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From the Siege of Petersburg to Appomattox recollection of lines and deeds of the 14th S.C. Regiment and particularly Company F of that Regiment. Elliotts Brigade was camped north of Appomattox River when a cavalry raid by our Yankee caused quite a scare to the good people of Petersburg they were almost in the city inside the Confederate lines into Elliotts Brigade was hurried to the City where we was marching up one of the Residence Streets + was halted to find out some more news of our Cavalry where abouts while there a Lady was out on the side walk in front of a Brick residence with a Confederate battle flag with inscription of several hard fought and victorious battles

1 From the Siege of Petersburg to Appomattox recollection of Senes and deeds of the 18 S. C. Regiment and particular Company F of that Regiment.

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2 for our Boys. and crying out Save our City: Save our City: as I was alwys of a Sympathetic nature I turn to the Lady & said your City is Safe we are here. the Lady beleaved what I told her. Calmed down and then her warm Southern hart beat in Sympathy for the Soldier of our South Land and asked what can I do for you I had Co F morning report book Stuck in the busom of my jackett of Gray. Thinking that verry likely we would have Some work to do pretty Soon I gave her Company F Morning Report book and asked her to Keep the Same untill I call for it. and I will Say to the Survivors of Company F that I never called for that book. and I am Satisfied if that good Lady is a live She has old Co F Book and its in good hands but O how I would like to hve it

3 and call the old Roll over again

Soon we found out it was only a cavaldry Scare. and then the comd attention

was given

3
Cont.

from our hero William H. Wallace to forward march we went out to meet Genl Smith Butler & Hancocks forces. we met the Enemy and he was ours for about four or five days it was a continuous fight never was troops more sucesfull 10,000 under Boregard whiped back I believe history Says 67,000 men for almost a week without ever being releaved from duty it was either fight or work all the time and So fare as I know our lines was only broken twice but reestablish each time with Elliott Brigade never was the 18 driven from her position up to the crater or blow up

4 After fighting continus for Several days and working at night Elliotts Brigade was ordered to build a fort one night. we had five Regt. 17-18-22-26 and Holcome Legion and with promise if we did a good night work we Should rest next day of cours we thought we would rest next day sure so we few at the work in earnest and done fine nights work. Next morn just at the gray dawn of day awe heard a clatter of musketry and a cheer and all was Still again we paid but little attintion but Soon we Saw a courier comeing at full Speed asked for Genl Elliott and told him Genl Wise Virginia Brigade had been Surprised and their lines taken from them they was comeing out helter Skelter a perfect Stampeed Genl Elliott ordered to bring his Brigade up at once Stop the yank retak or establish new line off we went and nothing pleased Genl Stepen Elliott better than a fight he was fast climing the ladder of Promotion

5 on the hill in our front a falquier Va Battery was taking a position and Soon open fire on the advancing lines of Blue coats. Asa Evans our adgitant general rode a head of the Brigade up the hill fare enough to See the colums of Yankees whirled his horse came back to Genl Elliott and Said Genl the Devils are comeing Genl E gave the order to close

5 up my men we are what can meet them as he passed Company F he discovered
Cont. we had a man under arrest and inquired the cause we told him Desersion.
he asked Mr. Messer who was the man under arrest if he would go in too
the fight and do his duty as a good Soldier if he would release him
Mr. Messer told him he would So we gave him a gun and Mr. Messer

6 done as he had promised but that night Mr. Messer Skipped us again
I never Saw Mr. Messer any more untill after the War. when we got
to where that Splendid Battery was at the 18th was placed by it Side.
I remember what Some of the Boys Said for God Sake do not leave the
Battery they had never had a Regt to Stay by them to the last so we
told them to rest easy we will Stay by you and So we did. we made
a new line across the broken line and had Shovels and picks to do it
with and we went in the ground like gopers. or just like we was fresh
from a night rest. we had Something verry purswasive in our front
Several well directed Canons that it look like they could nock down
our fresh works as fast as we could throw it up we was not the least
bit tired as we hadden been doing nothing but fighting Yankees and
building works night and day for about four days & nights

7 After all we whiped them evry time they came and that was several times
that day and built up our line of work too if I ever did enjoyed a
days fight it was that day for after the first charge and we defeited
them I knew we had them the open space in our front must have been
three hundred yards and know troops can charge a cross an open Space
of that distance and whip a line of well discipline troops behind works.

7 The last charge that was made that day was just before Sun Set. They
Cont. came in Splended order and done fine work but our Battery and Elliott
Brigade was too much for them the lines oblique to our left and con-
tinued to come on they Struck Genl Wises Brigade who was scared to
death that morning

8 and routed the Va again I saw a color bearer whip his colores aroun
his Color Staff and beat Some of Wise men over their heads. all praise
to that Yank as a Soldier. we were order by Genl Elliott to leave
one man in our ditches for evry fifteen Steps and for that man to walk
too and frow that distance to load and shoot as fast as he could. The
rest of us to come down under the hill in front of the yankees Then
holding our line after the line of battle was formed we was then given
but one order and that was to take the line of our breast works then
occupied by Mr Yank So we obeyed orders and Mr Yankee went from whence
he came part of them failed to go This was just at dusk. we charge
where we had a battery they turned our guns on us. when we got close
to the guns I Saw the Yankees leaving and by an

9 accident I was a little in front of Co F. Seeing there was no danger
I Sprang forward mounted one of the canons wave my old hat ove my head
and Shouted out come on Co.F we have got her again meaning the guns.
Just at that moment I Saw Some one move at the brest works quicker
than a thought I lit off on the opposite Side of my captured gun Scared
nearly to death Thinking the man was going to Shoot me. in the mean
time I demanded his Surrender he Said yess yess I Surrender. upon
examination I found the man had on Confederate clothing I asked for
an explination. the Irishman as he was. Said when he joined that Battery

9 they Swore him to die by
Cont.

10 his guns never to leave them and he Said when the Yankees got them he
Staid with them and when we retaken them he Sill Staid and he was ging
to abide by his Oath the fight was over for that day
next morning we began our old trad as fighting had become a trade and
we had learned it pretty well Genl Boregard official official Shows
we killed and wounded nearly 10,000 and our lost was 1000 he Said nine
to one next evening Genl Longstreets Corps came over and Bush Rod
Johnson Division had one nights Rest over in Sleepy hollow by the Ice
howses The Boys all know where that at

11 in being releaved by Longstreets comand it So happen that J Q Carpenter
old company or a part of them. Capt J. B. Lyle, Tates, Godelocks, Little-
john and others I was glad to See the Boys for if troops ever kneeded
a rest we Surely did I was a member of Carpenters Company the first
year of the war. Capt J Q Carpenter Liuts F G Latham P O Lemmons S
S Ross were the officers We volunteered our Services to S.C. no other
State out at that time. after Va. Seceded we we Revolunteered our unex-
pired time to the Confederacy went to Va. 1st June 1861 we left the
trenches in good hands and went out for a nights rest. if you had of
had a Snap Shot of our Ridge next morning it would be a commic picture
Sure. when I woke up the Sun was an hour or too high and the Boys many
of them Sound a Sleep. lying in evry imaginally Shape Some a Stride
of a tree or a bush Some lying with

12 their body against any thing to keep them from rolling down the hill. next day we went back to the trenches and there we staid untill the 24 of March 1865 with one exception nothing verry Startling untill the 30 of July when the mine was Sprung. Pigram Battery of Va. troops 18 and 22 South Carolina Redgments was the Sufferers four companys of 22 S C Regiment and four companys of the 18 S C Regiment was blown up and those 8 company of the two Regments and the four gun battery of Pigrams men was almost anihilated I think Company F 18 S.C.V. which was the fourth company from the right of our Regiment. and the right of our Regt rested on the left of the battery had 28 or 29 men for duty Dock Pridmore was company cook as no cooking could be done in the trenches at that particular point being too nere the Enemy he was away and I think two of the other men had been detailed to go for water leaving 26 present

13 at the time of the Springing of the mine. I was blown up and fell on a rear line that had been wisely construct expecting this blow up this line was considerable higher than the front line & fell upon that portion of this line which gave a plain view to the Enemy I was lying on the Side next to the yank of this new line in rere of our front line rubbing my legs thinking I was pretty badley hurt but when they pored a volley of minnie balls in to the dirt all around me I decided that I was not so badley hurt after all. So I made my way over behind the line Stopping in the ditch at a corner of the works. Soon I heard the command Surrender and nothing on eart Scared me worse I Stop Short my rubbing of my limbs

13 look up and Saw a line of blue coats coming at me beyonetts fixed
Cont. and about 10 or fifteen feet away

14 there is no use to ask if I was Scared I made one of those Dan Patch
movement and reach the mane line and hollowed to a few of 18 Regt and
the 17 South Carolina Redgement to Shoot those fellows down Col. Mc-
Master Said no they are reinforcement I hollowed to Some one to give
me a gun and about that time the yank demanded our Surrender the orde
was given to Shoot them down that was quickley done and then they came
from the front on top and into our lines Some of them Saying no quaters
and then the mixing began in earnest it was the bloddiest little affar
I ever got intoo there was no man had time to Smoke a pipe leasurely
for a Short time at least I could note I Saw Some narrow escapes there
that day I Saw a noncommission officer of Co G just ready to Strike
a yankee in the head with the but of his gun

15 when another blue coat comerid fired and kill Co G man and Save his
friend. Genl Elliott with Col Smith 26 South Carolina Regt came up
about the time the mele was over got out of our breastwork on the
Side towards Petersburg ordered Col Smith with his Regiment to follow
they only went a few paces to the rere untill I Saw the Genl was Shot
what few had gotten out dropped back into the trenches. by orders from
Col McMaster we gave up our lines down to the turn in our work where
W. L. Goudelock was wounded a short time after this battle. just before
we got to this Sudden turn in our works there was Some ditches that
made to the rere for a few yards in front of one of those

16 I saw Sergt Stout Noland on top of our mane line waving his gun or his hat and begging the men not to give up our line of works--there was no necessity of ever giving up one inch of the line and if Genl Elliott had not been Shot we would of held them. the fight was over and the victory won when that portion of the line was given up. I asked Stout Noland to get down and not expose himself in no such manner but he refuse to come down I caught hold of Sout. give him a pull backwards and at the Same time a minnie ball kissed him on the lip and I dare Say that kiss is as impressive as any Noland ever recive from his wife or babies. I hope Noland is Still alive and doing well. I do not know whether Noland ought to thank me or blame me for the act

17 he might have been Shot through the head if I had not of pulled him back or I may have pulled him in the way however it was war times and we will let it go. This little back ditch I drifted intoo and one of Co F men followed me. I got a fine position behind an embankment of dirt laid down the man of Co F loaded his and my guns and I did the Shooting when I Saw a yank I tried to get him and when I Saw no yankee I Shot and tried to cut off the flag Staff of Some fags they had on that rere line of ours. I did not Succeed in bringing down any of their Colors I wish I could remember who did the loading of those guns may be he could tell how many Shots was fired at that time. I know my right Shoulder and arm almost to my elbo was as black as my old hat. from the effects of those enfields

18 There was a good many hapnings at this Sudden bend in our works. just before this fight a week or so Lieut. D. B. Free was telling me Some big Story I was lying on my blankett and on my back when Belt as we familially call him finished. I gave Some big ha has. and a bullett I caught in my left cheek at 2d battle of Manassas droped through the roof of my mouth in too my throat. You boys have Seen an old rooster choked Slinging his head for dear life I was on my allfores in a giffey mimican the rooster. Soon I coughfed it up. I have it yet. We have three of the yankee bals that lodged in our family out of eight hits. a lucky Set of Boys were we not. I was one out of 26 that was blown up that went through the fight the two that had gone after water was in the fight and may be one or two others

19 while telling of Lieut Frees Storys I want to tell one more. our Brigade was Sent to Genl Joseph E Johnson at Jackson Miss to aid in releacing Genl Pemberton and his army from Vicksburg we fooled round at Jackson So long when we got near Big black creek the Saddest word in the English language was told us Too Late that was the 6. Vicksburg Surrendered on the 4 of July. I have been mad at Genl Johnson and Genl Pemberton ever Since. had Genl T. J. Jackson ben alive and he and Bedford Forrest been in command of those Armies respectfully Genl Grant could not of lasted 48 hours The Surrender of that place under the condition of our two ammys being in front and rear of Genl Grant was a disgrace to the Confederacy

20 the march back to Jackson was a hard one as all the Boys will tell you. while we were in the trenches at Jackson Miss--a Sharpshooter got up in a two story house and Shot from a little garrett window wounding three men with the same ball. we were all sitting down on a little Step that we got upon to Shoot from that Step made us high enough to see over the breastworks well. we were sitting side by side the man on Capt Goodman Jeffries left was shot in the head Capt Jefferies shot through the hand missed me and shot my Brother through the leg. that is what I call getting the Boys out of the way pretty fast three with one minnie ball that shot gave Capt Jefferies & Brother a fine furlow W. L. Goudelock taken command of Co F

21 And in a night or two we were sent out in front of our works on picket and by some means our Co was never ordered in next morning after sun up the Sharpshooters made our discovery their picket line was a short distance in our front we had no rifle pits as they were called. and the old Yanks sure had a picknick. Times began to get very warm for Co F. no other Co out there but ours. and the oftener they shot the sccarder I got. and I was pleading with Lieut Goudey to order us back. he insisted he had no orders to take us back although the whole picket line except his Co had been drawn in. Goudy was correct about having no orders but I was persistent

22 in my argument to go back Goudey decided he had better be court marshald

22 and cashierd than to have himself and all of Co F killed and there
Cont. was no alternative but a Surrender or a complete kill out. and them
minnie balls was awfull convincing to me that I was right. So Lieut
Goude-lock gave the order to retreat. the Boys Sprang to their feet
faced about and went for our breastwork Lieut D. B. Free Said when
he got up faced a bout the Yankees pored a volley at us and by the time
he got a good Start to run there was a minnie ball about 18 inches of
his back just where his Suspenders crossed or Should have crossed provided
he had of had them all of you Boys know how a bumble bee goes Shut
up in a holley hawk blossom

23 he says that ball Sang that whining Song the Same distance behind him
for about one hundred yards and just as he jumped in too our line of
breast works that Identical minie ball Switched over his head. A Soldier
that can out run a minnie ball one hundred yards with only eighteen
inches to Start. I call him pretty Swift on foot. I have this to Say
if Lieut. Belt Free beet me back to our lines on that race he just got
that much the Start of me for let me tell you I was Swift on foot when
the yanks was after me I did not allow any man to pass me going from
them. we left for Va and you never Saw a prouder Brigade Some of the
Colonels gave their men

24 orders to Shake the verry dust off of their feet on our return home
the 18 Regt had a run of the train we were on Kill and wounded Several.
A G Bentley was caught a cross the face with a Slat of timber running
lengthwise with the box car we were in I was sitting in the door of
the box car when the cars left the track I made a leap just cleared
the ends of the cross ties. I did not nock a hole in the ground but
hit it awfull hard the cars topple over on their Sides I heard Grif
Bentley hollow I Sprang in too the car. and a Negro Boy Cite Seeing

24 the piece of timber on Mr. A G Bentley's face grabbed up an ax gave it
Cont. a lick that was almost death to Bentley although the act was intended
as an act of kindness I hollered at Clite to hold not to make another
lick with his ax

25 untill ordered to do so I got a gun and one of the other Boys got him
one too and we crossed lifted the piece off of Bentley and Clite cut
the plank intoo. took him out the end of his nose resting against his
forehead Griff was not verry goodlooking but Saved. I never Saw Bentley
after the war untill I met him in Mempis at the National Reunion when
we found each other we clasped hands and the first word Griff Said point-
ing to his nose. Smith do you See my old nose. there were due drops
in our Eyes. I am mity glad the old Boy is Still a live and doing well.
A G Bentley being Safe I began to cast around to See who else was hurt

26 I crossed to the opposite Side of the reck I Saw Lieut Goude-lock and
asked who was hurt he Said I cant find Wm Morehead who was a Brother
in law of his I ran along by the Side of the boxes as they lay on their
Sides Saw a hand sticking out from under one box car and hollered to
Lieut Goude-lock that Wm Morehead was killed. he had a peculiar short
stubby hand and I knew the hand at first glance his remains was taken
out and the body taken charge of This trip to Miss I did not intend
to Say any thing about if it had not of been for Belts and the minnie
ball yarn. back to the trenches nere the crater. where the bursting
of the yankee Shells was always manotinous. While we were north or

26 west of the Spring branch one day the yanks tossing their Shells over
Cont. and Sometimes uncomfortable close one Struck the ground in rere of our

27 about thirty or forty yards bursted and a piece from the Shell came
direct towa our line of works. Sam Porter was Sitting against a post
that helt the logs to their places and up against which the dirt from
the trenches was heaped against for our Safty I hollowed to him look
look I beleave it would hit Porter. I grab him in the colar of his
coat gave him a Sudden jerk from his position and the fragment of Shell
about Six inches in length Spent its Force against the post that Sam
Porter was resting against I always called that act a Stitch in time
for Sam I have been telling you about rather Sad times now I want
to tell you about the fine raid on them big Pensylvanie Beevs our Grand
and Glorious old Genl Wade Hampton made when

28 we Boys was actually beginning to feel a little lank about the craw
and that as rough a dish as a camp kittle full of fat beef would not
turn our Stomacks Hampton and his Boys went behind the yankee lines
and Scooped in I beleave history Says twenty eight hundred beevs
next morning Dock Pridmore came in with his camp kittle with a Smile
all over his face Saying Boys I got you a Sure enough breakfast this
morn Dock was proud and we were prouder and what a jubelee we had
after breakfast was Served I was feeling awfull good I hollowed over
to the Yankee line we was in Seventy five yards of each other. I Said
hellow Yank The answer came back hay Johnnie what will you have I
Said come over and have Some beef Stake his reply was are damn you
eat it you have had any for a long time

29 and as I was of rather cheerfull disposition I enjoyed the answer but I enjoyed my beef better. Genl Walker was in command of our Brigade now we had moved back nere this Sudden turn in our lines. One of Company G men got wounded on the pickett line we changed releafs of pickett at night as our lines was in plain view of each other and any passing in daytime was a targett for the Yankees. Lieut Warren Pursley Cousin was the man wounded he procured a litter and asked for three men to volunteer to go down to this pickett line after the wounded man he got two out of his company this was a daylight and a hazardous undertaking He and I was warm friends he came to me told his Story and asked me to

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inserted here is an un-numbered page on a different size of paper that tells more about the beef Wade Hampton acquired:

After Genl Wade Hampon had so bountfully supplied us with good fat Beef for a Short time on the 25 of Dec 1864 the good Ladies of Va sent to all of Genl Lees army a find Christmas dinner meets of all kind that could be had at that Stage of the war. we had beef Hog mutton Kid chicken turkey duck goose and Lieut Jim Good of Co G and mysls was chosen to divid for the 18 S C Regment, to each company in proportion to number of men presnt for duty we had plinty of bred to withe meats for one days ration the old dominion F F V Ladies was true to the verry last no truer loyal Hospitable Ladies never live & did more for a just cause always willing and ready to aid a Suthern Soldier what

I did for them and what little blood I lost in this Grand Old State
run from my vanes as freely as the waters of James or Appomattox
that run by the besieged citys of Richmond and Petersburg. I have
Stated to you that Genls Ransom N C Genl Wallace S C Genl Gracys
Ala and Genl Wises Va composed Genl Bushrod Johnson Division one
day when the North Carolina troops was passing the Va troops Some
one of the Vas asked of Genl Ransome had any tar for Sale the
old tar heel Soldier said no we are out the Va asked how did that
hapened and the reply was they had Sol it all to Genl Wise to stick
his Brigade to the ditches

* * * * *

30 go with him after his friend I agreed to be one of four we jumped
over the work and run for the pickett line found the man badly wounded
in the head the old yanks gave us a hot reception we placed the wounded
man on the litter cralled along on our alfores Surveying the ground
in order to get just as close to our line as we could. we had now realised
the great danger of four men one to each corner of the litter with a
wounded man on Same. what a group and how nice a target we would be
for Mr. Yank. when the word was given each one litter in hand Sprang
to our feet a clatter of Small armes, a clene miss to all. for dear
life we went for our works and to the credit of the Boys in blue they
Saw what we were doing and never Shot at us any more

31 now for an outing from the trenches our line was stormed and taken north of Appomattox, Clays farm I think Genl Walker in command we pulled out for the sene. when we got there we met up with W. L. Lipscomb and quite a number of our home Boys after the usual compliments and enquirys of Home folks evry thing quiet being well acquaintid I bigin to ask why we were brought over there and where were their breast works. Billey Cap told me pointing to thick wood on the opposite Side of the field that they were down there thinking they was reserves as they had no brest works I asked Billey what troops was in them and Cap Said the D__ Yankees. I wanted to know how come Yankees in our

32works he told me they had overpowered them and taken them it tickle me but it riled Billey he insisted we would catch it before we got them back. Billey got his ugly wound in the face that evening and our old Brigade got back our lines without a bobble just before we Started in to the charge a fine Soldier a quiet nice man and a gentleman Jo Mullinax came to me and Said Smith I will be killed in this battle I hooted at the ideah of a man knowing when he would be killed in battle he Said I am going in the fight but its my last. by the time our line was half across the field Some of the Boys Said Lipscomb is killed I Said no not I but Joe Mullinax. I was by Joes Side when he fell. never saw him any more. how sorry ever since Ive been that that gallant Soldier was not keped out that evening fight

33 the lines are taken our company halts at the woods across an old country road bushes awfull thick on either Side almost sutting in the old road Genl Walker wishes to drive the yankees from their line of works rides down this blind pathway to our Co F. and ask for volunteers to go down and locate the yankee line when I got back Saft from the trip with Lieut Warren Pursley after his cousin I Said then I would never volunteer any more but when it fell to my time I would do the best I could. So under that promise I did not offer my Service to the Genl he asked the Second time I hung my head the third time the Genl Said

34 I am going to have a Lieutenant and five men to go the Genl was on his horse could reach me with his Sword. I raised my head and looked him in the face with a Smile Seeing the attitude I was in Said Genl I will go five of F men Said we will go with you that was the number designated by Genl Walker So off we went and to my Surprise Genl Walker went with us. a Short distance down this old road I Said to Genl hold up I laid down on the ground and peeped under the bushes and we were in fifty yards of the Yankee line. I told him what I Saw he gave me orders to Stay where I was with the Little Squad of five and report to him if they made any move and he

35 he would go back and forward the Regt that was Genl Walker last charge he was wounded and I think died from wound. Several of our Co was captured among the number I think was John Estes whom I See from the Ledger is Still alive me and the little Squad never got a Scratch it paid to volunteer that time the Brigade was from that time on commanded

35 by Genl W. H. Wallace except the morning of the 9 of April Genl Wallace
Cont. was put in command of Genl. Bush Rod Johnson Division and put under
Genl John B. Gordon who commande Stone Wall Jackson Corps. after retaking

36 of the lines we went back in our old lines in front of Petersburg at
or near the Crater and taken up our old trade. Our lines was gradually
getting thinner duty a little heavier and our Soldiers becomeing dis-
courage at the outlook to illustrate numbers of our men began to go
blind after Sun down could not See from Sun to Sun and therefore had
to leave the trench for Safty owing to the great amount of Sleep they
lost and could not get as duty was So hard their eye Sight gave way
I remember Calling on my old friend Jake Pridmore to go on duty and
Jake was tired and Sleepy too. he Sid to me Smith is it my time I
Said yess Jake. and Jake had a peculiar way of Spitting So Jake Spit
and Said

37 I will be durn if it dont come mighty often Jake was a fine Soldier
and a warm friend of mine I wish Jake could live untill all of the
yankees would die I mean those drawing penton he would be older that
Methusalem was. I will bet that one hundred and fifty years from now
(forty years Sinc the war closed) according to the pention Rolls there
will be as many pentioners from the war 61 to 65 on the Pention Rolls
as Genl Lee Surrendered arm Soldiers. I do not include wagon dogs and
boom proof men etc I mean Soldiers. I was gifted with a fine eye and
good ears

38 and did not have to leave the trenches. I got where I had to Sleep. So one night I made me a bed out of and back of our line. Stretch a blankett to keep the Slow pattering rain off of me while I Snoosed. I had to crall around to fix this bed. if you raised up you was verry likely to catch a minnie. at the head of this bed which was towards the line of works I folded a good U S blankett four or five time put it between my head and the Yankees. I let it Swing looseley to check the force of a ball if any come my way My brother Hiram was a new comer to the ditches Since wounded he had been in the commissary department and he protested Strong against my action I had the oil cloth & blankets

39 and he could do just as he pleased come or stay. So finally he cralled out and under the little ShelterStraitened out. pretty Soon one minnie hid my blankett curthud. a groan from my Brother I am Shot. I asked where in the head was his reply. I reached my hand over felt of his head could not find any hole or even blood So I told him he was not hurt but he Said he knew better and crall back in the ditch. I Spread myself out a little thinner if possable and went to dream land in a few minutes got a fine nights rest and next morn when we formed a line of battle an hour before day I crall back into

40 the ditch feeling almost like a new Soldier. I mention this to Show how badley we kneeded rest Lieut Foster killed in the blow up Lieut Free gonn Godelock on Genl Wallace Staff. our company was Stationed

40 at this Sudden angle in our line of works and Lieut Goudelock Strolled
Cont. in to the works from the Genls Quaters. naturally he came to where
his old company was at Co F. The Yankee line could be seen crossing
a little open Space in their works where a branch run through. Goudey
was anxious to See So he stepped behind a Small embankment of dirt thrown
up from one of the little rear ditches. I saw him and asked him to
get down from there for he would get Shot he Said I do not think they
See me I told

41 him to get down. he insisted he was Saft. Soon I Saw the dirt fly
up in front of his face. Lieut Goudelock went backward into the little
ditch. I picked him up bleeding and a bad wounded man. My timper got
the best of me for which I ask Goudys pardon forty years afterwards
for my conduct. and the little Doctor at the head of the Ravine also.
I do not know whether he remembers it or not but when I picked him up
I Said you blame fool I told you you would get Shot. he was a Special
friend of mind and is yet. I hated So much to See him hurt we made
our way for Dr. Wallace Thomps head quaters as he was our Save all

42 on the way back at the head of a hollow there was Station a young phys.
and a conecacious Gentleman. we Stopped and he looked at Goudeys wound
and Goudey insisted on the Drtor give him an honest opinion of the wound
he had received the young Dr did not want to express an opinion on Such
an examination as he could give there. Goudey press the question and
the young Dr told him he though the wound was mortal. I had Bill by
the arm pulled him round Said lets go to Dr. Thompson. that Dr hasnt
got sense enough to roll out a pill. for which remark I apoligize

42 he expressed my fears exactly. but that was no time for an honest expression
Cont. when we reached Dr. Thompson

43 the Same inquiry of Goudey was made and Dr. T Said Thats a good furlow
Bill turn to me and Said you can telegraph for Nancy, meaning Cousin
Nancy, Goudeys Wife. I did So She came and know one know better than
W. L. Goudelock that his wife Saved him life and no living man is more
gratefull than he after the wound had been dressed and Goudey laid
on his little bed then I began wanting to know of Dr. Thompson how about
the wound he Said it was verry dangerous and if the big artery in his
neck was scorched and when it got dry if it cracked and began to bleed
and no one to notify

44 him he would Soon bleed to death it happened, Cousin Nancy was there,
and Goudey is alive he recovered and returned to duty times grew worse
men Strong hart detrmine to conquer beginning to weacon. Some going
home without orders. Some going to the Yankees. the climax had been
reached. Something had to be done to Stop this disersion. Court Marshall
was in Session Some men who had persisted in going home been caught
maybe a time or two had been by cort marshall Sentence to be Shot and
Some one had the unpleasant task or duty to perform. an Army without
discipline is worse than no army at all. Obey all orders from your
Supperior is the true key note to Success

45 It fell upon the agitant genl to attend to this duty. the men were detailed guns loaded and given them and full instructions as to their duty Goudey ordered me to accompany him. on reaching the Spot designated found five men seated and tied down on their coffins blind folded one a Stripling of a Boy he was not to be Shot. the older men were to be made an example of. the Squad was halted and faced the doomed men the order given ready aim fire their heads dropped upon their busom life had flown and not a grone was heard. the young Boy was left sitting upon his coffin untouched

46 our Squadron was marched back and dismissed I do not know now what Regt or State they was from and but little was ever Said about it back nere this angle again Dock Pridmore came in early one night with our rations and had Spread down a blanket and the ration divided in too as many different portion as there was men the ordily Sargt ordered to turn his back and Some one with a ramrot would point to Some pile of the grub and ask whos is this and continue the operation untill each Soldier had his ration grub was So Scarce and men hard to Satisfy that manner of dividing was the most Satisfactory. we were jubilating a little too loud and Mr. Yankee from a mortar battery threw

47 two shells and quieted us down one of the Shells the first one dropped in our midst barely making an impress on the ground and bursted wounding Several of our company. Some mortally is my recol-

47
Cont.

lection the Second and last Shell fell a little Short Struck on top of our breastworks bursted throwing the dirt over upon us but did no harm It is no use to Say it restored order
Some time after that Genl Robert E. Lee and Some one came round in the front line. I thought it was Genl Gracy but never new for certain Just as they reach this angle Genl Lee fixed his field

48

Glasses and Steped upon the little Step we used to mak us high enough to See well evry thing in front that Step would raise a mans head and Shoulders above the works that much exposed to view by Mr. Yankee. whoever that officer was, he Saw the danger and placed himself by the Side of General Lee I was at that point Knowing the danger Genl Lee was in I Sprang at him and jerked both of these officers back in the ditch and by the time we set foot on the bottom of the ditch a volley of perhaps eight or ten minnie balls whised over our heads I Suppose eighteen twenty inches above us. I hollowed at Genl Lee. I Said Genl Lee no man can live at that point five minutes

49

the Genl evidently Saw I was much excited whilst he seam calm and sarine that was one thing wold express Genl Lee he did not know how danger it was at that point as well as those who Staid there all the time. Genl Lee evidently appreciated my interest in him and turn to me and Saluted me and Said I Thank you Sir I thank you. I offered to Show them where they could tak a view at the

49 yankee lines and be safe. Genl Lee Said no we will go on round
Cont. the lines and they marched off that was the only time I ever Saw
Genl Lee in the front lines on the 24 of March 1865 we bid the
old trenches good bie we had been

50 there more than nine long months in Sun Shine and rain hot and
cold. and when the weather was rainey roads bad Some days we
did not get anything to make any fires we Staid at our post all
the Same and did not blame anyone unless we would curse the teamsters.
the worst time I ever Saw in those ditches was a few days after
the fight at the crater the fight was July 30 - then the first
few days of August think of it four or five thousand dead man
in the hot Sun right at the edge of our works no armistes to buerry
for three days. there was Such an awfull Sench it look to me if
a Soldier had of had a good bat he could almost knocked the oak
into human flesh

51 now we find our old Brigade in front of the fort we call fort Stedman
I have heard the yankees called it fort hell. it Seam to me what
little time I Staid in there the yankee name was verry appropriate.
early in the night of Marc 24, 1865 we had orders to See that each
Soldier So arrange his paraphafanalier So that not a tin cup or
a canteen would make any noise after fixing our harness we crossed
over the works and bending low moved as Stelthily as possable untill
we reach near the Shiverdefries then make a dash tare down the
rails run over the pickett line and in

52 to the fort. nothing was more of a Surprise to the Yanks I do not remember of but one gun firing in our front. My: My: what a picknick we had that night. Sutler Shop plenty of ham and crackers paper envelopes blankets etc. I remember of joking one Irish prisoner about how completely and Successfully we had taken their lines. in answer to my jesting he Said one damn you. you will catch hell when morning come and we did. I under Stood there was to bee sixteen thousand confederates in the fight the next day but that was one of the unaccountables in war not a one come when day dawn Genl Grant had covered the Earth in front and in the ditches on either Side

53 with blue coats and there we was inside the yankee lines with just a handfull, and none to come. we had no protection all of the dirt had been Shoveled over in front no ditch like ours. Soon the artillery open. I remember Six of us was Setting down in plain view of a Battery we had no protection whatev I was Sitting down three others was too my left and two to my right, Say five or eight feet nearer the enemy. first Shot or too went wile no one hurt about the third Shot the Shell Struck the ground in about thirty feet in our front and bursted. I have Said it wounded five out of Six I may posable be mistaken but it wounded Several

54 and among the number was Lieut Warren Pursley of Company G York County. it just litterally tore one of his legs to peaces I jumped up whirled around no place to go too Sit down. but Soon we were

54 taking this Lieut to put him over the works next to our line.
Cont. I will tell you what that Lieut did and you can pass judgement upon him as to whether he was Second to any officer or private in the army of Northern Va which was the best army the Sun ever Shone upon either ancient or modern times with that leg Shivered as above describe he cralled back to our line dragging that leg over the rough ground a distance of three or four hundred yards and occasionally being Shot at by the enemy

55 the advance of the enemy began and the only Show for us was to get back to our lines and that look like madness. to Start a distance of three or four hundred yards not a Switch to protect you and being fired upon by three different lines of the Enemy each Side from their breastworks and from the rear. Genl W. H. Wallace told me to tell Capt Goodman Jefferies to take his men back and the Sooner the better. I ran to my good old Capt and told him what Genl Wallace Said. the Captain Said he had not told him So and he could not leave withot orders from the Genl in person. I bid my friend and

56 Superior officer good by. and in less than three minutes the Captain and Several of Company F was in the hands of our enemys in leaving I mounted the post turn to Co F and Said all that want to go South come with me Several of the boys followed me. I made a Dan Patch or Lieut Free gate back to our line and without a Scratch. was I Scared that would be putting the question to me verry milely

56
Cont.

after all that got back and we had got our breath and had a good hearty laugh over our race we began to collect the Regiments together and Genl Wallace got his remnant of his old brigade together we rested that night but the next night we Started towards five forks

57 Five forks the 1st day of April 1865 was a sad day for the Confederacy our lines was broken all along from one end to the other and among killed was the Gallant Genl A P Hill. Genl Wallace old Brigade was on the right of Genl Lees lines we fought all day but late in the evening our line was flanked or turned to our left and rear. the move by the enemys was a Success our line gave way from a front flank and rear line the Brigade to our left was all captured So I learn when the yankees got on three Sides of us and open fire it made us pretty resless. and Some of the men began to try to get off

58 but was ordered to hold their ground telling us we had a line in rear of the yankee line that was behind us but that prove to be a false report. they continued their flank movement in our rear covering the distant occupied by the Brigade to our left and a good portion of ours before we got orders to leave most all of our Brigade got out by doing as I did by just hitting the ground in high places. immediate in rear of the 18 S.C.R. the bushes was thick I went through or over them at a too forty gate. Just as I Struck the open woods, I heard the Shrill command halt Smith from our gallant fighting Major. Bedsil ordered me to stop evry man as they come form line whip

59 or check the advance of the Enemy's column. So as to give our men more time to get out. it was the right thing to do, and Saved quite a good many of our men from capture. but how did that Major get there before I did was a mystery to me. Soon we found ourselves almost surrounded again, and another run was absolutely necessary to be made to go north. and the Idiah of Northern prison was a night mare to me. I would take any kind of a desperate chance to make my escape. I Saw a good distance ahead

60 of me. Genl W H Wallace on foot waddling a long at a pretty lively gate. I was a hundred yards or so behind him. I thought if Genl Wallace as large as he was could get out, Surely I could So I hit the grit after him and made it out. as we got away from the Infantry and drew a few long breaths, here come Sheradons Cavalry, his buglar blowing assembly. If you do not know what assembly means you ask Some old cavalry man and he will tell you it means hot times. I was rundown and I thought a bluff was better than another race So I pulled my old hat off and hollered to him to come on we can whip your Sort meaning Cavalrymen in too minutes

61 Well I wonder where our Agitant Genl W. L. Goude-lock and his yankee Saddle has got too. during the fight that day we Shot down a yankees horse. Our A.G. had an old horse but no Saddle. as soon as this horse fell Goudy Saw the golden opportunity for a Saddle. leaping the pile of rails we was using for breastworks he made for his Saddle. he got it undone verry easy, but one stirrup was under the horse Goudy would pull and the yankees would Shoot at Goudy.

61 and you never Saw Such tugging at a Saddle in your life. and them
Cont. yankee bullets was powerfull purswasive to incourage a man to do
his best he got his Sadde

62 if Lieut Goudeock had of got in front of me on that run as Scared
as I was I do not know but what I would of taken him for Something
besides an Adjutant Genl and tried to have gotten intoo the Saddle.
any thing Lord to get a little faster at Such times. been fighting
off and on all day now night comes and the orders are to meet our
Idleized Chieftain at farmvill. So forward march Keep your men
well closed up So we may be as fare from five forks by morning
as possable. all night long tramp tramp. Capt Reed McCash of
Co K 18 South Carolina Regt was made captain of the rear guard.
I was his Lieut under him, and Boys if you never was one of the
rear gard on Such a race as that

63 let me tell you do not volunteer your Service on Such an occasion
the yankees was in rear in front and on each flank of this rear
gard a dozen times a day. they was actually evry where except
towards Heavon. you need never look in that direction for a blue
coat. I am going to prove this assersion by McCash and Goudey
..take the Stand & be Sworn gentlemen one evening the yankee cavaldry
got to our wagon train. Stamped followed the Boys cut out the
horses left the wagons in charge of Mr. Yankee. McCash and his
rear gard hove in Sight and Mr. yankee thought

64 as they had our wagons they would take in the rear gard. So they got us in too a hollow Square. on all fore Sides and begin to close in on us. Capt McCash a sensible man and Soldier as he was Suggested to me less Surrender. then that old Gost prison walls rose before my vision. Scared I reckon I was Scared I answered the Captain in the negative he Says how are you going to get out I faced the gards about made for the wagon train the fence was on fire and I coldent Stand to See the yankees get our grub. they could have the wagons. So all we had to do was to whip the cavaldry back and set fire to the wagons by picking up a rail that was burnt in too and placing it in the hay or fodder in the wagon off She would go

65 the yankees got to many for us and I said to the Boys evry one for your Self. that is not the command a Dude of a Cadett would have given in time of Peace. but Capt McCash was a captured and that was the best thing I thought of for the present I mean all of our rear gard one of Co G man got him a horse and road out. I have never seen my friend Capt Mc Since that evening I learn he got home for which I am thankfull. After I gave that famous order I left and them blame yankees look like they was determine to take me in. My curse seam to me was north west, and it was a field

66 crossed with two Short branches open Space between each with thick under brush on ravine the third branch had Some large timber on

66 it. the first branch I run right a cross instead of turning down
Cont. it to a creek a Short distance away. I was So frightin, no, I
will tell the truth Scared I did not have the Sense of a Rabbit
for Molly would of kept in the bushes. the Cavaldry would head
these Short ravines and wait for me to Show myself which I did
with all possable Speed. and then the carbines would be brought
in use I do not know now many time them yankees Shot at me but
I kep a running at the big branch me and them came near having
a collision just as one yankee

67 ran between me and this long for big timber and could check up
and turn round I was reaching the timber. he turned and fired
at me. he was in thirty steps of me, just to my right he nock
the bark off of a tree just about waist high. at that verry moment
I stumped my toe and down I came. the yankee rode back I went
on down the hill and just as I got through this skirt of woods
I heard a familliar voice cry out Stop Smith. I replied I havent
time. he Said just for one minute. I Stoped look back and and
it was our

68 Adjutant Genl. did not neither have horse or Saddle. I Suppose
the yankees had killed his horse and he had no time to get his
Sadde. I Said to him come on he asked me to wait untill he could
take off his big old dragoon Pistol. Goudey had this Pistol harness
fixed up pretty Doodish fine belt an Scabbord, cap box and Strop
over Shoulder to keep it from Sagging when rations was Scarce.
I was begging Bill to bring the Pistol to me. he Said I cant make

68 another Step with my Pistol on. it Seams as Some one else had
Cont. been running besides the Commander of the rear gards. with all
my pleas for him to bring it to me he decline unharness himself
and droped

69 down. as much as I hated to go back that way, I turned round went
back and got the Pistol and Said lets get in the channel of the
creek and if them yankees come we will get us a horse to ride
I just felt like I was tired enough to kill a yankee and rob him
of his horse. but to my delight they never followed us any more.
I guess the trooper told his comerds that he put the fixing to
me. I did fall but was not nocked down by a yankee ball. Shall
I go on too Appomattox and meet that awfull fate. The Sadest
day of my life. yess and I will tell you

70 why. I have collected my rear guard drawn rations, a half year
of corn to each man, the parching process is going on. lMy Brother
and Brother in law comes up, one a musician the other in the commissary
department. Brother had a few crackers and 4 haversack full of
brown sugar. a divide of course was in order. but how mad I got
in a minute. My Brotherinlaw Said to me, I will bet you Genl Lee
Surrender his army inside of three days. it was well that I had
gave Goudey his Pistol. I jumped up he and Brother walked off
in the dark. I Said yess you have been a whip man for Six months
and I have known it that was

71 Genl W. H. Wallace had been put in command of Bush Rod Johnson Division. and a courier had come with orders to the comander of the rear guard to report to his Regt - this is the eighth day of April 1865. Morn of the ninth Genl John B. Gordon ordered to advance his corps Jackson old Corpse moved to the front finding heavy colums of enemy in our front. with that unfaltering devotion to duty and love for our our South land. we Soon found penty of work to do. the battle open with Spirit and determination to move all obstacles in our way while

72 we drove the enemy back. Gel Gordon Soon Saw our chance for victory with our thin ranks was a forlorrn hope he Sent Gel Lee word that he had fought his Corps to a frazle and unless he could be reinforced by Gel Longstreet Corps the die was cast. Genl Lee Said there was no alternative but to Surrender which immediately followed the 18 S C Regment fired if not the last gun among the verry last I had Sent a detail for more amunition when Wm Monroe of Union and I discovered a Squad of yankees to our left in a ravine we walked out towards them and demanded their Surrender in reply the Saluted us with a volley of minnie

* * * Pages 73 and 74 are missing * * *

75 in yankee unaform I Saw a federal officer rather heavy Set ride up get down and went to this house. Meet Genl Wise on the porch. a friendly grasp of the hand, and appareintly glad to meet ech other. the courier holding this officers horse I asked of him

75
Cont.

who that officer was and he told me Genl U. S. Grant they went in to a room I Saw them no more. I Suppose they went in that room to meet the greatest of the World Genl - Genl Robert E. Lee as we went on through this vilage our artillery was parked, and the yankee ax brigade was chopping the Spokes out of the wheels of casons and canon waggons.

76

Seeing all this with my own eyes, I never dream of a Surrender. as we crossed the little Stream Saw all the guns stacked cullors furred men lying around. the Adjutant Genl rode up to me and Said Smith the news in camp is that Genl Lee has surrendered. a thunder clap from a clear Sky would not have Surprise me more. I asked for Genl Wallace by this time Major Bedsil and Sever other had gathered around. I got on Goudeys horse looped round on the Side of the hill found Genl Wallace all alone. I Saluted him told him of the news and asked if it was true. the reply was I have no official notice of Such I asked him for his opinion

* * * No further pages were found* * * *

Note: This manuscript was transcribed as accurately as possible-
- - -using my grandfather's spelling and punctuation - - -
by Sarah Lipscomb Bybee, 508 Rolling Green Drive, Austin,
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