

*E. H. Bassett — In the Artillery*

June 20th was very warm. We sent guard over to the new Camp. I am on guard at the camp at Fort Phelps.

June 21th. We moved our camp over to Fort Miholotez, and took the place of Battery H. Weather very dry and hot. On the 22nd we spent most all day fixing up our camp. July 4th very hot. There was but little done in the way of celebrating the 4th. There was a salute fired at noon from the 100 pound parrots on Cameron Hill.

July 20th we had general Inspection by Major Heffelfinger and Colonel Baxter. July 20th. O. B. Baker and myself went out into the country about twelve miles, on mules. We got a good dinner, plenty of fruit, and saw some nice looking ladies.

July 31st. The 44th Indiana Regiment refused to go on Guard Mount this morning with the Niggers. There was quite some excitement about it. I saw one Lieutient give up his sword and go under arrest, rather than mix with the Nigs. Aug. 22nd. I am on garrison guard. The weather is quite warm, but a good breeze from the west makes it cooler.

Aug. 30th, 1865. It was a very windy day, and the dust flew so thick around camp that one could hardly see. I am on Guard. There is considerable excitement about getting home. It is reported and generely believed, that we are to be replaced by a lot of Nigger Soldiers. I hope that it will really prove true. Time will only decide our fate. I sincerely hope we dont have to stay here all winter in this miserable place. Our rations are of the poorest quality, and we are on duty every other day. I went over to the Doctor to have a couple of teeth pulled. He had to give up after trying twice on each one. They pained me very badly all forenoon, but were better in the P.M. We were mustered in the afternoon by Colonel Baxter. Chattanooga, Tenn. Sept. 1st, 1865. Cloudy and rainy. I am on guard. Rain most all day on the 2nd. I feel miserable. Have the toothache all the time. I am about sick.

There is strong talk about our being releaved and sent home. On the 3rd I was on camp guard. The weather is damp and sultry, with a sprinkle of rain every little while. We had dress parade at 6 P.M., over on the east side of town. About 1600 Nigger soldiers came into town this evening. Reports are that they are the 1st U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, and are to releave the 1st Minn. Heavy Artillery.