

Wednesday July 1 1864

From "Historical Sketch" by E. D. Northrup,
New York At Gettysburg.

The 2nd Division was the last one of the 11th Corps to reach Cemetery Hill by the Emmitsburg Pike. The 154th New York arrived there at about 4 p.m. on the double quick, filed into the cemetery and cleaned guns, and immediately (with the 27th Pennsylvania and 134th New York only), double quicked down thru the town, and out on the Harrisburg road, and formed line of battle where its monument now stands, a short distance north of Steven's Run. At this time the broken lines of Schurtz's troops were in full retreat, and about as soon as the 154th New York (with the 27th Pennsylvania on its left and the 134th New York on its right) had formed line of battle, the enemy in overwhelming numbers upon them, in front and on both flanks.

Again the 154th held its ground, receiving no order to retreat whatever, the men firing 6 to 9 shots apiece with their Enfield rifles. Thus nearly all possible chances to retreat was cut off, and all but 15 men and 3 officers were captured. These officers were Lieutenant Colonel Daniel B. Allen, then in command of the regiment, Captain M. B. Cheney, and Lieutenant James W. Bird, of Co. G, who escaped by running at the very last under the deadly fire of the enemy.

Captain M. B. Cheney, on his way, came upon the national and state colors of the 134th New York lying on the ground, mistook for those of his own regiment, (and, it is told, a soldier of the 134th New York, by a similar mistake, carried off the national colors of the 154th New York, this soldier being wounded also,) and bore them safely off the field through a perfect hailstorm of minie balls, receiving a severe gunshot wound just as he was crossing the railroad, which wound so disabled him that he finally had to reluctantly submit to discharge from the service. Colonel (General) P. H. Jones was then a paroled prisoner, wounded and captured at Chancellorsville. Lieutenant James W. Bird bore off the state colors of the 154th New York.

Head Qrs. 154th N. Y. Vols.
Lookout Valley Tenn. Apr. 5, 1864

A.B. Bachelder. Esq.
Dr. Sir

Enclosed I return your map with positions and statistics noted as you request. Our regt. belongs to the 1st Brig. 2nd Div. 11th Corps. The Brig. (Bushbeck) is composed of the 154th & 134th N.Y. & the 27th & 73. Pa. The 73. Pa. V. was stationed in the town. The rest of the Brig. went down front of the town and took the position I have indicated on the map a little before 3. o'clock PM. July 1. There were no other troops down there at the time we marched down. The first and thrd Divisions had fought a little to the left & front of this ground earlier in the day but had been driven back into the town just as we marched through it to the front to check the enemy. We were soon overpowered there and compelled to fall back. during the remainder of the battle we occupied a position on Cemetery Hill.

I do not know whether you have got those roads located correctly in front of the town. At all events our position was immediately to the right of the right hand road leading out of town and in front of a house and a brick kiln

Yours truly
Dan B. Allen
Lt. Col. 154th N.Y.V.

Bachelder Papers
New Hampshire Hist. Soc., Concord