

commenced on our left. I now hastened to Gen. Miller and directed him to seize the moment and pierce the enemy's entrenchments between batteries Nos. 2 and 3. My orders were promptly and ably executed. Within 30 minutes after the first gun was fired, batteries Nos. 3 and 2, the enemy's line of entrenchments, and his two blockhouses were in our possession. Soon after, battery No. 1 was abandoned by the British. The guns in each were spiked by us or otherwise destroyed, and the magazine of No. 3 was blown up.

A few minutes before the explosion, I had ordered up the reserve under Gen. Ripley. As he passed me at the head of his column, I desired him, as he would be the senior in advance, to ascertain as near as possible the situation of the troops in general, and to have a care that not more was hazarded than the occasion required: that the object of the sortie effected, the troops would retire in good order, &c. Gen. Ripley passed rapidly on. Soon after I became alarmed for General Miller and sent an order for the 21st to hasten to his support towards battery No. 1. Col. Upham received the order and advanced to the aid of Gen. Miller. Gen. Ripley had inclined to the left, where Maj. Brooks' command was engaged, with a view of making some necessary inquiries of that officer, and in the act of doing so was unfortunately wounded. By this time the object of the sortie was accomplished beyond my most sanguine expectation. Gen. Miller had consequently ordered the troops on the right to fall back. Observing this movement, I sent my staff along the line to call in the other corps. Within a few minutes they retired to the ravine and from thence to camp.

Thus one thousand regulars and an equal portion of militia, in one hour of close action blasted the hopes of the enemy, destroyed the fruits of fifty days' labor, and diminished his effective force 1000 men at least. I am at a loss to express my satisfaction at the gallant conduct of the officers and men of this division, whose valor has shone superior to every trial. Gen. Porter, in his official report herein enclosed, has very properly noticed those patriotic citizens who have done so much honor to themselves by freely and voluntarily tendering their services at a dangerous and critical period.

As the scene of the action was in the wood in advance of the position I had chosen for directing the movements, the several reports of the commandants of corps must guide me in noticing individuals.

General Miller mentions Lieut.-Col. Aspinwall, Lieut.-Col. Beedle, Major Trimble, Capt. Hull, Capt. Ingersol, Lieut. Crawford, Lieut. Lee, and particularly Ensign O'Fling, as entitled to distinction.

Lieut.-Col. McDonald, upon whom the command of the rifle corps devolved upon the fall of the brave and generous Gibson,