Story of the War by M. E. A. Patterson

I enlisted in the spring of 1862, Co. C, 57th N. C. troops at the age of 18 yrs. The regiment was organized in Salisbury, while there we were drilled and prepared for the front. Some time during the summer we were sent to Richmond, there we did provost duty up and down the James River in penal mills, there we lived in camp four miles from Richmond on Brock’s Hump, there we drilled and built fortifications. While there I took the measles and was sent to Moore’s Hospital in Richmond. In the mean time the command was sent to Orange Court House and joined the regular army assigned to Lew’s brigade. I rejoined my command in Nov. Soon afterwards we marched to Fredericksburg, thru rain, sleet and snow there we lay in camp.
until the battle of Fredericksburg. I lay in reserve until the 13th Dec. Then we were ordered to the front. Pender's Brigade was out of ammunition and Co. 54 & 57 were ordered in, formed line, and charged our Pender's brigade, saw the Yankees out of their rank, but went too far and were exposed to front and flank fire, had to retreat, and lost over 300 men in 15 min.

We were immediately relieved and retired to our line in a marshy swamp covered with snow. Day there all night. About the dawn of day we went to work to make breastworks with our hands and boxes. During the night the Yankees crossed the river and the battle was ended. We went into camp again where we remained the rest of the winter. Just after the battle I went over the ground on Mary's Heights just above Fredericksburg there I found...
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five acres covered with dead Yankees as thick that I couldn't step without stepping on the dead. Early's division remained at Fredericksburg while Hill's Jackson's gun officers moved to Chancellorville. Pemberton's corps threatened our division and withdrew across the river, we then withdrew and started to meet Lee and Jackson at Chuckontville. On arriving, we were informed that Pemberton had crossed the river and taken charge of Mary's Heights, we about faced and marched back to Fredericksburg where we built fires all over the woods and gave the Rebel yell. Sounds died. It frightened the Yankees away. We then marched back to field command and struck the Yankees near Seeing Crewe, where we had a severe battle, lost a great many men but gained the day.
The whole army moved across the Shenandoah into Winchester and had a terrible battle. We captured the town, killed commissioners and 1100 prisoners, from there we started to Fredericksburg, moved the Potomac near Shepherdstown. We continued the march for several days passed Fredericksburg going on to York Pa. Early's division entered York and saw. The people were going to church and children were heard saying to their parents, "Why Papa I thought the Rebels had horns, where are they?" The soldiers pointed their bayonet at them and said, "Here are our horses." The Yankees left the town and we took charge of their barrels and spent the night. There we were treated unusually kind. One woman bought me a pair of socks and something to eat. We moved back twenty miles to Fredericksburg and entered the memorable battle on the
2d July about 2 o'clock M Truchk the yankee across Rock Creek and now them this the town. I advanced to Seminary Ridge and lay in line of battle all night. The next day about 10 o'clock there was a heavy artillery duel of 600 pieces shot back and forth and shook the earth for miles around. After it was over the whole infantry line charged Cemetery Hill and we drove back with a heavy loss. Hayes's brigade "Louisiana Tigers" was cut to pieces entered with 800 men and came out with about 200. Our brigade (Kyes) suffered less, but something like 300 men Col. Army commanding the brigade was killed. We lay there all night and on the evening of this 1st July we retreated to Wagner's town. I have just returned from attending the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg - I found the place very much changed.
but was able to locate the place where I fought. The river was swollen so
that m couldn’t cross on me justifed and waited for the enemy, but
there was very little fighting done. When the river was sufficiently down
part of the army crossed Williams
fort and part crossed on pontoon
bridges at falling water. We reach-
ed on to Orange Court house and
lay in camp and rested the
remainder of the Commem-

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The Army next met the Yankees near Monroe. Part of the Army was engaged in battle, and Cook's and Hickland's brigades were almost destroyed. The Yankee's left drives across Bull Run. Our army then fell back and tore up the railroad back to the Rappahannock river. There built winter quarters between Culpepper Court House and Manassy Blading, but we didn't get to stay in them. Had to go to reinforce royals' brigade at the Rappahannock river, there we had a heavy fight most of the day and fighting. My company was captured and killed. Some of them jumped in the river and the Yankees shot them down. We were sent to Washington, spent the night in the old capitol and sent to prison next day at Point Lorette, MD. I remained in prison about five months. While there we had 3 crackers (hardtacks).
and a cup of coffee for breakfast and a cup of bean (fence corner) soup and a small piece of meat for dinner. Had only 2 meals a day and one of 'em we didn't even say anything. We had dreadful experiences with body lice. I then was exchanged and went back to Richmond and rejoined Early's command in the Valley. I was often marching ninety miles from Staunton. Went in battle next day and had to retreat. Fought up and down the valley during Aug. On the 19th I slept in a heavy engagement at Winchester, then in Knob Creek. Ordered Gen. Provost and a number of men. We retreated again back to Fredericksburg Fisk's Hill and made another stand. I was one of the sharp shooters and did more shooting than at any other time during the war. We were flanked and again captured.
I was sent back to Point Lookout in 1864, where I remained until Lee surrendered. I was paroled the 22d of June 1865. The Yankee sent me to City Point, then I took the train to Charlotte, N.C., reached home about the middle of June, and began cutting wheat the next day. I now live in Cleveland Co., near the town of Kings Mountain, N.C.

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Co. E 57th Regt. N.C.V.

This paper was written almost word for word as it was told to me, I don't know whether it is what you want or not, but hope you may be able to get something out of it if interested.

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