

General Mike Lawson, CSA  
Commanding General  
Army of the Shenandoah, Harper's Ferry District

AFTER ACTION REPORT – Battle of Big Bethel, Virginia, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1861

General,

Within the following were my observations of the actions taken by the 14<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry, for which I was in command. The morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> began with a clear sky. The general moral of the unit was upbeat after having been involved in various camp duties, and battle of the last day. After an NCO meeting, I made a decision for the unit not to participate in the Battalion Drill. As such, we had breakfast, held company roll call, and at 11AM, held a half-hour company drill. As it turns out, this company drill paid off in the end.

At close to noon, the Major of the Battalion located me to ensure we were aware of the marching orders and that we were prepared for the upcoming activities. At 1PM, we formed up the company and marched to the Battalion grounds.

As 4<sup>th</sup> Company, we were attached the left wing of the Battalion. After a short march, skirmishers encountered the enemy, and we were presented into battle front. We fired several volleys at the enemy before being forced to withdraw to the breastworks and cannon placements. We formed up behind some caissons, when it was noticed that Federal Cavalry was attacking a set of our cannons. At the double-quick, I sent the company to confront the enemy and drive them off. We returned to our positions when they made another attempt. Again, we drove them off and they didn't return. At the double-quick, we found ourselves confronted by the enemy on our far right flank. In company line, we charged the enemy on the right flank, and forced them from the breastworks and our lines. We continued to press them from our front with several bayonet charges, and musket volleys. We eventually found ourselves extended beyond our lines, so we halted and fell back. At this point, the enemy reorganized and made another attempt at us. The rest of the Battalion finally made it to our location, which seemed to put fear into the enemy. As we saw that they were halting and preparing to fire on us, we made another forward attempt at them, which pushed them into a near total retreat. We held our ground to ensure that the enemy was not going to return.

In this fight, our company did not suffer any casualties, even with all the movement and enemy we encountered. To my knowledge, there was only one casualty suffered by our side in this battle.

After this fight, we returned to our camps and set about preparing our move to another camping location, away from the peninsula... location not disclosed at this time.

I hope that this fulfills your request.

Most Respectfully Yours,

Captain Mark Dubiel  
14<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry, Commanding