

Object ID: *MG0828_SeriesD-62_F10a*

Document: *Final Draft of South Mountain battle report, dated September 18, 1862*

Transcription:

Head Quarters 2nd Brigade
Wilcox^s 1st Division 9th Army Corps
Near Sharpsburg M^d Sept 18th 1862

Cap^t

I have the honor to report that the Brigade under my command consisting of the 45th Reg^t. Penn^a. Vols. Major J. I. Curtin commanding, 100th Reg^t. Penn^a. Vols. Lieu^t Col. Lecky commanding and the 46th Reg^t. New York. Vol. Lieu^t Col. Gerhard commanding, marched from camp east of Middletown, early on Sunday morning 14th Sep^t. 1862.

Arriving in front of, and within range of the Enemy's Guns on the Heights of South Mountain commanding the Turnpike Road to Hagerstown, I received orders from Brig Gen^l. Wilcox commanding Division to attack the Enemy's Batteries on the right of the Turnpike. The 100th Reg^t. Penn^a. Vols. Lieu^t Col. Lecky was then advanced as skirmishers along the Road. The other Troops of the Brigade were then moved to the right with the view of crossing the Fields and ascending the mountain on right of the Battery to be attacked.

After advancing a short distance an order was received recalling my command ~~from~~ and directing me to proceed to the support of Gen^l. Cox's Division ~~which was~~ then being engaged with the Enemy a considerable distance to the left of the Turnpike. Leaving orders for the 100th to be recalled and follow, I hurried forward with my two Regiments along the Road running nearly parallel with and about 1000 Yards distant from the Turnpike. Arriving at the foot of the mountain, I placed my Troops in position the right of the 45th Penn^a resting on the Road and the left of the 46th New York extending toward the command of Gen^l. Cox.

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I then caused two Companies of the 45th Penn^a. Vols. to be moved forward to the top of the hill as skirmishers and soon discovered the Enemy in great force his artillery completely commanding the ~~adv~~ wood. Heavy masses of Infantry ~~were~~ covered trees and stone fences, supported the Artillery.

At ___ P.M. I received an order from Gen^l. Wilcox to advance my Command and silence the Battery on the Road at all hazards. At this time the firing between my skirmishers in front and the Enemy became more rapid. I immediately put the 45th Penn^a. in motion at double quick up the hill, arriving at the crest of the hill ~~they~~ it encountered the Enemy also advancing. the battle became very fierce. at this juncture the 17th Michigan ~~Vols of Col Christ~~ Vols. advanced on our right and also became hotly engaged. the 100th Penn^a formed on the left of the 45th Penn^a. The 45th New York also came ~~on our left~~ into line on the left of the 100th Penn^a. and connecting with the Troops of Gen^l. Cox's Command.

Notwithstanding the terrific fire from Infantry & Artillery in front together with raking fire from a Battery near the Turnpike our Troops continued to advance utterly regardless of the Slaughter in their ranks until having destroyed the advanced Troops of the Enemy. he was compelled to give way and retreat ~~down the hill~~ with his Artillery and Infantry in confusion down the hill.



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A stand of colors and many prisoners ~~kill'd~~ principally wounded were captured by my command at the stone fence near the Road and were turned over for safe keeping to the supporting forces on our left and rear.

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I then withdrew my command from the Hill, being relieved [?] by Troops of Gen^l Sturgis's Command.

I append herewith the report of the Regimental Commanders with lists of the kill'd and wounded.

My officers and men were enthusiastic & brave. Where all are so meritorious it would be impossible unjust to designate individuals. I will only add that the 45th Penn^a. of my Brigade, and the 17th Michigan of the 1st Brigade sustained the brunt of battle with a bravery and constancy seldom equaled in Modern Battles.

~~You~~ Very Respectfully
Your ob^t Serv^t
Thos Welsh Col
Comm^dg 2nd Brigade

To
Cap^t Hutchins
Asst. adj. gen^l
1st Division
9th Army Corps.

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2nd Brigade
Report of Battle
of Sept 14th 1862
Copies sent to H^d Quarters
Sep 20th 62

Analysis: Wiggin

This appears to be Welsh's first draft (in his handwriting) of his South Mountain Battle Report. It details the activities of Welsh's 2nd Brigade (Willcox's 1st Division) during the battle of South Mountain.

Scope and Content:

Handwritten report details the activities of Welsh's 2nd Brigade (Willcox's 1st Division) during the battle of South Mountain. Command consists of Regiments 45th and 100th Pennsylvania, 46th New York, and 8th Michigan. Notes that the 45th Pennsylvania and 17th Michigan "sustained the brunt of the battle." Back of final page notes that copies were sent to headquarters. Note: incorrect spelling of Brig General Orlando B. Willcox.



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