

Thomas Benton Alexander Diary
Sergeant, Company B, 1st Tennessee Heavy Artillery Regiment

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April 1864

The 2nd I was on Guard the counter was Alabama we got marching orders the 4th about 10 oclock we was ordered to go to fort morgan 5 we left Battery Huger we landed at fort morgan the same day. at 1 oclok P.M. the same day of 6th the company Detailed for Picket duty we draw a few guns for Guard duty the 7th Lt Col Sterling taken command of the post of fort morgan The 8th nothing new The 9th I was Detailed for police duty at night lay with 4 men at the Battery The 10th I was on Guard at camp Brag The countersign was Sebastapol The 11th we began to Drill a little that night the Blackade rund danby [i.e., *Denbigh*] as She was coming in run on the Bar we taken the Powder of her 12 in the morning

April the 12 1864

She througed some Load of and then it the little come in & floated off the steamer Dorris towed her in to mobile. The 13th no news The 14th Blockade Runner come in at 3 .oclk A.M. she run on the Bar safe & started to Mobile The 15th Gen Maury & admiral Buckhanon paid us a visit the men turned out and drilled at the pieces 16th late in the night the Denba [*Denbigh*] Run the Blockade out Through the yankee Fleet the 17 a drove of Negroes come down to work on fort

April the 18 1864

The 18th Mr Boyd started to Tenn I sent some letters by him The 19th no new worth naming The 20th the yankee Boats fired a few times at the Negroes that was Building a new Battery and run the Negroes off but done no damage The 21st nothing strange ocured 22nd the Boat come but little news The 23rd nothing strange ocured The 24 a fineDay The 25, I was on Guard the countersign was Montgomery The 26th I got a pass to go to Mobile but Did not go the 27th I was on sick report The 28th among the boys some cases of collick The 29th I reported for duty on drill in the morning

April the 29 1864

29th was ordered to get Ready for Enspection The 30th we was Mustered & General Ensp most of all arms condemned by a Col. May the 1st no news of interest The 2nd 2 Blockade Runer came in at our Fort at 3 oclk A.M. the 3rd I was on cook we Drew muskets Bad lot of Guns The 4th I was on Guard at camp Brag the

countersign was Monitor the 5th nothing strange the 6th Eben was arrested I went to mobile on the Junior landed at [?] P.M. the 7th I stayed in mobile The 8th Remained in mobile all day at church at night The 9th

May the 9th 1864

I got my Pass Extended one day longer I left mobile at night arrived at fort morgan at 12.oclck the 10th Lieutenant Smith Resignation come to Fort Morgan The 11th but little news The 12th I was on cook 3 of the boys went to mobile to go to a military school the 13th Col Jackson taken comd of Fort Morgan the 14th I was on Guard at camp Bragg the countersign was Shreesport I sent up application for transfer the 14th of May Col Jackson took command of Fort Morgan the 15th Sunday I was church no new that day

Monday May the 16/64

16th we drilled Battalion for the first time I was on picket put a man in the Guard house for being absent at police at night 11 .oclck P.M. there was alarm the com all turned out fired our light & heavy arms & pieces fired 2 rounds muskets 17th the Boat came but little news the 18th the Denby [Denbiegh] a Blockade runner came in at 5 o'clock A. M. I was on cook we was on dress parade the first time 19th Col. Sterling was ordered to Dalton he left [?] the 20th the Tennessee cme to Fort Morgan we fired 1 shot

May the 20th 1864

I was on Detachment at night the 21st The 4th La Recd marching orders & was relived from duty to cook up Rasions. The 22nd the 4th La Leafth Morgan some little excitement about the Tenn going out to cruise the Blockade 23rd no news some excitement about the Tenn going but no go the 24th our Gun Boats lay in close to the fort I was on cook The 25th I was on Guard at camp Bragg the countersign was Walthall The 26th at night the Blockade Runner Danby [Denbigh] went out she made several trips

May the 27 1864

The 27th a fine Day no news The 28 I was on cook was on Detachment at the Gun at night The 29 I wrote a letter J. H. Anderson The 30th The yankee threw a few shells at the Negroes that was at work on the new Bat done no damage. The 31st on Gen Review & Enspection June the 1 a blockade run come in 3 .oclok A.M. I was

on Garison Guard Artillery practice during the Day some light Pieces was sent out at night to the new Battery the countersign was Marietta I was Relieved The 2nd on on cook 3rd I was on Police in citadel on Detachment at night

June the 4 1864

The 4th Saturday noting strange occured during the day at night a Blockade Runer come in The 5th Sunday company Enspection I was at church at night Monday 6th I was cook June the 7th The Blockade Runner denby [Denbigh] came in at 4 .oclok A.M. the yanks shot a few rounds at her but Done no Damage 7th I Receied a letter from mobile 8th The commands all turned out to Receive Gen Maury fired a few shots 9th I was on Detachment at night The 10th we had Gen Review & Enspection I was Guard Beach The countersign was Spotsylvania ...

June the 11th 1864

The 11th I was on cook The 12th I was on Police Monday the 13th The company Drew Enfield Rifles The 14th I heard Gen Polk was killed by our own men accidently by a cannon ball The 15th I wrote a letter and started home by hand The 16th at night I was on Detachment The 17th I was on cook The 18th I was on Guard in Garison Mariet was the countersign I was Relieved the 19th no news 20th Gen. Review and Enspection and Police The 21st Capt. Fisher & wife came to Fort Morgan The 22nd I was on Fatigue all day The 23rd I was on the cook Thursday The 23rd I was Friday the 24th we was on Gen Police on Detachment at night The 26th Brown & Ridle ordered back to the company The 27th they Returned to the company for duty The 28th a few Recruits came to the Regt The 29th prepairing for Enspection 30th I was on the cook at night 10.oclock we was mustered by Col Anderson a blockade runer [Ivanhoe] came in & Beached in Range of our Batteries July the 1 The company went into the Fort to cook all in one mess The yankee fleet opened the Blockade runer Early in the morning continued all day done her no damage in the Evening I & 3 men sent to Picket to Guard the boat the company out all night taking the Cargo off the Boat. July the 2nd day they opened on the Blockade runer in the morning fired lowly all day Shot one hole through the vesel at night the men was Engaged in trying to get the off but done no good a light Battery come down & went up to the vesel & oppened on the yankee fleet but done no damage J. M. Kerr was shot though the hand with his own gun one of his fingers was taken off it happened by his own carelessness Sunday July the 3rd a Great many shots fired at the Boat during the day some at night our company was ordered up as sharp shotters to protect a light Batry 3rd Missouri the yanks shot one hole in

the Boat no other damage done I was on Gun Detachment at night The 4th we heard the yanks firing a salute in the afternoon they fired on the Fort one shot fell in the citadel several shots struck the fort done no damage. Through about 40 shots & then fell back at night the companies was sent up to Guard the Blockader several shots were fired at them done no damage The 5th all quiet during the Day at night 12 .oclock the Blockader was set on fire and burnt up fore and after the 6th all quiet on the day at night our Regt sent up as sharpshooters some on fatigue nor firing done the 7th at night some of the com was sent up to the Blockader to sharp shoot The yankee lanch attack our forces they was Repulsed of any damage done unknown 8th at night our company was sent up to the boat as Sharpshooters no shooting was Done Jul 9th men sent up usual at another steamer [Virgin] come in and Beached in front of the Fort. 10th I was on Guard on the Beach Garding Blockade stores at night I was at the Ivaho [Ivanhoe] all night Rained hard 11th I was on Detachment The com was on board of steamer a Blockade Runer as Sharpshooters she got off the Bar at 11.oclock & come in on our side

July the 12/64

12th nothing new to Day 13th Lt. Baggel come to the Regt I was on fatigue the day 14th Cap Fisher wife come to Fort Morgan to stay 15th my application for Transfer come back to be sent through the proper chanel 16th all right 17th sunday we had enspection. 18th at night I was on Gun Detachment 19th noting new to Day 20th was inspected by the Adjutant a yankee monitor made her appearance today 2 company of the 21st Ala come to Day 21st all the noncombattance ordered from the Fort we moved in new quarters the 22nd all right 23rd on Garison Guard I had a very pleasant tower the countersign was Rasica I was Relieved the 24th & 25th I was on Detachment at night 26th was on Enspection Rain come & Broke it up it was for pay The 27th some larger guns was signed to our company to Day 7 in Brooks one 8 in Colum 28th we signed the pay Roll the 29th no news to Day Jo Brown & Sunnis was Detailed in ordinance Department

July the 30th 1864

30th The yankee monitor & 5 other vesels come in to the Right of the Island & Ankered. 31st on Gun Review & Enspected August the 1st The Reinforcing one Detachment of ordered at each Gun The 2nd the fleet all quiet 3rd Some Excitement they threw a few shell at Fort Gains [sic] The fleet Reinforcing The 4th The yanks fired a few shots at Fort Gains [sic] none struck another Blockade Runer come in The 5th at 7 oclock A.M. The Fleet came & attacted The Lost one monitor sunk &

one burnt after 1 ¼ hours fighting The fleet all Run by the fort our fleet & fleet fought some They wounded 3 of our boats & Captured them the Tennessee one of them our loss killed 3 & some few wounded then firing ceased among our men Ad. Buckhan [Admiral Franklin Buchannan] leg shot off other Don't know on Friday Fort Powell said to be vacated The 6th a flag of truce boat went out with Ad. Buckhanan [Franklin Buchanan] & some other wounded con officers The 7th Flag of Truce Boat Returned I was on Picket The countersign was Gasone The 8th Fort Gains was surrendered at 10 ock A.M. The Fleet all quiet The 9th The Enemy landed a land force & cut off our communication with mobile we all moved in the fort the boats lay off Shelled done little damage some close shots all quiet at night 10th all quiet today few men Deserting when they Got a chance Wednesday August 11th Fortifying all Day the Enemy quiet supposed to be building Batteries some of these Pickets in sight Aug The 12th Sharpshooting commenced to day no one hurt boats all quiet The 13th The Tennessee come up & fire a few times we fired several Rounds at the boat some struck They shelled us all night done but little damage wounded 4 men slightly The 14th firing [?] all Day no damage doen 15th monday morning one man killed 3 wounded firing kept up all night but no damage done

Aug

16 some shelling during the Day one man killed no damage at night heavy firing but little damage August 17th sharpshooting & shelling from the land Batteries but little damage done 1 man wounded 18th all quiet but little firing 19th the Enemy buisy Engaged Ditching up towards our works but shooting on Either side one man Died from wound The fleet quiet 20th nothing strange during The day The Enemy advancing on the fort with there ditching every night

August

The 20th Jerls Deserted or made his Escape The 21st all quiet through the day we Shelled the Enemy all night They Returned a few shots The 22nd very Heavy Shelling all day & night it created some excitement most all the Powder was wet we shipped all the Gun out side of the Ramparts for fear the Enemy would capture them Aug 23rd Fort Morgan was surrendered at 7 .ocl A.M. at 5 oclok P.M. got on a federal Gunboat Bienville & started for New Orleans we landed there on the 24th at 8 .oclock P.M. we layed on the boat all night The 25th at 1.o'ck P.M. we was taken off the boat and Guarded to a cotton press in the city it was one of the warmest days I Every saw we was Divided in messes of 60 .men we stoped in Levy cotton Press no 4. New Orleans La Thursday 26 sick Sept the 4 we was searced for Arms they found few Pistols & other things Thy trated us very well under the circumstances

Some Excitement about the Exchange it has played out Sept the 15th The Fort Morgan Prisoners was ordered to get Ready to move in a minute notice but we did not get off The 16th Sergt Hern Tried to Escape prison he passed two of there lines halted after he got outside and was taken to paris prison in a closer confinement

17th he was Brought back to the old prison in the morning we were ordered to get Ready to move then the Roll was called & those who was ordered out was put in the corner of the prison & a Guard placed over us There we remained for the night Sept the 18 we was ordered to the at 3.ock we got on board of a steamship Cassandra at 4 oclck P.M. and shoved for New York we arrived at New York September the 28th at 2 oclock A.M. we was ankered out in the River for the night

Sept the 28th in the Evening got off the ship on a small ferry Boat & carried to Governer Island Near New York in a very confining fort locked up at night the doors open in daytime the Fort is Columbus our prison is Castal Williams [Castle William] on Gov Island....