

Hazen Boys Article October 4, 1883

National Tribune Article

HAZEN'S BOYS AT STONE [sic] RIVER.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

With your permission I wish to state how the battle of Stone [sic] River looked to a Hoosier. On the 31st of December, 1862, early in the morning, our brigade (Hazen's) was formed to the right of the Murfreesboro' pike, or between the pike and the Cedars, and took its position on an elevation of ground in the cotton field and in front of the big house, near as I can remember, nearly a mile from it. This position we held for nearly two hours, when we were ordered to move to the left, which we did until the left wing of our regiment (Ninth Indiana) had crossed the railroad. This new position we held all day without yielding one foot or inch of territory to the enemy. Comrade Blodgett says the right of Wagner's (Second) brigade rested on the railroad and held their ground all day, the only brigade that did so during the fight, General Hazen's to the contrary notwithstanding.

Now, Mr. Editor, I believe General Hazen knew what his brigade was doing all that day, and there is not a man living who belonged to Hazen's brigade but who knows that Hazen held his position all day and camped on the same ground all night, and no better fighting was ever done than was done by the Sixth Kentucky boys under their brave Colonel Whitaker, who made two distinct countercharges, driving the enemy each time half way back to the big brick house.

I know that away to our right the boys in blue had to yield, and that it depended on some one to save the day, and in all probability Wagner's brigade did all they could. Yet, I believe the day would have been saved to the Union troops had Wagner's brigade not been there at all. I do not wish to detract from the honor due to any other brigade, and Hazen's does not need that I should. There are plenty of men still living who know all about the Stone [sic] River fight, and I am glad that Grose's brigade is wheeling into line. It never was found lagging behind when there was anything to do.

A. DOERING,

Co. H, 9th Ind. Vols.

CLIFTON, KAN.