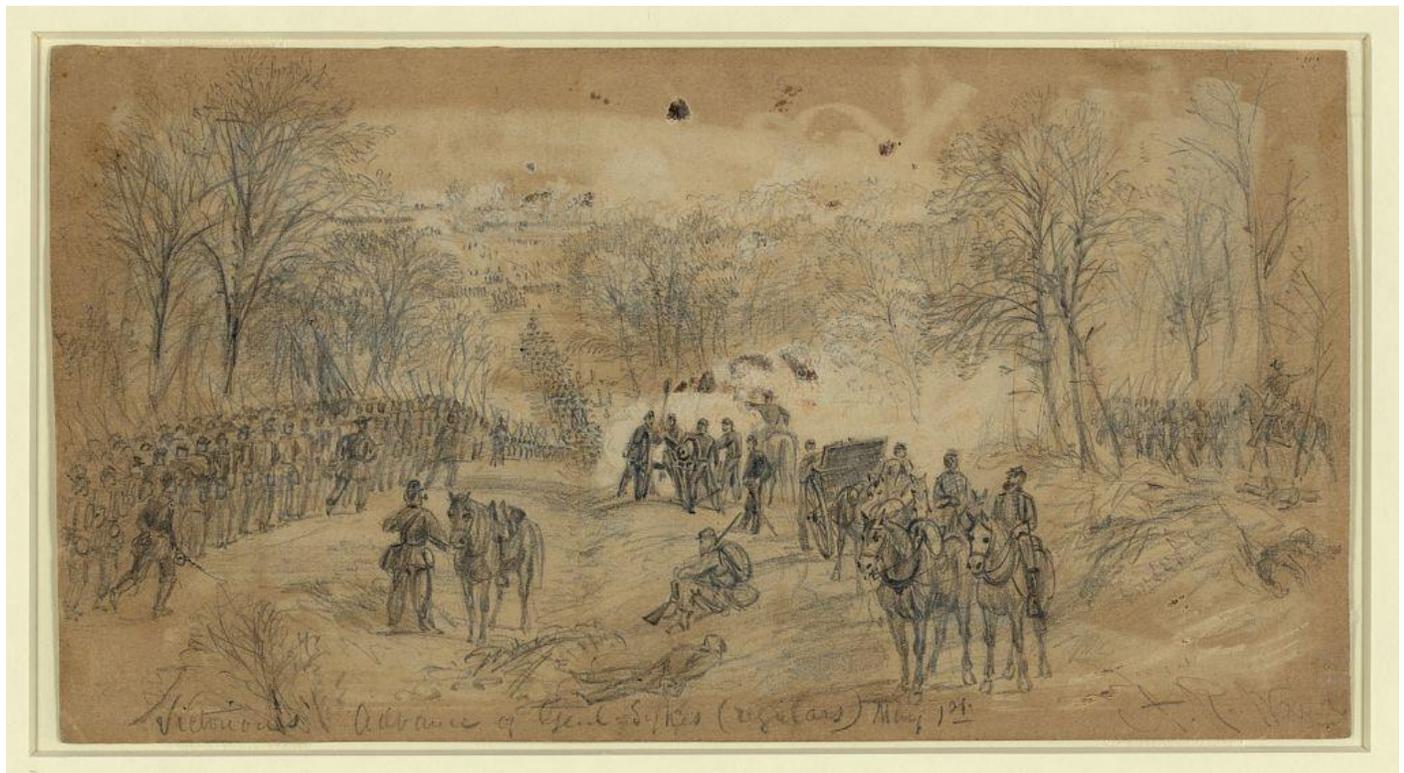


The 3rd U.S. Infantry During the Civil War



Ryan Quint.

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Introduction

It is my goal that this manual will be a quick-reference guide to names, dates, and locations having to do with the 3rd U.S. Regulars. This manual is by no means inclusive, and I welcome others' suggestions.

This manual will include battle maps, and photographs of key participants to do with the Regulars. At the end there will be a series of appendices that contain casualties and reports filed by individuals later contained in the *Official Records of the War of Rebellion*. There is a works cited, which also doubles as a suggested reading for those who wish to know more.

I hope that this manual is helpful to any and all who wish to know more about the 3rd U.S.

Buffsticks!

-Ryan Quint

Fredericksburg, 2013

Before the War: A Brief History of the 3rd in the antebellum period

The 3rd U.S. Regulars is the oldest active regiment in the United States Army. Its lineage can be traced back to 1784, and served in the War of 1812, the Seminole War, and the Mexican War (where, after entering Mexico City, they were given the nickname “The Old Guard” by army commander Winfield Scott).

The Regular Army of the United States numbered only 16,402 when the Civil War started in 1861.¹ These soldiers were scattered throughout the country of some 30 million, mostly on the frontier and serving in coastal forts.

Of these regiments, the 3rd United States Regulars was no different. Like many of the units in the army, the 3rd was not concentrated as one cohesive unit. The headquarters of the regiment, along with Companies B, D, G, H and K, were located at Fort Clark, Texas. Companies A, C and E were at Ringgold Barracks, and Companies F and I were at Fort McIntosh.²

The War Starts

The Civil War started in Charleston Harbor on April 12th, 1861, with the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Three days later, on April 15th, President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion. This move led to the secession of more states, including Virginia, which now moved the hostile border to only the Potomac River.

¹ Clayton R. Newell, and Charles R. Shrader, *Of Duty Well and Faithfully Done: A History of the Regular Army in the Civil War* (University of Nebraska Press, 2011) 4.

² McRae, Lieutenant J. H. *The Third Regiment of Infantry*, : <http://www.history.army.mil/books/R&H/R&H-3IN.htm>. Page 443.

With war being declared, and the theater of operations the Potomac River, the 3rd needed to leave Texas. The state had seceded in February, and now the Regulars faced a harrowing journey back to friendly lines.

In groups, the regiment left their respective posts. Headquarters, and Companies B, D, G, H and K, marched from Fort Clark. Upon arriving on the outskirts of San Antonio, the battalion was alerted to remain outside to avoid upsetting pro-secessionist civilians. **Major Oliver Shepherd**, in command of the detachment, was not about to be scared by a rebellious crowd. He ordered the regiment's dress-uniforms taken out of storage, flags unfurled, and the battalion proudly marched down the streets of the city.³ From San Antonio the battalion made their way to Indianola, Texas, and from there to New York City, where they arrived on April 25th.⁴

Companies A, F, and I, were captured on April 26th, outside Indianola, and would not be released for a year. They would join their regiment in time to take part in the **Seven Days Battles** (which will be discussed later).⁵

Companies C and E, had made their way to New York City a month before the rest of the regiment, and from there sent to Florida to participate in actions around **Fort Pickens**. During these preliminary actions, the companies suffered 2 killed in action and 7 wounded.⁶

³ Welker, Dave, "Did the Civil War Regulars Wear Shoulder Scales in the Field?"
http://buffsticks.us/pdf/Shoulder_Scales_in_the_Field.pdf (2011) 4.

⁴ McRae, *The Third Regiment of Infantry*, 443.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

Map 1. Eastern Theater of the Civil War.



First Bull Run (Manassas)

With three of the regiment's companies in captivity, and two engaged in Florida, the other five, the same who had so proudly marched through San Antonio, arrived atop Arlington Heights, on July 4th, 1861. These companies were regimented with other Regulars: 2 companies

from the 2nd U.S., and 1 company from the 8th.⁷ They were commanded by **Major George Sykes** (Shepherd having been sent to the Western Theater where he would command the Regulars through those battles).

At certain parts of this manual, character biographies will be given for those that play especially important roles in the history of the 3rd U.S. Sykes is one of those men. He was born in 1822, and graduated from West Point class of 1842, earning a Second Lieutenancy within the 3rd's ranks. With his new commission, Sykes served in Mexico, and was brevetted for action at the battle of Cerro Gordo. He was given his Major's promotion after the Civil War began.⁸

The battalion, now a part of the conglomeration of Regulars, was in **Colonel Andrew Porter's** brigade, **David Hunter's** division, in the Federal army commanded by **Irvin McDowell**.



Figure 1. *George Sykes*

⁷ Report of George Sykes, First Manassas, *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (hereafter cited as *O.R*) Series 1, Vol. 2, pg. 390. From hereafter, all reports are Series 1, unless specified.

⁸ George Sykes entry, http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Army/USMA/Cullums_Register/1149*.html

Map 2. *The Bull Run Campaign*

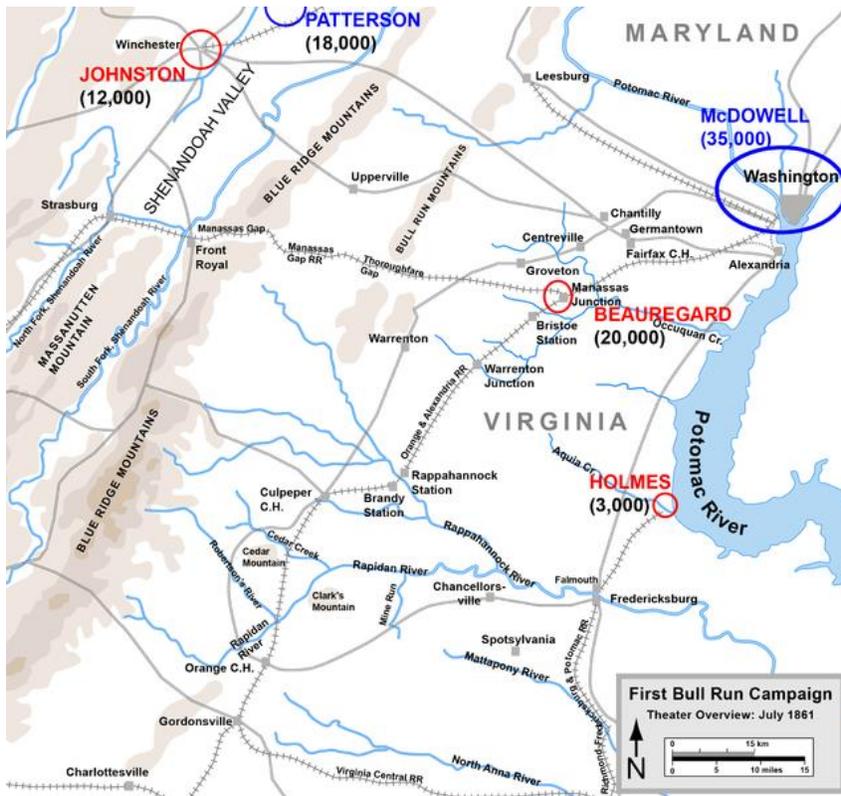


Figure 2. *Andrew Porter*



Andrew Porter's brigade also included a single battalion of U.S. Marines, the 14th Brooklyn, and the 8th and 27th New York. Together the brigade numbered 3,700 men.⁹ Porter was 41 years old and had also served in the Mexican War

Sykes' Regulars remained at Arlington Heights for slightly less than two weeks. On July 16th the Federal army set out from the environs of Washington.¹⁰ Their target was the Confederate capital at Richmond, where the Southern congress was set to meet for the first time on July 22nd.

The Federal Army commander, Irvin McDowell, had approximately 35,000 men under his command assorted through five separate divisions. Those divisions were set to meet at Centreville, just a couple miles north-east of the railroad junction at Manassas. Opposing them

⁹ Porter's Report, *O.R.*, Vol, 2, pt 1, 383.

¹⁰ Davis, William C, *Battle at Bull Run: A History of the First Major Campaign of the Civil War* (LSU, 1981) 91.

were 20,000 rebels under P.G.T Beauregard, soon to be joined by 12,000 other rebels from the Shenandoah Valley led by Joseph Johnston.

There were preliminary skirmishes on July 18th around some of the fords on Bull Run Creek; the 3rd was not involved. On the 19th McDowell scouted the various other approaches around the creek, and used the 20th to prepare his commands. His men would move out in the early-morning hours of July 21st, a Sunday.

McDowell's plan of action was to keep one of his divisions in front of the rebels at a stone bridge crossing the Warrenton Turnpike to occupy the Confederates' attention. He would leave two other divisions in reserve, while his final two, including David Hunter's went on a flank march and came down on the rebel left.

The flank march of the two divisions began early in the morning, at approximately 4:30, and it took the column nearly four and a half hours to reach their destination of Sudley Ford. This delay would have critical impacts on the battle, as rebel signal towers noticed the movement and Confederate reinforcements rushed to the point of impact.¹¹

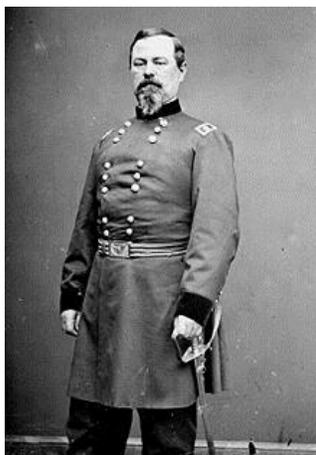
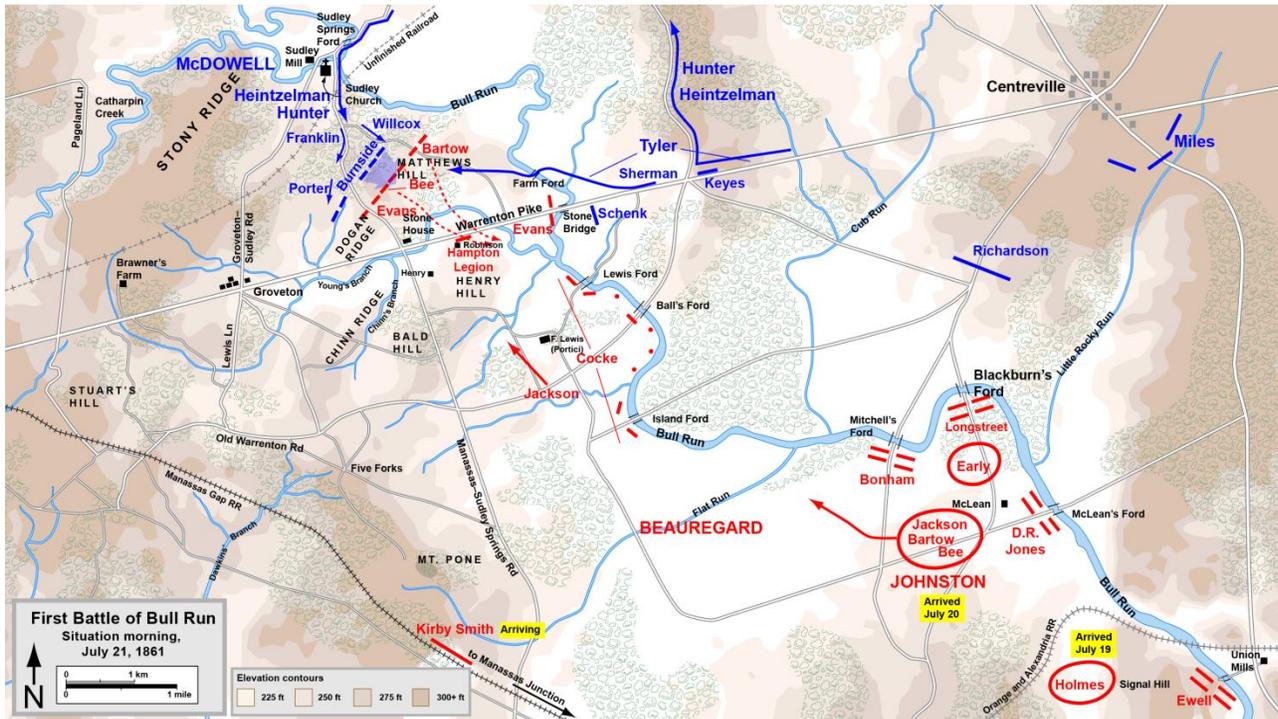


Figure 3. *Irvin McDowell*

¹¹ Porter's Report, *O.R.*, Vol, 2, pt 1, 383.

Map 3. *The Early Morning Stages of the Battle of Bull Run.*



The first serious actions of the **Battle of Bull Run** occurred around 9:30-9:45 as David Hunter's division, leading the column, crashed into a token force of around 900 rebels.¹² Hunter would not last long in the battle; a rebel bullet found the commander's cheek and sent him to the rear with the grisly wound (on his birthday nonetheless). He would survive, and later head the commission that sentenced the Lincoln Assassination conspirators to death. But for the time being, command devolved upon Colonel Ambrose Burnside, who commanded the other of Hunter's brigades.¹³

Burnside's Rhode Islanders were not doing so well; they battered against the rebel line, now being strengthened by new-coming Confederates. The Colonel turned and looked for any

¹² Gottfried, Bradley M. *The Maps of First Bull Run* (Savas Beatie, 2009) 24.

¹³ Hennessy, John. *The First Battle of Manassas: An End to Innocence July 18th-21, 1861* (H.E. Howard, 1989) 53.

help he could find. Noticing Porter’s brigade coming up behind him, Burnside called for support, “We must have the Regulars.”¹⁴

Sykes’ Regulars deployed to the left flank of Burnside’s brigade and began to fire into the Confederates across from them. In those first moments of battle, many of the Regulars were firing wildly, with one stating, “Our men fired badly. They were excited, and some of the recruits fired at the stars.” However, across the lines, one Georgian countered the claim by saying, “The blow was staggering and much confusion ensued.”¹⁵



Map 4. *The Regulars deploy at Bull Run.* (From Bradley

Gottfried’s *The Maps of First Bull Run*, page 33. The Regulars can be seen marked as “Sykes.”)

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 58.

¹⁵ Gottfried, *The Maps of First Bull Run*, 32.

The battle so continued, with the rebels falling back from their original position and reforming atop Henry House Hill, where more and more reinforcements were being brought up. Rejoicing too soon over his early-morning victory, McDowell allowed his foe too much time to regroup. When his assaults began on the new Confederate line, they were pushed back with heavy losses.

By 4:15 PM, McDowell's army battered against Henry House Hill countless times. The Regulars were moved up to support the last assault of the day. They had spent the early afternoon assisting a Rhode Island battery, with many of the Regulars stepping in to take the place of downed gunners.¹⁶

The last attack up Henry House Hill was defeated, and the Federal army broke. An army of green troops who had given their all throughout the day, and which was now tired, hungry, and had enough of war. They retreated in small groups first, and then, as the Confederates began their counter-attack, whole units began to run wildly towards Centreville, and ultimately, Washington.

But the Regulars did not run. By 4:30 PM, as one historian writes, "Sykes' command was the only organized body of Federal troops remaining south of the Warrenton Turnpike."¹⁷ When rebel cavalry under the command of J.E.B Stuart attempted to follow the Federal army, they ran against Sykes' men, formed in square, and blocking the Sudley Ford Road.¹⁸ In his report, Colonel Porter wrote, "Major Sykes and the officers of his command... who by their discipline,

¹⁶ Sykes' Report, *O.R.*, 390.

¹⁷ Gottfried, *The Maps of First Bull Run*, 68.

¹⁸ Hennessy, *The First Battle of Manassas*, 118.

steadiness, and heroic fortitude, gave *éclat* [French for dazzling display or success] to our attacks upon the enemy, and averted the dangers of a final overthrow.”¹⁹

While many Federal units routed entirely back to Washington, the Regulars, according to Sykes, “Without rest, many without food, foot-sore, and greatly exhausted, they yet bore the retreat cheerfully, and set an example of constancy and discipline worthy of older and more experienced soldiers.”²⁰

In their first major test of combat in the war, the Regulars had suffered 13 killed, 17 wounded, and 42 missing, for a total of 72.²¹

The Peninsula and Seven Days Battles

Following the defeat at Bull Run, the Union army reorganized during the summer, fall, and winter months of 1861-1862. Irvin McDowell was replaced at the helm of the army by **George Brinton McClellan.**

McClellan had graduated 2nd in his West Point Class of 1846, just in time for the war with Mexico.²² There he served as an engineer during Winfield Scott’s campaign. After the war McClellan was part of a special commission of American officers sent to witness and report back about the Crimean War. By this point McClellan already knew Latin, French, and German. When he came back from the Crimean Peninsula with Russian military manuals, he taught

¹⁹ Porter’s Report, *O.R.*, 386.

²⁰ Sykes’s Report, *O.R.*, 391.

²¹ *Ibid*, 390.

²² George B. McClellan entry,

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Army/USMA/Cullums_Register/1273*.html

himself the language and translated the books into English.²³ With the debacle at Bull Run and the disorganization of the army, McClellan was exactly the man that President Lincoln needed to reform the Federal forces.

Under McClellan the Federal army was reorganized, and it was under the general, whom his soldiers called “Little Mac,” that the army was given the name **The Army of the Potomac**. It would retain this name until the end of the war.²⁴

Until the spring of 1862, the Regulars, including the contingent from the 3rd, were serving as the provosts for Washington D.C., still under the command of Colonel Andrew Porter. During this time, the 3rd helped put down a mutiny by the 79th New York Volunteer Infantry.²⁵

With the coming spring, McClellan planned his new offensive. His idea was to transport his army to the tip of the Virginian Peninsula, at Fort Monroe, and from there march to the

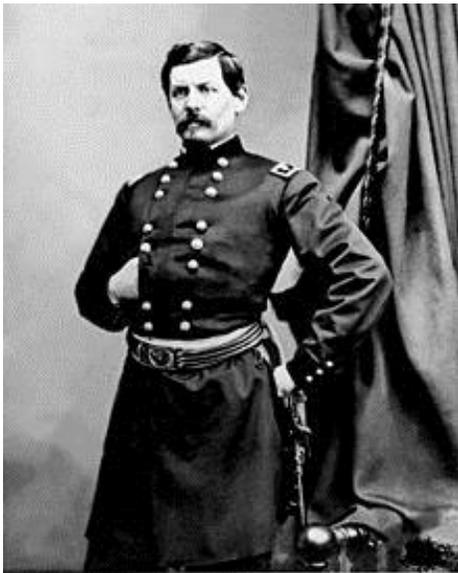


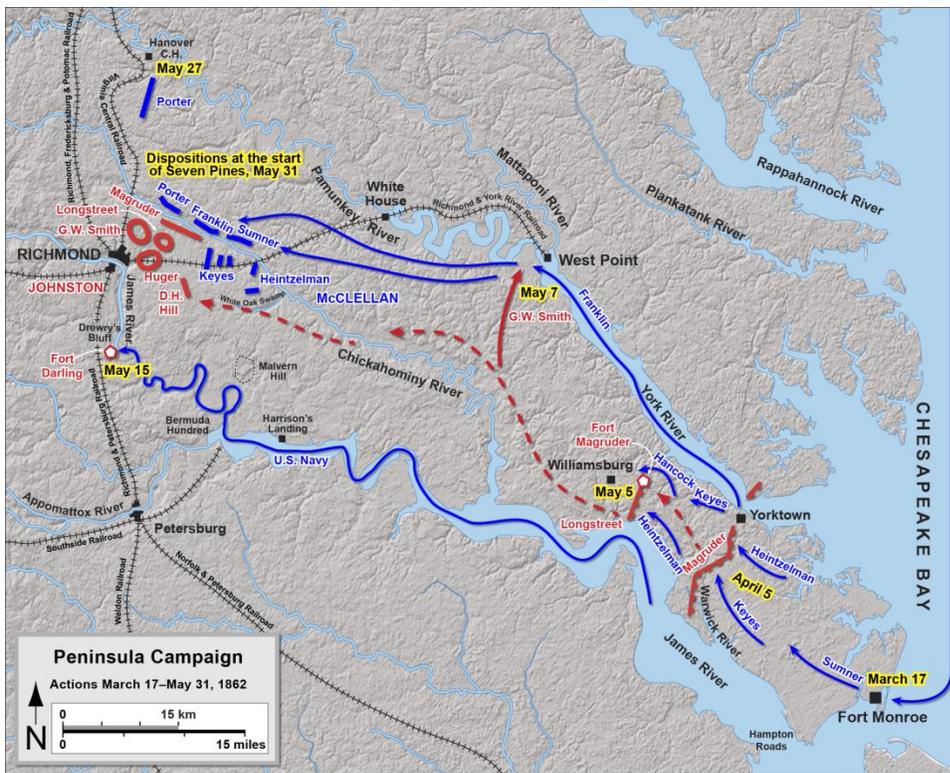
Figure 4. *George B. McClellan*

²³ Sears, Stephen W. *George B. McClellan: The Young Napoleon* (Da Capo Press, 1999) 47.

²⁴ Sears, Stephen W. *To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign* (Mariner Books, 2001) 3.

²⁵ 3rd Regulars Entry: <http://civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unrginf1.htm#3rdinf>

underbelly of Richmond. He would have three corps to do so with, the Second, Third, and Fourth. The First Corps remained at Washington to defend the capital. The Regulars were in none of the corps, but instead formed the army's infantry reserve; all commanded by George Sykes, now a Brigadier General. Besides the 3rd, Sykes had the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, and 17th United States Infantries, along with the 5th New York, a volunteer regiment.²⁶



Map 5. *The Peninsula Campaign*

²⁶ Sears, *To the Gates of Richmond*, 363.

The Army of the Potomac began to move starting on March 17th, and by April 1st, McClellan had arrived to supervise his men. He had nearly 120,000 soldiers at his disposal, completely dwarfing McDowell's 35,000 at Bull Run.²⁷

From Fort Monroe the army trudged to Yorktown, the same location where Americans had defeated Cornwallis in 1781. For a month, the army was stalled in front of the rebel lines, while McClellan, an engineer, tried to avoid a direct confrontation.²⁸ As part of the infantry reserve, the 3rd did not participate in any of the light skirmishes during this month. However, they did help siege operations by constructing roads and digging artillery emplacements.

After Yorktown, the Army of the Potomac moved further up the Peninsula, fighting a small engagement at the colonial capital of Virginia, Williamsburg, on May 5th. Again, the 3rd did not take part in this action.

From Williamsburg the army pressed on, until McClellan's force was astride the Chickahominy River, and on May 18th, McClellan re-organized his forces. He had never been comfortable with the original corps; they were Lincoln's suggestions, and McClellan, a staunch Democrat, wanted nothing to do with Lincoln's strategies. So he shuffled troops around, taking men away from officers he deemed unworthy and giving them to others. The officer who most benefited was McClellan's best friend in the army, **Fitz John Porter**, who was given command

²⁷ Quarstein John V. "The Peninsula Campaign: From Hampton Roads to Seven Pines."

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/yorktown/yorktown-history-articles/peninsulaquarstein.html>

²⁸ Hess, Earl J. *Field Armies and Fortifications in the Civil War: The Eastern Campaigns 1861-1864* (UNC, 2005) 90.

of the newly created Fifth Corps. Porter's new corps had three divisions, the second of which were the Regulars, with George Sykes commanding.²⁹

The Regulars were now split up into two brigades, with **Lieutenant Colonel Robert "Old Buck" Buchanan** getting command of the first brigade. Buchanan was a graduate of West Point, class of 1830, and was a nephew by marriage to John Quincy Adams. He had fought in the Black Hawk War and the Mexican War. His brigade included the 3rd, 4th, 12th, and 14th U.S. Regulars.³⁰

The 3rd itself was under the command of **Major Nathan Rossell**, 44 years old, and while not a West Point graduate, still had experience in the Mexican War.³¹

The Regulars remained by the Chickahominy through the remaining days of May, and on May 31st, heard the shots of the **Battle of Seven Pines**. Ordered up to assist the following day, the 3rd was unable to deploy into battle as the heavy rain season has completely washed away the roads.



Figure 5. *Robert Buchanan.*



Figure 6. *Tomb of Nathan Rossell*

²⁹ Sears, *To the Gates of Richmond*, 107.

³⁰ *O.R.*, Vol. 11, pt 2, 31.

³¹ Nathan Rossell's tombstone inscription, <http://newjerseycivilwargravestones.org/view.php?id=7139>

While waiting under arms, the 3rd watched Thaddeus Lowe ascend in one of his hot air balloons, a peculiarity to the men, to say the least.³²

After the Battle of Seven Pines, McClellan continued to hesitate in front of Richmond, oblivious to Lincoln's prodding and demand of action. Before the Army of the Potomac could move, **General Robert E. Lee**, new in command of the **Army of Northern Virginia** (the Federals' opponents throughout the war) struck.

Lee's thrust against McClellan resulted in the **Seven Days Battles** (June 25-July 1). On June 26th, the second day, heavy fighting at Beaver Dam Creek by elements of the Fifth Corps not including the Regulars convinced McClellan to retreat from Richmond. His first move was to concentrate the rest of the Fifth Corps, under **Fitz John Porter**, atop a plateau called **Gaines' Mill**.

The **Battle of Gaines' Mill** was fought on June 27th, and was the bloodiest of all the battles during the week, with a combined total of approximately 15,500 casualties.³³

It was at Gaines' Mill that the Regulars, not including those who had served at Bull Run or Fort Pickens, had their baptism under fire.³⁴ Buchanan's brigade, including the 3rd, was aligned in an echelon line from left to right: the 14th U.S., 12th, 3rd, and 4th. On each flank, and between the 3rd and 4th U.S., were batteries of artillery.³⁵

³² Kostka, Greg, and Darrell Cochran, "150 Years Ago in the Third Infantry: May, 1862." Page 7.

<http://buffsticks.us/pdf/186205.pdf>

³³ Burton, Brian K. *Extraordinary Circumstances: The Seven Days Battles* (Indiana University Press, 2001) 136-137.

³⁴ Kostka, Greg, and Darrell Cochran, "150 Years Ago in the Third Infantry: June, 1862." Page 5.

<http://buffsticks.us/pdf/186206.pdf>

³⁵ Buchanan's Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 11, pt. 2, 358.

The artillery on Buchanan's right opened fire around 1 P.M., as the first rebels came into view. Confederate counter-battery fire forced the Regulars to find cover behind the snaking rail fences and lips of ground. To the 3rd's front was about 400 yards of open ground, intersected only with sparse fence rails and dips in the ground.³⁶

As the clock neared 2 P.M. the first rebel thrusts at the Fifth Corps began, splashing down into the ravines in front of the heights around Gaines' Mill. The ravine was a thick swamp, called **Boatswain's**, and the volunteers in the First Division opened fire as the Confederates came up. On the Federal right, the 12th and 14th Regulars went into action, but the 3rd remained still until about 4 P.M.

At 4 P.M., a half-hour into the rebels' second attempt at breaking the Federal lines, the 3rd was ordered forward to support the left of Buchanan's brigade. The advance was made under fire, and Regulars began to drop from the ranks. With **Major Rossell** at the head, the companies deployed and open fire.³⁷ To their left, the 12th and 14th Regulars, fairly new and inexperienced, were taking heavy casualties. Moving to the aid of their comrades, the 3rd split into battalions, with four companies charging forward to assist while the remaining companies stayed in firing lines. Moving back under the guide of the "Old Guard" the 12th and 14th managed to extract themselves, but only after suffering a combined total of 452 casualties.³⁸

During the intense firefight, Major Rossell was mortally wounded, dying later that night. Taking over field command was **Captain Thomas W. Walker**, West Point Class of 1856,

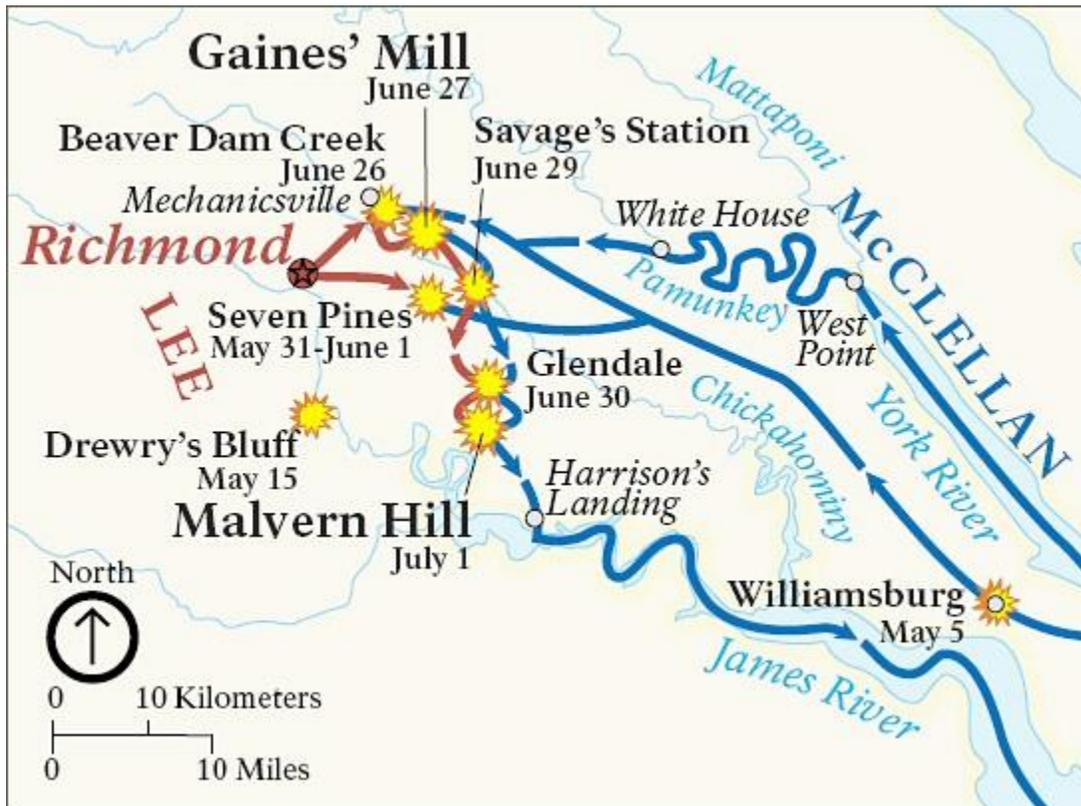
³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ Captain Thomas W. Walker's Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 11, pt. 2, 361.

³⁸ Major Ronan, James B. "Battle of Gaines' Mill: U.S. Army Regulars to the Rescue."

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/gainesmill/gaines-mill-history/battle-of-gaines-mill-us.html>

Map 6. *The Seven Days Battles*



whose first order was to recall the regiment from its perilous position. Moving back with the rest of Sykes' division, the Regulars did not participate in the action when the rebels broke-through the Federal line on the left flank. The Regulars formed a line of battle 600 yards away from their original position, and remained on the field until 9:30 PM, when they were relieved by reinforcements from the Second Corps.³⁹

Each day the two armies grappled at each other's throats, and the Army of the Potomac continued to retreat to the James River, their objective **Harrison's Landing**. On June 30th, while most of the army gathered around a small hamlet called Glendale, Sykes' Regulars continued marching until they arrived atop a long, open plateau named **Malvern Hill**.

³⁹ Sykes's Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 11, pt. 2, 350.

Filing into position, the Regulars were aligned along Malvern Hill, where, around 4 P.M., a small Confederate contingent made the terrible mistake of making themselves visible within approximately 800 yards of Sykes' men. The rebels had five artillery pieces with them, and they opened fire on both the Regulars and the Federal artillery posted along Malvern Hill's cliff. Those five guns were soon answered by no less than 44 Union guns. If the firepower discrepancy was not enough for the Confederates, two Union gunboats directly behind Malvern Hill in the James River soon added their pieces to the action; each shot from the boats hurled a 200-pound shell over the plateau and into the rebel lines.⁴⁰ The only casualties in the 3rd came in a friendly-fire experience; a New York battery posted behind them sprayed canister into their ranks, killing one lieutenant and two others.⁴¹ This small engagement, largely overshadowed by the Battle of Glendale that same day, is known as **The Battle of Turkey Bridge**.

The following day, July 1st, the final battle of the campaign was fought: **The Battle of Malvern Hill**. Confederate assaults moved up the long plateau, gunned down by scores of artillery pieces and thousands of riflemen. Around 3:30 P.M., Buchanan's brigade moved forward and the 3rd opened fire on some unsuspecting rebels. As the sun set, the brigade remained in position until the following morning, when they fell back with the rest of the army to Harrison's Landing.⁴²

So ended the **Seven Days**, with McClellan's army coming close to Richmond, and then being pushed back to the James River. They would remain at Harrison's Landing for about a month until the next campaign.

⁴⁰ Burton, *Extraordinary Circumstances*. 269.

⁴¹ Thomas W. Walker's Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 11, pt. 2, 362.

⁴² Buchanan's Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 11, pt. 2, 360.

From June 25th to July 1st the “Old Guard” had 11 killed, 30 wounded, and 22 missing for a total of 63.⁴³

Second Bull Run

The Army of the Potomac remained at Harrison’s Landing well into August. In the meantime, President Lincoln had turned to another commander in attempts of beating the rebels under Robert E. Lee.

This new man was **Major General John Pope**, West Point class of 1842, with experience in Mexico. He had gained fame with his capture of Island Number 10 in April, 1862, in the Western Theater of the war. Pope was arrogant, and looked down on the soldiers of the Eastern Theater; not something that endeared him to his new command.⁴⁴

It is a common misconception that Pope replaced McClellan as the commander of the Army of the Potomac; this is not true. Pope’s command was named the **Army of Virginia** (not to be confused with the **Army of Northern Virginia**, under Lee). It may be the case that some people mistake the two because under Pope’s command, including his own three corps, were two corps on loan from the Army of the Potomac; the Third and the Fifth Corps.⁴⁵

With the Fifth Corps, of course, was the division of Regulars under George Sykes, and the 3rd U.S. The entire corps left their positions at Harrison’s Landing on August 14th and began the process of heading towards northern Virginia.⁴⁶

⁴³ *O.R.*, Vol. 11, pt. 2, 31.

⁴⁴ Hennessy, John. *Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1993) 3.

⁴⁵ *Ibid*, 557-559.

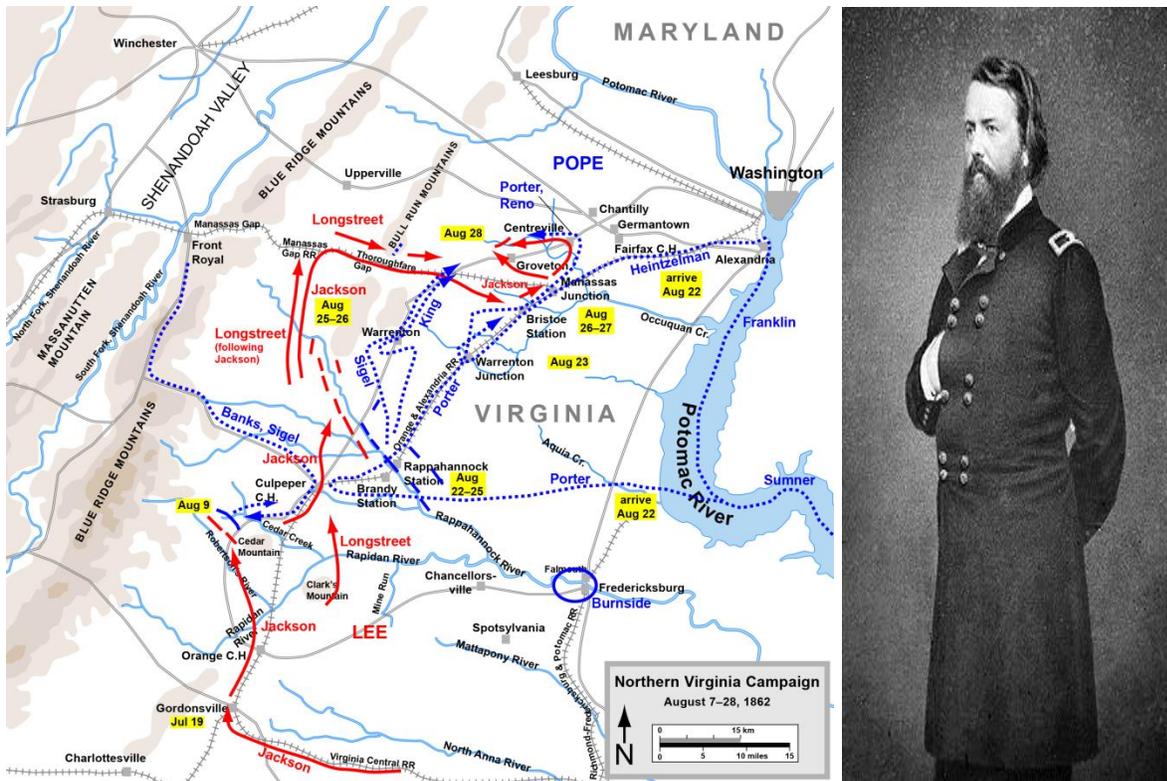
⁴⁶ *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 2, 465.

Pope's plan for the new campaign was to take his army and strike from Washington D.C. towards Richmond, much like had been McDowell's plan the summer before. Whilst Pope moved, the plan called for McClellan to strike from Harrison's Landing. The end result would be the Confederates, being pressed from both directions at once, would be unable to counter the thrusts simultaneously and Richmond would be captured.

But George McClellan was a vain man. The Army of the Potomac was *his* army, and he was not very keen to have someone else commanding it. So instead of moving from Harrison's Landing, he demanded reinforcements. The politicians in Washington became impatient and Pope changed his plans; instead of moving up from Harrison's Landing, McClellan would shift his forces to Alexandria and move south. McClellan moved slowly. On August 20th, as battle neared, McClellan found himself only at Fort Monroe, where he wrote his wife saying, "I believe

Map 7. *The Second Bull Run Campaign*

Figure 7. Major General John Pope



I have triumphed! Just received a telegram from Halleck stating that Pope...[is] very hard pressed- urging me to push forward reinforcements, & to come myself as soon as I possibly can!”⁴⁷

While McClellan stalled, wanting to play the role of hero, the 3rd U.S. marched with the Fifth Corps towards their next battle. They were now commanded by **Captain John D. Wilkins**, West Point Class of 1846, Mexican War veteran, and 36 years old.⁴⁸

On August 28th, the 3rd passed through Bristoe Station, where mangled locomotives remained from when **Stonewall Jackson’s** troops had marched through and caused destruction only a couple of days prior. While at Bristoe Station, the 3rd could hear in the distance the first shots of the **Battle of Second Bull Run**.⁴⁹

The battle carried into August 29th, with Pope throwing his men at the rebels who were behind a railroad embankment, using it as a semi-trench. Porter’s corps had been ordered to the front to support the attacks, but Pope’s orders were extremely ambiguous, which resulted in the corps hesitating and not arriving on the field until the late afternoon; too late to go into any significant fighting. However, as it arrived on the field, Sykes’ division deployed skirmishers and there was slight firing and cannonading until night fell.⁵⁰

The next day plans were made for Porter’s corps to strike at the rebels’ left. There were roughly 10,000 men in the entire corps, with 3,200 in Sykes’ command.⁵¹ As he deployed for his assault, scheduled for 3 P.M., Porter ordered 3 regiments out as skirmishers. On his left,

⁴⁷ Bonekemper, Edward III, “General Disobedience: ‘Little Mac’ let John Pope twist in the wind.” Civil War Times. <http://www.historynet.com/george-mcclellan>

⁴⁸ John D. Wilkins’ entry. http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Army/USMA/Cullums_Register/1317*.html

⁴⁹ Kostka, Greg, and Darrell Cochran, “150 Years Ago in the Third Infantry: August, 1862.” Page 3.

<http://buffsticks.us/pdf/186208.pdf>

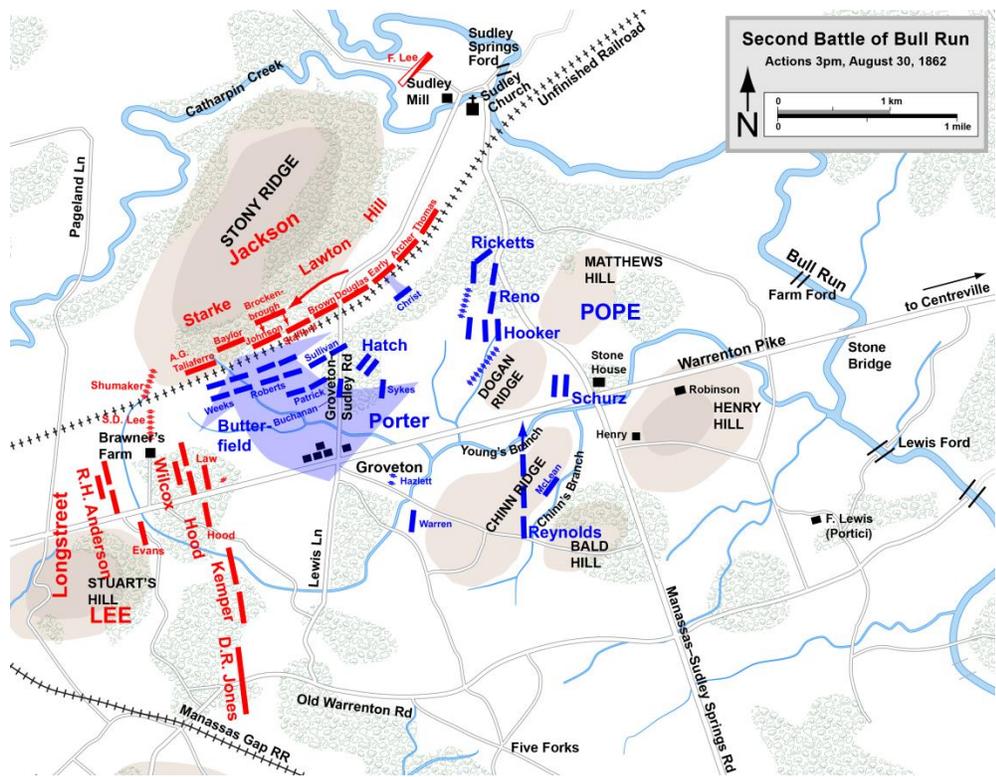
⁵⁰ Syke’s Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 2, 481.

⁵¹ *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 3, 781.

near the Groveton House and woods, the 3rd fanned out into their formations.⁵² From their present position, the Regulars were about one mile from where they had first gone into action the previous summer.

The 3rd began to fire at the rebel skirmishers to their front, and upon driving them back from some small outhouses the “Old Guard” occupied the buildings. From there they began to snipe at rebel gun crews as the first of Porter’s assaults got underway.⁵³

As Porter’s assaults failed, taken by enfilading fire by rebels to their left and direct fire from their front, **Buchanan’s** brigade was ordered to the front to support the assaults. The 3rd, still in skirmishing formation, led the way into the thick woods to their front. As they advanced, the 3rd and the 4th U.S. regiments became engaged with rebels to their front, at a distance that



Map 8. *Second Bull Run- August 30th.*

⁵² Hennessy, *Return to Bull Run*, 318.

⁵³ Sykes’ Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 2, 482.

Buchanan later judged to be, “within 30 yards.”⁵⁴ The 4th began to fire by battalion; unleashing three volleys into a rebel force that was attempting to turn the Regulars’ flank. Under the volley fire, the rebels quickly broke to the rear.

The Regulars held on as Porter’s corps fell back, their assaults a failure. **Captain Wilkins** led the 3rd out of the woods and reformed them atop Henry House Hill, the same ground regiments had struggled so hard to capture at First Bull Run.⁵⁵

Atop Henry House Hill, the 3rd had little time to rest. Off to their left, the Federal flanks were crumbling as a massive attack by **James Longstreet’s** rebels was cresting about the hills. Buchanan doubled his tired Regulars to the point of impact, where they, as one historian puts it, “unleashed their fire into [the rebels].”⁵⁶

Night fell as the 3rd maintained their line on Henry House Hill, amidst the wreckage and gore of a second battle fought around the small house, which had been reduced to its foundation by the war. The regiment stayed in place until the early morning of August 31st, when they fell back to Centreville, arriving at 1 A.M.⁵⁷

That day, John Pope, defeated and dejected, began the retreat away from Bull Run. The battle had cost him close to 10,000 casualties, and once again, as the army filed back, the Regulars covered the withdrawal. Irvin McDowell, commanding a corps in Pope’s army, rode by the rearguard and called out, “God bless the Regulars!”⁵⁸

The 3rd’s skirmishing and attacks at Second Bull Run had cost them 5 killed, 17 wounded, and 25 missing, for a total of 47.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ Buchanan’s Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 2, 489.

⁵⁵ Wilkins’ Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 2, 490.

⁵⁶ Hennessy, *The Return to Bull Run*, 419.

⁵⁷ Wilkin’s Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 2, 490.

⁵⁸ McRae, 445.

⁵⁹ *O.R.*, Vol. 12, pt. 2, 260.

Antietam

Following Lee's victory at Second Bull Run, John Pope retreated back to the protection of the forts around Washington D.C. As he fell back to the capital, Pope did not even make it into the city before news reached him that he had been relieved of command. On September 2nd, George McClellan was given joint-command of both the Army of the Potomac and the remainder of Pope's forces. Upon hearing the news, the dejected forces from Second Bull Run heartily raised three cheers for their "Little Mac."⁶⁰

While McClellan re-organized his new command, the rebels were hardly sitting on their laurels. Robert E. Lee, fresh from his victories during the Seven Days and Second Bull, thought it was time to strike north. Virginia had been bearing the war for a year and a half, the European powers seemed on the verge of recognizing the Confederacy, and it was a mid-term election year. If Lee could invade the Union, he could give Virginia a badly needed rest, convince England and France to intervene, and cause problems in Lincoln's politics.⁶¹ And so, starting on September 4th, the first Confederate troops crossed the Potomac River into Maryland.⁶²

McClellan hesitated at first, and then slowly began to pursue his foes. Fitz John Porter's Fifth Corps went with the army as its reserve, and the 3rd U.S. was not involved in any of the fighting at **South Mountain** (Sept. 14th). Lee's army, bloodied from the fighting atop the mountain and split up with half his force at **Harpers' Ferry**, fell back towards **Sharpsburg**, along the banks of **Antietam Creek**.

The vanguard of the Army of the Potomac arrived on the heights across the Antietam on September 15th, and the Fifth Corps joined them there the next day.⁶³

⁶⁰ Hartwig, David Scott. *To Antietam Creek: The Maryland Campaign of September 1862* (John Hopkins, 2012) 47.

⁶¹ *Ibid*, 2.

⁶² Sears, Stephen W. *The Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam* (Mariner Books, 2003) 72.

⁶³ Fitz John Porter's Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 19, pt. 1, 341.

Map 9. *The Maryland Campaign*

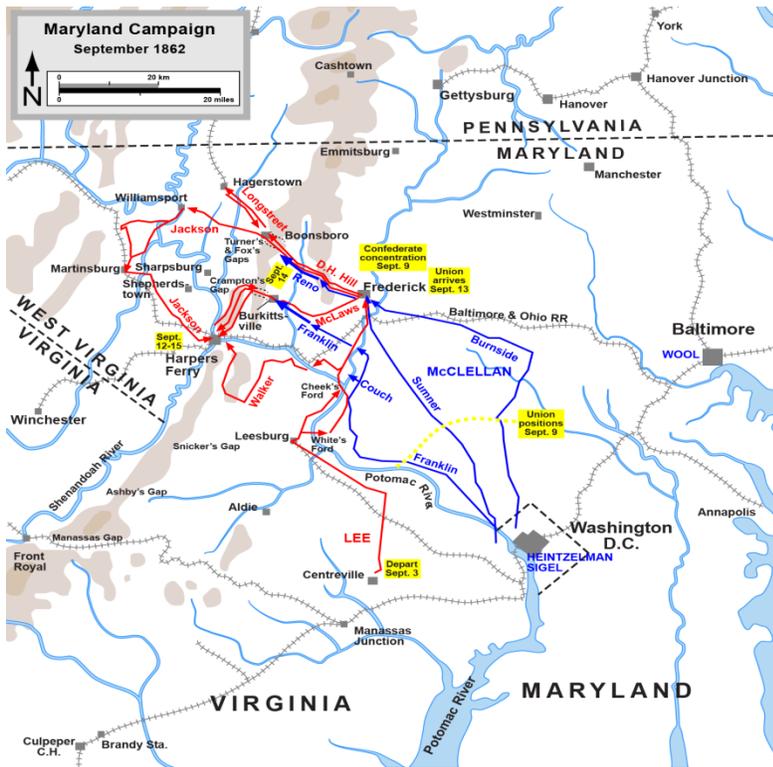
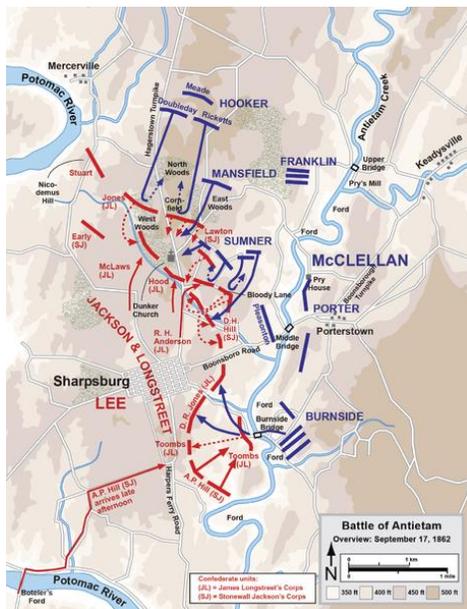


Figure 8. *Fitz John Porter*



Map 10. *The Battle of Antietam*



The **Battle of Antietam** began on September 17th

around 5:30 A.M. as the Federal First corps advanced down the Hagerstown Pike and into the

mouths of the Confederate guns there.⁶⁴ For hours the two sides surged back and forth until placed like the Cornfield and West Woods were gruesome, covered completely with bodies.

As the battle moved towards its middle stage, around a Sunken Road, the Regulars found themselves on the other side of the Antietam with the Fifth Corps' artillery reserve. The batteries were engaged throughout the day, firing at Confederate targets around the town of Sharpsburg.

The 3rd would see no combat on the 17th. They were posted with the artillery, and though they dodged some rebel counter-battery fire, none of the 3rd actually closed within range to return the shots.⁶⁵

The Regulars wanted to get into the fight; off to their right they could see the fighting at the Sunken Road, and to their front was the sparsely defended Sharpsburg. And some other units of Buchanan's brigade expressed their wishes; Captain Hiram Dryer of the 4th U.S. had started his own assault against a rebel position when Sykes called him back.⁶⁶ Dryer sent a message to Sykes, which ended up in front of George McClellan and Fitz John Porter; the message urged the army commander to deploy the Regulars. With little opposition, the Regulars could advance and take the town, cutting off Lee's retreat. For a moment, it appeared that McClellan would so, before Porter said, "Remember, General! I command the last reserve of the last Army of the Republic." McClellan, a cautious general, never ordered Sykes forward.⁶⁷

The Regulars' service at Antietam, besides for some slight skirmishing performed by officers like Dryer, was summed up by one historian who said, "The regulars' job was to protect

⁶⁴ Gottfried, Bradley M. *The Maps of Antietam* (Savas Beatie, 2012). 131.

⁶⁵ John Wilkins' Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 19, pt. 1, 356.

⁶⁶ Carman, Ezra A. *The Maryland Campaign: Volume II: Antietam*. Edited by Thomas G. Clemens (Savas Beatie, 2012) 384.

⁶⁷ Welker, Dave. "The Regulars at Antietam: Opportunity Denied," http://buffsticks.us/pdf/The_Regulars_at_Antietam.pdf (2012) 9.

the batteries...and until anything different was heard from army headquarters, that was where they would stay.”⁶⁸

Antietam was the bloodiest single day in American history, with a combined total of nearly 22,700 casualties in some 14 hours of combat.⁶⁹ But for the Regulars, it was a day marked with frustration and stagnation. The 3rd U.S. did not have a single casualty; Buchanan’s brigade in all had 39 casualties, only 4 of which were killed.⁷⁰

Following the stalemate at Antietam, Lee passed back over the Potomac River into Virginia. McClellan stayed at Sharpsburg for over a month before making a lazy effort at pursuit. Lincoln was frustrated beyond words; McClellan had fought his last battle.

Fredericksburg

George McClellan, who had commanded the Army of the Potomac since July 1861, was replaced on November 7th, 1862. It was snowing that night as an officer from the War Department first went to the tent of **General Ambrose Burnside** and told him the news that the Army of the Potomac was his. And then the two of them, Burnside and the officer, went to McClellan’s tent to relieve him of command.⁷¹

I think a slight deviance from the seriousness of war is deserved here. For there is a story of Burnside in Mexico, told by his roommate from West Point, Henry Heth. Before we get to the bleakness of the **Battle of Fredericksburg**, I think people would enjoy it:

After spending two or three days in the city of Mexico sight seeing, I [Heth] thought it behooved me to look up my dearest friend and classmate, Lieutenant Burnside, and see if he had gotten into any more scrapes...He was delighted to see me...I said, “Old Man,

⁶⁸ Sears, *Landscape Turned Red*, 280.

⁶⁹ *Ibid*, 296.

⁷⁰ *O.R.*, Vol. 19, pt. 2, 194.

⁷¹ O’Reilly, Francis. *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock* (LSU Press, 2003) 2.

have you gotten into any scrapes since you have been here?” He replied, ‘Heth, old fellow, I want to caution you about having anything to do with these Mexican girls; they are she-devils, the most jealous beings on earth; when angry they would not hesitate to knife you...’ “Have any of them attempted to knife you...?” “Yes,” he said, “Annita is her name; she is the prettiest thing in this valley; well I made love to Anita, went to see her several times and she came to see me...Yesterday I was coming to my quarters; I passed Annita’s house, looked in; she was not there; at least I did not see her. I crossed the street and called to see Bonita, with whom I had commenced a quiet flirtation. As I was about to leave, I kissed Bonita. Annita saw me go into Bonita’s room; she followed me, and it was my luck, she was looking in through the window when I kissed Bonita. She rushed into the room, and Heth, she made the fur fly; she pulled out enough hair from that girl’s head to have stuffed a pillow, and then drew out a stiletto...turned and made for me. I took to my heels, she after me; I outran her, but she was close behind me. I ran into this room; she got in before I could lock the door, so I bolted through the window and ran across the garden, she still after me. How I managed to get over that fence I can’t tell...”⁷²

How would Fredericksburg have been different had Annita reached her target?

It was Burnside’s brigade at First Bull Run that the Regulars had assisted, and now that Rhode Island Colonel was in command of the mighty Army of the Potomac, some 120,000 strong.⁷³

Burnside’s plan was to march south from Warrenton, Virginia, where the center of his army was located, and head to the old city of Fredericksburg. Sheltered behind the Rappahannock River, Fredericksburg also had the pivotal Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac

⁷² Heth, Henry. *The Memoirs of Henry Heth*, edited by James L. Morrison (Greenwood Press, 1974) 56-57.

⁷³ O’Reilly, *The Fredericksburg Campaign*, 37.

Railroad. If Burnside could take Fredericksburg, his line of march would follow the rail tracks, straight into the rebel capital.

The first Federal troops arrived on the heights opposite Fredericksburg on November 17th. Across from them, the Mayor of the town promised that Confederate troops would not occupy the town for military purposes.⁷⁴ Robert E. Lee would break that promise when he ordered his forces to fortify the streets and riverfront; it is because of Lee's decisions that Fredericksburg would pay so dearly later.

Virginian mud and miscommunication doomed Burnside's plans in front of Fredericksburg. With the Rappahannock to his front, Burnside would need to use **pontoon**

Map 11. *The Fredericksburg Campaign*

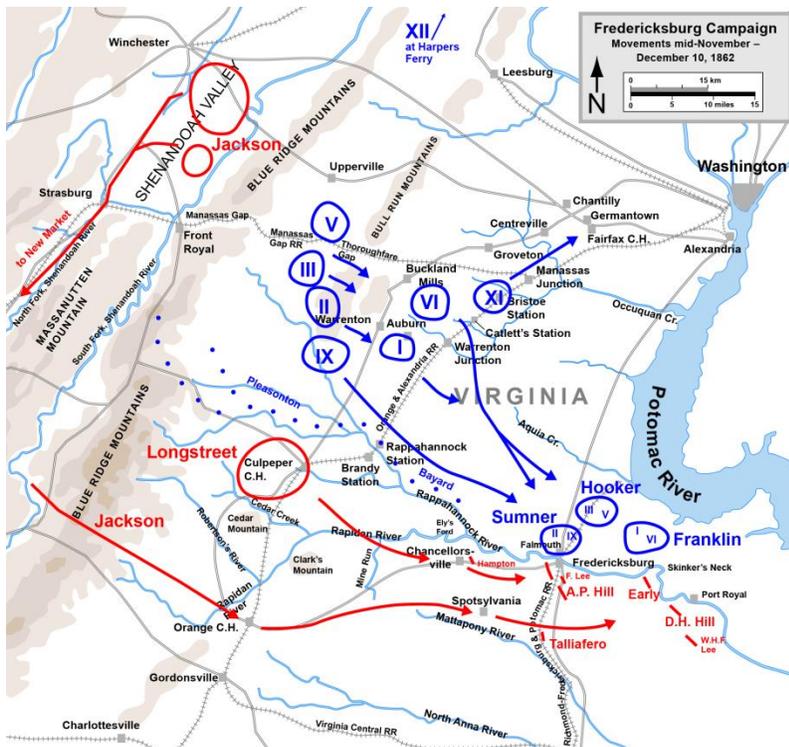
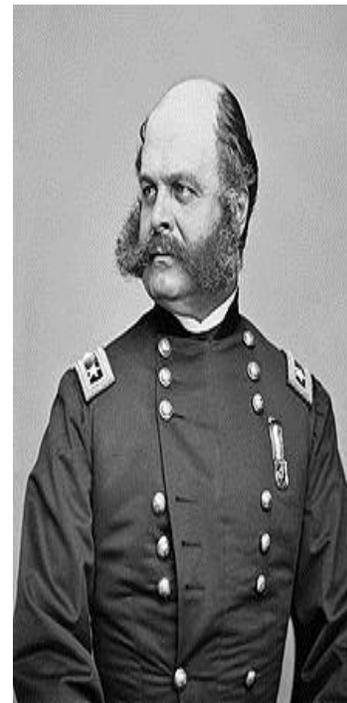


Figure 9. *Ambrose Burnside*



⁷⁴ Rable, George C. *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* (UNC Press, 2002) 83-84.

bridges to cross; the bridges were small boats tied together with planks laid down atop them to form a bridge.⁷⁵ But as Burnside waited impatiently across the river, the pontoons did not come.

Orders had been sent to the wrong location, and so couriers had to ride to the engineers' camps, and then the engineers had to pull up the bridges that the army had used to cross into Virginia after Antietam. From there, the engineers had to march to Fredericksburg through the rains of a Virginian winter that transformed the roads into muddy quagmires. The Army of the Potomac had arrived outside Fredericksburg on November 17th, and it would not be until December 11th that the bridges had arrived and were ready to be built. That delay had allowed the rebels plenty of time to fortify the city, contrary to the mayor's promises.

The bridges were built under fire on the 11th, and Federal infantry from the Second Corps had to cross the river and establish a beachhead of sorts under fire. Following that, the soldiers fought block by block, house by house until the city was secured after sunset on the 11th. During the 11th, when the fighting occurred, and the 12th, when the Union army sacked the city, the Regulars under Sykes remained around **Falmouth** on the other side of the river.

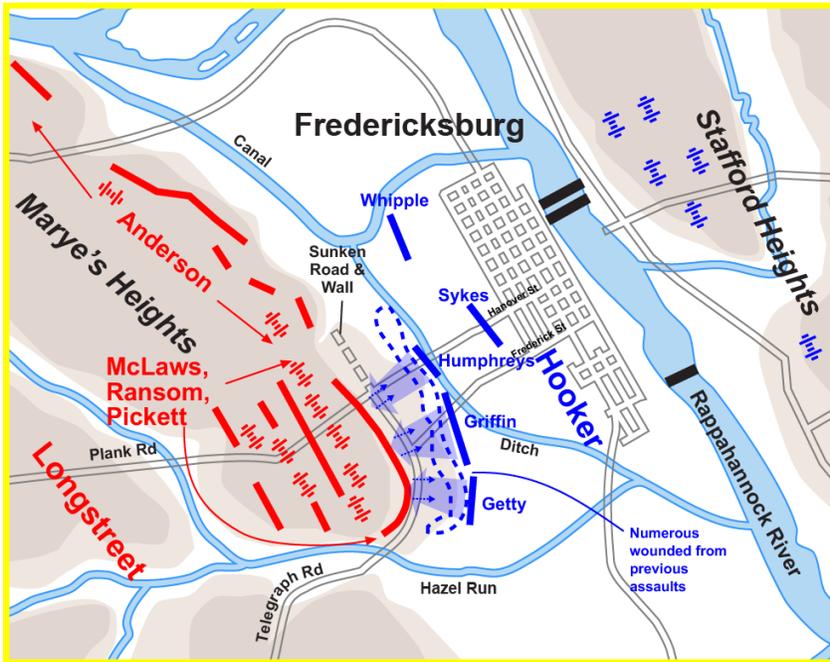
December 13th was a day of horrors for the Federal army. On the left flank attacks were turned back by Stonewall Jackson's men while on the right flank, outside the city, brigade after brigade assaulted the stone wall in front of **Marye's Heights**.

It wasn't until 2 P.M. that the Regulars were ordered forward. Sykes brought his division to the upper bridge crossing, where, as they crossed, Buchanan's brigade took some artillery fire. From there the division moved up the streets of the city, now largely blown down by cannons from both sides.⁷⁶

⁷⁵ O'Reilly, *The Fredericksburg Campaign*, 61.

⁷⁶ Sykes' Report, *O.R.* Vol. 21, 415.

Map 11. *The Battle of Fredericksburg- Marye's Heights*



The Regulars deployed towards the edge of the city, while taking fire from the rebel guns atop Marye's Heights. As Sykes figured out what to do with his division, Buchanan threw his men into a line of battle, with the 3rd and 4th U.S. taking shelter in the City Cemetery along William Street.⁷⁷

Darkness fell over the battlefield that was carpeted with the dead and wounded from the assaults on the Sunken Road. Staying in their position, the Regulars dodged the occasional sharpshooter's bullet until 11 P.M., when they were finally ordered forward.⁷⁸

As the Regulars deployed, they relieved some of the units that had attacked the wall earlier in the day. **Captain Wilkins**, still commanding the 3rd, established a picket line to his front; according to General Sykes, only 100 yards separated the two sides.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ Buchanan's Report *O.R.* Vol. 21, 415.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ Wilkins' Report, *O.R.* Vol. 21, 420. Sykes' Report, *O.R.* Vol. 21, 415.

As the morning of the 14th dawned, the Regulars were easily visible to the rebels behind the stone wall. With little cover, the 3rd and 4th U.S. broke into a brick tannery to the south of William Street and began to **loophole** it. Using their bayonets, they carved out small holes large enough for them to see and fire out of.⁸⁰ This fire soon silenced some rebels off to the 3rd's right flank and drove other rebels back from the tip of Marye's Heights. One historian has called the 3rd's efforts, "the greatest danger to the Confederates" that day.⁸¹ Granted, while the 3rd's fire did not drastically change the battle's outcome, it made the Regulars' position a little more tenable.

The Regulars maintained their positions in the tannery and around William Street as the other Federal units in front of the wall retreated under the cover of darkness. As the 15th dawned, the Regulars were brought back into the city proper, and rested near St. George's Church. They were surrounded by the carnage of the battle as every available house had been transformed into a hospital.⁸² That night it began to rain, and under the severe thunderstorm, Burnside retreated his army back to its camps around Falmouth. Covering the Army of the Potomac, once again, were the Regulars.

Back across the river, the army took count of their casualties. Burnside had lost nearly 13,000 men; 8,000 of them came in front of the stone wall in what one historian calls, "The *Slaughter of Fredericksburg*" rather than battle.⁸³

For their participation in the battle, the 3rd had 1 killed and 14 wounded, for a total of 15.⁸⁴ In his report, Buchanan was sure that had it not been for the Regulars' quick-thinking and the protection of the tannery, his casualties would have been much higher.⁸⁵

⁸⁰ Wilkins' Report, *O.R.* Vol. 21, 420.

⁸¹ Rable, *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!*, 273.

⁸² Wilkins' Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 21, 420.

⁸³ O'Reilly, *The Fredericksburg Campaign*, 499.

⁸⁴ *O.R.* Vol. 21, 136.

⁸⁵ Buchanan's Report, *O.R.* Vol. 21, 419.

Chancellorsville

Following the defeat at Fredericksburg, Burnside waited around Falmouth for about a month before attempting another move against Richmond. He would march most of his army around the rebels and try to come down on their rear, while leaving a corps at Falmouth to keep the Confederates in place.

It was now January, and no private soldier in the Army of the Potomac knew what Burnside was thinking; it was winter. Campaigns were not meant for the winter, when rain and snow turned roads into quagmires and keeping a supply of powder dry was nearly impossible. It simply was not the thing to do, but as one of the leading historians of the Army of the Potomac said, “Sensible men, however, had really little to do with it.”⁸⁶

Burnside’s second advance made it a day before the heavens opened up. It rained for 48 hours straight, and forever after, the advance would be known as the **Mud March**. The rain was so bad that one officer, riding a stretch of the road, counted 150 dead horses and mules; after getting stuck in the road, the mud had risen above their heads and the animals had suffocated.⁸⁷

The Regulars, taking part in the Mud March, must have been happy when Burnside called off the advance and returned to Falmouth on January 23rd. It was Burnside’s last chance, and on January 25th, only two days later, Lincoln replaced him with **Joseph Hooker**.

Hooker was one of the finest commanders in the army at that time; he had commanded troops on the Peninsula, when, because of a reporter’s typo, he got the nickname *Fighting Joe Hooker*. He was West Point Class of 1837, fought the Seminoles, Mexicans, and had resigned his commission in 1853. When the Civil War started, he rejoined and was given an officer’s

⁸⁶ Catton, Bruce, *Bruce Catton’s Civil War: Three Volumes in One* (Fairfax Press, 1984) 271.

⁸⁷ *Ibid*, 275.

commission. Hooker was extremely egotistical, and though he did not drink much, always had rosy cheeks, giving the impression of drunkenness.⁸⁸

Before he could do anything else, Hooker had to deal with the army's morale, which at the time was dangerously low. Fredericksburg and the Mud March had taken much of the army's resolve away, and desertions were rampant. Hooker created a system of furloughs to send men home to their families; he instituted better food and living policies; but largest of all, he created the **corps badges**.

While a small badge may not seem like much, it created an *esprit de corps*, or pride in one's own unit. Before, the soldiers' pride came from their regiments or brigades. Now units, like the Regulars, were banded together in an entire corps, and that corps' honor was at stake. The badges were introduced in March, 1863, and usually worn on the hat or breast.⁸⁹ (These badges became such a measure of a corps' identity that in 1864, when two corps were consolidated with others, the soldiers took their new badges with disgust and some sewed them onto the seats of their pants.)⁹⁰

Each corps had its own distinct shape with a color-coded scheme: the first division was red, the second division white and the third division blue. The Army of the Potomac's First corps badge was a disc, the Second a trefoil, the Third a diamond, the Fifth a Maltese Cross, the Sixth a Greek Cross, the Eleventh a crescent and the Twelfth a star.⁹¹ Thus, as part of the Fifth Corps' Second Division, the Regulars had white Maltese crosses.

⁸⁸ Sears, Stephen W. *Chancellorsville* (Mariner Books, 1996) 55.

⁸⁹ Wiley, Bell I. *The Life of Billy Yank* (Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1951) 319.

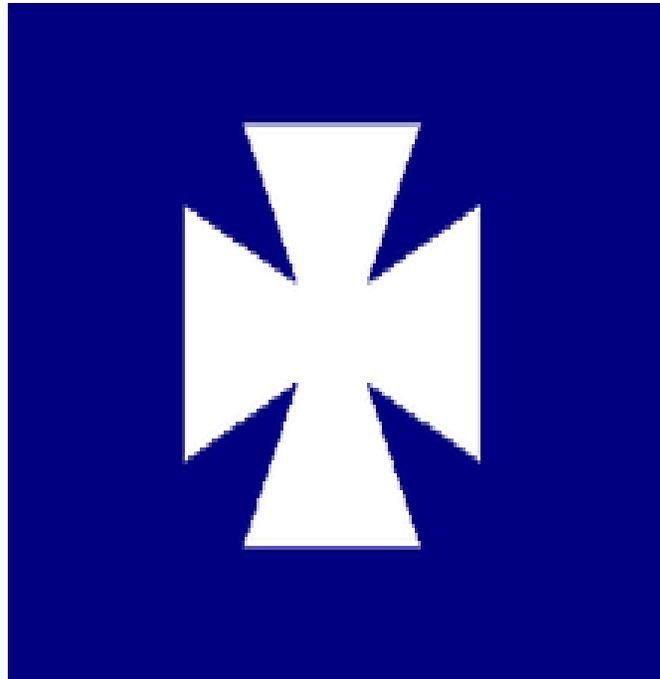
⁹⁰ Hennessy, John, "The Army of the Potomac Prepares for the Spring Campaign" in *The Wilderness Campaign*, edited by Gary Gallagher (UNC Press, 1997) 85.

⁹¹ <http://civilwararchive.com/CORPS/uncorps.htm>

Figure 10. *Joseph Hooker*



Figure 11. *The 2nd Division, Fifth Corps Badge*



The Army of the Potomac remained in their winter camps as spring came on. Morale raised as men returned from their furloughs and the corps badges gave units a sense of central pride. At the same time, Sykes' first brigade went through a command change. Robert Buchanan, who had led the Regulars since the Seven Days, was sent to command Fort Delaware, located in Delaware. In his place came **Brigadier General Romeyn Ayres**, 37 years old, West Point graduate of 1847. Ayres had started the war as an artillery battery commander, and had only received his general's star in November, 1862.⁹²

As March turned to April, Hooker looked to moving his army at Lee's rebels. The plan Hooker created was to split his army into halves. Initially half his army would stay in front of

⁹² Romeyn Ayres' Entry, *Cullum's Register*, http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Army/USMA/Cullums_Register/1352*.html

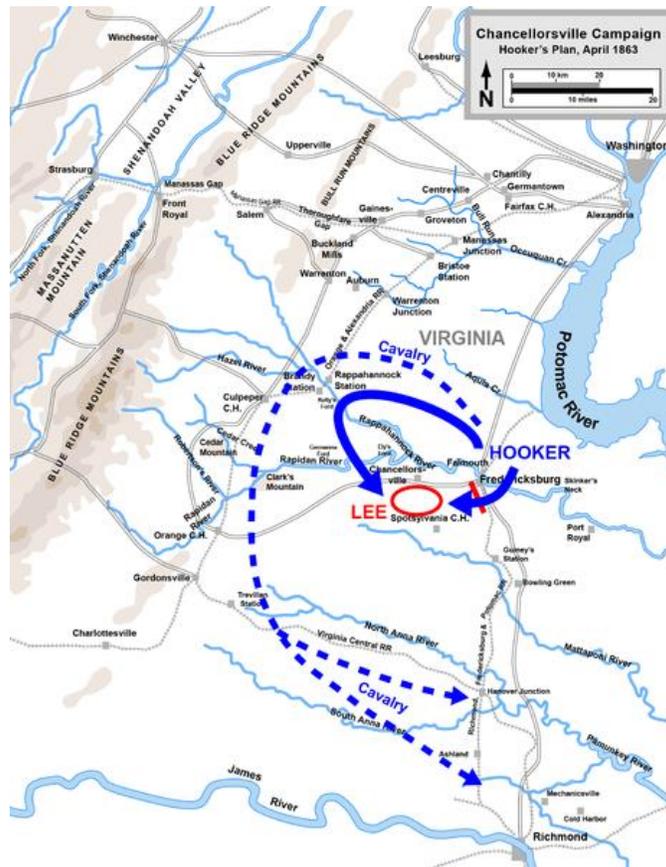
Fredericksburg, occupying Lee's attention, while the other half marched northwest and crossed the Rappahannock from a series of fords. Once the second half had crossed, only the Sixth Corps would be left in front of Fredericksburg, under the command of John Sedgwick. While Sedgwick picketed the river, Hooker would take the bulk of his army, march down the Plank Road and crush Lee from the rear.⁹³

The 3rd, with the rest of the Regulars, broke camp at 10 A.M. on April 27th and headed towards the fords with the marching column. By the 29th they crossed the Rappahannock River near Kelly's Ford, having covered some 25 miles in two days.⁹⁴

Figure 12. Romeyn Ayres



Map 12. The Chancellorsville Campaign



⁹³ Sears, *Chancellorsville*, 148-149.

⁹⁴ Ayres' Report, *O.R.* Vol. 25, pt. 1, 528.

Around evening on April 30th the Regulars approached the crossroads around the Chancellor House. Though only one main building that in its heyday had been a tavern and hotel, along with some slave houses, the crossroads was called **Chancellorsville**.⁹⁵

The next morning, May 1st, Hooker ordered his forces down the Plank Road towards the rear of Lee's lines, about 15 miles away. Leading the way were cavalry pickets, and then Sykes' Regulars; 2nd brigade in front, followed by the 1st, and the third, a brigade of volunteers, bringing up the rear.⁹⁶

Starting around 11 A.M., the Federal cavalry began running into rebel infantry, sent by Lee to counter Hooker's movements. For an hour the cavalry and rebels clashed, with the cavalry slowly driving the rebels down the Plank Road. Sykes' Regulars hurried their step as Stephen Weed's artillery battery, attached to the division, opened fire. Watching the Regulars advance was artist Alfred Waud, who drew a quick sketch (his drawing is this manual's cover page). It was just about noon.⁹⁷

Sykes' leading brigade, under Sydney Burbank, deployed his forces atop a series of slight knolls, looking down on the Plank Road. Burbank's men began to skirmish with the rebels to their front. From the height advantage, Burbank could see more and more rebels being brought up from Stonewall Jackson's corps. The Federal brigade commander quickly called for help, and Ayres' brigade was double-timed forward.⁹⁸

⁹⁵ Sykes' Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 25, pt. 1, 525.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁹⁷ Sears, *Chancellorsville*, 205.

⁹⁸ Sykes' Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 25, pt. 1, 525.

Ayres quickly deployed to the left of Burbank, with the 3rd U.S. posted as skirmishers. The 3rd connected with the 17th U.S. to their right and began to press forward across the open fields to their front.⁹⁹

By having the Plank Road to his right-front, Sykes had a better axis of advance than his supporting units, elements from the Twelfth Corps. As the Twelfth Corps was bogged down in the **Wilderness** and heavy fighting to their front, Sykes continued until he created a **salient** with his division. That meant that 1) the Confederates to his front overlapped his division and 2) he was without flank support. Later, in his report, Sykes admitted he was, “completely isolated from the rest of the army.”¹⁰⁰

As the 3rd and the 17th U.S. continued to skirmish and the rebels brought up more and more troops, the Regulars’ support finally arrived. While the Twelfth Corps was still stuck in the woods, Darius Couch, commanding the Second Corps, had arrived on the scene. Couch had been ordered to bring his first division forward and relieve the Regulars. While he disagreed with giving up the heights that the Regulars currently occupied, Couch also knew that if the rebels attacked *en masse*, it would be difficult for Sykes to hold his own. And so, with Winfield Scott Hancock’s division covering them, Sykes’ division filed back down Plank Road towards Chancellorsville.¹⁰¹

While the **Battle of Chancellorsville** went on for another two days following the first day’s action, the 3rd was not involved. The only thing the 3rd did on May 2nd, when Stonewall Jackson performed his flank attack, was to form up and halt any fleeing soldiers from the

⁹⁹ Dove, John, *Chancellorsville Troop Movement Map Set*, #1, 1998.

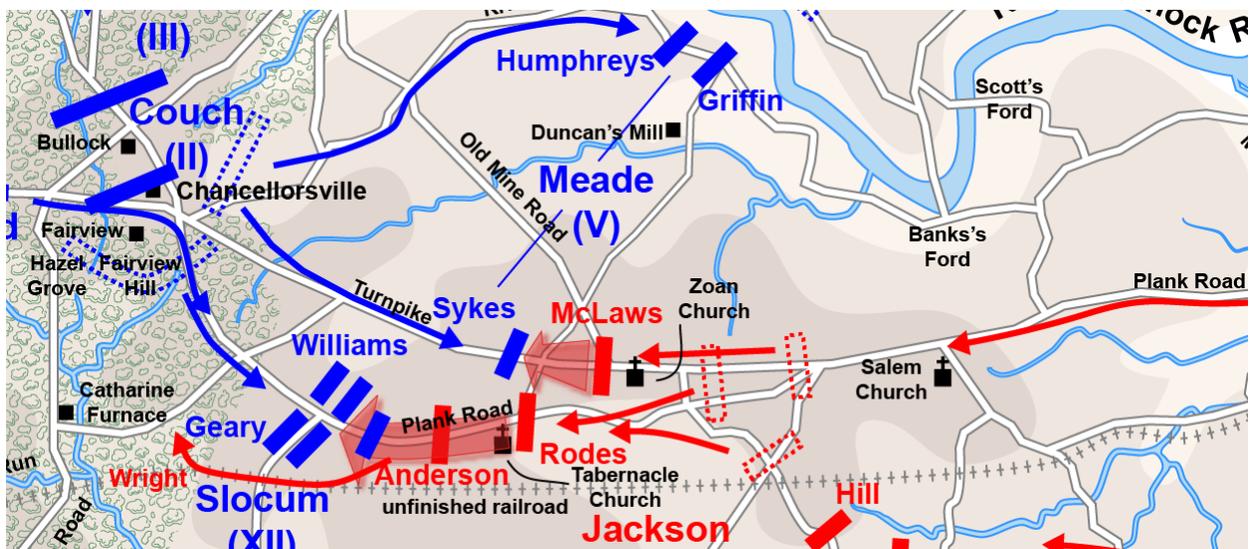
¹⁰⁰ Sykes’ Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 25, pt. 1, 525.

¹⁰¹ Sears, *Chancellorsville*, 211-212; Stackpole, Edward J. *Chancellorsville*. 2nd edition (Stackpole Books, 1988) 184.

Eleventh Corps who made it to their line.¹⁰² On the third day, without the doubt the heaviest of the three days in terms of combat, the Regulars did nothing to move and support their comrades. Captain Wilkins, still in command of the 3rd, summarized the regiment's service on those days as, "On the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, the regiment had its position with the division in line of battle."¹⁰³

Beaten, though not nearly in the same vein as at Fredericksburg, Joseph Hooker's army retreated back across the Rappahannock on May 6th and returned to their camps at Falmouth. Chancellorsville had caused about 30,700 casualties between the two armies, and of that figure, the 3rd contributed 4 wounded and five captured or missing, for a grand total of 9 casualties.¹⁰⁴

Map 13. *First Day at Chancellorsville*



Gettysburg

In the wake of Chancellorsville, Robert E. Lee was left with another choice to make. In the western theater Grant was moving against Vicksburg, European powers were still interested

¹⁰² Sykes' Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 25, pt. 1, 526.

¹⁰³ Wilkins' Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 25, pt. 1, 529.

¹⁰⁴ Sears, *Chancellorsville*, 492, 501. *O.R.* Vol. 25, pt.1, 181.

in the South, and Virginia was still suffering from the hardships of campaigning. So, like he did after Second Bull Run, Lee decided to invade the North.

The Army of Northern Virginia began to slide north on June 10th, a day after the largest cavalry battle of the war at Brandy Station. Soon thereafter, the Army of the Potomac began its pursuit.¹⁰⁵

As the 3rd U.S. joined the rest of the army in the march north, the “Old Guard” was under new management. Captain Wilkins, who had led the regiment since Gaines’ Mill, was sent north on recruiting duty. In his place was West Point graduate, Class of 1855, **Captain Henry W. Freedley**. Freedley had been an officer with three of the unfortunate companies that had been captured at the beginning of the war. He had been paroled and had rejoined the regiment in the field.¹⁰⁶

As early June turned to late June and a clash seemed imminent, the Army of the Potomac also received a new commander. In the early morning hours of June 28th, a War Department official had entered the tent of Fifth Corps commander **George Meade** and had told him that he now commanded the Army.¹⁰⁷ Hooker had resigned; tired of Washington’s meddling in the plans, and so Meade, nicknamed “that old snapping turtle” (never to his face) took the helm. With Meade now at the army command, the Fifth Corps needed a commander also. The corps went to George Sykes, who was given a Major General’s rank for the job; Sykes had been only a Major at Bull Run when he had first commanded the Regulars.¹⁰⁸ Commanding the Second Division went to Romeyn Ayres, who had only commanded a brigade in one battle, and the First

¹⁰⁵ Gottfried, Bradley M. *The Maps of Gettysburg* (Savas Beatie, 2007) 6.

¹⁰⁶ Henry Freedley’s Entry, *Cullum’s Register*,

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Army/USMA/Cullums_Register/1705*.html

¹⁰⁷ Catton, *Catton’s Civil War*, 375.

¹⁰⁸ Coddington, Edwin B. *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command* (Simon and Schuster, 1968) 229.

Figure 13. *George Meade*



Figure 14. *Hannibal Day*



Brigade of Regulars went to **Colonel Hannibal Day**. Day had been born in 1804, graduated from West Point in 1823, and had been in the army ever since.

The inevitable battle began on July 1st outside of **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**. Over the next three days, the bloodiest battle of the Civil War would be fought.

Marching from Frederick, Maryland starting on June 28th, Ayres' division did not reach Gettysburg, 35 miles away, until the morning of July 2nd.¹⁰⁹ They filed towards the left-center of the army, in reserve. But then **Daniel Sickles** changed the battle and signed the death warrants of thousands.

Sickles commanded the Federal Third Corps and held the left flank of the Army. His line rested at the end of Cemetery Ridge and ran all the way to the base of the Round Tops. He could see rebels massing to his front throughout the day, preparing to assault. In anticipation Sickles moved his entire corps almost a mile forward, without permission from Meade, to ground he thought better than his original position. This ground included the Peach Orchard, Wheatfield,

¹⁰⁹ Ayres' Report, *O.R.* Vol. 27, pt. 1, 592.

and Devil's Den.¹¹⁰ Meade was furious, but before he could do anything about the Third Corps, the rebels attacked.

Sickles men fought as long as they could, standing their ground against nearly a third of the Confederate army. But gradually the rebels began to push them back, and Meade rushed reserve units to the point of contact. First to rush to help the besieged Third Corps were elements of the Second Corps, the same division that had guarded the Regulars' withdrawal at Chancellorsville.¹¹¹

That division, Caldwell's, with a strength of 3,200, went into the maelstrom that was the Wheatfield and lost 1,275 before they left.¹¹² But to leave, they would need help, and that help would come from Ayres' division.

Ayres' division had already been split up, with the 3rd brigade, under Stephen Weed, marching to support the fight at **Little Round Top**; Weed would be killed there. So too would one of his regimental commanders, Patrick O'Rourke, who had plugged a gap in the line just in time.¹¹³

With his two remaining brigades, Ayres moved forward towards the sound of the guns at the Wheatfield. Burbank's brigade was up front, with Day's brigade in support. Days men were aligned from left to right: 14th U.S., the 12th, 6th, 4th, and finally, on the right flank, the 3rd. They moved quickly in front of Little Round Top, which by this point had been decided and was now firmly in Federal hands.¹¹⁴

Serving on Day's right flank, the 3rd U.S. had to dodge some friendly canister fire sent from Little Round Top as the two brigades deployed at the edge of the Wheatfield. In their

¹¹⁰ Gottfried, *The Maps of Gettysburg*, 143.

¹¹¹ Ayres' Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 27, pt. 1, 634.

¹¹² Gottfried, Bradley M. *The Brigades of Gettysburg* (Da Capo Press, 2002) 113-126.

¹¹³ Coddington, *The Gettysburg Campaign*, 396.

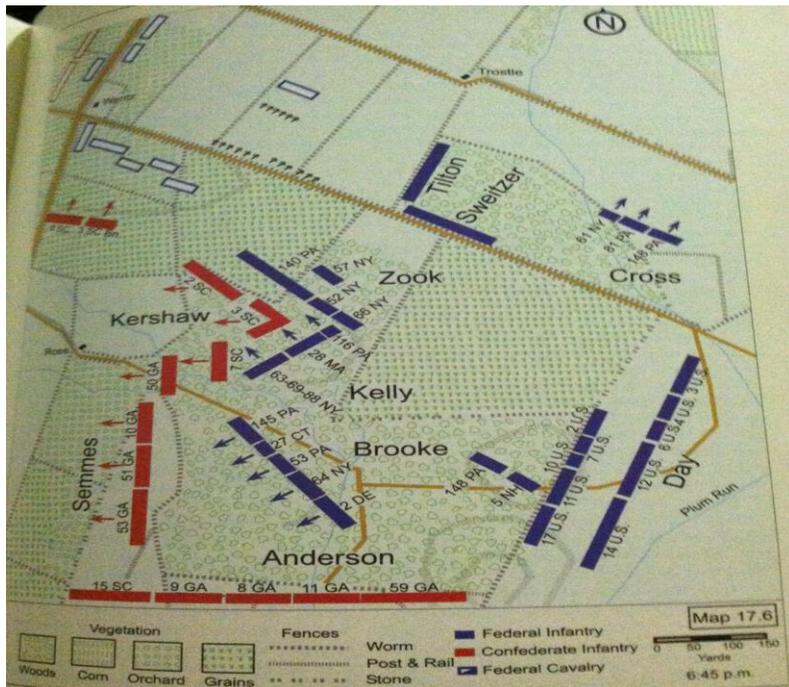
¹¹⁴ Gottfried, *The Maps of Gettysburg*, 175.

position the “Old Guard” began to attract rebel sharpshooter fire and stray artillery rounds. Casualties mounted up.¹¹⁵

The time was around 6:45 PM when the two brigades of Regulars arrived at the edge of the Wheatfield and in a short period of time; they were the only fighting Federals left. Elements from Sickles’ corps that had originally held the field had long since fallen back. Caldwell’s division, with three of his four brigade commanders down, was retreating in front of the Regulars, and two brigades from the first division of the Fifth Corps had also fallen back.¹¹⁶

Standing in formation, the Regulars expected to advance at any moment, but instead Burbank and Day ordered their men to lie down. They were to hold the line as long as possible, allowing the volunteer units to retreat back to safety, and the Regulars bought time with each

Map 14. *The Regulars arrive at the Wheatfield* (Gottfried’s *The Maps of Gettysburg*, 175)



¹¹⁵ Gottfried, *The Brigades of Gettysburg*, 259.

¹¹⁶ Sears, Stephen W. *Gettysburg* (Mariner Books, 2003) 304.

casualty. Day's horse was killed and **Captain Henry Freedley**, the 3rd's commanding officer, was severely wounded in the knee. Command devolved to **Captain Richard Lay**.¹¹⁷

As the Regulars were the only troops left in the Wheatfield, the rebels began to converge on the units, and Burbank's brigade had to swing to the left to avoid being flanked. This movement opened the brigade up to a galling fire and the commander of the 11th U.S. wrote later, "in a few minutes we lost nearly half of the regiment, and that, too, without inflicting the slightest damage upon the enemy."¹¹⁸

It was at this point that the two brigades began to fall back. Instead of a retreat though, Burbank and Day had their men move in an orderly fashion, firing as they went. The 3rd was still on Day's right, with a rebel brigade coming directly down the Wheatfield Road towards them. Hurrying their step, the two brigades crossed the Plum River and halted at the base of the Round Tops, with batteries of Federal artillery covering their withdrawal. An observer, watching the orderly movement, wrote, "They allow themselves to be decimated without flinching." Another said, "For two years the U.S. Regulars taught us how to be soldiers; in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, they taught us how to die like soldiers."¹¹⁹

Night fell, and the next day the 3rd listened to the sounds of the Pickett-Trimble-Pettigrew assault on the center of the Federal lines. The Regulars remained at the base of Little Round Top and skirmished with the enemy the next day, the Fourth of July; Lieutenant George B. Butler was wounded and subsequently lost his right arm.¹²⁰

The Regulars began their pursuit of Lee's broken army on the 5th, and continued all the way to the 14th, when Lee's army slipped the proverbial noose and crossed the rain-swollen

¹¹⁷ Report of Andrew Sheridan, *O.R.* Vol. 27, pt. 1, 637.

¹¹⁸ Report of D.E. L Floyd-Jones, *O.R.* Vol. 27, pt. 1, 650.

¹¹⁹ Sears, *Gettysburg*, 304; Trudeau, Noah Andre, *Gettysburg: A Testing of Courage* (Harper Perennial, 2003) 380.

¹²⁰ Sheridan's Report, *O.R.* Vol. 27, pt. 1, 638.

Potomac River. Pursuit was impossible with washed-out bridges and by the time engineers could build pontoon bridges, the rebels were long gone.¹²¹

For their service in the Wheatfield the Regulars won the adulation of the volunteer troops, who before had looked at the professional soldiers with a sense of distrust. The volunteers had nicknamed the Regulars *Buffsticks*, which in time the Regulars took as a word of pride, much like *Yankee Doodle* and the British. But that service had also come at a price: the two brigades had suffered a combined total of 829 casualties. The 3rd U.S., which had gone into action with 300 men, had lost 6 killed, 66 wounded, and 1 missing, for a total of 73.¹²²

New York

In March 1863, the Lincoln Administration passed the first conscription act in national history, calling for states to have quotas of draftees that it had to give based on their 1860 population. There was a caveat that draftees could pay a substitute \$300 and not have to go into the army; this paying others to fight gave new meaning to, “A rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight”. With dissent growing in large cities because of the bounty system and the draft in general, small riots broke out throughout the late spring and early summer.¹²³

The **largest riot to break out**, and the bloodiest, came during the second of week of July, 1863, starting on July 13th when the Army of the Potomac was still pursuing Lee’s rebels. **New York** was a hub of immigration, and the riots that started on July 13th had their genesis on July 11th when the first draft names were called.¹²⁴ July 12th, a Sunday was spent preparing, and the riots broke out on the 13th with the burning of draft offices and a colored orphanage asylum.

¹²¹ *Ibid.*

¹²² *O.R.*, Vol. 27, pt. 1, 179.

¹²³ McPherson, James M, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (Oxford University Press, 1988) 601-602.

¹²⁴ McCague, James, *The Second Rebellion: The New York City Draft Riots of 1863* (Dial Press, 1968) 50.

Over the next couple of days the riots grew in size and fury, and it was not uncommon for blacks to be grabbed, hung, and then set afire.¹²⁵

The riots were quelled when Federal units, sent as quickly as possible from Pennsylvania, marched into New York and began to open fire into the crowds that refused to disperse. Over the week from July 13th to July 17th, damage somewhere between \$3 and \$5 million dollars was caused (today's equivalent of about \$100 million) and probably around 500 deaths (no one knows for sure).¹²⁶

By August, though the Draft Riots had been put down, the city still simmered with distrust and paranoia, and the 3rd U.S. was sent to help patrol the streets of New York. The "Old Guard" arrived at the Empire City on August 21st and was there for a month.¹²⁷

By this time the regiment numbered roughly slightly less than 200 men, and it is likely the 3rd was sent to New York because the War Department did not know what else to do with them. During the war, rather than send replacements to units in the field, governors of states instead raised new regiments in order to fulfill quotas set by Lincoln's Administration. While this constantly brought in new, large regiments, it left older, experienced units out to dry and slowly dwindle to nothing; when units got too small, they were usually folded in with other units from the same state that had the same manpower shortage.¹²⁸

That worked for volunteer units, but not for the Regulars. Each Regular regiment had its own, distinct lineage and tradition in the army, and it was not possible to get rid of one unit just to merge it with another. So, the 3rd was sent to New York, away from the battles and campaigns, until more men could be brought into its ranks.

¹²⁵ Schechter, Barnett, *The Devil's own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America* (Walker Publishing Company, 2005) 157.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, 250-252.

¹²⁷ McRae, 447.

¹²⁸ Catton, *Catton's Civil War*, 111.

The 3rd stayed in New York until mid-September and then they returned to Virginia, where in the coming months they would see their last combat in the Civil War.

Bristoe Station, Rappahannock Station, and Mine Run

In October, 1863, the two armies stared across the Rappahannock River at each other. The center of the operations had moved from Fredericksburg to around Kelly's Ford and Brandy Station. Before winter set in, Lee wanted to get at Meade's army one last time.¹²⁹

So began the **Bristoe Campaign**, which militarily speaking, was little more than a flash in the pan. The two armies marched about each other as their cavalry clashed at varying skirmishes. Lee wished to get between Meade and Washington, forcing the Army of the Potomac away from northern Virginia, and Meade, understanding that, checked each movement.

The largest battle of the campaign came on October 14th at the **Battle of Bristoe Station** (thus the campaign's name) that only included two divisions from the Confederate's Third Corps and elements of the Federal Second Corps.

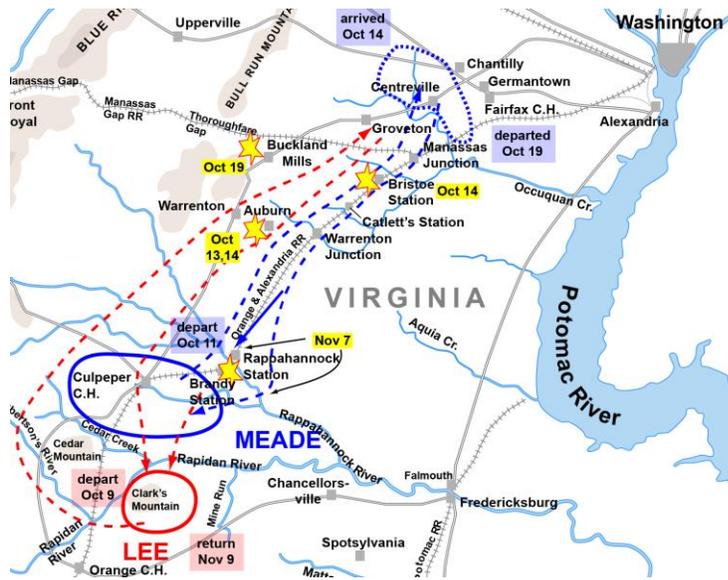
Meade's army was marching towards Bull Run along a railroad embankment, with Ayres' division leading the Fifth Corps. Marching parallel to the Federals were rebels, and though the Regulars saw the Confederates, did not deploy to engage them. Throughout the 14th there was sporadic artillery fire aimed at the Federal column, but each successive unit left the action to those units behind them. Finally, the action could not be delayed further; the rebels deployed and assaulted the vanguard of the Second Corps around 2:30-3:00 P.M.¹³⁰

Ayres' division had reached Manassas Junction, approximately five miles from the battlefield, and could hear the gunfire distinctly. Though the battle began around 3 P.M., Ayres

¹²⁹ Tighe, Adrian G, *The Bristoe Campaign: General Lee's Last Strategic Offensive with the Army of Northern Virginia October 1863* (Xlibris, 2011) 24.

¹³⁰ *Ibid*, 275-276.

Map 15. *The Bristoe Campaign*



did not move his men towards the fighting until 5 P.M., and by the time he arrived, the battle was over. Over the course of the day the Regulars had attracted artillery fire, and the 12th U.S. had fired a volley at some rebel skirmishers who got too close, but Ayres' division had no casualties.¹³¹ The campaign had ended with Lee's army returned to their positions, behind the Rappahannock River, with only a couple of bridges remaining. Meade eyed the river and knew he would have to get at Lee somehow.

One of the few bridges remaining across the river was at **Rappahannock Station**, where Lee had posted some of his best troops, including the **Louisiana Tigers**. Meade made the decision to strike at the bridge, and in the early morning hours of November 7th, 1863, split his army in two. One section, comprising of the First, Second, and Third Corps would attack

¹³¹ *Ibid*, 310.

towards Kelly's Ford, while the two remaining infantry corps, the Fifth and Sixth, would strike at Rappahannock Station.¹³²

The Sixth Corps, under John Sedgwick, would do the most fighting at Rappahannock Station, but the Regulars, including the 3rd U.S., were also involved. As the two corps moved forward, the Fifth Corps established a force of skirmishers under the command of **Brigadier General Kenner Garrard**. Garrard's force consisted of, "the First Division, 13 officers and 350 men; Second Division, 12 officers and 350 men; and the Third Division, 7 officers and about 200 men."¹³³

While the Sixth Corps filed to the north of a railroad embankment, the Fifth Corps skirmishers filed to the south and pushed forward. The assault on the rebel lines began at 3:30 P.M., and within an hour the joint-operations had driven the rebels back to their entrenchments. During the assault the detached men from the 3rd U.S. took part in the skirmishing, with the Rappahannock River to their left, the Sixth Corps to their right, and the rebels to their front.¹³⁴

By the end of the night of November 7th, the Sixth Corps, attacking the main portion of the rebels' line, had captured or killed 1,700 Confederates, at the cost of 420 Federals.¹³⁵ For their service, the Fifth Corps' skirmishers lost 33 men killed and wounded. Garrard's skirmishers captured 75 Confederates during their assault. The 3rd had a single man wounded.¹³⁶

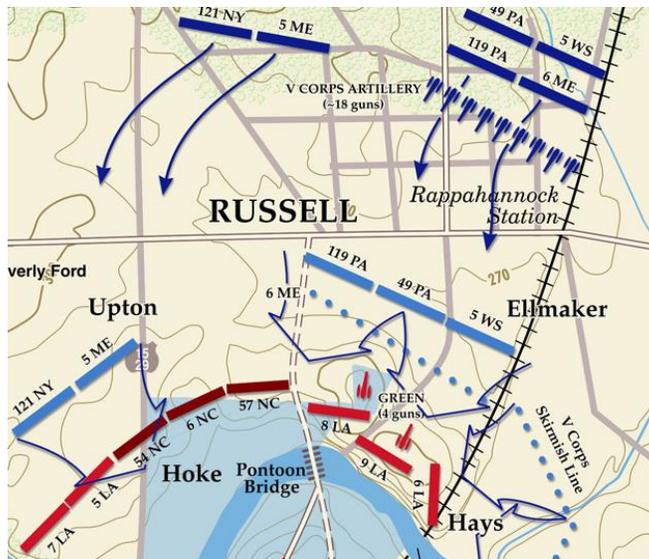
¹³² Jordan, William B, Jr, *Red Diamond Regiment: The 17th Maine Infantry, 1862-1865* (White Maine Publishing, 1996) 98.

¹³³ Garrard's Report, *O.R.* Vol.29, pt. 1, 578.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

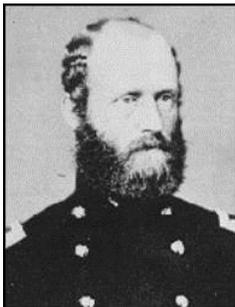
¹³⁵ Miles, Jim, *The Storm Tide: A History and Tour Guide of the War in the East, From Fredericksburg to Mine Run, 1862-1863* (Cumberland House, 2005) 454.

¹³⁶ Garrard's Report, *O.R.*, Vol. 29, pt. 1, 578; *O.R.*, Vol. 29, pt. 1, 559.



Map 16. *The Battle of Rappahannock Station* (Insert from “Battle of Rappahannock Station: November 7 1863” reprinted with permission from Civil War Trust.

Figure 15. *Kenner Garrard*



Following the success at **Rappahannock Station**, there were two weeks where the armies once again eyed each other warily. After his setback at Rappahannock Station, Lee had brought his army across the Rapidan River, still wishing to keep a river between him and the Federals. Being prodded by Washington to keep the successes coming, Meade issued orders for his corps to move on November 26th, 1863.¹³⁷

¹³⁷ Foote, Shelby. *Civil War: A Narrative, Fredericksburg to Meridian* (Vintage Books, 1963) 873.

The series of movements that occurred between the 26th and December 1st have been called the **Mine Run Campaign**. Meade moved his army out, headed towards Lee's forces, which had dug extensive fortifications in the time since Rappahannock Station.

The 3rd U.S. moved out with the Fifth Corps in what would be their last combat maneuvers of the war. On the 29th of November the Fifth Corps relieved the Second Corps in front of Mine Run, where the next day a massive assault was planned.

The 3rd formed a picket line in front of the corps that/ cool night, no doubt looking at the clear ground in front of them that Meade was asking his commanders to attack the next day. At 7 A.M. on the 30th the army's artillery would open up, followed by a 30,000 man attack at 8 A.M. But the veterans of the Army of the Potomac had been at Malvern Hill, where Lee battered his troops against McClellan's guns; they had been at Fredericksburg and seen its disasters; Gettysburg's third day had witnessed an attack made by 13,000 rebels fail. No one really expected the assault in the morning to accomplish anything except kill more men.¹³⁸

But in the end, the assault was never made. Sykes' men were ready, bayonets fixed, when the artillery opened up at the agreed hour. They waited as the shells hurled into the rebel lines, and nervously watched, as the minute's hands got closer to the stepping-off time. But that hour came, and went, with no advance. Then came the word that thousands had been hoping for; Meade had been convinced by his subordinates and by the ground in front of him that an attack would be madness. The commander had called the assault off.¹³⁹

The next day, December 1st, Meade ordered his army to return to their camps and there they established winter quarters. As the 3rd filed back, they took count; the Mine Run Campaign

¹³⁸ *Ibid*, 876.

¹³⁹ Hennessy, "The Army of the Potomac Prepares for the Overland Campaign", 67.

had caused them 7 casualties, all captured; probably on the picket line as the Regulars waited the night before the scheduled attack.¹⁴⁰

As the rest of the army hunkered down for another Virginia winter, the 3rd received different orders. They were to head back to New York City, this time to occupy some forts in the harbor.¹⁴¹

New York, Washington, and the end

There isn't much left to tell about the 3rd, and perhaps that is a good thing. They had started the war in Texas, and by late 1863 had been involved, in some sort or another, in every major campaign the Army of the Potomac had undertaken to that point.

The 3rd arrived in New York Harbor and occupied Forts Richmond, Hamilton, and Columbus. There would be no more trouble with draft rioters, and the "Old Guard" remained in New York until October 1864. Thus, they missed the horrors of the Overland Campaign and almost half of the Siege of Petersburg. In late October they were ordered to Washington, D.C., to take up positions in the northern edge of the city.¹⁴² By leaving in October, the 3rd missed the Confederate conspiracy to burn New York down using bottles of Greek fire in November.

Returning to Washington for the first time since after the Second Bull Run campaign, the 3rd reported to Camp Relief. In July, Jubal Early's rebels had assaulted the city at Fort Stevens and it is possible that the 3rd was sent to strengthen the city's defenses. But by the time the 3rd arrived at Washington, Early was no longer a threat; he was being trounced in the Shenandoah Valley by Philip Sheridan.

¹⁴⁰ *O.R.* Vol. 29, pt. 1, 683.

¹⁴¹ McRae, 447.

¹⁴² The Civil War Archive, *U.S. Regular Army: 3rd Regiment Infantry*.
<http://civilwararchive.com/Unregfst/unrginf1.htm#3rdinf>

The 3rd remained in Washington until February, 1865, when the 200 men left in its ranks were sent to **City Point**, Virginia. City Point was **Ulysses S. Grant's** headquarters; Grant was the commander of all Federal armies. At City Point the 3rd was attached to Grant's headquarters' guard.¹⁴³

With the coming spring, Grant thrashed out at the rebel lines around Petersburg, but the 3rd did not participate in any of the fighting. They accompanied him through the finale of the Petersburg-Richmond Campaign, and then onto **Appomattox**, where on **April 9th, 1865**, Robert E. Lee surrendered. The Civil War, at least in the Eastern Theater, was finished.¹⁴⁴

As defeated Confederates were paroled and sent home, the Army of the Potomac heard the horrifying news that **Abraham Lincoln** had been assassinated in Washington. The soldiers were disgusted; the war was supposed to be over, the country had been united. But their commander-in-chief was now dead, and it was a testimony to the soldiers' regulation that they did not take out their grief on the vanquished foe.

By late April, the rebels in North Carolina had surrendered to **William Sherman**, and volunteer units began to be disbanded and the citizen soldiers returned home. But first there was one last duty to perform.

On May 23rd and May 24th the two armies, the Army of the Potomac and Sherman's, marched in a Grand Review down the streets of Washington. In all about 150,000 men marched in victory, with the Army of the Potomac going on the 23rd and Sherman the next day.¹⁴⁵ The 3rd, according to their regimental historian, was the leading infantry regiment of the entire column, and they must have held their heads high. They were the "Old Guard" and they had

¹⁴³ McRae, 447.

¹⁴⁴ Winik, Jay. *April 1865* (Harper Perennial, 2001) 189.

¹⁴⁵ Eicher, David J., *The Longest Night: A Military History of the Civil War* (Simon and Schuster, 2001) 844.

saved the Union.¹⁴⁶

As the last of the volunteers went home, the Regulars took a final count of their casualties. Throughout the war they had lost 89 killed through battle and disease, and a total of 267 killed, wounded, or captured.¹⁴⁷

And then, because they were professional soldiers, the 3rd received a new assignment. They did not go home, but rather back to the front. By late October 1865 the 3rd was at St. Louis, Missouri, and by 1866 they were headed to Kansas and the Indian territories.¹⁴⁸

The Civil War was now just a memory.

¹⁴⁶ McRae, 447.

¹⁴⁷ The Civil War Archive, *U.S. Regular Army: 3rd Regiment Infantry*.
<http://civilwararchive.com/Unregst/unrginf1.htm#3rdinf>; McRae, 447.

¹⁴⁸ McRae, 447.

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http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Army/USMA/Cullums_Register/1273*.html
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Appendix I

Casualties Suffered by the 3rd U.S., in their engagements

*Casualties were recorded in *The Official Records* shortly after battles, and thus fluctuated as some of the wounded died; or missing men returned to the ranks*

Battle	Killed	Wounded	Missing/Captured	Total
Fort Pickens, FL. October, 1861	2	7		9
First Bull Run, VA. (5 companies present) July 21, 1861	13	17	42	72
Siege of Yorktown, VA. (Support Role) April, 1862	0	0	0	0
Seven Days Battles, VA. (3 rd present at Gaines Mill, Turkey Bridge, and Malvern Hill) June 27 th , June 30 th , July 1 st , 1862	11	30	22	63
Second Bull Run, VA. August 28 th -30 th , 1862	5	17	25	47
Antietam, MD. (Guarded Fifth Corps Artillery) September 17 th , 1862	0	0	0	0
Fredericksburg, VA. December 11 th -15 th , 1862	1	14	0	15
Chancellorsville, VA. May 1 st -6 th , 1863	0	4	5	9
Gettysburg, PA. July 1 st -3 rd , 1863	6	66	1	73
Bristoe Station, VA. October 14 th , 1863	0	0	0	0
Rappahannock Station, VA. November 7 th , 1863	0	1	0	1
Mine Run, VA. November 26 th -December 1 st , 1863	0	0	7	7
Appomattox Campaign, VA. (HQ Guard) April, 1865	0	0	0	0

Appendix II

Reports of the Battle of First Bull Run, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Colonel Andrew Porter's Report- Vol. 2, pt. 1, 383

No. 32. Report of Colonel Andrew Porter, Sixteenth U. S. Infantry, commanding Second Division and First Brigade, Second Division.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, Arlington, Va., July 25, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following account of the operations of the First Brigade, Second Division, of the Army, in the battle before Manassas, on the 21st instant.* The brigade was silently paraded in light marching order at 2 o'clock in the morning of that day, composed as follows, viz: Griffin's battery; marines, Major Reynolds; Twenty-seventh New York Volunteers, Colonel Slocum; Fourteenth New York State Militia, Colonel Wood; Eighth New York State Militia, Colonel Lyons; battalion regulars, Major Sykes; one company Second Dragoons, two companies First Cavalry, four companies First Cavalry, four companies Second Cavalry, Major Palmer. Total strength, 3,700. The marines were recruits, but through the constant exertions of their officers had been brought to present a fine military appearance, without being able to render much active service. They were therefore attached to the battery as its permanent support through the day.

Owing to frequent delays in the march of troops in front, the brigade did not reach Centreville until 4.30 a.m., and it was an hour after sunrise when the head of it was turned to the right to commence the flank movement. The slow and intermittent movements of the Second Brigade [Burnside's] were then followed through the woods for four hours, which brought the head of our division to Bull Run and Sudley's Mill, where a halt of half an hour took place, to rest and refresh the men and horses. From the heights on this side of the run a vast column of the enemy could be plainly descried, at the distance of a mile or more on our left, moving rapidly towards our line of march in front. Some disposition of skirmishers was then directed to be made at the head of the column by the division commander, in which Colonel Slocum, of the Second Rhode Island Regiment, was observed to bear an active part. The column moved forward, however, before they were completed, and in about thirty minutes emerged from the timber, when the rattle of musketry and occasional crash of round shot through the leaves and branches of the trees in our vicinity betokened the opening of battle.

The head of the brigade was immediately turned slightly to the right, in order to gain time and room for deployment on the right of the Second Brigade. Griffin's battery found its way through the timber to the fields beyond, followed promptly by the marines, while the Twenty-seventh took direction more to the left, and the Fourteenth followed upon the trail of the battery, all moving up at a double-quick step. The enemy appeared drawn up in a long line, extending along the Warenton turnpike from a house and haystacks upon our extreme right to a house beyond the left of the division. Behind that house there was a heavy masked battery, which, with three others along his line on the heights beyond, covered the ground upon which we were advancing with all sorts of projectiles. A grove in front of his right wing afforded it shelter and protection, while the shrubbery along the road, with fences, screened somewhat his left wing. Griffin advanced to within a thousand yards, and opened a deadly and unerring fire upon his batteries, which were soon silenced or driven away. Our right was rapidly developed by the marines, Twenty-seventh, Fourteenth, and Eighth, with the cavalry in rear of the right, the enemy retreating with more precipitation than order as our line advanced.

The Second Brigade [Burnside's] was at this time attacking the enemy's right with, perhaps, too hasty vigor. The enemy clung to the protecting wood with great tenacity, and the Rhode Island Battery became so much endangered as to impel the commander of the Second Brigade to call for the assistance of the battalion of regulars. At this time I

received the information through Captain W. D. Whipple, A. A. G., that Colonel Hunter was seriously wounded, and had directed him to report to me as commander of the division; and in reply to the urgent request of Colonel Burnside. I detached the battalion of regulars to his assistance. For an account of its operations I would respectfully beg a reference to the inclosed report of its commander, Major Sykes [No. 35].

The rebels soon came flying from the woods towards the right, and the Twenty-seventh completed their rout by charging directly upon their center in the face of a scorching fire, while the Fourteenth and Eighth moved down the turnpike to cut off the retiring foe, and to support the Twenty-seventh, which had lost its gallant colonel, but was standing the brunt of the action, with its ranks thinning in the dreadful fire. Now the resistance of the enemy's left was so obstinate that the beaten right retired in safety.

The head of Heintzelman's column at this moment appeared upon the field, and the Eleventh and Fifth Massachusetts Regiments moved forward to the support of our center, while staff officers could be seen galloping rapidly in every direction, endeavoring to rally the broken Eighth; but this laudable purpose was only partially attained, owing to the inefficiency of some of its field officers.

The Fourteenth, though it had broken, was soon rallied in rear of Griffin's battery, which soon took up a position farther to the front and right, from which his fire was delivered with such precision and rapidity as to compel the batteries of the enemy to retire in consternation far behind the brow of the hill in front. At this time my brigade occupied a line considerably in advance of that first occupied by the left wing of the enemy. The battery was pouring its withering fire into the batteries and columns of the enemy whenever they exposed themselves. The cavalry were engaged in feeling the left flank of the enemy's positions, in doing which some important captures were made—one by Sergeant Sacks, of the Second Dragoons, of a General George Steuart, of Baltimore. Our cavalry also emptied the saddles of a number of the mounted rebels.

General Tyler's division was engaged with the enemy's right. The Twenty-seventh was resting in the edge of the woods, in the center, covered by a hill, upon which lay the Eleventh and Fifth Massachusetts, occasionally delivering a scattering fire. The Fourteenth was moving to the right flank. The Eighth had lost its organization. The marines were moving up in fine style in rear of the Fourteenth, and Captain Arnold was occupying a height on the middle ground with his battery. At this juncture there was a temporary lull in the firing from the rebels, who appeared only occasionally on the heights in irregular formations, but to serve as marks for Griffin's guns.

The prestige of success had thus far attended the efforts of our inexperienced, but gallant, troops. The lines of the enemy had been forcibly shifted nearly a mile to their left and rear. The flags of eight regiments, though borne somewhat wearily, now pointed towards the hill from which disordered masses of rebels had been seen hastily retiring.

Griffin's and Ricketts' batteries were ordered by the commanding general to the top of the hill on our right, supporting them with Fire Zouaves and marines, while the Fourteenth entered the skirt of woods on their right, to protect that flank, and a column, composed of the Twenty-seventh New York, moved up towards the left flank of the batteries; but so soon as they were in position, and before the flanking supports had reached theirs, a murderous fire of musketry and rifles, opened at pistol range, cut down every cannoneer and a large number of horses. The fire came from some infantry of the enemy, which had been mistaken for our own forces, an officer on the field having stated that it was a regiment sent by Colonel Heintzelman to support the batteries.

The evanescent courage of the zouaves prompted them to fire perhaps a hundred shots, when they broke and fled, leaving the batteries open to a charge of the enemy's cavalry, which took place immediately. The marines also, in spite of the exertions of their gallant officers, gave way in disorder; the Fourteenth on the right and the column on the left hesitatingly retired, with the exception of the Sixty-ninth and Thirty-eighth New York, who nobly shook and returned the fire of the enemy for fifteen minutes. Soon the slopes behind us were swarming with our retreating and disorganized forces, whilst riderless horses and artillery teams ran furiously through the flying crowd. All further efforts were futile; the words, gestures, and threats of our officers were thrown away upon men who had lost all presence of mind and only longed for absence of body. Some of our noblest and best officers lost their lives in trying to rally them.

Upon our first position the Twenty-seventh was the first to rally, under the command of Major Bartlett, and around it the other regiments engaged soon collected their scattered fragments. The battalion of regulars, in the mean time, moved steadily across the field from the left to the right, and took up a position where it held the entire forces of the rebels in check until our forces were somewhat rallied. The commanding general then ordered a retreat upon Centreville, at the same time directing me to cover it with the battalion of regulars, the cavalry, and a section of artillery. The rear guard thus organized followed our panic-stricken people to Centreville, resisting the attacks of the rebel cavalry and artillery, and saving them from the inevitable destruction which awaited them had not this body been interposed.

Among those who deserve especial mention I beg leave to place the following names, viz:

Captain Griffin, for his coolness and promptitude in action, and for the handsome manner in which he handled his battery.

Lieutenant Ames, of the same battery, who, after being wounded, gallantly served with it in action, and being unable to ride on horse-back, was helped on and off a caisson in changes of position.

Captain Tillinghast, A. Q. M., who was ever present where his services were needed, carrying orders, rallying troops, and serving with the batteries, and finally, I have to state with the deepest sorrow, was mortally wounded.

Major Sykes and the officers of his command, three of whom [Lieutenants Latimer, Dickinson, and Kent] were wounded, who by their discipline, steadiness, and heroic fortitude, gave eclat to our attacks upon the enemy, and averted the dangers of a final overthrow.

Major Palmer and the cavalry officers under him, who by their daring intrepidity made the effectiveness of that corps all that it could be upon such a field in supporting batteries, feeling the enemy's position, and covering our retreat.

Major Reynolds, marines, whose zealous efforts were well sustained by his subordinates, two of whom, Brevet Major Zeilin and Lieutenant Hale, were wounded, and one, Lieutenant Hitchcock, lost his life.

Colonel H. W. Slocum, who was wounded while leading his gallant Twenty-seventh New York to the charge, and Major J. J. Bartlett, who subsequently commanded it, and by his enthusiasm and valor kept it in action and out of the panic. His conduct was imitated by his subordinates, of whom two, Captain H. C. Rodgers and Lieutenant H. C. Jackson, were wounded, and one, Ensign Asa Park, was killed.

In the last attack Colonel A. M. Wood, of the Fourteenth New York State Militia, was wounded, together with Capts. R. B. Jordan and C. F. Baldwin, and Lieuts. J. A. Jones, T. R. Salter, R. A. Goodenough, and C. Scholes, and Adjutant Laidlaw.

The officers of the Fourteenth, especially Major James Jourdan, were distinguished by their display of spirit and efficiency throughout the action.

Surg. Charles C. Keeneey, of the medical department, who by his professional skill, promptitude, and cheerfulness made the condition of the wounded of the Second Division comparatively comfortable. [He was assisted to a great extent by Dr. Rouch, of Chicago, a citizen.]

During the entire engagement I received extremely valuable aid and assistance from my aides-de-camp, Lieuts. C. F. Trowbridge and F. M. Bache, both of the Sixteenth Infantry.

Lieutenant J. B. Howard, Fourteenth New York State Militia, A. A. Q. M. for the brigade, who by zealous attention to his duties succeeded in safely bringing the wagons of my brigade to Arlington.

The staff officers of the Second Division commander, viz, Captain W. D. Whipple, Lieutenants Cross and Flagler, served with me after the fall of Colonel Hunter, and I am indebted to them for gallant, faithful services during the day. Captain Whipple had his horse killed under him by a cannon ball.

Acting Asst. Adjt. General Lieutenant W. W. Averell sustained the high reputation he had before won for himself as a brave and skillful officer, and to him I am very greatly indebted for aid and assistance, not only in performing with the greatest promptitude the duties of his position, but by exposing himself most fearlessly in rallying and leading forward the troops, he contributed largely to their general effectiveness against the enemy. I desire to call the attention of the commanding general particularly to him.

In conclusion, I beg leave to submit the inclosed return of killed, wounded, and missing in my brigade.* Since the above reports were

handed in many of the missing have returned, perhaps one-third of those reported. The inclosed report of Colonel Burnside, [No. 39], commanding Second Brigade, was sent to me after the above report was written. While respectfully calling the attention of the general commanding to it, I would also ask leave to notice some misconceptions under which the colonel commanding the Second Brigade seems to have labored at the time of writing his report, viz; Of his agency in the management or formation of the Second Division on the field; 2nd, of the time that his brigade was entirely out of the action, with the exception of the New Hampshire Regiment; 3rd, of the position of his brigade in the retreat, and particularly of the position of the Seventy-first New York, as he may have mistaken the rear guard, organized under my direction by your orders, for the enemy.,

Captain Arnold's battery and the cavalry were directed and placed in their positions by my senior staff officer up to the time when Colonel Heintzelman ordered the cavalry to the front of the column.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. PORTER,

Colonel Sixteenth Infantry, U. S. Army, Commanding Brigadier and Div.

Captain J. B. FRY,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

Major George Syke's Report- Vol. 2, pt. 1, 390

No. 35. Report of Major George Sykes, Fourteenth U. S. Infantry, commanding battalion of Regulars.

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION OF REGULARS, Camp Turnbull, Va., July 24, 1861.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with your circular of the 23rd instant, I have the honor to report the following casualties that occurred in my command during the recent battle before Manassas: Three commissioned officers wounded; one assistant surgeon missing; 13 rank and file killed, 17 wounded, 12 of whom are missing; 42 missing. A list is inclosed.* Many of the latter are supposed to have taken the Alexandria road by mistake and will no doubt rejoin their colors to-day.

This battalion, composed of two companies of Second U. S. Infantry, five companies of the Third U. S. Infantry, and one company of the Eighth Infantry, left its camp near Centreville about 3.30 a.m. on the 21st instant, and after a circuitous march of ten or twelve miles arrived on the enemy's left, and was immediately ordered to support the

force under Colonel Burnside, which was suffering from a severe fire in its front. Our line was rapidly formed, opening fire, and a column under Colonel Heintzelman appearing at the same moment on our left, the enemy fell back to the rising ground in his rear. My battalion was then advanced to the front, and took a position on the edge of a wood immediately opposite a masked battery and a large force of the secessionists posted about a house and the fences and trees around it. My three left companies were deployed as skirmishers under Captain Dodge, Eighth Infantry, and did great execution among their ranks. At this time the whole battalion became actively engaged, and a Rhode Island battery coming into action on my right, and having no support, at the request of its commanding officer, and seeing myself the necessity of the case, I remained as a protection to his guns. For more than an hour the command was here exposed to a concentrated fire from the batteries and regiments of the enemy, which seemed doubled when the guns of the Rhode Islanders opened. Many of my men assisted in working the latter battery.

As the attack of our Army became more developed on the right, and the necessity for my staying with the guns ceased, I moved my battalion in that direction, passing through crowds of retiring troops, whom we endeavored in vain to rally. Taking a position on the extreme right, in front of several regiments of the enemy, I opened an effective fire upon them, and held my ground until all our troops had fallen back and my flank was turned by a large force of horse and foot. I then retired a short distance in good order, and facing to the enemy on the crest of a hill, held his cavalry in check, which still threatened our flank.

At this stage of the action, my command was the only opposing force to the enemy, and the last to leave the field. By taking advantage of woods and broken ground, I brought it off without loss, although the guns of our opponents were playing on our line of march from every height. While thus retiring, I received an order from the brigade commander to cover the retreat of that portion of the Army near me, which I did as well as I was able, remaining in rear until all of it had passed me.

After crossing Bull Run my command was threatened by a large force of cavalry, but its order and the regularity of its march forbade any attack. We reached our camp beyond Centreville at 8 p.m. It is but proper to mention that our officers and men were on their feet from 10 p.m. on the 20th until 10 a.m. on the 22nd. Without rest, many without food, foot-sore, and greatly exhausted, they yet bore the retreat cheerfully, and set an example of constancy and discipline worthy of older and more experienced soldiers. My officers, nearly all of them just from civil life and the Military Academy, were eager and zealous, and to their efforts is due the soldierly retreat and safety of the battalion, as well as of many straggling volunteers who accompanied my command. The acting major, Captain N. H. Davis, Second Infantry, rendered essential service by his coolness, zeal, and activity. Captain Dodge, Eighth Infantry, commanding the skirmishers on the left, was equally efficient, and to those gentlemen and all my officers I am indebted for cordial co-operation in all the movements of the day. Lieutenant Kent, although wounded, endeavored to retain command of his company, but a second wound forced him to give it up. He and Lieutenant Dickinson, acting adjutant, wounded, and Dr. Sternberg, U. S. Army, are believed to be in the hands of the enemy.

I beg to call the attention of the brigade commander to the services of Sergeant-Major Devoe, of the Third Infantry, who was conspicuous for his good conduct on the field. The arms and equipments of my command are in good condition, but the men are destitute of blankets, and in want of necessary clothing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE SYKES,

Major, Fourteenth Infantry, Commanding Battalion of U. S. Marines.

Appendix III

Reports of the Seven Days Battles, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Brigadier General George Sykes- Vol. 11, pt. 2, 348

Numbers 137. Report of Brigadier General George Sykes,

U. S. Army, commanding Second Division, of the battle of Gaines' Mill, engagement at Turkey Bridge, and battle of Malvern Hill.

HEADQUARTERS SYKES' DIVISION,
Camp near Harrison's Landing, July 7, 1862.

SIR: The events taking place since the 26th ultimo have followed each other so rapidly that they may well be included in one general summary, which I have the honor herewith to submit:

The enemy having attacked in force at Mechanicsville on the 26th of June, my command moved a short distance in that direction as a support and bivouacked for the night. Early on the 27th I retired to the position assigned me near New Cold Harbor, and subsequently to a second position, chosen to command the roads leading from New and Old Cold harbor to Dispatch Station, on the Richmond and York River Railroad. My troops occupied the crest of a hill in an open field, partly covered by a fence and partly by the inequalities of the ground. McGehee's house, in rear of my right center, was the commanding point of the position. At the distance of 400 yards my front was masked throughout by heavy timber, bordering a ravine and where my left connected with other troops of Porter's corps a dense forest extended to the left and front. Under cover of this the enemy was enabled to form his masses, protect them from our fire, and hurl them on our lines.

Weed's battery, supported by the fourth U. S. Infantry, occupied my right, and commanded the approach from Old Cold Harbor. Then followed to the left the Third, Fourteenth, Twelfth, Sixth, Second, Tenth, Seventeenth, and Eleventh U. S. Regular Infantry, Fifth and Tenth New York Volunteers, with sections of Edwards' battery at intervals along the line. These troops formed three brigades. The first and Third, under Colonels Buchanan and Warren, U. S. Army, were deployed; the Second, under Major Lovell, Tenth Infantry, was held in reserve.

About 11 a. m. the enemy appeared in some force beyond the ravine in front, and with his artillery endeavored to shake the center of my line of battle. From this hour till 2 p. m., his battalions being constantly strengthened, he made repeated attempts on the flanks and center of my line and was as often driven back to his lair. At noon Tidball's battery of Horse Artillery reported to me, and taking position on the right of Weed, these two batteries broke up every attack of the enemy on our right flank, and finally sent him scampering to his main body, on our left. Matters now remained quiet for an hour. It was only the lull that precedes the storm.

At 3 p. m. I directed Colonel Warren to throw forward his skirmishers and feel the enemy in the ravine. Desultory firing began, which soon deepened into a continuous roar, unvarying and unceasing, until darkness set in and the conflict ceased. In this interval between 2 and 3 p. m. the enemy had brought up his reserves, replenished his ammunition, and under cover of the forest heretofore mentioned marshaled his legions for a grand attack. It was not one, but many, each of which was met and repulsed with a steady valor that could not be surpassed. In these attacks

the Fifth New York Volunteers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Dureyea, and Second, Sixth, Twelfth, and Fourteenth U. S. Infantry were especially conspicuous. The Fifth New York Volunteers were the peers of any troops on that hard-fought field. The Twelfth and Fourteenth U. S. Infantry, under Major Clitz and Captain O'Connell, advanced in the most perfect order in line, and heroically aiding Warren's brigade (Fifth and Tenth New York Volunteers), drove the enemy from our left and center far into the woods beyond. In connection with this movement the Third U. S. Infantry, under Major Rossell, was thrown from its original position to the right and rear of the Twelfth and Fourteenth, and while in this exposed situation, boldly resisting the foe, the gallant major lost his life.

In was now 5.30 p. m. The enemy still continued to pour in fresh troops against 4,500 men, who had baffled him at every point since 11 in the morning. Their excess of strength compelled the Twelfth and Fourteenth to occupy the crest of a secondary ridge somewhat in rear of the position they had previously won. While holding it they were attacked in overwhelming numbers, the Twelfth decimated, and Major Clitz severely, if not fatally, wounded. Around his fate, still shrouded in mystery, hangs the painful apprehension that a career so noble, so soldierly, so brave, has terminated on that field, whose honor he so gallantly upheld. Previous to this a brigade of volunteers, under Co. J. J. Bartlett, consisting of the Sixteenth and Twenty-seventh New York Volunteers, Fifth Maine, and Ninety-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, and Kingsbury's battery, Regular Artillery, joined my command. Under my direction, Colonel Barlett posted the regiments of his brigade with great daring in front of and around McGehee's house, and firmly maintained himself until the center of Porter's army was pierced, the troops in his front driven in, his left flank exposed, and his position no longer tenable. Kingsbury's battery (regulars) unlimbered on the crest of the ridge near and to the right of McGehee's house, and maintained its stand with great obstinacy and effect until the enemy were upon it and the infantry supports forced from the field.

In the early part of the action I was compelled to separate the sections of Captain Edwards' battery, but in their assigned positions they were admirably served, and moving from the center to the front and center to the left were more exposed than any other guns in the division. One of these sections near McGehee's house held its ground until the final attack of the enemy, when, having all its chiefs of pieces killed or wounded and its horses disabled, it was impossible to bring it off, and it fell a trophy to the foe.

Bartlett's troops now fell back to the foot of the hill. The Third, Twelfth, and Fourteenth U. S. Infantry joined in this movement, covered by Kingsbury's battery, which taking a new front to the right and rear of its former one and supported by the Third U. S. Infantry, held the rebels at bay until the troops had passed. Weed's and Tidball's batteries, with the Fourth U. S. Infantry, still kept their original position on the Old Cold Harbor road. The skillful handling of these guns during the battle prevented the enemy from turning my right flank, on which he made three distinct attacks, forced him to develop his own attack on the center and left of my line, and, with the assistance of the Fourth U. S. Infantry, cleared the way for themselves to retire to our new rendezvous.

This much for the right of my line. On the left, when the enemy had pushed back the troops opposed to him the Tenth, Eleventh, and Seventeenth U. S. Infantry (which, though always under fire, had been my principal reserve) were brought forward in the handsomest manner, winning the admiration of their brigade commander, Major Lovell, by their wonderful coolness and steadiness; but the tide was too strong for them. Few in numbers, they could not stem it. Here also a small remnant of the Second Infantry, less than 70 strong, rallied near the outhouses of McGehee's farm, and, led by Captain Bond and Lieutenant Grafius, Second Infantry, my assistant adjutant-general, Lieutenant Foster, and my assistant quartermaster, Lieutenant Parker, drove an entire regiment of rebels from their path. These battalions, the rest of Lovell's brigade, and Warren's troops, exhausted and out of ammunition, sullenly retired along the slope in rear of McGehee's, and united with the rest of the division at its base. At this point, half a mile from the battle-field, my command remained until relieved, about 9.30 p. m., by the brigades of French and Meagher.

These brigades were not in the action just closed. This was accomplished with-out confusion, and the troops bivouacked on the heights formerly occupied by the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, and commanding the approaches from the river.

At 6 p. m. on the 28th I resumed the march to White Oak Swamp via Savage Station, and halted in rain and darkness at 2 in the morning. At dawn I continued my route, crossed the swamp at Brackett's Ford, and occupied a position on

the Charles City road near its junction with the New Market and Quaker roads, and in communication with the troops of General Couch.

In the afternoon (29th) the division of general Hooker crossed the swamp and bivouacked in rear of my line. A brigade under General Berry also approaching, i requested him to establish it on my right, which, with the assistance of Colonel Warren, who had reconnoitered the ground, was immediately done.

Early on the 30th, General Kearny having arrived with the remainder of his troops, my division was withdrawn, and took up the march for Turkey Island Bridge. I reached the plateau of Malvern about 11 a. m., where, agreeably to the orders of General F. J. Porter, and assisted by Colonel G. K. Warren, Fifth New York Volunteers, all the available artillery was posted to control the approaches in our front. Two regiments of Buchanan's brigade were thrown into a clump of pines on my extreme right. The other two supported Weed's battery (regulars) and one of New York Volunteers. Chapman's brigade, commanded by Major Lovell, Tenth Infantry, prolonged the line to the left, covering the guns of Edwards, Carlisle, and Smead (regulars), and Captain Voegelée's battery of New York Volunteers, Artillery reserve. Warren's brigade was thrown in the valley on the left and below the plateau, watching the River road from Richmond. At a later hour he was supported by the Eleventh Infantry, under Major Floyd-Jones, and strengthened by Martin's battery of light 12 pounders and a detachment of cavalry for outpost duty, under Lieutenant Hess. My tops then rested on their arms, while other corps of the army followed, and took up the ground assigned them on the plateau to the right and rear.

Nothing could be more commanding than the line I held, and when in the course of the afternoon the enemy showed himself in front, the concentrated fire of our artillery smashed his batteries to pieces, compelled him to leave two guns and six caissons on the ground, and drove his infantry and cavalry ignominiously in retreat. He was not again heard from in that direction. ("A commissioned officer taken prisoner stated this column to have been 15,000 strong, with thirty guns, and two regiments of cavalry, under Generals Holmes and Wise.")

Early on the 1st of July the enemy appeared beyond my extreme right and in front of General Griffin. A lively cannonade began and continued for a few hours. At 3 p. m., having gathered his columns, the attack was renewed with great violence. The heavy batteries on my line, under Colonel Tyler, First Connecticut; Captain Carlisle, U. S. Army, and Voegelée, New York Volunteers, ranging far up the valley toward the enemy's approach, assisted in holding him at bay. This attack was mainly on the divisions of Morell and Couch. After continuing for some hours with great intensity I was directed to move in support, and with the brigades of Buchanan and Lovell marched to the field. Fortunately I arrived in time to assist in the defeat of the enemy. My troops were posted to cover the left of our line, though some of Buchanan's regiments overlapped those of our own troops immediately in front. On getting into position I discovered a strong movement of the rebels from the hill on their extreme right. Ignorant of our presence, they advanced with cheers and descended the opposite slope. I directed Captain O'Connell, commanding the Fourteenth Infantry, to reserve his fire until their flank was well exposed; then, giving the word, the Fourteenth poured in two or three well-aimed volleys, which so shattered the enemy that he fled to the rear in confusion and disorder. It was now quite dark, and this closed the fight on the left. The Third and Fourth U. S. Infantry were partly engaged on the right, meeting with some loss.

The brigades bivouacked on the battle-field. At midnight Lovell's brigade was ordered to retire, while Buchanan's held its ground as a rear guard, to cover the withdrawal of the army. My Third Brigade (Warren's), still in position on the River road, was directed to head the column en route to James River, but the stream of troops hurrying along the highway shut him out from the lead. Seeing this, I held the Second and Third Brigades in hand, with a view to support the rear guard, if necessary, and permitted the army heretofore on the plateau of Malvern to pass. At 6 a.m. the road was clear, when I moved to Harrison's Landing. Buchanan's brigade, forming part of the rear guard, under Colonel Averell, in face of the enemy, covered the withdrawal of the army, and was the last to leave the plateau.

On the following day, after being under arms and moving out to meet the enemy, I encamped in my present position. In the various operations, extending from the 26th of June to the 3rd of July, it is almost impossible that any one report, striving to embody and harmonize a dozen others, should succeed. Where this harmony is wanting I beg to refer to the reports of brigade and regimental commanders, and ask for them the consideration they deserve. Those of Colonel Buchanan, Colonel Warren, and Major Lovell are particularly explicit and satisfactory.

It is my painful duty to advert to cases of misbehavior and neglect mentioned by brigade and regimental commanders, and to say that they are already the subject of official investigation.

It is my pleasing duty to bring to the notice of the general commanding the services of Colonel R. C. Buchanan, Fourth U. S. Infantry; Major C. S. Lovell, Tenth U. S. Infantry, and Colonel G. K. Warren, Fifth New York Volunteers, brigade commanders, and to add that their zealous co-operation in all our movements, gallantry, fortitude, and management of their troops left me nothing to direct or advise.

The continued illness of Lieutenant-Colonel Chapman, Third Infantry, commander of the Second Brigade, deprived me of his valuable services in the battle herein described. Though still feeble he took the head of his brigade on the evening of the 30th, but was unable to command it on the following day. Colonel Warren, with the practical experience of an accomplished engineer, his untiring industry, unceasing energy, and unsurpassed gallantry upon the field won for himself promotion, which cannot be too soon or more worthily bestowed. To my personal staff I am under great obligations. Lieutenant S. A. Foster, Sixth Infantry, assistant adjutant-general; Lieutenant James A. Snyder, Third Infantry, aide-de-camp; Lieutenant T. D. Parker, Second Infantry, assistant quartermaster, and Lieutenant Henry Inman, Seventeenth Infantry, acting commissary of subsistence, were zealous, gallant, and active. Their duties, constant and dangerous, were performed just as I desired.

I had the misfortune to lose Lieutenant Parker, killed near the close of the action on the 27th, and the further services of Lieutenant Inman, severely wounded on the same day. Lieutenant Parker had recently won his commission, adorned it, and had endeared himself to his comrades by the qualities of a soldier and a gentleman.

I respectfully refer to the services of the various commanders mentioned in the reports of their brigades, and to add my personal testimony to the coolness, courage, and valor of Colonel Bendix, Tenth New York Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel Duryea, Fifth New York Volunteers; Major Floyd-Jones, Eleventh Infantry; Major Clitz, Twelfth Infantry, and Major Andrews, Seventeenth Infantry; Captains Hendrickson, Sixth Infantry; Collins, Fourth Infantry; O'Connell and McKibbin, Fourteenth Infantry; Walker and J. D. Wilkins, Third Infantry, and Captain Bond, Second Infantry. These captains, with the exception of McKibbin, were in command of their regiments, except Capt. J. D. Wilkins and M. M. Blunt, Third and Twelfth Infantry, who were in command of their respective regiments at the battle of Malvern, July 1. In the same list I desire to include the names of Captain R. N. Scott, Fourth Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general, First Brigade; First Lieutenant John S. Poland, regimental quartermaster, Second Infantry, and acting aide-de-camp, Second Brigade, and Rev. G. Winslow, Fifth New York Volunteers. These officers were conspicuous for gallantry throughout the 27th. The latter, acting as aide-de-camp to Colonel Warren, united in himself the duties of minister, soldier, and surgeon.

I beg also to heartily unite in the various notices of good behavior and soldierly bearing on the part of captains and subaltern officers, and in the recommendations for promotion to faithful and meritorious non-commissioned officers.

The medical officers generally were untiring in their efforts to relieve the wounded. Brigade Surgeon Bigelow, Drs. Spencer, Middleton, and Okie, U. S. Army, had charge of the field hospital. Drs. Sternberg, Forwood, Ramsey, and Woodhull, U. S. Army; Assistant Surgeon Doolittle, New York Volunteers, and Acting Assistant Surgeon Grant were prompt and faithful in their onerous duties. Dr. Doolittle is spoken of by Colonel Warren as being particularly distinguished by his services on the field after having his horse shot under him and being severely bruised. Dr. Sternberg added largely to the reputation already acquired on the disastrous field of Bull Run.

My thanks are especially due to Captain Weed, Fifth, and Captain Edwards, Third, U. S. Artillery, belonging to my division, and to Captain Tidball, Second, and Lieutenant Kingsbury, Fifth, Regular Artillery, and their lieutenants, for the superb manner in which their guns were handled. For the names of these lieutenants general is respectfully referred to the reports of the battery commanders. It is not too much to say that the enemy's attack on my right flank was frustrated mainly by the services of Captains Weed and Tidball.

In conclusion, no army ever underwent greater hardship in the same length of time than this Army of the Potomac. Seven Pitched battles attest its valor. Hunger, night marches, tropical heat, storm-drenched, weary, and exhausted, they reached their new base uncomplainingly, cheerful, still defiant.

Annexed will be found tabular statements of the killed, wounded, and missing. They aggregate 8 officers killed, 30 wounded, 6 missing; 178 enlisted men killed, 656 wounded, 288 missing. Grand total, 1,122 killed, wounded, and missing.*

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Captain FRED. T. LOCKE, A. A. A. G., Fifth Army Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Buchanan- Vol. 11, pt. 2, 358

Numbers 140. Report of Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Buchanan,

Fourth U. S. Infantry, commanding First Brigade, of the battle of Gaines' Mill, engagement at Turkey Bridge, and battle of Malvern Hill.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, REGULAR INFANTRY,
Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va., July 6, 1862.

SIR: In obedience to instructions from division headquarters I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade since the 26th of June:

On the 26th, the brigade, consisting of the Third, Fourth, Twelfth, and Fourteenth Infantry, having just returned to camp near New Bridge from a reconnaissance to Totopotomoy Creek, was ordered out about 4 p.m. in the direction of Mechanicsville to support McCall's division, then known to be engaged with the enemy. We advanced about half a mile, and bivouacked for the night in order of battle. At daylight morning we moved back to camp, and after collecting the knapsacks of the men, sending off the sick to across the Chickahominy, and destroying the commissary and other stores, crossed the creek at Gaines' Mill to a position in front of McGehee's house, and covering the Cold Harbor Cross Roads, where it was disposed of in order to repel an attack of the enemy. I ordered the Fourth Infantry to support Weed's battery, posted on a knoll commanding the Cold Harbor road, whilst the Third was ordered to occupy a position along the head of the road and to the left of the battery, from which it could observe the road and a skirt of timber in front, through which the enemy might advance. The Twelfth and Fourteenth were drawn up in line in the corn field in front of McGehee's house. This disposition of my brigade was generally maintained throughout the battle, being only varied by the alternate successes of the opposing forces during the action, as the troops pressed back the enemy or were pressed back in turn. Our position was the extreme right of the line, and upon its being held very much depended.

About noon the enemy commenced by attacking our right flank with his artillery, to which Weed responded in a vigorous manner, soon silencing his battery and driving him from that part of the field. Tidball's battery was now advanced and took up a position on the right of Weed, and both retained their positions till the close of the battle. The action soon became lively on the right, and the Fourteenth Infantry was first thrown into the edge of the woods fronting the house, through which the enemy's skirmishers soon attempted to advance, but without success, as the Fourteenth routed and drove them off handsomely. Meantime they came up in force through the woods and field to the left, and immediately Major Clitz changed the front of his battalion (the Twelfth) and repulsed them handsomely. Again the enemy brought up his artillery and engaged Weed and Tidball, but was repulsed, with the loss of several caissons blown up.

About 3.30 p.m. the enemy renewed his efforts, and the action soon became general throughout the entire extent of the lines. At this time the brigade was disposed as follows: The Fourth, still on the extreme right, was supporting Weed and Tidball; the Third in its position observing the road; the Twelfth along the fence running to the edge of the woods fronting the house, and the Fourteenth in the corn field facing toward this woods.

Seeing a considerable force of the enemy coming up from the ravine to the left, and moving up through the field to the left of that occupied by the Twelfth and Fourteenth, I directed the Fourteenth to change front to the rear, with the view of flanking him, and then to charge as he fell back. This was done, and the two battalions crossed the intervening fence and advanced in as handsome a line of battle as I ever saw on drill, driving the enemy from this field and killing many of them. I then advanced the Third into the field on the right and threw it into the edge of the wood in front, in order to repel any effort to turn my right. Having done this, I observed a company of pickets coming up from the Cold Harbor road without an officer, and upon inquiring whose, it was found that it was Captain Lay's Twelfth Infantry, who, the sergeant stated, had been taken sick and was then with the Fourth Infantry. This officer has since been arrested under charges for gross dereliction of duty on a subsequent occasion.

The battle now raged with varying success until night-fall, when all the troops were withdrawn from the field and the most of them were thrown across the Chickahominy. The conflict in this part of the field throughout the entire day was characterized by the most indomitable energy, perseverance, and gallantry of our troops. Every time that a regiment of the enemy was repulsed a fresh body came to take its place, whilst we occupied our original ground with the same forces that first went into action. Here it was that we met with the most of our loss, and yet my brigade maintained its ground against greatly superior odds for nearly eight hours.

During the entire action the Fourth Infantry, under command of Captain J. B. Collins, covered the two batteries, and at its close formed in rear of them and marched there, when they were withdrawn, about 8 p.m. On the march to the rear, which was not commenced until the batteries were nearly out of ammunition, the Fourth on three several occasions formed, fronting the enemy and checking his advance, whilst the batteries were enabled to pass successfully obstacles that seriously impeded their progress and threatened their capture. This regiment did not cross the Chickahominy, but took up a position covering the Grapevine Bridge on the north side, which it maintained that night. The next morning, after partially destroying that bridge, it crossed by the Woodbury Bridge to Camp Lincoln. Major Delozier Davidson commanded the regiment until after it was posted as the support to the batteries, when without giving notice of this intention to any one, he absented himself, leaving his horse with his orderly, and has not been seen or heard of since.

Our loss was very severe, and among others was that of the brave and lamented Major Rossell, commanding the Third Infantry, and the gallant and dashing Clitz, commanding the Twelfth, who was twice severely wounded, and is now supposed to be a prisoner in Richmond. My command behaved admirably, and fully maintained the reputation of the regulars. The two old regiments (the Third and Fourth) maintained their previous reputation, and the new battalions (the Twelfth and Fourteenth) earned one for themselves. In the latter part of the evening acting assistant adjutant-general, Captain R. N. Scott, Fourth Infantry, was disabled by a severe wound in the arm whilst in the act of carrying an order to the batteries and the Fourth to withdraw, and was soon compelled to leave the field. His cool and gallant conduct throughout the day deserves especial notice.

On the 28th the Fourth Infantry was thrown out on picket in front of Grapevine Bridge, with orders to destroy it, which was successfully done, and about noon the regiment was relieved by mounted pickets and returned to Camp Lincoln. About 3 p.m. the brigade left camp and moved past Savage Station in the direction of White Oak Swamp, through which it passed that night and the next morning, when it was halted near the head of the Quarker road and placed in position for battle. This position was occupied until the morning of the 30th, when the brigade moved to Malvern Hills, near the James River. Here the brigade was divided, the Twelfth and Fourteenth occupying a position on the plain near the house, whilst the Third and Fourth were posted in a wood on the side of a hill to the right of the line and somewhat in advance, which it was considered it was most important to hold. That evening the enemy opened fire from a battery on the opposite side of the plain at the foot of the hill, and after a sharp artillery fight was obliged to retire, leaving his pieces behind him. During the fight a New York battery (said to be Captain Smith's), firing through the woods in which the Third was posted, killed, by cutting away the branches of the trees, which fell upon them, 1 officer, Lieutenant McGuire, 1 sergeant, and 1 private of that regiment.

On the 1st of July the enemy attacked the position occupied by the army in force, and about 3.30 p.m. the First Brigade was brought into action, the disposition of the regiments being regulated by the division commander. The Third and Fourth were pushed across a ravine through the woods to our right, whilst the Twelfth and Fourteenth were deployed on the plain at the foot of the hills on a line about perpendicular to the direction of their base. By this latter movement the enemy was defeated in an effort to turn our flank, and the brigade was reunited and placed in position in the extreme front by the brigadier-general commanding, which position it held until about 2 a.m., when I withdraw it a few yards to another on the road to the house where the left lay. About that hour I received an order from the commander of the Fifth Provisional Army Corps to the effect that my brigade, with a battery of artillery and Averell's cavalry, would constitute the rear guard of the army, which was then falling back across Turkey Creek Bridge.

The brigade remained in its position until about 5 a.m., when Colonel Averell arrived on the ground and directed its further disposition. Having about 7 a.m. received the order to retire, the brigade moved off, left in front, and having crossed the bridge, was formed in a large plain—the Third, Fourth, and Twelfth in line of battle, and the Fourteenth to the left and front on the main road, covering some roads leading into White Oak Swamp, which position it maintained for some time; but no enemy appearing to oppose us, the march was resumed and continued to the camp near Harrison's Landing, about half a mile from this point. On the 3rd we changed our camp to our present position.

In summing up our operations I cannot but ask for my brigade the favorable notice of the commanding general for its patient endurance of hardship and great exposure, its energetic and prompt action on all occasions, and its marked coolness and gallantry in action. Bivouacking for eleven nights with small supply of rations, which it had seldom time to cook; enduring everything, not only without complaint, but with absolute cheerfulness; conscious of the justice of the cause in which we are enlisted, it has earned for itself an honorable name.

Major Delozier Davidson, Fourth Infantry, absented himself from his regiment at the commencement of the action of the 27th and has not been heard of since: First Lieutenant J. B. Williams, Third Infantry, absented himself also on that occasion and has not since joined; Captain J. Carbery Lay, Twelfth Infantry, is reported as having been drunk during the evening of the 1st of July and unfit for duty, and Second Lieutenant Thomas S. Wright, Fourteenth Infantry, absented himself without leave during that evening and has not since joined.

It now becomes my agreeable duty to bring to the especial notice of the commanding general the names of the following officers, whose gallant conduct entitles them to that distinction: Captain R. N. Scott, Fourth Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general of the First Brigade on the 27th June (severely wounded); Second Lieutenant William H. Powell, adjutant Fourth Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general since that date; Captain J. B. Collins, commanding Fourth Infantry; Captain Hiram Dryer, acting field officer Fourth Infantry; Captain J. D. O'Connell, commanding Fourteenth Infantry; Bvt. Major M. M. Blunt, commanding Twelfth Infantry; Captain D. B. McKibbin, acting field officer Fourteenth Infantry; Captain Thomas W. Walker, acting field officer Third Infantry; Captain John G. Read, acting field officer Twelfth Infantry; Captain Frederick Winthrop, Twelfth Infantry; First Lieuts. C. R. Coster, H. E. Smith, J. G. Heckscher, and Robert L. Burnett, Twelfth Infantry.

Inclosed are the reports of the regimental commanders.

Believing that my report covers all the principal operations of my brigade, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

ROBT. C. BUCHANAN,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Fourth Infantry, Commanding Brigade.

Captain FRED T. LOCKE,

Asst. Adjt. General, Fifth Provisional Army Corps.

Captain Thomas Walker (3rd U.S.) Vol. 11, pt. 2, 361

Numbers 141. Report of Captain Thomas W. Walker,

Third U. S. Infantry, of the battle of Gaines' Mill, engagement at Turkey Bridge, and battle of Malvern Hill.

CAMP ON JAMES RIVER, July 4, 1862.

The regiment, under command of Major N. B. Rossell. left bivouac near Hall's shops and marched to Camp Lovell; left Camp Lovell at 3.30 p.m. and marched in the direction of Mechanicsville, 1 1/2 miles, and took position for battle. Bivouacked in position that night. June 27 marched at 4 a.m. to Camp Lovell; then back beyond Gaines' Mill, and took up position near the right of the line of battle, with Weed's and Tidball's batteries on our right and Griffin's battery on our left, Twelfth and Fourteenth Infantry to our left. Battle began at noon. The regiment remained in its position under fire, though not engaged, until about 4 p.m. when, the Twelfth and Fourteenth Infantry having moved forward to charge the enemy, the Third Infantry was ordered to the front under a heavy fire, and to the right of the Twelfth and Fourteenth, to take position along the edge of the woods and support those two regiments and prevent the enemy turning their flank. I was here ordered by Major N. B. Rossell to report to General Sykes that the enemy's cavalry and infantry in large force were attempting to turn our right flank.

On returning to the regiment I found its whole left exposed to a murderous fire from the front, flank, and rear, and almost surrounded, and that in my absence Major N. B. Rossell had been mortally wounded. I then took command of the regiment, and the Twelfth having retired to its original position and not seeing the Fourteenth, I withdrew the regiment slowly to its first position in support of the batteries, the Twelfth Infantry being to our left. The enemy suddenly appeared in front of the Twelfth in the woods and almost decimated the regiment at a volley. I pushed forward four companies (Companies C, D, H, and I, under Captain Davies, Lieutenants Sheridan, McGuire, and Eckert), who, in conjunction with the Twelfth, which formed on their left, vigorously attacked the enemy and drove them back to the woods. This position I maintained until after night-fall and until all on my left hand had fallen back. Weed's and Tidball's batteries were still in position, and, supported by the Fourth Infantry on the right and the Third on the left, still held the enemy in check.

About 8 o'clock p.m. all on my right retired, and I slowly fell back to a line of batteries established about 600 yards in my rear, and took up a position on their right flank, and held this position until all the batteries had retired to the rear. I then withdrew from the field, the regiment being the last to pass the hospital in rear of the battle ground.

About 5 p.m. I discovered that Lieutenant Williams, commanding Company G, was unaccountably missing, and that Sergt. Wiliam Hessian, of the same company, had assumed the command of the company and was handling it well. I then detached Lieutenant Page from Company D and assigned him to the command of Company G, in which position he has since remained. Bivouacked that night near the bridge over the Chickahominy. I believed that, with the exception named, all the officers and men did their duty well, and would especially refer to the good conduct of Sergt. Major August Kaiser, First Sergt. David Grier, Company E, and First Sergt. Stanley Mourton, of Company H, all of whom have heretofore been recommended for promotion. Company K, Lieutenant Whitney, was detailed on picket early in the morning, and acted with the Fourth Infantry during the day.

June 28, left our bivouac at 1.20 a.m. and marched across the Chickahominy, and took up a position on the hill previously occupied as general headquarters, where we remained until about 5 p.m., when we took up the march through Savage Station to a point where the baggage had been left, where we halted some hours.

June 29, marched, about 1 o'clock a.m., through White Oak Swamp, to a point near New Market road.

June 30, marched to camp on James River-name unknown to me. About 4 p.m. Lieutenant Woods McGuire, and Corporals Montford, Company D, and Jansen, Company H, were killed by the firing of a battery posted on the hill immediately in rear of the Third Infantry, and commanded, I believe, by Lieutenant Nairn.

July 1, the regiment was under arms, Captain Wilkins commanding, in the woods till near night, when we were pushed forward through the woods under a heavy fire, and took up position near the left of the battle then progressing. Here the regiment remained, supporting Robertson's battery, until the battle ended, and bivouacked on the field, and collected many prisoners during the night. July 2, detailed on extreme rear guard, and marched in rear of the whole army, except Averell's cavalry command, to a point about 3 miles from Turkey Bridge, where it was relieved from rear-guard duty, and marched into camp with the brigade.

Herewith inclosed you will please find of all the casualties in the regiment from the 26th June to the present date.*

In obedience to instructions from brigade headquarters I would mention the names of Sergt. Major August Kaiser, First Sergt. David, Grier, Company E, and First Sergt. Stanley Mourton, Company H, Third Infantry, as being in my opinion entitled to promotion to commission on account of their abilities, past good conduct, and excellent bearing in the engagements.

On this march all the regimental and company property has been destroyed and abandoned by order.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. W. WALKER,

Captain, Third Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

Captain John Wilkins (3rd U.S.) Vol. 11, pt. 2, 363

Numbers 142. Reports of John D. Wilkins,

Third U. S. Infantry, of engagement at Turkey Bridge and the battle of Malvern Hill.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD REGIMENT U. S. INFANTRY,
Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va., July 20, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a report supplementary to one already furnished by Captain Walker. The reason of its not having been furnished earlier was my having been sick. In justice to myself I have the honor to state that on the 24th of June, at Camp Lovell, I was quite ill with fever, and was on the sick report, unable to attend any duty at the time the movement commenced, and was ordered by the assistant surgeon to the rear. On the day of the battle at Gaines' house I rode to the regiment in an ambulance and reported to Major Rossell for duty, and was ordered by him to return to the wagons and remain there. On the arrival of the regiment on the other side of the Chickahominy I reported for duty, and, as subsequent events proved, too soon for my health. On my arrival at this point, having been on foot nearly all the time, I was so utterly prostrated as to be entirely unfit for duty, and was sent by the assistant surgeon to the rear, and am only now sufficiently recovered to be fit for duty.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

Captain, Third Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

Lieutenant WILLIAM H. POWELL,

Actg. Asst. Adj. General, First Brigade Regulars.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD REGIMENT U. S. INFANTRY,
Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va., July 20, 1862.

SIR: In order to complete the report of the movements of his regiment during the change of the base of operations of the Army of the Potomac I have the honor to submit the following:

I assumed command of the regiment on the morning of June 28, on its arrival this side of Woodbury's Bridge. After remaining under arms at this point until evening the regiment moved, and after a night march arrived the next morning near the position occupied by General Couch's brigade. Some firing to our front and right caused an order to halt, and a subsequently order to take position on the right of the road, where we remained in line of battle all the remainder of the 29th of June and that night.

The next morning we moved with the brigade, and were assigned to a position on or near Malvern Hills. Here we remained the 30th of June and the 1st of July until evening, exposed at intervals to the fire of the enemy's our own, and the gunboats' guns. At this point we lost Lieutenant Woods McGuire and 2 men killed, supposed to be by a shell from one of our batteries posted in our rear.

On the evening of the 1st of July we were ordered to the support of the troops already engaged in the battle of Malvern Hills. While advancing in line of battle and under fire of the enemy I received orders from General Porter in person to halt until he brought some other troops into action. A short time after I received orders to advance the regiment, which was posted by General Sykes in a position which I was directed to hold at all hazards, and here we remained the greater part of the night.

Early on the 2nd of July I received orders from Acting Brigadier-General Buchanan to change the position of the regiment, and we moved to the rear. On the arrival of Colonel Averell on the field I was detailed by him on other duty, and the command of the regiment during the remainder of the movement, until its arrival at this point, devolved upon Captain Walker, Third Infantry.

During the period I had command of the regiment both officers and men manfully performed their duties. On the night of the 1st of July, while on the field of battle, Lieutenant Penrose volunteered and with my permission advanced to a house a short distance in front of our line, and with a detachment of his company captured an officer and 23 men. Another officer came into our lines during the night, mistaking them, as he said, for his own, and was captured. The prisoners were sent to the rear.

The loss of the regiment during of the time I was in command amounted to 1 officer (Lieutenant McGuire), 2 corporals, and 1 private killed; 7 privates wounded, and 10 privates missing. A list has already been furnished.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

Captain, Third Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

Lieutenant WILIAM H. POWELL,

Actg. Asst. Adj. General, First Brigade Regulars.

Appendix IV

Reports of the Battle of Second Bull Run, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Itinerary of the Fifth Corps- Vol. 12, pt. 2, 465

Numbers 86. Itinerary of the Fifth Army Corps, Major General Fitz John Porter, U. S. Army, commanding, August 14-September 2.*

Left Harrison's Landing August 14, crossed the pontoon bridge across the Chickahominy, and arrived at Barrett's Ferry at 7.30 a. m. the 15th instant.

August 16, left Barrett's Ferry and marched to Williamsburg.

August 17, left Williamsburg for Newport News, via Yorktown and Hampton, arriving on Monday, the 18th instant.

August 21, embarked at Newport News and sailed for Aquia Creek, arriving at 4 p. m.

August 22, disembarked and proceeded by rail to Falmouth, and marched to Deep Creek.

August 26, left Deep Creek and marched within 5 miles of Bealeton Station.

August 27, broke camp and marched to Warrenton Junction via Bealeton Station.

August 28, left Warrenton Junction and marched to Bristoe Station. August 29, left Bristoe Station and marched to Manassas Junction, receiving orders from General Pope to march in the direction of Gainesville. On the afternoon of the same day had a slight skirmish with the enemy.

August 30, joined General Pope on the battle-field of Bull Run, near Groveton. The corps was engaged all that day in the battle of Bull Run, and in the evening fell back on Centreville with the rest of the army.

August 31 and September 1, remained at Centreville in bivouac till midnight September 2, when the corps marched to Fairfax Court-House and Flint Hill, at which latter place it arrived at 10 a. m., September 2, and left at 3 p. m. for Chain Bridge.

Brigadier General George Sykes- Vol. 12, pt. 2, 481

Numbers 98. Report of Brigadier General George Sykes, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division, of the battle of Bull Run.

HDQRS. SYKES' DIVISION, PORTER'S ARMY CORPS,
Camp at Vanderwerken's, Va., September 6, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report:

On the 27th ultimo General F. J. Porter's army corps, of which my division forms a part, effected a junction with the Army of Virginia, under General Pope. The day following we marched to Bristoe Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad; thence, on the 29th, to Manassas and westwardly toward Gainesville, making a demonstration against the enemy, and exchanging a few cannon shot with in the evening. We bivouacked for the night near Bethlehem Church, on the Gainesville road, and at daylight on the 30th marched to the old battle ground of Bull Run, arriving about 9 a. m. General Pope's army was on that ground and in its vicinity. Two brigades of my division (First and Second) were thrown in advance of the Dogan house, facing to the west, their left resting on the Warrenton turnpike. The Third Brigade and my three batteries were held in reserve. An extensive forest masked my front, and on my left, to the south of the Warrenton turnpike, a second forest covered the country and screened the enemy from all observation. These two forests, half a mile apart, near my advanced position, were separated by an open plain that rose in the form of an irregular V toward a commanding crest held by the enemy. His cannon, immediately behind this crest, overlooked my whole division, and as my troops took their place he made good use of it.

From that time until 3 o'clock p. m. a sharp cannonade ensued and some practice among the skirmishers. Those of the enemy were forced back into the forest on the left of the Warrenton turnpike, and some houses and fences previously occupied by him were seized and held by my light troops (Third Infantry).

Thus far we had seen none of the enemy's infantry, none of the cavalry, and only the muzzles of his cannon over the crest heretofore mentioned. We were in profound ignorance of his position, strength, or designs. About 4 p. m. I was ordered to support an attack to be made by General Butterfield. This attack was based upon the supposition that the enemy was in full retreat-so announced in the orders of General Pope. Porter's army corps was to be the pivot of operations. The troops on our right were to swing toward us, clear the enemy in front (if there), and then, by a joint movement with Porter, we were all to hurry him up in his retrograde movement. The Pennsylvania Reserves, under General J. F. Reynolds, had been posited on my left, south of the Warrenton pike. Just previous to the attack these troops were withdrawn, leaving my left flank entirely uncovered and the Warrenton road open. Colonel Warren, Fifth New York Volunteers, commanding my Third Brigade, seeing the paramount necessity of holding this point, threw himself there with his brigade, the remnants of two regiments, and endeavored to fill the gap created by the removal of Reynolds.

Butterfield's attack was gallantly made and gallantly maintained until his troops were torn to pieces. My First Brigade, under Colonel R. C. Buchanan, U. S. Army, moved to his aid, relieved him, and became furiously engaged. The troops on our right did not properly support this attack, in consequence of which the whole movement failed. The enemy, posted in a railroad excavation, was as secure as earthen embankments could make him, and as our troops emerged from the woods they were met by withering volleys, that decimated their ranks. Their own fire was almost harmless against a sheltered foe. This advance of parts of Porter's and McDowell's army corps was on the left center of our line. The enemy, seeing its failure, and that our weak point lay on my left in front of Warren, poured upon his little command, under cover of the forest, a mass of infantry that enveloped-almost destroyed- him, and completely pierced our line. Out of 490 men in the Fifth New York Volunteers, 79 killed and 170 wounded attest the nature of this attack.*

It became necessary to retire from the ground we occupied. Buchanan's and Chapman's brigades did so in columns of regiments in line of battle under a sever artillery fire, and never wavered. Weed's, Smead's, and Randol's batteries moved with and near them. Warren gathered the remnant of his brigade in rear of Young's Run. I suggested to General Porter that my troops should occupy the plateau of the Henry and Robinson houses beyond Young's Run, and endeavor to hold it against the oncoming foe. Naturally it was the strongest position on the field. He acquiesced in my suggestion, and during the movement to that point I remained with Weed's battery, that again had been brought into action near the Dogan house. After a short interval, riding rapidly toward the plateau, I learned from my adjutant-general, Lieutenant Cutting, that some general officers had sent Chapman's brigade into action on the extreme left, and that the plateau was held by other troops.

Buchanan's and the remnant of Warren's brigades were then formed immediately in rear of the plateau. The enemy continuing to outflank our left, Buchanan was ordered to the support of the forces engaged in that direction, and

maintained a gallant and bloody conflict with the foe until, outnumbered, outflanked, and badly crippled, I directed him to retire. Chapman, thrown in previous to Buchanan, fighting desperately for three-quarters of an hour, seriously cut up and fired into by volunteers behind him, was also ordered to retire. This was directed only after a regiment of volunteers on his right and one on his left had fallen back, exposing both his flanks, while a New York battery to the right of him cleared out just when its services were most necessary. The remains of my command were then united on the plateau. My artillery joined me near this position.

Captain J. R. Smead, Fifth Artillery, was unfortunately killed in bringing off his guns. From the nature of the fight he and Randol had little opportunity to display the skill they had previously acquired in handling their batteries. Weed was in action throughout the day, and strengthened the reputation he had already acquired. He had the misfortune to lose two of his guns by the breaking of their axles. They were abandoned on the road from the battlefield to Centreville-not taken from him by the enemy.

After my command reunited I received orders to move on Centreville, and reached there at midnight intact and in excellent order. The following morning a position was assigned me among the old rifle pits of the rebels, which I held for thirty-six hours. At 1 a. m. on the 2nd of September we moved to Fairfax, thence to Flint Hill, thence to our present camp.

I desire to call the attention of the major-general commanding to the services of Colonels Warren, Buchanan, and Chapman, U. S. Army, commanding brigades of my division. Their coolness, courage, and example were conspicuous. Their claim to promotion has been earned on fields of battle long prior to that of the 30th of August, 1862. Had the efforts of these officers, those of Generals Reynolds, Reno, and Butterfield, been properly sustained, it is doubtful if the day had gone against us. Warren's command was sacrificed by the withdrawal of Reynolds' troops from my left and their non-replacement by others. The enemy masked and concealed his brigades in the forests south of the Warrenton pike. His presence was unseen and unknown until he appeared in sufficient strength to overpower the infantry opposed to him. In fighting an offensive battle, we left behind us a position (the old battle ground) that offered reasonable hopes of success, and in the pursuit of a supposed retreating foe we encountered a well-posed army, flushed by victory, confident, calmly awaiting the attack he most desired.

The reports of brigade, battalion, and artillery commanders are inclosed. I respectfully refer to them for the minuter operations of the day, and cordially unite in the recommendations given in them to officers and men. It will be seen that my troops behaved with the utmost coolness and bravery (known to the general himself); were exposed for many hours to a severe artillery fire without the power of evading it, and when eventually led into battle acted as well as troops ever do. Their conduct left me nothing to desire. It was their misfortune not to be supported, and no fault of theirs that they were compelled to join in the general retreat.

To revert to cases of individual merit, Major C. S. Lovell, Tenth Infantry, commanding Second U. S. Infantry, is particularly mentioned for his conduct on this occasion. I desire to add my personal testimony to the major's known gallantry, and to bespeak for him the advancement he so richly deserves.

All my battalion commanders were zealous, energetic, and active. They were, Major Floyd Jones, Eleventh Infantry; Major Andrews, Seventeenth Infantry; Captains Bootes, Sixth Infantry; Wilkins, Third Infantry, commanding the skirmishers; H. Dryer, Fourth Infantry; blunt, Twelfth Infantry; O'Vonnell and McKibbin, Fourteenth Infantry, First and Second Battalions; Colonel Bendiw, Tenth New York Volunteers, and Captain C. Winslow, commanding the Fifth New York Volunteers. Lieutenant Sherida, Third Infantry, maintained his line of skirmishers with great obstinacy until our whole force fell back to its last position.

My personal staff-First Lieutenant Heyward Cutting, Tenth U. S. Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general; First Lieutenant George T. Ingham, Eleventh U. S. Infantry, and First Lieutenant Warren W. Chamberlain, Fourteenth U. S. Infantry, acting aides-de-camp-were under fire throughout the day, and were constantly occupied in transmitting orders to the various portions of the field. Their zeal, activity, and anxiety to do everything in their power were always apparent. Lieutenant Chamberlain, sent with an order to Colonel Wareen near the close of the day, is among the missing. His fate is not yet determined, but he is believed to be a prisoner, wounded, and in the hands of the enemy.

Captain Lawrence and Lieutenant Fletcher, Fourteenth Infantry, were sent with 100 men from my command on the 1st to gather the wounded and render such assistance as was possible to our people left on the field. In this distressing duty they were occupied four or five days, part of the time without food. They deserve mention for their good conduct in this connection.

The medical officers, under Dr. Forwood, U. S. Army, were constantly engaged in their duties, and rendered all the assistance possible under the circumstances.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Captain FRED. T. LOCKE,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifth Army Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Buchanan- Vol. 12, pt. 2, 487

Numbers 102. Report of Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Buchanan, Fourth U. S. Infantry, commanding First Brigade, of the battle of Bull Run.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, REGULAR INFANTRY,
Camp near Hall's Hill, Va., September 6, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade, composed of the Third, Fourth, and First Battalions of the Twelfth, and First and Second Battalions of the Fourteenth Infantry, on the 30th ultimo, at Bull Run and in its vicinity:

At daylight on the morning of the 30th we took up our line of march from our bivouac on the Manassas and Gainesville road in the direction of Bull Run and reached that stream about 10 a. m., soon after which I was ordered to place my brigade in position in the field fronting the Dogan house. The First and Second Battalions of the Fourteenth were deployed in a corn field, with the Twelfth and Fourth Infantry covering them in their rear in columns of battalions, the left of our line resting on the Warrenton turnpike. The Third was advanced to the front and right under cover of a wood, about 1,000 yards distant, where it was deployed as skirmishers.

About 11 a. m. the enemy commenced throwing shells into us from a battery beyond the wood in front of the Third, killing 1 man and wounding several. Butterfield's brigade, which had previously been placed in position on my right, was soon advanced into the wood, and I was directed to advance the four battalions to the front and obliquely to the right, to take up a position in rear and under cover of the woods, which I did in column of battalions, left in front. As soon as notified that I was unmasked by Butterfield I advanced the two battalions of the Fourteenth into and through the woods to his support, and held them there until after his brigade was entirely withdrawn, when my whole column was ordered to the rear. While in the woods we were under a most incessant fire of all arms, but my officers and men behaved admirably. Here it was that Captain O'Connell, of the Fourteenth Infantry, was wounded in the knee while commanding the First Battalion (notwithstanding which he continued with his command throughout the day), and Captain D. B. McKibbin, Fourteenth Infantry, in the ear, while commanding the Second Battalion.

The Third Infantry, meanwhile, had been advanced, and held possession for several hours of two houses, about 100 and 250 yards in front and to the left of the wood, which it held until all the troops were withdrawn from the center. In withdrawing the Third the right wing united with the brigade, and the left, being across the turnpike, united with Warren's brigade, and served with it until the whole division was united on the plateau between the Henry and Robinson houses.

About 5 p. m. the brigade was withdrawn from the wood in admirable order, moving by the fronts of battalions in column, and halted for a short time in rear of Weed's battery, on a line with the Dogan house. From this point I was ordered across the turnpike to a position on the plateau between the Henry and Robinson houses, where the brigade was deployed in line of battle, with its right resting on the Henry house.

About 6 p. m. I was ordered to take the battalion of the Twelfth and Fourteenth to a wood to our left and front, to support Meade's brigade, then severely pressed by the enemy; and almost immediately after placing these troops in position I observed that the Third and Fourth had also been ordered up. I found the enemy in very strong force in the wood, and during the heat of a very severe engagement discovered that he was flanking me with large masses of troops. I immediately commenced to gain ground to my left, so as to meet his movements, and held him in check for nearly an hour. But at length I found the contest too unequal; my command was being cut to pieces; the ammunition of the men nearly expended, and, the enemy's masses vastly outnumbering my force, I was forced to give the order to retire. This was done in most excellent order, the men marching steadily and slowly, and I resumed my position on the plateau. Shortly after I was ordered to retire with my brigade to Centreville, which I did, and reached that point at 1 o'clock at night, having the entire brigade with me in good order and having left but few stragglers behind.

I cannot omit calling the attention of the brigadier-general commanding to the firm and gallant manner in which my brigade held the enemy in check on the extreme left for such a length of time and finally prevented his turning our flank. At one time the Third and Fourth were within 30 yards of one of his brigades, which made a flank movement to turn their left, when Captain Dryer, commanding the Fourth, gave orders to fire by battalions, and poured three most destructive volleys into it before his fire could be returned. The greatest portion of my loss was at this point, and too much credit cannot be given to officers and men for their coolness and gallantry during this engagement. The Second Battalion of the Fourteenth was under fire for the first time and behaved admirably.

I must beg leave to call attention to Captain Wilkins, commanding Third Infantry; Captain J. B. Collins, commanding the Fourth, wounded, who was succeeded in the command by Captain H. Dryer, this latter officer being especially conspicuous for his coolness and gallantry; Captain J. D. O'Connell, Fourteenth Infantry, commanding First Battalion, severely wounded in several places and behaving most gallantly; and Captain D. B. McKibbin, Fourteenth Infantry, commanding Second Battalion, Fourteenth, who displayed conspicuous gallantry throughout.

Captain Wilkins, Third Infantry, mentions Captain Walker, acting field officer, for coolness and the prompt carrying out of his orders; Lieutenants Sheridan, Whitney, Eckert, and Penrose; Lieutenant Devoe, adjutant, who rendered important services, and behaved with the same indifference to danger which has distinguished him on former occasions. Sergt. Major A. Kaiser, Sergeants Torpy, Mourton, Hopkins, Litzinger, Smith, Hessian, Coady, Schafer, Morris, Hanley, Flynn, Ackland, and Scully, of the Third Infantry, and Sergt. George Lamonion, of the Twelfth Infantry, are especially mentioned.

I would particularly mention my staff-Second Lieutenant W. H. Powell, Fourth Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general and aide-de-camp, First Lieutenant S. Van Rensselaer, Twelfth Infantry. These officers behaved with the utmost coolness and gallantry, and carried my orders to every part of the field to which they were sent with cheerfulness and alacrity.

My whole brigade behaved as well as I could have expected or desired, and has, I trust, earned the favorable notice of the brigadier-general commanding the division.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. C. BUCHANAN,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Fourth Infantry, Commanding Brigade.

First Lieutenant HEYWARD CUTTING,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Sykes' Division.

Captain John Wilkins- Vol. 12, pt. 2, 489

Numbers 103. Report of Captain John D. Wilkins, Third U. S. Infantry, of the battle of Bull Run.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD U. S. INFANTRY,
Camp near Hall's Hill, Va., September 5, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the 30th of August this regi-ment arrived on the old battle-field of Bull Run at about 7 o'clock a. m. A short time after the brigade was formed in line of battle in front of the Dogan house, and the regiment order forward as skirmishers, with orders to occupy the crest of the hill in our front, our left resting on the Alexandria and Warrenton turnpike. We remained in this position about three hours, when I received orders to advance the line, which was promptly done. To effect this it was necessary to drive the enemy from some houses in front of our left. This was gallantly done by three companies, under the command of Lieutenant Sheridan, with loss of 2 men killed and 3 wounded. Our line of skirmishers then connected with those of the Pennsylvania Reserves (the Bucktails) on our left and General Butterfield's on our right.

At about 4.30 p. m. the attack was made by our troops on the right, and a short time after a movement was observed on our left among the skirmishers of the Pennsylvania Reserves, which ended in their retiring entirely from their position. This was immediately reported to General Sykes, who directed me to occupy the same ground with my skirmishers, which was accordingly done. The skirmishers of the Third Infantry then occupied all the open ground in front, extending from wood to wood. The left of our line of skirmishers was hotly pressed at this time, but the line was held until the movement on our right commenced. I then assembled the skirmishers on the right of the turnpike and retired by it, having directed the skirmishers on the left of it to join me. This they were unable to do, but under Lieutenant Sheridan they assembled on Colonel Warren's brigade, and were with them in the fierce engagement which they had on the left. with all the men of my regiment I could get together I joined the brigade, which I found formed in front of the Henry and Robinson houses.

Shortly after we were ordered forward to engage the enemy, who were pressing our left. We had a short and close conflict at this point. and were finally forced to retire, which we did in good order. Subsequently we moved to Centreville, arriving at 1 o'clock in the night. Captain Walker, acting field officer, had charge of the left wing, and rendered me much assistance by his coolness and prompt carrying out of orders. Lieutenant Sheridan's conduct came under my own observation, and was all that could be desired. He mentions with praise the conduct of Lieutenants Whitney and Eckert, the former wounded and the latter contused. Lieutenant Penrose was active and energetic. Sergeant Torpy, of Company H, with 10 men of that company, held one of the houses occupied by us against a vastly superior force, and only retired when half his men were wounded and the house surrounded. He was subsequently wounded and left on the field. Sergt. Major August Kaiser, First Sergt. Stanley Mourtou, of Company H; Hopkins, of Company I; Litzinger, of Company K; Smith, of Company B; Hessian, of Company G; Coady, of Company F; Schafer, of Company E; Morris, of Company C; Hanley, of Company D, and Sergeants Flynn, Ackland and Scully, of the regiment, are mentioned as having been distinguished for coolness and bravery during the entire contest.

Lieutenant Devoe, adjutant of the regiment, rendered me important service during, the action, and behaved with the same indifference to danger which has distinguished him on former occasions.

Our entire loss was 5 killed, 15 wounded, and 25 missing, many of whom were no doubt killed.

The following officers were present in the action: Captain John D. Wilkins, commanding regiment; Captain W. Walker, acting field officer; Captain F. A. Davies, Sixteenth Infantry, commanding Company D, Third Infantry; Acting Assistant Surgeon Hall, Second Lieutenant Frederick Devoe, adjutant of the regiment; First Lieutenant A. Sheridan, commanding Company H; First Lieutenant William H. Penrose, commanding Company B; First Lieutenant D. Parker, commanding Company G; First Lieutenant John H. Page, commanding Company I; First Lieutenant George B. Eckert, commanding Company C, contused; Second Lieutenant Henry Asbury, commanding Company F; Second Lieutenant Hohn Whitney, commanding Company K, wounded; Second Lieutenant I. A. Helm.

JOHN D. WILKINS,

Captain, Third Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

Lieutenant WILLIAM H. POWELL,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Brigade Regulars.

Appendix V

Reports of the Battle of Antietam, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Brigadier General George Sykes- Vol. 19, pt. 1, 350.

HEADQUARTERS SYKES' DIVISION,
Camp near Sharpsburg, Md., September 30, 1862

Lieut. Col. FRED. T. LOCKE,
Assistant Adjutant General, Fifth Army Corps.

SIR: My division left Middletown about 10 a.m. on the 15th instant, crossed the South Mountain, and, reaching the east bank of the Antietam River, took position behind some hills on the left of the turnpike leading direct to Sharpsburg. My skirmishers were thrown at once to the front and occupied the crest of the river bank. The batteries were massed in rear of Buchanan's brigade. Some apprehension being entertained that the enemy would destroy the bridge over the Antietam, the officer in command of the skirmishers was directed to watch it closely and frustrate any attempt thus made.

Early on the 16th Weed's and Benjamin's batteries (3-inch and 20-pounders) were established on the heights behind which my infantry lay, and opened a lively cannonade upon such of the enemy as could be seen. The return fire ranging near Warren's camp, I moved his brigade and Randol's battery farther to the left, occupying a piece of woods and covering the approaches in the direction of Harper's Ferry. This brigade subsequently connected with Burnside's corps on their left. During the day the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters and his scattering shot and shell were the only annoyances we received.

On the 17th some light batteries and cavalry, under General Pleasonton, were thrown across the Antietam via the turnpike bridge. Their position being one of great exposure, and General Pleasonton desiring some infantry to protect his guns, I sent the battalion of the Second and Tenth U.S. Infantry, under Capt. J. S. Poland, Second Infantry, to his support. Subsequently, the ammunition of Pleasonton's batteries having been exhausted, I was ordered to relieve his guns by my own, and accordingly (against my judgment) sent Randol's and Van Reed's batteries across the Antietam, and with them four additional battalions of regular infantry, under the command of Capt. H. Dryer, Fourth Infantry. Randol, finding his horses exposed to the enemy's sharpshooters and his position untenable, very properly withdrew his battery. Van Reed was posted farther to the right. The battalion of the Second and Tenth Infantry was thrown forward as skirmishers, and, occupying a line far in advance of our artillery, compelled the cannoneers of the rebel battery to leave their guns. Few in number and unsupported, we were unable to bring them off. Soon after the enemy recovered them by the advance of a large infantry force. Dryer's infantry and Van Reed's battery were held across the Antietam until dark, when both were withdrawn to the east bank. The remainder of my division was unengaged on the 17th. The troops under Captain Dryer behaved in the handsomest manner, and, had there been an available force for their support, there is no doubt he could have crowned the Sharpsburg crest.

On the 18th of September my command continued in position on the east bank of the Antietam. On the 19th the division and batteries moved through Sharpsburg and bivouacked near the Potomac opposite Blackford's Ford.

Skirmishers were thrown out in front of each brigade and a desultory fire maintained with those of the enemy on the Virginia side. In the course of the day, Weed's battery was brought within easy range of the enemy's cannon covering the ford, and had the satisfaction of driving his gunners off, compelling the abandonment of several pieces, which subsequently fell into our hands.

On the 20th I was directed to cross the Potomac with a brigade and push it on the Charlestown road. I immediately put Major Lovell, Tenth Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, in motion, and, passing with him to the Virginia side, caused skirmishers to be deployed and the brigade to advance. I was also informed that cavalry had or would precede me in this movement. That arm of the service did not, however, reach the Virginia shore until my pickets were in close proximity to the advancing foe. Major Lovell occupied some woods a mile from the river, and had scarcely done so when a dispatch from him gave the intelligence that the enemy, about 3,000 strong, with artillery, was rapidly approaching. I at once directed him to fall back slowly to the crest of the river bank and hold it.

I then ordered the Second and Sixth U.S. Infantry to occupy a belt of woods in front, sent for my Third Brigade, under Colonel Warren, to cross, and regiments of Morell's division, under Colonel Barnes, coming over at this time, I requested the colonel to occupy the crest on the right of the road leading from the river and to connect with Lovell's right. These troops were making their way to Shepherdstown, to which point the colonel informed me he had been ordered.

In the mean time Colonel Warren crossed his brigade, took post on the left of Major Lovell, and covered his front with light troops. Weed, Randol, and Van Reed, commanding batteries of my division, got in position on the heights on the Maryland side, and opened a destructive fire on the enemy, which impeded the advance of his masses and turned his skirmishers above the ford in the direction of Shepherdstown.

Knowing that the Virginia side of the river was no place for troops until a proper reconnoissance had been made, and several reports from citizens inducing the belief that a large force of the enemy was moving upon us, I expressed my opinion to General Porter, who, agreeing with me, directed the immediate recrossing of the troops. Lovell and Warren effected the movement in excellent order and without loss. Colonel Warren, on regaining the Maryland side, threw his brigade behind the embankment of the canal, and occupied it until relieved the following day.

In all these operations my batteries under Weed, Randol, and Van Reed did most excellent service. Captain Weed was especially active and distinguished as usual. My acting brigadiers, Colonels Buchanan and Warren and Major Lovell, were ever zealous and vigilant. The two latter in a very delicate position on the 20th handled their troops with great skill and success.

I desire to call the attention of the major-general to the services of Captains Dyer, Fourth Infantry, Poland, Second Infantry, and Carlton, Fourth Infantry, who were in command of the advance troops on the 17th and 19th September. The two former were under a very severe fire, and with extended lines of skirmishers protected our artillery, gained ground upon the enemy, and held it until ordered to withdraw.

My personal staff, Lieut. H. Cutting, Tenth Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general; Lieuts. James A. Snyder, Third Infantry, and George T. Ingham, Eleventh Infantry, aides-de-camp, gave me every assistance possible, and were active and zealous.

Several cases of particular merit among non-commissioned officers being mentioned by battalion commanders, I trust their claims to promotion may be regarded. This is not the first or second occasion in which they have been noticed.

I inclose the reports of brigade, regimental, and battery commanders, and unite in the recommendations therein offered.

A list of casualties accompanies this report.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Buchanan- Vol. 19, pt. 1, 355.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE REGULAR INFANTRY,
Camp near Sharpsburg, Md., September 26, 1862.

First Lieutenant HEYWARD CUTTING,
Tenth Infantry, Acting. Asst. Adjt. General, Sykes' Division.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the First Brigade, consisting of the Third and Fourth Infantry, First and Second Battalions of the Twelfth, and First and Second Battalions of the Fourteenth, since leaving Middletown, Md., on the 15th instant.

The brigade crossed South Mountain and reached Porterstown on the 15th, and was placed in position in advance of that place on its arrival. The Third Infantry was thrown out as skirmishers to cover the position. The next morning the Fourth was advanced to the bridge on the turnpike to Sharpsburg crossing the Antietam, to hold it and prevent any attempt of the enemy to destroy it, the Third being brought back to the brigade. Three companies of the Fourth were thrown across the bridge and deployed as skirmishers, the remaining companies being posted on the left of it.

On the morning of the 17th the First Battalion of the Twelfth relieved the Fourth, which then rejoined the brigade. In the afternoon the Fourth and both battalions of the Fourteenth were sent across the bridge, under the command of Captain H. Dryer, commanding Fourth Infantry, who was directed to take with him also the First Battalion of the Twelfth from its position at the brigade, and to take command of any other regular infantry that might be there, to support some batteries of artillery on that side, under the command of Brigadier-General Pleasonton, Volunteers, which was done. At night this command was relieved by a portion of Morell's division of Volunteers, and rejoined the brigade. During the 18th the brigade remained in its first position in front and to the left of Porterstown. On the 19th the brigade moved forward across the bridge and through Sharpsburg to the bank of the Potomac, in pursuit of the retreating enemy. Lieutenant Carlton, Fourth Infantry, with two companies of that regiment, was moved forward in advance, in order to ascertain whether any force of the enemy was in our front, but found none, though he succeeded in capturing several prisoners.

Detailed reports of the operations of the several portion of the brigade are herewith inclosed.

During the afternoon of the 16th many shot and shells were thrown into the brigade, but they did no damage. The officers and men of my command behaved, as usual, with coolness and courage, and are deserving of all praise for the cheerful manner in which their duties were discharged.

To my staff, First Lieutenant S. Van Renseelaer, Twelfth Infantry, acting aide-de-camp, and Second Lieutenant William H. Powell, Fourth Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general, my thanks are due for the cheerful alacrity and coolness with which they carried my orders to the different portions of the brigade.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. C. BUCHANAN,
Lieutenant-Colonel Fourth Infantry, Commanding Brigade.

Captain John Wilkins- Vol. 19, pt. 1, 356.

No. 96. Report of Captain John D. Wilkins, Third U. S. Infantry, of the battle of Antietam.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD U. S. INFANTRY, Camp near Sharpsburg, Md., September 26, 1862.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions, I have the honor to report that on our arrival at the Antietam River the Third Regiment of Infantry was ordered forward as skirmishers, and deployed on the right and left of the bridge crossing the same. We remained in that position all night and until relieved, about 10 a.m. on the 16th. The remainder of that day and the 17th we remained in position, as also on the 18th. On the 19th moved forward with the brigade and passed through Sharpsburg, and on the 20th reached the Potomac at our present encampment.

During the morning of the 16th the regiment was under a severe fire from the enemy's artillery, but I am happy to report no casualties. I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN D. WILKINS,

Captain Third Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

Lieutenant WILLIAM H. POWELL,

Acting Asst. Adjt. General, First Regular Brigade.

Appendix VI

Reports of the Battle of Fredericksburg, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Brigadier General George Sykes- Vol. 21, pt. 1, 415

No. 181. Report of Brigadier General George Sykes, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, FIFTH ARMY CORPS, Camp near Falmouth, Va., December 20, 1862.

SIR: My division broke camp on Potomac Creek at daylight on the 11th instant, and shortly after bivouacked, under cover of some ravines, near Falmouth.

It remained in this position until 2 p.m. on the 13th, when I received orders to establish it at the head of the upper bridge, leading over the Rappahannock. This was immediately accomplished. During its execution, the First Brigade suffered some casualties from the enemy's artillery. Subsequently the division crossed the river and marched to the southern edge of Fredericksburg, where two of the brigades (First and Second Regulars) were formed along a slight embankment, within easy range of the enemy's riflemen.

At 11 p.m. these brigades moved to the front, relieved the troops in advance (General Howard's), and held their ground until the same hour the following night. The position assigned these troops was one of extreme peril - in an open field, within 100 yards of the enemy, who was securely sheltered behind stone walls and

rifle-pits. They remained under constant fire for twelve hours, and could offer in resistance only the moral effect of that hardihood and bravery which would not yield one foot of the line they were required to protect. No better test of the qualities of troops could be shown than that displayed by these brigades. Patience, endurance, discipline, and courage were conspicuous.

On the 15th, my infantry and artillery occupied the portion of the city intrusted to their defense. At dusk strong working parties were detailed, and, though very few tools were to be had, the main avenues leading from the enemy to the town were barricaded, and the entire crest between Hanover and Amelia streets (our front) made secure by rifle-pits and other obstacles. General Warren, who had the chief control of this work, planned and executed it with his accustomed skill, and in an unusually short space of time. I respectfully refer to his report in connection with this duty.

At 4 a.m. on the 16th, I was directed to cover the withdrawal of the army from Fredericksburg with my command. Simultaneously the pickets of Griffin's, Humphreys', and Whipple's divisions were recalled. Those of my own division being nearer the bridges, and holding the most important front, retained their line until the last moment. The artillery of the various commands, and the command themselves, except a portion of the Second Division, Fifth Army Corps, preceded the retiring of the pickets, and passed safely to the northern bank of the river.

At 8 a.m. most of the skulkers, stragglers, &c., having been driven in, my pickets (Fifth New York Volunteers), in skirmishing order, were thrown in rear of Buchanan's brigade, crossed the river, and were immediately followed by that brigade. Small detachments under Captain Winthrop, Twelfth, and Lieutenant Kent, Third U. S. Infantry, were left to protect the removal of the bridges, but the enemy not following, these detachments joined their regiments. The pontoons, &c., were rapidly removed, under direction of General Woodbury, and the entire movement effected

without loss or disaster. The few remaining stragglers who showed themselves were brought off by the pontoon boats.

My command resumed its bivouac, and the day following occupied its present camp.

I desire to express my thanks to General Warren, U. S. Army; Colonel R. C. Buchanan, Fourth U. S. Infantry, and Major Andrews, Eleventh Infantry, commanding brigade brigades, for their cordial and hearty assistance in all the movements directed.

Major Lovell, Tenth Infantry, the permanent commander of the Second Brigade, joined from leave, and assumed command of his troops on the morning of the 15th.

Colonel Buchanan, with his brigade, and the Fifth New York Volunteers, Colonel Winslow, covered our front during the passage of the troops, and effectually prevented the advance of the enemy's skirmishers.

My personal staff performed their various duties satisfactorily. I mention their names, and recommend them to the favorable consideration of the authorities. Captain George Rayn, Seventh U. S. Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general; Lieutenant J. S. Snyder, Third U. S. Infantry, aide-de-camp; Lieutenant Heyward Cutting, Tenth U. S. Infantry, aide-de-camp; Lieutenant George T. Ingham, Eleventh U. S. Infantry, acting aide-de-camp.

Major William Cutting, aide-de-camp to General Burnside, kindly offered his services both on the evening of the 13th and on the morning of the 16th. They were gladly accepted, and I desire to thank him for the assistance he rendered me.

The medical department, under Dr. Ramsey, U. S. Army, was managed with great care and efficiency, and Dr. Ramsey and his assistants deserve every consideration for their skill and attention.

The reports of brigade, battalion, and artillery commanders accompany this report. I respectfully concur in the recommendations of personal merit given therein.

Casualties: Killed - officers, 1; enlisted men, 15; wounded-officers 5; enlisted men, 158; missing - officers, 1; enlisted men, 48. Total, 228.*

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Lieutenant H. W. PERKINS,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifth Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Buchanan- Vol. 21, pt. 1, 418

No. 184. Report of Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Buchanan, Fourth U. S. Infantry, commanding First Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, REGULAR INFANTRY, Camp near Henry House, Va., December 19, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade during the battle of Fredericksburg, Va.:

The brigade, consisting of the Third and Fourth Regiments, the First and Second Battalions of the Twelfth, and First and Second Battalions of the Fourteenth Infantry, led the advance of the division across the Rappahannock about 4 p.m. on Saturday, the 13th instant, and, after crossing, was moved to the rear of the city by way of Hanover street. On reaching the intersection of this and George street, I was ordered to place my command under cover on this latter street, which I did. Directly after the repulse of Humphreys' division, I was ordered to form my brigade in line of battle in rear of the ditch between Hanover street and the Plank road bridges, and take the enemy's batteries in front at the point of the bayonet. I accordingly formed my line as directed, and notified my brigade of what we were about to do, but before the line, which it was necessary to form by a flank movement, was fully established, I received orders not to advance until further orders, and to keep my men under cover of the ditch. As my command covered more than this space in line, I threw the Third and Fourth Infantry into the cemetery, under cover of the front wall.

About 11 p.m. I was ordered to occupy the line on the crest of the first hill, then occupied by the brigade of Colonel Hall, which was the extreme point that our troops had reached on that side of the Hanover street road.

My command was in position by 12.30 a.m., and remained there until relieved the next night by a portion of Sully's brigade. The position occupied by my brigade was the crest of a hill, terminating on the Hanover street road on the left, and a brick tannery on the Plank road, on the right, and about 250 yards from a stone wall and series of rifle-pits, covering the entire front occupied by the enemy. The ground was slightly descending toward us, and another small hill, rising above it in front, protected by a small field-work, holding two guns, commanded its entire surface. Batteries on other hill on my right enfiladed not only the position occupied by my brigade, but the ground in front also. The ditch, in rear of which I first formed, was about 200 yards in rear, and was about 6 feet wide and 10 feet deep, with some 4 feet of water in it. Between my command and this ditch the ground was a plain, sloping toward it, and this again intersected by another ditch, about 4 feet and 3 feet deep, running through its middle at right angles to the larger one. The enemy occupied some small frame houses on the right of the Plank road, from which they could annoy our line very much. At daylight firing commenced between the pickets, and it was soon found that my position was completely commanded, so that if an individual showed his head above the crest of the hill he was picked off by the enemy's sharpshooters immediately, especially by those on the right.

About 11 a.m. the Third and Fourth Infantry effected an entrance into the tannery with their bayonets, through the brick wall next to Hanover street, and soon after loop-holed the wall on the Plank road, and occupied the windows fronting the enemy, and from these positions drove him from the house and rifle-pits on the right, so that he could not occupy them again during the day.

The most trying test of discipline and courage is to place men in a situation where they are compelled to endure the steady fire of an enemy without having it in their power to return it. This was the case with my command on Sunday, the 14th instant, for soon after the firing commenced I ordered my men not to fire unless they saw something to fire at, with a probability of success, and they obeyed the order as it was given, although their companies comrades were shot down by their side at every moment. For this I ask that they receive credit such as is their due.

The enemy shot my men after they were wounded, and also the hospital attendants as they were converging the wounded off the ground, in violation of every law of civilized warfare. My loss would have been much greater but for our taking possession of the tannery. I was to hold the position to the last extremity, and it was held until after I was relieved by other troops. The enemy was so posted that he virtually cut off all intercourse between my brigade and the city between the break of day and nightfall. My dead were buried on the ground and my wounded brought away.

On the 15th, my brigade was posted in the city and about midnight was designated as the rear guard of the army in its withdrawal to this side of the Rappahannock. This duty was accomplished without loss, save of some stragglers from various volunteer divisions in the field. The straggling was excessive, and the completion of the movement delayed nearly two hours thereby. Why more of them were not captured by the enemy I am at a loss to understand.

We reached this side of the river at 8 a.m., and as soon as the brigade had crossed my rear guard, consisting of one company of the Twelfth and two of the Third, under the command of Captain F. Winthrop, Twelfth Infantry, was ordered across, and the bridge broken up and removed. Some few stragglers made their appearance on the bank after the bridge was broken up, and were brought over in the pontoon boats.

My loss was 2 officers, Lieutenants Benedict and Gensel, Fourth Infantry, severely wounded, and 49 non-commissioned officers and privates killed and wounded.

When all behaved so well it is hard to make distinctions, but I would call attention to First Lieutenant A. R. Benedict, Fourth Infantry, who was wounded while withdrawing his outer picket to place it under cover, after having had 7 of his men wounded.

The reports of the regimental commanders are herewith inclosed.

My staff, consisting of First Lieuts. William H. Powell, Fourth Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general, and S. Van Rensselaer, Twelfth Infantry, acting aide-de-camp my orders with zeal and alacrity, and discharged their duties to my entire satisfaction.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. C. BUCHANAN,

Lieutenant-Colonel Fourth Infantry, Commanding Brigade.

Captain GEORGE RYAN,

Actg. Asst. Adj. General, Second Division, Fifth Corps.

Captain John D. Wilkins- Vol. 21, pt. 1, 420

No. 185. Report of Captain John D. Wilkins, Third U. S. Infantry.

CAMP NEAR HENRY HOUSE, VA., December 19, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the regimental left this camp on the morning of the 11th; marched to a point near Falmouth, Va., and remained in bivouac until the afternoon of the 13th, when it moved toward the upper pontoon bridge. On our arrival at the bank of the river we were delayed by meeting another division in the act of crossing. The movement the head of our column showed itself, the enemy commenced throwing shell and shot, and, while awaiting an opportunity to cross, the regiment lost 3 men wounded, 1 mortally. Soon after, I received the order to move forward, and crossed by the pontoon bridge. The regiment proceeded through Fredericksburg, previously halting in the streets and depositing their knapsacks. Shortly after, arrived at the outskirts of the town just at the moment the attack on the outworks of the enemy we repulsed, encountering a part of the fire of the enemy, by which 3 men were wounded. The regiment was then ordered to the right, and took position in a grave-yard. At about 12 o'clock at night we were ordered to advance and relieved a portion of Humphreys' division, our pickets relieving theirs. Our position was behind a building called the tannery, and our pickets extended some 300 yards beyond and to the right.

At daybreak I found the pickets entirely unprotected, and exposed to a murderous fire from the enemy's rifle-pits, and concealed sharpshooters in our immediate vicinity, the first information I had of their proximity and position. This was promptly reported to me by Lieutenant Eckert, in command of the pickets. I, however, declined to relieve them until orders were received. After 7 men of the pickets were wounded, I was ordered to withdraw them, they

falling back by my order to the grave-yard, thus avoiding passing through a deadly fire of the enemy. The determined manner in which these pickets held their position (and I have no doubt they would have done so until every man was killed or wounded) deserves my highest commendation. Nothing of interest occurred until about 10 o'clock p.m., when I received intelligence that the enemy were advancing on my position. I immediately changed front to encounter their flanking party, and, whilst awaiting the enemy, was relieved by the First California Regiment, at 12 p.m., having held my position for twenty-four hours.

It may be well to remark that, on account of the mud and water covering the ground we occupied, it was impossible either to sit or lie down without becoming thoroughly wet, and the accuracy of fire was such that an attempt to attend to even the ordinary wants of nature subjected one to certain destruction. An entrance having been made at a latter part of the day into the tannery, enabled us to loop-hole it, and by our fire and that of the Fourth Infantry we were relieved in a measure from the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters. The conduct of the officers and men, under the circumstances, was all that could be desired.

After being relieved, we proceeded to the city, and were bivouacked in the neighborhood of St. George's Church, where I lost 1 man, severely wounded by a shell. Whilst in this position Lieutenant Asbury and 30 men of the regiment were furnished, by order, for fatigue, without arms, and did not join us until after we had moved to the last position we occupied in the city. In consequence of this, a portion of the arms were lost.

On the evening of the 15th, we changed position three times, and toward morning I was informed that the regiment held the advance of the army, and received order to dispute any advance of the enemy until relieved. I accordingly sent Company H, Lieutenant Helm, to the front, which orders to contest position with the enemy until further orders. Lieutenant Helm shortly after reported the enemy advancing in line of battle, and received orders to still hold position. About an hour after his, I was ordered to fall back to the bridge, and, on arriving there, was directed to furnish 100 men on the bank. This detail was furnished, under the command of Lieutenant Kent. The remainder of the regiment, the last regiment, I believe, to cross, reached our former bivouac at about 10 o'clock on the 16th, and reached this camp on the 17th at 11 a.m.

I submit a list of the officers present: Captain John W. Wilkins, commanding the regiment; Captain Thomas W. Walker, acting field officer; First Lieutenant J. Ford Kent, commanding Company A, and acting regimental quartermaster; Lieutenant William H. Penrose, commanding Companies B and G; Lieutenant Daingerfield Parker, commanding Company E; Lieutenant John H. Page, commanding Company I; Lieutenant George B. Eckert, commanding Company C; Lieutenant Henry Asbury, commanding Company F; Second Lieutenant John Whitney, commanding Company K; Second Lieutenant Isaac A. Helm, commanding Company H; Second Lieutenant August Kaiser, acting regimental adjutant; Second Lieutenant George K. Pomeroy;

Second Lieutenant Stanley Mourton; Second Lieutenant Louis M. Hamilton, commanding Company D, and Actg. Asst. Surg. H. M. Hall.

A list* of the killed, wounded, and missing accompanies this report.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

Captain Third U. S. Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

First. Lieutenant WILLIAM H. POWELL,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Brigade.

Appendix VII

Reports of the Battle of Chancellorsville, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Major General George Sykes- Vol. 25, pt. 1, 525

Numbers 180. Reports of Major General George Sykes, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, VA.,

May 8, 1863.

SIR: My command left camp on the 27th ultimo, and at dark bivouacked at Hartwood Church.

On the 28th, at 11 p.m., encamped at Crittenden's Mills, en route to Kelly's Ford, on the Rappahannock. Crossed that river the next morning, and the Rapidan at Ely's Ford after dark.

At 6 a.m. on the 30th, in advance, marched in the direction of the United States Ford, on the Rappahannock, with orders to attack the enemy if found there. Our move across the river being evidently a surprise, the enemy abandoned that ford. After establishing communications with Couch's corps on the north of the river, I pursued my march to Chancellorsville unmolested, save by a small rear guard which hugh on the skirts of the retreating foe.

On May 1, I was directed to move on the old turnpike road leading from Chancellorsville to Fredericksburg, and, on arriving at a certain point, to turn to the left, cross Mott's Run, and effect a junction with Griffin's division, which was to move on the River road. A mile and a half from Chancellorsville, I found some cavalry engaged with the enemy's skirmishers. The former were giving ground, and, by their behavior, giving confidence to the enemy. My three brigades were at once deployed, the second, under Colonel Burbank, Second Infantry, in front, and all covered by skirmishers of the Seventeenth Infantry, under Major G. L. Andrews. By sharp fighting, we soon recovered the lost ground, drove in the enemy's pickets, and took possession of a crest just in front of a heavy forest, and in range of some rifle-pits or breastworks on our left. Weed's battery (Company I, Fifth Artillery), superintended by that officer, and immediately commanded by Lieutenant Watson, of the same regiment, crowned the crest, and opened an effective cannonade, and was supported by a part of my third brigade, under Colonel O'Rorke, One hundred and fortieth New York Volunteers. The enemy held the road in front with infantry and two guns, threw a considerable force in the breastworks, and for a couple of hours maneuvered to turn both my flanks. His forces were so superior to my own that he partially outflanked me both right and left. I threw the First Brigade (Regulars), under General Ayres, rapidly to the left, and six companies of the One hundred and forty-sixth New York Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins, to the right; Colonel Burbank held the front. The battery checked any advance by the main road, and the dispositions to secure my flanks kept the enemy quiet; but as both of these flanks rested on a dense growth of forest, and as I was completely isolated from the rest of the army, I felt that my rear could be gained by a determined movement of the enemy under cover of the forest. Griffin was far to my left, Slocum far to my right, the enemy in front and between me and both those officers. In this situation, without support, my position was critical; still, I determined to hold it as long as possible. At this period, General Warren, chief engineer Army of the Potomac, who had accompanied me, rode to the major-general commanding the army, to explain the state of affairs, and, on his return, I was directed to retire in the direction of Chancellorsville.

My brigades, covered by skirmishers, moved in succession, in line of battle, to the height on which McGee's house rests. At that height I found General Couch, with Hancock's division, coming to my aid. My troops were massed in his rear. Soon after, both commands were directed to withdraw, mine to its previous bivouac, near Chancellorsville.

Toward sundown, the enemy advanced to the left of my camp in strong force, but the brigade of Colonel O'Rorke, Fifth, One hundred and fortieth, and One hundred and forty-sixth New York Volunteers, and the Seventeenth Infantry, Second Brigade, handsomely repulsed him, and he gave us no further trouble.

At 1 a.m. on the 2nd, I changed camp to the Mineral Spring road, behind Chancellorsville. Occupied it until dusk, when the Eleventh Corps on our right breaking in confusion, I took position at double-quick on our right breaking in confusion, I took position at double-quick to cover the approach from Ely's Ford to Chancellorsville, my right resting on the road to the United States Ford, and connecting with the First Corps, under General Reynolds.

This position was strengthened by abatis and breastworks, and held until finally evacuated on the morning of the 6th instant.

I recrossed the Rappahannock on that day, and reached my old camp on Potomac Creek.

In these ten days' operations, my troops were patient, enduring, and gallant. Long, harassing, and wearisome marches were performed with alacrity and cheerfulness. When the hour of battle came, they were successful and confident. Probable in no campaign of the war were the energies of troops more tazed than in this. They were strangers to rest and sleep, full of zeal, and had they been attacked while in position or been permitted to advance on the enemy's left on the 4th or 5th instant, the result of the movement must have been more favorable.

My thanks are especially due to General Warren, who was with me on May 1. His suggestions were always thoughtful, and characterized by the good sense and ability for which he is conspicuous.

General Ayres, commanding First Brigade; Colonel S. Burbank, commanding Second Brigade, and Colonel O'Rorke, One hundred and fortieth New York Volunteers, commanding Third Brigade, were, throughout all the operations of the command, prompt, active, and untiring in carrying out the various duties devolving upon them. I beg to unite in the recommendations made by them of their subordinate commanders and others.

My personal staff rendered me every assistance, and deserve not only my unqualified thanks, but promotion at the hands of the Government. They are: Captain George Ryan, Seventh Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general; First Lieutenant James A. Snuder, Third Infantry, aide-de-camp, chief quartermaster, and commissary of subsistence; First Lieutenant George T. Ingham, Eleventh Infantry, aide-de-camp; Captain H. L. Chipman, Eleventh Infantry, assistant inspector-general; Captain G. B. Overton, Fourteenth Infantry, commissary of musters (severely wounded); First Lieutenant W. W. Swan, Seventeenth Infantry, acting aide-de-camp, and First Lieutenant George H. Butler, Tenth Infantry, division ordnance officer.

The medical department, under Asst. Surg. C. Wagner, U. S. Army, was untiring in its efforts to relieve and care for the wounded, all of whom were brought safely to the division hospital, near Brooke's Station.

Lieutenant George L. Choisy, ambulance officer, was energetic in the movement and management of his train.

On the 5th instant, Captain J. W. Ames, Eleventh Infantry, with a small party, marked and opened a road to my rear, by which my troops passed easily to the ford. The captain deserves great credit for the success attending his efforts.

Among the officers who gave their lives to their country was Captain W. J. Temple, Seventeenth U. S. Infantry, an officer of rare promise and ability. His loss is deeply deplored throughout the command.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Major-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant Colonel FRED. T. LOCKE,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifth Army Corps.

CAMP, Benson's Mills, VA., June 7, 1863.

COLONEL: In my report of the recent operations before Chancellorsville, I omitted to include among the staff officers therein mentioned the had sent the captain with me in order to communicate with corps headquarters. Captain Williams remained near me throughout the march and engagement of my division on May 1, ultimo, and was particularly zealous, active, and useful. I do not know what I should have done without him as aide-de-camp. I wish to bring his services to the notice of the corps commander, and to class the captain with those officers recommended in my report to the favorable consideration of the Government.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Major-General, Commanding Division.

Colonel FRED. T. LOCKE,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

Brigadier General Romeyn Ayres- Vol. 25, pt. 1, 528

Numbers 182. Report of Brigadier General Romeyn B. Ayres, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.

HDQRS. FIRST Brigadier, SECOND DIV., FIFTH ARMY CORPS,
May 9, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make a brief report of the part taken by this brigade during the recent operations of this army, extending over a space of ten days.

The command broke camp at 10 a.m. on the 27th ultimo, and encamped for the night near Hartwood Church.

The next day marched to within 3 miles of Kelly's Ford.

Crossed the Rappahannock on the 29th, forded Mountain Creek and the Rapidan, and bivouacked at about 9 p.m. on the right bank, near Fly's Ford.

On the 30th, made a reconnaissance to the United States Ford, and encamped near the Chancellor house.

On May 1, took the Fredericksburg pike, and shortly afterward came upon the enemy, who fell back before us about 1 1/2 miles. On this occasion the command advanced in gallant style, and the line of battle was formed at the double-quick. The object of the forward movement being accomplished, the command was withdrawn, retiring in line of battle and taking up a position parallel to the pike. The enemy appearing on the Plank road, leading across our front, the brigade deployed in line of battle with great promptitude, remaining in that position during the night.

Next day took up a position on a road leading to Scott's Mills, cut-ting an abatis and remaining in that position until dark; then moved on the pike, and took a position across the road and facing the ford.

Toward morning of the 3rd, moved down the pike, taking a position parallel to it, having the First Corps on our right. Here a strong abatis was cut and a breastwork of earth and logs constructed. In this position the command remained until the morning of the 6th, when it was withdrawn, crossing the Rappahannock at the United States Ford, and reaching the old camp ground about 5 p.m.

The conduct of both officers and men, whether on the march, advancing on the enemy, retiring, or lying in line of battle, has been such as to inspire the greatest confidence. The regimental commanders, Major R. S. Smith, Twelfth Infantry; Captain John D. Wilkins, Third Infantry; Captain Hiram Dryer, Fourth Infantry, and Captain J. B. Hager, Fourteenth Infantry, gave me their hearty support. A wish had only to be expressed and the thing was done. For the details of the operations of each regiment, and the casualties, I refer you to the reports of the regimental commanders, herewith inclosed.

I return my thanks, for assistance rendered, to Captain J. M. Locke, acting assistant adjutant-general, and Lieuts. John M. Brown and J. A. Sayles, of my personal staff; also to First Lieutenant R. C. Parker, Twelfth Infantry, acting assistant inspector-general.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. AYRES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Captain RYAN,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

John D. Wilkins- Vol. 25, pt. 1, 529

Numbers 183. Report of Captain John D. Wilkins, Third U. S. Infantry.

CAMP NEAR THE HENRY HOUSE, VA.,

May 7, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that this regiment moved with the division on April 27 and bivouacked at Hartwood Church.

On the 28th, bivouacked near an old mill.

On the 29th, crossed the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, and bivouacked on the south side, near Ely's Ford, fording the latter stream.

On the morning of the 30th, the regiment was detailed as advance guard of the division, and moved as such to the United States Ford. The design of this expedition having been accomplished, it returned with the division to Chancellorsville.

On the morning of May 1, the regiment moved with the attacking column, and participated in the engagement of that day, in which 3 men were wounded and 4 missing. In the latter part of the day, acted as support to batteries near the Chancellor house.

On the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, the regiment had its position with the division in line of battle.

On the morning of the 6th, moved with the division to the United States Ford, and crossed with it, returning to its former locality.

During these ten days the regiment has been exposed to almost all the hardships that the life of a soldier presents, and has borne them with a cheerfulness and alacrity that deserves commendation. In the action of the 1st, both officers and men fully sustained their former reputation.

Assistant Surgeon [Edward T.] Whittingham was zealous and active in the discharge of his appropriate duties, and was present on the field.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN D. WILKINS,

Captain Third U. S. Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

Captain JOSEPH M. LOCKE,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

Appendix VIII

Reports of the Battle of Gettysburg, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Major General George Sykes- Vol. 27, pt. 1, 592

Numbers 187. Reports of Major General George Sykes, U. S. Army, commanding Fifth Army Corps.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY CORPS,
Camp near Warrenton, Va.,

July 31, 1863.

SIR: On the 28th ultimo, by the assignment of General Meade to the command of this corps. On June 29 and 30 and on July 1 and 2, I made long, rapid, and fatiguing marches, starting at Frederick, Md., and reaching the field of Gettysburg, via Liberty, Union Mills, Hanover, &c., about 8 a. m. on the latter date. My troops took position on the right of our line, but it being thought too extended, they were subsequently masse near the bridge over Rock Creek, on the Baltimore and Gettysburg pike, and within reach of the Twelfth Army Corps. While thus situated, I was directed to support the Third Corps, General Sickles commanding, with a brigade, should it be required. At 3 p. m. General Meade sent for me, and while myself and other corps commanders were conversing with him, the enemy formed, opened the battle, and developed his attack on our left. I was at once ordered to throw my whole corps to that point and hold it at all hazards. This, of course, relieved my troops from any call from the commander of the Third Corps. En route to the position thus assigned the Fifth Corps, various staff officer, asked for assistance. Explained to them that it was impossible for me to give it; the key of the battle-field was intrusted to my keeping, and I could not and would not jeopardize it by a division of my forces. A rocky ridge, commanding almost an entire view of the plateau held by our army, was on our extreme left. Between it and the position occupied, by Birney's division, Third, Corps, was a narrow gorge filled with immense boulders and flanked on either side by dense woods. It afforded excellent cover and an excellent approach for the enemy, both of which he promptly made use of. The rocky ridge commanded and controlled this gorge. In examining it and the ground adjacent previous to posting my troops, I found a battery at its outer edge and without adequate support. I galloped to General Birney, whose troops were nearest, explained to him the necessity of protecting the guns, and suggested that he should close his division on the battery, and hold the edge of the woods on its right. I promised to fill the gap he opened, which I did with Sweitzer's and Tilton's brigades, of my First Division, posting them myself. In the meantime Vincent's brigade, of this division, had seized the rocky height, closely followed by Weed's brigade, Second Division. These troops were posted under the direction of General Warren, chief engineer of this army. After closing the interval made by Birney with the brigades of General Barnes, I rode rapidly to the Taneytown pike to bring up the remaining troops of the corps, and on my return with them found the greater part of Weed's brigade moving away from the height where it had been stationed, and where its presence was vital. I dispatched a staff officer to know of the general why he had vacated the ground assigned him. His reply was, 'By order of General Sickles. ' I at once directed him to reoccupy it which was done at the double-quick step. Hardly had he reached it before the enemy came on in tremendous force. Vincent's brigade and O'Rorke's regiment (Wed's brigade) were and had been sorely pressed. Both those heroic commanders had fallen; but Weed again in position, Hazlett working, his guns superbly, and the timely arrival of Ayres' brigades of regulars, who were at once ordered to attack, stemmed the tide, and rolled away the foe in our front. At a later hour, by the withdrawal or retreat of the troops on his right-first, a division of the Third Corps, and next, Caldwell's command, of the Second Corps-a large body of the enemy gained his right and rear, and Ayres was compelled to fight his way, front and flank, to the heel of the gorge. This he did steadily, in excellent order, and connected with his left brigade (Weed's) on the general line of battle. But his loss was fearful; some of the regiments left 60 percent. of their number on the ground. As Ayres assumed this new position, General Crawford's command

(my Third Division) was ordered to the front, and, entering the woods, became briskly engaged with the enemy. This combat lasted till dusk, and resulted in General Crawford's gaining considerable ground, capturing many prisoners, and a flag of a Georgia regiment. Night closed the fight. The key of the battle-field was in our possession intact. Vincent, Weed, and Hazlett, chiefs lamented throughout the corps and army, sealed with their lives the spot intrusted to their keeping, and on which so much depended. The general line of battle on the left was shortened, strengthened, firm. Pickets were established, and the troops slept on their arms. Sedgwick (Sixth Corps) had moved up to my aid. On the 3d, Crawford held his ground in front, sustained by Bartlett's division, of Sedgwick's corps. The troops remained as the day before. Desultory firing from the pickets continued along our front. At 1 p. m. the enemy commenced a furious cannonade from more than one hundred guns, and occasionally a part of it was bestowed on the Fifth and Sixth Corps. It was the prelude to his attack, which soon followed and raged to our right; but, beaten, baffled, and discomfited, he returned to the shelter of the forests west of the Emmitsburg and Gettysburg pike. My artillery on the rocky ridge helped to shatter and disorganize his troops. On the 4th, reconnaissances were made, but developed nothing save a line of skirmishers covering his troops, and artillery on the slope falling away from the turnpike to the west. On the 5th, I began the march to Williamsport.

I respectfully call the attention of the major-general commanding to the services of the artillery of this corps, under its chief,

Captain A. P. Martin, and the subordinate battery commanders, as detailed in his report. The regular batteries were the greatest sufferers. Hazlett's battery (D, Fifth U. S. Artillery) was especially distinguished, and Watson's battery (I, same regiment-though unfortunately taken away by General Sickles without my consent or knowledge-after falling into the hands of the enemy, was recaptured by Lieutenant Peeples, of the battery, heading the Garibaldi Guard, in the most heroic and gallant manner. Lieutenant Peeples richly deserves promotion for his conduct, and I trust the Government will not withhold it. I am happy to say the Fifth Corps sustained its reputation. An important duty was confided to it, which was faithfully and gallantly performed. Other brave men helped them in its execution, among whom the Sixth Corps was the most prominent. I respectfully beg leave to call attention to the reports of division and brigade commanders, herewith inclosed. The division commanders-Generals Barnes, Ayres, and Crawford-aided me in every particular with the utmost zeal and heartiness. I most urgently unite in their recommendations of the various gentlemen who distinguished themselves in and around the field of Gettysburg. Colonel Rice, who succeeded to the command of the Third Brigade, First Division, on the fall of Colonel Vincent, deserves great credit for the management of his troops. His position on our extreme left was one of the most important held by the corps, and the unflinching tenacity with which he maintained it, and his subsequent forcible occupation of the ground possessed by the enemy, with Chamberlain's regiment (Twentieth Maine) and two regiments of Fisher's brigade, Third Division, are worthy of the highest praise. The medical department, under Serg. J. J. Milhau and Asst. Serg. C. P. Russell, was organized in the most effective and satisfactory manner. My personal staff and the chiefs of departments were zealous, indefatigable, and ready for any emergency. I name them in the order of rank, and respectfully recommend them to the notice of the Department of War: Lieutenant Colonel Fred. T. Locke, assistant adjutant-general; Lieutenant Colonel William H. Owen, chief quartermaster; Captain D. L. Smith, acting chief commissary of subsistence; Serg. J. J. Milhau, U. S. Army, medical director; Asst. Serg. C. P. Russell, U. S. Army, medical inspector; Captain John W. Williams, assistant adjutant-general and acting aide-de-camp; Captain William Jay, aide-de-camp, and First Lieutenant George T. Ingham, Eleventh U. S. Infantry, aide-de-camp. The signal officers, Captain W. H. Hill and Lieutenant I. S. Lyon, performed their duties creditably. General Weed and Colonel Vincent, officers of rare promise, gave their lives to their country. The former had been conspicuous during the war, won and adorned his promotion, and surrendered it and his life on the spot he was called upon to defend. In this campaign of the Army of the Potomac, consequent upon Lee's second invasion of Maryland, troops never endured more, marched more in the same length of time, suffered more, deserved more, or fought better than they. Prompt response and obedience to all orders characterized them. Their record up to July 24, with its

incalculable results, is a study, and has few parallels in the history of the rebellion. Tabular and nominal lists have preceded this report. I inclose the reports of division and other commanders, and with them a list of casualties in the corps. *

GEO. SYKES,

Major-General, Commanding Corps. Brigadier

General S. WILLIAMS,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of the Potomac.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY CORPS,

Camp at Beverly Ford, Va.,

August 15, 1863.

GENERAL: The operations of this corps from June 28 to July 27, at which date it reached Warrenton, Va., embrace the following:

June 29. -Left Frederick; marched to and encamped in the vicinity of Liberty, Md. ; 15 miles.

June 30. -Marched to Union Mills, via Johnsville, Union, and Frizellburg. Encamped on Big Pipe Creek, along the turnpike leading from Westminster to Gettysburg; 23 miles.

July 1. -Marched to Hanover, and relieved the cavalry there under General Kilpatrick. At 7 p. m. resumed the march, and at midnight bivouacked at Bonaughtown; 20 miles.

July 2. -Marched at 4 a. m. for Gettysburg, 6 miles; arrived early. Occupied the positions and performed the work explained in my report of that battle.

July 5. -Started en route for the Potomac. Reached the Antietam at Delaware Mills on the 10th, marching via Emmitsburg, Creagerstown, Utica, and Middletown, crossing the Catoctin and South Mountain ranges at High Knob and Fox's Gap; distance, 55 miles.

July 11, 12, 13, and 14. -Maneuvered in face of the enemy; constructed breastwork, rifle-pits, &c. ; did picket duty; suffered and inflicted some loss; marched in pursuit of the enemy beyond Williamsport in the direction of Falling Waters; distance, about 10 miles.

July 15. -Marched to Burkittsville, 22 miles; thence on the 16th, 6 miles, to Petersville, Md. ; thence on the 16th, 6 miles, to Petersville, Md. ; thence on the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22d, to Lovettsville, Wheatland, Purcellville, and Goose creek, to Rectortown, Va; 40 miles.

July 23. -Marched to Manassas Gap, 15 miles, and during the fight at that place formed in battle array, in support of the Third Corps, General French.

July 24. -Made a reconnoissance of the country to the right of General French, but the enemy having disappeared, at noon bivouacked in the Gap.

July 25. -Moved toward Warrenton via Farrowville, Barbee's Cross-Roads, and Orleans, 15 mile; thence on the 26th and 27th, 14 miles, to and beyond Warrenton.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Major-General, Commanding Corps. Brigadier

General S. WILLIAMS,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of the Potomac.

Brigadier General Romeyn Ayres- Vol. 27, pt. 1, 634.

Numbers 203. Reports of Brigadier General Romeyn B. Ayres, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, FIFTH ARMY CORPS,
July 28, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit a report of the operations of this division in the battle of Gettysburg, Pa. The division was marched forward on the night of July 1 and 2 on the Gettysburg and Hanover road, and was formed in line of battle in rear of and facing that road, the First Division on its right. Later in the day it was marched to the left and center, and massed there. In the afternoon, the enemys attack on the left of our position being developed, the division, preceded by the First Division, was marched to the support of our troops engaged, the Third Brigade being placed in position on the general line of battle upon a rocky hill (usually called Round Top hill) of great importance, facing the Emmitsburg and Gettysburg pike. This brigade was ordered to hold this hill, which duty it performed well and effectually. The First and Second Brigades were placed on the general line, to the right of the Third, and shortly after, these two brigades were ordered to advance and carry a point some 250 yards in advance, whence the enemy were annoying our line, that point offering facilities for his sharpshooters, &c., being wooded and rocky. This order was immediately put into execution, the brigades crossing the intermediate swampy ground rapidly, and forming on the left of a division of the Second Corps, the First Brigade in rear of and supporting the Second Brigade. Immediately the troops became actively engaged with the enemy in the woods, the line being now nearly at right angles to the line of the Third Brigade, the general line of battle. After some time, perceiving the troops on my right moving to the rear of my regiments, I sought information for its cause. General Caldwell, commanding next me, informed me repeatedly that his troops were being relieved by fresh ones, they being out of ammunition, &c. I then determined to move forward and sweep through and occupy the woods in my front, and gave the preparatory orders therefor, when I found that all the troops on my right had gone, and a large force of the enemy was coming down on my rear from the right. I immediately ordered the two brigades to face about and move to the right and rear, and form on the general line of battle on the right of the Third Brigade. This order was at once executed. Some little delay occurred, owing to meeting other troops ordered up to our support as we arrived on the line. Subsequently these two brigades were massed in the woods, in rear of the Third. When I withdrew the two brigades, the fight was virtually over, the enemy having failed to break the general line of battle. The division remained in this last position till we took up the line of march in pursuit of the enemy on the 5th instant, save that the First Brigade made a reconaissance on the 4th. The troops behaved with great gallantry on this occasion, and although, as the accompanying report of casualties* shows, the losses were terrible, no one thought of retiring till order was given. The brigade commanders-Colonel H. Day, First Brigade, Colonel S. Burbank, Second Brigade, and, after the fall of General Weed and Colonel O Rorke, Colonel Garrard, Third Brigade-performed their duties with coolness and gallantry. My staff performed their duties with intelligence and gallantry, and have my sincere thanks. I name them in the order of rank, viz: Captain H. L. Chipman, Eleventh U. S. Infantry, acting assistant inspector-general; Captain George Ryan, Seventh U. S. Infantry, acting assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff; First Lieutenant William H. Powell, Fourth U. S. Infantry, acting aide-de-camp; First Lieutenant J. A. Sayles, Fifth Vermont Infantry, aide-de-camp; Second Lieutenant Louis McL. Hamilton, Third U. S. Infantry, aide-de-camp. Captain A. L. Thomas, assistant quartermaster; Captain E. Knowles, commissary of subsistence, volunteers; Asst. Surg. C. Wagner, U. S. Army, surgeon-in-chief; Lieutenant W. W. Swan, Seventeenth U. S. Infantry, ordnance officer, and Second Lieutenant George L. Choisy, Fourteenth U. S. Infantry, ambulance officer, also performed the duties of their several offices with great zeal and efficiency. In the death of Brigadier General Stephen H. Weed, volunteers, and captain Fifth U. S. Artillery, the service lost a distinguished and gallant soldier. Colonel P. H. O Rorke, One hundred and fortieth New York Volunteers and first lieutenant U. S. Engineers, was a brave and valuable officer. I inclose reports of brigade commanders. The list of casualties is now in your hands. * Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. AYRES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Colonel FRED. T. LOCKE,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifth Corps.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION,
August 13, 1863.

COLONEL: Pursuant to the circular, headquarters Army of the Potomac, of August 12, 1863, I have the honor to make this supplemental report of the operations of this division in the recent campaign through Maryland and into Pennsylvania. The 28th of June found the division camped near Frederick, Md. On the 29th of June, marched 14 miles, and bivouacked near Liberty, Md.

The division left Liberty June 30; marched 23 miles.

July 1. -Left bivouac; marched 18 miles, and bivouacked 12 p. m. at- On the morning of the 2d, left the bivouac of the 1st, and came into position as stated in my report of the 28th July. For the operations of that day and the subsequent days, including the 4th of July, I respectfully refer to that report. On the 5th of July, the division left its position in line of battle at Gettysburg, and, marching 6 miles, camped on Marsh Creek. On the 7th of July, marched 20 miles.

July 8. -Marched 10 miles, camping near Middletown, Md.

July 9. -Marched 6 miles, camping near the base of South Mountain. July 10. -Marched 8 miles, camping near Roxbury Mills, Antietam Creek.

July 11. -Advanced 2 1/2 miles near Funkstown.

July 14. -Advanced 4 miles to Williamsport.

July 15. -Marched 20 miles, and bivouacked near Burkittsville, Md. July 16. -Marched 6 miles, camping between Petersville and Berlin, Md.

July 17. -Crossed the Potomac, camping near Lovettsville, Va.

July 18. -Marching 6 miles, camped near Wheatland, Va.

July 19. -Marched 10 miles, camping near Purcellville, Va.

July 20. -Marched 12 miles, camping on Goose Creek.

July 22. -Marched 8 miles, camping near Rectortown, Va.

July 23. -Marched 15 miles, bivouacking in line of battle in Manassas Gap, supporting the Third Corps.

July 24. -Made a reconnaissance in conjunction with the other two divisions of the corps, moving forward in line of battle near the railroad in the Gap. It was discovered that the enemy had retreated; moved back about 2 miles and camped. July 25. -Moved back, marching through Fairville toward Warrenton, camping near Orleans, Va. July 26. -Marched 6 miles and camped. July 27. -Marched 8 miles, through Warrenton, and went into camp near that place, making some 320 miles since the 1st of June.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. AYRES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Colonel FRED. T. LOCKE, Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifth Corps.

Colonel Hannibal Day- Vol. 27, pt. 1, 636

Numbers 204. Report of Colonel Hannibal Day, Sixth U. S. Infantry, commanding First Brigade.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, FIFTH CORPS,
Camp near Warrenton, Va.,

July 28, 1863.

SIR: In forwarding the report of regimental commanders of operations of the several commands of my brigade near Gettysburg, Pa., although not called on myself for a report, I have the honor to say that among casualties not included in the reports of battalion commanders my acting assistant adjutant-general, Captain S. Van Rensselaer was wounded, as well as my orderly, private of Seventeenth Pennsylvania Cavalry; this on July 2. Nor can I refrain from commending the conduct of Captain Thatcher, of the Fourteenth U. S. Infantry, commanding skirmishers on the reconnaissance of July 4. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. DAY,

Colonel Sixth U. S. Infantry, Commanding Brigade.

ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Headquarters Second Division, Fifth Corps.

P. S. -My horse was killed in the affair of July 2.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION,
July 29, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded. So much delay has occurred in getting this paper that I will forward it as a substitute for the report of the brigade commander required by regulations and custom of service from time immemorial.

R. B. AYRES,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Captain Andrew Sheridan- Vol. 27, pt. 1, 637

Numbers 205. Report of Captain Andrew Sheridan, Third U. S. Infantry.

CAMP NEAR WARRENTON, VA.,

July 28, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that this regiment, under the command of Captain Henry W. Freedley, moved with the division on June 13 from Banks Ford, and marched to Hartwood Church, Va. ; bivouacked near Catletts Station on the 14th; marched to Manassas Junction on the 15th. On the 17th, marched to and encamped near Gum Springs. June 19. -Marched, and bivouacked near Aldie.

June 26. -Marched through Leesburg; crossed the Potomac at Edwards Ferry, and bivouacked 4 miles from the Ferry; left camp about 4 a. m. next day, and marched to camp near Frederick, Md.

June 29. -Bivouacked near Liberty, Md.

June 30. -Marched to camp near Union Mills, Md.

July 1. -Marched to camp near Hanover, Pa. ; left at 6 p. m. same day, and marched in the direction of Gettysburg, and bivouacked on the road. Marched next morning (July 2) near Gettysburg; formed in line of battle, and was engaged with enemy until 8 p. m. ; lost during the engagement of that day 8 killed, 60 wounded, and 2 missing in action. Captain Henry W. Freedley, commanding the regiment, was severely wounded; Lieutenants Daingerfield Parker and Stanley Mourton were wounded. After Captain Freedley was wounded, the command of the regiment devolved on Captain Richard G. Lay. The regiment formed in line of battle, and remained so during July 3.

July 4. -The regiment advanced with the brigade and skirmished with the enemy, losing 1 man; returned from skirmishing and went on front line of picket, where Lieutenant George B. Butler was so severely wounded that he lost his right arm. Remained there all night.

July 5. -Relieved from picket duty. At 5 p. m. marched about 5 miles on the Emmitsburg road and encamped. Remained in camp until

July 7. Marched at 6 a. m., passing through Creagerstown and Utica, and encamped near Utica.

July 8. -Marched, and bivouacked near Middletown, Md.

July 9. -Marched over South Mountain, and encamped near Boonsborough, Md.

July 10. -Marched to and encamped near Antietam Creek.

July 11. -Left camp and marched about 1 mile; formed line of battle in close column by division, and remained so until about 5 p. m., when the regiment advanced about 1 1/2 miles in line of battle, and bivouacked for the night.

July 12. -Advanced about 1 1/2 miles in line of battle, and remained so all night.

July 13. -Remained in line of battle.

July 14. -Advanced and encamped near Williamsport. These are the facts as far as I have any knowledge of them, not being present during the engagement. During the engagements and marches the regiment lost 4 commissioned officers wounded, 8 enlisted men killed, 60 wounded, and 3 missing. * The following officers were present at the

engagement at Gettysburg: Captain H. W. Freedley, commanding regiment (wounded); Captain R. G. Lay, acting field officer; First Lieutenant Daingerfield Parker, (wounded slightly); First Lieutenant John Whitney, acting adjutant; First Lieutenants John H. Page, George B. Butler (severely wounded, arm amputated); Second Lieuts, Isaac A. Helm, George K. Pomeroy, August Kaiser, Stanley Mourton, and William Mitchell.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ANDREW SHERIDAN,

Captain Third U. S. Infantry, Commanding Regiment.

Captain WINTHROP, Actg. Asst. Adjt. General, First Brigade, Regular Infantry.

Appendix IX

Reports of the Battle of Rappahannock Station, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Brigadier General Kenner Garrard- Vol. 29, pt. 1, 577

Numbers 19. Report of Brigadier General Kenner Garrard, U. S. Army, commanding skirmishers Fifth Army Corps, of engagement at Rappahannock Station.

CAMP FIFTH ARMY CORPS, November 10, 1863.

SIR: In obedient to instructions, I have the honor to report as follows of the part taken by the skirmishers of the Fifth Corps in the affair at Rappahannock Station, on the 7th instant:

These skirmishers were composed of the pickets of corps, and taken from the three divisions, the First Division, 13 officers and 350 men; Second Division, 12 officers and 350 men; and the Third Division, 7 officers and about 200 men.

The line was posted in front of the corps on the southeast side of the railroad, and about 3 p. m. I received orders to form my whole force as skirmishers; to advance with my right on the railroad, and to establish the picket line on the Rappahannock River, driving in the enemy, who was in front. The river was about an hour or less, the line was on the river on my left, and up to near the railroad, where it bent back, owing to the opposition offered from an earth-work of the enemy near the river and on the northwest side of the railroad.

My orders required me to regulate with the skirmishers of the Sixth Corps, on the other side of the railroad, and, in keeping up this connection, a portion of the First Division, on the right of my line, crossed the railroad, and, at the time of the charge, entered the fort together with the Sixth Corps. A portion of the skirmishers from this some division, by advancing sharpshooters, when the line halted near the fort, silenced a gun and prevented it from being used from that time until the fort was taken.

Being unacquainted with either the officers or men who composed my temporary command, I am unable to report in detail in regard to their conduct, but I wish to mention Captain O. S. Woodward, Eighty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, the commanding officer of the skirmishers from the First Division, for the handsome manner in which he performed his duty during the whole time he was under my command; and, also, Lieutenant Alexander H. McLeod, One hundred and fortieth New York Volunteers, my aide, for the valuable assistance he rendered, when advancing the skirmishers, and establishing the line on the river bank.

The First Division lost 6 enlisted men killed, 16 enlisted men and 1 officer wounded.

Captured [of the enemy]: 4 commissioned officers and 71 enlisted men.

The Second Division lost 1 enlisted man killed, 5 wounded, and 4 missing.

No loss has been reported from the Third Division.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

K. GARRARD,

Brigadier-General.

[Lieutenant Colonel FRED. T. LOCKE,]

Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifth Army Corps.

Appendix X

Reports of the Battle of Mine Run, from *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (All Series are 1)

Major General George Sykes- Vol. 29, pt. 1, 794

Numbers 76. Report of Major General George Sykes, U. S. Army, commanding Fifth Army Corps.

CAMP NEAR RAPPAHANNOCK STATION,

December 4, 1863.

SIR: On the 26th ultimo, my corps left its camp at Paoli Mills with instructions to proceed to Parker's Store, on the Orange and Fredericksburg plank road, and, if possible, to seize a point beyond, where the cross- road coming from Robertson's Tavern intersects the plank road. I reached Culpeper Ford on the Rapidan at 10.30 a. m., threw a regiment over in boats, forded the stream with the cavalry serving at these headquarters, and effected the crossing of the corps by noon of the same day. In consequence of delays happening to the troops on my right, at the fords of Germanna and Jacobs' Mills, I was instructed to await the passage of the river by the Second and Third Corps. About 3 p. m. I resumed the march and bivouacked at the Wilderness farm, near the intersection of the Germanna and Orange and Fredericksburg plank roads.

On the 27th, I continued the movement, arrived at Parker's Store at 9 a. m., and there met the cavalry under General Gregg, who had been ordered in advance on the same road. General Gregg soon met the enemy's cavalry and drove it gradually from point to point. The country was so densely wooded that the cavalry could only fight on foot, and the road taken by the troops being a continuous defile, it was only at [New] Hope Church that the heads of a few columns could be deployed.

About 3 p. m. the engagement became very warm, and the enemy having brought up a division of infantry, the cavalry could make no further impression upon him. I therefore deployed my troops as well as the ground would permit, took position in advance of [New] Hope Church, and relieved the cavalry, who had been fighting since 11 a. m. After my skirmishers were thrown out, the enemy became quiet and made no further demonstration. Upon reporting the condition of affairs, the major- general commanding directed me not to advance beyond the intersection of the road from Raccoon Ford with the Orange and Fredericksburg plank road, as the Third Corps had not yet effected a junction with the Second. During the night I received orders to move to Robertson's Tavern, on the old turnpike. This movement was accomplished early the next day, the enemy making no effort to prevent it.

At 4 a. m. on the 29th, I relieved the Second Corps, taking position across the turnpike in front of Mine Run. At the same hour on the 30th, the Fifth Corps was massed on the left of the enemy's position, and, in conjunction with the Sixth Corps, was prepared to storm his intrenchments. At 8 a. m. our batteries opened, and the hour for the assault, 9 a. m., having nearly arrived, the troops, in high spirits, were bracing themselves for the advance, when orders from headquarters were announced suspending the attack. We remained in position until dark, when the Fifth Corps returned to its bivouac across the turnpike.

At 6 p. m. on the 1st of December, it was directed to recross the Rapidan at Germanna Ford and occupy Stevensburg, and subsequent orders have assigned to me the protection of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

In these various movements the troops behaved well, were cheerful and subordinate, and although a very severe rain- storm fell upon them, rendering the roads almost impassable, and subsequently two days of unusually cold weather ensued, they were willing and eager to meet the enemy wherever he might be found.

The line occupied by the rebels on Mine Run was exceedingly formidable, the stream treacherous and uncertain in its approaches, and although some parts of it might have been assaulted successfully, it would have been at great sacrifice of life and might not have determined a favorable issue for a general battle. The cessation of the storm, the cold weather following it, and the consequent hardening of the roads were providential; otherwise our trains and artillery would have been stuck in the mud.

My thanks are due to the different commanders and to my personal staff.

I have to report but few casualties. Thirteen prisoners were captured.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. SYKES,

Major- General, Commanding Fifth Corps.

General A. A. HUMPHREYS,

Chief of Staff, Army of the Potomac.

