

From The Official Records:

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Tabular statement of casualties in the Army of the Potomac from May 5, 1864 to November 1, 1864

Peeble's Farm (September 30 to October 1)

12 Officers killed

129 Men killed

50 Officers wounded

738 men wounded

56 Officers missing

1,700 men missing

Aggregate: 2,685 men

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September 30, 1864

Orders were received to make a demonstration on the left, with a view of preventing detachments to the north side of the James, where operations were being carried on. Major-General Warren, with two divisions of the 5th Corps, and Major-General Parke, with two divisions of the 9th Corps, moved from the left towards Poplar Spring Church and Peeble's Farm. Gregg's division of cavalry at the same time moved farther to the left and rear. Griffin found the enemy entrenched on Peeble's Farm, and attacking carried a redoubt and line of rifle pits, taking 1 gun and about 160 prisoners. At the same time Ayres carried a small work on the Squirrel Level road. In the afternoon Parke, moving on Warren's left toward the Boydton Road., was fiercely attacked by the enemy and for a time compelled to fall back, but Griffin coming to his support the enemy was checked and repulsed. Early in the day of October 1st, Gregg met the enemy's cavalry and forced them back, reporting his disappearance in the afternoon.

On October 1st, Mott's division of the 2nd Corps, was withdrawn from the lines and sent to reinforce Parke, but could not reach the ground in time for operations. On this day Gregg was heavily attacked on the Duncan Road, where he was guarding the left and rear; but, repulsed the enemy, inflicting heavy losses on him and killing Brigadier General Dunovant.

On the 2nd of October the whole force advanced, but found the enemy had withdrawn to his main entrenched line. A position was then taken up and the necessary works laid out to extend our entrenched line to the position gained.

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Poplar Spring Church, Va (Wyatt's, Peeble's, and Pegram's Farms, Chappell House, and Vaughan Road, September 30, 1864

**2nd Army Corps, Third Division; Bvt Major-General Gershom Mott
1st Brigade; Brigadier-General P. Regis de Trobriand**

20th Indiana
1st Maine Heavy Artillery
17th Maine
40th New York
73rd New York
86th New York
124th New York
99th Pennsylvania
110th Pennsylvania
2nd US Sharpshooters.....3 men wounded

2nd Brigade; Brigadier-General Byron R. Pierce

1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery
5th Michigan
93rd New York
57th Pennsylvania
84th Pennsylvania
105th Pennsylvania
141st Pennsylvania
1st US Sharpshooters (three companies)....3 men missing or captured, 3 men wounded

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Headquarters 3rd Division, Second Army Corps

G. Mott, Brevet Major-General, Commanding Division

On Sunday, October 2nd, having received orders from the major-general commanding the 9th Corps to be in readiness to move at 5:30 AM, and to report in person at 6 AM to his headquarters, my command was ready at said time, and I reported accordingly. The orders I received were to form on the left of General Wilcox's division, of the 9th Corps, and to advance with said division, keeping up the connection on my right, and to keep a good lookout for my left flank. At 8 AM I deployed the 2nd Brigade (General Pierce) on the left of General Wilcox's division, with skirmishers well thrown out, followed closely by the 3rd Brigade (Colonel McAllister), with instructions to deploy as soon as the movement commenced and the nature of the ground would admit, the 1st Brigade (General de Trobriand) in reserve, with instructions to throw out flankers and to leave a regiment at the point where the roads forked near the Clements house. Advancing a mile, I came upon a line of the enemy's works, which was carried at once, the enemy making but little resistance. After taking this line of works I advanced about a mile, driving the enemy's skirmishers, when I came upon a second and stronger line of works. These works were manned by infantry and artillery. After skirmishing with the enemy for some little time, I received orders from General Parke to develop the force and ascertain how much of the enemy were in the position. I immediately ordered General Pierce to carry out the order, which he did by advancing the First Massachusetts Heavy

Artillery, the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 141st Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers, **with the 1st US Sharpshooters on the right flank.** I also instructed Colonel McAllister to move a regiment of his brigade to the left of the position occupied by the battery, and when the attack was made by General Pierce to open a severe fire upon the battery, in order to draw part of the fire and relieve the attacking column as much as possible. At 3 PM the line was ordered forward, when it charged most gallantly to within a few rods of the work under a concentrated fire from musketry and artillery. At 3:10 PM I received a communication from Major General Parke saying that he had just seen Major-General Meade, who did not wish me to run any great risk, but to take up a line and entrench. The attacking column was immediately recalled. The casualties in this charge was 1 commissioned officer and 4 enlisted men killed, 5 commissioned officers and 44 enlisted men wounded. At 5:15 PM I received orders to withdraw to the line of works near the Clements house and to occupy said line with pickets well out, which was done and completed at 6:30 PM.

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B.R. Pierce, Brigadier-General of Volunteers
Captain J.P. Finkelmeier, Assistant Adjutant General, 3rd Division, 2nd Army Corps

At 12:30 PM of October 1st, I received orders to move my brigade to Hancock's Station at once, where cars were waiting to transport them to the Yellow Tavern, and then march to the left of the line and report to General Parke, commanding the 9th Corps, at the Peeble's House, near Poplar Spring Church. I at once complied with the order, and arrived at the Peeble's House, about 2.5 miles beyond the Weldon Railroad, at 2:40 PM. Reported to General Parke and received orders to mass my command and await the arrival of the division. Subsequently received orders from the general commanding the division to bivouac for the night. At 5 AM on the morning of October 2nd, received orders to be ready to move at 6:30 AM against the enemy's works. Moved at the time and formed a line of battle on the left of the 9th Corps, by orders from the general commanding the division, with instructions to keep the connection with said corps.

My line of battle was formed in the following order from right to left; **The 1st US Sharpshooters, 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 141st Pennsylvania Volunteers** deployed as skirmishers, supported by the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, 57th Pennsylvania, 93rd New York, and 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Advancing about 3/4ths of a mile we came upon the enemy's first line of works, which we carried at once, the enemy making but little opposition. As soon as the movement was commenced Colonel McAllister formed his brigade upon my left, as most of the firing was upon my left flank. After taking the first line of works, advanced about one mile, driving the enemy's skirmishers before us, when we came upon the second line, and stronger than the first. These works were well manned with infantry and artillery. After skirmishing with the enemy for some little time, I received orders to make a demonstration against the works in order to ascertain the strength of the enemy, using, if necessary, a portion of Colonel McAllister's brigade. I at once formed a storming party of the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 141st Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers, **with the 1st US Sharpshooters on the right flank,** all under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Zinn, 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers, with instructions to charge the enemy's works. This line was formed in a ravine about 200 yards from the enemy's works, and to the right of the battery. I also instructed Colonel McAllister to move

one regiment of his brigade to the left and opposite the battery, and when the portion of my brigade charged to open a severe fire upon the battery, in order to draw a part of the fire, and relieve the charging column as much as possible. At 3 PM I ordered the line forward, when it charged most gallantly to within a few rods of the works, under a severe concentrated fire from musketry and artillery. Colonel Zinn, seeing it was impossible to take the works without great loss of life, ordered the men to retire, which was done in good order.

The regiment which Colonel McAllister ordered to the left is entitled to credit for the promptness in which it moved to the point designated, and opened fire upon the battery. The casualties in this charge were 5 killed, 49 wounded, and 14 missing (supposed to be wounded and left upon the field), including Lieutenant-Colonel George Zinn, 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers, wounded, and Captain J.J. Wirsing, 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers, killed within a few yards of the works while gallantly leading his men.

About 4:30 PM I received orders to withdraw my command and march it back to the position occupied in the morning, leaving the 93rd New York as skirmishers to be withdrawn by the division officer of the day. I marched my command back, arriving there soon after dark, and bivouacked for the night. Remained at this point until the evening of the 5th of October, furnishing large details for fatigue duty upon the fortifications then being built.

On the eve of the 5th of October, marched with the division back to the Jones House, relieved the garrison at Fort Alexander Hays, and massed the balance of my brigade in the rear of it, in compliance with orders from the general commanding division. The conduct of both officers and men during these five day operations was eminently satisfactory. It would be invidious to particularize where all behaved with such marked gallantry.