

CIVIL WAR DIARY

of

JAMES P. SKIFF

**Corporal, Company F,
154th New York Volunteers**

Courtesy of

Scott N. Hilts

Transcribed by

Mark H. Dunkelman

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Ver ginnu Th 1 82

December
went on guard ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
December ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
land march 12 miles
and the relief very muddy
Thursday 11 wolf run 3
miles from camp

December ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
marched 9 miles and set
dinner at ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
and very muddy

8

December ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
left camp to o'clock
after some a ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
December ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
16 miles ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
from ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
muddy ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
December ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
left at 9 o'clock and
marched 10 miles from
Stafords court house and
we staid 2 miles from
with being the weather ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
December ^{the} ^{the} ^{the}
16

laid in camp till
after dark and then
marched 4 miles and camp
marched about 12 col
Dec the morning fair
marched 4 of a mile
and camp again in
steinsight of the relief
camp Dec the 18 fair
marching
Dec the 19 the weather
cold night watching
cable that was conspired

Virginia

December the 7 1862 went on picket guard Snow 4 inches deep

December the 10 left fairfax on do and marched 12 miles Snow 4 inch and the roads verry muddy

thursday 11 Wolf run 3 miles from camp 12 to day

December the 12 left camp before sunrise the weather nice marched 10 miles and eat dinner at dumfries stal and verry muddied

December the 13 nice morning left camp to o'clock after noone a bout 5 miles

December the 14 marched 12 miles to Staffords station present but verry muddy

December the 15 Started a bout 9 o'clock and traveled 10 miles from Staffords court house and we staid 2 miles fredricksburg the weather fine

December the 16 we laid in camp till after dark and then march 4 miles and campep 2 o'clock at nite cold

December the 17 morning fair mooved 4/3 of a mile and camp again write in sight of the rebels camp

December the 18 fair morning Nothing except picket on

Dec the 19 fine weather cold nights catching cattle that was confiscated

December the 28 out on picket guard the rebels on wone side of the river and we on the other side write in sight and in speakin distance

Dec 21 on guard on a dam on the river sentinal on the other motions wrappahannock river

December the 31 mustard in for to answer to our names

January the 6 1863 on guard verry wet night

Jan th 14 Left camp 2 o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock P.M. and stopt and eat brekfast and staid till the next day till 3 o'clock march back to camp again

Jan the 17 struck camp again and marcht back to the river again

James P. Skiff diary, 2

Jan the 18 plesaent butt verry cold no snow 7 o clock in the morning

Do 19 worked on the road clearing it out wider

January th 20 worked on the road and then went and garded the pontoon bridge on the road traveld till 10 or 12 o clock at night and it rained verry hard all night

January the 21 rany verry bad day

January the 22 marched back win 3/4 of a mile of the old camp

January th 25 out on picket duty on the wrappahannock 300 out of our ridgment

Jan the 26 on picket talk with the rebs across the river

Jan the 27 on picket wet this morning

Jan the 28 Snoes hard

Febuary the 3 cold and snoes a little in the morning

Do the 4 clear and cold

Feb the 5 we struct our tents at 8 o clock in the morning and marched some 6 or 8 miles and camp again for the nite it was cold and snode till a bout noon and a bout 2 o clock it comenced raining and rained till a bout 12 o clock february the 6 we had orders to march at 8 o clock in the morning march 5 miles and camp again near stafford court house

F the 7 cleare again

Feb the 17 snode hard all day at dark 4 inches

Feb the 22 a hard storm it snode a bout wone foot to day cold and blustering

Feb the 23 this morning is fare and nice butt cold

march the 1 1863 out on reserve picket rany in the morning cleard off plesaent in the after noon [see note at end of diary]

march the 2 nice and plesaent

march the 21 1863 went out on reserve picket and it snode hard all day and then it rained at night the snow was to inches deap butt warm 3 days picketin [see note at end of diary]

James P. Skiff diary, 3

April the 4/63 at night it snode a bout 10 inches

the 5 day it snode sum

April the 13 1863 we left camp manley it rained all knight be fore we started we marched 15 miles the first day

April the 14 we broke camp at day light and march 16 miles the 2 day and stopt in sight of the rebs verry tired at 10 o clock it began to rane and 15 it still rains hard and rained till this morning April the 16 the sun has cum out fare we are at kelleys ford

April the 20 out on picket a bout 22 miles above falmouth on the river

April the 23 out on picket rain hard 24 rainy

April the 27 and 28 on picket near mount holleys church at kelleys ford wone man on post shot his thumb off came off from picket and march a cross the rappahannock a little after dark and garded the pontoon bridge at wone o clock at night cross back again in to the camp again

April the 29 we broke camp again the next morning at 6 o clock we crost the river and stade all knight started at 6 o clock in the morning the next morning

April the 30 raining we crost the wrappadan river at wone o clock after noon and stopt 3 hours for the train to cross the wrappadan river and then march till 1 o clock at night and then lade down for the rest of the night marched 25 miles

May the 1 1863 we lay in camp till 11 o clock then orders came to be readdy to march at 12 o clock we started and a bout 3/4 of a mile orders came to fall back to whare we stade over night and to be readdy at a minit warning stade 2 ours then march out in frunt and lade on our arms all knight and garded a battery the rebs sheld us for 2 or 3 hours

ranslerville whare the battle was

May the 2 staurday scirmising all day till 5 o clock and then the battle was hot till 10 o clock at night I was tierd out milton scott and my self lade down

May the 3 sunday we ware taken prisoners about 9 o clock in the morning and was taken to day to pittsilevania court house and stade over night 7 of my company and march 19 miles to day

May the 4 we started at 6 o clock and traveld 10 miles to ginna station on the fredricksburgh and ritchmond railroad we lade down on the ground and sleep verry well in the rain

James P. Skiff diary, 4

May the 5 1863 three squads of our prisners in to day it commence raining about 4 o clock it halde and rained verry hard all knight

May the 6 cold and rany rained all day and night hald some cold to lay out

May the 7 cloudy and cold all day at knight it rained hard

May the 8/63 it rains this morning we left gunna station at 11 o clock and march 15 miles and it was cold

May the 9 clear and plesant we march 12 miles to hanover junction and got some rations delt out to us. 25 miles from ritchmond we staid at iseland station 16 from ritchmond we march 20 miles

May the 10 1863 sunday we started from whare we stade over night at 6 o clock we started again and got into ritchmond at 3 o clock on sunday and put in to a big brick building and stade over knight thair want hardley roome to lay down

monday May the 11 we got a half loaf of bread and a little _____

tuesday May the 12 we left the brick hous and went on to bell iland a mild and a half from whare we was first in prisend and had to lay down in the sand for the night

May the 13 wednesday we got wone hard tack to day we was parrolde about dark it came up a hevey rain storm

we got to fortress monrow at 10 o clock I was taken prisner May the 3 and was held twelve days a prisner

we left fortress monrow about 4 o clock after noon and got to annapolas at 4 o clock in the morning

May the 17 we landed at 4 o clock Anapolas meriland at 12 o clock we marcht up to the perold camp thair was 5,000 prisners on our side came down with us

May the 22 we had orders to march to washington we started from the parole camp at 12 o clock at annapilas on the steam boat 1000 of us the boat started and run a ground and did not get of till 5 o clock we run all knight

May the 23 the weather plesent mount vernon 16 miles from washing fort washington 12 from washington Elaxander 7 miles from washington we got to the convalessons camp at sun down whare we stoptt in the camp

May the 24

James P. Skiff diary, 5

May the 28 31 men was detald to work out of our barracks

June the 19 1863 that I exprest this box home very hot hear

march the 21 picket

J J Turner D	1
S Burnes	2
S Baley	3
C E Whitney	4
H Cisen	5
T W _____	6
C Wilber	4
_ Hall	4

march the 1

D Snider	1
C Perry	2
A Williams	3
J felch	4
G basset	5
S morse	6
N paterson	7
D brand	8

James P. Skiff
Co F 154th NY
SV 2nd Brigade
2nd Division