September 20
-
October 3
1861
Charles B. Haydon
Doratus
Mich.

Direct to
Philorus Haydon
same place
September 1861

Dr. In camp, nothing unusual. We had some system for supper. The weather is hot.

I read letters from Achilles, Miller, and Father.

21st: An attack by the Union, I believe. We have a pretty busy day. Our numbers are much reduced. There are only 300 men here.

The rebels act as such rebels as always. One sergeant does the work of 2 or 3 men. A crew acts as officers of the day. I hope there will soon be some officers in the Regt. There is a fair prospect of it.

We have a lot at last. First Poe of the Engineers, I suppose. He is a much better officer than we
could reasonably expect, in fact, one of the best in the service.

I passed through my first day.tnight as officers of the guard in a manner quite satisfactory to myself. I passed the night at the officers' guard tent. It rained very hard most of the night; I was called up 8 times in the course of the night; a detachment was sent over from the 8th to our guard house; it was necessary to have them gagged and tied at once or there was no sleep. We got 12 of them all drunk during the night. The weather was cold this morning; I do not know exactly how we shall fare during the winter if we do not move farther south. Promptly
at 4 P.M. we set out for the cross roads arrived as usual. The left was sick & I being the only light who could make it convenient to go had command of the left Capt Brehm Schneider who had command at the crossing was in high temp. The p agreement with regard to picket firing was at an end. The enemy commenced firing & Capt B. took a flag of truce & went up to inquire the meaning. The officer in command at the fort said he knew nothing at any agreement, became there to fire if was going to fire, every body was a d----d fool not to fire for he wanted nothing more than it.
Capt. B. the would have him arrested in less than no time and he was off - Very well said Capt. B. you wants to fire & gives you enough of it. "Good day Sir I hope I meet you again before the war is over" Now boys you wants till they give once then you gives them half shot at the head of rascals so fast as you can. The order was obeyed & considerable firing was done before dark. He walked & sent a complaint to Camp because no officers came with Co. A. He said he had no objection to my commanding it so far as one man could do it but it needed more than one. He had the men
crazy for fighting in less than ten
minutes.

25th passed a very comfortable
night. Slept well. Firing commenced
at daylight briskly. There had been
very little firing on the center till I
got out to the one pocket just
after daylight. There was a persimmon
tree loaded with rich fruit about 20
feet in front of the line. The fruit had often
been coveted by our men. I con-
cluded to go and get some. I was busily
knocking them off with a pole when
a rascal fired at me the ball striking
at 25 feet about 20 little to one side.
I grabbed up my hands full of persi-
mons I made no unnecessary
delay in returning inside the line.
to my proper place. After that there was a pretty steady fire all day one 100, shooting 20 rounds per hour.

The average of the shots fired by our men was over 2000. None of them were hurt though several would have been killed but for the holes in the little breastworks into which they dodged. It is claimed with much probability that 4 of the enemy were killed. An ambulance came down to the line 3 times & it could have been for any other purpose than carrying off dead or wounded. We had not but old, underbuilt muskets. They shot a good distance but the ball
Travelled slow was inaccurate.
The balls fell patter, patter about us all day hitting trees, houses, fences &c but there was no loss except one cow which was shot in the road near our quarters. In the afternoon the enemy burned 2 houses just beyond our lines fearing it is presumed that we would occupy them. Capt. R sent me down to the left to see what was doing. The road was all 40 rods back of & nearly parallel to our pickets. The enemy shot over almost invariably. I think not less than 20 shots to balls stuck in & near the road while I was returning. I could frequently see the balls as they passed & cried
hear them long before they reached me. I told man where our officers usually got their meals was in great concern the balls were flying around the house & several of them struck the house. His wife & family of small children were a much alarmed. There were two large barns & five stacks of hay & grains from which they annoyed our men very much & they determined to burn them. They succeeded in firing one barn just after dark by means of red hot iron slugs shot from muskets & from this the fire communicated to the other barn & the stacks. Beside burning all the haunts there was a large amount of hay & grain. The barns were very large &
well filled. It puzzled Don Reynold's much to know how it was done.

Our men begin to show an eagerness for conflict which will soon become allied to ferocity. This feeling is terrible but sure to win. It needs to be educated to coolness, caution, and political caution. There was very much foolish firing to day, and more men could have been killed in a different way than I could get nothing but a musket to use, and did not care to fire. If I could only have had a good Micht. sporting rifle I should have enjoyed it. They would then open the great doors of one of those barns as soon as they found we were shooting muskets.
would walk out into the open
doorway & stand till he saw the
smoke of our guns. Then run back
before the ball would reach them.
This was exceedingly vexations.
With a small bore rifle & quick
powder I think I could have
stopped that business very quick.
There was brigade inspection at
Camp by Gen. McClellan, Price,
de Joinville & others. It was very
late when the relief came. Sep.
24th. At one A.M. we were
ready to turn in to blankets at home
having returned at 12½ from picket
with empty haversacks & belles.
Capt. Morse took command at the
camps last night & was
trying to stop firing. It was an easy job for the rebels sent down a flag of truce from the fort asking that it might be discontinued.

The burning of the barns troubled them. They think we credit it to them. We had brigade drill for 4 hours. It was hot, dusty, disagreeable.

We have a new Col. a glorious good one he is. He was late aide to Gen. M. Schofield & 1st. Lt. of the Engineers. Orlando M. Poe of is the man. We shall not be able to keep him long but he puts life into the regt. while he is here. Gen. R. had to speak strongly about how his iron commissioned drill the battalion last 4th July. He declares that has then come off.
camped—most of the field officers
drinkin.

26th. was payday & drunken
night. I have stood it very well
but last night when it came
into our own tent. 3d. Clark
Benson. 4th. Parker, Mitchell, Mack,
& Mason. Major Underwood &
North & Bulles. came
into the tent & began to play cards
for 2 bottles of ale. Ord. hag
soon joined. Two bottles being
found wholly insufficient to
supply their wants 2 more
were added & soon after 4 oth
after some further playing
12 more bottles were found
necessary. By this time they were
all pretty drunk I thought 6 bottles of champagne were needed. These were drank which together with some liquor obtained out side made them all drunk except to be very noisy. At this point Mack & Mason quarreled & got into a fight in which Bennett, Prentice & Butler took part. They all tumbled over onto the ground to rise as I thought no more for the night. Pretty soon however they fell apart & Mason & Prentice came out with black eyes. Butler & Mack with noses skinned & bloody & Benson with some hard knocks on the bowels & Mason.
then instructed one whipping the officer of the guard for making them to make less noise. He was finally dissuaded from this and Mark just to bed in their respective tents. Mark soon shewed all over the ever unfortunate Headlock who ran to the drags, bent for reedness. Benson & North at once seized him & rolled him all end up. Most out alone into a ditch. The Damn Major tried to embrace the orderly & both tumbled over nearly breaking their heads. There were immumerable songs speeches & mishaps which I have time to relate. I was glad to
get off by giving the old man $1, drinking one bottle of ale.

The others spent all $20. and lost $13. in the melee. Everything in the old tent was turned bottom side uppermost. I laughed myself nearly to death but got very little sleep.

26th. This day came Brent's Camp,

for Benson $3.

Stevenson, promoted from 4th to 3rd.

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<tr>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>5th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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<td>Mason</td>
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<td>Prentice</td>
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<td>Coleman</td>
<td>6th</td>
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Mack promoted from No. 6th
Johnston  "     8th  "  1861
McCallum  "  Ranks  "  8th
Bryan  "  8th

I could agree to all this except Bryan's promotion to which I was opposed. I do not believe he can ever control a squad. Many of the men were drunk & there was much noise about camp.

24th - was a rainy day. Benson & I looked up from effect & made arrangements as far as possible for our departure from the camp. We tried to get a pass to the city to make the necessary purchases but it was impossible. We all
Started for picket grounds at 4 P.M., the bers having few other things to carry paid more attention to their haversacks which were well filled with bread, butter, cheese &c. It rained very hard most of the way. Every thing indicated the approaching Fall. The rain driven by sudden squalls increased. The ground showed unmistakably that snow squalls would some day follow. It got pretty muddy but not very well. We had a good fire & a warm cup of coffee at the head quarters. There was little rain during the night but the wind was high &
cold & severe on men who were on posts. Sep

28th Hot coffee was sent to the pickets at daylight. No one was seen about the fort this
PM. About 8 A.M. it became apparent that the enemy had withdrawn their pickets during
the night. Some 600 troopers are all who have been seen all
the fort up 3 P.M. A woman who came down past the fort this Morn
with 4 children & a wench & some furniture & one horse,
wagon reports that there are still 2 Regts. concealed in
the fortifications on Munson's hill & 6 Regts. must face beyond
We hardly know how to take this move but intend by care to avoid any traps which may have been laid. Scouts were out all Sunday looking cautiously around searching for every accessible place.

At 4 P.M. Gen. R.D. Col. Patten looked around for a little while. Gen. Rood saw Capt. Sherlock & Self to take 12 men of the Co. D to occupy if possible a house about 80 rods in front of the enemy's battery. We advanced, occupied the house and scattered along a fence parallel to the battery. Here we lay concealed in the weeds for an hour and half. As we knew nothing of the enemy's force or position, as we were over half a mile in advance.
of all ourackets we rested even rather anxious to know what
was doing? We took such preci-
tion as we could to prevent being
surrounded and waited the progress
of events. We could see all 20 men
around their works who
fired an occasional shot at us none
of which took effect. After a little
half an hour one of the 5th's 5th's
crept up to us soon after as many
more came through the woods I got in
a school house on the opposite side of
the road a little nearer than we
another party under Lt. Benson & alt
40 men came up the road even with
us. We were all looking very anxious
when someone I know not who it
was cried out "forward" at this we 
all made a rush & entered the works 
on the rear & found them empty 
A few of the men who had been 
there ran away of one soldier 
were taken. The rest disappeared. 
Gen. Richardson & Col Poe looked 
on not believing the works were 
described. The Gen. swore worse than 
conf. Benson & I had neither 
of us had a chance to get swords & 
were armed with nothing but 
 pistols. I was fortunate enough 
to escape his observation but Ben 
catch it. "There another St. 
here should Gen. R. Yes sir said 
R. I am, Gen. turned short 
around & looking at him a 
moment
"Well by J's you look like one. You'll kill somebody yet."

"Where are his your sword is."

"What have you been? What have you been about; out on duty without a sword."

Here Col. P. interfered in behalf of the paralyzed erect. I explained. He well knew you can get a sword, sir. Cape Whipple handed him his.

"Do you see that barricade in the road? Yes. Can you lead these men there? Yes. Then without waiting a second."

"Come why mi had wait you off see what you standing here for."

When he saw the men running to the works, he pretended to be
very much engaged but could easily be seen laughing with his
slave - "There go one of them up to the
Fort. There goes 20 more. There by
40 goes the whole of them."
"God, all you have to do is to hold
these men if you can till it is
time to let them go."
We quickly
hoisted the Union Flag & gave
three lusty cheers. Some other
parties soon after took possession
of a work just beyond. The 11th
brigade had already seized one
on the left. When sun set took
we had possession of all the
enemies works in that locality
without loss. We had from
Munson's Hill a fine view of Washington the Potomac. Toward the west the hills to the right of Munassas were visible. After carefully among the guards I walked back to the corners to sleep. We laid down with about a dozen of our men on top of the hill. We had our oil cloths, blankets, under our and only one blanket to cover us. There was a strong, cold S.W. wind which when we awoke a little after midnight had chilled us pretty thoroughly. We got up and around till we were...
warm again & then slept well till daylight. 2 Regts came up before 9 P.M. to help hold the works & when daylight came, 6 others 2 batteries were seen near by. The Garabaldie Guards were among them & I must say that they can beat the world at shooting. All the St. Y's troops are great at that but I believe the Guards can beat them all. The country was soon plundered 2 houses which have been perfectly safe in our hands for a month were stripped by Mem in an hour & have
been burned. Stop
19th. At noon sund, we
were allowed to return to camp
which we were very glad to do.

20th. Benson & I succeeded
after near a half day's running
in getting horses to the city.

We have bought blankets &c. We
have been boating for the
last two days at a house
near by. Neither of us knew
boating at it. It is now 50 miles
since we have done such a
thing before. P. Benson got
so talking very loosely with
an officer's wife of the 21st.
&c. He forgot himself as to
serve his beefsteak in his
Fingers twice instead of the civilized method making use of the civilized method with knife & fork. I really seemed very much like home to me to sit down at a table where there were ladies everywhere, everything was in good order. We have been so used to slaving away doing with brave birness & scrubbing up the fires, with one fingers that it is hard to restrain oneself at first. We have each of us spent $1.75 for necessaries today. Orders are issued for us to march to annex with two
days cooked rations in our haversacks.

October 1st 1861 we have been picking up our things to remove from the Sergt. tent to the lot. We expected to march this M. & S were palled out at 7 1/2 AM. I blacked arms in front of quarters. Our things are all packed & we can march at 10 minutes notice. There is a rumor of battle up the river but nothing certain is known.

Night has come & we are still in camp but in readiness to march on short notice. Benson & I went on Dress Parade to night for the first time. It was new business to us...
as we knew that we should be closely watched it was in no small degree embarrassing. If my heart had ever fluttered when there was fighting to be done as it did when we marched out to the front I should have called myself a coward beyond all hope of redemption. I have been several times where although my chances of being shot in the next half hour were greater than even but my pulse was even compared with what it was when there was a chance of making a flounder on Aches' Parade. Benn came out in full uniform but I thought best to try it the next.
I spent yesterday as follows
I have as yet not more than half an amount.
A new suit of clothes $21, 20,
Sword & belt.
Navy revolver.
Gold embroidered shoulder.
Gold buckle for cap.
Trunks.
Military dictionary.
Share in Map chest.
Gloves.

Beyond these are needed: Offices
Overcoat: $20
A sash $6
A pair of boots $6
Other articles too numerous to mention.
The pay however when it comes will be double what is needed for expenses.

2° We have been living pretty well today. Gibson of Kalamazoo is here. Handy usually eats with us & Gibson always does. Handy was a little mad about the money, but he has come around all right of his own accord. Briggs is still rated. We know nothing about the movement of troops. At night we have two or three Regts. beside us. In the morning we are gone. No one knows where or when they went. At 9 P.M. an order comes to march. The men fall out without noise. There
a guide furnished who leads the way. Ask them where they are going. "Don't know that man on the horse ahead there will tell knows. They march on for a line. The guide says to the cot, pointing to some open field you camp there? A few weeks ago 4 batteries of artillery were encamped beside us we heard their tattoo at 9 PM, in the field, they were all gone. No man of this Regt. knows to this day where they have gone. We go to bed at night with no one near us in the line, may be surrounded by Regt.
We have had our arms stacked in line ready to move for three days but we are still in camp where or when we are to go we do not pretend to ask.

F. A very warm day - skirmish drill all the forenoon. Our new colors crowning things. He says that in 6 months the New is to be the best drilled Regt. in the United States. Our drills & parades already attract large numbers of visitors & are highly praised. The straightens men & officers to their places in a hurry.
Mich. Kelley 60 y. 17
John Mellon ..
Pal Money ..
Ed. Burke ..
Mich. Mc Namara ..
Jas. Gleeson 18 N.Y. 22

Suit, frock, coat
Card for suit, singlet
Cups, plates, Atlantic, Mel Die
Shirts, gloves, trunk

Hudson & Taylor 394 P St. in
near tenth st.

Mich. Mc Namara  
E W. Benjamin  
F. Hall  
Matthew Vögel Discharged  
J. Abbott  

2 o'clock 2 Mich  

in K 37th E. Clark  
got by Orderly of Co K  
for refusing to work  

lead yard  
off covert  
Byron Long  
Capt. Birtled, Lambert Schneider  
Jackson for being absent  
when called on for picket duty  
is to be kept list  
called for by him...
Underwood
Butter
Fackrell

Mrs. E. T. Underwood
on Metropolitan Bank
May 1st, 1938