

Journal Entry
North of Etowah River
May 19th, 1864

Being removed several days from our action on the 15th instant due to marching in pursuit of the enemy, some details are lost. Having but a few moments to recall our movements, for posterity following is a brief recollection of our successful engagement.

Early afternoon we moved to a thinly wooded area where we stacked arms and awaited further orders. There were two of our batteries deployed to our left, with open field before us. We shortly heard light artillery and rifle fire down a rise then eventually saw cavalry engaged. Following an artillery barrage by both sides, Reb infantry appeared on our right and we were ordered to take arms. We marched out to meet them and firing became hot. During the fighting a Reb skirmish force appeared from the woods on our right flank. Their movements were of concern and closely watched. 1st Co was eventually ordered into open formation to halt them leaving 2nd Co more exposed from our front. As enemy numbers increased we faced heavy fire and were ordered to take a small earthwork and return fire from cover. (One of our corporals lost his balance rapidly advancing through downed brush and threw his loaded rifle from his hands. The barrel lodged in the dirt and the rifle stuck upright. He managed to clear the barrel and continued firing.) Almost instantly our forces appeared in strength before them just off our left front drawing their attention away from our position and allowing us enfilading fire on their left flank. Our officers were befuddled but gracious with their sudden lack of regard to our position. Regardless, their skirmishers continued to push our right flank and 1st Co maintained focus on their advance as they joined the main Reb attacking force. As the Rebs began to take casualties, along with a few from 1st Co, and as our advancing forces pushed the enemy from the field, we were ordered to advance over the earthworks. Through heavy fire, the enemy was steadily repulsed.

Second Company managed to escape the fight with no casualties; 1st Co, from what we could tell, with minor losses.

May our endeavors toward Atlanta be met with similar success.