

EXCERPT FROM "THE HARDTACK REGIMENT, AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE 154TH REGIMENT, NEW YORK STATE INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS" BY MARK H. DUNKELMAN & MICHAEL J. WINEY



The Union attack approaches the crest of Rocky Face. This drawing by Alfred Waud accurately depicts the rough terrain over which the Hardtack Regiment charged. *War Scenes on the Western and Atlantic Railroad.*

Bishop to plant the colors on the crest. With a yell the men charged up the palisades. A storm of boulders and bullets crashed through the large rock formations as the Hardtack Regiment struggled up them. At various points men began to reach the summit. Corporal Bishop had just planted the flag when he was shot through the head and instantly killed. Corporal Philo Markham, of Company B, seeing the flag fall, rushed up the ridge and replanted it. In a short time his arm was shattered by a ball. Private Stewart Bailey, of Company I, undismayed by the fate of the two who had preceded him, seized the flag and defiantly faced the enemy. He too was shot down, hit in the right arm below the elbow, and again the colors were rescued, this time by Corporal Allen Williams of Company D, who moved the flag to a less perilous position. Also fighting to save the colors during this fierce contest on the summit were Sergeant Augustus Shippy, who was killed, Corporal Thomas Aldrich and Private Orso Greeley, who were captured (all members of Company B), and First Sergeant Ambrose Arnold of Company D, who was killed. Corporal Williams was promoted to sergeant for

his gallant conduct in saving the flag and Corporal Markham and Private Bailey each lost an arm as a result of their heroism. Corporal Bishop, who gave his life for the flag, was killed in precisely the same manner as his brother, Lewis Bishop, regimental color-bearer at Gettysburg.

The members of the regiment who reached the summit found little shelter, and a withering fire from the Confederates. They were massing their forces at the several points of penetration and were steadily picking off the bluecoats as they came over the ledge. Seeing the hopelessness of holding the position, Colonel Allen ordered a retreat. In withdrawing, some of the men were not able to get out quickly enough, and were captured; others were shot while making their way back down the steep slope. Because the side of the mountain was so precipitous, the regiment was unable to re-form there, and had to retire some distance from the ground held by them prior to the assault of the summit.



A romantic view of the storming of Dug Gap, from the original painting by Alonzo Chappel. *MOLLUS-Mass., USAMHI.*