

Part of David S. Weldon's application for an Invalid's Pension

From an affidavit by Olney K. Gault of September 3, 1886

I was an Orderly Sergeant, Co. A, 16th NY Cavalry until about August 15, 1864, when I asked the commanding officer Lieut. Keese (as the captain was a prisoner of war) to release me as orderly and make me a duty sergeant. He did so and I was detailed for picket with three men, Andrew O'Keef, Alexander Pay, and David S. Welden, on August 23rd and was stationed on a hill about a half a mile from camp which camp was on the Pike at Annandale, VA, and there was a raid sent out from our regiment, about 600 strong, with 4 or 5 day's rations, and this was, I think the third day. They went off in the direction of Manassas and Warrenton, I think, and the morning of August 24, 1864, between day light and sunrise, my vedette, A. O'Keef, called out from his post, "Sergeant, there are some cavalry coming," then says, "They are our men coming in." We thinking so, allowed them to advance very near, some 15 or 20 rods. Then O'Keef saw in a bend of the road a gray uniform and two pieces of artillery. Then O'Keef called out, "They are the Rebs." Their advance guard of about fifty and ... (here the affidavit is cut off)

...the direction of Manassas Junction, and after passing the Junction some distance, all halted. Weldon was on a horse ahead of us. Soon after halting, I saw a number form a kind of ring looking down and soon heard one say, "The York is a dying." I was about to see him (Weldon). He was lying on his back, face up and apparently unconscious and frothed at the mouth and I thought he was dying. But in a few minutes – say 5 or 10 minutes – he opened his eyes and shortly they helped him up and soon placed him on another horse again and put an old straw hat on his head and all were on the march again, on toward Bull Run Gap. They marched us that day and late in the night, 43 miles, so the guards said, then locked us up in a corn house with a strong guard over us. The next morning, we could hardly move, feet all blistered and about used us up. Weldon, he complained of being ruptured and injury in his back by the fall from the horse. We started on again, and could hardly move. We were taken across lots all on foot. Soon came to a railroad track, followed it a ways, and soon came to Mosby's Headquarters, and stayed there until 2 or 3 o'clock p.m. of August 25th. Mosby did not arrive, so we were then placed under another guard and started for Culpepper, there were put on the cars and another guard, then went to Gordonsville, then took another train to Charlottesville, then to Lynchburg. There for 5 days. Then took the railroad for Richmond and taken to hospital that night. The next morning examined and O'Keef sent to the Libby Prison and the rest of us were kept at hospital. All of us being under doctor's care.

In 10 or 12 days, I think. A. Pay and D. S. Weldon were paroled and sent down the James River on a Flag Truce Boat, and then in 10 or 12 days, A. O'Keefe and I were paroled and sent down the James River on a Flag Boat, down the river to a landing then crossed a peninsula to Aikens Landing, above City Point, VA, to a Flag Boat within our lines, thence to Fortress Monroe, thence up to Annapolis, MD, our Parole Camp. Held there about 3 months. Weldon was quite poorly. He complained of pain in his back and rupture, more or less all the time, when I could see him. We were not in the same barracks at Annapolis. I wrote to the regiment to let them know we were all alive and in our own lines. Lieut Keys was in command of Company A. Keys wrote back to me saying, "Come to the regiment as soon as you can, as you have a commission here in waiting for you. Captain Mooney is still a prisoner."