

The Howitzer Battalion.
 * 1st Co. HOWITZERS. }
 Centreville, August 6th, 1861. }

To the Editors of the Dispatch:—Allow me to correct, through the medium of your paper, a wrong impression which may have gained credence from the communication signed "O Chew," of the Thomas Artillery. The article I refer to is this: "That the Richmond Howitzers did not perform efficient service in the battle of the 21st." thereby leading those who knew nothing of the circumstances to believe that we proved recreant to our trust, or performed inefficient service. Had "O Chew" simply stated that we were not on the left wing, he would have accomplished his object—that of refuting the statement made in a former issue, that we were actively engaged in the fight. For a long time we have been attached to Gen. Bonham's Brigade, in the advance at Fairfax C. H., and by our position were entitled to the post of honor, the centre, and were placed there. During Thursday and Sunday we were subjected to what General Bonham told us was the truest test of the bravery of a soldier—a heavy fire, without being allowed to answer it. Shot and shell from a battery on the hill above us fell and exploded all around us. No one could tell where they would attack us. General Bonham told us, if attacked we were to defend our position as long as we had a man left; yet not a man quailed, but all were ready to take the risks in defence of such a cause as ours. We were in the pursuit and scout which followed the rout of the enemy. Still, far be it from me to detract from the exploits of the Thomas Artillery that day, which will immortalize them forever. We are now attached to General Longstreet's brigade, with the 1st, 11th, 7th and 17th Virginia Regiments. We are enjoying excellent health.

HOWITZER.

Richmond Howitzers

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Sat, Jul 25, 2020