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THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
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Rept of Operations & Casualties

near Petersburg 16 May 1864

1st Co. Washington Artillery

15 names



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Report of Capt. Edmund Owen, First Louisiana
Battalion, Washington Artillery, of operations May 5-11

Compared Record-Book in possession of
Col. W. Miller Owen, New Orleans.

CONFIDENTIAL

J.W.

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1st Co. Washington Artillery

Richmond, May 26, 1864.

Colonel: I have the honor to report the operations of my battery in the campaign on the South Side.

On the 5th May I left camp at Model Farm with three guns (Napoleons). Subsequently my rifle gun was sent to me and was placed in position the same evening at Battery No. 11, near the Prince George road. The next day, the 6th instant, was ordered to report to General Pickett's headquarters at a trot, and was ordered by him across the Appomattox River. The enemy in heavy force under Butler were advancing on the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad via Port Walthall. I went in position on the turnpike about two miles from Petersburg. The enemy were then reported advancing on this road in heavy force. Besides my battery there were about 200 infantry to meet them. At daylight on 7th instant took position on the road protecting the Swift Creek bridge. About 9 a.m. was ordered to near Fort Clifton. At 3.20 p.m. was ordered by you to Port Walthall Junction at a trot, a heavy fight having been in progress at that point for several hours, but when I arrived found the enemy withdrawing so did not go in position. At 11.30 o'clock that night was ordered by Lieutenant-Colonel

Lightfoot to march quietly to Swift Creek and to place one section in position on the road protecting the bridge and the other section near the railroad bridge on Dunlop's place.

At 6 a.m. on the 9th instant, was ordered to move to the road by General Johnson, and about 9 a.m. was placed in position on the creek on the left of our line. Our troops had all fallen back on the night of the 7th instant and occupied the line of the Swift Creek. At 10 a.m. heavy skirmishing commenced in the front and soon the fight became general with artillery firing, the shells from which fell very near my battery. No enemy appeared in my front. At 4 a.m. on the 10th instant by your order I again changed my position to Dunlop's place, placing one section near the railroad and the other further to the right. At 7 a.m. a battery of the enemy in my front opened on the section near the bridge under Lieutenant Galbraith. They fired well but did no damage. I was not allowed to open on it. At 9 a.m. Lieutenant Galbraith opened on the position where this Yankee battery was, but found they had left. At 12 m. opened again on them but could get no response. Fired about forty rounds, the enemy were reported withdrawing all day. About 11 a.m. on the 11th instant was ordered to join the battalion then on the turnpike in rear of Pickett's division then commanded by General Corse, in the move to Drewry's Bluff. Moved at 3.30 a.m. on the 12th instant; continued our march. At 7.30 a.m. placed two guns in position on the turnpike at the half-way house. Enemy reported advancing when all the troops were withdrawn behind the fortifications. I was left with one section and General Corse's brigade on picket. The skirmishing continued heavy in our front all day, about 4 p.m. it became so heavy on the left that I took one Napoleon to the field and opened on the enemy. did some execution. Shortly af-

ter this the enemy opened with one gun on my rifle guns in the turnpike under Lieutenant Brown. One shot struck the wheel of the limber. Lieutenant Brown fired a few shots at them and at the third fire disabled the enemy's gun. At 7 p.m. withdrew to the fortifications and took position on the right of the road.

Fired to-day eighty-six rounds.

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At 4 p.m. the next day, the 13th, the enemy turned the right of our line of battle. In their advance Lieutenant Galbraith's section did great execution, also that under Lieutenant Brown, upon the enemy advancing, they having a fire on their flank. My battery was greatly divided on the line of works, extending over a space of at least half a mile. When our troops fell back to the second line of works, Lieutenant Galbraith with one gun brought up the rear with General Corse. In this engagement had no one hurt in my company. Fired ~~3~~ rounds.

On the 14th instant was placed in the work at Gregory's Crossing on the railroad. Here we remained till the morning of the 16th instant. About daylight on the 16th instant went to the turnpike to await further orders. Moved with Major Owen to the second line of works. At ~~3~~ ³ o'clock a.m. ordered by yourself to move to the first line of works, just taken by our troops, and if I could to put my battery in position there. I moved down the road till the minie-balls fell so thick about us that I was afraid to take the battery any further for fear the enemy might be pressing our forces back (the fog was so thick I could not see twenty yards ahead of me) so I halted and sent Lieutenant Galbraith forward with one gun with orders to fire at anything he saw. Very shortly I sent forward the other gun of his section, but could not then put the other section in position in the works, as the enemy was just in front of the works and could have killed

all my horses and probably men while moving by the flank. After this and while I was in the front, Lieutenant Brown was ordered by General Beauregard's aide to take position to the right of the road and in rear of the line of works. In these positions our fire had terrible effect upon the enemy. Several times they attempted to advance columns up the road but a few well-directed shots from Lieutenant Galbraith's section would cause them to melt away into the woods. A battery of the enemy in our front and not more than 100 yards distant, composed of three 20-pounder Parrotts and two Napoleons, suffered heavily from the fire of Lieutenant Galbraith's section and was finally silenced by our fire, together with that of Haygood's and Johnson's brigades. This captured battery was afterward presented to me by General Beauregard for the services of the First Company on that day. About 8.15 a.m. I was struck on the head by a minie-ball and had to leave the field and very shortly after Lieutenant Galbraith was struck in the hips. Lieutenant Brown was then in command of the battery. He withdrew at 10 o'clock having expended nearly all his ammunition. In this engagement I lost 4 killed, viz: C. R. Waldren, P. B. Simmons, H. Peychaud, George Chambers, and 11 wounded, Capt. E. Owen, Lieut. J. M. Galbraith, Corpl. C. A. Everett, Corpl. S. Turner, Privates J. Meyers, N. B. Phelps, E. Peychaud, J. Normant, C. Rossiter, J. Wilson, W. W. Spencer; also had 3 horses killed and 7 wounded. One limber was broken by the mules getting frightened and running away into the woods. I fired 251 rounds, viz: rifle 6 shell, 6 canister, Napoleons 125 case shot, 16 shell, 13 solid shot, 31 canister.

Lieutenants Galbraith and Brown and Sergeants McCanney, Hardie, and Normant, also my corporals and men acted with conspicuous gallantry; every man did his duty nobly. After Lieutenant

Galbraith was wounded First Sergt. J. B. McCanney took command of his section and still retains it. Lieutenant Brown now has command of the First Company with the captured guns presented to it.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Edward Owen,

Captain, Commanding First Company, Battalion Washington Art.

Lieut. Col. B. F. Eshleman,

Commanding Battalion Washington Artillery:

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