

H. 2 - 45<sup>th</sup> Mass Militia

Dec 22<sup>d</sup> 1862

Lieut W. Perkins

Adj. 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade  
Army of N.C.

Lieut. I have the honor  
to report that <sup>two cos of</sup> the Reg  
(two being on detached service)  
were engaged in two actions  
during the late expedition  
into the interior of N.C.  
On the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, the Reg  
being on the march toward  
Kingston, I received orders  
from Major Hoffmann Chief  
of the Staff of the General  
Comd to advance into the  
woods on the South side of  
the Neuse River to support  
the Troop of Wessel's Brigade  
then engaged and said

to be hard pressed. I  
was directed to act under  
Genl Wessell's orders -

In compliance with this  
order the Reg proceeded  
along the road until directed  
by Genl Wessell to file to  
the right when it proceeded  
to enter a wood, which as  
afterwards appeared was  
exposed to a cross fire  
from the enemy -

Upon entering the wood  
the Reg opened fire  
upon the enemy who,  
were found to be in  
front, and whose fire  
for a time was very  
sharp. The Reg continued

to advance occasionally  
lying down to rest &  
to avoid the enemy's  
fire when hottest - and  
finally after penetrating  
the wood it was found  
that the enemy had fled.  
I should add that  
the 10<sup>th</sup> Cann. Reg during  
one of the periods when  
this Reg <sup>was</sup> halted, advanced  
gallantly through the  
wood to its axis tank,  
and both regiments pen-  
etrated the wood at nearly  
the same time -

The conduct of the troops  
was excellent throughout -  
The action <sup>continued</sup> lasted for more  
than an hour during  
which time the Reg

suffered a loss of one  
Corporal and 12 men  
killed or who have died  
of their wounds and ~~1~~<sup>5</sup> - 5  
Corporals and 88 privates  
wounded -

On the 16<sup>th</sup> inst in the  
battle near Whitehall,  
this Regiment was ordered  
by Col A Smith of the Brigade  
to form upon the Whitehall  
Road to act as circumstances  
might require. By further  
order from Col A the men  
were directed to lie down.  
The Regiment did not  
move from its ~~position~~<sup>place</sup> during  
the action except to take  
position a few feet in rear  
of the road, ~~but~~ but never-  
theless met with <sup>some</sup> ~~several~~  
Casualties - sustaining  
a loss of one Sergeant

43 privates killed and  
2 sergeants 2 corporals  
and 12 privates wounded.  
The conduct of the men  
was in this instance  
also admirable -

I beg to add that from  
the statements of prisoners  
and from other circumstances  
I am satisfied that in  
the battle at Kepples  
the ~~it~~ was the fire of the  
the ~~enemy~~ were first  
regiment that first made  
made vulnerable the  
position of the enemy upon  
the road on the S side of the  
Newse River -

The present effective strength  
of the 8 companies now  
in camp at Newberne  
is . . . and of the com.

sums at M.C. &  
F.V. - making

a total of

I give the honor to  
be respectfully

C. R. C.

Col.  
CHARLES R.  
CODMAN,

C. R. C.