

entire force. Nearly all the field officers on both sides were killed or badly wounded.

It will be remembered, in this connection, that although the Confederates had two brigades engaged here against the one of the enemy's infantry and the force of two hundred cavalry, yet he had greatly the advantage in numbers as well as of a deliberately selected position. Confederate brigades at this period of the war frequently did not number five hundred men, and on this occasion General Munford took into action (including Deering's men) a considerably smaller force than was captured.

For a short time Munford rested his command, when, after turning over his prisoners, he again sought the enemy toward the rear of General Lee's army. He here found Fitz Lee closely pressed, and joined his forces to impede as much as possible their advance.

A narrow and deep stream crossed the road over which the retreat was being conducted, and at the crossing place the mud was much worked up by the passage of the army. As this stream was neared, the enemy, from the crest of the range of hills about a mile distant, had a close view of the retreating forces. He hurried up his batteries and opened furiously, while his cavalry pressed hard upon the rear. Crossing the stream, a portion of the division, including Munford's Brigade, was deployed along its banks to dispute the passage. A slight and hastily constructed breastwork of fence-rails, thrown up under the fire of the opposing artillery, was all that Munford had to aid him against the immense force advancing.

The whole face of the country beyond the stream now seemed a mass of troops. Artillery crowned every available point, while cavalry and infantry in column advanced rapidly upon the handful of men that stood in their path.

It was necessary that a stand should be made to give time for the wagon and ordnance trains to pass a small bridge near Farmville. The enemy's skirmishers soon lined the banks of the little stream and poured in a rapid fire upon Munford, which was vigorously returned. In a few minutes a heavy column of cavalry charged at the ford, when they were received with a murderous fire at a range of not over forty yards. The ford was narrow, deep and marshy; the dead and dying men and horses encumbered their advance, and the enemy were forced to fall back defeated, after many of them had actually crossed the stream.

Several batteries were then opened upon Munford, but the firing was too wild, and everything having been accomplished that was desired, and the train safely over the bridge, the Confederate cavalry retired rapidly, but in excellent order, toward Farmville, moving in several different columns in order to present smaller marks to the artillery, which was firing with much increased accuracy, owing to the clear view which the open fields afforded.

The enemy then crossed the stream where he had been repulsed, and also at