

endured the same hardships; we shared the same fate; 'we drank from the same canteen; we fell in the same cause; come sleep with me under my blanket!'

The duty which we perform in coming here to-day is necessarily sad. The memories of the war are mournful. Each heart had its special grief besides the general mourning. Each battle took away some one or more who were particularly dear to us. "Death loves a shining mark." Years have hung their curtains round the graves of our loved ones; the poignant edge of grief has become softened; but memory comes back to-day laden with many sorrows.

There are some compensations in the soldier's life for its toils and dangers besides the main one — the performance of duty. The grandest, proudest, most enthusiastic feeling which can ever visit the heart of man is the moment at the end of a hard fought field when the enemy finally gives way and surrenders the field of battle. The Union soldier who witnessed the final repulse and flight of Longstreet's Corps upon this field twenty-seven years ago, can never again experience the feeling of joy and pride which then thrilled his soul.

If the heavens were beyond the reach of his swelling heart and waving hands, they were not beyond the sound of his enthusiastic voice; and any anxious citizen within miles around who could distinguish between the different cheers of the two armies could not mistake upon which standard the eagle of victory had finally perched.

Through some mistake, the number of the killed and wounded in the battle are not correctly stated upon this monument. I am informed that the losses in the regiment as recorded here were taken from the records of the adjutant general's office. Probably these figures were taken from my report of our losses, made before I had had any communication with members of the regiment captured and in hospitals, and, therefore, without the means of distinguishing the killed and wounded from the captured. I recollect I was called upon for such a report immediately after the close of the battle, and the best I could do was to report all the missing as captured, unless I knew they were killed or wounded. There are eleven graves of members of this regiment in the cemetery here at Gettysburg.\* The correct number of our killed and wounded in this memorable battle I am still unable to state, as I first learned of this error to-day.

Our regiment was unfortunate in the position assigned it, or rather where it happened to fall, here on this low ground, where nothing could be seen on our immediate left, or in front of the left wing of the regiment.

Our brigade was composed of four small regiments, reduced probably after the battle of Chancellorsville to about 1,000 men, and consisting of the One hundred and fifty-fourth New York, One hundred and thirty-fourth New York, Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania and Seventy-third Pennsylvania. From these, 50 men each had been detailed at daybreak of July 1st, to form an observing party, in the nature of a picket force, to march along the left flank of our corps upon its march, to look out for the enemy and prevent surprise. This detail left us probably not more than 800 men with which we went into action. Of these the Seventy-third Pennsylvania was held in reserve, back

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\* See Roll of Honor, page 232.

by the railroad, in the outskirts of the village. About 3 o'clock we marched from Cemetery Hill down through the principal street, and out the one running parallel to the one near us, across the open field between, and past the brick house which you see there; and when the rear of the line had crossed this street we were halted and came to a front with the One hundred and thirty-fourth on the right in what was a wheatfield then; the One hundred and fifty-fourth in the centre, along where we stand, and the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania on the left, out towards the brick house. This higher ground which you see commencing near where we stand, and extending on past the brick house and across the street beyond, while it protected the left of our line, also prevented its firing, except obliquely to the right. Our left ought to have been advanced upon this higher ground where we could observe the whole movement of the enemy, and doubtless would have been, except for a strong post and rail fence which occupied the same position as this present one. The enemy consisting of Early's whole division came down upon us almost before we had got in line.

I heard cannon and some musketry firing off in front and to our left as we marched out under cover of this high ground, and believed that we joined onto something, so that we would be better protected on our left. Even from the right of my regiment, where I immediately went as soon as we came to a front and the firing commenced, I could see nothing of how far the enemy's right extended on our left. I relied upon orders for withdrawing the regiment in case we were in danger of being flanked in that direction. We stopped the enemy and were holding them in our front, but their line so far overlapped the One hundred and thirty-fourth on our right that they swung around almost in their rear, and had such an enfilading fire upon them and our whole line, that that regiment was compelled to give way, and I immediately gave orders for my regiment to fall back. They retreated towards the left. When I reached a position in rear of where the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania had formed, I found that they had been withdrawn without my knowledge, and that the enemy had outflanked us to a much greater extent upon our left than on the right; that their line had advanced unopposed down the road and across the open field beyond. The ground directly in rear of the position which we had occupied was cut up into village lots surrounded by board fences, so that retreat was greatly impeded in that direction. The men being almost entirely surrounded by the enemy, who outnumbered them more than five to one and were right in their midst, many of our men were compelled to surrender.

After the battle I was informed that the brigade commander sent an order for the One hundred and fifty-fourth and One hundred and thirty-fourth to retreat at the same time he withdrew the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania. This order I did not receive. It was very unfortunate that I did not, as I had confidently relied upon receiving such an order in case there arose unusual danger from the direction in which I could not see.

Now, to you gentlemen, Commissioners of the Memorial Association, we present this monument. The trust is sacred. It represents the best endeavor of 1,000 men, the blood of 300 patriots who died during their term of service upon fields of battle, in hospitals, or in prisons; and, "He who marks the