

Battle of
New Market

May 1864

Robert of

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List of Naval Institute

May 11 to June 25 1864

Exercises at New Market
May 15 1864 of Cadets

52 names

Note The officer named
in the exhibit appear to
have been at one time
members of the Institute
The names are published
in full in Pub. File
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No 73 - A. B. O.
due 7-17-53

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San 1. Vol. 37. P. 1



No. 2.

May 15th - June 25th 1864
of Lt. Col. S. S. Shipps, County Cadets, Va. and L. Institute,
New Market, Va. May 11th to June 25th.

Document

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Opinion of the
Commandant of Cadets
of the

Battle of New Market
May 13 1864

Archive Office War Dept
(Oct 15. 1868)

I hereby certify that the
within is a true copy of a
printed pamphlet handed to this
office for the purpose by Col.
J. P. Nicholson of Philadelphia
Pa.

A. P. Tarkenton
6.6.

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Adjutant General's Office
January 12th 1864

General
I received a very interesting
report in regard to the Virginia
Military Institute and its history
and its various relations to
the United States, as well as its
importance, and that it be
communicated at your earliest
convenience.

Very respectfully,
Wm. H. Richardson

Wm. H. Richardson, Esq. Wash.

over

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Adjutant General's Office
 Cambridge, Mass. 1865.

General: I received a very interesting
 report in regard to the Virginia
 Military Institute, and in the legislative
 assembly. It is a most interesting and
 important matter, in which it is
 respectfully suggested that it be
 communicated at some public con-
 vention.

Very res. &c. &c.

Wm. H. Richardson, &c.

Wm. H. Richardson, &c.

Over

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Head Quarters, Military Institute,
 Cambridge, Mass. - Kansas
 January 11th, 1865.

General: I have the honor to present
 herewith the official report of Lieut.
 Col. W. H. Richardson, Adjutant of Cadets,
 submitted on account of the part
 borne by the works of cadets, under
 his command, in the battle of New
 Market, Va. 1864, with a list of
 the decorations, and of the subsequent
 actions of the cadets, to June 27th 1864.
 This report is valuable to the com-
 mand, and forms an interesting his-
 torical memorial.

Great credit is due to the committee
 among the professors and assistant
 professors of the institution since
 April 21st, 1864, which presents in a
 conspicuous light the part borne by
 them in our great struggle.

Killed:

Prof. J. F. Jackson	Prof. Natl. & Gen. History	Battle of Chancellorsville
Prof. Wm. H. Richardson	Prof. Applied Mechanics	Battle of Winchester
Prof. W. H. Langdon	Prof. of Languages	Battle of Cedar Mountain
Prof. S. D. Williams	Do.	Do.
		Battle of Richmond

On the morning of the 13th I received
orders to march.

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In daylight on the road to Haverhill, taking position in the column on the right of Echols' brigade. We marched eighteen miles, and encamped; moved at daylight on the 14th, marched sixteen miles, and encamped. At 12 o'clock on the night of the 14th, we received orders to prepare to march immediately, without loss of time, and as unobtrusively as possible. We moved, going north at half past one o'clock, taking position in the general column in rear of Echols' brigade, being followed by the column of artillery, under the command of Major M. Davenport. Having accomplished a distance of six miles, and approached the position of the enemy, as indicated by occasional skirmishing, with his pickets in front, a halt was called, and we remained in the side of the road two or three hours, in the midst of a heavy fall of rain. The General having determined to receive the attack of the enemy, made his dispositions for battle, posting the corps in reserve. He informed me that he did not

wish to put the rebels on, if he could avoid it, but that should occasion require it, he would use them very freely. He was also pleased to express his confidence in them, and I am happy to believe that his expectations were not disappointed, for when the day of battle came, they were themselves gallant and well.

The enemy not making the attack as was anticipated, or not advancing as rapidly as was desired, the line was shifted into column, and the advance resumed. Here I was informed by one of Civil Brockinridge's aids, that his battalion, together with the battalion of Col. F. M. Edgar, would constitute the reserve, and was instructed to keep the sector of artillery with the column, and to take position, after the dispositions should have been made, 250 or 300 yards in rear of the front line of battle, and to maintain that distance. Having again a flank movement to the left, about two miles south of New Market, the nature of the ground was such as to

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under it impossible that the artillery should continue with the infantry. I did not think it wise to go, the general artillery was in the main road, and to report to Major M'Loughlin; after that, I did not see the action of artillery, until near the close of the engagement. Major M'Loughlin under whose command they moved, was thought to break off the action in such circumstances. I was surprised they had done their duty. Continuing the advance on the ground to the left of the main road and south of New Market, at 12 1/2 P.M. we came under the fire of the enemy's batteries. Having advanced a quarter of a mile under the fire, we were halted, and the column was deployed, the march up to this time having been by flank in column. The ground in front was open, with skirts of woods on the left. Here Gen. Brackenridge sent for me, and gave me in person my instructions. The General's plans seem to have undergone some modification. Instead of one line, with a reserve, he formed his infantry in two, artillery

in two and to the right; the cavalry deployed and guarding the right flank, left flank, meeting on a station. Wharton's brigade of infantry constituted the first line. School's brigade the second, the battalion of cadets, brigaded with School's, was the last battalion but one from the left of the second line, Egan's battalion being on the left. The line having been adjusted, the order to advance was passed. Wharton's line advanced, School's followed, at 250 paces in rear. As Wharton's line ascended a knoll, it came in full view of the enemy's batteries, which opened a heavy fire, but not having gotten the range, did but little damage. By the time the second line reached the same ground, the Yankee gunners had gotten the exact range, and their fire began to tell on our line with fearful accuracy. It was here that Captain Hill and others fell. Great gaps were made through the ranks; but the cadets, true to his discipline, would close in to the centre to fill the interval, and push steadily forward. The alignment of

the craters, under this terrible fire, which strewn the ground with killed and wounded for more than a mile, on open ground, would have been creditable even on a field day.

The advance was then continued until, having passed Bushong's house, a mile or more beyond our camp, and still to the left of the main road, the enemy's batteries, at 250 or 300 yards, opened upon us with snipers and case shot, and these long lines of infantry were put into action at the same time. The fire was withering. It seemed impossible that any human creature could escape, and here we suffered our heaviest loss, a great many being wounded, and numbers knocked down, stunned, and temporarily disabled. I was here disabled for a time and the command devolved upon Capt. W. D. Wise, company D. He galloped forward, our lead before this gotten into the front line.

Our line took a position behind a line of fence. A brisk fusillade ensued; a shot a man - and the day was won. The enemy fled in confusion, leaving killed, wounded, artillery and prisoners in our hands. Our men hurried on hot haste, until it became necessary to halt, draw ammunition, and re-establish the lines for the purpose of driving them back their last position on Ende's hill, which they held with snipers and artillery to cover the passage of the river, about a mile or two rear. Our troops charged and took the position without loss. The enemy withdrew, crossed the river, and burnt the bridge. The engagement closed at 6 1/2 P.M. The cadets did their duty, as the long list of casualties will attest. Numerous instances of gallantry could be mentioned; but I have thought it better to refrain from specifying individual cases, for fear of making invidious distinctions, or from want of information, withholding praise where it may have been justly merited.

It had rained almost incessantly during the battle, and at its termination the cattle were well nigh exhausted. Not a horse, and some of the men were dead. For they had lost their shoes & were in the deep mud through which it was necessary to wade, they wore their hard shoes with both unrequiring & ungratifying, which characterized the three soldiers.

The 16th and 17th were devoted to caring for the wounded, and the burial of the dead. On the 17th I received an order from Gen. Buckenridge to report to Gen. Embury, with the request to have the rank of Gen. Buckenridge that the work be relieved from further duty at that time, and be ordered back to the institute. The circumstances of Gen. Embury's situation were such as to render our detention for a time necessary. We were finally ordered by him to proceed to Washington without delay, for the purpose of proceeding by rail to Richmond and abide since to a call of the Secretary of War.

* The list of casualties are found marked B.



Beginning, the corps marched into Johnston on the 21st. Took the cars on the 22nd, reached Richmond on the 23rd, were stationed at Camp Lee until the 25th; were then ordered to report to Maj. Gen. Kautz, ordered by him to camp on intermediate line; on the 28th left Camp Lee, took up camp on Carter's farm on intermediate line, midway between Brooke and Hadson bridge roads; continued in this camp until June 6th; on 6th received orders to return to Lexington, reached Lexington on the 9th; Quakers approached on 10th; drove us out on the 11th; we fell back, taking Lynchburg road; marched to mouth of the North River, and went into camp. Next day (Sunday the 11th), remained in camp until 12 M.; were reported enemy advancing; fell back two miles and took a position at a sharp pass in the mountains, to await the enemy, no enemy came. We were then ordered to Lynchburg; went there; ordered to report to Gen. Harghan; ordered back to Lexington, reached

Leaving on the 25th morning for
London on 17th of June.

Wm. Wood, Surgeon, fully
qualified medical
officer.

Lieut. Col. and Commandant.

Ship. Capt. J. H. Smith.
Superintendent.

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Return of the Corps of Cadets, arranged accord-
ing to Companies, as constituted on the morn-
ing of the 11th May 1864.

X. Field and Staff.

Lieut. Col. W. Wood, commanding corps.
Capt. R. C. Philpott, quartermaster & commissary.
D^r Geo. Ross, assistant surgeon.
Lieut. Geo. Norton, adjutant-battalion.
W. H. Hyatt, assistant quartermaster.
Sergeant Major R. E. Woodbridge.
Quartermaster sergeant Davenport.

Companies. A.

1. H. A. Hise, captain.	4. Host H. 4 th sergeant.
2. C. M. Hardy, 1 st lieutenant.	
3. William Morrow, 2 nd lieutenant.	1. Rogers, 1 st corporal.
	2. Frothingham, 2 nd corporal.
1. Eiskine Ross, C. S.	3. Macdonald, 3 rd corporal.
2. Duncan, 2 nd sergeant.	4. Shute, 4 th corporal.
3. Douglas, 3 rd sergeant.	