

GREAT BATTLE OF THE CRATER.

The Work of Mahone and Weisger at the Fight.

MR. GEO. S. BERNARD WRITES

In Reply to a Times Editorial Which Paid a Tribute to the Late General Weisger—a Discussion of the Battle.

Editor of The Times:
Sir—In its editorial of Sunday, February 28, 1893, The Times, whilst paying a handsome tribute to the late General David A. Weisger, makes some statements calculated to do great injustice to the memory of the late General William Mahone.

War, published on page 818 of serial 82 of the War Records, being as follows:
'Headquarters, near Petersburg,
July 20, 1864, 6:30 P. M.
Hon. James A. Seddon,
Secretary of War:

MEMORABLE SERVICE.
If it was General Weisger, and not General Mahone, whose services on the 20th of July, 1864, was especially memorable, as one would infer from the editorial of The Times under consideration, President Davis was in error when, three days after the battle he promoted General Mahone to a major-generalship, and made his promotion date from the day of what Mr. Davis referred to as 'this memorable action' in the following official communication to General Lee, published at page 1152, of serial 83 of the War Records, July 24, 1864.

Richmond, August 2, 1864.
General R. E. Lee, Petersburg, Va.:
'Have ordered the promotion of General Mahone to that of major-general, from the day of his memorable services, on the 20th of July, 1864, in the following circumstances: The general, temporarily to supply the place of General Elliott in the command of the 10th Virginia of the Confederate army, who was detached to the work of the Virginia brigade under General Mahone's command, was on the 20th of July, 1864, in the trenches in front of the Crater, when he led his brigade with the greatest gallantry, and was himself killed by the enemy.

THE VIRGINIA BRIGADE.
The statements here made are in several particulars inaccurate.
The Virginia brigade, after emerging from the covered way did not form 'directly in front of the crater,' but with the right of its line of march was toward the right of the Crater, and the Confederate breastworks (then in the possession of the enemy), considerably—probably over a hundred yards—to the left and rear of the crater. General Mahone's purpose was to have the brigade emerge from the right of the Virginia brigade, and, as The Times correctly says, his order to General Weisger was to hold his brigade until this formation, that is to say, the placing of the two brigades in column in front of the Crater, should be completed.

The battle of the Crater, and also stating of intimating that Gen. Mahone was not present until after the fight was over, I beg leave to state that as a member of Company B, Sixteenth Virginia Infantry, I was in that charge and in the fight. My brother, J. C., having his right arm shattered by a bullet while in the works about half an hour after we reached the breastworks, Gen. Mahone was near us in the works immediately after the fight, and when my brother was wounded, spoke to him and asked if he was much hurt; then directed him the way to get out and where he could find a surgeon; at the same time directed me to go with him and take care of him. My brother and I both are willing to make oath to this statement.

YELLED FORWARD!
Mr. Wm. W. Caldwell, of Company C, Twelfth Virginia Infantry, a member of the battery of sharpshooters, which command charged with the brigade on the extreme right of the line, in his statement, said:
'I had not lost sight of him (Mahone) five minutes after the enemy began forming outside the captured portion in our front. At that moment one of the men in the Twelfth jumped up and fired his rifle and yelled, "Forward! That was the first I heard and we all jumped up and moved right at them. Then Weisger called out to us, "Don't fire!" We were advancing when he said this and I am positive Weisger did not give the command "Forward!" "In the trenches, where we laid down to the works which we captured, I did not see Gen. Mahone, but in less than five minutes after we were in the works he was in our midst, encouraging the men, the thickest of the fire. He joined us from the direction of the left."

Col. George T. Rogers, of the Sixth Virginia Regiment, upon whom devolved the command of the brigade when General Weisger, who was wounded, retired from the field, in his statement, said:
'He captured the line equal to our front, but could not cover the crater; and upon the instant almost of reaching the trench, he fell. Weisger tried to rise, but that he was, he thought, mortally wounded, and turning over to me the command of the brigade, retired with assistance before Col. Rogers saw General Mahone in the trenches, and his staff and Weisger was but a short time in command on the forming line. Let us here settle any question that may arise by the statements of General Weisger and Judge Henry, who was with General Weisger in the charge, and at the breastworks, and who bore him from the field.

From the statement of Col. Rogers, which sees General Mahone in the trenches before the Crater, and the fact that we were on the right of the Crater, it would appear that General Weisger was wounded and retired from the front of the field, but that the brigade was in great confusion, our line in the trenches was broken, and the work of death was yet rife in the trenches, and our men were suffering terribly from an enfilade fire, poured from the crater proper, that projected far to the rear of our line, as well as from the fire of the main line of battle of the enemy.

John H. Claiborne & Son, Agents, 821 East Main Street.

Table with financial data: companies for reinsurance on losses already paid, The gross amount of all the assets of the company, Aggregate amount of all Assets of the company, stated at their actual value.

Table with financial data: Gross claims for adjusted and unpaid losses due and to become due, Gross losses in process of adjustment, Gross amounts received and receivable upon all unexpired fire risks.

Table with financial data: Gross amount actually paid for losses (including \$26,328.88 in previous years), Deduct amount of same not collected, Net collected.

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Table with financial data: Assets, Stocks, Bonds, Etc., owned by the company, including United States 5 per cent. regular bonds, United States 4 per cent. regular bonds, etc.

Table with financial data: Balance Sheet for 1892, showing Assets and Liabilities.

Table with financial data: Balance Sheet for 1893, showing Assets and Liabilities.

Table with financial data: Balance Sheet for 1894, showing Assets and Liabilities.

Table with financial data: Balance Sheet for 1895, showing Assets and Liabilities.

Table with financial data: Balance Sheet for 1896, showing Assets and Liabilities.

Table with financial data: Balance Sheet for 1897, showing Assets and Liabilities.

Table with financial data: Due from other companies for reinsurance on losses already paid, In hands of special agents, Aggregate amount of all assets of the company, stated at their actual value.

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JULIUS STRAUS & SON, Agents, 1004 Main Street.

MANHATTAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE TIME ENDING APRIL 30, 1893. OF THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE MANHATTAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, IN PURSUANCE TO THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

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J. B. CORE AGT., 1103 Main Street.