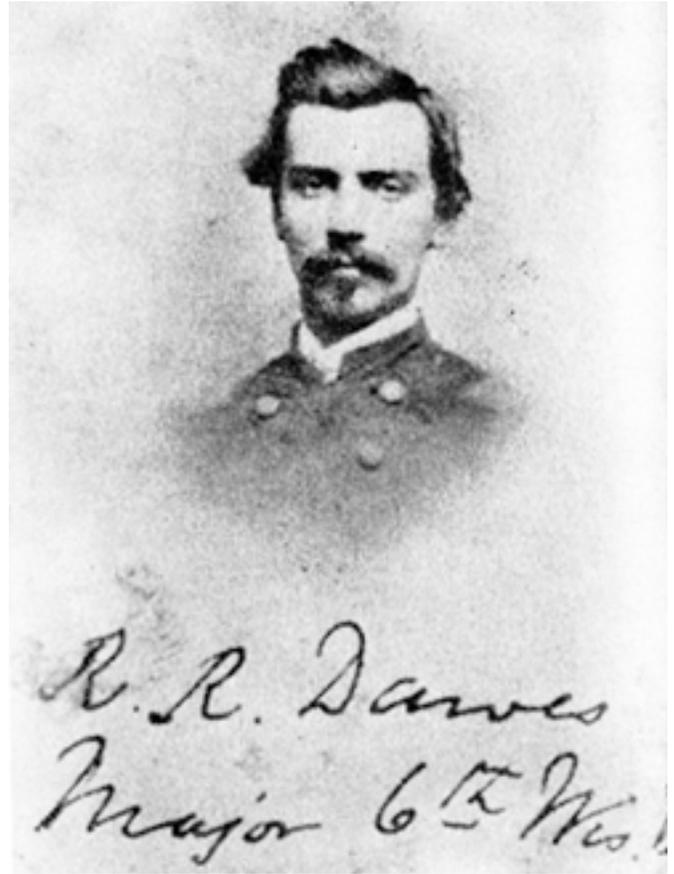


RUFUS DAWES REPORTS ON THE FIGHT AT THE RAILROAD CUT



R. R. D

On the morning of July 1st as the brigade moved forward to engaged the enemy in support of the second brigade of this division, I received an order to move forward rapidly and form on the left line of the brigade. Without checking from a double quick, the regiment formed by company into line and forward in line loading as they marched and moved forward steadily and rapidly toward the position. Before reaching my position in the line of battle I was ordered to halt and hold my men in reserve.

At this juncture the brigade guard two officers and 100 men under command of first Lieut Loyd G. Harris of the 6th Wis. by direction of Gen Meredith reported to me for duty. I divided the guard into two companies replacing the first on the right flank of the regiment under command of 2d Lieut Levi Showalter of the 2d Wis; the 2d on the left under command of Lieut Harris.

In a very few minutes I received an order from Maj Gen Doubleday to move at once to the support of the right of the line of the division (76th N. Y., 56th Penn. and 147th N. Y. Vol.) which was being forced back and out flanked by the enemy. I marched by the right flank double quick towards the point indicated. Before reaching a position when I could be of service the enemy had succeeded in turning the flank and flushed with victory was pressing rapidly in pursuit of our retreating line, threatening the rear of the 1st brigade engaged in the woods on the left. I filed to the right and rear to throw my line in front of the enemy and moved by the left flank forward in line of battle upon his advancing line.

The men kept up a steady double quick never faltering or breaking under the fire which had become very galling. When my line had reached a fence about forty rods from the line of the enemy I ordered a fire by file. This checked the advance of the rebels who took refuge in a railroad cut, from which they opened a murderous fire upon us. I immediately ordered the men over the fence with a view to charging upon the cut. The 95th N Y and 14th Brooklyn now joined on my left. My men continued firing and advancing steadily. I ran to a Major commanding the line on my left and told him I would move forward if he would move with me, and immediately gave the order to charge!

The men of the whole line moved forward upon a double quick well closed in face of a terrible destructive fire from the enemy. When our line reached the edge of the cut the rebels began throwing down their arms in token of surrender. Adjutant Ed P Brooks with promptness and foresight moved a

detachment of twenty men in position to enfilade the cut from the right when the entire regiment in my front after some murderous skirmishing by the more desperate throw down their arms.



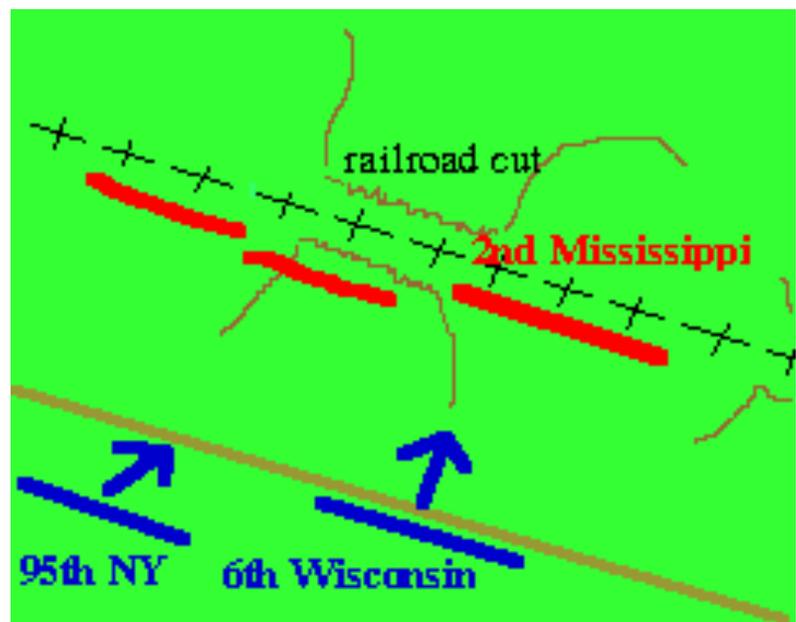
Major Blair, commanding the regiment (2d Mississippi) upon my demand surrendered his sword and regiment to me. I directed him to have his men fall in and move to the rear in charge of Major Hawser of this regiment Major Hawser informs me that by direction of General Wadsworth, he placed in charge of a cavalry guard seven officers and two hundred and twenty five men. The battle flag of the regiment was captured before the surrender, by Corp. Francis Waller of Co. I and has been forwarded

in obedience of orders to army headquarters.

The loss from my command in this charge was not less than one hundred and sixty men killed and wounded. After the capture of prisoners by direction of Gen. Wadsworth I took position in a piece of woods on the right of the railroad cut near the Seminary where I remained about thirty minutes and reorganized my shattered regiment. I was then ordered forward to occupy the next crest in front in support of a battery on the left of the cut.

The enemy opened fire from a battery of six Guns upon my advancing line killing and wounding several men. I took possession of the crest where I remained until the battery had retired and the enemy had pressed back our lines on my right and left when I moved back under cover of the railroad cut and by direction of Gen. Wadsworth took position again in the wood in support of four pieces of Stewart's Battery where I remained until ordered by Gen Wadsworth to retire in good order beyond the city.

We faced by the rear rank and moved steadily back in line of battle over the open field to the city almost directly



toward the lines of the enemy who had completely outflanked us on the eleventh corps front, and already gained possession of a portion of the city. There was much confusion; the streets were crowded with retiring troops, batteries and ambulance trains. The men were almost prostrated with over exertion and heat. Rebel Sharpshooters occupied the streets on our left and their line of battle almost completely encircled the city. But by great exertion of the part of the officers the regiment preserved its integrity and the men assembling around their colors gave in the streets hearty cheers for the 6th and the good cause.

I moved to cemetery Hill, and by direction of Gen. Wadsworth reported for duty to Col. Robinson as commander of the brigade. The loss of the regiment on the first day on July was Officers Killed 2 Wounded 8, Missing-- Ranks Killed 28 wounded 115 Missing 23.

I can only say the men of the sixth most nobly vindicated their history in this desperate struggle. Capt. John Ticknor of Company K was instantly killed while cheering on his men to the charge. This officer rose from the ranks winning his Captaincy for coolness and efficiency in command of skirmishers at south Mountain and was distinguished for bravery upon every battle-field of the regiment. A good officer--a brave man --a genial, whole souled companion. Ticknor will be sadly missed from our circle.

Second Lieut. O. S. Chapman commanding Co. C, was also killed at the R. R. cut; he had but lately been commissioned. He was always a faithful obedient soldier, and as an officer, brave and efficient. The officers, without exception, behaved as in many battle fields before with devoted courage each holding his own life and safety of less account than the good conduct of his men and regiment. To Major Hawser and Adjutant Brocks I am much indebted for assistance in maneuvering the regiment through the battle. I cannot speak too highly of the bravery and efficiency in action of each of these officers without reflection upon other officers of the line. I feel it due to their conspicuous bravery and good conduct that I should mention Capt.; Rollin P. Converse and Lieut. Chas. P/ Hyatt of B and Lieut. Golterman of Company F. Capt. Converse commanded the party who brought safely from the field and saved from capture the gun of the 2nd Maine Battery that had been abandoned to the enemy.

R. R. Dawes
Major Commanding

