

Head Quarters 5th Maine Vols.

May 9th 1863

Brig. Genl. John L. Hodges

Adj^t. Genl. State of Maine;

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report of the engagements in which this Regiment has participated in the late movements of the Army.

My Regiment broke camp near White Oak Church Va. on the P.M. of Tuesday 28th ultimo, and bivouaced near the point selected for crossing the Rappahannock, a short distance below Fredericksburg; at about dark in the evening of the same day, Brooks' Division, of which my Regiment forms a part, was to cross first in Pontoon Boats, and capture and hold the opposite bank of the river, while the bridges were being laid.

Everything being in readiness, a short time before day break, the boats were loaded with troops and pushed boldly out into the stream. On nearing the opposite bank, a volley of musketry was discharged from the rifle pits of the enemy, killing and wounding several in Russell's Brigade but nothing daunted, the boats moved rapidly forward, and in a moment the troops were landed; and rapidly forming a line, charged gallantly up the bank, and into the rifle pits scattering

the enemy in all directions.

My Regiment was among the first to cross, and succeeded in reaching the opposite bank, and forming a line without losing a man. It was a bold undertaking; not a man flinched, but gallantly came to the work. In an incredible short time, Brooks Division, was all over, and deployed in lines of battle. The pickets of the enemy fell back rapidly, and our skirmishers soon occupied the wide plain in front of our position. Before noon three bridges were completed, and some batteries brought over to assist in holding the positions.

No advance was made until the morning of the 3^d instant, at about 1 O'clock ~~AM~~, when the troops were ordered under arms, and moved forward to the centre of the plain in front of our position, where a line of battle was formed and halted until daylight. Upon receiving orders to advance, I moved forward by the flank and occupied a position at the point where the Bowling Green Turnpike intersects a deep ravine.

About this time, the batteries within the enemy's works, opened with shell, and were directly replied to by our batteries, announcing that the battle had commenced. My Regiment occupied this position until near 7 O'clock, when orders were received to move down the turnpike to the left of the ravine, to the support of a Battery,

which movement was executed in good order and
a storm of shell from the enemy's batteries, but with-
out loss. From this position I moved by the flank
to the right and front of the Battery, which we sup-
ported, and formed a line at right angles with
and about one hundred yards from the road fac-
ing the ravine. Immediately after this, I was
ordered by Genl. Bartlett to move forward up the
ravine, and occupy the railroad, connecting my
right with the 96 Penn. Vols. who were deployed as
skirmishers on the right of the ravine.

As soon as I commenced to carry out the
order, the movement was discovered by the enemy,
when they opened a rapid fire from a battery with
Shrapnell or Grape and Canister, upon us at a range
of two hundred yards, throwing our ranks at every
discharge. Scarcely heeding it, my men pushed
boldly forward, up the ravine through a thick
undergrowth, and over broken ground until my
left had reached the left of the 96th Penn. Here
fell Adjutant Geo. W. Dicknell, while gallantly urg-
ing on the men, severely wounded in the head.

Upon reaching this point, it was found
that the Railroad was occupied by the enemy in
force and that the position was commanded by
his batteries, and it was deemed imprudent to
attempt to gain the position. My left companies
were thrown out as skirmishers, and the best
marksmen employed as sharpshooters to pick off.

the enemy's gunners. A sharp fire was kept up here for nearly an hour, when I was ordered to retire and occupy my last position on the flank of the battery. The regiment retired in good order, bringing off the killed and wounded, occupying the old position, where it remained until 12 o'clock, M. when the Heights in the rear of the city were carried by Howe's and Newton's Divisions, and firing ceased. The loss of my regiment in this engagement was three Officers and eighteen men killed and wounded, as follows.

Adj. Gen. W. Bicknell - wounded severely
Capt. E. M. Robinson Co. C " " slightly
2nd Lt. Aaron B. Stevens " F. " "

Private John F. Ward Co. E. killed
" James Mc. Philleny Co. F. killed
Sergt. Joseph C. Sawyer " G. "
" Geo. C. French " K. "

Private Patrick Gleason Co. A, wounded
" Frank Lord " " "
" Wm Brown " " "
" James Gaddis " C. "
Corp Geo. S. Berry " D. "
Pri. Jefferson Smith " " "
" J. G. Purrington " E. "
" Lorenzo D. Moore " F. "
" John Godfrey " " "
" F. C. Dealing " G. "

Corp E. Whittenmore Co. I wounded
Private Daniel M. Stearns " "
" Chas. Dunham " "
" John French " K. "

Upon receiving orders I immediately joined the
the Brigade on the turnpike and moved forward
through Fredericksburg to the Heights in rear
of the City. Here a short halt was made and
then we moved forward on the plank road to-
wards Salem Heights. At a distance of three
miles from the City the enemy made a stand
and opened fire from a battery upon our ad-
vancing column. A line of battle was immedi-
ately formed extending to the right and left of
road. My right rested upon the road and
supported the 121st N.C. Regt. The line ad-
vanced in this position, until near the woods,
where the enemy were posted, when I moved
obliquely to the left and formed on the left of
the 96th Penn. Regt. on the edge of the woods.

My Regiment was now on the extreme
left of the line and without support.

The right of the line had already become
heavily engaged, and the heavy and continuous
volleys told us but too plainly that the enemy
were in large force and that warm work was
before us. Soon, the shouts of the enemy im-
mediately in our front, warned us that they were

advancing, and every man stood ready to receive them feeling that on him alone depended the issue of the battle. The shock came at last, and almost in an instant the regt on my right was overpowered by numbers, and obliged to give way, and before the situation could be comprehended the enemy were swarming on both flanks of my regt. and pouring a murderous fire into our ranks from right to left, which was returned by men with good effect.

At this critical moment I received orders to fall back; and, giving them a heavy volley, retired slowly and in good order. My regiment was obliged to retreat a long distance across an open field without cover, and here, many of my men fell. On reaching the first cover I rallied my command, and retired in good order, the enemy having been repulsed by the batteries.

Notwithstanding the disadvantage of the position, and the overpowering force of the enemy, all my officers and men fought with desperate bravery, and with an energy that deserved better success. In this engagement I lost or killed ~~and~~ wounded and missing, six officers and sixty nine men, as follows

2nd Lt. Cyrus W. Brown C. G. Killed

Capt A. L. Dearing C. G. Wounded severely

2nd Lt. Smith S. Bailly " " " "

2nd Lt. John A. Stevens C B wounded, slightly
 1st " Wm E. Stevens " " " & missing
 2nd " Frank G. Patterson " D. " " "

Private James C Higgins L E. Killed
 " Abner Ross " " "
 " Peter Beaver " F. "
 " John Norris " " "
 " James Miller " G. "
 " Samuel B. Shaw " " "

" Isaac N. Linscott " A wounded

" Rishworth J. York " B. "

" Oliver B. Adams " " "

" Elliot Moore " " "

Corp. Wm Sawyer " C. "

Priv. Michael Thyme " " "

" John Ciley " " "

" E. F. Bryant " " "

" Wm Larrabee " " "

" Thomas Stuart " D. "

" Collins P. Thompson " " "

" Wm A. Walker " " "

Sergt. Henry Murphy " G. "

Priv. Wm C. Morton " " "

Corp. E. H. Milliken " F. "

" G. F. Rogers " " "

Priv. E. Mc. Gorvan " " "

Corp. Chas. Teiburg " " "

	Private James Smith	C. F.	wounded
	Wm. Tobey	"	"
	John Loney	"	"
	Patrick Connor	"	"
	J. S. Manley	"	"
	Edward Turner	"	"
	Henry Soule	"	"
	Frank Dealing	"	"
	James E. Dow	"	"
Corp	R. B. Kendall	"	"
	John Conlin	"	"
Sergt.	Washington F. Brown	"	"
Corp	A. M. Whitman	"	"
Priv.	E. G. Sturgis	"	"
Sergt.	Horatio Bumpus	"	"
Priv.	Donald Mc. Donald	"	"
	Edwin A. Hackett	"	"
Sergt.	Osgood W. Rogers	"	"
Corp	F. B. Lesbett	"	"
Priv.	Edwin Meserve	"	"
	Prentice M. Cousins	"	"
	M. S. Roberts	"	"
	Wm. Stevens	"	"
	Thomas Churchill	"	"
Corp	G. T. Bassett	"	"
Priv.	S. D. Hatch	"	"
	Chas. G. Manner	"	"
	Thomas Jewett	"	"

Private	Daniel Seary	C. D.	missing
"	Geo. B. French	" E.	"
"	Wm Connelly	" F.	"
Sargt.	R. P. Twombly	" H.	"
Priv.	John Benner	" "	"
"	Martin Brannen	" "	"
"	John Grant	" "	"
"	M. C. Walker	" A.	"
"	Thomas Adams	" "	"
Corp.	Henry H. Hutchinson	" K.	"
"	L. H. Hutchinson	" "	"
"	Geo. W. Pratt	" "	"
"	Joseph L. Edmunds	" "	"
Priv.	W. H. Swinell	" "	"
"	Chas. Andrews	" "	"
"	Chas Frost	" "	"
"	Harvey M. Ash	" "	"

2nd Mass. 42
 in action during the night
 participated with credit
 and was 1st in the
 column of the 1st

On the following day (Monday) my regt. supported Batteries during the whole day, but did not become engaged, and at night was thrown out as skirmishers to cover the crossing of the Corps and was one of the last two to cross the river.

I am sir;

very respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

W. S. Edwards

Col. comdg regt.

5th Maine Vols.

Report of participation in
Actions near Fredericksburg
May. 1863. with Return
of Casualties

Now Also May 13 1863