

Headquarters 5th W.I. regt
Camp at Fair Oaks Station, June 20 1862

Captain

I have the honor to report to
you the part taken by my Regt in the
battle of June 1st.

On the evening of May
31st the Fifth Regt was posted as ad-
vanced guard in front of the Brigade
of Gen French. Being very near the
enemy we took several prisoners,
and soon after daybreak, an orderly
bearing a dispatch from Gen Pryor
of the Confederate Army, to Gen Anderson
was taken, & sent to Headquarters
Soon after this my Regt moved
across the Railroad & took post
in the edge of the woods. Here being
and soon after daybreak, an orderly
bearing a dispatch from Gen Pryor
of the Confederate Army, to Gen Anderson

Transcription:

Headquarters 5th NH Vols
Camp at Fair Oaks Station, June 2, 1862

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On the evening of May
31st the Fifth Regiment was posted as ad-
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of General French¹. Being very near the
enemy we took several prisoners,
and soon after daybreak an orderly,
bearing a dispatch from Gen Pryor
of the Confederate Army to Gen Anderson²
was taken, & sent to Headquarters.
Soon after this my regiment moved
across the Railroad & took post
in the edge of the woods. Here, being
fired upon by the enemy's pickets, we
had one man killed & two wounded.
The returned the fire and the

¹William H. French (1815-1881) commanded the Third Brigade, First Division, of Sumner's Second Corps. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 316.

²Roger Pryor (1828-1919) and Richard Anderson (1821-1879) both commanded brigades under James Longstreet. This incident is described further in Cross's journal. *Ibid.*, 14, 674.

prisoners attracted. We were then
ordered back to a position in the
first line of battle but soon
after advanced into the woods
again where we took fifteen
or twenty prisoners - members
of Virginia Rgt's, who came sud-
denly upon our lines. The battle
had now raged violently for nearly an
hour. When I received orders from Gen
Richardson to move to the support
of French's Brigade. While moving along
the railroad I received notice that
Gen Howard was severely wounded
& the command of his Brigade de-
volved upon me. Finding that
the 61st Penn, 64th New York &
65th New York - the other Rgt's of the
Brigade - had been very severely
handled - I sent word
to them to file out of the woods

& the command of his Brigade de-
volved upon me. Finding that
the 61st Penn, 64th New York &

Transcription:

pickets retreated. We were then ordered back to a position in the front line of battle, but soon after advanced into the woods again, where we took fifteen or twenty prisoners, members of the Virginia Rgts, who came suddenly upon our line. The battle had now raged violently for nearly one hour, when I received orders from Gen Richardson¹ to move to the support of French's Brigade. While moving along the railroad I received notice that Gen Howard² was severely wounded, & command of his brigade devolved upon me. Finding that the 81st Penn, 64th New York & 61st New York -- the other regiments of the brigade -- had been severely handled, I sent word to them to file out of the woods & reform in the van of Meagher's Brigade³. While I advanced my Rgt to occupy the ground

¹Israel B. Richardson (1815-1862) was assigned command of the First Division of Sumners' Corps on March 13, 1862. Warner, *Generals in Blue*, 402-403 and Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 697.

²Oliver Otis Howard (1830-1909) commanded the First Brigade under Israel B. Richardson. His command included Fifth New Hampshire, 61st New York, 64th New York and 81st Pennsylvania. Warner, *Generals in Blue*, 237, 403.

³Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher (1823-1867) organized and commanded of the Irish Brigade, the Second Brigade of Howard's Division. The brigade consisted of the 63rd New York, 69th New York and the 88th New York. Warner, *Generals in Blue*, 317-318 and Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 427.

Mostly superior force & under
a fine steady command by Hooker
in battle. ~~the~~ The loss of my Regt
in killed wounded & missing is
~~at~~ about 185 men & fine officers
wounded namely, Lieut Cross, Major
Cook, Capt Shilwood, Lieut Reed
& Lieut Cummings.

I am very truly
Edmund Ross
at 5th MA

Capt Small
a life

a life

Transcription:

vastly superior force & under
a fire seldom experienced by troops
in battle, the lost of my Rgt
in killed wounded & missing is
~~about~~ about 185 men, & five officers
wounded namely, Col Cross, Major
Cook¹, Capt Sturtevant², Lieut Reed³
& Lieut Cummings⁴.

I am very truly
Edward E. Cross
Col 5th NHV

Capt Morrill⁵
A A General

¹William W. Cook, of Derry, N.H., was appointed major on September 24, 1861. Wounded at Fair Oaks, he resigned his commission on July 17, 1862. Child, "Complete Roster," 42.

²Edward E. Sturtevant was appointed captain of Company A on October 12, 1861 and replaced Cook as major in July 1862. Child, "Complete Roster," 175.

³Dexter G. Reed, a native of Newport, N.H., mustered in as a second lieutenant in Company E in October 1861 and rose to the rank of first lieutenant. He resigned in November 1862. Child, "Complete Roster," 150.

⁴Albert G. Cummings, of Enfield, N.H., mustered in as an eighteen year-old sergeant in Company A. By March 1863, he had risen to the rank of captain. He was wounded at Fair Oaks, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Child, "Complete Roster," 46.

⁵Probably Captain J. M. Norvell, who was the assistant adjutant general of Richardson's Division. War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1884), vol. XI, pt. 1, 770. Hereinafter cited as OR.