

May 19, 1864
Near Chattanooga, TN
J. Welch
Col.
Commanding
2nd Batt'n
1st Division

Sir,

As requested, I am honored to report the involvement of my company in the engagement near Resaca, Georgia on May 14th inst.

Captain Hendrix, commanding 2nd Company, was away on detached duty, leaving myself in charge when the engagement occurred. Under my command were 11 men, including Captain Dennis Short & co., whose company was small and thus folded into mine for the campaign. In an effort to bolster our numbers, Captain Short carried a rifle and fought in the ranks with the men. Throughout the engagement, my company held the left flank of the battalion, with the right flank held by Captain Drew Bell's company - this included a detachment of men from Captain Jon Yonce's company (not present due to detached duty) armed with Henry Rifles.

On May 14, we learned our cavalry was engaged with rebel cavalry and our battalion was hurried to the front. At approximately 2 PM, we came onto the field to the right of a battery, and took position in a grove of trees, concealing our battalion from the view of the enemy. As we entered this position, we observed an artillery piece forward of the main battery, near the action between the two bodies of cavalry. This piece was captured by the enemy and taken to their rear, where it appeared to be used against our army throughout the day's action.

When our cavalry cleared the field, our batteries opened up with an impressive artillery barrage. Though I do not know, I suspect this was directed at the enemy's artillery in a heavily fortified position on the far side of the field. I suspect our artillery's counter battery fire was effective, as the Confederate artillery did not target our battalion throughout the day.

After observing the artillery barrage for a short time, our battalion was ordered to reveal our position and engage enemy skirmishes emerging onto the field to our right. I do not believe they knew we were in that part of the field, and when we formed a battle line and emerged from the grove we quickly pushed the skirmishers back to their main body.

We returned to the grove, and observed the rebel line move through the field past our left flank. This time, it was clear they were unaware of our presence. Col. Welch ordered my company to take a position perpendicular to our battle line at the edge of the grove, where we found and took to already prepared works. Not more than 100 yards to the front of my company was the left flank of the enemy line, exposed and undefended. I immediately ordered my company to fire into the flank of the rebels, enfilading their line with great effect. The rebels allowed my company

to fire three volleys into their flank before they were able to turn a company and return fire. I then ordered my men to fire by file and then fire at will, in order to keep a steady, constant fire on the enemy.

As my men were exchanging fire with the rebels to our front, the enemy moved skirmishers to our battalion's right flank. Captain Bell moved his company into the trees in open order to prevent the enemy skirmishers from gaining any advantage over us, and I ordered my men into open order and occupy the entirety of the works. As my line now reached more than 25 yards end to end, I ordered my Sergeants to take command of their platoons and keep up a heavy fire on the enemy. It was during this time I observed Captain Short's exceptional accuracy, watching his careful aim take out several rebels in quick succession. Later, I came across one of these wounded men, who informed me when he saw Captain Short's rifle take aim, he knew he was done.

After several minutes, I observed another battalion to our left begin to push the rebel center, and the company which had turned to face my position turned back to the advancing battalion. I am not aware of which battalion this was, but I believe it was the 1st Battalion of our Division. Col. Welch ordered my company forward, and I led my men over the works and into the flank of the enemy. Before we reached them, their line broke and fell to their rear, our right. As they fell back, I ordered my men to move to our right, in open order, and maintain a hold on the left flank of Captain Bell's company. This allowed us to continue firing into the exposed flank of the retreating enemy line. As the enemy left the field, Col. Welch ordered our battalion to cease fire.

I am extremely pleased to report my company suffered no men killed and only a few superficial wounds, of which, none were removed from the fight. Even our constantly unlucky Second Sergeant, Andy Warrenner, who seems to be wounded several times in every engagement, was unharmed.

Throughout the engagement, it appeared the enemy was the 3rd Georgia and 3rd Tennessee Regiments, judging by their flags, although I did not stop to ask any of the wounded who they were associated with.

The conduct of my men was to the highest degree of satisfactory, and all are eager to engage the enemy again.

Your Obedient Servant
C. Hendrix
First Lieutenant
Acting Commander
2nd Co., 2nd Batt'n