Having access to files of letters written by an officer of the First Regt. N. C. V. during the summer of 1861, from Goldsboro, I have selected some passages that I hope will be of interest.

The fact that one Co. of this Regt. was from our own County gives us a right to a special share in the glory it won. The ten companies of which it consisted went into Camp Ellis at Raleigh as early as possible after Lincoln's call for 75,000 men to secure the seceded states; and three days before our own state seceded, they were organized and on their way to the front. So promptly did D.C. resent the intention of the Sec. of War to use her territory to the injury of her sister states which had already taken the step thus forced upon her. The regimental officers were Col. D. H. Hill, Lt. Col. Geo., and Maj. J. H. Lane.

After a slight detention at Richmond, while transportation was being arranged:
they proceeded to Yorktown, a point of great importance from its nearness to Ft.
Barnes. Here they found a regt. from Ta.
and 307 Va. Vol. under Col. Dragruder, late of
the Fed. army and as ranking officer. June 6
they moved to Bethel, 15 miles. In part the remains of Cornwallis' entrenchments
they immediately began to fortify the place
in the most scientific manner.

After various short marches, occasioned
by reports that large bodies of Yankees were
advancing, they were ordered to advance June 10
by orders to march immediately; and our
soldiers shall tell the own story of the events
of the day.

Just as the day dawned, we commenced
moving towards Hampton, but at the end
of 3 miles were ordered to countermarch, a
lady having run up the road and informed
Col. Dragruder that a large body of the enemy
were advancing; our scouts had seen a
portion of them, but it was tires our confi-
cence and courage we learned that the for-

It was 5 o'clock when we reached our camp, and went to work with a will turning up additional breastworks.

At 9:15 they came upon us, having been delayed by the mischance. Five bodies of the troops advancing by different roads met each other for "pedestrians" and opening fire by which 6 were killed and 15 wounded before the error was discovered. They thought we were retreating.

Having been detached from the Co. with 30 men to support the main battery, I had a fine view of the field. They came up the Hampton road, their muskets glancing in the sunlight only 1/2 or 3/4 of a mile away, directly in range of this battery, and when we opened on them they soon found we had quit running, and did some scientific dodging themselves. Very soon their shells came in reply and then the firing was rapid. I could see plainly where our shots struck by their scamping to and fro for their...
lives. Then their files began moving across an open space between some houses, and our batteries poured shot and shell into them to check their intended flanking of our right, and now the musket firing began, and truly we had the roar of battle, and learned what good things breastworks are.

One of the boys said, "Oh! I'll know the good of banks and ditches, and I'll never grumble about throwing dirt again."

This work kept up for 1/2 hour, and then one of our pieces got out of order, and the outworks on our right were abandoned. Cpl. Dragruder said to one of our companies that point must be taken and held at all hazards. The backward movement had resulted from misunderstanding.

Dragruder's orders were peremptorily issued before we had the Yankees tumbling out of those entrenchments and our men rushing in. Later they attempted to flank our left with about the same result as on the right, but it was reported to Dragruder.
that point had been carried. He rode up to our company and said, "They say the D. C. boys are running, if that point is carried we are lost! Charge!" Here they came rushing across the field, under fire of musketry and soon reached the trenches. Maj. Randolph commanding Artillery, ran across through the fire and found the men all in the trenches waiting their turn at the rascals, and our Co. lost as if sitting in his tent, smoking a short pipe, and soon the Yankees found out where they were. I felt as secure, knowing Col. Hill was there, as if we had had 1,000 pieces of artillery.

I forgot to say that Col. R. soon ran back and said "Col. the D. C. boys are doing beautiful work!" "Then, sir, they are whipped!" Thinking we were included in the order, I and my 30 men started with the Co. but had our orders to stand by the pieces.

Five of our companies never fired a shot but were all the while under fire from batteries. All showed the utmost cool-
ties and courage.

From the musket firing on the left ceased, and they retired to their batteries, and then it looked as if they were beginning to entrench, as four well aimed shots were sent among them with such effect that they beggar a hurried retreat, and so ended the first pitched battle in the war between the States.

The scene was one of perfect rout—horrible beyond description. Only Wellington spoke when he said: "But one thing is more terrible than victory, and that is defeat." In our regiment, we had one killed, four wounded. Two Virginians wounded. It seems a miracle. Our force was 1200, theirs 4500—supposed under Gen. Butler himself.

In Col. Debrorderio's congratulatory address to the troops, he said:

"North Carolinians: you have covered yourselves with glory, not only as undaunted in the presence of an overwhelming foe, ..."
tarrying yourselves with a bravery resisting, but above all with a perfection of discipline in an exciting conflict that was unequalled."

In a portion of a letter to which there is no date, we find the following:

Gen. P. S. Lee and a part of his staff were yesterday examining the works. Our regiment, hearing of his approach, quickly formed in line and he passed at the right as three cheers went up for him, he rode to the end of the line, took off his hat, and bowed. The men called out "Ride along the line, we want to see you!" He immediately gave order to his staff and, as they passed, there was such yelling as you never heard. It was a beautiful sight! Gen. Lee is a magnificent looking man, bearing himself with the dignity and grace of one born for command and the officers with him were fine looking men, well mounted, and in full uniform. When they would have passed to our rear the line about-faced and cheered the whole time. An entirely spontaneous ovation, at which
the Col. was greatly pleased.

After a lapse of nearly forty years we are left to wonder if this undated fragment tells of Lin Lee’s first introduction to V. C. troops.

The field officers are mentioned always in terms of respect and confidence. Col. Hill’s earnest Christian spirit appeared to make a decided impression on the regiment.

Throughout the series of letters, there is no note of complaint, in the relation of daily experiences things are related that define sharply the contrast between the comfort of home and the roughness and hardship of a soldier’s life, even as our first soldiers lived it, but the subject is always dismissed with a comparison between these trivial things and the inestimable value of the liberty that “must be maintained to be beguiled to our children.” From the beginning of their service the privations arising from insufficient transportation and mail facilities were keenly felt; but the wonder is that so
much could have been effected so quickly under the circumstances.

As the season advanced, the weather grew extremely hot and very rainy so it is not to be wondered at that in an unhealthy situation men passing through their first experience of camp life should have suffered severely. And soon there were urgent calls for donations to supplement the inadequate government supplies.

Our Ladies Aid Society had not yet been organized, but a meeting of the ladies was held at once and it was arranged that donations should be sent to Miss Caroline Hartt's and that Misses Caroline Hartt, Mary Kirkland, and Margaret Storrow would do the packing.

Two very large cargo vans containing donations from every home in the community of all sorts of things that could add to the comfort of the sick in improvised hospitals at the front. Instead of reaching their intended destination at Yorktown
the losses, after long delay, arrived at Manassas where as great need existed.

One most distressing feature of these trying times was the gradual impoverishment of the homes for which no new supplies could be obtained, and before the struggle ended, there was little left that could be shared with the soldier in the field.

The regiment, having enlisted Dec. 18th for 6 months was disbanded for 18th and the officers and men composing it were soon dispersed among other troops their being raised “for the war” or “for life” as many said.

Though but one had been killed in battle and none died of wounds, death had claimed its quota from disease, and many homes were shadowed with grief because the light of young lives had been quenched.