

In camp near Bethel, VA

June 11, 1861

C. D. Jones

Commanding 1st VA Brig

General Jackson,

It is my pleasure to inform you of the overwhelming victory your soldiers accomplished during the past action. We arrived in position on the field just below the crest of a hill reinforcing Colonel Medich, who was deployed as skirmishers, to our front. The Yankee flags topped the hill just as Medich's boys opened fire. The blue wave continued forward causing the skirmishers to waiver, then fall back and reform to our right. Our wing commander passed orders to open fire. We did so throwing a hail of bullets toward the enemy. The boys quickly reloaded and produced another good volley at their ranks. Shot after shot my company fired with what seemed like little effect. The blue ranks were within spitting distance when the order came to fall back. As I turned for further orders I realized the mayhem surrounding us. Other companies had completely broken and were running with no order to their ranks. We were ordered over some hastily made breastworks next to one of our batteries and reformed our wing to their rear. The Yankees came up close but their left flank broke and they were forced back. We rejoined the rest of the battalion up the hill to our right. Pushing forward then wheeling to our left we began a sweep of the Union's exposed flank. At the same time Colonel Medich began a push forward and together we drove the invaders from the field.

I am very pleased to say that our overall casualties were light while inflicting much heavier damage upon the enemy. The company performed magnificently! The fight was hot, confusing, and my men were in the thick of it. A special mention to the men from South Carolina, Major Zarr and his contingent are a superb addition to our ranks. However without the continued discipline and attention to detail by 1st Sgt Lawson and 2nd Sgt Durand the cause may have been lost. Any officer can only do so much without proper leadership from his junior and non-commissioned officers. My hat is off to the job done by all in the days action. I must agree with you, General. Who could NOT conquer with troops such as these!