

enemy, it was related, lost one hundred and forty-five killed, wounded, and prisoners; while the Union loss was thirty-five killed, one hundred and twenty wounded, and nine prisoners—mostly while attempting to wade the stream. Dr. A. L. Castleman, surgeon of the Fifth Wisconsin, who was an eye-witness, states in his work on the *Army of the Potomac*, that “about two hundred brave men were sacrificed.” As the Fifth Wisconsin did not share in this attack, and Maj. Larrabee states that he participated in it, it is presumed that he served temporarily as a volunteer—probably on the staff of Gen. Smith, who commanded on that occasion.

On the night of the 3d of May, the Confederates evacuated Yorktown, which was occupied by the Union troops the next day; and towards evening of the 4th, the Fifth Wisconsin was among the force designated to attack the field-works known as Fort Magruder—the largest of thirteen redoubts—which extended nearly across the Peninsula from the York to the James River.

After an ineffectual attempt to reach and attack the fort that night, the regiment, in thick darkness, at eleven o'clock, was ordered to lie down. The rain descended in torrents. Without knapsacks, blankets, or food, and exhausted by long wading through deep mud, they uncomplainingly made the best of their situation. It was fortunate that the Fifth Wisconsin missed its route on that dark and stormy night, for Fort Magruder was defended by several regiments, as the next morning's light revealed.

On the morning of the 5th of May, after wading through mud and water for three miles, Maj. Larrabee was ordered, with four companies of the Fifth, to dash across a mill-dam over Cub Dam Creek, a small tributary of Queen's Creek—regarded at the time as one of the most perilous and heroic undertakings of the war, as that passage was confronted with a formidable redoubt. A writer in the *Milwaukee Wisconsin* mentions “Maj. Larrabee's daring act of crossing a narrow mill-dam, in the face of the most formidable looking fort I ever saw. True, that fort was not occupied; but it was impossible for him to know it; and twenty men behind its walls could, in five minutes, have annihilated the