

Report of Maj. William T. C. Grower, Seventeenth New York Infantry, of the battle of Bull Run.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Seventeenth Regiment in the action of Groveton, or Bull Run, on Saturday, August 30, 1862:

Lieutenant-Colonel Bartram being absent from the regiment (acting as chief of staff to General Butterfield, commanding the division), I assumed command. Our brigade arriving on the field after a sharp march of 5 or 6 miles, I received orders to form line on the left of the road and facing the woods, in which the enemys skirmishers were already quite active. The men, who had had no time to get their breakfasts, now commenced cooking their coffee amidst the fire of artillery, the shot and shell flying about thick and fast. We here lost 2 men by round shot.

I now received orders to advance and drive out the enemys skirmishers from the woods in front. We were ordered to take up position at the edge of the woods and near the road. The enemy's artillery being quite active, the men were ordered to lie down. We remained in this position until about 5 o'clock, when Colonel Bartram appeared with orders for the brigade to move forward. The men were up in a moment, and we advanced in the same order as before, viz, the Seventeenth Regiment forming the first line, the rest of the brigade supporting us in column doubled on the center. We crossed the road, the men scrambling over the fence at the other side, and moved forward steadily in quick-time. No sooner had we appeared in plain view of the enemy than he opened a tremendous fire of artillery and musketry on our advancing line. Nothing could surpass the behavior of officers and men, the latter steadily closing up the huge gaps made in the ranks by the terrific fire of the enemy. Placing myself at their head, I now gave the word Double-quick, charge, and with a mad yell the gallant fellows rushed up the hill to what was almost certain death.

We now reached a sort of plateau, a battery on the summit of the hill playing upon us, while another on the right opened with grape and canister, completely enfilading our position. The woods on our left were full of the enemys infantry. We seemed entirely without support, being some distance in advance of the brigade. I was compelled to halt, and ordered the men to lie down and commence firing.

[looked around with some anxiety. Most of our officers had fallen, and one-half of the men had been killed or wounded crossing the field and in the charge up the hill. Captains Wilson and Martin had fallen the former mortally, the latter dangerously, wounded. Captains Deinerest and Blauvelt were shot dead while nobly cheering on their men. Captain Burleigh was also wounded, and almost his entire company swept away.

We had held the position perhaps fifteen minutes when I was myself placed hors de combat by a Minie ball through the leg, shattering the bone severely. Captain Vickers then assumed command, and I believe was ordered to retire shortly afterward.

When all did so well it is difficult to make distinction. I can only speak of those whose conduct fell particularly under my own observation. Captains Wilson, Blauvelt, Martin, and Burleigh were conspicuous for bravery. I must also mention the praiseworthy conduct of Lieutenants Foley and Sprague (acting adjutant), and also Lieutenant

Page 479 CHAP. XXIV.

CAMPAIGN IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

479 Reed and Green and Orderly-Sergeant Clancy, of Company II, who commanded his company through the fight after his captain fell.

In this short but sanguinary engagement our loss in killed and wounded was not less than 11 officers and 200 men, including 3 color-bearers, but 87 effective men being left in the regiment at the first roll call after the battle.* I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, WM. T. C. GROWER, Col.

II. ~. LANSING, Major, Seventeenth New York Volunteers. Commanding Third Brigade. [Indorsement.]

Respectfully forwarded as a part of the report of the battle of Groveton, 30th August, 1862. Major Grower, being still confined to his bed with his wound, has been unable to forward it earlier. H.

S. LANSING, Colonel, Commanding Third Brigade.

from *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Ser. 1, vol. 12, pt. 2. Washington, D.C.: Govt. Print. Off., 1880.

<http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html>