

Diary of Lt. Col. Wainwright 1870 Steele Collection 2008.1.61

Standing Orders

Pages with 1 – 9 missing

Number 10, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35 as written

Number 12, 13, 14, 15 Marked “Not done”

Number 17 Marked “It was not necessary to enforce this”

Number 22 – not done

23 – not done, not needed

24, 25, 26, 27, 30, crossed out

33 – 2nd paragraph marked “could not be carried out”

34 – crossed out

2 Bare Portages 2

3 Loon Lake do 3

2 Island do 2

Changes were made on the above in some instances. The company started with full supplies and went through to other(?) detachment at Ft Gary

except one Co (207) left on

Note for Report

line of comm. - ___ 60th return of Return trip and regulars were enroute

Home

State of Boats Comparative time of passing difficult

- torment of flies & being earlier than going by 6 weeks

- want of biscuit

8 5 “ Pork	“ 950
Case 1 Bag Potatos	“ 79
1 2 “ Beans	“ 196
2 bla “ 1 Sugar	“ 120
3 Tins Chests Tea	<u>“ 56</u>
	“2383

10 Soldiers in marching order

10 Sets account _ in Bag

10 Rifles in case

20 Blankets in 2 Bags

4 Voyageurs & their baggage

1 Officer’s Baggage

Approx to weight of men _

14 men @ (say) 155 lbs each = 2170

10 packs @ Say 65 Lbs each = 650

2820

Extra Portage -1

Track - 2 before Silver Falls(?)

Thursday 21st July 1870

430 PM Embarked No 7 Comp. having marched with No 6 _ from the Dam Site to Shebandowan at 8 30 and loaded the Brigade of Boats (6) – 7 PM Landed for the night at Mormons Camp say 10 miles

Weather Calm & fine but with a slight threatening of Thunder. Found that the guide could speak neither Fr. nor Eng. I could not understand the Voyageur. Sergt Russell the only person thro whom he can be communicated with.

Friday 22nd 9.45 am The Brigade started. Morning fine & calm It may be added to yesterdays remarks that not ___ of the voyageurs supplied to the Brigade have ever been up the Lake before.

8 am arrived at Kashelorive (?) Portage. Found it occupied at each ___ by Capt Calderon & Capt. Wallaces Companies 1/60 - ___ therefore to commence unloading boats

11.30 Capt Calderons Co. having cleared the Landing unloaded Boats before dinner got them half over the Portage. and by 9 PM got all the heavy stores halfway Weather very hot

Sat 23rd It having rained all night & Capt Calderons people having their stores still at the Halfway Did not rouse till 5 am Wet & threatening

Kashchorowe Port

Detachment orders

23 July 1870

No 6 Company will get in its baggage & stores in succession to No 7 and must not be impeded or passed by any other Compy on this Portage.

Captn Scott & MacDonald will please arrange the latter to transfer Privates Sander & Hackett temporarily to No 7 . Capt Scott will be good enough to furnish Capt. MacDonald with two men in their places

G Wainwright

Major Comm of Detachment(?)

Mr. McMurpy will please see that each Captain present sees their orders

5 P.M. Stores over the Portage & Boats in the Water.

Nos 3 4 5 & 6 Cos all at the other end of the Portage Loaded up. Did not push on understanding that the Portage ahead is crowded. Night fine

Appt Capt Scott Lieut MacDonald & __ Arm Armstrong a Boa_ to __port on a Barrel of Biscuit which has become partially __ discovered by the head being accidentally stove in Saved 1 ½ bags Condemned the rest

Sun 24th Got under weigh at 6 am.

10 am arrived at Height of Land Portage. Have to wait till 4(?) Rifles have cleared by request of Capt Wallace.

Held a Board on another barrel damaged & musty _ (about 1/3 of a page has pencil writing too faint to read)

230 Col Wolseley arrived continued portaging Stores till dark.

Weather fine but very hot a little variety & improvement in the size and nature of trees becomes perceptible here The Tamaraks (Larches) are unusually large and a few maples are noticeable, also a few red pine on the line of water.

Monday 25th – Continued portaging. Everything (except boats) halfway by 8 am. Regret to find two more barrels of Biscuit bad on Capt Macdonalds Comp. Ordered Board which condemned about 2/3 of each. All these damages are not of recent date or rather I should say, none of them are as hitherto examined. The bread has evidently been moulding for weeks. And it would almost appear that on some cases bad & damp biscuit had been packed with bread ___ good and dry. Weather fine all day. Heavy thunderstorm in the night.

Tuesday 26th 9.45 am

Left the Height of Land Portage. Cloudy & calm, but clearing. 12.15 Landed for dinner 1.45 Rearmed the route 6.30 Arrived at Baril Portage Found Capt Calderon still here.

Length of Portage about ¼ mille – but with a tremendous rise which will make it very hard. Some white pine as well as red along Lac des mills Lacs & __ maple on this Portage. Weather fine. It would appear that the length of the Portages has been systematically understated the true length of Kashaborwc Portage appears to be about 1540 yards and that of the Height of Land Portage about 1840 , both as paced by reliable persons on my detachment. The length of the Baril Portage is probably correct but the rise in the semi(?) distance can scarcely be less than 80 feet it is more probably 100. There is a __ line which might have been made a

portage at no little expense and then I would say that there who bet in this line had plenty whiskey.

Wednesday 27th Weather fine & hot. Portaged all the stores by 10am. Capt Calderon left at 1030 ___ said that Capt Northeys Comp lost some where on the Lake of the Thousand Lakes.

Boats portaged by 6 pm

Thursday 28 7 am Embarked from Baril Portage Wind North – a drizzling morning but clearing. Used sails & arrived at Brule Portage at 1115 am Drizzling showers. Found the following notice for Col Bolton. “The men land here but the boats can be taken down loaded with only voyageurs”

(Drawing of passage to portage of 12 miles)

4 PM Left Brule Portage Weather fine & calm notice yew growing on the last two portages no in the form of a tree but shrubby, like the Juniper.

430 Had to put back to ___ Quarter Masters boat No 4 broken on portage. Left Capt Scott & three boats to go on (4 in all)

7.15 No 4 Boat repaired & reloaded. Proceeded on route

8.45 Found Capt Scotts party encamped about 4 miles from the Portage. Camped for night

Friday 29th 5.45 Resumed route. Heavy mist promising a hot day. 630 In the ___

___ 730 Passed safely the rapid indicated in Col Boltons ___

11 am passed thro series of rapid at French Portage. Found the Companies 1/60 ___ just departing. Weather fine & warm. Capt Wallaces Comp left in the afternoon

Later 30th - 6 am Began to land stores. Hauled up No 4 boat for repairs the previous evening. Capt Calderons Boats not yet all (?) up, two repairing

7 am Started up & turned over No. 1 for caulking & repairing

9 am Capt Calderons ___ at the top of the rise with –drawn. Portaging and do positing there about 40 feet of rise in the 600 yards – pretty steep. Elevation much as at last two portages A good deal of young maple noticeable but no old trees as if a growth of maple was just now succeeding the earlier growth of spruce and birch Weather fine a little cloudy Water falling a little all along the lakes the great prevalence of westerly winds is remarkable apparent from the bend of the tree tops

which is very decided. Animal life is remarkably scarce along the whole route, so far an owl two or three squirrels & chipmunks about half a dozen woodpeckers & other birds and a very few broods of young ducks on the lakes are all that I have seen in all our encampments & journey so far. It may here be noted that we lay nearly 24 hours idle in consequence of the 60th not being ahead enough and that this is the third or fourth occasion on which we have so lost some hours – We are also working easily not that we may not press upon Capt Calderons Compy
 6 PM Boats all over Let the men rest for two hours after dinner Weather fine slight threat coming of thunder

I may mention that the great prevalence of Westerly winds has permitted a very scant use of sails. I have only used them in my own boat once – on Baril Lake – and even then found that they strained the thwarts of the weakly built Collny(?) wood boat.

Signal Numerals

1. . _ _ _ _ Numeral
2. .. _ _ _ _
3. . . . _ _
4. _ Understood
5.
6. _ Stop
7. // . . . _ _ _
8. /// . .
9. //// . Alphabetical
10. ///// _ _ _

Signal Alphabet

- A. . _
- B. _ . . .

C. _ . . .
 D. _ . . Finis
 E. . _ _ _
 F. . . _ . Repeat
 G. _ _ . . . _ _ . .
 H Understood
 I. . . .
 J. . _ _ _ Erasure
 K. _ _ _
 L. . _ . . Period
 M. _ _
 N. _ . Alarm
 O. _ _ _ or
 P. . _ _ . Preparation
 Q. _ _ . _ _____
 R. . _ .
 S. . . .
 T. _ 160
 U. . . _ 30
 V. . . . _ 45
 W. . _ _ 50
 X. _ . . . _ 285

Y. _ . _ _

Z. _ _ . .

Sunday July 31st 1870

Deeming it advisable to give Capt Calderons Compy ample time Provided the Reveillee 5.30 & having served out rations overnight let them have ~~breakfast~~ their ___ before starting. 7.30 am got under weigh & began poling down the torturous creek ___ boat ___ ___ over the I had ___ ___ thoroughly on ___ & caulk yesterday as I thought. I have to ___ way ___ Creek went ___ ___ with ___ broken. Regret to learn that ___ have been started from the Pork Barrels in Capt Macdonalds Company. Weather fine . Sun very hot.

1230 Emerged on French lake after 5 hours of continuous poling. Made ___ across the Lake & landed for dinner.

Noticed a large fire about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile E from the mouth of the River. The spruce trees here and along French River appear to be larger & healthier than hitherto and a little more life is apparent in the woods in the day before

Sergt Carr yesterday put the contents of a barrel of biscuit into two bags which were yesterday ___

245 Got under weigh Having been delayed transshipping cargo (part) of No 4 Boat which although over___ at French Portage leaks worse than ever. Also by Boats Nos 2 & 6 which did not get through French River for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after the others 645 Brought into to camp for the night. Found out we have gone 10 miles since leaving the mouth of the river Could ___ into Lake Kaayasikok. Evening fine & calm.

Monday August 1st 1870

Reveillee at 4 am under weigh at 5 am arrived at Pine Portage at 6

Length 16 chains (series of numbers, total 572yds)

Shifted another

Barrel of Biscuit to 2 bags . Barrel broken

30 Convened a Board consisting of Capt Scott

Lieut MacDonald

Major Bell

to examine & report on 2 barrels of biscuit the heads of which have come out & shown the contents to be wet & mouldy down one side. As in previous cases, the damage appears to be the result of exposure of one side of the barrel to a heavy strain some time since, probably at Thunder Bay or rather was Result. Half a Barrel out of the two barrels condemned being totally unfit for use (the mould of various colors the remainder ___ & pink in bags.

It is to be observed that the biscuit has been ___ Tracked in ___ being flour barrels all ___ to ___ continued ___

Finished portaging before noon. Then allowed the men to rest wash etc.

Capt Calderon being at the end of Deux Rivieres Portage Load in the Boats in the evening. Ready for an early start.

Tuesday Aug 2nd

Reveillee at 345 Arrived at Deux Rivieres Portage at 515 # (Capt Calderons)

Comp 1/60 at western end early to load morning fine

Length of Portage 858 paces paced by Mr. Patterson

32x22 – 706 also a large number of fine pines here Thunder & heavy rain from 1130 to 130 Everything over by _ PM

___ & barrel of biscuit ___ should _ it present Mr ArmArmstrong & Mr Bele condemned one fourth bagged the rest ___ ___ ___ to ___ ___ ___

This makes the 7th Barrel surveyed for mouldeness No of Comp decides 2 ___ one of the barrels breaking

Wednesday Aug 3rd

Reviellee at 5 am . Breakfasted loaded the boats & got under weigh at 7.15

Passage running through an thick (?) interesting and moderate expanse of water thickly over___ with ___. Thick bulrushes for a distance of about 3 miles 815

Emerged on a small lakelet. Course SW. Through more rushes for about 100

yards into another Lakelet b___ W by South WSW This lakelet opens into a larger one, the southerly trend of which ___ a fair wind made sail at 9 am. Took in sail at 945 in entrance of narrows ___ a little S of West It is observable that the N Shores of this Lakelet & narrows are rocky barren & burnt each the Southern shores are clothed with fine timber, Pine, Spruce Beech & Poplar in ___ abundance

1145 Landed for Dinner. Found the moss from off day trees on fir

Abstract of Stores in Brigade Boats at Starting

Boats No	Pork	Bisct	B__	Flour	Sugar	Tea
1	8	8	1	4	2	3
2	120/ 8	300	100		130	50
3	7	9	2	9	2	3
4	Armchest	200	Baggage	_	950	
5	1200	800	200	100	75	50
6	8	8	2	6	1	3

1.15 Resumed route having first extinguished fire Entered a basin remarkable for its rocky shores smooth & rounded. Course thru it about WBW

430 Arrived at Rapid distinguished by Col Wolseleys order that Boats are to wait For Indians Indians arrived about 5 boats went down safely. Also thro the second rapid. Discharged 4 portaged cargoes at the third Served(?) rations (which ___do now for the next day every ___ Await Indians for tomorrow morning early ___ fine sat in this portage night fine

AT%hursday Aug 11th

Reviellee at 4 am got the boats down & loaded.

7.15 Passed down the Rapids all safely except Capt Scotts Boats No 2 which unfortunately struck incoming down & came out at the foot of the rapids in a ___ condition The shore was unfortunately of a nature to make it a matter both of time & difficulty to get her in close enough to unload The men did everything possible but every thing was saturated before the stores could be got out. The worst damage will be the barrels of biscuit soaked Impossible I opened things to dry. a process somewhat delayed by a shower of rain.

945 Launched No0 2 Boat again & loaded her. Got under weigh again at 10 am but only floated down with the current waiting for one of Capt Scotts crew ___ back to the portage in rear to bring a sail left behind by his crew The neglect

causes a good ~~half~~ hours delay. Weather cleared & became very hot. 10.45
Finally started

7 Barrels Biscuit in No 2 Boat we hauled and attempted to dry it. Found about 1 ½ Barrels bad from the same cause as there previously inspected the remainder damaged being completely soaked. To be preserved for frying as quickly as possible.

12.15 Arrived at Rapids at the end of Tanners Lake

315 Having portaged and reloaded & had dinner got under weigh.

430 Arrived at Portage between two falls almost 20 ½ miles distant from the last Island Portage (appears to be)

545 JStores over & boats in the water. Supper.

630 Proceeded en route.

745 Thunder & lightening that ___ a heavy rain. Put into an island for the night.

Friday 5 August

715 am Under weigh Heavy rain in the morning which presented an earlier start got the mens breakfast instead.

Thunder and Lightening during the night Lovely fresh morning A large portion of the South Shore of the Lake (the beginning , I suppose, of Lake Neguagwon) was observed last night to be on fire.

1230 Guide not being comprehensible or to be made to comprehend _ & having pulled over 5 hours against a strong head wind put into a sandy beach for dinner. NB Snake Portage said in printed list to be 12 miles from Island Portage Must have pulled 15 since I left there.

2.10 Set sail with a fresh fair Breeze & ran to what is suppose to be Snake Portage by 315 & at once began portaging. (Side note : Distance about _2 miles)

Side note: 1st Portage length 225 yds

Mem not Snake Portage but the first Southward towards Loon Lake Total Distance from Island Portage ___ at least 21 miles ___ port by time & speed.

Yesterday a case containing Medical comforts was brought to me with the lid broken as reported accidentally no doubt but I fear some of the small pots of Lubys (?) essence which it contained will be found missing ~~Indian~~

5.30 PM Under weigh again from ___ Portage blowing & spitting with rain. of course I made the medicine box as tight as possible & Pay particular attention to it.

Side note :___ ___ 30 Ins 1871

Cut 2 Butternut of fair growth at this portage.

7 PM Arrived at Portage No 2 Found Capt Calderons notice that he had left yesterday time not stated. Got stores over. Night time Men somewhat tired having pulled 5 hours against a strong breeze. Sailed & pulled at least 10 miles more. completed one & got stores over another portage

Side note: Portage No2 Snake 3rd Portage 3 ½ miles

Sat Aug 6th

Reveillee at 4.30 Men busy very tired. got the Camps over(?) I got under weigh at

8.30 morning fine. Leave by pretty winding rocky (hair?) stream bordered with great quantities of birch.

9 am aArrived at No 3 Portages Distance about ¾ mile (or 2/3) Time of actual portage 45 minutes

Side note: No 3 Portage Length 75 yards

10.15 Got under weigh in a ___ pond about 100 yds diameter having the afternoon (?)of having been the water out of which have turned the ___ of rock of all sizes which lie scattered over the portage and piled in Sal___ R___ confusion up the waterfall to the ___ of the Portage. but into another small river standing well off southerly 2 miles about ½ mile below the___ let the channel ___ shallow & way rocky ___ requiring ___ to pass with loaded boats They & these ___ of ___ The bar & water later. Spruce birch & a few pines

11.10am A sharp turn to the N. Head about July(?) m for about 310 yds then start 350 yds then ___ again

12 noon Landed for dinner having come probably 7 miles.

1.30 Resumed route. Pulled partly against a strong head wind and with showers of rain till

7 pm When Camped for the night on an island close to entrance to Lake Namemran. Every thing very wet but cleared up late.

Sunday August 7th

5 am Reveillee . Wood so wet that the fires were a long time starting. Morning fine but with some threatening of rain.

6.15 Under weigh. Found that the coal oil can had become damaged & that 2/3 of the oil had leaked away as we had nothing in which to put the remainder and in the glass lamp of the camp had been accidentally broken down on portages throw the ___ overboard so then was great note of biscuit _ _ or even in the barrels leaning tainted with it NB a worse kind of lamp for boat use especially boats crowded & heavily laden it would be difficult to ___ a plain stron lantern with a few ___ candles would have been far more serviceable.

8 am Arrived at No 4 Portage Distance between 5 & 6 miles. Length 160 yds.

10.15 Breakfast over loaded & under weigh.

1030 Arrived at Bare Portage.

1 PM Under weigh. Length of portage about 270 yds

2 PM Sl__ & ash of fan growth on the right hand shore.

2.45 Landed for dinner

4.15 Reembarked Strong head wind and a ___able chopping sea

630 Wind & sea rising & very probability of a dirty night . put into a small island affording a good shelter for the boats. Visited the boats & found them all safe.

Watch on boat__ Wind went down towards morning.

Mon Aug 8th

4am Sounded Reveillee

515 Got under weigh with a S& _ wind first & fair Ran with it till 12 noon When it shifted to the westward & blew hard in our teeth till making the pull for the commander of the time very hard.

1 pm Landed co for dinner Nos 4 & 5 Boats, however having on out sailed the rest had passed when The men having forgone their breakfast halt to take advantage of the fair wind did not hurry them for dinner & did not therefore proceed __

2.40 At 8 am procured the last comp of 60th Rifles just starting from the S. Shore.

2.40 Weighed & immediately passed round a point in the a tremendously strong current & __ directly afterward through a rapid leading from an open basin to another Very strong head wind

Note on page edge Heavy shore

3.45 Arrived at Portage at Fort Frances. Fort on a plateau elevated about 30 feet above the River . Rainy falls to the left ¼ mile from the Fort. ___ down the River Picturesque No 7 Comp to remain here Capt Calderons Co went on at 8 P.M. Weather cold & showery Night fine.

Tues. 9 Aug

Cold & showery. Men cleaning Arms

12 Noon No 6 Comp arrived

5 PM Embarked with No 6 Comp

7.00 Landed for the night (Went thru fire) having gone we suppose about 12 miles (went down Rainy River running about 2 knots River very beautiful Vegetation luxuriant. A good stand of hard wood. Under growth rich & abundant . The growth of various grasses at the deserted old Fort remarkably luxuriant.

Wednesday August 10th

4 AM Reveillie Dew very heavy & wood scarce which caused some delay in getting breakfast. Weather very fine.

6 30 Under weigh

11 30 Passed the first rapid. The shores of rainy River all the way down exhibited wildness(?) of timber, under Growth various grasses some of great height & ___ wild peas & unknown to the ___ & ___ masses of rock which comprise the shores of the upper lakes and broken _ a country ___ suited for settlement. The thirty miles or more between Fort Frances & the first rapid would afford place for numerous settlements and the river is more than once tapped on the American side by considerable streams which probably run far towards the civilized settlements of Minnesota. A steamer on this noble stream would complete the picture presented to ones mind of the future of the Rainy River.

12 00 Put in for dinner Sky clouding up. Wind as usual ___ to ___

1 30 Under weigh

2 30 to ~~2-45~~ Passed first rapid

2 45 Through /___ series of Rapids Col Wolsely passed while at Dinner. Repassed him at Dinner ½ mile lower down.

5 00 Col Wolsely & staff passed us Clouding up River Banks still appear __ forth (?) but not with ___ well grown trees as above the rapids. River wider

6 30 Landed for supper

800 Resumed route Pulled for about 2 miles think ___ the boats for drifting down but about midway it came on to rain & blow & four hours put in & made fast among the rushes to the shore. River _ boats not in Company Passed & blew all night.

Thursday 11th August

5 00 AM Got under weigh at once on rousing up. Every thing being very wet & the morning very chilly. Pull _ about 2 miles Landed for breakfast at 6 00

8 00 Under weigh again. Wind SW dead ahead & very strong.

400 Passed Col Wolsely on shore. He sent us an Indian guide in a canoe.

1 PM Landed for dinner on an Island when Col W just passed us after a run of about ½ hours with a fresh fair _ but _ fold after reaching the Island & the sea

heavy had the boats __ but as we could not proceed in present state of wind & sea.
Wind NE Wind bound all day Blowing hard all night

Friday 12 August

Wind bound Wind Nly

12 Noon Blowing hard but _ ___ diminishing (?) very slightly & gradually in force. Pass __ a Pilot Jack(?) on the opposite shore SS & two men cannot make them out. Afterwards found them to be the mail from Thunder Bay

8 00 PM Wind __having made also (?) got under weigh leaving Col Wolsely to follow. No 5 Comp passed down to leeward about 3 PM __ I __ on the Island

Sat. August 13th

3 am Morning clear & calm Having pulled & ___ __ 8 o clock yesterday evening landed to prepare breakfast. Suppose we have made about 30 miles.

6 am Under weigh again The lake remarkable as mentioned by Col Lefroy for an extraordinary _ ___ a green scum I believe __ matter that it looks like green pea soup

8 am Hove to for a quarter of an hour to let rear boats close

8 15 Off garden Island bearing 3W_S apparently about 8 miles distant

11 40 Put in for dinner

1 00 PM Men being fatigued from pulling all night . allowed them 2 hours for dinner . Then under weigh

3 00 Passed a narrow shallow & rocky creek which the 60th appear to have partly portaged or tracked. Banks on each side after passing well wooded. All this this Lake the rocky characteristics of the upper lakes appear to __ by a ___ wetness. Garden Island which is land to grow splendid crops of corn & potatoes.

7 30 Men being very tired camped for the night on a rocky island about 15 miles from Rat Portage. Calm & fine

Sunday Aug 14th

4 AM Under weigh with a fair steady breeze. Going 7 or 8 knots for some considerable time. Morning fine & warm a contrast to the chilly weather we have had for some days. Condemned 30 lbs Biscuit two days ago.

7 Am Arrived at head of chute at Rat Portage. Saw Mr Batla who directed us to the proper portage & furnished us with Mr. Sinclair to arrange matters. It appears that a good guide is indispensable .

11am Left Rat Portage having been furnished with two guides, portaged & breakfasted. Fair breeze, hot.

1115 Landed to wait for No 5 in accordance with orders issued per 6 am(?)

3 30 No 5 __ having been delayed by an accident to one of their boats (Lt Hawin_) (?) Got under weigh at once. Fair wind on the whole. Sailed & pulled _

6 30 probably 15 miles including about ½ a mile of rapid them camped for the night. Fine warm & clear.

Detachment Orders

Sandy Lake

14 Aug 1870

No 5 Co having joined No 6 the Major Commanding(?) desires that the following general rules be observed by the Detachment

No 1 A Subaltern Officer will be Orderly Officer & perform each of the duties of Adj. as may be required in the following rotation day about for both Brigades

Mr. McMurty

Mr. Harman

Mr. Macdonald

Mr. Hamilton

Lt. McMurtry commencing tomorrow

No 2 The Brigades will also furnish a Detachment Orderly Sergt & Corporal every day by turns Commencing tomorrow with No 6

No 3 The Orderly Officer will obtain instructions every evening on encamping for the Reveille & the order of proceeding for the next morning, from the Commanding Officer.

No 4 Rations are to be issued over night on encamping for the next day. A Subaltern from each Brigade will attend the issue, and will see that if Beans are issued they are soaked over night as it has come to the knowledge of the C.O. that this ration is frequently wasted from sheer idleness as to its managements. This reprehensible laxity of course increases the consumption of biscuit which must by all means be avoided.

No 5 The CO does not desire to interfere with the convenience of the Brigades as to the times or manner of their preparing their meals

No 6 The brigades fwd(?) an Orderly Bugler by turns. No 6 Tomorrow. He will sound Last post & Light out at such times as may be ordered each evening, coming to the Orderly Officer for orders immediately after sounding for rations. Light out will be sounded as a caution to discontinue talking round the fires, A practice by which the march required rest of the men is often encroached upon.

No 7 The Brigades will as a general rule, sail in the order laid down in the ___ instructions.

No 8 Each Brigade will mount its own guard which will be inspected by the Orderly Officer of the day each morning before breakfast. Guard will not interfere with any duty in the boats.

(in the margin) Corp 3P&F

Brigade Commanders will also for the future keep one mans arms & ammunition in each boat ready for immediate use and will see that the arm chest are not covered with heavy Packages so that they may be easily got at.

B Wainwright

Major Comm

Monday August 15th

5 00 am Reveille Men being a good deal fatigued. Thunderstorm about 6 o clock which with a good deal of rain lasted all the forenoon. Rain heavy ___

9 00 When got under weigh ___ & passed ___

1215 When put in for dinner From Rat Portage the shores of Sandy Lake, are very bold and rocky. The rocks remarkably pink ___ the water. Both in color & contour the shores are extremely picturesque but the vegetation ___ lakes of the character of the rocky ground.

5 00 PM All twelve boats safely thru the Grand ___ The passage of the rapid seems to be quite safe & easy if boats are kept well to the right on taking the rapid

5 30 Arrived a Yellow Mud Portage Cleared it (last boat) by night fine but rained ___ keeping Pine Portage which two boats passed over before dark very slippery

Tues Aug 16th Fine but cloudy then ___ rest did not rouse them out till

5 30 breakfast & began portaging by 7 o clock Length 225 yds. distance from Yellow Mud about ½ mile.

11 00 All this the 2nd ___ rapid. Brigade under weigh. Cloudy. Had lunch.

12 00 noon Put into Islington Mission for dinner Mr. Sinclair arrived with 2 H.B.C. Boats & orders to ___ lighten our boat. Dispensed(?) with one of Capt Macdonalds Boats Capt Monice(?) ___ Mr. Patterson and myself went into Ft ___ Boat The changes prevented our continuing our ___ till

3 45 PM Slight showers of rain River banks retain the same characteristics - ___ Butler 69th Regt passed us at 10 00am on route to Fort Alexander Weather threatening more thunder.

6.45 Encamped for the night. Raining heavily all night.

Wednesday Aug 17th

am Wet, but clearing

5 00 Reveille morning being very wet did not start till

7 00 Sharp showers & very cold with strong head wind. The same pink & gray in the of rock – apparently ___ yet ___ to be fairly wooded. Islington Mission is a beautiful & fertile station the ___ ___ frequently lovely.

8 15 Ran Portage de L'iles in the large boat (___ discharge(?) all though _

9 00 en Route by

12 00 Landed at Eagles Nest for dinner Sent 6 men to Mr. Sinclair to assist him in noon catching up Capt Calderon Wind moderation (4 men from No 6 – 2 from No 5)

1 45 Under weigh

6 00 Arrived at Chute a Jacqueot Portaged Stores & got all the boats in far so they ___ go the wind & swell not allowing their being launched. Very wet and cold.

Thurs Aug 18th Raining & blowing so hard in the early morning that it wanted (?) only from here gave less damage to the Stores to to have loaded up Did not therefore sound the

6 00 Reveillee till 6.00am and got under dweith at

9 30 by which time it had cleared a little. The Falls here are the finest we have seen. The river falling over steps of rock ___ granite They are not high about 13 feet but they open the river in a picturesque picturesquely looking by an Island about half way

12 00 Arrived at 1st Portage of Trois Pointe de Bois Dined & proceeded to 2nd Trois Pointe des Bois which we cleared by

4 00 and proceeded to 3rd Portage . Met Mr Crowe of HBCo at the 2nd Portage Falls in 3 located(?) by 2 Islands. I might ___ in the ___ _ ___ of ___ B__ about _ ___ of the whole ___ late ___ at 3rd Point de Bois Portage

5 00 Cleared the 3rd Portage ___ Five hours over the three Portages Dinner included Weather clearing

Friday August 19th

3 45 Reveillee Morning fine but cold.

7 30 Under weigh Having breakfasted & portaged Boats. Weather Clouding Arrived at Slave Falls Portage at 6 00 PM yesterday Length of Slave Falls Portage about 650 Yards

9 00 Arrived at La Barriere – short Portage in the rocks Length abt 70 yds. The Rapids or rather Falls being very formidable and the channel is narrow with danger to unaccustomed navigators of drifting into a tremendous whirlpool.

11 00 Four boats cleared and proceeded on their way.

3 00 Ran the Otter Falls & landed for dinner Passed a remarkable narrow rocky passage with a small rapid with just room for the boat.

6 00 Reached the first of the ___ Portages & portaged it before dark & loaded boats Weather which has been very cold & unseasonable apparently improving Oak scrub & young Oak Trees, Rocks the same ping granite. Col Wolseley & Staff alternately passed us at La Barriere.

Sat Aug 20th

6 30 am Left 1st Portage having breakfasted. Morning fine

8.00 Left Second Portage This tho' short is very hard for any number of Boats

9 15 Cleared & left 3rd Portage Weather cooler Cloudy

11 00 Cleared & left 4th a short but steep rock – Length 30 yds height say 10 ft.

3 15 Cleared & left 5th portage having ___ This 700 yard long clear the ___ - Sent 6 Boats ahead at 1 0'clock with Capt Herchmer Macdonald Had to put back in a/c of a man apparently dying from effects of dysentery who fell ___ suddenly as the last of the boats were portaging off. Brought him on board the large Hudsons Bay Boat with the Hospital Sergt after administering stimulants and proceeded on at 4 pm

9 00 Encamped close to get Galois de Bonnet -16 miles

Sunday Aug 21st.

3 50 Reveillee Tea

6 00 Boats over 1st Galars (?) de Bonnet & large Boat clear Length 1 ½ chains (?)

8 15 Left 2nd Galars de Bonnet having breakfasted. Length of Portage 4 chains Weather fine but somewhat threatening. Shore very rocky, but ___ improving.

9 15 Arrived at Grand Bonnet Portage.

Hospl Sergt Campbell being without task 1 boat wine & 6 tins _ Beef for Ball.
Med. Comf. Clear for use of sick.

5 00 PM Left the Grand Bonnet . Length about 1280 yds;. Men much fatigued,
which has caused me to be 73 hours portaging.

5 15 Arrived at Petit Bonnet

6 30 All over & all loaded but one boat. Length about 80 yds Weather Cloudy &
threatening heavy rain.

The dropping down of the boats __ is a somewhat delicate operation.

Monday Aug 22nd

8 00 am Left White M__ Portage at which we arrived at Dark last night. Length
275 yds. good Portage. Did not hurry the men this morning they being tired
having done four portages, one $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long yesterday. Night fine but cool .
Morning bright & promising heat. Distance between last two portages 2 miles.
Land apparently fertile Mr. Dill of HBC took tea with us last night & kindly took
our letters on to Fort William. From him we learned that Col W C (?) the 60th left
Fort Alexander at 3 PM yesterday for Fort Garry & that Captain Herchmer &
MacDonald Made camp at 2nd Silver Falls last night.

10 00 Second Silver Falls

2 00 pm Left do having dined. Men fagged gave them full dinner time. Portage
Length 13 chains having a bad run at the onset. Light fair breeze. Weather fine but
slightly clouding up

3 30 Arrived at Pine Portage. Length 12 chains. Pretty rough & entirely in the
rocks. Ran two rapids on the way. Distance nearly 6 miles Weather fine but
somewhat close & threatening us for thunder. Vegetation good __ Oak abundant
& a few butter nuts visible. The foliage beginning to shew autumn tints.

5 15 Quitted Pine Portage. Evening fine & calm.

7 00 Arrived at Fort Alexander Find we are ordered to follow on to Fort Garry .
Had tea at the Fort. Cheered(?) by ladies at the mission _ __ Night wet

Tuesday Aug 23rd

3 30 Sounded Reveillee. Could not get the Cooks _ start the men so that we were
6 30 not able to start till with a fair, but very light breeze. Morning very wet –
drizzling

9 30 Arrived under the lee of Elk Island & put into shore the southerly wind being
too strong to proceed against.

12 30 Having dined took to the oars the wind having dropped considerably. Found
the swell and what wind remained, however quite sufficient to make the pulling
very hard and tedious and the progress very slow. So that it was not till

2 00 PM that we gained the point of the ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ Island

7 00 PM Brought to for the night at a point midway between Elk Island & the
mouth of Red River. Had scarcely landed, lit fires, served ration, etc, when the
wind, which had sank to a perfect calm for the previous two hours, rose suddenly
from N>E> and in a quarter of an hour blew a heavy gale. Every arrangement had
been made for taking advantage of a rise of wind should it be favourable during the
night but it was now all we could do to reman the boats & get them into an
adjacent cove or bay which afforded shelter. Indeed, the darkness coming on
rapidly, two boats failed to gain the entrance and were beached & their cargoes
landed – in the weather beach.

Night fine & wind apparently decreasing up to 11 PM.

Wednesday Aug 24th

Wind rose again in the night and blew furiously accompanied with heavy rain
making a heavy sea on ~~xxx~~ everything wet.

5 00 An investigation at daylight it appears that three more of the boats are past the
mouth of the Bay & although in safety under a weather short contributed to the
scattered state of the Brigade – which will render it quite a work of time to get
together in order & ready to start

7 00 Every operation retarded by the heavy & continued rain, making it difficult
for the men even to get their breakfasts in fact nothing more adverse than this
morning can be imagined.

Mem Evils of laziness in pitching tents.

12 00 Midnight The wind and rain ~~having~~ continued with unabated fury.

It rose to its height about 3 PM and continued without diminution. The gale having caught the Brigade just at dark and necessitating the moving of the boats and having continued violent without intermission. I fear the loss of perishable Stores will be very large. It has been impossible to cover everything, especially in the large boat incumbered with sick. The men have, of course, been very wet & miserable, the violent wind continually threatening the stability of the tents. Hauled the 2 boats on the N beach higher about 10 o'clock. the continued gale causing the water rise rapidly.

Thursday Aug 25th

6 00 Am Sounded Reveille at 4 30. The wind moderated & the sea went down during the night. It is now clearing with the sun rise, from the NE but as if determined to keep every thing miserable as possible, favor us with a heavy shower as it clears.

8 00 Put out clear of Big Stone Point. The ___ wet, and the men having been wind scattered renders the getting Breakfast very tedious. Keeps showery & cold and allows nothing to dry. Weather otherwise calm.

Opened and found entirely bad & musty one of the good small barrels of biscuit the ___ having become store.

Authorized issue of extra sugar yesterday in order to allow the men plenty of tea on account of the ~~very~~ extreme inclemency of the weather which certainly prohibited them from enjoying any other comfort.

100 PM Arrived at mouth of Red River & encamped for dinner.

3 00 Resumed route having allowed a somewhat longer time to dry the mens sopping clothes, blankets & _. the weather having cleared & the sun came out bright and hot. Mouth of R. R. narrow & winding. Breadth about 50 yds. Banks low & even, (probably for the most part marshy) & fringed with rushes. Very fair camping ground just at the mouth.

6 30 Camped for the night a mile above Tetley(?) Creek 13 miles from lone Fort. Night fine but threatening more rain.

Friday 26th August

4 00 AM Reveillee Strong SW Wind sprang up in the night with squalls of rain – morning fine.

6 30 Put off having breakfast The water having fallen during the night before the Southerly wind & left the boats nearly dry in the mud some delay was caused by launching then.

9 30 Passed the Mission Several Indians came on board a mile or so further down & assisted to pull the large boat _

12 30 Arrived at Stone Fort & dined . Found that Cald__ men & himself had his regiment to go beyond the Stone Fort. Having some fresh men necessary on account of the large boat & the sick in her caused considerable delay so that we did not leave till 3 15 Col Wolsely having left no orders or messages at

6 30 Encamped for the night having made only four miles owing to the strong head breeze and to most of the boats sticking more or less in the rapid at St Andrews Church.

Mr. Butler came on board with orders (a__ anticipated) to proceed . Paraded N Crew & talked to them about discipline

Sat 27th August

6 00 Recommenced tracking Strong head wind, since as yesterday. Weather otherwise fine.

11 00 Landed for dinner. Somewhat impeded in getting under weigh by two drunken men.

2 00 PM recommenced tracking. Showery. Red River flat & muddy.

4 00 Landed to clean up

5 00 Resumed route under oars wind having at last dropped.

6 30 Arrived at Fort Garry

Distances

From 4 pages forward.

Fort Garry to Rainy River 32.4

Rainy River 81

Lake N___ 30

Loon Lake (& River) 5

Pine or Nequaqnon Lake 25

Malcies River about 12

Tanners Rapids to Pine R 25

Pine R to French P 19

French P to Baril 21

Lac des Milles Lacs 20

Kashabor_e 9

Shebandowan 20

Thunder Bay Road 50

691

M_ Murtry makes more 8

699

Length of Portages

D__ Rivieres 750

Pine Portage 5,00 285

French Portage 5,00

414

110

520

1st Fort Garry

28 August 1870

Detachment Orders

No 1 The Following routine will be observed till further orders –

Reveillee 6 A.M.

~~1st Breakfast Bugle 7.15~~

~~2nd “ “~~

~~Fall in (Parade)~~

Fall in (Parade) 6 30

1st Breakfast Bugle 7 45

2nd “ “ 8 00

2 Guard Mounting 9 30

(Dress for Guard) 9 00

Dress for Parade 9 45

Fall in 10 00

1st Dinner Bugle 12 15

2nd Dinner Bugle 12 30

Dress for Parade 1 45

Fall in 2 00

if things are satisfactory the Parade will either be short, or none at all – except for Defaulter & Extra Drill men

Regular punishment Drill will(?) be strictly carried out by the Actg Sergt Major

1st Tea Bugle 5 30

2nd Tea Bugle 5 45

1st Post 8 30

Last Post 9 00

Lights out 9 30

1st Detacht arrived – Sat. 27th

2nd “ “ Mon. 29th

The total distance by Dawson & Napiers Map (scale at foot) from the mouth of the Kaministiquisin to Fort Alexander, is 616 Miles. Hence to Fort Garry 100 Miles = 716

Mess Expenditure

Aug 29	co Peel (Eggs etc) by G_	2.00
30	___ (Butter) ___”___	.60
31	Bl Ale Maj M Leod	5.00
Sep 1	Sam (Meat) G.W (?)	2.00
2	Tam (?) Morice (?)	5.00
3	“ (“) Morice	10.00
“	B___ 24 gm Morice	12.00
5	___ to sundries “	4.00
	Ba___ Bill	6.37
	12 Tumblers S.W.	4.50
	Harvey ___ Morice	1.50
	Salt “	.50
	“ “	.50
6	“ “	4.00
	___ Co ___ “	42.00
	“ “	<u>5.00</u>
		10
		<u>104.91</u>
		10.49

25 /1049 /4.20

/ 100 104.91

49 Sep 8th 2

106.91

Rainy River 81

Rainy River 50

Lake Nam____han 30

____ back

ona/c

Sep 10 Ret d monie 30.00

49 10 5

Table of Distances Miles

Fort Garry to Lower Fort 25

Lower Fort to River Mouth 30

Mouth of river- Stoney Point 15

Stoney Point – Elk Island 15

Elk Island – Fort Alex 15

Fort Alex – Pine Portage 7

Pine Portage – 2nd Silver falls 6

~~Portages Silver Falls 4~~

Length of same as ____ Portages ____ 10

Lac de Bon____ 16

Portages to La Barriere 15

La Barriere to ~~Silver Falls~~ 10

out of Trois Pl de Bois

3 rd de Bois to ___ ___	9
___ Jacquot to Portage	20
Portage de L'Isle to Yellow Mud	20
Yellow Mud to Rat Portage	35
Rat Portage to Rainy River	<u>12</u>
	329

Return Route Notes

Sat 10 June 1871

9 30 Left Fort Garry shifting breezes allowing occasional sailing

1 pm Took in Masts at Trethwaites(?)

2 Lower Fort to take in Potatoes & Beans. Dined there

6 Encamped for the night about 6 miles below Stone Fort. Some of the boats leaking badly. The passage a good deal interrupted by calling a various places on a/c of voyageurs .

Sun 11 June

Overhauled 7 repaired the Boats

8 30 Left – having previously discharged Bugler Collins for gross insubordination

10 30 Called at Monkmans Strong Heaf winds all ___ making the pulling very hard.

12 30 Put in for dinner about 8 miles from mouth of River . ___ Bells Boat of 1st Brigade having blew left behind repairing ___ up

5 30 Camped for the night at the mouth of Red River

Monday 12 June

2 30 am Reveillee Light wind about SSW

4 00 Under weigh Strong fair wind

10 00 am Rounded Elk Island. Wind a little ___ the beam

1 pm Fort Alexander a clean run of 10 hours

4 pm Delayed ___ by repairs to boats rendered necessary by their weakness & the strength of the breeze.

4 15 Last boat left Fort Alexander

6 pm Had to Portage the first Rapids

7 pm Pine Portage about 7 miles from Fort Alexander

Fort Alexander from Elk Island 15 miles

Elk Island to Stoney Point 15 miles

Stoney Point to mouth of River 15 miles

Mouth of River to Lower Fort 30 miles

Lower Fort to Upper Fort 25 miles

8 pm Boats up & brot part of stuff Portaged Boats much racked generally & requiring overhauling – this time, particularly Lt. McMurphys

Tuesday 13 June 1871

6 am Rouse Arrangements made for the Red (1st) Brigade to start immediately after Breakfast, but

830 Capt Cooks Boat had to be taken out of the water after loading, being found very leaky

9 am Mr McMurtrys boat still repairing tho two men have been at work in her since 5 am. The Boats (___) will I fear give us much trouble. The repairs executed at Fort Garry appearing to have been quite inefficient. The they were put into the water with a good appearance. Mosquitoes very bad. Weather fair. Strawberries blossoming & Roses blooming . Wild gooseberries forming. Pines mostly Balsams Birch Oak __.Shore __ thickly wooded this Portage like most almost all on the Winnipeg. has but a scanty soil deposited here & there in the hollows of the mass of rock, mostly disposed in convex __ so to speak, with huge boulders scattered here & there particularly close to the water where also the rock seems split & rifted in all directions.

10 am Capt Cooks & Lt. McMurtrys Boats being found to be started all along the yarboard break(?) no hold for ___ waiting and requiring to effect a repair new streak for which there is no material I ordered a Board Captains MacDonald Captain Cook Captain Morice . Two of them Captains MacDonald & Morice being old

sailors, they reported accordingly (on side of page) and that the boats were ___ unfit to proceed.

I therefore decided to send Capt. Morice back to Fort Alexander to negotiate with Mr. Sully(?) the HBC officer in charge for the hire or purchase of a large HB Boat to continue the voyage. With him ___ McMurtry & a crew of voyageurs.

11 am They started

5 pm Capt Morice & Lt. McMurtry met with large HB Boat. Put into it the whole 2nd ___ Brigade. Blue or No 4 Comp

5 30 Loaded & under Weigh in company with Capt Cooke & Lt. Harman detained by my sending the just to Fort Alexander. Had to track two rapids which of course, we can coming up Locke & Hamilton portaged over a hugh of rock in the middle of the river. The HBC Boat struck in tracking, till the other were over in that it was ___ than equal to a portage

8 20 Arrived at 2nd Silver ___ ___ up the Boats & Cooke ___ to overtake his B ___ Smith 3 or 4 Portage ahead.

Wednesday 14 June 1871

5 am Rouse

Find the HB Boat troublesome to Portage wherever there is any steep rise. On this a/c I am obliged to keep McMillan, & Harmon with me. Cooke passed early this morning to join his Brigade. Sent round some light things by the long Portage but find it is bad plan. No' it leaves both ___ ___ wind ___ Cleared up about 9 am from a cloudy morning

The Silver Falls are probably the finest on the Winnipeg a fall of perhaps 40 feet divided into two general lines, ___ ___ comprise six or seven more or less distinct falls a grand mass of water foaming & misting & tumbling for a quarter of a mile over these several falls, ___ ___ roaring into deep & cavernous of ___ ___ water overhauled by the white foam of the returning wave & rushing into all conceivable currents & whirlpools.

9.45 Left the _ Silver Falls having done both portages length of all about ½ mile. Banks of the Winnipeg densely wooded _ up. Principally Oak & Birch ___ occasionally with the pine & Balsam.

10.30 White Mud Portage. Distance about 3 miles length 200 yds.

1.30 Put off having dinner at

2.00 Peter B__

The Works much hurried from White Mud P the Distance about 3 miles Length about 100 yds.

3.15 Left Petit bonnet & struck on a rock

3.40 Arrived at Grande Bonnet . Found the landing full of Hudsons Bay Goods and the Red(1st) Brigade not yet started.

Thursday 15th June

8.30 am Left Grand Bonnet owing to a mistake the Rouse was not sounded till 6 instead of five. Allowed Mr. McPherson of the HBCo. to have 50 lbs. Pork yesterday at his particular request. Night and morning cold lumps of ice as large as a Pigeons (?)egg

9.45 arrived at 2nd Galais de Bonnet . Distance about 4 miles.

10.30 Left W. Length about 130 yds.

10.45 1st Galais de Bonnet Length 1 ½ Chains Distance about 1 mile. Found a note from Capt. Smith saying that he had gone by the Penewa River & that Bells boats _ boats are giving out the latter the largest in the Brigade, owing to the warping of a green plank nailed on to a rotten one. Capt S also reports no locks(?) to mend with. Why didn't he wait?

1 pm Sept 1st Galais de Bonnet , having been detained a little by necessity of caulking HB Boat Left a note for Graham.

6 pm Camped for the night having gone perhaps 12 miles. part sailing, part pulling, part tracking . the frequent tracking & heavy pulling against strong currents renders the whole upward journey very tedious & the mosquitoes are very bad

Friday 16 June

5 Rouse

7.15 Put off

12 Noon Arrived at 5th (which covers 3) Portage. Adverse winds & strong currents & rapids make the upward journey very tedious. The men have been 23 hours doing what is said to be 16 miles tho'I think it must be at least 20 Wind and Rain. Clearing up at noon. Flies very bad. No sign here of anything having passed.

3.30 McMillans boat nearly went down the rapids between the 6th Portage. The 5th Portage is luxuriant in both Timber & herbage but a bad Portage especially at the E end where the descent, _ the boats is Precipitate& slippery in driest weather.

4.45 Left 5th Portage Length 700 yds. Rain made it slippery & difficult.

5.00 Reached 4th Portage about 20 yards on rock to the left of shore going east.

5.40 ___ Extra Portage

6.05 Reached 4th Portage about 50 yds over a steepish rock.

6.45 Left 4th Portage. Mosquitos & flies simply damnable

7.35 3rd Portage Encamped

Sat 17 June

5.00 Rouse

10.30 Launched the Boats. The whole morning having been occupied in repairing boats, particularly the HB Boat which was very open in the seams. Capt McMillans boat seems shaky. Fine warm morning .Wind ENly Flies very bad last night

11.00 Round the point above 3rd Portage it is only about 200 yds from _ but it has taken more than half an hour to track the large boat round it. Multitudes of enormous flies which fortunately do not seem to bite at least frequently they are like gigantic deer flies.

It is a very different thing to go up the Winnipeg to what it is to do down it What you shoot in a minute going down may easily take an hour going up, waiting for the other boats.

11.15 Mc Millans Boat Round

11.20 Harmans Boat round

11.25 Continued route

11.35 2nd Portage is about 50 yards round a sloping rocky point not good to portage.

12.30 Loaded up & left 2nd Portage leaving the Fort Alec Guide for Mc Millan

12.45 1st Portage. found(?) Falls or Rapids rolling down a ___ of rock for a quarter of a mile.

3.05 Left 1st Portage. Allowed the men a good time for dinner the mornings work having been hard & the Boats & stuff having been portaged before dinner. Length about 150 yds. Clouding up again apparently _ thunder . N Bank of river is densely wooded __ below. S Bank burned.

5.30 For the last half hour passed thru probably the most beautiful part of the Winnipeg entering thru a narrow passage between rock, not wide enough to work the oars, thro which downwards a boat rushed at it a 10 knot pace . you enter a perfect rainy region of little widening lakes, rapids & rocks __ __ a fit abode for

-

