

[Force, George B.]

Body of Major Force not to be Obtained

A dispatch from Geo. C. Putnam, at Washington, to Maj. I. F. Force, affords evidence, if any were lacking, that the report of the death of the gallant Major of the 108th regiment were too true, and (per??) the hope that his friends would have the melancholy satisfaction of paying the last honors to his memory. The dispatch reads as follows:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.

To Maj. I. F. Force:

Returned last night. Found body buried in grave yard at Boonsborough. Was advised not to attempt removal at present.

GEO. C. PUTNAM

Maj. I. F. Force is still in the city, having tarried behind his regiment in order to receive and bury the remains of his beloved brother.

The Evening Express, Rochester NY, Tue. 23 Sep 1862

COL. PALMER'S OFFICIAL REPORT

HEADQUARTERS 108TH REG. N.Y.V.

Near Sharpsburg, Md., Sept. 19, 1862.

To Col. D. Morris, Commanding 2d Brigade, Gen. French's Division:

I have the honor to report that on the 17th inst., my command left camp, near Keetsville, about 6 o'clock in the morning, and after marching about two miles, having formed into line of battle, entered into action on the crest of the hill, and on the left of the Brigade, in the front line of battle, in front of the cornfield and rifle-pits of the rebels. The action commenced about 7½ o'clock in the morning. My command remained in line and continued in position—firing with great rapidity and energy, in the face of a deadly fire of the enemy, who were stationed in the cornfield and rifle-pits, not more than twenty or thirty rods distant, until about half-past 12 o'clock in the afternoon.

During the action a charge was made upon the rifle-pits, and my command took 159 rebel privates and non-commissioned officers, three rebel Captains and six rebel Lieutenants, also one stand of Regimental Colors of the 14th North Carolina regiment. These colors were taken by Henry Niles, in Co. K, of this regiment; but after taking the colors some officer of another regiment told him

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to give them up, stating that if he carried them he might be fired into by our own men; not knowing any better, he handed them to such officer.

The prisoners were taken under guard by Capt. E P. Fuller, Co. H, of my regiment, and delivered to an officer of the 8th Illinois cavalry, guarding at Boonsboro, Md., and a receipt taken which has been delivered to Col. French. The prisoners were so taken and delivered by direction of an Aid-de-Camp of Gen. Sumner. My command also took 29 rebel non-commissioned officers and one Lieutenant, prisoners, who were placed under guard at the hospital by Lt. Merrill of Co. A, and Lt. Cox of Co. C, and who were subsequently sent to Boonsboro.

At about half-past 12 P.M., of the 17th, my command was relieved for a time by the Irish Brigade, by order of Gen. Richardson; it was then ordered to fall back about 100 rods. It did so and was then reformed upon colors, but I was only able then to collect about 100 men. I was then ordered by Gen. Richardson to again march into line of battle further to the left, and I Gen. Richardson's Division, and my command was marched there accordingly and remained there under a severe fire from the enemies' batteries, until the close of the action at dark. By order of Gen. Hancock my command was then placed on the front line of pickets to do picket duty, and remained in that position until 9 o'clock in the morning of the 18th, and until relieved by order of Gen. French. During this picket duty one prisoner was taken by a private of Co. H., and delivered to Gen. Caldwell.

During the action my officers and men, with few exceptions, conducted themselves with gratifying coolness and bravery. My loss has been severe, and I regret to report that early in the action, my Major, Geo. B. Force, was instantly killed, while in the fearless discharge of his duty. [More losses are detailed here.] My total loss in killed, wounded and missing is (295?).

I have the honor to be very respectfully,
Your obedient servant, O. H. PALMER,
Colonel, 108th Regiment, N. Y. V.

LIST OF CASUALTIES.

Major George B. Force, killed.

[A very long list of casualties continues here.]

The Evening Express, Rochester NY, Thu. 25 Sep 1862

Transcribed on 6 Apr 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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FUNERAL OF MAJOR GEORGE B. FORCE

The funeral of Major Geo. B. Force, late of the 108th Regiment, killed at the battle Antietam, took place yesterday from the Universalist Church, the Rev. Mr. [Asa] Saxe officiating. The 54th N. Y. S. M., of which Major Force was formerly a member, were out under command of Colonel Angle, and the several military companies at Camp Porter joined in the obsequies, under the command of Col. Taylor, of the 33d Regiment. The body of deceased was enclosed in a metallic burial case and drawn in a hearse by four gray horses, led by four members of the Union Grays (artillerists) to the cemetery. The hearse was covered with the American flag, and the procession was made up by military and numerous friends and relatives, headed by Newman's Band and a detachment of Police. At the grave the usual military honors were paid to the deceased. The remains of the gallant Major Force, whose life was sacrificed on the altar of his country, now rest quietly in our beautiful Mt. Hope, where the tribute of affection can be paid him and the tears of the bereaved shed over him.

Union & Advertiser, Rochester NY, Mon. 6 Oct 1862

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