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LAST DAY AT GETTYSBURG.

General Howard's Story of That Desperate Struggle.

LEE'S MEN WERE AGGRESSIVE,

But Solid Lines of Boys in Blue Stopped the Onslaught.

SHOCKING SCENES AFTER THE BATTLE

The following graphic account of the last day at Gettysburg, from the pen of Major General O. O. Howard, will be read with interest by every veteran and student of history. Having described the various operations of the first and second days, General Howard continues:

"This night engagement extended eastward as far as Slocum had any troops; it was Ewell's effort on our right to assist Lee's main attack. The enemy's troops took quiet possession of all points vacated, and really slept within our lines, within a stone's throw of the Baltimore pike; but the ground was so rough, and the woods so dark that their generals did not realize till morning what they had gained. This was the condition of things at the close of the second day. Lee held Sickles' advance position of the morning, and part of our rifle pits, or barricades, between McAllister's mill and Culp's Hill. Lee modestly says: 'These partial successes determined me to continue the assault the next day.'"

Howard's monograph continues:

"The detachments of the Twelfth Corps (Williams' Division strengthened by Lockwood's Brigade) that had given efficient help on the left during the 2d of July, and two brigades of Geary's Division, which Meade says did not reach the scene of action from having mistaken the road, attempted after night to return to their breastworks on the extreme right of our line; but, as I have intimated, they found them already occupied by Johnson's Confederates. General Slocum was at this time in command of more troops than the Twelfth Corps, and General A. S. Williams had the latter. Williams made arrangements to attack the enemy at daylight, and regain the position formerly occupied by the corps. (See General Meade's corrected report.)"

The Attack at Dawn.

"Slocum arranged some 14 batteries on Wolf's Hill, a convenient knoll behind the army, and supported them with such other troops as Meade loaned him. Williams stretched a triangular line; one foot of the triangle was Greene, by Culp's Hill, and the other Ruger's right, by McAllister's mill; Wolf's Hill, the apex. Ewell, the Confederate commander, who had also ordered an attack at dawn, really began the battle.

"I slept with others inside of a family lot in the cemetery beside an iron fence, with a grave mound for a pillow; being very weary for want of rest on previous nights I was not awakened till 5 A.M., when I heard quick, sharp musketry firing, with an occasional sound of artillery. It began like the pattering of rain on a flat roof, only louder, and at first was intermittent. Then it would increase in volume of sound till it attained a continuous roar. Of course I sent at once to headquarters to ascertain what the firing meant. The reply came shortly: 'The Twelfth Corps is regaining its lines.'"

"By 7 o'clock the battle was fully joined. The Confederates were determined to hold on and disputed the ground with great obstinacy. But, after a lively contest of five hours, Ewell was driven beyond Rock Creek, and the breastworks were reoccupied and held. I went over this ground five years after the battle, and marks of the

struggle were still observable; the moss on the rocks was discolored in hundreds of places where bullets had struck, the trees cut off, lopped down or shivered, were still there, stumps and trees were perforated with holes where leaden balls had since been dug out and remnants of the rough breastworks remained. I did not wonder that General Geary, who was in the thickest of the fight, thought the main battle had been fought there.

The Cavalry Clash.

"Stuart's cavalry made a demonstration at this time beyond Ewell. The able General Gregg's division engaged him vigorously near the Bonnaughtown road, and checked his advance so as to prevent mischief from that quarter. About this time our bold, sanguine Kilpatrick moved his division of cavalry over beyond the enemy's right near the Emmetsburg road, where Pleasanton later in the day directed him to 'pitch in with all his might on Longstreet's right.' In these combats several valuable officers lost their lives. Among them was General Farnsworth, in command of a brigade near the time of Pickett's repulse. Pleasanton speaks of this work on the enemy's right as follows:

I have always been of the opinion that the demonstration of cavalry on our left materially checked the attack of the enemy on the 3rd of July.

"The last bloody contests at Gettysburg opened about 1 P. M. by a cannonade. Lee's plan was substantially the same as that of the day before, except that Longstreet now had Pickett's division and Lee added one division and two brigades of A. P. Hill to the attacking column. Longstreet brought together in his front opposite the low ground west of Little Roundtop, 55 long-range guns, and Hill massed some 60 more a little farther toward and opposite our center. The point of attack was on Hancock's front. The signal gun was fired by the enemy, and from the southwest, west, north and northeast his batteries opened, hurling into the cemetery grounds missiles of all description. Shells burst in the air, on the ground at our right and left, and in front, killing men and horses, exploding caissons, overturning tombstones, and smashing fences. The troops hugged their cover, when they had any, as well as they could. One regiment of Steinwehr's was fearfully cut to pieces by a shell. Several officers passing a certain path within a stone's throw of my position were either killed or wounded. The German boy holding our horses under cover of the cemetery hill on the eastern slope, near a large rock, had his left arm clipped off with a fragment of a shell. Men fell while eating the food in their hands, and some with cigars in their mouths.

Preceded an Attack.

"At 2:30 P. M. we ceased to reply. We had ammunition and were not silenced, but we knew that this cannonade preceded an attack, and we thought it possible the enemy would conclude that we had been silenced and stopped by their effective shots and would proceed to the contemplated attack; then we should need batteries in readiness and plenty of ammunition. We were right. The firing of the enemy lulled, and I could see, better than the day before, their infantry in line; at least a quarter of a mile up it was exposed to my view as it started from Oak Ridge opposite our left. It was like an extensive parade; the flags were flying and the line steadily advancing.

"As I now know, these were Pickett's and Pettigrew's divisions, and part of Anderson's with Wilcox's brigade supporting their right. On they came; as soon as they were near enough, Osborne, Wainwright, McElvery and other artillery chiefs started the fire of their batteries, first with solid shot, making hardly any impression, soon with shells exploding near and over and beyond the advancing line. Now gaps were plainly made, but quickly filled. When nearer, the canister was freely used, and the gaps in the enemy's line grew bigger and harder to close. Soon the array came within short musketry range of our full long line in front, all concealed by temporary cover, breastworks, stonewalls and trenches. As if by some simultaneous impulse the whole line fired and continued to fire rapidly for

perhaps five or ten minutes.

"As the smoke arose I saw no longer any enemy's line; there was running in every direction; regiments of ours from Steinwehr's position to Roundtop were moving into the valley with their flags flying and apparently without much order, taking flags, guns, and prisoners and bringing them in. General Hancock by special direction commanded the majority of the troops on that front of attack, namely, the First, Second and Third Corps, Newton having the First, Gibbon the Second and Birney the Third, during that day's combat.

General Hancock's Story.

"Hancock says:

The shock of the assault fell on the Second and Third divisions of the Second Corps, and those were the troops assisted by a small brigade of Vermont troops, together with the artillery of our line, which fired from Roundtop to Cemetery Hill at the enemy, all the way as they advanced, whenever they had the opportunity. No doubt there were other troops that fired a little, but these were the troops that really withstood the shock of the assault. I was wounded at the close of the assault, and that ended my operations with the army for that campaign.

"General Hancock mentions the fact that General Gibbon was also wounded during this assault, and thinks that the absence of two commanders who knew thoroughly the circumstances, at such a moment as this, was a great detriment; otherwise, advantage would have been taken of the enemy's repulse by our making a decisive advance.

"Our entire loss is reported at 23,186—of whom 2,884 were killed, 13,709 wounded and 6,643 missing. It is difficult to ascertain Lee's losses. We had in our hands upward of 7,000 wounded Confederates, and most of them were so severely injured that they could not accompany the retiring army. The hospital record gives the number 7,262. If we deduct this from the whole number of prisoners, which I believe is understated by General Meade at 13,621, it gives us 6,359 well prisoners. The most moderate estimate that I have seen of the enemy's loss in killed is 5,500; now, if we place the number who were not so severely wounded as to be left behind, and those who escaped from the field and did not fall into our hands, but were lost to the enemy, at 60,000 (probably the number was much greater), we have 29,121 for the aggregate of Lee's losses.

After the Battle.

"Nothing can ever give an adequate picture of that field of battle during the night of Friday and the two following days. There is an exhilaration in the preparation for conflict, there is a spirited excitement during the storm of the heated engagement; but who can bear the sight of blackened corpses, of the distorted faces of the dying, or of the pale, quiet sufferers who lie for hours and sometimes days for their turn to lose an arm or a leg at the hands of the overtaken surgeon?

"I saw, just before leaving the cemetery on the 5th of July, a large plot of ground covered with wounded Confederates, some of whom had been struck on the first and some on the second day's battle, not attended to. The army surgeons and the physicians who now hocked to their aid by every incoming train from the North were doing their best; yet it took time and unremitting labor to go through the mass. The dirt and blood and pallor of this bruised mass of humanity affected me in a manner I can never forget, pleading pathetically for peace and good will toward men.

"Let us close the campaign and battle here. The Confederates were never before so near to great success. Here at Gettysburg was, under Divine Providence, the turning point of the Rebellion. Vicksburg, with another of Grant's victories, followed the next day, and so re-emphasized the nation's birthtime. There was then a slow and steady progress all along the line of armies, with most bloody sacrifices, on, on, through Chattanooga, Atlanta, Nashville, Savannah, Bentonville, the Wilderness and

convinced that we saw its cor-
to come to the department and be
time to quote prices, but invite you

ARMY REPORTS.

MAJ.-GEN. O. O. HOWARD, commanding the Department of the East, reports a quiet year in his command. The appropriations having been, for purposes of transportation, greatly limited, he has not been able to give to all the command outside camps and marching, particularly in conjunction with the National Guard, so much as heretofore, or as would seem desirable. There have been, however, instances of united action in drilling, marches and encampments, all of which have tended to increase good feeling and promote in many ways the efficiency of the military service. Good progress is being made with the new cavalry post in Vermont, Fort Ethan Allen. The purchase of an additional piece of ground lying between the reservation and a small river in front of it is recommended.

"In the centennial celebration last October the troops from Madison Barracks and along the Atlantic Coast joined those stationed around the harbor of New York. All these, the Engineer Battalion being a part, formed a creditable portion of the grand column that marched in procession along the streets of New York and passed the stand where the Vice President and others reviewed them. Our troops received special commendation for their marching and good appearance. On a smaller scale a similar procession assisted, also with pleasant mention, at the naval review on April 23, and during the memorial exercises of May 30. In this last a part of the troops in the harbor, as directed by the Secretary of War, participated in like manner in the Brooklyn ceremonies."

Complaint is made of the number of absentees. Of 289 company officers, skeleton companies included, 30.79 per cent., or 89 officers, are detached or disabled.

Every effort has been made to keep alive the interest of the infantry in target practice. For practical artillermen proper armament is required and when the new field guns are received practice will be possible.

The repeal of the ten years' enlistment law is strongly recommended. Experience with the Indian soldiers shows that "it is uphill work to keep them in heart and health, and attain to any reasonable reliance upon them for efficient service in case of active work against any foe."

Regimental recruiting is condemned as the result of experience with it thus far. Discipline of the command is most favorable.

The work of the post lyceums shows commendable zeal and professional study and enterprise. It is recommended that such essays as might be approved by the Commanding General be published to the Army.

It is urged that quarters be provided for the victims of life in casemates. As they become older they grow worse occasioning or aggravating sickness.

It is recommended that the work of the Engineer and Ordnance Corps receive the most liberal support.

In conclusion Gen. Howard says:

The conduct of the officers of the department during the year has been highly commendable—not a breach of discipline which has resulted in a court martial; the post commanders have been most attentive to their duties, and given all due attention to their commands. There have been during the year some changes on my staff, both the general and personal; each officer, without a single exception, has done his duty to my satisfaction, and I joyfully record my approbation. In time of peace there is little opportunity for personal distinction and consequent promotion; but those officers who are diligent and studious always attain a measure of distinction, which serves them well when the time of trial comes. This distinction is a matter, too, quite independent of rank. I am happy to believe that very many officers in this department have, by fidelity and work persistently performed in their country's service, laid this good foundation, obtaining at least among their fellows a character which will be effective in case of need.

Col. R. P. Hughes, Inspector-General, Dept. of the East, in his annual report recommends again that the light and heavy artillery be separated. More work in Drill Regulations is recommended. The non-com. officers are slow in taking hold of the spirit of the new method as the result of old habits. A sub-calibre gun should be provided for heavy artillery practice and there should be more artillery practice. Troops should be exercised in marching every week. Lieut. Willoughby Walke is experimenting with what promises to be the best smokeless powder of home manufacture. Experiments should be continued until we get a proper trenching tool and the subject of equipping cavalry and infantry with simple range finders and anemometers is worthy of careful consideration. A proper place should be found for the storage of old company books. Annual allowances should be made of many of the articles of quartermaster's supplies. A percentage of post exchange funds should be devoted to maintaining post wharves. The growth of post schools for illiterate men is unsatis-

factory. Details of military professors should be made for four years and they should be divided into two classes—one to be relieved every two years.

"Have a congress of the military officers at colleges of designated geographical districts convened every two years, shortly before the new year's work begins, at which both the old and new details should be present, and at which a full and open discussion of the work done and methods pursued should be had. A record of the proceedings of the meetings to be kept, and a copy of this record forwarded to the War Department at the close of each session of the congress."

MAJOR-GENERAL O. O. HOWARD, U. S. A., in his recent annual report, to which we referred last week, has some plain words to say about the current management of the institution now known as the Post Exchange. They have, says the General, been prosperous, and "the proceeds have been used as far as practicable for the soldiers' benefit; but several officers still allege many objections to the influence of the beer feature. The tendency of

having the beer, (which intoxicates), controlled in its purchase and sale by a commissioned officer, and dealt out to the command, whether by enlisted men or hired civilians, is to encourage drinking, to cover the faults of those who take too much, sometimes taking good care of them till 'the bad effects are slept off,' and to give, in any case, a United States sanction to the business. Offences, I believe, are uniformly increased by this system of beer selling. Drunkards are doubtless sometimes moderated and restrained when they can be induced to confine themselves to beer; but the new men who for the desire of social advantage learn to drink in 'the post exchange,' or strengthen a habit already begun, far overbalance in numbers those who are saved from the stronger beverages by strong beer. There is no need to discontinue the post exchanges. They can have all the advantage of lunches, and the stores needed by the men, mineral waters, tea and coffee, and whatever coffee-houses proper usually furnish to give a pleasant social resort without the injurious effects of intoxicants. The constant argument that of two evils wise men will choose the least, will not hold when it is thoroughly practicable to choose neither. It ought to be universally known that the Army as a whole not only seeks to be free from the vice of intemperance, but desires that the whole tendency of its provisions be to make men better and more self-respecting; and that it shall be what every true patriot desires—a good profession for the sons of our best people to seek for their life work." There is much cause for reflection here.

MAJOR-GENERAL O. O. HOWARD, U. S. A., in his annual report, expresses the opinion that "the enlistment of Indian soldiers has not quite come up to our expectations," and that "it is a hardship to place our white soldiers, when on guard, under ignorant Indian corporals and sergeants. It is impossible for the individual Indian in years to gain the knowledge every white soldier attains in a very short time. This being the case, in appears to my judgment that it is wise to employ the Indians outside of the regular regimental organizations, as heretofore as Army scouts." General Howard further says, with reference to Co. I, 9th Infantry, (Indian) at Mt. Vernon Barracks, "that the conduct of the men since its arrival has been good, but that the feeling of every officer concerned is that it is uphill work to keep the Indian soldiers in heart and health, and attain to any reasonable reliance upon them for efficient service in case of active work against any foe."

MAJOR GENERAL O. O. HOWARD, U. S. A., accompanied by Lieut. Macdonald, A. D. C., visited Key West Barracks and Fort Taylor this week, and from Key West went to Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, to see what would be required in the way of repairs, etc., in case it should be decided to regarrison the post.

VETERANS IN THE CITY.

Gen. Oliver O. Howard, commanding the Department of the Atlantic, and Mrs. Howard, entertained Gen. Oliver O. Howard, Commandant of the Military Division of the Atlantic, at a dinner upon the funeral of the Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. Gen. Howard fought against Gen. Johnston all through the Atlanta campaign, but was a great admirer of the Southern leader. The liking was reciprocated by Gen. Johnston, and since the war they have

Gen. O. O. Howard Retired. WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—An order was issued from the War Department today transferring Major General O. O. Howard, commanding the department of the East. Gen. Howard will leave New York to-morrow with his wife, son and daughter. His future home will be in Burlington, Vt.

The Senate on Wednesday passed the House bill making an appropriation of \$45,000 for the rescue of the armament and the wreck of the *Kearsarge*, also a joint resolution authorizing Major-General O. O. Howard to accept from the Government of the French Republic a diploma and decoration as commander of the Legion of Honor.

The officers of the 12th N. Y. Militia Regiment, entertained Gen. Oliver O. Howard, Commandant of the Military Division of the Atlantic, at a dinner at the Plaza Hotel in New York City on Thursday Nov. 20. Speeches were made by Gen. Howard and by several officers of the regiment. The General was complimented upon his successful military career.