

COMPANY FRONT

THE SOCIETAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

ISSUE 1, 2007



NORTH CAROLINA

NEW BERN
MONUMENT
SPECIAL ISSUE

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THIS SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE COMPANY FRONT
IS A COMMEMORATION TO THE UNVEILING OF THE
TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS MONUMENT
AT THE NEW BERN BATTLEFIELD, MARCH 10, 2007

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO THE
MEMORY OF ALL THOSE MEN FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE
WHO SHED THEIR BLOOD AND GAVE ALL THEY HAD AT THE
BATTLE OF NEW BERN AND IN SUBSEQUENT BATTLES IN THE
BLOODY CONFLICT THAT TORE OUR COUNTRY IN TWO FROM 1861-1865

ALL OUR ACTIONS WERE, ARE AND ALWAYS SHALL BE IN PERPETUAL MEMORY
OF THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TO THE SOUTH AND TO NORTH CAROLINA



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ISSUE # 1, 2007

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Front Cover

26 NC Monument at New Bern

Above Illustration

26 NC Monument Unveiling Ceremony
March 10, 2007

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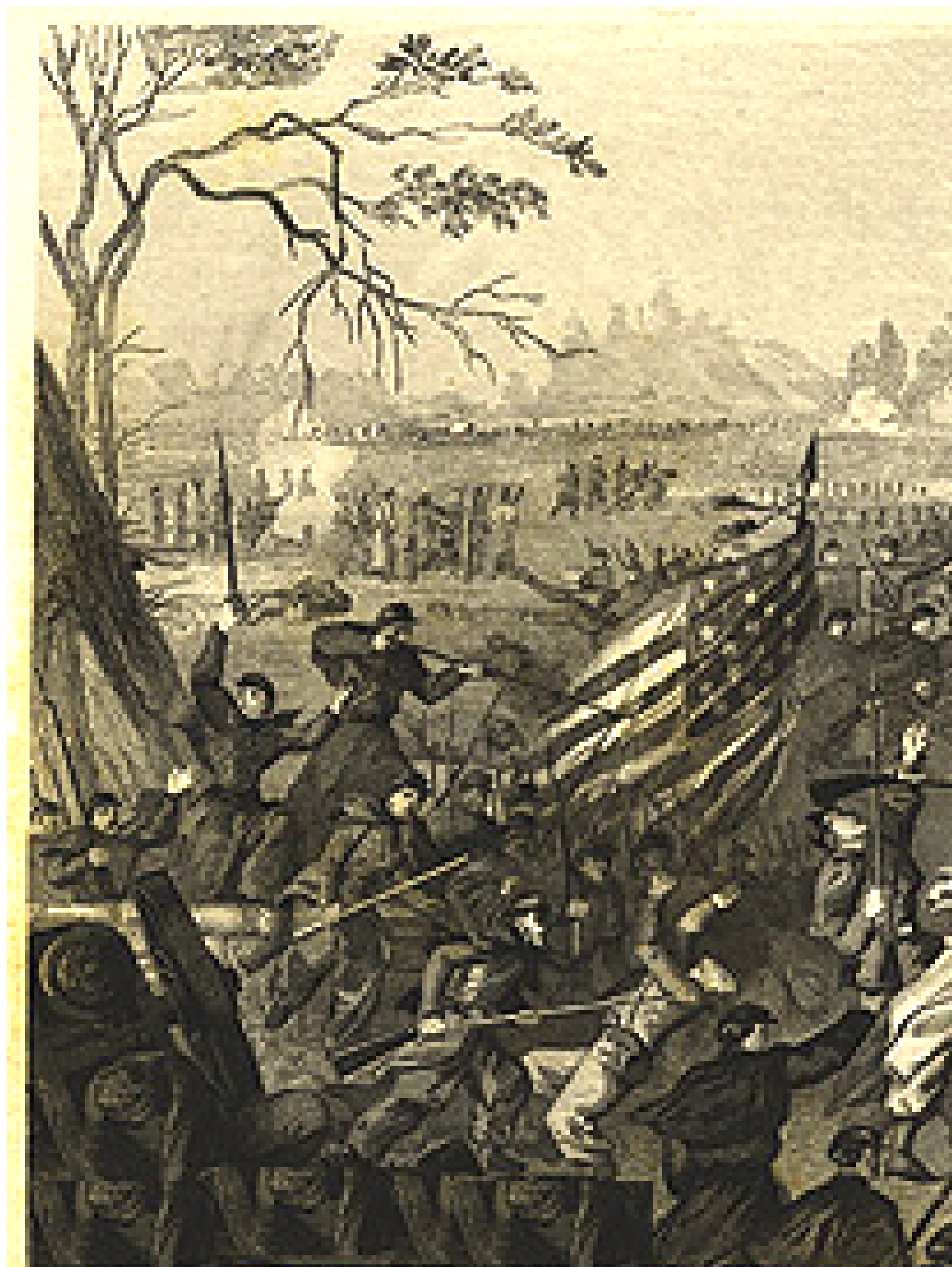
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THE BATTLE OF NEW BERN

AN INTRODUCTION

By: Charles H. Bush

Nestled at the convergence of the Trent and Neuse rivers in the eastern part of North Carolina, New Bern today is a sleepy little town, but during the American Civil War the town served as a bustling port. This one time capitol of North Carolina was founded by German and Swiss immigrants in 1710, the second oldest city in the state, and was the first permanent seat of British colonial power in North Carolina. James Hill Hutchins described his home town as a peaceful place in his work *My Native Town*:

*A wanton boy, methinks, I float, as
years ago, in wave rocked boat,
Where confluent Neuse and Trent
unite, like loving hearts on bridal
night-Tall masts before me pierce the
sky, their pennants gay all stream on
high-Before me rise, thy spires and
domes, Thy stately mansions-hum-
bler homes, While shady groves and
slopes of green, occurring oft, com-
plete the scene, And New Bern, thou
with graces rare, seem'st throned a
queen 'twixt streams so fair, Whose*

*waters mirror with delight, the jew-
eled brow of daughter bright (1)*

This peaceful image was about to be tarnished forever by the roar of cannon, the crack of musket fire and the bloodcurdling screams of the wounded and dying. The Battle of New Bern March 14, 1862 was a baptism of fire for many of the units engaged and dealt an early blow to the new Southern Confederacy that had until this point only known victory on the field of battle.

Late in the summer of 1861 the Lincoln administration was desperately trying to achieve military success after the losses they suffered at Big Bethel, Manassas and Wilson's Creek. Many in the North felt that the blockade of southern ports was not as effective as it could have been due to the efforts of southern blockade runners and privateers. This was especially the case along the coast of North Carolina as the Rebel ships could slip in and out of the many inlets along the shore line of the state. That is not to say that the blockade was a complete failure,

several blockade runners were captured off of the southern shores. On September 13, 1861 the U.S.S. *Susquehanna* commanded by Captain John S. Chauncey took the English schooner *Argonaut* a prize off of Hatteras Inlet. The *Argonaut* was supposedly bound for Key West but was found to be suspiciously close to the North Carolina shore line. She was boarded by sailors from the *Susquehanna* and the found her to be laden with fish and miscellaneous cargo, consisting of shoes, soap, coffee, cotton goods, tea etc. Most likely to help supply the Confederate government. Captain Chauncey found that the *Argonaut* had "no register and no certificate of ownership," and figuring that she was one of the many blockade runners flying the English colors he had a master's mate and three other men to accompany the *Argonaut* to New York as a prize crew. (2)

Plans had been drawn up for an expedition to secure the Outer Banks of North Carolina in August of 1861.



Major General George B. McClellan

Union General Winfield Scott ordered that the two forts guarding the Hatteras inlet should be taken. Hatteras was defended by two earthen forts located just north of the inlet; Fort Hatteras located an eighth of a mile from the inlet was defended by 20 cannon mainly 32 and 64-pounder smoothbores.(3) Fort Clark was the smaller of the two forts just north of Hatteras and mounted only five guns, its purpose being to help strengthen the defenses of the inlet. General Benjamin F. Butler, eager to atone for the debacle at Big Bethel in June set sail from Fortress Monroe in Virginia with his small force of around 880 men and arrived off Hatteras on the afternoon of August 27. On the 28th the Federal navy began a bombardment of the two Confederate forts and also attempted to land the soldiers to take the forts by land. Strong surf prevented the main body from landing, "Every effort was to land the troops, and after about 315 were landed, including 55 marines from the fleet and the regulars," several of the boats were swamped including two iron boats and two flat-boats. (4) The troops



Brig. General Ambrose Burnside

were put ashore just north of Fort Clark causing the small garrison to spike the guns beat a hasty retreat to Fort Hatteras. (5) The guns from the naval vessels off shore fell silent at night fall only to resume again in on the morning of the 29th. During the night the commander of North Carolina's coastal defenses Commodore Samuel Barron arrived with 230 reinforcements intend on resuming the hostilities in the morning even though the fort had taken a beating from the heavy guns of the United States Navy. All thoughts of continuing the fight ended at 11:07 when Barron raised the white flag, shortly after a federal shell penetrated the room next to the powder magazine in Fort Hatteras. (6)

The plan originally called for Butler to neutralize the two forts and block the inlets by sinking ships in the channel, but Butler decided to disobey his orders. He and Commodore Silas H. Stringham, commander of the Atlantic Blockading Squadron, determined to leave a garrison behind to use Hatteras as a base for operations against other points in North Carolina and he thought it could also



Brig. General Jesse Reno

be used as a coaling station for the blockaders, a harbor for coastal trade, and a safe haven from storms. (7) Butler also said that "by holding, Hatteras light may once again send forth its cheering ray to the storm-beaten mariner, of which the worse than vandalism of the rebels deprives him." The one drawback was the lack of fresh water but Butler felt that could be relived by a "condenser, like the one now in operation at Fortress Monroe." (8) Butler and Stringham returned to Fort Monroe on the 30th leaving behind the garrison of troops plus Stringham detailed the Steamers Monticello, Pawnee, and Susquehanna to guard the inlet against any attack that might come. (9)

With footholds in Virginia and North Carolina thoughts soon turn to the inevitable question of what to do next. General George B. McClellan the commander of the Army of the Potomac had a plan for how to proceed with the war. Little MacÕs plan was to organize a special "coast division" with the objective of the force to be to "follow along the coast and up the inlets and rivers the

movements of the main army when it advances." (10) This special division was to be a force of "two brigades of five regiments each of New England men, for the general service; the officers and men to be sufficiently conversant with boat-service to manage steamers, sailing-vessels, launches, barges, surf-boats, floating batteries, etc." (11) McClellan turned to his old friend Brigadier General Ambrose E. Burnside to organize the troops for the special unit.

Ambrose Burnside was a 37 year old graduate of West Point (Class of 1847) and before the war he worked for his good friend McClellan at the Illinois Central Railroad. Burnside was a fearsome figure of a man with a lofty bald head and what little bit of hair he had swooped down into an impressive set of mutton chop whiskers connected by a mustache arching over his clean shaven chin. (12) While Burnside was not the only general trying to raise troops for this mission, Generals Butler and Thomas W. Sherman were also vying for the opportunity

to lead their troops on the operation; it would be Burnside that would win out. Burnside selected three of his friends to command the brigades in his Coast Division; all three were Regular Army Officers, trained in engineering and ordinance. The Division was organized as follows:

First Brigade (Brig. Gen. John G. Foster)

10th Connecticut
23rd Massachusetts
24th Massachusetts
25th Massachusetts
27th Massachusetts

Second Brigade (Brig. Gen. Jesse Reno)

21st Massachusetts
51st Pennsylvania
9th New Jersey
51st New York
6th New Hampshire

Third Brigade (Brig. Gen. John G. Parke)

53rd New York *sent back to Annapolis and disbanded in March 1862

89th New York
8th Connecticut
11th Connecticut
4th Rhode Island
5th Rhode Island
Artillery (Captain James Belger)
Battery F, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery
1st New York Marine Artillery (attached under Colonel William A. Howard) (13)

It soon became clear that the Coast Division's objective was to be the coast of North Carolina. McClellan specifically outlined what he wanted Burnside to accomplish and his goals were rather ambitious. Burnside was told to:

Capture Roanoke Island, seize or block the canal system connecting North Carolina waters with Norfolk, capture New Bern and Beaufort, capture or neutralize Fort Macon, destroy as much of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad as possible, including the vital bridge near Goldsboro, a demonstration against Raleigh was permissible, as

Brig. General L. O. B. Branch



Colonel Zebulon B. Vance, 26th NC



Lt. Colonel Robert F. Hoke, 33rd NC





"The war in North Carolina—View of the city of Newberne, captured by the national forces under Gen. Burnside, March 14, from the railroad embankment of the opposite side of the river Neuse—passage of troops." 1962. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, April 26, 1862

was a move against Wilmington, but only if the risks were not too great.

Roanoke Island fell early in February of 1862 and Burnside then set his sights on the town of New Bern.

The Confederate forces in the town of New Bern were under the command of Brigadier General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch. Branch was born on November 28, 1820 in Halifax County, North Carolina and

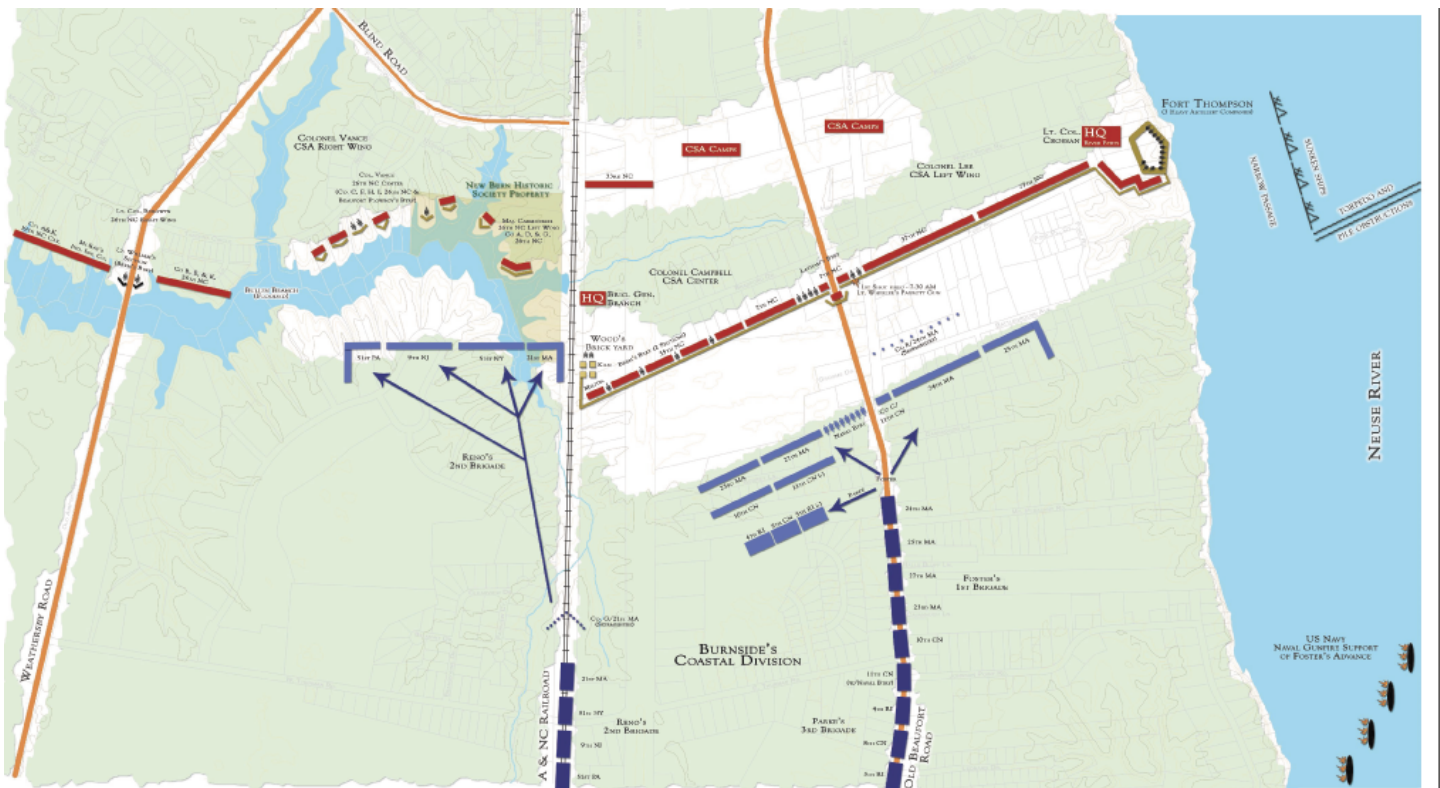
was orphaned as a child. Branch attended Bingham Military Academy in North Carolina, he also attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for a short time before he went on to Princeton where graduated in 1838. (14) Branch practiced law and fought in the Seminole Wars in Florida in the early 1840's and in 1852 he moved back to North Carolina, where he continued to practice law. He served as the president of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Co.

and was elected as a Democrat to three terms in Congress from 1855 until the war broke out in 1861. (15) Upon his return to North Carolina in 1861 he was appointed as state quartermaster and paymaster general. On September 20 he became the Colonel of the 33rd North Carolina and was then promoted to brigadier general on November 16 when he replaced General Daniel H. Hill as the new commander of the Department of the Pamlico which consisted of the area of the state between the Neuse River and Albemarle Sound. (16) Upon taking command Branch quickly evaluated his new department and found it to be severely lacking in several areas. Chief among these was the lack of troops assigned to defend the area with only three complete regiments and several companies of artillery and cavalry under his direct command.

At the time of the battle of New Bern the strength of Gen. Branch's force had grown but consisted of green troops for the most part, the command was organized like so:



The Burnside Expedition - The Storming of Ft. Thompson, at New Bern, NC. Harper's 4/5/62



Battle of New Bern, NC: Map Courtesy New Bern Historical Society

District of the Pamlico
Brig. Gen. L. O'B. Branch

Infantry
7th North Carolina, Col. Reuben P. Campbell (Right Wing commander), Lt. Col. E. G. Haywood
26th North Carolina, Col. Zebulon B. Vance
27th North Carolina, Maj. John A. Gilmer Jr.
33rd North Carolina, Col. Clark M. Avery
35th North Carolina, Col. James Sinclair
37th North Carolina, Col. Charles C. Lee (Left Wing commander), Lt. Col. William M. Barbour
Militia Battalion, Col. H. J. B. Clark
MacRae's Company, Capt. Walter G. MacRae

Cavalry
2nd North Carolina (8 companies), Col. Samuel B. Spruill

Macon Mounted Guards, Capt. Peter G. Evans

Artillery
Branch Artillery, Capt. Alexander C. Latham
Charlotte Artillery, Capt. Thomas H. Brem (17)

Upon inspecting the works around New Bern Gen. Branch knew that if the town was to be held he would need to improve the defenses. Branch tried to strengthen the defenses around New Bern, he circulated handbills appealing to the local citizens for help with labor and emplacements such as shovels and picks. A handful of free Negroes showed but but they had no "empliments" Branch again pleaded with the locals this time asking for slave owners to hire out their slaves to do the labor and for this he "got but a single Negro." (18) This lack of help ment that the troops under

Branch's command would have to do the work themselves detailing 500 men a day to the task. The men struggled to complete the work and the tools they had were very poor to say the least. Ten miles below New Bern on the south side of the Neuse is the mouth of Otter Creek one mile above the mouth of the creek was a line of breastworks that ran across three-fourths of a mile to an "impracticable" swamp. (19) These trenches were known as the Croatan works and were well-planned and well constructed works that could have been held by 2,000 men and two field batteries against a very large force but the draw back to this position is that it could be easily taken from the rear. Six miles of river shore lay between the Croatan line and the next line of defense at Fort Thompson; the enemy could land anywhere between the two lines and with little effort overthrow the Croatan line. Fort Thompson anchored the main line of

breastworks to the Neuse securing the left flank of the confederate lines. The works extended from the fort to the south west toward the railroad, this was the point in the line that was the most flawed. In order to make the line as short as possible and anchor the right flank on a swamp Branch determined that the line should be "thrown back about 150 yards on the railway," the line then continued in a "series of small breastworks, conforming to the features of the ground," to the swamp and the Weathersby Road. (20) This formed a right angle in the line that was a slap in the face of the Napoleonic tactics that were in general practice during the war. At this angle was an old brick kiln just to the east of the railway which Branch directed should be loop- holed in order to help strengthen the weakness of the position. (21)

Burnside's invasion force of around 11,000 men left Roanoke Island on March 11, 1862 bound for the mainland. The fleet steamed its way across the Pamlico Sound under a beautiful cloudless sky. The flotilla anchored at Slocum Creek, modern day Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, on the night of the 12th just 17 miles from New Bern.(22) Thursday the 13th was spent disembarking the troops and the artillery which as it turns out was a single battery of boat howitzers as the ship with the field artillery ran aground earlier. At around 1 p.m. the rains began to fall and came down in sheets. The Navy gunboats provided constant fire support as Burnside and his men began their march toward New Bern in the chilling torrential rain. After six miles they reached the Croatan line and were extremely surprised to find the works abandoned by the Confederates. Burnside de-

termined to bivouac beyond the Croatan line but just out of range of the defenses of the Fort Thompson Line. (23)

Upon learning of the presence of Burnside's force at Slocum Creek at 4 p.m. on the 12th Branch ordered the 35th North Carolina under the command of Colonel Sinclair to Fisher's Landing just above the mouth of Otter Creek to "resist any attempt of the enemy to land there." (24) At early in the morning of the 13th Branch learned that Sinclair's troops had been forced back due to the naval bombardment and that the enemy was now unloading its troops in force just south of Otter Creek, thus abandoning the Croatan line with the confederates never having fired a shot. The Fort Thompson line was the only thing now that stood between Burnside and the prize that was New Bern.

The soldiers awoke to a dense fog on the morning of the 14th, the rain had stopped before daylight but the dampness of the air was causing a few problems. The powder in many of the muskets was far to wet to ignite, this could be fixed, the more concerning problem was the fact that many of the federal soldiers carrying the Enfield musket could not even draw their ramrods due to the swelling of the stock. Lt. Col. William S. Clark of the 21st Massachusetts note that more than fifty of his men went in to the battle armed only with their bayonets. (25)

The Confederate soldiers were posted along the Fort Thompson line in the following order moving from left to right along the line; the 37th and 27th regiments along with part of Latham's Battery were between Ft. Thompson and the Old Beaufort Road, to the right of the road and between it and the rail road

were the 7th and 35th along with the balance of Latham's guns and Brem's Battery. (26) The battalion of militia under the command of Colonel Clark was placed at the old brick kiln along the rail road, it is also important to not that the militia had only been formed two weeks prior and were the epitome of green troops; Gen Branch also directed a battery of 24 pounders to support that position but the guns were not mounted before the start of the battle and thus the were useless. To the right of the railroad in the series of small breastworks extending to the swamp was the 26th North Carolina under the command of Col. Zebulon B. Vance, future governor of North Carolina; to the right of the 26th posted on the Weathersby Road were elements of Harding's Battery. The 33rd NC under the command of Col. Avery was in reserve at the center of the line 400 yards behind the brick kiln with the cavalry about a mile and a half to the rear (see figure 1). The Confederate troops, outnumbered by nearly three to one, slept on their arms in these positions the night before and were waiting for the enemy to strike. (27)

The Federal plan for attack on the morning of the 14th was simple, overpower the right side of the line; Gen. Foster would center his brigade on the Beaufort road and attempt to hit the Confederate line just to the west of Ft Thompson while Gen. Reno would move his brigade up the railroad in column. Gen Parke was held in reserve between the other two brigades with orders to support the line where needed. (28)

At or around 7:30 a.m. firing opened up along the Confederate left from the 37th and 27th combined with the three guns inside Ft. Thompson as Gen. Foster's men began to emerge. It was an intense fire-fight

with the two sides slugging it out and neither gaining any at advantage. (29) Skirmishers from Lt. Col. Clark's 21st Massachusetts soon appeared in front of Vance's position and the militia, the entire confederate line was now engaged. Because of the placement of troops along the rebel line the skirmishers of the 21st Mass. Soon found themselves on the flank of Col. Clark's green NC militia at the brick kiln. The militia fired a few shots but finding their flank turned part of the militia began to head for the rear in great disorder. Upon seeing this Gen. Branch ordered five companies of the 33rd under Lt. Col Robert F. Hoke to plug the gap; the rest of the militia was soon in headlong retreat so Branch was forced to send in the balance of the 33rd under Col. Avery to help save the day, but it was too late. (30) The Federals had broken through at the center and Gen Reno quickly reinforced the 21st Mass and pressed the advantage; soon the entire Confederate left was in full retreat heading towards New Bern leaving the 26th and 33rd to cover the retreat. Col. Vance of the 26th was unaware that the confederate forces were in retreat because the couriers sent to inform him never arrived; the time was now around 8:45. (31) The 26th and the five companies of the 33rd under Lt. Col. Hoke now dug in made a stubborn resistance and held off the Federal onslaught until noon. By this time it was clear to Vance that the other Confederates had left the field and being cut off along the Beaufort Road he determined to save his command. The only possible escape route was Bryce's Creek which was more of a river than a creek being about 75 yards wide and was too deep to attempt to ford. Some men tried to swim across but three boats

were procured and the men began the long process of being ferried across the creek. Lt. Col. Henry K. Burgwyn, just 20 years old, supervised the crossing and after four intense and anxious hours he was the last man to cross. Vance said that the young Burgwyn preformed his duty with the greatest coolness and efficiency. (32) The two regiments joined the rest of the Confederates at Kinston on the 16th. (33)

The battle of New Bern was a complete victory for the Federals who now had possession of a vital Confederate port. Casualties on both sides were light compared to other battles in the war, the Confederates lost 64 killed, 101 wounded and 413 missing or captured while the Federals lost 90 killed and 378 wounded. (34) There were many factors that contributed to this defeat for the Confederates and blame could be placed in a number of places. The perceived lack of support from the Confederate central government in Richmond and the lack of support from many of the local citizens must have been a blow to the moral of the outnumbered troops trying to save a doomed city. The Federals would remain in eastern North Carolina until the end of the war although there were many attempts to regain what was lost by the Confederates they were never successful.

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NO TROOPS COULD HAVE BEHAVED BETTER

CONFEDERATE AFTER ACTION REPORTS FROM THE BATTLE OF NEW BERN

Official Records of The War of the Rebellion: Series 1, Volume 9, Part 1 Pages 241-269

**BRIGADIER GENERAL LAWRENCE O'BRYAN BRANCH
COMMANDING CONFEDERATE FORCES, NEW BERN, NC**

HEADQUARTERS
FIRST DIVISION,
In the Field, March 26, 1862.

GENERAL: My report of the battle of the 14th below New Berne has been withheld until I could get a report from Colonel R. P. Campbell, who commanded my right wing on that day. It is now submitted, with reports from the commanders of all the regiments on the field.

A brief description of the artificial defenses of New Berne, together with the inclosed sketch, will enable you to comprehend the movements of the day, which were few and simple.

The defensive works were located and constructed before I assumed command. The troops under my command had performed a large amount of work, but it was mainly on the river defenses, which were not assailed by the enemy. They had

been originally planned for a force much larger than any ever placed at my disposal, and I was for six weeks engaged in making the necessary changes to contract them, but the failure of all my efforts to obtain implements and tools with which the troops could carry on the work prevented me from making satisfactory progress. I had circulated handbills over the State, calling on the citizens generally to assist me, and received from two counties a small party of free negroes without implements. I then inserted in the newspaper and advertisement calling on the slave owners to hire their slaves, with implements, for a few days, and I got but a single negro.

During all this time I continued the troops at work, and when the enemy came into the river 500 per day were being detailed to construct breastworks, with less than half that number of worn and broken shovels

and axes, without picks or grubbing-hoes. If the fate of New Berne shall prevent a similar supineness on the part of citizens, and especially slave owners, elsewhere, it will be fortunate for the country. Ten miles below New Berne, on the south side of the Neuse, is the mouth of Otter Creek. From this creek, 1 mile above its mouth, the Croatan breastwork runs across to an impracticable swamp about three-fourths of a mile. This is a well-planned and well-constructed work, which 2,000 men and two field batteries could hold against a very large force. But from the mouth of Otter Creek to Fort Thompson, the lowest of the river batteries, is a distance of 6 miles of river shore, on any part of which the enemy could land and take the Croatan work in reverse. It is obvious that the breastwork was useless if I had not sufficient force to hold it and at the same time guard 6 miles of river shore. I

Brigadier General L. O'B. Branch



have at no time been able to place 4,000 men in the field at New Berne, and at the time of the battle had been seriously weakened by the re-enlistment furloughs.

Coming up the river from the Croatan work you reach the Fort Thompson breastwork. This had been constructed from Fort Thompson to the railroad, about 1 mile, before I assumed command. Finding that, from inadequate force, the Croatan work might be of no avail to me, I determined to extend the Fort Thompson work about one mile and a fourth and rest its right on a swamp. This is the work I was engaged on when the enemy appeared. In order to make the line as short as possible and to avail of a small branch by throwing it in front the line was thrown back about 150 yards on the railroad, and thence a series of small breastworks, conforming to the features of the ground, ran off in the direction of the swamp, making an obtuse angle with the older portion of the line on the other side of the railroad. To guard this gap I directed that the old brick-kiln on the railroad should be loo-holed, and the evening before the battle had ordered two 24-pounder guns to be brought from New Berne and place in battery there. The enemy's skirmishers drove the laborers from the battery when an hour more would have enabled them to get the guns in position. Of course I lost all the benefit I expected from it. The line of small breastworks from the railroad to the swamp was partially finished for about half the distance.

Running parallel to the river and to each other, and crossing the line at right-angles are, first, after leaving the river, the old Beaufort road and then the railroad; still far-

ther on and near the swamp the Weathersby Road. The railroad and the Beaufort road intersect about 2 miles behind the breastwork, the former crossing the river on a bridge 1,840 feet long at the town of New Berne and the latter at an indifferent private bridge about one mile and a half above New Berne. Both these bridges are accessible to gunboats, so that when we stood at the Fort Thompson breastwork, fronting the enemy, we had Neuse River on our left, Bryce Creek (an impassable stream) on our right, and the Neuse and Trent in our rear, the only possible mode of escape in case of defeat being across the two bridges I have described, 5 miles in our rear.

I hope this description, with the aid of the map inclosed, will put you in possession of our situation at the opening of the battle.

I omitted to state that the timber had been felled in front of the breastwork for about 350 yards, and the space was swept by ten field pieces, besides three navy 32-pounders, discharging grape and canister from the rear face of Fort Thompson.

It is useless to describe the river defenses, on which the largest amount of labor had been bestowed, as the enemy prudently refrained from attacking the batteries in front and the gunboats did not come within range of their guns until they had been silenced from the rear.

I now proceed to detail the incidents of the battle.

On Wednesday, the 12th, at 4 p. m., the approach of the enemy's fleet was reported to me, and at dark I learned that twelve vessels had anchored below the mouth of Otter Creek and about forty-five were ascending the river in their rear.

Orders were issued to Colonel Sinclair, Thirty-fifth Regiment, to proceed immediately with his regiment to Fisher's Landing, which is just above the mouth of Otter Creek, and to resist any attempt of the enemy to land there. Colonel Avery, Thirty-third Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Haywood, Seventh Regiment, constituting the reserve, were ordered to proceed across the river, so as to be in position at the intersection of the Beaufort road and the railroad at daybreak in the morning. Colonel R. P. Campbell, commanding my right wing, was instructed to guard the river shore from the mouth of Otter Creek to Fort Thompson, while Colonel C. C. Lee, who commanded my left wing, was to guard the remainder of the shore, support the river batteries, and reinforce Colonel Campbell in case he should be hard pressed. Colonel Campbell was instructed to establish his headquarters at the intersection of the Beaufort road and the breastwork, and to collect his troops around him by daybreak. Both commanders were instructed that, in case it should be necessary to fall back from the river shore to the breastwork, Colonel Campbell should hold that part to the right of the Beaufort road and Colonel Lee that part to the left of it.

These orders having been dispatched by 9 p. m., the night was spent by the troops in getting into position and other preparations for the contest.

Having given all the necessary directions to staff officers and all others before 3 o'clock Thursday morning, and seen all the men and material forwarded from the camp and depot in New Berne, I proceeded to Colonel Campbell's headquarters.

On the road I met dispatches from Colonel Sinclair and Captain P. G. Evans, commanding the pickets, informing me that the enemy were landing troops below the mouth of Otter Creek, and Colonel Vance was directed to send his regiment to Croatan breastwork to occupy it. Railroad trains were on the spot to carry down re-enforcements or to draw off Colonels Vance's and Sinclair's regiments and Brem's battery, as the case might require.

Intelligence was soon brought to me that the enemy's gunboats, having driven Colonel Sinclair's regiment from Fisher's Landing, were rapidly landing troops at that place, and that Colonel Campbell, seeing that the Croatan breastwork was turned, had ordered Vance, Sinclair, and Brem to fall back to the Fort Thompson breastwork.

My force was wholly inadequate to guard the 6 miles of river shore between the mouth of Otter Creek and Fort Thompson. The result was therefore not wholly unexpected but I had hoped that a line of rifle pits I had caused to be made for a mile along the bluffs at and on both sides of Fisher's Landing would have enabled me to hold the enemy in check and to inflict on him serious loss at the first moment of his placing his foot on our soil. I was therefore surprised when the position was yielded with a loss of only 1 killed and 2 wounded, all three of which casualties occurred in the retreat.

After the abandonment of Fisher's Landing to the enemy the prompt withdrawal of Vance and Brem could alone save them from being cut off, and the enemy thus came into possession of my strongest work without having received a

single shot from us.

The Fort Thompson breastwork now became my sole reliance for resisting his advance, and throughout the remainder of the day and night of Thursday the most active efforts were made to strengthen that unfinished work. Both officers and men executed my orders with unflagging energy.

I was particularly indebted to Major Thompson and Captain Meade, of the Engineers, to whom I assigned the duty of disposing of the artillery in the most advantageous manner. In the afternoon the gunboats shelled the breastworks heavily from a position they had taken out of reach of the guns of our batteries.

The composure with which all classes of my troops received this attack from an unseen foe strengthened the confidence I felt in their standing under fire.

No damage was inflicted on us by the shells, but the accuracy with which they were thrown over a thick, intervening woodland convinced me of the necessity of driving traitors and enemies in disguise from all towns and neighborhoods of which we desire to hold military possession.

During the day on Thursday the troops were posted behind the intrenchments, and it was painfully apparent that my force was not sufficient to man them even with a thin line for the finished portions of them. I was compelled to withdraw Lieutenant-Colonel Haywood of the Seventh Regiment from the reserve and place him on the line.

The regiments were posted as follows, commencing on the left:

Lieutenant-Colonel Barbour, Thirty-seventh Regiment, and Major Gilmer, Twenty-seventh Regi-

ment, between Fort Thompson and the Beaufort County road. Lieutenant-Colonel Haywood, Seventh, Colonel Sinclair, Thirty-fifth, and Colonel Clark (Militia), between the Beaufort road and the railroad. Colonel Vance, Twenty-sixth regiment, to the right of the railroad. A few unattached companies were placed between the regiments. My headquarters were about 200 yards in rear of the intrenchment at the railroad and the reserve was about 200 yards in my rear; the cavalry regiment about half a mile to the rear. In this order the troops slept on their arms.

At 11 o'clock Thursday night Colonel Lee brought the intelligence that signal rockets had just been seen on our extreme right, from which I inferred that the enemy, having found the Weathersby road, were in front of that portion of my line.

Orders were sent to Colonel Vance to extend his regiment so that its right might rest on the Weathersby road, and in an hour a section of Brem's battery as moving by a circuitous route to a position on that road.

On taking my position Friday morning the center appeared so weak that I dispatched my aide-de-camp to Colonel Campbell to say to him that it must be re-enforced if possible.

At about 7.30 o'clock Friday morning the fire opened along the line from the railroad to the river. I soon received a message from Colonel Lee that the enemy were attempting to turn our left. This proved to be a feint, as I replied to him that I thought it would.

The next incident of the battle was the appearance of the enemy's skirmishers in front of Vance, and consequently on the pro-

longation of the line held by the Militia. It was to drive the enemy from that position that I had directed the 24-pounder battery to be placed there, and supposing it was ready to service, I sent Captain Rodman, with his company, to man it, but they found the guns not mounted, and were ordered into position to act as infantry. The skirmishers of the enemy, finding themselves on the flank of the Militia, fired at them a few shots from their flank files, which caused a portion of them to flee in great disorder.

I instantly ordered Colonel Avery to send five companies to dislodge them. He sent them instantly, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hoke; but before Hoke had fully got into position, through he moved with the greatest promptness and celerity, I received a message from Colonel Clark, of the Militia, informing me that the enemy were in line of battle in great force on his right. I instantly ordered up the remaining five companies of Colonel Avery's regiment, and the whole ten opened a terrific fire from their Enfield rifles. The whole Militia, however, had now abandoned their positions, and the utmost exertions of myself and my staff could not rally them. Colonel Sinclair's regiment very quickly followed their example, retreating in the utmost disorder.

This laid open Haywood's right and a large portion of the breastwork was left vacant. I had not a man with whom to re-occupy it, and the enemy soon poured in a column along the railroad and through a portion of the cut-down ground in front, which marched up behind the breastwork to attack what remained of Campbell's command.

The brave Seventh met them

with the bayonet and drove them headlong over the parapet, inflicting heavy loss upon them as they fled; but soon returning with heavy reinforcements, not less than five or six regiments, the Seventh was obliged to yield, falling back slowly and in order. Seeing the enemy behind the breastwork, without a single man to place in the gap through which he was entering and finding the day lost, my next care was to secure the retreat. This was a critical operation, as the enemy, having pierced our center, had possession of the two shortest roads to the bridges, and besides could approach them at pleasure with their gunboats.

Having dispatched two couriers to Colonel Avery and two to Colonel Vance with orders for them to fall back to the bridges, I moved to the intersection of the Beaufort road and railroad to rally the troops and cover the retreat across the bridges. Here I found a train of cars with the Twenty-eighth Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Lowe, who had arrived too late to reach the battlefield, and formed them to hold the enemy in check until all should pass. Colonel Lee was directed to proceed to New Berne and form all the men he could collect in the upper part of town. The Seventh Regiment, arriving in two different parties, was directed to proceed to the Trent Bridge and hold it, while I remained with Lieutenant-Colonel Lowe at the intersection to hold the enemy in check and cover the retreat.

Remaining until there were no more stragglers in sight on either road, I directed Colonel Lowe to fall back to the Tent Bridge, which he did, the enemy showing themselves on the road as his rear guard moved off. Proceeding to the Trent Bridge,

I placed Colonel Campbell in command of all the forces there, with instructions to hold the bridge as long as possible for the passage of Avery and Vance, and then to move up the Trent road or join me in town, as I might direct after reaching the town, leaving with him to conduct him that gallant gentleman and soldier Captain Peter G. Evans, whom I had not allowed to leave my person for two days except to bear orders. The railroad bridge was in flames before I left the intersection.

Arriving in town, I found, it in flames in many places and evacuated. Orders written in the street under the lurid glare of the flames were dispatched in every direction through the town to search for Colonel Lee. At Railroad street I learned that a gunboat had already landed at one of the lower wharves. Going up Railroad street to see whether Colonel Lee was at the Fair Grounds, I found, on reaching the depot, that the gunboats were already there and the enemy in the Fair Grounds. Colonel Lee, finding himself in no condition to make resistance, had properly drawn off and marched up the Kinston Road. Following on, and directing all the officers I could overtake to conduct their men to Tuscarora, the nearest railroad depot, I proceeded to that place, and, having made arrangements for the transportation of the troops to Kinston by railroad and seen most of them off, reached that place myself at 11 o'clock on Saturday.

My loss was 64 killed, 101 wounded, and 413 missing; about 200 are prisoners and the remainder at home. The inclosed tabular statement will show you on which regiments and companies the loss fell.

The horses of Latham's bat-

tery and those of four pieces of Brem's battery were killed, and we lost, in consequence, ten pieces of field artillery. There were other pieces at the breastwork, but they were condemned guns from Fort Macon belonging to no company.

The ammunition and ordnance stores at New Berne were saved, and the camp equipage and baggage of the regiments would have been saved but they had not the field transportation with which to haul it to the railroad.

In five days after the battle I had my brigade in camp in advance of Kinston ready for action and but little demoralized.

I had at an early day placed Cols. R. P. Campbell, Seventh Regiment, and C. C. Lee, Thirty-seventh Regiment, in command of the two wings of my brigade. All the troops, except the Thirty-third Regiment and the cavalry regiment, which were in reserve, fought under their immediate command. I could have taken no better security against any errors and oversights I might commit than I did in placing those two trained and experienced officers in immediate command of the troops.

I refer to their reports herewith and the reports of commanders of regiments for particulars as to the conduct of individuals under their command.

As the Thirty-third Regiment was under my own command it is proper for me to say that its conduct was all I could desire. It moved into action with as much promptness and steadiness as I ever saw in its ranks on dress parade and its fire was terrific. It was engaged within 100 yards of my position, and Colonel Avery, Lieutenant-Colonel Hoke, and Major Lewis did their duty fully

against an overwhelming force. Its gallant colonel was captured at his post; two different couriers, whom I sent to him with orders to withdraw, having failed to reach him.

With the exceptions noted in a former part of the report all the regiments behaved well. The Seventh and Thirty-third are specially named, because on the former fell the brunt of the battle after its flank was exposed by the retreat of the militia and the Thirty-fifth, and the latter had no other commander except myself through whom its conduct could be made known to you. No troops could have behaved better than the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, and Thirty-seventh.

Latham's battery was new and was only partially equipped. The horses had not been attached to the guns a week before the battle. Its gallantry and devotion on that occasion show it to be worthy of a new outfit.

My regular staff, consisting of my aide-de-camp, Mr. W. E. Cannady, and assistant adjutant-general, Lieutenant Colonel W. G. Robinson, rendered me all the assistance I desired. My aide-de-camp in particular bore my orders through the hottest of the fire with unflinching courage and composure.

To Captain Meade, of the Engineers, and Lieutenant Burwell, C. S., Army, and Mr. Francis T. Hawks, who tendered their services for the occasion and were placed on my staff, I was greatly indebted, not only for service in bearing orders and rallying troops, but to the first in an especial manner for counsel and advice. They remained with me throughout the battle and subsequent retreat.

The panic alluded to in some

of the reports occurred after the troops had left New Berne. It was in advance of me and I did not witness it, but the names of officers who contributed to it or participated in it will be reported to you if they can be discovered. It was counteracted by the steadiness of Colonel Lee and some other officers.

Yours, very respectfully,

L. O'B. BRANCH,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Major General T. H. HOLMES,
Commanding Department of North Carolina.

COLONEL R.P. CAMPBELL & LT. COL E. G. HAYWOOD
SEVENTH REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS

HDQRS. SEVENTH Regiment
NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS,
March 25, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor very respectfully to make the following report of the late engagement, 14th instant, at Fort Thompson:

My command, consisting of the Seventh Regiment North Carolina troops, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Haywood; Thirty-fifth Regiment North Carolina troops, commanded by Colonel Sinclair; Captain Whitehurst's independent company; some Militia, under Colonel Clark, Captain Latham's battery, and two sections of Captain Brem's battery, were posted along the breastworks from the county road to the railroad. The Seventh Regiment was posted immediately on the right of the county road; Colonel Sinclair's regiment was posted on its right, and Captain Whitehurst and Colonel Clark on his right, extending near the railroad. The batteries were placed at convenient distances along the line.

The battle was commenced by the firing of a Parrott gun belonging to Captain Latham's battery, under command of Lieutenant Wheeler. This shot dispersed a squad of horsemen, who seemed to be reconnoitering under cover of the woods.

Immediately after this, about 7.20 o'clock, the firing became general from the enemy along the whole of my command. It was replied to by both the batteries and small-arms. Shortly after the firing began the Militia under Colonel Clark gave way and left the field in a panic.

About one hour after the firing commenced Colonel Sinclair came to me, and in much excitement said that the enemy had flanked him and was coming up the trenches which had been vacated by the Militia. I ordered him to leave the trenches for the purpose of charging bayonets upon the advancing columns; but he failed to form his men and left the field in confusion. This left the entire space occupied by my command to be defended by the batteries and by the Seventh Regiment North Carolina troops. One section of Brem's battery, left without support by Colonel Sinclair, was taken possession of by the enemy, who had continued his advance on the right. I ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Haywood to have his men leave the breastwork and charge bayonets upon the enemy, who was advancing in column. The charge was made, and the enemy driven over the breastworks with great slaughter, leaving a number of guns and other things in his retreat, which fell into our hands. We also retook the section of Brem's battery which had fallen into the hands of the enemy. With the aid of the Seventh Regiment and the batteries I then held the works until the enemy again appeared on our right with a greatly increased force, some six or eight regiments. The batteries, with the exception of one section, under Captain Latham, had been silenced, so that I had only it and the Seventh Regiment at my command. I ordered the troops to fall back, which they did under a very heavy fire, and a formed immediately in rear of Colonel Vance's encampment.

After waiting a short time, and seeing no hope of defeating the enemy or offering further resistance to his approach or advancing our cause by meeting, I retired from the field.

The officers and men of the Seventh Regiment North Carolina troops and Captains Latham's and Brem's batteries behaved with coolness and bravery. I cannot speak of the other troops under my command, as they left the field too early in the action for me to say anything about them.

From the report of the officers under my command the following are the casualties: 13 privates and 1 officer killed, 34 privates and 1 officer wounded, and 34 privates missing.*

R. P. CAMPBELL,

Colonel Seventh Regiment North Carolina Troops.

General L. O'B. BRANCH,

Kinston, N. C.

No. 22. Report of Lieutenant Colonel Ed. Graham Haywood, Seventh North Carolina Infantry.

HDQRS. SEVENTH Regiment
NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS,
March 25, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor very respectfully to report that my command, the Seventh Regiment North Carolina troops, behaved well in the

late engagement at Fort Thompson. The command, with the exception of Company F, Captain Turner, was posted on the right of the county road, behind the breastworks, and ordered to defend them and support the artillery. Company F was posted on the left of the road. They held their positions until flanked on the right by the enemy. They were then ordered to leave the trenches and

charge bayonets upon the enemy, which they did, driving him beyond the breastworks until flanked again by the same direction with a greatly increased force, some six or eight regiments, when I fell back into the woods in rear of Colonel Vance's camp and there formed. Seeing no hope of defeating the enemy, I then, with the command, retired from the field. Major Hall, with three compa-

nies, preceded me.

The casualties were 6 men killed, 15 wounded, and 30 missing; among the wounded Captain W. H. Sanford, regimental commissary.

ED. GRAHAM HAYWOOD,

Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Seventh Regiment North Carolina Troops.

COLONEL CHARLES C. LEE & LT. COL WILLIAM M. BARBOUR THIRTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS

No. 28. Report of Colonel Charles C. Lee, Thirty-seventh North Carolina Infantry.

MARCH 16, 1862.

GENERAL: In compliance with your orders I herewith submit respectfully to you a report of the left wing at the battle of Johnston's Cross-Roads:

On Wednesday afternoon, at about 5 o'clock, I received from you notice that the enemy were advancing up the river, and later the same information was received by Captain Herring. I rode down to the batteries and ordered everything in readiness.

At 10 p.m I got notice from you of my command, and immediately issued orders to all to be in readiness and gave them appropriate instructions. Under these Captain Brem packed up his baggage and it has been saved. Captain Brem was afterward transferred to Colonel Campbell's command, and will report through him.

Thursday the enemy spent the day in shelling the woods below, and toward evening some of the men built fires (which were immediately extinguished), when our lines were

shelled for about one and a half hours, without injury to any one.

About 8 p.m. notice was sent you of signals on our right flank.

About 7.30 a.m. on the 14th we fired a 12-pounder gun at the enemy, and a few minutes afterward the battle commenced in earnest. A warm attack was made at the Beaufort road; but Captain Latham's artillery was fired with such precision that they made no advance, though they kept up a constant fire here during the whole engagement. The piece on the left hand on the Beaufort road was commanded by Captain Latham in person, and after all his men except 3 were either killed or dangerously wounded and rendered unfit for service, the piece was served effectively for some twenty minutes, until the day was lost, when he barely escaped. After the attempt on the Beaufort road the foe flanked to the right and moved in heavy column toward our left flank; but having given notice to Colonel Crossan of their approach, he opened on them with grape from three 32-pounders with such terrible effect that after about six shots they fell back; and though they kept up a constant and warm fire, they made no advance toward

the work.

Some time after this the firing became hotter, when I received from you an order to send some reinforcements to Colonel Campbell. I ordered the left wing of my regiment to his support and made further arrangements to cover my own flank. The men of the Twenty-seventh and Thirty-seventh Regiments did not fire a shot except a few who were armed with long-range rifles, and this ominous silence was properly appreciated. The men of these regiments, and also of Fort Thompson, appeared always cool and deliberate. While the left wing of the Thirty-seventh moved over to the right they were subjected to a galling fire and suffered to some extent. (See inclosed report of Lieutenant-Colonel Barbour.) Major Gilmer, of the Twenty-seventh, and Lieutenant-Colonel Barbour, of the Thirty-seventh, moved from place to place within the limits of their respective commands, and by their presence and example encouraged their commands very much. One piece-the right piece-in Fort Thompson, which bears on the land, was dismounted, but mounted again by Captain Herring

and the carriage properly repaired. Five men in the fort were wounded; none, I believe, dangerously.

Shortly after the left wing of the Thirty-seventh was sent to Colonel Campbell's aid, I observed his regiment moving rapidly to the rear through Colonel Vance's camp. I galloped over and demanded where they were going, when I was informed that they were in full retreat. I hastened back and saw the enemy advancing upon our works. Feeling assured that the regiments which were retreating could not be rallied, I ordered my command to fall back, and passed on to the batteries to look after them. While in Fort Thompson (two and a half minutes) five shots struck the upper portion of the right flank of the works and two shells fell within the works, without effect. The guns were all spiked, by the enemy pressed so closely that there was not time to blow up the magazine, being within about 30 or 40 yards when we had spiked the guns. I then went to the other batteries and had the guns dismounted and the magazines blown up.

In blowing up the magazine at Fort Ellis, Captain Mayo was seriously (I fear dangerously) wounded, and one other man. All the men of the left wing were saved, and retreated over to New Berne in tolerable order. One man of Colonel Sloan's Twenty-seventh Regiment was killed.

When I crossed over to New Berne I found some of the regiments had passed beyond, and I was thus prevented from carrying out your order to form in the upper part of the town. As I advanced up the Trent road to Kinston I overtook Colonel Sinclair's regiment, and a foolish report having got afloat that the enemy

had landed cavalry, which were in pursuit, I requested and obtained from Colonel Sinclair a rear guard, which I formed, and we then moved on to the railroad crossing, where it was merged with the regiment, and proceeded up to Tuscarora.

Lieutenant C. H. Brown, of Captain Latham's battery, was on several occasions on the left wing, and acted with great coolness; indeed, almost with foolhardiness. Lieutenant Nicholson, my adjutant, and Mr. Noble, who was acting as my aide, also displayed coolness; but no occasion for gallantry presented itself to any one in the left wing.

I am, general, respectfully,

CHARLES C. LEE,

Colonel 37th Regiment North Carolina Troops, Commanding Left Wing.

No. 29. Report of Lieutenant Colonel William M. Barbour, Thirty-seventh North Carolina Infantry.

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I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Thirty-seventh Regiment in the recent engagement near New Berne:

Pursuant to orders from Brigadier-General Branch I moved with my command at 3 o'clock Thursday morning and occupied that portion of our line on the left of the old Beaufort road. During the day shells were thrown frequently from the enemy's gunboats at our position without any damage to us.

On Friday morning about

daylight the enemy appeared in full force in front of our lines, partially concealed by the woods, and immediately opened a heavy fire of artillery and musketry upon us. The fire was promptly returned by Captain Latham's battery, stationed in and near the Beaufort road, with great effect. Immediately the enemy attempted a flank movement on our left, for the purpose of storming Fort Thompson. This movement was at once defeated by a destructive fire from the land batteries of Fort Thompson. During the remaining portion of the action the enemy kept up an incessant fire on the position occupied by my command. A short time before 12 o'clock I was ordered to send five companies of my regiment to the support of Colonel Campbell's brigade, which was at that time hard pressed. I immediately moved the following companies to the designated point: Company C, under Captain Ashcraft; Company B, under Lieutenant Cook; Company E, under Lieutenant Farthing; Company C, under Lieutenant Gillespie, and Company K, under Captain Rosse. Great credit is due to these companies for the promptness and bravery with which they moved under a very heavy fire of artillery and infantry for some 400 yards. A short time had given away. After a short and spirited contest these companies were ordered by Colonel Campbell to retire, which was done in good order.

About this time I observed the forces toward our center retreating, but I considered it my duty to hold my position until I was ordered to retreat. Colonel Lee rode toward the center to ascertain the meaning of these movements, and on his return informed me that the center was

in full retreat, and directed me at once to fall back. I at once proceeded with my remaining five companies toward the railroad bridge, and at the point where the Beaufort road crosses the railroad I found the five companies which had been sent to the right drawn up in line of battle and awaiting the arrival of the remaining five companies. I inquired of General Branch what I should do with my regiment, and was directed to cross the railroad bridge and form in New Berne across the track. As soon as I reached that point I found this impracticable, for the reason that the houses in that part of the town were built to the water's edge, and I could only have formed a line of battle some 15 feet in length; I therefore moved my regiment to the depot and halted it. I soon afterward saw Colonel Robinson, General Branch's acting assistant adjutant-general, and inquired where he desired me to

move my regiment. He directed me to move toward Kinston. I therefore marched my regiment in good order out of New Berne toward Kinston. When we reached the point where the Kinston road intersects the railroad an alarm was raised by some of the cavalry that the enemy's cavalry were in pursuit. Finding a number of men (not in my command) throwing away their guns, I rode to the rear and informed them that it was a false alarm, and begged them to keep the road and act like men. I remained at that point until near sundown, when I proceeded to Tuscarora Depot, 8 miles from New Berne. During the night the troops were brought by railroad to Kinston.

The men under my command behaved with great coolness and deliberation during the entire day, retreated in good order, and brought with them all their guns and ammunition. We could easily have saved

our baggage if we had wagons, but having only two small vehicles, I knew it was useless to attempt it. It was, however, all burned, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy.

When our regiment was ordered to retreat the enemy had crossed the breastworks in the center and in three minutes would have had us completely cut off.

Most of the missing have since been heard from and will rejoin the regiment.*

Respectfully, yours,

WILL. M. BARBOUR,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Thirty-seventh Regiment, N. C. Troops.

COLONEL JAMES SINCLAIR THIRTY-FIFTH REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS

HDQRS. THIRTY-FIFTH Regiment
NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS,
Kinston, N. C., March 19, 1862.

COLONEL: I have the honor to inform you that on Wednesday, the 12th instant, at 4 p.m., I received orders to march down to Fisher's Landing, to oppose the landing of the enemy at that place, reported to be in force with his fleet down the river.

I left New Berne, according to orders, at 6.30 p.m., with my command, by railroad, and arrived at the point designated at 8 o'clock that night about 9 miles below the town. At the time I arrived there was sufficient moonlight to enable me to see

that the enemy in heavy force was not far distant. I could distinctly hear the music of his bands and even the singing of his men on the fleet. Making Fisher's Landing my center, I posted pickets on each side of the landing, extending 3 miles from my center. I posted the balance of my regiment along the rifle pits and breastworks guarding the landing, holding one company in reserve at the landing proper. During the night a heavy rain set in, thoroughly drenching my men, who were without cover or shelter.

Early on the morning of the 13th the enemy commenced landing in heavy force some 2 or 3 miles be-

low my pickets. A company of cavalry and a regiment which I was promised would support me did not make their appearance; consequently, having had orders to oppose the debarkation of the enemy at Fisher's Landing, I was unable to prevent him below. By this means the Croatan breastworks fell into his hands. During the landing of the enemy his gunboats continued shelling the woods.

At 10 a.m. he approached Fisher's Landing with his boats, throwing shell and canister as he came, steaming sufficiently nigh to hear the conversation of his men on board. About this time Colonel

Campbell, of the Seventh Regiment, my senior officer, made his appearance on the ground (not with his regiment, however), and, having carefully surveyed my position and the force of the enemy, ordered me to fall back into the woods beyond reach of the enemy's fire, which I did, with my command in good order, by way of Fisher's avenue. In retiring I had 3 of my men wounded by the enemy's shells, one of whom has since been reported dead.

After forming in the woods near the railroad Colonel Campbell ordered me to fall back on the Fort Thompson intrenchments, where I was ordered to take position on the right of the Seventh Regiment North Carolina troops. Here, under a heavy rain, we remained all night of the 13th instant, without food, after having been all the night previous exposed to a continuous rain, nearly three hours of the day exposed to the enemy's fire, besides marching for several hours, having tasted no food from the evening we left New Berne. Posted on my right was the Militia, resting on the railroad by the brick-yard, where the enemy afterward made his strongest demonstration.

According to the disposition made on the morning of the 14th instant before the engagement took place, my command was divided by a section of Brem's battery and Captain Whitehurst's independent company separating my right wing from my center and left wing. On my right a space of about 40 yards intervening [between] the Militia and the railroad was still left vacant; besides, a trench that ran parallel with the railroad of about 60 or 80 yards was unoccupied by our troops.

In this condition of affairs the battle opened about 7.30 a.m. by the

firing of a gun from the enemy's field batteries planted in front of the old county road, which fire was replied to by Brench's and Latham's batteries. Immediately the enemy opened with musketry from the county road above referred to, which was replied to by my regiment, with others to the left. The enemy advanced twice upon the breastworks occupied by me, which advances were repelled each time.

At 10 a.m. he appeared in force on the railroad and on the right of my position, and, the Militia having retired and the trench above referred to being occupied by him in force, as also were the buildings in the brick-yard, I found my command completely flanked.

At this time, however, my second in command, without consulting me, ordered four of my companies on the right wing to fall back, which I rallied and ordered back to their post, which they immediately did, and held it for some time. The fire of the enemy becoming more galling on my right flank, they again retired, by command of my lieutenant colonel, who, with one company and portions of other companies at my command, formed in rear of my center.

Meantime I had dispatched my adjutant to Colonel Campbell, my commanding officer, to communicate to him the real condition of my regiment-exposed to the flanking fire of the enemy. The colonel having arrived and having surveyed my position, and the section of Brem's battery near me having by this time ceased to fire, he ordered me to retire with my command in the following words: "You had better take your men out of that as quick as possible"; which order I immediately obeyed.

In retiring, however, one of my officers and several of my men were killed and some wounded. This created somewhat of a panic, as the enemy were firing upon us from the railroad and brick-yard; but soon my men rallied and retired in perfect order till we reached that portion of the railroad intersected by the county road, where I formed the into line ready to advance to meet the foe if called upon.

Colonel Lane's regiment, having arrived at this time, relieved me, and I fell back upon New Berne by the railroad bridge.

I again formed my men at the railroad depot, waiting for orders, where Lieutenant-Colonel Barbour, of the Thirty-seventh, having run charge some fragments of his regiment, informed me that the orders were to fall back by the Kinston road. This I did in perfect order, until some officers who were retiring with speed along the road informed me that the enemy's cavalry were in force in the rear. AT this juncture Company D, of my regiment, volunteered to become the rear guard of the entire force. Colonel Lee, of the Thirty-seventh, kindly volunteered to command the rear guard, in order to permit me to attend to the balance of my regiment, who were jaded and broken down by exposure, fasting, fighting, and marching since the evening of the 12th instant. My presence was demanded with my regiment by the fact that on the first alarm of the enemy's cavalry being in close proximity my lieutenant-colonel deserted his regiment and sought safety for himself. The alarm proving false the guard was dismissed, and I conducted my regiment to Tuscarora, where I joined portions of the Twenty-seventh and Thirty-seventh

Regiments and fragments from the other regiments engaged in the affair of the 14th instant, and took command until the arrival of General Branch.

In conclusion I have only to add that, with the exception above referred to, all my officers and men behaved well.

Special praise is due to Com-

pany D, commanded by Captain Lasater, for the alacrity with which they volunteered to defend our retreating columns when the enemy's cavalry was reported to be upon us.

I am indebted for efficient services to Major O. C. Pettway and Adj. Thomas J. Oates.

Casualties of the battle: One officer, Lieutenant Hale, and 4 pri-

vates were killed, 11 privates wounded, and 9 missing.

I have the honor to be, colonel, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SINCLAIR,

Colonel, Commanding.

LT. COLONEL ROBERT F. HOKE THIRTY-THIRD REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS

HDQRS. THIRTY-THIRD NORTH CAROLINA REGIMENT,
Kinston, N. C., March 18, 1862.

SIR: In accordance with your orders I respectfully submit the following report concerning our orders received from you and the action of our regiment afterward:

After arriving near the breastworks opposite Fort Thompson and taking up camp on Thursday evening (13th) we were ordered by you to remain in that position for further orders.

At daylight on the following morning you in person ordered Colonel Avery to take position in a line of battle about 400 yards to the rear of the brick-yards, with our right wing resting upon the railroad, and were to remain in that position for further orders, we constituting the reserve; and soon after we had formed our regiment and had them to take off their knapsacks, in order to be ready to move with quickness to any point we might be ordered, we were ordered to move forward about 100 yards immediately to the rear of your position, which in the opinion of the field officers of our regiment was a very exposed one and one well se-

lected, as from that point the movements of the enemy could best be seen. Shortly after we reached that point an order was received from you, through Colonel Robinson to Colonel Avery, to send his right wing, in command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hoke, composing five companies, to occupy the intrenchments on the right of the railroad. I immediately faced the right wing to the right and moved off at a double-quick, going through the woods and down the ravines, in order to protect the men as much as possible, as a forward movement down the railroad would have greatly exposed the command.

I halted them in a ravine, ordered four companies to lie down, and intended to place them in the works by company, as I could in that way save the lives of many, as the firing was hot at that point. After placing Company A (Captain Cowan) in position, and having returned and was placing Captain Parks' company in position, I received an order from your to return with the command. I immediately faced Captain Parks' company about, and was returning with the four companies, when I was met by Colonel Avery and Major Lewis with the remaining five companies, which com-

posed the left wing, coming up in line of battle and in fire order, and was ordered by Colonel Avery to face about and join him. I did so, and the regiment moved up to the scene of action in fine style, Colonel Avery in command of the center, I of the right wing, and Major Lewis of the left.

Colonel Avery gave the command to fire before we reached the intrenchments, as the enemy were firing upon us and were in full force upon the top of the hill immediately across the swamp. Our fire seemed to have great effect, as the enemy scampered. Major Lewis then moved immediately to the right of the railroad with several companies and engaged the enemy from that time until after 12 o'clock. He behaved most gallantly; was in the hottest part of the whole battle-field. He repulsed the enemy time and again, and twice charged them with detachments of companies, and each time made them flee.

Our loss was greater at that point than any other, as he had to fight to his front, right, and left, but still maintained his position, fighting them against greater numbers. No one could have behaved with more coolness, bravery, and determination than he, and he deserves the praise of every true countryman for his ac-

tions. He reports his men as having done their duty in every manner.

Colonel Avery was in command of the center, on top of the second hill from the railroad, encouraging his men both by actions and words. He was perfectly cool, and never did man act better upon the battle-field than he. His fire was very destructive, and remarked that if he had his regiment together he would charge the rascals over the fallen timber. He received a shot through the top of his cap, and coolly remarked, "Boys, they liked to have gotten me," but heeded it not, and went on cheering his men.

I was immediately at his right, and finding the enemy were getting in strong force upon our right and were going to turn our right flank, as there were no troops between our regiment and the left of Colonel Vance's companies upon the right flank of the whole troops, a distance of a quarter of a mile, I moved quickly with Captain Parks' company, which I had thrown in the woods in a ravine as a reserve to our regiment, with Lieutenant Poteat adjutant, who displayed great coolness during the action, and finding the enemy in great force did not expose my weakness by firing, but sent a messenger to Colonel Avery for another company. He immediately sent me Captain Kesler's company. I ordered the whole to fire, which did great execution, as the enemy fell and fled, but soon appeared again, and again we drove them back, but soon they again appeared in strong force and engaged us, which continued until 12.30 o'clock. At 12.15 o'clock I saw the United States flag flying upon one of our works, but saw Colonel Avery still fighting, and I, being very busily engaged with the

enemy, did not know that Colonel Avery and Major Lewis had fallen back until I saw the enemy upon my left with several regiments (which force caused Colonel Avery and Major Lewis to fall back, as their left was completely turned and the enemy was getting to their rear), and about 50 yards to the rear of the position Colonel Avery had occupied. I then saw for the first time we were driven back, and ordered the men under my command to fall back, but to do so in order. We were hotly fired at when we fell back. I fell back some distance and intended to fall back, so kept on an intended to join my regiment at the bridge, but found it on fire, so had to cross Bryce's Creek; and on getting over learned our troops had made no stand at New Berne; continued the retreat to Trenton, in connection with Colonel Vance, who crossed the creek with me, and learning at Trenton our troops were making a stand at Kinston, made a forced march, and reached that point on Sunday morning about 10 o'clock, which made a march of 50 miles in about thirty-six hours.

Captain Engelhard, quartermaster, Captain Gibson, commissary, and our surgeons, Drs. Baker and Shaffner, all did their duty very well indeed. Dr. Shaffner was of great assistance to me on the march.

We entered the field with 614 men, but lost in killed, wounded, and missing 196. Among this number we have reason to believe our loss in killed and wounded is greater than the number taken as prisoners. Our brave colonel is a prisoner.

Captain Cowan, Company A, was first ordered into the fight and sustained a very heavy loss. His of-

ficers acted most bravely, and Private David Phifer is highly spoken of for his bravery before he was killed. He was killed while carrying a message from Major Lewis to Colonel Avery. Private Dolchite is also spoken of in the captain's report for having thrown away his clothing in order to swim the creek and save his gun. He is a boy of sixteen years of age.

Captain Jenkins, Company B, is reported, as also his officers and men, for having acted well in every particular.

Captain Kesler, Company C, and Lieutenant Corzine and men, acted well. Lieutenant Patterson displayed fear. All the officers and men behaved well except Captain Parker, who left the scene of action too soon.

Captain McIntyre, in the retreat, ordered his men to go home, and Lieutenant Rayle did not report himself at all the morning the regiment left for the engagement. Sergeant Babb and Private Daniel Webb are spoken of by Lieutenant Gatling as having acted well.

Very respectfully, yours,

R. F. HOKE,

Lieutenant-Colonel.

MAJOR JOHN GILMER

TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS

KINSTON, N. C., March 16, 1862.

SIR: I most respectfully submit the following report of the part borne in the engagement of the 14th instant at the breastworks adjoining Fort Thompson, N. C., by the Twenty-seventh Regiment North Carolina troops, then under my command:

On the morning of the 13th, pursuant to orders from your headquarters, I marched the Twenty-seventh Regiment to the river bank, about 100 yards above Fort Thompson, arriving about an hour before daybreak. Forming the regiment in line of battle at that point I awaited orders.

About 7 o'clock I received orders to retire a short distance toward the river, to avoid any shot and shell that might be thrown in the direction of Fort Thompson. The regiment was immediately moved a short distance to the left and rear.

While in this position I received orders to march the regiment to the breastworks and line and same on the left near Fort Thompson, which was immediately done. The regiment remained (covering the breastworks, principally in one rank, for the distance of 300 or 400 yards from Fort Thompson) all the day and night of the 13th; were aroused and placed in position at the works twice during the night. Numbers of shell and shot were thrown from the gunboats of the enemy during the evening of the 13th, most of which, however, passed beyond the works.

On the morning of the 14th the regiment was again placed in position to await the approach of the

enemy, whom I supposed to be in force in the woods in front of the works. I was informed by Captain Barden, whose company had been sent out the evening before as a portion of the picket guard, that the enemy was advancing on the country road to our right.

About 6.30 or 7 a.m. the fire of the enemy began beyond our right and continued vigorously during the entire engagement. The fire was immediately returned by the artillery stationed beyond the right of the Twenty-seventh and continued unabated. I commanded the regiment to retain their fire until ordered to fire by me.

A short time after the firing began on the right the bombardment again began from the gunboats of the enemy, directed principally toward Fort Thompson and the portion of the breastworks behind which the Twenty-seventh was stationed. Thus situated, the regiment manfully and cheerfully sustained the shower of shell and shot from the gunboats for two and a half hours, during which but 1 man was killed and 3 stunned.

Between 10 and 11 a.m. I discovered that the troops stationed immediately on the right of the Twenty-seventh were falling back, which movement I discovered was being followed by two or three companies of the Twenty-seventh, on the right. I immediately hastened to my right and ordered the two retreating companies back to the trenches. I then gave my entire command the order to fire by file, designating at the same time the direction in which I perceived the enemy advancing in great

numbers.

I then hastened to meet you, whom I perceived advancing along the lines to the left. You informed me that our right had been turned and I must fall back. I then ordered the regiment to retire, which was done in tolerable order by most of the companies on the left. I ordered those companies which were together to march through Camp Gatlin to the railroad bridge, where the greater part of the right assembled and halted. I hastened then to the left, beyond Camp Fisher, to find out what were the plans of our troops, supposing that a stand was to be made at that point. Finding our forces retreating, I returned to the right and passed with them over the bridge to the railroad depot, where the companies were again formed, agreeably to orders I had received from the assistant adjutant-general.

At the depot we were ordered to fall back still farther, when I placed the regiment on the march toward Kinston, under command of my senior captain. I joined the regiment again where the railroad is crossed by the county road above New Berne, and again joined them at Tuscarora, whence I proceeded with them to Kinston, partly on foot and partly by means of the cars which were sent back to take us up.

From the reports of the captains of my command I obtained the following particulars. There were in-

Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
Company A	1	1

Company B	1	1
Company C	1	2
Company D	2	15
Company E	13	22
Company F, all present		
Company G		*31
Company H		+9

Total 4851

*Slightly injured.

+Reported.

Company I.-The majority of this company followed the captain to Jones County.

Company K.-Two companies officers and all the company but 30 supposed to be in Goldsborough. The promptness and cheerfulness with which the officers under my command obeyed every order and the courage with which they took and maintained every position assigned them I cannot too favorably notice. In the retreat I discovered that a few men in each company had either lost or abandoned their guns and cartridge boxes.

Very respectfully,

J. A. GILMER, Jr.,

Major, Commanding Twenty-seventh Regiment North Carolina Troops.

Colonel CHARLES C. LEE,

Commanding --- Brigade, North Carolina Troops.

P. S.-It is, perhaps, proper for me to add that about 30 of the Twenty-seventh were detailed to operate Latham's battery in conjunction with Captain Latham's company. These 30 men were in the hottest of the engagement, and several of them seriously injured but none killed.

COLONEL S. B. SPRUILL NINETEENTH REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS

HDQRS. NINETEENTH REGIMENT N. C. STATE TROOPS,
Kinston, N. C., March -, 1862.

On Wednesday evening, the 12th instant, I received information that the enemy had made their appearance in the river and to hold my command in readiness to march at a moment's warning.

On Thursday morning, 13th, I received an order from General Branch to report with my command immediately to the general commanding at the crossing of the Beaufort road and railroad, which was promptly obeyed. My command, consisting of Companies D, E, F, H, and K, proceeded down as far as Colonel Vance's encampment, near the intrenchments, and reported myself for duty. I then received orders to fall back to a convenient position, which I occupied, between the Beaufort road and railroad.

About 2 p.m. I received a

verbal order to dismount two of my companies that were best armed, leaving a sufficient number of men to guard the horses, and for them to report to Colonel Vance, then on the extreme right, which I obeyed, by ordering Company A, commanded by Captain Hays, and Company K, commanded by Lieutenant William A. Graham, jr., these companies being armed with rifles and carbines. The other companies remained in their same position until about 3 p.m., at which time the enemy were throwing their shells very near us, move until we went a short distance beyond the railroad. There we remained until night, when the firing ceased.

During the time I received an order to send two companies to report to Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson, to act as vedettes for the night, which I obeyed, by detailing Company D, commanded by Captain Strange, and Company H, Captain Randolph. These companies were

under the command of Major J. W. Woodfin.

I then ordered Lieutenant Haughton, of Captain Evans' company, which had a short time before joined us, to report to Colonel Campbell, whose immediate command I was then under, and ask of him permission to take my command back to camp for the purpose of feeding my horses. I received in reply to exercise my own discretion. As I had permission to do so, between 9 and 10 o'clock I ordered the remainder of my command, consisting of two companies, and Captain Evans' company, commanded by Lieutenant Evans, taking the horses of the dismounted companies back to camp.

Next morning about 4 o'clock I ordered the two companies to mount, and take with them the horses of the dismounted companies and hold themselves in readiness to march.

Before day I sent Captain

Cole's company to relieve the two companies that had been on duty during the night as vedettes. The two companies relieved returned to camp about 4 a.m. I ordered the commanders of these two companies, together with Company C, commanded by Lieutenant Wynn, which had arrived from Washington about 2 o'clock at night, having made the march during the day and part of the night, a distance of 40 miles, to feed and rest until they were ordered by me to report for duty on the field.

When I arrived near the intrenchments on the Beaufort road I ordered a halt. I then reported myself to Colonel Campbell, with my command, for duty. He ordered me to remain ready for duty. I immediately returned to my command, soon after which the enemy's vessels opened a heavy fire, at which time I received orders to dismount the remainder of my command and send them to the right and report to Colonel Vance. I immediately ordered Captain Cole, Company F, and Captain Thomas, Company E, to dismount, and Captain Thomas to take command of the two companies, which he did, and marched off. Soon after Major Woodfin arrived, and I ordered him to proceed and take charge of the two companies then marching to the intrenchments, which he promptly obeyed. I immediately dispatched a courier to order the three companies then in camp to report to me at a point on the railroad for duty; but before reporting to me I was informed that they were ordered to retreat by Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson.

While waiting I perceived that the Militia were giving way and retreating. I immediately rode back where the horses of my dismounted

men were held, and found many of them mounted and being mounted by the infantry. Captain Cole, most of his command, and a portion of Captain Thomas' command, succeeded in getting their horses, but Lieutenant Graham's command was left on foot, except those that had charge of his horses; also a portion of Captain Thomas' command, which retreated in company with Colonel Vance's command. I remained a short time, expecting Lieutenant Graham and Captain Thomas to come up, so as to inform them what had become of the left of our works, I rode off and overtook my command at Colonel Lee's camp. I immediately proceeded to the head of my command in order to make them march over the bridge by file, fearing that it might break down, which I succeeded in doing in good order, some having however passed over before I arrived at the bridge.

After remaining on the east side of the bridge until about half of my command had passed over I ordered Major Woodfin to remain until they were all over. I then passed over the bridge for the purpose of forming my battalion on the other side. After passing to the other side I found Lieutenant Baker, who I ordered to assist me in forming it. He then informed me that Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson was there attending to the formation of the battalion.

After the whole of my command had passed over, excepting Captain Hays, Company A, I ordered Surgeon Smith to direct Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson to march the battalion on the Kinston road a short distance beyond New Berne, and there halt it, and permit the wagons to go on toward Kinston under the directions of the general in command, when a board of officers, com-

posed of the colonels of different regiments, was called, directing us that if we were driven from the intrenchments to fall back on New Berne, which was the only order to retreat I ever received up to that time.

While at the bridge, in company with Captain Strange and Lieutenant Baker, of Company D, Major Barringer rode up, and informed me that he was ordered by the commanding general to direct me to recross the bridge and form my battalion to cover the retreat of the infantry. I told him that I had ordered it to New Berne, but informed him that I would obey the order, and immediately rode rapidly off in company with Major Barringer to do so.

On arriving at New Berne I found my battalion formed and halted on the Kinston road and found Major Woodfin in command. I inquired of him where Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson was, and he informed me that he had rode into New Berne, upon which information we both rode to the railroad. Upon arriving there Major Gilmer gave the order for all the troops to rally around the depot. Major Boone then ordered me to have all the cotton and naval stores in New Berne burned. I asked him by what authority he gave the order. His reply was that it came from headquarters. I then told him it should be executed, and ordered Major Woodfin to make a detail of men to do so, which he promptly did, and left my command for the purpose of executing the same.

I remained with my command halted until the cars left the depot and the enemy were shelling the town, several shells falling near my battalion. I then ordered a retreat, which was continued until some one in the rear gave the order to "Gallop,

march." The men then became somewhat excited. I sent back to ascertain who gave the order, but could not find out who gave it, but immediately heard that the enemy were pursuing us with 700 cavalry. Captain Randolph rode up to me and informed me that he had heard that we were pursued with cavalry, and asked me if I did not intend making a stand. I replied that I did intend doing so, and sent him on ahead for the purpose of selecting a suitable place. I was informed there was a bridge some 2 miles ahead, at which place we halted with the intention of giving them battle. Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson then rode up where I was, and I directed him to take his position in the battalion and assist me, as I intended making a stand to resist the 700 cavalry that I understood was in pursuit. He replied that he did not believe that there was any cavalry in

pursuit. He replied that he did not believe that there was any cavalry in pursuit, and that he was ordered to Goldsborough, or had to go to Goldsborough to see General Gatlin. I then told him if he had to go, to go along. He then said to me that I had better form a rear guard to cover the retreat and take command of it myself, and that he should report to General Gatlin that I had done so. He then left. I then ordered 20 men to the bridge and rode along the line and cautioned my men to be cool.

During our halt at the bridge Captain Hays came up with his command, and I invited the captains and lieutenants in command of the companies, with Colonel Crossan, to hold a consultation, and their conclusion was that it would be better for us to proceed on to Kinston that night, for fear of the enemy coming up the river and burning the bridge at Kinston,

thereby cutting off our retreat. I then ordered Captain Hays to take command of the rear guard and I took command of the front myself. We continued our retreat to Kinston, arriving there between 11 and 12 o'clock at night.

All the officers under my command, so far as I could discover, obeyed my orders promptly and acted with coolness.

I have submitted one report showing the loss of my horses and baggage. Since that time I succeeded in recovering several of my horses that were missing.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. B. SPRUILL,

Colonel Nineteenth Regiment North Carolina State Troops.

COLONEL ZEBULON B. VANCE TWENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS

HDQRS. TWENTY-SIXTH Regiment NORTH CAROLINA VOLS., Kinston, N. C., March 17, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report, in accordance with military usage, the share of my command in the operations of last Friday. While in temporary command of the post of New Berne, on Thursday, my regiment was ordered to Croatan works, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Burgwyn, to assist Colonel Sinclair's regiment should the enemy land below those works.

Learning soon after that Colonel Campbell was at this post, I instantly transferred to him my temporary command and proceeded to

Croatan to assume command of my regiment. When near there I met Colonel Sinclair retreating, who informed me that the enemy were landing in force at Fisher's Landing, and nearer still to the works I met Colonel Campbell, who had just ordered my regiment to take the cars and return to Fort Thompson. Before my return they had been posted by Lieutenant-Colonel Burgwyn in the series of redans constructed by me, on the right of the railroad, in the rear of Bullen's Branch, extending from the railroad to the swamp, about 500 yards from the road, by Weathersby's.

At this road, as you will remember, I had constructed the night before a breastwork commanding the

passage of the swamp, with the assistance of Mr. --- Hawks, a gentleman whose skill in engineering, untiring energy, and zeal I take pleasure in noticing favorably; and there was placed a section of Captain Brem's artillery, lieutenant Williams commanding, and Captain McRae's company of infantry, with a portion of the companies of Captains Hays and Thomas, Second North Carolina Cavalry, dismounted.

About 2 o'clock Friday morning, in compliance with orders received, I pushed companies B, E, and K of my right wing across the small swamp alluded to, so as to make my extreme right rest on the battery at the Weathersby road.

This was our position on Friday morning, which remained unchanged during the day, except that two companies of the Thirty-third Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hoke, came to my assistance about 9 o'clock, which were placed in the redans vacated by my right companies which were thrown beyond the swamp. You will perceive that my forces covered almost as much ground as all the rest of our troops together. Taking my own position near the center, a little nearer to the right, under Lieutenant-Colonel Burgwyn, about whose position I was considerably uneasy, owing to the unfinished state of our works there, I placed the left under the command of Major Carmichael and awaited the engagement. It began on my left wing about 7.50 o'clock, extending toward my right by degrees until about 8.30 o'clock, when all the troops in my command were engaged so far as the swamp referred to. The severest fighting was on my extreme left, the enemy advancing under shelter of the woods to within easy range of our lines. Whenever they left the woods and entered among the fallen timber of the swamp in our front they were driven back in confusion by the most deadly and well-directed fire from our lines who, with the greatest coolness, watched for their appearance.

The fight was kept up until about 12 o'clock, when information was brought to me by Captain J. T. Young, my quartermaster, who barely escaped with life in getting to me, that the enemy in great force had turned my left by the railroad track of Woods' brick-yard, had pillaged my camp, were firing in reverse on my left wing, and were several hundred yards up the railroad between

me and New Berne; also that all the troops on the field were in full retreat, except my command. This being so, there was no alternative left me but to order an immediate retreat or be completely surrounded by an overwhelming force. Without hesitation I gave the order. My men jumped out of the trenches, rallied, and formed in the woods without panic or confusion, and, having first sent a messenger with an order to Lieutenant-Colonel Burgwyn to follow with the forces on the right, we struck across the Weathersby road for Bryce's Creek, with the intention of getting into the Pollocksville road. On arriving at the creek we found only one small boat, capable of carrying only three men, in which to pass over. The creek here is too deep to for and about 75 yards wide. Some plunged in and swam over, and, swimming over myself, I rode down to Captain Whitford's house, on the Trent, and through the kindness of Mr. Kit Foy, a citizen, procured three more small boats, carrying one on our shoulders from the Trent, with which we hurried up to the crossing. In the mean time Lieutenant-Colonel Burgwyn arrived with the forces of the right wing in excellent condition, and assisted me with the greatest coolness and efficiency in getting the troops across, which after four hours of hard labor and the greatest anxiety we succeeded in doing. Lieutenant-Colonel Burgwyn saw the last man over before he entered the boat. I regret to say that three men were drowned in crossing.

I must here mention favorably the good conduct of the troops under these trying circumstances, a large Yankee force being drawn up in view of our scouts about 1 mile away and their skirmishers appear

ing just as the rear got over.

Musician B. F. Johnson, Company B, deserves particular mention for his exertions, having ferried over the greater portion of the road for Trenton. We marched night and day stopping at no time for rest or sleep more than four hours.

We arrived at this place safely at noon on the 16th. The loyalty and hospitality of the citizens greatly facilitated our march, furnishing us cheerfully with provisions, wagons, shelter, and guides.

I regret to say that many of our men, despairing of the boats at the creek and determined not to be taken, threw away their guns to swim over; a serious loss to our Government, but scarcely blamable under the circumstances.

This concludes the narration of the principal matters connected with my command during the engagement and retreat. The number of my killed and wounded has not yet been ascertained. Our baggage, of course, was lost, but our sick were safely brought away.

It remains for me to speak of the noble dead we left upon the field. Major A. B. Carmichael fell about 11 a.m., by a shot through the head, while gallantly holding his post on the left under a most galling fire. A braver, nobler soldier never fell on field of battle. Generous and open-hearted as he was brave and chivalrous, he was endeared to the whole regiment. Honored be his memory. Soon after Captain W. P. Martin, of Company H, also fell near the regimental colors. Highly respected as a man, brave and determined as a soldier, he was equally regretted by his command and all who knew him. The Twenty-sixth Regiment are justly proud of their glorious fall. The fate

of Captain Rand, of Company D, is yet unknown. When last seen he was almost surrounded by a large force; but, disdaining to fly or surrender, he was fighting desperately with Lieutenant Vinson and a large portion of his company, who refused to leave him. Lieutenant Porter, of Company A, was also left behind wounded. Captain A. N. McMillan was badly wounded, but got away safely. In regard to the behavior of my regiment generally, I am scarcely willing to mention particular instances of gallantry where all did their duty. Observing a large portion of the regi-

ment myself, and making diligent inquiry as to the rest, I could learn of but one man in all my command who remembered that he had legs until after the command to retreat was given. They were the last of our troops to leave the field.

I cannot conclude this report without mentioning in terms of the highest praise the spirit of determination and power of endurance evinced by the troops during the hardships and sufferings of our march. Drenched with rain, blistered feet, without sleep, many sick and wounded, and almost naked, they

toiled on through the day and all the weary watches of the night without murmuring, cheerfully and with subordination, evincing most thoroughly those high qualities in adversity which military men learn to value still more than courage upon the field.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. B. VANCE,

Colonel, Commanding Twenty-sixth North Carolina Vols.

COLONEL H.J.B. CLARK SPECIAL BATTALION NORTH CAROLINA MILITIA

HDQRS. NORTH CAROLINA MILITIA, SPECIAL BATTALION, Kinston, N. C., March 17, 1862.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, received at New Berne 9 p.m. March 13, to report to Colonel Campbell at his headquarters, at Fort Thompson breastworks, I respectfully report that I repaired forthwith to that place, accompanied by Major Joseph N. Jones, but did not find Colonel Campbell.

Major Jones called at Colonel Vance's encampment and was informed there that Colonel Campbell had gone in the direction of New Berne.

Proceeding thence to New Berne, by way of Colonel Lee's encampment, went to Colonel Campbell's encampment, and reported, in his absence, to Lieutenant Colonel E. G. Haywood, who directed me to report for duty at the depot of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad in New Berne on the following day, 5 a.m. The company

was promptly reported and left New Berne at 8 a.m., and arriving at the breastworks was assigned position.

On the following morning, March 14, my command was placed in line of battle, numbering 264,20 having been detailed for hospital duty and 45 to aid Lieutenant Hawks in mounting cannon on the right of the breastworks. These last were forced from the works by the enemy's sharpshooters and came to the ranks after the action commenced.

As soon as the firing commenced the ground in front of me was so obscured by smoke that I could see but a short distance, and as firing had commenced on my left with guns of longer range, as soon as I thought the enemy within reach of my guns commenced the fire by file, which order was promptly obeyed with coolness and determination. After firing three rounds I commanded the fire to cease. Soon after the smoke cleared away and the enemy were plainly seen drawn up in force on our right, and a company

of sharpshooters commenced pouring a fire into our rear, doing considerable execution and causing confusion in my ranks, but an order to rally and take position was promptly obeyed, and calmness restored by the assurance that you would soon send re-enforcements; but the fire was continued on us and with redoubled energy, while they (the enemy) crossed the railroad, took possession of the rifle pits on our right and rear, and planted the Stars and Stripes.

Previous to this, however, they had fire upon a reconnoitering party I sent in that direction and upon the quartermaster and teamsters I had sent to recover the ammunition.

I at once time intended to leave the breastworks and charge upon the enemy, and for this purpose caused bayonets to be fixed; but when I saw the sharpshooters were supported by so large a force of the enemy, concluded that such attempt would result in great loss of life to my command without being able to effect corresponding good to our cause, and just as Colonel Vance

poured his first fire into the enemy, a panic seized my command and part of them broke ranks.

Believing it impossible to reform under the fire of these sharpshooters at this moment of confusion I commanded a retreat in order, which was succeeded by a stampede of most of command. As soon as they had reached a small brush-wood, perhaps 60 yards distant, I ordered a rally and reformation of the line, in which I was promptly aided by every officer present to my view and for the moment thought I should succeed, but the cry was made that the regulars had retreated; the panic was renewed and increased and my influence as a commander gone.

A few, perhaps 20 in all, with their officers, rallied and volunteered to return and obey my orders; but be-

lieving it would involve a sacrifice of life to them, being untutored, as we were, in the art of war, I declined to do so, and in my efforts to rally others to join them became separated from these.

In the retreat I joined you at the railroad crossing, when you proposed to rally and cover the retreat. There I rallied a squad of the Athens Guards and Cow Creek Volunteers, with most of their officers; but soon the retreating column came on and this joined with them.

Leaving you there I went, together with Adjutant Roberts and Lieutenant Mitchell, to burn the tents at Colonel Lee's encampment. From this point we went to Trent (Clairmont) Bridge and found Major Hall making an effort to reform a regiment, and at his request took po-

sition on the bridge, to prevent soldiers passing, and remained there until an officer, said to be Lieutenant Burrows, took charge. At the close of the day I parted with you at Tuscarora, having received orders to rally my command and report at this place.

I have made as accurate report to Colonel Campbell of the number of my command in action, of the number killed, wounded, and missing, as I could gather from the commanders of companies. It is believed there were certainly 4 killed and 15 wounded, and there are many missing.

Respectfully,

H. J. B. CLARK,
Colonel, Commanding.

LIEUTENANT J. L. HAUGHTON MACON MOUNTED GUARD

KINSTON, N. C., March 16, 1862.

According to orders from Brigadier-General Branch I left the Thompson breastworks at 8.30 p.m. on the 13th instant with 10 of my men and proceeded to Evans' Mill to establish a picket guard, which I did, but did not see anything worth reporting.

The next morning a little before day I, with my men, proceeded to the bridge on the road leading from Captain Evans' to Croatan Battery. At light we commenced cutting it away, and after clearing it I then sent my men some 300 yards in a bottom. I then set fire to the abutment of the bridge and all the plank that would have been of service to the enemy.

All the while I was cutting and burning their pickets were firing

upon us at a great rate. I encouraged my men all I could, so they stood until I sent them off. After seeing the last of the bridge I then made an attempt to rejoin my company, but was cut off by their picket. I attempted the second time by a new route, but met with like fate. I then made a third trial, and after going for more than a mile I came across a negro, belonging to Dr. Curtis, of New Berne, who was trying to make his escape from the enemy, as he was tired of living with them. I stopped to ask him some questions, and he told me not to go any farther or else I should be taken. I then countermarched my men, and as they turned balls fell around us as fast as hailstones. We retired in perfect order. I had not gone far before we found ourselves surrounded. My only chance then was to charge upon

their pickets. It happened just at that time the firing had ceased at the battery, and the picket supposing that we were cavalry in pursuit of them, so they ran from us faster than we from them. I then made my escape through Trenton, reaching Kinston at sunup Sunday morning completely exhausted, both men and horses.

Very respectfully submitted.

J. L. HAUGHTON,

Second Lieutenant Macon Mounted Guards.

Captain P. G. EVANS,

Kinston, N. C.

THE BLOOD BEGINS TO FLOW

AN ADDRESS UPON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION
AND UNVEILING OF THE REGIMENTAL MONUMENT FOR THE
26TH NORTH CAROLINA AT THE NEW BERN, NC BATTLEFIELD
SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2007

Jeff. H. Stepp

If, as we are taught, God was looking down upon his creation on March 14th, 1862 surely his attention must have been drawn here to this once tranquil landscape of eastern North Carolina - once a part of the United States of America, as it would be again, but it now was a part of the Confederate States of America. Surely the Almighty had heard both the oaths and the prayers offered up for days from the throats of thousands anticipating and preparing for the struggle to control the old colonial capitol of North Carolina. Perhaps to show his displeasure and sorrow, the weather had been most immoderate with heavy rains occurring over the prior 14 hours.

The rain had only increased the anxiety and suffering of the all too mortal men of both sides of this issue. The eleven thousand man Union force under the command of General Ambrose E. Burnside, which had disembarked from its naval transports 17 miles south at Slocum's Creek the day before, had slogged its way through the muddy and knee deep Carolina clay during its approach to the city. One Yankee wit wrote a play on familiar verse to de-

scribe the misery of the night before the battle:

"Now I lay me down to sleep
In mud that's fathoms deep;
If I'm not here when you wake,
Just hunt me up with an oyster rake."

The four thousand man Confederate force under General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch fared little better. Under orders to light no fires, lest their position be revealed to the enemy, they found little rest or solace as the US Navy's gunboats had steamed upriver and shelled the position of the Confederates during the evening and night of the 13th. While doing them little actual harm, the naval bombardment, nonetheless, must have proven nerve wracking.

Constituting nearly one fourth of Branch's defending force; the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops occupied the defensive works near here on the right of the Confederate line. Like their brother regiments, the 26th had come to the ultimate moment of truth for soldiers. With intense anticipation they awaited their first pitched battle. The gap between their expectations and

the actuality of war would now be tested and every man of them pondered about his ability to stand up to the impending trial. Spread out along a line redans and rifle pits extending about one and a quarter mile from just west of the railroad eastward to the Weathersby Road, Colonel Zebulon Baird Vance of the 26th North Carolina had been entrusted by Gen. Branch with the over-all command of the right wing of the defending force. The sector Vance was to be responsible for, however, had a serious flaw for in order to take advantage of more favorable terrain behind Bullen's Branch, the line to the right of the railroad was laid out 150 yards behind that situated on the left of it. This caused a dangerous gap calculated to be a tempting point of attack for any aggressive enemy force. The portion of the 26th North Carolina's line located closest to this gap was under the command of the regiment's 32 year old Major, Abner Bynum Carmichael, and was composed of Company A - The Jeff Davis Mountain Rifles from Ashe County, Company D - The Wake Guards and Company G - The Chatham Boys. Maj.



Carmichael, the former clerk of Court of Wilkes County, was a favorite among the officers and men of the regiment. In the days before the battle a young lady in New Bern had fashioned for him a small Confederate flag with the request that it be worn by him in battle.

The soldiers of both sides arose from the soggy ground the morning of the 14th to be enveloped in a foggy and what one described as "weird and mournful surrounding." The men were soon called to arms, took their positions, and peered intently into the fog for the approach of the enemy. The Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment, 20 year old Henry King Burgwyn, then addressed the men of the 26th thusly:

"Soldiers! The enemy is before you and you will soon be in combat. You have the reputation of being one of the best drilled regiments in the service. Now I wish you to prove yourselves one of the best fighting. Men, stand by me and I will by you."

Slightly after seven o'clock a party of mounted Federals was observed reconnoitering the Confederate lines. Lieutenant Woodbury Wheeler of Latham's North Carolina battery sighted his Parrott gun toward this force and at about 7:30 am leaned with backward pressure against the taut lanyard and with a deep boom the battle commenced in earnest.

Hearing the shot, Major Carmichael may have then affixed the small flag given him by his sweetheart to a short staff and placed it in his hat no doubt to further inspire his men and to keep faith with the young lady's request of him. Through the fog the men of the 26th began to make out the steady advance of the 21st Massachusetts Volunteers clad in their distinctive sky blue great coats. It soon became obvious that the Federals were aiming right toward the vulnerable gap on the left of the 26th North Carolina. Gen Branch, having

somewhat belatedly appreciated the weakness created in the center of his line, deployed Clark's Special Battalion NC Militia and a section of artillery at Wood's brickyard to cover the endangered area. The militia battalion had only been in service for several weeks and were perhaps the least trained and worst armed unit under his command. Worse yet, as the Yanks rapidly approached the two 24 pounder artillery pieces were not yet manned or emplaced by their crews.

Hearing the roar of battle farther to the left of his lines toward the river and now seeing the impending danger to his center, Branch called forth his only reserve, the 33rd Regiment North Carolina Troops under Burke County native, Clarke Mouton Avery. Before the 33rd could arrive the 21st Massachusetts charged in amongst the artillery at the brick kiln and captured the guns. The Bay Staters now found themselves under fire from two directions as the left wing of the 26th under Maj. Carmichael opened on them from their left front and the militia battalion and approaching 33rd North Carolina commenced firing on them directly from their front. Five companies of the 33rd NC took position in the works to support the left of the 26th NC which was by then the location of the hottest fighting. Embolden by their capture of the artillery, the 21st Massachusetts charged the militia battalion. The green militia proved no match for the victors of Roanoke Island and they hastily retreated. To their credit, however, their Colonel rallied the militiamen and was about to order a counterattack with bayonets when at this critical juncture the action on the left of the Confederate line, which had thus far gone well with the repulse of several Union attacks, rapidly, deteriorated. The sudden rupture of the center of the Confederate line southeast of here exposed the flank of the 35th Regiment North Carolina Troops next in line east of the rail-

road. Ordered to retreat a short distance and reform, the 35th NC proved too shaken to do so and streamed through the reforming militia battalion carrying them away as well in their panic. In the meantime a portion of the 7th North Carolina State Troops and the remainder of the 33rd North Carolina supported by fire from the 26th finally repulsed the Yanks from the point of their foothold at the Confederate center. That success proves all too brief as soon the Federals renewed their efforts with the additional weight of the 4th Rhode Island and 8th Connecticut regiments. Near 11:00 am and observing this renewed advance by the reinforced enemy, Major Carmichael was consulting with Colonel Avery about how to best meet the latest threat. While so engaged in this conversation a bullet entered the mouth of Carmichael and passed out the back of his neck. His death must have been instantaneous. The men of the 26th were stunned. Captain Oscar Rand of Company D, who was near the Major when he was struck down, wrote afterwards, "A feeling of bitter grief ran through the trenches as he fell, for there was not a man in the 26th Regiment who was not devotedly attached to him." Rand further speculated that the flag in Carmichael's hat may have attracted the fatal shot. The combination of this advance in conjunction with that of Union units closer to the river proved too much for the thinned Confederate line to hold back now. Once more the center of the Confederate line was broken and the left of the line being attacked by land and bombarded by US Navy vessels from the river completely gives way.

For four long hours New Bern's Confederate defenders had gamely resisted almost three times their own numbers. General Branch, having no further reserves to bolster his breaking center and left ordered a retreat across the river into New Bern. He sends two couriers to the 26th and 33rd NC to in-

form them to fall back but neither of the couriers reaches the two regiments which still maintain their positions unaware of the collapse of the line to their left. The most obstinate fighting of the day has occurred in the sector held by the 33rd and the left wing of the 26th and they continued to fight on gradually grudgingly giving ground before being eventually cut off from the remainder of the Confederate forces who have fallen back into New Bern burning the river bridge behind them. Finally, the 26th North Carolina, the last to give up the fight, fell back eastward toward Bryce's Creek a body of water 75 yards wide and unfordable. With no boats at hand to ferry the men across, the situation seemed bleak indeed. During a tense and what must have seemed lengthy search for boats to get them across, the efforts of Colonel Vance and others produced 3 or 4 small vessels. Having maintained strict discipline during the wait, Lieutenant Colonel Burgwyn's calm demeanor while overseeing the embarkation of the survivors brought order to the men. Burgwyn was among the last to cross, when by virtue of his rank he could have been among the first to reach the safety of the far shore. For this act the men of the 26th would forever remember him and his selflessness on their behalf.

Of the 578 total casualties the Confederate forces suffered at New Bern, 381 or 67% of that total were sustained by the 26th and 33rd Regiments. After a 36 hour forced march to Kinston, NC the 26th North Carolina was reunited with the remnants of General Branch's command. They arrived there with only that which was on their backs as their camp equipage; spare clothing and many arms had been captured in their camps by the enemy when the regiment had been cut off from the balance of the Confederate forces.

While at Kinston, the officers and men of the 26th could rest and reflect upon their performance in their

first battle. Their commanding general, Lawrence O'Bryan Branch would write of them, "No troops could have behaved better than the 26th. . ." Colonel Vance, who would soon resign to become North Carolina's governor wrote feelingly of the death of Major Carmichael and concluded his after action report by stating, "I am scarcely willing to mention particular instances of gallantry where all did their duty. They were the last of our troops to leave the field." Even their enemies paid grudging praise as Lieutenant Colonel Williams S. Clark, commander of the 21st Massachusetts, would comment in his report, "General Reno, being now obliged to devote his attention to the enemy in front of his brigade, ordered the left wing of the 21st to continue firing upon the rebel infantry in the first two redans, with whom they were already engaged. Those rebels consisted of the 33rd and the 26th North Carolina regiments, and were the best armed and fought the most gallantly of any of the enemy's forces. They kept up an incessant fire for three hours until their ammunition was exhausted and the remainder of the enemy forces had retreated."

The 26th received great praise in the state's newspapers for its conduct at New Bern and the regiment would go on to win many future honors and sustain far more grievous losses. In fact, at the conclusion of their baptism of fire here and the grueling ordeal of their retreat to Kinston they could not possibly imagine the future sacrifices they would be called upon to endure. Less than a year and a half later on a distant field at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania the 26th North Carolina would lose, July 1st through 4th, 1863, through killed, wounded and captured 743 officers and men out of the slightly less than 900 men it had took into action. That appalling event amounted to the highest numerical loss of any regiment, North or South, during the entire course of the

war. Less could they imagine the ultimate defeat of their cause, but even in defeat the old 26th remained true and when General Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox in April of 1865 the regiment surrendered the second largest number of muskets of any North Carolina unit then with the army.

But for the 26th North Carolina those horrors would lay in the future, for it was here where the blood begins to flow. Today, we pay tribute to those brave and stalwart men who called the 26th North Carolina their regiment and reaffirm to ourselves and to the citizens of North Carolina that preserving their legacy of duty, honor and love of home and country are not mere hollow words but concepts yet worthy for us to hold dear and emulate.

North Carolina would raise 84 regiments and a number of independent battalions and companies, about 120,000 men, all told, for the Southern cause and lost nearly 40,000 of her sons in that struggle. The story of any one of those Tarheel units would be a privilege to relate for all, soldier and citizen alike, gave and suffered so much. Although their memory has at times been betrayed by a world of intolerance, misunderstanding and political correctness - today, as you can see by those around you, faithful hearts remain to defend a record that death and time have not conquered.

Today, many of our friends and family also struggle upon fields of strife far from home in the Mid East. May God protect and comfort them and may He assure there ever will be those unashamed to hold dear that remarkable generation of Southerners we memorialize today.

WHERE THE STRONG GROW GREAT

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE JAMES H. EDWARDS
NEW BERN NC MARCH 10, 2007

The Honorable James H. Edwards

Ladies & Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests:

Allow me to thank you for inviting me to take part in these proceedings today and to express my personal appreciation to you for what you have accomplished here. For all my 80 years I have had the privilege of calling North Carolina my home. In my youth men who had worn the gray still walked the earth and told fascinating tales to little boys such as myself. Stories of a number of my own ancestors who served in the war have been passed down, particularly one whom I will especially remember today, Louis J.B. Edwards of nearby Pitt County who served as the 2nd Corporal in Company I of the 44th North Carolina Regiment and who gave his own life in defense of North Carolina in Beaufort County at the Battle of Tranter's Creek seven weeks after the fight here at New Bern.

Given our current times where it seems all more common to tear down heroes, today we remember them and have brought forth a visible tribute to those virtues of courage, sacrifice and suffering which rightly entitle them to be worthy of our everlasting remembrance.

Those men, of course, to whom we pay tribute today, would have shrunk

from the praise we offer them for they saw their actions to be merely that which was expected of them and nothing more. In this, the first battle of the war for many, most certainly worried whether they could stand the inevitable fear and strain found within all men before going into battle. Not wishing to fail their fellow comrades in the ranks, many of whom were friends, and family from back home; most would indeed meet that test and not only did their duty here but also again and again on far more bloody and distant fields that lay in the future as yet unknown to them before this terrible war would come to a close. But then, these were strong men, supported at home by equally courageous and strong womenfolk who had sent them away with smiles mixed with tears and a burning hope for their return.

Their native State, North Carolina, had nurtured these men and women in a tradition of independence and sacrifice from the days of the revolution from England to that present time and they did not suffer for examples to follow. For the Old North State had proven a breeding ground for heroes great and small and it was this, their home and native soil, for which they were to fight for today and die if need be.

Both at governmental and social occasions while I served in the leg-

islature, we would often offer up North Carolina's Official Toast, the first stanza of which speaks to these very feelings toward our beloved home and in conclusion I wish to extend that toast to those of you here today who have worked so long and hard to bring forth this tribute to the 26th North Carolina as well I offer it to those who once stood here on that brisk March morning in 1862 with their thoughts of loved ones at home and duty faithfully to be performed:

"Here's to the land of the long leaf pine
The summer land where the sun doth shine
Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great
Here's to Down Home, The Old North State!"

These young men of the 26th Regiment who stood and fell here did so at the call of North Carolina and to her they pledged their fortunes and lives. May God continue to bless their memories and the noble works of those, such as yourselves, who keep their legacy safe. Let us all renew here again our willingness to answer North Carolina's call in time of need.

Thank You . . .



26TH
NORTH CAROLINA
R E G I M E N T

THE BATTLE OF NEW BERN

MARCH 14, 1862

DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE 26TH NC MONUMENT
NEW BERN BATTLEFIELD
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2007
11:00 A.M.

Musical Prelude	26th N.C. Field Music & 26th N.C. Regt. Band
Welcome	Colonel L.W. Smith, Jr., 26th N.C.
Invocation	Chaplain Jason Constantine, 26th N.C.
<i>God Save the South</i>	26th N.C. Regt. Band
<i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i>	26th N.C. Regt. Band
Posting of the Colors	26th N.C. Color Guard
Introduction of Special Guests	Colonel L.W. Smith, Jr.
Chairman's Remarks	Pvt. W. Mark Mangum, 26th N.C. Chairman of the Battlefield Committee New Bern Historical Society
President's Message	Mr. Ken McCotter President, Board of Directors New Bern Historical Society
<i>Guilderoy (Daniel Steele, ca. 1815)</i>	26th NC Field Music
Remarks	Mrs. Alice Underhill N.C. State Representative
<i>26th Regiment Quick Step*</i>	26th N.C. Regt. Band
Introduction of Speaker	Colonel L.W. Smith, Jr.

ÒThe Blood Begins to FlowÓ

Brig. Gen. J.H. Stepp
Founder 26th N.C.
Commander, Carolina Legion

Roll Call of Honor
26th N.C. Casualties at New Bern

Colonel L.W. Smith, Jr., 26th N.C.

The Old North State*
Unveiling of the 26th N.C.
Monument

26th N.C. Field Music
Cpl. Martin DÕAutrechy, 26th N.C.
Sgt. Billy Holloman, 26th N.C.
Pvt. W. Mark Mangum, 26th N.C.

A Mighty Fortress is our God*
Laying of Wreaths

26th N.C. Regt. Band
SoldierÕs Benevolent Society,
26th N.C.
Cpl. Al Leonard, 26th N.C.
(Descendant of Major Abner B. Carmichael)

Introduction of Special Guest

Brig. Gen. J.H. Stepp

ÒWhere the Strong Grow GreatÓ

Mr. James Edwards
Former N.C. State Senator

Prince Eugene's March (Anonymous, ca. 1740)

26th NC Field Music

Firing Salute

26th N.C. & 1st N.C. Artillery

Taps*

26th N.C. Bugler Eric Marshall

Dixie & Bonnie Blue Flag*

26th N.C. Regt. Band

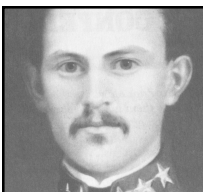
Benediction

Chaplain Jason Constantine, 26th N.C.

Musical Postlude

26th N.C. Field Music &
26th N.C. Regt. Band

* Music from the Original 26th N.C. Regimental Band Books

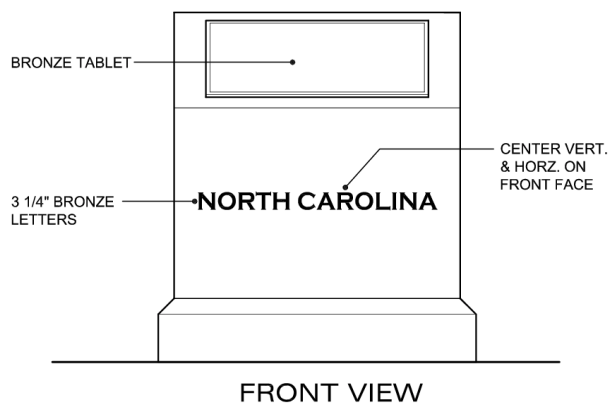
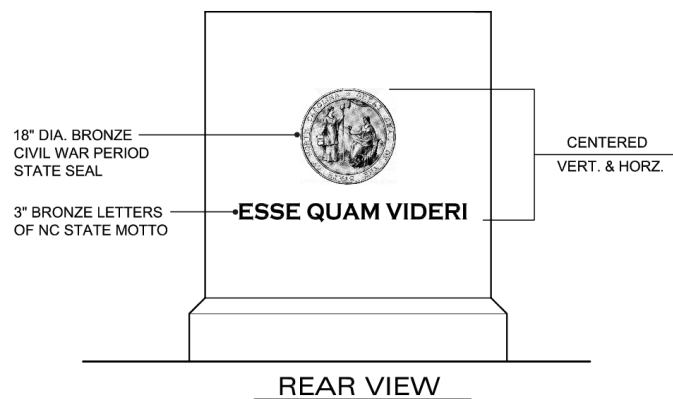
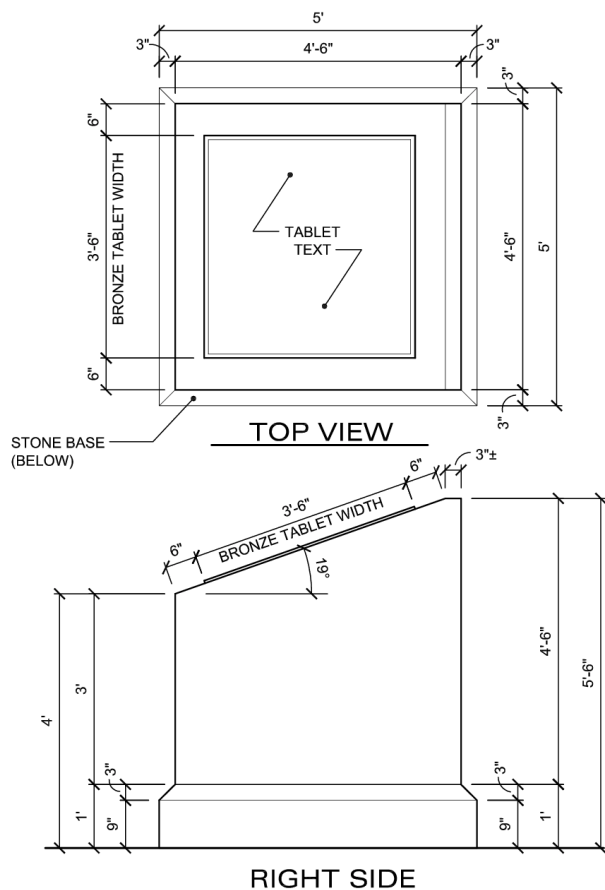


"SOLDIERS, THE ENEMY IS BEFORE YOU...STAND BY
ME AND I WILL BY YOU

FROM DREAM TO REALITY

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

DESIGN



SITE PREPARATION



UNVEILING CEREMONY



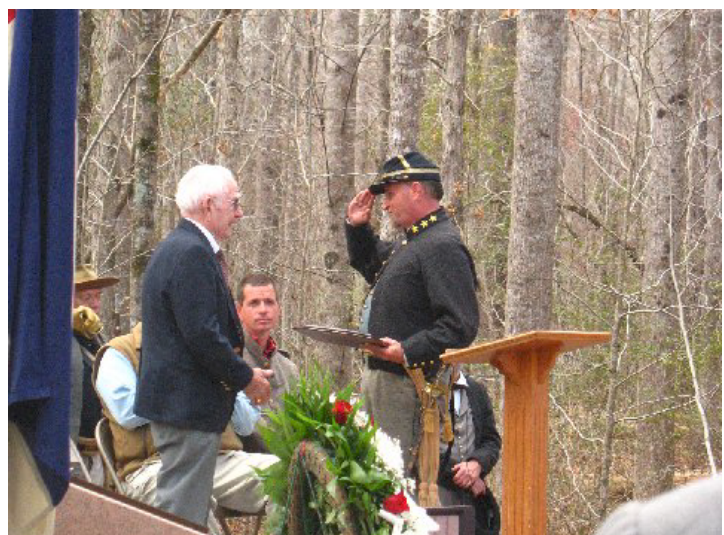
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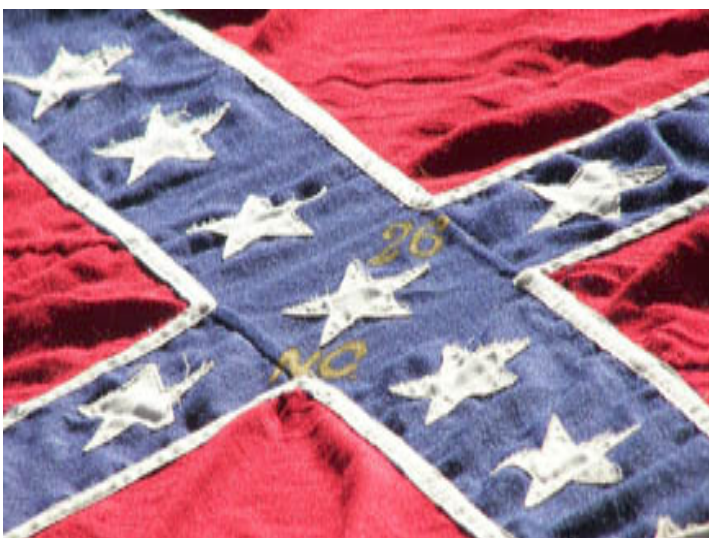
UNVEILING CEREMONY



UNVEILING CEREMONY



UNVEILING CEREMONY





EARTHWORKS MANAGEMENT ZONE

In the area in and around the existing earthworks, selective clearing, grubbing, soil stabilization, and seeding will be performed per the standards set forth by the National Park Service. This will assure that no further damage due to tree blow downs or erosion will occur and the earthworks can be preserved in their current state.

Evergreen Buffer from Adjacent Development

Living History "Demonstration Area" (Reconstructed Redan)

"Snake Rail" Entry Fence
Entry Gate (One Way Loop)

Evergreen Buffer from Railroad
Entry Sign & Flagpoles
Exit Gate

Visitor Pavilion and Maintenance Storage
Picnic Area

Asphalt Parking Lot
- 2 Bus/ RV Spaces
- 31 Car Spaces

Surrender of Col. Avery to 25th MA Interpretive Marker

Memorial Grove

4th RI Flanking Assault Interpretive Markers

33rd NC Monument
5th RI Flanking Assault Interpretive Marker

33rd NC Rifle Pits and Interpretive Markers

"Fight for the Gap" Interpretive Marker

26th NC Monument
Major Carmichael Marker

Bullen Branch Interpretive Markers/ Overlook
(Environmental/How the Natural Features were utilized for the layout of the Defenses)

Harding's Battery "Beaufort Plowboys" Interpretive

9th NJ Monument and Interpretive Marker

Federal Left Wing Monument (Brig. Gen. Reno) and 2nd Brigade Interpretive Marker

51st NY Monument and Interpretive Marker
(Medal of Honor Recipient PVT O.E. Cavanaugh)

Possible Future Greenway Easement Connector to 51st NY Monument/ Interpretive Marker and Possible Future Weathered Road Site (Lt. Col. Burgess):
Lt. Williams Section, Burns' Battery
Capt. McKee's Ind. Inf. Co.
Co. A and K, 19th NC (Cas)

Project Credits:
2 - Poughkeepsie, NY

NEW BERNE BATTLEFIELD PARK

New Bern, North Carolina
January 20, 2007



OWNER:
New Bern Historical Society
517 Pollock Street
New Bern, NC 28550
TEL 252 638 5539
FAX 252 638 5173

ARCHITECT:



CIVIL ENGINEER/ SURVEYOR:



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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:



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Beaufort, NC 28520
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FAX 919 677 2000

BULLEN BRANCH SITE Phase I Masterplan



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Twenty-Sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops

Zebulon Baird Vance

Colonel

Abner Bynum Carmichael
Major

Henry King Burgwyn Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel

“Soldiers!! The enemy is before you and you will soon be in combat. You have the reputation of being one of the best drilled regiments in the service. Now I wish you to prove yourselves one of the best fighting. Men, stand by me and I will by you.”

Lt. Col. Henry Burgwyn, Jr.
To the men of the 26th NC on the eve of the battle

On March 14, 1862, a combined Union army and naval expedition, consisting of 11,000 troops, under the command of Brig. Gen. Ambrose Burnside commenced an assault upon Brig. Gen. Lawrence OOB. BranchOs 4,000 man Confederate defenses at New Bern.

The 26th NC was assigned to defend the right section of the Confederate line following Bullen Branch from the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad west to BryceOs Creek. The right wing of the 26th NCOs line covered Weathersby Road and was manned by companies B, E and K of the 26th NC and several attachments all under Lt. Col. BurgwynOs command. The center of the 26th NCOs line, companies C, F, H and I, were under the direct command of Colonel Vance.

The left wing of the 26th NC was defended by companies A, D and G, and was under the command of Major Carmichael. From this line, east to WoodOs Brickyard, occurred the most intense fighting of the day. For over three hours the 26th NC, with assistance from the 7th NC and 33rd NC, repelled the enemyOs assaults along the railroad and Bullen Branch. A final Union assault on the brickyard succeeded in breaking the Confederate center.

With this, the Confederate forces, holding the line from the brickyard to Fort Thompson, retreated to New Bern destroying the bridges over the Trent River. The 26th NC, cut off and nearly surrounded, was the last Confederate unit to leave the field. This engagement was the baptism of fire for the 26th NC, which at Gettysburg would sustain the largest numerical losses of any unit, North or South, during the entire course of the war.

26th NC Soldiers Who Died at New Bern
Major Abner B. Carmichael – Captain William H. Martin, Co. H
Corporal Michael M. Woode, Co. A
Private M. Kevley, Co. C – Private Thomas M. McRory, Co. B
Private Joseph Miller, Co. A – Private Solomon Mullis, Co. B
Private Jackson W. Pope, Co. D – Private Hugh M. Ray, Co. H
Private William Taylor, Co. A – Private Lewis B. Tysor, Co. H

In addition to the 11 members who died at New Bern, the 26th NC also lost: 1 man mortally wounded, 9 men wounded, 2 men wounded & captured and 68 men captured for a total of 91 casualties.

Under the leadership of Colonel Zebulon Baird Vance, these North Carolinians made the ultimate sacrifice while defending their native soil. May they always be remembered.

**Erected by the Society for the Historical Preservation of the
Twenty-Sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops
March 10, 2007**