

# Diary Of A Soldier – 1864

Article and photos by Dr. Francis A. Lord

*Edward Lewis Hoon enlisted in the 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry on September 2, 1861. This unit served in the VI Corps and was present at all the major battles of the Army of the Potomac at Fredericksburg, Marye's Heights, Salem Church, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania C.H., Cold Harbor, Petersburg and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, in which Hoon lost his leg. The regiment lost 10 officers and 171 enlisted men during the war. Hoon was severely wounded at the battle of Winchester, Va., September 19, 1864. He was hit in the knee cap of his right leg by a minie ball, necessitating amputation of the leg. The bone is currently in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Hoon never fully recovered from his wound, suffering intermittent pain until his death.*

*A total of 275,175 Federals were wounded in the war, and most of the wounds were in the arms or legs. Hoon's wound, therefore, was typical of the kind most of his fellow soldiers also received if they, too, stopped a minie ball. Shell and bayonet wounds were much less frequent.*

*The following is the diary (never before published) of Edward L. Hoon from May to September 1864.*

*No attempt has been made to correct the grammar or spelling of Hoon's diary. The spelling, especially, is too "good" to trifle with!*

Diary of Edward Lewis Hoon  
102 Pennsylvania Infantry

May 18, 1864. Left Brandy Station May the 4, crossed the Rapidan

May the 5 we was in the fite all day. May the 7 was out on picket. May the 8 marched all day, then went out on picket. May the 9 were in line of battle and they are still fighting. May the 10 stil fiting and about to advance on the rebs. 4 o'clock the evening of the 10 closed with a very hard fite and we drove the rebs back took a grate many prisoners. **The 11** fought all day and took a grate many prisoners. The 12 there was awful fiting all day and picket filing all knight.

The 13 picket filing all day and canonading May 11 started before day light and moved to the left. They are stil firing. The fite closed this morning and the rebs are re-treating and our fellows are after them.

**May the 15.** Lay in line of battle at day and dug rifle pits and the cavalry drove the rebs pickets back. This evening all is quiet at dark. Our Co has lost 7 kild and 37 wounded up to this time.

**May the 16** all quiet and it rained in the evening and there was some canonading.

The 17 all quiet in the morning. This is the 3 day we have laid in this place at the rifle pits near Spotsylvania. The 18th the fighting began at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and our brigade charged on them and lost several men. All quiet at 9 on the evening. We marched from the right to the left in the afternoon. In the evening we marched from the left to the right and had been on our picket all knight. The day was very hot and it rained several showers and looks very much for rain to knight. We are still in the front line of battle.

The 19th. We advanced 2 or 3 miles and lay in line of battle and put on building brest works and are looking for an attack. 4 o'clock there was very hard fighting in the evening and we took several prisoners. At 11 o'clock at night we marched from the rifle pit back to the rear and to the right where the fight was.

The 20 — laying in a field and they are taking the prisoners back to the rear. They are stil coming.

21st — moved from the right to the center and have got our lines and the rebs are shelling our men. There was quite a fight this morning. This evening the rebs charged on our pickets and there was a hard fight and the rebs was drove back. That night we marched all night to GAINNESS.

22nd. Stopped near GAINNESS in the fore noon and got dinner and they are fighting in our front and there has just been a rain shower. This day is very hot and looks for more rain. We marched on \_\_\_\_\_ and our company went on picket.

The 23 — We are on picket this morning and all is quiet. About 10 o'clock the cannonading began and there was a very hard battle and we marched to dark and dark closed the fight. The fight is near Hanover.

24. This morning we got up and crost the North Anna and the pickets all firing at one another. This day is very warm. There is very heavy firing on the left and it has been all day. In the evening we advanced to where the 5th Corps was and took there place in the rifle pits and stayed all knight.

The 25th got up at 4 o'clock and got our breakfast and packed up all ready to move. We went out as flankers and was on the skirmish line all day and toniht and rained very hard and the rebs shot at us all day.

The 26th. Still on the skirmish line and shooting at the rebs and them at us. Theres a thunder storm just coming on. There was very heavy firing all day along the lines.

May the 27th. We left the picket line at 7 o'clock in the morning and fell back across the river and marched about 5 miles and stopped to draw rations. Then we marched on to 9 o'clock at knight and stopped for the night.

The 28. Started on and crost the PAYMUNK EY river at 10 o'clock and stopped to rest. Then we marched on a mile and formed line of battle and there is very heavy cannonading on our left and picket firing in our front. Then we put up rifle pits and staid all night.

The 29 — the sun is out bright and everything is quiet a long the line. The day is very hot and there is cannonading and there is in the front and some picket firing. In the evening we started and marched to 11 at night and stopped for the night.

**The 30.** We got our breakfast and started on toward richmond and came to the railroad and stopped to rest. Then we moved to the left and staid all night. There was heavy cannonading in the morning.

**The 31.** The pickets are firing at the rebs. It is very hot to day. In the evening we moved out to the front and formed line of battle and staid there all night and there was cannonading and picket firing all day.

**June the 1st 1864.** We got up at 3 in the morning and started to the left and rear, then marched to cold harbor and they was fighting and fought all morning. And we lay in line of battle.

**June 2.** Got up before day and built a rifle pit and the rebs sheld us and kild some of our men. Then we moved to the right and went to the front and lay under the fire all day and night and building a rifle pit and James Johnston was kild.

**The 3.** This morning our men charged at 4 o'clock and our regt was in the front line. The fight is awful: the day closed with hard fighting.

The 4th. The fighting is still going on. The cannonading is very heavy. Our men are holding their own and there was hard fighting all day and night and it rained all night.

**The 5th.** The fight is stil going on and the rain is stil falling. The rebs made a charge after dark and was drove back and there was firing.

**June the 6.** The day is hot and the firing is stil kept up and the rebs sheld us in the afternoon but did not much harm.

**The 7th.** Still the picket fighting is kept up and the rebs sheld us and in the evening there was heavy cannonading on bouth sides.

June 8. This is a nice day and the pickets are firing and fired all day. There is very heavy cannonading all day.

**June the 9.** This day \_\_\_\_\_ and the pickets kept up the fire all day. The day is hot and the pickets are stil firing and heavy cannonading.

June the 11th. The day is hot and heavy cannonading and picket firing.

**The 12th.** The firing is still kept up on both sides. After dark we started from Cold harbor and marched all knight in the direction of the White house.

The 13. Stopped at day light and got break fast, there started on and marched toward the James river and crost the Chickahominy at dark. Then went two miles and stopped for the knight.

**The 14th.** Started at day light in the same direction and came in sight of the James river and went in camp. Staid all night and it was cold.

The 15th. Stil in camp and the sun is very hot. At nine o'clock we packed up and went on a mile and stopped in a corn field and dug a rifle pit a mile from the James River and staid all night.

**The 16.** Packed up and marched to the back of the river in a clover field and dug a rifle pit and I was in fatigue down at the river and at 5 o'clock we started and went acrost the James river and marched all night in the direction of Peters burgh.

The 17th. Stopped at 6 and got our breakfast and went on within three miles of petersburg and there is very heavy cannonading going on there. We have stopped for supper and there is very heavy fighting about Petersburg and there is very heavy cannonading going on there. They kept firing all night.



18. They are still firing and our regt was in and made a charge and lost several men. The day is hot. We are with in a mile of petersburg.

The 19th. The fight is stil going on and we are in the line of battle and dug rifle pits and the firing is hot. John Story was wounded and Solimon Shakley kild. We were relieved after dark and went to the rear about a mile and stoped in a corn field and there was hard fighting after dark.

**The 24.** There is very heavy cannonading on our right and it is begining all along the line. The day is very warm. We have just moved to the right the length of the brigade and formed behind the rifle pits and got orders to pitch our tents and the bras band is playing and I must went out on picket. All is quiet.

The 25. 1 am on reserve picket and all is quiet in our front. The day is hot and there is no air going. There is heavy fighting on our right and they kept it up all night.

**The 26.** We are on picket and the firing is still very heavy on our right. The day is very warm. They fought all night on our right. It thundered very heavy this evening.

**The 27.** Still on picket 5 miles west of peters burg. They are firing on our right. The day is hot. Got relieved in the eveining and it rained and showers.

The 28. Camp 4 miles from petersburg. They are firing on the right. Theis is a pleasent day. We have had. The night was cold and clear.

The 29. Got up early and moved our camp 30 yards to the rear and pitched our tents. There is not much firing this morning. About twelve o'clock we got orders to pack up and we then packed up and we then started and marched

all afternoon west and crost the petersburg and weldn railroad and stopped for the night. I was on fatigue building breastworks.

The 30th. There was picket firing in our front and cannonading on our right in the evening. We packed up and started and marched back 5 miles in the direction of the \_\_\_\_\_ and stopped for the night.

July the 1st. Theis morning we are lying in a corn field 3 miles South of Petersburg and the day is very hot. We moved to the left and went in the woods and staid all day there is firing out on the right all day. And we staid all night and there was the very hard fighting in the night on our right.

July the 2nd. Got up at 1 o'clock and got orders to march and we went bac to the old line that we left on the 24 and went in to camp on the left of the Petersburg and Jerusalem road in the sun so hot to march as it has been today. There was fighting all night. The night was very warm.

July 3. Got up before sunup and policed the camp and there is very heavy cannonading in the direction of petersburg. The day is very hot and no air going. They commenced \_\_\_\_\_ in the night and sheld and \_\_\_\_\_ with musketry.

July the 4th. Got up early and it \_\_\_\_\_. Stil fighting on the right. This is very warm day and it did not rain today like it had this morning. This has been a quiet day to what we have had for some time. There was firing up on the right all night, both artillery and musketry.

July 5. Got up early and got our breakfast and the day is very hot. We moved camp today we moved about 400 yards to the front and pitched our tents in a field and the firing is still kept up on our right. At dark dug a rifle pit till 10 o'clock, than quit and went to bed.

July 6. Got up early and \_\_\_\_\_ rifle pits. The day is very hot and they are still firing on the right and kept it up all night. The night was warm. Got paid \$1.65.

**July 7.** Got up and got our breakfast and 17 men went on picket and we cleaned the camp. They are firing on the right and it was kept up all night.

July 8. This morning is very warm and they are firing on our right and in the afternoon they had quite a fight. I was on guard at night.

**July 9.** The morning is very quiet and cloudy but it did not rain. The sun was very hot today. There was cannonading all day and evening on the right today. Started from the rifle pits 4 miles south of petersburg at 11 o'clock and marched all night.

July 10. Got to City Point at 5 o'clock and got on a large steam boat at 6 o'clock. The name of the boat is Dectator and there is 3 regt in here. Then we started down the James River and went up past Fortress Monroe Before dark. When we got to the mought of the Potomac we stopped all night.

**July 11.** At daylight we started up the Potomac and got to Washington at 12 o'clock and landed and marched out about 8 miles to Christal Spring and formed line of battle and stacked arms and rested for the first time since we left Washington and we rested there for a short time and then marched out in front of Fort Stevence and went on the skirmish line and from our Co to the left. We left on reserve. There was very heavy skirmishing in the evening and there was several kild and wounded in our brigade. They fired all night and we was in line of battle all night.

July 13. Got up late and drawed 8 days rations and got

our breakfast and packed up. The day is very hot. In the afternoon we started and marched threw TENLYTOWN and took the river road and marched to the Potomac crossroads at Rushville and stopped all night. [T.W. McKRNNY came yesterday] It was a very hard march and the men straggled a good deal.

The 14. Got up very early and got our breakfast and packed up and started on and marched POOLSVILLE and stopped and got supper and staid all night in a clover field.

July 15. Got up and got our breakfast and packed up and did not move today. The day is hot. The rebs are on the other side of the river and we staid all night.

July 16. Packed up and got ready to start on after the rebs and marched to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Potomac and found some rebs on the other side of the river but soon we sheld them out and forded the river and marched out about 1 mile and stopped to wait til the rest of the troopes caime up and we did not to 6 and then we started and marched threw Leesberg and took the Leesberg pike and stopped when we got on the mountain we stopped all night.

July 18. Got up very early and got our breakfast and packed up and started and marched threw SNIKERS GAP and stopped all night and there was fighting in the valley.

The 19. Got up erly and got ready to move and staid round all day and did'not move. Then in the eaving we got orders to move and pitched our tents in order that we must stay here several days. After dark we got orders to pack up and we lay all night and did not move.

July 20. Still lying in Snicker Gap and have not moved yet but were packed up to move and we forded the CHANADORE river and marched up on the hill and stopped in the woods and there was a very heavy rain. It rained for about 1 hour and then the Sun came out very hot and we lay there til 10 o'clock and then marched back across the river and marched threw Snickersville and marched all night back to Leesburg and it was very hard marching and there was several give out.

July 21. The Sun was red from 3 to dark.

We stopped at HAMILTONVILLE \_\_\_\_\_ and got our breakfast and went on over the mountain and went threw Leasburg and marched in Leasburg and crossed Goose creek and stopped and got our dinner at 3 o'clock and staid all night.

July 22. Got up at 3 o'clock and got our breakfast and packed up and started on and stopped and got dinner one mile from DRAINSVILLE then went on threw DRAINSVILLE and marched till long after dark and stopped for the night 9 miles from the long bridge.

July 23. Got [up] early and got breakfast and packed up and started our march to TENALYTOWN and stopped and went in camp and staid all knight and JOHN KALTENBAUGH \_\_\_\_\_ came back to day.

July 24. Today got up late and got our breakfast and staid around camp all day and shied the pay roles. It rained all knight.

July 25. Got up late and got breakfast and it has rained all day. We are in camp near TENALYTOWN \_\_\_\_\_

July 26. Got up late and got breakfast and at 11 o'clock we packed up. Started and to the other side of ROCKVILLE and stopped for the knight.

July 27. Got up at 2 o'clock and got paid and I sent \$1.00 home. I came to Washington with the pay master to the Express office for him to express it and then we packed up

and marched to \_\_\_\_\_ and went on 3 miles and stopped for the knight.

The 28. Got up earley and got our breakfast and started and marched on and our brigade was puit on wagon guard and staid on guard till we came to the MANAKACY and then we joined the brigade and forded the Creek and marched on site of FREDRIC CITY and then took the HARPERS fery pike and marched to Jefferson and stoppd for the knight.

July the 29. Started at Sun up and marched all fore noon till 3 o'clock and crost the Potomac at Harpers ferry and stopped on BOLIVER HITES to rest and staid all knight.

The 30. Got up late and got breakfast. This has been the most warm day that I ever felt. At one o'clock we started down to Harpers ferry and marched all night to Jefferson and stopped between 3 and 4 in the morn.

July the 31st. This day is very warm. We started from PETERSVULLE at 10 o'clock and marched to FREDRIC CITY and stopped in a piece of woods and staid all knight. I never saw the Sun so hot. There was a great many men fel dead with the heat.

#### CAMP NEAR FREDERICK, MD.

Aug the 1st. Got up and got breakfast and staid in camp all day. The day was very warm and there was several knock down.

Aug 2. Camp near Frederick City. This has been a very warm day and look for rain all day but did not rain. Staid in Camp all day and was looking to move.

*(continued on page 26)*



*Hoon as he appeared after his amputation.*

Aug the 3. Got up at 3 o'clock and got our breakfast and packed up and started and marched threw BUCKEY TOWN and crost the Monocacy river and went into camp and staid all knight.

Aug 4. Staid in camp all fournoon and then moved camp a short distance. We had dresperade this AM.

Aug 5. Got up at 3 o'clock and got breakfast and packed up and waited for orders to march till after 9 and then we pitched our tents and staid all day and did not move till after dark and then we marched to MONACY JUNCTION and got on the cars and went to Harpers ferry and then marched out to HALLTOWN and formed line and pitched our tents and after dark I went on picket and the regt staid in camp all knight.

Aug. the 7th 1864. I am on picket and the regt in camp. The day is very hot. In the eaving we advanced the picket line a mile ahead. There was picket firing on our rite all knight.

Aug. the 8. Still on picket. All is quiet this morning. the day is very hot. We was relieved this eavning and went to camp.

Aug the 9. Got up late and got breakfast and staid in camp all day and had dres parade in the eavning. The day was very hot.

**Aug 10.** It rained this ea<sup>y</sup>. Got up at 3 and got our breakfast and packed up and started and marched threw Charles town and then we went toward Winchester and stopped in the woods about 6 miles from Charles town and staid all knight.

Aug 11. Got up and started on and went in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Winchester and stopped in a field near a creek and staid all knight. There was several men fel dead on the march.

Aug the 12. Got up and got our breakfast and started and marched threw NEW TOWN and our regt and the 93 went a cross SEDER creek on picket and there was picket firing all knight.

Aug 13. Advanced the line to STRAWS BURG and there is Skirmishing all day. We was releived this eavning and came back a cross the SEDER creek and staid all knight on the hill on this side.

**The 14.** Got up late and got our breakfast and there was a fine rain shower and then the Sun came out very hot and we staid in camp all day. We had inspection the eaving.

**The 15.** Got up late and got breakfast and cleaned up for inspection. Had inspection at 10 o'clock and had dres parade in the eavning.

16. Got up and had breakfast and staid in camp all day. The day is very hot. At 10 at knight we started and marched threw Middle town and back tord NEW town.

17. Past threw NEW town just before day and then we went on 3 miles and stopped for breakfast and then marched threw Winchester and stopped 4 miles from BERRY VILLE and staid all knight.

18. Got up and stood in line short time and then got breakfast and started on and past BERRY ville and took the Harpers Ferry pike and stopped at the CLIFTONS farms and got dinner and went on with in two miles of Charles town and stopped all knight.

19. Got up and got breakfast and packed up and staid in camp all day and it rained and we pitched our tents. We had

corn for dinner and elder berys for supper.

20. Got up late and got breakfast and staid in camp all day and it rained nearly all day.

21. Got up late and got breakfast and at 8 o'clock the rebs attacked our picket line and there was very heavy skermishing all day and the rebs sheld us and wounded two men in our regt. At 12 o'clock we fel hack to HALLTOWN.

22. Got to HALLTOWN at 4 and I went out on the skermish line and there was hard fighting at Charles town and they kept it up all day and there was a heavy rain this afternoon.

23. Got relieved and came to camp. Very heavy firing on the skermish line on our left. All is quiet on our front.

24. Got up at 3 AM. Stood in line till 4 and then we was dismissed and got breakfast. The day is very hot. There is firing on our leaft and it was kept up all day.

25. Got up early and the firing is still kept up. The day is very hot. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ on our right this afternoon.

26. Got up early and was out in line. The day is very hot. There was a hard fight on the left this eavning.

27. Got up and formed line and stood in line a while and then broke ranks. There was no firing today on our line.

28. Got up at 25 after two o'clock and got breakfast and packed up and laid down and slept to after day light. Then our regt was on wagon guard and we went 1 mile on the other side of Charlestown and stopped all knight.

29. Got up and got breakfast and washed and the Sun came out hot and we did not move. There was a cavalry fight today and our fellows drove the rebs.

30. Got up and got breakfast and staid in camp all day. There was no fiting.

31. Was mustered for pay and I was on camp guard all knight. The weather is cold at knight.

Sept 1. Got up at 4 and went on guard and stood till 6 and came off and got breakfast and staid in camp all day. All is quiet.

The 2. Got up late and got breakfast and got shaved and staid in camp all day and the men that did not reenlist was mustered out and discharged and started home.

3. Got up at 3 and got breakfast and packed up and started from camp near Charlestown at 6 o'clock and marched to the Clifton farm and stopped to rest for the first time since we left Charlestown and we staid all knight. There was very heavy fighting on the other side of Berry ville and it reained.

4. Got up at 3 and got breakfast and packed up ready to start and we staid in camp all day and there was heavy cannonading on our left at 12 o'clock. At 9 at knight we went to the rite flank and dug a rifle pit and it rained and we got done and came back to camp at 3.

5. Got to camp and went on to bed and before we got asleep. We had to got up and stand in line till after day light and it rained and we moved camp and I was out on guard and it rained all knight.

Sept 6. Still raining and very cold. All is quiet along the line.

7. Got up late and the sun is out brite. All *is* quiet this morning. There was no move today.

8. Got up late and got breakfast. Very cold here. Skermishing on the rite. This is a wet day. Had Co dril. All quiet to knight.

9. Got up and had role call. Got breakfast. The day is

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## DIARY

(continued from page 26)

dowdy and rained. The major took his parting from us this knight.

10. Had role call and it rained this morning and had dresperade and it rained all knight.

11. Got up and it was raining and we had Co. inspection and it is showery all day. There was a hale storm in the eay.

12. Got up early and had role call and had Co. dril and dresperade and some rain.

13. Got up at 5 and got breakfast and packed up and started out to the front and went out about 5 miles and fout the rebs skermished with them all day and they sheld us and kild and wounded several men and horses and we came back to camp after dark.

14. Got up at 5 and had role call and the day is cold and wet. There was some firing out in the front. We had dresperade in the eavinging by Capt. Coleman now Major.

15. Got up and had role call and had inspection in the Co street at 11 and gen inspection at 1 o'clock.

16. The day is nice and clear and 3 had regt drill and dresperade.

17. Got up and had role call. This is a fine day. Had dresperade.

18. Had inspection and I was on camp guard. Got orders to move at 3 and packed up and did not move.

19. Started at 1 in the morning tord Winchester and got in to the fite in Mor and drove the rebs and in the eavinging made a charge and I was wounded and our regt lost very heavy.

On the 27 I came to Frederick. On the 28 I had my leg taken off.

Jan the 11th '65. I got up to stay.

The 17. Went out.

March the 18. Got my discharge the 18.

Started home 21.

Got home the 25.

### Related Letters

Camp Tenaly March 21, 1862

Dear Father:

I recieved a letter from you on yesterday evening. I was glad to hear that you was wel and getting a long wel. We ar stil at our old Camp. We had a wild goos chase over into virginia but we came back to old Camp Tenaly. I dont know when we wil leve. When we move I wil rite and let you no. When the rebbels herd of our army moveing

they vacuated manassus. I think that is the place we was to take. If they had stood there would have bean a hard battle. Nothing mor but rite soon.

Your affectionate son  
Edward L. loon

Baltimore Cros Roads, Maryland  
September the 7th '62

Dear Mother:

I am wel at present and hope this ma find you the same. I have just read your letter of the 29th. We have plenty to eat such as it is. We have smal tents and three stay in a tent. We have good cloathing. Co-H yet. I dont think we will get it. Tel Sarah Moore that I saw Charles and he is wel. I sean al. The Whites town Boys Prospect Boys. They are al wel. Charles Moore told me he saw you and you ware wel. I suppose you herd that James Hoon was kild in the 7 day fite. You me sel your watch if you can get enough for it. If you cant git 10 dollars for it keep it and wil send some as I can. I have no chance to send anny now for we are moving round. We are about 75 miles from Washington City up toward Harpers ferry. The rebbels is trying to git a cros the river in to Myrland. That is whare we want them. Now I must close. Rite soon. Your Son.

Edward L. Hoon

U.S. Christian Commission  
Frederick City, Md.

Oct. 5, 1864

Mr. Hoon

Dear Sir,

I saw your son yesterday at the Hospital, and he wished me to write to you for him. He is getting along nicely, and the doctor says he can be up in ten or twelve days. He has to keep quiet now and cannot even turn in the bed. For fear his leg will bleed. He has a good appetite, and he is well taken care of. I was there at supper time last night, and he ate toast, meat, pickles, stewed oysters, and tea. I am going to carry him some apples and grapes to-night. He expects to have a furlough and perhaps a discharge as soon as he is able to be up. He thinks he has done his part for his country. And I think so too — He had fought three years, and lost one leg — He wishes you to write to him as soon as possible. Direct to U.S. Gen. Hospital, Frederick City, Md.

Respectfully yours  
Mr. H. Sprague