

THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF JAMES REED

NOTE: This is an account of his Civil War Diary starting with **Page 1**. The total document is 33 pages but is formatted to resemble the original contents of the small black book.

James Reed

Born Ireland 1839
Veteran Civil War
Lived in Lansingburgh NY
Enlisted in Army

PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF MY EXPERIENCE IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION TAKEN FROM DIARY KEPT DURING 2 YEARS OF SERVICE

ENLISTED AT LANSINGBURGH APRIL 25TH 1861 CO. A.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL KING, 1ST LIEUT. JOHN H. CAMPBELL, 2ND LIEUT. FRANCIS DARGEN, ORDERLY SGT WM. SHELLEY

SWORN INTO THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES JUNE 1ST 1861, 30TH REG. OF THE NYS INFANTRY,
2 YEARS COL FRISBIE OF ALBANY IN COMMAND.

LEFT CAMP IN ALBANY FOR THE SEAT OF WAR.

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June 26th 1861, Thursday. From NY at 5 PM for Amboy. Took car from there for Camden. Crossed the Delaware in boat for Philadelphia at 1 o'clock AM. Furnished supper by the Ladies at 2 o'clock. At the depot took a nap on soft side of a plank for one half hour, then took train for Baltimore. Slow traveling. Picked berries on the road. Stopped at Wilmington, and had some refreshments. Reg. was cheered all along the route. Arrived in Baltimore at 1 o'clock am. Stopped till 8. People more according than in NY. Colored ladies more plentiful than white and some of them as white as many Northern Women. Arrived at Washington Sunday morning 2 o'clock 29th of June. Quartered in the 5th story of a brick building. Slept on floor, Went to church at St. Matthew's.

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Rained all day. Dirty streets. Left 30th at 8 o'clock am. Left Washington for camp at Brightwood about 5 miles outside city, very hot. With heavy knapsacks. We got there around Noon. Pitched tents while it rained hard first night in camp 7 in a tent. Lay as close together as a lot of chickens under a hen. *July 1st, July 2nd:* Picket-Guards about 3 miles from camp. 3rd captured a rebel who proved to be the colonels steward, hot day. Ordered for review next day. *July 4th,* left camp at 6 am for Washington. Arrived at 9. Reviewed by President, Generals Scott, Wool and others. Marched back to camp again without stopping very hot day. Dropped out of line near camp. Took a bath at a creek off main road near Crystal Spring. After bathing took a good drink of good stuff at the Shakespeare Tavern, called as you like it, bent back to camp and felt fresh and good. *5th* very hot and had drill in forenoon. *6th* on guard on the road in the day in wood at night. Heard heavy firing in the distance. *7th* very hot. Washed my clothes in creek below Crystal spring. First washing in that line. *8th* nothing new. *9th* Barney Corrigan visited us in Camp. Came from Alexandria, Ellsworth Zouaves slept in the tent with us one night.

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[July]10th Barney left at 8 o'clock am myself and 2 other comrades went little way on road to see him off. Rained at night and next day. *11th and 12th* all quiet. *13th* double quick to Crystal Spring. Stacked arms on dancing platform where the officers bought Lager for us. *14th* July on Guard. *15th* practiced firing in evening. *16th* fired at target, *17th* thp mills, from home called at camp had several letters for the boys. Went away same afternoon. Under marching orders. *18th* letters from home. *19th* another, *20th* went to Washington to church, after church saw the Principal Buildings and parks in city. Arrived at camp in

evening found regt. in line ready to march left camp about 10 pm for the front. when near Washington orders countermanded returned back to camp. Great Battle at Bull Run reported. July 21st. Hospitals in the city filled with wounded. 22nd and 23rd wounded still arriving in city. 24th left camp for Virginia. Crossed the long bridge at night arrived at General Lee's estate Arlington Heights. Camped there 2 days. 28th, Camped at Hunter's Chapel. Our Regiment is the advanced Guard, went out on picket...

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in the woods, out skirmished on the road. 29th, after being on guard day before. Routed out every night and slept on our arms. 30th inspected by 2 United States officers with our knapsacks on. 31st. All quiet. Aug 1st hot rained hard at night. 2nd on Picket. 3rd sick very hot. 4th very sick all day and night-could not eat. 5th better but weak. Went at 6 am on picket. First County sign. Black jokes one. 10 from each co. 1 day's rations a loaf of bread and piece of salt junk, went towards Fairfax. Crossed enemy lines on Alexandria and Leesburgh R Road. Got a piece of telegraph cable, it was strung along road. 6th Relieved at 9 AM enemies cavalry seen close at hand by pickets. Reached camp felt sick all day. 7th better. Col. complimented Regt at dress parade. 8th officer at dress parade-their commission. 9th camp guard. Heavy thunder and lightning at night while on guard. Had rain storm, guards had a glowing spell about 27 sleeping in 1 tent. Col. let us sleep at his quarters 9th all quiet. 10th Paid off. 1 month. Felt very sick severe pains in head and vomiting. 11th little better went to church. Church close by had a priest from Washington officiated. Went to Gauhaldi's camp and from there...

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to Fort Albany saw J Leary, 1st Mass, Inf. 12th very tired and sick rain all day. 13th raining, 14th went with CO on scouting party with co. G and E. Capt. King in command were out 36 hours slept at night in a Methodist church about 4 miles from chain bridge 15th in evening back to camp unwell next 4 days Plenty of rain 20th on guard over the magazine. CO went to chop wood to Arlington, 21st wrote home 22nd on police digging up stumps had whiskey in afternoon. 22nd to 25th out of our co. on picket. Had trouble with rebels drove them back 23 all quiet fine day 24th ordered to be ready to leave camp at once. Role of drums and 3 taps tents all struck an attack expected lay on our arms all night, left camp at 10 PM for Arlington. 25th camped there. 26th whole brigade reviewed by our first brigadier gen. Keyes and Sherman brigade reviewed at same time President Lincoln sec, Maj. Gen. McClennan Gen. McDowall and several other officers. Grand site. Roads very dusty and very tired when got back to camp next 4 days nothing new very hot. 31st Ist inspected Gen. Keyes he paid our Company in particular.

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Our Brigade is 14th Brooklyn on right 24th 22nd and 30th on Regt. on left nothing new up to 5th. Sept on Picket about 5 miles to Hales House. Rained all day 6th relieved by 14th very tired when I got to camp. 7th had a walk with Rev. Father Scully chaplain 9th Mass. 8th. Went to his Regt. To mass, 9th all quiet. 10th Brigade drill by Gen. Keyes, surprised at how well we done for the short time, in service and best drilled on the side of Potomac. 11th got new clothes, full outfit jacket pants shirt drawers, shoes blanket cap of brigade. Dull afternoon in fair 12th another brigade drill rained hard at night. 13th another brigade drill 14th same drill 15th Sunday inspection, sermon by DR newsman of Albany smart talker ordered to be ready to move straight orders, against leaving camp. 16th left wing of Regt on picket. 17th paid off in gold and treasury notes. Heavy thunder and rain storm 18th plenty of whiskey in camp at night and some gambled all night by light of moon. 19th all still fun at night by some of our fellows and 14th concert Many drank in camp

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20th Sept 1861 on picket, pleasant time 21st back to camp very tired. 22nd inspection 23rd on guard 24th reviewed by Gen. McClelland and staff Prince De Joinville and suite and others, grand sight. 25th stick frill 12 from each CO with __, corn, officers, false alarm at night 26th Thanksgiving and fast read all day 27th went off to dig but rained so hard sent back to camp. 28th inspection and review by Gen. McDowell and staff, knapsacks on, after dress parade in evening ordered to march our whole division at dark by Ball cross roads. Cavalry and artillery rough March through woods to Munson's hill. Evacuated by the rebels. Halted at Uptons hill slept all night no covering, raining all night 29th felt very stiff, officers got us some whiskey from commissary went out chopping. Oct. 1st regt. Under Capt. King guarding men at work easy time under him. 2nd 3rd near Falls Church chopping trees, lost my jacket, but found it again still no tents and raining. 4th, digging on fort. 5th Picket at Falls Church at Dr. Harolds.

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A few books there easy time while there. 6th all quiet. 7th terrible Rainstorm all night still no tents, 8th chilly and wet had to on fort on 9th 10th tents came at last felt at home once more. 11th digging on fort ½ day. 12th same, 13th same dull all quiet. 14th 15th digging. 16th on guard, 17th out on a scout, Dunne, Dempsary Ferguson and myself went fear Fairfax hospital.all around. Country had a good time had Dinner with pickets of 25th. Got to camp about 9 at night. 18th nothing to do. 19th digging at fort soon came back and it rained hard. 20th, Sunday. Brigade inspection Ladies Prescut. 24th went beyond Fall Church with Dunn and Webster had to dodge Pickets coming back. Had hot Pumpkin Pie at a home at Falls Church. Got to camp after drill parade. 21st quiet on guard. 22nd rain day and night on guard miserable weather, 23rd right wing out digging, cold night 24th on police very cold. Lieut. Casey of Co b died, Diarrhea, 25th Reg brigade and knapsack drill 26th drill CO and battalion in afternoon Sunday 27th all quiet. Col left for Albany several officers went with him to Washington on horseback

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Uptons Hill *October 1861* 27, sergeant from 22nd buried at Fall Church. 28th skeleton Drill went digging. Potatoes. Co drill in afternoon and concert in evening by the NY Ethiopian minstrels and dedicated to Gen. Keys Brigade. The Gen. and staff and several ladies was present and well pleased. 30th on guard, Brigade Drill 31st. Brigade inspections and muster washed clothes in afternoon. Nov 1st on police 2nd heavy rain all day 3rd Sunday quiet all day writing. 4th went 2 miles away to brigade drill. 5th same. 6th brigade drill in mud after heavy rain on 5th at night 7th on Picket at falls church took our knapsacks along answered letters on picket. Was stationed at a house known as Dan Delaneys an old darky 80 years old was all left in the house went serenading at night when off picket beyond the lines with lieut. C and 5 or 6 comrades. Had to go through swamps and woods and cross over streams to avoid our pickets to get to the house after serenading, 4 young ladies invited us for refreshments. Declined as the hour was late and we were all mud from out tramp went back to our pickets to relieve them 8th relieved. 9th, Division Reviewed by Gen. McDowall Brigades.

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1st Keyes 2nd Wadsworth 3rd Wisconsin Regiments of Cavalry and 4 batteries of artillery of about 15000 men all told after passing in review. Rained hard and went back to camp. *Sunday* reg. inspection by Col. Washed clothes in afternoon. 11th on guard. Paid off in afternoon \$26, at 13 a month for 2 months. Off guard at night. Plenty whiskey don't know where it came from and did not care, some of our boys had a row with the hoe handles Co. no one hurt. Plenty noise. 12th considerable fun in camp, had a shake hands with Father Scully. Very nice man, he did not stay long. Ordered to all in for brigade. Drill was Munsons Hill only 30 of our CO to report, rest off some place after got to the Parade Ground ordered back, letter and pair of gloves from home. Gave Capt. King \$15.to send mother all in treasury notes. 13th Brig. Drill near railings Col. Phelps in command. Had fun in the afternoon selling apples for a Peddler. Plenty to drink. 14th on picket at r. road crossing, searched wagons stopped all without a Pass. Many drunk about camp. Rained hard in evening .

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A recruit for 7th Michigan left behind by his comrades stayed with us all night. Gave his breakfast next morning. 15th relieved on picket by 22nd very muddy, LADLIE BOX CAME EVERYTHING PERISHABLE SPOILED EXCEPT WHISKEY. GOT MY BOTTLE AND 3 LETTERS ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF MY STUFF. Company jovial all day. 2 big fellows of the 24th reg. Picked a row with myself and Dunn and another in defending Dunn biggest fellow gave me a black eye. Got satisfaction later, 16th. Battalion drill and blank cartridge firing. 50 men sent out on a foraging expedition under Capt. Lansing and 2nd Lieut. Andrews. 6 wagons 24 horses all told about 4 p.m. 2 of the party returned without their rifles and reported Keleher and Hunter shot and all the rest prisoners but soon after Keleher came in with his musket and later on Flynn without his cartridge box all our Co came in but Sgt. Webster was captured. Capt. Lansing, Lieut. Andrews 5 wagons, 20 horses and about 30 privates. Col. ordered every man in line in 5 minutes to go in pursuit but Col.Sullivan of the 24th

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The men were now very mad on account of it. They wanted vengeance on the REBS. *Sunday 17th* at noon got orders to fall in line at once all who wished to go under Capt. King and his Co and scour the woods in the neighborhood of the Capture. All our Co. not on duty went and several from the other companies numbering 110 in all. We came up to a large party and were about to fire on them 3 times our

numbers but discovered in time they were our own men the 8th NY Dutches. Could find no enemy but took old man Duliss prisoner. The man who betrayed our men. Found 4 of the muskets thrown away on our road back and 2 cartridge boxes . Got back to camp. Very tired. 18th On review left wing on picket Mcdowal sent after left wing. It was a grand sight to see Cavalry artillery and infantry. Col. Frisbie, acting brigades, as he was and Col. G. Keyes in command of a div on the other side of the river Potomac, after supper fell in line to go help 14 reported they were surrounded all in line, order countermanded, one 14th man came in reported one of his comrades shot after shooting a rebel Capt. All 14th in picket 8 or 10 prisoners taken.

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Nov 61. Relieved by 22nd, a Liuit Campbell 2 of 14 found dead in the woods, all mashed up. Reb lost several don't know how many as they carried their men off in a wagon. Rebs known as Stewards Cavalry. 22nd had a quick time. 20th Nov. Largest review was seen in the County at Baileys Cross roads. 70,000 men, 55,000 of their infantry, 100 pieces of artillery and the rest cavalry. Gen. McClellans now in command in Scotts Place with his staff. President sec. Cameron, sec of State and a Large number from Washington and other places. Our regt. was on picket could not attend review. We expected on attack on picket line all day. 21st got back from picket relieved by the 24th. Nov 22nd answered several letters on guard rain all night. 23rd. Nov, Lieut. Campbell gone home recruiting for the reg. Also Capt. Pruyn. 24th Sunday Regt inspection 25th. Battalion drill with blank cartridge. Corp. of Co. K died, said to be too much whiskey. 26th battalion drill and blank cartridge, attended the funeral of Corp his body sent home 27th Battalion and cartridge firing 28th no drill, Thanksgiving Day.

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Nov and Dec, Uptons hill. Proclamation of Gov. Morgan read and sermon from Chaplain very dull day rained hard at night. 29th very muddy no drill. Wrote letters. 30th went after Father Scully to camp of 9th Mass for Coleman who was very sick he was not at camp. I had a muddy walk several miles. Paid \$2.00 for a pair of leggins at 14th sutters had a good dinner when I got back of things we got from home. With Ferguson after dinner Father Scully called to see Coleman. Very muddy. Dec 1st Sunday Regt went on picket, I was on Camp guard. Very cold. Got letters from home all well. 2nd washed my clothes. Regt back from picket with a deserter. 3rd Battalion drill wrote letters 4th same drill 5th, on picket again, pickets not placed in good way too far apart and reserve too far back 6th relieved by 35th at dress parade. Abe Olin and several senators present. Coleman died and body sent home. 7th division reviewed, very muddy, foggy, Gov. Morgan present.

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Gen. McDowell and other generals. Very tired after I got back. Letter came. Sunday 8th wrote letters. 2 brothers Morrison and Finnegan. 9th raised tent with logo after dinner long role beat to fall in when in line orders countermanded. 10th div. drill at cross roads Baileys. 2 boxes came from home with quilts for the boys in co. 11th boxes opened on picket at the R. road, in box was vest tippet paper and envelopes for me. Very cold night on picket. Could get no sleep. 12th headache all day from want of sleep did not drill. 13th ordered out for inspection but no inspector came. Div drill in afternoon got more letters from home. Feel bad for the boys who have no loved ones at home to get letters from. They look so sad when the mail comes and no letters for them 14th div drill and sham battle. Sunday 15th wrote home and attended service at 10 AM 16th review near r.road in full marching orders, whole Brigade.

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Dec 61 In line at 8 ½ o'clock. Gen. McDowall and staff with our new brigade commander Gen. Augur. 17th arms stacked all day in Co strict ready to receive our new general. He did not come. 18th sent chopping forenoon in afternoon div drill at old grounds and another grand sham battle with a great many civilians snobs from the city of Washington they enjoyed the fun better than we did with our heavy load on back and double quick.. 19th no drill wrote letters, fixed up our streets with evergreens getting ready for Christmas. 20th Brigade inspection in afternoon with Knapsacks, 3 letters from home. Sat 21st at 8 ½ AM ordered on picket for 2 days to relieve 22nd. Took but 1 days rations as the rest was to be sent us cold night. Saw a party of the enemy a distance, suppose they were on same duty as ourselves. all quiet. Sunday 22nd rations was fixing for 24 hours more when were relieved by the 23rd NY one of Co.E men killed coming from picket by fooling with another. Same old story but he knew it was loaded and all ready to go off. One more fool gone. Felt very tired after I got back to camp.

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Rained all night 23^d, man that was shot, body sent home to Poughkeepsie. Rain all night wind very rough so I could not sleep.. expected our tents to blow away. 24th very cold heavy wind still blowing answered letters. Big case from home came with good things for our company, turkey, pie and other good things too numerous to name. A party of 12 of us messed together and we were all very happy and jovial if we were from home, eat drank and sang songs until 12 at night. 25th *Christmas Wednesday*, splendid nice day like summer rather lonesome thinking of home. Each man got a pie and every 4 men a turkey. All the boys from LANSINGBURGH in the other companies and there was several a man invited to spent the day with us. Big box came in the afternoon with good things in it, at night a party of us enjoyed ourselves...

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with hot stuff and had a good time 26th, guard at Railroad, first day for brigade guard. 27th regt. Out on a foraging Party 24th and 23rd and 2 other Regt with a party of cavalry got back all night they had about 90 wagons in the train. 28th division drill could not go out was lame. New recruits came to regt. Took Tommy Kent and Kennedy in our tent. Got letters and answered them. 29th *Sunday* fine day. Not many attended service. The chaplain hoped those who stayed sway would surely go to heaven. 30th no drill 31st Recruits sent to Co H. Hoorack inspected and mustered for next pay. Inspector complimented us for cleanliness of person and arms. Could not sleep at night for the firing New Year in at 12 o'clock. All the bands in the division struck up it was fine a good many of the boys finished the old year out in a noisy manner. Jan 1st 1862 unusually fine day felt lonesome, thinking of home although...

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plenty of fun afloat, foot races running in sacks, chasing a pig, greased and shared for prizes. No one outside the regiment allowed to enter the lists each Co won a prize the boys of 14th Brooklyn was in luck near all of them over the Bay in the afternoon washed my clothes. Got letters at night 2nd brigade drill. Wrote home. 3^d div drill and sham battle with 20 rounds of blank cartridge. Very nice and exciting and interesting to visitors to see the solid columns of infantry marching up to support the Batteries first on the right wing and again in the center we being in the center, we had a battery on each side of us to support the cavalry charge. Was exciting and was a grand sight-men pitched head first out of their saddles, while their horses kept in line same as if the rider was on his back at. Night. Rain and hail fell. 4th Jan. cold day and snowing no drill.