

6-4-1862

**1862-06-04 A.C. Spaulding writes Governor Washburn about the
killed and wounded of the regiment**

A. C. Spaulding

Washington June 4th 1862

To His Excellency Israel Washburn, Jr. Governor of Maine

Sir

I wrote the Adj't General from Hagerstown, under date of the 2nd inst, giving him in brief, some general details in relation to the wounded and missing of our Maine Troops during the late disastrous retrograde movement of Genl Banks' command, down the valley of the Shenandoah. I now think it proper to address Your Excellency directly; giving you the results of my investigations, under an appointment as an Agent of the State made in accordance with your despatch of the 30th ult. to ^{Major} S. C. Fessenden M. G. I arrived at Williamsport on Sunday morning the 1st inst, & after calling upon Genl Banks, I immediately sought an interview with Lieut Coln Doughty, of the 1st Me Cavalry; from whose statements, I have condensed what follows in relation to the operations & position of his command during the most critical period of the retreat — There are two main travelled Turnpike Roads leading down the valley & into Winchester from the Southward — That from Strasburg, situated on the Manassas Gap. R. R., is the most direct; the other leading from Front Royal also on the same Rail Road, is more circuitous. The line of these two Roads is connected occasionally by crop Roads called "Dist Roads". On the morning of Saturday the 24th ult, it was ascertained that the Rebels had got possession of, and were advancing up the Front Royal Road to get in Genl Banks rear, and cut him off — Coln Doughty with 5 Companies of the 1st Me, and 2 of the Vermont Cavalry being at or near Middleton — which is ~~at~~ on the Strasburg Road and at the conjunction

of one of these Dirt Roads; received an Order to advance up the ~~the~~
Crop Road, to the Front Royal Pike, and endeavor to ascertain the strength
of the force which the enemy were pushing up that Pike to intercept the retreat
of Genl Banks. After some considerable skirmishing & having accomplished
the object of the reconnoissance he fell back to Middleton, where he
found Genl Hatch his superior in command. Genl Banks with the
most of his men and trains had already passed that point, on his way to
Winchester. Genl Hatch still holding the main body of his Cavalry there
to protect the rear of the retreating army. In the mean time a large
force of the enemy's Infantry & Artillery had crossed over from the Front
Royal Road, and slipping in between Banks's retreating column and
our Cavalry reserve, commenced shelling it, furiously at short range -
It was at that moment that Major Cilly, while sitting on his horse
in column and at a halt (as I was told) was struck by a shell which nearly
severed his Right Arm, leaving only a partial connection of skin and
integuments which was immediately afterwards separated by the Asst Surgeon.
He was thrown from his horse, but was directly taken up by Lieut Butler, and
with other assistance carried into a house near where he was left in
charge of Assistant Surgeon Haley and a detachment of three men -
Soon after this an order was given by some one (Genl Hatch disclaims it)
to charge on the Enemy - which was immediately attempted to be
put in execution. but so destructive was the Artillery & Infantry fire in
front that many of the horses of the Platoons in front the advance, were
shot down or disabled, and consequently those in the immediate rear
coming up at a furious rate, were thrown upon the disabled mass
in front - the next again forced by the momentum of the column
upon these. creating a most fatal and inextricable Confusion, and
resulting probably in the greatest loss to our state, so far as the Cavalry

more concerned, of any other conflict during the retreat - some of our
men were undoubtedly killed - many wounded by shot or shell, or bruised
by the collision, or fall of horses; but a considerable number I have no doubt
escaped to the mountains and will yet come in if not taken prisoners.
The loss of horses too, was large - Immediately after this, ^{Colonel Doughty} with
the remains of his command, retreated up the Pike, and getting into
a diverging dirt road eventually made his escape to the main body
under Genl Banks - It was not possible, so it would seem, to bring off
our killed, or severely wounded (I am in hopes it will prove to have been few)
and they of course, fell into the hands of the enemy - Our wounded, who
have escaped, are but few in number, and their wounds slight -
I will at this point, take the occasion to state, that from all I can learn,
Lieut Coln Doughty has, during the trying scenes through which he, and
his command were called to pass, evinced qualities, which fully jus-
tify the confidence which has been reposed in him, and ^{which no doubt} contributed
to his promotion - and also, that the Battalion of Cavalry under his
command, are entitled to great credit for their prompt obedience of
orders during the reconnoissance and their coolness and bravery under
fire - thus contributing very materially, as I believe, to the ultimate
escape of the whole Division, with so large a portion of their Baggage -
I have entered into the above details concerning the 1st Cavalry only as
tending to show your Excellency that the position I found myself in, after
investigation at Genl Banks Head Quarters, was such, that; our killed
and wounded together with Major Lilly being in the hands of the
Enemy I did not feel justified to remain at Williamsport waiting for
the Army to move into Virginia, as it was quite uncertain when an ad-
vance would take place; but I requested Lieut Coln Doughty when-
ever we should be in possession of the Valley which I believe will be

very soon, to make every exertion to recover the body of Major Kelley
if dead, or render all needed assistance if living, to him and all
others of our wounded that he can find —

Of the condition of the 10th Maine Vols I am not able to inform you
so fully from the fact, that the Regiment had been ordered over the
Potomac, the day before my arrival at Williamsport, and consequently
I did not see Coln Beals — I called at the Adjt Genls Office,
to get the Colns official Report, but as the Regt had not at that
time been incorporated into Banks' Division, the Report was not
on his files, and I was not able to obtain one, if any has been made;
but I learned from Lieut Simpson who remained behind to look after
the baggage; that Coln Beals had sent to you a full List of his
losses — As I passed through Frederic on my way to Williams-
port, I visited the General Hospital at that place and procured a
List of our sick and wounded confined there, which is herewith
transmitted — The limited time at my disposal ^{there} did not permit
my seeing very many of the Patients; but I have reason to believe that
they are all well cared for — The Hospital is in charge of Dr Weir
and is, I judge in excellent condition — I suggested to the Dr
the propriety of granting a certificate of discharge, to all those, the
nature of whose complaints would preclude them from again joining
their Regiments — I also visited the temporary hospital at Williams-
port and obtained from its Register a List of our soldiers confined there
which is also enclosed herewith. Your Excellency will perceive by this
List that there ^{are} not more than two or three of our Cavalry, (who escaped)
whose wounds were such, as to require their being placed in Hospital
There are as many more perhaps, who have been, but slightly injured
by various causes — All of our sick and wounded on this side of

of the Potomac are, I am satisfied, as well taken care of as the nature of the circumstances in which they are placed will permit. They did not seem to need any other assistance than what was being rendered by the Government, and I did not feel authorized to make any changes or removals; but I suggested to the Surgeons in charge of the Hospitals, to grant furloughs or discharges whenever they thought it advisable —

I send you also herewith, a full List of the missing from the Cavalry Battalion, made out up to noon of the 2^d inst. Three of the Companies had lost their muster rolls but the Captains were enabled to make up their Lists from papers in their possession — With regard to the missing who may have been wounded I was not so situated as to wait and follow the army to look after them. Some few I think may yet come in but most of them are without doubt prisoners and will I hope be recaptured when we get Jackson and his Myrmidons

I remain very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

A. L. Spalding

Washington
June 4, 1862

Spaulding A. C.

Reports of the killed & wounded of the 5th
& 6th Regts.

A. C. Spaulding
Washington
June 4.