



Captain's Report : New Market, VA May 15-17, 2009

Gallant lads of the 28th Virginia,

As with Jeffersonville in April, I was unable to join the unit until Saturday afternoon but I arrived just in time to join the 28th Virginia and the 2nd Battalion on the field prior to Saturday's engagement. As I was seeking the Battalion through the woods and amid the beginning of the artillery fire and first opening cracks of musketry, I was relieved to see Cpl. Randy Smith and his battle shirt amid the masses of men which guided me to the 28th Va. just before they delivered their first volley. From that point on the engagement was extremely sharp and hot. It appeared that initially we were getting the best of the foe but things quickly deteriorated as we became dangerously exposed on our right flank. From that point on things seemed generally confused all over the field and at all points our lines were pushed and bent but thankfully without breaking. I praise the brave lads of the 28th Virginia and also those of the battalion at large for their coolness under fire under such circumstances.

Saturday evening began well but the weather rapidly deteriorated into a Southeast Asia style monsoon blast. Thunder crashed, lightning painted the skies, tents were sent sailing, fly poles were snapped, tents were flooded, and yet the brave lads of the 28th remained, (though wet, cold, and muddy) the next morning ready to take the field. Many of the 28th, myself included, decided weather much of Saturday evening's storm under the dance tent listening to the rousing tunes of the 2nd South Carolina String Band.

The next morning, I was pleased and shocked to see so many men left in the Corps at morning parade as we only lost 30 or so from the whole Corps due to weather; a fairly remarkable thing considering what blew through Saturday night. It speaks well of the spirit and morale of the Corps that so many braved such horrible conditions. Bully!! to the boys of Longstreet's Corps and to the men of the 28th Va!!

As we dried out Sunday morning, many enjoyed a beautifully delivered word from the Reverend Farley from the true word of God. Soon after church, the Corps formed again ready for battle and to avenge ourselves of Saturday's near catastrophe. The afternoon engagement was hot as we poured through the fence row to drive skirmishers away and to advance upon the Union main body in the orchard of the main farm house. We drove the enemy at every point, hardly stopping to fire more than a couple of volleys in one position. The boys of Longstreet's Corps availed themselves well and the 2nd Bn. again proved themselves second to none on the field with the 28th Va anchoring the left flank of the battalion in support of the final push to the Union battery by the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute.

Thanks to each and every man who came to the event and braved the extreme conditions given to us. You all availed yourselves as men and you have the utmost respect and admiration of your Captain. However, let us not rest in past successes. May we strive the next time we gather to be better drilled, more authentic in impression and in camp, and ever pressing to achieve greater deeds than the last

fray. With that, I look forward to seeing you all at Saltville in August. Until then, please keep the men and family of the 28th Virginia ever on your lips in prayer to our Gracious Lord and Savior the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Obedient Servant,

Captain Bishop