

8th Virginia Infantry



2nd Edition

John E. Divine

tion and Col. Strange of the 19th Regiment commanded the brigade until the engagement ended about 8:30 P.M. This action is known as Frazier's Farm or Glendale. The casualties for the 8th Virginia were two killed and twenty-four wounded, bringing their total losses to 106 since the regiment reached the Peninsula.

The brigade, again under the command of Col. Hunton, moved into camp about four miles from Richmond on the Darbytown Road. Held in reserve, they were not engaged at Malvern Hill. They would stay in camp at Roper's Mill below Richmond until the Central Virginia Campaign.

On August 10 the 8th Regiment, along with the rest of Pickett's brigade still under Col. Hunton, was ordered to Gordonsville to report to General Jackson. The Battle of Cedar Mountain had been fought before their arrival, so they were bivouacked at Gordonsville.

General Lee now turned his attention to General John Pope and the environs of Washington, D.C. General Longstreet was brought up from the Peninsula and the command was ready to embark on a campaign of movement. On August 25th, General Jackson started his famous march around the Union Army under General Pope that was to trigger the battle of Second Manassas. Now back with Longstreet, the 8th Virginia would start in the wake of Jackson's fast moving columns. Crossing the headwaters of the Rappahannock River, they came through the villages of Salem and White Plains on August 28th. That afternoon they camped in a meadow on the west side of Thoroughfare Gap, a pass through the Bull Run Mountains. Union troops were blocking Thoroughfare Gap, and many a worried Confederate listened to the sounds of Jackson's guns at Groveton but could not go to his aid. General Lee's hosts at "Avenel" report that the anxious general paced the floor of his room until word reached him that the pass had been opened. General Longstreet finally drove off the defenders by flanking movements to either side of the gap and by sending a brigade three miles north to go through Hopewell Gap. Leading echelons slept in Thoroughfare Gap that night.

Early on the morning of the 29th, the 8th Regiment was ready to move, for more than one reason. From their meadow camp site, Lt. Col. Norborne Berkeley related . . . "we had been fighting bumble bees, and bumble bees are very inspiring. It was really marvelous the number of bees we found in that field, or the number that found us." The regiment reached Gainesville about noon.

Pickett's brigade, still under the command of Col. Hunton, had been assigned to the division commanded by Brig. Gen. James L. Kemper. About 3:30 P.M. on August 30, Kemper's division was ordered to take the woods near the Chinn House. As they moved forward, Col. Hunton was on the right of Hood's division, which was just south of the Warrenton turnpike. By 5:00 P.M., stubborn resistance had been overcome and Kemper's line was forcing back the embattled Unionists. As the 8th Regiment swept