

THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF AN IOWA SOLDIER AT VICKSBURG

THE 4TH IOWA INFANTRY AT VICKSBURG

The 4th Iowa Infantry was organized under the proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln dated May 3, 1861. The companies constituting the regiment were mustered into Federal service at two places — Camp Kirkwood near Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Jefferson Barracks, Missouri — on various dates ranging between August 8 and August 31, 1861. Grenville M. Dodge of Council Bluffs was made a colonel and placed in command of the regiment by Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood. Originally, it was planned to employ the companies which had been organized at Council Bluffs to repel an invasion of Iowa by the Missourians. Before the Iowans were ready to move, however, the Secessionist contingents in northwest Missouri had disbanded.

The companies of the 4th Iowa which had been mustered in at Council Bluffs were accordingly sent to St. Louis. By August 15, all of the companies except I and K had reached Benton Barracks.

On August 24, the eight companies left Benton Barracks for Rolla, Missouri. The 4th Iowa was destined to remain at Rolla for over four months. Companies I and K were finally mustered into Federal service on August 31. Leaving Benton Barracks on September 13, the two companies joined the regiment at Rolla. In the following months, detachments consisting of one or more companies of the regiment were from time to time sent on reconnoitering expeditions. In the period from November 1-9, combat patrols from the 4th Iowa visited Houston and Salem, Missouri.

No important movements were undertaken by the Iowans until January 22, 1862. At that time, the regiment (as a unit in Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis' Army of the Southwest) left Rolla. Pressing rapidly forward, Curtis' army forced Major General Sterling Price's Missouri troops to evacuate Springfield, Missouri. Price's army fell back into northwestern Arkansas. Here, it was joined by the Confederate force led by Brigadier General Ben McCulloch. Curtis' army followed the Confederates as they retreated.

After the Southerners had withdrawn into the Boston Mountains, Curtis halted his army and took position behind Little Sugar Creek.

Major General Earl Van Dorn now arrived in northwest Arkansas. Assuming command of McCulloch's and Price's troops, Van Dorn seized the initiative and attacked Curtis' army. In the battle of Pea Ridge, fought on March 7 and 8, the Union troops emerged victorious. Among the Union units which played a leading role in this battle was the 4th Iowa.

Following the battle of Pea Ridge, the 4th Iowa went into camp for several weeks. Dodge was promoted to brigadier general, and James A. Williamson of Des Moines was advanced to the rank of colonel and placed in command of the regiment.

On April 5, Curtis' army broke camp and started for Batesville, Arkansas, which was occupied on May 3. After pausing to regroup, Curtis' army pressed onward toward Helena, Arkansas. Curtis' column entered Helena on July 14. The 4th Iowa remained at Helena until December 22, when the regiment was marched to the levee and boarded a transport. In the meantime, the 4th Iowa had been assigned to the division commanded by Major General Frederick Steele. Steele's division was one of the units assigned to Major General William T. Sherman's amphibious force. Sherman's objective was Vicksburg. (Sherman's attack was to be made in conjunction with Major General Ulysses S. Grant's drive down the Mississippi Central Railroad.)

The 4th Iowa landed at Johnson's plantation on the Yazoo River on the day after Christmas. In the attack on the Confederate defenses at Chickasaw Bayou on December 29, the 4th Iowa suffered heavy losses. Repulsed, the Federals fell back to their boats on New Year's Day. Sherman's command then returned to Milliken's Bend.

Following Major General John A. McClernand's arrival at Milliken's Bend, Sherman was superseded. McClernand led the army against the Post of Arkansas, which fell on January 11, 1863. The 4th Iowa was engaged in this operation. After the fall of the Post of Arkansas, the 4th Iowa Regiment (along with the rest of McClernand's command) returned to the Vicksburg area and camped at Young's Point.

In the meantime, Grant's drive down the Mississippi Central Railroad had foundered. Grant now transferred most of his troops to the Vicksburg Theater of Operations. Upon his arrival at Milliken's Bend, Grant assigned Steele's division to Sherman's XV Corps.

The 4th Iowa remained at Young's Point until April 2. The 4th Iowa, along with the other regiments of Steele's division, participated in the Greenville Expedition in April. Following their return from Greenville, the Iowans marched southward to Hard Times Landing. Crossing the Mississippi River at the end of the first week in May, the 4th Iowa joined Grant on his march northeastward.

During the extensive operations east of Vicksburg, the regiment was not actively engaged in any battles. After Grant's army closed in on Vicksburg, the 4th Iowa saw plenty of action.¹

THE DIARIST: ARCH M. BRINKERHOFF

Arch M. Brinkerhoff was 18 years old when he enlisted. He had been severely wounded in the face at the battle of Chickasaw Bayou. Brinkerhoff doesn't mention in his diary the horrible scars he must have been carrying — only that he left the hospital before he was discharged, and stowed away on a boat bound down river. Brinkerhoff rejoined his regiment and took part in the fighting during the last days of the campaign. Evidently, he was still weak from his wounds but did not let this deter him. A resident of Afton, Iowa, Brinkerhoff was not too well-educated, but he was observant and recorded his impressions well.

He felt little if any bitterness towards the Rebels. One can almost believe that he found the war a game.²

After being wounded at the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Brinkerhoff was sent north to a hospital. He returned to duty several days after the Union army had invested Vicksburg. The excerpt from his diary, published here, begins on May 26, 1863.

¹ *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion — Together with Historical Sketches of Volunteer Organizations, 1861-1866*, Vol. I (Des Moines, 1908), 527-529; Frederick H. Dyer, *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (Des Moines, 1908), 1166.

² *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, I, 553.

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DIARY OF PRIVATE ARCH M. BRINKERHOFF,
CO. H, 4TH IOWA INFANTRY, AT VICKSBURG

Tuesday May 26 - 1863

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All pretty quiet to day except now and then a shot. [Frederick M.] Hoover and I ask for permission to go to the Regiment but are refused. So we intend to go any way in the Morning.¹

Wednesday 27th.

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This Morning, Hoover and I start for the regiment (the 4th Iowa Inf.) We arrive at the upper boat landing just as the "Ben Franklin" was swinging around from shore.² By running across another boat we succeeded in jumping on the "Franklin" as she was turning around. We did not know when we jumped on where the boat was going to, but [she] . . . turned up the Yazoo river. We steamed on up the Yazoo and landed at Chickasaw Bayou.³ From there we started for the regiment on foot. It was a very warm day, and I could not go far without resting. We passed along over the place where I was wounded.⁴ It was considerably changed.

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Then after climbing a number of large hills, passing several old forts, we come in sight of the two contending armies.⁵ There was but little firing,

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¹ Frederick M. Hoover, a resident of Afton, had enlisted in the 4th Iowa on July 13, 1861. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, I, 597.

² The *Ben Franklin* was a transport.

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³ Major General Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee had re-established contact with the Union fleet above Vicksburg on May 19. While the pioneers were opening roads to be used in moving supplies from the Yazoo River to Grant's hungry army, the commissary and quartermaster departments established a large supply depot. This depot was located at the mouth of Chickasaw Bayou. Francis V. Greene, *The Mississippi* (New York, 1883), 127.

⁴ On December 29, the 4th Iowa had crossed Chickasaw Bayou at the corduroy bridge. Swinging to the right, the Iowans had moved against the rifle pits held by Colonel Allen Thomas' combat team (the 42d Georgia and the 29th Louisiana). Brinkerhoff had been shot in the face and severely wounded during this charge. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, I, 553; *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. XVII, pt. I, 658-660, 682-683, 692, 695. (Cited hereafter as O. R.)

⁵ At this time, the brigade to which the 4th Iowa was assigned was commanded by Brigadier General John M. Thayer. Four Iowa infantry regiments (the 4th, 9th, 26th, and 30th) were brigaded under Thayer. The Iowa brigade was one of the three brigades assigned to Major General Frederick Steele's division. Steele's division be-

as it was in the heat of the day. We passed down a deep hollow to the Regiment. Found them [the soldiers] camped behind a large hill as a protection from the iron and leaden hail. Our works were on the top of the hill, and the rebels on the next hill.⁶

On the top of the hill in our front, we had two batteries. One [of] Rifled Parrotts and the other the 1st Iowa Brass Battery.⁷ We have a few sharpshooters in the works all the time.

Thursday 28th

This Morning everything pretty quiet, and we have scarcely anything to eat. We buy some sardines, crackers, & gingerbread.⁸ I went up on the Fort, to see them practice shooting. They raise the dirt on the Forts and some of the shots goes right into the embrasures of the forts. The rebels in our front do not fire any cannon, for we have so many batteries that can be brought to bear on one point that they dare not fire. In the evening some rain. I get a letter from home.

Friday the 29th

This morning considerable firing going on along the line. I take a trip over to the Hospital to see F. A. Westover who is sick.⁹ Come back write a letter home.

Some firing in the afternoon, rain a little in the evening. According to Orders firing begins along the whole line near us. Infantry & Artillery

longed to Major General William T. Sherman's XV Army Corps. O. R., Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. II, 152.

⁶ Sherman's corps held the right flank of the iron ring which Grant was in the process of forging around "Fortress" Vicksburg. In the sector occupied by Steele's division, the Union and Confederate lines were on opposite ridges. Mint Spring Bayou flows through the deep valley which separated the Federal right from the Rebel left. The camp of the 4th Iowa was in a hollow, behind Bell Smith Ridge. *Topographical Map of Vicksburg National Military Park*, prepared under the direction of the Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of War, by the Vicksburg National Park Commission, 1903.

⁷ The 1st Battery, Iowa Light Artillery had emplaced their four 6-pounders and two 12-pounder howitzers behind strong earthworks on top of Bell Smith Ridge. Four 20-pounder Parrott rifles manned by Battery H, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, were mounted behind a parapet about 100 yards east of the Iowa battery. Three days later, the Illinoisians moved their guns to a different section of the investment line. *Ibid.*, *Inscription on Tablet on Bell Smith Ridge*, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

⁸ By this time, the omnipresent sutlers had already set up shop.

⁹ Fleming A. Westover, a resident of Afton, had enlisted in the 4th Iowa as a private on July 25, 1861. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, I, 669.

mixed with a few Mortar shells.¹⁰ The firing lasted about one hour. And then we let them [the Confederates] rest again. Their infantry replied but their Artillery kept silent. At night we go down on the point to the right of us and throw up some breastworks, in plain view of the rebels, for the moon shines bright. We work until midnight.

Saturday 30th

Today some firing along the line. I draw me a new Enfield rifle.¹¹ [It] rained a little. Another detail [has] to dig in at night. I sleep to night.

Sunday 31st.

This morning about 3 o'clock, the Artillery opens fire, and kept up a heavy fire for an hour. Weather very warm to day. I write a letter to New York.¹²

Monday, June 1st.

Today went over the hill to the sutler store. Very warm. Some firing all day. In the evening our Company detailed for picket guard. As soon as it became dark, the boys get up on the works and commence jawing each other. . . . [They] keep it up for about two hours.¹³

While [there] you can see the Mortar Shells as they start from the Mortars two miles above town and ascend high up in the Air and come down in and around the City exploding generally Just before they strike the ground.¹⁴ We stood guard just over the Works.

¹⁰ Six scows, each mounting one 13-inch mortar, had been moored near the head of De Soto Peninsula. Gunner Eugene Mack was in charge of the mortar flotilla. Except when forced to restrict their activities as a result of ammunition shortages, the sailors manning the mortars fired an average of 180 rounds into the city during a 24-hour period. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. 25, pp. 69, 83, 104. (Cited hereafter as O. R. N.)

¹¹ The Enfield rifle-musket was of British manufacture. Most of the Confederate garrison at Vicksburg was equipped with these excellent weapons.

¹² Brinkerhoff had been born in New York. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, I, 553.

¹³ As in other theaters of operations during the Civil War, conversation and fraternization along the picket lines were a common occurrence. At the Stockade Redan, where several Missouri regiments in blue faced the 3d Missouri Confederate, this practice was especially widespread. This area became known as the "trysting place." O. R., Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. II, 409; Ltr., T. T. Taylor to W. T. Rigby, March 19, 1903 (files, Vicksburg National Military Park).

¹⁴ Since the mortars were a high-trajectory weapon, it was possible for spectators to track a projectile from the time it left the mortar until it fell into the city. At night, the sparks given off by the fuses made this an especially interesting spectacle.

Tuesday 2nd.

Today we are up in the rifle pits. My shoulder is very much bruised, where my gun kicks me. Very hot up here in the rifle pits. At six o'clock, the Artillery commences to fire and continues for ten minutes, then ceases for ten minutes, then they open up for twenty minutes again. We [the infantry] fire pretty fast to keep the rebels down, so the Battery men can work the cannons. One man in the Battery was killed by a rebel sharpshooter. We are relieved from guard at night.

Wednesday 3rd.

Today on detail to police up some ground to put up some tents for some of the officers. Our knapsacks come over from Young's Point, and some of the sick boys. Some firing all day, and in the night some [more] firing.

Thursday 4th.

Today cloudy, considerable firing going on; the rebels they reply some. One shell comes down and bursts right over our heads, one piece flying into the wash tub where our nigger was washing our clothes and cutting a hole in my shirt, and scaring the nigger till he almost turned white. Small [Minié] balls come singing over pretty often.

In the evening, five companies from our regiment (ours included) and some from other regiments, go armed and equipped out in front of the 9th to dig a trench across the hollow and cover it with brush, so the 9th [Iowa] can go along in the day time. As it was they had some men up on the side of the hill under the rebels Fort in trenches, and they could only go back and forth in the night. We dug a ditch and covered [it] with rails and brush.¹⁵ Our Batteries kept throwing shells over us all night. About Midnight, the Moon came up and it gets quite light. We quit work at three and come to camp.

Friday 5th.

This morning feel pretty dull. Slept but little. I took a stroll over to the

¹⁵ Brinkerhoff and his comrades were working on Thayer's Approach. This approach, which was directed against the 26th Louisiana Redoubt, was pushed across Mint Spring Bayou and up Abbott's Valley. Work on Thayer's Approach had been started on the night of May 30. The sap was six feet deep and six feet wide. For protection against the fire of the Rebel sharpshooters posted in the 26th Louisiana Redoubt, the Federals were forced to cover the exposed portions of the approach with fascines. Captain Herman Klostermann was in charge of the work on Thayer's Approach. O. R., Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. II, 171-172.

sutler's store. The weather very warm. Rebels throwing shells over us. Sleep well at night.

Saturday 6th.

Today very warm. Stay around the works and camp. Shoot some. At night on detail again to work on the ditch. We have to carry some more rails and brush to finish covering the trench. Work until two o'clock and then go to camp.¹⁶

Sunday 7th.

Today very warm, considerable firing along the line in the Morning and during the day. Sleep some in the day. In the evening detailed to go on guard in front of the works after dark. The boys jawing each other as usual and the Mortar Shells coursing their way through the air. Sometimes two up in the air at a time, and when they explode it sounds like the discharge of a cannon.

Monday 8th

This morning awoke about daylight got up and got into the works and went looking for Rebs. When I could get a glimpse of one I would shoot at him, fired fifteen rounds and went to breakfast. The day very warm. Went back to the works and fired fifty more rounds. Considerable more cannonading during the day. We are relieved at night and by some other company.

Tuesday 9th

Today Jesse Thompson and I took a tramp to the sutler store, the day very warm.¹⁷ Some firing all day. In the evening our Company detailed for Picket guard again. We stand down in the hollow close to the rebel pickets—¹⁸ We lay down in the grass and keep a close watch for the rebels till Morning.

Wednesday 10th.

This morning left the hollow as it began to get daylight, and went to camp. In the fore noon it rained a pretty hard shower, blowed down our shed. We have no tents, we put up another. Rained hard in the afternoon and at night.

Thursday 11th.

Today I went back over the hill to see F. A. Westover who is driving our

¹⁶ On the night of the 6th, Brinkerhoff had again worked on Thayer's Approach.

¹⁷ Josiah Thompson was a resident of Afton. Thompson had enlisted in the 4th Iowa on July 25, 1861. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, I, 660.

¹⁸ The Union picket line was posted near Mint Spring Bayou.

regimental Ambulance. I stop with him for dinner. We have dress parade in the evening. Strict Orders.

Friday 12

This forenoon I went up in the rifle pits, and every time I would see a rebel would shoot at him. Fired about thirty rounds, and . . . [returned] to camp. I took a sleep in the afternoon. In the evening detailed to go on picket guard. Our Company stands down in Abbott's Valley.¹⁹ I stand on the right of the regiment in advance of the works, behind some weeds, the rebel pickets very close. Can hear them walking through the grass, but we have made a bargain not to fire on each other after night. As it does no good.

Saturday 13

A little before day light we fell back to the works. I go up on the hill and sharp shoot till noon, out of one of the embrasures of the fort of the 1st Iowa [Battery].²⁰ I shot about sixty rounds, until my shoulder is beat very sore. Then I go down to camp, and take a nap in the afternoon.

Sunday 14

Today I stay in camp. Write some letters, there is but little firing going on today.

Monday 15

This forenoon, I go up on the hill and sharpshoot again, stay up on the hill till I get tired. Sometimes the Johnnies shoot pretty close. We have to take good care of our heads. Looks some like rain. In the evening our Company detailed to go on picket guard. We stand down in the hollow.²¹ The boys on the works talking over us till late.

Tuesday 16

This Morning detailed to stay up on the hill and sharpshoot until noon. We got some pretty fair shots. Dont know as we hit any one body. We drew some rations. A detail sent over to Young's Point for our things. We sign the pay roll.

¹⁹ Abbott's Valley, a hollow which headed in front of the 26th Louisiana Redan, had been named in honor of Colonel Charles H. Abbott of the 30th Iowa. Colonel Abbott had been killed as he led his regiment in a charge up this ravine on the afternoon of May 22. *O. R.*, Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. III, 394; *O. R.*, Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. II, 165.

²⁰ The six guns of the 1st Iowa Battery were emplaced behind an earthen parapet on Bell Smith Ridge.

²¹ Company H. was stationed near Mint Spring Bayou.

In the evening detailed to go on Picket guard again. We stand to the left of Abbott's Valley near the foot of the hill.²² Considerable cannonading during the night. And the Mortars still keep bombarding day and night.

Wednesday 17

This morning withdraw at daybreak back to camp. I go up a while in the fore noon and sharp shoot, till I get tired. Our company uses up about one thousand rounds of cartridges a day. The Mortars are directing their fire at the Water Battery today, lay in camp in the afternoon.²³

Thursday 18

This morning cloudy and misty. I went up on the hill in the forenoon to sharpshoot, and in the afternoon went down the ridge to the river passed the 4th Ohio Battery. Stopped at the Marine [Naval] battery.²⁴ Some sixty pounders taken from one of the gun boats. Then go on past the "Flying Dutchman" on down to the river, rebels throwing over a few shells.²⁵ We then wind our way back to camp. Some of our boys on detail building a fort.²⁶ Two of them gets wounded by one ball. One of our Company, Philip D. Thomas, wounded Severely.²⁷ In the evening go up on the works to hear the rebs talk. During the night considerable picket firing, but not on our front.

Friday 19

Today went down to the sutler store over the hills. Part of our camp equipage come over from Youngs Point. At night our Company go[es] on guard again down in Abbott's Valley. Considerable talking across the hollow.

²² Brinkerhoff and his comrades spent the night a short distance east of Thayer's Approach.

²³ The Water Battery, a strong work mounting four big guns, was located on the left bank of Mint Spring Bayou. This battery, which was about 60 feet above the Mississippi River, commanded the horseshoe bend.

²⁴ Four guns manned by the 4th Battery, Ohio Light Artillery were emplaced in a small redoubt, about 400 yards west of Bell Smith Ridge. A detachment of sailors commanded by Lieutenant Commander Thomas O. Selfridge had mounted two 8-inch columbiads on the ridge west of the Ohioans' guns. This position, known as Battery Selfridge, was located where the imposing Naval Monument now stands. *Inscription on Tablet at the Naval Monument, Vicksburg, Mississippi.*

²⁵ Captain Clemens Landgraeber of Battery F, 2d Missouri Light Artillery was known as the "Flying Dutchman."

²⁶ A line of rifle pits was being thrown up on Bell Smith Ridge.

²⁷ Philip D. Thomas of Quincy had enlisted in the 4th Iowa as a corporal on December 12, 1861. Thomas was shot in the thigh. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, I, 660.

When they bid each other good night and retire. While we set down in the hollow and watch all night for the rebels.

Saturday 20

This evening firing commences at four o'clock. We fall back into the works. All of our Batteries open out and continue to fire until ten o'clock.²⁸ The rebels fire some, but soon become about silent with their artillery. Our shells[,] some burst on the works making the dirt fly. Some . . . [fall in the] town, some cuts off the limbs of the trees. We fire from the works sometimes by volleys. At ten o'clock we let them rest. We then go to camp hungry, having had no breakfast, and the day very hot. We draw five days rations.

Sunday 21

This morning cool and cloudy. In the afternoon the Pay Master come in camp and paid us off two months pay. I got Twenty-six dollars[.] At night our Company goes on Picket guard down in the Valley again.²⁹ The rebels throwing shell over in to our line to the right of us all night. Our Mortars still busy throwing shells day & night.

Monday 22

This morning fall back into the works at daybreak. Go up on the hill and sharp shoot. About all day[,] considerable firing away off to our left in some other corps. We are releaved from the hill at night. I get a letter from N. Y.

Tuesday 23rd

This forenoon I went down to the Division Hospital to see F. A. Westover. Come back by noon, wrote a letter home and sent twenty-five dollars. In the evening quite a wind storm come up. Mixed with a few cannon balls, one exploded right over our heads. Also it rained a little.

Wednesday 24th

To day quite Windy, quite a number of cannon balls come over our camp and go into the ground. The boys dig some of them up. They are

²⁸ In accordance with orders from General Grant, all the artillery pieces which the Union cannoners had mounted on the investment lines opened fire at 4 a. m. This fierce bombardment of the Confederate defenses continued until 11 a. m. When Rear Admiral David D. Porter learned of Grant's plans, he decided that the navy should co-operate. At the designated hour, the bluejackets also opened fire. *O. R. N.*, Series I, Vol. 25, pp. 83-85.

²⁹ Company H spent the night on picket duty in the Mint Spring Bayou bottom.

long balls shot from a Thirty Pound[er] Parrott gun.³⁰ Detailed to go on picket guard again. Moon shone part of the night very bright. I lay out on the post with the sentinels all night. Mortars firing all night.

Thursday 25

This Morning withdrew at daylight and I went on the hill to sharpshoot until breakfast. In the afternoon, all the troops ordered into the Works. At three o'clock the Match is applied to the Mine under Fort Hill [the 3d Louisiana Redan]. And the fort is blown up.³¹ This is about three miles to our left. All of our Batteries open . . . at the same time, also the infantry takes quite an active part.

It is so awful hot in the works we have to fix up some shade. Some are overcome by the intense heat. The firing on our part of the line lasted about one hour. To the left in the direction of the Fort, the firing was pretty heavy for about two hours. As soon as the Mine was sprung our men charged the Fort and took possession of a part of it with heavy loss, but were unable to hold the Fort long. Our loss was pretty heavy.³²

Friday 26.

To day feel quite unwell, on account of being in those hot rifle pits yesterday. I went up on the hill back of camp and laid in the shade. Got a letter from home, wrote an answer and send ten dollars home. Occasionally a minnie [Minie] ball comes singing through the trees.

Saturday 27th

Today staid in camp all day. Wrote a letter home to William Conklin. At night our Company on picket guard again. We stand over next to the 9th Iowa, the moon shines very bright. I stand guard behind a big stump. Considerable firing all night about one and a half miles to our left around a big Fort.³³ The Minnie balls aimed too high came over where we are and drop around pretty thick.

³⁰ The projectiles fired by the 30-pounder Parrott rifles were elongated.

³¹ On the afternoon of the 25th, the Union engineers detonated a mine under the 3d Louisiana Redan (Fort Hill, as it was called by the Federals). Following the explosion of the mine, the Federals moved forward and occupied the crater. Andrew Hickenlooper, "The Vicksburg Mine," *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, III, 539-542.

³² When it became apparent to Grant that his troops would not be able to score a breakthrough, he authorized Major General James B. McPherson to withdraw his men from the crater. It was about noon on the 26th when the Federals abandoned the fight for the 3d Louisiana Redan. Union losses in the struggle for the crater were 34 killed and 209 wounded. *O. R.*, Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. II, 202, 294, 312-313, 373.

³³ The strong point referred to is probably Stockade Redan.

Sunday 28

This morning we withdraw a little before day light. I take a little nap up on the hill before it got light enough to shoot. When it got light enough, we made some of them [the Confederates] dodge when they become a little exposed getting breakfast as some cooked in the rifle pits. At breakfast time I went down to camp. Staid in camp all day. Went to church.

Monday 29

Today staid in camp all day. But little firing going on along the lines, As it is a very hot day. In the evening we go on picket guard again. Our company stands down in the bottom again Moon shines very bright. We stand in plain view of the Rebels.

Tuesday 30

This morning left the bottoms at day and go to camp, and sleep until David our Negro cook gets me some breakfast ready.

A Battery opens up in our front and threw a few shells over, but our Batteries soon silence them. At nine o'clock, we march up on the hill back of camp and muster for two months pay. . . . In the afternoon, Lieut. J. F. Bishop, Ayres A. Jenks, Flemming A. Westover, Josiah Thompson, William S. Rogers, John A. Smith, William H. Bartlett, D. D. Lindsley, Levi Dodson, Alpheus Walkup, & A. M. Brinkerhoff went up on the hill and got our pictures taken in a group standing skirmishing.³⁴ Some loading some firing in all positions. We had three taken. One we sent to the P. M. at Afton, Iowa. Toward evening firing ceases on the right on account of a flag of truce. Rebs begin to raise up in our front, but a few shells soon disperses them.

Wednesday July 1st

To day very warm, So hot that there is but little firing going on. In the

³⁴ Joshua F. Bishop had enlisted in the 4th Iowa as a sergeant on July 13, 1861. He had been promoted to 2d lieutenant on July 2, 1862. Ayers A. Jenks had enlisted in the 4th Iowa on July 25, 1861. In February, 1862, Jenks was advanced to the rank of 1st sergeant. One year later, Jenks was broken to the rank of private. William H. Bartlett, William S. Rogers, John A. Smith, and Josiah Thompson had all enlisted in Company H, 4th Iowa, on July 25, 1861. Bartlett had been wounded at Pea Ridge and Chickasaw Bayou. Levi Dodsens had enlisted on July 13, 1861, while Daniel D. Lindsley had joined the regiment on October 13, 1861. Alpheus Walkup had enlisted in Company H on July 25, 1861. Like Bartlett, Walkup had been wounded at Pea Ridge and Chickasaw Bayou. Walkup had been made a corporal on January 1, 1863. All of these men, except Dodsens, were from Afton; Dodsens hailed from Union County. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers, I*, 553, 574, 601, 611, 641, 653, 660, 669.

fore noon, I get my hair cut, we sent our pictures off by mail. In the afternoon blowed up the Fort [the 3d Louisiana Redan] again. Blowed three rebels and one darkey up in the air, the nigger falling on our side of the works, declares he had been "tree miles up in the air." Considerable firing in that direction until late.³⁵

Thursday 2nd.

This morning considerable firing from a Battery to our right. After breakfast I go up on the hill to shoot some. As it is not very hot, our game stirs about more and we have some pretty fair shots. In the evening our Company is detailed to work on the breast works up on the hill. We work until one o'clock then go to camp.

Friday 3

To day Ayres A. Jenks, W. H. Bartlett and I get permission to go along the line where we please. We start to the left. By the time we get to Fort Hill [the 3d Louisiana Redan], Pemberton sent out a flag of truce desiring an interview with Gen. Grant, which was granted by Grant himself taking along a small demijohn.³⁶

We now could walk along the line without fear. At Ft. Hill our men had dug until their skirmishers' [rifle] pits was at the foot of the Fort. At a number of places our men were within sixty . . . [to] one hundred feet of the rebel line. In some places Batteries were very close to each other. We passed a good many seige guns mounted [also] several strong lines of works.

The two front lines are covered with men busily engaged talking with each other, one line of grey coats, one of blue, as far as you can see to the left it's all the same. Some are picking berries between the lines. All seem to be glad to get out from behind the works. Mortar shells still bursting in some places close to the works.³⁷ We cross the R. R. take dinner with

³⁵ At 3 p. m., the Union engineers had detonated a second mine under the 3d Louisiana Redan. At this time, eight Negroes and one Confederate sapper were working on a countermine. All these men, with the exception of the Negro, who was blown into the Union lines, were killed by the explosion of the Union mine. O. R., Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. 1, 173, 377; Ulysses S. Grant, *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*, Vol. I (New York, 1885), 461.

³⁶ Shortly after 3 p. m., Generals Grant and Pemberton, accompanied by several officers, met under the shade of a stunted oak. At this meeting, the two generals hoped to work out agreeable terms for the surrender of Vicksburg. Grant, *Personal Memoirs*, I, 466-467; John C. Pemberton, "Terms of Surrender," *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, III, 544; O. R., Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. I, 284.

³⁷ It was 6 p. m. before the news of the cease fire reached the sailors manning the

some of the 47th Indiana five miles from our camp.³⁸ After a short visit we return to camp. Arriving at dark tired. We received orders not to fire any more until further orders.³⁹ They [the Confederates] have till ten o'clock on the 4th to put up their white flag, if not up then we commence to celebrate the 4th of July.

Saturday 4th

This Morning as soon as I get my breakfast, I go up on the hill without my gun. At about ten minutes before ten o'clock a white flag is raised at every Fort. The different regiments form in line, march out of the works, Stack their arms & colors, hang up their cartridge boxes and march back inside of the works. Shake their blankets and march down in the hollow near Vicksburg.

The Stars & Stripes were then taken forward and raised on some of the Forts. Some troops marched in on our left.⁴⁰

As soon as we found our command was not going to march in, we went over on our own hook. Their works were not as good as I expected to see. They had plenty of cannon Ammunition left, quite a number of their cannons were disabled, lots of Small Arms spoiled. All the trees and houses near the works were shot full of holes. The rebs were running about as they pleased, they were quite friendly. At a given signal the fleet which lay at Anchor up the river came down in splendid order, with Flags flying and firing Salutes. It was very warm. I did not stay in Vicksburg long. Went back to Camp drew some rations. At night our Company went on Picket guard. We were out about two hours when we were called in to be ready to march at twelve o'clock, to the rear after Old Johnston. Started at twelve, marched back up on the hill, laid down on the grass and slept till morning.⁴¹

XIII-inch mortars. Up to that time, the mortars continued to send their 200-pound projectiles crashing into the city. *O. R. N.*, Series I, Vol. 25, pp. 79, 102, 278.

³⁸ The 47th Indiana belonged to Brigadier General Alvin P. Hovey's division. *O. R.*, Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. II, 151.

³⁹ A cease fire had been ordered by General Grant while negotiations were in progress. In case there was no agreement, hostilities were to be resumed at 5 a. m. on the 4th. *O. R.*, Series I, Vol. XXIV, pt. III, 467.

⁴⁰ Major General John A. Logan's division, spearheaded by the 45th Illinois, led the Union march into Vicksburg by way of the Jackson road. The 4th Minnesota led the Union column which entered the city via the Baldwin's Ferry road. *Ibid.*, 476.

⁴¹ On June 22, Grant had placed General Sherman in command of a strong force. Sherman was charged with the mission of holding off the army which General Joseph

Sunday 5

We marched along slowly till two o'clock then stopped a while. Very warm. I go out and pick some blackberries, then lay down and sleep till five o'clock. We were then ordered on and marched and fooled along till eleven o'clock at night, and then camp in a field.⁴² At Daylight, Monday the 6th, We move in the timber, kill some Beef, lay around camp until four o'clock in the evening. [We] then march to [Big] Black River, get in camp after night.

E. Johnston had organized to relieve Vicksburg. Johnston, however, moved too late. As soon as Vicksburg fell, Grant ordered Sherman to march against Johnston. When Sherman had been given this independent command, Steele had assumed command of the XV Corps. Now that the Federals were ready to march against Johnston, the XV Corps was ordered to Sherman's support.

⁴² The 4th Iowa spent the night of the 5th camped in the fields west of Messenger's Ford.