

Station. You have succeeded in getting a faithful picture of these stirring times. The scene is well remembered, Maj Gen. Stoneman² ~~of the~~ commanding Cavalry Corps, and Lt. Col. Taylor of Gen. Summer's staff together with gentlemen of my staff pronounce it capital, it representing things as they were. Those stragglers in the foreground, some weary, some ~~tired out~~ wounded, others waiting "to make a little coffee" with officers ordering them forward, while to the right the smoke also tells us what we have not forgotten, ~~of~~ the battle.

While you were with the army on the Chickahominy making sketches of battlefields &c, I ~~took~~ felt a deep interest in your work believing with you that these battlefields ~~of the~~ would become classic ground. Your sketches were ~~correct~~ made and corrected with great care, the landscape and the positions occupied by the respective regiments of the different corps were faithfully executed. The Army of the Potomac as well as the country owe you a debt of gratitude.

Very Truly Yours,
D. N. Couch, Maj. Gen.

BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE REPORTS AND LETTERS

Letter of Brig. Gen. Alexander S. Webb³ to his wife
*Camp 6 miles Southwest of Gettysburg
Head Qrs. 2d Brig., 2d Division
July 6th, 1863*

2. Maj. Gen. George Stoneman. Identifications, of officers or their units, unless otherwise noted, are from Adjutant General's Office, *Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army for the Years 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65*, 8 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1865-67) or United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 70 vols. in 128 parts (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901). (Hereafter cited as *OR*. All citations are from Series 1 unless otherwise noted.) Those not included in the rosters, *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 1, pp. 155-68, Federal Roster, or *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, pp. 283-91, Confederate Roster, can be found in the Index to the *Official Records* and are identified in the records.
3. Commanded Second Brigade, Second Division, Second Corps.

My Dear Wife,

We have encamped for the day I believe and because Gen. Meade must have detailed this Corps (2d) for the rear guard. Lee is running as rapidly as possible for Virginia and the rest of the army is in hot pursuit. God gave us a glorious victory, no army was ever more desperate than Lee's and the fighting was fearful, 200,000 men fought for two days.

You will see from the papers how we fought and where we fought.⁴ My brigade and Col. Hall's⁵ stood the assaults of the 2d and 3d of July and the whole army knows how we sustained ourselves. The two batteries with me were totally destroyed, Cushing 4th Artillery,⁶ killed and all his officers wounded on my right. Brown⁷ and all his officers of Rhode Island battery wounded on my left.

At four o'clock on the 2d, I saw the enemy's skirmishers advancing from the woods in my front and in their rear two lines of battle.⁸ They came up in splendid order passed through one of my batteries and arrived within about 25 yards of me, when I opened fire with one regiment behind a fence. This fire was enough to stagger them and the moment they wavered I put in another regiment at a double-quick and gave them another volley. They shot my horse then. In five minutes they ran and then the battery opened again. Ten of their men were killed turning one of my own guns on me. This affair was thought a very brilliant affair etc. etc. for we did not know then how much more severely we were to suffer. At 1 o'clock the third day they opened with 150 pieces on our lines and kept up a continuous fire for two hours. At 2:30 I saw that they were concentrating on my position until they had 110 guns penning me. This was awful, I lost fifty of my men lying down, and more excellent officers, was struck three or four times with stones etc. I knew then that we were to have a fierce attack and at 3 o'clock it came.

4. Positioned both days on Cemetery Ridge. See Map [2] P-17, "Map of the Battle Field of Gettysburg," Published by authority of Secretary of War & Chief of Engineers, Positions of Troops compiled & added for the Government by John B. Bachelder. Hereafter referred to as Map.
5. Col. Norman Hall commanded Third Brigade, Second Division, Second Corps. See Map [3] O-17.
6. Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing commanded Battery A, 4th U.S.
7. Lt. Fred Brown commanded Battery B, 1st Rhode Island.
8. Wright's brigade, Anderson's division, Hill's corps.

Longstreet was in front with Pickett's division and two brigades from some other division.⁹ General [Lewis A.] Armistead, Dick Garnett and [James J.] Pettigrew were in command of brigades. As they steadily advanced I ordered my few guns to fire and we opened great gaps on them, but steadily they advanced in four solid lines, right on, up to my works and fence and shot my men when their muskets touched their breasts. Seeing two companies driven out, all my artillery in their hands I ordered also my reserve regt. and led it myself.¹⁰ General Armistead (an old army officer) led his men, came over my fence and passed me with four of his men. He fell mortally wounded. I got hit one shot grazing my thigh. I stood but 39 paces from them, their officer pointed me out, but God preserved me. As soon as I got my right up to the wall, the enemy was whipped for good and all. When they were over the fence the Army of the Potomac was nearer being whipped than it was at any other time of the battle. When my men fell back I almost wished to get killed, I was almost disgraced, but Hall (Col. on my left saw it all and brought up two regiments to help me). [Brig. Gen. John] Gibbon was wounded near me, [Maj. Gen. Winfield S.] Hancock near me and General Meade himself rode up near me.

Result. The Rebel Brigadier-Generals, killed, more prisoners than twice my men, six battle-flags, 1,453 muskets, 903 sets of accouterments; Loss 42 officers, 426 men.

(Then a little bragging)¹¹

I killed 42 Rebels inside of the fence, beside Gen. Armistead. I had about 750 men.

A. S. Webb

Report of Col. Van H. Manning¹²

*Hd Qrs July 8th, 1863
Near Hagerstown, Md.*

9. "General Longstreet . . . was, therefore, re-enforced by Heth's division and two brigades of Pender's." *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 320.
10. 72nd Pennsylvania.
11. This section missing from the handwritten copy.
12. Report appears in *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, pp. 407-8.

A.A.G.¹³ Robertson's brigade
Sir,

I have the honor to report the part taken by this command in the recent battle near Gettysburg Pa.¹⁴

About four o'clock on the evening of 2d July, I was ordered to move against the enemy, keeping my right well connected with left of the 1st Texas Regt., and hold my left on the Emmitsburg road, then some two hundred yards in my front and out of view.

Upon reaching the road, I discovered, from the direction the directing regt. was taking, that I could not with the length of my line carry out the latter order; hence I decided to keep my command on a prolongation of the line formed by the troops on my right. After marching in line of battle at a brisk gait, part of the way at a double quick, for about one thousand yards, all the time exposed to a destructive fire from artillery, we engaged the enemy at a short range, strongly posted behind a rock fence at the edge of woods.¹⁵

We drove him back with but little loss, for a distance of one hundred and fifty yards, when I ascertained that I was suffering from a fire to my left and rear. Therefore¹⁶ I ordered a change of front to the rear on first company, but the noise (consequent upon the heavy firing then going on) swallowed up my command, and I contented myself with the irregular drawing back of the left wing, giving it an excellent fire, which pressed the enemy back, in a very short while, whereupon the whole line advanced, the enemy fighting stubbornly but retiring.

Soon I was again admonished that my left was seriously threatened, when I ordered the command back fifty or seventy yards,¹⁷ to meet this contingency. He was again driven back, and I stretched out my front twice its legitimate length, guarding well my left, and advanced to the ledge of rocks,¹⁸ from which we had previously been dislodged by the enemy's

13. Assistant Adjutant General.

14. Commanded 3rd Arkansas.

15. Brig. Gen. J. H. Hobart Ward commanded Second Brigade, First Division, Third Corps, the 124th New York in Weikert's triangular shaped field west of Devil's Den. See Map [2] M-25.

16. "Thereupon" *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 407.

17. "75 yards" *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 407.

18. Devil's Den. See Map [2] N-26.

movement upon my flank. I experienced more¹⁹ annoyance from the exposure of the flank up to this moment, when Col. Little²⁰ of the 11th Ga. Regt. joined to my left. The 15th Ga. Regt.²¹ coming²² at this time, occupied the line with my command. Some little time after this, I was disabled by concussion and wounded²³ on my nose and forehead. The command devolved on Lt. Col. [Robert S.] Taylor who will report its operations subsequent to this time.

It would be invidious to make special mention of gallantry with either officers or men, when all did so well, fighting greatly superior numbers, and at such great disadvantage. I might safely assume that the bearing of the entire command was of the highest creditable character. No guns or colors were captured, and but few prisoners (some twenty-five) a number of whom were sent to the rear with wounded men.

Below I submit a list of killed, wounded and missing.²⁴ The wounded include only those disabled indefinitely. Quite a number were temporarily disabled, by slight wounds, but resumed their duties in a few days; hence I make no mention of them in this report.

Respectfully
your Obdt. Serv.
V. H. Manning
Col. 3d Ark. Regt.

Report of Maj. John P. Bane²⁵

*Hd. Qrs. 4th Texas Regt.
July 9th, 1863*

19. "some" *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 407.
20. "[F.H.] Little," *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 407. Col. Francis Hamilton Little commanded 11th Georgia. Robert K. Krick, *Lee's Colonels; A Biographical Register of the Field Officers of the Army of Northern Virginia*, 4th ed., rev. (Dayton, Ohio: Morningside, 1992), p. 240.
21. 15th Georgia is in Benning's brigade. The *OR* version of this report states 59th Georgia. This would be in Anderson's brigade. *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 407.
22. "coming also" *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 407.
23. "wound" *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 407.
24. *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, p. 408. "Not found; but see p. 339." List on p. 339 gives 26 killed and 116 wounded.
25. 4th Texas Regiment. Report appears in *OR*, vol. 27, pt. 2, pp. 410-11.