



FIFTEENTH REGIMENT.

1. Henry A. Dowd, Colonel.
2. William McRae, Colonel.

3. R. R. Ihrie, Lieut.-Colonel.
4. H. C. Kearney, 1st Lieut., Co. E.

FIFTEENTH REGIMENT.

BY H. C. KEARNEY, FIRST LIEUTENANT COMPANY E.

This regiment was originally the Fifth Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers, and was then composed of twelve companies. It was organized at Garysburg, N. C., two miles north of Weldon, about the 10th day of June, 1861, and Stephen Lee, a professor in the D. H. Hill Military School of Charlotte, was elected Colonel; R. R. Ihrie, Captain of Company M, Lieutenant-Colonel, and William F. Green, Captain of Company L, Major.

Before Lee received notice of his election he had been elected Colonel of the Sixth Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers, which was afterwards the Sixteenth Regiment of North Carolina Troops, and had accepted the latter command. About the 22d of June, Robert M. McKinney was elected Colonel, his commission bearing date of June 24, 1861, and joined the regiment the last of June. McKinney was at the time of his election Captain of Company A, Sixth Regiment North Carolina State Troops, and had been a professor in D. H. Hill's school. He was killed at Lee's Farm, near Yorktown, April 16, 1862. H. A. Dowd, First Lieutenant of Company I, and acting Adjutant, was elected and commissioned Colonel April 20, 1862, and at the reorganization of the regiment, May 3, 1862, was elected Colonel; William MacRae, Captain of Company B, was elected Lieutenant-Colonel, and W. H. Yarborough, Captain of Company L, was elected Major. Dowd was wounded at Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862, and resigned February 27, 1863, when MacRae was commissioned Colonel, Yarborough Lieutenant-Colonel and G. W. Hammond, Captain of Company K, Major. MacRae was appointed Brigadier-General about August, 1864, Yarborough succeeded to Colonel, Hammond to Lieutenant-Colonel and R. P. Jerome, Captain of Company B, to Major.

The staff and company officers and their successors in the order named, as appears from the "Roster of North Carolina Troops," Volume I, pages 545 and 581, and Volume II, pages 593 to 600 (which report is very imperfect), and as gathered from participants in the operation of the regiment, but largely from the memory of the writer, were: John Manning, George I. Gordon and A. H. Houston, Adjutants; H. D. Cabiness and C. H. Thomas, Quartermasters; T. C. Walsh and A. C. Massenburg, Commissaries; B. T. Green and S. W. Langdon, Surgeons; W. B. Mott, W. V. Bonner and Donald Williams, Assistant Surgeons; J. T. Sugg, Hospital Steward; J. C. MacRae and S. W. Howerton, Chaplains; Grayson, Exum Lewis and J. E. Porter, Sergeant-majors; J. B. Coffield, Quartermaster Sergeant; P. M. Moss, Ordnance Sergeant.

LIST OF COMPANIES AND THEIR OFFICERS.

COMPANY A—*Northampton County*—Captains, S. T. Stancell, J. B. Randolph, J. H. Peel and Spier Wood; First Lieutenants, E. A. DeBerry, J. W. Jacobs, J. H. Peel and W. H. Parker; Second Lieutenants, L. W. Boykin, W. P. Vick, J. B. Randolph, W. H. Parker, Spier W. Wood and W. E. Woodruff. Enlisted men, one hundred and thirty-nine.

COMPANY B—*Union County*—Captains, William MacRae and R. P. Jerome; First Lieutenants, T. H. Means and F. L. Rogers; Second Lieutenants, L. A. Holmes, R. J. Jerome, J. M. McLarty, G. B. Cuthberson and D. G. Cuthberson. Enlisted men, one hundred and thirty-eight.

COMPANY C—*Cleveland County*—Captains, C. G. Love and D. J. Hardin; First Lieutenants, J. N. Nicholson and J. M. Jarrett; Second Lieutenants, J. S. Byars, D. J. Hardin, J. W. Jarrett, E. W. McBrayer and W. K. Hardin. Enlisted men, one hundred and sixty-three.

COMPANY D—*Cleveland County*—Captain, W. S. Corbett; First Lieutenants, Harvey Cabiness, J. J. McGunniss and J. M. Higgins; Second Lieutenants, D. Lattimore, G. D. Horran, R. W. Hunt, F. G. Hicks, Thomas Y. Lytle and H. Clay Conly:

Enlisted men, one hundred and thirty-seven. This company was transferred to the Forty-ninth Regiment in exchange for Company B of that regiment, on January 15, 1863, which became Company D in the Fifteenth Regiment, and was from Chatham county. Captains, E. H. Ward, J. S. Bennett and T. S. Oldham; First Lieutenants, J. S. Bennett T. E. Oldham and W. E. Oldham; Second Lieutenants, J. W. Horton, W. E. Oldham, A. C. Massenburg and T. A. Oldham. Enlisted men, eighty-six. The roster of some thirty-five names of this company was lost.

COMPANY E—*Franklin County*—Captains, Willie Perry and W. H. Ballard; First Lieutenants, B. T. Green, W. H. Ballard and H. C. Kearney; Second Lieutenants, R. S. Harris, H. C. Kearney, J. A. Morris and H. H. Sherrod. Enlisted men, one hundred and fifty-three.

COMPANY F—*Harnett County*—Captains, Kenneth Murchison, Daniel McDougall and A. D. Cutts; First Lieutenants, K. M. McNeil, Daniel McDougall, J. T. McLean, A. D. Cutts, D. M. Sexton and D. E. Green; Second Lieutenants, R. B. Smith, S. D. Pipkin, J. T. McLean, A. D. Cutts, D. M. Sexton, D. E. Green and Rory Barnes. Enlisted men, one hundred and forty-one.

COMPANY G—*Franklin County*—Captains, J. J. Jackson, T. T. Terrell, G. B. Murphy; First Lieutenants, M. D. Stamper, T. T. Terrell, G. B. Murphy; Second Lieutenants, H. G. Gup-ton, A. C. Hight, G. B. Murphy, W. S. Jackson, J. M. Bonner and W. Brewer. Enlisted men, one hundred and thirty.

COMPANY H—*Alamance County*—Captains, J. R. Stockard, D. S. Thompson, W. J. Stone and E. S. Euliss; First Lieutenants, D. S. Thompson, W. J. Stone, E. S. Euliss, W. R. Webb; Second Lieutenants, J. N. H. Clendeniu, G. A. Clendenin, P. P. Booker, John Roney and M. M. Roberson. Enlisted men, one hundred and eighteen.

COMPANY I—*Edgecombe County*—Captains, T. W. Battle and E. D. Foxhall; First Lieutenants, H. A. Dowd and B. T. Hart; Second Lieutenants, Fred. Philips, R. S. Suggs, S. M. Pender, E. E. Knight and D. H. Barlow. Enlisted men, one hundred and forty-eight.

COMPANY K—*Edgecombe County*—Captains, G. W. Hammond, G. W. White and J. P. Cross; First Lieutenants, W. T. Gay, G. W. White and J. P. Cross; Second Lieutenants, J. J. Reed, T. H. Griffin, G. W. White, J. P. Cross, W. D. Braswell, W. H. Griffin. Enlisted men, one hundred and forty.

COMPANY L—*Franklin County*—Captains, W. F. Green, A. S. Perry, W. H. Yarborough and James I. Foster; First Lieutenants, A. S. Perry, W. S. Harris and W. R. Young; Second Lieutenants, W. H. Yarborough, W. S. Harris, W. L. Young, R. E. Ballard and Bartlett Davis. Enlisted men, one hundred and twenty-six.

COMPANY M—*Chatham County*—Captains, R. R. Ihrie, J. W. Taylor, W. L. London and W. H. Tyson; First Lieutenants, John Manning, W. L. London and E. J. Merritt; Second Lieutenants, O. M. Neal, W. L. London, C. C. Poe, J. T. Rogers, W. H. Tyson, J. T. Eubank. Enlisted men, one hundred and eighty-three.

These last two companies, L and M, were transferred to the Thirty-second Regiment in July, 1862, soon after the seven days' battles around Richmond. Company L became Company I and Company M became Company K in the Thirty-second Regiment. The number of enlisted men includes the recruits furnished during the entire war, and was as above, so far as is known.

About the last of June, 1861, the regiment, numbering about eleven hundred officers and men, was ordered to Virginia, and arriving at Yorktown about the first of July, pitched our camp southwest of the old British works on the edge of the town, near the First North Carolina, or Bethel Regiment. We became at once actively engaged in doing camp and fatigue duty, throwing up breastworks day and night, with occasional marches down the Peninsula toward Bethel and Hampton, until early in August. Then the health of the regiment had become so bad, at least eighty per cent. being stricken by those terrible diseases which occur from malaria and which are so easily contracted by persons coming from a hilly or mountainous country, surrounded by low swamps in midsummer, that the commanding general ordered

the regiment to Hobdy's Point, on the north side of York River, first sending a large number up the river to King and Queen county and to Gloucester Court House. Many of these never lived to return.

During the early part of September there was less than ten per cent. of the regiment able to perform camp duty. The loss by death and disability during the months preceding winter was greater than from battle during any one year afterwards, being over fifteen per cent.

About the 1st of October the regiment returned to Yorktown, did picket and foraging duty and built breastworks, batteries and partial winter-quarters at several places until February, 1862. After the fall of Roanoke Island it was sent to the Blackwater, near Suffolk, and thence to Goldsboro, N. C., to re-inforce General Branch's command after the evacuation of New Bern. It remained there until about the 15th of April, when it returned to the Peninsula by way of City Point, and took position on the lines near Lee's Mill, between Yorktown and James River, in front of McClellan's army, which was advancing from Fortress Monroe toward Richmond. Here it had its first engagement with the enemy at Lee's Farm on the 16th of April, when the gallant Colonel McKinney was killed, to whom and his successors, by their prudence, discretion, calm judgment and cool management, many of those who survived these years of strife owe their lives. The regiment lost twelve killed and forty-four wounded and the enemy lost one hundred and eighty-three killed and wounded.

The reorganization took place on the 3d of May, with almost an entire change of regimental and company officers. The regiment was one of the last to leave the lines and formed a part of the rear-guard on the retreat to Richmond until it reached Williamsburg, from which place it moved to New Kent Court House.

After several days of slow and tedious marching through rain and mud, occasional marches and skirmishes, with little to eat but parched corn, it crossed to the south side of the Chickahominy and encamped on the turnpike to Mechanicsville.

As the Union army extended its lines to the right a portion of the regiment on picket duty at Ellyson's Mill had a small engagement, capturing a few prisoners, with no loss to the regiment.

On the 30th and 31st of May the regiment marched and counter-marched almost constantly between Mechanicsville and Seven Pines, and on Sunday morning, June 1st, was formed in line of battle to the right, near Fair Oaks, to re-inforce and renew the attack at that point. Before advancing the order was countermanded and the regiment took position on the Nine Mile road above Fair Oaks, where it remained under daily fire from the enemy's batteries until Saturday morning, June 29th. It then moved forward through the enemy's works (he having retreated towards James River) towards Savage's Station on the York River Railroad, where, after frequent skirmishes during the day, it was formed in line of battle late in the evening in support of Barksdale's Brigade, which was actively engaged. Before Cobb's Brigade, to which the Fifteenth Regiment was attached, became engaged the enemy abandoned his position, destroying his supplies and leaving nearly two thousand sick and wounded prisoners. The regiment then moved west through the deserted works of the enemy, around the head of White Oak Swamp and from thence south and east, respectively, to the intersection of Darby Town and New Market roads, near Frazier's Farm, passing over that battlefield Tuesday morning, July 1st, and forming in line of battle about one mile west of Malvern Hill. It moved forward to support Confederate batteries which took position on the edge of a piece of woods about one thousand yards from the enemy's line, and shortly after a terrific artillery engagement was opened, the equal of which, considering the number engaged, was perhaps not excelled during the war. The strong elevated position of the enemy at Malvern Hill gave them full control of the fields in their front, and they soon succeeded in disabling and silencing nearly every Confederate gun within their range. The infantry in the rear suffered heavily from the shot and shell.

The infantry was ordered to advance and attack the enemy, who had concentrated a heavy force of artillery and infantry on the hill. The Fifteenth Regiment, forming the right of the brigade, moved to the attack through an open field of several hundred yards, broken by ravines, and was exposed to a murderous fire of grape and canister from the artillery and mortar shells from the gun-boats on James River and a heavy fire from the infantry in front. The regiment formed a part of the first line of battle and remained under fire until night, no re-inforcements ever reaching the line and position occupied by the regiment. The loss to the regiment in this charge was one hundred and sixty-four killed and wounded out of a membership of six hundred and ninety-two. The Confederate dead found nearest the enemy's lines on this part of the field belonged to Company L of the Fifteenth Regiment.

After removing the wounded and burying the dead the regiment returned near Richmond on the Williamsburg road, where Companies L and M were transferred to the Thirty-second Regiment. The regiment here received about two hundred and fifty new recruits from North Carolina, but before receiving any military training the regiment commenced the march to Maryland. It left Gordonsville on August 26th, and by forced marches joined General Lee near Bull Run on the 2d of September. It moved thence to Leesburg and crossed the Potomac on the 6th at Point of Rocks, rendezvoused north of Monocacy River, near Frederick, and on the 10th marched through the city toward Middletown, crossing South Mountain on the 12th, thence down Pleasant Valley, and on the night of the 13th was opposite Maryland Heights, four miles from Harper's Ferry.

On Sunday evening, the 14th, the brigade was ordered back and reached Crampton's Gap, under forced march, late in the afternoon and formed line of battle on top of the mountain in the rear of a portion of General Mahone's Brigade and other remnants, under command of Colonel Mumford, which was then engaged with the enemy. The men were almost exhausted from constant marching over rough roads, nearly shoeless, and without rations,

except green beef without salt and some corn. The regiment formed on the left of the brigade and on the left of the road on the pass, leaving knapsacks and blankets with a guard near the top and on the west side of the mountain, moved forward and soon became engaged with the enemy, who was pressing up the pass from the east.

During these movements and engagements of the regiment the recruits, who had learned but little of military tactics, were at a disadvantage in maneuvering, but stood the fire of the enemy well till captured. As the enemy pressed on the right the Fifteenth took position behind a rock fence, with instructions to hold it, which they did until the enemy succeeded in forcing the Georgia regiments (which formed the right of the brigade) back and gained the rear and the possession of the road across the gap. Being engaged with the enemy in front, and confident of the strength of our position, the first knowledge we had of the situation on the right was a terrible volley of musketry from the rear and right flank, which was at first thought to be from our own troops, who had mistaken us for the enemy, but soon such thoughts were dispelled by seeing the Federal flag in the rear. Fortunately the volley did but little damage, and though the clothing of nearly every man bore the mark of a ball (the writer having thirteen without breaking the skin), but few were hurt. The loss of the regiment in this engagement was fourteen killed, forty-eight wounded and one hundred and twenty-four prisoners, one of which was the writer. Nearly all of the prisoners were from the five right companies, A, C, E, G and I, and doubtless some of the casualties were caused by those who escaped from the right, yet by the stand they made at the top of the mountain and checking the enemy they enabled the left of the regiment and brigade to escape to Pleasant Valley, where they formed and held the enemy in check until after the capture of Harper's Ferry on the 15th, passed through there and joined the army at Sharpsburg on the 17th with one hundred and thirty-three officers and men. After that day's battle they had at night only fifty-two men for duty, having lost seventy-one

killed and wounded. The regiment (or, more properly, what was left) returned with the army to Virginia and thence to Fredericksburg, and about the first of December was transferred to Cooke's Brigade, all North Carolinians, and was, as then composed, the Fifteenth, Twenty-seventh, Forty-sixth and Forty-eighth North Carolina Troops, under the command of Brigadier-General John R. Cooke.

On the 12th of December the brigade moved down near Fredericksburg, in the rear of Marye's Heights, in support of Cobb's Brigade and the batteries. Cobb's Brigade occupied the front line, the batteries the heights, with the infantry behind a rock wall on the telegraph road, where they remained in line all night, building small fires by which they endeavored to warm their almost frozen limbs, it being bitter cold, but the reflection of the lights on the hills soon became a target for the enemy's heavy artillery on the Stafford Heights. The shelling became so terrific that the fires were ordered extinguished and many of those who escaped unhurt the next day died from the night's exposure.

Early in the evening of the 13th the enemy, having been repulsed on the right, advanced in heavy column from Fredericksburg across the open fields and attempted to force the lines west of the town. Cooke's Brigade was ordered forward, the Fifteenth Regiment occupying a position on top of the hill in front of Marye's house and to the left of a battery of Washington Artillery, where it remained until dark under heavy fire from the enemy's infantry and artillery. For over five hours the regiment was continuously engaged, using over thirty-five thousand cartridges, and as fast as one column of the enemy was repulsed and broken another was formed and renewed the assault. When night closed the conflict the field in front told with what desperation the assault had been made; indeed, it was in this respect thrice Malvern Hill—the armies reversed. About 4 o'clock the enemy succeeded in gaining a lodgment on the right in a railroad cut, from which the right of the regiment sustained its heaviest loss in less than thirty minutes, when the enemy was dislodged by artillery. The loss in killed and wounded in the regiment was two

hundred and seventy-four out of a membership of five hundred and sixty-three.

After the engagement the enemy recrossed the river and the regiment returned to its former quarters on the telegraph road and remained there until early in January, 1863, when it was ordered to North Carolina. After marching to Petersburg it was conveyed by rail to Goldsboro and thence to Magnolia, marching thence to Kenansville, South Washington, Warsaw and Burgaw, thence by rail to Wilmington and then to Charleston, S. C., Pocotaligo and Coosahatchie and to a point near Savannah, Ga., where it remained until April, except during the bombardment of Fort Sumter and the naval engagement of Charleston in February or March, when it was transferred to the support of Clingman's Brigade, then stationed at James Island. Afterwards it returned to Wilmington, N. C., and remained there until May 1st, when it moved to Kinston to re-inforce the command of General D. H. Hill. The enemy advanced from New Bern and engaged the Fifty-sixth Regiment, of Ransom's Brigade, at Gum Swamp, and the Fifteenth Regiment (Cooke's Brigade) was ordered to its support, when the enemy was forced back to Core Creek or Deep Gully, within a few miles of New Bern. In these skirmishes the regiment lost two killed and fourteen wounded. The regiment moved back towards Kinston and camped at Seven Forks several days, when it was ordered to Richmond and thence to Gordonsville to join Lee's army, then on its way to Gettysburg. On reaching Gordonsville the regiment was ordered back to Richmond to meet a threatened attack of the army advancing from Yorktown and was almost constantly on the march around Richmond during the Gettysburg campaign, being about the only organized brigade left to protect the Capital during the absence of the army from Virginia, and had skirmishes from James River to Fredericksburg, with slight losses.

Early in October the brigade moved to Gordonsville, joined the army near Culpeper Court House and was assigned to Heth's Division of A. P. Hill's Corps, then on the march to Bristoe

Station, which place it reached on the evening of October 14th, after a forced march. Cooke's and Kirkland's Brigades were hastily formed in line of battle parallel to the railroad and ordered to attack the enemy, who had taken position in the cut and behind the railroad bank. The two brigades, composed of nine North Carolina regiments, charged the enemy in solid column over an open field of several hundred yards, with Warren's Corps massed in front and two batteries of artillery occupying an elevated position on the right of the Confederate line. They were subjected to such a terrific fire from the enemy that their lines were mowed down like grain before a reaper and their broken columns forced back to Davis' Brigade in the rear. In doing this Colonel MacRae retired the Fifteenth Regiment by alternate companies, firing and falling back, which stayed the enemy and greatly protected the line. General Cooke was severely wounded early in the action and the Fifteenth lost twenty-four killed and one hundred and seventeen wounded in the short space of about thirty-five minutes. The enemy's loss in killed was very great in proportion to the number wounded, as was evidenced by the print of lead on the railroad iron behind which they lay, their heads being principally exposed. The regiment remained on the field that night and, after burying the dead, marched toward the Rappahannock River, destroying the railroad as they went.

After reaching the south side of the Rapidan River the regiment was engaged in doing picket duty, with occasional skirmishes, until about December, when it fronted the Federal army at Mine Run, but had no general engagement. After a few days skirmishing it returned to near Orange Court House, built and occupied winter-quarters quietly until about the first of May, 1864, when it broke camp and moved toward the Wilderness, where, on the 5th of May, Cooke's Brigade engaged the enemy on the plank-road, occupying a position on the right of the road, the Fifteenth Regiment being on the extreme right of line as first formed. About 2 o'clock P. M., and before our lines were completed, the enemy advanced in column, but was soon repulsed, only to renew the charge with greater force. The battle raged

until night, with the Fifteenth Regiment holding its position till dark. During the evening our ammunition was exhausted, and the re-inforcements coming in (Kirkland's and McGowan's Brigades), divided theirs with us. At the commencement of the battle the trees and small undergrowth were so thick that the enemy got within about thirty yards of us before we could see them, and the first volley fired broke their line and hurled them back, and many times did they renew the charge with fresh troops during the afternoon, but never passed the line where they received the first volley. At the close of the day the ground between the lines was covered with small trees, bushes and limbs cut off by minnie-balls.

After night the regiment was formed to the left of the plank-road, on the right of Wilcox's Division, and worked all night throwing up breastworks, which gave us protection and enabled us to hold our position. At dawn on the 6th the enemy advanced in heavy columns and forced the troops on the right of the plank-road back and subjected Cooke's Brigade to a heavy fire from the right and rear. At this critical moment Longstreet's Corps arrived, followed by Anderson's Division. Gregg's Texas Brigade formed line of battle as they moved forward and the Arkansas regiment formed line with the Fifteenth Regiment at their works. General Lee was present and started forward with the line of battle as they advanced, but was stopped by the men, who refused to advance if he went. These fresh troops charged and drove the enemy from the field, relieving the right and saving the battle. The Fifteenth Regiment moved forward and established a new line, but was not heavily engaged, only engaging in skirmishes during the day. The loss in the Fifteenth Regiment was two hundred and forty killed and wounded during the two days.

The regiment moved to the right with the army, reached Spottsylvania Court House, and on the 10th, with other troops, was actively engaged and forced the enemy back from advanced positions he had gained on the Confederate left. Although under fire several hours and in various positions during the day, the casualties were small, all principally from artillery.

On the morning of the 12th the brigade, with the Fifteenth Regiment on the extreme right, occupied a position on the line northwest of the Court House, in front of Sedgwick's Corps and in view of the assault of the enemy on the new line formed after the attack on Johnston's Division at the "horse-shoe." In the afternoon the regiment, with others, was moved to the front, protected from view and fire of the enemy by a heavy piece of woods, and formed at right angles near the main line. It captured several stands of colors and a large number of prisoners by striking the rear and left flank of their column, which advanced in front of their main line to attack the Confederate center. This movement was so quietly made that the enemy knew nothing of it until the appearance of the Confederates in their rear, when they surrendered, without firing a gun or the loss of a man, to the Fifteenth Regiment.

During the engagement on the 12th the regiment did not become actively engaged, but moved with the army towards Richmond, next fronting the enemy near Hanover Junction about the 23d, in support of Lane's Brigade, and suffered some loss from the enemy's artillery.

On the 31st of May Heth's Division occupied the front line at Pea Ridge, the distance being so short between the armies that the lines were engaged as sharpshooters. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon the enemy assanlted the line of Cooke's Brigade, but were soon repulsed, losing almost their entire force in killed, wounded and captured.

On the evening of June 2d, at Turkey Ridge, Cooke's Brigade supported the left flank of Kirkland's Brigade and had a sharp engagement with the enemy until after dark. The Fifteenth Regiment was thrown forward in a big swamp for some distance, feeling their way in the darkness over fallen timbers and through mud and water, and, to prevent a surprise from the enemy, was preceded about fifteen feet by one man from each company. The lines were so near each other and it was so dark that private Smith, from Company G, was captured by the enemy and private Holmes, from Company E, captured one of the enemy.

The lines were so close that they could hear each other whisper, but fortunately not a gun was fired. After remaining in the swamp some time the regiment was withdrawn and formed in line on the edge of a field and worked all night throwing up breastworks.

Early next morning Cooke's Brigade was moved to the position occupied by Kirkland during the night. They had built no breastworks, and before the brigade formed its line the enemy drove in our pickets, advanced his line of battle and the firing became general. The front rank of the regiment was advanced a few feet, while the rear went to work with bayonets, plates, tin cups, or anything they could use to move dirt, and in a short time had a bank sufficient to afford some protection, behind which they formed, continuing their work and firing whenever the attack of the enemy demanded. The position was on the edge of a piece of woods, the timber in front, and the enemy's line of battle so near that they could not use their artillery effectively. By 10 o'clock the works were sufficiently strong and high to protect the men, but the fire was so strong that nearly every horse to a Confederate battery was killed before it could get its guns in position. This was perhaps the hardest day the Fifteenth Regiment had during the war, being actively engaged for fourteen hours with three times their number without one mouthful to eat, but little water to drink and several times with but one round of ammunition. They used an average of one hundred and sixty rounds of ammunition to the man that day. The loss to the regiment was about sixty, nearly all of whom were ammunition or water-carriers. The regiment was withdrawn soon after dark, moved to Cold Harbor and from there to James River.

On the 15th of June the enemy's cavalry moved up the Chickahominy towards Richmond, while the army was crossing James River to attack Petersburg. Heth's Division was sent to meet them, and Cooke's Brigade being in front, the Fifteenth Regiment was engaged in several skirmishes during the day, with considerable loss, and captured many prisoners, mostly wounded.

The writer, with ten picked men, was ordered by General Cooke to reconnoiter the enemy's position, during which he was wounded, and but for the gallantry of his squad would have been captured by about thirty of the enemy, who, in making a charge, received a volley which killed two and wounded several. We captured seven and the others retreated.

After night the regiment moved towards Richmond, crossed James River and took position on the lines around Petersburg. During the siege we occupied various positions, but principally near the Crater, with constant duty, under fire from sharpshooters, artillery and mortars day and night, with but little to eat. The losses in the regiment from the Wilderness to Petersburg in the numerous skirmishes was twenty-four killed and eighty-nine wounded.

On the 25th of August the regiment moved down on the Petersburg Railroad to attack the enemy at Reams' Station. Hancock's Corps was formed in line in the railroad cut behind the embankment and breastworks. Cooke's, MacRae's and Lane's Brigades, numbering about one thousand seven hundred and thirty men, were ordered to attack the enemy in this strong position with three times their number. After forming in line of battle the Confederates had to charge for several hundred yards across an open space of fallen timber, brush and other obstructions, which was done in good order. We reached the enemy's line without firing and captured several stands of colors, two batteries and about two thousand eight hundred prisoners. The loss in the Fifteenth Regiment was twenty-three killed and ninety-one wounded. After this the regiment took position again at the Crater.

On the 27th of October the regiment took position on the lines near Hatcher's Run, remaining there until December, when, with other regiments, it marched towards Belfield, through sleet and snow, but had no general engagement. It returned to its former position and remained until February, 1865, when it moved to Petersburg and took position near the Crater, in support of General Gordon in his night attack, but was not actively

engaged. In the evening it returned, under forced march, to its former position, which was threatened by the enemy, which position it occupied until the 2d of April, when the lines near Petersburg were broken and a retreat ordered.

On reaching Sutherland's Station line of battle was formed to check the enemy. The army being in fragments and in full retreat, the Fifteenth Regiment was deployed as skirmishers to protect the rear and keep up stragglers during the day. It marched all night and almost continuously, with but few hours' rest and but little to eat, with frequent skirmishes, principally with cavalry, until the morning of the 9th of April at Appomattox Court House, where it was formed in line of battle to re-inforce General Cox's and other brigades, but before advancing the Army of Northern Virginia, the pride of the South, yielded to overwhelming numbers and resources.

The loss to the regiment during these latter months in the trenches, on the retreat and in the various skirmishes was about eighty killed and wounded. At the last roll-call on that eventful morning there were two hundred and nineteen stands of arms turned over by those men in the regiment who had borne them for four years.

Thus ended the services of one of the first regiments of North Carolinians that responded to the call of their State and to the Confederacy.

In penning this short sketch of one of the first regiments that tendered its services to North Carolina and the Confederacy, it has been the object of the writer not to detract the least praise from any other regiment or State that they may merit (for I believe that with few exceptions they all did their duty), but simply as a North Carolinian, proud of her honor and the valor of her sons, to assist in bringing to light and preserving the gallant deeds of her soldiery, whereby all impartial and unprejudiced historians may be enabled to publish to the world the truth as it is, and that every citizen in our re-united country, whether from Maine or Texas, can in future ages point to their acts of

bravery and devotion to duty, and with pride claim they were American citizens.

In this instance the best proof of their honesty of purpose, devotion to duty and conviction of right in a cause they had espoused, was the five hundred and ninety-three shattered remnants left of the eighteen hundred and two that had belonged to this regiment during its four years' service.

H. C. KEARNEY.

LOUISBURG, N. C.,
9th April, 1901.