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A Record of Human Sacrifice
Of Daring Deeds and
Heroic Men.

Percentage of Losses
at Gettysburg
Greatest in History.

By
St. Clair A. Mulholland,
Brevet Major General, U. S. V.

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ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND, BREVET MAJOR GENERAL U. S. V.

Percentage of Losses at Gettysburg-- Greatest in History

By St. Clair A. Mulholland, Brevet Major General U.S.V.

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To understand truly and to estimate properly the fighting qualities of the men and the organizations of our armies, one must take the cold figures of the percentage of losses in killed and wounded and compare them with similar results in other wars and by troops of other nations. When reading the following article, let us not fail to remember the record of the bravest troops in Europe. The Third Westphalian, at Mars La Tour, lost 49.4 per cent. killed and wounded. The Garde-Schutzen, at Metz lost 46.1 per cent. The Light Brigade, at Bala-klava, lost 36.7 per cent. This is the story of brave men and splendid organizations, and, if I mistake not, tells of the greatest loss on record in single engagements in European wars. Not one of them lost 50 per cent. in killed and wounded in single engagements. Without fear of contradiction I assert that in the Union army alone at least sixty-three regiments lost more than 50 per cent. killed and wounded in single engagements, and more than 120 regiments lost more than 36 per cent. under like circumstances. I am asked to write the particulars of these bloody encounters; to do so would be a greater task than I have time for, and the glowing story would fill volumes. On the soil of our own State, at glorious Gettysburg, there were at least 23 regiments that lost more than 50 per cent. in killed

and wounded during the three sanguinary days of the battle, and nine of these were Pennsylvania organizations. Eight other Northern States—New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Massachusetts—were also included in this splendid roll of honor. Truly, "there was glory enough to go all around." Let us recall the story of these commands, the organizations only that lost 50 per cent. or more at Gettysburg, and we can speak of them without in any way detracting from the honor of the other commands that may not have met with such terrible losses, yet did their whole duty and all that was demanded of them.

Glorious Gettysburg.

The battle on the first day was remarkable, not only for the acts of great personal courage, but also for the most heroic fighting on the part of the organizations. The 147th New York was the first regiment to make the great record at Gettysburg. Going into position on the right of Cutler's Brigade, and becoming hotly engaged in the very beginning of the fight, Lieutenant Colonel F. C. Miller, its commander, fell almost at the first fire, shot in the head. Major George Harney then commanded. The regiment fought the 42nd Mississippi, and when the position became untenable

and the brigade was ordered to the rear, the command to retreat was not received by the 147th until the other regiments of the brigade had gone. The 147th then stood alone, and not only fought the regiment in front, but was exposed to the fire of the 2nd Mississippi and the 55th North Carolina on the right flank. The fight was close and deadly, but Harney and his men stood up to the work until the orders reached them to retreat, which they did in good order, with colors flying. The loss of officers and men was appalling, but hardly had the splendid organization reached the new position than it became engaged in resisting the attack of Ewell's Corps and assisted in capturing a part of Iverson's Brigade. But the 147th was not yet ready to rest; on the evening of the second day it was rushed to Culp's Hill to reinforce Green's Brigade, and until long after dark fought in the dense woods among rocks and fallen timber, locating the enemy by the tongues of fire that leaped from their muskets. This regiment was recruited in Oswego county, New York, and it left the great record on Gettysburg's field of sixty (60) per cent. killed and wounded, more than 20 per cent. being killed outright.

The Terrible Ordeal of the Iron Brigade.

As the 147th New York was making its glorious record, the Iron Brigade swept forward and entered the woods just as Reynolds was being carried to the rear dead. The West had in that line its noblest sons, there to defend and to crimson the soil of our State with their blood, and what a fight they made on that July morning! Of this brigade the 24th Michigan lost 60 per cent. killed and wounded, and, in addition 83 missing; the 19th Indiana lost 56 per cent. and 50 missing; the 2nd Wisconsin 59 per cent. and 51 missing; the 6th Wisconsin 43 per cent. and 20 missing; the 7th Wisconsin 41 per cent. and 43 missing. This regiment had 10 officers and 271 men killed in battle during its term of service. Taking the five regiments of the Iron Brigade as a whole, we find the killed and wounded to have been 49.5 per cent., with 249 missing, many of whom were among the dead.

Reader, when you visit the field of the first day's fight, and you walk past

the spot where Reynolds fell, and enter the woods where every gnarled tree is torn by shot and shell, you will see a line of monuments crossing your path. Pause when you reach them, stand for a time by the stone that marks the center of the 24th Michigan Regiment and recall the day of the battle. You will then be standing near the center of the Iron Brigade. On the right of that organization was the brigade of Roy Stone, and on the left that of Colonel Chapman Biddle. Walk the line of these brigades from right to left—ah, yes, you may walk the line of the whole First Corps—and you cannot step without treading upon ground every inch of which was saturated and made sacred by the blood of heroes.

Standing by the Colors.

And how did the 24th Michigan fight? They charged into the woods without taking time to load, and with bayonet driving the enemy across Willoughby Run, captured the Confederate General Archer and many of his men. Private Patrick Maloney seizing the General by the throat, commanding, "Right about General, march!" conducted him to the rear and handed him over to the division commander, with a Celtic smile, and "General Wadsworth, sir, allow me to make ye acquainted wid General Archer." There the well dressed line waited in the forest during the long afternoon, repulsing every attack of the enemy. General Sol Meredith, the brigade commander, Colonel Henry A. Morrow, Lieutenant Colonel Flanagan, the adjutant, and almost every officer who was not killed outright, was severely wounded, twenty-two being killed and wounded out of twenty-eight. Captains Speed and O'Donnell and Lieutenants Wallace, Safford, Grace, Humphreyville, Dickey and Shattuck were dead upon the field. Seven color bearers were shot down under the flag, four of them, Abel Pack, Charles Ballou, August Ernst and Wm. Kelly, lying dead almost side by side, while every one of the color guard was dead or wounded. When Corporal Andrew Wagner was severely wounded and the colors fell, Colonel Morrow ran forward and raised them. Private Kelly ran up and seized the staff, saying, "The Colonel of the Twenty-fourth shall never carry

the flag while I am alive." He was killed instantly. Still another brave soul raised the flag, only to fall. Again Colonel Morrow grasped the Starry Banner, and, while waving it aloft, he too fell terribly wounded. No falling back was thought of until ordered to retreat, and then the flag was dragged by force from the hands of a mortally wounded soldier, who with a last expiring effort, tried to raise it from the ground, but fell back only to die. Splendid Michigan; your sons have done you great honor!

The 19th Indiana, Colonel S. J. Williams commanding, went into action in line with the 24th Michigan, crossing Willoughby Run in the first rush and charge of the day, and flanking Archer's Confederates, doing its full share in the capture of that command. In the afternoon it held the left flank of the Iron Brigade, meeting and repelling charge after charge of the enemy. The fire of the regiment was so deadly that for one hour after the line of the enemy had advanced to the attack not a live Confederate succeeded in crossing the stream. When the command was finally withdrawn with the remainder of the brigade, 56 per cent. of those who held the line were dead and wounded.

Roy Stone's Brigade Went "to Stay" and Fifty Per Cent. Stayed.

About 11 o'clock the head of Roy Stone's brigade arrived on the field, and was placed by General Doubleday on the left of the Chambersburg pike, the left of the line resting near the right of the Iron Brigade. Shells were flying as the Pennsylvanians moved into position, and it was a hot place to form. Stripping for the fray and unslinging knapsacks, the men called out, "We have come to stay." When evening came fully 50 per cent. of the gallant brigade remained on the fatal ridge. Stone's brigade held the key to the first day's fight, and every man seemed to realize the importance of holding out to the last. Although some two hours elapsed from the time the brigade arrived until the first serious attack of the Confederate infantry, it was anything but an interval of peace. Exposed and in full view of the enemy, the line was pounded by the batteries from the distant hills, both north and west, and many were the casualties. Then the

whole valley of Willoughby Run and the country beyond was in clear view, and every man saw for himself what was coming—the Confederates, in a continuous double line of deployed battalions with other battalions en masse in reserve. To meet this tremendous onslaught stood one thin line, and not a man in reserve. It required courage of a high order to quietly await the attack, but Stone's men were equal to the occasion.

John Burns, of Gettysburg.

As Colonel Huidekoper and Major Chamberlain were chatting, while awaiting the attack, a unique, antique and most picturesque figure approached. It was Citizen John Burns, of Gettysburg. Tall and bony of frame, with deliberate step, he came to the front, carrying in his right hand a rifle at a "trail." He wore a blue swallow-tail coat, with brass buttons, dark trousers and a high hat, from which the nap had long since disappeared. Although three score years and ten, and bent with age, he said: "Can I fight with your regiment?" Just then Colonel Wister came up and in his bluff manner asked: "Well, old man, what do you want?" "I want a chance to fight with your regiment." "You do? Well, where is your ammunition?" "Right here," said the old hero, slapping his trousers pocket, which was bulging out with cartridges. "Good," replied Wister; "I wish there were more like you," advising the old man to go into the woods and fight where he would be more sheltered. But John Burns was not the kind that looked for shelter, and he fought during the day not only in the open, but in the very front. When evening fell he was still there, but badly wounded. At 1.30 o'clock the whole line of the enemy was seen advancing, and for more than two hours the devoted brigade of Roy Stone—143rd, 149th and 150th Pennsylvania Regiments—met and checked the exulting foe.

Pennsylvania's "One Thin Line."

Never in the history of wars did men stand up under like conditions and make such defense. There they were one thin line, without a man in reserve, meeting charge after charge, and seeing beyond, as far as the eye could reach, other lines of fresh

troops, ready to take the places of those repulsed. Every field officer in the brigade, save one, was shot, and many of them several times. In the 143d 36 per cent. were killed and wounded and 91 missing, many of these being numbered among the dead; the 149th lost 50 per cent, killed and wounded and 111 missing; the 150th lost 50 per cent. killed and wounded and 77 missing, 25 of whom were afterward found to be dead or wounded. Glorious brigade of the Keystone State! When will your glory fade? Officers and men alike will live in story. Can we ever forget Roy Stone falling away out in front of his line, or Langhorne Wister clinging to his command with mouth so full of blood that speech was impossible; or Huidekoper remaining in command of his regiment with shattered arm and a ball through his leg; or Color Sergeant Benjamin H. Crippen, of the 143d, lingering as his regiment walked to the rear, to shake his fist at the advancing foe, until he was shot dead; or Color Sergeant Samuel Phifer of the 150th, advancing with the colors and flaunting them in the face of the victorious foe until he fell dead, with all the color guard dead or wounded around him? Surely it was a great brigade and a noble fight, but more yet was demanded, for on the evening of the second day the 149th and the 150th charged upon the Confederate lines, and recaptured two guns that had been lost that afternoon. Likewise, on the third day of the battle the three regiments were again under fire, being in line to meet the charge of Pickett's men, and to meet the storm of the artillery fire that for two long hours preceded that attack.

How Col. Chapman Biddle's Brigade Struck Pickett's Line.

To the left of the Iron Brigade, the brigade commanded by Colonel Chapman Biddle, held the line. The organization consisted of one New York and three Pennsylvania regiments, and its record is very similar to that of the two brigades on the right. The 80th New York (20th Militia), called the "Ulster Guard," Colonel Theodore B. Gates commanding, had 50 per cent. killed and wounded, 24 missing. The 121st Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Biddle, had 39 per cent.

killed and wounded and 61 missing. The 142d Pennsylvania, Colonel Robert P. Cummings, had 39 per cent. killed and wounded and 70 missing. The 151st Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Colonel George F. McFarland, had 56 per cent. killed and wounded and 100 missing. Not only did the brigade make the splendid fight on the first day's battle, but on the second and third day all the regiments were engaged, and in the last grand scene of the drama the 80th New York and the 151st Pennsylvania, led by Colonel Gates, rushed in, side by side with Stannard's Vermonters, to strike the flank of Pickett's line. The 142nd Pennsylvania lost some of its best officers and men. Col. Cummings, Capt. Flagg and Lieuts. Tucker and Hurst were killed instantly, Capts. Grimm, Evans, Dushane and Hasson, and Lieutenants Powell, Walter, Swank, Heffley, Huston, Hoffman and Wilson were wounded.

The School Teachers and the Pupils.

Lieutenant Colonel George F. McFarland, who commanded the 151st Pennsylvania on the first day's fight, was the Principal of the McAllister Academy, in Juniata county, of our State. He was an exceedingly calm, brave man, and while awaiting the infantry attack quietly sat on the ground taking notes, while the shells were flying in all directions. He was terribly wounded and lost a leg. The regiment was unique in many particulars: McFarland, a school principal, in command, with 100 school teachers marching and fighting in the ranks. The whole of Company D was composed of scholars and school boys from McFarland's Academy. The regiment fought the 26th North Carolina, which command lost, in the morning's encounter with the 151st, 588 men and officers out of 800, one company having 82 killed and wounded out of 83. The 151st had 14 officers killed and wounded, and was the last regiment to leave the line when retreat was ordered. The Confederate General Heth, said that "the dead of the 151st marked the line of battle with the accuracy of a 'dress parade.'" On that day Pennsylvania's teachers and school-boys left a rich legacy to others who come after them. Much history has been written, and any amount of criticism indulged in, in relation to the

fight of the First Corps on the first day of the battle, but the more we learn of it the more we must acknowledge that it was a great contest, a wonderful defense against overwhelming odds.

Splendid Record of the Germans.

All the severe fighting of the first day was not confined to the line of the First Corps. The Eleventh Corps, coming upon the field later in the day, also fought against great odds, and made a splendid fight. One regiment, at least, kept up with the best record of any one of the First Corps. The 75th Pennsylvania fought to the north of the town, near the Carlisle road, losing 56 per cent. killed and wounded. This regiment was originally recruited by General Henry Bohlen, who was killed at Freeman's Ford, August 22, 1862. It was commanded at Gettysburg by Colonel Francis Mahler, who was killed there. Colonel Mahler was badly wounded early in action but refused to leave, and continued in command until he was killed. The regiment was composed entirely of Germans, who here fought better for the land of their adoption than any son of Germany ever fought in defense of his own native land.

The Second Day at Gettysburg.

July 2, 1863.—The second day at Gettysburg was quite as prolific in the piling up of great losses as the first day—noble deeds and splendid fighting on every part of the field. No sooner had Longstreet swept down on the Third Corps than regiment after regiment began rolling up the wonderful record of more than 50 per cent. killed and wounded. When the strong line of the Confederates struck the Emmitsburg road and Peach Orchard, they found the 26th Pennsylvania in line. This regiment held the extreme right of the Third Corps, and was commanded on that day by Captain George W. Tomlinson. The command had been in every battle from the beginning, and was reduced to the numbers of a small battalion. Three hundred and eighty-two officers and men stood in line when the fighting began, and within an hour 224 of them had been killed or wounded—56 per cent. Of 18 officers, 4 were killed and 7 wounded, 5 of them being crippled for

life. All the color guard were down, and three color sergeants fell dead, one after the other. The 141st Pennsylvania Infantry was also in line there to meet the rush of the Confederate attack, another very small command and at a most critical moment was called upon to meet an overwhelming force. Bravely the men stood to the work, pouring in a steady fire, and holding the enemy back until the batteries of their division could be rescued and the guns hauled off by hand, all the horses being killed. The commander, Major Israel Spaulding, was killed. The only Captain left at the close of the fight was Captain Joseph H. Horton, a most gallant young officer, who greatly distinguished himself and brought the remnant of the regiment from the field. Their record—63 per cent. killed and wounded—placed another Pennsylvania regiment on the roll of the brave.

The Eleventh New Jersey.

The 11th New Jersey, Colonel Robert M. McAllister, a truly grand old hero, commanding, fought along the Emmitsburg road to the right of the Peach Orchard. This regiment fought Wilcox on its right and Barksdale on its left. 51 per cent. killed and wounded is the record of these Jersey men. Colonel McAllister soon fell, shot through the leg and his foot smashed by a shell. Major Philip J. Kearney then took command and fell dead. Captain Luther Martin then took command and fell dead. Captain Doramus B. Logan then took command and fell dead. Captain Andrew H. Ackerman took command, and was instantly killed. Captain Lloyd took command and fell terribly wounded. Lieutenants Provost, Fassett, Layton, Volk, Good and Axtell were lying on the ground, wounded and bleeding, but still the 11th New Jersey held on until the order of retreat was received, when the Adjutant, John Schoonover, suffering with two wounds, led it from the field. On the same line with the 11th New Jersey the 20th Indiana made a heroic fight. In the First Division of the Third Corps—Birney's division—the Indiana boys were commanded that day by Colonel J. K. Wheeler, who fell dead at their head. 54 per cent. killed and wounded tells the story of their valor.

No Monuments Mark the Deeds of These Regulars.*

As the battle rolled back from the Peach Orchard the fighting became terrific on the left, the wheat field having been already covered with the dead and dying. At this juncture the division of the Regulars went in to emulate the best fighting of the volunteers. While they could not excel the latter, they could at least equal them, and they did, the 17th United States, commanded by Colonel Durell Green, losing 65 per cent. in killed and wounded. As yet no monuments mark the line of the regular troops, but let us hope that Congress may see to it, and that at an early day those splendid regiments may not be forgotten or unhonored. And then that magnificent regiment, the 5th New Hampshire, was in the Wheat Field, also. It had gone to the left that afternoon with Caldwell's Division of the Second Corps. In the short, sharp encounter Colonel Cross was killed, and the regiment lost, in killed and wounded, exactly 50 per cent. This regiment during the war had 18 officers and 277 men killed in battle. Colonel Edward E. Cross was a model officer, and was in command of the brigade when killed. When passing, as his command formed for the fight, General Hancock said to him, "Cross, this is the last day you will fight as a Colonel; you will have your commission as Brigade General in a few days." Cross replied, as he rode away, "Too late, too late; I will die to-day." He lived for a few hours after being shot through the body, and although suffering great pain, talked cheerfully to the end. Said he, "I did hope to see peace restored to our distressed country. I think the boys will miss me; say goodbye to them all." "Peace to his ashes; heaven rest his soul," was the prayer that went up in every part of the Second Corps, as, in the calm stillness of the midnight hour, he slept to wake no more.

The 111th New York Lost 71 Per Cent.

The forcing back of Humphrey's Division of the Third Corps exposed to an overwhelming attack the 15th Massachusetts and the 82nd New York,

which with a section of Brown's Rhode Island Battery, had been thrown forward to the Codori House. The 82nd New York was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Huston, and Colonel George H. Ward commanded the detachment. The two little regiments made a most gallant stand, and held on the advanced position until Colonel Ward had been killed. His regiment, the 15th Massachusetts, left dead on the field Captains Murkland and Jorgeson, and Lieutenant Buss. Nearly every officer was wounded, and the record of the afternoon was 50 per cent. killed and wounded. The 82nd New York suffered quite as seriously, losing exactly 50 per cent. killed and wounded, Lieutenant Colonel James Huston, Captain Jonah C. Hoyt and Lieutenants John Cranston and John H. McDonald being killed and nine officers wounded. The 82nd captured, during the afternoon of the Second, the colors of the 48th Georgia, and on the Third day captured the colors of the 1st and the 7th Virginia Regiments. During a crisis that afternoon, Hancock led into action the brigade consisting of the 111th New York, Colonel Clinton McDougal; the 125th New York, Colonel George L. Willard, and the 126th New York, Colonel Eliakim Shirrell. The force charged through the bushy swale at Plum Run and struck the 13th, 17th and 18th Mississippi Regiments. Willard, commanding the brigade, was killed, Shirrell of the 126th, was killed, and McDougal of the 111th, was wounded. The latter regiment lost 71 per cent. in killed and wounded. The 126th lost not only their Colonel, but also Captains Skinner, Herenden and Wheeler and Lieutenants Hunton, Sherman and Holmes and nine other officers were wounded. The record at Gettysburg was 55 per cent. killed and wounded. This regiment captured three stands of colors in the battle. Including those killed in this fight, the regiment had sixteen officers shot dead in action during the war. Glory to the Empire State!

The Grandest Act of All.

And now let us recall the grandest of all. It was getting towards evening and the battle had raged along

*Since this article was written a fine large monument has been erected by the Congress of the U. S. to Regulars and 42 smaller ones marking the positions occupied by each command.

the Emmitsburg road and out by the Peach Orchard. In vain had our brave troops fought and died. The Third Corps had been rolled back, crushed and almost annihilated; the Wheat Field had been swept by line after line of battle; Little Round Top had been saved, and Hood's Texans were being gradually driven down the crest; the gallant Sickles had been carried to the rear from where he had fallen crushed and bleeding. Still the battle raged along the whole line; a crucial moment had arrived. A great gap existed on left of the Second Corps and the victorious and exulting foe was moving forward to push through the threatened point, but were still far off. Hancock, seeing a large force emerging from the timber, and thinking it was some of our own forces, galloped to meet them only to discover a division of the enemy. He was met by a volley in which was wounded the only aide he had with him, Captain W. D. W. Miller, a very noble officer.

"Col. Colville, Charge That Line!"

The danger to the Union line was imminent; but one small regiment—the First Minnesota—was anywhere near. Hancock quickly rode toward it, and called out, "What regiment is this?" "The 1st Minnesota," came the answer. Then pointing to the Confederate columns about to seize the unoccupied heights of Cemetery Ridge and should they succeed disaster to the Union army would surely result. Reinforcements were hurrying to advance, and the General said: "Colonel Colville, charge that line." At this moment the scene was one of appalling grandeur; Little Round Top wreathed in smoke, the crash of artillery was re-echoing from all the woods, lines of battle were charging back and forth over the valley of death and the whole crest of Cemetery Ridge was a blaze of fire. The men of the 1st Minnesota instantly knew what Hancock's order meant—death or wounds for every man in the ranks, sacrifice of the entire command in order to gain a few minutes' time and thus save the position and probably the battlefield. Every man saw and accepted the sacrifice. Responding to Colville's rapid orders, the command, in perfect line, with arms at a "right shoulder shift," went sweeping down the slope directly upon the enemy's

center. No hesitation, no stopping to fire, silently and at a "double quick," then at a "run," then at the utmost speed, they went, for the only hope of being able to reach the enemy through the storm of fire that met them was by speed. "Charge," screamed Colville, as the regiment neared the advancing lines of the enemy. Then in a rush with leveled bayonets, the 1st Minnesota, with momentum and desperation went crashing through the first line. Then a volley and the center of the enemy broke and was for a few minutes thrown into confusion. The very ferocity of the onset seemed for the time to paralyze them. The object was accomplished; time, short as it was, was gained, and before the long lines of the Confederates could be straightened out the reserve was on the ground and the position was saved.

No More Gallant Deed in History.

But what a sacrifice! Colville and every other officer, except two, were weltering in their blood, killed or wounded. Then the few survivors fell back, leaving dead and wounded 82 per cent. of the gallant men that charged ten minutes before. The annals of war contain no such record of true heroism, valor and self-sacrifice. Neither was it in vain for the execution of the movement was complete and successful and the object gained, and it was necessary. "There is no more gallant deed in history," said Hancock; but he added: "I saw the necessity of gaining five minutes, and I would have ordered them in if I had been sure that every man would have been killed." The second day, however, was not the last of the battle for the First Minnesota. On the afternoon of the third day the remnant of that noble command was again in the very front, and when Pickett's men reached Cemetery Ridge the First was there to receive them. Corporal Dehn, the last of the color guard, was shot and the flagstaff cut in two. Corporal O'Brian ran up and raised the colors on the piece of staff that was left, dashing forward toward the enemy. He fell with two wounds, and Corporal W. N. Irvin of Company D, grasped it. The whole command rushed in, following the flag. It was "hand to hand" for a few minutes; no time to load and fire;

bayonets and clubbed muskets and great stones snatched from the wall were used; but the struggle, close, desperate and deadly was soon over, and the Confederates threw down their arms and surrendered, Marshall Sherman, of Company C, capturing the colors of the 28th Virginia. Great Minnesota—"Etoile du Nord!" The sacrifice of your sons was your glory. Never forget them. Keep their memory green. Tell the children of the glorious deeds, and teach them to rejoice in the heroism of their fathers.

The Irishmen Stood Immovable.

But Gettysburg was not to end without one more regiment making the great record of 50 per cent. killed and wounded. The 69th (Irish) Pennsylvania stood, when the battle raged fiercest, out in advance of the line where the great attack of Pickett's 18,000 concentrated in largest numbers, surrounded, overwhelmed and literally swallowed up in the surging masses of the Confederates. The Irishmen stood immovable, unconquerable, fearless and splendid in their valor, the green flag waving side by side with the colors of their adopted country, both held aloft by the stone wall until the victory was assured and the hosts of the enemy crushed. But Col. Dennis O'Kane and Lieutenant Colonel Martin Tschudy lay dead. Major James Duff and almost every other officer was down wounded, while another regiment had taken its place in the list of those that had, in single engagements lost 50 per cent. killed and wounded.

Why Do These Deeds Remain Unsung?

Truly, Gettysburg was a field resplendent with great and heroic deeds. The "Congress Medal of Honor" was originated for the purpose of rewarding brave actions out of the ordinary

line of duty. An average of less than one to each Union regiment has been given by the Government. I think the entire number granted for all the war might have been distributed for this battle alone and not one of them misplaced. And yet, how few of our people know of the heroism of our army in the Civil War. In justice to the men who composed those armies, in justice to their children, should not more recognition be given to the glowing history? What a page of our country's history it is, but how few have read it. Our school books are silent on the subject, and our children never hear it mentioned. What a story for the children of Minnesota would be "The First at Gettysburg," or for those of Michigan, the thrilling tale of the Twenty-fourth. How the coming generations in our own State would delight to read of Roy Stone's Brigade, or the 151st Pennsylvania, with its 100 school teachers and their young scholars, and the fight they made. But they never hear of these things. I question whether there are a dozen school children in Minnesota who ever heard of their fathers at Gettysburg. It is doubtful if there is a line in any text book of the public schools of any State keeping alive these memories. Our children come home and tell us wonderful tales of heroism in the history of old Greece and Rome, and of campaigns in Europe. They speak of Thermopylae and Marathon, and they have "The Charge of the Light Brigade" at Balaklava on the end of their tongues, but of their own fathers, who made a record for heroism never equalled and one that will never be excelled, they are strangely ignorant. Let us hope that in the readers of the future our children may learn the story of "American heroism" at least as well as that of other ages and of other nations.

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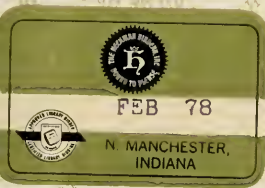
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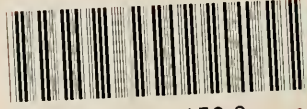




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