

Numbers 70. Report of Colonel Griffin A. Stedman, jr., **Eleventh Connecticut** Infantry, Second Brigade, of operations May 12-16.

HDQRS. **ELEVENTH REGIMENT** CONNECTICUT VOLS.,
May 17, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the **Eleventh Regiment** Connecticut Volunteers marched with Wistar's brigade on the morning of Thursday, May 12, and accompanied the brigade during the movement toward Drewry's Bluff. During the advance skirmishers were at times thrown out, relieving those of other regiments.

On the morning of Monday, May 16, they occupied their position in the brigade line when the enemy attacked General Heckman's right. No shot was fired by the regiment until the enemy charged in line of battle their immediate front, when, opening fire, the advance of the rebels was checked, and their line, after about an hour, was driven back. At this time, and within a few moments after the regiment ceased firing, an order reached me from General Wistar to fall back, facing my regiment about. I reluctantly obeyed, and marched through thick woods to a road a quarter of a mile to the rear. At this point I was ordered to advance and reoccupy the breast-works. Moving without delay, the regiment returned, and, under a heavy fire from the rebel line which occupied the fortifications, took its old position. No other regiment of the brigade was there, nor could any Union troops be seen along the whole line to the right or left. A rebel battery enfiladed the regiment from the left, and after twenty minutes I saw a movement on the part of the rebels indicating an intention to charge in front, and saw a column filing into the road in the position before occupied by the Second New Hampshire Volunteers, and within 30 yards of my right flank. Finding myself unsupported, and in danger of annihilation or capture, I faced the regiment about and marched to the rear, constantly obliquing to the right to avoid the enemy, who were following the movement with yells. Debouching upon the open field, the regiment retook its position in the brigade, and continued with it during the day, reaching camp between 8 and 9 p. m.

I respectfully ask the attention of the brigadier-general commanding to the fact that the regiment, more than two-thirds of whom were recruits, marched faced to the rear rank to retreat twice through a wide section of dense woods and thicket under a very heavy fire, and that alone and unsupported they reoccupied the old position under the fire of a large body of the enemy behind earthworks, and accomplished all without losing their formation or becoming confused. During the second engagement the flag-staff was broken. The regiment lost throughout the day 14 killed, 54 wounded, and 112 missing, most of whom are supposed to have been killed or wounded during the second engagement, and left upon the field. Those only are reported as killed or wounded in regard to whom a certainty

exists. Two officers were wounded, 1 of whom is a prisoner; 1 other is missing, supposed to be wounded and a prisoner.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

GRIFFIN A STEDMAN, JR.,

Colonel, Commanding **Eleventh Connecticut** Volunteers.

Captain S. R. REYNOLDS,

Assistant Adjutant-General.