

Headquarters
15th US Infantry
2nd Battalion
Near Oostanaula River, GA
May 16, 1864, 7 ½ O'Clock PM

Sir,

I am pleased to report the following actions encompassing May 16th. Col. Welch ordered our batt'n from our bivouac around noon. We marched southwest across open terrain on wagon roads & were ordered to the right of a battery. We passed a portion of the afternoon quietly with secesh cavalry hanging out on the horizon. About 2 ¼ a running cavalry battle erupted to our front & the battery to our left opened on the secesh cavalry. We did not have to deploy forward when a depression in the ground allowed skirmishers to advance in our front. Col. Welch ever the stalwart officer ordered us up to drive them off. As we drove them back we came upon rifle pits dug by the enemy and occupied them as infantry advanced & tried to retake the rifle pits. We did not yield them at all- exchanging fire face to face for several minutes. An attempt was made to out flank our batt'n but we moved to block them with Bell's Co. & they did not turn our line. At no point were we under threat of having to yield the ground. As the weight of superior forces was brought to bear on our left, we joined a general assault driving the enemy back to his improved works. While the action was not entirely decisive, we succeeded in driving the enemy off the field and inflicted heavy casualties. We were left in possession of the field & our troops acted with great gallantry & resolve - doing great credit to the cause of arms & duty to which we are called. Capt. Bell was conspicuous in his conduct & valor.

I remain yours,
Ethan Rodgers
1st Lieutenant
Adjutant
2nd Batt'n