

John Jenkins' Narrative of Honey Hill; n.d.
(Maj, 3rd S.C. Cavalry)

I requested Capt. Desjardins to go to the front, watch the enemy
and keep me posted.

On the morning of Nov 29th I received a despatch from Lieut
Foster informing me that the enemy were approaching Boyd's
Nack and Landing troops. The information received at Graham
ville at 10 a.m. At this time there were no troops at Graham
ville. Peoples arrived there at 12 m and was ordered to the front.
Peoples Company and the Rebel troops, cavalry, and Bachmans
German Artillery and Strauts Beautiful Battery
Small (my immediate command) for duty in the Coastal
sub-District. Peoples company and a detachment of the Rebel
Troop were ordered to Grahamville and the Beaufort Artillery
to be ready after information reached me of enemies presence
at Boyd's landing threatening the C & S R R at Grahamville
Cowan's hatch in a B.F. Capt. Raynor's Company was positioned
in that section and furnished to the best of my recollection
first notice of the fact of approach of enemy and debarkation of
Boyd's Naval Brigade was first organized body landed (Boyd's
Hatch, The Federal Commander) and immediately packed to the front
to occupy cross roads two miles from the landing. Attached to them
were eight light guns drawn by sailors and drove toward
Boyd with a small force of the enemy. That force was Raynor's
company which skirmished as busily as was possible with no
entire success. As soon as enemies were approached
the Battery near enough for the guns to reach the battery fired
fire, when they instantly about face and withdrew; and
were followed up by Raynor who fired an occasion shot at
to hurry them up and took some prisoners, who fell in the
hurry as if wounded or killed and gave themselves up when Raynor
reached them. Went over to Grahamville only days after

receiving Frazer's dispatch and getting latest intelligence of ene-
my's movements sent telegram to Lieut. Genl. Hardie at Savannah
and Lieut. Genl. Jones at Charleston as follows: Ten gunboats, with
barracks and buoys at Beaufort, landing troops near Savannahville
Four gunboats coming up Broad River to Mackley's Point, which
is the approach to Pocotaligo and Coonawatchie. Reinforcements
needed. To the Lieut. Genl. commanding. From Savannah
received acknowledgment of communication signed Col. Inman by
order of Lieut. Genl. Hardie to the effect that Major Genl. Swayne Smith
then on his way from Macon would reach Savannah in time to be at
Savannahville & advance next morning; that the most determined
assistance of the few local troops available must be made to check
a delay enemy & prevent their getting the R.R. before General Smith's
arrival; and requesting that horses should be provided for the
General and Staff who would be unable to buy them - the trains
being insufficient for transportation of all the troops, for which
much be expended and. From Lieut. Genl. Jones that a Regiment
would be at Swan Dam at eight o'clock next day.

In the afternoon heard from Mackley's Point. Enemies ships
coming. Issued orders at once through Lieut. Genl. Inman to all the
troops in hand cavalry & artillery, to be on immediate presence
of the enemy before daylight and in contact with them as soon as
they advanced; telling them what was expected of them by Lieut. Genl.
Hardie, and promising to be with them as soon as possible in the
morning. I then at dark returned to Pocotaligo. Inman says
that on leaving I asked him to move his Head Quarters to the
Telegraph Office at the Depot and keep me informed from
time to time during the night. Sent Lieut. Genl. Hardie to day

Lines as follows: Major Genl Sam. Lines. It is important that I should be reinforced to night. Please hurry Harrison to Coo Warkatchie. I then sent Major Cross, who on reaching Portobago sent Cross to attack the 14 boats which boats were still "coming up" and at anchor, waiting for returning tide. During the night Capt Campbell (at the order of Genl Lines had left Loder Is. on the 28th) had made a forced march of 140 miles and arrived at midnight, was allowed a few hours to rest and report men and horses and directed to proceed through Frohmanville and join the troops at the front. I should have day light having no other means of advance of enemies fleet. The British were a broad ship not announcing the departure of troops at Bygos. I arrived at the definite conclusion that the advance to the 1st was merely a demonstration to divert suspicion from the real point of attack & prevent concentration of a dispersion of Confederate forces and set out for Frohmanville on proceeding through the works at Bygos creek directed Capt Kern to send another of his guns one already advanced with the greatest speed compatible with continued service - ready the crew, and to move forward the gun until they met the enemy. He could double learn the gun; this answer indicating that he could hold the fort with half his guns and a confident expectation that he would not need his gun to draw them off, he was complimented on the speed of his reply. The gun sent was the one under Lieut Leary's command which was so handsomely handled and with one of Capt Kern's command by Lieut Graham, supported by the cavalry retarded the enemies advance.

and enabled Gen Smith to reach the works in time & barely in time to occupy and man them. The most unimpeached of all testimony is the famous report of an enemy, and they shall tell the story of the brilliant the Small Confederate force Artillery - Cavalry including the battle of Honey Hill.

Gen James B. Bell, Artillery, Brigade, 13th Co on Feb 3rd 1862, 4 light 12 pounders of Miquelet, Regt B. N. Y. A. & 4 12 pound guns Co F 3rd N. Y. A. T. T. Co.; section of 2nd Mass. Artillery of the 80's. One section of Miquelet and 2nd Mass. Artillery were in line in rear of the ad on Right of 11th Brigade - moved up on Honey Hill road. Advancing about one mile and a half from our position an advanced troop of a section of the enemies guns in a position when the road turns to the right. A section under Lieut Wildt was put in the road in position in the road six hundred yards from the enemies guns and after firing twenty five rounds caused them to retreat. The approach to the enemy was by a narrow road bordered by dense woods and the battery was brought into position under a sharp fire from the enemies guns. The troops advanced from this point about three quarters of a mile when the enemies guns were again encountered at a turn of the road. The section of Artillery under Lieut Wildt was brought into position in the road at a distance of eight hundred yards from the enemy; after firing twenty rounds the enemies artillery retreated. While coming into battery Lieut Wildt was mortally wounded, the one private of his command. The troops advanced about half a mile when the

Honey Hill Battery was engaged. This battery was situated
about 1/2 mile and six hundred yards from the road at
which the advance was made on slightly elevated ground
Four pieces of Megerow Battery were placed in position
to command the enemy's works. One section only could be
placed in position on front of the enemy's works. The left
section being masked by the woods which at this point
was very dense and the road so narrow that great dif-
ficulty was experienced in firing. The two sections of battery
were kept up on the evening from 11 to 3 AM. As thus
some the two ammunition chests of the right section
was ~~blown up~~ ^{exploded} by the enemy's shells. First Lieut Eugene C. Buck
of Co B 8th Mass was much scratched on face & hands by the explosion
also three privates of his section when by accident were killed.
Sergeant of Foot James Bally, P. S. R. and First Clarke
The First Clarke on end of left section of Megerow Bz B 3rd Mass
was shot in the right eye at this time (3 PM) also 8 horses and
seven caissons of Megerow Battery. After 4 o'clock the gun
of the 3rd was taken by 4 Horses of the Royal Brigade and First
Lieutenant Matthews who continued the fire till dark, and
then retired to their position at the cross roads. Here I will
introduce French's description of the fine works at
Honey Hill, fortifications skillfully placed, in a position naturally
strong, on an elevation unusually high for a flat Pine Barren
country, and flanked with the front side by an impassible. That
is a beautiful description of the works, and would unmentioned
at with two exceptions it was not flanked when it would have
been comparatively useless, but a great credit to me personally
as situated, but poised and not impossible of the report
as he clearly does to the natural obstructions. It was not
impossible physically but morally & practically it proved to be
so for a man of genius, just as in C. V. with other also
and admirable description of the Bay situation.

This section of Hayward is a piece of wood/planking ^{made} into one
which height 3' 6". Boys Eric Hatch we continually saw, the
enemy about three miles and a half, the artillery by behind
every few miles of our artillery in the advance. Our casualties were
not severe during this advance, but we lost a gallant officer
^{from} Capt. E. A. Wildt 1st A few mortally wounded which slightly
his gun. At 11 o'clock the head of the column came unexpectedly
by on the main body of the enemy in position. The advance fol-
lowing it found themselves in front of an enclosed work piece
ed for four guns. The redoubt situated on the crest of a hill
was centre of enemies line. It was said to be built two
years before although until now unknown to us. It shows
the crest of the hill on both sides of the redoubt the enemy
had thrown up a line of rifle pits and within them situated
with seven pieces of artillery our attacks. In front of the
enemies line was a small creek, bounded by a marsh, cov-
ered with a dense undergrowth. This was not insuperable
but presented a serious obstacle to our advance, being
completely commanded by the enemies fire. Other Regiments
were quickly formed in line of battle parallel to that of the enemy.
Having brought General to the field of battle we will now bring
up the Confederate Commander on that field. Upon reaching
Franklinville in the early morning the fresh information I received
was that Col. Colcock had arrived and gone to the front. I rode
to the Dept to ascertain whether horses for General Smith and staff
had been provided and shortly after arriving heard the engine
whistle How. I then roll' up and the troops soon formed
or then sent to be used to push to the front. General Smith
accompanied by Col. G. also moved towards the Eden house and
was introduced to Col. Colcock, Major Jenkins and Captain
Desjardine. Col. Colcock reported the enemy rapidly advancing
skirmishing with a few companies of his Cavalry and a ^{few} ~~pieces~~
pieces of artillery. He was ^{sent} ~~sent~~ ^{to} the front and requested his

to select a volunteer for leading Brigade as soon as I could
dispatch it to him. I received a report of a second train of
and the 47 Regt which was immediately sent from
Chatelet." The second train in a few minutes drew
up to the left - the 47 Regt remaining with the battle of front
and the horse receiving the necessary direction the general
mounted a very handsome spirited horse selected for him
which soon showed his mettle the general remarked that he
had once had a stroke of paralysis, hadn't a very firm
seat in the saddle and would prefer a quiet horse. There
was welcome to him; was assured he would give him gentle sure foot
ed and steady under fire, and his "Rebel" had the honor of
being ridden out of sight the best military man upon
the field that day. Riding at a gallop the first brigade
was soon overtaken and encouraged & complimented their
satisfactory progress to push on. Pausing momentarily at the
Battery he resumed his gallop and turning the head ^{on front} of the
which obliquely sharply to the right saw at the distance of about
a mile as far as the eye could reach from the same level in the
flat country the road packed with troops. The Confederates falling
back slowly before the enemy - no firing going on.
Four or five miles the Division turned back counter marched his own
troops, placed it in line with the ^{main battery} ~~battery~~ - hurried up the troops
in rear which was formed to the right and left. The enemy
the meanwhile steadily advanced upon ^{along} the main road
upon our line position. As General S was about starting back to post
his troops in the battery as flanking headquarters he said he would
~~be~~ the enemy checked until he could send forward a line of
skirmishers & intimated to Col Cole that his intention of putting
him or officer next in rank to him in command of the
line of battle. and the Col asked me to take command of the Cavalry
It was at once deployed and soon engaged in a sharp skirmish
ring fight with the enemy who were also soon in line preparing

us back. The fire on our right was quite warm. The infantry
in a brief space of time came forward and took the fight
off our hands and throwing the cavalry into column in accord
ance with his orders reported to Genl Smith ^{well} the battery
requiring where we were wanted he replied promptly
on the left flank. Before leaving I suggested to him that Capt
Desjardins was the Supy of Pickets in that Military District
was acquainted with the Country and from his knowledge
of localities might be of ^{use} service to him in the battle. Throwing
me for the suggestion he said he would avail himself of
his services and rode off with him to the position on the road
about a hundred and twenty yards ^{and} ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{rear of} ~~rear of~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{battery}
"The Massachusetts Volunteers which had by mistake taken posi-
tion on left of the road, made two desperate attacks on the main
line of the enemy led by Col Harlow - Comdr 2^d Regt. ~~Mass~~
repulsed with severe loss. The 5th & 7th Mys were called
and with the main Brigade sent to the support of the
right wing of the line of battle with order to turn the left of
the enemy. They advanced gallantly but were unable to carry
the intrenchment. Right wing finally fell back a short dis-
tance to advantage of inequality of ground, which gave them a
position from which they repulsed several attacks made by the
Enemy. Say General Potter I ordered the right of the line to press
forward strong arms around to the left and if possible take the
enemies line in flank ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{reverse} ~~reverse~~ ^{near}. The difficulty of the ground
and heavy fire compelled the ^{them} ~~enemies~~ to withdraw. Sent Col Haughton
command right of the line"~~

On reaching my Men I found Campbell who as senior Capt
was entitled to right of Cavalry on the left as I had ordered. The
enemy overtopping by half a Regiment my men were stretched
out to the end of the front line of breastworks into a very thin
skirmish line, firing by file and as well as if each man was
sent to shoot for himself like the others, and at frequent intervals

ammunition I ordered Campbell to control the fire by platoon
firing and to direct every third or fourth volley by an oblique
aim to the left, to let that portion of the enemies line which
overlooked us understand that there was somebody in front
of them. Firing under order the men soon got over their ex-
citement and fired deliberately and low. I at once despatched
Cramer with Major Gen. Smith to explain the situation and ask
for help, and to proceed to Grohansville for ammunition. As
he would have to ride through a fearful fire to make sure
of the General getting the information of the danger to his
left flank in ten minutes a second Courier with duplicate
note was sent to him with like instructions to bring back am-
munition. Shortly a Gen arrived with message that I could
have another, he had no infantry to send. In loading the
gun the shot or shell got jammed in the bore about half
way down and was at once sent back with request for the
other gun; and advising that if the ball could be extracted on
another gun spared that it should be sent well out on the
road from Grohansville to Bear creek with a very small
cavalry support ^(I very reliable whom I would send) to push far in advance. As I had
withdrawn two of the guns from Bear creek ^{which we} now in the
Honey-hill battery. Two guns were sent of the Bear fort artillery
with detachment of Rebel Troop with directions to push far to
the front and give prompt notice of enemy ^{movements} to move upon or
near from that direction. Two of the few men of that company
were allowed to participate in the fight, two of my sharpshooters
Charles Jenkins and Thos. Lordeau. Lordeau shot Hartwell's horse
with his beautiful telescope Rifle, naming his mark in advance
the horse falling at the crack of the rifle. After about an hour & half
there was a ^{plainly perceptible} ~~great~~ increase in the ^{rapidity and} volume of fire. Walker for
one whom I saw an Officer mounted on the parapet & fired
with deliberate aim guns which were being loaded for him. As I
never enquired what are you doing in there? I can see them

If you can see them they can see you and as soon as you gain
 then notice will be firing fifty shots to you one. How far are they?
 Naming the distance what he estimated, not now remembered,
 but near than I had supposed, I called him down and ^{if} they
 are that near now they will be nearer before long and you can
 then render more service by holding and handling you men
 than by your rifle practice. I at once determined to make an effort
 or find the feasibility of communicating ~~with~~
 for help which was usually needed, as our line could be well up, ^{rather}
 with a large party of thousands of prisoners and capturing the railroad. Jan
~~1862~~ ^{Feb} The command to Captain Campbell I rode the length of the line
 from the Confederate line and going and did not see a solitary soldier
 but as Campbell ^{very} happily expressed "going without orders
 to be in the rear guard". While a Col. Sumner states in reference to
 particular stage of the battle Two companies of the 127th N.Y. were formed
 across the woods with fixed bayonets to prevent straggling from
 the right side and right. The Yankee bullets aimed toward the
 same ends for the Confederates. The ground was ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the}
 the rear of our breastworks the air was filled with bullets on the
 deepest places in that field was within the entrenched line.

I asked the name of the gallant Officer told him I shall not forget it
 but names and events fade from the tablet of memory like vapor from
 the mirror.
 Before going to the front, I rode into the battery to satisfy my curiosity about
 a few details, I found ~~some~~ ^{one} that you know are Frank C. Cochrane informed me and
 advised me to dismount ^{high up in a tree} as a sharp shooter, he said, had come near fully
 covered of the men in the battery who had exposed themselves by leaving
 the shelter of the breastwork, Expecting to remain only a few moments
 declined doing so, and capturing our position on the left. The object of my
 visit to Sgt Smith, the sharp shooter fired the ball passing uncom-
 forably close between my body and neck and lodging in the ground a short
 foot or nearly a considerable elevation. Major Cook remarked that he
 80 men watching for that fellow and that they could find him
 down after a while. Nothing could have given so much pleasure
 to the men as to see the sharp shooter ^{loped} out of his life fence.

I had not to wait to experience that enjoyment and I did not in-
tend any way to let him have another dring at me. As I wheeled
my horse to ride off Col Cobble said to me "this is the first time I
have been under fire," and Major Cook followed with the handsome
Compliment "He however stood fire like a veteran" It gave me
great pleasure to Congratulate him on having ^{for our cordials} so borne himself
in battle as to gain the Confidence and commendation of the Officers
who witnessed his Conduct. As I neared General Smith he said
"I got you two messages but I have only little Regiment of less
than 2500 men in reserve. It is my wish Lord and I don't
like to play it." Proceeding to disclose the dangerous condition
of things on the left, I went to remark that he had reculer them
the country from the railroad and knew of the fortified lines he occu-
pied could not be held he knew there was no ground at the rear at which
a successful defence could be maintained. That he was command-
er and knew their history; would fight till they died as long as they
had the bulge on the enemy but if they once threw up their hands
preferred to conclude matters at Court to show their
When we were within the Confederate line on the right not very far
from the road was broken, the long guns ground but retired fighting
the volleyed fire showing that they were handled by an Officer who un-
derstood his duty and was doing it. The attention of the General was
called to the ~~with the~~ your right is gone and as soon as they
close with your left that's gone. With unruffled manner and
voice without a quiver of excitement, self composed and calm as if
he was driving the enemy instead of them driving him, he said
in his peculiarly courteous manner "ride back please and bring us
Col Edwards and tell him to drive them back". I galloped to
the rear delivered the message and wheeled my horse
the left double quickening and at the head with his hand on my
right knee as regulated by speed at a trot. Paying to the
front of Genl Smith a few yards as I reined up my horse called
halted and gave the order on sight by file into line - former line

lowers/perpendicular to our line of battle - the mistle bushes
fronthead for attack as it would take the square on flank. When
I had left the guns was going on; now their direction; The position
position of the confederate troops which had been pushed back
was unknown. Realizing the danger of their being enveloped on the
flank attack, I arrested the movement by saying to Col. Linn
loud enough for the General to hear. "That's about do Colonel - The
General says you must go in and drive them back. Col. L
instantly called a halt - ordered the address to pull down a parcel
of the company and when the obstruction was removed ordered "by file
right march". When the last file had duly passed in the forest
Some distance the orders came quickly "halt" "front" "forward"
and in a few seconds the battle was joined, a few volleys
swiftly interchanged, the enemy giving way and were shortly
trunked over the parapet in a rapid retreat - the line reestablis
ed and the fire died out.

When this crisis was over, every thing quiet on the right and front except
occasional shot fired by sharpshooters from the trees, the silence brought on me
clearly the heavy incessant roar of musketry on the left which had succe
ed the . Coming to the left I said to the General and I gallo
ed my team comes next day as I galloped off he called to me
"I will stand for help from the centre". Noticing some
firing beyond our line to the left I thought the time for their
turning movement had come as they was nearly on line and
beyond our flank. The cannoniers were ordered to man their
guns and I rode their side then and dismounted. says that the
dies I reported by order of Capt. Campbell to you that they were flank
us and had men were needed in call with on extreme left.
You reply was take ten men and occupy and do the best
you can. The next morning I found some 100 dead and wounded per
You were standing bold as you here, at/peace you

Caesar Battery. Campbell had ordered the
increased his men in certain volutions to divert the attention of the
Nothing after my return to my command they received reinforcements
and one. In code reports, with his Battalion. He was told we welcomed
him with so much gladness that we would take him into our
midst. Campbell was ordered to close up to Capt. Peoples and
Gregory to the right, and Major Cook in centre we were now
for the first time since the opening of the fight a line of battle
feeling the confidence in joining elbow to elbow replaced the isolated
and independence of the skirmish line. For an hour and
the heaviest musketry of the battle continued to rage.

Extract from Report no 9. Pettie

- coming on to the line of battle in rear of the 2^d (the volunteers. - then failed
to the right a little in advance of the line previously formed and in a front
pointed out by signals on the field. As soon as formed in line fire was opened
on the enemy who seemed to be in force on the left. At 2 P.M. when
Major Cook, with the 5th Battalion was sent with 20 men to
deploy and advance on the right flank. He proceeded for 20 yards
without firing the enemy. At 3.30 P.M. the line again fell back on
the left flank Battalion was compelled to retire, as the enemy advanced
which was done in good order and a new position taken. This position
was held until about 6 P.M. when in the distance to order it was to march to
the rear. - Surge Major, Pettie, 1st and 2^d Co's, 1st Regt. Royal
South Atlantic Battalion - 2^d Squadron.

From Haughton's Report 25 who what fought us for just to look. There was a
force on our front but I could still have force on our left. Thinking I had
gained an advantage I was anxious to press it. I immediately
sent an officer to learn his position and see if his flank could be
pressed. Receiving a favorable answer I at once made a
of front on my left Company and moved forward into woods
about 100 yds. Behind our position where we met in short time of
here a severe fight took place. We held our line till our ammunition
was completely exhausted, even stopping our march a deal of the contact

of their carbaz, Boxes and brooms of the 82 U.S. Army which rather
hardly came up on our right but did not show, soon to our right
apparently to maintain my motion and the fire was
for more severe on our left than on right