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| Bushrod Johnson’s Diary Supplement Army Official Records—Volume 7  Addendum [Reports]—Vol. 40  Pages 277, 278  June 18, Saturday. [In the] morning the atmosphere grew thick. The sun was dim and red, and the light was obscured after sunrise. My lines were not formed until near sunrise. Ransom’s Brigade was last to turn out and came in good force. Wise’s Brigade came out about 400 [strong] in detachments and increased to about 600 by sun up.  Enemy seen advancing 7:30 a.m., [the] delay being quite astonishing, and at that hour opened first gun from section of Pegram’s Battery on right of Baxter’s Road. Miller’s section on right and Pegram’s four Napoleons on left joined in fire. First shot cut a regiment in two. Firing all very good. The enemy’s line, about one brigade of Yankees about crest of hill east side of Taylor’s Creek in front of Taylor’s House, was driven by ﬂank at double-quick to Wise’s left to the woods by artillery alone. At ﬁrst shot, Yankee’s line was down. Enemy massed in the woods. Brought up four batteries in case of hole and on edge of woods.  Opened first battery about 8 o’clock. All these batteries commenced 10 o'clock from their new position--battery of two Napoleons and two I0-pounder Parrott guns on right of road. Fired on seven Yankee guns on crest of hill. Enemy concentrated ﬁre over battery on right of road for about one hour. Changed position of the enemy's left battery to right. Artillery practice continued all day.  Sharpshooters and skirmishers advanced about 10 o’clock. Our skirmishers were driven from slope in front of Taylor’s House about 3 o’clock to railroad (we had men of enemy’s battery found on crest of hill).  At 9 or 10 o’clock a.m. skirmishers advanced from enemy’s lines at I0 a.m. and drove in our advanced skirmishers to the second line of skirmishers on west side of Taylor s Creek. In afternoon enemy's skirmishers descended the slope to railroad and advanced across the creek.  At about 4 p.m. enemy’s skirmishers advanced on road, (one Napoleon wheel broke off, one limber wheel disabled, one Parrott gun carriage disabled) of Taylor’s Creek, and drove in our skirmishers to their work. The enemy made a charge in two lines of about one brigade near Elliott’s right artillery, and infantry repulsed the charge easily, except for [those] which enlodged in ravine. General Elliott sent out two companies and drove them off.  About 6:30 p.m. found regular lines of enemy’s batteries with one color of United States and one state ﬂag. The regiment in front of Pegram’s four guns at about 200 yards and the fight commenced with artillery and infantry.  Soon five enemy’s colors were counted, perhaps but the regiments of one brigade. Commenced entrenching in edge of woods below brow of hill north of Baxter’s Road and were soon under cover with skirmishers advanced.  On the right of the road, at [illegible] about one brigade charged up to battery and Elliott’s Brigade charged up within fifty yards of our works, exposed to [illegible] of canister and flank fire from Elliott’s Brigade and were driven back, repulsed, in disorder with great loss [of] men to top of hill on east of Taylor’s Creek.  They then formed a line of Skirmishers which advanced about dusk to within fifty yards of Elliott’s works (he having not thrown out skirmishers) [and] established a line which was not reported to me; [they] removed their wounded and dead. The enemy’s loss was very heavy.  Division relieved by [illegible] Division  June 19, Sunday.—Firing of artillery and skirmishers all day. Between 11 and 12 p.m. firing heavy on [Joseph Brevard] Kershaw’s line, like an assault, again between 12 and 1. The same brigade was repulsed. | UPR: Report of Major General Bushrod R. Johnson, C. S. Army, commanding Johnson’s division, of operations June 16-18, 1864  [Transcriber’s Note: About one half of the next page is blank.  A portion of the report appears to be missing.]    …were driven in by the enemy,  but our artillery and the 18th and 26th South Carolina regiments promptly repulsed them, except about 300 who sought shelter in the ravine on that part of our front.  A raking fire of one of Slaten’s guns followed by the fire of two companies moved forward from our lines by Brigadier General Elliott promptly drove them from their cover.  About 6 ½ o’clock in the evening the enemy appeared in line of battle on the north-side of Baxter road, in front of Pegram’s Battery of four guns.  A conflict immediately commenced with the artillery and infantry.  Five colors were counted in this part of the enemy’s line.  They gained the cover of the hill and established trenches in the edge of the woods some two-hundred yards in front of Ransom’s Brigade.  At the same time about one brigade on the Southside of the Baxter Road charged up to within about 100 yards of our lines, exposed to nine rounds of canister, and the direct and flank fire from Elliott’s Brigade, which inflicted severe losses and drove them back in disorder.  They subsequently pushed forward and established at night their line of skirmishers on the Westside of Taylor’s Creek.    During the night my command was relieved by Field’s Division and part of Kershaw’s.  It will be observed that during the 16th and 17th of June my command had four distinct engagements in which it repulsed repeated assaults of the enemy’s forces massed in several lines and in superior numbers, upon the salient points of my lines, and inflicted remarkably heavy losses upon them in killed, wounded and captured.  On the 18th of June two additional assaults on our new position were repulsed with considerable damage to the enemy and small loss to ourselves.  No accurate or reliable estimate can be formed of the enemy’s losses in my front.  Northern accounts place their whole losses to include the 17th of June, to which time we opposed them with two divisions alone, at an aggregate of (8000), and refer to the conflicts of the 16th and 17th of June as [samples of?] battles unparalleled in modern Europe in carnage, in desperate assaults, and in the steady valor of the troops.  The whole Army of the Potomac was thus held at bay and foiled in a grand movement while a strong defensive position was secured for our troops.  Of the gallantry of our men, I need not say more.  To my brigade commanders, Brigadier Generals A. Gracie and S. Elliott and Colonels P.R. Page, Jonathan S. Fulton, P.F. Faison and… |