

Joseph Gloskoski

Detailed from the regiment to serve as a signal officer in July 1862, on 11 December 1st Lt. Joseph Gloskoski was sent ahead with some other privates to Col. Hays, commander of the Union batteries at Falmouth. Ordered to take up a position in Fredericksburg itself on the 13th, from a convenient rooftop on a yellow house Lt. Gloskoski signaled reports to the commander of the Union Right Grand Division Maj. General Sumner from General Willcox, IX Corps commander, concerning the Union advances on the battlefield, as well as reports to Col. Hays concerning artillery fire. Their post was a perfect vantage point from which to view the carnage before Marye's Heights, his final message of the day reading "From all appearances our troops have not gained an inch of ground..." Shortly thereafter, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., a number of Confederate guns began to zero in on Lt. Gloskoski's position, killing a sentinel and later 15 wounded men in a nearby hospital. They stopped signaling, though remained in position as an observation post until about 4:00 a.m. the next morning. Apparently Lt. Gloskoski was one of, if not the last Union soldier in Fredericksburg, noting that "when we learned all our generals and all our troops had re-crossed the river, then we also abandoned our position." Lt. Gloskoski then returned with his detachment to the 29th New York, who were then encamped around Falmouth.