

The record of this argument should
not be closed without giving place to
an act of justice toward Col. Gerard,
the following letters from the re-
spected commanders of the first brigade
of Genl Brown's division

Port Hudson La -

June 25. 1863.

Col J. G. Gerard
Sir.

It is with feelings of profound regret
that I have received General Order No 51 "Dept of the Gulf"
announcing your dismissal from the service on account of your
declining to charge the enemy's works on the 14th inst after you
came in Command of the 1st Brigade, owing to the death of
Col Halcomb of the 1st La Vols.

Feeling that perhaps the unfortunate position
held by the 90th N. Y. Vols composing a part of the Brigade,
may have added to the perplexity in which you were placed, I
deem it but an act of justice to you, to say that I was sent
for by you, and ordered to "withdraw my Regt. from the position
they were in, as the Brigade must be formed again for the assault"
I represented to you that I should probably lose half my men
in withdrawing them as they were under a cross-fire from the
enemy's works. But you told me that they must come under
any circumstances. I left to obey the Order, but had not pro-
ceeded only a short distance when I was struck down overpowered
by the heat and excitement through which we had passed,
it was perhaps an hour after before I recovered consciousness,
when Col Morgan commanding Division Reserve found me
in the condition referred to. I told him your orders and wished
to go and bring out my Regt. He supposing I was unconscious
or did not understand the Order, under the circumstances,
ordered me to remain where I was, and sent Capt Smart

acting Major to keep the Regiment on the ground where they were, and the Regt. was not withdrawn until dusk.

What transpired or what conversation took place between you and other Officers, I know not, but so far as my Regiment was concerned my Orders from you were plain and explicit, and I expected most certainly to join and participate with you in an other assault upon the works. I fear that a misunderstanding of the facts of the case, may have induced the action of the General Commanding, and I offer this as a free testimonial of my own accord, hoping it may relieve you from any opprobrium brought upon you through the 90th Regt.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.
(Signed) W. Shawman
Maj. Comd'g 90th Regt. N.Y. Vol.

Very Truly

Wm. Shawman
Major