

FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

THE ELEVENTH CORPS.

What is the Real Animos of the Attacks upon that Organization?

BEING a close reader of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, I have read with considerable surprise the latest endeavor to cast obloquy on the poor old Eleventh Corps. And the first inquiry that arises is this: What is the cause? Have not the troops that composed that organization been subjected to enough lies and vilification to entitle them to a respite? But it seems that in these latter days there has appeared a historian who knows more about the battle of Gettysburg than Gen. Doubleday, Hunt, Col. Bachelder, or any of the great men upon whom the world has depended for the story of that fearful encounter. This man, with a few others to protect his flanks, held the most of Hill's Corps and a large part of Rodol's Division of the rebel army in check on the 1st day of July, 1863, from 2 o'clock p. m. until sundown. And now this historian with the iron gull very patronizingly tells us that "some of the Eleventh Corps men have taken characteristic umbrage because he has said that the result of the first day's battle would have been different had the Sixth Corps been present instead of the Eleventh." He now tries to avoid the just resentment of the boys he has endeavored to belittle by saying that there was a great difference in the strength of the two corps numerically, but his evasion is lame.

Now, while this is and can only, from the nature of things, amount to mere supposition, and is therefore of no value as history or anything else, yet, when it is repeated, unchallenged, might be accepted by those unacquainted with the facts as the truth; and thus as good troops as ever formed line of battle would receive unmerited censure.

In studying the work done by the First and Eleventh Corps at that time, compare the positions occupied by the different organizations. The First held a commanding position, and were fighting almost entirely on the defensive. When the Eleventh Corps arrived the enemy had already taken position and planted cannon on Oak Hill and the high ground east of it, and the corps was compelled to fight for position, taking the offensive over very unfavorable ground. That they performed their duty manfully is the testimony of every authentic record of the event.

Gen. Doubleday, the able commander of the First Corps after Gen. Reynolds was killed, says that although their right flank was enveloped, and they were greatly outnumbered, they fought gallantly. And history is searched in vain to find a more heroic resistance than was made by the two brigades of Gens. Ames and Von Gilsa and Battery G, 4th U. S. Art. Where in the history of the nation can be found a more devoted action or heroic death than that of Lieut. Wilkeson, the gallant commander of the battery just mentioned? And right here I want to put on record the opinion, and it is fully supported by a careful study of their record, that there was not anywhere in the Army of the Potomac four better regiments than those commanded by Gen. Adolbert Ames, viz, the 17th Conn., 25th, 75th, and 107th Ohio. These men were soldiers tried and true, who always and upon every occasion performed their duty with unflinching bravery. The Confederate, General John B. Gordon, who attacked them that hot July afternoon, says: "They made stern resistance, and were only dislodged after repeated assaults by superior numbers." This is the official and un-

What does the commander of the 6th N. C. say? and this regiment was as far inside our line as any. See Maj. Tate's Report, Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, page 486: "After a struggle such as this war has furnished no parallel, 75 North Carolinians of the 6th regiment and 12 Louisianans of Hay's Brigade actually scaled the wall and planted the colors of these two regiments on the guns. The enemy stood with a tenacity never before displayed by them."

Now no one has had the cheek to claim that Carroll's Brigade had reached the vicinity at that time. This desperate stand, then, was made by the Eleventh Corps. Again, it seems to me that at the time of the battle some credit was given to the 33d Mass. for the repulse of that desperate charge; in fact, they have the best of authority for claiming that their oblique fire poured into the flank of the enemy was one of the main causes of his repulse; and speaking of the 33d Mass. brings us to another brigade of the Eleventh Corps, Second Brigade, Second Division, commanded by Orland Smith, consisting of the 33d Mass., 55th and 73d Ohio, and 136th N. Y. This brigade has a history second to none. These were the gallant heroes of whom Gen. George H. Thomas said, "Their bayonet charge up a steep and difficult hill, completely routing the enemy from his barricades, will rank among the distinguished feats of arms of this war"; and Pap Thomas was not given to taffy slinging.

The fact is that when Carroll's Brigade arrived the struggle was practically over. The line of the Eleventh Corps was broken. But so was the line of the Second Corps next day at the angle, and other troops were thrown in in each case to help the men at the threatened point, and why there should be any more hue and cry made over Carroll's Brigade being sent to help Ames out than there is over the fact that the First Corps and other troops had to be sent in to help the Second Corps out on the third day, I am at a loss to understand. As to the Baltimore pike being full of Eleventh Corps stragglers, Gen. Doubleday says that Gen. Webb had to post a line of men behind his line of battle to drive back or shoot stragglers. So it appears that the Second Corps had 'em, too.

But why continue? The evidence is almost endless that the traducers of the Eleventh Corps are without facts to support their malignant falsehoods, and this latest attack is made by one who is fast gaining a reputation for reckless statements.

The originators of these malicious stories should bear in mind that they always overshoot their mark, and their statements are like the bushman's boomerang: they return from whence they came, and injure no one so much as the one who starts them.

I had promised myself to never again notice any of the invidious remarks made against the old corps. But as I stood recently on the ground made sacred by the blood of some of my old comrades, and where my own flesh was made to feel the power of rebel lead, there arose in my mind the question, Is it not my duty to defend the memory of those who gave their lives here that their country might live in the full enjoyment of liberty among all its citizens?

I have waited in vain so far for some more able writer to take up the facts of history and present them in the defense of the much-abused corps. Let us tell the stories of our marches and battles, the incidents of our bivouacs and raids, but let him who attempts to gain a cheap notoriety by traducing the memory of his late comrades, suffer the just verdict of being unworthy to be called comrade. Yours for one country, one flag, one President, one Presidential term, and the truth at all times—C. W. McKAY, Fergus Falls, Minn.

AFTER 30 YEARS.

Baton Rouge Battle-ground Visited by a Comrade.

DURING the first days of September I had occasion to make a business trip

BATTLE LOSSES.

Unparalleled Casualties in the Faded End of Mott's Division.

AS supplementary to my late contribution to your columns of "Fighting Them Over," it may be of interest to consider the battle losses during the war of the regiments comprising Pierce's Brigade, or what was termed by Comrade Dayton, 36th Wis., as "the faded end of Mott's Division," Second Corps, at the battle of Boynton road.

According to Fox's "Three Hundred Fighting Regiments," in which each regiment in this brigade has a full-page description, the total respective losses in killed and wounded of the organization are as follows:

	Killed and mortally wounded.	Wounded.
5th Mich.....	268	755
105th Pa.....	245	538
1st Mass. H. A.....	241	482
141st Pa.....	167	449
96d N. Y.....	136	270
Totals.....	1,042	2,494

or a grand total of 3,536 men killed and wounded in battle with the enemy.

At Boynton road, according to Fox, 39 men of Pierce's Brigade were killed and mortally wounded, and applying his approved ratio, 2.5 per cent., for the wounded (not killed), the latter were 47 in number, or a total casualty list for the brigade in this action of 136 men.

According to Walker's history, "The Second Army Corps," the losses in the whole Second Division (Egan's) were 30 men killed at Boynton road and 169 wounded. The last figures presumably include the mortally wounded. Total casualty list, 199; or 63 more than the loss in Pierce's single brigade.

The casualty list, as given here, of Mott's entire division is 57 killed, 368 wounded; or a total of 425; 224 men hit in Mott's Division in excess of those "scared by bullet-wounds" in Egan's Division.

These figures are interesting by themselves, and, too, are refreshing in a use to controvert an implication that Pierce's Brigade failed in its duty at Boynton road on Oct. 27, 1864, or that, taken as a whole, the division of Gen. Mott did not "keep up to the scratch" in the action.

In this connection it may not be out of place to make a comparison of the casualty list (killed) of Pierce's Brigade, made up of five regiments, with that of noted brigades Col. Fox mentions in his work, the distinction being that the regiments comprising brigades of his mention, especially the three first, had continuous service in the one brigade organization. As meeting the highest loss, numerically, he names the Vermont Brigade, Sixth Corps, Army of the Potomac, which comprised five regiments of infantry and one of heavy artillery, all from one State.

Vermont Brigade, six regiments, killed and died of wounds.....	1,172
Iron Brigade, five regiments, killed and died of wounds.....	1,131

Pierce's Brigade may next be mentioned, viz:

Five regiments, infantry, and one regiment heavy artillery, killed and died of wounds.....	1,042
Irish Brigade, five regiments, Second Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	961
First Jersey Brigade, six regiments, Sixth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	900
Masselor Brigade, six regiments, Third Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	876
Philadelphia Brigade, four regiments, Second Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	636
Iowa Brigade, four regiments, Seventeenth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	443
Custer's Cavalry Brigade, four regiments, killed and died of wounds.....	528
Star Brigade, five regiments of infantry, Eighteenth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	636
Steadman's Brigade, 10 regiments of infantry, Eighteenth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	1,392
Brigade, nine regiments of infantry, Fourth Corps, killed and died of	1,118

National Tribune, March 16, 1893.

Ohio. These men were soldiers tried and true, who always and upon every occasion performed their duty with unflinching bravery. The Confederate General John B. Gordon, who attacked them that hot July afternoon, says: "They made stern resistance, and were only dislodged after repeated assaults by superior numbers." This is the official record, not the unsupported assertion of an unreliable and obscure writer, and I fearlessly assert that, while according all praise due to Sedgwick and the others named, the names of Gens. Francis C. Barlow and Adelbert Ames will not suffer in comparison with the best of them.

Is it possible that any sane man who has studied the field of Gettysburg will assert that the first day's field could have been held by any 24,000 men when attacked on three sides by 35,000 to 40,000, and the superior force in possession of Oak Hill, which dominates all the ground northeast of Gettysburg? The fact is that the first day's battle was a great mistake as a military movement, and would not have occurred had Gen. Meade known the position of the enemy.

The wonder being that, after allowing about one-sixth of his own force to be attacked by two thirds of Lee's whole army, and leaving the small remnant practically unsupported a whole day, and not having interest enough in the result to ride to the front himself—the wonder, I say, is that the First and Eleventh Corps were not annihilated or captured.

After the First Corps was all engaged, and the Generals on the ground had discovered what it was that they had encountered, the Eleventh Corps was simply thrown in piecemeal to prolong the struggle and prevent the capture of the troops already engaged. I ask any honest and unprejudiced comrade to study the situation, forces engaged, and official records, and if he is not convinced that the boys of the crescent badge did all that men could do, then I have studied the subject in vain.

At 4 p. m., when it became evident that the advanced position could be held no longer, the First Brigade, Second Division, Eleventh Corps were ordered to advance through the town and cover the retreat. Thus, in the fortunes of war, this brigade was required to go forward to the post of duty when their comrades were in retreat. Under such circumstances it requires the nerve and staying qualities of veterans. The movement was performed in fine style. Moving out Stratton street on the double-quick, they swung into line just in front of Kub's brick-kiln. Hardly had they reached their position before they were attacked by Hoke's Brigade in front, supported by Smith's Brigade, while Hay's Brigade actually moved to their rear past their left flank. Although nearly surrounded, those men, who had so nobly withstood the onslaught of Stonewall Jackson's legions at Chancellorsville, now met the assault of Early's Division with unflinching firmness. Col. Godwin, who commanded Hoke's Brigade, says (see official Records, Series I., Vol. 27, page 484): "They stubbornly held their position until we were actually in their midst." Hoke's Brigade lost 145 men in this assault, and when Bushbeck's old brigade finally fell back, their four small regiments were surrounded by 14 regiments of the enemy at short range; and yet their retreat was far from being a rout, as they stopped at the kiln and fired a few parting shots, and after regaining the street resisted the advance of Hay's Brigade with one gun of Dilger's battery, which had fixed prolonge and was fired retiring.

It will take something more than the unsupported word of this new historian (?) to prove to the survivors of Early's Division that their 500 killed and wounded that day, and the 400 Union dead gathered by them at this point, did not indicate that they met foesman worthy of them then and there. The boys that Pat Jones had the honor to command, or that gallant Pennsylvania regiment led by Capt. Dan Kelly, were not in the habit of leaving the field of battle until the foe had felt the quality of their ammunition; and they had proven by their conduct 60 days before, on the south bank of the Rappahannock, that they were not to be rattled because other organizations in their vicinity were in confusion. And it needs only a careful study of the official reports of officers opposed to them to form their whole date.

Baton Rouge Battle-ground Visited by a Comrade.

DURING the first days of September I had occasion to make a business trip to our Capital city, and while there took the opportunity to visit the old battleground. It will be remembered by the few living who took an active part in that memorable affair, that the battle of Baton Rouge was fought on August 5, 1862. The National and Magnolia Cemeteries occupy a part of the ground contested for, but the place in which the writer figured more conspicuously was known as Magnolia Grove. Here many of Indiana's noble sons gave up their lives for their country. It was likewise the burialground for a large number of Breckinridge's men. It was in this grove that the brave Gen. Williams fell. It has been hinted to me at different times that Williams was killed by his own men, but this I wish to brand as untrue. The General fell but a few feet from me, and at that time we were too busily occupied with the other fellows to think of killing our own men. The 21st Ind. has had enough to bear, without having such a dastardly deed charged up against them.

About the last words I heard Gen. Williams utter were these: "Indianaans, you are brave boys; your officers are all killed, but I'll take command of you." So saying he rode into the thickest of the fight, and soon fell, pierced by rebel, not Union, bullets.

Let me say right here that I am not attempting to write a history of the battle. I was only one of 1,000, and could see no further than the rest of my comrades. I can only claim that I did my duty, nothing more. Neither would I attempt to snatch the laurels from a single command of our army, especially the 8th Mich. But in the language of Ben Butler to me, as I lay wounded in the St. James Hotel, in New Orleans; the General in passing through the ward came upon four Hoosiers, and made inquiry as to what regiment we belonged. Being the nearest to him, I replied, "21st Ind." "You are brave boys; your regiment saved the day at Baton Rouge." Then and there for the first time I found the tender place in old Ben's heart, for great tears were rolling down his cheeks. But to my subject. It might be interesting to many of the boys to know that the old hedge fence where we received our first fire still stands, although it has grown much higher than it was in 1862. Here the brave Latham fell and Maj. Hays and many others were wounded. The little cemetery through which a part of the regiment passed, west of the hedge, is now known as Magnolia Cemetery, and is a beautiful place, nicely kept, and only surpassed by the National Cemetery, directly to the south. Here I passed a few pleasant hours with the gentlemanly Superintendent, who was a member of the old 23d Ind.

This is certainly one of the most magnificent plots of ground I have ever beheld. Shade-trees have been planted at regular intervals, the walks are covered with sea-shells, the grass is kept clipped close, and not a leaf allowed to wither on the grounds. Flowering shrubs are to be seen in conspicuous places, and some of the tropical fruits are grown on the grounds. The monuments are washed regularly and tenderly cared for. Here lies buried more than 3,000 of our dead comrades, the loyal, the brave and the true, who did their part to save our country's honor. Why should not a grateful country hallow the spot with her tenderest care? Magnolia Grove is all gone; a few scattering houses occupy the ground. The city now reaches the cemetery, and a street-car line runs on the eastern limit of our old campground. This line runs out on Main street beyond the old Catholic Cemetery, and turns south by the front of the National Cemetery. The old Government barracks have been bought by the State, and are used for a university. The State House has been repaired, and looks just as nice as it did in 1862. A railroad has been in operation for some years between New Orleans and Memphis, via Baton Rouge, and passes up the river in front of the State House, under the hill. There is so little

Custer's Cavalry Brigade, four regiments, killed and died of wounds.....	605
Siar Brigade, five regiments of infantry, Eighteenth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	680
Woodman's Brigade, 10 regiments of infantry, Eighteenth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	1,192
Willon's Brigade, nine regiments of infantry, Fourth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	1,115
Harker's Brigade, nine regiments of infantry, Fourth Corps, killed and died of wounds.....	1,107

Which completes the consideration by Fox of mortuary losses by brigades on the field of battle. From the above it would appear that Pierce's Brigade holds a good third on this list, and that with such record, even if acquired partly in other brigade organizations, the matter of its composition cannot now be called in question.—N. S. LITTLEFIELD, 1st Mass. H. A., Bandon, Ore.

WITH THE CAVALRY.

The Last Campaign from Sailor's Creek to Appomattox.

IN the issue of Sept. 8, 1892, Gen. Olmsted gives an account of Col. Starbuck and the 19th Me. saving the wagon-road bridge, near High Bridge, April 7, 1865, and he also says that if it had not been for the prompt saving of that bridge Lee would not have surrendered as soon as he did, and possibly not at all. There is no doubt but that Col. Starbuck and the 19th Me. did a noble service in saving the bridge, but if Gen. Olmsted had been with Gen. Sheridan's command from Sailor's Creek to Appomattox he would have come to the conclusion that that bridge and his (Olmsted's) whole command would not have had any influence on the general result.

In looking over my diary I see on April 6 that Sheridan's cavalry attacked Gen. Lee's left flank, under Gen. Ewell, and captured a large number of prisoners, wagons, supplies, etc.

April 7—Marched to Farmville, forded the river, and again attacked Lee's left flank at Farmville, but was not as successful as at Sailor's Creek. Then marched to Prospect Station.

April 8—Marched to Appomattox Station and captured a train of supplies.

April 9—Marched toward Appomattox Courthouse, and was attacked by Gen. Lee's troops, and was hotly engaged until relieved by Gen. Ord's colored troops. Then our brigade (J. Irwin Gregg's, of the Second Division) was sent back towards Lynchburg and met a brigade of rebel cavalry, and became hotly engaged with them until there was a flag of truce sent out through our lines from Gen. Sheridan notifying them of Gen. Lee's surrender.

The 16th Pa. Cav. made the last charge of the day, and the 4th Pa. Cav. resisted the last attack made by the enemy, and did the last firing at the enemy that was done that day. During our march from Jeteraville Station to Appomattox Station we frequently saw the rebel wagon-train and troops marching to our right in the same direction we were going. I don't want to have it understood that I think Gen. Sheridan's troops did it all, but I do think they would have got to Appomattox Station on the 6th of April if that bridge had been destroyed, and that they would have held their ground when they got there. The history of what had been done by them will bear me out in making this assertion.—S. H. COLBORN, 4th Pa. Cav., New Lebanon, Pa.

PEACH-TREE CREEK.

Comrade Dolton Explains What He Meant in a Former Article.

IHAVE read the very interesting article of Comrade H. C. King in your issue of Feb. 23, and write to set the comrade somewhat nearer right than he is now.

The stampede to which I alluded in my former article was to the right of where the 100th Ill. was, and was not in sight of it. It was directly in front of the bridge over which Newton's artillery crossed, on the Buck Head and its road, and the fragments of regiments stampeded, together with the pack-mules, were not of the 100th Ill. or 87th Ia.

most to passing the streams and prevent the capture of the troops already engaged. I ask any honest and unprejudiced comrade to study the situation, forces engaged and official records, and if he is not convinced that the boys of the crimson badge did all that men could do, then I have studied the subject in vain.

At 4 p. m., when it became evident that the advanced position could be held no longer, the First Brigade, Second Division, Eleventh Corps was ordered to advance through the town and cover the retreat. This is the fortune of war; the brigade was required to go forward to the post of duty when their comrades were in retreat. Under such circumstances it requires the nerve and staying qualities of veterans. The movement was performed in fine style. Moving out Main street on the Sabbath side, they swung into line just in front of Kabin's brick-kiln. Hardly had they reached their position before they were attacked by Hoke's Brigade in front, supported by Smith's Brigade, while Hay's Brigade actually moved to their rear past their left flank. Although nearly surrounded, those men who had so nobly withstood the onslaught of Stonewall Jackson's legions at Chancellorsville, now met the assault of Early's Division with unflinching firmness. Col. Godwin, who commanded Hoke's Brigade, says (see Official Records, Series I, Vol. 27, page 484): "They stubbornly held their position until we were actually in their midst." Hoke's Brigade lost 165 men in this assault, and when Haskbeck's old brigade finally fell back, their four small regiments were surrounded by 14 regiments of the enemy at short range, and yet their retreat was far from being a rout, as they stopped at the kiln and fired a few parting shots, and after regaining the street resisted the advance of Hay's Brigade with one gun of Digger's battery, which had fixed pedonage and was fired raining.

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And now regarding the much-debated evening of July 2nd at East Cemetery Hill.

It is not to be wondered at that Carroll's Brigade should get all the credit that belongs to them; and I am proud to say that I have never heard of a word from any member of the Eleventh Corps that in any way tended to cast the least shadow upon the credit which they earned. And in all the Eleventh Corps controversy, the remarks from members of that body have always been free from any tinge of malice or unassimilated animosity, and any other organization not withholding the dirty slings to which they have been subjected.

As to returning to East Cemetery Hill. Can any of our worthy comrades inform us who it was that captured the position of the 8th La., so-called "Burr's"? Was it Adjt. Young, of the 10th Ohio, and when point to mere daring bravery than the steady the Color-Sergeant of that same regiment who jumped upon the stone wall and waved the old flag in the very face of them, and met his death like a true soldier? As to Burgt. Geible.

The man who says that Ames's Brigade did not do their duty, and nobly upon that position, either does not know the facts of his own case, or cannot remember the truth of his statements.

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Have Time Now.

A squadron of cavalry is now quartered near Washington, on the old Lees estate, "Arlington," says the *Argonaut*. Since their arrival in the East, the troops have been sent in turn to various Virginia battlefields. Recently one of these troops, on the march, halted near a farmhouse, and the Captain, in conversation with the owner, remarked that he was going to the Bull Run battlefield and would remain there over Sunday. The farmer's daughter, seated near by on the piazza, began to laugh, and when asked for an explanation, said: "Well, Captain, yours will be the first Union soldiers who have stayed there that long."

The Virtue of Promptitude

Is in nothing more forcibly shown than in the escape from disease of those who heed his warnings. Foresight is wisely practiced by persons who, observing that their kidneys want activity, impart to them a healthy impulse with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. By so doing they avoid Bright's disease and other destructive renal maladies. Chills and fever, indigestion, constipation, liver trouble, rheumatism, should be nipped in the bud by the Bitters.

Gen. Sherman's command from Sailor's Creek to Appomattox he would have come to the conclusion that that bridge and his (Olmsted's) whole command would not have had any influence on the general result.

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The 16th Pa. Cav. made the last charge of the day, and the 4th Pa. Cav. resisted the last attack made by the enemy, and did the last firing at the enemy that was done that day. During our march from Jeteraville Station to Appomattox Station we frequently saw the rebel wagon-train and troops marching to our right in the same direction we were going. I don't want to have it understood that I think Gen. Sheridan's troops did it all, but I do think they would have got to Appomattox Station on the 8th of April if that bridge had been destroyed, and that they would have held their ground when they got there. The history of what had been done by them will bear me out in making this assertion.—S. H. COLBORNE, 4th Pa. Cav., New Lebanon, Pa.

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The comrade does not seem to be aware that there were two divisions of the Fourth Corps between him and the Twenty-third Corps at the time of the charge.

The comrade does not relish my former remarks about the troops that were driven from the field at Chickamauga, but my remarks were praise compared with the picture of them on the War Department maps of that part of the battle. I will take the liberty to state to the comrade that I never unjustly criticized anyone, certainly not those who wore the blue.

The slain and wounded on our right at Chickamauga show how well that part of the army fought, and I assuredly feel as proud over their work as I do over that of the Reserve Corps. They held their ground as well as they could and as long.

I did not allude in that article to the troops that went back to Rossville with Gen. Negley.

I will also add, for the information of the comrade, that I had a purpose in view in writing my article as I did, and I accomplished it, and it was far from being to the injury of those troops.

As Battery M, 1st Ill., was generally not very far from the 100th Ill. on the Atlanta campaign, the comrade can tell whether it was common for it to be in safe places, well to the rear, or not.—G. R. DOUGLASS, St. Louis, Mo.

FIGHTING THEM OVER: WHAT OUR VETERANS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THEIR OLD
CAMPAIGNS -- THE ELEVENTH CORPS: WHAT IS THE REAL ANIMUS OF THE
ATTACKS ON THAT ORGANIZATION?

His article does not really say, he only defends the 11th Corps actions. The first few paragraphs defend Ames and Barlow and describes the open positions of the 11th Corps. Following are the paragraphs that deal somewhat with the action of the 154th New York Infantry that day.

"At 4 pm, when it became evident that the advanced position could be held no longer, the First Brigade, Second Division, Eleventh Corps, was ordered to advance through the town and cover the retreat. Thus, in the fortunes of war, this brigade was required to go forward to the post of duty when their comrades were in retreat. Under such circumstances it requires the nerve and staying qualities of veterans. The movement was performed in fine style. Moving out Stratton Street on the double quick, they swung into line just in front of Kühn's brick-kiln. Hardly had they reached their position before they were attacked by Hoke's Brigade in front, supported by Smith's Brigade, while Hay's Brigade actually moved to their rear past their left flank. Although nearly surrounded, those men, who had so nobly withstood the onslaught of Stonewall Jackson's legions at Chancellorsville, now met the assault of Early's Division with unflinching firmness. Col. Godwin, who commanded Hoke's Brigade, says (see Official Records, Series 1, Vol. 27, page 484): "They stubbornly held their position until we were actually in their midst." Hoke's Brigade lost 145 men in this assault, and when Bushbeck's Old Brigade finally fell back, their four small regiments were surrounded by 14 regiments of the enemy at short range; and yet their retreat was far from being a rout, as they stopped at the kiln and fired a few parting shots, and after regaining the street resisted the advance of Hay's Brigade with one gun of Dilger's Battery, which had fixed prolonge and was fired retreating.

It will take something more than the unsupported word of this new historian (?) to prove to the survivors of Early's Division that their 589 killed and wounded that day, and the 400 Union dead gathered by them at this point, did not indicate that they met foemen worthy of them then and there. The boys that Pat Jones had the honor to command, or that gallant Pennsylvania regiment led by Capt. Dan Kelly, were not in the habit of leaving the field of battle until the foe had felt the quality

of their ammunition; and they had proven by their conduct 60 days before, on the south bank of the Rappahannock, that they were not to be rattled because other organizations in their vicinity were in confusion. And it needs only a careful reading of the official reports of the commanding officers opposed to them to prove that they performed their whold duty nobly on every field upon which they appeared.

He then defends Ames' Brigade on East Cemetery Hill on July 2, discounts Carroll's Brigade's performance by saying, "When Carroll's Brigade arrived the struggle was practically over."

The article is signed: C.W. McKay, Fergus Falls, Minn.

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Title - Fighting Them Over: what Our Veterans Have To Say about their Old Campaigns - The Eleventh Corps: what is the real animus of the attacks that organization?

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