

The War Years

the rain and mud, it was heavy going at times. May 18th was clear and we marched out at 7 A.M., passing thru New Kent and camped in a wheat field, where we lay until the 21st. Left camp at 6 A.M. and marched all day and camped near the Railroad, 14 miles from Richmond Va. May 22nd Heavy rain. Received a letter from home. I was on guard at night. Received whiskey rations for the first time.

The Division started early and marched 9 miles and camped. I was left in camp to guard some Commissary stores. Those left had a fine time. May 27th the Regiment was out building a bridge across the Chickehominy River The Grape Vine bridge.

May 31st Dress parade in the A.M. A letter to Gov. Ramsey from our Minister to Belgium, was read, presenting the Minn. 1st with a Battery of steel guns, for their bravery and patriotism.

May 31st. We left camp in the P.M. in light marching order, crossed the Chickahominy on the Grape Vine bridge, and went up the Railroad tracks where our forces were engaged. We arrived on the field just in time to check a flank movement. We were soon engaged with the Rebs in the woods. The firing was heavy, but ceased at sundown. We slept in the field, on our arms. One Company was on picket. All quiet, except for the groaning of the wounded. Our loss in the Regt. one killed and five wounded. June 1st. Fair Oaks. Pleasant. The fight was renewed on the left and center, but they were repulsed. Gen. McClellan rode along the lines. The woods are full of dead and wounded. June 2nd. We built a line of breastworks, and are busy caring for the wounded and burying the dead on both sides. June 3rd. There is still some skirmishing. Received three days mail. I was detailed to help butcher. June 5th. There is heavy firing to the right, with artillery. F. and G Companies went on picket at night. June 6th was cloudy with rain. The lines were advanced in the afternoon. Our tents and knapsacks came up. We were relieved at dark. I had an Ague chill, not very pleasant. An attack on our pickets in the forenoon was repulsed, and they fell back as our men advanced.

From June 10th the June 29th there was continual skirmishing. The Regt. was in the Breastworks until June 29th when we left camp early and went out on the railroad, and fell back to Savage Station. Here they again attacked our rear, but were repulsed. G Company had two men wounded. We crossed WhiteOak swamp,