
August 10, 1862.

Sir: A little after 9 o'clock I was ordered to put the brigade in line of battle perpendicular to the road and move forward, the line having been arranged in the following order, viz: 12th on the right, 33rd on the left, 37th, 5th on the left, 32d, left of the 5th, and the 4th, left of the 2d. Driven forward through the woods, but in a few minutes I was ordered to put the brigade in column of regiments, which order was executed promptly; but before advancing the column I was ordered to deploy the column and advance in line of battle letting the right front about 100 yards from the road. The line of battle being thus re-established, I moved forward through the woods under a heavy fire of spherical case and canister shot from the enemy's guns.

Arriving at a fence, that partly enclosed an open field I shelled the brigade and sent Captain John H. Dowd, Acting aide, to inform Gen'l. T. L. Clingman of my position, and to receive his orders. Captain Fulton returned, stating that the General directed me to move on. I put the brigade in motion and rode on 200 yards in advance in order to gain the top of the hill, from which I supposed I could have a good view. Arriving at the top of the hill I observed the enemy about 300 yards distant, advancing in line of battle, when I immediately rode back to the brigade, which had advanced within 400 yards of the enemy and in view of each other. This brigade then opened fire upon the enemy and having discharged several volleys, which seemed to confuse him, I immediately ordered the brigade to charge, which was promptly executed and with fine effect, the enemy falling back in great confusion, leaving many of their dead and wounded upon the field. Arriving at the woods in his retreat the enemy attempted to reform his line, which I determined to prevent by following him up, but at this moment I was informed...
that the enemy had turned the left of the Second Brigade (which I supposed until that moment located on the right of the First Brigade) whereupon I immediately directed a change of front which was done as promptly as it could be under the circumstances which enabled me to engage the flank movement of the enemy but the Branch's brigade coming up at this moment (his line being perpendicular to the road while the line of the First brigade was parallel), then Branch opened a vigorous fire upon the enemy which soon succeeded in driving him from his position. There was then compelled to pass through a large grain field in his retreat which exposed his broken column to a deadly cross fire from Branch's and this brigade. About four o'clock in the afternoon, I ordered the right column to advance. The order was followed by a dense cloud of smoke, one of which was immediately taken from a private of the Fifth Regimemt under command of Major. Two stand of colors were taken by the Fifth Regimemt. Very Respectfully, your obedient servant, S. A. Ronald, Acting Assistant Adjutant General.
Ronald

First Brigade
Edg's 2d Brigade 2d Div. Army Valley District Camp near Liberty Mills Va. Aug 18th 1862

Major I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my 2d Brigade in the battle near Cedar Creek on the 19th inst. Gen. Tulliaferro now assuming command (12th Division) desired such a disposition of the 2d Brigade as would afford some protection to the batteries on our right and some 500 yards to our rear. The 21st Va. Regt. formed the extreme right, & the 48th Va. Regt. was placed on the left of the 2d and were designed to repel any charge of the enemy on our batteries as ordered by Gen. Tulliaferro. The 42d Va. Regt & 15th Va. Battalion formed our left, and commanded the field nearly at right angles with that in front of the 48th & 21st. In this position skirmishers were thrown forward and on the extreme left of our line was left with Maj Sudden (Company G Va. Battalion) with instructions to report any movements of the enemy in attack nor land on his extreme left which was supposed to be occupied.

At this junction Gen. Jackson's Staff arrived, and I received orders from the general to look well to my left flank, and to report at once to Gen. Tulliaferro for reenforcements. According Capt. Wilson, 2d C. Ht. Inf. Gen. 2d Brigade Lt. Col. White, acting as our camp commandant, went in different directions of the field to ensure an early interview with the general and to ensure without delay the support required. Before these officers returned the enemy had advanced rapidly, already engaging our right (This was Kearny's Brigade on our left after the road in the corn field. 4th) With coolness and determination the regiments on our right delivered a fire, keeping a superior number of the enemy at bay. Firing now commenced on the left and hastening to the position occupied by the 48th Va. Battalion I discovered the enemy in heavy force rapidly advancing. This was Col. Ford's Brigade (4th) not more than 50 yards from our front, bearing down upon us also from the left delivering as they came a most galling fire. Unable to withstand this fire from front and flank, the 48th Va. Battalion gave way in confusion, andrend with the utmost effort to corps of gallant officers re-formed.
Finding our left turned, I rode up to Major Lane, Commanding the 42d, and ordered a change of front to meet the enemy in this new direction, but before this could be executed he fell mortally wounded, and the movement could not be accomplished before the enemy had commenced a fire in their rear, producing some confusion and disorder. The other regiments all the while engaged in front were also attacked in rear, now that the left flank was turned, producing much disorder in their ranks. In this double fire, four of our men fell the gallant officers, Lieut Col. Cunningham, Major Lane, Capt. Doster. Reinforcements coming up, portions of different regiments were formed, and assisted in driving the enemy discomfited from its position. The terrible loss in this brigade resulted from its left flank being turned, thereby subjecting it to a double fire. Had reinforcements momentarily expected reached no ten minutes sooner no disaster would have happened.

The long list of killed & wounded officers accompanying this report is the best evidence of their courage and fidelity in the discharge of duty.


Loss is given as:

- 41st Va. Killed 8, Wounded 55. Total 122
- 42d Va. Killed 36, Wounded 71. Total 107
- 48th Va. Killed 18, Wounded 211. Total 229
- 1st Va. Battalion Killed 10. Total 10

91 210 301

The 41st Va., which was detached from 3d Brigade, kept on the left of the 1st Va. Battalion, just as they became engaged had 6 killed & 37 wounded.

The 48th Va. was in line, the right wing facing the wheat road, the left at right angles, & facing the wheat field.

While all the reports before me, but I would take too much time to copy them. Then may be more here than you want & other. Will gladly send you any report in full that you may wish & to.