



Transcription of item(s) from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society: Ransom Chadwick's Andersonville Prison Diary.

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society, and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

www.mnhs.org

[Volume 1]

[Prior to Chadwick's first diary entry are two pages of cash accounts and pencil sketches of a soldier and a federal eagle]

[First entry is last one, chronologically]

July 20th, 1864 A Roud[?] hot day got up and found new Rebbels Camps all Round us and A squadd of Darkeys about [3 on?] fortifying got the Diarhee bad

[Following are blank pages and two more pages of accounts]

[Written in top margin of second entry are numbers, presumably of miles travelled:] 76 174 192 452 [i.e., 442]

Monday the 26 [April 25] 1864 left Tourburrow for Gouldsburrow N.C.

["174" written in left margin] Arived at Willmington half past 4 Am Crossed cape fear river in A fery Boat large [place?] Drew soft bread

["192" written in left margin] arived At florance 11 P.m Changed Cares[cars] layed 1 hours left Charlston 4 Am savana river 1 P.m arived at savanna *["101 miles" written in bottom right margin]* from savanna to Americus 277

30 Arived to andersons station prisanners rendersveu [rendezvous?] for prisanners 4 P.m.

May the 1st 1864 finde ourselves in the Rebbel Prison laying out in the open field bad enough Rained

2 warm and ples[ant] waked up by the Report of a gun clost by the guard shot one of our men ded

3 A Bitter coald knigt And very warm day draw reytions every day pay 1 dollar for baking hoe cace [cake] or five for a hoe cake 6 dollars a pound for pork or bacon fifty cts[cents] a peace for eggs 1 dollar a pint for flower one dol[lar] a qt for peas 12 dol a gallon for Molases

May the 4 1864 Coald Nights warm days traitors turned against us after tuniling 30 yards

5 sick Diarhea scalding hot moved tent

6 feal better Drew rice Molases meal Bacon & salt

the 7th felt quite well afffull hot

8 rote letter for boy sick very warm

9th warm and pleasant James Jasper died, Co. D feal very well

Ransom Chadwick diary.
Transcription.

2

- 9th warm but looks like Rain Draw reytions every Day Reinforcements to guard us good news form [from] the army of the potomac
- 10th Coald commenced Raining, 3 Pm nasty time sufered with Coald
- 11th Rained all day Coald Knight but dry
- 12th More moderate but Coald Bought 4 lb. Butter \$1.50 2/1[?] doz eggs \$1.00 draw i[ms. illegible] tea .75 arm full of wood .80
- 13th Cloudy and cool rather under the weather Diarea Rained but good Reported our men Captured Dalton
- 14th Clear and warm feal very well very hott all through the midle of the day Cars plys[?] livly several up trains unusual suppose filing at Dalton
- 15th Sunday Morning warm got up made a cup of soup of corn bread and bacon and A cup of crust coffee went down to the Creek had a good wash all over feel bully
- 16th sum Diahee[Diarrhea] lever[?] reported to the Doctors likely for rain
- 17th very warm trouble in Camp prisanners dug out sick fornoon after noon felt beter made kittle soup more prisanners Come in Dalton taken in our posesion had a shake high fever all knight Rained a little
- 18th Clear and warm feal quite well hunted lice a spell had general orders red to us had a shake
- 19th still warm Reported to Doctor got calamel 2 gr quinine mixture Night feal very sick Coald sweett
- 20th the hottest day yet hank fogle very sick with fever more prisanners from Ritchmond
- 21st the hottest day yet lee has A chill More Prisanners 410 our pen is about foal the hospitle Mooved outside of the soockade thank the lord for that veryation
- Sunday May the 22 1864 prisanners every Day hot and dry a deatale to enlarge the stockade A fine thing to[o] Blankett \$4.00
- 23 still dry and hot good Courage yet god in his good time and way he will releas us out of this More prisanners arrived 1240 a hard cite[?] for them here But god give us courage to bear with Patience H. Fogle went to Hospitle James Leonard moved with us
- May the 24th 1864 Not quite so warm More prisanners geting to be clost qts[quarters] for us here about 13780 men on 16 achers of ground thunder shower

Ransom Chadwick diary.
Transcription.

- 25th Cleared [up?] pleasant More prisners prospects of a break A thousand more Prisaners and A Co. of Cavelry and 600 Conscrips to r[MS. illegible] to protect A break
- May the 26th 1864 Rainy day thunder showers through the knight quite cool got sum soap stone for pipes
- 27th warm and dry reinforcements arived here routed from atlanta probably 2 Redgments drawn up in a line one before each gate Negroes husling with shovels half Reytions and poore at that hard cite to live by eating here [*written sideways in margin*] Our men Reported in atlanta Captured 4,000 Prisaners
- 28th the scorching sun pores out more prisners Lee had a chill I have a bad Coald and sore throat to[o]
- 29th sunday morning very cool and comfatilble More Rebb troups two traines extry Came in to day Let thank and praise god for the preservation of life and health and peace in the name of Christ looking to him for help [*written sideways in margin*] More Prisaners from Atlanta and front of Richmond 600
- May the 30th 1864 Continues hot & Dry quite sick had a very high Phevor More prisners from the front good News Reported to the Doct prisners from Florida
- 31st Warm and dry More prisners Our men to work stringthing the stockade Big thing for them pen themselves in and still more want to get out
- June the first 1864 quite cool in morning 3 day Report to the Doct Bad coald About 350 More Prisaners Lively time on the Railroad sevrel trains A very heavy shower soaked all our bedds A perfect Mudhole Verious rumer In prison if any wer true we would be satisfied
- 2nd A fine Cooll day prospects of Rain heavy thunder in a distence feal quite well Visted all the boys of the Co sum very sick sum feals Chearfull and hapy
- 3rd Cleared up warm reported to the Doctor 8 day and no medicen yet Rained nasty knight Diareah sum
- 4th Raines this morning Dark lonesum day George H. Fogle Died with the Intermittent Phever In the hospitle a few more prisners Rained all day
- 5th Clowdy and cool got the diahrea feal quite well a little Rain But sunshines Drew Raw Reytions 1 qt Meal & salt 4 ta. sp.
- 6th got baked Meal 8 cakes for breakfast Diarhee sum Report to Doctors Drew little harmfull Wood small fries Rained after noon had pancakes for supper baked them by starlite

Ransom Chadwick diary.
Transcription.

4

- June the 7th Cleared up hot Commensed speculation Begin on five dollars 300 more
Prisaners Cum the heaviest shower yet drops as large as hazelnuts But a Pewer
shower Rained hard in the Knight
- 8th A Dark foggy morning Baked a stack of Pancakes Made Meal Gravey dranked sweet
gurn tea hasty time heavy fight to Atlanta Doct all left to dress off the wounded
- Camp sumptor June 9th 64 warm and hot hot hot Rained a heavy shower Cleared up hot as
ever there was the most fist fighting I ever saw bloody fights
- 10th Clear and warm No newse cant here nothing olnely as Prisaners comes In dull Dry
way of living I ashure you but got to stand It no getting out Comensed pedling[?]
Bear[beer?] 5000 halefull[?] sold 2 Pales 5.80+5.20 Bought 5 Cakes 33 1/3
- 11th quite coole and pleasant very hot Rained quite A heavy shower eat 3 harty Meals A
day putty harty I should say for me had a hard knight sick and no mestake
- 12th sundy morning quite Cool all the four Noon showery the After Noon A few More
Prisaners got sum Pancakes half Wheat to bake for supper if it stops Raining
- June the 13th 1864 Nasty Coald Rainy day hard nasty time for us Blanketts all wett and
Mody But I trust in god for health and strength to cary me safe through
- 14th the same as yesterday sick threatened with the Phevor head aches bad coald Cough
hard all knight Cleared up a little jest[?] knight
- June the 15th 1864 still Rainey and Cool Nasty sickly time Boys dies Like sheepe from 45
to 92 Pr day 1100 Prisaners more to day from Grants Armeey striped of every thing
Money and Cloths try hard to clear up had a Joney[?][Johnnycake?] ask people for tea
sweat harty, had a restless knight Bloody Diahree cum on suden
- June the 16th 1864 Reported hard cite Rained Nasty time lots of Boys has to Lay on the
ground No Blanketts or tents got No Medicen [*written sideways in margin*] 1,100
more Prisaners Warm yates[?] cum
- 17th Rainey morning Drew half Pint of Burnt Rice 1/4 lb Pork for 1 days Reytion good as
far as it gowes but it Dont go But A little ways Rained hard all the After Noon got
Diarhee bad
- June the 18th 1864 Rains yet Nasty bad time very sickley and short of Reytions and
Poare[poor] at that Guideon searls Arived Camp sumptor
- June the 18th 1864 Cleared up jest knight
- Sunday June the 19th 1864 had sawer[sour] Rice for Breakfast sun cum out scortching hot
then cloweded up and Rain Begin to get home sick sum but it only makes a bad matter
wors 900 Prisaners Arived here from the western Armeey

Ransom Chadwick diary.
Transcription.

5

20th Cloudy and cool good Newse hope it May be true feal quite well for me E. W. Pardy went to the hospitle Rained hard all the after Noon Gid searles stayed with us all knight
[written sideways in margin] More Prisaners 425

June the 21st Dark foggy morning lots of Reb soulgiers went through here on cars hard fighting but where it is i dont know Clowey more Raine and more Prisaners 379 Drew Pooding for 1 day had to eat it sower

22nd quite warm again changed tent mates had a good dinner Rebbs stood in line all day sum excitement sherman is exspected

June the 23 1864 Clear and warm look quear to see a Clear sky again quite sickley Ding fast from 40 to 110 Pr day looks hard Drew pooding 457 More Prisaners from the west and the arney of the Potomec

24th Clear and hot as ever tore down our tent and rebuilt good quarters feel very well 70 more Prisaners

June the 25th 1864 fine hot weather But A gooddeal of sickness Rather Discourageing to us Wm. J. Haney went to the hospital A good knights Rest prosspects of geting out soon

Sunday the 26th hot as ever had A good wash fried pooding for Breakfast Grubbed out a stump for wood seven hundred mor Prisaners from the western arney sower Bread and Rotton Bacon sum Drew fresh Beefe

27th got up fried Pancake for Breakfast 601 more Prisaners Dug a well 14 foot Deepe fine water Rained heavy 690 more Prisaners Drew more Reytions than we could eat

June the 28th 1864 Rained heavy thunder showers got weat Diarhee trying to make Bear
[beer?]

29th quite coole donte feal very well to day 447 more Prisaners got the new stockade Dun sum of the Prisaners move in to Morrow

29th George D. Haire Went to the Hospital Raiders ketched and Punished 2 got away and stabed 3 men after an Indian killed him the most horrible Barberism Amongst our owne Men I ever red of or hurd of wars [worse] than the rebbs

30th Cole an[d] fine Weather for us here Got the Diarea Bad feal hard up But faith in the lord will help 51 a few more prisanners [written sideways in margin] J. Blackman Died in hospital

July the 1st 1864 hot as ever Diarhee Wors geting sum Weak 10,400 Men going into the new Prison Choped down the center line of the stockade By star lite [written sideways in margin] Cheated out of 2 days Reytions

2nd hoter than ever Fixed up our Well Neete as you pleas Wallace Lacy Went to the hospital cronick Diarhee 3 chaptlains from Macon to try Raiders

July the 3rd 1864 sunday A little the hottest Day yet Diarhee better Catholeck preast visited our camp tells us we wont stay in here longue

July the 4th 1864 Scalding hot heavy thunder shower Rather Dul fourth I tell you shet up In A hogg pen Drew fresh Beef or said to be fresh But I called it rather Oald all Magetts and stunk enough to knock a man over this was our fourth supper a grate treat I should reckon after going without Reytions 2 days

5th hot as ever sick from the ritche supper our detachment changed from 37+1 to 19+1 help a little about getting out first if we ever get out alive

July the 6 1864 hot as ever again have Rolle call every morning Baked a large Joney Cake jest for a change Being we dont get Corn Bread onely 3 times A day

7th hotter still felt quite well part of the Day But got sunstrok sick all knight More cars running than ever sumthing New up had sum pancakes and lases [molasses?] for supper

July the 8th 1864 hot as ever Bet A dinner on getting out of prison by the first of august 330 More Prisaners sum from Charlston sum from shermans[Sherman's army] sum from Grants Prospects of Raine Drew Roten Meat had to throw it away

9th No rain hot as ever sum scatering Clouds Atlanta Reported taken by sherman 226 Prisaners from grants Armeey they Reports lots of Rebbs wounded on the way to Americus A heavy shower

Sunday July the 10th hot as ever heavy showers at a distance More Prisaners 278 from the army of the Potomoc Henry Mines of Black creek cum in Reports Richmond in tite quarters

11th hot and dry More Prisaners 382 from the army of the Potomoc got a fellow [felon: a pus-filled inflammation] on my finger

July the 11th 1864 A most tuching And sorrowing Incident 6 of our Owne men hung all at once one broke the Rope and walked up the second time and had the rope put around his neck let this be a warning to all who are eye witnesses of the debt they have payed for their sins dun[done] here in prisson Rained heavy shower

July the 12th 1864 quite comfertable Coole day mended up my Clothes good fine weater to sleepe knights jest now

13th Comes off warm agan got up earley one of our men shot to the spring dead for nothing tite Corners for us wars than the Battlfield hotter than ever A heavy shower Approaching My Fute[MS. blotted] mens swellon George Crum one discharged from our Redgiment from the affects of a wound inlisted in the 184 P.V. [Pennsylvania Volunteers]

14th A little the hottest day yet had A good Chat with H. Miner had A New dish for dinner
Poooding used Psalt and water for Milk

[written sideways in margin] heavy showers more the Night
The Rebbs tried to show us how smart they Could be shot 12lb guns as A signoul it
then plump a [MS. illegible] to fall in we could take all they have[?] got here in half of
that time

[list of names] Holida Farel Corwin Butlar Pettabone Leonard Densmor
Chadwick Austin Henyan Mcman

they scared sum of our boys half to Death while others called the rebbs every thing they
Could and laughed at them and they soon played out

[list of regimental promotions or resignations]

sold A qt cup for one Dollar paid one dollar for 2 spoonful of soda

15th hot as ever heavy thunder showers A 123 More Prisaners Baked hocake Drew A
small Reytion of Wood

16th Clowdy and coolle got up baked hoecake for Breakfast a little Diarhee again

17th sunday July the saba [sabbath] Real hot day five Prisaners cum sold five qts of meal
for tobaco traided Bacon for A qt pale and did not no[know] it was sunday till to late
Drew Reytions

*[next 6 pages: a list of marches and engagements, a few notes of rations purchased[?] and their
prices, and a few lines of religious verse]*

18th Drew Nice reytions Coole day Diarhee Reported Charlsto[n] burned the capital of
Mobile taken & Atlanta

19th hot as ever got Breakfast & henry Miner ate with me had A good visit with him he
didnt Draw Reytions Rather hard for A [MS. smudged]

[At top of page:]

R.A. Chadwick
Reinlisted [for?] May the 5th 1864
sold[?] bounty 100.00
part of new bounty 60.00
[provisions?] 2.00
one months pay 13.00
total 175.00
hole bounty 590.00
first Lieut L.A. Butts
x Inlisting officer x

**Ransom Chadwick diary.
Transcription.**

[Final page of volume: a list of army pay.]