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With the Queen Annes Boys at Camp McClellan

By Serg. John G. Watson
Battery A, Maryland Field Artillery

I didn't write yesterday because I knew it wouldn't reach you any sooner, and I have considerably more time today.

Yesterday afternoon I got permission for my drivers' squad to go to town to dinner. We left camp at 10 A. M. and killed time until 12.30 when we ate. And believe me we did some eating. Good food and plenty of it for seventy-five cents a head.

The early part of Saturday afternoon I washed clothes, and it was some washing. I could get everything out but the dst, and it was immovable.

Our equipment is divided among the other batteries. We are in the 112th Regiment under Col. Bowie.

We are not going to move over the mountain, but will take the street which is now Company B's. It is smooth and level.

An army camp is the greatest place in the world for rumors. There are about ten every day, any one of which would change the destiny of every man in Camp.

We are getting fixed up finely now. We have put up two posts back of our tent, which hold our clothes line. On one we have a box for toilet articles and a looking glass and wash basin. This saves many a step in the early morning when we are in a hurry.

Last night my guard shift started at 3 A. M. and ended at 7 A. M. I am now off until this afternoon. Nothing exciting happened on guard except when a horse broke away and the guard yelled "Corporal of the Guard Post No. 2," and I had to hot foot it down and get a new halter shank.

The only thing I mind much down here is the dust. It is ankle deep everywhere and in a high wind it swirls through the tents in clouds. It rained last night, however so we are rid of this nuisance.

Last night I went over and called on George Aldridge, but he was at the Y. M. C. A. tent. There are lots of them here where you may write, hear music, talk, etc. I looked up Lieut. Harry Butler and also saw Pere Seward.

It isn't against the rules to receive small boxes, so some of your efforts in the cake line would be good.

Today we had for mess very good roast beef, boiled potatoes with gravy, peas, stewed apples, hot tea and bread. The bread is all baked in a big bakery for the whole camp of 20,000, is fresh every meal and is exceedingly fine.

We have plenty of work all day and good sleep at night. You feel fine the next day. It is a good life and makes you feel self dependent. I am very methodical and have prescribed times for everything. Up at 5.30, Formation at 6, then physical exercise until 6.30. Then we straighten our tents. Breakfast at 7, and then we drill from 7.30 to 11.30. Then we lie around until mess at 12. We have another formation at 1 and drill until at 12. We have another formation at 4. At 4 o'clock we groom and feed our horses, eat at 5.15 and have retreat at 6. Then we attend non-com. school from 7 to 7.30. This winds up the day unless there is guard duty.

I now have charge of the 8th section of a District of Columbia Battery. My warrant as a sergeant will come to morrow.

All the sergeants sleep in a tent together.

We have our usual general inspection tomorrow, which means we have to show everything which has been issued to us laid on our cots in an orderly manner.

Yesterday a Federal inspector came over and inspected our guns. We had to take them apart to the last tap, except the wheels. The chief mechanic did all the work. It took all day for three guns and I surely enjoyed it. It was hard work, but I learned all about the inside workings and can take one to pieces in my sleep.

The last few nights have been cold, but since I filled my bed sack with straw I sleep comfortably.

We had a fine time this afternoon as our battalion baseball team beat the Richmond Blues who have heretofore been "champs" of the camp, and we feel considerably puffed up over our victory. It was a whale of a game, 2 to 0. We played at the Anniston base ball park and had our band along. I played center and walked once, flied out and got a two bagger, batting in one man. They only got one hit off our pitcher.

I am on guard again as the noncoms get it every ten days now. Tonight I am on from 10.30 until 2.30, so I am going to try and get some sleep before then and will close.

With love,
Jack.

In its life of 160 years, only seven ministers have been pastor of Scotch Presbyterian Church, New York City.

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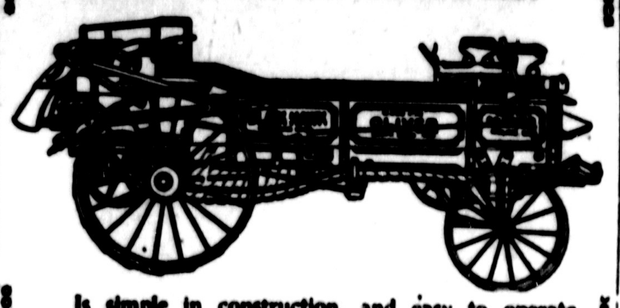

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