

## Battle of Bull Run

Field Report: Battle of Bull Run

Respectfully Submitted: Capt. Madden Co. B. 88<sup>th</sup> NYSV attached to the 79<sup>th</sup> NY

June 21, 1861

March from Washington, DC to Centerville, VA.

The March from Washington DC to VA, took four long hot days. The march was impressive, the national colors and Regimental flags flying before the troops. Fife and drums playing it was very spirited. We will crush the rebellion in one grand battle.

The temperature was well over 100 degrees. During the march we lost one wagon. The damage was not repairable. The men loaded up the supplies from the damaged wagon on to another wagon to transport. We made camp on the evening of June 21<sup>st</sup> near a stream called Bull Run. We were attached to the 79<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers, mostly Scottish men from NY. Our Company being the largest was designated as First Co.

The Orders for the day were very light do to the extreme heat. The men foraged for food and water. Our cook is the best in the battalion and we look forward to supper.

While waiting for supper the officers gathered to discuss enemy positions and plan for engagement tomorrow. We could hear all throughout the day trains arriving at Manassas Junction. Col. Dawson stated the enemy was sending reinforcements and we would stick out early in the morning.

June 22, `1861

Reveille at 4 AM (yes 4AM)

The Col. required that men be drilled and be ready for battle. The men were on line at 5AM. All inspected. Huzzah! After drill the men went back to camp for a hardy breakfast.

The companies drill separately for about an hour. We then formed into Battalion line. Drill has a battalion for an additional hour. We march back to camp right through the middle of the entire Federal Army. We marched sharply. It was a proud moment for the 79<sup>th</sup> NY. I feel that our battalion is the best under Sherman's command.

At 8:30 AM we were ordered on line. We could here cannon fire in the distance. The men were anxious. We will defiantly be in some mischief today.

We march to the edge of Bull Run, waiting in formation. The battle could be heard from our position. The order was given. "Load". "Right Face, Forward March". We crossed over Bull Run. "Companies into line." All we could see was black powder smoke. The flags were waving above the smoke and moving forward. Up ahead I could see a green flag, the 69<sup>th</sup> NY Irish Lads. It would be grand to fight beside our fellow Irishmen.

The battalion formed a battle line, 100 plus men strong. We had a hill in our front. We marched forward. When we reach the top we could see the rebels. The Col. Ordered Fire By Company. 1<sup>st</sup> company fired a crisp volley and loaded quickly. The men were ready to fire again when it was our turn. There were 5 Companies in the battalion. The men were so precise in the firing and loaded that soon the order was given to slow down our rate of fire, so that we could preserve ammunition.

We were taking heavy casualties still pushing forward. At about 11 AM the firing slowed down. We held our position. We could see the rebels regrouping in the distance. Trains had been arrive all morning. We feared that the rebels were being reinforced and we soon resume the battle.

The men took water and hardtack, we rested in the shade. Ammunition was distributed out, additional 40 rounds per man. At 12:30 we were order back on line. Companies into line, battalion formation. We marched forward. The rebels began to move forward as well. Volley after volley fired into the ranks. The rebels kept coming. We could not hold our position without losing the entire battalion. We retreated in good order as other battalion broke and ran to the rear. We march about face, loaded on the march, then Right about face and fired a volley. We continued to march to the rear, back across Bull Run. The battle was over. We were defeated. We march back to Washington DC.

Latta Plantation

Bost Grist Mill