

Numbers 18. Report of Lieutenant Isaac S. Lyon, **Eleventh Connecticut** Infantry, Acting Signal Officer.

NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, VA.,

May 8, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of services rendered as acting signal officer during the late engagement near Fredericksburg, Va.:

Having reported from Georgetown to the headquarters of the Signal Corps, near Fredericksburg, Va., on the evening of May 1, 1863, I proceeded on the following morning with two other officers to Banks' Ford, 5 miles above Falmouth, on the north side of the Rappahannock. There we opened a station of observation through the day, though our object more especially was to open communication with the advance forces of General Hooker when he should succeed in driving the enemy down the river. This object was not effected, by reason of our forces under

General Hooker not advancing as was anticipated; yet observations of rebel pickets and movements of detached bodies of the enemy were made.

On the following morning (May 3), I proceeded to and established a station at Ballard's house, 3 miles farther up the river, so as to form complete signal communication between Banks' Ford and General Hooker's headquarters. This same evening I returned to Banks' Ford. Next morning, accompanied by Lieutenant Denicke, I proceeded across the river, and established communication between General Sedgwick's extreme front and Lieutenant Miner, at Banks' Ford, near to which were General Tyler's forces. At this station several very important messages were exchanged, among which are the following:

General BENHAM:

General Sedgwick wishes another bridge thrown across the river near the one already down.

General HOOKER:

The enemy are pressing me. I am taking position to cross the river whenever necessary.

SEDGWICK,

General.

I remained on this station, or on one near by, which overlooked very much of the surrounding country, till the forces of General Sedgwick retired across the river, when I returned to the station at Banks' Ford.

Being hotly shelled at this point in the evening, our party of three retired one-half a mile to the rear, from whence we reported to headquarters of Signal Corps, near Fredericksburg, on the morning of May 6, 1863.

During this march and service, no public property under my charge was lost or destroyed.

I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

I. S. LYON, Second Lieutenant **Eleventh Conn.** Vols. and Acting Signal Officer.

Captain CUSHING,

Chief Signal Officer Army of the Potomac.