

Thyphoid

I was sent in a company with a Lut. and twelve men to the bridge. We missed our way and run onto our own picket. They halted us. The Lut. thought it was Federals. He turn and run up prity close to them. I was in the rear. As soon as I could, I rode up bey him, asking jest what he amed to do. He sed to report to the General. I tried to get him to holt and send one man in. No, he was taking the whole bunch in. When he made his report, thar was a regment ordered out. I was taken as a gide.

I toald the Col. it was a fire a-larm but when we got thar the fire had bin put out and they had fell back to another place. The Col. sed he beleave we hadn't sean much of a fire. At this I got down and found the place where the fire had bin. They had throwed water on it to put it out, so I ask the Col. to get down and put his hand in the ashes. They were still warm. Bey this time, some of them had run on to the picket. They had taken us fur Federals. So the regment went back and we went to the bridge where we had bin ordered. Here we staid two days and three nights and when we were releaved, we were ordered to report to the General.

When we rode up to his hed-quarters, the oald General come out and asked if we was the men that brought in the false report. When we answered we were, he ask us to light and pointed to a oald house we could occupy fur the present. He sed our hungry misery would be attended to fur us to march into that house and stack our guns at the door. We were all glad to hear that.

After they had give us supper, the oald General come in. He had a book in his hand and the most solemn expression on his face. He cleared up his

throate, looking around at all of us, asked if any of us had ever heard the Army regulation. I said no.

He then turned and read, "Any gard deserting his post in front of the enemy is to be punished with death." He started shaking the book and tuck a good look around again, sed, "What a pittty, a fine looking set of men will have to be shot, all in the bloom of life, when you could be of good service." At this he sed goodnight.

The long breath and deep sighs that was heaved the next few minutes was emence. We all wondered about it, however I couldn't see them killing us, bad as the south needed men as they were loosing them bey the hundreds each day. So I made up my mind I would not worry about it and try to get some rest.

One boy sed his business was in a mess fur his wife to run. I toald him he ought to have tended to that before he left home. A man going to war musent count on ever seeing his loved ones or home again. The Lut. turned to me and ask what I thought would be dun with us.

I then sed, "I had ruther take any of our chances than yours. We obeyed you. I can prove bey the boys I wanted to stop and stay thar. I ask you to send a man in to report and you objected to this. I am not going to take the blame fur your poor leadership. Now I'm going to get a good nights sleep."

The next morning the General come in. He did not have quite as much vinegar on the outside of his face. He spoke, "Well, I have bin thinking over your case and in as much as you are all new recruits and had never heard the Army regulation read, I will take the responsability to concil your punishment. The Lieutenant I will reduce to the ranks. The rest of you report to your respective company. Tell your

captain you are to pull extra duty fur one week.”

I knew my Capt. would delight to see me dig stumps fur a week as he had bin itching to get something on me, however as I past to go out the door the General sed he would write my Capt. a note not to put me on extra duty. (I always thought bey me showing the General where the fire had bin got me out of that one.)

The rest of the boys dug stumps fur a week. The ordley Sargent was promoted to Lut. and thar was a ordley to be elected.

The day of the election I was detailed, so could not be thar far the election. Thar was one of the Capt. pets running. Some of the boys put me out to be elected, however the pet made them a talk saying he had the required qualification necessary to make them a good officer and I had vary little education, as any fool could detect that. I didn't happen to be thar to defend myself. The results was he got eight votes out of seventy, after I had bin tried fur my life.

It was but a liffle while till we were ordered to the north part of the state. Our boys that had bin kept at Pine Bluff come with us. My brother Joe was very sick. His horse had bin sent off and he was a-foot.

One of the Luts had two horses. I went to him to borrow one but he refused, so I let Joe ride my horse and I played infantry all day, keeping up till night. We camped that night at Searcy. Here the Doctor sed Joe could go no farther. I asked him to detail me to wait on Joe. He dun so.

The next morning when the bugle bloed to saddle up, I carried mine in to the house where Joe was. The Capt. ask what was the meaning, bringing my saddle in thar. I toald him I had bin detailed as nurse. He sed he would have that changed but darn quick.

The Doctor and Col's tent was not more than fifty yds. away but thar was a deep ditch between us. The Capt. was on his horse. He had some two hundred yards to go around. I cut across afoot and toald the Col. that the Capt. was coming to have another man put in my place and I wanted to stay with my brother since he was so dangersly sick.

Here comes the Capt. to talk to the Col. about me, not knowing I had already taken care of it. The Capt. come in and toald the Col. that the Dr. had detailed his Ordley Sargent as nurse with a good horse.

The Col. ses, "Captain, get back to your company. That is the doctor's business."

About this time the Capt. sees me in the Dr.'s tent, seys, "Jones, when you get back in the company, I will get even with you."

We were left without a mouth-full of rations. Joe was getting no better so I went and got the Doctor that lived in town to come to see Joe. He sed thar was a good set of people living thar and he would see that we did not suffer fur anything to eat. He passed the word to General McCrui's wife and told her our condishions.

Joe was lying on a blanket on the floor. After talking with us, she toald me to go down home with her and get a mattress and a cot and pillows with blankets. It pleased us to get a good bed. We stade here six weeks. She and ould lady Perry tuck care of us, bringing us good food and doing our washing. It tuck all of my time seeing after Joe. He had the typhoid fever and got vary low. (Those good ladies has long since past over the great divide but surely they have bin received into the new Jarusalum.)

As soon as Joe got able to ride we started on. I went around and thanked those good people fur thar

kindness to us, as thanks was all I had to give.

I had to walk the first day as Joe was doing good to ride the horse. He found out he was not as well as he thought he was.

The first night we staid with a Baptist preacher. Everything went well till breakfast. At that time he asked Joe how he liked the conscrip law. Joe, saying that he did not like it, then asked the preacher what he thought of it. He sed it had saved the Goverment and a law that had saved the Nation was a good law.

Joe ses that depended on the kind of a Goverment it saved.

The preacher then ask if he didn't beleave the Confedracy a good Goverment. Joe reply he had failed to see any good in it.

At this, the preacher spoke in the most abrupt manor possable and sed, "If I had a know your sentiments, you could not have eat any of my meat and bread!"

Joe jumped up from the table as quick as he would have dun had he struck a nest of yellow jackets and asked the preacher why he was not out thar fighting fur his so called Goverment. The preacher replied he had bin exempted. Joe wanted to know on what grounds. He then sed he was a Minister of the Gospel. Joe ses it is a pity they hadn't got a man that had religion.

I got up and got Joe out of the house, got my horse to start riding. The preacher following behind us, seying we were the first men that had ever insulted him at his table. I spoke seying I was sorry anything had come up to insult him. Joe had no kick coming. We was the men that had bin insulted. He kep telling us how patriotic he was to his Goverment tel I spoke and toald him he had no Goverment. He

wanted to know what I ment. I told him the South was trying to establish one but they were a long ways from having one yet. The preacher sed they soon would have a good Goverment.

I sed, "Sir, the South has no foundation. They have the last able-bodied man in the field. Your army is fast diminishing. The North can double her in fighting force at any time. In fact they have all of Europe to recruit from."

A stranger rode up and heard the last part of this talk. I got Joe on the horse. We hit the road, me walking and Joe riding, making traveling vary slow.

The stranger over taken us, coming up laughing, saying we had converted the preacher. The preacher had bin informing the recruiting officers on every man that had bin trying to keep out of the war and he never intend to try to get anyone else to go. We were the best posted men on the war he had ever met. I then spoke, "We ought to be, we are forced to be in it against our will."

This man rode a-long with us till twelve o'clock. We had got to his brothers house. He ask us to stay far dinner. He toald his brother we had converted the preacher. He was a vary pleasant man and ask us to spend the night with him. We understood the war the same. He sed the country was vary near divided on the war-question.

The next day we overtuck one of our neighbor boys. He had bin sick and was jest able to stager a-long the road. He was also afoot, so he and Joe taken it time a-bout riding, with me taken the bout all the time.

The next day before noon my back and legs began to ache. It was not long till I began to shake and never in life did I want to git to a house worse. We got to a fine-looking oald man's house. He was

setting on the porch. I spoke to him and toald him I was vary sick and wanted to rest a while. He sed to get down. I stagered in the house. The oald lady had a bed ready. She piled cover on me till I could not turn over. After a little while the fever come up and I went crazy out of my head. The boys sed I curst Davis, Yancy, and Toombs, the Confedracy, the war and them that made thar living bey it. They kept poring cold water on my head till they run the fever down. The boys sed I sed a-nuff to have us all shot.

I was embarrass when the oald man come in. I spoke to him and sed the boys seys I had went wild and curst and went on at a terrible rate last night. I hoped he would figive me.

He sed, "Thar is places that it would not have bin prudent. Your sentiments and mine don't disagree. I want you to get well and we will go out into the orchard and talk it over."

We stayed here about three days. They were all kindness to us. With the good care his wife gave me, I got well.

(I was in this settlement the last year of the war and inquired after these people. He had two grandsons and when they got oald a-nuff to have to go into the army, they comenst to try to keep out. They were lying out in the woods with thar Gran-Pah caring fur them, taking food and provisions. He was watched and trailed. All three were fired on and killed. This was the sad news I got.)

We finally caught up with the Command, found them in Carroll County at Breswell Springs. The boys was all proud to see Joe and me. I suspect that the Capt. was sorry fur the words he sed to me when I had to nurse Joe back to health, as he also seamed glad to see us.

Two days after we got thar, the pickets were fired on. We were all called in line of battle. The Capt. drew his savor. He marched up the line and sed he wanted no cowards in that line and the first man that run that day he would run his savor through him. He stood jest behind my brother Joe, so I turned a-round and faced the Capt. and sed, "Captain, I don't expect to run, but if I have to the first thing I will do is to kill a Captain and I don't have to tell you I'm a crack shot. That's something fur you to think about, Sir.'" The Capt. made no reply what so-ever.

We all marched out to the front. The Federals fell back so we had no fight. But if we had fought it would have been without the Noble Capt., fur he failed to come with us.

In a few days thar was a Scout ordered out. We crossed White River at Fort Smith. A few milds above, we come to where a force party of the Federals was gathering corn in a field. They had three wagons with ten or twelve men on gard. As we got in sight of them, we dis-mounted to load our guns. The Feds sean us and struck fur camp. We got on our horses and trotted a-long after them a peace, then counter marched, struck a lope, kept it up fur five milds. I had bin in the service fur a year and a half and these were the first Federals I had ever sean except fur prisnors or through a telescope a-cross the Mississippi River.

Ingnorance Was Preyalent

It was not long till we were ordered to Van Buren. We went bey the way of Kingston, cross the Bolton Mountains to the head of Mulberry Creek. Here the Col. sent fur me and sed they were going to leave the sick. He wanted to leave me with them. I toald him the Capt. would kick about it. At this he sed, "Let him kick. It won't be the first kicking fit he's ever had. You are the best man we have fur this purpose, so, Jones that's a order."

I was forage master, nurse, cook, etc. Thar was ten or twelve of the sick men, mostly measles. I had one helper bey the name of Ashbroke, who knew nothing about taking care of sick people. The Doctor give me a lot of medicine and I was to give vouchers on the Confederats States. I russld a-round and bought a load of corn, a hog and some chickens to make soupe, paid fur it in vouchers on the Confederat States.

Thar was one thing happened here I have always regretted. The Lieutenant that refused me his horse fur brother Joe to ride when he was so sick with the feaver and I had to walk all day to keep up with the Cavalry, he was left sick.

We divided the sick and I toald Ashbroke to take the Lieutenant in his bunch to wate on, as I did not want to see him. We got a house fur the ones that was worse and the Lieutenant was one of them. He sent word bey my helper that he wanted to see me and talk with me, fur he did not beleave he was going to get well and wanted to apologize to me. Acting like a bull, I refused to go to see him. I have always regretted this, as he lived but a few days.

After I got them all purty much on thar feet, thar was not enough horses fur all the boys that remand.

Me and a man bey the name of Marion Parker started on. We had learned the company was at Cane Hill and bey taken a bridle trail a-cross the Mountain it was not near so far. However, this proved to be the roughest road I have ever traveled.

We stopped the first night with the ruffest family I have ever been among. Thar was an oald man and his wife and two grown girls that had never bin to school a day, never to church in thar lives. They swore like sailors. It was ten milds to his nearest neighbor. He had lived at this place far thirty years.

The oald man sed the war was a good thing because all the damd fools would get killed off. I sed what about the men that was forced into it. He sed they would have a hell of a time to make him do a thing he did not want to do. The thought came to me, I would like to report him, he thought he was so damd smart. This was the kind the Army needed to fight this unfair war. He didn't know or care what was going on, never read a newspaper or seldom sean a man, only when he carried his furs and pelts to Van Buren. We ate well while here, all the bair meat and venison and honey we wanted to eat.

(Reader, think about this -- A State without a railroad, a telegraph or telephone, a free school was unheard of. That was Arkansas and Texas at that date. Ingnorance was preyalent. Not one man in 10 taken a newspaper.)

The next day we got on top of the mountain. Here we come to a vacant house. It was raining and we were wet from head to toe. It was a good house and a fine orchard. Here I thought we would build a fire and warm and dry out. We conclued to spend the night here, had to put up the fience in order to let our horses grase. As I was going around the orchard I found a Bee-gum full of honey. As I started to get

hay out of a box I found two bushels of apples. We was dancing round over our good luck. I herd horses. On looking out, I sean the house was surrounded and they were making a charge on it. I stept out.

They sed, "You are a prisnor."

I sed, "It don't take a proffet to guess that."

He ask, "Where are you from?"

When I toald him, he give it the darn lye stuff. I asked him not to be so free with his words until he knew what he was talking about. I then puld out my detail identification and handed it to him. He looked at it and sed that it was forged and I belonged to the Federals and was a damd trador. I give this the lye. He then puld his pistol and cocked it and punched me in the fore-head and sed if I disputed his word again he would blow my brains out.

I didn't have to be blind to see that he was a fool and a coward, so I began to bluff my way. I ask how fur it was to his hed-quarters. He sed about a mild. I then sed I would go and report to his Capt. and leave Parker thar as he was wet and jest getting up out of a spell of measles, as it was raining he would have a back-set if he did not get dried out. He swore at this statement and sed he would take him if he died in twenty minutes, so we all started. Since he did not trust me, he rode beside me without taking his eye off me.

As we went along, he bousted of being from Texas, a state that had no cowards. I toald him that I knew as much about his state as he did as I had served a ranger term in that state. He then give this the damd lye. I also toald him his conduct was a disgrace to his state.

At this he punch me in the face with his pistol again, swore if I opened my mouth again he would

blow my brains out. I thought of the oald adage, a still tounge made a wise hed. If this little brag didn't have the gun, I would beat hell out of him right then and thar.

We got to his Capt. He ses, "Here, Captain, is a couple of damd diserters I got on the mountain."

I then spoke, ses, "You plad hell." I then turned to the Capt. and sed, "I hope you are a reasonable man, and a gentleman. I could have proved hoo I was and where I belonged, but that damd fool, son-of-a-bitch that claimed to be one of your men, to him I could prove nothing. The only thing that man knows is that he is from Texas, which is a disgrace to the state."

At this I taken out my detail, where I had bin left with the sick and other papers that I had got at different times. The Capt. read them and sed, "I find nothing wrong with you. Your command was at Cane Hill the other day, But they are now near Van Buren, on the other side of the mountain. He sed he was doing the piett duty between the two armys. I then asked fur my arms and permission to talk to the scoundle that arrested me. He granted it. As they handed me my pistol, I cocked it.

The Capt. tuck holt of it and sed, "You will have to give it up."

I then let the hammer down and commenst talking to the Capt., telling him he was to blame fur sending a man out at the head of a bunch of men that had neither hart or brains.

The Capt. saying, "You are mistaken in this man, he is well educated."

I ses, "Sir, you can educate a hog but will like a damd sight of making a man out of it." I then turned to the scoundle and told him if I ever got a chance at him I would shoot him as full of holes as a

pepper box bottom. I then wanted to know his name. One of the men spoke up, ses, "You give him a prity good name, he is a Son-of-a-bitch."

The Capt. furnished us with chuck and horse feed. We went back and stayed at the house on the mountain and finally got dryed out.

(I'll take time to give an account of what become of Marion Parker. He stayed in the army until his health was completely broke down. He then deserted and started home in the company of a man bey the name of Mitchell. They were overcome by Joe Head's company and hung to a tree jest above Mount Ida. Parker was a honest, kind-harted man but such is the fate of war.)