Culp’s Hill and East Cavalry Field

Source Packet

Gettysburg, Part 7 of 10 · Day 3, July 3, 1863

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History from the primary sources.

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DOCUMENT 1 OF 18 · CULP'S HILL, UNION SIDE

Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Walker, One hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania Infantry

Dated	July 6, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 306
Printed pages	854–855
Packet pages	5–6

About this report

Walker's regiment fought in Greene's trenches on the morning of July 3. P. 855 gives his times for the first Confederate advance and the relief of his regiment, his count of rounds fired, and his loss.

About this excerpt

P. 854 carries the report's heading. P. 855 ends with the start of Greene's report (No. 307).

Both officers and men did their duty. Our conduct we prefer others to speak and judge of rather than ourselves.

Our loss was small, owing to our strong defensive position. Enlisted men killed, 3; wounded, 6, and missing, 10; total, 19.* Of those missing some have turned up, reducing the loss fully one-third.

Twice during the engagement our color-bearers were shot down, killing 1 instantly and wounding the other.

We took into action 142 enlisted men and 1 staff and 6 line officers, including myself; total, 149.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK L. GIMBER,
Capt., Comdg. One hundred and ninth Pennsylvania Vols.

Lieut. THOMAS J. LEIPER,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 306.

Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Walker, One hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania Infantry.

LITTLESTOWN, PA., *July* 6, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by the One hundred and eleventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers in the action of July 3, on the heights before Gettysburg.

The regiment in connection with the brigade was moved into line of battle on the right of the Baltimore pike during the forenoon of the 2d instant, the One hundred and ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers on our left, and connections with the First Division on the right. We at once began building a rifle-pit of logs and stone, which was finished in about three hours.

We were undisturbed behind this, and remained until a little before dark, when we were ordered to move to the rear and abandon our works. After marching about a mile to the rear, we were again conducted up the Baltimore pike to occupy our old position. The Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, that preceded us, having been fired on from the position we were to occupy, we halted, and then moved with caution, endeavoring to get back to the trenches.

At about 11 o'clock, having got into the rear of General Greene's brigade, which still occupied their rifle-pits, I was ordered to place my men in the trenches, and proceeded to do so, under the supposition that there was no enemy in our vicinity. Two companies on the left, which were marching in front, had been placed in position, when we received a volley from the hill, not over 6 rods from our flank and rear. I immediately placed the remaining companies in line perpendicular to the works and facing the direction of the fire we had received, sent out scouts, and ascertained positively that the hill and works on the right were occupied by the rebels, and reported to Colonel Cobham. I was ordered again by Colonel Cobham to place my men in the rifle-pits, but, protesting that my regiment would then rest so as to be enfiladed by the line of the enemy, he permitted me to retain the position I had selected.

We remained in this position watching the enemy until 3 a. m.,

*But see revised statement, p. 184.

when it was determined the line should be changed a very little to the rear, so as to get the advantage of a wing of General Greene's trenches. I was endeavoring to move my regiment, a man at a time, with the utmost caution, when our watchful enemy detected a move, and, supposing we were about to retire, opened fire upon us. My men returned the fire, silencing theirs, and then moved to the position assigned them, awaiting daylight for the work to begin.

Picket firing began with the first streak of light, and about 3.45 o'clock the line of the enemy advanced with a yell. We opened fire briskly, quickly compelling them to take the shelter of the rocks and of our own trenches that were in their possession.

We continued fighting in this way until 5.55 o'clock, when we were relieved by the Twenty-ninth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, for the purpose of renewing our ammunition. After filling our boxes and wiping our guns, we returned to the same position, and continued the fight until we had again exhausted our ammunition, and were in turn relieved by the Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers. Soon after this, about 1 o'clock, the enemy retired, giving up the contest.

In this fight, about half of my regiment was in open line, fighting a desperate enemy behind the very rifle-pits they had built for their own protection. I am proud to say they fought feeling they were Pennsylvanians in Pennsylvania. We expended 160 rounds to the man.

I wish to mention as deserving praise for great bravery and coolness, Captains Woeltge, Thomas, and Warner; also that Sergeants [Henry] Dieffenbach, [George] Selkregg, [Andrew W.] Tracy, [Andrew J.] Bemis, [John L.] Wells, and [Mills F.] Allison, and Privates John Hughes and Orrin Sweet deserve mention.

We lost in this contest 5 men killed and 16 wounded, lists of which have been forwarded.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. M. WALKER,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. 111th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Lieut. THOMAS J. LEIPER,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 307.

Reports of Brig. Gen. George S. Greene, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade.

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., SECOND DIV., TWELFTH CORPS,

Camp near Fair Play, Md., July 12, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report to the general commanding the operations of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, under my command, on July 1, 2, and 3, at the battle of Gettysburg.

Arriving from Littlestown on the field of battle, we were posted with the division on the left, on the right of the division, about half a mile to the right of Sugar Loaf Mountain, in front of the Taneytown road. There were no incidents to note on this day.

On the 2d, we took position at about 6 a. m. on the right of the First Corps, on the crest of the steep and rocky hill, being thrown

Report of Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams, U.S. Army, commanding First Division and Twelfth Army Corps

Dated	August 22, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 272
Printed pages	772, 775
Packet pages	8–9

About this report

Williams commanded the Twelfth Corps from July 1 to 4. P. 775 gives the orders he received near midnight on July 2, his plan for the morning, the opening of the artillery fire, and his account of the seven-hour fight.

About this excerpt

No. 272 begins on p. 770 with Williams's report as division commander. P. 772 carries the heading of his report as corps commander, which p. 775 is part of. Pp. 770–771, 773–774 and 776–777 are not reproduced.

each brigade as skirmishers. Found the enemy's works deserted, and advanced the skirmishers, followed by the brigades, excepting Lockwood's, down the peninsula toward Falling Waters, until information was received from the commanding officer of cavalry that the enemy had wholly crossed, when the brigades were halted. Our skirmishers had a sharp engagement with the enemy's rear guard, and sent in between 200 and 300 prisoners, a special report of which has been forwarded. At 4 o'clock recalled the skirmishers, and fell back and encamped in the vicinity of Williamsport.

July 15.—The division marched, via Sharpsburg, to within 3 miles of Maryland Heights, and encamped on the high grounds in Pleasant Valley, near Sandy Hook.

July 17 *and* 18.—Remained in camp.

July 19.—The division crossed the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers at Harper's Ferry, and moved up Loudoun Valley, encamping toward evening near Hillsborough.

July 20.—Marched to Snickersville, and remained in camp there the 21st and 22d. Being somewhat annoyed by guerrilla parties, patrols were sent out, and suspected houses were searched.

July 23.—The division marched, via Upperville, and encamped after dark near Somerset Mills.

July 24.—We advanced to Markham, and, after a halt of several hours, countermarched in the direction of White Plains, and encamped about 10 p. m. in the vicinity of that place.

July 25.—The division marched through Thoroughfare Gap to Hay Market, and on the 26th to Warrenton Junction, via Greenwich, where it remained in camp four days.

On the 31st, it marched to the present camp, via Elkton.

It gives me pleasure to state that during these long marches, exposures, watchings, and battlings, officers and men have conducted themselves with patience, fortitude, and courage.

The reports of brigade and regimental commanders being in the hands of Brigadier-General Ruger, now absent on detached duty, I am not able to forward them with this report, but will do so as soon as received.

These reports, with that of General Ruger and mine, as temporarily in command of the corps (sent herewith), will furnish for the period herein embraced the list of casualties * and the particular participation of the division in the operations around Gettysburg.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. S. WILLIAMS,
Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers, Commanding Division.

Lieut. Col H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, TWELFTH CORPS,
Kelly's Ford, Va., August 22, 1863.

COLONEL: The temporary command of the Twelfth Army Corps having devolved upon me from July 1 to 4, inclusive, I have the honor, in obedience to order, to submit the following report of the

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 184.

placed them in two lines, under cover, on the open fields between the breastworks and the Baltimore pike.

Having been called to the headquarters of the army on returning from the left, I did not learn this state of affairs until nearly 12 o'clock at night, when I reported them to Major-General Slocum, and received his orders to drive the enemy from our intrenchments at daylight.

I made such arrangements for a heavy artillery fire, with infantry feints upon the right, followed by a strong assault by Geary's division from Greene's position on the left, as I judged would speedily dislodge the enemy. The artillery opened with a tremendous fire at daylight, at from 600 to 800 yards range, which was continued by arrangement for fifteen minutes. On the discontinuance of the fire, the enemy, without waiting our assault, themselves attacked Geary's division with great fury, and with evident confidence of carrying our position and getting possession of the Baltimore pike, a movement of vast consequence had it been successful. It was plain they had brought up strong re-enforcements at night for this purpose. Prisoners report that their force consisted of two strong divisions of Ewell's corps. Geary's division received the attack with marked steadiness and valor. The combat continued for seven hours in almost unremitting fury. During its continuance, Lockwood's brigade—strengthened during the morning by the arrival of the First Maryland Eastern Shore Regiment—was ordered to re-enforce Geary's division, and afterward General Shaler's brigade, of the Sixth Corps, came to its support, and rendered important aid.

In the meantime, Ruger pushed a strong line of skirmishers from his position on the right into the woods and against the stone wall and breastworks on that flank, occupied in strength by the enemy. A broad marsh intervening between his line and the breastworks, presented a serious obstacle to a direct attack, and the stone wall, the natural rocky defenses, and the open, deep, marshy ground on the extremity of the breastworks near the creek, prevented any hopeful attempt to turn this flank of the enemy's position.

At length, after seven hours' continuous combat, the enemy attempted to push beyond the intrenchments on our right, and was in turn repulsed and followed sharply beyond the defenses by regiments of the First Division posted in the woods to observe his movements.

An advance from Geary's division at the same time effectually and finally expelled them from our breastworks, which were at once occupied by our troops in their entire length. Several hundred prisoners were taken in the final charge, and the numerous dead left on the field presented fearful proof of the stubbornness and numbers of the enemy, as well as the coolness and enduring valor of our own troops. At the same time the comparative smallness of our own losses give gratifying evidence of the skill and judgment with which this long and fierce engagement was conducted on the part of our officers.

In the afternoon of the same day, during the severe attack on our left, one brigade of the First Division and Lockwood's brigade were detached to support the center, but the enemy was repulsed without their assistance.

The enemy kept up strong pickets, and made a considerable front to us during the night of July 3, but on the morning of the 4th were reported as withdrawing. Our line was at once advanced, and occupied the line of Rock Creek without opposition. Subsequently a

Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Ruger, U.S. Army, commanding First Division, Twelfth Army Corps

Dated	December 5, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 273
Printed pages	777–778, 781–782
Packet pages	11–14

About this report

Ruger commanded the First Division after Williams took over the corps. P. 778 places his line on the ridge he calls Culp's Hill. P. 781 gives the order he received at about 10 a.m. and what he told Colgrove to do. P. 782 closes the report with the loss of Lieut. Col. Mudge and his view of what was at stake.

About this excerpt

P. 777 carries the report's heading. Pp. 779–780 are not reproduced. P. 782 ends with the start of McDougall's report (No. 274).

ADDENDA.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, TWELFTH CORPS,
Kelly's Ford, Va., August 8, 1863.

Brigadier-General GEARY,
Commanding Second Division, Twelfth Corps:

GENERAL: In your report of the operations of the Second Division near Gettysburg, you speak of me as commanding First Division. As I am preparing a report as temporarily commanding the corps from July 1 to 4, inclusive, it will be necessary for you to correct your report in that particular. I suppose the paragraph I allude to was inserted by you through a supposition that I was to report as division commander.

There is another point of your report, not very material, in which you are in error. The artillery was not ordered to report to you. Its position was fixed by Lieutenant Muhlenberg and myself, and it opened fire on the morning of the 3d under my personal command. I remained with it for some time to notice the effect. It is a matter of very little consequence, however, excepting as a matter of pure fact, which, in official reports, becomes sometimes incidentally important.

To speak of me as commanding a division, when I am reporting as commanding a corps, would have a very strange aspect in future history, if there should be any. But for this mistake I should not return the report for correction.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
A. S. WILLIAMS,
Brigadier-General of Volunteers.

No. 273.

Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Ruger, U. S. Army, commanding First Division.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, TWELFTH CORPS,
Tullahoma, Tenn., December 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the First Division, Twelfth Corps, Army of the Potomac, in the battle of Gettysburg:

The Twelfth Corps arrived at the village of Two Taverns, Pa., on the turnpike from Littlestown to Gettysburg, on July 1. The First and Eleventh Corps having engaged the enemy beyond Gettysburg, the corps moved forward to their support. The First Division, leaving the turnpike and bearing to the right at a point about 2 miles from Gettysburg, gained a position threatening the left flank of the enemy, who had compelled the First and Eleventh Corps to retire toward Gettysburg. The appearance of the division in this position at the time it occurred was apparently a timely diversion in favor of our forces, as the farther advance of the enemy ceased.

About sunset, the division, in accordance with orders, took up a position about three-quarters of a mile in rear of the position previously occupied, and so remained during the night of the 1st.

At daylight of July 2, shots were exchanged between our pickets and those of the enemy, with some slight loss on our side.

About this time the advance of the Fifth Army Corps arrived, and took position on the right of the division.

Up to this time the division was under the command of its commander proper—Brig. Gen. A. S. Williams. I now received orders from General Williams to take command of the division, General Williams having been placed in command of the corps. I turned over the command of my brigade, the Third, to Col. Silas Colgrove, Twenty-seventh Indiana Volunteers, senior colonel, and assumed command of the division.

About 9 a. m. I received orders from General Williams, commanding corps, to move the division by the Baltimore turnpike toward Gettysburg, and place it in position next on the right of the Second Division of the corps, distant about 1½ miles by the road indicated. I immediately moved the division as ordered, and placed it in position as indicated by General Williams, commanding corps, present on the ground, on the right of the Second Division of the corps and in line of battle, two lines formation, the First Brigade immediately on the right of the Second Division, the Third Brigade on the right of the First Brigade.

The line of the First Brigade was in prolongation of the right portion of the line of the Second Division, and along the crest of a rocky, wooded ridge, called Culp's Hill, about 700 yards from, on the right of, and nearly parallel with, the turnpike, the right reaching nearly to Rocky Run [Rock Creek], a creek which approached the position from the left and front. The line of the Third Brigade made an angle with that of the First Brigade, inclining to the rear and following the general directions of the creek, and was cut by a marshy ravine or swale, some 50 yards in width, which put in to Rocky Run [Rock Creek] from the rear, leaving space enough on left of swale from the right of the First Brigade line for one regiment front.

Breastworks were immediately constructed of logs, rocks, and earth along the whole line, and at the gap in the line caused by swale, so as to give cross-fire in front of gap. In rear of breastworks of First Brigade, and about 75 yards therefrom, and nearly parallel therewith, was a stone wall, behind which the second line of the First Brigade was placed. In front of the line of the Third Brigade Rocky Run [Rock Creek] was from 4 to 6 feet deep, with muddy bottom, caused by a dam near the turnpike. The whole position was covered with rocks. The ground in front of the First Brigade descended to Rocky Run [Rock Creek], and in front of the Third Brigade, on the opposite side of the creek, ascended therefrom, and was covered with rocks, and wooded.

The following rough sketch shows generally position of troops and main topographical features of ground. (See map annexed.)

The division remained in this position until about 6 p. m., the enemy not having appeared in force in its immediate front. At this time I received orders from Brigadier-General Williams, commanding corps, to move with the division to the assistance of the left of the general line, then hotly engaged with the enemy, reporting my arrival to the corps commander of the forces engaged. The division was moved in the direction ordered, being exposed on part of the line of march to a heavy artillery fire. Having approached the point of heavy fire of musketry, which had become feeble, I formed the division in line of masses preparatory to moving forward.

At this time I received orders from Brigadier-General Williams to move the division back to the position recently left as quickly as pos-

exposed to a cross-fire from the batteries in our rear. No considerable development of line by the enemy that would have been of advantage to him could be made by him in front of lines of either division without exposure of a portion of his line to an enfilading fire of musketry from the other divisions. The batteries fired over the line of the division, which was unavoidable, but the loss from this was small.

This state of things continued until about 10 a. m., the enemy maintaining the attack with great constancy, throwing forward fresh troops from time to time, suffering severely, but gaining no advantage, while our loss was comparatively slight. At this time I received orders to try the enemy on the right of the line of breastworks, to the left of the swale, with two regiments, and, if practicable, to force him out. I sent orders by a staff officer to Colonel Colgrove, commanding Third Brigade, to advance skirmishers against the enemy at that point, and, if not found in too great force, to advance two regiments, and dislodge him from the breastworks. From mistake of the staff officer, or misunderstanding on the part of Colonel Colgrove, it was attempted to carry the position without first ascertaining the force of the enemy. The regiments selected—the Second Massachusetts Volunteers and Twenty-seventh Indiana Volunteers, of Third Brigade—moved forward gallantly, crossed the swale in line under a severe fire, gained the woods on the opposite side, forced the enemy back part way up the slope to breastworks, but could not dislodge him, owing to the natural obstacles to the advance and heavy fire of the enemy from his well-protected position. The regiments were withdrawn. The enemy attempted to follow, but was quickly driven back by the two regiments, who turned and opened fire, assisted by their supports.

About 100 prisoners were captured from the enemy at this time, who was followed by skirmishers.

The One hundred and twenty-third New York Volunteers, First Brigade, which had meantime been advanced from the left of the division, gained the stone wall; the enemy fell back over the breastworks, which were occupied by that regiment and the skirmishers. The line of the division from center to left was at once advanced, and the breastworks reoccupied, the enemy retiring from under fire. The enemy's sharpshooters kept up an annoying fire from cover in front of the line during the remainder of the day, but no more fighting took place.

At about 2 p. m., in accordance with orders, one brigade (the First) was sent to the support of the left center of main line, its place being temporarily supplied by regiments from Third Brigade. The attack of the enemy was repulsed without the services of the brigade being required, and it returned to its place.

At about 5 p. m. two regiments of Third Brigade—the Thirteenth New Jersey Volunteers, Colonel Carman, and One hundred and seventh New York Volunteers, Colonel Crane—were sent to act as supports to cavalry force of Brigadier-General Gregg on the right of the army, and remained until about 9 a. m. of the next day.

On the morning of July 4, it was ascertained that the enemy had withdrawn during the night from our immediate front. A reconnaissance, under the direction of Major-General Slocum, was made by the Third Brigade, and Forty-sixth Pennsylvania Volunteers and Fifth Connecticut Volunteers, of the First Brigade, under my command, around the right of the army, the line of march being along

the turnpike about 2 miles, thence by a cross-road to the Hanover road, and by the Hanover road to Gettysburg. The enemy had wholly withdrawn from the front of the right of the army. General Williams at this time resumed command of the division, and I of the Third Brigade.

The services of the division in defeating, in conjunction with the Second Division of the corps, the attack by a superior force of the enemy on July 3, on that portion of the general line held by them, were of the first importance. If the enemy had succeeded, and thereby gained possession of the turnpike and a position in rear of Cemetery Hill, the army would have been in great peril.

There were present with me, of my staff, First Lieut. Robert P. Dechert, acting assistant adjutant-general and aide-de-camp; First Lieut. William M. Snow, acting assistant inspector-general, and Second Lieut. James E. Crane, aide-de-camp, who performed their duty faithfully.

The following is a statement of force carried into action* and of casualties.†

Of the brave dead is Lieutenant-Colonel Mudge, Second Massachusetts Volunteers, a gallant officer, who was killed while in command of his regiment, in the charge on the right on the forenoon of July 3.

Accompanying are the reports of brigade commanders, to which I respectfully refer for details of the parts taken by their respective brigades.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. H. RUGER,
Brig. Gen. of Vols., Comdg. First Div., Twelfth Corps.

Capt. S. E. PITTMAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 274.

Report of Col. Archibald L. McDougall, One hundred and twenty-third New York Infantry, commanding First Brigade.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., FIRST DIV., TWELFTH ARMY CORPS,
Catlett's Station, Va., July 26, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that after a march from near Stafford Court-House, Va., commencing on June 13, this brigade arrived on June 30 at Littlestown, Pa., when we first came in proximity to the enemy. On our appearance, he immediately withdrew, and we remained near Littlestown, on the Hanover road, until the 1st instant, when we resumed our march toward Gettysburg.

Arriving near this place toward evening, we formed a line of battle about 1½ miles from the town, in rear of the Third Brigade of this division, and about half a mile to the right of the pike on which we had been marching. Remaining in this position but a short time, about dusk we were withdrawn, and placed upon the right of said pike, and there we lay upon our arms until morning.

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* Of the First Brigade, 1,830, and of the Third Brigade, 1,571.
† Embodied in revised statement, p. 184.

Report of Lieut. Edward D. Muhlenberg, Fourth U.S. Artillery, commanding Artillery Brigade, Twelfth Army Corps

Dated	August 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 314
Printed pages	869–870
Packet pages	16–17

About this report

The artillery commander of the Twelfth Corps. P. 870 gives the time the corps's four batteries opened on the morning of July 3 and how long they fired.

About this excerpt

P. 869 carries the report's heading. P. 871 is not reproduced. The date line gives the month only.

work. Through illness of myself, he was in command of the regiment after the fight closed on the 2d instant, and during the whole of the fight of the 3d until wounded, which was near the close of the contest. I was present during a part of the time the regiment was engaged on the 3d, but was unable to assume command.

Appended is a list of our casualties,* which are so small, in view of the long exposure and heavy fire under which the command was placed, only because of the excellent management of its officers, the substantial character of our works, and the advantage of our position.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. A. BARNUM,
Colonel, Comdg. 149th New York Vols.

Capt. C. P. HORTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 314.

Report of Lieut. Edward D. Muhlenberg, Fourth U. S. Artillery, commanding Artillery Brigade, Twelfth Army Corps.

HDQRS. ARTILLERY BRIGADE, TWELFTH CORPS,
Near Kelly's Ford, Va., August —, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following movements and operations of the artillery arm of the Twelfth Corps, from the date of its departure from camp at Aquia to its arrival in its present position:

The brigade—F, Fourth U. S. Artillery; K, Fifth U. S. Artillery; Knap's Independent Pennsylvania, and M, First New York—broke camp on June 13. Marched, via Stafford Court-House, Dumfries, and Occoquan City, to Fairfax Court-House, Va. Left the latter place, and occupied Leesburg on the 17th, the batteries to be prepared for any emergency, taking positions near the fortifications situated on the west, northeast, and southeast approaches to said place.

On the 26th, the corps was again in motion. Two batteries (F, Fourth U. S. Artillery, and M, First New York), with First Division, and two (K, Fifth U. S. Artillery and Knap's Independent Pennsylvania), with Second Division, crossed the Potomac at Edwards Ferry; marched, via Rockville, Jefferson, Frederick, and Brentsville, Md., to Littlestown, Pa., entering the latter place on the 30th.

On July 1, the brigade, moving along the Baltimore pike to a point 5 miles southeast of Gettysburg, called Two Taverns, took position there to counteract any movement of the enemy from the Hanover side.

About noon of the same day, the two batteries attached to it moved with the First Division away from the pike in a northeasterly direction toward the Hanover road, and, approaching Gettysburg from the east, took position on tolerably favorable ground about 1½ miles from it; the two batteries moving with the Second Division along the Baltimore pike encamped about the same distance from the town.

On the morning of the 2d, the batteries operating with First Divis-

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 185.

ion moved with it over to the Baltimore pike. The infantry, going into the heavy woods on the northeast side of same and forming junction with the Second Division, completed the right wing of the army. The density of the growth of timber, the irregularity and extremely broken character of the ground, studded with immense bowlders, prevented the artillery from taking position in the line proper of the corps. It was, therefore, held in reserve and readiness to answer all calls which might be made upon it by the future movements of the opposing forces. The enemy seriously annoying the left of the line of the Twelfth, a vacant space eligible for a battery was found about 200 yards on the right of the First Corps. At 3.30 p. m. one gun (10-pounder Parrott), and at 5 p. m. two more of the same caliber, Knap's Independent Pennsylvania, the three under charge of Lieutenant Geary, were placed in position, and were joined by one section of 12-pounder Napoleons (K, Fifth U. S. Artillery), under charge of Second Lieut. William E. Van Reed. The moment their presence was observed, the enemy opened with eight guns; continued an incessant fire for some thirty minutes; then, having a caisson exploded, ceased.

The conduct of both the officers above mentioned, as well as of their commands, is creditable in the highest degree. The remarkable coolness exhibited under a very galling fire, and the bravery displayed in sustaining all the parts assigned to them, deserve notice.

In this engagement, or artillery duel, Lieutenant Geary had 1 killed and 2 wounded; Lieutenant Van Reed, 2 mortally and 3 severely wounded.

The rebel artillery having ceased firing, no infantry making its appearance, and the corps having been ordered to the left of the army, to support it, if necessary, these guns were withdrawn from the above position, and Knap's Independent Pennsylvania Battery, Lieut. Charles A. Atwell commanding, was placed on a knob situated southwest of the pike 100 yards from it, and known on that day as Slocum's Hill; Battery M, First New York Artillery, Lieutenant Winegar commanding, on a second elevation, a quarter of a mile distant, and nearly due east from the first mentioned, both overlooking and commanding the ground just vacated by the corps. These two batteries retained these positions during the whole engagement and did excellent service. Battery F, Fourth U. S. Artillery, and Battery K, Fifth U. S. Artillery, remained in park at base of the Slocum's Hill, ready for a move to the left, if called upon.

After the return of the corps from the left, it found the greater portion of its intrenchments already in possession of the enemy, supposed to be a portion of General Ewell's corps, variously estimated from 5,000 to 8,000 strong.

On the morning of the 3d, at 1 a. m., Batteries F, Fourth U. S. Artillery, and K, Fifth U. S. Artillery, were placed in position parallel to and on the southwest side of the Baltimore pike, almost directly opposite the center of the line formed by the Twelfth, and controlling the approach of the enemy along the ravine formed by the stream known as Rock Creek.

At 4.30 a. m. the two rifle batteries (ten guns) and the two light 12-pounder batteries (ten guns) opened, and fired for fifteen minutes without intermission at a range of from 600 to 800 yards; ceased firing, and allowed infantry to take part. Commenced at 5.30 a. m., and continued firing at intervals until 10 a. m., at which hour the enemy had retreated and the infantry of the corps had regained their

DOCUMENT 5 OF 18 · CULP'S HILL, UNION SIDE

Report of Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, U.S. Army, commanding Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps

Dated	July 29, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 293
Printed pages	824, 828–830
Packet pages	19–22

About this report

Geary commanded the division that held the main line on Culp's Hill. P. 828 covers the opening of the attack on the morning of July 3. P. 829 covers the reinforcements sent in. P. 830 describes the last Confederate charge, the surrender of men of the Stonewall Brigade, and the end of the fight.

About this excerpt

P. 824 carries the report's heading. Pp. 825–827 (the evening of July 2) and 831–835 are not reproduced.

the enemy had advanced over our breastworks and occupied a rocky, wooded hill on my left, thus enfilading my position and severing our line, by your order I took position perpendicular to my former line, so as to face the enemy's advance in this position, and there lay under arms for the remainder of the night.

At daybreak on the morning of the 3d, I was aroused by a volley from the enemy. By a slight movement of my regiment forward and to the right, I placed it in position, well covered by bushes, rocks, and a hastily erected breastwork of rails, and, by your order, threw forward two companies as skirmishers, instructing them to keep well covered by the rocks and trees, which afforded them shelter from the very accurate fire of the enemy's sharpshooters, who were posted on our right and front.

Relieving these companies from time to time, I kept up a constant fire until about 11 a. m., when, a part of the rebels on my front having surrendered, I was ordered by you, sir, to advance. I moved forward by my left flank, so as to avoid an enfilading fire, advanced into the woods, found the enemy retreating, and pushed forward and reoccupied the breastworks erected on our line the day previous.

Here I remained during the day and succeeding night, my men being engaged in a desultory fire with the enemy's skirmishers and sharpshooters.

Owing to the advantage of position which my command was so fortunate as to occupy during the engagement, the loss sustained was comparatively slight—2 men killed and 1 commissioned officer and 8 men wounded, of which the official lists have heretofore been forwarded. The number of officers and enlisted men engaged in the battle was 21 officers and 239 enlisted men.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HAWLEY,
Col., Comdg. Third Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers.

Col. S. COLGROVE,
Comdg. Third Brig., First Div., Twelfth Army Corps.

No. 293.

Report of Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWELFTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Catlett's Station, Va., July 29, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the military operations of this division from June 28 until the 26th instant, including the engagement with the enemy near Gettysburg, Pa., on the 2d and 3d instant:

On June 28, agreeably to orders, my command broke camp at 6.30 a. m., near Knoxville, Md., which place it had reached the evening previous, and marched through Petersville and Jefferson to within a mile of Frederick, where it encamped at 2 p. m., having been impeded by the trains of various commands.

At 4 o'clock on the following morning the march was resumed, and at 6 the camp of the Eleventh Corps was reached. We were here detained four hours, until that command was on the road and

orchard near the turnpike. Immediately in front of the First Brigade was a narrow lane running from the turnpike to the stone wall previously mentioned. Along this lane Candy's brigade was placed in double line of battle, and screened from the enemy's observation by the woods. All these dispositions were made with the utmost silence and secrecy and within a few rods of the enemy's lines.

By your order, Lieut. E. D. Muhlenberg, chief of artillery of the corps, reported with fourteen pieces of artillery. These were posted on a hill west of the turnpike and about 500 yards in rear of the intrenchments gained by the enemy, and I trained them so as to command the enemy's position without injury to our own troops. To Knap's (Pennsylvania) battery, which was in position on the hill near corps headquarters, I gave similar directions regarding their line of fire. At my request, General Williams, commanding corps, readily sent to my support Lockwood's brigade, composed of the First Eastern Shore Maryland Regiment, Colonel Wallace, and the One hundred and fiftieth New York, Colonel Ketcham. This brigade I placed in position to support the artillery.

Everything being thus in readiness, at 3.30 a. m. (early dawn) a simultaneous attack was made by artillery and the infantry of the Second and Third Brigades. This attack was most furious, but was stubbornly met. Our artillery fire continued, by previous arrangement, for ten minutes. This tremendous assault at first staggered the enemy, by whom it was seemingly unexpected; but, rallying as my troops charged at the close of the artillery fire, Johnson's division of Ewell's corps, followed by Rodes', and that supported by Early's, each division massed in three lines, advanced, charging heavily upon our front and right, and yelling in their peculiar style. They were met at every point by the unswerving lines and deadly fire of my Second and Third Brigades, our men cheering loudly and yielding not an inch of ground. Line after line of the enemy broke under this steady fire, but the pressing masses from behind rushed forward to take their places.

During this contest, Greene's brigade was protected by his breastworks, while Kane's fought without shelter, excepting such as might be afforded by inequalities of the ground. After a lapse of twenty minutes, I directed the artillery fire again to open, having myself sighted the pieces so as to bear directly upon the masses of the enemy in the woods. This artillery fire lasted about fifteen minutes. A part of it being directed to the valley of Rock Creek, where the enemy's left rested, prevented them from flanking the troops of the First Division, which were engaging the enemy in front. This flank movement the enemy made repeated attempts to effect, but they were driven back by well-directed shells from our artillery. Meanwhile the musketry fire continued with unabated fierceness.

At 5 a. m. the One hundred and forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, of Candy's brigade, was ordered to charge and carry the stone wall occupied by the enemy. This they did in handsome style, their firing causing heavy loss to the enemy, who then abandoned the entire line of the stone wall. At this time the Fifth Ohio, on Candy's left, was exposed to a severe enfilading fire from the enemy, but they held their position, punishing the enemy severely.

At 5.45 a. m. the Sixty-sixth Ohio was ordered to advance outside of Greene's intrenchments and perpendicular to them, in order to harass the enemy by a raking fire. This they accomplished with great gallantry, driving the enemy and holding the ground until re-

called by an order at 11 a. m. Although exposed without shelter to the enemy's fire from front and flank, so eager was their attack that a few of their men advanced too far, and fell by our own artillery fire.

At 6 a. m. the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania, and Fifth, Seventh, and Twenty-ninth Ohio, of Candy's brigade, were ordered into the intrenchments, to relieve some of Greene's regiments which were out of ammunition, and went in with loud cheering, keeping up the continuous fire while the relieved regiments passed to the rear between the files.

At 7.30 o'clock Lockwood's brigade, of the First Division, 1,700 strong, reported to me as a support, and was rested in line in the woods about 25 yards in rear of Greene's breastworks. This brigade, composed almost entirely of untried troops, was engaged for a short time as a relief to other regiments, and rendered efficient service.

About 8 a. m. the enemy redoubled their efforts, and, massing all the force against us that the ground would admit, pressed forward with an evident determination to carry the position at all hazards. Our entire line was hotly engaged, and, fearing that the overwhelming force might prove too much for us, General Slocum was solicited for re-enforcements, and General Alexander Shaler's (First) brigade, Third Division, Sixth Corps, reported at 8.45 o'clock, and was posted as a reserve. Ten minutes before the arrival of this brigade, the Fourteenth Brooklyn and One hundred and forty-seventh New York Volunteers (both together about 150 strong) reported again from General Wadsworth's division, and were sent in to re-enforce Kane's brigade, on the right. They were shortly afterward relieved by Candy's and Lockwood's troops. Instructions having been given me not to actively engage Shaler's brigade, unless unavoidable, only a portion of it was employed briefly. Those engaged displayed the accustomed gallantry which has enrolled Shaler's brigade among the best veterans of the army.

At 9 a. m. the One hundred and twenty-second New York (Col. Silas Titus), of this brigade, relieved the One hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania, of Kane's, which had been engaged in the front line all the morning, and whose ammunition was failing. The Eighty-second Pennsylvania (Col. Isaac C. Bassett), Shaler's brigade, relieved the One hundred and twenty-second New York after our occupancy of the breastworks.

At 9.20 o'clock the Twenty-third Pennsylvania (Col. John F. Glenn), of the same, was placed in support of the front line, about 150 yards to the rear, and subsequently five companies of it were deployed by my order in rear of the works, and advanced into them. Toward the close of the engagement, a portion of them was pushed out a few spaces as skirmishers, but the impracticability of feeling the enemy with skirmishers was demonstrated by their increased fire, and they were withdrawn. The Sixty-fifth (Col. Joseph E. Hamblin) and Sixty-seventh New York (Col. N. Cross) and Eighty-second Pennsylvania were placed well to the front, after the enemy had been driven back, to resist any renewed demonstration of hostility on the part of the enemy, while several already overworked regiments of my division were allowed a much needed respite for their energies, which had been so many hours stretched to their utmost tension. They were not, however, called upon for further active operations.

About 2 o'clock the brigade was ordered to rejoin its corps. While subject to my orders it behaved with admirable coolness, and manifested to an eminent degree the possession of the greatest attributes

of the soldier, both during the brief period (as per orders) they were actively engaged and while under heavy fire as they awaited the moment they might be called upon.

Their casualties numbered in the aggregate 45, 11 enlisted men being killed.

Their brave and efficient commander, Brig. Gen. Alexander Shaler, is entitled to the warmest eulogies for his readiness to participate in any measure to provide for the emergencies besetting us.

Our troops, cheered by the arrival of supports, soon repulsed the fierce attack made upon them. The enemy wavered, but kept their ground by pushing forward fresh troops in heavy columns.

At 10.25 o'clock two brigades of Johnson's division, having formed in column by regiments, charged upon our line on the right. They met the determined men of Kane's little brigade, which, though only 650 strong, poured into them so continuous a fire that when within 70 paces their columns wavered and soon broke to the rear. The First Maryland Battalion (rebel) was in the advance, and their dead lay mingled with our own. This was the last charge. As they fell back, our troops rushed forward with wild cheers of victory, driving the rebels in confusion over the intrenchments, the ground being covered with their dead and wounded. Large numbers of them crawled under our breastworks and begged to be taken as prisoners. Among these were many of the celebrated Stonewall Brigade, who, when ordered for the last time to charge upon Greene's breastworks, advanced until met by our terrible fire, and then, throwing down their arms, rushed in with white flags, handkerchiefs, and even pieces of paper, in preference to meeting again that fire which was certain destruction. As they threw themselves forward and crouched under our line of fire, they begged our men to spare them, and they were permitted to come into our lines. The commanding officer of a regiment raised the white flag, when Major [B. W.] Leigh, assistant adjutant-general of Johnson's division, rode forward to order it down, and fell, pierced by a dozen balls, his body remaining in our possession.

This final charge, made at 10.30 a. m., which was so eminently successful to us, resulted in the rout of the enemy, terminating the attempt to turn our position and gain the Baltimore turnpike, which Ewell, it is represented by the rebel officers taken prisoners, had sworn to accomplish or to lose every man he had. With great gallantry our troops sustained for seven hours and a half a battle fraught with persistent and obstinate effort and unremitting fire of an intensity seldom prolonged beyond a limited period, and where desperation or dash is necessary to carry a point.

To make distinctions among the regiments of my division would be unjust where all fought with such unanimity of courage and vigor. For the particular efforts of each I have the honor to refer you to the reports of the commanding officers, which I forward with this.

The regiments of the brigades relieved each other alternately during the progress of the battle, those of the First [Brigade] being originally kept in reserve as support, and for that purpose being frequently called upon, and each time rallying to the front with enthusiasm. I cannot pass a better eulogium upon the conduct of them all than to say they manifested the same unflinching gallantry which has distinguished them upon many battle-fields, and which has rightly won these veterans laurels of which they are justly proud and jealous.

I also feel called upon and proud to mention that not an instance

Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Kane, U.S. Army, commanding Second Brigade, Second Division

Dated	July 6, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 302
Printed pages	846–847
Packet pages	24–25

About this report

Kane's brigade held the right of the line next to Greene's. P. 847 gives the time the Confederate attack began, the length of the firing, and the last charge, with his note on the Confederate First Maryland Battalion.

About this excerpt

P. 846 carries the report's heading. P. 848 is not reproduced.

and Forty-seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers in the actions of July 2 and 3:

My regiment was relieved from picket duty early on the morning of the 2d, and marched with the brigade to the position on the right of the line occupied by the First Army Corps. In this position we remained until evening, when we marched with the brigade to a position near and east of the turnpike leading from Gettysburg to Baltimore.

On the morning of the 3d, we marched to a point near the line of the previous day and toward the right of the line of the brigade, having on our right the Seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteers and on our left the Fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteers. Soon after the line was formed, I was ordered by General Geary, commanding division, to move forward with my regiment to a point which commanded the right of the line of intrenchments, and from which a view could be had of the movements of the enemy. My regiment, soon after reaching its assigned position, became engaged with the skirmishers of the enemy, who were soon driven from their position. Skirmishers were sent to the front and right flank, into the woods, from which they greatly harassed the enemy.

At about 8 a. m. an attempt was made by the enemy to turn the right of the line of the intrenchments. They boldly advanced to within about 100 yards without discovering my regiment. I then ordered the regiment to fire, and broke their line. They reformed again as a body and advanced. Their advance was checked by the heavy fire they received, when they broke and ran. I would have charged them, but had no support, and would not have been able to have held their position against the column in their rear.

I have the honor to report that I held the position assigned me until late in the afternoon, when I was ordered to report to General Wadsworth, of the First Corps.

My loss has been, I am happy to say, slight, when my exposed position is taken into consideration. The casualties are, 1 commissioned officer (Lieut. William H. Tourison, Company E) killed, 4 enlisted men killed, and 16 wounded. A list of the casualties has already been furnished you.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

ARIO PARDEE, JR.,
Lieut. Col. 147th Regt. Pennsylvania Vols., Comdg.

Lieut. A. H. W. CREIGH, *Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.*

No. 302.

Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Kane, U. S. Army, commanding Second Brigade.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND DIV., TWELFTH CORPS,
Near Littlestown, Pa., July 6, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I respectfully inclose two of the special reports ordered of the commanders of regiments of my brigade. The report of the One hundred and eleventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers has not yet been received.

I assumed command at 6 a. m. on the morning of the 2d instant, communication with the army having been cut off so completely by

Stuart's cavalry that I succeeded with great difficulty in making my way through their lines in citizen's dress.

I have to express my thanks to Colonel Cobham, One hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, who commanded the brigade in my absence, for the high state of efficiency in which I found it. I have recommended this most deserving officer for promotion.

The brigade was ordered forward into line with the rest of the division soon after my arrival, and before sundown threw up a substantial breastwork, as directed, upon the excellent position assigned them.

At twilight we were removed to the batteries on the turnpike, and shortly after ordered to return to our former position. On entering the wood, within 200 paces of our breastwork, we were met by a sharp fire, which we supposed to come from the First Brigade, misled by the darkness. The men were, therefore, ordered not to reply, but withdrawn to the turnpike and marched in by another road. We moved directly to the position of the Third Brigade (where the noble veteran Greene, by his resistance against overwhelming odds, it should be remembered, saved the army), and, making our way past Greene's right, were again fired upon, thus discovering that the enemy had entire possession of our works. Their front was then opposite Greene's right flank, he holding them there. There was nothing to be done but to connect with Greene, fold down to the right along the best ground offering, and strengthen the right flank as much as possible.

The attack in force upon us commenced at 3.30 a. m., July 3. The Confederate Major-General Johnson's division led, followed by Rodes'. The statement by our prisoners is that they advanced in three lines, but they appeared to us only as closed in mass. We ceased firing occasionally for a minute or two, to induce the enemy to come out of advantageous positions, when they paid for their temerity; but with this exception kept up a fire of unintermitting strength for seven hours, until about 10.30 o'clock, when the enemy made their last determined effort by charging in column of regiments. Their advance was Steuart's brigade, of Johnson's division. The First Maryland Battalion (Confederate States) left most of their dead in line with our own. It cannot be denied that they behaved courageously. Our own loss was but 23 killed and 73 wounded. Twenty men have been missing since we were fired on in the woods on Thursday night.

After this repulse the enemy fell back, and, although they kept up a desultory fire for some time after, it was plain, as the result proved, that the battle was over.

By the accompanying report of Lieut. W. H. White,* Company G, Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, you will see that the number of Enfield rifles left by the enemy, on an area of about two acres in front of our second position, was 1,803. The reports of burying parties will probably show that not less than 500 men were left dead there. The whole number of men of my brigade who were in this action was 652. They justified their reputation as marksmen.

I have not the name of a single straggler or recreant reported to me. Every officer and man of my command did his duty, and I must on this account refuse myself the privilege of naming particularly any of the numerous examples of heroism which I witnessed.

* Omitted.

Report of Brig. Gen. George S. Greene, U.S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, Second Division

Dated	July 12, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 307
Printed pages	855, 857
Packet pages	27–28

About this report

Greene's brigade held the breastworks on Culp's Hill. P. 857 gives the time the attack became general, the arrival of reinforcing regiments, and how his regiments were relieved in the trenches.

About this excerpt

The report's heading is at the foot of p. 855, which also carries the end of Walker's report (No. 306). Pp. 856 and 858–860 are not reproduced. The casualty table is on p. 858.

when it was determined the line should be changed a very little to the rear, so as to get the advantage of a wing of General Greene's trenches. I was endeavoring to move my regiment, a man at a time, with the utmost caution, when our watchful enemy detected a move, and, supposing we were about to retire, opened fire upon us. My men returned the fire, silencing theirs, and then moved to the position assigned them, awaiting daylight for the work to begin.

Picket firing began with the first streak of light, and about 3.45 o'clock the line of the enemy advanced with a yell. We opened fire briskly, quickly compelling them to take the shelter of the rocks and of our own trenches that were in their possession.

We continued fighting in this way until 5.55 o'clock, when we were relieved by the Twenty-ninth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, for the purpose of renewing our ammunition. After filling our boxes and wiping our guns, we returned to the same position, and continued the fight until we had again exhausted our ammunition, and were in turn relieved by the Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers. Soon after this, about 1 o'clock, the enemy retired, giving up the contest.

In this fight, about half of my regiment was in open line, fighting a desperate enemy behind the very rifle-pits they had built for their own protection. I am proud to say they fought feeling they were Pennsylvanians in Pennsylvania. We expended 160 rounds to the man.

I wish to mention as deserving praise for great bravery and coolness, Captains Woeltge, Thomas, and Warner; also that Sergeants [Henry] Dieffenbach, [George] Selkregg, [Andrew W.] Tracy, [Andrew J.] Bemis, [John L.] Wells, and [Mills F.] Allison, and Privates John Hughes and Orrin Sweet deserve mention.

We lost in this contest 5 men killed and 16 wounded, lists of which have been forwarded.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. M. WALKER,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. 111th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Lieut. THOMAS J. LEIPER,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 307.

Reports of Brig. Gen. George S. Greene, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade.

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., SECOND DIV., TWELFTH CORPS,

Camp near Fair Play, Md., July 12, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report to the general commanding the operations of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, under my command, on July 1, 2, and 3, at the battle of Gettysburg.

Arriving from Littlestown on the field of battle, we were posted with the division on the left, on the right of the division, about half a mile to the right of Sugar Loaf Mountain, in front of the Taneytown road. There were no incidents to note on this day.

On the 2d, we took position at about 6 a. m. on the right of the First Corps, on the crest of the steep and rocky hill, being thrown

regiments rendered good service, being sent into the trenches to relieve our regiments as their ammunition was exhausted and their muskets required cleaning. At the close of this night attack, we occupied all the trenches of the Third Brigade. Colonel Ireland had withdrawn his regiment from Kane's trenches, and formed a line with his left in our intrenchments, and in continuation of our line toward a stone wall, which was parallel to Kane's line and about 200 yards in its rear, behind which we found the enemy posted.

About 10 o'clock I was informed that General Kane, with his brigade, was returning to his position, and immediately sent a staff officer to advise him that the enemy were in his intrenchments, and to bring him round by the rear to my right. He had, however, already been fired on by the enemy on our right. General Kane soon arrived, and gallantly assisted us by placing his small, but very reliable, command on my right, securing that flank.

The First Brigade returned to our support at 1.30 a. m. on the 3d, and took position in support of our right. At 4 a. m. our artillery, which had been posted to attack the enemy in the intrenchments of Kane's brigade and Williams' division, opened, and the attack was general on our line, and continued until 10.30 a. m., when the enemy retired, their pickets remaining in our front until the night of the 4th, when they retired. The enemy were early in the day driven from our intrenchments on our right, which were occupied by Kane's brigade and Williams' division.

At 7.30 a. m. General Lockwood, with his brigade—First Maryland Home Brigade, Colonel Maulsby; First Eastern Shore, of Maryland, Colonel Wallace; One hundred and fiftieth New York, Colonel Ketcham, about 1,700 men—came to our support from Williams' division and rendered efficient service. The First Maryland Home Brigade and the One hundred and fiftieth New York were distinguished for their good conduct.

Colonel Creighton, of the First Brigade, with his regiment (Seventh Ohio), arrived to my immediate support at 6 a. m., and was at once sent into the trenches. The Twenty-ninth Ohio, Captain Hayes, of the First Brigade, arrived soon after, followed by the Fifth Ohio, Colonel Patrick, and Sixty-sixth Ohio, Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.

The troops from the First and Eleventh Corps were returned to their commands as soon as their place was supplied by Lockwood's and Candy's brigades, having rendered good service and efficient aid. The regiments in the intrenchments were relieved from thirty to ninety minutes by others with fresh ammunition and clean arms, going forward at a double-quick and with a cheer, the regiments relieved falling back through their files when they arrived in the trenches, so that the fire was kept up constantly and efficiently over our whole line, and the men were always comparatively fresh and their arms in good order, the regiments relieved going to work with alacrity to clean their arms as soon as in rear.

Our own regiments engaged were New York Volunteers, viz: Sixtieth, Col. Abel Godard; One hundred and second, Col. J. C. Lane (who was severely wounded on the night of the 2d instant while gallantly discharging his duty, and obliged to resign the command to Capt. L. R. Stegman); Seventy-eighth, Lieutenant-Colonel Hammerstein; One hundred and thirty-seventh, Col. David Ireland, and One hundred and forty-ninth, Col. H. A. Barnum. Colonel Barnum, who is still suffering from a severe wound received at Malvern Hill, with great resolution kept the field during the action, and part of the

Report of Col. James Wallace, First Eastern Shore Maryland Infantry

Dated	July 4, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 284
Printed pages	808
Packet pages	30

About this report

Wallace's regiment belonged to Lockwood's brigade. P. 808 gives the time he started, the time he reached the field, and his advance to relieve other troops.

About this excerpt

The report runs from p. 808 to p. 809; p. 809 is not reproduced. P. 808 opens with the end of Maulsby's report (No. 283).

whom I have since been unable to recognize, suggested or requested that I would withdraw my command and rest it without waiting for further orders, and that I would ask the regimental commanders on my right and left to extend their ranks so as to fill the vacated space; which was done, and my regiment returned to the point from which you had ordered it.

In a short time afterward, Brigadier-General Williams, commanding First Division, ordered me to take my command to the position on the right, near the stream, which it had occupied the preceding day, and, in reply to my suggestion that I might wait until you and the other regiments constituting the brigade came up, General Williams said that I had better go without any delay, and that you and the two regiments would follow.

Not appreciating the importance of this communication, apart from the fact of General Greene's request that I would make it, I have made it simply in obedience to his expressed wish. In speaking uncertainly whether it was a suggestion or a request by the aide of General Greene before mentioned, I mean to say that I did not notice the precise expressions used, but that the meaning and intent of the aide, as clearly understood by me, was to convey the authority of General Greene to me to do what was so manifestly proper and necessary to be done.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. P. MAULSBY,
Colonel, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. H. H. LOCKWOOD.
Comdg. Second Brig. First Div., Twelfth Corps.

No. 284.

Report of Col. James Wallace, First Eastern Shore Maryland Infantry.

NEAR GETTYSBURG, PA.,
July 4, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your order, I put my command in motion at 6.30 a. m. on yesterday, and reached the field of battle a short time before 8 o'clock, where we were immediately formed into line of battle, and prepared to relieve another regiment then engaged in the fight.

At 8 o'clock the order was given to advance, and the regiment went forward with a shout to relieve their exhausted comrades, who had been fighting for seven hours. They had to advance up a considerable slope, and when reaching the open level space immediately in rear of the breastworks we became exposed to a terrible fire of musketry. Owing to some misunderstanding as to the point of the works designed to be supported, four companies, under Lieutenant-Colonel Comegys, passed to the left, and five, under my own immediate supervision, moved directly to the front. Upon reaching the brow of the hill, the five companies halted for an instant upon the discovery of the enemy attempting to rush upon our works, and then delivered a very effective volley over the heads of the men occupying the position we were ordered to relieve. The officer in command of the men in the breastworks, supposing we were firing into his command, requested that the fire should cease. That volley,

Report of Col. Silas Colgrove, Twenty-seventh Indiana Infantry, commanding Third Brigade, First Division

Dated	August 8, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 286
Printed pages	812–814
Packet pages	32–34

About this report

Colgrove’s brigade held the right of the Twelfth Corps line. Pp. 813–814 give his account of the order to advance, the choice of the Second Massachusetts and Twenty-seventh Indiana, the charge across the meadow, and the regiments’ losses.

About this excerpt

No. 286 begins on p. 810 with his regiment’s report of August 7. P. 812 carries the heading of his report on the brigade, which is the report quoted in the article. Pp. 810–811 and 815 are not reproduced.

NEAR KELLY'S FORD, VA., *August* 8, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor of submitting the following report of the part taken in the action at Gettysburg, Pa., on July 2 and 3, by the Third Brigade:

On the morning of July 2, I was informed by Lieutenant Dechert, acting assistant adjutant-general of the brigade, that the command of the division had devolved upon you, and that I was ordered to take the command of the brigade. I immediately took command of the brigade, and, in obedience to orders received from you, I moved it back to the Gettysburg pike, at the point where we had left the same on the day previous, leaving my line of skirmishers engaged with the enemy, and the Twenty-seventh Indiana as a rear guard. Subsequently, according to instructions, I withdrew the line of skirmishers and the Twenty-seventh Indiana.

The brigade was then, together with the balance of the division, moved to the front on the hill, forming a part of the line of battle, and then to the right into a piece of woods; and then again to the right, and formed in line on the right of the First Brigade, the One hundred and seventh New York forming the left of the line; the Thirteenth New Jersey formed in double column closed in mass in rear of the One hundred and seventh New York. Immediately on the right of the Thirteenth New Jersey was a small meadow of very low ground, which was considered untenable, and on its right was a small piece of timber, into which I placed the balance of the brigade in the following order: Second Massachusetts, Third Wisconsin, and the Twenty-seventh Indiana on the extreme right of the line. The three last-named regiments occupied three sides of an irregular square.

I ordered the One hundred and seventh New York to construct breastworks, their line fronting southeast and forming an angle of about 45 degrees to that of the line occupied by the First Brigade, and completely enfilading the open ground or meadow not covered by our line; the Second Massachusetts fronting to the northeast at nearly the same angle, and also enfilading the open space; the Third Wisconsin fronting to the east, and the Twenty-seventh Indiana to the south. The ground occupied by the two latter regiments was protected in the front by a small creek (Rocky Run) [Rock Creek], some 60 to 80 feet in width and from 6 to 8 feet deep, rendering the position of these two regiments not assailable from the east or south. Breastworks of rails, timber, and stone were speedily thrown up, covering the whole line.

In obedience to orders received from you, I subsequently changed the disposition of the regiments. I placed the Third Wisconsin on the left, on that portion of the line occupied by the One hundred and seventh New York; the Thirteenth New Jersey in the position occupied by the Third Wisconsin, and the One hundred and seventh New York in the rear of the three right regiments as a reserve.

Shortly before sundown, I received information through one of your aides that the extreme left of our line was hard pressed, with orders to immediately proceed with the brigade to the left, to the support of that part of the line. I immediately put the brigade in motion, and proceeded, I should judge, to the left about 1½ miles, where the battle appeared to be raging the fiercest. By the time I had gained the point indicated, it had become quite dark. I immediately formed the brigade in line of battle, under your direction, and threw out skirmishers to the front.

By this time the firing had entirely ceased, and, after remaining in this position from forty minutes to one hour, I received orders to march the brigade back, and occupy the position we had left. The brigade was immediately put in motion. We arrived on the open ground within a few hundred yards of our old position about 10 p. m., as near as I can judge. The night being quite dark and our line of breastworks being covered by the timber, it was impossible to tell whether they were occupied or not.

In obedience to instructions from you, I threw forward one company of skirmishers from the Second Massachusetts. In or near the breastworks they captured one of the enemy. With this exception, we found the works on the right of our line unoccupied. We immediately took possession of them. The skirmishers were ordered to cross the open space between the right and left of our line, and reconnoiter the woods and line of works on that side. They shortly returned with 23 prisoners, and reported that the enemy held our works on the left in large force. It was also ascertained from the prisoners that [John M.] Jones' and [George H.] Steuart's brigades occupied our works. It was deemed unsafe to undertake to recover them at that time, owing to the darkness of the night; consequently the brigade was held in position in the works on the right during the night.

I wish to state here that great credit is due the officers and men of Company F, Second Massachusetts, as skirmishers. They advanced into the woods, where it was impossible to tell friend from foe, and before they scarcely knew it were in the midst of a brigade of the enemy, from whom they captured 23 prisoners and brought them in, with a loss of only 2 captured on their side.

Early on the morning of the 3d, before it was fairly light, the battle commenced on our left, on that portion of the line held by the Second Division, and almost simultaneously the enemy's sharpshooters, from the breastworks and large ledges of rocks on our left, opened fire upon us.

I immediately deployed sharpshooters from the Third Wisconsin and Second Massachusetts in front of our breastworks, covered by a small belt of timber, and returned their fire briskly for about two hours. About this time the firing on our left, which had been very heavy, was fast receding, and loud cheering was heard along our lines. It was evident to me that General Geary had dislodged the enemy, and had retaken the breastworks occupied by him the day before. At this time I discovered the First Brigade, which was on my right, advance in line to the woods, forming a line at nearly right angles with my line.

At this juncture, Lieutenant Snow, of your staff, came up and said, "The general directs that you advance your line immediately." The position of the First Brigade was such that it was impossible for me to advance more than two regiments in line. Between the enemy and our line lay the open meadow, about 100 yards in width, The enemy were entirely sheltered by the breastworks and ledges of rock. It was impossible to send forward skirmishers. The enemy's advantages were such that a line of skirmishers would be cut down before they could fairly gain the open ground that intervened. The only possible chance I had to advance was to carry his position by storming it.

I selected the Second Massachusetts and Twenty-seventh Indiana for the work, and ordered the Second Massachusetts to charge the works in front of their position; the Twenty-seventh, as soon as they should gain the open ground, to oblique to the right and carry the

position held in the ledges of rocks. At the command, "Forward, double-quick!" our breastworks were cleared, and both regiments, with deafening cheers, sprang forward. They had scarcely gained the open ground when they were met with one of the most terrible fires I have ever witnessed.

Up to this time the enemy had remained entirely concealed. It had been impossible to tell anything about his strength in our immediate front, but it was now clearly ascertained that he had massed a heavy force at that point. It seemed that the two regiments were devoted to destruction. Undaunted, on they charged, officers leading and cheering their men. The Second Massachusetts succeeded in clearing the open ground to the left of the breastworks. The Twenty-seventh Indiana, having obliqued to the right, had nearly double the distance to traverse to gain the position of the enemy, but on it went; at every volley of the enemy, gaps were being cut through its ranks. It became evident to me that scarcely a man could live to gain the position of the enemy. I ordered the regiment to fall back behind the breastworks, which it did. The Second Massachusetts was also overpowered by numbers, and had to fall back.

The Twenty-seventh had scarcely gained the breastworks when the rebels in turn charged, with the intention of carrying our works. As soon as they had fairly gained the open ground, I ordered fire to be opened upon them, the Third Wisconsin, Twenty-seventh Indiana, and part of the Thirteenth New Jersey firing from the breastworks; the Second Massachusetts, from the new position on the left, had an enfilading fire upon them. At the first fire they were completely checked, and at the second they broke in confusion and fled, leaving their dead and wounded upon the field. I threw forward skirmishers from the Third Wisconsin, and ascertained that they had abandoned the breastworks. Colonel Hawley was ordered to advance his regiment (Third Wisconsin) and take possession of the works, which he did, and held them during the day. During the whole day my entire line was exposed to the enemy's sharpshooters, and quite a number in all the regiments were killed and wounded by them.

In the charge, the Second Massachusetts lost about 130 killed and wounded. Among the killed was its commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Mudge, who fell while gallantly leading his men in the charge; a most gallant and brave officer, his gallant conduct will be cherished by his brother officers and men. The Twenty-seventh lost 112 in killed and wounded. Among the latter were 8 commissioned officers. The loss of these two regiments was much the heaviest, being the only two regiments engaged in the charge. Aside from this, the losses are about equal.

I take pleasure in bearing willing testimony to the good conduct and bravery not only of the officers, but also of the soldiers, of this command during the time I had the honor of commanding the brigade. Exposed as they were to extreme peril; doomed as they were during the latter part of the day on the 3d to remain inactive under one of the most terrific artillery fires the world has ever witnessed; shell, shot, and missiles bursting over them, around them, and among them for hours, and at the same time sustaining the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters, I scarcely witnessed a single instance upon the part of any soldier or officer of flinching from duty. The highest compliment that I can possibly pay them is to say that the reputation which they had won upon so many hard-contested fields during the war—at Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, and Chancellorsville—was fully sustained.

Report of Col. William P. Maulsby, First Potomac Home Brigade, Maryland Infantry

Dated	July 4, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 283
Printed pages	805–806
Packet pages	36–37

About this report

Maulsby's regiment belonged to Lockwood's brigade. P. 806 describes the regiment's actions on the morning of July 3, the end of the firing, and the white flag.

About this excerpt

P. 805 carries the report's heading and the end of Lockwood's report (No. 282). Pp. 807–808 are not reproduced.

I cannot too strongly commend the courage and good conduct of every officer and man engaged in this fearful enterprise.

Soon after our return, the One hundred and fiftieth New York was detailed for duty in the rifle-pits, and successively the other regiments of the command (now increased by the arrival of the First Eastern Shore [Regiment], Maryland Volunteers, Colonel Wallace) were assigned to the same duty. Finding Brigadier-General Greene already on duty at this position, I declined taking command, though his senior, and served under him there. The detailed operations of the regiments here are made in the accompanying regimental reports. I believe that every man did his duty.

Toward the close of the day, I was ordered to cover the center, and, on my arrival near the cemetery, was directed to hold myself in readiness to re-enforce any point requiring aid. Here we remained inactive until near evening, when we were ordered to occupy the breastworks on the right, near the position we had held on the previous day.

It only remains for me to notice the conduct of the troops. Considering that these regiments, as such, had never before been under fire, I claim for them praise for the coolness and firmness exhibited by them. Beyond a too rapid fire and a too hasty and inconsiderate advance, I have nothing to find fault with.

I beg leave to notice favorably my personal staff, to whom I am indebted for very efficient service, and both of whom had their horses killed by shot and shell on the 3d.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY H. LOCKWOOD,
Brigadier-General.

Capt. S. E. PITTMAN,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Division, Twelfth Army Corps.

No. 283.

Reports of Col. William P. Maulsby, First Potomac Home Brigade, Maryland Infantry.

HDQRS. FIRST REGIMENT P. H. B., MARYLAND VOLS.,
July 4, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor, in obedience to orders, to submit the following report:

This regiment and the One hundred and fiftieth New York Volunteers, Colonel Ketcham, part of the brigade of Brig. Gen. H. H. Lockwood, marched together from the city of Baltimore, through Frederick City, to Gettysburg, where they arrived on the morning of the 2d instant. They were immediately posted on the right, and formed in line of battle, under the orders of Major-General Slocum.

During the day they were twice advanced, but without meeting the enemy until about 5 p. m., when, under the command of Brigadier-General Lockwood, they were led up to the support of the left wing, then heavily engaged with the enemy. On their arrival on the field of battle, they were instantly deployed in line, this regiment forming the first and the One hundred and fiftieth New York the second and supporting line of battle, and ordered to advance and engage the enemy. The advance was made at double-quick for about 1 mile to

and beyond the extreme front, driving the enemy before us and entirely clearing the field. A battery which had fallen into the hands of the enemy was retaken, and drawn off the field by hand by some of the One hundred and fiftieth New York.

This regiment was especially occupied in bringing in and caring for the wounded of our own army, all of whom, it is believed, were properly attended to.

It is due to Assistant Surgeon Willard, of this regiment, to state that he remained on the field with these unfortunates during almost the whole night, and until he had succeeded, with difficulty, in procuring ambulances and in having them removed to the hospitals.

About midnight the command returned from the field, and about 4 a. m. the 3d instant this regiment was ordered to attack a position of the enemy on the right, behind a stone wall, running through and covered by a dense woods. The attack was made with energy under a severe musketry fire, and the stone wall nearly reached, and bayonets were fixed for a charge over it, when a brigade of National troops was perceived approaching for the purpose of flanking the enemy's position, and this regiment was compelled to cease firing, lest it should destroy its own friends. At this moment numbers of the enemy were distinctly seen fleeing from behind the stone wall to the rear. The number of lamented dead and suffering wounded attests the severity of this engagement, and subsequent ascertainment left no room to doubt that the enemy had paid a fearful penalty.

About 9 o'clock of the same morning, this regiment was ordered to advance to and hold the front of the rifle-pits on the right, which it did until the enemy's fire wholly ceased, about 12 m.

During this period a portion of my command occupied the rifle-pits at intervals, and other portions the plain surface at the top of the embankment, behind which the troops were sheltered, and poured upon the enemy a direct and deliberately aimed fire, pending which a white flag was raised by the enemy, and the firing, by my order, ceased. It was not again resumed on the right. At the time when this flag was raised, many other regiments were pouring upon the enemy a terrible fire, and it would be most unjust for any one to claim that the raising of the flag was due to the fire of any particular one or number of those engaged. The heaps and mounds of dead and wounded enemies which were found on the position occupied by them might well satisfy the ambition for bloody deeds of each man of every regiment engaged, however craving such ambition might be.

During the final effort of the enemy on the left on the afternoon of the 3d instant, this regiment was ordered, with the remainder of the brigade, to the support of the troops engaged, but while on the march the order was countermanded, the enemy having been fully and finally repulsed.

In the engagement at the stone wall early on the morning of the 3d, were killed First Lieut. James T. Smith, of Company C, and First Lieut. John L. Willman, of Company D, and in that at the rifle-pits on the same day was killed First Lieut. Charles E. Eader, of Company I. Of each of these officers I can truly say, for I know, that no braver man ever took arms to vindicate his country's honor and uphold its glory, or was animated by purer or simpler patriotism. Their faith was unmixed with complications or side issues of any kind. For their flag, the emblem of the grand constitutional Republic, they died. They lived with hearts full of love for it.

Report of Brig. Gen. Alexander Shaler, U.S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Third Division, Sixth Army Corps

Dated	July 21, 1863 (enclosed with a report of July 27, 1863)
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 232
Printed pages	682–683
Packet pages	39–40

About this report

Shaler's Sixth Corps brigade was sent to support the Twelfth Corps on July 3. P. 683 ends the report he made to Geary and gives the times at which regiments of his brigade went forward and were relieved.

About this excerpt

No. 232 begins on p. 680 with his report of July 27; pp. 680–681 are not reproduced. P. 682 carries endorsements by Terry, Sedgwick, and Meade on Shaler's request for a correction to Meade's report, then the heading of the July 21 report he enclosed. P. 683 completes that report and ends with the start of Rogers's report (No. 233).

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION, SIXTH CORPS,
November 21, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded, approved.

H. D. TERRY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH CORPS,
November 21, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded.

In my report of the operations at Gettysburg, it is stated that "Shaler's brigade was also ordered first to the left and then to the right, and subsequently returned to the left center and held in reserve;" and it appears also that Wheaton's brigade remained in the position in which it was placed on the evening of July 2, *i. e.*, on the left center.

The mistake in regard to the position of the two brigades may have originated in the report of the commanding officer of the Twelfth Corps.

JOHN SEDGWICK,
Major-General, Commanding Sixth Corps.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
November 23, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded, with the recommendation that the necessary correction in my report of the battle of Gettysburg, which was based upon that of the corps commanders, be made.

GEO. G. MEADE,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure.]

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., THIRD DIV., SIXTH CORPS,
July 21, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to hand you the following report of the movements and operations of the several regiments of this brigade while under command of Brigadier-General Geary, during the action of the morning of July 3:

At 9 a. m. the One hundred and twenty-second New York Volunteers, Col. Silas Titus commanding, was directed to relieve the One hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, then occupying a position in the front line.

Finding the breastworks had been hastily vacated by that regiment, they were immediately reoccupied by the One hundred and twenty-second, and held by them, under a severe fire of the enemy, until relieved by the Eighty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers at 11.30 a. m.

At 9.20 a. m. the Twenty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, Lieut. Col. John F. Glenn commanding, was placed in position as support to, and 150 yards in rear of, the front line. After about three hours, five companies were, by direction of General Geary, reported to the lieutenant-colonel commanding a regiment of the Second Division, Twelfth Corps.

These companies, being deployed in rear of the works, were, under a galling fire of musketry, advanced into them. Owing to

the heavy fire immediately opened by the enemy, the design of feeling them with skirmishers was found impracticable. Skirmishers were advanced, however, about 15 paces, but were shortly afterward withdrawn.

At 11 a. m. the Sixty-seventh New York Volunteers, Col. Nelson Cross commanding, marched into the woods and forward to the breastworks, from which the enemy were then fleeing. They succeeded in capturing about 20 prisoners.

At 11.15 o'clock the Sixty-fifth New York Volunteers, Col. Joseph E. Hamblin commanding, occupied a position as support to the Twenty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, of this brigade.

At 11.30 a. m. the Eighty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. I. C. Bassett commanding, advanced to the front line, relieving the One hundred and twenty-second New York, and occupying the position until relieved by a portion of General Geary's command at about 3 p. m. At this hour the brigade was reformed under my command.

I annex a list of killed, wounded, and missing during the engagements.*

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER SHALER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Brigade.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Second Division, Twelfth Corps.

No. 233.

Report of Col. Horatio Rogers, jr., Second Rhode Island Infantry, Second Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND RHODE ISLAND VOLUNTEERS,
Near Hagerstown, Md., July 10, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to respectfully report that the regiment which I have the honor to command has been constantly moving since June 6.

The demonstration on the south side of the Rappahannock, below Fredericksburg, to keep the enemy's troops in that neighborhood, consumed little more than a week, as we recrossed to the north side of the river on the night of June 13.

We at once began our march northward, with the rest of the Sixth Corps, via Dumfries, Fairfax Court-House, Centreville, Dranesville, Edwards Ferry, Poolesville, New Market, and Manchester, halting here and there a day or two.

Passing through Maryland, we pushed into Pennsylvania, and arrived in the vicinity of Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 2, where we found a battle then going on. We were at once put into position on the extreme left, and lay on our arms all night on the field of battle.

The next day, July 3, was the hottest of the battle, and this was the severest engagement of the war. The brigade to which we are attached was constantly in posts of danger, but being used as a reserve, it was always sent to the points most pressed, and, though

*Embodied in revised statement, p. 181.

Report of Lieut. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, C.S. Army, commanding Second Army Corps

Dated	Not dated
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 2, Report No. 467
Printed pages	439, 447–448
Packet pages	42–44

About this report

The Second Corps commander's report. P. 447 gives his orders to renew the attack at daylight, the brigades added to Johnson's division, and his note on the timing of Longstreet's attack. P. 448 describes the end of the fighting on the hill.

About this excerpt

P. 439 carries the report's heading. Pp. 440–446 and 449 onward are not reproduced.

On July 11, Captain Miller's battery was detached and sent with General Imboden to Strasburg, to guard the Yankee prisoners. He reported to me again at Bunker Hill on the 18th.

On the march and in battle, Acting Ordnance Officer [B. L.] Brazelman acted with his usual efficiency in his department.

I am, colonel, with great respect, your obedient servant,

B. F. ESHLEMAN,
Major, Commanding.

Col. J. B. WALTON,
Chief of Artillery, First Army Corps.

No. 467.

Report of Lieut. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, C. S. Army, commanding Second Army Corps.

HDQRS. SECOND CORPS, ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
———— —, 1863.

COLONEL: The Second Corps, at the time of leaving Hamilton's Crossing (June 4), comprised the following troops:

The division of Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early, containing the brigades of Brig. Gens. H. T. Hays (Louisiana), J. B. Gordon (Georgia), William Smith (Virginia), and R. F. Hoke (North Carolina), temporarily commanded by Colonel [I. E.] Avery, of the Sixth North Carolina, in the absence of General Hoke, from wounds received at the battle of Fredericksburg, May 4. To this division was attached Lieut. Col. H. P. Jones' battalion of light artillery.

The division of Maj. Gen. Edward Johnson, containing the brigades of Brig. Gens. George H. Steuart (Virginia and North Carolina), James A. Walker (Stonewall, Virginia), John M. Jones (Virginia), and F. T. Nicholls (Louisiana), temporarily commanded by Col. J. M. Williams, of the Second Louisiana Regiment, in the absence of General Nicholls, from wounds received at the battle of Chancellorsville. To this division was attached Lieut. Col. R. Snowden Andrews' battalion of light artillery.

The division of Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes, containing the brigades of Brig. Gens. Junius Daniel (North Carolina), George Doles (Georgia), A. Iverson and S. D. Ramseur (North Carolina), and Rodes' (Alabama) brigade, commanded by Col. Edward A. O'Neal, of the Twenty-Sixth Alabama Regiment. To this division was attached Lieut. Col. Thomas H. Carter's battalion of light artillery.

Lieut. Col. William Nelson's battalion and five batteries of the First Virginia Artillery, under Col. J. Thompson Brown, acting chief of artillery, in the absence of Col. S. Crutchfield, from wounds received in the battle of Chancellorsville, May 2, formed the artillery reserve of the corps.

TO CULPEPER AND WINCHESTER.

Marching via Verdierville and Somerville Ford, the corps reached Culpeper on June 7.

On the 9th, the enemy being reported to have crossed the Rappahannock in force, I moved my corps, by direction of the general commanding, to General Stuart's support, but on reaching Brandy

fire, showing when most needed the full possession of all his faculties. Though not twenty-one when he fell, his soldierly qualities had impressed me as deeply as those of any officer in my command.

Immediately after the artillery firing ceased, which was just before sundown, General Johnson ordered forward his division to attack the wooded hill in his front, and about dusk the attack was made. The enemy were found strongly intrenched on the side of a very steep mountain, beyond a creek with steep banks, only passable here and there. Brig. Gen. J. M. Jones was wounded soon after the attack began, and his brigade, which was on the right with Nicholls' (Louisiana) brigade (under Colonel Williams), was forced back, but Steuart, on the left, took part of the enemy's breastworks, and held them till ordered out at noon next day.

As soon as information reached him that Johnson's attack had commenced, General Early, who held the center of my corps, moved Hays' and Hoke's brigades forward against the Cemetery Hill. Charging over a hill into a ravine, they broke a line of the enemy's infantry posted behind a stone wall, and advanced up the steep face of another hill, over two lines of breastworks. These brigades captured several batteries of artillery and held them until, finding that no attack was made on the right, and that heavy masses of the enemy were advancing against their front and flank, they reluctantly fell back, bringing away 75 to 100 prisoners and four stand of captured colors. Major-General Rodes did not advance, for reasons given in in his report.

Before beginning my advance, I had sent a staff officer to the division of the Third Corps, on my right, which proved to be General Pender's, to find out what they were to do. He reported the division under command of General Lane, who succeeded Pender, wounded, and who sent word back that the only orders he had received from General Pender were that he was to attack if a favorable opportunity presented. I then wrote to him (it being too late to communicate with the corps commander) that I was about attacking with my corps, and requested that he would co-operate. To this I received no answer, nor do I believe that any advance was made. The want of co-operation on the right made it more difficult for Rodes' division to attack, though, had it been otherwise, I have every reason to believe, from the eminent success attending the assault of Hays and Avery, that the enemy's lines would have been carried.

I was ordered to renew my attack at daylight Friday morning, and as Johnson's position was the only one affording hopes of doing this to advantage, he was re-enforced by Smith's brigade, of Early's division, and Daniel's and Rodes' (old) brigades, of Rodes' division. Just before the time fixed for General Johnson to advance, the enemy attacked him, to regain the works captured by Steuart the evening before. They were repulsed with very heavy loss, and he attacked in turn, pushing the enemy almost to the top of the mountain, where the precipitous nature of the hill and an abatis of logs and stones, with a very heavy work on the crest of the hill, stopped his farther advance.

Half an hour after Johnson attacked, and when too late to recall him, I received notice that Longstreet would not attack until 10 o'clock; but, as it turned out, his attack was delayed till after 2 o'clock. In Johnson's attack, the enemy abandoned a portion of their works in disorder, and, as they ran across an open space to another work, were exposed to the fire of Daniel's brigade at 60 or 70 yards.

Our men were at this time under no fire of consequence. Their aim was accurate, and General Daniel thinks that he killed here in half an hour more than in all the rest of his fighting. Repeated reports from the cavalry on our left that the enemy were moving heavy columns of infantry to turn General Johnson's left, at last caused him about 1 p. m. to evacuate the works already gained. These reports reached me also, and I sent Capt. G. C. Brown, of my staff, with a party of cavalry to the left, to investigate them, who found them to be without foundation, and General Johnson finally took up a position about 300 yards in rear of the works he had abandoned, which he held, under a cross-fire of artillery and exposed to the enemy's sharpshooters, until dark. At night my corps fell back, as ordered, to the range of hills west of the town, taken by us on Wednesday, where we remained unmolested during July 4.

The behavior of my troops throughout this campaign was beyond praise, whether the points considered be their alacrity and willing endurance of the long marches, their orderly and exemplary conduct in the enemy's country, their bravery in action, or their patient endurance of hunger, fatigue, and exposure during our retreat.

The lists of killed and wounded, as well as the results gained, will show the desperate character of their fighting. In the infantry, Daniel's brigade, of Rodes' division, and in the artillery, Andrews' battalion, of Johnson's division, suffered most loss. The Second North Carolina Battalion, of Daniel's brigade, lost 200 of 240 men, killed and wounded, without yielding an inch of ground at any time.

BACK TO DARKESVILLE.

By order of the commanding general, the Third Corps was to move at dark on July 4, and the First to follow with the prisoners, mine being rear guard. Next day the Third was to take the rear, &c.

At 10 a. m. on the 5th, the other corps were not all in the road, and, consequently, mine did not take up its march till near noon, and only reached Fairfield at 4 p. m. Here the enemy, who had been threatening our rear and occasionally opening a fire of artillery on the rear guard (Gordon's brigade, of Early's division), showed more boldness in attacking, throwing out a line of skirmishers over a mile in length. They were repulsed, and a battery which was shelling our column driven off.

We encamped for the night on a hill 1½ miles west of Fairfield, and next day, July 6, the Third Corps moving by another road, we were still in the rear, Rodes' division acting as rear guard, and repelling another attack of the enemy. The Forty-fifth North Carolina, Daniel's brigade, under Captain [James A.] Hopkins, being summoned to surrender, attacked the troops making the summons, and drove them out of a wood in which they were posted. The enemy did not follow much beyond Fairfield. The road was again blocked till noon. That night we encamped near Waynesborough, and reached Hagerstown about noon of July 7.

On the 11th, we were moved into line between Hagerstown and Williamsport, our right joining the left of the Third Corps, and began fortifying, and in a short time my men were well protected. Their spirit was never better than at this time, and the wish was universal that the enemy would attack.

On the night of the 14th, I was ordered with my infantry and artillery to ford at Williamsport, the ammunition-chests going in the

Report of Maj. Gen. Edward Johnson, C.S. Army, commanding division

Dated	September 30, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 2, Report No. 481
Printed pages	503–506
Packet pages	46–49

About this report

Johnson commanded the division that attacked Culp's Hill. P. 504 covers the renewed assault on the morning of July 3. P. 505 ends the narrative. P. 506 gives the division's casualties.

About this excerpt

P. 503 carries the heading of the report of September 30. P. 506 also carries two later addenda, dated July 19 and October 7, 1863.

The total list of casualties in the division during the operations embraced in this report amounted to 14 killed and 74 wounded.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ED. JOHNSON,
Major-General.

Maj. A. S. PENDLETON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS JOHNSON'S DIVISION,
September 30, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my division from June 15 to July 31, embracing the campaign in Pennsylvania and battle of Gettysburg.

My division comprised the Stonewall Brigade, Brig. Gen. J. A. Walker, consisting of the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Twenty-seventh, and Thirty-third Virginia Regiments, commanded, respectively, by Colonel [J. Q. A.] Nadenbousch, Major [William] Terry, Colonel [J. H. S.] Funk, Lieutenant-Colonel [D. M.] Shriver, and Captain [J. B.] Golladay; J. M. Jones' brigade, consisting of the Twenty-first, Twenty-fifth, Forty-second, Forty-fourth, Forty-eighth, and Fiftieth Virginia Regiments, commanded, respectively, by Capt. W. P. Moseley, Colonel [John C.] Higginbotham, Captain [J. M.] Richardson, Captain [T. R.] Buckner, Lieutenant-Colonel [R. H.] Dungan, and Lieutenant-Colonel [L. H. N.] Salyer; George H. Steuart's brigade, consisting of the Tenth, Twenty-third, and Thirty-seventh Virginia Regiments, First Maryland Battalion Infantry, and First and Third North Carolina Regiments, commanded, respectively, by Colonel [E. T. H.] Warren, Lieutenant-Colonel [S. T.] Walton, Major [H. C.] Wood, Lieutenant-Colonel [H A.] Brown, Major [W. M.] Parsley, and Lieutenant-Colonel [J. R.] Herbert; Nicholls' brigade, Col. J. M. Williams commanding, consisting of the First, Second, Tenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Louisiana Regiments, commanded, respectively, by Lieutenant-Colonel [M.] Nolan, Lieutenant-Colonel [R. E.] Burke, Major [T. N.] Powell, Lieutenant-Colonel [D.] Zable, and Major [Andrew] Brady, with Andrews' battalion of artillery, Major [J. W.] Latimer commanding, consisting of Raine's, Dement's, Brown's, and Carpenter's batteries.

On June 16, my division left camp at Stephenson's, and marched to Shepherdstown, where Jones' brigade was temporarily detached, with orders to destroy a number of canal-boats and a quantity of grain and flour stored at different points, and cut the canal (Chesapeake and Ohio Canal). A report of his operations and the disposition made of his captures has been forwarded.

June 18, we crossed the Potomac at Boteler's Ford, and encamped upon the battle-ground of Sharpsburg. Thence marched, via Hagerstown and Chambersburg, to within 3 miles of Carlisle. From Greencastle, Steuart's brigade was ordered to McConnellsburg, to collect horses, cattle, and other supplies which the army needed. The brigade, having accomplished its mission to my satisfaction, rejoined the division at our camp near Carlisle.

On June 29, in obedience to orders, I countermarched my division to Greenville, thence eastwardly, via Scotland, to Gettysburg, not arriving in time, however, to participate in the action of the 1st instant.

The last day's march was 25 miles, rendered the more fatiguing because of obstructions caused by wagons of Longstreet's corps.

Late on the night of July 1, I moved along the Gettysburg and York Railroad to the northeast of the town, and formed line of battle in a ravine in an open field, Nicholls' brigade on the right, next Jones'; Steuart's and Walker's on the left. Pickets were thrown well to the front, and the troops slept on their arms.

Early next morning, skirmishers from Walker's and Jones' brigades were advanced for the purpose of feeling the enemy, and desultory firing was maintained with their skirmishers until 4 p. m., at which hour I ordered Major Latimer to open fire with all of his pieces from the only eligible hill within range, Jones' brigade being properly disposed as a support. The hill was directly in front of the wooded mountain and a little to the left of the Cemetery Hill; consequently exposed to the concentrated fire from both, and also to an enfilade fire from a battery near the Baltimore road. The unequal contest was maintained for two hours with considerable damage to the enemy, as will appear from the accompanying report of Lieutenant-Colonel Andrews. Major Latimer having reported to me that the exhausted condition of his horses and men, together with the terrible fire of the enemy's artillery, rendered his position untenable, he was ordered to cease firing and withdraw all of his pieces excepting four, which were left in position to cover the advance of my infantry.

In obedience to an order from the lieutenant-general commanding, I then advanced my infantry to the assault of the enemy's strong position—a rugged and rocky mountain, heavily timbered and difficult of ascent; a natural fortification, rendered more formidable by deep intrenchments and thick abatis—Jones' brigade in advance, followed by Nicholls' and Steuart's. General Walker was directed to follow, but reporting to me that the enemy were advancing upon him from their right, he was ordered to repulse them and follow on as soon as possible.

The opposing force was larger and the time consumed longer than was anticipated, in consequence of which General Walker did not arrive in time to participate in the assault that night.

By the time my other brigades had crossed Rock Creek and reached the base of the mountain, it was dark. His skirmishers were driven in, and the attack made with great vigor and spirit. It was as successful as could have been expected, considering the superiority of the enemy's force and position. Steuart's brigade, on the left, carried a line of breastworks which ran perpendicular to the enemy's main line, captured a number of prisoners and a stand of colors, and the whole line advanced to within short range, and kept up a heavy fire until late in the night. Brigadier-General Jones and Colonel Higginbotham, Twenty-fifth Virginia, were wounded in this assault, and the command of Jones' brigade devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel Dungan.

Early next morning, the Stonewall Brigade was ordered to the support of the others, and the assault was renewed with great determination. Shortly after, the enemy moved forward to recapture the line of breastworks which had been taken the night previous, but was repulsed with great slaughter. Daniel's and Rodes' brigades (Colonel [E. A.] O'Neal commanding), of Rodes' division, having reported to me, two other assaults were made; both failed. The enemy were too securely intrenched and in too great numbers to be dislodged by the force at my command.

In the meantime, a demonstration in force was made upon my left and rear. The Second Virginia Regiment, Stonewall Brigade, and Smith's brigade, of Early's division, were disposed to meet and check it, which was accomplished to my entire satisfaction. No further assault was made; all had been done that it was possible to do.

I held my original position until 10 o'clock of the night of the 3d, when, in accordance with orders, I withdrew to the hill north and west of Gettysburg, where we remained until the following day, in the hope that the enemy would give us battle on ground of our own selection.

My loss in this terrible battle was heavy, including some of the most valuable officers of the command.

Maj. J. W. Latimer, of Andrews' battalion, the "boy major," whose chivalrous bearing on so many fields had won for him a reputation to be envied by his seniors, received a severe wound on the evening of the 2d, from the effects of which he has since died.

Maj. B. W. Leigh, my chief of staff, whose conscientious discharge of duty, superior attainments, and noble bearing made him invaluable to me, was killed within a short distance of the enemy's line.

Maj. H. K. Douglas, assistant adjutant-general, was severely wounded while in the discharge of his duties, and is still a prisoner.

My orderly, W. H. Webb, remained with me after being severely wounded. His conduct entitles him to a commission.

Fewer wounded from my division were left in the hands of the enemy than from any other division of the army; for which I am indebted to the active exertions of Chief Surg. R. T. Coleman.

Mr. E. J. Martin, my volunteer aide-de-camp, rendered valuable service by his prompt transmission of orders, and Maj. E. L. Moore faithfully performed his duties as assistant inspector-general.

The troops are much indebted to Majs. T. E. Ballard and G. H. Kyle, of the commissary department, for supplies during the trying period covered by this report. Cattle and flour were frequently procured within the enemy's lines.

All of the officers and men of the division who came under my observation during their three days' exposure to the enemy's incessant fire of musketry and artillery from the front and artillery from the left and rear behaved as brave men.

For particular instances of gallantry, I have the honor to refer you to the reports of brigade and regimental commanders, herewith transmitted.

I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the gallantry of Brigadier-General Daniel and Colonel O'Neal, and to Brigadier-General [William] Smith, and their brigades, while under my command.

We marched on the 5th across the mountain, by Waynesborough, toward Hagerstown, and remained for a few days within 3 miles of the latter place. Thence the division moved 2½ miles from Hagerstown, and formed line of battle on both sides of and perpendicular to the Hagerstown and Williamsport pike.

On the night of the 13th, I recrossed the Potomac 1 mile above Williamsport, and continued the march next day to within 4 miles of Martinsburg; thence to Darkesville on the 15th, where we remained until ordered to return to Martinsburg, to destroy the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and repel an advance of the enemy. This done, the division by steady marches recrossed the Blue Ridge at Front Royal, and went into camp near Orange Court-House about August 1.

The casualties in my division during the operations around Gettysburg were: Killed, 219; wounded, 1,229; missing, 375; total, 1,823.

I am, major, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ED. JOHNSON,
Major-General.

Maj. A. S. PENDLETON, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

ADDENDA.

HEADQUARTERS JOHNSON'S DIVISION, *July* 19, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to forward a United States flag captured in the enemy's breastworks near Gettysburg, Pa., by Sergt. Thomas J. Betterton, Company A, Thirty-seventh Virginia Regiment, Steuart's brigade. Sergeant Betterton was wounded at a later period of the engagement, and further details of the capture cannot be given at this time.

Very respectfully,

ED. JOHNSON,
Major-General.

Maj. A. S. PENDLETON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Second Army Corps.

HEADQUARTERS JOHNSON'S DIVISION, *October* 7, 1863.

LIEUTENANT: I herewith forward you a tabular statement of the losses in this division by brigades in the battles of Winchester and Gettysburg, as called for in your note of yesterday.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. W. HUNTER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Lieut. JAMES P. SMITH, *Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure.]

Statement of Casualties in Johnson's division in the battles of Winchester and Gettysburg, in June and July, 1863.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Total.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
At Winchester.							
Stonewall Brigade	.....	3	1	15	.....	.....	19
Jones' brigade	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Steuart's brigade	.....	9	1	26	.....	.....	36
Nicholls' brigade	.....	2	2	11	.....	.....	15
Andrews' battalion artillery	.....	.....	2	15	.....	.....	17
Total	.....	14	6	68	.....	.....	88
At Gettysburg.							
General Johnson's staff	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	2
Stonewall Brigade	2	33	20	188	6	81	330
Jones' brigade	6	52	25	277	2	59	421
Steuart's brigade	4	79	25	384	4	186	682
Nicholls' brigade	.....	43	28	281	.....	36	388
Total	12	207	99	1,130	13	362	1,823
Aggregate	12	221	105	1,198	13	362	1,911

Report of Brig. Gen. George H. Steuart, C.S. Army, commanding brigade

Dated	September 2, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 2, Report No. 482
Printed pages	509, 511
Packet pages	51–52

About this report

Steuart’s brigade held the captured Union works on the left of Johnson’s line. P. 511 gives his account of the morning of July 3 and the charge at about 10 a.m.

About this excerpt

P. 509 carries the report’s heading. Pp. 510 and 512 are not reproduced.

HEADQUARTERS STEUART'S BRIGADE,
June 18, 1863.

MAJOR: No flags were captured in the recent battle near Winchester, by the Third North Carolina Regiment and by the Tenth Virginia. Four stand of colors were captured by the First North Carolina, of which one was given to Lieutenant [William P.] Zollinger, Company A, First Maryland Battalion Infantry, as officer of the guard at court-house in Winchester, and there left by him. One was taken by members of the Fourth Brigade, under the circumstances stated in the accompanying report. Two were turned over at these headquarters, and are hereby turned over to division headquarters—one a common flag. It is not known from whom the flags were captured. The other two regiments of the brigade were not engaged.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. H. STEUART,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. B. W. LEIGH,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Johnson's Division.

—

HEADQUARTERS STEUART'S BRIGADE,
September 2, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by my brigade in the battle of Gettysburg:

We reached the battle-field of July 1 toward evening of that day, and, marching through a part of the town and along the Gettysburg and York Railroad, formed line of battle to the northeast, our front facing the south and our left wing in a skirt of woods. The Fourth and Second Brigades were on our right, the Stonewall on our left. We slept on our arms that night.

At about 3 p. m. the following day, the enemy's and our own batteries opened fire, and the shelling was very heavy for several hours. The brigade, however, suffered but little, being protected by the woods and behind rising ground. Our pickets, which had been stationed 300 yards in front of our line the night previous, were relieved at about 5 o'clock by four companies of skirmishers from the Twenty-third Virginia, and shortly afterward the brigade was formed in line of battle and moved forward.

The hill where the enemy was strongly intrenched, and from which we were ordered to drive him, lay in a southwesterly direction from our position, and accordingly our left wing was obliged to swing around by a right half-wheel, and the brigade thus formed front toward the west by south. The enemy's skirmishers fell back rapidly as we advanced through the fields and across Rock Creek, they suffering slightly, and inflicting little or no injury. The right wing of the brigade crossed the creek considerably in advance of the center and left wing, owing to the fact that the order to move by a right half-wheel was not immediately understood on the left, and also to the greater number of natural obstacles to be overcome by that part of the brigade. The slope of the hill above referred to at the point where the brigade crossed the creek commences about 50 feet from the bank, and, being thickly wooded, the charge of our right wing was made under great disadvantages. The Third North Carolina and First Maryland Battalion, which were now entirely separated

The whole command rested from about 11 p. m. till about daylight, [3d], when the enemy opened a terrific fire of artillery and a very heavy fire of musketry upon us, occasioning no loss to the brigade, excepting to the First Maryland Battalion and Third North Carolina, which in part alternated positions behind the breastworks. The First North Carolina, with the exception of four companies which had been stationed as a picket on the other side of the creek, was at this time formed to the left of the brigade.

At about 10 a. m. the Tenth Virginia was ordered to deploy as skirmishers, and clear the woods on our left of the enemy's skirmishers. This was done, and the enemy was discovered in the woods, drawn up in line of battle, at not over 300 yards from the west of the stone wall.

The brigade then formed in line of battle at right angles to the breastwork in the following order: Third North Carolina, First Maryland Battalion, Thirty-seventh Virginia, Twenty-third Virginia, and First North Carolina, and charged toward the enemy's second breastworks, partly through an open field and partly through a wood, exposed to a very heavy fire of artillery and musketry, the latter in part a cross-fire. The left of the brigade was the most exposed at first, and did not maintain its position in line of battle. The right, thus in advance, suffered very severely, and, being unsupported, wavered, and the whole line fell back, but in good order. The enemy's position was impregnable, attacked by our small force, and any further effort to storm it would have been futile, and attended with great disaster, if not total annihilation.

The brigade rallied quickly behind rocks, and reformed behind the stone wall which ran parallel to the breastworks, where it remained about an hour, exposed to a fire of artillery and infantry more terrific than any experienced during the day, although less disastrous. Ultimately, in accordance with orders from the major-general commanding, the brigade fell back to the creek, where it remained during the rest of the day, nearly half of it being deployed as skirmishers.

During the night, the enemy advanced their line some distance beyond the breastworks, but were driven back to them again. Toward midnight, the brigade, with the rest of the division, recrossed the creek, and, passing to the rear of the town, occupied and intrenched itself on the crest of the hill where the enemy had been posted on the first day of the engagement.

It affords me the greatest pleasure to say that the officers and men of the brigade, with a few exceptions of the latter, conducted themselves most gallantly, and bore the fatigue and privations of several days in a soldierlike manner.

The commanding officers of the different regiments of the brigade—Colonel Warren, Tenth Virginia; Lieutenant-Colonel Walton, Twenty-third Virginia; Major Wood, Thirty-seventh Virginia; Lieutenant-Colonel Brown, First North Carolina; Major Parsley, Third North Carolina, and Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert, First Maryland Battalion Infantry, who was dangerously wounded the evening of the 2d, his successor, Major [W. W.] Goldsborough, also severely wounded next morning, and Capt. J. P. Crane, upon whom the command of the battalion finally devolved—handled their regiments with great skill and manifested the utmost coolness.

The following officers and non-commissioned officers are mentioned in the regimental reports as deserving of great praise for their coolness and bravery: Adjt. T. C. James, Third North Carolina, dan-

Report of Brig. Gen. James A. Walker, C.S. Army, commanding Stonewall Brigade

Dated	August 17, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 2, Report No. 488
Printed pages	518–519
Packet pages	54–55

About this report

The Stonewall Brigade's account of July 3 on Culp's Hill: its support of Steuart, the five hours of firing, the pause to refill cartridge boxes, and the renewed attack.

About this excerpt

P. 518 carries the report's heading.

tured represented the following regiments: Eighteenth Connecticut, One hundred and twenty-third Ohio, Fifth Maryland, Twelfth [West] Virginia, and Seventy-sixth [Eighty-seventh] Pennsylvania.

Total casualties of the brigade on this day were 3 wounded.

During the entire operations detailed above, the officers and men of the command behaved to my entire satisfaction, and not a single instance of misbehavior came under my observation.

To my personal staff—Lieutenants [F. C.] Cox, Hunter, and Arnall—I am indebted for their prompt and ready assistance during the three days' operations.

I have, major, the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. WALKER,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. B. W. LEIGH,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Johnson's Division.

HEADQUARTERS STONEWALL BRIGADE,
August 17, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to circular from division headquarters, I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Stonewall Brigade at the battle of Gettysburg, and subsequently until it recrossed the Potomac:

On the evening of July 1, the brigade, with the rest of the division, arrived at Gettysburg, Pa., and after nightfall took position on the southeast side of the town, near the Hanover road, and on the extreme left of our line, on Culp's farm, and, throwing forward skirmishers, we remained for the night.

At dawn the next morning, the enemy's skirmishers were seen in our front, and a brisk fire was opened between them and my own, which was kept up during the day at long range, with but short intervals of quiet. About 6 p. m. our line was advanced in a northerly direction, and took position immediately on the north side of the Hanover road. In this position, our left flank being harassed by the enemy's sharpshooters, posted in a wheat-field and wood, I ordered Colonel Nadenbousch with his regiment (the Second Virginia) to clear the field, and advance into the wood, and ascertain, if possible, what force the enemy had at that point, which he did at a single dash, his men advancing with great spirit, driving the enemy's skirmishers out of the clear ground and following them into the woods.

When he had advanced some distance into the woods, the enemy opened on his line with two pieces of artillery, and he fell back into the clear ground again, leaving skirmishers in the edge of the wood, and reported that the enemy had a large force of cavalry (supposed to be two brigades), two regiments of infantry, and a battery of artillery. This information I communicated through a staff officer to Major-General Johnson, and immediately thereafter received information from Major [H. K.] Douglas, of his staff, that the line was about to advance, with instructions from General Johnson to remain on the flank, if I thought it necessary.

As our flank and rear would have been entirely uncovered and unprotected in the event of my moving with the rest of the division, and as our movement must have been made in full view of the enemy,

I deemed it prudent to hold my position until after dark, which I did.

After dark, I withdrew, and leaving a picket on the Hanover road, joined the rest of the division in rear of the enemy's breastworks, which they had driven them from the evening before.

At daylight next morning [3d], Steuart's brigade, which was immediately in my front, became hotly engaged, and, on receiving a request from General Steuart, I moved up to his support, and became warmly engaged along my whole line, and my right, extending beyond the breastworks, suffered very heavily.

After five hours' incessant firing, being unable to drive the enemy from his strong position, and a brigade of Rodes' division coming to our assistance, I drew my command back under the hill out of the fire, to give them an opportunity to rest and clean their guns and fill up their cartridge-boxes. In about an hour, I was ordered by General Johnson to move more to the right, and renew the attack, which was done with equally bad success as our former efforts, and the fire became so destructive that I suffered the brigade to fall back to a more secure position, as it was a useless sacrifice of life to keep them longer under so galling a fire. An hour or two later, I was again ord red to advance, so as to keep the enemy in check, which I did, sheltering my men and keeping up a desultory fire until dark.

About midnight, we were drawn off with the rest of the division, and at daylight were again formed in line of battle on the heights south of Gettysburg, where we remained all day and until about 11 o'clock, when we marched with the division in the direction of Fairfield.

The subsequent operations of this brigade up to the crossing of the Potomac having been altogether with the division and under the eye of the major-general, I do not deem any report necessary.

It affords me pleasure to say that the officers and men of the brigade behaved in a manner worthy their high reputation. It may seem individious to select any particular officer for commendation, but justice requires that I should especially notice the gallant and efficient conduct of Maj. William Terry, commanding the Fourth Virginia Regiment, who gallantly led his regiment almost to the breastworks of the enemy, and only retired after losing three-fourths of his command.

I am, captain, very respectfully,

J. A. WALKER,
Brigadier-General.

Captain [R. W.] HUNTER,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 489.

Reports of Col. J. Q. A. Nadenbousch, Second Virginia Infantry.

CAMP NEAR SHARPSBURG, MD.,
June 19, 1863.

LIEUTENANT: In obedience to orders from brigade headquarters, asking a report of the participation of the Second Regiment in the recent battles around Winchester, I have the honor to make the following report:

Report of Brig. Gen. David McM. Gregg, U.S. Army, commanding Second Division, Cavalry Corps

Dated	July 25, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 344
Printed pages	956–957
Packet pages	57–58

About this report

Gregg’s account of July 2 and 3 on the right of the Union line: his positions, the noon dispatch, his decision to keep Custer’s brigade, the Confederate charges and the Union counterattacks.

About this excerpt

The report begins partway down p. 956, after the end of an earlier dispatch. Pp. 949–955 and 958–960 are not reproduced. A footnote on p. 957 says the casualty figure in the report includes losses of Gregg’s division on July 2 and of Custer’s brigade on July 3.

My loss in killed and wounded about 70, including 7 officers. Huey did not get up until late last night. My two brigades are entirely out of ammunition and rations. The enemy's cavalry moved toward Leetown. What orders?

D. McM. GREGG,
Brigadier-General of Volunteers.

Lieut. Col. A. J. ALEXANDER,
A. A. G., Cavalry Corps, Hdqrs. Army of the Potomac.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, CAVALRY CORPS,
July 25, 1863.

COLONEL: The First and Third Brigades, of the Second Division, Cavalry Corps, arrived on the battle-field at Gettysburg, July 2, about noon, the Second Brigade having been sent to Westminster.

In compliance with orders from Major-General Pleasonton, commanding the corps, I placed these brigades on the extreme right of our line of battle, and at the point of intersection of the Gettysburg and Hanover turnpike with the road which ran in rear of the right of our line of battle. A line of pickets was established in front, connecting with the right of the infantry line and extending well to the right of the turnpike. An attempt made to dislodge some of the enemy's sharpshooters posted in front of the center of my line caused the enemy to throw out two regiments deployed. This force advanced against my line, but was soon compelled to withdraw under the admonition of a half dozen well-directed shells and a telling carbine fire from behind a line of stone fence.

On the morning of July 3, I was again ordered to take a position on the right of our line, and make a demonstration against the enemy. The First and Third Brigades were again posted on the right of the infantry, but about three-fourths of a mile nearer the Baltimore and Gettysburg turnpike. This position was taken because I learned that the First [Second] Brigade, of the Third Division, was occupying my position of the day before. A regiment was dismounted and put in the woods as skirmishers, but the enemy was not found in any considerable force.

At 12 m. I received a copy of a dispatch from the commander of the Eleventh Army Corps to the major-general commanding the Army of the Potomac, that large columns of the enemy's cavalry were moving toward the right of our line. At the same time I received an order from Major-General Pleasonton, through an aide-de-camp, to send the First [Second] Brigade, of the Third Division, to join General Kilpatrick on the left. The First Brigade of my division was sent to relieve the brigade of the Third Division. This change having been made, a strong line of skirmishers displayed by the enemy was evidence that the enemy's cavalry had gained our right, and were about to attack, with the view of gaining the rear of our line of battle. The importance of successfully resisting an attack at this point, which, if succeeded in by the enemy, would have been productive of the most serious consequences, determined me to retain the brigade of the Third Division until the enemy were driven back. General Custer, commanding the brigade, fully satisfied of the intended attack, was well pleased to remain with his brigade. The First New Jersey Cavalry was posted as mounted skirmishers to the right and front in a wood, the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry deployed as dismounted skirmishers to the left and front in open fields, and

the First Maryland on the Hanover turnpike, in position to protect the right of my line.

The very superior force of dismounted skirmishers of the enemy advanced on our left and front required the line to be re-enforced by one of General Custer's regiments. At this time the skirmishing became very brisk on both sides, and an artillery fire was begun by the enemy and ourselves. During the skirmish of the dismounted men, the enemy brought upon the field a column for a charge. The charge of this column was met by the Seventh Michigan Cavalry, of the First [Second] Brigade, Third Division, but not successfully. The advantage gained in this charge was soon wrested from the enemy by the gallant charge of the First Michigan, of the same brigade. This regiment drove the enemy back to his starting point. Other charges were made by the enemy's columns, but in every instance were they driven back. Defeated at every point, the enemy withdrew to his left, and on passing the wood in which the First New Jersey Cavalry was posted, that regiment gallantly and successfully charged the flank of his column. Heavy skirmishing was still maintained by the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry with the enemy, and was continued until nightfall. During the engagement, a portion of this regiment made a very handsome and successful charge upon one of the enemy's regiments. The enemy retired his column behind his artillery, and at dark withdrew from his former position. At this time I was at liberty to relieve the First [Second] Brigade of the Third Division, which was directed to join its division.

Our own and the enemy's loss during this engagement was severe. Our loss: Officers, 1 killed, 17 wounded, and 1 missing; enlisted men, 33 killed, 140 wounded, and 103 missing.*

On the morning of the 4th, I advanced to the enemy's position, but found him gone. Following toward Hunterstown, I found many of his wounded abandoned. From these we learned that the enemy had been severely punished and his loss heavy. One general officer was severely wounded

Brigadier-General Custer, commanding First [Second] Brigade, Third Division, very ably assisted me in the duties of my command. Col. J. B. McIntosh, commanding First Brigade of my division, handled his brigade with great skill, and deserves particular mention for his gallantry and untiring energy throughout the day. The Third Brigade, Second Division, Col. J. Irvin Gregg commanding, was held in reserve upon the field. The batteries commanded by Capt. A. M. Randol and Lieut. A. C. M. Pennington, jr., rendered most effective service. The fire of the artillery during this engagement was the most accurate that I have ever seen.

It gives me great pleasure to bring to the notice of the major-general commanding the efficiency and gallantry exhibited by my entire staff on this occasion.

A list of casualties of this engagement has heretofore been forwarded, and will again be found in a consolidated list.†

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. McM. GREGG,

Brig. Gen. of Volunteers, Comdg. Second Division.

Lieut. Col. A. J. ALEXANDER, *A. A. G., Cavalry Corps.*

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*But this includes the losses in Gregg's division, July 2, and those of Custer's brigade, July 3. See Addenda to this report.

†Embodied in revised statement, p. 186.

Report of Brig. Gen. George A. Custer, U.S. Army, commanding Second Brigade, Third Division

Dated	September 9, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 1, Report No. 361
Printed pages	997–998
Packet pages	60–61

About this report

Custer wrote his report as a diary, regiment by regiment. P. 998 has the First Michigan Cavalry's entry for July 3, with its charge on Hampton's brigade and its loss.

About this excerpt

P. 997 opens with the end of Lieut. Col. Davies's report (No. 360) before Custer's begins. P. 998 also begins the Fifth Michigan's entry. The rest of the report (pp. 999–1004) is not reproduced.

column of squadrons, and charged upon a regiment of the enemy, drawn up on the north side of the railroad. On reaching the railroad, by reason of an order improperly given, as is alleged, the head of the column was turned to the left, and proceeded some distance down the railroad, where it crossed, and charged another body of the enemy. Having crossed the railroad myself, and charged directly on the enemy, I am unable to give a detailed report of the execution that was done. After the first charge, the command was broken up into detachments, which attacked the enemy in different directions. Captain Hasty, with his squadron, retook two of our guns that had been taken by the enemy, but, in consequence of the horses being all killed, was unable to bring them off the field, and was obliged to abandon them.

When the order was given for retiring, I collected and withdrew the regiment in perfect order, covering the retreat by Captain Mitchell's squadron and skirmishers under the command of Major Cooke, who held the enemy completely in check.

I add a list of wounded and missing. The wounded, reported as such, have been brought in and sent to hospital. The missing are either killed or wounded and prisoners in the hands of the enemy.

I desire to mention, for gallant conduct on the field, Major Cooke, Captains Mitchell, Downing, and Hasty, and Second Lieut. Robert Stuart, who, with 6 men only, charged into a regiment of the enemy. There are other officers, doubtless, entitled to distinguished mention, but owing to the separation of the command that I have mentioned, I cannot report from my own knowledge what was done.

The number of wounded brought in is 1 commissioned officer (First Lieutenant Poughkeepsie) and 14 enlisted men. The number of missing is 33 enlisted men. The number of prisoners taken by my command I cannot state, as all, when taken, were sent to the rear, and turned over to division headquarters. No colors were taken by my regiment.

Respectfully submitted.

H. E. DAVIES, JR.,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

First Lieut. P. O. JONES,
Regimental Adjutant, and Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.

No. 361.

Reports of Brig. Gen. George A. Custer, U. S. Army, commanding Second Brigade of, and Third Division.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, THIRD DIVISION,
September 9, 1863.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the engagements in which my command participated during the Pennsylvania and Maryland campaigns. Owing to the frequency with which this brigade encountered the enemy, my report assumes the form of a diary:

FIRST MICHIGAN CAVALRY.

On June 30, the regiment was ordered to support Battery M, Second U. S. Artillery, at Hanover, Pa. No loss was sustained by the regiment here, as it was not actively engaged.

On July 2, at the battle of Hunterstown, one squadron, under command of Captain Duggan, was detailed to hold the road leading into the town from the right front of it. One platoon was deployed as skirmishers on the left of the road leading into town from the rear. This platoon was actively engaged and did good service. The regiment sustained no loss upon this day.

On July 3, engagement 2 or 3 miles to the right of the Two Taverns, in which this regiment charged in close column upon Hampton's brigade, using the saber only, and driving the enemy from the field, with a loss to this regiment of 6 officers and 80 men.

On July 4, the regiment moved with the division toward Monterey Gap. At Fountain Dale, was sent upon a road leading from the right of the town to Fairfield Gap, where the enemy was found occupying it. A charge was made by one squadron, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stagg, with success and against superior numbers. The enemy were driven out and the Gap held until the entire column and train had passed.

Here the regiment sustained a heavy loss. Colonel Stagg, in leading the charge, had his horse killed, and was himself seriously injured by the falling of the same. Here Capt. William R. Elliott was mortally wounded, and Lieut. James S. McElhenny killed; 17 men also lost. At Monterey Pass, the regiment lost 2 officers and 6 men.

On July 5 and 6, at Smithsburg, the regiment supported Battery M, Second U. S. Artillery, sustaining no loss.

At Boonsborough on July 8 the regiment was often under fire, but met with no loss.

On July 12, this regiment had the advance to Hagerstown. Five companies were deployed as skirmishers before the town. One squadron, by order of Brigadier-General Kilpatrick, charged into the town, capturing several prisoners, one man only of the squadron being injured

On July 13, the regiment was on outpost duty, and engaged with the enemy most of the day. Loss, 3 men severely wounded.

On the 14th, this regiment was engaged in the action at Falling Waters, and had the honor of capturing 2 battle-flags and so much of the Forty-seventh Regiment Virginia Infantry as was upon the field, being 5 officers and 56 men. Captain Snyder, of this regiment, was mortally wounded while gallantly leading a squadron of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry in the streets of Hagerstown, July 6. Since the engagement at Falling Waters this regiment has been under the command of Maj. M. Brewer, and has participated in the following engagements: At Newby's Cross-Roads, Va., July 24; lost, in killed, wounded, and missing, 7 men. A portion of the regiment was engaged in a skirmish at Barbee's Cross-Roads on July 25.

FIFTH MICHIGAN CAVALRY.

June 30.—Was engaged in severe skirmishing with the enemy near Hanover, Pa.

July 3.—At 10 a. m. moved out, and met the enemy on the right, at Gettysburg. The regiment was dismounted to fight on foot on the left of the brigade. Major Ferry was killed. Participated in the several charges made on that day.

July 4.—Participated in the engagement at Monterey Pass, where part of a large train and many prisoners were captured.

July 5.—Was in the engagement at Smithsburg.

Report of Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, C.S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of Northern Virginia

Dated	August 20, 1863
Source	Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, Part 2, Report No. 565
Printed pages	687, 697–699
Packet pages	63–66

About this report

Stuart’s report of the campaign. P. 697 covers his arrival at Gettysburg, his position on July 3, and his plan. P. 698 describes the fight, the charges, and General Hampton’s wounds. P. 699 gives his statement of what his position was meant to secure and what he hoped to do if the Union main body was dislodged.

About this excerpt

P. 687 carries the heading of the report of August 20. Pp. 688–696 and 700 onward are not reproduced.

ADDENDA.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
June 16, 1863.

Maj. Gen. J. E. B. STUART,
Commanding Cavalry:

GENERAL: I have received and read, with much pleasure, your report of the recent engagement at Fleetwood.

The dispositions made by you to meet the strong attack of the enemy appear to have been judicious and well planned. The troops were well and skillfully managed, and, with few exceptions, conducted themselves with marked gallantry.

The result of the action calls for our grateful thanks to Almighty God, and is honorable alike to the officers and men engaged.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,
General.

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HDQRS. CAVALRY DIVISION, ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
August 20, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of the Cavalry Division, Army of Northern Virginia, from the time of crossing the Rappahannock on June 16, to July 24, when, having recrossed the Blue Ridge after the Pennsylvania campaign, our pickets were re-established on the south bank of the Rappahannock:

After holding in check a cavalry force at least double our own for months, with a command stretched on the outposts from the Blue Ridge to the Chesapeake, engaging in numerous hand-to-hand encounters, illustrating the superiority of southern cavalry, it was with joy that the order of the commanding general to advance was received by the cavalry. I was instructed by the commanding general to leave a sufficient force on the Rappahannock to watch the enemy in front, and move the main body parallel to the Blue Ridge and on Longstreet's right flank, who was to move near the base of the mountains, through Fauquier and Loudoun Counties.

The position of the enemy as far as known was as follows: His cavalry massed in Fauquier, principally from Warrenton Springs to Catlett's Station, with the Twelfth Corps and other infantry supports, the main body of Hooker's army being in Stafford and Lower Fauquier, hastening to interpose itself between our main body and Washington, with a corps or two confronting A. P. Hill's corps at Fredericksburg, having made a lodgment on the south side of the river there, near the mouth of Deep Run.

I accordingly left the Fifteenth Virginia Cavalry (Major [C. R.] Collins), W. H. F. Lee's brigade, on the Lower Rappahannock, cooperating with A. P. Hill, and directed Brigadier-General Hampton to remain with his brigade on the Rappahannock, in observation of the enemy during the movement of our forces, and directed also Fitz. Lee's brigade (Col. T. T. Munford temporarily in command) to cross on the morning of the 15th at Rockford, and take the advance of Longstreet's column, via Barbee's Cross-Roads, and put Robertson's and W. H. F. Lee's brigades *en route* to cross the Rappahannock lower down (at Hinson's Mills), while Jones' brigade followed, with orders to picket the Aestham River the first day.

The movement was not interrupted the enemy having disappeared

procure rations. I therefore directed General Lee to send in a flag of truce, demanding unconditional surrender or bombardment. This was refused. I placed artillery in position commanding the town, took possession of the main avenues to the place, and repeated the demand. It was again refused, and I was forced to the alternative of shelling the place.

Although the houses were used by their sharpshooters while firing on our men, not a building was fired excepting the United States cavalry barracks, which were burned by my order, the place having resisted my advance instead of peaceable surrender, as in the case of General Ewell. General Fitz. Lee's brigade was charged with the duty of investing the place, the remaining brigades following at considerable intervals from Dover. Maj. Gen. W. F. Smith was in command of the forces in Carlisle. The only obstacle to the enforcement of my threat was the scarcity of artillery ammunition.

The whereabouts of our army was still a mystery; but, during the night, I received a dispatch from General Lee (in answer to one sent by Major Venable from Dover, on Early's trail), that the army was at Gettysburg, and had been engaged on this day (July 1) with the enemy's advance. I instantly dispatched to Hampton to move 10 miles that night on the road to Gettysburg, and gave orders to the other brigades, with a view to reaching Gettysburg early the next day, and started myself that night.

My advance reached Gettysburg July 2, just in time to thwart a move of the enemy's cavalry upon our rear by way of Hunterstown, after a fierce engagement, in which Hampton's brigade performed gallant service, a series of charges compelling the enemy to leave the field and abandon his purpose. I took my position that day on the York and Heidlersburg roads, on the left wing of the Army of Northern Virginia.

On the morning of July 3, pursuant to instructions from the commanding general (the ground along our line of battle being totally impracticable for cavalry operations), I moved forward to a position to the left of General Ewell's left, and in advance of it, where a commanding ridge completely controlled a wide plain of cultivated fields stretching toward Hanover, on the left, and reaching to the base of the mountain spurs, among which the enemy held position. My command was increased by the addition of Jenkins' brigade, who here in the presence of the enemy allowed themselves to be supplied with but 10 rounds of ammunition, although armed with the most approved Enfield musket. I moved this command and W. H. F. Lee's secretly through the woods to a position, and hoped to effect a surprise upon the enemy's rear, but Hampton's and Fitz. Lee's brigades, which had been ordered to follow me, unfortunately debouched into the open ground, disclosing the movement, and causing a corresponding movement of a large force of the enemy's cavalry.

Having been informed that Generals Hampton and Lee were up, I sent for them to come forward, so that I could show them the situation at a glance from the elevated ground I held, and arrange for further operations. My message was so long in finding General Hampton that he never reached me, and General Lee remained, as it was deemed inadvisable at the time the message was delivered for both to leave their commands.

Before General Hampton had reached where I was, the enemy had deployed a heavy line of sharpshooters, and were advancing toward our position, which was very strong. Our artillery had, however,

left the crest, which it was essential for it to occupy on account of being of too short range to compete with the longer range guns of the enemy, but I sent orders for its return. Jenkins' brigade was chiefly employed dismounted, and fought with decided effect until the 10 rounds were expended, and then retreated, under circumstances of difficulty and exposure which entailed the loss of valuable men.

The left, where Hampton's and Lee's brigades were, by this time became heavily engaged as dismounted skirmishers. My plan was to employ the enemy in front with sharpshooters, and move a command of cavalry upon their left flank from the position lately held by me, but the falling back of Jenkins' men (that officer was wounded the day previous, before reporting to me, and his brigade was now commanded by Colonel [M. J.] Ferguson, Sixteenth Virginia Cavalry) caused a like movement of those on the left, and the enemy, sending forward a squadron or two, were about to cut off and capture a portion of our dismounted sharpshooters.

To prevent this, I ordered forward the nearest cavalry regiment (one of W. H. F. Lee's) quickly to charge this force of cavalry. It was gallantly done, and about the same time a portion of General Fitz. Lee's command charged on the left, the First Virginia Cavalry being most conspicuous. In these charges, the impetuosity of those gallant fellows, after two weeks of hard marching and hard fighting on short rations, was not only extraordinary, but irresistible. The enemy's masses vanished before them like grain before the scythe, and that regiment elicited the admiration of every beholder, and eclipsed the many laurels already won by its gallant veterans. Their impetuosity carried them too far, and the charge being very much prolonged, their horses, already jaded by hard marching, failed under it. Their movement was too rapid to be stopped by couriers, and the enemy perceiving it, were turning upon them with fresh horses. The First North Carolina Cavalry and Jeff. Davis Legion were sent to their support, and gradually this hand-to-hand fighting involved the greater portion of the command till the enemy were driven from the field, which was now raked by their artillery, posted about three-quarters of a mile off, our officers and men behaving with the greatest heroism throughout. Our own artillery commanding the same ground, no more hand-to-hand fighting occurred, but the wounded were removed and the prisoners (a large number) taken to the rear.

The enemy's loss was unmistakably heavy; numbers not known. Many of his killed and wounded fell into our hands.

That brave and distinguished officer, Brigadier-General Hampton, was seriously wounded twice in this engagement.

Among the killed was Major [W. G.] Conner, a gallant and efficient officer of the Jeff. Davis Legion. Several officers and many valuable men were killed and wounded whose names it is not now in my power to furnish, but which, it is hoped, will be ultimately furnished in the reports of regimental and brigade commanders.

Notwithstanding the favorable results obtained, I would have preferred a different method of attack, as already indicated; but I soon saw that entanglement by the force of circumstances narrated was unavoidable, and determined to make the best fight possible. General Fitz. Lee was always in the right place, and contributed his usual conspicuous share to the success of the day. Both he and the gallant First Virginia begged me (after the hot encounter) to allow them to take the enemy's battery, but I doubted the practicability of the ground for such a purpose.

During this day's operations, I held such a position as not only to render Ewell's left entirely secure, where the firing of my command, mistaken for that of the enemy, caused some apprehension, but commanded a view of the routes leading to the enemy's rear. Had the enemy's main body been dislodged, as was confidently hoped and expected, I was in precisely the right position to discover it and improve the opportunity. I watched keenly and anxiously the indications in his rear for that purpose, while in the attack which I intended (which was forestalled by our troops being exposed to view), his cavalry would have separated from the main body, and gave promise of solid results and advantages.

After dark, I directed a withdrawal to the York road, as our position was so far advanced as to make it hazardous at night, on account of the proximity of the enemy's infantry.

During the night of July 3, the commanding general withdrew the main body to the ridges west of Gettysburg, and sent word to me to that effect, but his messenger missed me. I repaired to his headquarters during the latter part of the night, and received instructions as to the new line, and sent, in compliance therewith, a brigade (Fitz. Lee's) to Cashtown, to protect our trains congregated there. My cavalry and artillery were somewhat jeopardized before I got back to my command by the enemy having occupied our late ground before my command could be notified of the change. None, however, were either lost or captured.

During the 4th, which was quite rainy, written instructions were received from the commanding general as to the order of march back to the Potomac, to be undertaken at nightfall. In this order two brigades of cavalry (Baker's and Hampton's*) were ordered to move, as heretofore stated, by way of Cashtown, guarding that flank, bringing up the rear on the road, via Greenwood, to Williamsport, which was the route designated for the main portion of the wagon trains and ambulances, under the special charge of Brigadier-General Imboden, who had a mixed command of artillery, infantry, and cavalry (his own).

Previous to these instructions, I had, at the instance of the commanding general, instructed Brigadier-General Robertson, whose two brigades (his own and Jones') were now on the right, near Fairfield, Pa., that it was essentially necessary for him to hold the Jack Mountain passes. These included two prominent roads—the one north and the other south of Jack Mountain, which is a sort of peak in the Blue Ridge chain.

In the order of march (retrograde), one corps (Hill's) preceded everything through the mountain; the baggage and prisoners of war escorted by another corps. Longstreet's occupied the center, and the third (Ewell's) brought up the rear. The cavalry was disposed of as follows: Two brigades on the Cashtown road, under General Fitz. Lee, and the remainder (Jenkins' and Chambliss'), under my immediate command, was directed to proceed by way of Emmitsburg, Md., so as to guard the other flank.

I dispatched Captain [W. W.] Blackford, Corps of Engineers, to General Robertson, to inform him of my movement, and direct his co-operation, as Emmitsburg was in his immediate front, and was probably occupied by the enemy's cavalry. It was dark before I had passed the extreme right of our line, and, having to pass through

* Reference is to Fitz. Lee's and Hampton's brigades, the latter commanded by Col. L. S. Baker after Hampton was wounded.