Thomas L. Evans letter to his family from Vermillionville, Louisiana, November 6, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.ewu.edu/tlevans

Recommended Citation
Evans, Thomas L., "Thomas L. Evans letter to his family from Vermillionville, Louisiana, November 6, 1863" (1863). Thomas L. Evans Civil War Correspondence and Diary. 95.
https://dc.ewu.edu/tlevans/95

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Thomas L. Evans Civil War Correspondence and Diary by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jotto@ewu.edu.
Permillion Mill. Co. No. 6 July 63

Dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters,

We have been through another Battle & I am well and unhurt in anyway. Would I could say as much all. But it is not so.
The rebels attacked in our camp on the first. There was but our Brigade. We met them the Rebs, but were soon overpowered and had to retreat. We retreated about two miles leaving our camp to the Rebs. After retreating that far another brigade came to our assistance & we rallied. The Rebs seeing we were reinforced began their retreat and we followed them up and with but little opposition drove them and retook our old position. Then our Regiment came in to camp. They stacked but 42 guns out of 150 we had in the morning. But the men kept coming in until we have now between 80 & a hundred guns.

The killed wounded whipping of our Regt. is 117 including 3 Captains & 2 Lieutenants. Of my Co. Sergeant Cool is killed.

William Boyle has wound slightly in knee.

Sam Hill has slight wound in the Temple.

William Botteus an ugly flesh wound the the arm. Mordecan Gladwell Kra Homans & Daniel
All were taken prisoner and the rebels still have them but they are not hurt. Several others were struck but not hurt much.

Capt. Cline was struck twice but is not much hurt and is now able to be with his Co. on duty. There are five all taken prisoner without a wound. The loss of our Brigade is between 600 & 700, including between 50 & 100 officers of these, near 200 are prisoners. Between twenty & 50 killed the rest wounded. Of the killed twelve are from our regiment.

The fight took place 8 miles this side of Appalachea. Last Sunday we went into camp there on the very ground we had camped on before we went on to Appalachea and where in one of my other letters I spoke of us having a little skirmish but nobody hurt.

The Rebels occupied our camp for a little while of course they pretty much destroyed it. My tent was burned with my haversack & a few other little things but my trunk & bedding were saved & I am well off to what some of them are who lost every thing except what they had on.

We were flanked on every side & in the fight & of course there was no chance but to fall back & make what resistance we could until the other Brigade came up to help us and though we did fall back rapidly more than...
half of our Brigade was captured.
It was not done though by a handful of
men there were not left then five of them
in one of us and they lost three times as
many killed & wounded as we did though we
took but few prisoners. These are facts not
rumors. After the fight that evening we
gathered up what camp equipage we had left
and our wounded & dead and moved back
some 4 miles where we remained until
this yesterday when we came on this place
bringing all along. We are now camped where we
were in election day and tomorrow I suppose
we will continue our march toward New
Orleans but I don't know. I think the
whole force will move back toward New Orleans
but do not know. The mail closes in a
few minutes & I must quit.

Your love to you all

Thomas

Jim Halse
Dear Parents, Brother & Sisters:

We have been through another battle and I am well and unhurt in anyway. Would I could say as much for all but it is not so.

The rebels attacked us in our camp on the third. There was but our Brigade. We met and had to retreat. We retreated about two miles leaving our camp to the rebs but were soon overpowered leaving our camp to the rebs. After retreating that far, another brigade came to our assistance and we rallied. The rebs seeing that we were reinforced, began their retreat and we followed them up and with but little opposition, drove them and retook our old position. When our Regiment came in to camp after the fight, they stacked but 42 guns out of 160 we had in the morning but the men kept coming in until we have now between 80 and a hundred guns. The killed, wounded and missing of our Reg. is 117 including 3 captains and 2 Lieutenants. Of my Co. Sergeant Cobb is killed, William Boyls wound slightly in knee, Levi Hill a slight wound in the temple, William Mathews, an ugly flesh wound in the arm, Mordecai Gladhill, Ira Hommans and Daniel McNeal were taken prisoner and the rebs still have them but they are not hurt. Several others were struck but not hurt. Sept.Cline was struck twice but is not much hurt and is now able to be with his Co. on duty. There are five commissioned all taken prisoners without a wound. The loss of our Brigade is between twenty six and seven hundred including between 30 and 40 officers. Of these near 600 are prisoners and between twenty and 30 killed, the rest wounded. Of the killed, twelve are from our regiment.

The fight took place 8 miles this side of Oppolousa. Last Sunday we went into camp there on the very ground we had camped on before we went on to Oppolousa.
and where in one of my other letters I spoke of us having a little skirmish but nobody hurt. As the rebels occupied our camp for a little while, of course they pretty much destroyed it. My tent was burnt with my haversack and a few other little things but my trunk and bedding were saved and I am well off to what some of them are who lost everything they had except what they had on.

We were flanked on every side in the fight and of course there was no chance but to fall back and make what resistance we could until the other brigade came up to help us and though we did fall back rapidly, more than half of our Brigade was captured. It was not done though by a handful of men. There were not less than five of them to one of us and they lost three times as many killed and wounded as we did. Though we took but few prisoners. After the fight that evening, we gathered up what camp equipage we had left and our wounded and dead and moved back some 4 miles where we remained until yesterday when we came on to this place bringing all along. We are now camped where we were on election day and to-morrow I suppose we will continue our march toward New Orleans but I don't know. I think the whole force will move back toward New Orleans but do not know. The mail closes in a few minutes and I must quit.

My love to you all.

Thomas.

(In haste)