Memorandum
Morristown, Tenn., Mar. 10th, 1844
A very cold and windy day, the ground is frozen hard & the cold is about as severe as any we have seen this winter. We are daily expecting to move forward towards Bulls Gap, having given up all hopes of leaving this impoverished country for the present. When suddenly about 4 p.m. this day orders came to the Quartermaster of the 12th Dir. to furnish transportation for the Dir. to Annapolis Mts. So unexpectedly came the order for us to go North, that we were almost unprepared for receiving it. The understanding now is that we march to Kingville thence by sail to Mt. Ocoee till 12 o'clock, the reason being that we for the march are bound to have something to march on.
The evening is dreadful cold & it takes a light smock to wear to keep warm.
A very cold and windy day, the ground is frozen hard & the cold is about as severe as any we have seen in Tenn. this winter. We have been daily expecting to move forward towards Bulls Gap, having given up all hopes of leaving this impovished country for the present. When suddenly about 4 pm this day orders came to the Quarter Master of the 2d Div to furnish transportation for the Div to Annapolis Md. So unexpectedly came the order for us to go North, that we were almost overjoyed in receiving it. The understanding now is that we marched to Knoxville thence by rail to Md.

I was up till 12 o’clock cooking doughnuts biscuits &c for the march and bound to have something to march on.

The evening is dreadful cold & it takes “right smart” of wood to keep warm
March 19th. Was called up at 8 A.M. Breakfast eaten and ready to march at 5; got started about 6; marched 17 miles. The weather is so cold one is not uncomfortable with his overcoat on while marching.

The people along the route are very anxious to know where we are going; eagerly inquire if the "all the Carabines" are coming back and going to let the people on to us again. We have to tell everybody we see that it is only our corps that is going back.

We camped at West Market ft no a very cold & disagreeable night.

Mar. 18th. Awoke myself this morning & lost my breakfast. Teams were started and all my grub on board before I was out of the land of dreams. Had to make up for this misfortune by showing what little hard tack I had in my sateen sack while marching. We made the Holston river at 10 P.M. & marched 17 miles further towards Va.
March 18th  Was called up at 3 AM breakfast eaten and ready to march at 5, got started about 6 marched 17 miles. The weather is so cold one is not uncomfortable with his overcoat on while marching.

The people along the rout are very anxious to know where we are going & eagerly enquire if “all the Yankees are coming back and going to let the rebels on to us again”. We have to tell evry one we see that it is only our corps that is going back.

We camped at New Market it is a very cold & disagreeable night

Mar. 18th  Overslept myself this morning & lost my breakfast. Teams were started and all my grub on board before I was out of the land of dreams. Had to make up for this misfortune by chewing what little “hard tact” I had in my haversack while marching We made the Holston river at 10 AM & marched 12 miles further towards Ky. making 20 miles to day
Mar 19th. The column started at 9 a.m. marched to Knoxville & camped on the same ground we left the 24th of Feb. making but 4 miles to day. 20th. Remained in camp resting as rather washing & cooking to be prepared for our journey. We don’t hardly relish the march over the mountains as we had our minds all made up for a look at Mission Ridge & Lookout mountain. By 12 o’clock midnight I had got all our baggage divided everything that we could possible do without was packed in boxes & bags for a ride around by fine the rest was to go in the backs of mules 200 miles over the mountains.

21st. After two hours waiting, about 8 A.M. we got started on the Clinton road. We are glad to know that now after so much expectation & disappointment we are on our way to a land of peace & plenty. We leave Knoxville & the surrounding
Mar 19th The column started at 7 am marched to Knoxville & camped on the same ground we left the 24th of Feb. making but 6 miles to-day

20th Remained in camp resting or rather washing & cooking to be prepared for our journey. We don’t hardly relish in the march over the mountains as we had our minds all made up for a look at Mission Ridge & Lookout mountain. By 12 o’clock midnight I had got all our baggage divided every thing that we could possibly do without was packed in boxes & bags for a ride round by C. the rest is to go on the backs of mules 200 miles over the mountains

21st After two hours waiting, about 8 am we got started on the Clinton road We are glad to know so much expectation & disappointment we are on our way to a land of peace & plenty We leave Knoxville & the surrounding
country in an altogether different state from what we found it last fall. While forests are swept away and instead deserted camp grounds occupied first by one army then by the other, each village leaving its Swarm of fettle & dead animals. Vicksburg has little the appearance of the Vicksburg of last fall. Nearly one third of the city has been burned or torn down. Two continuous lines of rifle pits surround it on three sides showing where red & yank had lain many a cold frosty night watching each other like as no soldiers but "sans dubs" would watch.

I was surprised to see in some places the two lines of pits one foot apart. The city seems to have been transformed into a big fort. For on any hill & across on all sides there is a big fort whose guns command every valley & hill around.

Today we marched 10 miles over the Clinch river at dark. Went into camp in the village of Clinton.

Today we have passed one dead mile on horse for very 10 rods of the way.

The carcasses give my agreeable smell of but one but to read a hot or firing shot over the chasmos and burning it up to the atmosphere his about as much as one smoking apparatus can endure (who won't eat pork)!"
country in an altogether different state from what we found it last fall. Whole forests are swept away and instead deserted campgounds occupied first by one army then by the other each army leaving its shair of filth & dead animals Knoxville has now little the appearances of the Knoxville of last fall. Nearly one third of the city has been burned or torn down. Two continuous lines of rifle pits surround it on three sides showing where reb & yank had lain many a cold frosty night watching each other like as no soldiers but “uns & rebs” would watch. I was surprised to see in some places the two lines of pits not twenty feet apart. The city seems to have been transformed into a big fortress for on evry hill & knoll on all sides there is a big fort whose guns command evry valley & hill around.

To-day we march 20 miles crossed the Clinch river at dark went into camp in the village of Clinton.

To day we have passed one dead mule or horse for evry 10 rods of the way These carcasses have no agreeable smell if let alone but when a hog or pig is rooting over the clarrion and turning it up to the atmosphere it is about as much as one smelling apparatus can endure (Who woun’t eat pork)