

The War Years

another fight. A Battery to our right opened on them with grape and canister and drove them back. Captain Messick was now in command of the Regt., he being the senior officer that was not disabled. Our Colonel, Lieut. Col. and Major were all badly wounded. As soon as we had rallied good we saw that the Rebs had been repulsed by the battery.

Wm. Ramsey, Cal Jackson and myself went down onto the field to do what we could for the wounded. As fast as the stretchers and ambulances could be gotten they were borne from the field and taken to the Hospitals. Then we rejoined our Regt. and lay on our arms until morning. The next day there was continued skirmishing along the lines. About noon the Rebs opened on us with their artillery. I believe the shot and shell flew the thickest that I ever saw. They passed over our heads like hail, some bursting directly over us, but we lay flat on the ground, and no one was hurt in our Regt. It is said they had over 100 guns firing at one time, along the line. It lasted over an hour. Our batteries replied briskly at first but were ordered to cease. Then the Rebs also stopped. They immediately advanced their infantry with the idea that we were scared away by their shelling. Gen. Lee told his men that it was militia, opposed to them, and they would be scared away by the shelling.

But it was the Army of the Potomac he was trying to shell out and he found out his mistake that afternoon. As soon as they came in range of our guns, we sent them our compliments in the shape of one ounce bullets. They came on determined to drive us back, but when they were about one half shot down, they commenced to retreat. We chased them and took many prisoners. The loss in our Regt. was not as bad as the previous day, altho the firing lasted about an hour. Captain Messick was killed and Corpal Jones and one private wounded in our Company. I passed the Captain just before he fell but did not know he was killed until after the fight. He was killed instantly, shot thru the head. After the fight I helped carry him off the field. One of the boys that had been cooking for him said that he would see that he was buried. He would also take care of his things. July 4th was rather dull for us. There was some sharpshooting all forenoon. In the afternoon there was a heavy rain and it continued most, all night. The Rebs took advantage of it and left. July 5th we were in possession of the