

BITS OF WAR HISTORY.

SHORT SKETCH OF THE FORTY-FIRST NORTH CAROLINA REGIMENT.

WRITTEN BY MR. JOSHUA B. HILL

The Varied Experiences of a Gallant Band of Confederate Cavalry, by One Who served Through the War in Defense of the Rights of the Southern People—The Capture of Newbern by the Federals—Lighting Around Richmond and Petersburg.

The Forty-first North Carolina Troops was a regiment of cavalry; in the formal enrollment it was known as the Third Cavalry, but for a great portion of its honorable history it was scattered over an extended field of operations and serving as detached companies of cavalry.

It should be understood that the system adopted in numbering the several regiments does not represent the order of the organization of the companies in behalf of the defense of the State and the rights of the Southern people.

For example, ten regiments raised under what was called the "Ten Regiment Bill," and enlisted "for the war," as was stated were allowed to antedate all previous volunteer organizations, most of them having been enrolled for twelve months, although, as a matter of fact, all finally served throughout the struggle. The only exception to this was the First Volunteers (Bethel), afterwards known as the Eleventh.

Regiments like the Eighteenth and Twentieth had been in service many months at the forts before being placed in regimental organization; the latter even containing companies fully equipped before the attack upon Sumter.

In like manner many of the companies which were organized at Kingston in the fall of 1862, had already seen large and faithful service, and it is to be hoped that surviving members of these gallant troops, that contributed so much to the protection of Eastern Carolina, will leave memorials of their valuable services and chivalrous deeds of daring.

There was something attractive to the young Southerner in the life of a bold dragoon; especially among those whose circumstances had made them fearless horsemen, and whose life in the open air and participation in field sports had rendered them the finest recruits in the world for this form of military duty.

Of this class the flower of the young men of the State were the various "Dragoons," "Mounted Rifles," and similar bodies composed who bivouacked from the lower James to the Cape Fear, content to serve where duty called, under their bold captains.

The fall of Hatteras and the fate of Roanoke Island early in the war were unavoidable events, under the circumstances. Without ordnance to contend against a powerful fleet that stood without range, and shelled at pleasure a garrison practically defenseless, the fate of Hatteras was sealed.

But the capture of Newbern ought not to have occurred—at least it need not have taken place in 1862, long before the war was twelve months old, if the authorities at Richmond had given it help with half the troops uselessly sent down afterwards.

But the importance of the position was hardly apprehended by either side. Certainly a Federal commander of the order of Jackson, or of Sheridan would have cut the great line of supply of Lee's army, the Wilmington & Weldon railroad, and overwhelmed Wilmington from the rear.

That this was not done, must be attributed largely to the activity and energy of the Third Cavalry, before and after its formal organization as a regiment, and the other cavalries serving in like capacity, or as partisan rangers.

The companies were somewhat unequal in size. As the war progressed and the Confederate Congress insisted upon measures of conscription, those arriving at military age frequently volunteered in companies containing friends, or raised in special localities. Some of these were from towns or counties in the hands of the enemy, and recruits were not easily available.

Other companies were stationed at ports favorable for accessions to their ranks. Moore's roster gives 1158 men in the ranks of the regiment, but as the deficiency of that enrollment are well known, it is probable that the number was not less than 1,200 if not more.

John A. Baker, of New Hanover, serving on the staff of Major-General French at that time in command of the department of North Carolina, with headquarters at Wilmington, was commissioned as Colonel September 3rd, 1862, of the Third North Carolina Cavalry, now designated as the 41st N. C. Troops.

The remaining field officers were not assigned until nearly a year afterwards, Alfred M. Waddell having been commissioned Lieut-Colonel on August 18th, 1863, and Roger Moore Major on the same date. Previous to that A. M. Waddell had served as Adjutant, and Capt. Roger Moore as Quartermaster. Both of these gentlemen were from Wilmington. Upon the resignation of Col. Waddell, August 10th, 1864 Major Roger Moore was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, and on December 9th, 1864, Capt. C. W. McClammy, of Company A, was promoted to the vacant Majority. Col. Moore became commanding officer as Col. Baker, who had been taken prisoner by the enemy, June 21st, 1864, did not rejoin the regiment, but resigned Aug. 10th, 1864.

Capt. Thos. J. Tunstall, of Miss., an officer who had been serving at headquarters of the Department of North Carolina was made Assistant Quartermaster, Nov. 19th, 1862. Benj. W. Sparks was commissioned Assistant Surgeon Sept. 1st, 1862, and was from Georgia, but on Feb. 1st, 1863, Dr. Benj. M. Walker, of Plymouth, was ordered to the regiment as full surgeon. Lieut. John N. Smith, of Texas

served as drill master and also as acting Assistant Commissary Surgeon. Rev. S. M. Byrd, of Virginia was assigned as chaplain Oct. 3rd, 1864.

The following of the non-commissioned staff were, Thos. S. Armistead, Sergeant Major, Plymouth, (Washington county); Calvin J. Morris, Quartermaster Sergeant, (Bertie county); A. L. Fitzgerald, Ordnance Sergeant, (Caswell county); Neil M. Buie, Hospital Steward, (Harnett county); J. W. Sorey, Chief Bugler, Martin county; Levi J. Fagan, of Plymouth, Color Sergeant.

The several companies composing the regiment may be briefly named as follows: Most of the names of enlisted men can be found in the honorable roll compiled by order of the State, and known as "Moore's Roster," but that record, it is well known, is imperfect, many rolls having perished, which record the changes incident to time and disease and the casualties of war.

Company A, known originally as the "Rebel Rangers" was from New Hanover and had 7 commissioned, 9 non-commissioned officers, 2 musicians and 300 privates; total, 153. A. W. Newkirk was commissioned as captain Oct. 19th, 1861; C. W. McClammy was promoted to captain from first lieutenant September 12, 1863, and subsequently to Major in 1864 when D. J. Nixon was made captain from first lieutenant. The remaining officers were as successively promoted: 1st Lieut., A. C. Ward; and 2nd Lieut., J. J. Nixon, Jno. W. Howard, A. C. Ward, and J. V. Howard, and Robert C. Highsmith.

Company B, the "Gatin Dragoons," of Onslow county, had 7 commissioned and 10 non-commissioned officers, and 122 privates; total, 139. E. W. Ward was made captain December 28, 1861, and Bryan Southerland succeeded him November 30, 1863, having been promoted from second lieutenant. The other officers were first lieutenants L. W. Humphrey, John W. Spicer, and M. F. Langly; second lieutenants Bryan Southerland, (promoted as stated), J. W. Spicer, David W. Simmons, Stephen H. Merton, D. Williams, and M. E. Langly.

Company C, the "Caswell Rangers," of Caswell county, had 4 commissioned, 9 non-commissioned officers, and 87 privates; total, 100. Hannan W. Reinhardt was captain. (February 28, 1862); first lieutenant, John W. Hatch. Second lieutenants, Stephen A. Rice, and James A. Williamson.

Company D, the "Highland Rangers" of Harnett county, had 4 commissioned, 8 non-commissioned officers, and 90 privates; total, 102. Thomas J. Brooks, captain, was commissioned March 5, 1862; first lieutenant, G. W. Behman; second lieutenants, James M. McNeill, and W. M. McNeill.

Company E, the "Macon Mounted Guards" from Lenoir and Craven counties chiefly, with members from Pitt and Chatham, had 5 commissioned, 9 non-commissioned officers, and 64 privates; total, 78. W. W. Carraway and L. H. Hartsfield were captains, the latter commissioned October 7, 1861. First lieutenant, Isaac Roberts; second lieutenants, Owen A. Palmer, and S. H. Loftin.

Company F, the "Davis Dragoons," from Burke county, had 9 commissioned, 6 non-commissioned officers, (whose names have been preserved), and 96 privates; total, 111. T. George Walton was made captain October 7, 1861, and succeeded by Elisha A. Perkins May 12, 1862. First lieutenants, Hugh C. Bennett and J. C. Tate; second lieutenants, J. A. Stewart, W. F. Avery, J. Rufus Kincaid, J. A. Conley, and Henry P. Lindsay.

Company G, the "Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen," from Halifax county had 6 commissioned, 7 non-commissioned officers, and 108 privates; total, 121. Atherton B. Hill, who was made captain October 9, 1861, was succeeded by Benj. G. Smith promoted from second sergeant. First lieutenant, Norfleet Smith; second lieutenants, George A. Higgs, Theodore B. Hyman, and John T. Savage.

Company H, the "Humphrey Troops" from Onslow county, had 5 commissioned, 9 non-commissioned officers, and 85 privates; total, 99. Julius W. Moore was commissioned captain December 19, 1862. First lieutenants, Thos. B. Henderson and A. G. Hawkins; second lieutenants, Jas. Bryant and B. W. Trout.

Company I, the "Wake Rangers," from Wake county, had 8 commissioned, 11 non-commissioned officers, and 88 privates; total, 107. Rufus S. Tucker, captain, was commissioned February 18, 1862, and on his promotion as major and aid de camp January 24, 1863, David A. Roberson was made captain. First lieutenants, T. Jefferson Utey and Joseph M. Bowling; second lieutenants, W. W. Clements, J. H. Allison, W. G. Riddick, and Allen K. Rogers; bugler, Jesse Winborne.

Company K, the "Clark Skirmishers" of Beaufort and Washington counties, with Martin and Pitt contributing, had 6 commissioned, 10 non-commissioned officers, and 68 privates; total, 84. Wm. Jordan Walker, Geo. W. Ward, and Fred Harding, who was commissioned May 16, 1862, were captains. First lieutenants, George W. Ward, Fred Harding, and Wm. Slade; second lieutenants, Wm. Slade, Fred Harding, J. E. Moore, and Burton Stibley, the last two ranking, respectively, from May 11, and May 16, 1862. Of this company the writer had the honor of being first sergeant, having joined its ranks May 16, 1862.

This completes a review of the personnel of a regiment remarkable for the high spirit and mental and physical strength, no less than for the moral worth and patriotic devotion to duty which characterized it. How many of the names on its official roster and the muster-rolls of the privates in the ranks were honored for bravery in the service during the dark years of the war, or have risen to distinction among those of their fellow-citizens in various sections of the State!

It has already been intimated that this regiment was a bulwark of protection for the great railroad from Weldon to Wilmington, and all that portion of the thirty counties east of it, not completely in the hands of the enemy, with their combined naval and military power in the great sounds.

To many minds the idea of soldierly value is confined to the fleeting hours of the battle-field, and the efficiency of a regiment is measured by the number of men cut to pieces or left on the field, although both may occur through unskillful management of commanding officers, and may result,

perhaps, in unnecessary, even valueless slaughter.

But there is an infinity of duties besides the actual shock of pitched battle, on a great scale. Cavalry has well been termed "the eyes and ears of an army," and well may this be said of the Third or the Forty-first North Carolina Troops. In a great arc, sweeping from the Cape Fear to the Blackwater, it was the omnipresent guardian of the people. A large proportion of its troopers were natives of the east and knew its roads and fords, its swamps and streams. Picketing an enormous line, protecting the villages and settlements from forays, gathering supplies, and especially forage for the garrisons of the forts, guarding the cross-roads and fords, communicating with friends in the lines of the enemy and checking his approach whenever he dared to advance beyond his gunboats, this regiment and its gallant brethren of similar commands, though for a long time denied the laurels that fell upon Stuart and his bold troopers in their own scene of action, yet daily and hourly performed service of the most vital importance to the maintenance of our communications through North Carolina and to the protection of one of the most important regions of the country, if not the capital of the State itself.

Propositions to have the regiment assembled at Garysburg and move northward were repeatedly declined by the State authorities. But eventually the need of cavalry to reinforce the right wing of the army at the defence of Richmond became most urgent. The importance of maintaining cavalry in full efficiency was hard-history of the first N. C. troops, etc. fully realized in the Army of Northern Virginia. It was expected to take care of itself, and so it did. But as supplies grew scarce and horses and men grew gaunt with hunger, few animals could be found to replace the fiery steeds of the first squadrons, and such bloody massacres as Bristows and Brandy Station had wiped out whole squadrons, never to be replaced.

It is no wonder, then, that when this regiment finally reached the lines of Petersburg it endured labors and hardships almost unparalleled even in that dread conflict.

On the other hand, with the wealth of the world in money, men and horses, the Federal cavalry, well trained and supplied with everything possible, pushed, under Sheridan and Stoneman, to its utmost effectiveness in the last campaigns.

After the fall of Roanoke Island in February, 1862, Capt. R. S. Tucker's company, the "Wake Rangers," was sent to guard Weldon bridge, and afterwards to picket the Tar from Greenville nearly to Washington. There were at this time other North Carolina commands on similar duty stationed to the south: Evans' troops between Newbern and Goldsboro, and Capt. Nethercutt's cavalry across the Trent in Jones county.

In November following, Capt. W. W. Carraway's company, the Macon Mounted Guards, were on duty at Kingston, and Capt. Ward's company served for some time, after the capture of Newbern. In picketing the streams of Onslow and vicinity.

On September 28th, 1862, Gov. Z. B. Vance protested earnestly against calling off the regiment to Garysburg, and said that without the protection of the cavalry the finest provision region of the State would in a few days be desolated. So enthusiastic was he that he was moved to exclaim, "If it is not the intention of the President to protect us, we must protect ourselves."

In late October or early November a squad of fourteen men of Co. K, under command of Levi J. Fagan, Color Sergeant, was sent on picket about ten miles from Plymouth, which town was largely garrisoned by U. S. troops. The darkness of the night, together with a blinding rain, rendered it difficult to perceive the approach of an enemy's lines which suddenly surrounded and captured the squad. Taken on foot to Plymouth and thence by transport vessel to Newbern, this small body of prisoners was held in captivity, though kindly treated, until parole, December 4th.

A brilliant exploit performed by the "Rebel Rangers," Co. A, subsequently reported by Gen. W. H. C. Whittemore, commanding District of Wilmington, Va., says, November 28th, 1862, that Capt. Newkirk's cavalry and Capt. Adams, with a section of a field battery, destroyed a steam gun-boat of the enemy's on New river. Her crew escaped, but her armament, ammunition, small arms were captured.

Shortly afterwards the "Caswell Rangers," Co. C, rendered brave and efficient service in repelling the raid of Gen. Foster upon Goldsboro, and was complimented for its coolness in action in the report of Col. Stevens, of the Engineers, to Gen. Gustavus W. Smith, commanding.

Another company, that of Capt. Tucker, was in the expedition under Gen. J. G. Martin, who, with the 17th N. C. Infantry, Adams' artillery and the respective cavalries of Walker, Booth and Tucker, made an attack upon the forces of the enemy at Washington. Tucker assaulted the town independently, the other companies being under the command of the gallant Booth, who received a wound on that occasion that subsequently caused his death.

The enemy was completely driven out of the town in this brilliant engagement, but the heavy artillery of the gun-boats completely commanded the whole of Washington, which is situated upon the river, and as the occupation by Confederate forces involved the entire destruction of the place, without adequate military result, the command deemed it proper to evacuate and return to original lines.

The "Davis Dragoons," under Capt. Perkins, at Big Northeast Bridge, near Jacksonville, met a party of Federal cavalry, killing one captain and five privates and routing the balance without loss.

Seven companies of the regiment were concentrated for operations in Eastern N. C. and on the Virginia border early in 1863, and so effectively did the command make its mark that Gen. M. Jenkins, Brigadier commanding on the Blackwater, proposed a dash of Baker's Regiment of cavalry upon the enemy's camp of cavalry on the Windward road, four or five miles from Suffolk, Va.

Service along the narrow Blackwater, guarding its fords and tributaries, involved much exposure to malaria and incessant contact with the enemy. Longstreet issued preparatory orders for his demonstration against Suffolk, April 16th, and was particularly to direct that wires be stretched across the roads leading to the strong cavalry force of the U. S. troops.

On the 21st of the same month, by orders from Richmond, the regiment was attached to Robertson's brigade, A. N. V., but was placed almost immediately on detached service on the Blackwater.

On June 11th, 1863, Capt. Milligan, of the Confederate Signal Corps, reports that with a detachment of the 3rd N. C. Cavalry he had burned Dilard's wharf, on the south side of the river from Jamestown Island. This was a favorite landing place for predatory incursions of the enemy. Under date of June 15th, Gen. D. H. Hill reports: "The Yankees, with ten regiments of infantry, two of cavalry and sixteen pieces, have been feebly attempting to cross the Blackwater for the last five days. They have been repulsed at all points with ease by the forces of Gen. M. Jenkins, Col. John A. Baker and Col. Alf. Coppens."

The regiment was now in demand in various directions, remaining but a brief period at any point. July 1st it was ordered to Old Church to intercept raiders coming up the Peninsula and to watch the Pamunkey. Hard service had left about two hundred men of the command without horses. July 18th the regiment was made a part of the division of Maj. Gen. Robert Ransom. On the 20th of the month Gen. Whiting asked for it from Gen. Cooper, saying, "I need very much an additional force of cavalry, can I not have Baker's regiment from Petersburg?" On the 22nd he applied for it again to go to Gen. Martin at Kingston to stop raids of the enemy, but the Union forces having appeared at Murfreesboro, the regiment was ordered on the 27th to the Blackwater to check an advance toward Weldon.

In August it was encamped at Ivor, a station on the road then called Norfolk and Petersburg, now a portion of the Norfolk and Western line. It was about this time that newspaper reports, upon the Gettysburg campaign and others, had been full of extravagant praise for troops of certain other States, but North Carolina had been treated with neglect and even gross injustice. A proposition was made that official reports should accompany the army, or at least that the authentic official reports of officers on the field should be published. This was brought to the attention of Gen. Lee by the Hon. J. A. Seddon, Secretary of War, to whom the great commander replied, on September 9th, 1863, in words which should bring the glow of pride to the heart of every Carolinian: "In the reports of the officers of justice is done the brave soldiers of North Carolina whose heroism and devotion have illustrated the name of their State on every battlefield in which the army of Northern Virginia has been engaged, but the publication of these reports during the progress of the war would give the enemy information which it is desirable to withhold."

In November the regiment was camped near Weldon, but by the end of the year it was on the ground where it was organized, reporting, on December 31st, 34 officers and 554 men present for duty, although the rolls have 971 names.

Early in the new year, January 9th, 1864, it was engaged in a skirmish near Greenville. Toward the end of January Gen. Lee sent Gen. Pickett with five brigades to attack and attempt to recapture Newbern. The 41st was a portion of the cavalry ordered upon the expedition. This cavalry endured great hardships in breaking up the railroad between Morehead and Newbern, in passing around the town and in crossing the river. However this much was accomplished, though the general undertaking was defeated.

On April 22nd, Col. Baker was ordered to report to Gen. Lee for the assignment of the regiment to Gen. J. E. Gordon's brigade. But when in camp near Weldon it was ordered, (May 3rd,) by Brig. Gen. Walker, to march Newbern, and it took part in the feat executed by Gen. Hoke in that section. Gen. Bearing, then commanding all the cavalry near Newbern, ordered it to Kingston, which was reached on the evening of the 7th of May. Thence by Hoke's orders, it proceeded by the highway to Weldon. The three companies serving in the Department of North Carolina were ordered May 2nd, to join their regiment, and on the 15th it was required to move with Hoke's Division to protect the right flank, in the movement, near Petersburg, of Beauregard against Butler.

Gen. Bragg, then in command at Richmond, complained to Gen. S. Cooper that Baker's cavalry had been detained by Beauregard after its orders to protect Richmond, and that thus the safety of the capital had been jeopardized.

Beauregard answers the complaint as follows, and incidentally expresses his high appreciation of the Carolina troopers: "Gen. Bragg in his communication has declared that the Third N. C. Cavalry was detained for three weeks without the shadow of authority; and that by the delays occasioned by unauthorized assumptions in the movements of troops the safety of the capital has been jeopardized."

I beg leave respectfully to reply that on April 25th, Gen. Bragg authorized me to detain Baker's cavalry until the Newbern expedition should be completed, or until it should be relieved by another. The Newbern expedition terminated May 6th and Col. Baker with his command started immediately to Weldon, which he reached on the 10th and thence to Petersburg where he arrived with a portion of the command on the 14th. On the same day he proceeded, under my orders, with me to Drewry's Bluff."

At this time Gen. Butler was threatening the capital with a force largely superior to my own. There were with me including Baker's, but one regiment of cavalry and fractions of two others; viz: the 7th S. C., and parts of the 5th S. C., and 3rd, N. C. They were essential to the protection of the right and left flanks of my command. They participated in the battle of May 16th at Drewry's Bluff, and so far from jeopardizing the safety of the capital by delay in the execution of orders, they contributed essential service to its defense. All the troops

which could be spared from the capital were being sent to me to defend it on the South side, and it did not occur to me to send forward the regiment to Richmond, merely to be returned, for the important purposes already indicated.

Although the enemy was defeated on the 16th, and driven back to his works at Bermuda Hundred, he still very outnumbered me and held a menacing position dangerous to the safety of the capital. I did not deem it prudent and wise therefore, to send it on the 17th to Richmond, but directed it to watch and protect my flank on James river.

May 23d, Col. Ferabee, with the Fourth N. C., having relieved Col. Baker, was ordered immediately to report to Gen. Bragg at Richmond, and he did so on the evening of the 23d. The detention was authorized, I respectfully submit, by the exigencies of the case and demonstrated by the signal service the command rendered on the 16th at Drewry's Bluff."

He asked for a court of inquiry, but Gen. Lee expressed himself as satisfied, dismissed Bragg's complaint and refused a court.

On this occasion Col. Baker repeats that his marches were thirty miles a day, and that as soon as pickets and couriers reached camp under orders at midnight, he started at 3 a. m. Little rest was there for the wearied soldier for the remainder of the bloody struggle.

A few weeks later, June 21st, 1864, the regiment lost Col. Baker by capture. He was considerably in advance of the regiment, with but one or two men. It is thus told by the enemy: "June 21st, 1864, 5:10 p. m. 'Theo. Lyman to Maj. Gen. Meade: 'I have just been to meet Gen. Barlow. About a mile from the railroad (W. & W. and Petersburg) he engaged dismounted cavalry and two guns, took the Colonel of the Third N. C. Cavalry, who thinks Early is behind on the railroad.'"

During the month of August the reorganization of the field officers took place, as heretofore referred to, and Maj. Roger Moore (promoted later to Lieutenant Colonel) was left in command. The regiment was now in the brigade of Gen. Rufus Barringer, where it remained for the rest of the war. It was in the division of Gen. W. H. F. Lee, under command of Gen. Wade Hampton, commanding the corps of cavalry.

It participated in the brilliant attack on the enemy at Reams' Station, August 25th, 1864. From Gen. Hampton's report the following is taken: "Gen. Barringer, whom I had sent with his brigade to the east of the railroad, reported that he had met a strong force of infantry with cavalry. I ordered him to picket the road strongly and join me with his command at Malone's Crossing. * * * Col. Roberts, with his regiment, charged here one line of rifle-pits, carrying it handsomely and capturing from sixty to seventy-five prisoners * * * He struck the rear of the enemy, with Barringer's brigade in the center of his force. Under a heavy fire of artillery and musketry the line advanced steadily, driving the enemy into his works. Here he made a stubborn stand, and for a few moments checked our advance, but the spirit of the men was so fine that they charged the breast-works with the utmost gallantry, carried them and captured the force holding them. This ended the fighting, my men having been engaged twelve hours. We captured 781 prisoners, 25 commissioned officers; buried 143 of the enemy and brought off 66 of their wounded. Our loss was: total killed, 16; wounded, 75; missing, 3. Of these Barringer had 10 killed, 50 wounded, 1 missing. * * * Gen. Barringer commanded Lee's division with my satisfaction, while his brigade commanders, Col. Davis and Col. Cheek, performed their parts well."

The following letter from Gen. Lee to Governor Vance, in reference to this gallant achievement, will live in history as one of the fairest laurels ever won by sons of the Old North State. Under date of August 29, 1864, he writes: "I have frequently been called upon to mention the services of North Carolina soldiers in this army, but their gallantry and conduct were never more deserving of admiration than in the engagement at Reams' Station on the 25th inst."

The brigades of Generals Cooke, Meade and Lane, the last under the command of Gen. Conner, advanced through a thick abatis of felled trees, under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery and carried the enemy's works with a steady courage that elicited the warm commendation of their corps and division commanders, and the admiration of the army. On the same occasion the brigade of Gen. Barringer bore a conspicuous part in the operations of the cavalry, which were not less distinguished for boldness and efficiency than those of the infantry.

If men who remain in North Carolina share the spirit of those they have sent to the field, as I doubt not they do, her defense may be securely entrusted to their hands."

I am with great respect, Your obedient servant, R. E. LEE, General.

His Excellency Z. B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina.

The dark and gloomy winter, the last of the war, was now approaching. The regiment was now to endure the most extreme hardships of a soldier's life in cold, fatigue, hunger, pain and anxiety. As the lines drew closer and forage became scarcer, the horses perished and the few must do the work of many. The middle of November found the Forty-first, in Barringer's Brigade, encamped near Gladders' mill, four miles southwest of Petersburg, on the Boydton road. Constant encounters took place on a small scale, and on December 9th in an action near Belfield, the enemy was handsomely driven back. Gen. Hampton says in his subsequent report (January 21st, 1865):

"The cavalry of the enemy which we met was driven in rapidly with loss and in confusion, and the infantry of the rear guard was gallantly charged. * * *"

The pursuit on our part continued during the remainder of the day, the enemy blockading the road, destroying the bridges and only fighting at the obstacles he had placed in the road. At Moore's Mill, we drove him from the

bridge, and pushing on, we soon met some cavalry, charging and dispersing them.

The leading squadron of the 3rd N. C. (41st) dashed into the main body of the enemy, who were found preparing to go into camp. Finding their whole force there I withdrew to Moore's Mill, two miles back, to bivouac. From this point I notified Gen. Hill of the position of the enemy * * * My officers and men behaved admirably—losses small—250 to 350 prisoners taken."

On March 1st, 1865 the official report show 78 officers and 1,298 men present for duty in Barringer's brigade, and the fact that this number is actually more than one-third of the total cavalry of Lee's army, which was reported at 3,771, is a proud evidence of the devotion to duty of these gallant men in the darkest hours. On the 27th of March the brigade was at Stony Creek.

The position of Lee's army is thus described by Swinton, the fairest historian on the Union side: "The right of Lee's entrenched line running south west from Petersburg covered Hatcher's Run at the Boydton plank-road. Thence it extended for a considerable distance westward, parallel with Hatcher's Run, and along what is known as the White Oak road. This line directly covered Lee's main communication by the Southside railroad. Four miles west of the termination of this entrenched front, a detached line running also along the White Oak road covered an important strategic point, where several roads from the north and south converged on the White Oak road, from what is known as the 'Five Forks.'"

Swinton further declares of Lee: "From his left, northeast of Richmond, to his right, southwest of Petersburg, there were thirty-five miles of breast-work, which it behooved Lee to guard, and all the force remaining to him was 37,000 muskets and a small body of broken-down horses!"

As it became evident that the meagre numbers of Lee could not longer hold back the immense hosts under Grant, arrangements were quietly made looking to retreat in the only possible direction, the west.

Gen. Fitz Lee relates that on March 28th he was ordered from his position on the extreme left of the line north of the James to Petersburg, and to Southerland's Station, on the Southside road, nineteen miles distant, on the 29th. There the divisions of Gen. W. H. F. Lee, containing Barringer's brigade, joined him.

On March 31st they attacked a very large force of the enemy's cavalry at Five Forks, killed and wounded many, captured one hundred and drove them to within half a mile of Dinwiddie Court House. While Mumford held the front W. H. F. Lee and Rosser went to turn their flank, found a stream in the way, with strong defences, carried the defences, but with loss to Lee and Rosser—and Mumford also carried the works in his front. At Hatcher's Run, a whole corps of Federal infantry attacked two small brigades of Confederate cavalry.

Gen. Fitzhugh Lee further says, "On April 3rd I protected Anderson's rear and skirmished with the enemy's advance to Amelia C. H. In his language, 'At another of the temporary halts upon this march, to check the enemy in the vicinity of Namozine church, that very excellent N. C. brigade of W. H. F. Lee's division, suffered severely. The troops had been placed in motion again to resume the march. This brigade was the rear of the column and I was obliged to remain in it in position to prevent the enemy from attacking the remainder of the command."

While getting in motion, their rapidly arriving forces soon augmented the troops it was so gallantly holding in check, and produced a concentration impossible for it to resist. Its commander, Brig. Gen. Barringer, was captured while in the steady discharge of his duties, and his loss was keenly felt by the command."

Of this event the Federal Maj. Gen. Merritt claims (April 3rd) "The command moved forward at daylight and occupied the forks which was the rear of the First and Third Divisions (U. S.) cavalry marched in pursuit toward Amelia C. H. Well's brigade had a spirited fight with Barringer's brigade of rebel cavalry, routing, dispersing or capturing the entire command, including the rebel general himself."

This extraordinary report is more clearly, correctly defined by official returns from the commanders more closely engaged. Two entire divisions of cavalry were enveloping the retreat of the Confederates, worn out man and horse, by six days' marching and fighting. Another and doubtless more correct report from a Federal commander is the following: "April 3rd at night went on picket at Five Cross Roads (called by the Confederates 'Five Forks'), distance about twenty miles from Mamozine church, and by the aid of Maj. Young, Chief of Scouts, captured and brought into our lines, Gen. Barringer and part of his staff, the regiment being detached from the brigade at the time."

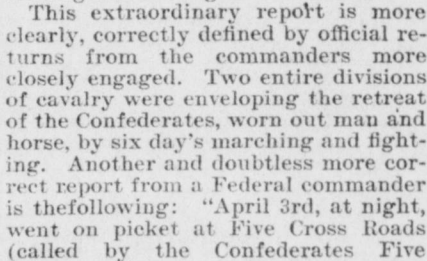
The few faithful horses that were left were invaluable in prolonging the retreat to the point whence Lee expected to meet the train of supplies and ammunition. That by some fatal blunder, this train had been fired and all hope of success for the starving horses short of Lynchburg must be abandoned, is now familiar history.

In his last report Gen. Lee says (Appamattox, April 12th, 1865): "After successive attacks, Anderson's and Ewell's corps were captured or driven from their position. The latter general, with both of his division commanders, Kershaw and Crestis Lee, and his brigadiers were taken prisoners."

Gordon, who all the morning aided

(Continued on Third Page.)

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