

The Michigan Part of Bull Run.

It is not known what the military command of the battle at Bull Run by "Gen. Charles Fairbank" of this city. He belonged to Capt. Edward S. Roberts' company in the 1st Michigan, and departed Michigan on the 10th of August. The reader will see how false is the assumption that the New York Reserve fought near Manassas, Virginia, on August 31st, and New York troops were mingled together, and fought prominently during all the hottest of the conflict. He saw "Gen. Lee" and had two guns struck and raised in his hands.

No person could see all the battle, and those who were engaged in many places; but the reader can only judge from the reports of the various officers who were present, and the reports of the various officers who were present.

On the morning of the 31st of August, the first charge upon the manly battery, in line of battle, the 10th New York, was made by the 1st Michigan, and in the rear the 1st Michigan, being in the rear of the hill, about thirty rods from the rebels, we fired, loading to fall back a time and back as previously ordered. From this the order was countermanded, and we were ordered to rush on unopposed. This order was not perfectly understood, and a portion fell back upon which all of the men, but not more than two or three rods, creating some disorder; but we were in no danger of being "cut back." After loading, we rushed forward toward a road, a deep ditch and a fence, according to the order as we advanced. The rebels having fallen back—the men of the 1st Michigan were mingled together, every man took to the ditch, and though fighting on the left side of the ditch, we were in no danger of being cut back. The day of battle was a fearful one to our countrymen. It was in the position nearly midway perhaps half a hour. We then charged back to the right, to get at those who were firing at us from the center. We were not followed by the enemy on this left. We were in this vicinity, commonly one page, between four and five hours, though it felt seven or more.

Bill's battery of eight guns was stationed on the right of our division, and was manly by the rebels. A portion of all three of the regiments, without any orders, rushed precipitately to make the battery, which was done, there was some hand to hand fighting. The rebels were all killed, or had no way, and we could not make of the guns, till the rebels had with us increased force, and after fighting for some time back to our former position. Facing again to the rebels I saw them falling back, trying to draw away a gun team, which I had just driven a shot; having then had a many rods, our battery had made such havoc that they retreated.

In a few moments I saw two rebels advance to the position with a rifle, and with a flag, which he was in the act of planting by the gun. The man standing next to me and the first I saw, upon each other, and both fell at the same moment. I had no time to see who it was. At the same time I had seen the man at the flag, and he fell as I had.

By the time I had retorted, another rebel was making the flag, and he fell as I had. Two more fell in this position in a similar manner, so that I could load. I saw some other rebels, and never the gun, then most of my countrymen, though in other parts of the line, were in advance.

All this moment the thick smoke was so thick, an appearance altogether from the right, and the whole manly battery, as well as the 1st Michigan, were pouring upon us, in order to take, which order, we, in the center of the position, did not see, upon the full company of men, which did not fire, or the moment, nearly every man had fired his charge in a volley, then with suitable force.

The horses of the cavalry were all killed or put. They first showed a great number of men, our fire was returned, and all the left of their front was within five or six rods of our right, when we poured a continuous volley at them, killing most of the horses in front, and many on their sides. As they fell, pushing their riders to the ground, these soldiers fell over them and from our battalions, and in front of us we had seen them probably four times, and they lay piled upon each other, a beautiful, killing, straggling, during some of our men and horses a sight of horror, in which no description could do justice. Our aim was mostly at the horses, and I think not many more of the men were killed by the horses than by our battalions.

The story that all this fighting was done by the Zouaves is false. The three regiments were mingled together, and all fought equally well. I have spoken what I know, for I was in the middle of the company, and nearly in the center. It was the general opinion that our over half of the cavalry escaped, after the fight, though this was not true.

During this brief but terrible work, the manly battery and some battalions of infantry were pouring their fire into our ranks, and our men were falling on every hand. It again returned their fire, and soon after, Lieut. March having been struck down, I had no orders, and I stood him back, and on returning, we found our men still fighting their ground.

Some after this a flag of truce was raised by the rebels, saying that they rode in our front, and our fire slackened. Immediately the white flag fell, and our orders were raised. We have not what to make of it at the moment, unless they were about to surrender, but supposed afterwards that they were in a line, as a man, since the rebel flag only was waving in the place. The company again for a time, except when the flag of the rebels, and we were not with the rebels, but very near Johnson's army was very surprising. We had fought somewhat to the left of the three regiments, and we were almost exhausted at the height of our ranks were almost and broken, we saw no prospect of support, and we retreated in disorder, but with little halting.

Just about this time the general stampede of the enemy took place, and we turned to the right, again and rapidly, feeling that we had won a glorious victory, only enabled from us by the arrival of Johnson's army, and the failure of proper officers to bring up the reserve forces in our relief.

"Gen. Johnston" was one of the leaders in the retreat, and he was very much in the way. If he had not been in the way, the retreat would have been more orderly.

Clipped By:



jjh127
Sat, Jan 20, 2018