

In September 1862, the 11th Missouri Infantry would face the enemy in volley vs volley battle for the first time since Fredericktown. This time the losses to the regiment were severe. In the evening of September 19, the regiment was thrown into a battle that had been raging with General Sterling Price's Confederates on the western edge of Iuka, Mississippi. The regiment surprised the 36th Mississippi Infantry and would weather three charges from two Confederate regiments who attempted to force the regiment to withdraw, but the 11th Missouri Infantry held their ground in the battle that resulted in the loss of seven men dead, 64 wounded and three missing. This was the greatest loss to the regiment since the beginning of the war.

O.R.-- SERIES I--VOLUME XVII/1 [S# 24]

**SEPTEMBER 19, 1862.--Engagement at Iuka, Miss.
No. 17.--Report of Maj. Andrew J. Weber, Eleventh Missouri Infantry.**

HDQRS. ELEVENTH MISSOURI VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
September 22, 1862.

COLONEL: In regard to the part taken by the Eleventh Missouri Volunteer Infantry in the battle fought at Iuka, Miss., September 19, I have to report the following:

During the day the regiment had marched, as the third regiment of the Second Brigade, immediately in rear of the Third Division, Army of the Mississippi, commanded by General C. S. Hamilton. The enemy was first engaged by General Hamilton, but they were in such force that General Rosecrans deemed it necessary to order forward our brigade, which he did in person. For some reason the regiments in front of us did not move forward, and, by order of Colonel Mower, commanding the brigade, I immediately ordered my regiment to advance, which they did, taking the double-quick step and cheering vociferously. I advanced to General Hamilton's line of battle, and, hearing heavy firing on the extreme right, I hastened on in that direction. Owing to the density of the woods and briars immediately on the right of General Hamilton's, I formed in the open field on the right, and then moved forward in line of battle. Immediately on entering the woods we found ourselves face to face with the Fourth Mississippi Brigade and not more than thirty paces from their line of battle. We fired a volley into them, which must, in consequence of our close proximity, have done great execution. At this juncture a man ran into our ranks exclaiming: "For God's sake, Stop firing into your own men; you are firing into the Thirty-seventh Mississippi." This information was promptly answered by a cheer and a volley more terrific than the first. The firing now became general on both sides, and the smoke of our and the enemy's guns was so dense that an object could not be seen five paces distant. We were charged upon three different times, and I am proud to report that each time the charge was equally unsuccessful. In several instances the enemy was received on the point of the bayonet and then shot off, and others were shot by officers, who placed their pistols in their very faces. A number of prisoners were taken who pressed into our lines, five by my color guard alone. After about an hour's firing the enemy fell back to the top of the ridge. When I found that my ammunition was

entirely gone I reported the fact to Colonel Mower, who had just learned that an attempt was being made to turn our left flank, and he ordered us to fall back slowly, which we did in order for about eight or ten rods. The enemy did not follow. We received ammunition and remained in our new position until morning.

During the engagement we had 7 men killed, 64 wounded, and 3 missing. (*) Our loss was thus small from the fact that our men were below the enemy and they overshot us.

I could not speak too highly of the conduct of every officer and man of my command. I would desire to mention them by name, but brave and gallant conduct on the part of our officers was so universal that I cannot attempt it. Captain Singleton, one of our best officers, was, I regret to say, very dangerously, if not mortally, wounded, while bravely doing his duty. Lieut. W. W. Cleland, of the same company, who was acting regimental adjutant, was badly hurt by the fall of his horse, which was shot under him. Lieutenant Osgood, of Company I, was badly wounded while encouraging his men. Captain Warner and Lieutenants Cowperthwait and Foster were slightly wounded.

Respectfully submitted, by your obedient servant,

A. J. WEBER,

O.R.-- SERIES I--VOLUME XVII/1 [S# 24]

**SEPTEMBER 19, 1862.--Engagement at luka, Miss.
No. 13.--Report of Col. Joseph A. Mower, Eleventh Missouri Infantry, commanding
Second Brigade.**

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., *SECOND DIV., ARMY OF THE MISS.,
Near Jacinto, Miss., September 22, 1862.*

I have the honor to report that, in obedience to orders, I moved forward on the evening of the 19th instant, at the head of my brigade, to a position in front of the enemy. On arriving at that point I halted the head of the brigade, when I found that I had only one regiment with me, the Eleventh Missouri Volunteers. I opened fire on the enemy, which they briskly returned. The engagement was kept up until the men had exhausted their ammunition and the enemy had ceased firing, when I ordered the regiment to fall back a short distance to prevent their being outflanked. The men fell back in good order, when I halted them and directed them to remain in that position, which they did through the night. The Eleventh behaved with the greatest gallantry and determination, both officers and men standing to their posts in the midst of a most deadly fire.

Where all did their duty so well I can hardly mention any particular persons, without appearing to be guilty of partiality. Major Weber encouraged the men by his presence and coolness under the fire of the enemy. I refer to his report for the particulars of the engagement.

Inclosed herewith find reports of the commanders of the several regiments and the battery of the brigade; also list of the killed and wounded and missing. (*) I am

unable to speak of what was done by the other regiments of the brigade, as they were detached from it.

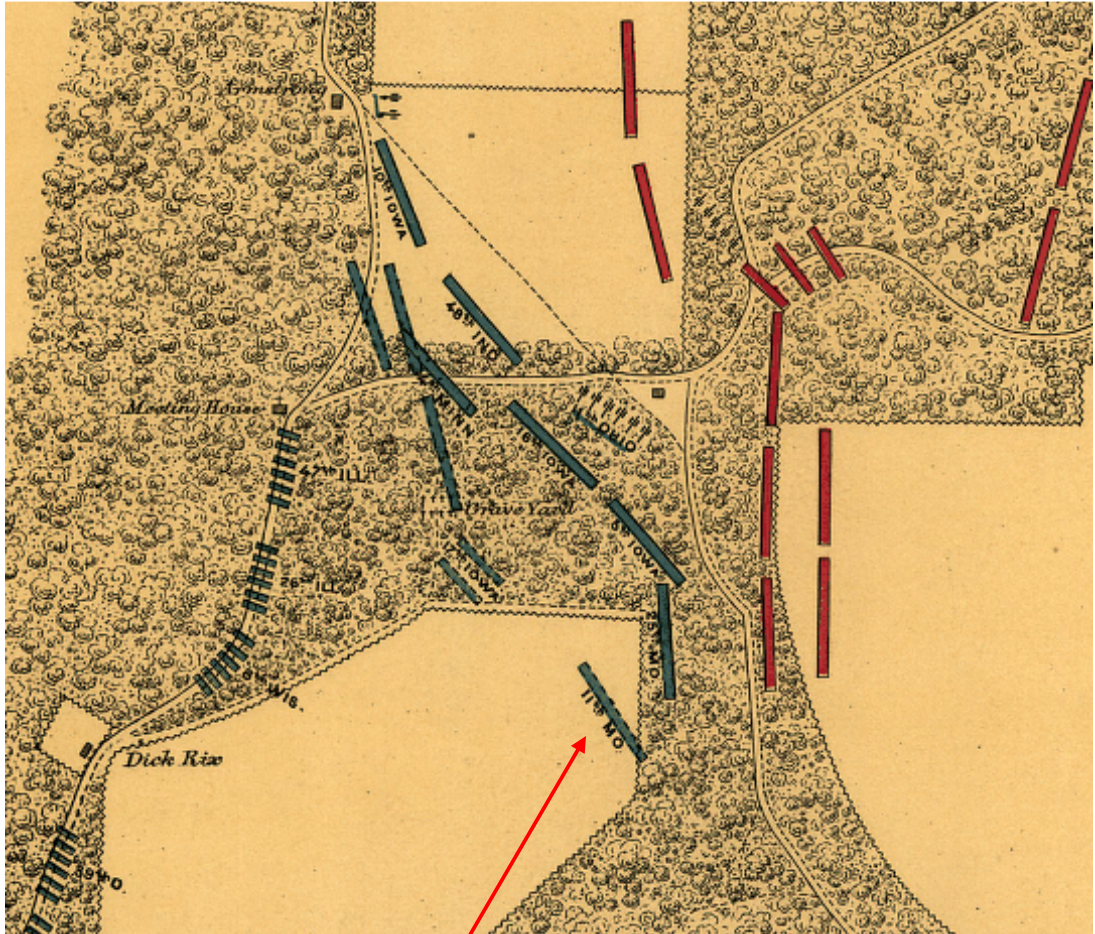
I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. A. MOWER,

Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Maj. W. DEAN COLMAN,

Assistant Adjutant-General.



11th Missouri Infantry's position as they
battled the 36th Mississippi and 37th
Alabama