



FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

1. Wm. W. Carmichael, 1st Lt., Co. F. 2. Leroy S. Elliott, Private, Co. K.

FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

By JOHN H. ROBINSON, ADJUTANT.

The Fifty-second Regiment of North Carolina Troops was organized at Camp Mangum (camp of instruction), near Raleigh, on 22 April, 1862, and was composed of ten companies of infantry, as follows:

COMPANY A—*From Cabarrus County*—Captain, George A. Propst; First Lieutenant, John M. Alexander; Second Lieutenant, Phillip A. Correll, Jr.; Second Lieutenant, Jas. A. Black; First Sergeant, Jas. M. Cook; Second Sergeant, Joseph C. Hill; Third Sergeant, Alexander F. Hurley; Fourth Sergeant, John W. Felter; Fifth Sergeant, Leroy W. Pope; First Corporal, George C. Blume; Second Corporal, George H. Brown; Third Corporal, Richard F. Cook; Fourth Corporal, George A. Misenheimer; and 100 privates.

COMPANY B—*From Randolph County*—Captain, James F. Foulkes; First Lieutenant, Jesse K. Kyle; Second Lieutenant, John H. Robinson, Jr.; Second Lieutenant, W. E. Kyle. The officers of this company were all from Fayetteville. First Sergeant, Calvin J. Rush; Second Sergeant, Lindsay C. Hardister; Third Sergeant, Calvin B. Lewis; Fourth Sergeant, Alvin Bingham; Fifth Sergeant, William N. Glasgow; First Corporal, Reuben C. Fesmire; Second Corporal, Reuben Lowdermilk; Third Corporal, Alpheus Galliharn; Fourth Corporal, George W. Cooper; and 123 privates.

COMPANY C—*From Gates and Chowan Counties*—Captain, Julian Gilliam; First Lieutenant, George Gilliam; Second Lieutenant, John Gatling, Junior; Second Lieutenant, J. N. Harrell; First Sergeant, Job Hoffer; Second Sergeant, James J. Floyd; Third Sergeant, David W. Parker; Fourth Sergeant, Caleb M. Hayes; First Corporal, Richard Arnold; Second Corporal, William O. Hoffer; Third

Corporal, Peterson Hoffer; Fourth Corporal, Thomas J. Monroe; and 93 privates.

COMPANY D—*From Stokes County*—Captain, Leonidas R. Gibson; First Lieutenant, Isaac Nelson; Second Lieutenant, Samuel H. Rierison; First Sergeant, A. C. Myers; Second Sergeant, John H. Nelson; Third Sergeant, D. P. Tuttle; Fourth Sergeant, Phillip A. James; Fifth Sergeant, J. F. Landers; First Corporal, John M. Alle; Second Corporal, J. W. Tuttle; Third Corporal, Charles M. Williams; and 80 privates.

COMPANY E—*From Richmond County*—Captain, Benjamin F. Little; First Lieutenant, Milton S. Austin; Second Lieutenant, M. B. McDonald; Junior Second Lieutenant, Thos. R. Baldwin; First Sergeant, John W. Ewing; Second Sergeant, John H. Nichols; Third Sergeant, Thomas R. Capel; Fourth Sergeant, Isaac Gateley; Fifth Sergeant, R. F. Gibson; First Corporal, S. C. Crouch; Second Corporal, D. O. Gray; Third Corporal, William Kennedy; Fourth Corporal, John F. Woods; and 120 privates.

COMPANY F—*From Wilkes County*—Captain, Marcus A. Parks; First Lieutenant, Nathaniel A. Foster; Second Lieutenant, William W. Carmichael; Junior Second Lieutenant, J. J. Parlier; First Sergeant, Joseph G. Hall; Second Sergeant E. R. Vannoy; Third Sergeant, William H. Foster; Fourth Sergeant, James P. Warren; Fifth Sergeant, Charles Carlton; First Corporal, James P. Gilreath; Second Corporal, Daniel Wilcox; Third Corporal, Orrin J. Harris; Fourth Corporal, Zenah A. Harris; and 169 privates.

COMPANY G—*From Lincoln County*—Captain, Joseph B. Shelton; First Lieutenant, James M. Kincaid; Second Lieutenant, J. D. Wells; Junior Second Lieutenant, Daniel M. Asbury; First Sergeant, William D. Thompson; Second Sergeant, John W. Lilly; Third Sergeant, Frederick Linebarger; Fourth Sergeant, Thomas B. Thompson; Fifth Sergeant, John F. Little; First Corporal, Moses H. Caldwell; Second Corporal, Albert M. Nixon; Third Corporal, W. G. P. Houston; Fourth Corporal, William Little; and 116 privates.

COMPANY H—*From Lincoln County*—Captain, Eric Er-

son; First Lieutenant, William A. Summerson; Second Lieutenant, Lawson A. Dellinger; Junior Second Lieutenant, William R. Arents; First Sergeant, James A. Patterson; Second Sergeant, Peter S. Beal; Third Sergeant, Ephraim Garrison; Fourth Sergeant, John C. McCall; Fifth Sergeant, Samuel H. Randleman; First Corporal, Lafayette Loftin; Second Corporal, John C. Goodson; Third Corporal, John C. Dellinger; Fourth Corporal, Richard McCorkle; and 125 privates.

COMPANY I—*From Stanly County*—Captain, George C. McCain; First Lieutenant, James D. Hearne; Second Lieutenant, Samuel S. Lilly; Junior Second Lieutenant, Willis Randall; First Sergeant, B. K. Crowell; Second Sergeant, James M. McCorkle; Third Sergeant, George P. Parker; Fourth Sergeant, H. Clay Turner; Fifth Sergeant, Reuben Harris; First Corporal, D. D. Rogers; Second Corporal, Benjamin P. Austin; Third Corporal, William A. Smith; Fourth Corporal, Wm. D. A. Mason; and 112 privates.

COMPANY K—*From Forsyth County*—Captain, Julius C. Blackburn; First Lieutenant, Junius W. Goslin; Second Lieutenant, Romulus M. Cox; Junior Second Lieutenant, Virgil H. Walker; First Sergeant, John W. Beck; Second Sergeant, John M. Crews; Third Sergeant, Gideon E. Clayton; Fourth Sergeant, William P. Dawson; First Corporal, James R. Ingram; Second Corporal, Lauriston F. Elliot; Third Corporal, Thomas R. Davis; Fourth Corporal, Ephraim B. Terry; and 100 privates.

These companies were organized as the Fifty-second North Carolina Regiment on 22 April, 1862, the following field officers being elected:

JAMES K. MARSHALL, Colonel.

MARCUS A. PARKS, Lieutenant-Colonel.

JOHN Q. RICHARDSON, Major.

Subsequently the following Staff was appointed:

JOHN GATLING, Adjutant.

JAMES M. McCORKLE, Assistant Quartermaster.

GEORGE H. COKE, Assistant Commissary.

JAMES F. FOULKES, Surgeon.

WILLIAM H. LILLY, Assistant Surgeon.

H. CLAY TURNER, Sergeant Major.

WALTER R. RUSSELL, Quartermaster Sergeant.

W. F. BROOKSHIRE, Commissary Sergeant.

E. J. DEBERRY, Hospital Steward.

J. R. PEPPER, Ordnance Sergeant.

MUSICIANS, Charles DeCamp, J. H. C. Pearce, R. F. Warren and W. H. Shaw.

Captain Marcus A. Parks, of Company F, having been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment, all of the officers of this company were advanced one grade, and Sergeant Joseph G. Hall was promoted to the Second Lieutenancy to fill the vacancy.

Upon the completion of the organization of the regiment, it was assigned to Brigadier-General J. G. Martin's Brigade. About 1 June the regiment was moved from the camp of instruction by rail to a point in Lenoir county on the railroad, near where the village of LaGrange now stands, and went into camp.

We named this encampment "Camp Black Jack," and here we remained about a week or ten days, engaged in drilling and performing other camp duties. At the expiration of that time the command was moved nearer Kinston, where we had more suitable ground, and this encampment was called "Camp Johnston," at which point the regiment remained, drilling daily, until the 16th, when it was ordered to do picket duty about five miles below Kinston. The writer and a Lieutenant being detailed to remain at camp and care for the sick (of whom there were quite a number at that time, suffering with measles and colds), and guard the camp, did not participate in this, the first duty performed by the regiment in the field. The regiment continued in the discharge of this duty until relieved by other troops on the 24th, when it returned to camp and resumed its regular routine duties, with daily drillings of the officers as well as the men.

On the afternoon of 30 June, orders were received to cook all the rations on hand and be ready to move at an hour's notice, whereupon all was bustle in the camp and the orders were promptly complied with. The regiment moved late in

the afternoon, taking the cars to Kinston, and thence marching about five miles below the town on the road leading to New Bern, to meet a column of the enemy advancing in our direction. Night coming on, the regiment bivouacked by the roadside, but the enemy, having received information of our movements, retraced his steps in the direction of New Bern, and, in consequence, General Martin sent a courier during the night to Colonel Marshall, ordering him to return to camp; accordingly the regiment began its march early next morning and reached camp in the forenoon of 1 July. Resting this day, we resumed our drillings on the 2d and continued our routine work until the afternoon of the 5th, when orders were received to cook three days' rations and be ready to move at a moment's notice. These orders having been promptly and cheerfully complied with, we were kept in suspense until Tuesday evening, the 8th, when we boarded the train for the half-way station on the Petersburg & Richmond Railroad, reaching that point about daylight Friday morning, the 11th, having been delayed *en route* by an express train derailed on the track ahead of us Tuesday night, and awaited transportation at Petersburg. We camped temporarily at that point until the 14th, on which date we marched to Drewry's Bluff, going regularly into camp at this place, and naming our encampment "Camp Campbell." Here we were engaged in work upon fortifications, drilling and the various duties of the camp.

Captain James F. Foulkes, of Company B, having resigned in order to accept his commission as Surgeon of the regiment, on 2 July the officers of this company were each promoted one grade and on 21 July, Sergeant Lindsay C. Hardister was promoted to Second Lieutenant. The regiment continued at this camp until the morning of 20 August, when we broke camp at daylight and marched to Petersburg, Va., to await orders. Here we went into camp about two miles east of the city and called this encampment "Camp French."

On 22 August, Lieutenant Lindsay C. Hardister, of Company B, died in his tent at Camp Campbell, after an illness of a few days. About the 26th, the regiment was trans-

ferred to General J. Johnston Pettigrew's Brigade. On the 28th Captain Joseph B. Shelton, of Company G, resigned, and the officers of this company were each promoted one grade, and Corporal R. B. B. Houston was promoted to Second Lieutenant of this company. On 28 October, James W. Huske was transferred from Captain James McNeill's company of cavalry to Company B, and promoted to Second Lieutenant to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Lieutenant Hardister.

The regiment remained at Camp French, doing work on fortifications, drilling, etc, etc., until 2 November, when it was moved to the vicinity of Franklin, Va., on the Black Water river, reaching this point on the following evening. We were placed at Joyner's Ford on picket duty and remained there until 15 November, when we moved and went into camp at Black Creek Church, Southampton county, Va., which we reached during the afternoon of the same day. While occupying this camp we were engaged in picketing the Blackwater at several points.

On the 18th the enemy advanced with a force of cavalry and infantry and made an attempt to cross the river at Joyner's Ford, which point was held by a detail of an officer and twenty men. The attack was first made by a body of cavalry, which was driven back by our picket. They were reinforced by a body of infantry and made a second attack, in which they were successful in forcing a passage, our men retreating; not, however, until a messenger had been sent to Colonel Marshall, informing him of the attack and the necessary retreat of his men. Immediately upon the receipt of this information the Colonel moved at once with his regiment to the support of his men, marching about three miles. When in the neighborhood of the ford, he was told that a body of about 300 cavalry had crossed the river, and was occupying the camp which we had left on the 15th. The regiment was hurried forward, and on reaching a position which commanded a view of the grounds, said to be held by the enemy, was halted. No enemy was to be seen, although they could be distinctly heard giving commands. Skirmishers were thrown forward and advanced, but the enemy declined an

engagement and recrossed the river. Having re-established our picket post at Joyner's Ford and strengthened it, the regiment returned to camp.

After crossing the river the enemy's cavalry moved in the direction of Franklin; and, reaching a point from which they could shell the town, amused themselves with this cowardly occupation for an hour or more, the only result of which was the wounding of two men of the Eleventh North Carolina Regiment stationed there.

On the 26th, Captain George A. Propst, of Company A, having resigned, the officers of this company were promoted one grade each. Lieutenants P. A. Correll and James A. Black having resigned, Sergeants James A. Cook and J. C. Hill were promoted to fill the vacancies.

The regiment continued to do picket duty along the Blackwater river, in the vicinity of Franklin, until 16 December. About 1 November, Captain James M. McCorkle resigned the office of Assistant Quartermaster, and Adjutant John Gatling was appointed to this office. In consequence of this appointment the office of Adjutant was vacant and Lieutenant John H. Robinson, of Company B, was promoted to this position.

On 16 December the regiment was ordered to proceed immediately to Goldsboro, N. C., and in obedience to this order we took the cars at Franklin and reached Goldsboro some time after midnight, and reported to General G. W. Smith, who was in command of this department. The Colonel was ordered to report with his regiment to General Thomas L. Clingman, who commanded on the south side of the Neuse river. The regiment was at once conveyed by train across the river and reported as instructed. General Clingman ordered that the men should rest where they had quit the train, at a point on the Wilmington & Weldon road, about one-half mile from the railroad bridge over the Neuse River, and at the intersection of the county road and railroad.

BATTLE OF GOLDSBORO.

About sunrise on the morning of the 17th scouts came in and reported the enemy advancing from the direction of Kin-

ston along the county road in heavy force. Our regiment was at once formed in line of battle, parallel with the railroad and across the county road. Holding this position for the space of, probably, half an hour, the enemy still advancing, Colonel Marshall was ordered to proceed to the railroad bridge and hold it all hazard. He moved his regiment rapidly along the railroad track by the left flank, and immediately upon arriving at the bridge, placed his command to the best advantage for carrying out his orders. Shortly after the regiment was in position the enemy advanced upon us in heavy force. One column approached the bridge on the east side of the railroad and up the river bank, attacking our left companies with great vigor. Another approached up the railroad track, and as it approached, threw out a force on the west side of the railroad. The regiment fought with great spirit and very gallantly, but the force was so vastly superior in number that the left of the regiment was driven back and the enemy advancing, reached the bridge and applied the torch. It being constructed of inflammable material, was soon in a light blaze and burned rapidly. In the meantime the right of the regiment was hotly engaged, and no support having been sent to our relief, and the column spoken of having been thrown out on the west or upper side of the railroad having advanced so far as to greatly endanger our successful retreat, the regiment was moved rapidly up the bank of the river in the direction of the county bridge, half a mile or more above. During our retreat the Fifty-first North Carolina Regiment, which now, when it was too late, had been ordered to our support, mistaking us for the enemy, poured a volley from one company into us, not doing any damage, however, as they fired across an angle formed by two fences and shot too high. At this point the regiment halted.

The enemy, apparently satisfied for the time with having accomplished the destruction of the bridge, fell back and took position on a commanding hill on the east, or lower side of the railroad, about five or six hundred yards from the site of the bridge. Hoping to dislodge the enemy, an attack was made upon his lines during the afternoon.

General Clingman formed his infantry line, composed of the Fifty-first and Fifty-second North Carolina Regiments, under the immediate command of Colonel Marshall, in a skirt of woods on the west of the railroad, and about 500 yards from it. While in this position we were subjected to a very heavy shelling from the enemy's battery of four guns. Leaving his infantry in line as stated, General Clingman moved with two guns of Starr's North Carolina Battery by the county road to attack the enemy in flank, with directions to Colonel Marshall to move at once upon the enemy's line so soon as he should open fire upon him. While the infantry line was awaiting developments by Starr's guns, General Evans, of South Carolina, rode up behind the infantry line, and, inquiring what troops they were, ordered an immediate advance. When he was informed of General Clingman's plan of attack, and suggestion was made to him that a movement before Starr had reached his position would disconcert all of General Clingman's plans and result in disaster, he replied: "I rank Clingman; move forward at once; I will support you with the Holcombe Legion." Of course, commands must be obeyed, and the infantry moved out at double-quick, under a galling fire from the battery, and reached the railroad embankment, under cover of which it halted just long enough to reform its line.

Moving again quickly over the railroad, a high rail fence was encountered which had to be climbed in the face of a heavy discharge from the battery of grape and canister. Meanwhile Starr's guns had not yet come into position, but, fortunately, he opened fire directly after the infantry had crossed the railroad, and drew the fire of a portion of the enemy's battery, the line still advancing; but in a very few moments all saw the hopelessness of the attempt to drive the enemy, and an order was issued to fall back, and for all who could to save themselves by precipitate retreat.

Under General Clingman's plan of attack there was a possibility of successfully dislodging the enemy. Under General Evans' order the attack was simply reckless disregard of the lives of his troops. The Adjutant of the Fifty-second Regiment, in his report of the fight, made on the morning of

the 18th, reported 8 killed on the field, 58 wounded and 13 missing. Of the latter, subsequent reports show some of them to have been killed. The regiment was camped in the vicinity of Goldsboro until about the 23d, when it returned to its camp on the Blackwater near Franklin, Va.

On the 25th orders were received to cook three days' rations and be prepared to move at daylight on the 26th. Accordingly rations were prepared and at dawn on the 26th we crossed the river, entering the enemy's territory on a foraging expedition. We remained for five days and procured a considerable quantity of forage, and this having been successfully accomplished, General Roger A. Pryor, in whose command we were serving temporarily, concluded to go in search of the enemy. Marching all day, we arrived at Windsor Station, on the Seaboard Railroad, about night, and finding the place occupied by two companies of the enemy's cavalry, we opened on them with artillery, when they made a hasty retreat. The command rested here for the night, and at daylight next morning we resumed our march, reaching camp at midday 1 January, 1863.

On the afternoon of the 3d we broke camp on the Blackwater and marched to Garysburg, N. C., where we took cars and reached Rocky Mount on the night of the 5th at 11:30 o'clock, and rejoined General Pettigrew, to the delight of the entire regiment. On the 26th we struck our tents and moved to Magnolia, reaching that point on the evening of the same day.

We pitched our camp near the town, where we were engaged in drilling daily, when the weather permitted, and during our sojourn here underwent a rigid inspection by the inspecting officer of the brigade.

On the morning of 13 February the regiment took up its line of march in the direction of Greenville, and on the 16th, while in bivouac ten miles from Goldsboro, orders were received to remain where we were and await further orders. On the 17th we were directed to return to Goldsboro, which place we reached the same day, and went into camp about two miles from the town. While here we were engaged in drilling every day. March 9th we broke camp and the regiment, to-

gether with other troops, started on a march for the purpose of making an attack upon the enemy at New Bern. The regiment arrived near the town at daybreak on the morning of the 13th and supported our artillery, which opened fire upon the enemy at sunrise. An artillery duel was fought nearly all day without any satisfactory result, when the troops were withdrawn, falling back to a position about three miles from the town, where we rested until 12 o'clock that night.

WASHINGTON, N. C.

About this hour we resumed our line of march and halted nine miles from the town at daylight next morning. In this position we remained until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the line of march was again taken up and continued day and night, with occasional short rests, until the 17th, on which date we went into camp near the town of Greenville. On the 18th we were again on the march and arrived at Tranter's Creek, about eight miles from Washington, on the 19th. Remaining here for a day or two we returned to our camp near Greenville on or about the 23d. Resting here, we received orders on the 28th to be ready to move in one hour. Marching on this day, we reached a point on the Pamlico river, seven miles below the town of Washington, on Sunday, March 29th. Here we erected a heavy earthwork on a bluff on the river bank and called it Fort Hill, in honor of General D. H. Hill, who commanded the expedition. The Federal troops occupying the town of Washington were reported to be running short of both ammunition and rations, and Fort Hill was erected for the purpose of commanding the river and preventing communication between the transports and gunboats in the river below and the garrison of the town. Our battery was composed of guns of light calibre, all field pieces and not able to cope with the gunboats in the river below, which gave the fort heavy shellings each day. They were suspicious of us, however, for occasionally two Whitworth guns would be sent down from the battery near the town, and while they were in battery, we would open on them at long range, and on several occasions inflicted considerable damage. When these guns were withdrawn, the gunboats would ap-

proach quite near and open on the fort without eliciting any reply. This puzzled them, and they were timid and would not venture the passage of the fort.

On 7 April, in obedience to orders, Colonel Marshall, with six companies of his regiment, moved at daylight to meet a force of the enemy, reported to be moving on our rear from New Bern. When about three miles from the fort the battalion was halted to await orders. Remaining until night, it was learned that the enemy had returned in the direction of New Bern and the command returned to the fort.

On the 10th the enemy advanced from New Bern in force by the Blount's Mill road, and the regiment was moved out to meet them and check the advance. Forming line of battle at Blount's Mill, we awaited their attack, and after a skirmish of about two hours duration they retired in flight, felling trees across the road to retard pursuit. About the 13th or 14th the boats in the river mustered courage to attempt the passage of the fort. Steaming boldly up, one of them made a successful passage, as we had none but the field guns in the battery, and although we fired upon her repeatedly in her passing, the damage, if any, was of a trifling nature.

The fort having failed eventually in accomplishing the object for which it had been constructed, was evacuated on the 15th and all the troops below drawn in nearer to the town.

On the 18th orders were received to move in the direction of Kinston, *via* Hookerton, which latter place we reached on the 19th, where we remained, awaiting orders until the 25th. Captain Julian Gilliam, of Company C, having resigned 1 April, 1863, First Lieutenant George Gilliam was promoted to Captain and Second Lieutenant John C. Warren to First Lieutenant. Lieutenant John Gatling had previously been promoted to Adjutant, and 1 November, 1862, to Captain and Acting Quartermaster.

On the 25th the regiment marched to Kinston and remained there until 2 May, when we took the train for Virginia, reaching Taylorsville, near Hanover Junction, on the 14th and going into camp. The regiment was divided for some time during our stay at this point; three companies were

held in camp, five were detached for duty at the railroad bridge over the South Anna river on the Central Railroad, engaged in building fortifications, and two were doing picket duty at the Richmond & Fredericksburg Railroad. When not engaged in building fortifications and doing picket duty, the regiment was drilled daily, and it was in the finest condition when we began our march to join the Army of Northern Virginia.

About 1 June Pettigrew's Brigade was assigned to duty in Major-General Harry Heth's Division of General A. P. Hill's Corps. On 6 June the brigade was ordered to proceed to Hamilton's Crossing, and we marched until late on Sunday evening, the 7th, when we were directed to strike the railroad and take the cars. Obeying this order, we were conveyed by rail the remainder of the distance and reached the Crossing at 4 o'clock Monday morning, the 8th. Upon arrival, we were placed in position on the Rappahannock river, about six miles below Fredericksburg, where we remained in line of battle until 10 June, when the regiment was ordered to proceed to Hanover Junction to relieve General Corse, of Pickett's Division. Reaching the railroad depot, we awaited transportation for several hours. Fortunately, before cars could be furnished the order was countermanded and the regiment directed to report to General Pettigrew, which was done on the same night, when we resumed our place in the line of battle along the river.

GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN.

On 14 June we left the lines in front of Fredericksburg and started on the ever memorable Gettysburg campaign. By easy marches we reached Culpepper Court House on the 17th. Continuing the march on the 18th, passing through Berryville, Charlestown, and other villages, we reached Shepherds-town on the 23d, and on the 24th waded the Potomac at this point, thence proceeding leisurely towards Gettysburg, passing through the battlefield of Sharpsburg, crossing the Antietam river on the stone bridge, on through Chambersburg, Pa., and halting on the 29th at Cashtown, a village at the foot of the mountains on the Baltimore and Chambersburg pike, and

distant about six miles northwest from Gettysburg. Here we rested until the morning of 1 July. On the evening of the 29th Company B, Fifty-second Regiment, under command of First Lieutenant W. E. Kyle, was detailed to picket the Emmettsburg road at a village called Millertown, about five miles to the right of our camp, and during the night had a skirmish with a picket post held by the enemy's cavalry. During the night of the 30th the company was withdrawn and reported at camp.

Early on the morning of 1 July we moved in the direction of Gettysburg. Archer's Brigade of Heth's Division, leading the advance, encountered a heavy force, commanded by General Buford, of the enemy's cavalry, on the Chambersburg road about one mile from Gettysburg, and was at once engaged; the cavalry, pressing Archer very hard, and skillfully using their artillery, checked his advance, when Pettigrew's Brigade, the Fifty-second holding the right of his line, was rapidly advanced to his support. By a vigorous attack we succeeded in forcing Buford's line back in the direction of the town, when, being reinforced by a heavy infantry column, they in turn checked Heth's advance. By this time Pettigrew's Brigade had reached Willoughby's Run, westward from the town and halted; lying here under a heavy shelling from the enemy's guns, and greatly annoyed by their sharpshooters, who occupied, at this time, the second story of a brick building immediately in front of our line, we awaited the arrival of Anderson's Division of Hill's Corps which was moving up to strengthen the lines.

About noon we advanced and Pettigrew's Brigade encountered the enemy in an open field when a most desperate fight ensued. I have already stated that Colonel Marshall's regiment held the right of Pettigrew's line, and as we advanced through the open field our right flank was menaced by a body of the enemy's cavalry, seeking an opportunity to charge our lines. While on the advance and under heavy fire Colonel Marshall formed his regiment in square to guard against attack from this body, and at the same time deployed Company B, under command of Lieutenant W. E. Kyle, to protect his flank. This gallant officer succeeded in holding the cavalry

in check and finally drove them from our flank. This maneuver was executed by the regiment as promptly and accurately as if it had been upon its drill grounds. The fighting continued with unabated fury until sundown, when we had gradually, but steadily, driven the enemy's lines back upon the town, but at a tremendous cost of valuable lives. About this time—sundown or nearly so—General Pender was sent to our relief, and passing over our lines took up the fight and drove the enemy into and through the town, halting only when commanded to do so, and thus ended the first day's fight so far as the Fifty-second Regiment was concerned.

The losses in the brigade were appalling, and those of the Fifty-second Regiment very heavy. Here the gallant Captain McCain, of Company I, fell dead, pierced by a minie ball, while leading his company in the thickest of the fight. About the same time the young and chivalrous Captain Blackburn, of Company K, fell dead at the head of his company while leading his men to victory. In addition to this great loss many valuable officers were wounded and the loss in the ranks was very heavy. At this time, over thirty-seven years having elapsed, and without access to records, I am unable to state the casualties with accuracy.

On the second day our regiment was not engaged. A greater portion of the forenoon of the 3d was consumed in perfecting the arrangements for the assault on Cemetery Hill. General Lee was concentrating his batteries along the brow of Seminary Ridge, and by noon had massed 145 cannon to open the attack. To reply to these guns the enemy, who were able to see what was going on in our lines, had crowned Cemetery Hill, according to report, with 80 cannon. On this day Heth's Division was under command of General Pettigrew, General Heth having received a disabling wound the day before.

Pettigrew's Brigade was commanded by Colonel Marshall, and the Fifty-second Regiment was under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Parks. The column of attack was lying under the crest of the ridge in rear of our guns. Pettigrew's Brigade occupied the position in line immediately to the left of Archer, who joined the left of Kemper's Brigade of Pick-

ett's Division, which occupied the right of the column of attack. Between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon our guns opened upon the enemy's batteries and elicited a prompt and spirited reply. This artillery duel was continued for the space of about two hours without intermission, and the roar of the guns and bursting of shell were frightful to hear and dreadful to contemplate. A slackening of the enemy's fire was taken advantage of to advance the column of attack. In obedience to orders the line moved gallantly and steadily forward under fire of our guns until it reached a point beyond which it was unsafe to fire over our heads. Steadily the advance was made, and as steadily and coolly met with a murderous fire from the enemy's cannon, charged with grape, shrapnel and canister. Still the line advanced, and at every step our comrades fell on every side, killed or wounded. Still we advanced under the incessant discharge of the cannon, assisted by the infantry's rifles, and had almost attained success, when by the overpowering force and almost impregnable position of the enemy, our lines were forced back, and then the slaughter was terrific. We fell back to the point from which the attack was made, rallying all whom it was possible to reach, and reforming our shattered lines.

In this fatal charge our losses were very heavy. The gallant Marshall, pierced through the body while leading his brigade to the attack, fell from his horse, dead, within a very short distance of the enemy's lines. In his death our cause sustained a very great loss. Of his rank the Confederate Army had few equals and no superiors. His regiment was greatly attached to him; his uniform courtesy, coupled with great firmness and rigid discipline in camp, as well as on the march, had won the entire confidence of his men, and all mourned him as a brother lost. Lieutenant-Colonel Parks was shot through both thighs, and fell into the hands of the enemy, and our brave and dashing Major Richardson sealed, with his life, his devotion to the cause he loved so well, and for the advancement of whose success he had striven so zealously. He was instantly killed by a rifle ball while leading the left wing of

his regiment. Of the line officers, but few escaped wounds or capture.

The regiment was commanded on the 4th by Captain Nathaniel A. Foster, of Company F, the Junior Captain engaged in the fight. The Adjutant of the regiment reported the losses in the engagements of the first and third days as 33 killed on the field, 114 wounded and 169 missing. Of this latter, nearly all of whom fell into the enemy's hands, it is fair to presume many were wounded.

We held our lines during the night of the 3d and the day of the 4th, strengthening them with temporary works, and expecting an attack by the Federal army. As no advance was made by the enemy, General Lee began to retire in the direction of the Potomac on the night of the 4th. In consequence of the death of our field officers on the 3d, Captain B. F. Little, of Company F, was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel, and Captain Eric Erson, of Company H, was commissioned Major, the officers of Companies E and H were each promoted one grade, as were also the officers of Companies I and K, in consequence of the death of Captains McCain and Blackburn. On account of the bad roads and caution observed on retiring, we did not reach Hagerstown, Md., until the 10th. Finding the waters of the Potomac so much swollen from recent heavy rains as to make fording impracticable, and General Lee's pontoon bridge partially destroyed, we halted at this place. On the morning of the 11th our regiment went into line of battle about three miles from the town, expecting General Meade would attack us as soon as he had come up. We held this line until the night of the 13th, with occasional skirmishing between the picket lines. During this halt the pontoon bridge had been repaired so as to be available, and was thrown across the Potomac at Falling Waters. The rain had been falling nearly every day since we began to fall back from Gettysburg, and consequently the roads were in a horrible condition. During the 13th wagon trains were put in motion to cross the river, and at night the troops from our portion of the line were withdrawn and marched for the pontoon bridge, but the roads were so cut up by the heavy wagon

trains and the artillery as to make them almost impassable, and our march was necessarily slow.

FALLING WATERS.

To Pettigrew's Brigade had been assigned the responsible duty of protecting the rear of the army while crossing the river. The march had been so retarded by the difficulty of getting the artillery and the wagon trains forward that we did not reach our position until 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, 14 July. General Pettigrew chose a hill by the roadside, and between one and two miles from the river, for his position. There he formed his line and ordered a rest, whereupon the men threw themselves upon the ground, and in a few moments many of them, responding to the call of exhausted nature, were sound asleep. We had been followed by a large body of cavalry which had not yet the temerity to attack us. While resting, as stated, awaiting the crossing of that portion of the army which had not yet succeeded in reaching the pontoon, a squad of Federal cavalry, numbering about fifty men, passing through a skirt of woods in our rear, behind which was massed a division, advanced upon us at a trot with sabres drawn and rode over us before we could check them. In explanation of this fact it should be stated that a regiment of our cavalry had passed us going to the rear a short time before for the purpose of crossing the river at Williamsport above, but we thought they were between us and the enemy.

As the cavalry body approached, the men were waked up and called to arms, but some of the superior officers, mistaking them for our own men, ordered the men not to fire, and it was not until they were upon us that the error was seen; then the bursting of caps with the occasional discharge of a rifle, was heard, and the enemy began to reap the reward of his rashness. Having ridden over our lines, they were now using their pistols with deadly effect, when our rifles began to explode and in a few moments all of the squad save five or six who made their escape, were either killed, wounded or prisoners, not however, before General Pettigrew had been mortally wounded by one of the party. The exposure to rain, to which we had been subjected for so many days, had left the

rifles of our men in such bad condition that but few would fire at first, and to this fact is attributed the losses we sustained—had the guns of our men exploded when first tried, not a man of the attacking party would have been left to tell the tale, and valuable lives would have been saved. This engagement caused a general advance on the part of the enemy, and that portion of General A. P. Hill's Corps not yet over the river was hurried to the support of Pettigrew. We formed line of battle to meet the advance, though all of our artillery having passed the river, we had none in line; but skirmishing with the enemy and fighting and falling back, we held them in check until the whole army had crossed, with all of the wagons and artillery, save two pieces, the horses drawing which had become so exhausted as to be unable to move them, and before fresh horses could be procured the rear of the army had passed them. The whole army thus crossed the river successfully in the face of a large body of the enemy. The loss in our regiment, however, was considerable, its commanding officer, Captain Nathaniel A. Foster, being among the number captured.

Upon crossing into Virginia we took up our line of march, passing through Martinsburg to Bunker Hill where we rested several days. Resuming our line of march, passing through Winchester, we crossed the Shenandoah river at Front Royal, and thence marched by way of Flint Hill to Culpepper Court House, which place we reached on the 25th, and went into camp about one mile from the town. Resting until Monday morning, 3 August, we moved towards Orange Court House, reaching the vicinity of the town on the 5th, and there went into camp. About 10 August Colonel William Kirkland, of the Twenty-first North Carolina Regiment, was promoted to Brigadier-General and ordered to assume command of our brigade, and henceforth it was known as Kirkland's Brigade.

BRISTOE STATION.

We remained in our camp near Orange Court House until about 20 September, doing picket duty and drilling daily. On the 20th the regiment was moved to Rapidan Station and placed in position, together with the remainder of the brigade,

to meet an expected advance of General Meade's army. On 8 October, 1863, we left our line at Rapidan Station with a view of flanking the enemy and giving him battle at Culpeper Court House, but we were not successful in bringing on this fight. The enemy, learning of General Lee's movements, began to fall back towards Centreville, we following in hot pursuit. On the 13th the Corps of A. P. Hill had reached Warrenton, Va., and on the morning of the 14th we moved out from Warrenton along the turnpike road to New Baltimore, where we wheeled to the right in pursuit of General French, who was just ahead and retreating very rapidly, as was evidenced by the beaten tracks on both sides of the road over which his troops had passed. Reaching the hills to the westward and just above Bristoe Station in the afternoon, we saw the rear of his column in the valley just beyond Broad Run river. He had escaped us, but we were destined for a fight.

About the time of our reaching Bristoe Station the advance of Warren's Corps, whom General Ewell was following up the railroad, made its appearance and Cooke's and Kirkland's Brigades were formed for immediate attack. The two brigades, under cover of artillery, gallantly advanced against overwhelming numbers posted behind the railroad embankment. Everything was moving smoothly until we had reached point blank range, when the infantry posted behind the railroad, opened a withering fire upon our lines which halted and were forced to fall back. The Fifty-second and Eleventh Regiments moved steadily forward and succeeded in driving the enemy immediately in their front, next to the railroad bridge, from their position. About the time we had gained the road in our front, a section of artillery passed rapidly over the river, and, crossing the railroad track, unlimbered, preparatory to giving us a raking enfilading shelling. Looking for our support on the right, we were dismayed to see the enemy to our right and rear, in possession of the field and part of our artillery. The command was at once given to fall back and we retreated rapidly and successfully. The Fifty-second Regiment, whose losses were comparatively few on this occasion, had three killed on the field, twenty-one

wounded and forty-two missing. General Kirkland was wounded and conveyed from the field. In view of the fact that General A. P. Hill had an entire army corps within half a mile, and the remainder of Heth's with all of Wilcox's Division, were spectators, the lack of timely reinforcements was strange, to say the least of it.*

MINE RUN.

We bivouacked upon the battlefield during the night of the 14th, and the following morning fell back to Rappahannock Station, destroying the railroad as we retreated, tearing up the rails which we heated over burning piles of cross ties and twisted so as to render them useless for the time being. Upon arrival at Rappahannock Station we at once entered upon picket duty, engaged in drilling and other incidental camp duty until 7 November. About 11 o'clock Saturday night, the 7th, we received orders to cook rations and be ready to move at a moment's notice. At the time we supposed the army would make another advance, but instead we fell back to a line on the Rapidan river. During Sunday, the 8th, we were in line of battle throughout the day, expecting an attack, but were not engaged. On the 9th we were ordered on picket duty at Peyton's Ford, where we remained until the 13th, on which day we received orders to cook two days' rations and be ready to move at a moment's notice, but did not receive marching orders until the 29th. On this date we left camp at 4 o'clock in the morning, and, proceeding by the Orange Court House and Fredericksburg road to a point near Vidiersville, we came up with our cavalry engaged in a skirmish with the enemy. Our skirmishers were deployed and thrown forward, engaging the enemy until nightfall, and we held this line during the night. The remainder of the army having arrived during the night, General Lee formed his line of battle at Mine Run. On the morning of the 30th the enemy opened his artillery on portions of the Confederate line, and we confidently expected an attack. It seems, however,

* When General Lee arrived on the scene of A. P. Hill's bloody blunder his pointed rebuke was "nothing remains to be done. General Hill, except to bury your unfortunate dead."—Ed.

that upon an inspection of General Lee's lines General Meade recognized the position to be impregnable, and, declining battle, retired behind the Rapidan on the night of 1 December.

Our regiment remained at this point until Thursday, 3 December, when we returned to Camp Marshall, our winter quarters, near Orange Court House, where we remained employed in drilling and general camp duty until 3 February, 1864, on which day our regiment was ordered on picket duty on the Rapidan river. On the 20th General Kirkland, having recovered from his wound received at Bristoe Station, returned to camp and again took command of his brigade.

During the month of March Governor Vance paid a visit to the North Carolina troops in the Army of Northern Virginia and made addresses to the several brigades. He had an appointment to speak to Cooke's and Kirkland's Brigades, jointly, on the 29th, but on account of the very bad weather our commands were deprived of the pleasure of hearing him. The regiment, having been in winter quarters since 3 February, on 27 April vacated the cabins and moved to an encampment one mile distant. As sickness prevailed to a great extent about this time, the change was made as a sanitary measure with good results.

THE WILDERNESS.

On 4 May our regiment broke camp and marched by the Orange Court House and Fredericksburg plank road, reaching Vidiersville, near which it rested for the night. On the 5th it continued to march in the direction of Fredericksburg, and early in the afternoon reached a point at which the plank road is intersected by what is known as the Brock road; and here General Hill, finding the enemy in his front, formed his line of battle extending across the Plank road. About this time the Fifty-second Regiment was ordered to retrace its steps for the purpose of protecting our wagon train, which was reported to be threatened by the enemy's cavalry. Accordingly, we proceeded to execute this command, and, having gone as far as Parker's store, about four miles to the rear, were informed that its services were not required. Immediately it faced about and returned to join its brigade. In the

meantime the battle had begun, and as we approached the lines we were met by great numbers of our men wounded and seeking the rear for shelter and relief. These men were wounded in every conceivable manner—some slightly, others severely and not a few mortally. Nothing daunted by this spectacle, the gallant old Fifty-second moved rapidly forward and took its position in the brigade, and at once became hotly engaged. The ground over which we were fighting was covered with dense undergrowth, and the enemy could scarcely be seen, in many places, one hundred yards in our front. From the time we joined the brigade, which must have been about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, until nightfall there was one continuous roll of musketry, when night coming on put a stop to the battle for this day. The regiment spent the night upon the ground on which it had ceased to fight in the evening, and the exhausted men sought what rest they could.

From the nature of the ground over which the battle had raged, our lines had become very much disarranged, and in many places there was no connection with our troops to the right or left. Longstreet, it was known, was marching to relieve Hill's Corps, and was expected to be up by 12 o'clock that night. Possibly for this reason the inexcusable blunder of not re-establishing our lines during the night of the 5th was made.

Longstreet was delayed and did not reach us at the expected time, and sunrise of the 6th found us fighting under these great disadvantages. The enemy having penetrated our lines at one of these gaps, opened fire upon the Fifty-second Regiment from the rear. Finding we were flanked we began to fall back, fighting as we retreated. By this time the whole line to the right of the plank road was being forced back and the safety of the army for a time was greatly endangered. Longstreet with his gallant men reached the field about this time; rapidly forming his line, he met the advancing lines of the enemy, checked them, and in a few moments was rapidly driving them back upon their own lines, and thus re-establishing those of General Hill.

SPOTTSYLVANIA TO PETERSBURG.

Our regiment remained in line of battle in the Wilderness until the evening of the 8th, when we were marched to Spottsylvania Court House, which place we reached on the morning of the 9th and were assigned to a position in the line to the left of the court house where we began immediately to intrench ourselves. Here we remained in line of battle, fighting at intervals and constantly exposed to heavy shelling from the enemy's battery. Our losses since the 5th had been heavy—Captain Kyle and Lieutenant Huske wounded among numbers of others, and on the 11th Captain Leonidas R. Gibson, of Company I, was killed. In consequence of his death the officers of this company were each promoted one grade.

General Grant had again taken up his movement to the left, and on the 22d we were withdrawn from our lines and moved rapidly in the direction of Hanover Junction. Crossing the North Anna river our regiment was placed in line on the south side of the river about two miles from the junction. General Warren having crossed the river at Jericho Ford on the 23d, was met by Hill's Corps near Noel's Station and after a spirited engagement was forced to halt for the day.

After this the regiment resumed its place in the line of battle, where it remained until the 31st, when it was moved in the direction of Gaines' Mill, which point it reached about noon on 1 June. Here we were placed in line, but not engaged until the 2d, when we participated in a heavy skirmish with the enemy. In this fight General Kirkland was again wounded, receiving a rifle ball through the thigh, and was taken from the field. In consequence, Colonel George H. Faribault, of the Forty-seventh Regiment, was in command of the brigade. On the afternoon of 3 June Heth's Division, occupying the left of General Early's line, (he was commanding A. P. Hill's Corps at this time), was twice most vigorously attacked, but the enemy was handsomely repulsed with considerable loss. The Fifty-second Regiment sustained its part of these attacks with its accustomed coolness and spirit. On 5 June, for the first time since leaving Orange Court House, Heth's Division was resting, awaiting or-

ders. Worn down with fighting, and constant marching to meet the enemy's advance, the men greatly enjoyed this much needed repose.

PETERSBURG.

On the evening of the 9th, the regiment was ordered to proceed to Bottom's Bridge, on the Chickahominy river, for picket duty, and on the evening of the 10th was ordered to join the brigade in the line on the following morning. From here we moved to White Oak Swamp, reaching that point on the 14th, where we remained, doing picket duty until the 18th, when we marched for Petersburg, Va., reaching the neighborhood of that city on the night of the 18th, after a dusty and very fatiguing march. We were placed in line of battle on the south side of Appomattox river. About the 25th the regiment was taken from the trenches and marched about four miles north of the city and assigned the duty of guarding the bridges on the turnpike and railroad over Old Town creek. In the latter part of July, Colonel William MacRae, of the Fifteenth North Carolina Regiment, was made Brigadier-General, and ordered to assume command of the brigade. Henceforward, we were known as MacRae's Brigade. We remained in the vicinity of Petersburg until Wednesday, 27 July, when we marched to Chaffin's Bluff, reaching that point Thursday morning after a very tiresome tramp.

On the afternoon of the 28th our skirmish lines were heavily engaged for an hour or two, and we expected an attack upon our lines, which did not take place. We remained here in line until the 30th, when we received orders to move at once to the south side of the James river. We marched a distance of about ten miles to Rice's Turnout on the Richmond & Petersburg Railroad, and at that point took the cars to Petersburg, and occupied our position in the intrenchments. At this point we remained until 2 August, when we were moved further to the left and placed in reserve. On the 9th we relieved General Cooke in the trenches, our line at this point not exceeding 200 yards distance from the enemy's lines, and our sharpshooters, as well as those of the en-

emy, kept up a constant firing both night and day. We held this line until the 13th, when we, in turn, were relieved, and camped temporarily in rear of our lines until the 18th, when we were moved outside the lines to a point about two and one-half miles southwest from Petersburg, and one mile east of the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad, where we had been sent to confront General Warren, who was pressing for the railroad. In the afternoon we made a sudden and vigorous attack upon Warren's left and drove him back about one mile, when our command was withdrawn. By the evening of the 20th the enemy had succeeded in gaining possession of the railroad and intrenched himself at a point about one mile south of Vaughn's house, at what we called the Yellow Tavern, located on the railroad about four miles south from Petersburg. On the night of the 20th we were withdrawn from the trenches and again moved to the south of the city to attack the enemy, who now held the railroad. Reporting to General Heth, whom we found at Vaughn's house, before day on the 21st, we were soon in line, and advanced our sharpshooters to clear the front, and after a pretty sharp skirmish they drove the enemy's picket lines in. Under Pegram's guns, we advanced to the attack; and, after having driven in two lines of the enemy who fell back under cover of their batteries, we were halted in a skirt of woods about half way between Pegram's guns in our rear and the enemy's batteries in our front, and between the two we were subjected to a furious shelling. The column sent to attack the enemy in flank failing to come up, we held our lines until night, when we were withdrawn and retired within our lines of intrenchments. On the 24th we moved out to our works and marched for Reams Station, halting at night near Armstrong's Mills, about eight miles southeast of the city. Early on the morning of the 25th we resumed the march and halted at a point about three miles from Reams Station.

REAMS STATION.

About 2 o'clock an attack had been made upon the enemy by a part of General A. P. Hill's command, which was driven back with loss, after which the North Carolina

Brigades of Lane, Cooke and MacRae were ordered up, taking position in the enemy's front. Advancing steadily and rapidly under the fire of Pegram's guns, we captured the whole line, not, however, before the enemy were driven off in a hand-to-hand encounter in the works, in which in a few instances clubbed rifles were used. In this fight our losses were necessarily heavy. We captured seven stands of colors, 2,000 prisoners and nine pieces of artillery. (See General Lee's letter to the Secretary of War, 26 August, 1864.) The enemy having been driven from the railroad, fell back to their own line, and at nightfall our troops fell back to Petersburg.

On reaching the city we were placed in line, the right of our brigade resting on the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad. Here we were engaged in throwing up a new line of works in front of those at that time occupied. At this employment we continued until 16 September, when we were moved to a point about half a mile south of the Boydton plank road, and about three miles southwest of the city, where we were employed in constructing rifle-pits until the 20th. On this day we were moved about one mile further south of the Boydton road and engaged in constructing works of a more elaborate character until the 29th, when we were ordered to Petersburg to supply the places in the line of troops who had been sent north of the James. We reached the city on the same day and awaited orders. On the 30th we were ordered to counter-march and take position on the right of the line. During the time we had been withdrawn, the enemy advanced and had taken a portion of the rifle pits and a heavy earthwork (Fort MacRae) which we had constructed and held on the Squirrel Level road. Attempting to move thence in the direction of the Boydton plank road, he was met by Heth's Division, and after a sharp and spirited attack, was driven back on his lines. MacRae's Brigade now took position in the line further to the right and was engaged daily in throwing up earthworks and drilling until the morning of 27 October.

BURGESS' MILLS.

The enemy having driven in our cavalry holding the right of the line, and penetrating to the Boydton plank road at a

point known as Burgess' Mills, about six miles southwest of Petersburg, MacRae's Brigade, together with other troops, was sent to their support. Finding the enemy in heavy force on the west side of Hatcher's Run, and south of the plank road, we crossed the run some distance below, and immediately after crossing advanced our corps of sharpshooters, who at once encountered the enemy's skirmish line, which was rapidly forced back upon the Federal line of battle. In the meantime our line of battle had been formed. With a yell we charged the enemy's lines, which were broken by the impetuosity of our attack, and were driven rapidly before us. Having driven the enemy for nearly a mile, and finding no support advancing to our assistance, the enemy being in great number on both our right and left flank, General MacRae was forced to call a halt and fall back on our lines. In this engagement the loss of officers and men was heavy. Among the former was Lieutenant James W. Huske, of Company B, Fifty-second Regiment, who fell, pierced through the body with a minie ball while gallantly leading the left wing of the regiment in this charge. He had on this occasion, as on all others, behaved with conspicuous gallantry. He died upon the field, and in his death the regiment lost one of its most valuable officers, and his company a kind and considerate friend. Fighting until nearly dark our lines were drawn back and reformed, where we awaited an expected attack, but apparently the enemy had been sufficiently punished, as they withdrew under cover of night, leaving their killed and wounded on the field. A Major-General said in the hearing of this writer, next morning, that he counted 286 dead and 145 so severely wounded as to be unable to help themselves.

On the 29th MacRae's Brigade returned to the lines near Hart's house, whence it had been taken, and was employed in changing our lines, building a new line of works and tearing down the old ones. At this point we erected cabins and went into winter quarters. Occupied in working on fortifications, drilling and the ordinary camp duties, we were not called upon to move until 9 December, 1864, when the brigade started upon a tramp in pursuit of a party of the en-

emy's troops engaged in an effort to destroy the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad. We did not get a fight, but were successful in driving them back within their own lines, after which we returned to our camp, reaching it on the 14th. From this date until 5 February, 1865, we remained in our winter quarters, doing picket duty, drilling and performing such other duty as is incident to camp life.

HATCHER'S RUN.

On the 5th MacRae's Brigade, accompanied by other troops, moved out to intercept a column of the enemy moving by the Vaughn road, in the direction of the South Side Railroad, which had reached a point near Armstrong's Mill, on the left bank of Hatcher's Run. Finding the enemy strongly intrenched, we made a demonstration against them which was repulsed with some loss. We were withdrawn after dark and returned to our quarters. On the 7th we were ordered under arms at daylight expecting to attack the enemy, but on account of a very heavy sleet and snowstorm, did not move. On the night of 31 March we were moved to the right and occupied a position in our lines on the right of the Boydton plank road beyond Hatcher's Run, which we held until the night of 2 April, when we began our retreat by a road leading from Five Forks to Southerland Station, closely pursued by the enemy. Reaching Southerland Station on the morning of the 3d, we were so closely pressed as to find it necessary to fight. We therefore selected a position on the brow of a slight hill in an open field and rapidly fortified our line, as well as we could, with bayonets used to break the earth, and such other means as were at command. Before we had succeeded in doing any considerable work the enemy charged our line. His advance was met with a well-delivered and telling volley from our rifles (we had no artillery) and they were driven back with heavy loss. A second attack with strengthened lines was made and again they retreated with greater loss. A third and much heavier column was hurled against our little band; and, after fighting with great desperation, being flanked on our left, we were driven from our lines and

retreated in the direction of the Appomattox river with but little, if any, organization.

Since the war a Federal General told General MacGowan, of South Carolina who, being the ranking officer present on this occasion, commanded our line, that this was the most gallantly defended line of any within his knowledge during the war; that we had killed and wounded more of their men than we numbered. Following the course of the river by the nearest accessible road, and often through the woods, crossing Namozine and Deep creeks, we joined General Lee at Goode's Bridge and proceeded thence to Amelia Court House, reaching this point on the 4th and halting for rest and rations. Here General Lee expected to ration his army, having ordered supplies to meet him at this point. In this hope, however, he was greatly disappointed. The authorities at Richmond, in the panic caused by the expected evacuation of the lines around Richmond and Petersburg, ordered the trains to proceed, without stopping, to the capital, for the purpose of moving the government's effects, which they did, carrying with them almost the last hope of the army in the shape of its subsistence, there to be destroyed, or fall into the hands of the enemy.

We rested here during the 4th and 5th sending out foraging parties for supplies, which resulted in—nothing. The troops had now been forty-eight hours without regular rations and the prospect was disheartening. On the night of the 5th we left Amelia Court House, marching westwardly by way of Deatonville, thence towards Farmville. Approaching High Bridge over the Appomattox river, we encountered a body of cavalry disputing our passage. MacRae's Brigade charged, driving them off and capturing General Gregg, after which we continued the retreat, and crossing the river over the bridge, bivouacked for the night. On the morning of the 7th the retreat was continued. Reaching a commanding position about five miles north from Farmville, a line of battle was formed and fortifications quickly erected. Here we rested until night, when the retreat was continued in the direction of Lynchburg, and by the night of the 8th the army had reached the vicinity of Appomattox Court House.

On the 9th an advance was begun but, finding the enemy in possession of our only line of retreat, the army was halted pending negotiations for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. On the 12th, in accordance with the terms agreed upon, the Fifty-second Regiment, together with the remainder of what had been the noble Army of Northern Virginia, marched to a point designated by the commissioners appointed for that purpose, and stacked their arms, deposited their furled banners, gave their parole and took up their line of march for those homes they had fought so bravely to defend through four long years of blood, hardships and toil.

NOTE:—After the regiment had been assigned to a brigade I have not, in many instances, been able to speak of it as a separate command, but it is to be understood that in all cases where the movements of the brigade are spoken of, the Fifty-second Regiment participated.

Having no access to records, I have not been able to note casualties with accuracy as to detail, except, in a few cases, where my information is derived from letters written to my wife at the time.

JOHN H. ROBINSON.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.,
9 April, 1901.