Jesse B Drake
CoC 9th Ind

1st

in the latter part of June 1863; Ended the Camp of the Cumberlands Six months of fort Building, Drilling, Picketing & Scouting Orders Passed in the Evening, Be Ready to March on the following Morning, promptly at 6. o'Clock, five Days Rations Cooked & 80 rounds Cartridges. Morning

2d

there wasn't much Sleep that night But at Six o'clock a m, Everybody was in line & it raining quite hard.
As we stood in line Waiting the order to move the Conversation would run Something like this now as we've waited five or six months for Mr Bragg. to get Good & ready. he certainly ought to Be Ready for Business, you needn't Bother yourself about that the news is that Bragg is down in Shelbyville in force

3d

& with Blood in his eye. & its quite likely that Somebody will be Badly licked before very long. Well lets have it over & Done with it. its got to Be fought Sometime & the Sooner the Better. I wish the whole thing could Be fought to a finish Tomorrow.
Then I'd Know whether I am to live through this War, if we probably will not have to wait very long. its only 25 miles to Shelbyville & we can go South many Days without a Collision.

Jesse B. Drake
Co. C, 4th Ind.

if we can whip Bragg
and Grant will take
Vicksburg, it will settle
the whole Business for
the Southern Confederacy
in the West. Only 25 Miles
we ought to get there By tomorrow
night & one or two Day's
ought to convince Mr
Bragg, that Rosencrantz
& the Army of the Cumberland
Mean Business. they say Bragg
has had three thousand
negros Building forts ever
since he retreated there
last January. well 25 miles
and very far to go for a
fight & if they will just
let our Regiment

take the lead we'll get
there on time & open
up the fight By tomorrow
night, I guess you'll have
your wish, we lead
the Brigad today anyhow
& we'll try to keep the lead
clear through
then the rain poured
so hard that all the
conversation was suspended
except more or less
profane interjections
upon the luck of the
army or the Cumberland
always bringing on a deluge
when it started to march
in the midst of this the
Bugles sounded forward
& the Regt swung out out
the pike facing southward

after it trailed the rest
of the Brigade, then the
ambulances & wagons &
then the rest of the Division
at times the rain was actually
Blinding But the Boy's plodded
on sullenly silently they
had exhausted their epithets
at the start & had settled
Down to Business
Only 25 miles." Some one
would occasionly say By
way of encouragement.
this rain cant last very
long at this rate. it'll
probably clear up By the time
we get there & give us good weather
~~to by the time we get there~~
~~[illegible]~~ to lick the Jamies