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A Brief Account of the Services Rendered  
BY THE  
Second Regiment Delaware Volunteers  
IN THE  
War of the Rebellion

67  
BY

ROBERT G. SMITH

SECOND LIEUTENANT CO. A, SECOND DELAWARE REGIMENT

Read before the Historical Society of Delaware, April 19, 1909

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LIEUT. ROBERT G. SMITH

## A Brief Account of the Services Rendered

BY THE

### Second Regiment Delaware Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion.

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*Mr. President and Members of the Historical Society of  
Delaware:*

On the 24th of December, 1908, an article, written by me, appeared in the "National Tribune," of Washington, D. C., giving a partial account of the services of the Second Regiment, Delaware Volunteers, in the Civil War. I mailed a copy to your Society hoping that it would be read by some of your members, and would prove of interest. Your president, Mr. Conrad, read it, and wrote me a letter asking if I would not add somewhat to the article, and read it before your Society. With many misgivings as to my ability to do justice to the subject before your learned Society, I consented to comply with his request.

I was handicapped in my preparation of the article for the "Tribune" by the lack of material to prepare it properly. In my hunt for the documents to make a readable and authentic narrative, I wrote to the Adjutant General of the State, and was informed by him that he had no records of the Regiment except the muster out rolls, which, he said, were very meagre, and did not contain the information de-

sired by me; and referred me to the Adjutant General of the United States to whom I wrote for information. He referred me to the Newtown Library, which contained about 150 volumes of the "Official Records of the Rebellion," and I obtained access to them. The statistics that I obtained from these records are correct, although I did not write them out elaborately.

Col. Fox wrote a book, the title of which was "300 Fighting Regiments;" but its title should have been "300 Among the Fighting Regiments;" and to be listed with the "300" it was required that a regiment should have suffered a loss of 100 killed,—being 10 per cent. The Second Delaware lost in killed, and those who died of wounds, ninety-nine officers and enlisted men during its three years of service in the field.

When in 1861 the Southern States seceded from the Union, and commenced hostilities by firing on the "Star of the West," a steamer sent to relieve the garrison at Fort Sumter, the dark cloud of rebellion against the national authorities spread as a pall over the Northern States, and struck terror to the hearts of all loyal citizens; and well it might, for the North was unprepared for war. The ships of our navy had been ordered into Southern waters, the arsenals in the North had been depleted of their guns and ammunition; the treasury robbed and the North wholly unprepared for the conflict. After the first shock was over, the loyal people of the country rose in their might to crush out the rebellion.

While the regiment was encamped at Camp Wilkes, Drummondstown, Va., the printers in the command started a paper, called *The Regimental Flag*, after taking possession

of a rebel printing office in that town. Capt. Joseph M. Barr, of your city, was the editor, and in an editorial in the issue of January 23rd, 1862, appeared the following, which I think may be of enough interest to you to quote entire. It is entitled: *The Confusion of Regiments*—"In connection with the regiments furnished by Delaware for the present war, there is a very important matter that ought to be considered by all Delawareans, and the War Department at Washington. It is the confusion that the designations of these regiments has been allowed to fall into by those persons who had them in charge. When the rebellion first broke out President Lincoln issued his proclamation calling upon the different States for troops. Delaware was directed to furnish one regiment of volunteers to serve for three months. This regiment was furnished. It was known as, and *was, in reality*, the First Regiment Delaware Volunteers. It served out the campaign for which it was called out, and was honorably discharged from the service. While the First Regiment was in the field, another regiment was raised in Delaware, which was the *Second* Regiment Delaware Volunteers; and is at present on duty at this camp. Delaware had thus far then furnished *two* regiments. After the First was discharged, the Second being then in the field, a *Third* Regiment was started in Delaware and filled up, and when organized was designated by its officers as the *First* Regiment Delaware Volunteers. This regiment is now stationed at, or near Fortress Monroe. Now, how can this regiment be properly designated as the *First* seeing that it was raised subsequent to the time that the *true* First Regiment had been organized, served out its term of service and had been disbanded; and a second

regiment being then actually in the field? It cannot be contended that it was a *reorganization* of the First; for scarcely any of the officers and few of the men who composed the original first regiment are now in the so-called First. For the Colonel of the *true* First Regiment is now General of the brigade stationed here, and there is no less than four Captains, five or six Lieutenants and a large number of Sergeants, Corporals, Musicians and Privates who belonged to the First Regiment, now in this; so that, in this behalf, our Second Regiment has a better claim to be known as a reorganization than that known at present as the *First*, for there is not above three of the original Captains at present in that regiment. It may be said, also, that by designating the regiment now at Fortress Monroe as the *First* instead of the *Third*, it is made to appear that Delaware has sent only two regiments to the war, when, in reality, it has sent *three*. Again it will create great confusion when the history of Delaware in regard to this war comes to be written by this matter of *two* First Regiments; and so it deprives those officers, who, on the breaking out of the rebellion, so promptly stepped forward to the assistance of the Government, of all the credit to which they are so justly entitled and consigns them, as far as their official military capacity is concerned, to everlasting oblivion.

“To all these consequences we enter our protest; for as an officer of the original *First* Regiment we feel deeply interested, as well for ourselves as the honor and glory of our gallant little State. We think it is due to history as well as the officers, who composed the *First* Delaware Regiment, that the proper authorities should take the matter in hand,





LIEUT. COL. DAVID L. STRICKER



COL. WILLIAM P. BAILEY

and have the proper designations applied to the several regiments.

“In closing, we will mention this fact, viz: That if this (the Second) Regiment and the so-called First Regiment were thrown together in brigade, the strange anomaly—in military affairs—would be presented of the officers of the Second Regiment ranking those of the *First*, and the *Second* taking the precedence of the First on all occasions.”

The Second Delaware Regiment was the first body of volunteer infantry in the State to form under the call for three years' men. Its regimental organization dated from May 21st, 1861, but its ranks were not entirely filled up until five months later on account of lack of State aid in this work. This cause also led to the taking of companies from outside of the State in order that its organization might be more speedily completed. Companies B, D, and G, were from Philadelphia, and Company C, from Elkton, Maryland. The remainder of the companies were filled up at Wilmington, where headquarters had been established by the organizer of the regiment, Capt. Henry W. Wharton, of the United States Army. The men rendezvoused at Camp Brandywine, near Wilmington, in the summer of 1861, and when the roster was completed the following were the officers:

Colonel—Henry W. Wharton.

Lieutenant Colonel—William P. Bailey.

Major—Robert Andrews.

Adjutant—Samuel Canby.

Quartermaster—George Plunket.

Surgeon—David H. Houston.

Assistant Surgeon—William Babb.

*SECOND DELAWARE VOLUNTEERS.*

Sergeant Major—William H. Brady.  
Hospital Steward—John Claypool.  
Quartermaster Sergeant—Benj. F. Hedges.  
Commissary Sergeant—Henry C. Nelson.

## COMPANY A.

Captain—David L. Stricker.  
First Lieutenant—Thomas M. Wenie.  
Second Lieutenant—John Evans.

## COMPANY B.

Captain—Charles H. Christman.  
First Lieutenant—Theo. Geyer.  
Second Lieutenant—William Fennimore.

## COMPANY C.

Captain—Benj. F. Rickets.  
First Lieutenant—W. F. A. Torbert.  
Second Lieutenant—John G. Simpers.

## COMPANY D.

Captain—John Perry.  
First Lieutenant—Wm. H. Helmbold.  
Second Lieutenant—Andrew J. Krause.

## COMPANY E.

Captain—Robert E. Moorehouse.  
First Lieutenant—George Helmbold.  
Second Lieutenant—John Bogia.

## COMPANY F.

Captain—Peter McCullough.  
First Lieutenant—Chas. Reynolds.  
Second Lieutenant—Frank K. Duke.

## COMPANY G.

Captain—John Heishley.

First Lieutenant—Chas. D. Foy.

Second Lieutenant—Thomas I. Moore.

## COMPANY H.

Captain—James Plunkett.

First Lieutenant—Lewis Nolen.

Second Lieutenant—John Devinie.

## COMPANY I.

Captain—Samuel Wood.

First Lieutenant—Gideon B. Todd.

Second Lieutenant—John Kelsey.

## COMPANY K.

Captain—Joseph M. Barr.

First Lieutenant—Robert J. Holt.

Second Lieutenant—Charles E. Evans.

On the 17th of September, 1861, eight companies of the regiment left Camp Brandywine and marched to Cambridge, Maryland, where they went into camp of instruction under Brigadier General H. H. Lockwood. Companies I and K joined the command in October and November, 1861, and also prepared for service in the field. The regiment moved with the brigade of General Lockwood to Accomac County, Virginia, December 1st, 1861, and remained in that locality until March 1st, 1862, when it was transferred to Baltimore to do garrison duty. In May, the same year, it joined the Army of the Potomac, under General McClellan, and at the battle of Fair Oaks was assigned to the brigade of General W. H. French. Here the

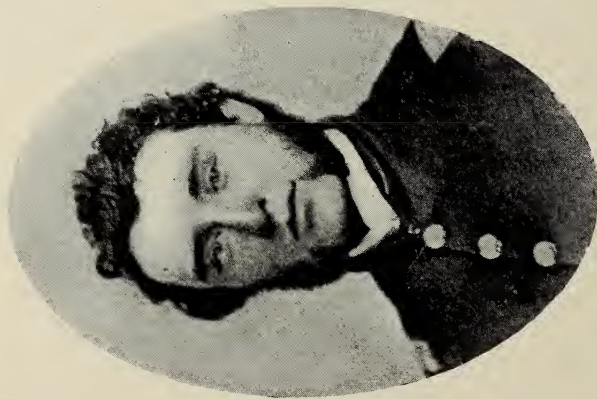
first active field service of the regiment began and continued almost incessantly during the siege of Richmond, participating in the general engagements of Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, Peach Orchard, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill, from June 27th to July 1st, 1862. In the battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862, the regiment held an advanced position and was warmly commended for its bravery.

In relation to this battle I will read a letter from Capt. Wm. H. Helmbold, Company D, written to Capt. Chas. Weiss in relation to a meeting to be held by the Survivors' Association of the Regiment. The subject to be discussed was a visit to that field. It is dated July 23rd, 1890; omitting some personal matters, the letter says: "Antietam battlefield is the one field, above all others, that the Second Delaware should in some way mark. Our work there, in its consequences and effects, was simply tremendous. Very few of us know fully the real consequences and effect of that charge. As individual soldiers we glory in what we did there, but very few understand the condition of things pending just before we made that charge. Hooker, on the right, had been terribly handled; he was wounded, and official reports state that not 500 of his command were together. Burnside, on the left, had been repulsed twice in trying to get over the bridge, and after he succeeded, he was so badly cut up he could make no advance, and was calling for reinforcements. Sumner's, our own corps, had been standing up all day but could make no progress forward. Our whole army appears to have been badly cut up and every available fighting regiment had been put in, and things hung in the balance. Old Dick Richardson, our





LIEUT. WM. H. BRADY



CAPT. WM. H. HELMBOLD

brave old division commander, led us in, not merely to fill up a gap but to make gaps. We smashed everything in our front, we practically cut Lee's line in two. We killed, wounded and captured pretty nearly all there was left of A. P. Hill's Corps, that included on our front the rebel brigade of O. Branch, Mat Prior's and a brigade the general of which I cannot learn. In fact, we had swept our front and there was nothing left of the enemy on that front, but about 150 men supporting the four guns of the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, which we were just on the point of charging, when we got the peremptory order from Adjutant Hatch, of the brigade staff, to come back to the line. We would have had those guns as sure as fate had not this order come. I have read the narrative of the officer who commanded those guns at that time. He had seen our charge and how it had swept everything, and he sent urgent requests for reinforcements for support of his guns, but none came; and as he had seen that nothing had stopped our progress, he made up his mind that he and his guns would be captured. He describes how near we came to him, and then to use his own words, 'How astonished and relieved he was to see us halt and deliberately survey his position, and then, for some unaccountable reason, shoulder arms and march back to our lines.' We heretofore only know of these things simply as a brilliant charge, but know very little of their effect. McClellan had had near three days of the most anxious of his whole military experience. In vain had he attempted to gain advantages in every part of the field without the least success. The Rebs were fighting a defensive fight, and if they succeeded in holding their lines, the victory was to be theirs. As I

have said before our army had been terribly cut up, and every available fighting regiment had been put in but without any substantial success, and unquestionably things began to look dubious, but we went in and made that charge, and when it was completed the entire aspect of this battle had changed. McClellan then saw that he had his enemy exhausted, and had he had any fresh fighting troops at hand he would have rushed them in. Our success was seen from various points in our army and gave a renewed vigor and courage to our badly cut up forces. Lee, Longstreet and the other principal Reb generals had seen or heard of it, and Lee at once commenced to concentrate on points that were important to hold and to enable him to get away. Longstreet, in particular, was deeply impressed with the effect of what might be the consequences resulting from the gap we had cut out of their lines, for had we been permitted to press but a little further we would have gained the Sharpsburg road, and if our line had been strengthened we would have had Lee cut in two. Unfortunately we had no field officer with us that day by whom the name of our regiment and the work we had done could have been reported; consequently the country knows nothing of the regiment whose work that day brought about such a tremendous change in this battle. Writers of magazine articles and for newspapers, who were on the high ground back of us at McClellan's headquarters, have described this charge as the most gallant and effective of any battle, and they testify how it, in its palpable effect, gave the first assurance at McClellan's anxious headquarters, that, notwithstanding the Union Army was terribly cut up, victory was at last ours. But these writers did not know the name of

the regiment that had wrought this great change in the battle in its very darkest hour, and so they have described this charge of ours as a splendid charge 'by several regiments of Union troops,' and thus, though our work has received the utmost credit as a feat of arms, yet historically our name is not mentioned; therefore, it is most fitting that we should go to Antietam and put tablets, even if they are but those that we can scratch out ourselves, that will serve to show the important work we did that day—not in foolish egotism; but that a proper pride may be satisfied and that interesting historical facts may be made known; no matter how crude we may make our tablets and markers, distinguished people, or people of influence, are frequently visiting this battleground and they can thus learn what regiment it was that made that charge over the 'Bloody Road' up the hill beyond, and clean out to near 'Pipers House' a long distance beyond our front lines and capturing everything in its front, cutting Lee's army in two. And besides, we can state that this is not the unverified boast of our regiment, but that we have as witnesses an immense portion of the army on our right who saw us break forward from the main line and watched us as we went forward clear over the fields in front, and that when we came in so impressed were they with the gallant work we had done that on entering in our lines again they received us with cheers and clapping of hands. There is not another regiment of that army which, had they participated in that charge, and now knowing its important results, but what long ago would have had that portion of the Antietam battlefield planted with tablets of their own work; and who will say that they should not do so? Why, then, should we not do so?"

In the charge referred to above, the regiment captured the colors of the 16th Mississippi Confederate Regiment. Scharf's History gives the loss of the Second Delaware as 77 killed and wounded out of 350 men taken into action.

The battle of Fredericksburg was the most eventful incident in the history of the regiment, and here, too, it was in the forward part of the fray, and covered the retreat from that hotly contested field so ably that it attracted the attention of the army. Soon after a contemporary writer spoke of the regiment as follows: "The regiment designated upon the army register as the 'Second Delaware,' but more familiarly known among the veterans of the Army of the Potomac as the 'Crazy Delawares,' was the first regiment raised in the State for three years or during the war. It has been prominent in the Grand Army of the Potomac. It is commanded by Col. W. P. Bailey, a cool, brave and experienced officer, who possesses the confidence and affection of his men, and will never disappoint the hopes of his country. At the battle of Gaines' Mill, (White) Oak Swamp, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, Antietam and Fredericksburg, this gallant regiment, now reduced to about two hundred and fifty effective men, fought with a valor and self-sacrificing devotion that won the applause of the whole army. It was the last to leave the field at the Bloody Fight at Gaines' Mill, and at Fredericksburg, it led the charge of Zook's Brigade and laid its dead nearer the rebel works than any other regiment."—*New York Times*, January 13th, 1863.

In the charge at Fredericksburg, above mentioned, Col. Bailey was wounded by a fragment of shell, but was soon again able to lead the "Crazy Delawares" to further deeds

of glory. The regiment was at Chancellorsville, May 2d, and performed its full share in the sanguinary struggle at Gettysburg. The division to which it belonged met and turned back the advancing Confederates, driving them beyond the base of Little Round Top, when it was in turn forced to retreat. On the third day of July, a line of the Second Delawares, led by Capt. John Evans, of Company A, took more prisoners than the number of men under his command, and the regiment was in advance of the Union forces which pursued the stricken enemy. This disposition to lead the advance upon the foes of the Union was continued in the campaign of the fall and winter of 1863, the regiment especially distinguishing itself at Bristoe Station and Mine Run. In the later campaign it was in all the general engagements of the Second Army Corps, of which it was a part until the expiration of its service in the summer of 1864.

Of the original officers Col. Wharton resigned in August, 1862, when Lieut. Col. Bailey was promoted to the Colonelcy, serving in that office until May 12th, 1864. In November, 1863, Major Stricker was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment, and Capt. Ricketts became Major. Capt. Peter McCullough, of your city, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel after the battle of Spottsylvania, and was wounded at Cold Harbor. At Petersburg he was wounded so badly as to be taken from the field for dead and was sent home. For three months he lay between life and death, during which time the term of the regiment expired.

I am indebted to "Scharf's History of Delaware" for part of the information contained in the foregoing account of the regiment. A matter that I wish to speak of can be found

on Page 151 of the History of the First Delaware Regiment, written by Capt. Wm. P. Seville of that regiment. I quote as follows: "By order of the War Department the following were announced as the battles in which the First Delaware Regiment was engaged: *Fair Oaks, Gaines' Mill, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Polopotomy, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Deep Bottom, Ream's Station and Boydtown Road.* To this list should be added Auburn, Locust Grove, Po River, Morton's Ford, Strawberry Plains, Hatcher's Run, High Bridge, and Lee's Surrender. *The first six battles mentioned in official orders are accredited to the First Delaware by reason of the consolidation with it, July 1, 1864, of a portion of the Second Delaware Regiment, which bore an honorable share in those engagements.*"

The above quotation strikes me as being very *cool!* But I can assure you that the six engagements mentioned were very *hot!*

The First Delaware did good service on many fields, and is entitled to all honor, but I hardly think it is a *Square Deal* to have the six battles mentioned above credited to them.

The different companies of the Second Regiment were mustered out of service as follows: Co. A, at Wilmington, Del., July 1st, 1864. Co. B, at Wilmington, Del., July 1st, 1864, by O. G. Swain, Captain and A. A. G. Co. C, at City Point, Va., June 23rd, 1864, by Thomas B. Hizar, Captain First Delaware Volunteers and A. C. M. Co. D, at camp near City Point, Va., July 1st, 1864, by Thomas B. Hizar, Captain First Delaware Volunteers and A. C. M. Co. E,

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CAPT. THOS. M. WENIE



CAPT. JOHN EVANS

July 1st, 1864. Co. F, at camp near City Point, Va., July 1st, 1864, by Thomas B. Hizar, Captain First Delaware Volunteers and A. C. M. Co. G, at City Point, Va., July 1st, 1864, by Thomas B. Hizar, Captain First Delaware Volunteers and A. C. M. Co. H, near Petersburg, Va., August 12th, 1864, by R. C. Embler, Captain 59th New York Volunteers and A. C. M. of Second Div., Second A. C. Co. I, near Petersburg, Va., September 14th, 1864, by A. C. Embler, Captain 59th New York Volunteers and A. C. M. of Second Div., Second A. C. Co. K, near Petersburg, Va., October 1st, 1864, by F. B. Doter, Captain 14th C. V. and A. C. M. Second Div., Second A. C.

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I will now read the article above referred to as published in "The National Tribune," entitled "A Regiment to be Proud of." I was limited in space, and was compelled to condense many points that, no doubt, would have been of interest. One thing can be said of it—that it is truthful.

I have had it in contemplation for several months to write a sketch of the Second Delaware Regiment and in reading your interesting and valuable paper (which I thoroughly peruse every week), the article under the caption of "Not a Fighting Regiment," under date of October 8th, 1908, written by Comrade C. E. Stevens, Captain of the 77th N. Y., of Westport, N. Y., it deeply impressed me, as I had intended to write in the same vein about "Fox's 300 Fighting Regiments."

I began to fear that many people will think there were only 300 fighting regiments in the whole army, during the war of the rebellion, if one not mentioned in Col. Fox's book don't come to the front and make a claim that there

were others, and many of them, who had a share in the suppression of the rebellion, and fought just as bravely and underwent the same hardships in defense of the flag of our Union. I do not wish to deprive the gallant "300" of one iota of the glory and honor they won and are justly entitled to, but there were others in the army, who fought just as valiantly in defense of our Union, and I think it is no more than right that they should share in the glory and honor.

I cannot agree with Comrade Stevens (of course, he was only using a little justifiable sarcasm) when he says: "But we were not a fighting regiment." The evidence he produced proved the contrary. I hope this is a sufficient apology for what follows:

#### EARLY ENROLLMENT.

The Second Delaware was enrolled on the 22nd day of May, 1861, to serve for three years, unless sooner discharged. Capt. H. W. Wharton, of the Regular Army, was commissioned Colonel, and the regiment was put in camp at Camp Brandywine, near Wilmington, Del. After some time devoted to "licking us into the shape of soldiers," the regiment was assigned to General H. H. Lockwood's Brigade, and started on its way to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia to drive out or suppress the Confederates, who were forming companies, and drilling them all down the Peninsula, and were making brave threats of what they were going to do with any Yankee army that had the temerity to pollute the "sacred soil" of Virginia. It was estimated that their forces mustered from 3,000 to 3,500 men, and our boys thought they might have a little "scrap" with the Johnnies down in that benighted region; but when

their pickets discovered that our brigade was advancing on their works—they had thrown up quite a number of them—they did not stand on the order of their going, but “skedaddled” toward Drummondtown, the county seat of Accomac County, and the home of Governor Wise. When we reached that point, we found them not—for they had kept on going, and quite a number succeeded in crossing the bay, and joining the Confederates at Richmond, while not a few surrendered their arms and took the oath of allegiance to the United States Government. Many of them took the first opportunity to go South. We captured eight cannon, and secured a number of small arms, and a lot of ammunition. We didn’t do much fighting in that campaign, but it was not our fault; we were hunting for it.

#### WITH THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

After wintering in that section we were sent to Baltimore, and from there, May 31st, 1862, were sent to join the Army of the Potomac, and assigned to the Second Corps, General Richardson’s First Division. At this time, the strength of the regiment was 763 enlisted men and officers. Now we were in the company of “Fighting Regiments,” and we had our share of it. We were in General French’s Brigade. It was three days after the battle of Fair Oaks that we joined the Army of the Potomac.

During the retreat (Seven Days) from before Richmond, when General McClellan changed his base to Harrison’s Landing, the regiment was engaged several times and lost two enlisted men killed, two enlisted men wounded and 32 captured or missing. Quite a number of those reported as missing, landed in Southern prisons and died there; others

so reported, were never with the regiment again, and the presumption is, they were killed.

#### AT ANTIETAM.

At the battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862, the regiment was in Colonel Brooke's Brigade, Fourth, First Division, Second Corps. (We were still among the "Fighting Regiments.") The brigade consisted of the 52nd and 57th N. Y., 53rd Pa., (Colonel Brooke's regiment), and the Second Delaware. General Richardson commanded the division. General McClellan, in his report of the battle (I quote from official records), says: "The ground over which General Richardson and French were fighting was very irregular, intersected by numerous ravines, hills covered with growing corn, enclosed by stone walls, behind which the enemy could advance, unobserved, upon any exposed point of our lines. Taking advantage of this, the enemy attempted to gain the right of Richardson's position in a cornfield near Roulett's house, where the division had become separated from that of General French's. A change of front by the 52nd N. Y. and the Second Delaware, of Colonel Brooke's Brigade, under Colonel Frank (52nd N. Y.), and the attack by the 53rd Pa., sent further to the right to close this gap in the line, and the movement of the 132nd Pa. and the 7th Va., of French's division, before referred to, drove the enemy from the cornfield and restored the lines."

The Second Delaware lost twelve enlisted men killed, two officers, and 42 men wounded, and two captured or missing; total, 58 men. The brigade lost in the aggregate, 305 men; total loss of the division, 1,165, of the Second

Corps, 5,138. There is no doubt but that we were with the "Fighting Regiments" then.

At the battle of Fredericksburg, December 11th to 15th, 1862, the regiment was in the Third Brigade, General (then Colonel) Samuel K. Zook, commanding; General Hancock's First Division; General E. V. Sumner, commanding Second Corps.

General Hancock, in his report of the battle, had this to say of the Second Delaware: "Colonel Wm. P. Bailey, commanding the Second Delaware, was wounded. The strength of this regiment when it went into action was 19 commissioned officers and 225 enlisted men. The loss was seven officers wounded and 47 enlisted men killed, wounded and missing. The Second Delaware had three commanders during the battle, the first two having been wounded." *Yes, we did a little fighting there!*

Of course, anyone who has read the history of the "Slaughter Pen" at Fredericksburg, December 11th to 15th, 1862, is posted in relation thereto and all the comrades who participated in that bloody battle, need not be told of the details. Our regiment had four enlisted men killed, seven officers and 34 men wounded, and nine enlisted men captured or missing. Totals, 54. The loss of the brigade was 527; the division loss, 2,032, and the corps (Second) loss aggregated 4,114.

#### CHANCELLORSVILLE.

At the battle of Chancellorsville, May 1st to 3rd, 1863, the regiment was in the Fourth Brigade, Colonel John R. Brooke, commanding; First Division, General W. S. Han-

cock, commanding; General Darius M. Couch, commanding the Second Corps.

I make the following extract from the official report of Colonel Brooke about the movements of his brigade on May 3rd, 1863: "At about 9.00 a. m. our right was evidently beaten back. I received the order of the General commanding to move directly to my rear and meet the enemy. When I arrived on the ground, General Caldwell's Brigade was interposed and I was ordered to occupy his old place in the rifle pits. I remained there until 1 p. m. During this time the whole or a large part of Twelfth Corps passed to the rear, when by direction of the General commanding, I moved to the plain, near the Chancellor House, and formed line between two batteries—Pettit's on my left and a brass battery on my right. Here we experienced a most destructive fire of artillery, many officers being killed and wounded, but the presence of Generals Couch and Hancock seemed to add to the veteran bravery of the troops—none wavered. While lying in this position, Chancellor House took fire. It was filled with wounded, and after strenuous exertions, the wounded were removed by a company of the Second Delaware, Lieutenant Wilson of General Hancock's staff, having charge of the party. It was in the execution of this duty that the veteran Captain McCullough was dangerously, and the gallant Lieutenant Jordan (both of the Second Delaware) mortally wounded. Major Patton, of the 145th Pa., was also dangerously wounded while occupying this position." Lieutenant Colonel David L. Stricker commanded the regiment at this time. The loss of the regiment at this point was one officer and one enlisted man killed; three officers and 16 enlisted

men wounded, and two officers and 38 enlisted men captured or missing. Total, 61.

#### AN APPALLING SCENE.

General St. Clair A. Mulholland, Major commanding the 116th Pa. (battalion), Irish Brigade, now pension agent at Philadelphia, in an article published in "The Philadelphia Inquirer," October 7th, 1894, writes as follows: "The burning of the Chancellor House, during the battle, was one of the most appalling scenes of the war. The house stood between the lines, and on Sunday morning, May 3rd, five guns of Lepin's 5th Maine Battery took up a position in the orchard to the right of the house, and opened fire. General Lee happened to be in the woods, opposite, and he directed 24 guns to open on Lepine—in a moment, the plateau was a perfect hell—the Confederate shells tore up the ground around the guns, killing the men and horses. Captain Lepine and Lieutenant Kirby were both killed, and the men were blown up and torn to pieces by the exploding caissons, and bleeding limbs fell to the ground with the apple blossoms. During this awful scene, the Chancellor House caught fire, and the flames and smoke were soon pouring out of the doors and windows; some brave boys of the Second Delaware dashed into the burning buildings and began dragging out the wounded, the house was full of them, and lay the bleeding forms on the grass. The rescuers stuck to the work until the house was a mass of flames. The family, that had been sheltered in the cellar, ran out on the porch. Mrs. Fannie L. Chancellor, with her two daughters, a son, and several servants, stood there for a moment, stunned and bewildered. Colo-

nel Joseph Dickson, of Hooker's staff, and Captain William P. Wilson, of General Hancock's staff, ran forward, and with a courteous bow, took a lady on each arm, the others following, and escorted them into our lines.

"One old mammy, colored, refused to come into the Union lines, ran across the field, and got safely over to the Confederates. The burning of the house, roaring of the flames, crash of the musketry and thunder of the artillery, mingled with the cheers and yells of the combatants, the helpless women and children fleeing from death, made a scene of barbaric grandeur that the world seldom sees, and the like of which, let us hope, our country will never witness again."

I was an actor in this scene, and it is not overdrawn. Yes, I have a right to think that the Second Delaware was a "fighting regiment."

The regimental loss in this battle was one officer and one enlisted man killed; three officers and 16 enlisted men wounded; two officers and 38 enlisted men captured or missing. Total, 61.

#### AT GETTYSBURG.

In the battle of Gettysburg, on July 2nd, 1863, the regiment was in the same brigade as at Chancellorsville. Between 3.30 and 4.00 o'clock in the afternoon, a desperate assault was made on the left of the line, near the Wheatfield (now historic), and the Devil's Den, and General Hancock double-quickened the First Division to that point to repulse the enemy. Our brigade (the Fourth), charged through the Wheatfield, and the woods beyond, now known as "Rose Grove," and drove the Confederates before them, and

*reached the farthest point gained by any of the Union troops during the day, capturing many prisoners, and it held that advanced position until the enemy were discovered flanking us (in fact, were in our rear), and the brigade was successful in retiring and carrying off many of our wounded and a number of prisoners. In this charge, we lost nearly half of our brigade. It was a desperate effort by the enemy to break through our lines and get possession of Little Round Top, the key to the position, but they did not wholly succeed, although we were compelled to fall back a little beyond the Wheatfield. The regiment lost in this charge, two officers and nine enlisted men killed; seven officers and 54 enlisted men wounded; 12 enlisted men captured or missing, making a total of 84.*

The writer of this sketch was wounded in this engagement, and lay on the battlefield until nine or ten o'clock of the morning of the 3rd. It was a night that will be impressed on my mind while I live. I was from this time incapacitated from taking any further part in the war.

#### BRISTOE STATION.

At the battle of Auburn and Bristoe Station, October 14th, 1863, the regiment was commanded by Captain Peter H. McCullough, and the loss sustained was one enlisted man wounded, and one officer and 25 enlisted men missing or captured. The brigade comprised the following regiments: Second Delaware, 64th N. Y., 53rd and 145th Pa., Colonel John R. Brooke, of the 53rd Pa., commanding; the total loss of the brigade was 115 men; total loss of the division, 154 men.

Captain Peter H. McCullough, in his report of the part taken by the regiment in this affair says: "The enemy's batteries were briskly engaged in shelling our batteries and the woods, when orders came for us to march to the left, double-quick, deploy as skirmishers, and follow the column, which was far in advance. The rebels firing solid shot and shells at us, with precision, at the turn of the road, we fear that many were killed and wounded, as many were there missing." The Fourth Brigade was the rear guard of the corps on this occasion.

#### MINE RUN.

In the Mine Run (Va.) campaign, November 26th to December 2nd, 1863, two enlisted men were wounded. The brigade had only three regiments in this affair: Second Delaware, 64th N. Y., and 53rd Pa., and the aggregate loss of the brigade was 13; the corps, 282.

Extract from the report of Colonel W. P. Bailey, commanding Second Delaware: "The regiment broke camp at daylight on the 25th (November) and marched with the brigade across the Rapidan, at Germanna Ford, and the same night encamped at Flat Run. \* \* \* \* 27th, moved to Robertson's Tavern, where it encamped until the 28th instant, when it moved toward the enemy, taking position on the right of the brigade, where it remained until the morning of the 29th instant, and moved on the morning of the 30th. The same afternoon, received orders from Colonel Brooke, commanding brigade, to deploy as skirmishers and move toward the enemy, my right resting on the railroad, which I did, under a brisk fire from the rebel battery and sharp shooters."

## SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE.

At Spotsylvania Court House, May 8th to 21st, 1864, the regimental loss was as follows: Two officers and four enlisted men killed; one officer and 23 enlisted men wounded; 11 enlisted men captured or missing. Total, 41.

Brevet Major-General John R. Brooke, commanding the brigade, in his report of the action, says: "Lieutenant Colonel Stricker, Second Delaware (in command of the 53rd Pa. to which regiment I had assigned him, on the night of the 9th), deserves great credit for the gallant and soldierly manner in which he fought his regiment. To Colonel Beaver, Lieutenant Colonel Stricker, and Lieutenant Colonel Hammell, I am desirous of calling the attention of the General commanding."

General Hancock in his official report of the engagement said: "I feel that I cannot speak too highly of the soldierly conduct and discipline displayed by Brooke's and Brown's Brigades on this occasion. Attacked by an entire division of the enemy (Heth's), they repeatedly beat him back, holding their ground with unyielding courage, until they were ordered to withdraw, when they retired with such order and steadiness as to merit the highest praise. Colonel James A. Beaver, 148th Pa., and Lieutenant Colonel David L. Stricker, Second Delaware, are particularly mentioned by Colonel Brooke, for marked services, and conspicuous courage." He further says: "Colonel Coon's 14th Ind., Lieutenant Colonel Stricker, Second Delaware, and Lieutenant Colonel Merriam, 16th Mass., three brave and able officers, were killed while leading their men into action during the storming of the enemy's works at Spotsylvania on the morning of the 12th of May."

In the operations embracing June 15th to 30th, the regiment lost three enlisted men killed; two officers and 12 enlisted men wounded; and one officer and 28 men captured or missing.

LIEUT. WILLIAM H. BRADY.

Lieutenant William H. Brady, after serving with the First Delaware Regiment, three months' men, enlisted in the Second Delaware Regiment on August 12th, 1861, and was appointed sergeant major and served in that capacity until April 1st, 1862, when he was commissioned a second lieutenant and assigned to Co. I, serving as second lieutenant until October 2d, 1862, when he was promoted to the first lieutenancy of the same company. Vice Lieutenant Gideon B. Todd, deceased. He served with the regiment until May 1st, 1864, when he was appointed an A. D. C. to General F. A. Barlow, commanding the first division, Hancock's Second Corps, serving as an aid on that general's staff until June 22d, 1864, when he was taken prisoner, on that date, in a disastrous engagement which nearly annihilated the first division. He was kept as a prisoner of war until March 1st, 1865, when he was paroled and discharged as a paroled prisoner, and was unable to enter the service again (as no official exchange had been declared) on account of the term of the Second Delaware Regiment having expired, and was not exchanged until after the surrender of Lee at Appomattox Court House, which ended the war.

Lieutenant Brady was a brave and efficient officer, and was always ready for duty. He served continuously from the 18th day of May, 1861, until the 13th day of March,





CAPT. WM. B. SMITH      LIEUT. WM. H. BRADY

1865, being present at and participating in every engagement of the first division, Second Corps, from Fair Oaks to the 22d day of June, 1864. He was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg on the 2d day of July, 1863, but soon returned to his duties at the front.

#### REAM'S STATION.

At Ream's Station, August 25th, 1864, the regiment (reduced to two companies), had one enlisted man wounded and six captured or missing.

#### CASUALTIES.

Following is a recapitulation of the casualties of the regiment, which I have gleaned from the official records:

Officers killed .....	5
Enlisted men killed .....	40
Officers died of wounds .....	1
Enlisted men died of wounds .....	53
Officers wounded .....	23
Enlisted men wounded .....	204
Officers captured or missing .....	4
Enlisted men captured or missing...	165
Died from disease, in prison, etc., officers .....	1
Died from disease, in prison, etc., enlisted men .....	101

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Total .... 597

*Note.*—By deducting 54 men who died from their wounds, from the list of wounded, as reported above, the total loss of the regiment was 543.

The remnant of the regiment was brought to Wilmington, Del., after the expiration of their term of service, in charge of First Lieutenant James W. Leatherbury, Co. A, and mustered out of the service. I think the number was about 75. A few had joined Hancock's Veteran Corps, and continued in the service; how many of them, I am unable accurately to say.

In conclusion, I will say, that although the regiment was not rated among Colonel Fox's "300 Fighting Regiments," I feel very proud of having belonged to the Second Regiment, Delaware Volunteer Infantry!

According to "Scharf's History of Delaware," the roster of the regiment comprised the following:

Field and Staff . . . . .				8
Non-Commissioned Staff . . . . .				4
	Officers.	Enlisted Men.		
Co. A..	5	82	Co. F..	4
" B..	5	89	" G..	5
" C..	6	97	" H..	5
" D..	5	89	" I..	5
" E..	5	74	" K..	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
	26	431		24
Totals of A, B, C, D, E. ....	26	431		431
				<hr/>
				50
Field and Staff. ....	8			864
Non-Com. Staff . . . . .				4
	<hr/>			<hr/>
Totals . . . . .	58			868
				<hr/>
Grand total officers and en-				
listed men . . . . .				926

## LIEUT. COL. STRICKER'S SWORD.

At the close of Mr. Smith's paper he presented to the Historical Society the sword of Lieutenant Colonel David L. Stricker, in the following address:

*"Mr. President and Members of the Society:*

"At the request of my sister, Mrs. Sarah M. Stricker, widow of Lieutenant Colonel David L. Stricker, (Second Delaware Volunteers), I present to you the sword that was worn by him, and was presented by his fellow officers of the regiment, May 18th, 1863, at Falmouth, Va., as a slight token of their appreciation of him as an officer and comrade; and the official records attest that no braver officer ever drew a sword in any cause.

"He was brave almost to rashness; he knew what danger was, but feared it not; he was an ideal soldier; generous to a fault, and endeared himself to the rank and file, as well as to the officers of the regiment, and to all who knew him. When danger was ahead, he did not say: 'Go, boys!' but 'Come, boys, follow me!' and he led the regiment where it was ordered to go.

"At the battle of Antietam, his horse was shot from under him during the charge of the regiment across the 'Bloody Lane' and 'Cornfield,' and out to the 'Roulette House,' on the Sharpsburg Pike. At the battle of Gettysburg, he was wounded in the charge of the regiment through the 'Wheatfield,' and up to the 'Rose House,' and he gave up his life (could any man give anything more dear?) in a charge on the enemy's batteries at Spotsylvania Court House. His record is full of glory, and his name is

an honor to the State of Delaware. I feel sure that his sword is in safe custody."

The sword was received on the part of the Society by President Conrad, who assured the donor that the sword would be safely kept by the Society, and cherished among its most valued possessions.







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