

**CW/VFM-147: *Diary of Charles L Rees[e], Company K, Ninety-Fifth Regiment
Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry***

Provenance: Purchase from William Vitelli

Biography: Private Charles L. Rees[e] was mustered into service on October 2, 1861 as a member of Company K, Ninety-Fifth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was organized at Philadelphia under the guidance of John M. Gosline and was also known as “Gosline’s Zouaves.” On October 12, 1861 the Regiment moved to the defense of Washington D.C. The Ninety-Fifth participated in the Peninsula Campaign where it had its first engagement with Confederate forces at West Point, Virginia on May 7, 1862 and then again at Gaines’s Mill on June 27th. The Regiment saw service at South Mountain, performed picket duty at Fredericksburg, was heavily engaged at Chancellorsville, and played a supporting role at Gettysburg. In 1864 the Ninety-Fifth was again heavily engaged during the Wilderness Campaign and especially at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia in May of that year. Private Rees recorded in his diary for May 12 that he received a wound to the head during this latter battle. He died from this wound on or soon after May 19, 1864, the date of the last entry in his diary.

Scope and Content: This 3” x 5 1/2” clothbound diary, written in pencil, provides daily notations of unit activity from April 2, 1864 to May 19, 1864. In it, Private Rees records brief reports of the daily weather; lists military activities such as inspections, guard and picket duty, skirmish drills and dress parades; provides a report of company actions and movements during the battle at Spotsylvania Court House and describes his care and treatment following his battle injury. The last entry is from May 19, 1864. “We got on the boats and started for Washington. We got here in the morning then we got into the ambulances which brought us to the Carver Hospital. It was a hard ride.”

Diary of Charles L. Reese:
Original Document: 13 pp.

95th Pennsylvania Roster:
Photocopy: 1 p.

History of the 95th Pennsylvania:
Web document: 16 pp.

For more information:

Bates, Samuel P.; [History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5](#); Harrisburg; B. Singerly, State Printer, 1870

Keywords: Union – East – Pennsylvania – 95th; Diaries; Army – Infantry; Soldiers – Privates

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)