

Pomeroy Telegraph  
June 20, 1862

## Letters from the Camp Monterey, Tenn., May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1862

*Dear Parents*---- I suppose you have heard of my misfortune. I take the earliest possible opportunity to inform you of my whereabouts, and will try to give you a short history of my imprisonment while with the rebels. I was taken prisoner the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May; it was a beautiful morning, and everything quiet in camp; I learned that there was a foraging party going out in the country, and our Company teamster, L. Johnson, requested myself and his brother Philip to go with them, which we willingly consented to do. We left at 7 o'clock in the morning, 12 in number and 5 wagons, under command of T.W. Battin, Foragemaster; we had to go 7 miles. We enjoyed ourselves very well going out, but coming back was not so pleasant as you will soon see.—

We had to pass through a piece of woods and could not see far in advance of us. Our wagons were heavily loaded, and the roads bad. Two of the teams had fell in the rear some distance. At the edge of the woods we were charged on by a company of Cavalry; the first word I heard them say was lay down your arms, you God d—d sons of b---s! As there were only six of us with the three first wagons, we soon saw that to attempt to escape was certain death, for there were a dozen shot guns and pistols pointed at our heads, so we layed down our muskets; then part of the rebels rode on and captured the rest of our little party and took us to camp, which was alive with rebels; the soldiers and citizens were busy carrying off and burning our tents, knapsacks and other camp equipage.

Our Regiment had been forced to leave at six o'clock P. M., under a strong guard of Cavalry. We left Athens, for "Dixie." We walked through mud and water, sometimes knee deep; at 2 o'clock halted. We found Capt. Steedman (Stedman) and eight more of our Regiment, who had been taken at the fight at 5 A. M. Was ordered forward again, walked 5 miles, crossed Elk River, and stopped at a farm house for breakfast; got a little piece of corn bread and meat, the first we had eaten since we were taken prisoner; the rebels had taken the guns that belonged to the sick that were in hospital, and a few boxes of cartridges, and some of the most valuable article were put in a wagon and sent with us; but bad luck for them; as they were crossing the river, by some means, the wagon ran overboard, losing the wagons, contents, and three horses. We crossed the Tennessee at Campbell's Ferry, walked to Cortland; there we were put in a small brick house, and fed on corn bread and meat, and not half enough of that; some of the soldiers were very kind to us, but some of them and the citizens abused us scandalously.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M., left Cortland, for Corinth, walked 5 miles, got two wagons, rode until 8 o'clock P.M., got supper, and slept in an old house. On the 5<sup>th</sup> rode all day in the rain, passed through Tuscumbia, where I saw several men who pretended to be good Union men when our Regiment was there, but they were the first to cry out hang the d—d Yankees. We got to Frankfort at 6 P.M., stayed overnight with an old gentleman and lady, who appeared to sympathize with us; we got a good warm supper and all we could eat, for the first time since we were captured, and a good bed to sleep in. On the 6<sup>th</sup> got a good breakfast, and were very much rested. As the roads were so bad the wagons could

not go any farther, we had to walk 28 miles over rough, muddy and bad roads, without dinner, and only half supper; slept in an old negro house. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, walked 18 miles, then got to Boonville about 10 o'clock; laid out on the ground all night without either dinner or supper. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, got breakfast at 10 o'clock, then got on the cars at 4 P. M. for Corinth- distance of 24 miles. I saw a great many rebel troops on the way. Got to Corinth at 5 P.M. We were taken to Gen. Beauregard's headquarters, then to Gen. Slaughter's office. His Adjutant took a list of names, then sent us to the Confederate guard houses; there we found a few Federal soldiers and about 30 rebels; 5 of them handcuffed for drunkenness; 9<sup>th</sup>, got breakfast of spoiled crackers and sugar. At 8 A.M., got on the cars, where we were joined by several wounded Federals; among the number were Capt. A. W. McCormick, of the 77<sup>th</sup> Reg't, O. V. from Marietta; he was wounded in the right arm. As the cars did not leave Corinth until 12 o'clock, we could hear cannonading, which told us the army was in motion. We had a very fine time on the way; we were on the cars all night; 10<sup>th</sup>, got to Columbus, Miss., at 11 A.M.; it is a very nice little town on the bank of the Tombigbee River; we walked up in town past a large house where some Yankee prisoners were kept, but we did not get time to speak with them; we were put in a large brick house; they gave us two rooms in the second story. Our number were 13 wounded, and all the rooms were large, so we had a nice place. Got supper at 4 P.M., of wheat bread, meat and molasses, the first we had eat since we left Corinth; 11<sup>th</sup>, got things regulated, got three meals a day, and a negro man to wait on us; 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1 P.M., 33 more prisoners were put in two of the adjoining rooms; some them had been taken in Missouri.—At 3 P.M., we heard that we were to be released on parole of honor, which we were advised to do by Capt. Steedman, of the 18<sup>th</sup> Reg't, O.V., and Capt. Caton, 21<sup>st</sup> Reg't, O.V., and Capt. McCormick, 77<sup>th</sup> Reg't, O.V., and two lieutenants that were taken with us; their names I have forgotten. They would not release any of the officers commissioned or non-commissioned, but lucky for me, when I was taken I had on an old coat that had no stripe on, as they call them, so they never knew any better. At 10 o'clock P.M., 17 more prisoners were brought in; they were taken in the skirmish at Corinth; the day we left. On the 13<sup>th</sup> we were taken out in town to the Provost Marshal and sworn not to take up arms against the Confederate States, until regularly exchanged. At 6 o'clock P.M., bid farewell to officers, sick and wounded that could not leave, and stepped on the cars for Corinth, but there met with a little disappointment, for the cars did not leave until 7 o'clock the next morning, owing to some cars running off the track. We had to stop at Saltilla Station; got a little piece of bread and meat at 11 A.M., for breakfast and dinner; slept on the cars all night. Left Saltilla at 1 P.M., got to Corinth at 7 P.M.—At 9 o'clock got supper of crackers and meat, laid out doors all night on the ground. Corinth is a very low, filthy place almost every house in the town bears a hospital flag, for there is a great deal of sickness in the rebel army; I think, more than there is in ours. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10 A.M., we were called into line to march as there were a great many men looking at us, some one of them recognized a man in our ranks who knew he had been taken prisoner at Lexington, Mo., and was released on parole, enlisted again without being exchanged, and was taken again at Pittsburgh Landing; was taken out of the ranks and ordered to be put in Irons. --- At 11 o'clock we left Corinth under a flag of truce, with a company of Band Box Cavalry, which, I think they keep for that purpose, for they were the only ones I saw that did make a decent appearance among northern people, for there is hardly ever two of them dressed alike. At 12 o'clock we got to the lines, and a happier set of men you never

saw. We was taken to Gen. Schoeff's headquarters and eat dinner with his men; then we were sent to Major Gen. Halleck, then to Monterey, where we yet remain; eat supper and slept in our tent again. We expect to be exchanged and sent to our Regiment, or sent home soon.

Yours truly,

Serg't T.C. Hudson