

April 1, 1863

2nd Florida Camp

Company E, Hammock Guards

Anderson's Division

Longstreet's Corp

Colonel Bowman,

It gives your servant much pleasure to submit this report, sir, regarding recent activities in the Narcoossee Mill region.

The Fifth Company was present with 13 actives both days. It was good to see Captain Dennis Short in camp with his Third Company. Within his ranks your servant could have sworn he saw a soldier who looked very much like your adjutant, Lt. Pat Adkins. But this could not have been so as he was toting a musket. I am not aware of any other Florida Battalion contingent present. As in recent engagements, the Confederate Command welcomed us with open arms and treated us with utmost respect.

On Day One, we served as the Fourth Company in General Hardy's 2nd Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Keith Kohl. After a short battalion drill in the morning, we were thrown into battle as the Federals attacked the earthworks in force. Colonel Kohl's orders to my command were short and direct: Take the Fourth Company around the lake and engage the enemy. Needless to say, I accepted this directive with much enthusiasm and was most appreciative. After 50 minutes of rapid movement, going in and out of skirmish formation, refusing both flanks as needed to protect against Federal cavalry attacks, we were forced to give back all the ground we had gained. It pains this command to inform you that there were only three in my command standing at the conclusion of the battle. As no wounds were mortal, all were able to return to camp to fight another day.

On Day Two, in spite of the weather conditions being most unfavorable, the Fifth Company left camp around noon and went

on patrol in search of Federal activity in the region. Approximately 1/2 mile to the east, we engaged the 75th Ohio, commanded by Captain Barry King. As their numbers were superior, we were forced to fight as skirmishers with extreme intervals, using the cover of the woods as protection. After 45 minutes of intense activity, we returned three captured Yankees to Colonel Kohl who advised your servant to take matters into his own hands. As there was no time for a trial, the majority voted to execute the prisoners. Cpl. Justin Kessler, Cpl. Musket Ward and Pvt. Nate Greene have been sent to the devil, sir. Only Pvt. Greene whimpered. A few hours later, the weather cleared and we engaged the enemy again. This day proved to be more favorable, as we cleared the ground of the enemy and won the day.

This concludes my report, sir, and as I await your orders, I respectfully remain

Your obedient servant,
Capt. Clay Kearney
2nd Florida Volunteer Infantry
Company E, The Hammock Guards
Fifth Company
Florida Battalion, CSA