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Adj. Gen. 5th Maine Regt

Jan. 3-1863-

Brig. Gen. J. L. Keedeson,

Adj. Gen. State of Maine.

Sir:-

In obedience to the request expressed in your note of the 29th ultimo, I have the honor to forward you a summary of the engagements &c. in which the 5th Maine Regiment has borne a conspicuous part.

Arriving in Virginia upon the 11th day of July 1861, we were immediately placed in the command of General A. A. Howard, under whom, upon the 21st day of July 1861, we became actively engaged in the battle of Bull Run. Our loss was between sixty and seventy (I have not the exact data) in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

During the following fall and winter, large detachments of this regiment were engaged in three skirmishes with the enemy while on picket duty - mostly in the month of September near Mount Vernon.

In April 1862, we ~~were~~ were sent down on the Peninsula, and at battle of Yorktown were held in support-

ing distance, but the enemy flying, we did not become engaged.

At West Point battle on the 4th of May, we were on the advance line for six hours, holding a heavy body of the enemy in check, and finally driving them some distance. The fire for some time was very hot and heavy - though, owing to the situation of the ground, our loss was comparatively light, two killed and five wounded.

At Mechanicsville, in the latter part of the same month, we fought the enemy in three skirmishes - twice in line of battle, and once when deployed on picket. We lost some eight or ten men, ~~and~~ but each time drove the enemy before us. In the two former instances we were supported by artillery, and in the latter by cavalry.

On the 29th day of June we ~~so~~ became severely engaged in the battle of "Gaines Mill". During the forenoon we were exposed to a galling, enfilading fire from the enemy's artillery. At an early hour in the afternoon, we advanced upon his lines, and opened with a terrible fire of musketry. We held our position for upwards of three hours, when we were relieved by other regiments. Our loss was ten killed, sixty nine wounded and sixteen ^{missing} ~~wounded~~. Aggregate, ninety five.

The following day we had a severe - though

short engagement at "Golden Farm". We were in the
last division which commenced the retreat from the Chick-
ahominy to the James River.

On Monday June 30, we again encountered
the enemy at "Charles City Cross Roads", in which bat-
tle, so terrible in loss to the enemy, we took a con-
spicuous part, maintaining our position against qual-
uple our own numbers until 10 o'clock P. M., when we
fell back towards the James River. At this battle
we became almost entirely surrounded, passing through
a small aperture in the enemy's lines, observing the
deepest silence.

At "Malvern Hill" we were held within
supporting distance of the federal forces, but were
not called into the fight.

On the 1st of September we were
brought up to the support of General Pope at "Bull
Run", but as the retreat had already commenced,
we covered the retreat, and picketed the out-
posts until the following morning. We had a small
skirmish with a body of cavalry during the night,
but fortunately without loss. We were the last infan-
try to cross the "Cub Run", and just after crossing, the
enemy opened his artillery and followed us up with
cavalry; but rejoining our division, we were drawn
up in line of battle, awaiting their approach. Our artillery

however, drove the foe away.

Our next engagement was at "Crampton Pass" Md. on Sunday Sept. 14th. We again occupied the advance line of battle, engaging the enemy with musketry for an hour and a half, when our ammunition being expended, in company with the balance of the division, we charged upon the enemy, driving him from his strong holds in confusion, and taking possession of the heights. Our loss in killed & wounded was 35. In missing, ten.

Sept. 17 & 18, we were in the battle of "Antietam", where for thirty hours we were under fire, but with comparative small loss, however.

On the 11th day of Dec. we crossed the Rappahannock River with the army, and occupied an important position in the battle of "Fredericksburg". Our post was on the extreme right and advance of Franklin's Grand Division, near the center of the army line of battle. We did not become engaged with musketry, though we received a hot fire from the artillery, the great fights being upon the extreme right and left of the army. Our great work was to meet any demonstration of the enemy in our front, and check any advance they might make, and especially to present a front to the enemy, while the right and left wings attempted to turn his flanks. In our duties we were