

Confederate Veteran

May, 1922
page 185

FIRST TEXAS REGIMENT AT GETTYSBURG.

BY W. T. WHITE, LAKE CHARLES, LA.

I was a member of the 1st Texas Regiment, Hood's Brigade, and about 2 o'clock P.M. on July 3, my regiment was sent off a mile or more from Round Top and stationed in a public road to check the advance of the cavalry, which we understood was threatening an attack on our wagon train. We had been in our position but a very short time when Kilpatrick's Brigade, under command of General Farnsworth, loomed up in our front. We had in our regiment one hundred and ninety-six men, rank and file; the Federal cavalry was supposed to number about one thousand two hundred. Our first impression was that we were hardly equal to the task of successfully resisting such vastly superior numbers, but the men of Hood's Brigade never did learn to retreat; so, as we had a stone fence about three and a half feet high in our front, our decision was to hold our position, give them a reception, and take the risk of being overpowered and captured. They formed line of battle in plain view of us and charged. We held our fire until they were within fifty or sixty yards of us, when, taking deliberate aim, we fired on them, bringing down many men and horses. Instead of continuing the assault, which probably would have resulted in our capture, they retreated to their original starting point, reformed, and recharged, with the same result as before.

Having repulsed the second charge, we felt that we could almost whip all the cavalry the enemy had, and from that time on, for about two hours, they continued making demonstrations against us, after which they gave up the job of routing us and bore off to our left in the direction of Round Top, and may then have come in contact with the 4th or 15th Alabama, but we had almost demolished the brigade before they left us.

After the fight was over, with almost the entire Federal brigade killed, wounded, or captured, General Farnsworth, with his staff, or part of it, was returning to the Federal lines when he came upon three or four of our boys, who had been left on picket duty at the foot of Round Top, and were on their way to join us. The general and staff rushed on our boys and demanded their surrender, when one of the boys, by the name of Taylor, and belonging to Company L, of our regiment, shot the general from his horse. As he hit the ground, Taylor said, "Now,—, I reckon you will surrender," whereupon Farnsworth drew his pistol and shot himself.

We regarded that as one of the best fights we put up during the war, and feel that we should have credit for it.

OldMagazineArticles.com