

the next morning was ordered into the trenches west of the town. On the 10th the enemy appeared in front, drove in the Confederate pickets and began to fortify.

The sections of Moore and Ritter were placed in an angle of the line, on the Vicksburg road. The enemy constructed their works in a semi-circle about this point in order to dismount a siege-piece which was situated between Moore's and Ritter's sections. In their works the enemy planted about thirty-six twenty-pounder Parrotts and Napoleons. The Confederates had in the threatened angle the siege-piece, two twenty-pounder Parrotts, two three-inch rifle pieces and three twelve-pound howitzers. For two days the enemy were occupied in perfecting their works, and did not often fire a shot.

Sunday morning, July 12, the sun rose in a cloudless sky, and there was nothing to disturb the unusual stillness, appropriate to the day, except an occasional picket shot echoing among the hills.

The men sat idly here and there along the parapet, when suddenly a terrific fire from all the enemy's batteries was opened upon the exposed angle—a fire that seemed to shake the very earth. To add to the unpleasantness of the situation, the cotton bales, which formed part of the parapet, were knocked off and inflamed by the enemy's shell, and had to be rolled to the rear to save the ammunition from danger. In the midst of the storm of lead and iron, the men were called to action, and returned the enemy's fire with vigor. Lieutenant Whitney was presently wounded and Lieutenant Moore was so seriously injured by a falling bale that he had to be taken to the rear, thus leaving Lieutenant Ritter in command.

The enemy's artillery fire continued with unabated fury for two hours, after which it slackened for the rest of the day.

Thursday night, the 16th, the Confederate works were evacuated and the army fell back to Morton, Mississippi.

The losses of the Third Maryland at Jackson during the seven days it was under fire were as follows :

KILLED—Corporal L. McCurry, Private Henry Gordon.

WOUNDED—Lieutenant Ritter, Sergeant Daniel Toomey, Privates Brown, Emmett Wells and J. P. Wills.

On the 5th of September the section was ordered to Demopolis, Alabama, for repairs. On the 19th of October, 1863, by order of General Joseph E. Johnston, the Third Maryland section was transferred to Decatur, Georgia, where it rejoined the battery under Captain Rowan.

The number of men in the battery had been much reduced by its losses in Louisiana and Mississippi, so that Captain Rowan applied to the Secretary of War for seventy-five conscripts. While at Decatur the guns, horses and equipments of a four-gun battery were received, and Doctor Thomas J. Rogers was assigned to the battery as surgeon.