

Report of 1st SG Madden, Eighty-eighth New York Infantry.
Camp near Waxhaw North Carolina: Battle of Wilson Store
Col. Schaffer Commander of 136 NY Infantry:

Col. Schaffer: The men of the Eighty –eight New York arrived in camp late in the date of May 14, 1865. We had a long hard march and camped just south of town. We would be in search of confederates in the morning in town and the surrounding country side. The men were exhausted from the heat and lack of food. The men were ordered to search for food and water once we arrived in camp.

On the morning of the May 15, The Eighty- Eighth NY fell in with 136 NY men. Our orders were to march into town by from the East in a flanking position to the remaining Union force, the 11th Iowa. As we approach the town we began to hear gun fire. Dismounted Calvary had engaged the enemy and were falling back to the south of town, the 11th Iowa was in reserve and was ordered forward. Col. Schaffer gave the command for the 88th NY to march into town and hit the rebels in there left flank. We march at the double quick, enter the main street of the town and quickly form a battle line. The company fire at the rebels directly into their flank with devastating results, soon the one complete company of rebels was either dead or capture. One Company of Confederates managed to escape the carnage and retreated to the north on the railroad tracks. The 88th NY pursued them and keep the fire hot , as the rebels retreated in good order, turning to fire on our position as they moved north. We pushed the rebels out of town. We march north of town and saw the enemy had reformed. The 11th Iowa pushed forward while the 88th march to the east through the woods to hit the rebels from the rear. As we enter the clearing from the woods we found our position to be to the rear and on the right flank of the enemy. One Company of rebels , move to refuse the flank. We engaged for several rounds of fire. Pushing the enemy back and they were soon in a cross fire between the 88th NY and 11th Iowa. The Confederates made a quick retrate off the field of battle. The 11th Iowa captured the artillery piece. We had won the Day!

May 16th

The morning was hot and humid. The men were exhausted from the previous days battle. We established a defensive position on good ground. The Confederates were reported to be in the area North of our position forming up to engage us. The battle began with two companies of confederates marching toward our position. Our New National Flag (hand made by Pvt. Fulton and his Wife Nattily) and our battle flag was a rallying point for our men. The 136 NY was position in the rear as reserves but we soon surprise by a company of rebels attacking from the rear. Our position was in grave danger. The 11th Iowa held of the frontal assault as we retreated to the rear to preserve our colors and save as many men as possible. We retreated in good order. Although we lost the field we did inflict many casualties to the enemy.

Respectfully submitted,

1st SG O'Madden
Co. B 88th NYSI
2nd Reg. Irish Brigade.