

THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, BY BVT. LIEUT.
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AND

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took up the line of march

about 3 a. m. to rest

the enemy having

fallen back upon

her brigades of the divi-

and Mechanicsville, there

ade, and in obedience to

of a hedge-row

of their courage for two

turning a shot; but I am

his post of duty.

O. Reid, of Company G.

regiment of Maj. Gen. A. P.

pressed on after the enemy

On approaching Gaines'

on the opposite side of

the bridge.

After

Second Brigade was soon

left, supported by Col-

upon the enemy, and in

reated in the direction of

Gregg was again put in

and scour the woods and

to the enemy's works.

formed by the brigade as

to advance given. As

pine thicker, the charge

out, and those we did

the main battle ground,

where we rested a few
enemies' positions. The
in a gallant style batteries
used two heavy batteries
and shell into our ranks
as now formed into line
Colonel Marshall in the
Edwards for a support.
at a double-quick under
many falling killed and
marshes, and branches,
ng force were posted.
to canister, grape, and
on over our heads be-
enemy.
battery which had been
led for the First South

Carolina Volunteer Rifles. I asked what were your orders. You re-

plied that you wanted me to take a battery, with my regiment, which

had been playing on our right and drive the enemy back. The battery

was about 500 yards in that direction, pointing with your hand. I

replied that I would do it if it were possible.

I placed the two flanking companies, Captains Ferrin's and J. J.

Norton's, 100 yards in front as skirmishers, covering the front of my

regiment when deployed, and under the command of Captain Ferrin.

I placed Captain Miller's company 50 paces in rear of Captain Ferrin's

to support him, and Capt. Miles M. Norton 50 paces in rear of Capt. J.

J. Norton to support him. I placed the four companies under com-

mand of Lieutenant-Colonel Ledbetter in rear of these companies.

Thus disposed, I placed the six remaining companies, viz, Captains

Harrison's, Moore's, Cox's, Hennegan's, Hawthorne's, and Hadden's, all

the captains being present and in command of their respective com-

panies. Before giving the command to advance I called upon the regi-

ment to remember the State from whence they came; to put their trust

in God, and acquit themselves like men.

At this awful moment there was not a quiver nor a pallid cheek,

nor a disposition to give way on account of feeble health, when there

were, as I personally know, more than 20 men who had just risen

from beds of sickness to participate in the battles. There was a calm-

ness and settled determination on the part of every man to do or die in

the attempt. I gave the command, "Double-quick, march!" and as

soon as we had gained the old field, "Charge bayonets," at the same

time deploying the six remaining companies to the left, supporting the

entire line of skirmishers.

As soon as we emerged from the pines we were met by a most de-

structive fire from the enemy in front and on our left, and as soon as

we had cleared about 100 yards of the old field two heavy batteries on

our left, about 600 yards off, poured into our ranks a deadly fire of

grape and canister.
Here it was that my adjutant, Lieut. J. B. Sloan, was shot down at
my side while gallantly aiding me and urging on the charge of the regi-
ment. Here also fell Capt. R. A. Hawthorne gallantly leading his com-
pany. A few paces farther fell Captain Hennegan, another noble spirit,
leading his company. Close by his side fell his gallant lieutenant
(Brown), and farther [on] fell the gallant and patriotic Lieut. Samuel
McFall, and near him fell Sergeant-Major McGee nobly cheering the
men on to the charge.
My men, although now under three cross-fires, and falling thick and
fast from one end of the line to the other, never once faltered. Finding
no battery, they dashed on to the woods in front, where were posted
seven regiments of the enemy, including the Pennsylvania Reserves.
Here my men got the first chance to exchange shots. They commenced
a deadly fire upon the enemy, advancing upon them as they delivered
the fire, some of the men having it hand-to-hand, clubbing their rifles,
then dispatching four or five with the bayonet; many taking deadly
aim through the forks of trees. While this successful movement was
going on the left wing of my regiment was about being outflanked by
about 500 New York Zouaves, who came down upon my left in a de-
perate charge. I looked for my support, but could not see any, and
then to the left of the field for the other two regiments, but could not
see either of them, and thus I was left alone contending against seven
30 riflemen, who poured into the ranks of the Zouaves such a deadly