

The War Years

see all the men in uniform, with their swords, pistols and knives hanging at their sides.

Post No. 4 of the picket guard, three fourths mile above Edwards Ferry. There are eight of us on this post. We came here yesterday at II and will be relieved tomorrow at II. We can hear the drums of the Rebs, across the River about two miles distant. The alarm guns fired last night across the river. It caused a lot of excitement. We sent to camp and Companies A, B and E came down as reinforcements. We thought it best to be safe. Lieut. McCallum was here and says that the band boys have got their instruments. The Paymaster has also come. Very good news. We have some guns now that will reach over into there camp, rifled cannon, about seven feet long. The Mass. 20th is camped close to us. They are 1100 strong, and have an independent company of sharpshooters. We have been at Camp Stone here four weeks now.

We had a good time on picket, altho it rained all the first day and night. The second day was pleasant. It seemed like a queer position, when I stood there on the bank of the Potomac watching up and down, as far as I could see at the hour of midnight. The rain poured down, until it seemed that the whole country was Babtised from above.

Truly it was a fine place for reflection. I thought of the past, the present and the future. Everything was quiet, except the waters of the river, as they washed the shore. But why reflect; it will not bring back what has passed, nor do I wish to.

When relieved, I nearly got lost going back to my nest, ten rods away. We had a good meal of corn and green beans for breakfast, which was considerable improvement over the dry beans and salt beef of camp. There are a few cases of Ague, but the measels have about run out.

Maj. Dike returned from Minn., and brought back a splendid Regiment Flag, a present from the people there. Just went to a farm house to get some water, came back through the orchard and filled up on apples. The people all claim to be union, as long as the Feds, are here, the Nigs say.

Tomorrow is Sunday and we will have general Inspection. We will have to clean our guns and our clothes and black our shoes. We got seven of the new recruits in our Company. They are out drilling now. We recieved two months pay last Sat. I recieved