

Field Report Battle of Aiken, SC.

Reporting to Col. Patrick Kelly, Commander of Irish Brigade.

Co. B of 88th NYSI arrived in camp on February, 25, 1865. Orders are to march on Augusta GA. And capture warehouse stores if at all practical. The lads are tired from the long march today. We are camp next to the 88th NY, CO. D.

Feb. 26

Reveille 7AM. Roll call. Morning parade at 8. The lads looked sharp as we marched on to parade ground. The Capt. Drilled the men for more than an hour before battalion drill. We then drilled for at least an hour more. The SC sun was getting hot. We were dismissed back to camp.

Orders came down to fall in at 1 PM. We formed up and began to march toward Augusta, GA. The Col. Had sent 1st CO. out ahead of the battalion. Around 2:30 we began to hear musket fire. Col. Order artillery up to the front. Soon a barrage of cannon fire began. We stood in the wood line and waited for orders. Co. B and CO. D were order down a dirt road to the south west. We captured one lone rebel who seemed to be glad to see us. He was done fighting. We they took up position to move through the wood line in hopes of flanking the enemy. As we moved through the woods it was apparent we were in an excellent position. The Capt. Ordered us forward. As we emerged form the wood line we were directly on the right flank of the enemy. The Capt. Ordered "commence firing". We laid down a visage volley of lead. The enemy began to fall back. We kept on the advance. The rebels skedaddled. We had won the field. The men were order to make camp.

February 27 Position just north east of Aiken, SC.

Reveille 7AM. Drill and parade were cancelled for the day.

Co. B Co. d of 88th NY and the 3rd NH were ordered to form up and march at the head of the battalion, around 1:30. Capt. Munford deployed the men in a skirmish line. We halted just west of a wood line near Aiken, SC. Soon after two Companies of rebels emerged from the woods. We held our ground for a wii bit. Then fell back to the battalion line. Companies were taking heavy losses. We continued to be pushed back. The fighting was fierce. The order to retreat was given and we fell back until the musket fire ceased. Capturing Augusta was not to be. We then were ordered to march north. Our next objective is Columbia SC.

Respectively submitted,

Your obedient servant,

1st Sgt. Madden

Co. B 88thNYSI

2nd Reg. Irish Brigade