

THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

JANUARY 1966

VOLUME 67

NUMBER 1



COPYRIGHT © 1966 By

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHARLESTON, S. C.

CONTENTS

Articles:	PAGE
<i>The Last Officer—April 1865</i> , edited by John Hammond Moore	1
<i>A Loyalist View of the Drayton-Tennent-Hart Mission to the Upcountry</i> , edited by James H. O'Donnell	15
<i>A Miles Genealogy</i> , by the Rev. Robert E. H. Peeples	29
<i>Marriage and Death Notices from the City Gazette, 1827</i> , compiled by Inez H. Griffin	46
Reviews:	
Lee, <i>The Lower Cape Fear in Colonial Days</i> , by William S. Powell	50
Labaree, <i>The Boston Tea Party</i> , by Bradley D. Bargar	51
Morison, <i>The Oxford History of the American People</i> , by Samuel G. Stoney	52
Holman, <i>The Verse of Floride Clemson</i> , by John Robert Doyle, Jr.	53
Notes	56
Archives News	58

THE LAST OFFICER—APRIL 1865

EDITED BY JOHN HAMMOND MOORE*

During the final weeks of the Civil War—in fact, at the very moments of the agony of Appomattox—two brigades of colored and white Union soldiers set out from Georgetown, South Carolina, to destroy inland rail communications between Camden and Florence. This trek lasted twenty days, and, even before it ended, word came of a truce in North Carolina between Sherman and Johnston. Only in the vicinity of Sumter and Camden did these Union troops meet any substantial opposition.

The War of the Rebellion contains the official report of this expedition.¹ In all there are ten letters from three generals and several lesser figures. One of the latter, Colonel Edward N. Hallowell, a brigade commander, relates his experiences in terse, military terms. Yet, none of these reports—since they are official—tell us much in the way of interesting detail. However, in the archives of the South Caroliniana Library at Columbia, S. C., there is a brief, but informativve diary kept by a young lieutenant who accompanied Colonel Hallowell.

Edward L. Stevens of Brighton, Mass., had completed his second year at Harvard when he enlisted as a private in the 44th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, in 1862. Following a six-month hitch he was honorably discharged. Early in 1864, after completing his studies and receiving a Harvard A.B., Stevens—twenty years of age, five feet, ten inches in height with light complexion and blue eyes—was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 54th Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, and in March ordered to report to this unit, an outfit which had pioneered with the use of colored soldiers in 1863. Following a brief sojourn in an army hospital he joined the regiment at Folly Island, S. C. In December 1864 Stevens was promoted to first lieutenant.

His account of this march into the interior of South Carolina, entitled simply "Notes on Potter's Raid," was written in a small, leather-bound notebook. While not complete, it gives us a graphic picture of wartime conditions as viewed by an intelligent, sensitive young man. Lieutenant Stevens describes in detail the condition of plantations and towns, looting by Union men, the stubborn faith of Southern women

* John Hammond Moore is an associate professor of history at Georgia State College, Atlanta, Ga.

¹ *The War of the Rebellion*, Washington, 1895, series I, XLVII, part I, 1025-1043.

in the Confederate cause, and the condition of liberated blacks. The "Notes" end with the death of First Lieutenant Stevens on April 18, when he died instantly after being struck in the head by an enemy bullet. His body, recovered under fire by two volunteers, was buried at Boykin, but later removed to the national cemetery at Florence, S. C. "Lieutenant Stevens," according to the historian of the 54th Regiment, "was a genial comrade and brave officer. He must have been the last officer, or one of the last officers, killed in action during the Rebellion."²

This diary is printed with the permission of the South Caroliniana Library. And, since his words relate closely to those of his commander, Colonel Hallowell's Report is included and printed in italics.³

Georgetown, S. C., April 26, 1865

I have the honor to report that on the 5th of April, 1865, my brigade, composed of eight companies Thirty-second U. S. Colored Troops, Col. G. W. Baird commanding, and five companies One hundred and second U. S. Colored Troops, Maj. N. Clark commanding, left Georgetown, S. C., at 8 a. m., on the Sampit or Central road. After marching about three miles in a westerly direction took the road to right toward Black River through heavy pine forests; roads very good. Encamped for night near Johnston's Swamp, about nineteen miles from Georgetown.

April 5th Was on guard last night, and heard that we were to start on a Raid this morning— All sorts of rumors were afloat yesterday, as Gen. [Quincy A.] Gillmore was up to Georgetown[,] remained but a few minutes. A Report is afloat that Lee, since his attack on Fort Steadman[,] is disheartened & wants to come to terms & that Sherman, Grant, Lincoln & Lee are at City Point arranging for terms. Of course we can't trace the report to any reliable source. We think however that Gillmore came here to hurry us off in anticipation of news. We have not the remotest Idea of our destination. We started at Seven & a half this P. M.⁴ There are two Brigades of Infantry. The first commanded by Col. P. P. Brown of the 157th N.Y.V. consists of the 54[th] Mass. Vols., Five co's 102d U. S. C. T.[,] Eight co's 32[nd] U. S. C. T.[,] thirty or forty cavalry under Maj. [Moses F.] Webster of 4[th] Mass. Cavalry[,] 2d

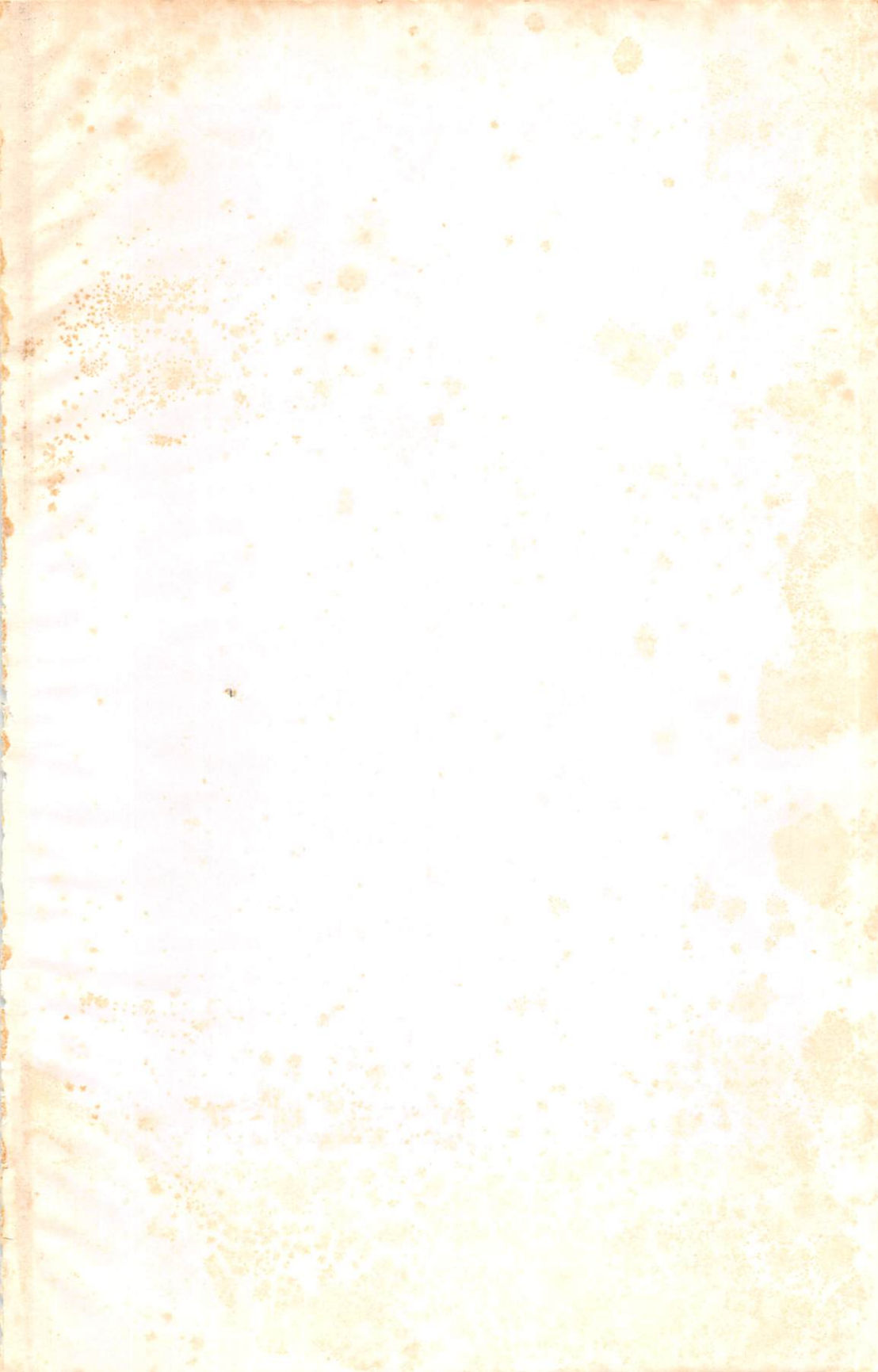
² Luis F. Emilio, *History of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1863-1865*, Boston, 1891, pp. 304-305. The picture of Lieutenant Stevens has been taken from this book. It faces page 96.

³ Capital letters have been added at the beginning of sentences; periods at the end of sentences and to complete abbreviations.

⁴ Stevens means "A. M."



LT. EDWARD L. STEVENS



Sect. of Artillery under Lt. [E. C.] Clark[,] 3d N. Y. A., the whole force under Brig. Gen. Potter.

I came very near going as Commissary of the Division on Potter's Staff, my name was proposed to him & his Adj. Gen. was about to make the Detail, but Potter did not want to change his commissary as he was to start sooner than he expected. It would have been pleasant duty.

A large train of contrabands came with us for the purpose of getting their families which they had left in Rebbdum. We were marched with great judgement & celerity, especially considering it was the first day out. We halted for rest for ten minutes every hour & had an hour rest at noon. We marched nine miles before dinner and eight after, getting to camp about dark.

I have [George] Broady of Co. H. for Servant. He and [William] Jones make a Team—Uncle Ned Peagram is quite sick, but managed to carry a load to day.

The country we passed through is the most desolate imaginable. We passed but two or three houses all day & those of the meanest Kind. Reminded me of [Edmund] Kirke's "Among the Pines"—I never marched so far or so easily on the first day of a march.

Just after we passed the 16 mile Post we turned to the north on the King[s]tree Road.

On the 6th resumed the march at 6:30 a. m.; country more open and rolling. Marched nineteen miles and camped near Thorntree Swamp.

April 6th Did not sleep much last night[,] two or three shots were fired & we turned out a few minutes. Reveille at five o'clock. Started at 6½, our Brigade in the advance. Marched about eleven miles before dinner, the country much better than that of yesterday. Contrabands joining us and we are collecting horses & mules. I saw a curious sight this morning. About a mile out we came to a house, said to be occupied by a union man. Our boys rushed in & began to slay chickens & take horses so one woman pulled out her handkerchief & waved it as a signal of neutrality, but as it seemed to do no good, she uttered an exclamation & rushed frantically into the house & snatched a table cloth from the Breakfast table & waved it aloft & screamed, "Mr. Officer, see those big men coming in here[!]"

In the afternoon we marched eight miles. We marched to within about Six miles of King[s]tree. The Cavalry to day made some captives, [and] drove a small party of Rebels across the Black River, the latter setting fire to the bridge.

In the evening a great many horses were obtained. Some of them excellent. I carry but little load [—] my canteen, sword & over coat part of the time, get some forage.

On the 7th started at 6:30 a. m.; general direction northwest; weather good; country still more open. The One hundred and second U. S. Colored Troops were detached from main column to destroy the Kingstree bridge across the Black River. They exchanged a few shots with the enemy, but report no casualties. Two companies of Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers were sent to destroy the Epps' Bridge. Their casualties were 1 officer (Second Lieut. F. E. Rogers) and 3 enlisted men wounded. We camped at Mill Creek after marching about fifteen miles.

April 7th Notwithstanding the hard march of yesterday, I was in good condition for travelling this morning. We crossed the N. E. R. R. early in the morning—we passed through a fine country to day, a considerable amt. of cotton was found & any amount of Provisions of all Kinds. Parties were out foraging for the Brigade. We burned cotton gins & presses, but no dwelling houses.

We marched quite easily in the morning[,] walking about nine miles. We had an hour & a half for dinner & after marching about a mile halted for some reason or other an hour which I improved by a good nap. We then marched a couple of miles through a fine open cultivated stretch of Land & came to some cross-roads, 8 miles beyond King[s]tree on the road to Manning—Co's H. & A. were sent to the Right to Epp's Ferry across the Black River to burn the Bridge. After going about half a mile we came to a Spot where there had been a Picket fire, from this point there was a Sudden declivity into Black River Swamp. Here was the meanest place I ever saw, black water & black mud. Capt. [Charles E.] Tucker commanded the Party & was mounted. He sent half a dozen men in advance & the rest of us had to wade most of the way above our Knees. We went about two miles & a half & saw a little fire & were in doubt whether it was a Rebel Picket fire, or the bridge burning. The advance waded through a long ford & came within about 50 yards of the bridge, when they were fired on by a party of Rebels concealed across the bridge, which the Rebs had just retreated across & set fire to.

Lieut. Rogers of Co. A. was hit in the Right fore-arm, & Privates J. C. Johnson and J. H. White wounded slightly. We retired, as we had found out that the bridge was burned & we had orders not to have an engagement. We marched back to the cross roads, & found the columns had all marched past, & it was about dark.

We marched rapidly about four miles & found the Regiment encamped for the night. We had a hard march of at least 21 miles[;] found

our Servants had not got supper ready. I was well wet through & got to bed late. We have marched 57 miles in three days, pretty good marching.

On the 7th^s continued the march at 6:30 a. m. in a westerly direction for about five miles, then northwest to the Sumterville road. This course was taken in consequence of a report that the bridges were burned on the main road. We marched through Manning and built the bridges across the Pocatoligo Swamp. . . .

April 8th Off in good season with our Brigade in advance. We got plenty of forage last night from the Party of foragers. I was assigned to the command of Co. A in Roger's place. He rides a horse & comes along with us until we can get to some place to send him to the Coast.

We marched three miles or perhaps a little more, then turned off to the left & went towards the Santee[,] then turned to the right again. Part of the country was very rich. We marched quite rapidly four or five miles without a halt. We made eight or nine miles before dinner, got well rested, then marched rapidly several miles & struck the same road we left early in the morning. I have been unable to ascertain why Potter made this detour, taking us off the road several miles. In the afternoon we went through the finest Kind of agricultural country. Have an intelligent contraband who Keeps us Supplied with Poultry &c.

We crossed considerable many fords & swamps late in the afternoon. I Saw a great sight at dinner— While we were halting the contrabands went by. I would judge 700 or 800 of them of all ages & both Sexes. Little boys & girls of such tender ages, as at home would not be trusted outside the yards, yet these small children Keep up with us marching 20 miles a day. Almost all the little children carry a tub or something on their heads. The women are the greatest sights, some of them are very pert pretty damsels, of all colors. Some attractive old women just alive. Some young women are like brutes almost with bosems as large as a Cow's Bag hanging down. Most of them have a child in arms, a child at the back & a child about to appear. Such a sight for an artist it is to see these poor people just liberated, going on happy, under such burdens as they bear, keeping up with veteran Soldiers in the long wearisome marching. It is Sad & yet encouraging to see the hope in their countenances & their perfect trust in us. What is to become of this Race of uneducated, hopeful, anxious people[?] What a change has the war bro't about!

^s This is a misprint. It should read the "8th." *The War of the Rebellion*, Washington, 1895, series I, XLVII, part I, 1036.

We entered the town of Manning about dusk after a march of 18 miles at least. The cavalry had gone in before us. All the male population had left in the morning to go to the next town[,] Sumter, where the Rebels are Said to be concentrating all the force they can to defend the town through which the Wilmington & Manchester R. R. runs. Manning is a small town[,] beautiful in appearance. I saw scarcely anything of it. We passed down a fine wide Street. I saw a few buildings[;] we camped in the outskirts of the town. A Cavalryman was killed by a citizen he was talking with, a deliberate murder.

. . . and at 7 a. m. on the 9th continued the march toward Sumterville. When about three miles from Sumterville we found the enemy intrenched at Dingle's Mill, on Turkey Creek. Their force was estimated at 500 men (mostly militia) and three pieces of artillery. We attempted a flank movement on their left, but owing to the incapacity of the guide were obliged to return to the main road, when we found that the First Brigade had opened the road and captured the artillery. We camped at Sumterville about sundown.

April 9th This has been a great Sunday for us. This morning at one o'clock we broke Camp & marched across Black River Swamp where the Black River becomes the Pocotaligo. A detail from the Regiment relaid the planks which the Rebels had thrown off for nearly a mile and a half. We went across to reinforce the Picket line. We walked across Stringers by moon-light. I lay down without blanket at four in the morning & got a nap. Maj. [George] Pope gave Capt. Tucker a mule to day so we have got along easily. Jones got a cart, So we have all our Stuff carried easily— The 1st Brigade has the advance to day. They marched past us about Seven this morning. We are extreme rear to day. We marched through the finest kind of a country to day, full of all sorts of forage & provisions— extensive cotton Plantations. The country showed immense wealth. We must have burned over half a million dollars worth of cotton to day, & I don't believe but what we have more. There were Cotton Gins & Presses, horses[,] wagons & etc. at every house. Not an able-bodied man was seen, all the Whites & blacks have gone to Sumter. The women & children all sit on the Piazzas as we pass. They have a terrible wo[e]b-gone expression, & no wonder, for it is a terrible thing for an Invading army full of enthusiasm, part of it, before slaves, eager for revenge on their old masters. It is awful for women & children to see the sights they see, but we restrain our men, & altho' I have some difficulty, yet have not heard of any act of wanton conduct on the part of any man in my command.

As I said[,] we destroyed an almost incalculable amount of property to day. To day has been very pleasant for marching, cloudy & comfortable & we have done some of the best marching I have ever saw.

We marched fast & rested little & when we stopped for dinner about one o'clock, we had made fifteen miles. I was some tired as I slept little the night before, not more than three hours. We were very much refreshed by a good long halt for dinner.

Gen. Potter was anxious to take Sumter before dark. We advanced up the road to within about three miles of the place to a cross-road, the plan of attack was for the White Brigade to attack in front while we went to the Reb's left flank. We filed to the right & went considerable distance, & halted & a Skirmish line was pushed out & found a few pickets. We were to advance, when intelligence came which made Col. Hallowell counter-march his Brigade & join the White Brigade. We were greeted by the grateful news that the White Brigade had been very successful[,] had crossed the river & taken two pieces of Artillery & driven the enemy [back]. Part of the 56[th] N. Y. & 157[th] were sent to cross below the bridge by a foot path & get on the rebels right flank. This they did in excellent style & with small loss, their advance was so well executed that the Rebels left in hot haste leaving their dead & badly wounded in our hands [&] a few prisoners & two pieces of Artillery. Some of our forces crossed the bridge while it was burning[,] extinguished the fire & the rest crossed on the stringers, the Engineers were on hand & had boards laid on when we got up. Afterwards the cavalry & artillery came across.

As we went across or before it we came to the place where our contrabands were. It is almost incredible that so many could have joined us in so short a time, there were not less than 1000 or 1500 in No. Some of the Prisoners we got were old men, some little boys, the cradle & grave. One of our men said as we went along, there's a Soldier almost old enough to vote, referring to a 75 yr. older. The Rebels scattered & took to the woods & Swamps. We advanced into the town, crossing the W. & M. R. R. Capt. Tucker & Lt. [Stephen A.] Swails were sent to destroy Locomotives & cars & machine Shops, which they did effectually. The Rebels moved their machine Shops from Wilmington to Sumter & had not quite fitted their Shops up, & there were several locomotives here for repairs. There was fine, costly machinery here, which it will be hard for the Rebels to get replaced. We burned lots of cotton. We encamped in a large cultivated field near the centre of the city.— We went through the city singing "Year of Jubilee[?]" & "John Brown" etc. We came very near capturing the whole Rebel force which numbered about

500. Had our Brigade been sent to the Rebel left earlier so as to have got on their flank about the time the attack was made in front we would have bagged them all. They lost several officers—I am alone to night, as Tucker's stopping at the Depot.

On the 10th sent the Thirty-second U. S. Colored Troops up the Manchester and Wilmington road to Maysville to destroy a train of cars and the railroad bridges. Sent the One hundred and second U. S. Colored Troops about three miles south on the same road to destroy bridges. Both detachments were successful and returned to Sumterville at night.

April 10th Slept soundly last night, tho' it rained some. Was very tired last night as we had gone twenty miles before we turned in— To day we have been resting, tho the Cavalry have been to Manchester[,] the termination of the road & burned the Depot & a train of Cars— The 32nd U. S. C. T. went out by another road & burned a long Bridge. I went along the principal Street of the place to day & saw the cleaning out the Soldiers had made. The Stores had been entered, Safes broken open, stores rifled. There was quite a no. of Drug Stores in Sumter, many more I should judge than the size of the place warranted—they were nice large Stores, well supplied. There was the greatest conglomeration of Stuff & all Sorts of Smells. Medical & other Books were all thrown down together in a confused mass. One of the men got a Sole Leather valise or trunk from one of these Stores & gave it to me. It was just what I wanted. I found Several books which I wanted. Many of the Soldiers entered private houses & took what they wanted, but I could not hear of any of my men doing so. Sumter is a beautiful place, stylish people, refined[,] highly educated, Beautiful Libraries & furniture, showing the luxurious style of living the people had. I went down to the Depot & saw quite a quantity of commissary's Stores abandoned, which are to be issued to our troops. All our rations were issued to day, two days & we have to wait for communication with Steamers before we can get more. Among the Rebel Rations are Pea-nuts! Several Bags were given to each of our Cos. Captain Tucker had charge of issuing the Rations.

Some of our officers got things of great value. [Capt. Charles G.] Chipman found a lot of Shoes, a Sword, fine Dressing-case, &c.— Tucker got a blue silk Flag, belonging to the Marion men of Combahee. A large Palmetto tree in the centre & a half moon in one corner—it said "Pototaligo Oct. 1862" & underneath "Nihil Despondere." This represented or was given in honor of [Gen. Ormsby M.] Mitchell's defeat on Graham's Neck in '62.

Tucker got some nice China crockery. [Daniel G.] Spear & Rogers got Silver ware, clothing[,] books & the former an artist's Sketch Book—Spear gave me several books of the finest description, of great value to me if I am fortunate enough to get them home. A good many fine Animals were obtained here. It has been splendid to have so nice a rest to day. We needed it, as we had marched at least 95 miles in five days— I am on guard to night. I never saw such a quiet town. Several of the citizens have asked officers to sleep in their homes for protection. [Edward B.] Emerson & Tucker are at houses to night. The men are not half so Secesh as the women—many of them believe that the confederacy is on the eve of establishing Independence. There is a confederate Hospital here, with a no. of Soldiers & Officers sick & wounded. Some of them were well enough to go & fight us then run away & get into bed again when we entered the town— We heard here that Lee had made an unsuccessful attempt on Grant's lines & that Grant had followed up this failure by breaking Lee's lines & taking Petersburg & Richmond, also news came of the taking of Selma[,] Montgomery & Mobile. Potter fired a salute from the captured guns. . . in honor of the victory. Lee & Johns[t]on are Said to have formed a junction & are about to invade the North. May their Invasion prove their ruin. We are extremely anxious to hear reliable news from the North.

On the 11th started at 6:30 a. m. marching southwest through Manchester and camped at the Singleton plantation on the Statesburg road. Sent the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers to Wateree Junction, where they destroyed 8 steam-engines and 50 box-cars; they rejoined the command at daylight on the 12th. Their casualties were: wounded, 1 officer (Second Lieut. S. A. Swails) and 2 enlisted men.

April 11th Our regiment & my co. in the advance to day. We proceeded north a short distance, then west & took the road to Manchester, we marched slowly at first, but from nine o'clock we went very rapidly with no more than one or two halts before dinner. We made at least twelve miles before our noon halt. The day was warm & the country had little water so we were hot & tired, but were very much refreshed by a good long halt. The country has been fine to day, but a little more sandy. Plenty of provisions are found, & animals & Poultry— After Dinner, we marched two or three miles & arrived at what was Manchester Depot, where our Cavalry had destroyed the train & depot the day before. The main column halted here, while our regiment was sent to destroy Some Bridges & cars supposed to be on the R. R. Seven miles away. We marched on the sleepers with our tired feet. We had but one Short rest in the whole seven miles. We came to a bend in

the R. R. turning to the west then another to the N. W., then another North. The W. & M. R. R. ends at Manchester and at a point seven miles from M. it bends to the north & runs to Camden & to the West & runs to Columbia. Just before we came to the last bend, we saw that the Rebels [who] had been recently repairing the road were building a new turn out & turn table & were getting a double track in one place. We reached this about dusk & were just turning the bend when we saw a locomotive, which had got up Steam. Good Shots were sent to the front & fired, then we all charged & rushed over a tressle Bridge to the Cars. What Rebels there were left & we had the great satisfaction of capturing Five Locomotives & thirteen cars. My Co. & F. were sent to guard the train in the rear while the train was got off. Lt. Swails was hit by a shot from one of our men, he having got too far ahead. Part of the regiment was sent to destroy the extensive tressle Bridge over the Wateree. A Contraband came in & told us there was another train about a mile farther up the Bridge, so Col. Hooper sent me with my co. to destroy it, but afterwards thought he wanted the train run down. So sent Capt. Tucker with me as he understood how to run a train. We went over this tressle bridge, forty ft. high in some places, stepping from sleeper to sleeper. It was tiresome to one[']s head & eyes, as we had to look down so much lest we should make a mis-step which would be about the ruin of us. We went two miles or more before we came to the train, which consisted of two Locomotives & 35 Cars, we got up Steam & ran it down. The fires on the Tressle Bridge were put out & we ran over the Bridge. It was very dangerous as the train was heavy & the rails snapped off in some places where they had been burned, but we kept on. Corp. Nol. [Charles Noe] of my co. fell from a car clear to the bottom of the tressle bridge hurting himself considerably—

We joined all the trains together making a train of Seven Locomotives & 48 Cars[,] a long train. The train Tucker & I got was loaded partly with R. R. Iron & Spikes & Glass. The Engines[,] many of them[,] were in poor repair & we did not get them a[-]going 'till morning, & then we had to run the train down in three parts & set fire to some of the cars where we were. We attempted too much. We wanted to run the whole train to Manchester & destroy it there, but the first train which went down did not get more than half way before a pipe of the Locomotive burst & the train had to be fired, so all the Cars & Engines had to be destroyed at that point. One Tressle Bridge was destroyed & part of another.

It was a great mistake not running the whole train back a mile on the high bridge & setting fire to it, as the cars would have set fire to

the bridge, & the engines effectually destroyed & been dropped into the water. As it was they were destroyed so that they can't be repaired for months & I hope that [by then] Peace will come to us again.

On the 12th the Thirty-second U. S. Colored Troops were sent to Wright's Bluff on the Santee River, distance about twenty-five miles, in charge of contrabands, and with orders to return with rations for the command.

April 12[th] We arrived back at camp about 8 o'clock, having been walking & working hard more than 24 hours & having but one meal. I don't think I ever did so hard a day's work in my life. We made about 25 miles yesterday— We have marched 120 miles in one week & rested one day in that time so we have marched 120 miles in Six marching days—

We went about five miles this morning & went into Camp. I am almost exhausted with want of sleep & food. We have an almost incalculable no. of contrabands, there are not less than 2500 of them. The 32[nd] U. S. C. T. has been sent to the Santee with the contrabands[,] they are getting too many for us to guard. The 32nd is to escort the wagon train back. We are out of Rations, & are to live on the country several days until the 32[nd] gets back[,] probably day after tomorrow. They will have a hard march of 50 miles & the day is hot to day— We are on the Camden road now. I bought a fine Glass (telescope) to day of one of my men. I lay down in the sun & got a short nap & after dinner slept till dusk & turned in after Supper & slept till morning— I was extremely tired & was thankful that we did not have to march. Lt. Spear was sent to forage for the Regiment and brot in considerable provisions.—

April 13th Has been quiet, one or two regiments have been out & find the Rebels thick around us, 5000 are reported between us & Camden. If so, we had better be getting back to Georgetown. We are very near Columbia, not more than 50 miles & we are halting with our small force in the heart of S. C. Condensed cheek—our confidence carries us farther than our numbers. Have been reading[,] resting & sleeping to day & feel tip top—& ready for more walking any time— A Party of foragers went out to day & got considerable Provisions & Booty—[Lt. Charles O.] Hallett got a Splendid Trunk— We are living splendidly with no expense to us. Poultry, Honey, Potatoes, Corn Bread[,] Molasses, &c— Rogers & Swails went back to Georgetown. Contrabands came in to us by the hundreds to day.

Lieut. [Robert R.] Newell[,] who went to the Santee with the 32 [nd], arrived back last night with dispatches. The train reached the

Santee this noon. The wagon train was loading & is expected here to morrow night—the contrabands were loading— This has been a quiet[,] peaceful day— A mule has been furnished the officers of each co.

The men have got all sorts of musical Instruments, and Keep the Camp lively— There have been acts of vandalism committed by white & black soldiers. People of Sumter tell of the worse than vandalism of Sherman's men at Columbia. I want to be away from such Scenes. Some of the Sumter people have fled from Shells at Charleston only to be robbed by Sherman, & fled from Columbia, because they believed Sumter secure only to lose their last to us. Some of the wealthiest families of Charleston are now at Sumter with barely enough for support.

April 14th Four years ago today the Stars & Stripes were lowered at Fort Sumter & Maj. Anderson marched out as Prisoner of War—as my man Jones says, What has happened to the country & especially to the South since then “Sets a man thinking many a way—” The great[,] great Emancipation of hundreds of thousands of Slaves, the advance of Freedom & liberal Ideas, our Success in arms are very encouraging & lead us to hope for Speedy Peace.

To day we received Some Gen. orders of the War Dept. relative to the raising of the original Flag of Maj. Anderson on Fort Sumter by the Maj. now Brev. Maj. Gen. A Public address by Rev. H. W. Beecher &c. Wish I could be there. We have been waiting for the Rations & 32nd U. S. C. T. to come up from the Santee all day— This morning there was an Inspection to find out what Stuff our men had taken from homes. Instances of vandalism are reported of money & Gold & Silver being demanded of defenceless Women. Some Silver was found. Late this afternoon, twenty or thirty Rebel Cavalry Came down on our Pickets[,] but were driven back after exchanging a number of Shots. The right wing of the Regiment was sent out about two miles, but failed to discern any traces of them. There is a tremendous fire in a N. E. direction, which I can't account for. Just as we came in to night from our Scout, the wagon train came in & Rations are issuing now. There are numerous reports about a heavy Rebel force in the direction of Camden. Col. Chipman is at Nelson's Ferry on the Santee looking for [Gen. Alfred S.] Hartwell who is said to be on an Expedition, but we can learn nothing definite of movements—the 32nd Regt. did not get up with the wagon train which was escorted by the cavalry—

At 2 p. m. on the 15th the Thirty-second U. S. Colored Troops returned and at 3 o'clock the march was resumed. We skirmished with the enemy till dark and then marched in a northeasterly direction till midnight and camped near Jennings' Swamp.

April 15th Fell in early in the morning & waited about without doing any thing until about two o'clock when the 32d arrived from the Santee. The Rebels Showed themselves in large Squads of cavalry to day. So the 25[th] O[hio] were sent out & Skirmished & had four wounded almost on the first Shot. When the 32d came up the whole column fell in & advanced a little beyond where we went scouting the night before— Here quite a Skirmish took place. We passed the first Brigade & filed to the right to flank the Reb. Skirmish line but it fell back before we could accomplish the object. We had quite a sharp Skirmish which lasted 'till dark. We pushed the Rebs back & turned Sharp off to the E. N. E. & Walked rapidly five miles, then felt our ground slowly till 12 or one when we went into camp being tired & sleepy. Made about 12 miles.

On the 16th started at 7:30 a. m.; country very rolling; passed Bradford Springs at noon; skirmished all the afternoon, but it did not retard the march; camped at sundown about twelve miles from Camden.

April 16th Sunday again & tho' it has been a week to day since we entered Sumterville, yet to day we are within seven miles from it. We Started about Seven this morn—our regt. 3d in the Brigade which was in advance. We are making a detour to day to avoid works & swamps on the road to Camden. We have been going in a general N. W. direction to day. The road has been red brick color. The country has been remarkably hilly, the roads however are in splendid condition, made ten miles before dinner. I heard this morning that we took to the Santee 3200 Contrabands & we have hundreds more. Many have come in to day. It is a joyful sight to see families & squads strolling across the fields to join their Liberators. They are welcome & seem to appreciate their freedom. One told me to day that Beauregard went over to the Union side at Kinston[,] N. C.[,] thinking the Confederacy played out.

We advanced only two or three miles this afternoon still keeping on the high table land. Skirmishing commenced soon after dinner. No one was hit on our side. The Rebels left one dead & we took several Prisoners. Encamped at Sunset, having made 12 miles. Conflicting rumors come of the force at Camden. It is estimated from 1 to 5000.

On the 17th started at 6 a. m., and marched to Camden without serious opposition, reaching that point at 6 p. m. On the 18th left Camden at 7 a. m., taking the Statesburg road; found the enemy in force at Boykin's Mill. The Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers and One hundred and second U. S. Colored Troops succeeded in flanking the enemy on our right, and the Thirty-second U. S. Colored Troops, aided by the

First Brigade, were pushed vigorously forward on the center and drove the enemy from their position.

Total casualties in Second Brigade: Killed, 1 officer (First Lieut. E. L. Stevens, Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers) and 1 enlisted man; wounded, 20 enlisted men. About dark we were joined by Col. H. L. Chipman, with the right wing of the One hundred and second U. S. Colored Troops, he having forced his way through the country from Wright's Bluff with a loss of killed, 1 enlisted man; wounded, 1 officer (Lieutenant Powers) and five enlisted men.

On the 19th resumed the march at 6 a. m.; skirmished all day with loss of—killed, 1 enlisted man; wounded, 4 enlisted men. The enemy made a stand at Rafting Creek, but were soon flanked out of their position by the One hundred and second U. S. Colored Troops and driven in confusion through Statesburg by the whole division. We met with no resistance after leaving Statesburg and camped at Singleton's plantation. The Thirty-second U. S. Colored Troops marched down the Camden Branch Railroad without much resistance. On the 20th the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers marched to Middleton Depot and destroyed fifteen steam-engines and a large number of box-cars. On the 21st left Singleton's at 5:30 a. m., taking the Santee road. While near Governor [John Lawrence] Manning's plantation ["Milford"] we were notified of an armistice between General Sherman and the rebel General Johnston. The rest of the march to Georgetown was uninterrupted. We kept to the main road and reached Georgetown at 4 p. m. on the 25th.

During the whole march the troops were in perfectly good spirits, and both officers and enlisted men carried out instructions with energy and cheerfulness.

Enclosed is a nominal list of the casualties during the expedition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. N. HALLOWELL,

Colonel Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers, Commanding Second Brigade, Provisional Division.