

Major D.A. Zarr reporting... Sir...

Arrived Thursday around 1:00 pm to scout battle site...

Was very disappointed at the grounds condition... it was uneven with loose debris and muddy dirt everywhere...not good ground for the upcoming fight that was coming. Looking over to my left I seen better ground... a grassy knoll leading to high ground... but I knew... that once the fight commenced...we would be pushed back to this terrible ground.

The 14th. South Carolina Infantry Co. I had arrived on Friday, in the afternoon, waiting on Officers and NCO's to form up and train for the upcoming battle that will start on the following day, that day being Saturday.

Troops from all over were coming into our camp setting up with anticipation for the action that would soon follow.

Across the field we could see the Union with their battle flags doing the same thing as we that day.

General Jackson had sent us some help in the way of Officers and men to strengthen our resolve...which we needed very much.

Friday pretty much was spent on setting up our camp and surveying our situation that laid ahead for the following day.

The Captain of the 14th. had not arrived with his men, so I filled that position until arrangements could be made later that day. Also the 14th.'s 1st. Sgt. was very new and had not yet seen the elephant ...so, Sgt. M. Lawson stepped up to fill that position.

Now Sgt. Lawson is a gruff fowl tempered NCO...but good at what he does, so the men were not used to this, but they learned quickly to follow direction. Replacing the 14th.'s captain was Captain C. Jones, a young fellow, probably around his twenties I would have to say.

I left the Captain and 1st. Sgt. in charge while I hunted for some kind of command structure, but was unable to locate anyone of major importance. Much later that evening I found the Colonel Julien at his tent. He advised me to meet with him in the morning for instruction.

Saturday morn came quickly with low temperatures and heavy dew on everything. Roll call was the first order of the day. After meeting with the Colonel, the men along with myself proceeded to move into company drill, which was very much needed. The men quickly followed instruction from Captain Jones and 1st. Sgt. Lawson along with Lt. Dubiel...I was very pleased at the progress.

After drill the men were instructed to eat, drink plenty of water and prepare for 1st. call shortly. The Union Army was observed across the field from a distance beginning to move into position but not at a pressing pace. This was good, for we were still somewhat not prepared completely.

First call was given by Sgt. Lawson and the men were very excited about the upcoming engagement. Looking around myself I could see many other companies forming up in their companies streets, all equally excited. After forming up our company, we were ordered to fall into battalion formation in front of the Colonel's tent to wait orders. Our company was 4th. Company of the left wing with Major Ben Cawayan as left wing commander.

Major Ben looked to be a very sturned fellow, he never smiled, always looked thru you. Being that what it may, we proceeded to march out to the battlefield behind the color company. We marched for a while and then came up to our Artillery which was placed looking out over a very torn up field. The Colonel stopped the battalion just behind the Artillery and we waited for another battalion to approach from our left, this battalion being of Colonel Medich's Texas boys.

Colonel Medich's men proceeded to keep marching to the top of a small hill and then spread out as a skirmish line. Being that we were to be held in the tree line, we just watched to see what would unfold from the other side of that hill. Shortly Artillery opened up and the battle was under way.

We had no idea how many Yanks there were behind that small hill, but we were quickly ordered by the Major to move out and form a line of battle several yards from the skirmishers... Again, Artillery opened up ... the noise shook the very bones within our bodies.

Then we seen Col. Medich's boys running away from the small hill... the Yanks were on the move coming over the top. Quickly Col. Medich's boys formed up into their battalion formation and fell in to our right for a short time. Our Colonel gave the orders to fire and quickly were engaged. From what I could see...the Union force was somewhat equal in strength to our own.

Our wing was ordered to split from the right wing and the battle raged on. Captain Jones yelling orders to our men along with Sgt. Lawson keeping them in line and Lt. Dubiel looking on incase one of us should fall in the line on fire... we moved to the Unions left.

Chaos was all around us... orders were coming from everywhere... we were moving and loading on the run. The ground was hard on our feet...but the men kept on fighting. The battle raged on forward then back again... both sides seemed to get nowhere.

Both Captain Jones and Sgt. Lawson were doing all that they could to follow orders and keep our line in tack... but the action was fast and furious.

Finally, we were pushed back behind our Artillery, some of us had to climb over the earth works just to get out of the way of the approaching Union forces that were rapidly approaching. The Major ordered us to halt close to the limbers of our Artillery and not to return fire.

Good Lord...we were in direct line of fire of the Union forces and there was nothing we could do but stand at attention and look on. All of us thinking what could happen if these limber boxes were to be hit by enemy fire and us so close to them...was a very un-nerving feeling.

What seemed like an eternity to us standing there, we soon moved to our right to give aid to the other companies that were under fire on our extreme right of the Artillery. We seen many opportunities to advance on the enemy but we were ordered to stand our ground.

The tide of the battle turned to our left against Col. Medich's men and we then were given an order to flank the Union on their left. We marched out from behind the far most earth works and form a line of battle moving toward the Union companies closest to us.

Both of our battalions pressed on toward the Union lines pushing them back slowly towards the small hill from where they came. The Union was taking many causalities on their way back. Amazing for us...we only lost one man and a few wounded.

The Union retreated back over the hill and we were ordered to halt...all the boys were cheering and the feeling was grand.

That Sir, is my report to the best of my knowledge,

Your Obedient Servant,
Major D. A. Zarr
14th. S.C.I. / 5th. VA.

(Sunday's battle will have to be reported on by Captain Dubiel for Col. Jones and myself fell into the ranks with the boys as privates)