

### **CW/VFM-13: *Brigadier General John C. Caldwell***

A copy of Brigadier General John C. Caldwell's report on the activity of his division (1<sup>st</sup> Div. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps. U.S.A) during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the battle of Gettysburg. Also, two typed transcriptions of the manuscript. Ms. 6pp. TMs 8pp.

- Arrived on the morning of July 2<sup>nd</sup>. General Hancock places them to the left of the 2<sup>nd</sup> division in columns of regiments by brigades.
- Early afternoon, ordered to reinforce 3<sup>rd</sup> corps, which had engaged Confederate troops near the Emmetsburg Road. They encounter a column of the 5<sup>th</sup> corps already en route to do the same and are placed back into line.
- Between 4 and 5 pm they are ordered to report to General Sykes. Caldwell's aide, Lt. Cross is dispatched to find him, but fails. An unknown staff officer—Caldwell speculates Sykes' Adjutant General—finds them and places them in line to the right of the 5<sup>th</sup> corps and left of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- They are ordered to drive the Confederates back across a wheat field.
- Caldwell orders 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade under Colonel Cross to advance in the line with their left flank anchored in the nearby woods. They encounter Confederate troops and drive them across the wheat field. He places the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade to the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the right of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and adjoining the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps. The 4<sup>th</sup> brigade is kept in reserve.
- They drive the Confederates back over “difficult and rocky ground.”
- 1<sup>st</sup> brigade is out of ammunition and is relieved by Colonel Brooke. He gains the crest of a hill “which was afterward gained by the whole of [the] line.” They halt here and Caldwell calls upon General Barnes to send a brigade in support. Barnes sends Colonel Sweitzer's Brigade.
- To his left, General Ayres has not advanced as far as he did and hurries to catch up, but then to his right the line broke and ran, and he is being flanked.
- He falls back and takes a position behind a stone wall until the 12<sup>th</sup> corps comes to relieve him. Then General Hancock has him resume the first position he held in reserve that day and they wait until morning.

- In the morning, they formed the division into one line and begin to “throw up breastworks,” which protect them from a fierce artillery battery about noon. It lasts for an hour and only one man is killed.
- The Confederates launch an infantry assault against the center of his line. They are largely broken up by Federal artillery and when they reach Caldwell’s line, most of the rest surrender.
- Caldwell reports that Brigadier General Zook and Colonel Cross of the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire were mortally wounded.
- Colonel Roberts of the 140<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania and Lieutenant Colonel Merwin of the 27<sup>th</sup> Connecticut are killed in action.
- Caldwell then commends the following: Colonel McKeen of the 81<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Colonel Hapgood of the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire, Lieutenant Colonel Broady of the 61<sup>st</sup> New York, Colonel Kelly unit unnamed, Lieutenant Colonel Frazer of the 140<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Colonel Chapman of the 57<sup>th</sup> New York, Colonels Brown and Bailey unit unnamed, Lieutenant Cross of his staff, Lieutenant Wilson also of his staff, and finally Majors Scott and Hancock of his staff. Caldwell then recommends his orderly, Corporal Uriah N. Parmalee from Company D of the 6<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry, for a promotion.

**Keywords:** Union – East; Papers - Military; Army – Infantry;  
Soldier – Generals; Gettysburg – Battle

**Location:** Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives,  
Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

**See also:** [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)