

Early on the morning of August 13, as Lieutenant Swartwout, as acting adjutant, was returning from an inspection of the picket lines, the enemy began firing upon the camp with several heavy guns of a battery planted at the Hewlett House, causing the men to seek temporary shelter along the river-bank, north of the barge. On reaching head-quarters, Colonel Alden gave Lieutenant Swartwout an order to deliver to the officers commanding the different companies. On his way to the point on the bank of the river protecting the regiment, a ponderous shell carried away his left arm, and then exploded beyond him, killing an officer and wounding eleven men. With wonderful equanimity of mind, he hastened the delivery of the order entrusted him by placing it in the hands of a fellow-officer, and then gave the requisite instructions for the proper bandaging of his dangerous wounds. Although greatly weakened by the loss of blood and nervously shocked by the sudden severance of his arm by the two hundred pound projectile, which frightfully excoriated his left side, he endured with admirable fortitude the removal of the fragments of his mutilated arm, in the afternoon, at the Point of Rocks Hospital. On the following day, he was conveyed by steamboat to Fortress Monroe, where, at the Officers' Hospital, a few days thereafter, he was joined by his anxious father.

The following facts, furnished by a letter written by Colonel Alden, disclose some of the circumstances attending the enemy's firing upon the regiment, on August 13, at Dutch Gap.

The enemy opened upon the regiment with a two-hundred-pound gun, and fired twelve rounds. One of the shots disabled eleven men, among them Assistant-Surgeon Austin Mandeville and Hospital-Steward Bernard Blair, who were at that time dressing Lieutenant H. J. Crippen's wounds. When the shell exploded, it killed the lieutenant and wounded the medical man. Lieutenant Swartwout, who had been mustered in, on the fourth of August, as first lieutenant, was carrying, as acting-adjutant, orders from regimental head-quarters to the officers commanding the different companies, had the greater part of his left arm taken off by a monster shell. The remaining upper part of his arm was amputated at the shoulder socket, and his recovery is hopefully expected. In a letter written to Lieutenant Swartwout's parents, Colonel Alden justly lauded their son's bravery and meritorious services as a soldier. In the following communication, other particulars of the occurrence are given by Colonel Alden :

“ Head-Quarters 169th Regt., N. Y. Vols.

“ In the field, Va., Aug. 23d, 1864.

“ My Dear Swartwout,

“ Accompanying this are your muster-in roll and final statements. Soon after you were wounded, you requested me to take care of certain papers in the