

Adj. Dir. 34th NY Infd Battery,
Fort Grevel Before Pleasant Co.

Remarks and explanations
of gallant services rendered
by men of the above command

Adj. Dir. 1st Div. G. A. C.

June 11th 1865

I take pleasure in accom-
panying the within (rather
to lengthy) statement for
respectful consideration.

This Battery served immu-
diately under my own eye
during the late campaign
and the men spoken of
for "distinguished conduct"
deserve in my opinion
a "medal" for bravery.

(Signed)

O. B. Willcox
Maj. Genl.



Head Quarters 34th Independent Battery Vol.
Foot Forward Before Petersburg Va June 11. '63.

Asst Adj Genl.

Sir

I have the honor in accordance with Special Order - No 364 - Ad. Gen. Army Potomac & Dec 23rd 1864 that a statement is required in case where "gallant services" have been rendered.

In making my remarks I state the facts as they occurred in the different "fields of action". This command was mustered into the U.S. Service as a Light Battery by Order from War Dept. July 25th 61 and consolidated with the 2nd N.Y. Artillery. - Marched from Washington D.C. May 29th '62. First Battle Cedar Mountain Aug 9. '62. Rappahannock Station Sulphur Springs Waterloo Bridge Gainesville Battle Manassas Aug 29th - 30th '62 - Point of Rocks & South Mountain Md. Strickerburg Va Dec 11. '62.

After all of these battles and engagements I noticed that I had some "Brave Boys" and "good soldiers" in my command of which I took particular notice in the art of gunnery and in bravery so much so that I became confident that I could hold most any position if good supports were furnished to the Battery this point I must confess is in my own mind very important for troops to have confidence in each other on the field of battle. - I think I can say with confidence that on several occasions I saved my Battery from capture by the enemy.

The 9th Army Corps were sent to New York New Va. Feb 1863 from there to Kentucky. July 3rd 63 Ordered to Vicksburg July 4th 63 taking of Vicksburg. - July 17th taking of Jackson Miss - Aug 9th Ordered to Kentucky - Sept 1st Ordered

to "Tennessee" - Oct 14th Blue Springs - Nov 15th 63 Snow Station
A desperate "Charge" was made on the Light Battery Lth 2nd
Regt. of P.M. with no loss to us.

The "retreat" to Campbell Station on the morning of Nov
16th 63 where Sings the "Hensley" with "one section" brought
up the "Rear" with Col. Humphries (Brigade) 9th Army Corps.
Here Sings Valentine Rosabach and Sings John H. Suckins.
distinguished themselves most gallantly by bringing their
Pieces off the "field" without losing a man. Ordering
the "Cannoniers" to lie down and load and fire
to repel the enemy so as to gain time to get their
Pieces under cover. "Yes" while lying down "loaded, fired"
"limbered up" and brought the Pieces off in safety.
At the Battle of Campbell Station they also behaved
with much gallantry.

The "retreat" to Knoxville the same night - the
Siege of Knoxville - the "Charge" on Fort Sanders by
Longstreet on the morning of Nov 29th 63 at 5¹/₂ A.M.
(See Special Order of the Comdg - No 72 - Dec 1st 63 Knoxville
2nd Div) here Sings Valentine Rosabach and Sings John
H. Suckins have signalized themselves again.

The Campaign in Virginia - At the Wilderness
- May 12th 64 at Spotsylvania - morning foggy -
The enemy had planted 6 pieces of Artillery on our
"left flank" and 4 in my immediate "front" - I had
already sent 2 of my Pieces to our Center so I had
but 4 pieces to contend with the enemy 10 pieces
which they used most effectively as soon as the
"fog" cleared up on my 4 pieces and my "support"
to drive us off if possible

I ordered 2 pieces to take care of our "front" and the "Left Section" to take care of the 6 pieces on our left. The Lieut. Com^dg the "Left Section" reported its condition "hopeless". I immediately rode up to the Battery house to ascertain the facts. I asked them one and all: Boys "is that so" that you cannot hold your "position"? This will be the first time that "Old Battery I" (now the 34th Regt Indps Battery) "gives in" on the Battle Field. It cannot be as you have been in to many "hot places" and you must stand this "10 minutes" longer and the day is yours.

I here found that Sergt^s Rossbach and Starbuck encouraged their "Cannoniers" to their utmost saying "no stain shall be left on the 34th" we'll drive the "Rebs" off from their position and after 7 minutes with a most accurate and well directed fire such as is seldom seen and the position was none the best but no time could be spared all depended on several good shots which were sent with effect from Sergt Rossbach's "piece" the Cannoniers mostly on their knees. When some 30 shots were fired and not loaded them into the muzzle of the gun while lying on his back as no man could live to stand up and do his work. The enemys fire suddenly ceased and their guns hauled back under shelter. Also the "right section" silenced the enemys 4 guns at the Court House which relieved our critical position. I reported to Genl Killcup my success.

At this time the "battle" raged most furiously towards our "right and center" The Genl had

already sent for my 4 pieces and to leave 1 section of Knights 4th Mass. to hold the ground in my absence. I immediately started ahead of the Battery with my "Bugler" to see what "position" I could take before the Battery could arrive. In looking for the Chief of Artillery I met Genl Burnside who said that Capt Rormer was able to select a position for himself. I had already made my selection of position and only wanted to know if the Chief of Artillery had the same opinion.

I ordered the 4 pieces to a hill nearly on the "right flank" of the 9th A.C. and for my Bugler to conduct them to the place. Here I had to pass a "ravine" where the enemy could "enfilade" them. In the meantime as the Battery passed through the "ravine" I could have a chance to look after my "1st section" of which I had had no information since morning. I found that "all right," and doing well. I galloped back to my 4 pieces. I met them as they were passing the "defile" and my brave Bugler Casper Stenberg at their head and amidst shot and shell he encouraged and facilitated the crossing of a small "brook" (to gain the selected position I had pointed out to him for the 4 pieces to occupy) with the greatest coolness of mind. He is a brave boy. I have given him a good trial this summer, as I generally selected him night or day to go with me selecting positions &c and I have seldom found Casper Stenberg's equal in courage. He has been of great service to me during this Campaign. His never flinching offers convinced me when I

I asked him of a night if he would accompany me on a very dangerous expedition. (The laying out of the first works before Petersburg) on the night of June 16th and on many other occasions after that night of a similar nature.

I also cannot pass over the great services of Corporal James O. Cornell in the art of "gunnery" as gunner on the first piece. He rendered great services through the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor and the 17th of June before Petersburg Va. At about 6 P.M. the enemy's fire pressing on my Command I discovered they had some Caissons near the edge of the woods. I directed this experienced and expert "gunner" to send a few "percussion shell into them". With the third shell he succeeded with his keen and seldom failing eye to explode one of the Caissons which brought forth a "huzzza" from our entire line for the 34th NY. Fifteen minutes afterwards another Caisson "went up" from the same place from his gun. The enemy immediately slackened their fire and withdrew. Corp'l James O. Cornell has rendered valuable service since and is now a Sergeant.

Corp'l Carl Ludwig Decatur Fuller & Patrick Keenan have shown themselves worthy of the Genl's notice. On the 18th of June while the "Charge" was made after 1 P.M. On that day I had 10 pieces in position in the woods and "masked" as soon as 1 P.M. The first gun was the signal from the Genl Comd'g the 3rd Div U.S.A. to attack. The 10 pieces of artillery were

unmasked and the Genl seemed to be pleased with the manner and asked me if it were possible to shove a piece of Artillery out on a certain eminence in front of us. I stepped to try it. Knowing that no horse could live under such a fire I therefor ordered Capt Allen and 12 men of the 24th NY Cavalry (who had been detailed with 30 men to assist in manuevering any part of my Command) by him the piece was run out. But by the time I had the piece "unlimbered" I found it impossible for the men to work the piece in its position - several men fell at once. - the horses were immediately unhitched and sent to the Rear. Seeing that my new position was not very pleasant I ordered them to seek shelter about 300 yards ahead and to the right behind a barn - which was effected under such circumstances as are seldom known. "Sponge buckets" "Grouse buckets" and other articles were used by the trav boys to shield their heads) in one hand while with the other they favored the piece. Capt Allen showed good courage in using his men in bringing the piece under shelter. I saw at once by bringing this piece so far forward that I would be enabled to "infilade" the enemys line on the Norfolk R.R. just to our right which they had taken possession of as a shelter in their haste. Corp'l Carl Ludwig "gunner" of this piece Patrick Kiernan No 1. Decatur Fuller No 2 are recommended to the Genl Com'g the Army of the Potomac for gallant services performed on this occasion Capt Allen lost 6 men killed and wounded I lost 2 slightly wounded but a much greater loss was

inflicted upon the enemy from this single piece of
Artillery. — Sergeants Valentine Rosbach Sergeants John H. Startins
Albert Townsend Patrick Keenan done nobly on the
30th Sept when this Command had been sent into the en-
gagement near the Pegram House &c. It was only by the
bravery and soldierly conduct of Lieut Thomas Hensley
(who commanded the Battery on that day) and his brave
officers and men that the Battery was saved at all
The "supports" had all given away and Albert Town-
send acting not with sponge in hand tried to rally
all he could of the support to stand by the Battery
And great praise is due to Lieut Tho^s Hensley Lieut
Alonzo Garretson 1st Sergt John J. Johnston Sergt Rosbach
Sergt Startins Albert Townsend Patrick Keenan and
the "Guidon" carrier Richard Beddows who had by a
shell bursting near his horse he lost all power over
the furious animal lost his "Guidon" in the struggle with
the horse but when he found that it was impossible for
him to regain his "Guidon" on his horse he sprang off
his horse and run back and brought his "Guidon"
off in safety under a heavy fire of musketry
which his horse so stubbornly refused to face.

With the above remarks Genl I have
the honor to transmit the names of some of my bravest
Veteran Volunteer Soldiers as the Genl Comd^g can desire
to have under his command

Asst. Adjt. Genl.
Army of the Potomac.

I am very respectfully
Yours obedient Servt

Jacob Haemer Major
Comd^g 34th Reg. Ind V^o Battery
Serving with 9th C. A. P.

Head Quarters 34th N.Y. Indp. U.S. Battery
Fort Monroe Before Petersburg Va. Jan'y 11, '65

Ass't Adjt Genl.

Sir,

I have the honor to state that the foregoing "remarks" embrace the names (as they appear below) and worthy of the Genl Comd'g the Army of the Potomac. I therefore recommend this for his consideration.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Serg't James C. Cornell. | Veteran served since Aug 6, 7861, |
| 2 | " Valentine Rosbach. | " " " Oct 7, 7861, |
| 3 | " John H. Starkins. | " " " Oct 7, 7861. |
| 4 | Bugler, Casper Sternberg. | " " " Sep 9, 7861. |
| 5 | Private Richard Biddows. | " " " Aug 6, 7861, |
| 6 | " Carl Ludwig. | " " " Sep 3, 1861. |
| 7 | Serg't Albert Townsend | " " " Aug 6, 7861. |
| 8 | Corpl. Patrick Kiernan | " " " Oct 10, 7861. |
| 9 | Private William Fuller | Recruit " " Mar 9, 1864. |

Supt, Jacob Hamersmith Major
Comd'g 34th N.Y. Ind. U.S. Battery.

Ass't Adjt Genl.

Army of the Potomac.