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Article Title: Imprisoned at Andersonville: The Diary of Albert Harry Shatzel, May 5, 1864 – September 12, 1864

Full Citation: Donald F Danker, "Imprisoned at Andersonville: The Diary of Albert Harry Shatzel, May 5, 1864 – September 12, 1864," *Nebraska History* 38 (1957): 81-126.

URL of article: http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1957Shatzel_CWDiary.pdf
Date: 2/25/2011

Article Summary: During the Civil War, huge numbers of men were captured by both sides. Confederates held about 195,000 Union soldiers and the United States held about 215,000 Confederate soldiers. The most notorious of the Confederate prisons was officially named Camp Sumter, but it was better known as Andersonville and was located in Georgia. The conditions at Andersonville were among the worst, a place where 12,912 prisoners died, most of them in 1864. This diary presents a first-hand look at the privation and suffering endured by thousands of prisoners at Andersonville.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Albert Harry Shatzel, David McMurtie Gregg, Alfred Thomas Archimedes Torbert, Alexander Shaler, Truman Seymour, James A Seddon, John Henry Winder, W M Hammond, John McElroy, Truman C Naramore, Charles B Chapin, Dennison C Badger, John McCune, Henry Wirz, Jefferson Davis, James E Anderson,, Addison E Preston, Franz Sigel, William C McBride, William H Hinckley, Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, Samuel Bailey, Frank B Jocelyn, George Stoneman, Nathaniel Prentice Banks, George H Nownes, Joseph Benoits, William F Barnes, Horace A Hyde, Frank J W Baldwin

Place Names: Lancaster County, Nebraska; Keesville, New York; Little Salt Precinct, Nebraska; Lincoln, Nebraska; Catharpin Road [Virginia]; Plank Road [Virginia]; Spotsylvania County, Virginia; Burkeville, Nottoway County, Virginia; Danville, Virginia; Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia; Marshallville, Macon County, Georgia; Atlanta, Georgia; Orange County, Virginia; Gordonsville, Virginia; Lynchburg, Virginia; Gilford station, North Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina; August, Georgia; Anderson, Georgia; Light House Point on the James River; Harpers Ferry; Hagerstown, Maryland; Florence, South Carolina

Keywords: Company A, First Vermont Cavalry; Battle of the Wilderness; Second Presbyterian Church [Lincoln, Nebraska]; Grand Army of the Republic; Bureau of Animal Industry; Bull Pen; grey back; Company L, First Vermont Cavalry; the "Dead Line"; raiders; Civil War; prison camp; parole; prison exchange; Sherman's Army; Rebs; Confederacy

Photographs / Images: Brigadier General John H Winder, C S A; Issuing Rations in Andersonville Prison; The Dead Line, Andersonville Prison; Burying the Dead, Andersonville Prison; Brook, Andersonville Prison

**IMPRISONED AT ANDERSONVILLE:
THE DIARY OF ALBERT HARRY SHATZEL,
MAY 5, 1864 — SEPTEMBER 12, 1864**

EDITED BY DONALD F. DANKER

THE story of the American Civil War has held the interest of the American citizen as have few other events in the history of our nation. The interest has not lessened with the passage of time but continues to exist and even to expand. Recent years have seen an increase in the number of publications on the subject, and numerous motion pictures and television plays have had Civil War settings.

The passage of years has added elements of romance and glamour to the war which are perhaps undeserved. One aspect of the conflict, however, is devoid of any glamour or glory, and that is the story of the Civil War prisons. The war developed into a struggle that dwarfed those in which the United States previously had been engaged. The system of exchange and parole of prisoners that had

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been a part of the customs of warfare between nations broke down under the stresses of this large-scale conflict. Huge numbers of men were captured by both sides. The Confederates held about 195,000 Union soldiers and the United States held about 215,000 Confederate soldiers.¹

The Civil War prisons were a controversial subject and to some extent still are.² The most notorious of them was the Confederate prison at Anderson, Georgia. Its official name was Camp Sumter, but it was widely known as Andersonville. The first prisoners arrived at Andersonville on February 27, 1864, and the prison continued in operation until the end of the war although most of the men were removed in September 1864.³

The conditions at Andersonville were such that over 12,912 prisoners died there, most of the deaths occurring during the summer of 1864.⁴ The story of Andersonville prison was the most widely known horror tale of the Civil War. The trial, conviction, and execution of Captain Henry Wirz who had been in charge of the stockade at the prison helped to publicize the place. After the war many ex-inmates published their memoirs, most of which described conditions in the prison pen in vivid prose.⁵ The story of Andersonville prison was a factor in the "bloody shirt" era of American history when the memory of the war was a potent force in our national life. Students of American history may still be in disagreement as to where the blame for Andersonville should fall and as to the authenticity of the

¹Randall, J. G., *The Civil War and Reconstruction* (Boston, 1937) pp. 438-439.

²See William B. Hesseltine, "Andersonville Revisited," *Georgia Review* (Spring, 1956) which offers criticism of the Pulitzer Prize historical novel by MacKinley Kantor, *Andersonville* (New York, 1955).

³William B. Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons, A Study in War Psychology* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1930), pp. 135, 237.

⁴There are 12,912 graves in the National Cemetery at Andersonville. During August 1864 nearly three thousand men are reported to have died. (*Ibid.*, p. 441.)

⁵See the bibliographies in Kantor, *op. cit.*, and Hesseltine, *op. cit.*

charges leveled against Confederate authorities by the prisoners of war and the national government. Almost all would agree, however, that at Andersonville prison in the summer of 1864 thousands of American soldiers were subjected to an ordeal of privation and suffering to a degree seldom equalled in our history. The question as to whether or not the ordeal was due to the incompetency or cruelty of individuals or to the inherent barbarity of war may never be determined. However, Andersonville prison was an unlovely reality, and the fact of its existence and the experience of its inmates are an authentic part of the history of the Civil War.

One of the prisoners at Andersonville was twenty-one-year-old Private Albert Harry Shatzel, Company A, First Vermont Cavalry. Shatzel was captured in Virginia on May 5, 1864 in the opening phases of the Battle of the Wilderness.⁶ He entered the prison at Andersonville on May 22, 1864 and remained there until September 12, 1864. He was released from Confederate custody on December 11, 1864. Shatzel had begun keeping a diary on February 17, 1864 and continued it during and after his captivity. The last entry is for December 31, 1864.

Shatzel came to Nebraska, probably in 1878 or 1879. He is listed in the Nebraska State Census for 1879 as a farmer in Lancaster Precinct, Lancaster County, with a wife, Nettie, and a son, Floyd. His son, aged 19 months, had been born in Michigan as had his wife. Shatzel's birthplace was in the state of New York; the fly leaf of the diary lists his address as Keesville, Essex County, New York. The federal census of June 1880 listed him as a farmer in Little Salt Precinct, Lancaster County. He had left this farm by 1887, for his name appears in the city directories of Lincoln, Nebraska from 1887 until 1900. He is listed with a variety of occupations including those of

⁶*Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers and Lists of Vermonters Who Served in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866* (Montpelier, 1892), p. 226. Shatzel used the given name Harry in referring to himself.

farmer, clerk, billiards (operator), agent, fireman, engineer and inspector. The register book of the Second Presbyterian Church of Lincoln contains the information that Harry Albert Shatzel, adult, was baptized on December 27, 1891. His name does not appear in the records of the Grand Army of the Republic in Nebraska; however, in 1900 he attended a reunion of New England veterans held in Lincoln.⁷ In 1890 he reported to the federal census taker that he had been a prisoner at Andersonville and that he suffered from chronic diarrhea contracted during the war.⁸

He moved to Omaha about 1900 and was listed in the city directories there from 1901 until 1908 as an inspector for the Bureau of Animal Industry. He died of apoplexy on April 1, 1908 in Omaha at the age of sixty-five. He was survived by his wife.⁹ The diary has been in the holdings of the Nebraska State Historical Society since 1908. The entries from Shatzel's capture on May 5 until his release from Andersonville on September 17, 1864 have been reproduced below. The original spelling and punctuation have been retained.

Camp in the Wilderness

Thurs May 5th /64

Very warm & pleasant 3 A.M. the Cav'l is all ordered out again expect we will have a hot time to day the Cav'l are in advance Greys Div¹⁰ has the extreme Left ours in the center & Talbot [*sic*]¹¹ on the right 4 a.m. here we go

⁷Roster of New England Soldiers and Sailors in Nebraska, Ms., Nebraska State Historical Society.

⁸1890 Census Population Schedules, Nebraska, Special Schedule—Surviving Soldiers, Sailors and Marines and Widows, Ms., microfilm copy, Nebraska State Historical Society.

⁹Records of the Omaha-Douglas County Health Department, Omaha, Nebraska.

¹⁰Brigadier General David McMurtie Gregg commanded the Second Cavalry Division of the Army of the Potomac during the Wilderness Campaign. (*Dictionary of American Biography*, VII [New York, 1943], p. 596.)

¹¹Brigadier General Alfred Thomas Archimedes Torbert, commander of the First Cavalry Division, supported Gregg's division. (*Ibid.*, XVIII, 593, and Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel [eds.], *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. IV, Part 1 [New York, 1888], p. 188.)

again—On the Battle field— Left the Plank road some 5 miles to our Right & came out on the Cats Harpen Road [*sic*]¹² & followed that paralel with the P. R.¹³ 7 A.M. the A Guard took a Lot of Prisoners & we halted & rested an hour then resumed our march $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile & found the Rebes in force Our Regt were ordered out on the Schermish line on foot had a tough old fight & at first we drove them some 4 miles then they brought their Infantry up & drove us back & some 25 of the diferent Regt's trid to rallie & we were cut off & taken & Robed of every dam thing we had & took our Grub & then they marched us some ten miles & halted they gave us a few hard tack & Left us to sleep the best we could with not even a Blanket to cover us & it is a bitter cold night 11 P.M. there has 50 more from diferent Regts came in Poor devils its a long time before we get out of this

On the Road

Fri May 6th /64

Very pleasant here we are Prisoners of War & our Boys fighting not 5 miles from here 6 A.M. here we go fall in Yanks they are going to take us to Orange C. H.¹⁴ where we take the cars for Richmond 9 A.M. we came on some 5 miles halted & took a rest & got som watter the fighting is going on very rapid & we passed some 2000 wounded Rebs on the Road but there is no prisoners only our croud 111 men & 4 officers quite a croud 4 P.M. arrived at Orange C. H. tired foot sore and very hungry for grub is scarce in the corn fed states

Orange Court House

Sat May 7th /64

3 A.M. the Johnys called us up & we marched down to the Depot & took the cars for Gordonsvill¹⁵ 7 A.M. arived in that famous City where we left the Cars they had to go back after Wounded for old Grant is giving them fits there

¹²The Catharpin Road lay approximately five miles southwest of the Plank Road in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. (*Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* [Washington, 1891-1895], Map 1, Plate LXXXI.)

¹³Plank Road. (*Ibid.*)

¹⁴Orange Court House is the county seat of Orange County, Virginia. (*Ibid.*)

¹⁵Gordonsville, Orange County, Virginia.

is some 500 of us Boys here & aney amount of Officers the Cav'l were all taken out one side & our names red off & the Infantry were Left behind & the cav'l were all taken to a House & seached & every thing taken that was worth a cent then they got us in Line & we had to Lay in the hot sun where we lay until 3 oclock P.M. then they got in Line & marched over to the Depot & lay there in the sun until dark then we had to Lay out until 2 A.M. then the Rebs tell us we are to go to Lynchburg. dark news came here that Gen'l Lee led a charge against our Troops & drove them back to the River & captured 400 of our men & 2 Brig'd Generals poor Boys tough old trip for them.

Gordonsvill Va

Sunday May 8th /64

Very warm & we are laying here in the hot sun yet & there has some 150 more Prisoners joined our squad Last night & Gen'ls Shalor & Semore¹⁶ of the 6th Corps Morning News came in that the Rebs are cut off from Richmond at every point & the cars are going to Richmond every hour past here & they are loaded with wounded 10 A.M. the Rebs got all of the Officers & wounded men on the cars & the rest of us are to go to Lynchburg 3 P.M. all of the Prisoners took the Cars & Left the gay old city of Gordonsvill & here we are no grub & dam near starved 5 P.M. the Cars broke down & we lay on the track some 4 or five hours before we could get off & they had to dump off 3 cars & left 150 men near Sharlotsvill & they packed 50 of us in a Box car & shut the doors & we came very near going up the whole party there wasn't a breath of fresh air to be had for Love or money & no water.

Lynchburgh Mon May 9th

4 A.M. arived in the City of Linchburg & Left the cars & went some 2 miles south of the city & joined some 900 more of our Prisoners in a deep Reviene beyound the River we were divided off in squads of 100 men each & Left in care of a Serg't & some 300 Rebel guards 4 P.M. we drew our Rashions they consist of 5 very small hard tack & 1/3 of a pound of Bacon for 2 days tough but better than none

¹⁶Brigadier General Alexander Shaler and Brigadier General Truman Seymour were captured on May 6, 1864. (*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, loc. cit., p. 162.*)

Lynchburg Tues May 10th /64

Very warm here we lay in the hot sun & no cover or shade to get into 8 A.M. the Rebs have got cannon placed all around to bear on the Prisoners the cause of it is some of the Rebs threw a stone & hit one of our men on the head & came very near killing him & we were all going to charge the Rebs but did not & this morning we found our Camp surrounded by artillery & some 500 Rebel Citizens guarding us there is no soldiers here 2 P.M. there has 648 more Prisoners come in 4 P.M. the wind blowes very hard & it is very cloudy & we are going to have a hard night of it & we have no cover God help us if it rains to night 9 P.M. It rained just enough to wet us through then stoped

Wens May 11th /64

Warm & pleasant there is nothing new here this morning 10 A.M. there was some 50 ladies came over from the city to see the Yankees some of them were very fine ladies & some of them were very rough I think for Ladies they stoped here some 2 hours then Left 1 P.M. 1100 of us Prisoners were orderd out & they got us in Line & marched us down to the Depot where we lay until 3 P.M. then they packed 50 of us in each car & we started on our way to Danvill came on some 5 miles and it comenced raining very hard and they made all of us boys in our car get on the top of the car & the Rebel guard took the Inside cuss such luck as this we rode on the top of the cars until dark then they stoped at Burksville Junction¹⁷ & put all of us in the cars & the cars were so full we had to stand up all night & we are so weak from hunger can hardly see or stand.

Hd Qr's on the R.R.

Thurs May 12th

Very warm & it rains very hard 6 A.M. there has a train came in with some 1200 Paroled Rebs on it from Washington 7 A.M. we got $\frac{1}{4}$ of a lb of Bacon to eat & no Bread & here we are nearley starved & nothing but pork to eat 8 P.M. the train stoped some 20 miles from Danvill & they put us all in the cars & shut the Doors and there we lay until daylight

¹⁷Burkeville is a town in Nottoway County, Virginia.

Danvill Va.

Friday May 13th /64

Very warm 9 A.M. here we lay in the cars & we have bin Prisoners 9 days & all we have had is 3 days Rashions & the whole party is about starved god help the Prisoner 1 P.M. arived in Danvill after a ride of 3 days & two nights & the whole party are nearley starved we got off the cars & stood in the street 2 hours then they marched us down to the lower part of the city some 50 rods from the River & put us in a Large Brick Building 3 stories high & they put 250 of us on each floor & we were divided off in squads of 20 each & then we got our Rashions they consist of a pail of Rice soup $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs of Bacon $\frac{1}{4}$ loaf of Meal Bread made of Watter & meal with no salt or grease¹⁸

Danville Va

Sat May 14th /64

Its very hot in here just now for we are packed very clost Rules of the establishment first Roole call 2d sweep out 3d get watter from the River 4th schermish for Boddy Lice 5th make spoons for soup 6th forward for a wash 7th fall in for Grub & comfort 8th fall in for soup. P.M. it rained enough to lay the dust & make it pleasant.

Sunday May 15th /64

Warm & pleasant 7 A.M. fell in for Roolcall 9 A.M. the citizens of this place all meet here in front of our prison & got their Arms & Rashions their rashions consisted of 2 qrts of meal & $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of Bacon then they got in Line & all marched up to the Depot where they take the cars for Richmond every citizen & soldier that can be mustered is being sent to Richmond the Report here is that Buttlers forces hold Petersburg & the Rebs are shoving every thing they have got forward to save their Capital & they are Leaving barely enough to guard us Prisoners they are not fit for the field go in Johney this is your Last chance Evening, the Major com'dg the Prison came up & he says

¹⁸The military prison at Danville, Virginia consisted of several warehouses situated around an open square. It was due to the inadequacy of the accommodations at Danville that the prison at Andersonville was established. (Hesseltine, "Civil War Prisons," pp. 130-131.)

that we Leave here to morrow for Americus, Ga. he says we have got to foot it some 10 miles to the cars 7 P.M. spent the day in reading over my old Letters Rec'd from time to time from Alexandria & New York from absent friends.

Danvill Prison Mon May 16th

Warm but cloudy Part of the Prisoners left here this morning for Georgia they have bin here since last July they were a happy lot of Boys as I have seen since the days of Old¹⁹ 3 P.M. the Surgon in charge of the Prison came in & took all of the Wounded to the Hospital & all of us Prisoners expect to leave here to morrow 5 P.M. there was a little excitement here for a spell one of the Boys stuck his Head out of the window & the Guard fired at him but failed for once in his Hellish plan & the Ball lodged in a Beam a foot from his head such is Life in a Southern Prison.

Tues May 17th /64

4 A.M. the Major in Com'd of the Prison came up & gave us our choice to stay here or go to Georgia & we all said Georgia so we got a loaf of Corn Bread & started went up to the Depot & took the cars they put 50 of us in each car & lay some 2 hours & then left the famous city of Danvill 9 A.M. Struck the New Railroad Built by the Confederate Government it is called the Piedmont R.R. it is direct for south carolina & Georgia we came some 30 miles then we had to foot it 3 miles for the road is not finished yet but they are hurrying it as fast as possible²⁰ 5 P.M.

¹⁹The reason that the prisoners were happy to leave Danville may be explained in part by the wording of a petition for the removal of the prison signed by fifty-three Danville citizens on January 27, 1864 and forwarded to James A. Seddon, Secretary of War of the Confederate States:

The stench arising from the C. S. prisons in this place, and in which there are some 4,000 Yankee prisoners confined, many of them suffering from small pox and other virulent diseases, is so extremely offensive to the neighborhood in which we respectively reside as to not only subject us and our families to the greatest degree of annoyance, but, as we are informed by our physician, to render it almost certain that the most fearful and fatal diseases must soon be brought upon us.

(*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series II, Volume VI, p. 890.)

²⁰This railroad was the major project of Confederate railroad construction. Connection between Danville, Virginia and Greensboro, North Carolina was made on May 20, 1864. (Charles W. Ramsdell, "The Confederate Government and the Railroads," *The American Historical Review*, XXII [July 1917], pp. 801-802.)

we arived at Log stashion where we burnt some Bread & made some coffee & it was splendid after eating & drinking what we had we lay down & took a rest & it rained like the devil & we all got wet to the hide 7 P.M. there was one Train of cars came & took part of the Boys & left We expect our Train here every minit to take us on to the next Brick Hell some where in Dixie the Train we expected did not come & we had to Lay out all night.

Gilford Stashion, N.C.

Wens May 18th /64

Warm & pleasant there is a train here but we cant go until they are unloaded they were loaded with Corn Oats & meal it is going to Richmond for the Troops. 9 A.M. the train ran up & they loaded us on the Train they put 50 of us on each car we came on some 40 miles to Greensborough N.C. it is a very large place in former times it contained some 40000 Inhabitants we stoped 1 hour then came on to High Point stashion a very fine Place & all of the stor houses were filled with Cotton & Corn, the staff of life & there is some as Beautiful Residences as I ever saw in my life & maney is the Union man here if it wasn't for the strict watch that is kept on them The Train stoped at Thomasvill for Wood and watter a fine little Town-Adkin River, N.C.—6 P.M. arived in the city of Salsbury when we came into town there was some 1500 Rebel Troops at the Depot on their way to Richmond the train stoped some 2 hours got wood Watter & 1 days rashion it consisted of 10 ounces of Rye Bread 10 P.M. the Train arived at the Village of Sharlott where they took us off of the Train & camped in the woods had bin in camp some 2 hours when we drew a qrt of Flour & 4 ounces of Bacon & we set up all night & cooked our flour every man was to work mixing and Bakeing in the ashes & it was a gay old night as I have seen since I was a Prisoner.

Sharlot N.C.

Thurs May 19th /64

Warm & Pleasant this morning 8 A.M. we have just finished our Bakeing and Breakfast & had a wash & are feealing very gay for Prisoners 9 A.M. the Boys have all Bin schermishing & I must try my hand at it I caught 30 of the Graybacks on my clothes 3 P.M. we got in line & went down to the cars & got aboard & Lay some time on

the cars waiting for the Engine to come & take us on to Georgia 5 P.M. the engine came up & we started when we passed through the Town of Charlot every House had a Rebel Flag flying & the Ladies all flocked to the Road to see us pass & they all had a hard word for us & maney of them shook their Delicate little fists at us poor Weak Children of the World 6 P.M. we crossed the Catauba River into South Carolina & Halted 1 hour for Wood & watter & we came on & traveled all night.

Columbia, S. Carolina

Frid May 20th

Very warm 6 A.M. we changed cars & had a wash & a Little of the staff of Life & we are feeling very gay we Lay at Columbia SC from 6 A.M. until 1 P.M. when we resumed our Journey 3 P.M. we stoped for Wood & watter & we got half Rashions of Bread & Meat came on & halted at Kingsville where the Railroad Branches off to Charleston City, S.C. we traveled all night & arived in the City of Augusta, Georgia.

Augusta, Sat May 21st 64

5 A.M. we got off of the cars & got in Line & marched out in a field & lay a spell the Capt says we are to change cars & draw Rashions there is a very Large No of Soldiers here & they are all going north to Richmond Va. every Stashion we came to has aney quantiety of Corn & Cotton Piled up & at the Depot here there is thousands of Bags of Corn & Bales of Cotton here piled up out doores 10 A.M. this morning's papers says that the Rebel Gen'l Johnson lost 4000 men & 40 pieces of Artillery near Spotsylvania C. H. Va. on the 15th big thing on Johnson $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 we were got in Line & counted off & 50 men put in each car then we were turned over to the city Guard & they use us more like cattle than men god help us if we have to stay in their hands long here we lay packed like cattle in a pen & only one door open & we are nearly dead with the heat we lay in the cars until 3 P.M. when we started the car doors were shut & we had no air for we are under the Malishia & their ages range from 10 to 75 years & they are the Dambdst set of men I ever have had the Luck to fall in with yet²¹

²¹In 1864 the Confederacy needed its most effective soldiers on the battle fronts. The guarding of prisoners, in large part, was the

Anderson, Ga.

Sunday May 22d

It is a beautiful morning the sun shines bright the Birds are singing & every thing gay except the poor Boys shut up here in the cars we set packed here all night & the Train ran through to the City of Macon, 180 miles we made the city at 6 A.M. & the Guard are so strict we cant leave the cars for aney purpose whatever God help the Prisoner when they fall into the hands of the Malishia 8 A.M. arived in Portvalley [*sic*]²² & stoped for Wood & watter 10 A.M. arived at the Depot Hdqrs. of Yankee Prisoners & such a place I havent had the honor to see before they are Camped in an open field in a hollow where there isn't a breath of air stiring there is some 35000 prisoners here & god help them. While we are waiting to go in there was 3 Loads of sick taken out & the Boys here tell us they carrey from 25 to 30 dead men every day out of hear & since the day I was Born I never saw such misery as there is here men from every state in the union 3 P.M. there was some 15 of our Regt came up to see us boys they have bin prisoners 10 months, & they are a hard looking Lot of Boys for they cant get aney soap or aney thing else to wash their clothes with & they say they would give all they posess to be free once more.

Mon May 23d

Andersonvill Geor.

It's terrible hot here in the sand & the stench that arises from the filth in here is enough to sufficate aney comon man 9 A.M. I went out & took a view of the camp & Prisoners & I dont think there ever was sutch misery on gods earth before there is aney quantity of men here that hasn't even a rag to cover their nakedness with & they are a hard lot of men as ever lived & they have got some 50 or 60 negro Soldiers & they are put in the Same place with us & there never was sutch misery as they have to

task of reserve units. Brigadier General John Winder, commander of the Andersonville prison, described the Georgia Reserves as "very raw troops . . . badly armed and worse disciplined . . ." (*Official Records*, Series II, Volume VII, p. 410.) Captain W. M. Hammond, Assistant Adjutant-General, C. S. A., described them as "poorly instructed and without discipline." (*Ibid.*, p. 392.)

²²Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia.

pass through²³ they are allowed no privleges whatever there is a Lot of men come in & take out the Dead maney is the man that goes to sleep & never wakes up again they carrey from 25 to 30 dead out every day they carrey them out & put them in a hole & put a Board over them & cover them up the Rashions consist of Corn Bread & Bacon the sun is so hot I cant write aney more & there is no man living that can tell the misery a man can go through until he trys it evening the Boys are all skirmishing for Lice & as they are finding them very plenty I think I had better try my Luck 6 P.M. Drew Rashions for our squad Naramore Chapin Badger McCune & myself a very gay Lot of Boys²⁴

Prison Camp Sumpter

Tues May 24th

Very warm 3 A.M. Tru Chas. & I went down to the Brook & had a wash 8 A.M. there was some 300 new Prisoners came in from Danvill they report our forces are on the Advance. everything is very quiet here this morning 10 A.M. there has a new lot of Prisoners just arived & they bring the news that Richmond is taken²⁵ & our Army are

²³John McElroy, former Andersonville inmate, described the treatment of Negro prisoners in his widely-read reminiscence of his prison experience. (John McElroy, *Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons* [Toledo, 1879], p. 163.)

²⁴Only two of these five men survived their prison ordeal by more than a few months. The *Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers* lists the following records for the men of Harry's squad:

"Naramore, Truman C., Corporal, Charlotte, Vermont, enlisted Sept. 28, 1861, mustered in Nov. 19, 1861; taken prisoner May 5, 1864; par. Nov. 21, 1864; mustered out Feb. 16, 1865 (p. 223).

"Chapin, Charles B., Williston, Vermont, enlisted August 18, 1862, mustered in Sept. 29, 1862; Prom. Corp.; taken pris. May 5, 1864; Par. Nov. 20, 1864; died Jan. 17, 1865 of disease (p. 261).

"Badger, Dennison C., Derby, Vermont, enlisted Nov. 30, 1863, mustered in Dec. 3, 1863; taken prisoner May 5, 1864, and died at Florence, South Carolina, Nov. 1864 (p. 235).

"McCune, John, Burlington, Vermont, enlisted Dec. 9, 1863, mustered in Dec. 16, 1863; taken prisoner May 5, 1864; par. Dec. 6, 1864, and died on the cars in Charleston, S. C. the same day (p. 225).

"Shatzel, Albert, Burlington, Vermont, enlisted Sept. 28, 1861, mustered in Nov. 19, 1861; taken prisoner April 1, 1863; par April 7, 1863; captured again May 5, 1864; par. Dec. 11, 1864; mustered out Feb. 28, 1865" (p. 226).

²⁵This was one of the false rumors that regularly spread through the prison. Richmond did not fall to the Union forces until April 2, 1865.

still on the Advance driveing the Rebs in every quarter bulley for them.

Wens May 25th /64

Very pleasant it Rained very hard for half an hour last night & it seems like a new place this morning 8 A.M. us Boys got a spade & took off the top of the ground & it was alive with maggots where we Lay & the Boys say the ground is so all around here Hard but cant be helped there isn't a Hog stye in the North aney nastier than this camp & the sick have no medical assistance whatever when they are sick they lay here & die like Dogs & are carried out & put in a hole & covered just deep enough to keep them from smeling bad god help the sick ones here 3 P.M. there has 800 more new Prisoners arived here from the Army of the Potomac & the Shanadoarh valley poor Boys they have found a hard hole here evening it Rained very hard for 2 hours then cleared off & its very pleasant now

Thurs May 26 /64

4 A.M. we had a fine shower & it has cleared off & is very pleasant 10 A.M. Chas²⁶ & I went down & had a wash got our grub then fell in for roolcall after then we went down to the Gate to see a lot of new prisoners come in they were taken on the 14th

Fri May 27th /64

Very warm got Breakfast had rollcall & washed up then we all had a skirmish the devil is to pay here this morning some of the old Prisoners made a Raid on the new prisoners & stole their Blankets & Rashions & the new fellowes pitched in & there was a Big fight & maney a poor cuss got his Head mashed with clubs or stones²⁷ 9 A.M. the Guard shot one of the Boys for sticking his head out under the Dead Line²⁸ cuss the conscripts it Looks as if a man

²⁶Charles B. Chapin. See Footnote 24.

²⁷There was an organized group of thieves known as the "raiders," which preyed upon their fellow prisoners at Andersonville. (See Hesseltine, *Civil War prisons*, pp. 144-145; McElroy, *op. cit.*, Chapter XXXIV.)

²⁸The deadline was a boundary marked by a wooden fence consisting of posts joined by a board nailed to their tops. It sat about fifteen feet within the stockade, and the prisoners were forbidden to go beyond it on pain of being shot by the guards. (See illustration, p. 102 and Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons*, p. 144.)

was bound to loose his mess here if he dont die the Johnneys will shoot him aney way 2 P.M. the Whole Rebel force got in line of Battle on the North side of the Prison & stood in Line until Dark the report here is that Gen. Sherman is on his way here to Libberate us poor devils & the Rebs are afraid that the Prisoners will make a break & get away & they are takeing every means in their Power to prevent it they were Reinforced by 3000 Troops Last night & a Battery of Artillery.

Sat May 28th /64

Very hot this morning 8 A.M. the Boys had another fight & some of them were badly hurt. 4 A.M. there was can-onadeing heard here quite plain Reported to be Gen. Shermans forces near Augusta

Anderson

Sun May 29th

Cloudy & has the apperance of Rain 7 A.M. there was some 150 more Prisoners came in they were taken near Atlanta they bring the news that all Prisoners taken up to the 10th of May are to be exchanged on the 1st of July bulley for us²⁹ 10 A.M. I got a Rebel Paper from one of the new Prisoners & it states our loss 100,000 and theirs 25000 killed wounded & missing fail to see the point just now 3 P.M. there was some 1500 prisoners came in they Bring the news that our forces are whipping the Rebs at every point Evening Naramore found his Cousin among the Prisoners that came in he & his chum stoped with us for the night

Monday May 30th /64

Its very hot this morning 8 A.M. Chas & I went down to wash & on our way back we saw several men taken out

²⁹The possibility of exchange was a topic of utmost interest to the prisoners, and rumors on the subject were common in the stockade. It was felt by some Union officials that large scale exchange would benefit the Confederacy and no exchange of consequence to the Andersonville prisoners took place. William B. Hesseltine in a recent criticism of MacKinley Kantor's novel stresses this point and states that the prisoners generally blamed their Confederate jailors for the suffering they were experiencing. He goes on to state, "Some, however, correctly placed the ultimate blame on Secretary Stanton . . ." Harry Shatzel does not seem to have belonged to the latter group. (Hesseltine, "Andersonville Revisited," p. 5.)

Dead & they looked very hard some of them had no clothes on to cover their nakedness poor Boys sutch are the ways of a southern Prison 3 P.M. there was 1040 Prisoners came in from the front they belong to Buttlers & Shermans forces they bring the news that our forces are driving the Rebs as yet.

Tues May 31st

Very hot & here us 5 poor devils lay on the hot sand nearly dead with the heat & we expect the Lice will rallie on us & take the whole party for a Lunch for there isn't enough of us for a meal there is a Rumor that we are going to be Paroled in a few days (cant see it) Evening there was a 100 more prisoners came in they were taken in Floriday while on Picket

Anderson Bull Pen Prison

Wens June 1st

Cloudy but very hot every thing is very quiet with the exception of now & then a tough old fight between some of the low class of Prisoners here 11 A.M. it Rained very very hard & we all got wet to the Hyde & every thing we had got wet & our Rashions of meal got so wet it needed no watter to make mush of it sincerely hope we will get out of this Bull Pen before long 2 P.M. there was 250 more Prisoners came in from Saulsbury N.C. 7 P.M. our Squad got one pint of meal & 3 ounces of Bacon for a days Rashions god help us Prisoners for we have no wood nor Dishes to Cook in & we have concluded to send Home for a Cook & Reciet Book to see if there Isn't some way of cooking without Dishes or wood

Anderson Prison

Thurs June 2nd /64

Cloudy but very hot there was 6 of the Prisoners got away last night & the Rebs put the Hounds after them³⁰ 9 A.M. one of the boys was passing by a tent & a fellow came out

³⁰In the war-crime trial of Henry Wirz, commander of the Andersonville stockade, in November 1865 one of the government's specifications against him concerned the use of bloodhounds in the pursuit and capture of escaped prisoners. (*Official Records*, Series II, Volume VIII, pp. 786, 790.)

& struck him on the Head & killed him 3 P.M. Chas & I went down & had a wash 5 P.M. Drew Rations of Meal & Bacon as usual & here we are nearly starved and no way to cook our Grub Evening there has bin some 30 dead men taken out of hear to day & the Average Deaths hear amount to 18 Daily hard but nevertheless true. 5 P.M. it comenced raining & it never rained harder than it did from 5 until 11 P.M. then it stoped & us Boys Lay down & tryed to sleep but we were to wet & cold & gave it up as a bad Job.

Fri. June 3d, /64

Cloudy but very hot here we lay under the Blanket wet through & through 8 A.M. was taken sick & here I lay on the wet Ground Just about played out & nothing but meal & raw bacon to eat 2 P.M. there was some 500 more Prisoners came in from Danvill Va they were left there when we left on the 17th of May 4 P.M. it is clouding up again & we have got to have another wet night of it God help us poor devils that are short of Tents Evening am feeling mighty hard up for a Prisoner 9 P.M. it Rains very hard

Sat June 4th /64

It mighty dark this morning & I expect we will have another old Georgia shower where the watter falls by the pail full here she comes & I must lay by this Book & Lay down for standing up is played out with me for a day or 2 to come I reckon 1 P.M. it has stoped raining but it thunders very hard in the S.W. & I expect we will get another soaker to night sincerely hope not for the whole croud are wet to the Hide now & all of our worldly possessions lay here soaking in the sand and watter here she comes again 4 P.M. there was 50 more Prisoners came in from Shermans Army they were taken on the 25th

Anderson Bull Pen

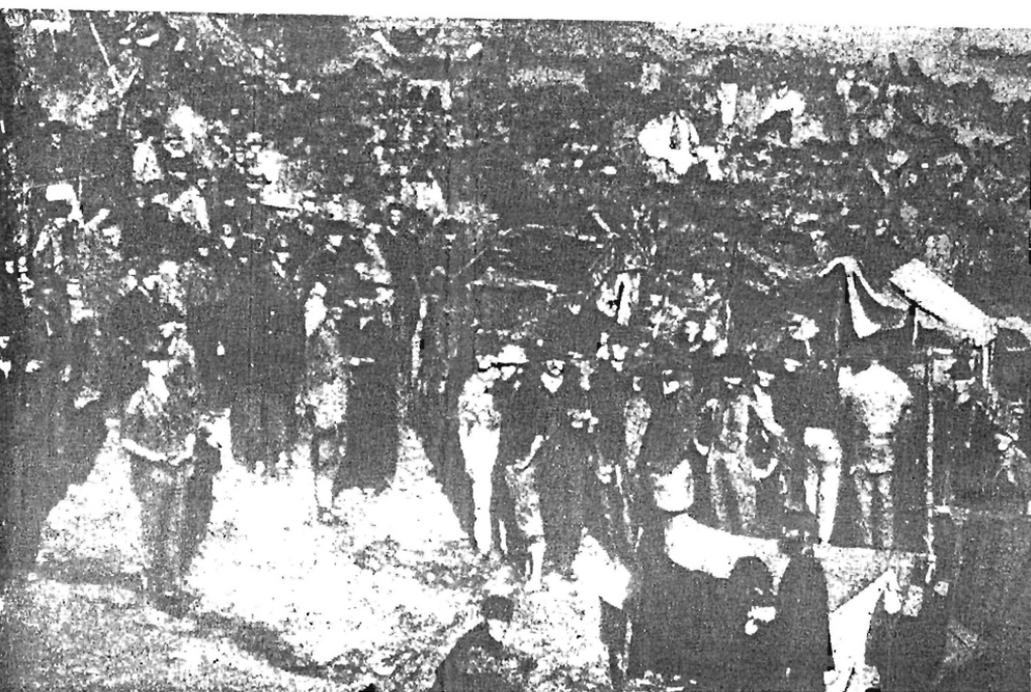
Sunday June 5th

Cloudy & dark & has the apperance of another wet day 5 A.M. the family went down & had a wash came back & here we lay waiting for Roll call this is as lonesom a morning as I have seen since I became a Prisoner we get nothing but corn meal & Bacon & we have nothing to cook in but a quart cup for 5 of us & it keeps one of us makeing mush all the time this is a very gay old life where you get your



Brigadier General John H. Winder, C. S. A.

"the camp here has bin turned over to old Gen. Winder formaly of
Richmond Va." -- June 15, 1864



Above — Issuing Rations in Andersonville Prison

"5 P.M. Drew Rations of Meal & Bacon as usual & here we are nearly starved and no way to cook our Grub" -- June 2, 1864

Below — The Dead Line, Andersonville Prison

"we moved our Tent down near the dead line for a spell & I expect we will have to move again before night" — July 2, 1864



mush for Breakfast mush for Dinner & mush for Supper
& nary bit of salt

Mon June 6th /64

3 A.M. cloudy but very warm 5 A.M. Chas & I had a wash & a change of Woolen or Linnin & then we washed our Clothes we have no soap & they look about as bad as they did before we washed them sincerely hope we will leave here for U.S. Head quarters before a week from today the report is that 5000 are going to leave here this week hope it is so but fail to see it in that light 3 P.M. there is a big shower coming up & the Devil is to pay here for the Reb Capt came in & took all of our Extray blankets & here we lay Cuss this Dam military of the S.C. 4 P.M. we have had a splendid shower & it has cleared off & the sun has shone out very hot 5 P.M. I was down to the Brook & one of the Negro Soldiers Lay dead in the mud & watter & the Boys around say he had layed there all day in the hot sun god help the occupants of this Bull Pen

Anderson Bull Pen

Tues June 7th /64

Its very hot hear & there isn't a Breath of air stiring 9 there was a Lot of the sick & wounded were put off & the report is that they are going into our Lines 2 P.M. there was 1100 more Prisoners came in from the Army of the Potomac they report Grant within 5 miles of Richmond & the day after their capture the canonadeing was terific & the Citizens in the City were flocking together from all Parts of the city to the old Capitol they say they are bound to save the place or die Bulley for their spunk 3 P.M. there was a fellow next to our Tent died & some of the old Prisoners went through him Like a dose of salts before he had bin dead 5 minits miserable wretches hope to god I may never see sutch a case again 5 P.M. it thunders very heavy & looks as if we had got to get wet again to night god help the sick ones here it comes

Anderson Bull Pen

Wens June 8th

Cloudy & cold our party are prety wet for it rained nearly all night among the Prisoners that came in Last night there was 50 Sailors they were taken on the Savanah River

8 A.M. I was down to wash & I found several of our Regt that came in last night 4 P.M. there was 300 more Prisoners came in they were from Shermans A. their report is favorable for the Prisoners.

Anderson Bull Pen

Thurs June 9th

the sun came up very hot & there isn't aney air stiring inside of the stockade 12 M there was a thunder shower came up & it rained prety hard for an hour then stoped & it is pleasant 2 P.M. went over & visited Co. H boys³¹

Fri June 10th /64

the sun came up very hot, but there has a cool breeze sprung up & it is very pleasant now 8 A.M. our mess fixed over our shanty so it is a little better for our Health 4 P.M. it thunders very hard & by the Looks we will have a gay old Rain for to night with the mud & watter up to our eyes again 5 P.M. we got Cooked Rashions the cause of was our squad wouldnt take the required Oath to go out after wood for there is so maney geting away from here that we cant get out without takeing an oath not to run away but I fail to see the Oath this trip³²

Sat June 11th /64

the sun came up very hot & there isn't a breath of air stiring 8 A.M. Jack got a Pint of Beans & gave a \$1.00 for them & we expect to have a gay old meal for once 3 P.M. I went down to the gate & got the exact No. of Prisoners confined in the Bull Pen both Black & white & I found them to be 22330 & we are all Packed on a Ten Acer squar³³ there is 18 in the piece but 8 of it is taken

³¹Eight members of Company H., First Regiment, Vermont Cavalry are reported to have died in Andersonville during the spring and summer of 1864. (*Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers*, pp. 250-253.)

³²An Ohio veteran who had been at Andersonville recalled that "Captain Wirz devised a kind of parole, or obligation, which the boys agreed to before going out to gather wood, wherein they agreed to make no attempt at escape, while foraging; but even this was not respected, and the plan was dropped after a short time." (H. M. Davidson, *Fourteen Months in Southern Prisons* [Milwaukee, 1865], p. 126.)

³³Hesseltine places the area enclosed by the stockade at sixteen and one-half acres which was increased by ten acres in the latter

up for what is called the Dead Line & woe to the Yank that gets his Body inside of that Line for every Yank they shoot they get 30 days furlough³⁴ & they dont stop to let you get in far before Rip goes your new Jacket Evening there came a terific Blow & it Rained very hard & we all got wet to the hide

Anderson

Sun June 12th /64

Cloudy & cool 9 A. M. Chas & I went down & had a wash & we went up & stoped a spell at Co. B's Qr's & one of them came in from the out side & he says we are to be

part of June 1864. At the time the stockade was enlarged to twenty-six acres it enclosed twenty-six thousand prisoners. (Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons*, pp. 135, 146.)

³⁴The rumor that the guards received a furlough for every prisoner they killed was current in the stockade. (*Ibid.*, p. 144; McElroy, *op. cit.*, p. 189.) There does not seem to be any evidence that the story was correct. Evidence, however, that some of the guards were quick to shoot may be found in a letter written on June 23, 1864 by James E. Anderson, a private in the First Regiment of the Georgia Reserves to Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States. Private Anderson wrote as follows:

Respected Sir: Being but a private in the ranks at this place consequently if I see anything to condemn (as I do) I have no power to correct it. Yet as a humane being and one that believes that we should "do as we would be done by" I proceed to inform you of some things that I know you are ignorant of, and in the first place I will say I have no cause to love the Yankees . . . yet I think that prisoners should have some showing. Inside our prison walls all around is a space about twelve feet wide, called the "dead line." If a prisoner crosses that line the sentinels are ordered to shoot him. Now, we have many thoughtless boys here who think the killing of a Yankee will make them great men. As a consequence every day or two there are prisoners shot . . . The sentry, of course, says he was across the deadline when he shot him. He is told he did exactly right and is a good sentry. Last Sabbath there were two shot in their tents at one shot . . . Night before last there was one shot near me (I being on guard). The sentry said that the Yankee made one step across the line to avoid a mud hole . . . I make this statement to you knowing you to be a soldier, statesman and christian, that if possible you may correct such things, together with many others that exist here . . . I shall put my name to this, believing that you will not let the officer over me see it, otherwise I would suffer, most probably.

Yours most respectfully,

James E. Anderson

P.S.—Please excuse pencil.

The letter was forwarded at the direction of President Davis to the Secretary of War and from his office to General Winder, the commander of Andersonville prison. (*Official Records*, Series II, Volume VII, pp. 403-404.)

Paroled by the 15th of the month & I guess there is some truth in it for there is no sick to go out this morning they are to be examined & the sickest ones go first Bulley for them 5 P.M. we got the smalest Rashion to Night we ever got yet it consisted of a ½ pint of Boild Rice no meat or Bread or meal to go with it god help us if we have to come to this we will all starve in a week 7 P.M. it rains very hard 9 P.M. there was some 50 prisoners came in from Sherman's A.

Mon June 13th

It has rained all night & it still continues to rain very hard the mess here are wet cold & we are nearly gone up for the want of a little grub. Goodbye Confederacy all kind of Bread stuff & meat are gone & there is nothing to feed us on But Rice god help us 3 P.M. went over to see Co. B. Boys & while there there was some 49 dead carried out & they say there are 25 more to go. the cold & Rain we had last night killed them maney is the poor Boy here that hasn't a rag to cover their Nakedness. God Help sutch misery its more than words can express 5 P.M. there has bin a very sudden change in the weather in the last 6 hours it is as cold here now as it is in Va in the middle of January & the poor fellows that have no cover are freezing to death so they say by the Dozens if there ever was a Hell upon earth this Bull Pen is the place

Anderson

Tues June 14th

Its very cold & it rained all night & it still continues to rain & here we lay nearly froze to death and we have nothing but a pint of Rice for to last us to day & that is very poorley cooked no meat or Bread of any kind god help us for we are nearly starved now 2 P.M. I was down to the Gate & the Co'l Comd'g says there was 55 died last night if that is true there will be a 100 Die to morrow 4 P.M. some 30 of us Boys dug a tunnel under the stockade,³⁵ & we were all going out to night but there was some dam trator in the party informed on us & the Rebs came in & spoilt our geting away for this time cuss such men but

³⁵General Winder reported on June 24, 1864 that tunnels had been discovered which showed "great industry and determination on the part of the prisoners." (*Ibid.*, p. 411.)

they have got to keep their eyes open or they will Loose us yet some fine night when they Least expect it

Wens June 15th /64

Very cold & the wind blows very hard & it still continues to rain. we have found the reason why our Rations are so small the camp here has bin turned over to old Gen Winder³⁶ formerly of Richmond Va. he starved maney a man to death there & now he has come here to starve us last night we got a ¼ of a Loaf of Bread & about 3 ounces of meat for to last us to day god help us if he is in Com'd of us Prisoners for we are bound to starve 2 P.M. there was 1200 prisoners came in from Richmond they say they could hear the canon & Musketry very plain from the old Libby Prison & they bring the news that there is to be no Exchange or Paroling until after the campaign is over god help the party in the Bull Pen

Thurs June 16th /64

Cloudy & its quite cool this morn 9 A. M. a fellow from Co. L came in last night & he says our Regt is all cut up Co'l Preston³⁷ is killed & quite a number of the Officers & there is a very few of the old men left to go home this fall 11 A.M. it rains again very hard 2 P.M. it has stoped

³⁶General John Henry Winder (February 21, 1800-February 8, 1865) a native of Maryland, left the service of the United States Army in April 1861 and offered his services to the Confederacy, and was put in charge of the prisoner of war prisons in Richmond, Virginia. Early in June 1864 he was ordered to Andersonville and assumed command on June 17, 1865. He was made commissary general of all prisoners east of the Mississippi on November 21, 1864. He was a controversial figure and made enemies among his fellow officers as well as among the prisoners under his charge. MacKinley Kantor has cast Winder as the villain of his novel. However, there has been some testimony in his defense from both ex-prisoners and Confederate officials. It is probable that he would have been tried for war crimes had he lived to the end of the war. (*Dictionary of American Biography*, XX, 380-381; Robert S. Lanier, [ed.], *The Photographic History of the Civil War* [New York, 1912], VII, 173, 176, 178; *Official Records*, Series II, Vol. VII, pp. 192, 377, 501, 502, 1150.)

³⁷"Colonel Addison E. Preston, Danville, Vt., Capt., Co. D., First Regiment Cavalry; Promoted Lieut. Col. Sept. 16, '62; killed in action June 3, '64.

"In the action at Hawe's Shop the regiment met with a severe loss in the death of the gallant Preston, whom General Custer declared to be 'the best cavalry colonel in the Army of the Potomac.'" (*Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers*, pp. 216, 220.)



Burying the Dead, Andersonville Prison

"they carrey from 25 to 30 dead out every day they carrey them out and put them in a hole & put a Board over them & cover them up"—

May 25, 1864



Brook, Andersonville Prison

"nearly Starved to death & not half watter enough to drink & what we do get isn't fit for a Hog for it runs through the camp & every night & morning the cooks empty their greasy watter & filth in the Brook & the stench that arises from the Watter is enough to suffocate aney common man" August 9, 1864

raining & it is very pleasant now 4 P.M. our Rations were very good to night there was $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Loaf of Bread & 5 ounces of Bacon 5 P.M. there was 4 of our Co. came in today there is some 30 of our Reg's came in & there was 500 in all that came in our Boys report our Regt badly cut up they were taken inside of the Breast works at Richmond 8 P.M. the Sergt says there has 175 of our men died to day Evening it Rains very hard again

Friday June 17th 1864

Very cold & it rained very hard all day & our party are mighty wet & Lame from Laying out so long & the Boys that came in here yesterday are hard up they havent got any thing to cover them from the weather 5 P.M. the Devil is to pay again for the Rebel Serg't found the Tunnel where a 200 of us was going out to Night god help the man that informs on this party if he is found he is going up the first pot sure

Sat June 18th

Cold & it still continues to Rain very hard & here we lay wet to the Hide & nothing but a $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of Boild Rice to last us to day & that is so sour we cant eat it god help us for we are bound to starve for all I can see 5 P.M. there was some 200 Prisoners came in from Sigiels³⁸ Armeys

Anderson

Sun June 19th

It still continues to rain very hard 10 A.M. the sun came out & I dont think it ever shone so hot as it did for 2 hours & there were some 50 died during the morning 1 P.M. we had a terrible thunder shower & it lasted some 3 hours & we got wet to the Hide & all that saves Charleys Book & mine from being spoilt I had a small piece of a Rubber Blanket & every time it rains we have to rap our

³⁸Franz Sigel (1824-1902) was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1852 after taking part in the German Revolution of 1848. At the outbreak of the Civil War he organized the Third Missouri Infantry and played a considerable part in the retention of Missouri in the Union. He became a major general of the Volunteers in March 1862. In the spring of 1864 he was in command of the Department of West Virginia. (*Dictionary of American Biography*, XVII, 153.)

Books up³⁹ in it 5 P.M. there was 950 new Prisoners came in they were taken in Miss

Mon June 20th /64

Cloudy but very hot 9 A.M. us Boys eat our Days Rashions for our Breakfast & the Lord only knowes where our Dinner & Supper is to come from for I cant tell. 11 A.M. went down to the Gate & the Guard says the City of Atlanta⁴⁰ has gone up & old Johnson is badley whiped Bulley for our side 1 P.M. the sun shone out & it is hot enough to melt aney comon Yank from *Varmount* 5 P.M. we had a heavy thunder shower Evening we got our Rashions there was ½ of a Loaf of Bread & it was so sour & stunk so we had to chuck it over the Dead Line⁴¹ & hear we are with nothing but a dam little piece of meat for tomorrow god help us poor Devils Charley says we are bound to starve but I cant see it just now

Tues June 21st

it rains a little & is very dark & we have got to have another wet day 8 A.M. we traded a Rashion of meat for a quart of meal & now for a little Breakfast & a little it will be to I guess a quart for 4 is mighty small 4 P.M. there was 300 more new Prisoners came in they say our forces are within one mile of Richmond the Serg't says that they are searching all of the men out side & taking all of their Money from them 5 P.M. we got a devil of a shower & after the shower there was 35 dead men taken out of the Bull Pen Its tough but true there is more men died here according to the number confined than there is killed in Battle.

Wens June 22d 1864

The sun came up clear & hot & there isn't air enough stiring to turn a Leaf. there was 3 men shot dead last

³⁹This entry helps to explain the fairly good condition of the diary, which shows no evidence of moisture damage. While at Andersonville Shatzel wrote in pencil and some of the script has faded but is legible. Evidence of the care which the book received at Andersonville and has received during the following years is a well preserved four-leaf clover pressed between the pages and attached to a note stating "4 leaf clover found near Spring at Andersonville. Harry." The spring may have been the famed "Providence Spring." (Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons*, p. 153n.)

⁴⁰Atlanta did not fall until September 2, 1864.

⁴¹See McElroy, *op. cit.*, p. 383.

night & there wasn't one of them inside of the dead line
god help the man that shot them for they will see hard
times yet

Thurs June 23d

the sun came up very hot this morning 3 A.M. Charley
& I went down & had a wash 8 A.M. one of our mess was
taken sick & he is prety hard up god help him for we
cant do a thing for him in hear 1 P.M. have spent all the
four noon in reading over my old letters wish to god I
was where they came from think I should have a little
something to eat for I am about starved & there is nothing
in the cubbord to eat & we are nearly melted as well as
starved. 5 P.M. there was 415 Prisoners came in from the
Army of the Potomac they were all from the 2d Corps &
were taken at Petersburg, Va.

Fri June 24th

The sun came up clear & it is terrible hot we got no Rashions
last night & this morning we got a Pint of mush & a very
small piece of Bacon & we have got to eat it all for
Breakfast to keep it from geting sour 4 P.M. there was
some 40 new prisoners came in they were from Shermans
Army

Sat June 25th

Its very hot again to day 8 A.M. we altered over our shanty,
& it keeps the sun off a little better all of the Boys that
had their money taken from them in Richmond are going
to get it back to day by order of Gen Winder & we are
to be Paroled or exchanged on the 7th of July that is the
latest report there is in the Bull Pen 5 P.M. was 35 new
Prisoners came in from Shermans Army.

Sun June 26th /64

Its very hot again this morning 5 A.M. we got a very
small piece of fresh beeaf & the maggots came very near
stealing it from us at least they took it out of the dish
while we were waiting for a fryingpan tough but the boys
swear it is so 5 P. M. there was 300 Prisoners came in
from shermans Army they bring no news

Mon June 27th

Its very hot again to day 7 A.M. our Mess Drew fresh
Beeaf again to day & the flies have got a morgage on it

by the Looks for it is Just ready to Leave the Tent without hands 3 P.M. we are right on our Beeaf Soup for Dinner. there has 75 poor Boys left this World last night & to day so far

Tues June 28th

Very hot again to day 8 A.M. there was 300 more Prisoners came in today they bring no news of aney importance. 3 P.M. it Rained very hard for 2 hours then it cleared off & it was very hot 5 P.M. there was 500 new Prisoners came in & there was 6 of our Reg't came in they were taken on the 11th of June

Wens. June 29th /64

Cloudy but very warm 8 A.M. the Mess burst up & we divided the House & made it larger 3 P.M. there was 3 men found with their throats cut from ear to ear & their money taken & the report is that they had a large amount of money with them. there is a croud of 2 or 300 in hear that have done nothing else but murder & Rob for the last 3 months & when they Found that they were Killing & Robing in open daylight which has been going on for some time, the Rebs thought best to do something so they came in & took some 100 or so out & they took 14 of them & the Cap't in Com'd says they will be Hung & they ought to be for maney is the poor chap that is laying cold on their account 5 P.M. the Prisoners all formed a line on each side of the Road & the Rebs took the Raiders & let them run the Gauntlet & there was several of them killed for the Rebs gave every man a club & there was no light blows struck for it has come to sutch a pass in hear that no man was safe to sleep without a Guard & maney of them were killed then & Robed of every thing they had & every new lot of men that came in were knocked down and Robed the first night they stay⁴²

⁴²Most accounts of this episode state that a group of prisoners was organized and that this group overthrew and captured the "raiders." However, H. M. Davidson (*Fourteen Months in Southern Prisons* [Milwaukee, 1865], p. 170) states that the prisoners appealed to General Winder for help. He agreed to sanction any action that the prisoners might take. At their request, a force of Confederate soldiers was sent into the stockade and arrested eighty-six men.

For other accounts of the capture and trial of the raiders, see Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, pp. 144-145; McElroy, *op. cit.*, pp. 220-251.

Thurs June 30th

Pleasant but very hot 9 A.M. there is to be a Jurrey of 14 Picked men from among the Prisoners in hear to set on the trial for the Rebs say they will give the Raiders all a trial & a fair show for their life & the Qr. M says we will not get aney Rashions until every one of the Raiders are given up so the Inocent have got to suffer as well as the Guilty for our Rashions are very small & they will get smaller if we dont get aney 10 A.M. there never was sutch a time since there was aney law known & the Boys are cleaning out the Raiders by the Dozen & woe to them for they will fair hard in hear if they run the gauntlet Evening one of the Boys from the Co proved to be a Raider & he gave himself up to the club⁴³ & went out with the rest of the Raiders foolish Boy

Fri July 1st

Cloudy & looks like rain all of the Prisoners from the 49th Squad have got to move into the new stockade⁴⁴ & there is no watter or aney thing else & we will have a hard old time until we get some wells dug god help the prisoners for their lot is a hard one 5 P.M. we left our old qrs & went into the new stockade & such a place I never see since the days of old. the men are thicker hear then hair on a dog & there is no room for a man to sleep or put up a Blanket & the dirt & filth is terrible hear

Sat July 2d /64

the sun came up clear & hot & the stench is awful there isn't aney fresh air to be had for Love or money 7 A.M. we moved our Tent down near the dead line for a spell⁴⁵ & I expect we will have to move again before night 10 A.M. the Boys have got the old stockade⁴⁶ taken down & there is very little air stiring just now but it is terrible Hot & there is no watter in hear & we have to go over to the other side after watter and the mud is Knee deep betwen hear

⁴³The "club" probably was the term Shatzel used to designate the police force organized by the prisoners.

⁴⁴See *Official Records*, Series II, Volume VII, p. 427.

⁴⁵See illustration, p. 102.

⁴⁶The old wall was left standing when the prison pen was enlarged. The prisoners used the wood from this wall for the construction of shelters and for fuel. (McElroy, *op. cit.*, p. 350.)

& the well where we have to go after watter 1 P.M. Morse & Crossman came over & gave us a bid out to Dinner & we had a very good meal it consisted of a corn Dogger & a kettel of Bean Soup the Best I have had since I came for a sojer. Evening the Report is very pleasant to hear this afternoon if it is true we are all to be paroled by the 7th of the month hope to god it is true for this climate is to hot for the Yanks

In the new Bull Pen

Sun July 3d /64

Its very hot again this morning 5 A.M. Tru went back into the old Pen to Bake a Dogger for Breakfast & Chals Dennie⁴⁷ & I got an old Ax & cut out our Rashion of wood for the summer. Hear is Tru now for a little grub 3 P.M. we lent our Pail for the porpose of hauling dirt out of a well & by doing so we have all the watter we wish to use

Mon July 4th

Clear & terrible hot much the same as it was a year ago to day but what a change has came around since then at that time I was free & our Reg't was chasing the Rebs from Hagerstown to Williamsport⁴⁸ Md & we were flushed with excitement & victory & now I lay in a Rebel Prison in the extreme Southern part of the Confedrecy nearly Starved to death & not half watter enough to drink & what we do get isn't fit for a Hog for it runs through the camp & every night & morning the cooks empty their greasy watter & filth in the Brook & the stench that arises from the watter is enough to suffocate aney comman man god help us, there is a report that we will Leave hear this month & I hope it may be true for if ever there was a thing I wished to see it is our old Flag again it has bin very busey in hear to day for the Rebs have bin altering over all the Detachments I was in the 51st squad now I am in the 29th 3 P.M. it clouded up & Rained terrible hard for some 3 Hours & we had some of the sharpest Lightning & the heaviest thunder I ever knew.

⁴⁷See Footnote Number 24.

⁴⁸"During the campaign of 1863 . . . [The First Vermont Cavalry] won for itself fresh laurels on the field of Gettysburg . . . It also participated in the cavalry engagements at Hanover, Hunterstown, Hagerstown, Boonsborough, Falling Waters, Buckland Mills and many skirmishes of lesser account." (*Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers*, p. 215.)

Anderson Bull Pen

Anderson Tues July 5th

Its very hot again to day 8 A.M. we got Rations for the first time in 3 days & we were nearly starved but thank God we are feeling better again now one of the Reb Guard says that Richmond has fell but the news are to good to be true 4 P.M. I went down & washed my shirt & socks & while there there was 50 new Prisoners came in from shermans Army & they Report Sherman driveing Johnson every day & the Rebels here are cuting all of the timber about hear & building forts & Breastworks all around the Camp reckon they are right scart by their actions poor devils

Wens July 6th /64

Its very hot again this morning every thing seems to be very quiet in camp today & the report is still going the rounds that Richmond is taken hope to god it is true there was 50 new Prisoners came in last night they were from Shermans Army 4 P.M. there was 250 more prisoners came in & 15 of them were from our Reg't & they report the Reg't badly cut up & there is only 3 Captains Left in the Reg't & Co A has only 10 men for duty the Rest are kiled wounded or Prisoners⁴⁹

Thurs July 7th /64

Its very hot again to day the Raiders that were taken out the other day have all bin let in to the Bull Pen again 2 P.M. we have just struck watter in our well after diging some 58 feet Evening there is a poor boy Lays next to my tent nearley dead with a fever & there is no medical assistance to be had & he has got to die for nothing but the want of care & maney a Prisoner is in the same fix

Fri July 8th /64

We have thought that it had bin very hot in the Bull Pen but since the day I was born I never see such a hot time

⁴⁹From June 22 to June 29, 1864 the First Regiment was engaged in tearing up railroads and skirmishing. "This expedition was the most severe in which the regiment had yet been engaged; and reduced in numbers by the hard service of the last sixty days, it went into camp near Light House Point on the James." (*Ibid.*, p. 216.)

as this the Boy that was sick last night is dead poor boy such is man's lot hear on earth 5 A.M. we got our first Pail of watter out of our new well & it is very good watter 8 A.M. Chas Tru & Den are all sick this morning but nothing serious there is considerable excitement hear this afternoon there has some 50 Engines & aney amount of cars bin from Macon & Augusta to this Depot & left & the boys all say we will be out of this in a day or so but I cant see it in that Light just now 5 P.M. there was 42 Prisoners from our Regt & they report only 75 men left for duty the day they were taken they were taken at Stoney Creek near north carolina & Co. A is nearly played only 8 men for duty the rest killed wounded & Prisoners

Sat July 9th

Its very hot again to day the Boys that came in last night is pretty hard up this morning they think this is a hard old hole & they are about right for if there ever was a Hell upon Earth this Bull Pen is the place 4 P.M. there was 450 more Prisoners came in from Grants Army & there were 15 from our Regt 5 P.M. we had a very heavy thunder shower it lasted some 2 hours then stoped for a spell but we are going to have a wet night of it by the looks. our family has increased 2 in number Gov. McBride & Billey Hinkley of Co. L⁵⁰ they appear to be fine chaps

Sun July 10th /64

Its very hot again & it gets hoter every day & there is a kind of a feever raging among the prisoners and it takes the strongest men there is in hear & they are not sick more than a day & a half before they are gone god help the Prisoners hear for there will be 2 thirds of them die if they have to stay here 2 months longer 4 P.M. there was 590 new Prisoners came in from Grants Army they were taken the 22nd of June they bring no news of aney importance to us

Mon July 11th

Cloudy & has the appearances of a wet old day 10 A.M. it has cleared off & it is very hot. there is some excitement

⁵⁰"McBride, William C., Colchester, Va., enlisted Aug. 20, '63. Taken prisoner July 2, 1864. Par. Nov. 30, '64. Mustered out June 21, 1865.

"Hinckley, William H., Manchester, Va., enlisted Dec. 25, '63.; taken prisoner June 27, '64; par. Dec. 10, '64; mustered out June 20, '65. (*Ibid.*, p. 262.)

in the Prison to day there is to be several of the Raiders Hung at 4 P.M. & the Gallows is all completed & ready for action God have mercy on their souls for their crime is a horable one ½ past 4 the Rebel Guard marched into the Bull Pen with 6 of the Raiders & turned them over to the Police of the Prison & the Capt⁵¹ made a short speech to the men in hear then the commander of the Prison took the Rebel Guard out & the Police took them in hand & while they were tying their hands one of them broke & run after sticking 3 or 4 of the Poliece with a Dirk but he was soon taken & tied & they were marched up on the Gallows they made no confeshion onley bid the Boys good bye & their Caps were put on the Rope was sliped over their necks & the platform was kicked from under them at ¼ of 5 & 5 of them were launched into eternity without a struggle the other one broke down & fell to the Ground but the rope was soon fixed & he was taken up the Seckond time then was the time he pleaded for mercy but it was to late & the platform was Jerked from under him & he left this world it was a terrible sight to witness but it had to be done their names were as followes Delaney, Curtis, Buer, Champlin Sulivan & Collins or Jack Mosby⁵²

Tues July 12th

Cloudy but very hot every thing is very quiet in camp this morning 8 A.M. there was 250 more Prisoners came in from Shermans Army they bring no news 3 P.M. there was 200 more Prisoners came in from Grants Army

Wens July 13th/64

Clear & very hot there is no news from the Army as yet today 3 P.M. it has clouded up & we will have a fine shower

⁵¹The captain was Henry Wirz, the officer in immediate charge of the prisoners. It was Wirz who was tried and executed after the war for alleged crimes committed at Andersonville. This entry is the only one clearly referring to Wirz. The speech that the Swiss-born Wirz made on the occasion of the execution of the raiders was recalled by McElroy as follows:

"Brizners, I return to you dese men so goot as I got dem. You have tried dem yourselves, and found dem guilty. I haf had notting to do with it. I vash my hands of eferyting connected with dem. Do wit dem as you like, and may Gott haf mercy on you and dem. Garts, about face! Vorwärts, march!" (McElroy, *op. cit.*, p. 244.)

⁵²Descriptions of the execution are to be found in almost every account of Andersonville prison. For a bibliography of these references, see Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons*, p. 145n.

before night god help the Prisoners for a little shower now & then is the only healthy thing we get hear. Evening there has a 130 men died in hear today and yesterday there was a 150 died god help the Prisoners for they cant last long if they continue to die at that rate

Thurs July 14th /64

The sun came up clear & it is terrible hot again to day 3 P.M. there has bin considerable excitement among the Johnes out side for they have had every man out in Line of Battle & fired their Artillery & raised the devil generally for a spell then returned to their Qr's & all they can muster hear is about 2500 for duty Evening it has clouded up & looks as if we was going to have a shower the men hear is dieing of very fast this month the average deaths have bin 150 daily & they will be much larger next month god help us

Fri July 15th /64

Cloudy but very hot again to day 9 A.M. all of the Sergants in camp were called out & the Rebel Gen. gave them orders to report in camp that if there was aney croud got together in any part of the camp that he would shell the camp as long as there was a Yankee Left. the Gen. says he has heard that there was a party organized to make a break the first chance that offered & he was about right. 3 P.M. every state Troops in the Bull Pen have got up a Petition to send to each Governor & the President to see if there isn't something that can be done for the release of the Prisoners foolish men what the hell did they enlist for onley to serve their country & protect her rights & suffer the conquence, let them be what they will.⁵³ 5 P.M. there was 75 men from Shermans army came in they bring the news that Johnson is falling back.

Sat July 16th /64

Cloudy but very hot 4 A.M. there was some excitement in camp we had a large Tunnel dug & were going to leave the Bull Pen & the Sergt of our mess went out to open it & while he was in it caved & shut him in & he had to dig out & when he came out the Reb Guard took him down to Hd Qr's & now he is in the stocks⁵⁴ hard but honest for if

⁵³See Footnote Number 29.

⁵⁴A portion of the specifications offered in the trial of Wirz

ever a man wanted to leave a place it is this for there is from 75 to 150 die every day & still we get no medical aid

Sun July 17th

Clear & the wind blows quite hard & it is as cool & pleasant a day as we have had since I came into the Bull Pen 5 P.M. the camp all drew molasses 3 spoons full meal 1 quart 6 P.M. there was 50 men from Shermans Army came in.

Monday July 18th

Cloudy & cool the report is that we are going to Alabama to be put into a new Bull Pen there & stop for the winter 4 P.M. it rained very hard for some 2 hours then cleared off & it is quite cold

Tues July 19th

Cloudy but very hot this going to Alabama has played out the reason is the Yanks are coming on their Line of Railroad & raising the devil generally cutting off the supplies & tearing up the R.R. & we are cut short of rations every other day & if it keeps on we will get no rations at all by & by

Wens July 20th

Clear & hot again this morning. there was a party got a tunnel through & a 100 of the Boys left last night & 2 more were going out this morning & they were shot poor Boys such is life some die one way & some another. There has a large force of Infantry & Artillery arrived hear they are expecting a Raid in hear by Killpatrick⁵⁵ Hope to god he will come. Evening the Johnneys have bin to work all day throwing up Breast works & building parapits for their canon & the Guard on the post opposite our Tent say they are dam scart of a Raid

concerned the punishment of prisoners by confinement in an "instrument of torture called the stocks." (*Official Record*, Series II, Vol. VIII, p. 786.)

⁵⁵Brigadier General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick commanded the Third Cavalry Division of the Army of the Cumberland and participated in the campaign in Georgia in 1864. He had failed in an attempt to liberate Union prisoners at Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia in February and March 1864. (*Dictionary of American Biography*, pp. 374-375; Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, p. 132.)

Thurs July 21st

The sun came up clear & it is scorching hot again it is reported that our Cavalry is advancing on this place & the Rebs have got some 500 negroes to work throwing up earth works they are to work night & day & from the looks they are afraid of something besides the Prisoners 4 P.M. there was 75 Prisoners came in from shermans Army

Fri July 22nd

Cloudy but very warm the darkeys are stil at work building breast works & rifle Pits 5 P.M. there was 450 Prisoners came in they are old Prisoners taken at the comencement of the campaign

Sat July 23d /64

there is a fine breeze this morning & it is quite pleasant the Rebs are at work on their Fortifycations yet night & day they appear to be in a hell of a hurrey for some cause or another

Sun July 24th

there has bin a great change in the weather the nights are to cold to sleep without a Blanket & the last day or so has bin quite cool & the sudden change has killed a great maney poor boys the average deaths daily for 20 days back have bin 53

Mon July 25th

4 A.M. its very cold this morning & we came very near freezing to death during the night 11 A.M. the camp is alive with the excitement of an exchange it is reported in the Macon Paper that the Comishoners of exchange have met & agreed to exchange on the 6 of August God speed the day but I think it only a story to keep our spirits up aney thing for a storey evening we got Rice & molasas for a change Bulley for the change

Tues July 26th

Cool but very pleasant the guard says we are to be Paroled before long hope to god we will for this is geting to be a horable place for aney humane being to live & they are

dieing off like sheep every day & George is very sick with a fever.⁵⁶

Wens July 27th

It was very cold Last night but it is very hot again to day 1 P.M. there was 150 prisoners came in they were taken near Harpers Ferry & at Hagerstown they bring the news that we are to be paroled & exchanged on the 6th day of August hope to god it is true but such storeys are played out in hear 3 P.M. there was one of the poor Boys shot dead by the Guard while geting a cup of watter the Ball passed through his head he stuck his head under the Dead Line to get some watter but he will never go there again dam the laws of such men as those are hear for they consider it an honor to murder a man but take it all in all they are not to blame for they get a Furlough of 35 days for every man they kill. Evening we had a pretty hard shower & all hands got prety well wet up.

Thurs July 28th

Its very hot again to day but cloudy. George is a little better today. evening there was 1500 Prisoners came in from Shermans Army

Fri July 29th

The sun came clear & it is very hot this morning one of the Boys came in from the Hospital & he says Serg't Baily of Co. H & Frank Joslin of Co B⁵⁷ are both dead poor Boys their lot was a hard one 8 A.M. George is on the gain slowly 4 P.M. there was 450 Prisoners came in from Shermans Army

Sat July 30th /64

Cloudy but very hot again to day. there is considerable excitement this morning about Paroling but it is all gass I reckon for there never was so ignorant a lot of men to

⁵⁶See Footnote Number 64.

⁵⁷"Bailey, Samuel, Newberry, Vermont, enlisted Sept. 16, '61, taken prisoner Oct. 11, '63, died at Andersonville, Georgia, July 28, 1864.

"Jocelyn, Frank B., Georgia, Vermont, enlisted Sept. 23, '61. Taken prisoner March 2, 1864, died at Andersonville, Georgia, July 24, 1864." (*Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers*, pp. 250, 229.)

gether since the World stood that is in regard to matters outside of the Bull Pen

Sun July 31st /64

Cloudy & its quite pleasant this M. the excitement in regard to Paroling still continues hope to god there is some truth in it this time but we have little hopes. the Rebs are to work on their earth works to day & they have bin reinforced by a gang of 250 Negroes & they are hard at it they work night & day all the reason I can see for it is that our Cavalry are within 50 miles of the Bull Pen

Mon Aug 1st /64

Cloudy & it is quite cool 5 A.M. we had a fine little shower & it seems like a new world in the Bull Pen. the excitement in regard to Paroleing still continues. Evening we can hear canonadeing in the Direction of Macon we are all in hopes to leave hear by the 15th but god only knows when we shal leave but hope soon

Tues Aug 2d /64

Cloudy but very warm. they have bin carting the sick & wounded over to the Depot & sending them away on the cars they say that they are going to the Hospital at Macon 4 P.M. there 400 cavalry came in they were taken near macon & they say Gen. Stoneman⁵⁸ was captured he was in command of the whole thing there was 3 Parties & Stonemans was taken Prisoners & the rest got away safe 8 P.M. it rains very hard & the Lightning struck several trees near hear

Wens Aug 3d

Clear & it is very hot to day 8 A.M. there is to be 2500 Paroled to day & leave the Bull Pen for our Lines that is the report true or not hope to god that it is & the Ambulances are carying the sick to the cars as fast as posible & they are runing them off some where that is certain either to our lines or some where to a Hospital

⁵⁸Major General George Stoneman was captured at Clinton, Georgia on July 27, 1864 while engaged in destroying railroads. (*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 416.)

Thurs Aug, 4th

It is one of the hottest days I have seen since we came into the Bull Pen 4 A.M. they have comenced takeing the sick out again there never was such misery known since the world stood as there is on the streets in this den of Hell there is no tounge or Pen that can discribe the situation of the Sick Wounded & Rotten men in hear God help the Prisoner for their life is a horable one especially those confined in hear they took 2500 out yesterday⁵⁹ & there is as maney more to go to day & not one of them are able to walk a step they have to be carried out on a Blanket & the Rebs wont allow a man to go that can walk & they will have a tough old time & the half of them will die before they get to our lines if they should start to day & the Lord only knows whether they are going to our Lines or to some Reb Hospital 4 P.M. there was 100 Prisoners from Shermans forces came in

Fri Aug 5th

Cloudy but very hot. the streets & every vacant piece of ground is covered with sick & Wounded this morning waiting to get out of the Bull Pen the report is that part of them are going to our lines & part to the Hospital hope to god that they will go to our lines for they cant live & stay hear 4 P.M. there was 108 Prisoners came in from Shermans Army they bring the news that the Army is laying still & taking a rest

Sat Aug 6th /64

Cloudy but very warm 7 A.M. they are takeing the sick out by Detachments this morning & it looks as if there would be something done for us by & bye

Sun Aug 7th /64

Its very warm again this morning 5 A.M. Bill & I got George up & gave him a wash & cleaned him up & he is

⁵⁹The consolidated return for the prison for the week ending August 7, 1864 contained no reference to movement of prisoners on the scale indicated by this entry. During the first week in August 560 prisoners died, one escaped, none were paroled, exchanged or released, out of a prisoner population that varied from 31,573 to 32,720. The hospital inmates increased from 1,791 on August 3 to 2,599 on August 4. Perhaps there was a prison rumor that the ill men that constituted the increase were being sent away from Andersonville. (*Official Records*, Series II, Vol. VII, p. 565.)

feeling far better than he has for some time 2 P.M. there were 21 men paroled & left the Bull Pen for our lines they were Paroled to make up a certain number of Bankses men ⁶⁰ so as to exchange

Mon Aug 8th

Clear & its very hot 8 A.M. the Rebs have comenced Building Barrocks in the yard for the benefit of the Yanks or the Rebel Prisoners⁶¹ & it is hard to tell which they are for but time alone will tell 9 A.M. there was 250 Prisoners came in from Grants & Shermans Army they report the Exchange going on 11 A.M. I ran onto one of my old friends from Penn. 4 P.M. it comenced raining & it will rain all night by the Looks.

Tues Aug 9th

Clear & very hot 9 A.M. there was a 150 Prisoners came in from Shermans Army. 2 P.M. it clouded up & comenced raining & the oldest inhabitants of the Place say they never knew as much watter to fall in the same Length of time since they were Born the Thunder & Lightning was terific & nearly every man in camp got wet to the hide & the watter in the Brook rose so that it washed the stockade away in several places & the Rebs fired their artillery got their men in line & raised the Devil generally & at night they had double Guard on all of the Posts for fear we would make a break⁶² but the breaking is played out for we are to weak to get to the sink & back without help that is the majority of the Prisoners

Wens Aug 10th /64

Cloudy but very warm 8 A.M. they are takeing the sick out again this morning for the first time in several days

⁶⁰Major General Nathaniel Prentice Banks (January 30, 1816-September 1, 1894) was in command of the disastrous Red River expedition in the early months of 1864. (*Dictionary of American Biography*, I, 557-560.)

⁶¹This entry reflects Shatzel's hope that Union forces would capture the prison.

⁶²See McElroy, *op. cit.*, p. 350, for another account of this event. In his official report of the incident General Winder wrote that a section of about one hundred feet of the stockade was carried away by high water and that there was no attempt at escape among the prisoners. However, he stated, "Never in my life have I spent so anxious a time." (*Official Records*, Series II, Vol. VII, p. 589.)

3 P.M. it comenced raining again & it rained very hard for 2 hours then held up for a spell but we got very wet all hands

Thurs Aug 11th /64

Cloudy & looks like rain again to day 4 A.M. they have comenced a new stockade some 150 feet from the old one & they are puting up Barrocks in the Pen & it looks as though we were going to stop in the Bull Pen for the Winter. there was a 158 men died yesterday & last night the largest number that has died aney time during 24 hours since I came in hear god have mercy on the sick for their lot is a hard one Evening there was 28 Prisoners came in from Shermans Army

Fri Aug 12th

The sun came up clear & it is very hot 8 A.M. we drew half rashions again reckon the Rebs are geting hard up for we have had to live on half feed for the last 6 days 5 P.M. there was 75 Prisoners came from Grants Army they bring the news that the exchange is going on

Sat Aug 13th

The sun came up clear & hot again this morning. the Serg't that keeps the Reckord of the dead came in & says there was 327 deaths in 24 hours on the 9th of the month god have mercy on the Prisoners

Sun Aug 14th /64

Its very hot again this morning 8 A.M. the Reb Serg't says we are going to leave for our lines to morrow big thing but I cant see it just yet

Mon Aug 15th /64

Cold nights but terrible hot days they have bin takeing the sick out all day & carting them off in the old Bread Waggon. Evening it has clouded up & we will have another tough old night. the 15th has passed & no Parole yet

Tues Aug 16th

Clear & its terrible hot again 5 A.M. the Rebs are takeing the sick out again today & there was 810 admitted to the

Hospital out of some 2500 evening we got a fine little shower

Wens Aug 17th /64

Its terrible hot again this morning there was a lot of Troops left hear last night & the Rebs are trying to pull the wool over our eyes by sticking up Notices that there will be a Parole Imidately so as to keep the Boys from makeing a break dam their lying hearts this isn't the first time we have Guarded our selves since we came into the Bull Pen

Thurs Aug 18th /64

Clear & its very hot again to day the camp is down to the mouth about the Parole they say we have got to stay hear all Winter.

Fri Aug 19th /65 [sic]

Cloudy but very hot. news came in the Macon Paper that the North West is geting up a confedracy⁶³ of its own but I fail to see the point Evening we had a very hard Thunder shower & the wind blew so that it wet the whole of our bed & every man in the Tent to the hide & we have got to pass a rough old night again

Sat Aug 20th

Cloudy but very warm there is some 150 dead men in camp this morning & for the past week the deaths average 108 daily God help the Prisoners. 3 P.M. we got a fine little shower just enough to wet all hands in the shabang. Evening there was 75 Prisoners came from Shermans Army they report the Exchange going on every day.

Sun Aug 21st

Cold & it rained very hard all the morning & it rained nearly all night it is very quiet in camp there is no exchange or aney sign of one & the stories have all died away

⁶³The Confederacy sought to promote rebellion in the north-western states in 1864. They hoped for co-operation and support of Northern elements opposed to the war and to the Lincoln administration. Uprisings were planned for July and August 1864 but failed to materialize. (*Dictionary of American History*, IV, 150 and J. G. Randall, *Civil War and Reconstruction* [Boston, 1931], p. 391.)

Mon Aug 22d /64

Cloudy but very warm. 3 P.M. there was 50 Prisoners came in from Floriday they were taken last fall they bring no news in regard to Exchange or Parole. there was 3 men died last night from our Reg Nouns of Co C J. Bennoot Co D, & Barns of Co F.⁶⁴

Tues Aug 23d

Its very hot again this morning evening there was 100 Prisoners came in from Shermans Army

Wens Aug 24th

Clear & very warm again this morn the Rebs came into the Bull Pen last night & took out several officers & the Report is that they are exchanging but there has bin to many Reports for me to believe this one 9 A.M. the Rebs came in & took Lieut Hyde out & Frank Baldwin & Belcher⁶⁵ & the Rebs say that they are Officers but they are fooled for once this time they are to go to Charleston S.C. Bulley for them wish to god they would take me with them aney place but the Bull Pen for me

Thurs Aug 25th

Cloudy but very hot. the Johnes are giving us cooked Rashions again & they are enough to vomit a Hog for they are not half cooked & the Beef hasn't bin boiled enough to

⁶⁴"Nownes, George H., Marshfield, Vermont, enlisted Dec. 16, '63. Taken prisoner June 29, 1864, died at Andersonville, Georgia. Aug. 23, '64.

"Benots, Joseph, Danville, Vermont, enlisted Dec. 3 '63; taken prisoner May 17, died at Andersonville, Georgia, Aug. 22, '64.

"Barnes, William F., Chester, Vermont, enlisted Dec. 10, '63, taken prisoner June 1, '64, died at Andersonville, Aug. 23, '64." (*Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers*, pp. 233, 235, 243.)

⁶⁵"Horace A. Hyde, Swanton, Vt.; Sergt Co. B; Prom. 1st Sergt. Feb. 19; do. 2nd Lieut., Company B., April 1, '63; taken prisoner Oct. 11, '63; died at Andersonville, Ga., Sept. 16, 1864.

"Baldwin, Frank J. W., enlisted Nov. 19, 1861, taken prisoner June 1, 1864, paroled Nov. 19, 1864." (*Ibid.*, pp. 227, 250.) No reference was found to a Belcher among the Vermont prisoners.

McElroy stated that "around the last of August" the Confederates removed between two and three hundred officers from the stockade. The officers had been passing themselves as enlisted men. (McElroy, *op. cit.*, pp. 378-379.)

kill the maggots in the Beef & the Rice is sour enough to kill the Devil or aney other tough cuss

Fri Aug 26th /64

Its the warmest morning I have seen since we came into the Bull Pen Evening there was 200 Prisoners came in from Floriday they report the Exchange of Prisoners as going on briskly there was 5000 exchanged from Texas on the 15th but I cant see the point

Sat Aug 27th/64

Its very hot again this morning 4 A.M. I took a strole around the camp & I saw some 25 men laying out in the streets & not a rag to cover them & I counted some 30 that were dead god help the Prisoners & hasten an exchange & help them out of their missery. 3 P.M. the Rebs are Issueing some of the clothing to the moust distitute of the men that was sent to them last Winter by the Government Bully for the Clothes

Sun Aug 28th

It rained nearly all night but the sun has come out & its very hot again this morning

Mon Aug 29th

Cloudy & its quite cool this morning & the nights are geting very cold again. there was 50 Prisoners came in from Shermans Army they bring no news in Reguard to Exchange

Tues Aug 30th /64

Clear & hot the Report is that Sherman is falling back to the Tallahache River the men are dieing off very fast on account of the weather lately the days are very hot & the nights are very cold & the men that are exposed are all dieing like sheep. 3 P.M. finished reading the Testament for the first time in my Natchrel life Evening there was 500 men from Shermans Army came in

Wens Aug 31st

Cloudy but very hot. Chapin of Co L⁶⁶ in my tent came

⁶⁶See Footnote Number 24.

down with the scurvey & I got a slight touch of it & nearly every man in camp has it more or less god help us & hasten an exchange for we cant stand it long hear on the grub that we are getting now 4 P.M. comenced the Testament for the 2d time

Thurs Sept 1st /64

Windy but very warm 4 P.M. there was some 50 men from Grants Army came in they report the exchange going on

Fri Sept 2d /64

Clear & very warm. the camp is alive again with the reports of exchange this month hope to god it is true this time but there is little hopes 4 P.M. Denny⁶⁷ was taken sick so we have 2 sick ones in the tent

Sat Sept 3d /64

Cloudy & very cool 5 A.M. it rained a little & it is as cold as it is in Oct or nearly so 4 P.M. it clouded up & rained & the wind blew very hard & it is very cold.

Sun Sept 4th /64

Sumpter Prison

Cloudy & cool. yesterdays Paper says there is to be no Parole or Exchange this fall

Mon Sept 5th

Cool & pleasant. 3 P.M. there was 50 men from Shermans Army come in & they report Atlanta gone⁶⁸ up & every Gun & half of Hoods Army but I cant see the point this time

Tues Sept 6th

Clear & very hot. Evening the Prison is alive with excitement there is 13 Detachments had orders to be ready to leave for our lines aney minit.⁶⁹ God speed them on their way,

⁶⁷*Ibid.*

⁶⁸This rumor was correct, for Sherman entered Atlanta on September 2.

⁶⁹The prisoners were transferred to other Southern prisons, not

Wens Sept 7th

Sumpter Prison

Cloudy & cool 8 A.M. there was 1350 Prisoners left hear for our Lines 1 P.M. there is 600 more left & there is 20 Detachments to leave to Night. but old 28⁷⁰ has no orders yet hope to god we will go soon. Evening it has clouded up & we will have a tough old night of it.

Thurs Sept 8th

3 A.M. there was 3240 left the Bull Pen for the Happy Land of the free 8 A.M. the Guard has come in again after another lot of Prisoners god speed them on their way to our Lines. there was 2970 went out

Fri Sept 9th

Cool & the weather is very fine for the removal of the Prisoners. they have bin leaveing all night & the old Bull Pen looks as though the Yanks had nearly all Deserted her this morning but still they dont call for 29 cincerely hope it will be soon for life goes very slow among the rest of us hear Evening there was 880 more men left for the Happy Land of freedom

Sat Sept 10th

Sumpter Prison

Its clear & very hot. there is some 18 Detachments more ordered to go but still there is no orders for 29. 9 A.M. there was 1200 more left. Evening there was 1880 left.

Sun Sept 11th

Clear & very hot & there never was such excitement known as there is hear at the presant time. they are leaveing the old Bull Pen in every shape some in Wagons Blankets both sick & dead all piled in togathor god help the afflicted 4 P.M. the Devil is to pay our Detachment has got orders to

to Union lines as they hoped. (Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons*, pp. 154-155.

⁷⁰The prisoners had been divided into squads for administrative purposes. In the entries of September 9 and 10, Shatzel refers to his squad as Number 29.

be ready to move in 20 minits packed up & marched down to the Gate & lay among the Fleas & Lice until daylight

Sumpter Prison

Mon Sept 12th

Clear & very hot 4 A.M. the first train has arived & the Boys are geting in line so hear goes for U.S. lines or another Bull Pen ½ past 5 A.M. left the old stockade & got into the cars & left the Village of old Anderson & came on as far as Marshalvill⁷¹ but during the time one of our Poor Boys got throwed from the Door of our car & was killed 10 A.M. arived at Fortvalley & lay there some time & had a chat with the Rebs some say it is an Exchange & some say we are going to another Bull Pen God for bid. All along the RailRoad as far as the eye can reach stands fields of corn & Wheat dried up for the want of men to Harvest it 4 P.M. left Macon & came on to Gryusvill [Griswoldville?] & the fields were filled with Trains of cars & every car had a family living in them & such misery & suffering I never witnessed before some of the Best famileys of Georgia are living in cattle cars & they have to live on Government Rashions

Shatzel was sent to a prison at Charleston, South Carolina and from there to Florence, South Carolina. He arrived at the prison at Florence on September 15. The entry of October 25 in his diary records the death of his friend, Dennis Badger. The prisoners suffered from the cold at Florence and at one point Shatzel compared the Florence prison unfavorably with Andersonville. He was transferred back to Charleston on December 8, 1864 and on December 11 was paroled and placed aboard a United States ship. Harry's last entry as a prisoner of war was that of December 11, 1864:

Sunday December 11, 1864

Cloudy but very warm & we still remain Prisoners of War in the Old Gail 9 A.M. marched down to the pier took the steamer & sailed out to our Truce Boat & lay a short time & went on Bord our Boats Happy old day this

⁷¹Marshallville, Macon County, Georgia.