy's cavalry, mostly the Lancers, Colonel Rush. Passing Bethesda Church, I sent the Blakely gun, of the Horse Artillery, and a portion of my command, under Colonel Martin, off to the left to see if any force was about Old Church. Colonel Martin found nothing but some flying cavalry, and I continued my march by way of Beulah Church, taking several prisoners *en route* to Cold Harbor, where I found General Jackson. He directed me to take position on his left in reserve. I kept a squadron in observation down the Old Church road, on the Dispatch road, and made dispositions for action whenever opportunity might offer. Owing, however, to the nature of the ground, the position of the enemy in a wood, and the steadiness of our own troops, the cavalry proper had no hand-to-hand conflict with the enemy, though subject to the severe ordeal of a raking artillery fire from guns beyond its reach. Vedettes placed on our left kept me advised of the enemy's operations, and about 5 or 6 p.m. a movement of artillery was observed and reported on the road from Grapevine Bridge. The only artillery under my command being Pelham's Stuart Horse Artillery, the 12-pounder Blakely and Napoleon were ordered forward to meet this bold effort to damage our left flank. The Blakely was disabled at the first fire, the enemy opening simultaneously eight pieces, proving afterward to be Weed's and Tidball's batteries. Then ensued one of the most gallant and heroic feats of the war. The Napoleon gun, solitary and alone, received the fire of those batteries, concealed in the pines on a ridge commanding its ground, yet not a man quailed, and the noble captain directing the fire himself with a coolness and intrepidity only equaled by his previous brilliant career. The enemy's fire sensibly slackened under the determined fire of this Napoleon, which clung to its ground with unflinching tenacity. I had an opportunity of calling General Jackson's attention to the heroic conduct of the officers and men of this piece, and later he, by his personal efforts, re-enforced it with several batteries of rifle pieces, which, firing, advanced *en échelon* about dark and drove the enemy from his last foothold on the right.

I received information that General D. H. Hill was pursuing the enemy down that road

at the point of the bayonet. Expecting a general rout, I immediately joined my cavalry and dashed down the road leading by Dr. Tyler's to its intersection with the White House road, about 3 miles. It was quite dark, but no evidence of retreat or other movement could be detected on that road, so, leaving a squadron for observation at that point, I returned to Cold Harbor with the main body late at night.

Early in the morning that squadron was so burdened with prisoners, mostly of the Regular Army-- among others Maj. Delozier Davidson, commanding Fourth U.S. Infantry-- that I had to re-enforce it.

Being sent for by the general commanding at his headquarters, at New Cold Harbor, I galloped up, leaving my command prepared for instant service. I received from the commanding general instructions to strike for the York River Railroad at the nearest point, so as to cut the enemy's line of communication with the York and intercept his retreat. General Ewell's division (infantry) was put in motion for the same object, and Colonel Lee, of the Ninth, with his regiment, preceded him as advance guard, finding *en route* two fine rifle pieces of artillery abandoned by the enemy. With the main body of cavalry I pursued a parallel route, and arriving near Dispatch, passed the head of General Ewell's column, and pushing a squadron of Cobb Legion Cavalry rapidly forward, surprised and routed a squadron of the enemy's cavalry, they leaving in their hurried departure the ground strewn with carbines and pistols. They fled in the direction of Bottom's Bridge. I directed the immediate tearing up of the track and cutting the wire, which was done in a very few minutes, and the result reported to General Ewell and to the commanding general. General Ewell decided to await further orders at Dispatch. I determined to push boldly down the White House road, resolved to find what force was in that direction and, if possible, rout it. A train of forage wagons with a few cavalry as escort was captured before proceeding far, and farther down several sutler's establishments. The prominent points on the roads were picketed by cavalry, all of which fled at our approach, and long before the column of cavalry had reached half-way to the White House the fleeing pickets had heralded the approach of what no doubt appeared to their affrighted minds to be the whole Army of the Valley, and from the valley of the Pamunkey a dense cloud of smoke revealed the fact of the flight and destruction in the path of a stampeded foe.

All accounts agreed that Generals Stoneman and Emory, with a large command of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, had gone in the direction of the White House, where Casey was said to be in command. I found no resistance till I reached Tunstall's Station; here I found a vacated field work and captured a cavalry flag near it. This work, as well as the evidences of recent encampments along the line of railroad, showed that one of the great results anticipated from my late expedition-- the detaching a large force to protect the enemy's line of communication-- had been accomplished.

At the crossing of Black Creek near this place the enemy had a squadron drawn up on the farther bank in line of battle and what appeared to be artillery on a commanding height beyond. He had destroyed the bridge over this difficult stream, whose abrupt banks and miry bed presented a serious obstacle to our progress. The artillery was ordered up to the front and a few well-directed rounds of shell dispersed the squadron, as well as disclosed in a scrambling race an adroitly-formed ambuscade of dismounted men on the banks of the stream, and produced no reply from what was supposed to be artillery. A small party of dismounted men under the daring Captain Farley soon gained the farther bank and scoured the woods beyond, while the ever-ready and indefatigable Blackford set to work to repair the crossing. It was dark, however, before it could be finished, and we slept on our arms till morning, finding ample corn for our jaded horses at Tunstall's Station.

The conflagration raged fearfully at the White House during the entire night, while explosions of shells rent the air. I was informed that 5,000 men held the place. Early next morning I moved cautiously down, catching the scattered fugitives of the day before as we

advanced, till, coming in plain view of the White House at a distance of a quarter of a mile, a large gunboat was discovered lying at the landing.

I took the precaution to leave the main body about 2 miles behind, and proceeded to this point with a small party and one piece of artillery. Col. W. H. F. Lee, the proprietor of this once beautiful estate, low in ashes and desolation, described the ground and pointed out all the localities to me, so that I was convinced that a few bold sharpshooters could compel the gunboat to leave. I accordingly ordered down about 75, partly of First Virginia Cavalry (Litchfield's Company D), and partly Jeff. Davis Legion and Fourth Virginia Cavalry. They were deployed in pairs, with intervals of 40 paces, and were armed with rifle carbines. They advanced boldly on this monster, so terrible to our fancy, and a body of sharpshooters were sent ashore from the boat to meet them. Quite a determined engagement of skirmishers ensued, but our gallant men never faltered in their determination to expose this Yankee buggaboo called gunboat. To save time, however, I ordered up the howitzer, a few shells from which, fired with great accuracy and bursting directly over her decks, caused an instantaneous withdrawal of sharpshooters and precipitate flight under full headway of steam down the river. The howitzer gave chase at a gallop, the more to cause the apprehension of being cut off below than of really effecting anything. The gunboat never returned.

The command was now entirely out of rations and the horses without forage, and I had relied on the enemy at the White House to supply me with these essentials I was not disappointed, in spite of their efforts to destroy everything. Provisions and delicacies of every description lay in heaps, and the men regaled themselves on the fruits of the tropics as well as the substantials of the land. Large quantities of forage were left also.

An opportunity was here offered for observing the deceitfulness of the enemy's pretended reverence for everything associated with the name of Washington, for the dwelling-house was burned to the ground, and not a vestige left except what told of desolation and vandalism.

Nine large barges loaded with stores were on fire as we approached; immense numbers of tents, wagons, cars in long trains loaded and five locomotives, a number of forges, quantities of every species of quartermaster's stores and property, making a total of many millions of dollars— all more or less destroyed.

During the morning I received a note from the commanding general directing me to watch closely any movement of the enemy in my direction, and to communicate what my impressions were in regard to his designs. I replied that there was no evidence of a retreat of the main body from the position before Richmond down the Williamsburg roads, and that I had no doubt the enemy since his defeat was endeavoring to reach the James as a new base, being compelled to surrender his connection with the York. If the Federal people can be convinced that this was a part of McClellan's plan, that it was in his original design for Jackson to turn his right flank and our generals to force him from his strongholds, they certainly can never forgive him for the millions of public treasure that his superb strategy cost the nation. He had no alternative left, and, possessed with the information that his retreat was not progressing toward the York, the commanding general knew as well as McClellan himself that he must seek the only outlet left.

It took the remainder of Sunday to ration my command and complete the destruction of some property I was apprehensive the enemy might return and remove, but I sent that day a regiment (First Virginia Cavalry, Col. Fitz. Lee) across to observe the enemy's movements from Bottom's Bridge to Forge Bridges.

On Monday I moved my whole command in the same direction, except one squadron (Cobb Legion), which was left at the White House. Colonel Lee, First Virginia Cavalry, was stationed near Long Bridge, and the remainder near Forge Bridge. The former reported the enemy's pickets visible on the other side, and at the latter place I observed a force of

infantry and two pieces of artillery. The Napoleon was left with Colonel Lee, but it was disabled at the first shot, the trail breaking. The Blakely being disabled at Cold Harbor left me with only 12-pounder howitzers (one section being present). Captain Pelham engaged the enemy across the Chickahominy with these, and after a spirited duel against one rifle piece and one howitzer the enemy was driven from his position with the loss of 2 men and 2 horses killed, we escaping unhurt. The infantry abandoned their knapsacks in their hurry to depart. I tried in vain to ascertain by scouts the enemy's force beyond, and it being now nearly dark, we bivouacked again.

During the entire day Colonel Lee, of the First, as also the main body, captured many prisoners, but none seemed to know anything of the operations of the army. One was a topographical engineer.

At 3.30 a.m. next morning I received a dispatch from Colonel Chilton, the hour of his writing being omitted, stating that the enemy had been headed off at the intersection of the Long Bridge and Charles City roads and that his destination seemed for the present fixed, and expressing the commanding general's desire for me to cross the Chickahominy and co-operate with the forces on that side, suggesting Grapevine Bridge as the most suitable point. I asked the courier when it was written. He replied at 9 p.m., which point of time was after the heavy firing in the direction of White Oak Swamp Bridge had ceased, and I believe, therefore, that the status of the enemy referred to was subsequent to the heavy firing. I therefore started at once for Bottom's Bridge, 11 miles distant, pushing on rapidly myself. Arriving at Bottom's Bridge I found our troops had passed down. Galloping on to White Oak Swamp Bridge I found many on the march, and saw at once that from the lack of firing in front and the rapid rate of march the only way I could co-operate with the main body was by retracing my steps (fortunately the head of my column had not passed Bottom's Bridge) and crossing at the Forge Bridge to come up again on Jackson's left. I wrote a note to General Jackson to apprise him of this intention and hurried back to carry it out.

I found upon reaching Forge Bridge a party of Hunford's Second Virginia Cavalry, who informed me of the route taken by Jackson's column, and pushed on to join him, fording the river.

Passing Nance's shop about sundown, it was dark before we reached Rock's house, near which we stampeded the enemy's picket without giving it time to destroy a bridge further than to pull off the planks. I aimed for Haxall's Landing, but soon after leaving Rock's encountered picket fires, and a little way beyond saw the light of a considerable encampment. There was no other recourse left but to halt for the night, after a day's march of 42 miles.

As it was very dark very little could be seen of the country around, but I had previously detached Captain Blackford to notify General Jackson of my position and find where he was. He returned during the night, having found our troops, but could not locate General Jackson's hue. I ascertained also that a battle had been raging for some time and ceased about an hour after I reached this point. My arrival could not have been more fortunately timed, for, arriving after dark, its ponderous march, with the rolling artillery, must have impressed the enemy's cavalry, watching the approaches to their rear, with the idea of an immense army about to cut off their retreat, and contributed to cause that sudden collapse and stampede that soon after occurred, leaving us in possession of Malvern Hill, which the enemy might have held next day much to our detriment.

It is a remarkable fact worthy of the commanding general's notice that in taking the position I did in rear of Turkey Creek I acted entirely from my own judgment, but was much gratified the next day on receiving his note to find that his orders were to the same effect, though failing to reach me till next morning, after its execution.

Early next morning I received orders from General Jackson, unless you had otherwise directed, to take position near his left. Not yet apprised of the enemy's move in the night I

proceeded to execute this order, and having halted the column near Gatewood's, where Colonels Rosser, Baker, and Goode, with their respective regiments joined my command, I went forward to reconnoiter. Meeting with General Jackson, we rode together to Dr. Poindexter's, where we met Major Meade and Lieut. Samuel R. Johnston, of the Engineers, who had just made, in the drenching rain, a personal examination of the enemy's position and found it abandoned.

I galloped back to my command and put it in motion for Haxall's, hoping there to intercept the enemy's column. The Jeff. Davis Legion preceded and soon reached the river road in rear of Turkey Creek, capturing scores of the discomfited and demoralized foe at every turn-- wagons, tents, arms, and knapsacks abandoned, and the general drift of accounts given by the prisoners spoke eloquently of the slaughter and rout that will make Malvern Hill memorable in history.

Colonel Martin dashed off with a few men toward Haxall's, and in plain view of the monitor captured one of her crew on shore and marched back several other prisoners; the very boldness of the move apparently transfixing the enemy's guns.

Appreciating the importance of knowing the enemy's position with reference to Shirley I endeavored to gain the fork of roads near that point, but it was strongly defended by two regiments of infantry-- a prisoner captured near by said Sickles' brigade. The indications were plain, however, that the enemy had gone below that point.

The day was consumed in collecting prisoners and arms back toward Malvern Hill, the road from which was thoroughly blockaded, and in harassing the enemy's rear, which, in spite of his good position, was very effectually done by Colonel Martin with one of Pelham's howitzers, causing marked havoc and confusion in his ranks. I also reconnoitered in the direction of Charles City Court-House, with the view to fall on his flanks if still in motion. The result of the last was to the effect that at 10 a.m. no part of his forces had reached Charles City Court-House. I therefore sent down that night a howitzer toward Westover, under Captain Pelham, supported by Irving's squadron First Virginia Cavalry, with orders to reach the immediate vicinity of the river road below, so as to shell it if the enemy attempted to retreat that night.

A squadron (Cobb Legion) was left near Shirley and the main body bivouacked contiguous to oat fields, of necessity our sole dependence for forage since leaving the White House, but the regiments were warned that the pursuit might be resumed at any moment during the night should Captain Pelham's reconnaissance apprise us of a continuance of the retreat.

During the night Captain Pelham wrote to me that the enemy had taken position between Shirley and Westover, nearer the latter, and described the locality, the nature of Herring Creek, on the enemy's right, and indicated the advantage to be gained by taking possession with artillery of Evelington Heights-- a plateau commanding completely the enemy's encampment. I forwarded his report to the commanding general through General Jackson, and proceeded at once to the ground with my command, except one regiment (the Ninth Virginia Cavalry, Col. W. H. F. Lee), which was ordered down the road by Nance's shop, and thence across toward Charles City Court-House, so as to extend my left and keep a lookout toward Forge Bridge, by which route I was liable to be attacked in flank and rear by Stone-man, should he endeavor to form a junction by land with McClellan. I found Evelington Heights easily gained. A squadron in possession vacated without much hesitation, retreating up the road, the only route by which it could reach Westover, owing to the impassability of Herring Creek below Roland's Mill.

Colonel Martin was sent around farther to the left and the howitzer brought into action in the river road to fire upon the enemy's camp below. Judging from the great commotion and excitement caused below it must have had considerable effect. We soon had prisoners from various corps and divisions, and from their statements, as well as those of

citizens, I learned that the enemy's main body was there, but much reduced and demoralized. I kept the commanding general apprised of my movements, and I soon learned from him that Longstreet and Jackson were *en route* to my support. I held the ground from about 9 a.m. till 2 p.m., when the enemy had contrived to get one battery into position on this side the creek. The fire was, however, kept up until a body of infantry was found approaching by our right flank. I had no apprehension, however, as I felt sure Longstreet was near by, and although Pelham reported but two rounds of ammunition left, I held out, knowing how important it was to hold the ground till Longstreet arrived.

The enemy's infantry advanced and the battery kept up its fire. I just then learned that Longstreet had taken the wrong road and was then at Nance's shop, 6 or 7 miles off. Pelham fired his last round, and the sharpshooters, strongly posted in the skirt of woods bordering the plateau, exhausted every cartridge, but had at last to retire; not, however, without teaching many a foeman the bitter lesson of death.

My command had been so cut off from sources of supply and so constantly engaged with the enemy that the abundant supply which it began with on June 26 was entirely exhausted. I kept pickets at Bradley's store that night, and remained with my command on the west side of the creek, near Phillips' farm. General Longstreet came up late in the evening; he had been led by his guide out of his proper route.

The next day, July 4, General Jackson's command drove in the enemy's advanced pickets. I pointed out the position of the enemy, now occupying, apparently in force, the plateau from which I shelled their camp the day before, and showed him the routes by which the plateau could be reached to the left, and submitted my plan for dispossessing the enemy and attacking his camp. This was subsequently laid before the commanding general. The enemy's position had been well reconnoitered by Blackford, of the Engineers, the day before from a close view, and farther on this day (July 4), demonstrating that his position was strong, difficult to reach except with rifle cannon, and completely flanked by gunboats; all which were powerful arguments, and no doubt had their due weight with the commanding general against renewing an attack thus far of unbroken successes against a stronghold where the enemy had been re-enforced beyond a doubt. The operations of my own command extended farther to the left, except one regiment (Cobb Legion Cavalry) which was directed to follow up the enemy's rear on the river road, and First North Carolina Cavalry, which remained in reserve near Phillips' farm.

The remainder of July 4 and 5 were spent in reconnoitering and watching the river.

On the afternoon of the 5th Col. S. D. Lee, of the artillery, reported to me with a battery of rifle guns, Squires' Washington Artillery, to which I added Pelham's Blakely, which had just returned from Richmond, for attacking transports on the river below the Federal forces. The point selected was Wilcox's Landing, which was reached after dark. The only transport which passed during the night was fired into with evident damage, but she kept on.

On the 6th the battery was augmented by two rifle pieces of Rogers' battery, and proceeded to Wayne Oaks, lower down the river.

During that night and next day (7th) the batteries commanded the river, seriously damaging several transports and compelling the crews from two to take to their small boats for the opposite shore, leaving one boat sinking. The batteries were subject to incessant firing from the gunboats, which invariably convoyed the transports, but Colonel Lee, whose report is very interesting, says no damage was done to the batteries, demonstrating, as was done at the White House, that gunboats are not so dangerous as is generally supposed.

On the afternoon of the 7th the batteries returned to their camps, the men being much exhausted from loss of rest and continuous exertion.

During the 6th, 7th, and 8th the enemy persistently annoyed our pickets on the river road below Westover, and with all arms of service tried to compel us to retire from that position. Colonel Rosser, commanding Fifth Virginia Cavalry, was present in charge of the

post, and inspired his men with such determined resistance-- arranging them so as to resist to best advantage-- that the enemy failed in the effort within three-quarters of a mile of his main body and in his rear.

At sundown on the 8th, it being decided to withdraw our forces from before the enemy's position, the cavalry covered the withdrawal of the infantry, and prevented the enemy having any knowledge of the movement.

At daylight on the 9th the cavalry proceeded above Turkey Island Creek with the view to establish a line of cavalry outposts from the vicinity of Shirley across by Nance's shop to the Chickahominy.

On the 10th a portion of the cavalry was left on this duty, and the remainder, by direction of the commanding general, marched to a reserve camp.

I regret that the very extended field of operations of the cavalry has made this report necessarily long. During the whole period it will be observed that my command was in contact with the enemy. No opportunity occurred, however, for an overwhelming charge; a circumstance resulting first from the nature of the positions successively taken by the enemy in woods or behind swamps and ditches, he taking care to change position under cover of night, the distance being so short-- only fifteen miles-- -as to be marched in one night. Added to this was the uncertainty of whether the enemy would attempt the passage of the Chickahominy where I awaited him, or under cover of a demonstration toward Chaffin's Bluff he would gain the James. The country being obscurely wooded and swampy his facilities for effecting the latter were great.

The portion of the cavalry operating under my instructions on the Richmond side of the Chickahominy was under the command at first of Colonel Rosser, and afterward of Col. Lawrence S. Baker, First North Carolina Cavalry. The latter made a gallant charge on the 30th ultimo at Willis' Church with his and a portion of Colonel Goode's command, but were repulsed with some loss. Their reports, inclosed, will give particulars of their operations.

Major Crumpier was mortally wounded and Captain Ruffin taken prisoner. For other casualties you are respectfully referred to Colonel Baker's report. During the series of engagements in which the portion of the brigade with me participated very few casualties occurred, notwithstanding frequent exposure to the enemy's fire.

During the whole period the officers and men exhibited that devotion to duty, thorough discipline, and efficiency which characterize regular troops, and claim at my hands the highest measure of praise and grateful acknowledgment.

Cols. T. R. R. Cobb, Fitz. Lee, W. H. F. Lee, and Lieut. Col. W. T. Martin, under my immediate command, were frequently intrusted with distinct isolated commands, and displayed that zeal and ability which entitle them to favorable notice and give evidence of capacity for higher trusts. Capt. John Pelham, of the Horse Artillery, displayed much signal ability as an artillerist, such heroic example and devotion in danger, and indomitable energy under difficulties in the movement of his battery, that, reluctant as I am at the chance of losing such a valuable limb from the brigade, I feel bound to ask for his promotion, with the remark that in either cavalry or artillery no field grade is too high for his merit and capacity. The officers and men of that battery emulated the example of their captain, and did justice to the reputation already won.

Capt. William W. Blackford, of the Engineers, assigned to duty with me the day before the battles, was always in advance, obtaining valuable information of the enemy's strength, movements, and position, locating routes, and making hurried but accurate sketches. He is bold in reconnoissance, fearless in danger, and remarkably cool and correct in judgment. His services are invaluable to the advance guard of an army.

Capt. J. Hardeman Stuart, Signal Corps, was particularly active and fearless in the transmission of orders at Cold Harbor, and deserves my special thanks for his gallant conduct.

Capt. Norman R. Fitzhugh, assistant adjutant-general, chief of staff, though but recently promoted from the ranks, gave evidence of those rare qualities, united with personal gallantry, which constitute a capable and efficient adjutant-general.

Capt. Heros von Borcke, assistant adjutant-general, was ever present, fearless and untiring in the zealous discharge of the duties assigned him.

Maj. Samuel Hardin Hairston, quartermaster, and Maj. Dabney Ball, commissary of subsistence, were prevented by their duties of office from participating in the dangers of the conflict, but are entitled to my thanks for the thorough discharge of their duties.

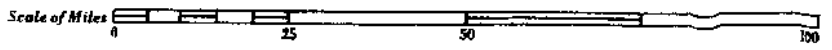
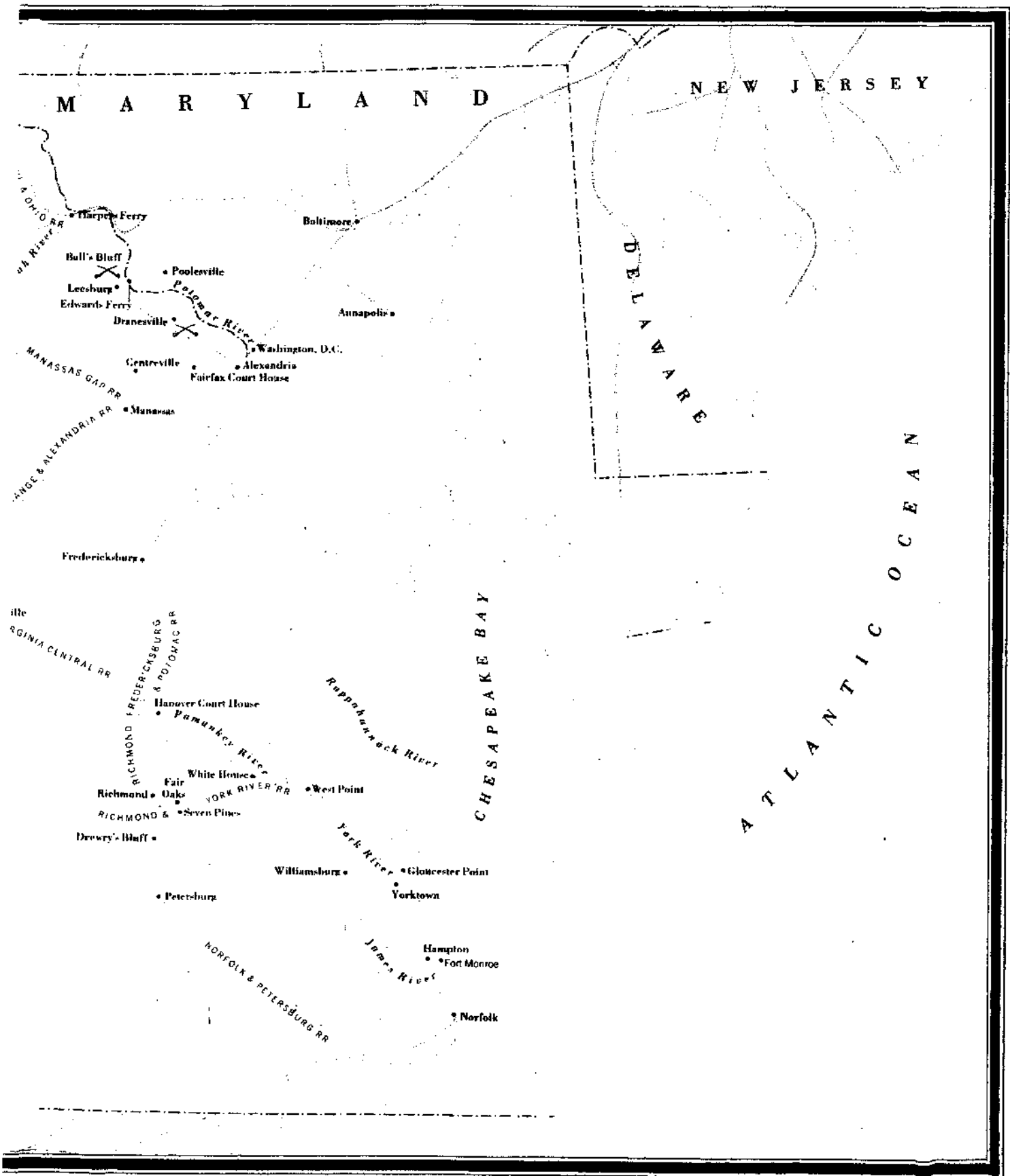
The following officers attached to my staff deserve honorable mention in this report for their valuable services: Capt. Redmond Burke; Lieut. John Esten Cooke, ordnance officer; Lieut. J. T. W. Hairston, C. S. Army; Lieut. Jones R. Christian, Third Virginia Cavalry; Lieut. Chiswell Dabney, aide; Capts. W. D. Farley and W. E. Towles, volunteer aides, they having contributed their full share to whatever success was achieved by the brigade.

My escort did good service. Private Frank Stringfellow, Fourth Virginia Cavalry, was particularly conspicuous for gallantry and efficiency at Cold Harbor. The majority of the Hanover Company (G), Fourth Virginia Cavalry, possessing invaluable merits as guides, were distributed as such among the various generals. First Lieut. D. A. Timberlake accompanied me, and from his intimate acquaintance with the country, as well as his personal bravery, was an indispensable aid to my march. His deeds of individual prowess in Hanover place him high among partisan warriors, and enabled us to know exactly the enemy's position and strength near Atlee's Station.

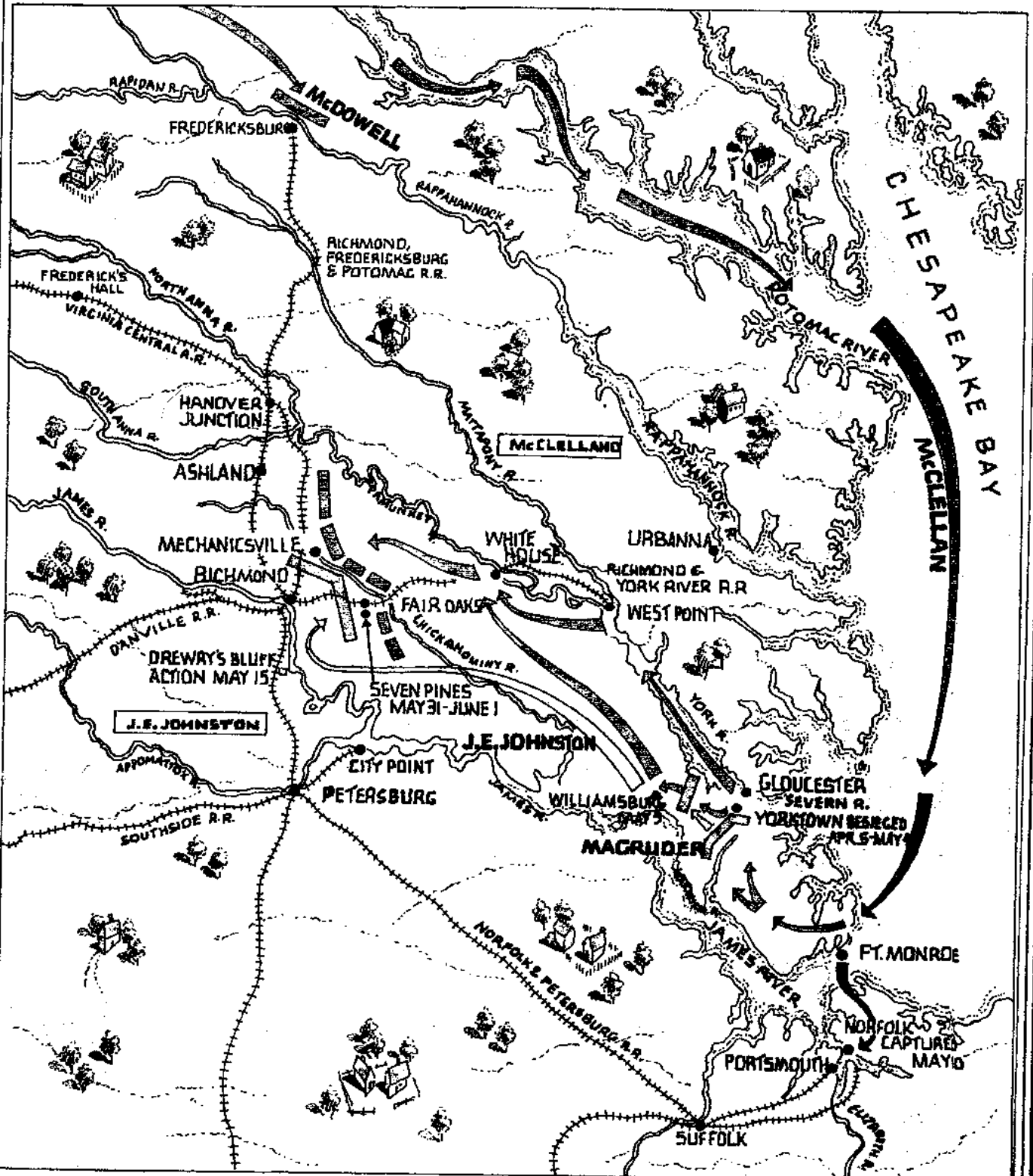
Accompanying this report I have the honor to submit a map, drawn by Captain Blackford, Corps of Engineers, of region of country traversed by the cavalry, showing the extent of its operations and exhibiting the various engagements in which cavalry took part; also report A [208], Col. T. R. R. Cobb, Georgia Legion Cavalry; report B [209], Col. L. S. Baker, First North Carolina Cavalry; report C [212], Lieut. Col. W. T. Martin, Jeff. Davis Legion; report D [213], Col. T. L. Rosser, Fifth Virginia Cavalry; report E, Col. S. D. Lee (artillery), Fourth Virginia Cavalry; report F [211], Col. Thomas F. Goode, Third Virginia Cavalry; map G, already referred to; H, my instructions to officer commanding cavalry west of the Chickahominy; I, list of killed, wounded, and missing.

The reports of other commanders have not been received; should they be sent in subsequently they will be forwarded. My command captured several thousand prisoners and arms, the precise number it being impossible to ascertain. The detachment of cavalry left at the White House secured much valuable public property, enumerated already.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your obedient servant,
J. E. B. STUART,
Brigadier-General.

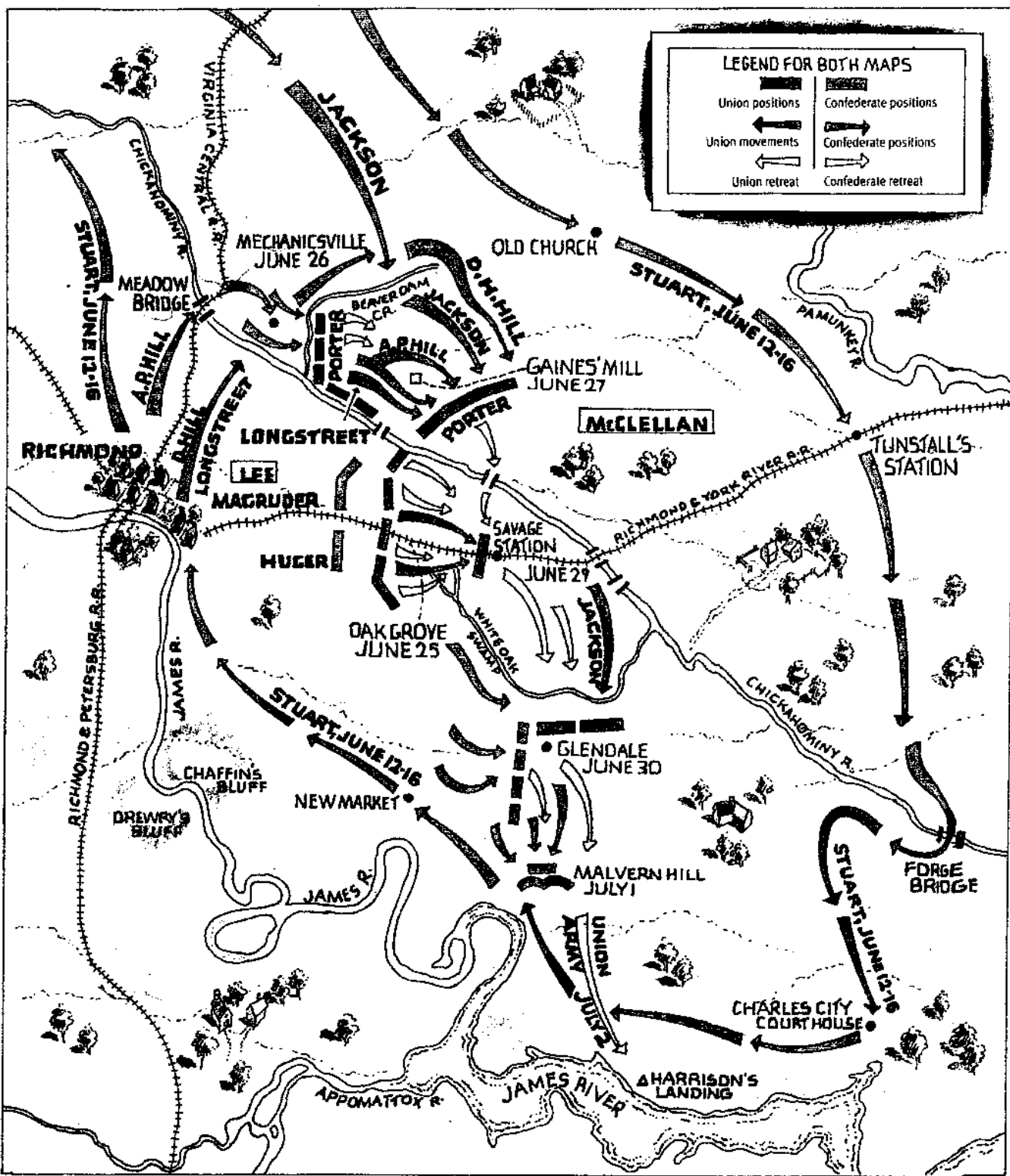


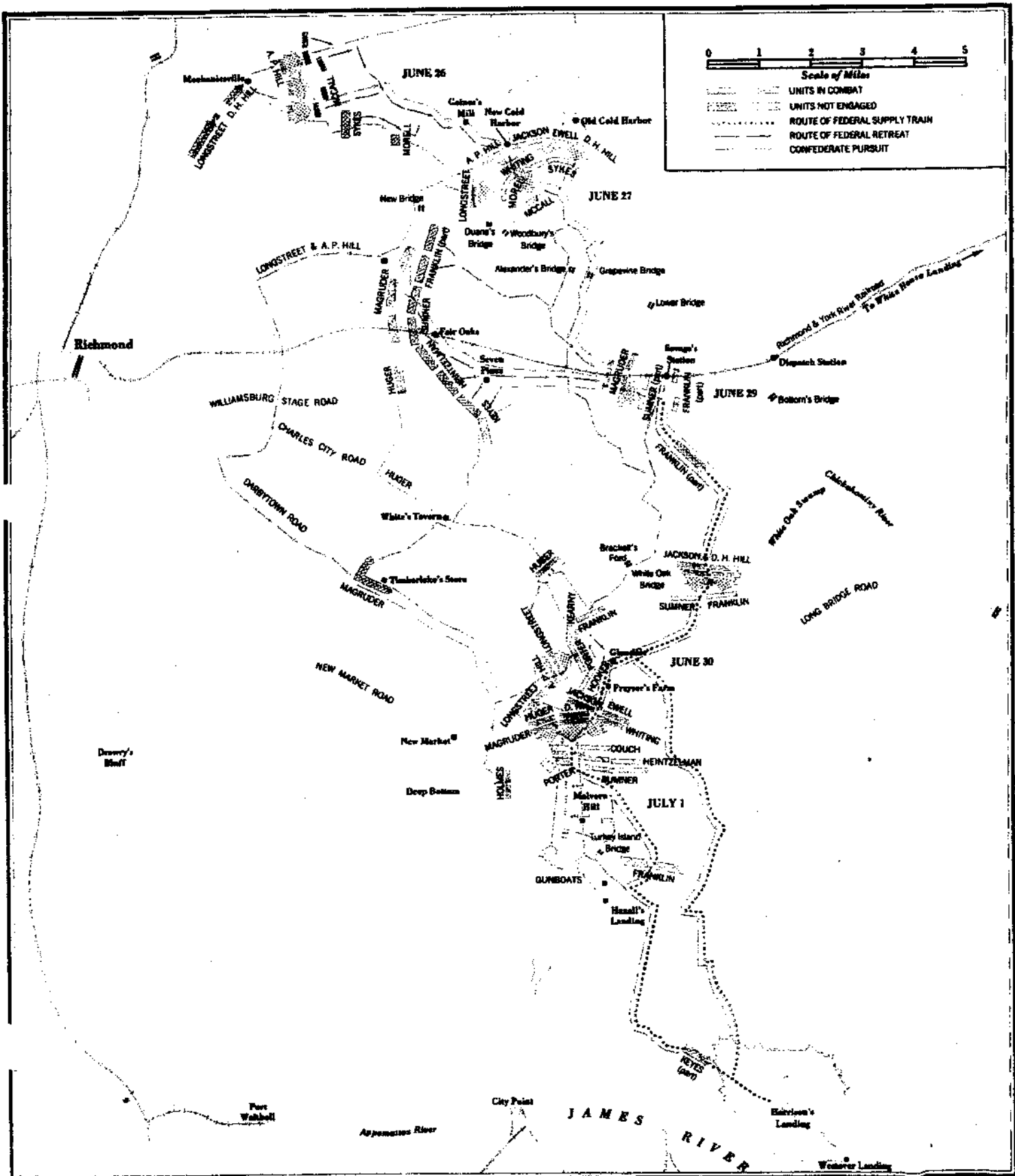
THE PENINSULA CAMPAIGN APRIL- MAY 1862

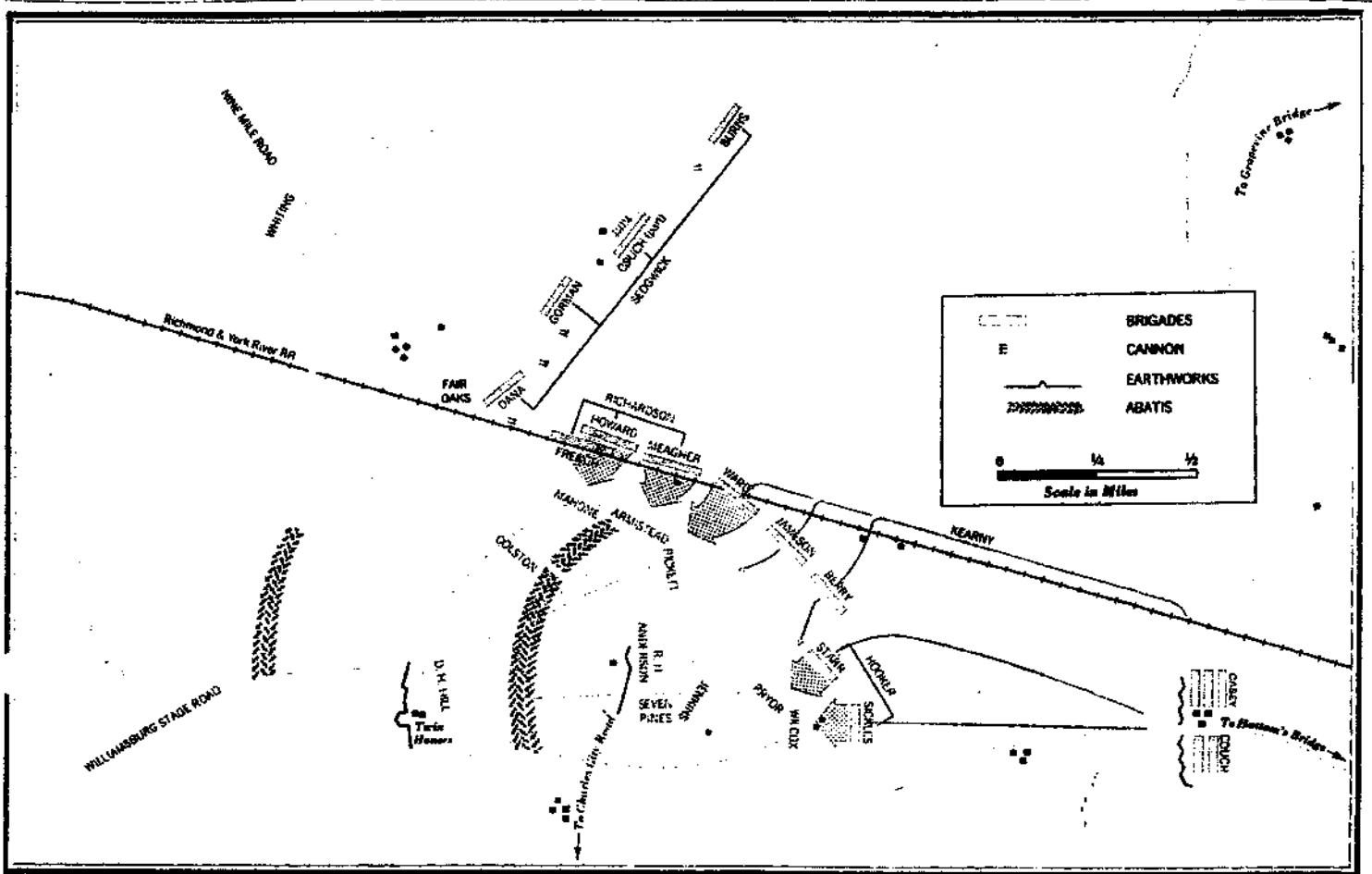


THE SEVEN DAYS BATTLES

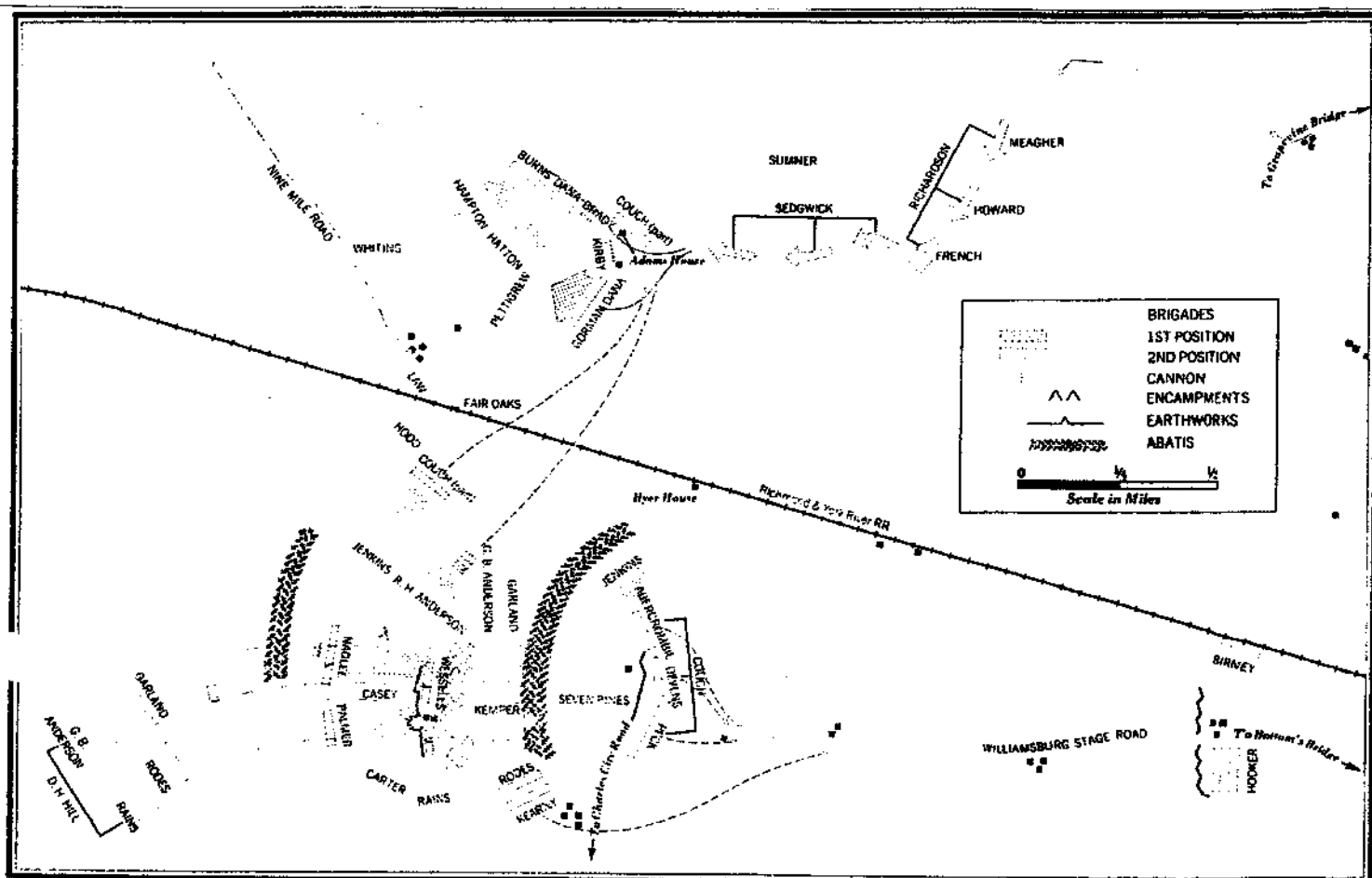
JUNE 25-JULY 1, 1862







The Battle of Seven Pines, or Fair Oaks, began at 1 p.m. on May 31, when D. H. Hill's division launched a massive attack, overrunning Casey's Federal troops. The second Union line—Couch's division—then held at Seven Pines until flanked by Jenkins' regiments. At 5 p.m. Whiting's division began a series of unsuccessful attacks on reinforced Federal positions north of Fair Oaks.



At 6 a.m. on June 1, the second day of the Battle of Seven Pines, or Fair Oaks, D. H. Hill sent three brigades against Federal positions along the railroad north of Seven Pines. Troops from Richardson's and Kearny's divisions repulsed this Confederate threat, while Hooker's division counterattacked east of Seven Pines. The Confederates withdrew to their original positions, and the battle ended in stalemate.