

>Return-Path: <crew@goldinc.com>
>From: "Thomas E Crew" <crew@goldinc.com>
>To: <lewisjb@mindspring.com>
>Subject: Fw: Haymond SR Letter
>Date: Mon, 9 Oct 2000 14:02:01 -0500
>X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
>X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

>
>Jim, We found this letter by Capt Henry Haymond 2/18 US on eBay. It bid at
>\$2000 and did not sell. We nabbed the text below, it's public since it was
>all posted. It is a damn fine letter and gives good insight as the
>disposition of the far left of the Regular Brigade in their second fight on
>Dec 31st.

>
>I'm attaching a couple of pics of Haymond. The one with a kepi is from the
>USAMHI and the other in a loose frock with his arm pinned under and an empty
>sleeve (post Atlanta) is from the Dennis Keessee Collection.

>
>This is a great letter.

>
>Johnson's regular Brigade book is done and it looks like Summer 2001 for a
>release. We are working on the cover art now with Keith Rocco. Save some
>room on your wall for this one. It will center on the 16th US across the
>Pioneer Road as Maj Slemmer gets hit with LTC Shepherd nearby. The
>perspective is looking left towards the 1/18th US, firing by file early in
>the fight. The pictures George Pimentel and you took last year were a big
>help.

>
>Regards,

>
>Tom Crew
>18th US

>----- Original Message -----

>From: "Crew, Thomas" <crew@navo.navy.mil>
>To: <crew@goldinc.com>
>Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2000 1:33 PM
>Subject: FW: Haymond SR Letter

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>>
>>
>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: Johnson, Mark W MAJ USAREC [SMTP:Mark.Johnson@usarec.army.mil]
>>> Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2000 12:47 PM
>>> To: 'Crew, Thomas'
>>> Subject: Haymond SR Letter

>>>
>>> The guy selling the Haymond letter was kind enough to post the entire
>text

>>> on ebay. I'll contact him and see if what he thinks about me putting a
>>> few quotes in TBoBM. Here it is:

>>>
>>> This is the ultimate Murfreesboro/Stones River battle letter. It is the
>>> absolute best I've ever seen and perhaps the best period. The Union
>lost

>>> 12,906 men at stones river and the Confederate losses were 11,739. This

>> > letter is by Captain Henry Haymond of the 18th United States Infantry
>from
>> > newly formed West Virginia. The letter is 8 full pages in ink, and is
>> > complete with cover and stamp (a virtual diary) and written to his
>mother
>> > in Clarksburg, WV, on January 7, 1863. As you will see, Captain Haymond
>> > was obviously well educated and had excellent penmanship. The entire
>text
>> > follows:
>> >
>> > Dear Ma:
>> >
>> > I have passed through so many wild and horrid scenes, have seen and
>> > learned so much since I last wrote you anything like a letter that I
>> > scarcely know when nor where to begin. I wrote a hurried note to Mr.
>Allen
>> > to telegraph to Pa that I was safe. I also wrote a few lines yesterday
>to
>> > him to the same effect, but owing to the confusion attending the mail
>> > department I fear you have received neither, and are doubtless much
>> > alarmed as to my safety. On the evening of Dec. 30th we encamped about
>> > three miles from Murfreesboro on the Nashville Road. Heavy Skirmishing
>had
>> > taken place during the day on the right and center. Everyone knew that
>in
>> > all likelihood an engagement would take place the next day. Officers
>> > collected in groups and chatted silently over the events of the morrow,
>> > and gave each other the addresses of their friends and how to dispose of
>> > their effects in case they would be killed. The next morning an order
>was
>> > read to the troops from Genl. Rosecrans announcing that the attack would
>> > take place that day. Rosecran's Division being in the reserve was
>moved
>> > forward to the edge of a large open field encircled with cedar forrest _
>> > stacked arms and broke ranks _ about 7 o'clock the battle was opened by
>> > the enemy attacking the Corps of Genl' McCook on the right of the army.
>> > Three of his batteries were captured without firing a gun _ The sound of
>> > the firing gradually came nearer and nearer _ it was very evident that
>the
>> > right was giving away _ our brigade was sent to McCook's support. We
>> > circled the large field and entered a heavy cedar wood. The musketry
>> > firing was this time very heavy. Our battery could not progress through
>> > the thick wood it was accordingly ordered back and took up a position of
>a
>> > slight eminence near the rail road, commanding the cedar woods _ The
>15th,
>> > 16th and 19th who were on our right had met and engaged the enemy when
>our
>> > Regt. was ordered immediately about face and support our battery. We got
>> > out of the timber and formed on the left of the battery as soon as we
>> > could. In a few moments the enemy had cleared our troops out of the
>> > extreme right of the cedar woods, and now by a flank movement attempted
>to
>> > capture all those to our left. This could only be done by capturing our
>> > battery. They knew it was a fearful thing to attack a battery in an open
>> > field but nevertheless they attempted it. They advanced boldly with

>> > columns doubled upon the center, their long grey lines stretching from
>one
>> > side of the field to the other _ when within fair range the six heavy
>guns
>> > of Guenther's Battery each loaded with 96 cannister shot thundered over
>> > the plain _ I could distinctly see wide deep gaps out in their ranks,
>but
>> > still they advanced. They were playing a deep game but if successful
>the
>> > day was theirs. Two or three more times the battery hurled death into
>> > their ranks. No troops in the world could stand such slaughter. They
>> > broke and ran in confusion _ I saw their Battle Flag (white ground with
>a
>> > red crop) shot down twice but still some bold spirit bore it aloft. A
>> > third time it fell and was not raised again but left upon the field.
>> > Foiled in his attempt to take our battery, the enemy turned his
>attention
>> > to the troops upon our left, and in a few moments the face of the
>country
>> > was filled with fugitives from our overpowered army. The fate of the day
>> > being upon the balance. The regular brigade as a last resort was then
>> > ordered forward to check the enemy's advance until the army could be
>> > re_organized. We entered the cedar woods in the line of battle just as
>the
>> > last of McCook's Corps was driven out of it. The enemy bore down upon us
>> > in three or four lines, their front rank would fire and fall down and
>> > load, the rear rank firing over their heads, by this means they poured
>an
>> > incessant fire into us. The 18th met them gallantly, and now commenced
>one
>> > of the most terrific musketry firings that has occurred during the war.
>> > They had the advantage of position and in standing beneath the shadow
>of
>> > the pines enveloped in smoke, while we stood at the edge of the timber
>in
>> > bold relief against the light. They fired very low, and their shot told
>> > fearfully upon us. I was kept busy in urging my men to load rapidly and
>> > fire low, when suddenly I felt a sharp quick pain in my right knee and a
>> > momentary fainting came over me. I knew that I was hit, and immediately
>> > sat down to examine my wound. I soon found that I was not seriously hurt
>> > and at once got up and took my position. The shot of the enemy was fast
>> > thinning out my little company and the dead and wounded of other
>companies
>> > lay thick around me. The order to retreat was given, I did not hear it,
>> > but happening to look around I saw that the left and center had started
>> > out of the wood. I gave the order to fall back. The movement was
>executed
>> > with some little confusion. The enemy rushed to the edge of the timber,
>> > and poured showers of musketry into us, while their artillery tore
>through
>> > our ranks with fearful effect. One of my men was tore to pieces by a
>shell
>> > while crossing the field. The Regt. was reformed at the rail road on the
>> > left of the battery. Owing to our batteries the enemy did not advance
>> > further than the edge of the woods. We lost out of 575 _ 257 killed and
>> > wounded and 18 missing during the short time we were in the cedars. It

>was
>> > necessary for a sacrifice to be made to save the army, and we made it.
>Our
>> > brigade was then ordered to take up position in the rear, we bivouacked
>> > upon the field without blankets and supplies. The next day Jan 1, the
>> > army acted purely upon the defensive. We had been thoroughly whipped the
>> > day before and many thought Rosecrans should fall back to Nashville.
>Jan
>> > 2, our rations consist of half ear of corn per man. The enemy, late in
>the
>> > evening made a furious attack upon our left _ Crittenden's Corps and
>drove
>> > his troops far and wide over the field. Reinforcements were sent from
>> > Thomas' Corps, and the enemy were driven back with great slaughter. We
>> > were under fire but were not actually engaged. In this attack occurred
>the
>> > heaviest artillery firing I ever heard. Jan 3 Our brigade advanced to
>the
>> > front and threw up earth works under fire from the enemy's guns. That
>> > night the enemy evacuated the town thoroughly discouraged by their
>defeat
>> > of the 2nd. Jan 4th we paired in collecting and burying the dead in our
>> > brigade. They were all buried in long trenches on an eminence
>overlooking
>> > the gloomy cedar forrest where they had so gallantly met their death. On
>> > the 5th we moved to his camp south of town. Today we received our tents
>> > and were glad of it. All thru six nights I slept upon the ground with no
>> > covering but an overcoat, and nothing but crackers and coffee to eat and
>> > very little of that. Two of the nights it rained heavily and I slept in
>a
>> > mud hole. I might have fared better but my sergeant who had my blanket
>and
>> > haversack of rations, was shot dead and I had not time to take them off
>of
>> > him. Thenemy stripped everything of value from our dead. Every pocket
>is
>> > turned wrong side out, shoes and in some instances stockings taken off.
>> > Capt. Kneass and Lieut. Hitchcock of our Regt. who were left dead upon
>the
>> > field had everything off of them but pants and shirt. Hitchcock's
>> > stockings were taken off. Out of 23 men I took into action three were
>> > killed, six wounded one missing supposed to be wounded and a prisoner.
>Two
>> > of our officers were killed ded and eleven others wounded _ two of whom
>> > will probably die. Maj. Carpenter of the 19th was killed, Maj. Slemmer
>of
>> > the 16th wounded, Maj. King 15th wounded besides several line officers
>of
>> > their Regiment killed and wounded. Nearly every horse on the field was
>> > killed or wounded. Two companies of our battallion are to be broken up
>and
>> > distributed among the other companies. This is necessary owing to the
>> > scarcity of officers and the smallness of the companies. My company is
>to
>> > be broken up and I am to have the command of one of the best companies
>in

>> > the regiment. It's officer Lt. Simmons being severely, probably
>mortally,
>> > wounded. I have not heard from home since your letter of Dec. 13. I do
>not
>> > know yet how Barce's sickness terminated. Two mails for the army have
>been
>> > destroyed recently between here and Nashville. Several of our officers
>who
>> > received slight wounds have already gone home. Mine was not severe
>enough
>> > for that. You must write soon _ did my commission reach you? I sent Pa
>my
>> > pay account for November. Send the girls \$30 or \$40 of it as spending
>> > money.
>> >
>> > Yours truly,
>> > Henry Haymond.
>> >
>> > I met Robert Goodwin and a Maj. Kimball of Brookville a day or two after
>> > the battle. They were uninjured.
>> >
>> >

>> > -----Original Message-----

>> > From: Crew, Thomas [mailto:crewt@navo.navy.mil]

>> > Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2000 12:11 PM

>> > To: 'Johnson, Mark W MAJ USAREC'

>> > Subject: RE: Acquisition Transaction

>> >

>> > OK, I'm looking forward to doing this letter. Things got hot here again

>> > so I'll try to finish it this weekend. The map looks good. I can't

>> > completely open the link on the Haymond SR letter that Slover sent, but

>> > what I could see looked juicy. You going to contact this guy?

>> >

>> > TC

>> >

>> > -----Original Message-----

>> > From: Johnson, Mark W MAJ USAREC

>> > [SMTP:Mark.Johnson@usarec.army.mil]

>> > Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2000 3:48 PM

>> > To: 'Crew, Thomas'

>> > Subject: RE: Acquisition Transaction

>> >

>> > If you don't mind, make that stab on the perspective. I want to

>> > address timelines and process, with you handling everything about the

>> > scene.

>> >

>> > -----Original Message-----

>> > From: Crew, Thomas [mailto:crewt@navo.navy.mil]

>> > Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2000 9:43 AM

>> > To: 'Johnson, Mark W MAJ USAREC'

>> > Subject: RE: Acquisition Transaction

>> >

>> > I found the disc with the SR terrain photos and brought it

>> > in, but my browser seems to have a hitch in it so I can't open the files

>> > here and as there are about 10 scans I only want to include the goods

>> > ones, so the files need to be opened first. It might me a couple days