

Solomon Palmer

Diary

now in the possession of

Mrs. Nelson Sheldon

2600 Stony Branch

Cambridge, Mass.

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8/24/69

During the battle our Regt. was attached to Jackson's
Brigade, Withers Div. Bragg's Corps and the whole Army
was commanded by Genl Albert S. Johnson. This
was my first fight, and although I was very anxious
to get into it, yet after it was over I sincerely hope
it might be my last. Our Regt. had to bring up the
rear in the retreat from Shiloh back to Corinth.
Soon after the battle I take sick and have to be
sent to the rear. I stay at Thomas Shearers (Holston)
and I shall ever be under many obligations for
the kindness of himself and family. May the
choicest blessings of Heaven rest upon them.
From there I got furlough and came home arri-
ving there 11th of June. I remained at home
for the recovery of my health, till the 25th of Aug.
when I again joined the Army again at Smiths
Crap Rocks on its way into Ky. Even at
this time I was not very well recovered from my
severe sickness in Miss. which came very
near killing, and was consequently but illy
able to take the long laborious trip into Ky. for
which the Army was preparing. Yet I did it,
marching several hundred miles - never leaving
my Co. and never getting into an ambulance.
Near Lewisburg my Co. was deployed and skirmish
with the enemy but no one got hurt. After a
 tiresome, and for ought we could see, unprofitable
Campaign, we arrived back at Knoxville Tenn
the last of Oct. We had no tents and had lost a
great portion of our clothing, and during
a snow storm I suffered probably as much
as I ever did for the same length of time.
I had to cut with a dull ax my own wood and
cut several hundred miles to keep from freezing.

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ous in the neighborhood of Lebanon, and after
staying there a week we were ordered to our place
in line of Battle in front of Murfreesboro prepara-
tory to a general engagement. The battle opened
on the cold morning of the 31st of Dec, and raged
all day. Tets, Skinner and Beavers were both near-
tally wounded here. The loss of the Co. was severe.

Some 20 or 30 wounded, several mortally, but none
I believe killed dead on the field. Capt. Skinner
having resigned in Miss I was Capt. when I joined
the Army at Smith's Roads and consequently was
in command both in Ky. and during the
battle at Murfreesboro. Genl Bragg was in command
both now and through Ky. We were in Withers' Div.
and Deas' Brigade and Polk's Corps.

We remain at Murfreesboro two or three days
and have a severe fight with the enemy on the
night of our retreat. From here we go to Shelby-
ville where we remain the rest of the winter.
On 20th of Jan. I get application to go to rear approved
for my health was extremely bad. I go to Huntsville
and from there I get short leave of absence to go
home. After near a months absence I return to
my command, but my health is but little if
any improved. I remain with the command
till the last of April. till I am sent to hospital by
the Surgeon. Go to Atlanta. from there I
get leave of absence to go home. About the
1st of Jan. I again join the command still at
Shelbyville. My health fully restored.

I stay at Shelbyville till the 1st of July when we retreat to Chattanooga. 14th Vicksburg fell. We remain in the neighborhood of Chattanooga till about the 1st of Sept. when we begin to maneuver preparatory to a general engagement which took place on Chickamauga Creek Ga. between Fayetteville & Chattanooga. on 20th of Sept. My Co. went into the fight with 44 guns but 7 were killed dead on the field and about 18 or 20 wounded. This was probably the severest fight of the war particularly in the western Army. We drove the enemy from the field and made him take refuge behind his works at Chattanooga. We next take position on Missionary Ridge in front of Chattanooga Ga.

On Missionary Ridge we have a very hard time both on account of heavy picket duty and scarcity of rations. I was now Major of the Regt. having been passed by the Board of Examinations over the heads of several Senior Captains who wanted their right in my favor. I took rank as Major from 25th of Sept.

We remain on the Ridge till Nov. 25th when we have a general engagement with the enemy and are driven from our position and have to retreat. The defeat must have been caused by the bad management of our officers.

Our loss was heavy both in artillery & prisoners. We have a cold disagreeable march getting to Dalton where we go into winter quarters. We build winter quarters of pine poles and make ourselves comfortable and begin the reorganization of the Army under Gen. Joe E. Johnson.

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Guard duty is severe under Gen. Johnson the baggage trains are very much reduced and the morale of the Army is very much bettered. Several men of our Regt. are shot for desertion. In Feb. I get leave of absence and go home for 25 days, J.P. Cowden goes with me. The Army remains quiet at Dalton till about the first of May. Gen. Johnson in command of the Army Gen. Hood of our Corps Gen. Windham of Div. and Gen. Dev's of Brigade & Col. S.R. McSpadden of Regt. About the 14th of May we have unmistakable evidence that Gen'l Sherman is preparing for an advance. He flanks our position and we have to fall back to Resaca where we fight and skirmish heavily with the enemy. Col. McSpadden is captured and several officers and men killed and captured from the Regt. we again have a partial engagement with the enemy at New Hope church where we have 13 men wounded. This was 25th of May. On 27th Gen. Cleyburn evicted the enemy very much in an engagement. 27th of June they attack our works on the Resaca line but are repulsed with heavy loss to them but little to us. On the 20th of June I was in as severe a shelling as I ever was in during the war. 1st of July we fall back across the Chattahoochee. We rest a few days but the enemy still pursues. On the 18th of July we learn that Gen. Johnson is relieved from command and Gen. Hood appointed in his place. Although the army had been retreating yet its morale was good and in all the engagements we had we had been

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of Capt. Robbins account history of the 1st Regt 1862

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Successful for we had acted on the defensive and had killed two and three of the enemy where they had killed or wounded but one of ours. The Army had the utmost confidence in Johnson and his being relieved had a most demoralizing effect upon the Army more so than the worst kind of a defeat in Battle. It was believed that Hood's policy would be to fight, and he soon showed that it was. On the 20th one Corps attacked the enemy in his works and was repulsed. On the 22nd our Corps attacked and was repulsed with terrible loss. On 23rd our Div. again attacked and was repulsed. In these two engagements the loss of my Regt. for at this time I was in command of the Regt., was not much less than 150 killed and wounded. Several very gallant officers fell. And I was struck over but was able to remain on the field. On 24th all the color guard was either killed or wounded. And a private bearing them was killed several paces inside of the enemy's works. The enemy paid him a tribute of respect by burying him on the spot where he lay with the colors in his hand and placing the following inscription over his head.

Here lies a rebel color bearer who planted his colors here. A month after wards we got possession of the ground, and took him up and tried to identify him, but decomposition had so far taken place that it was impossible. He is one of many gallant ones whose bones lie bleaching, sad relics of the sad and disastrous war. Requiescat in pace