

Head Quarters 5th Battery Maine Vols.
August 2nd 1863

General.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the battery in the battle of Gettysburg, July, 1st, 2nd & 3rd 1863: the Expenditure of Ammunition; the loss in killed wounded & taken prisoners.

At a few minutes past two P.M. July 1st, orders were received by Captain Stearns, to change position from the left, to the right of the Seminary building, & relieve Lt. Stewart's battery, B. Co. 4th, U.S. Artillery. The ground occupied was on the left of the Chambersburg turnpike; the pieces were alligned with the left, thrown in front of the Seminary and opened fire with spherical case & shell at at 800 yds. on the Enemy advancing on our direct front.

After they were repelled when within canister range, by the use of double charges, the guns were turned to the right on the columns advancing across the turnpike, and murching to our left, & in the face of the most destructive fire that could be put forth from the three batteries in position the Enemy succeeded in dislodging the infantry posted in the ground covering our left flank, driving in the Cavalry & completely Enfilading our line; then by order of Gen. Wadsworth Commanding 1st Div. 3rd Corps the battery was limbered up & passing through the town occupied the knoll to the right & rear of Cemetery Hill, thus holding "one of the most important if not the most important positions on the whole line".

A regular fire was kept up maintained until dark to prevent the Enemy occupying the ground in front.

During the night temporary Earth works by the direction of Capt. Stevens, were constructed, which proved on the two days following one of the greatest service in covering & protecting men and pieces.

Early on the morning of July 2nd, The Sharpshooters posted in the houses & barns on the outskirts of the town and in the cover of the fences began to be very annoying & were only partially dislodged by our Skirmishers sent out to oppose them, & while observing movements of the Enemy towards our right, Captain Stevens received his wound, & the command of the battery devolved upon me.

In the afternoon a battery of Co. Pdr. Parrotts, 1400th to our right opened an Enfilading fire on Cemetery Hill, both very destructive & annoying. In concert with 8 rifled pieces we commenced firing, & in less than 40 minutes had the satisfaction of exploding four (4) of their limbers & forcing them to withdraw the battery.

For our successful participation in this Engagement we received the Congratulation of Brig. Gen. Ames Comdg. Divn. 11th Corps - Just at night they again attempted to maintain a battery in the same position but were again driven off.

My attention was called soon after sunset to considerable activity on the part of the Enemy, near the edge of the town, & at early dusk, I made out their line of battle, forming

at a distance of 1000 Yds and immediately opened with the whole battery with spherical case & before the movement was discovered from Cemetery Hill. The projectiles exploded with perfect accuracy & with visible effect temporarily checking them.

At first their line was formed directly in our front. (The battery being to the rear right of Cemetery Hill nearly 500 Yds.) As they advanced the line wheeled to the right & became exposed to an Enfilading fire from our position, and the more direct as they advanced. When within 600 Yds I opened with canister & fired before they were repulsed upwards of 46. Wounds, & in connection with the batteries on the Hill, operating on the Enemy's front, soon had the satisfaction of seeing the line of their fire begin to recede & finally cease to be effective.

This attack, led by a La. Brigade was repulsed entirely by Artillery, the infantry supports belonging to the 11th Corps affording but little assistance.

In withdrawing my left piece, the ammunition being exhausted, four of the six horses were killed immediately on coming out of cover & of the two remaining, one died in harness 20 minutes after.

I mention this that you may judge of the nature of the fire to which we were exposed & under which the pieces were served rapidly & accurately as the ground testified the next morning, 19. dead rebels belonging to the La. Brigade were found in one small place.

It was after the Enemy had retired that, the Ammunition being Exhausted I withdrew the battery to the road & reported to Col. Mainwright Chief of Artillery 1st Corps. & by his direction, refilled the Chests and at 9.30 P. M. re-occupied the position & passed the night there.

Early the next morning Engaged the Enemy's battery again posted 1400 Yds on our right. & for an hour & a half responded rapidly without any loss on our part, the Earth-works protecting the men from several of the Enemy's projectiles, which lodged there.

We then ceased firing with the Exception of Changing front several times during the heaviest firing, while Enemy attempted to break through our right held by the 1st Divn. 1st Corp & the 12th Corps. & Changing front to the left in the afternoon during the Enemy's attack on our Center, the battery remained inactive tho' suffering quite severely in the heavy Cannonade in which the battery was Enfiladed & from the nature of the ground necessarily -

I deeply regret General, that I have to include in the list of Wounded - Captain G. J. Stevens shot through both legs by a sharp shooter in the town on the forenoon of the 2nd & Sp. Chas. O'Hunt shot in the thigh on the 1st, near the Seminary - both wounded in the active discharge of their duties

I beg, to be allowed, to assure you General, that tho' the battery, by this 1st & 2nd days Engagement & by the battle at Chancellorsville, had been deprived of the services of four Experienced & gallant officers, it in no wise tarnished the reputation

It has earned on several well fought fields
1st Sergt. Lorrin E. Brady as Chief of right-half
battery. Sergt. J. W. White as Chief of left-half
battery, in the 2nd & 3rd days Engagements. Evidenced
quite as plainly as before, when they earned their
promotions, bravery, & discretion in the highest
degree.

Sullivan Luce, Acty. Corporal: Killed by a fragment
of shell on the 3rd, had on many occasions
won the commendations of his commanding Officer
for Soldierly & gallant conduct.

List of Men.

Killed. Wounded, & Taken Prisoners

Killed.	Private.	Wm Widner - Detached 94 th Regt. N.Y. Vol.	} July, 1 st
"	"	Charles M. Bryant	
"	"	Sullivan Luce	
Wounded.			
"	Captain	G. I. Stevens	July, 2 nd
"	Lt.	Charles, Ottum	July, 1 st
"	Private,	Jason Simpson	July, 1 st
"	"	William Leonard	" "
"	"	Sylvester L. Brown	" "
"	"	John A. Paine	" "
"	"	Warren B. Bailey	" "
"	"	Edwin L. Witham	" "
"	"	James A. Lombard	" 3 rd
"	"	John T. Chase	" "
"	"	Homer Nichols Det. 94 th Regt. N.Y. Vol.	" "
"	"	Hosia Kenyon	" "
"	"	James F. Secor	" "
Prisoners.	Private.	J. P. St. Clair	July, 1 st
"	"	Charles Smith	July, 1 st
"	"	Geo. Dwyer Det. 94 th Regt. N.Y. Vol.	" "
"	"	Geo. Berry	" "
"	"	Hugliornmark	" "
"	"	A. C. Merwin	" "

Ammunition Expended.

976 lbs.

I have the honor to be.

Brig. Gen. I. L. Hodsdon.
Adj. Gen. State of Maine
Augusta Me.

General.
With due respect, your most app. Servt
E. N. Whittier, 1st Lt.
Commanding Battery.