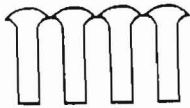


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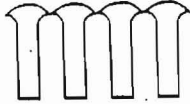
Lieut.

Battery Pringle
James Island, S. C. July 13th 1864

Pursuant to Special Orders No 8 Par VIII from Head Quarters West Point. I have the honor to make the following report of operations at Battery Pringle beginning on 2nd and terminating on 12th instant. The armament of the Battery consisted of eight (8) guns as follows One 10 inch Columbiad, One 8 inch Columbiad, two 8 inch Shell guns, two 42 Pdr & two 32 Pdr Rifled guns. They were located in the following order beginning on the right of the Battery viz No 1 32 Rifled, No 2 42 Rifled, No 3 10 inch Columbiad, No 4 32 Rifled, No 5 42 Rifled (double banded), No 6 8 inch Columbiad, No 7 8 inch shell gun & No 8 8 inch shell gun. I had made frequent applications to have heavier metal added to the armament, but failed in every instance to effect my purpose. The reply was invariably we have no heavy guns to spare for Battery Pringle. I append a copy of my last application to this report marked "A". The equipment of the Battery was incomplete, but from no fault of the Battery Commander or myself - requisitions were sent up regularly for all deficiencies, but were seldom or never filled, completely. I append the report of Lieut. W. D. Martin marked "B", who was in charge of the Battery immediately preceding and at the time of the attack. It will be seen from his statement that every effort was made to have the Battery thoroughly equipped for action. I would also state in this connection that it was my habit to remind Battery Commanders weekly to make requisitions for everything needed. If there has been any want of energy displayed, it had not been on the part of the Battery Commanders or myself.

On the morning of the 2nd instant the Battery was garrisoned by Company "A" Lucas' Batt Artillery with an effective strength of sixty (60) men. The Company was officered by 1st Lieut W. D. Martin and 2nd Lieut Chas. E. Lucas. On the morning of the 3rd instant Senior 1st Lieut W. G. Ogier reported for duty & assumed command of Company "A". On the same day Capt T. B. Wayne, Company "C" Lucas' Batt Artillery with thirty one (31) men was added to the garrison. Capt Wayne was assigned to the command of the Battery under my

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direction. With these prefatory remarks I shall proceed to give an account of the operations of the Battery. On Saturday morning 2nd instant about 4 1/2 O'clock a two masted gun boat ascended the St. Johns river to within about 3000 yards of the Battery and opened fire, which was returned very promptly by St. Martin's. The gun boat fired twelve (12) or fifteen (15) shots at the Battery and dropped down the river to a position opposite Legare's point place on Johns Island. It is extremely probable that it was designed as a reconnaissance preparatory for the advance of the monitors which took place during Saturday night. No other firing took place during Saturday.

St. J. D. Ford, Company "B" Lucas' Batt Arty was ordered to the Battery Saturday night & assigned to the command of two guns on the right of the Battery. This was done in consequence of the scarcity of officers. Detachments were kept at the guns during the entire night ready for action. At midnight I received information that the enemy was landing from barges below Grimball's and that his gunboats were in the same reach. I opened fire on that point with my 8 in shell guns and fired ricochet shots from the two Columbiads, which was continued at intervals until day light. Major Manigault who was in command of the front, reported the firing as very annoying to the enemy. A barge was seen stranded below Grimball's on the next day, which had the appearance of being stove in by a shot. Just after daylight Sunday morning a monitor was descried about 3500 yards distant. I thought it a useless waste of ammunition to fire upon her, & would not have done so had I not received orders from District Head Quarters reprimanding me for allowing a tug boat to remain so near my Battery unimpeded. I opened fire from my Columbiads immediately, but without effect, so far as I know. The monitor soon afterwards moved up about 500 yards - after finding my fire upon the monitors useless, I turned my guns upon the wooden fleet, which had collected during the afternoon of Saturday & Saturday night near Legare's point place, about two & a half miles distant - the fleet returned the fire,

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without damage to the work the range had not been ascertained and the firing was wild, except from the monitors, from which ricochet shots were fired with considerable accuracy. One unexploded 15 inch shell was picked up in the Battery. Two casualties occurred in Company "C" Lucas Batt Art'y from the accidental and premature discharge of the 10 inch Columbiad. Private ~~Wm~~ Brass & Gabriel Marty, both excellent soldiers, were instantly killed. The cause of this accident I believe to have been the use of cotton cartridge bags and a sponge too small for the bore. A worm was passed down the gun and a deposit of cotton rags drawn out. The base of the cartridge bag seems to have been left in the gun at every discharge. The impossibility of stopping burning cotton is too well known to require me to make more than a simple allusion to the fact. On Sunday afternoon two mortar boats were towed up near Legaris point place where they remained throughout the bombardment and shelled the Battery, more particularly at night. At daylight Monday, a picket barge of the enemy was discovered about 1000 yards below the Battery and reported to Capt. Hayne who ordered a discharge of grape from the 10 inch Columbiad, but the range was rather great. It had the effect of making the enemy's guard boats a little more careful. The enemy's fire was quite rapid during the morning & afternoon of Monday, with no material damage to the Battery. A similar accident occurred at the 8 inch Columbiad as happened with the 10 inch on the day previous. A list of the casualties is appended marked "E". A shell exploded in the muzzle of No 7 - 8 inch shell gun and burst it near the muzzle. On Monday night the mortar bombardment was continued as usual. Tuesday was a repetition of Monday, so far as the bombardment of the Battery was concerned. Mortar firing continued during the night. I had two iron traverse plates removed from Fort Pemberton to replace two others broken at No 3 gun, having failed to procure them of the Ordnance Officer. On Wednesday the bombardment continued with scarcely a change worth mentioning. On

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Wednesday night a Brooke gun was received and preparations made to mount it. This gun would have been mounted that night if proper energy had been used to have the necessary blocks for the gun at hand - not having the necessary apparatus the gun was left on the traverse circle ready to be mounted whenever the blocks &c should be provided. The gun was left standing by Ordnance Sergeant Riley and a heavy fire was opened upon the Battery early on the morning of the 7th inst. - I immediately had the gun lowered to the ground to prevent an accident to it. A ten pdr Schickl shell was fired from one of the monitors, and destroyed the rear transom of the carriage of the Brooke gun, beside destroying one of the legs of the gun, with which I expected to mount the Brooke gun on the night of the 7th - Thursday. The bombardment was very severe and the firing of the enemy accurate. I returned the fire with the Columbiads with effect. Both monitors were struck and also the mortar boat. Lieut. W. D. Martin was specially in charge of the 10 inch Columbiad and Ensign Sangdon Bowie Jr. of the 8 inch Columbiad, Ensign W. G. Ogier was in charge of No. 1 2 3 4 and directed the fire of the 10 inch Columbiad with much credit, assisted by Lt. Martin. Lt. W. W. Revely was in charge of No. 5 6 7 & 8. and discharged his duty faithfully. The casualties of Thursday are appended and marked "E". A steady & heavy fire was kept up during Thursday night by the mortar and occasionally from the gunboats. On Friday morning I opened fire upon the fleet with the two Columbiads & one 32 Pdr Rifled Gun (No 1), with very marked effect - the Pawnee & mortar boat were both forced to change position - splinters were seen to fly off the mortar boat. The firing was evidently damaging, as it drew the severest fire from the enemy of the entire bombardment. The enemy concentrated his fire upon the 10 inch Columbiad - twelve or fifteen shells exploded in the chamber of this gun, but the gallant Artillerists stood to their positions in a most

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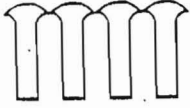
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soldierlike manner, the 32 Pdr Rifled was in charge of St. Martin, the 10 inch Columbiad of Lt. W. G. Aguir and the 8 inch Columbiad of Lt. Col. E. Lucas. The damage to the Battery on this day was severe - No 1 2 + 5 guns were disabled by the enemy. On the afternoon of Friday 8th instant an order was received from Ad. Lts. West Lins relieving myself + command from duty at Battery Pringle by Major Blanding with two Companies from 1st S. C. Arty. Upon application to Col. Rhett I was restored to my command. I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing my sense of the injustice done the command, which had distinguished itself during the memorable siege of Battery Wagner. Each company received the commendation of the Chief of Artillery with whom it was associated. No charge of "want of experience" or "energy" was ever made against this command until the bombardment of Battery Pringle. Companies C + D Lucas Batt. Artillery were relieved from duty at 7 O'clock P.M. on the 8th inst by Companies B + D 1st S. C. Artillery, Major Blanding Comdg Battalion. The mortar firing continued during Friday night. Col. Rhett Comdg West Lins directed that four guns should be mounted during that night - the Brooke gun, 10 inch Columbiad, 42 Pdr Rifled gun + 32 Pdr Rifled gun - the Brooke gun was the only gun mounted. If there was a lack of energy on the part of my command, it was fully evinced by the companies who succeeded them, for they only succeeded in mounting the gun already upon the platform. I deny however most emphatically that there was a want of energy chargeable upon either command. They both did their duty faithfully + efficiently. The bombardment of Saturday was severe but not equal to that of Friday. One monitor was struck by the Brooke gun under charge of Capt. King, Company "D" 1st S. C. Artillery once or twice. There were a few shots fired at the fleet but without perceptible effect. The monitor struck left her position during Saturday night. Capt. Rhett

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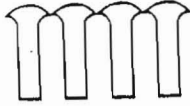
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had charge of the 10 inch Columbiad, + fired a few shells at the fleet - the shells did not burst, but caused a change of position among the enemy's boats. The gun detachments were ordered to the Battery at 8 O'Clock A. M. but did not go until after 9 O'Clock owing to the absence of Major Blanding at Hed Lrs. soon after Capt. Phelt's detachment went to the 10 inch Columbiad a shell from the enemy burst in the chamber and wounded seven men - two mortally. A list of the casualties is appended marked "E". Three fire rafts were sent against the bridge between Batteries Pringle + Dymes, early in the night, as soon as I discovered their object, I sent an order to Lt. W. J. Heyward Company "B" Lucas Batt Artillery who was in charge of a picket of 20 men at the bridge, and directed him to keep the rafts from the bridge or if possible to guide them between the piles. The duty assigned, was faithfully discharged by Lt Heyward + guard. Major Blanding volunteered to render assistance and aided Lt Heyward in towing the first raft ashore. The other two rafts were disposed of very promptly by a party of marines under command of Lieut Smith of the Navy. There was no firing during Saturday night. I superintended the mounting of one 10 inch Columbiad and one 4.2 Pdr Rifle gun - no carriage was received for 3.2 Pdr Rifle gun. On Sunday morning I wrote to the Col Comdg and proposed to open fire with the Brooke gun + 4.2 Pdr Rifled on the remaining monitor and upon the fleet with the three Columbiads but the proposal was disapproved. During the day the enemy evacuated Johns Island and the fleet retired from the river with the exception of the Pawnee and one or two other boats, which left the river on Monday morning. No firing has occurred since Saturday afternoon. I deem it a duty that I owe to myself + command to state that detachments were kept at the guns every night + the whole garrison was aroused at 3 O'Clock A. M. nightly ready for action. The reserve force was placed in position

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on the left of the Battery to act as Infantry and afford a support to the piece of Light Artillery, placed there during the night. Both officers and enlisted men acted well to my entire satisfaction. Your attention is called to the gallantry of Lt. W. G. Ogier mentioned in Captain Hayne's report. Capt. Hayne's report is appended & marked "B", and Major Blundige marked "D". Attention is asked to the account of the bursting of No 1 gun, (32 Par Rifle) in the report of Lt. W. S. Martin, appended & marked "B". 2nd Lieut. Col. E. Lucas was in charge of the Infantry reserve force every day except on the 2nd & 8th instants. Capt. T. B. Hayne gave great satisfaction as commandant of the Battery. He extended all orders very promptly and discharged his duties efficiently.

J. Jonathan Lucas
 Major comd
 Stone Fortifications