

To Members of the 88th NY Infantry Wolfhounds, Irish Brigade

Field Report Battle of Atlanta

Private Fulton and I arrived in camp late in the day Sept. 3rd. We could smell wood smoke from the Rebel camps and new the enemy was close at hand. We camped with The 18th US and the 3rd US Regulars, since all Regiments had few men due to the long march. More men from Michigan arrived during the night.

The Battle the next evening Sept. 4th was a fierce fight. We charged the Rebel position several times before we broke through the center of their lines. We were flank by the rebels and suffered many casualties. At the end of the Battle we held the high ground.

The Battalion Commander decided to give up the ground we gained and retire to the ridge we had camp on the night before. Reveille the next morn was at 5:45. 1st. Sgt. Speir 3rd US, took role call by candle light. Our pickets had seen enemy movement on our left flank hence we prepared for battle. The 18th, 3rd US and the 88th NY were positioned on the left flank facing many cannon to our front. At the double quick we charged their guns and captured all of their cannons. The fighting on our right flank continued for several hours. We held the position at the base of the ridge. During the heat of the day the battle died down. We could see the rebels digging in and fortifying their position. We took water and rations and rested in the shade until we received command to fall in. We knew we were in for a tough fight. The rebels were not going to give up their ground easily.

At 3 PM we assembled on the west side of a creek about a quarter mile from the Rebel position. Crossing the creek our Col almost drowned. It was not a pretty site. We forged the creek formed into lines of battle and marched forward. The 88th fought bravely and made it within yards of the enemy position before being repulsed. We reformed what men were able to continue and charged the Rebel position again. This time we made it all the way up the ridge and into the rebel trenches. We were quickly surrounded by the enemy and were forced to surrender. 20 men were captured when the fight was over. That night we were able to escape. The guards had celebrated a wee bit much, and had drunk to much whiskey. We were able to make our way back to the Union camp. Overnight we were reinforced and were ready to fight again by the morning of Sept. 5, 1864.

At 1 PM we assembled. It was a glorious site, our flags flying high, drums and fifes playing as we marched to the enemy position. The Rebels and pulled back the night before and we took position in the same trenches they had fortified the day previous. The Rebels attacked us on three sides and were driven back several times. On the fourth charge the rebels broke through on our right flank. The Col. reformed the men and we charged the Rebels and killed most in our path.

Many brave men were lost, but we survived and captured Atlanta.

Respectfully submitted,  
Your Obedient Servant,

1st Sgt. O'Madden.  
88th NY Wolfhounds  
Irish Brigade