

**Object ID:** *MG0828\_SeriesD-62\_F09*

**Document:** *Final Draft of Antietam battle report, dated September 19, 1862*

**Transcription:**

Head Quarters 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade  
1<sup>st</sup> Division 9<sup>th</sup> Army Corps  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Captain

I have the honor to report that the Brigade under my Command comprising the 45<sup>th</sup> Penn<sup>a</sup> Vol. 100<sup>th</sup> Penn<sup>a</sup> 46<sup>th</sup> Regt of New York S. V. and the 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regiments, left camp on the Morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1862 and marched in the direction of the Bridge across the Antetam [Antietam] Creek on the Road to Sharpsburg. The Brigade being held in reserve to the force engaged in storming the Bridge was not brought directly in Contact with the Enemy until past meridian. Our Victorious comrades having meanwhile driven the Enemy from the Bridge and Banks of the Creek, I was ordered to cross with my Brigade to their relief. Arriving on the opposite side of the Creek and in compliance with verbal instructions from Brig. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Wilcox I moved my whole command over a steep hill immediately charging the Enemy and driving them rapidly in the direction of Sharpsburg. My Troops advancing to the Edge of the town and capturing the rebel Cap<sup>t</sup> Twiggs and several soldiers. Discovering that we had advanced beyond our supporting forces on our right and Left I withdrew my command to an orchard directly in the left of Col. Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Division. We remained in this position until ordered back by the General comma<sup>d</sup>g [commanding] this Division to the support of the forces then desperately engaged with the Enemy Who were attempting to out flank us on the left. My command was exposed for several hours to a tremendous cross fire from the Artillery of the Enemy as well as a direct fire from the

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Infantry and Riflemen in our front. Yet they [word missing - advanced?] with steadiness and rapidity driving the enemy at all points, and performing strictly the great duty devolved on them by the Commanding General.

I had great difficulty in restraining the ardor of my Troops, who seemed anxious to charge through the town and Capture the Batteries' beyond.

Fighting as we did directly under the ~~command~~ of eyes of the General I trust our conduct merited his approval.

I commend my Entire command for their gallantry and good conduct, officers and men seemed to vie with each other in their efforts to excel in deeds of ~~galantry~~ [gallantry] and bravery.

A list of killed and wounded with reports of Regimental commanders are here with Enclosed

Very Respectfully  
Your ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Welsh Col  
45<sup>th</sup> Regt Penn<sup>a</sup> Vols  
Comm<sup>dg</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade

To Capt Robt. A. Hutchins  
A Adj<sup>t</sup> Genl



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My Line was habitually formed in the manner in which the Regiments are designated in the beginning of my report. 45<sup>th</sup> on the Right 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan on the extreme left.

T.W.

**Analysis: Wiggin**

*This is identical in substance but edited slightly from MG0828\_SeriesD-62\_F08. Except for the postscript, this is not Thomas Welsh's handwriting.*

**Scope and Content:**

Handwritten report in a copyist's hand of Welsh's Antietam Battle Report, MG0828 SeriesD-62 F08. Report details the activities of Welsh's 2nd Brigade (Willcox's 1st Division) during the battle of Antietam. Command consists of Regiments 45th and 100th Pennsylvania, 46th New York, and 8th Michigan. Commends command for gallantry and good conduct. Note: Slightly edited version of MG0828 SeriesD-62 F08. Except for the postscript, this is not Thomas Welsh's handwriting. Note: incorrect spelling of Brig General Orlando B. Willcox.



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