Head Quarters Colonel's
Brigade, Camp near
Manchester 13th Oct. 1862

Captain,

I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken in the Battle of Sharpsburg on the 17th ult. by Colonel's Brigade, 2nd S. V. with the Command of which devolved on me by his being in Command of the Eleventh on the morning of the battle. I was ordered by Genl. Thomas to place the Brigade across the road from Sharpe's to McMechenville at the Stone Bridge on the Antietam Creek and to defend the bridge. 

I received this order from the right Commissary at 4 o'clock, and commenced to execute it when I received another order from him to detach two regiments of the Brigade to send them toward Williamsport in pursuit of the enemy's cavalry which the night before had escaped from Harper's Ferry to the vicinity of our Wagon Train and the 2nd, 4th, 17th, 18th, and 19th.
off under Col. McClellan on the
river. They left me for the defense
of the bridge only two small regi-
ments, the 2d Va. and Col. Hoare, 1st Va. 70th Gene., under
Col. Inn. B. Cummings. With these
two regiments, I proceeded to the
bridge. The next day the bridge was
entered by the forces of Gen. McClellan,
and the 2d Va. and Col. Hoare
in the afternoon, and the 1st Va. 70th Gene. the fol-
lowing day, and the two regiments
arrived in the city on the 10th of
June. The bridge was built by the
men of the regiments, who were
employed

The ground for which I was sent from the
Creek was quite a steep incline,
Climbed over a thickly scattered
line of some of really large size.
Behind the trees was seen a wooden
fence. The rails of the fence
were taken and used as a

against some trees as a fenc
and in place where
They were
swept

for a platform. The glass
in the upper

The ground was
trampled over

The men were
also small, high

The bridge was
built by the men
of the regiments,
and the 1st Va. 70th Gene. the fol-
lowing day, and the two regiments
arrived in the city on the 10th of
June. The bridge was built by the
men of the regiments, who were
employed
bridge at the end put them in line to
form a scatter. The ground was good
at a very distance below the bridge for
some distance above the bridge it rose
every steeply from the creek for fifty or
sixty yards. The face of the
slope was clothe with rather
thirty scattered trees. This one
place on the left it had a sort
of pit large enough to hold twenty
or thirty men. Behind the tree
at the top of the hill slope ran
a rail fence. Along the face of
this slope among the trees in another
irregular line to level the ground.
I placed the two regiments in the
second on the right of the Twenty
on the left with the line of the
Twenty exteding forty or fifty
yards above the bridge. Thus the
greater part of the lane was level
below the bridge. The disposition
was adopted because the road to the
bridge on the other side of the creek
crossed a deep brook and the bridge
was some feet below the
bank of the creek for near the water
for one or two hundred yards.

The earth from were taken
from the fence and built up against
such line on were furnished up
over there there were no such cases. The kilns
were lined in simple pit, there
were hewn in stone for between
afforded combustible. To seven cypresses
these combustion. Shelter against draught
such line.
At about 8 o'clock Captain Peabody discovered a large body of the enemy opposite in a piece of wood, within range of his gun. He opened fire on them and drove them out of the wood; in Conner's company, apparently made two for their ambulances, were soon seen carrying off their wounded. Between nine and ten o'clock the enemy's infantry, aided by the fire from a large battery, advanced in heavy force, and attacked our whole line. The attack was bold and persistent. The infantry coming to the creek and the fire not only from the infantry but also from the artillery was incessant, the latter being so placed that it could fire over the heads of the infantry. A few minutes they were met by a most rapid and well-directed fire from our men.
on which the regiment had to rely. The Creek was fordable every where above and below the bridge — in most places was not more than three deep — the hillsides occupied by the regiment on its left commanded by a sharp ridge about two hundred yards beyond the Creek and throughout by a position for cannon at from five to sixty hundred yards beyond the Creek.

Partly concealed skirmishers were soon thrown across the Creek several hundred yards to the front. A report that the day would off with partridges perhaps an occasional shot from these. And Es said that the next day except that the skirmishing may have been and that a number of and devoted shells were thrown across the Creek from Orimades battery at some point of the enemy as they showed themselves and at spots in which they were.

That of the 17th — except the skirmishing now removed. It continued — constantly growing heavier on the flank of the enemy till about 9 o'clock when our skirmishers were driven
At about 8 o'clock, Capt. Pulaski discovered a large body of the enemy opposite to him in a wood within range of his guns. He opened fire on them and soon drove them in confusion from the wood andOrderId upon the loss to judge from the movements of their ambulances. They not long after the battery had finished their work it was ordered away. The two regiments were left at the bridge without any artillery support whatever.

The general line of battle of the army was nearly a mile in their rear and not a soldier in the water between them and that line. The enterprising general, for a great part of that army, on a long slope facing the enemy's batteries, was commanded by the enemy's two batteries, so that reinforcements if they had been sent would have been cut up before they could have reached them in the action. A regiment had been posted on the left above that could further advance the action, but they soon after the battle commenced abandoned it, foot thrust to the rear.
The two regiments were ordered to advance without infantry support and the expectation of any reinforcements. The two regiments numbered more than five hundred fifty men and officers. The second having only nearly twenty thousand more than five hundred fifty. In this front line, the whole force of perhaps less than 15,000 or 18,000 men were opposed with a numerically inferior force. In this forlorn condition were the two regiments, at the time when the fight commenced that was at about 9 o'clock when the fight opened in earnest. At this time the enemy's infantry was joined by a heavy force of artillery advanced to the attack. And soon the attack was pressed on over whole line. It was bold and persevering. They came to this Creek. The fire was from the infantry only, but the artillery was incessant, the artillery being placed that it could fire over the heads of the infantry. By the stand of a rapid fire directed by an unceasing fire from a battery of men under which the enemy's line broke and fell back. This
The men of both ways regiments fought with great determination, each in his own style, and the firing was continued for a long time. The fight was a desperate one, and the men were closely engaged. At last, the general line of battle reached the crops.

The men were driven from the bridge, but we had held it long enough to enable the advance troops to reach their position on the line of battle. This was the object of defending the bridge.

The second lost nearly forty-two men, including a half of the men. Amongst them was David Holman, a good soldier, officer, and a most brave man. I think, as my eyes ever beheld.
The loss of the 7th K
was indeed enormous. Thirty-eight — more than a fourth of its number.

No words of men in praise of office or men are needed. The
simple glory of valour enough. I
must remember the witness to one
pant — daring that DEATH and the
fire nor a man shall be filled with
to this war — not a man. I know
where I should see it of nearest
duty to do

The loss of the Kears
The bridge they lay in heap, they own estimate
as a breach of the Kears. The taken at the
bridge told me, they were taken at the
onto the hill where they informed him that
shouted that the bridge was taken. The
bridge was taken by the bridge. The
advancement of the bridge. It kept the Kears
at the bridge terminated. The
fiftieth T. Seventeenth by found
man and has returned from
Williamsport by way of Shiloh
with and when they
that fight
terminated. They came in line
of battle on the right and
former five hundred yards in
to the advance of the general line
of battle which was along the
summit of the ascent. From
distances, eight
This position
they had determined to try no longer
who ordered them when I returned.
from the bridge whole C. S. Command of the C. S. I did so.

I remained in this position until 12 o'clock. Presently the enemy except a few of the skirmishers were too far off to be fired upon. By about 2 o'clock these skirmishers were driven back by our and then they got out of range. At about 2 o'clock shortly after I was put in command by Gen. Toombs he informed that we would be relieved by Gen. Gregg's brigade and then I must carry the line to the right of the

The regiment was ordered to co. T. The regiment and rapid march to the right of the general line for rest. At about 4 o'clock Gen. Gregg brought his brigade down took over place of Gen. Gregg and marching to the left as aad we. Before however we got half way there an order was sent to me to hasten the march and carry the Command some distance to the right of the place first assigned of that position along the road running into the repley.
Past our line until at Camp opposite to the enemy, a cavalry from the bridge. They went on.
I suppose a distance a half mile.
Again Bagans went. They start with the's last time with the's addition.
That the enemy had broken our line, our forces three miles near to the road with not a soldier of ours in their front.
According to this race was accelerated to a double quick pace in a short time. Carried beyond the Corn field in sight of the enemy.
A brigade of them was standing, composed of six lines of battle; not two hundred yards from the road apparently waiting for the enemy approach of us first, and in this fashion front moves not far to this right (our left) was a man of ours to be seen. There about one
Pieces of whose were Goo Consigui.
An object, what the road between May little and the Col. had something. The round of the enemy's line. The seventeenth was posted on a large road of the twentieth. The Col. Communications
It was estimated. The Seventeenth, the Col. of the morning. The first and last. The seventh, the Col. and the morning. The Seventeenth.
to the sight of the enemy's and with no notice for the rest of the line to come up to commencement point on the one side and to stop firing. The rest of the line to come up to the fire. The fire soon became general. It was hot and rapid. The enemy returned it with vigor showing no determination to hold their ground stubbornly. In about five or fifteen minutes a cannon or two opened on them, then three more lines which already had shown signs of moving broke and flung down. The hill was soon out of sight. Concealed by the crest of the hill, Genl. Pembly arrived and advanced our whole line gaily advanced after them. We could not see through the hill, but I knew that a very large force of the enemy was somewhere behind it. For I had been there from our lateral position, marching out from the bridge. I therefore suggested to Genl. Pembly the propriety of halting the line at a point just before it reached the crest of the hill and sending to that point.
only the men armed with long range guns. This suggestion
in adopted & the men armed with
those guns quickly advanced
to the Creek situated on the front
the other troops covering the
enemy from a position on a hill.

The wounded were taken down
nearby & those who had occupied the
Cape of the hill. After getting
near the Creek however a large part
of the men halted, forming behind
a fence - the officers of the
Gen. troops & the>r unit's part
of the Cemetery being reinforced
by the 3rd Co.

After a very
short time in which Capt. McPherson
was mortally wounded, he succeeded
in his object. But it is for him
to relate what took place. The 2nd
remained behind with the reserve.

Our loss in this part
of the battle was light considering
the fire of the enemy &
the short distance of the fire. This
low was very heavy.

The effect of General
Cothran's order, we have believed better than
they did in the service of the front, making the
sound of the enemy.

I hope that this letter has been of some help to you.
The conduct of our officers, known as far as I could learn it as good as it could be. It would be impossible to say in which name without mentioning all would then join; the service they render. I say nothing of the bravery of the three companies I have to be, and, of the 5th Engineer Corps, as I have got through the long gap in the line, the service has been in the most part unassuming, and that any body can see would have been difficult.

S. P. Brown

Lieutenant

Capt. D. M. Du Bose

A. A. F.