

[Transcribed on 5/6/2022]

Sunday July the 19th 1863
Camp Convalescent near Alexandria Va
as I have nothing to do here I
will improve my time in writing
I am evidently on the gain my
appetite is better and my strength
is coming to me again, there was
two more of our Company came here
to this Camp yesterday they say
our Company is in Washington
yet. they say that Charles and
Richard and all the rest of the
boys from our town is well. they
have all drawn two months pay
except the ones that was sent up
here last tuesday I was one of the
unlucky ones that came here last
tuesday. I hope I can get a pass
to go to Washington and get my
pay for I want to send you

[2]

sum money and I need sum my
self. you asked me if I was going
into Cavalry I think that is all
knocked in head. old Lees Rade up
in Pencilvania came just in the
rony time for us our Colonel had
just got his papers to form us into
Cavalry Regiment this rade commenced
and we were needed amediately and
were ordered out on a Blackwater
expadition for the purpos of drawing
a force there thinking we were going
to advance on Richmond and this
would hinder the rebs from reinfourseing
Lee in pencilvania. and at the same

time drive all of the rebs across
Blackwater soas to give us a chance
to Evacuate Suffolk with out
being attacted our Blackwater
march lasted seven days and a
hard march it was too we shelled

[3]

them them across the River at
three different points the second
day we arived at Southquey and
had a skurmish with them and shelled
the Town lost a few men marched
from there to Franklin shelled the
town skirmished sum lost a fiew
men marched from there to a place
that I have forgotten the name
of stayed over night. the next
day marched to a place called
blackwater bridge and shelled the
town none killed of ours. marched
from there to Carrs Ville stayed
till morning and then marched
to Franklin again shelled the town
again skirmished sum lost a few
more men marched back to Carrs
Ville stayed till morning and then
marched to camp the last day
when we were going back to Camp

[4]

I was oblige to fall out and ride
in in a bagage wagon and I have
not been able to perform duty cince
this was the latter part of June.
the next day packed our knapsacks
pulled up stakes too the Carrs and
ran down to norfolk took the boat

ran up to Yorktown pitched our
tents stayed two days marched
up the Peninsula to make the
rebel think we were going to attack
Richmond to prevent Beauregard
from reinforcing Lee. marched
back back to Yorktown the next
day took the Boat ran up to
Washington and our Regiment is
now awfully scattered sum in
Hospitals sum in Convalescent
Camps our Company in Washington
the rest of the Regiment dont know where is

[5]

I do not mean for you to think
that I was on the march up and
the Peninsula if you have got my letters
you will know how much I have
marched since we left Suffolk, if it
had not been for this rade we should
now have had our Sabers and instead
of having to march on foot loaded
down with gun and bayonet and eight
or ten pounds of Cartridges three days
rations in our haversacks Canteen of
water shelter tents and blanket
all to lug and have keep up if the
weather is ever so hot
we would have a horse to carry
us and our load the infantry has to
march as fast as the Cavalry the
Cavalry is generally in the advance
to be sure the Artillery next and
the infantry behind if the Cavalry

[6]

cum across a small force that they

think they can over power they will
make a dash upon them cut and
slash as fast as they can and if they
can take them prisoners they will
and if they see the enemy is too strong
for them they will wheel and
Skedaddle back to the Infantry
for support and in a regular engage-
ment they lay back out of the way
as much as possible and the Infantry
has to support the Artillery and
Skirmish through the woods to hunt
out the enemy that is in ambush
and if there is a Charge to be made
on a battery or batteries the Infantry
are the ones to do it a battery is
six Cannons sometimes the enemy
the enemy will have several
batteries planted in one line and
if it is ordered by the General

[7]

to Charge on the battery or batteries
no matter of our force is two miles
off from the Battery we have to
form in line with our bayonets on
our guns and march right up in front
of the Cannons mouth and of course
the enemy will load and fire the
best they can in such a time to pre-
vent us from taking their batteries
and if the enemy over powers the
force that makes the charge and
drives them back with an overwhelm-
ing force and it becomes necessary
for our Artillery to open on the
enemy to save our whole force
from being taken or killed our men
will open upon them even

if they have to mo down our
oun men that made the charge
and was over powered and driven
back. such cases are not verry

[8]

frequent but it has to be don
sum times the Cavelry
holdes their nombers the best of
any men in the field and the
infantry is the moste exposed
the Cavelry had no fateigue work
to doe there is a great many of
the infantry used up on fateigue
and a great many marched to
death I have seen healthy looking
men get tired out on marches and
fall down and die in the road
Oh I am telling you to much
for you will splean a bout me
you asked me if it was not more
dangeros in Cavelry than it
was in infantry and I have tried
to explain it to you as well as I
can in ashort way soldiering
is not play in any kinde of a
Regiment Cavelry or any other
Daniel Hall