



COMPANY FRONT

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

ISSUE 2, 2009

SPECIAL ISSUE

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

WWW.26NC.ORG



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

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NC Shell Jacket

Image courtesy of the Time Life's Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy

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Abstract of 'Articles' received from Officers in Camp

MOORE IND



138 ²³ / ₅₂	3570
123 ¹² / ₅₂	
46	1262
115 ²² / ₅₂	3
108	

10	"	25	"	"
26	"	26	"	"
195	"	27	"	"

EPENDENTS

COMPANY H, 26TH REGIMENT NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS A REVIEW OF ARMS AND EQUIPMENTS

Philip Hatfield, Ph.D.

Member, Company of Military Historians

The Moore Independents served with the 26th North Carolina Troops in early war eastern North Carolina, and in at least 25 pitched battles, including the Seven Days Campaign, Gettysburg, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, Petersburg and Appomattox. This paper is not intended as an exhaustive history of Company H of that infantry regiment, but is rather a detailed analysis of original records of the North Carolina Quartermaster General's Department, muster rolls, and original source documents. Excerpts from a series of original letters by Private John A. Jackson of Moore County, who enlisted on 3 June 1861, are included as contextual data. By reviewing statistical as well as qualitative evidence in Jackson's letters, one gets an unusual but clear perspective of the individual soldier's transition from volunteer to veteran, enduring frequent clothing deficiencies. Ironically only rarely was there a serious lack of sustenance in spite of popular myth to the contrary.



READY TO NORT

DEFEND H CAROLINA

Philip Hatfield, Ph.D.
Member, Company of Military Historians

1861

“The Moore Independents” (hereafter “Independents”) was the name of a volunteer infantry company organized on 13 May 1861, in the town of Carthage, Moore County, N.C. The company had been recruiting since April and encamped at the county courthouse, which the officers designated as their headquarters. The Independents were the first volunteer company to organize in Moore County and to offer their services to the Governor. 109 enlisted men and six officers were mustered into state service for twelve months on 3 June 1861. The officers then promptly notified the state Adjutant General that the Independents “stood ready to defend NC.” In accordance with the militia tradition, the men of the company elected their officers: 43 year old William P. Martin Captain, 21 year old Clement Dowd as 1st Lt, 27 year old James. D. McIver as 2nd Lt, and 35 year old Robert Goldston as 2nd Lt.¹

Demographics of the Moore Independents

The 26th N.C. muster rolls in 1862 included a summary of men who enlisted in 1861. These data included the ages of 91 out of 103 men who were mustered in with the Independents. The following table shows age, frequency, and percent (from top to bottom, respectively) of the men for whom this information is available:

16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	31	32	35	36	38	39	40	44	50
2	1	12	3	11	12	9	2	2	7	9	2	1	2	5	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
.02	.01	13	.03	10	11	8	.02	.02	6	8	.02	.01	.02	3	.03	.02	.01	.02	.02	.01	.01	.01

quency, and percent (from top to bottom, respectively) of the men for whom this information is available:

Age range was 16 to 50, with an average age of 24 years, 4 months. The modal or most frequently occurring age range was 18 to 21 years. Previous occupations reported were farmer, laborer, student, mechanic, blacksmith, and one physician. The company also mustered in four officers on 3 June 1861, ages 43, 28, 27, and 35, with an average age of 33 years, two months.²

Early Uniforms

The company officers hired a local tailor to cut the unit’s first uniforms, paying for them out of their own pockets, although they were not ready until later in June. The Independents also received large red, white and blue badges made by local ladies to designate the men as patriotic volunteers. It is unknown how these uniforms



looked in the absence of photographs, anecdotal evidence or surviving originals. It is possible that their privately made garments approximated the newly published state regulations, but they may also have incorporated elements of the varied antebellum era state militia uniforms.

More commonly, early volunteers such as Capt. Zebulon Vance's original volunteer company, the "Rough and Ready Guards" of Buncombe County, (later Co. E, 14th N.C.T after Vance was elected Colonel of the 26th N.C.T.), wore "hunting shirts" or "fatigue jackets." Vance paid over 20 private tailors to make 90 "pr. trousers, hats, shoes, knives, oil cloth, & blankets" and also paid for more "cloth for balance of hunting shirts and tent cloth" as well as "One Tent, Complete, Raleigh, & Making Tent at Salisbury." He was reimbursed by A.Q.M. Captain Myers on 4 May 1861.³

N.C. Adjutant General John H. Hoke issued General Order No.1 on 27 May 1861 establishing the regulation state uniform. This was to be a six-button sack coat, with matching trousers with a half-inch black stripe on the seam. Note that the Confederate government was using a commutation system for clothing at this time, which meant that volunteer companies would buy their own uniforms and be reimbursed by the government. In 1861 N.C. textile mills such as the Rock Island Manufacturing Company of Charlotte were producing large quantities of grey wool cassimere cloth which numerous volunteer companies bought for their early state uniforms.

A letter published on 1 May 1861 in a Raleigh newspaper, the North Carolina Standard even argued for Tar Heel volunteer companies to buy only locally made cassimere for uniforms because it was patriotic, and also noted that the color "grey is the most difficult to hit" on the battlefield. However, it was not unusual to find volunteers without their full state uniforms as late as August or September 1861.⁴

In spite of pressure to use only local sources, in April 1861 Marshall Parks, a state purchasing agent, was ordered to Norfolk, Virginia to buy caps, cloth for uniforms, and to arrange a contract to have 10 silk state flags made for the first ten regiments of volunteers. Parks initially purchased thousands of caps in April and May, mainly of a U.S. Army forage cap pattern.

Some were made of dark blue wool by a W.H.C. Lovitt in Norfolk. Colonel Lawrence O'B. Branch, North Carolina Quartermaster-General, was not pleased with the variance among the early caps, and wanted the state troops to show a more uniform appearance. He wrote to Parks on 1 June 1861: "If gray can be had, please require the maker to furnish only that color. I will not object to different shades of gray, provided they are packed in different cases so that my assts. can put an entire regiment in the same shade."⁵

The Raleigh Clothing Depot was not established until 20 September when the Quartermaster Department was re-organized. Maj. John Devereux was the new Commander, and he was given several Assistant Quarter Masters including Captain W.W. Peirce. Peirce was initially assigned the duty of overseeing the purchase and manufacture of shoes, although he routinely handled ordnance and clothing distribution to dozens of companies, including Co. H, as revealed by numerous supply requisition forms for the unit bearing his signature.⁶

Weapons & Accoutrements

Ordnance receipts for the 26th N.C. in 1861 show that the ten companies received either "guns" or "muskets," but do not give an exact date of issuance or clarify the specific pattern associated with these terms. Note that the Independents did not become "Co. H" until mid-July, when the 26th N.C.T. was officially organized. It was "Capt. Martin of Co. H" who received the 109 Muskets, and on 27 August, when the 26th N.C.T. boarded trains for New Bern, the entire regiment was fully supplied.

This suggests that the muskets were issued sometime between mid-July and 27 August. Note also that the terms "guns" and "muskets" in ordnance records presumably reflect both flintlocks "Altered to Percussion" and .69 caliber M1842 U.S. percussion muskets. Companies receiving an issue of rifles were likewise carefully differentiated. (See Appendix A for a table of weapons issued to the 26th N.C. in 1861.) The receipt book specifies that Co. H received "muskets," herein taken to mean the M1842 pattern. The following table summarizes Ordnance items issued to Co. H between 3 June and 27 August 1861:⁷

Item	Co H
Muskets	109
Bayonets	109
Shoulder Straps	-
Belts	110
Cartridge Boxes	110
Cap Boxes	110
Bayonet Scabbards	-
Cartridges	1,000
Gun Slings	-
Caps	-
Screw Drivers	-
Spring Vices	7
Ball Screws	11

Belts & Buckles	-
Wipers	110
Cartridges with Caps	-
Cones	100

The Independents were ordered to camp at Garysburg in Northhampton County on 18 July, stayed two weeks, and then transferred to Camp Carolina near Crabtree Creek, three miles outside of Raleigh on 28 July. During that month, the company was officially designated as Co. H of the newly formed 26th North Carolina Troops under the command of Colonel Zebulon B. Vance. The unit remained at Camp Carolina until 27 August when they departed for New Bern and coastal North Carolina. By 26 October the 26th N.C.T. was stationed on Bogue Island near the seaport towns of Morehead City and Beaufort where they soon grappled with challenges faced by inexperienced soldiers everywhere: boredom, slow mail, false alarms and watching sister units fail their duties.

Private John Jackson was 20 years old when he enlisted in Co. H. He wrote to his brother Richard on 5 September 1861 from Morehead City indicating that the men of Co. H were busy exploring their new coastal environment, and eating well. Jackson wrote:

"I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you now where I am. I am at Morehead City on the sound in site of fort macon and here the sand nearly nee deep I can see the ships sailing on the ocean and there is an English ship landed at this place now loaded with salt. There is another ship here I do not now what it is tho I was at it yesterday and saw The _____ with cosin and asked one of the sailols [sailors] where it was bound and he said nobody but the captain new that so I said no more.

We can get as many fish here as we want fresh or pickeld I can go round the edge of the sound and see the fish sport and our boys go and fish and some times they have right good luck and they can go in the sound and get clams and oysters as many as they want and take morning and evening bathes it wont do to go in any-time in the heat of the day and the morning is the hot part of the day.

The most of our company is tolerable good health at present one two sick that is heare we left our sick at camp carolina something about 20 or 25 but none considered dangerous I heard from them this morning Martin McKinon he staid with them night before last and said they are doing very well. I understand from Lieutenant Dowd since I commenced writing that it is certain that we will be stationed on an osland some 3 or 4 miles from fort macon I do not now what direction they say it will a pleasant place

So I must come to a close by saying I am well at present hoping those few lines may come to hand and find you all the same and mother and her family so no more"8

Jackson next wrote to his brother Richard on 11 September from Bougue Island where the regiment was encamped near Fort Macon which was (and still is) situated on Bogue Point, guarding Old Topsail (Beaufort) Inlet, the approach to the port of Beaufort:

"I received yours this morning and was more than glad to heare from you and family and specially that of the ____ was not by their trip to the springs I hope they will continue to improve until they arrive at perfect good health. I am in good health at present with the exception of the tooth ache but not very bad nothing serious I am gaining flesh I think I have gained several pounds I hope these few lines will reach you and find you all in good health I was very sorry to heare that Tom was sick I hope he is well as this reaches you or better at any rate I am more than glad to heare that mothers health is improved and Sam been I want to see him some time looking well and harty with rosy cheeks tell all the children howdy for me one more time that I want to see

them very bad and you all

I have no newse of much importance to rite the ware excitement is at a high pitch we came to the bougue Island Saturday and that night we lay on our arms and Sunday morning we struck our tents and was in the hot sun all that day and last night we lay we lay with our arms again the sentinal gave the alarm last night about eleven o'clock and for a ____ [sic] time there was right smart confusion and some scared Boys but not like some of the companies the Wake gards it is reported that the hole company run but I hope it is a joke tho it is reported in camp this morning but Lieut Dowd said that some of the gard run he was officer of the and he sent to our company for gard in the place of those that disserted tho they returned in about two ours and then our gard was relieved so we did not have any fun after al lthere was a vessel came nearly ashore but she left this morning some say it was a blockading vessel but I don't now all the harm she done as yet that I ____ now of was to make us loose some sleep and frighten some

I expect we wil have the funn some of those days or nights one if it can be cald fun there is about 2700 troops on this little spot of land including the fort this island is about forty miles long tho very narrow I think not more than a half mile in the widest place that I have seen and the south end of the island is growed up in a thicket of little Bushes and it is thick you may depend some of them neare the beach is like those evergreens about Fayetteville that they top and people say that there is deer and turkeys and rattle snakes and wild hogs in that part the people down heare call it a chaprel

There was a man mashed to death a a getting on the Boat to come to this place and another hurt very bad so no more at present. right often for I love to get letters from you or any body else Tel Haywood Caddell that I would like to get a letter from him and give him my respect I must close"9

On 22 October, Jackson, still at Bogue Island, gives a very humorous glimpse of his personality. Like most young privates, Jackson was quickly learning to dislike the regimen of daily garrison duties such as standing picket or guard duty, and would conjure up any reason to avoid it. At first glance, his concern for those sick in camp appears to reflect a strong altruistic trait in his personality. But alas, he quickly exhibits another common feature of the soldier, pragmatic self-preservation. Jackson wanted the sick to return soon as it significantly reduced the amount of time he would spend on guard duty! There was apparently a great swarm of insects harassing the company as well. Finally, Jackson also gives us a hint of cynicism befalling soldiers who spend days awaiting attack only to experience repeated false alarms as he wrote to Richard again:

"I received your letter yesterday and it was a pleasure to me to heare from you ____ and family once more and that you was all well and the neighbors generally I am well at present and hope these few lines will come safe to hand and find you all enjoying the same blessing. the company is in tolerable good health at present only two hospital cases Neill Tompson and N.L. Fry are the ones I do not now ____ what is the matter with them the last time I heard from them they were better. W.C. Morris is sick in his tent and has been a weak and better with something like the pleuricy John L. Caddell is also sick with something like the Diarrhea and has ____ been some two or three weeks it don't seem to me like he is going to get well ____ soon tho I hope will the rest that has been sick has to get drilling the most of our boys has come to the company and is ready for servis there is som few out yet tho I hope they will soon be in for the more that is heare the better off it is for those ____ that is heare on the account of standing gard sometimes we have to stand nearly twice a weak and when they are all heare once a weak We have not been attacked yet by the yankeys but the musquitoes have made a bold stand and was about whip us until this cool spell set in it has been raining heare some three or four days I seames like running us out of the island every thing is so wet but hope it will fare off now and we will have some fare weather

Richard we have just received orders to cook three Days retions Capt Martin went to the other camp to day (that is where the other part of the regiment is in camp about 2 miles neare the fort) and came back this evening with the orders and said that the yankeys were landing on an Island cald shackelfords banks some 2

miles East of the fort in large numbers and they expected an attack from them right of but I think it doubtful myself they have fooled us so much by telling us that the yankeys was landing at such a place and such other places that we have become unbelievers tho we may get fooled this time for what I know

Whitlock and Hugh Ray was out on the beach to day and said they thought they saw boats running from the ships to the land but they could not tel much about it for it was 4 or 5 miles off and they could not tel more that distance with the naked eye so we cant tel what a day will bring forth the nex time you heare from us we may have had a hard battle or may be prisoners bound for New York or some other port I dont feel much uneasy about being taken prisoner but god only knows what will take place you wanted to know if you could get a marsh poney for samey Dun I cannot tel you Just now but I think the chance will be tolerable good next spring from what I can heare eny sort that you want young or old from \$25 – upward tel samy and Toady and Keate howdy for me I must come to close you must excuse the bad writing and mistakes

Mr K. B Cox sends his respects and sais he will right to you sometime” 10

Shortly afterward, in early December, the 26th N.C. was ordered to leave Bogue Island, moved to the New Bern area, and was assigned to General Lawrence O’B. Branch’s command. There were many tents in use by the 26th N.C. at this encampment, which was designated “Camp Branch.” Although initially their general health seemed to improve, by February there was an outbreak of mumps throughout the brigade.

Regulation State Uniforms Issued

As noted earlier, the Independents had a local tailor make up their first uniforms in May, and they apparently wore those and a combination of various civilian items until their state uniforms arrived. The earliest record of regulation state uniforms being issued to Co. H is found on a Form 40 dated 30 December 1861. The entire request was not filled although Capt. Martin indicated receipt of the following items at Camp Branch, near the Neuse River below New Bern:¹¹

Item:	OverCoats	Uniform Coats	Pantaloons	Shoes	Hats or Caps	Shirts	Drawers
No. Re-requested	59	105	105	105	105	105	105
No. Received	0	0	105	34	40	105	105

Of particular interest is the receipt of “Over-Coats.” North Carolina issued 48,093 locally made overcoats between 1 October 1861 and 30 September 1862, and bought 1,012 ready made English cloth overcoats in 1863. By 1865 the state had issued another 13,000 overcoats made of heavy cotton cloth. Although obviously not a routine item later in the war, these data reflect that the Tar Heels were issued more outerwear than previously thought.¹²



Without Sleep AND ALMOST NAKED


Philip Hatfield, Ph.D.

Member, Company of Military Historians

1862

The 105 “Uniform Coats” (N.C. regulation sack coats) and 59 overcoats requested in December were delivered to Co. H on 18 January 1862, on which date Captain Martin signed another Form 40. Note also that North Carolina again altered the regulation state uniform during the winter of 1862. The regulation sack coat was modified by removing the skirt, and turning it into a six-button shell jacket. The black shoulder trim was retained when N.C. Quartermaster-General, Maj. John Deveraux, wrote to a uniform contractor on 10 February 1862 intro-

ducing a request for new uniform jackets in an effort to save both money and cloth: “I will be obliged...if you will cut no more coats, but cut all jackets, a sample will be sent you in a few days.”¹³ Captain Martin signed for receipt of the following:¹⁴



Item:	Over Coats	Uniform Coats	Shoes	Hats or Caps
No. Req	59	105	71	65
No. Rec	52	99	71	65

Note the receipt of “Hats or Caps” and “Shoes.” Co. H had roughly 100 men available for duty at this time, and 71 pair were requested. This strongly suggests that Co. H was well shod and clothed for the winter of 1861. As further evidence of this, the Form 40 reveals Co. H had an “excess” of “6 Overcoats, 6 coats, and 15 Hats or Caps” that Capt. Martin returned to the Quartermaster. Such excess would not last long.

Private Jackson next wrote to his family on 24 January 1862, just a few days after Co. H received their new state uniforms, but oddly makes no comment about them. He does show increasing dissatisfaction and cynicism toward his officers, who were evidently practicing favoritism by granting some furlough requests while denying others:

“Dear Brother and Sister and Family

I received your letter this morning and you may be shure that it done me a greateal of good to heare from you and family and that you wer well and the neighbors also I am well at present and the rest of the company is on very good health some few have been getting over the mumps they are what I call in good health I hope those few lines will come safe to hand and find you and family all the same

I have no newse of interest to rite you only we have been expecting to be caried to Newbern it was reported that there was thirty or forty vesels in side the bar at hateras and bound for newbern and the Portroyal fleet off the bar the people down heare are very uneasy and its reported that a great many have left newbern and gone west every time they expect this place or newbern attacked they leave and when the excitement is over they come back and wait for the next

it is reported that there was a man taken up at more head that was trying to make his way to the lincoln fleet and that Capt Pender (was capt of a artiler company and resigned sometime since) was also tring to do the same they stoped the Vesel and would not let her leave the port her capt is suspected of something not right I don't know what they will do with him and if he is gilty it dont make much difference so they dont let him go with out he gives some good evidence of his loyalty to the confederacy or wont try to convey off traitors and rascals

I must come to a close as I have nothing to rite that is worth while I was very glad to heare from Ch_r_s Martin and that he was well again I was uneasy a while about him I think we could have had some fun but I don't expect to come home til my time is out but if I am lucky then we will see about whether we go home or not they wont grant furlows to any person now and still they want us to Volunteer for 2 years more but I don't think they will get many out of this regiment until they second releif comes on especialy as long as they are so clever to grant furlows there is several of us that has never been home yet and some has went two or three times and when we ask anything about going home we get no satisfaction or some short answer so I don't expect to come home til I get free I should like to know Edward grahams Post Office so that I could rite him and heare the Va nuse so no more at present you must excuse bad writing and mistakes

Richard do you think that Tom is going to make any money at his sill or not I feare it is a bad operation” 15

On 14 March 1862, the 26th N.C. fought at the battle of New Bern opposing Brig. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's invading forces. Though only its left wing was heavily engaged, the regiment sustained a number of casualties and suffered a great deal on the retreat to Kinston. One writer described the regiment as "...drenched with rain, with blistered feet, without sleep, many sick and wounded, and almost naked..." Captain Jonathan Young, 26th N.C. Quartermaster, reported that the regiment had lost "879 Knap Sacks...495 Muskets"16 during the retreat, prompting Colonel Vance to solicit help from the citizens of Raleigh by writing letters of appeal to area newspapers, saying that it would take the government "several weeks" to re-supply the regiments who fought at New Bern.17

Fortunately for Co. H, Vance's prognostication was wrong. Supply records indicate that a large re-supply of the company occurred on the 17th, just a few days following the retreat to Kinston. A significant change in leadership also occurred for Co. H at New Bern. Capt. Martin was killed in action, resulting in 1st Lt. Clement Dowd being promoted on the battlefield. Dowd signed a Form 40 on 17 March 1862 indicating Co. H had already received "54 Blankets" at a cost of \$80.54 from the N.C. depot in Raleigh. Note that the regiment paid for these items and they were not articles sent from concerned citizens per the Governor's appeal.18

Another Form 40 signed by Lt. Dowd from 27 March 1862 reveals that roughly two weeks later, Co. H received a clothing and shoe issue from Capt. W.W. Peirce, A.Q.M. in Raleigh,19 but it suggests they still wore the same regulation uniforms received earlier in January. The company appeared slightly under-supplied for undergarments.

Item:	Shirts	Pr. Drawers	Pr. Socks	Knapsacks	Haversacks	Pr. Shoes	Hat
No. Received	83	83	83	100	89	17	1

Co. H Muster Roll 30 April – 30 June 1862

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musicians	Privates	Tot. En-listed	Aggregate	
	1	1	2	1	5	3	1	78	119	123

The first Co. H muster roll found in archival records is for the period of 30 April 1862 to 30 June 1862.²⁰ The roll shows that Co. H had four men out sick, eight under arrest for dereliction of duty, two detached for other duty, seven wounded in hospital (six described as wounded in action, nothing is said of the other man), four away without leave (hereafter “A.W.O.L.”), one Corporal sick. The company “required 20 recruits” according to Capt. James McIver who had been promoted and assumed command after the resignation of Lt. Dowd was accepted on 16 June. With 91 members answering roll call that day, and their last issue of 83 assorted garments having occurred on 27 March, the company was still slightly under-supplied and wore the same uniforms.

Note that the above table shows enlisted and officer data reported in separate categories per the original document, and the “Privates” column data is the total number available for duty (not sick, A.W.O.L., or detached, etc.) on the specific date the roll was taken. The “Aggregate” column includes the total number of officer and enlisted men on the roll for that period. Other useful data such as the number of troops on leave, sick detail, etc. are summarized in text where available. The same format will appear throughout the remainder of this study.

Further evidence of Co. H’s appearance in June 1862 is found on the Muster Roll forms. These documents include not only a statistical summary of men present, but also a qualitative categorical rating system for the inspecting officer to describe the company in areas of “Discipline, Instruction, Military Appearance, Arms, Accoutrements, and Clothing.” Col. Zebulon Vance inspected Co. H on this date, and reported all was “Good” except clothing, which was “Tolerable.” Capt McIver reported on the Form 40 of Co. H’s activities during the Seven Days campaign in the “Record of Events:”

“This Company left Camp Magruder near Kinston June 10 1862 inst. and marched to Camp Johnson 8 miles from Kinston same day – left Camp Johnson June 2nd for Richmond, Va, and arrived at Richmond Va”²¹

A few days later, on the evening of 25 June, the 26th N.C. Regiment, as part of Ransom’s Brigade, fought in a bloody surprise attack near King’s School House on the Williamsburg Road. Apparently, several companies of the regiment (including Co. H) were unknowingly camped just 5 yards from the Federals, who laid low on the opposite side of road. Suddenly, there was an ambush and the enemy opened fire so closely that “the beards of many of the men were singed from muzzle fires...”²² After a brief engagement, the right wing of the regiment was ordered to the rear, while Companies G, H and K stayed behind. Co. H was later praised by then Lt. Col. Henry King “Harry” Burgwyn in his official report for “steadfast behavior” in the fighting.

For unknown reasons, Burgwyn completed a duplicate of the same 30 June 1862 Muster Roll that contained what appears to be an addendum to the earlier one, to include information about Co. H’s participation in the battle of Malvern Hill. This one lacks any statistical data, but in the “Record of Events” Burgwyn stated:

“This Co. was in the hard fought battle of July 1st at Malvern Hill, lost one man, Private James West, who fell from a wound in the head in forty paces of the yankee battery, since that time the Reg’t was around Drury’s Bluff, down to Petersburg, then to Fountain Bridge and there back to Petersburg when on around Aug 29th 1862”²³

On 26 August the 26th North Carolina was transferred to Brig. General Johnston Pettigrew's brigade composed of the 44th, 47th and 52nd North Carolina regiments (note the 11th NC joined the brigade in December of 1862) and Co. H would finally receive new uniforms.

On 17 July 1862 Captain McIver received the following items for Co. H:²⁴

Item:	Caps	Jackets	Pants	Knapsacks	Haversacks	Canteens & Straps	Hat
No. Received	75	5	5	5	11	30	1

Note that the latter form indicates receipt of "Canteens with Straps;" but it does not specify whether the straps were of leather or cloth, nor the pattern of canteen issued. The low number of jackets and pants reflects that Co. H was still poorly supplied with uniforms although its members may have acquired various Federal items from battlefields and enemy supplies around Richmond. The most striking point is that only five jackets (of the new second pattern) were issued. This may mean that many still wore their state issued sack coats received in November 1861 to January 1862. A point to consider is that Co. H received precisely the number of garments requested; if more uniforms were unserviceable, then McIver would likely have requested them. It is possible the regulation sack coats were more durable than one would assume.

After Colonel Vance resigned to become Governor of North Carolina in August, 1862, Co. H was again inspected on last day of that month by newly promoted regimental commander Col. Harry Burgwyn in camp near Petersburg, Virginia. Burgwyn described Co. H as "Pretty Good" in "Discipline, Instruction, Military Appearance, Arms, Accoutrements" although he wrote that their clothing was "Tolerable." Co. H received new caps in July but was generally under-supplied for uniforms and undergarments in August.²⁵

1 July – 31 August 1862 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musicians	Privates	Tot. En-listed	Aggregate
1	1	1	1	4	3	0	70	77	81

After Sharpsburg

Although the 26th N.C. was not at Sharpsburg, North Carolina troops of The Army of Northern Virginia suffered immensely following the Maryland campaign that ended in September 1862. A grim albeit realistic description of the general state of the North Carolinians was made by Murdock McSween, a North Carolina attorney who often acted as an unofficial journalist. He wrote to Governor Vance in November:

*"Our soldiers in the Army of the Potomac [ANV] need shoes, blankets & clothes very badly—The companies there average probably 30 effective men each. About one third are barefooted or the same as barefooted—I saw many men marching in the snow entirely without shoes or any substitute— there are perhaps 10 men in a company well shod—Very few men are amply supplied with blankets, many have none and others have only one thin blanket apiece...They are of course ragged and dirty, and itch vermin and disease are very prevalent... The articles I think most necessary are shoes, blankets, pants and coats & should be supplied first."*²⁶

On 5 October 1862, Co. H received a long awaited issue of supplies and clothing while encamped near Rapidan Station, Virginia, according to a Form 40 signed by Captain McIver.²⁷

Item:	Prs Shoe	Prs Shoe	Prs Shoe	Over-Coats	Flannel Shirts	Shirts	Prs Drawer	Prs Socks	Prs Pants	Jackets
# Recd:	6	1	9	6	8	18	27	47	26	18
Cost	6.00	8.00	9.00	25.00	3.60	3.10	3.10	1.10	9.10	12.00

23 N.C. jackets (second pattern) had been issued to Co. H members, and others were presumably still wearing regulation sack coats. Note that three different prices for shoes are reported, probably because various styles were available. Governor Vance reported at the end of the war that imported English shoes did not actually make it to the field from the state Quartermasters until the spring of 1863.²⁸

The next muster roll shows that several of the sick and wounded had returned from hospitals later in the fall. Note that it was common practice for the government to issue new uniforms (usually from the Richmond Depot) upon discharge from medical care. Yet, in contrast to the 5 October Form 40, well over half of Co. H likely still wore the same uniforms they had since before the Seven Days. This finding is very consistent with Sween's earlier observations.²⁹

31 August – 31 October 1862 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi-cians	Privates	Tot. En-listed	Aggre-gate
1	1	1	1	4	3	-	90	97	101

Nonetheless, this reflects an improvement in the general supply and uniform status of Co. H. Again, Col. Burgwyn again described Co. H as "Pretty Good" in "Discipline, Instruction, Military Appearance, Arms, and Accoutrements." The condition of "Clothing" had improved to "Tolerable Good" as a result of the state's efforts. A few tent flies were used in this encampment, as Private W.A. Day, a member of Co. I, 49th N.C. Troops, reported that they were commonly used as improvised shelters throughout the brigade in late October:

*"Instead of tents we had what was known as flies. They were cloths about ten feet end and with a pole from one end to the other and fastening one side of the cloth to the pole and the other to the ground. They made very good shelters unless the wind and rain blew in on the open side."*³⁰

Lt. Col. John Lane, of the Field and Staff of the 26th Regiment, indicated on an ordnance receipt from Raleigh that he signed on 11 December 1862 at Petersburg that the 26th N.C. had received the following items:³¹

Item:	Received
Cartridge Boxes	140
Shoulder Straps	82
Cap Pouches	110
Waist Belts	160
Bayonet Scabbards	185
Cartridges, .Cal. 69	8000
Cartridges, B & Ball. Cal. 69	5000

For reasons unknown, Capt. McIver did not report tabular data by rank or summary on the next muster roll, completed 31 December. He did complete the chronological account of muster, which shows that Co. H had 81

aggregate officers and enlisted men on the roll, although 23 men had been lost due to sickness, desertion, being A.W.O.L, and from having been taken prisoner. Also, 12 privates were detached for other duties, on leave or confined to jail under arrest.³²

1 November – 31 December 1862 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi- cians	Privates	Tot. En- listed	Aggre- gate
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81

Comparing these data, a reasonable estimate is that Co. H. had 46 men available for duty at the end of the period. This number likely included four officers and four non-commissioned officers, leaving 38 privates. Apparently, some simply waited for the right time to take “French leave” and deserted once the army settled into the routine of winter camp.

As the year 1862 ended, Co. H was adequately supplied with state issued equipment such as accoutrements, knapsacks, overcoats, and ordnance, but desperately lacked new uniforms and undergarments. The few jackets issued late in that year were of the second N.C. pattern, made from material produced by local textile manufacturing. In spite of being under-supplied with clothing, morale was strong, and rations had been adequate to that point in time.

THEIR **SPLENDID** UNIFORMS

Philip Hatfield, Ph.D.
Member, Company of Military Historians

1863

The 26th N.C. returned to North Carolina on 4 January, and on 28 February Capt. McIver indicated that several men had returned from hospitals and other detached duties. As Co. H's numerical strength increased, Col. Burgwyn's inspection found their "Arms, Accoutrements, Instruction, Military Appearance" to be "Good" while he allowed that "Discipline and Clothing" were "Pretty Good."³⁴

1 January - 28 February 1863 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi- cians	Privates	Tot. En- listed	Aggre- gate
1	1	1	0	4	4	0	84	92	95

McIver also wrote in the "Record of Events" of some hard marching in North Carolina that winter:

*"This Co left Camp French near Petersburg Va 4th day of Jan and traveled by railroad to Garysburg NC and remained at Garysburg two weeks. Were then ordered to Magnolia NC where it remained till about 12th of Feb after a long and fatiguing march reached Goldsboro where it remained till March"*³⁵

At Goldsboro, the 26th Regiment received the following supply items on 26 February 1863 from the Raleigh Depot, according to an abstract printed on plain paper that was discovered in Lt. Col. John Lane's records:³⁶

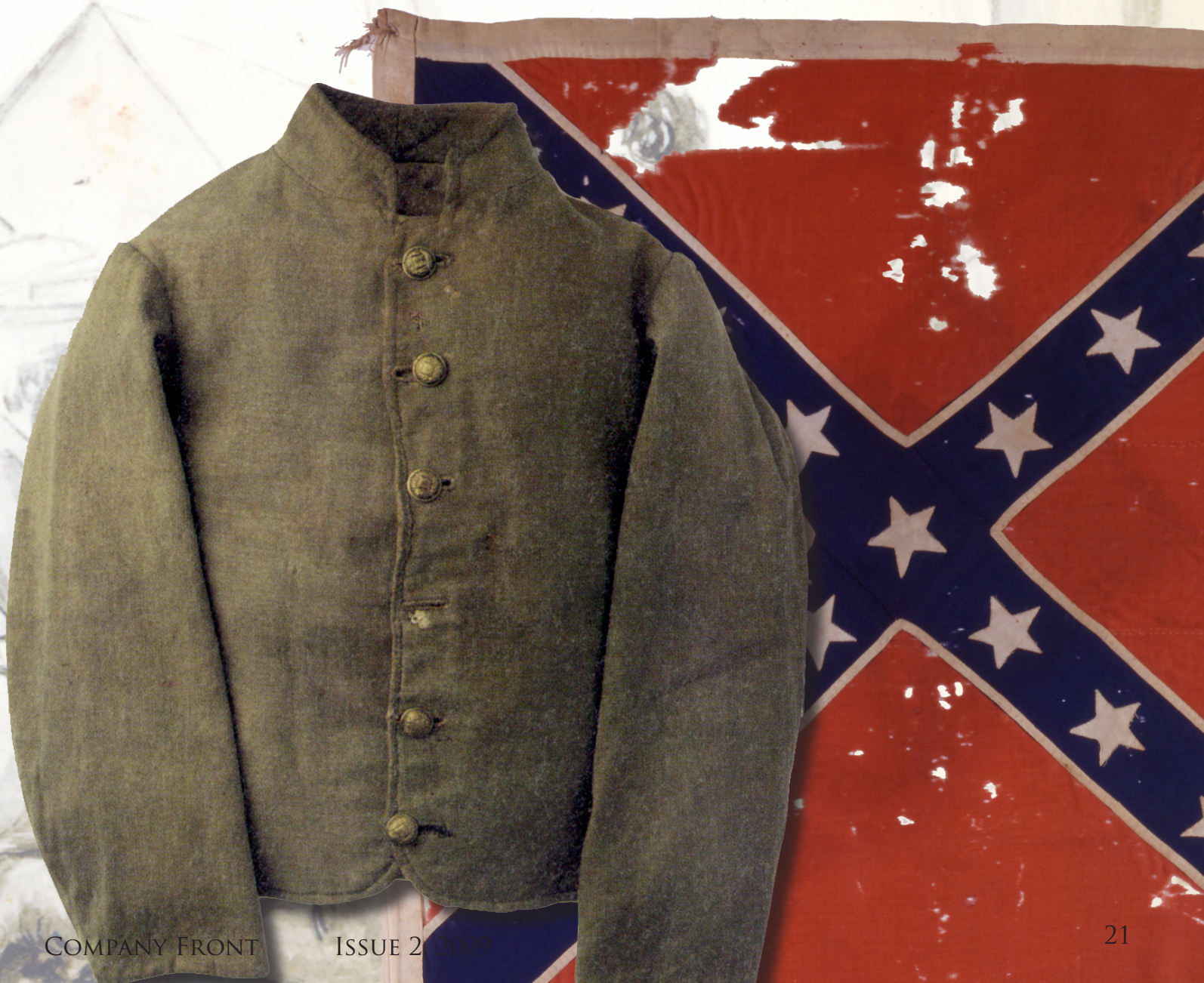
Item:	Received
Haversacks	109
Pairs of Socks	380
Canteens & Straps	284
Knapsacks	10
Cartridge Boxes	10
Shoulder Straps	6
Cap Pouches	10
Waist Belts	6
Bayonet Scabbards	6
Pairs of Shoes	1

On 2 March 1863 Capt. Louis G. Young, Assistant Adjutant for Pettigrew's Brigade, inspected the 26th N.C. and described Companies H and K as the "finest in the regiment." He noted that several companies carried "mixed muskets and rifles" and recommended they receive issues of the same weapon type. 33

It is not known whether Co. H received any of the above issued items or any of those received by the regiment next on 8 March when Col. Burgwyn signed a return of "Receipts for Issues to the Army for the Raleigh Clothing Depot, First Quarter 1863." This document indicates the regiment was well supplied with canteens and straps as well as socks for this period, if not with clothing generally:37

Item	Received
Canteens	188
Canteen Straps	188

As the weather improved, the early spring brought more fighting in eastern North Carolina, although Co H suffered more impact from poor supplies than combat during that time. Burgwyn's next appraisal of Co. H in "Arms, Accoutrements, Instruction, Military Appearance" remained the same as his last inspection, although due to lack of re-supply he indicated their uniforms were only "Tolerable." "Discipline" was "Good." Such was the state of affairs in April with 83 privates available for duty on last day of that month.38



Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi- cians	Privates	Tot. En- listed	Aggre- gate
1	1	1	0	4	4	0	83	92	95

Capt McIver next reported on 30 April 1863:

*“This Company left Camp near Goldsboro NC March 9th, marched to New Berne, was exposed for several hours a furious shelling on 14th Co. had one man killed one wounded. Marched to Greenville reaching the latter place 17th Mar. Co. Marched to Sanders Creek near Washington, about a week after marched to Greenville – marched in vicinity of Washington – was engaged on 9 APR at Blunts Creek – lost none – on or about 15th returned to Greenville. Co. remained at Greenville and Kinston till 18th, then returned to Kinston...”*39

Private Jackson wrote to his brother Richard just before the 26th N.C. was ordered to leave Kinston for Richmond on or about May 1. The letter is undated, but specifies it was written “May the ____” at “Camp Magruder neare Kinston” and it demonstrates that Jackson obviously realized his brigade was being ordered to Virginia. Jackson also indicates that whatever earlier ideas he may have entertained regarding angst over not being given a furlough and his resulting contemplation of desertion were moot. He also witnessed a troubling event:

“Dear Brother

I read your letter two days ago which gave me great pleasure to heare from you and family one more time and that you wer all well I am well at present I hope those few lines will find you and family the same there is some sickness in our company at present E.D Pattersons son was taken with a chill yesterday morning and is very bad off he is fearful that he is going to die and there is some at the hospital that is very sick M D McNeal G B Cox Neill McIntosh and some more that is on the mend and if nothing happens will be in camp in a few days we have more diarrah heare than I ever saw before almost evry body is complaining of it in this Regt. and all the rest of the Brigade

Well Richard I saw one of the awfulest sights yesterday that I ever saw in my life a man mustered out of service he belonged to 1st cavalry he had deserted was the crime that he had committed they shaved one side of his head and marched him through evry regiment in the Brigade with his crime rote in large letters on a peace of paper and tact to his back (Deserter) with ten a dozen men on horse back after him with swords and horns a making the ugliest noise that they could make on there horns I don't think there will be many Deserters from our regiment it seamed to hurt the feelings of all that saw it I never want to see such a sight a gain he bare-headed in the hot sun for half the day

Richard as to coming home it is not worthwhile to talk about that for the sick cant get furlows and you know I cant when I am able to do service I would like for you and sam to stay at home if there is any chance I don't want you to leave Margaret and the Babys I think you had better fix some way to stay if you can if nothing but for to Kill dogs for LB Esq and quarrel a little every now and then

I understand that John Muse has Deserted from his company at Goldsboro Acy McIntosh told me so he came down to see Neill night before last he got on the cars to go after wood and taken his shawl with him and after they got to where they was to get the wood he had acasion to step off and never returned

I have not heard of any of our pickets having brush with the yankeys lately times seames a little easy heare at presant but I cant tel how long it will remain so

so I must close for the present give Margaret my love & Martha Jane & Sammy Dunn & Little Kate so no more this time

*Rite soon, your brother
JA Jackson to R A & MAM Cole"40*

The 26th N.C. arrived in Richmond via Petersburg a day or two after Jackson wrote to his brother, and supply data to this point indicates Co. H was only marginally clothed. Once at Richmond, the regiment was quickly deployed over 25 miles away to Hanover Junction and was ordered to guard the railroad bridges over the North and South Anna rivers from persistent threats of Union cavalry attack.⁴¹

Private Jackson wrote to his sister Martha on 9 May stating that Co. H was literally standing "on the Fredricks Berg Road at the Bridge on Northanna River 27 miles from Richmond", in "Hanover County, Va." Jackson also indicates even more disdain of the army, and allows that he has even considered following the example of Private Benjamin Stutts who had deserted in March. He tells Martha:

"I recd your kind letter yesterday morning and it was a welcom visitor you may depend I was more than glad to heare from you and all the rest of the family & Bob and family and the Neighbors generally and that you wer all well. I am well at present and hope those few lines will soon come to home and find you all the same The company is in very good health at present but very few sick in it we have Very near 100 men for duty at any rate we draw rations for 99 and the are all able for duty

I hant much newse to write you at this time only they say that Jeneral Lee has whipt the yankeys Again at Fed-ericksberg and taken about ten thousand prisoners and several peaces of Artilery and drove them back acrose the rapahanoc with heavy loss supposed to be some wher about 40 thousand Kild wounded and missing and our loss 10 thousan I saw yesterday 2000 prisners cross the Bridge we are garding and some/200 more this morn-ing passed down the Railroad in about the ¼ of mile of where we are staing some of our Boys saw them this morning I did not see them

I was off fishing when them passed this morning I heare there is a great many behind yet they say it was one of the hardest faught battles that has been faught since the war commenced so I shal say no more about the battle for some body else can give a better description than I can and that will be put in the papers for every body to read

I have no news of any importance more than what I have wrote that is worth spoiling paper with. You said Mother wanted to know how I was geting along in the army well just as I alwais have only I dont get but a ¼ pound of bacon per day but I get shugar now in the place of meat of a pound per day. Times is hard here but if they don't get any worse I think I can stand it at least I intend to try it a while longer before I do like B. Stutts so I miust come to a close by saying write soon and direct your letters to Richmond Va 26 Regt NC Troops Co H in care of Capt JD McIver Pettigrews Brigade give my love to Mother and Brother and my respects to the rest of the family & all inquiring friends

*Your loving Brother
JA Jackson to MR Jackson"42*

On 11 May, Jackson wrote to his younger brother Robert T. Jackson. He mentioned that he had recently bought a new pair of shoes, possibly the one pair delivered to Co. H by the quartermaster on 26 February. He also scolds him for not writing:

"I take the present opertunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I have not forgotten you if you have

me it seames that you dont intendto write me any more or if you do I dont get your letters I want to know what is the matter that you don't write or have I don't any thing to keep your from writing if so let me know what it is so no more on that subject at presant

I am well at presant and hope those few lines will come safe to hand and find you and all the family well and Coles family I have no newse of much importance to write you only General Jackson departed this life yesterday he recd a wound in the last battle at Fredricksberg in his left arm and it had to be amputated some say it was our own men (the word "that" is lined through) done it but I heard to day that it was a bumshell that struck him and that he never recoverd from the shock it is a great loss to us and I fear that it will bother us to find a man to fill his place tho I hope we will and that soon (god can give us a man to stand in his place) I hope it is for the better if it is gods will for us to gain our independence it is all right. I saw about 2000 yankey prisoners yesterday going to Richmond there has went some 5000 by us to Richmond and a good many other waisso no more on that subject.

You nead not send them shoes that I wrote to you for I have bought a pair since and don't nead them at presant so I must come to a close for the presant by saing write soon and Direct your letters to Richmond Va 26 Regt NC Troops Co H General Pettigrews Brigade Give my love to mother and Martha and all the family and Cole and family so no more at present only I remain,

*Your ever loving Brother
JA Jackson"43*

A member of the 26th N.C. regimental band arrived in the unit's camp from Richmond on 18 May some three weeks behind the regiment, and complained that the railroad service at Hanover Junction was "inadequate" and "overcrowded" due to throngs of deploying troops moving northward, although only a handful seemed to realize that Lee's invasion of the North was their next task at hand.⁴⁴

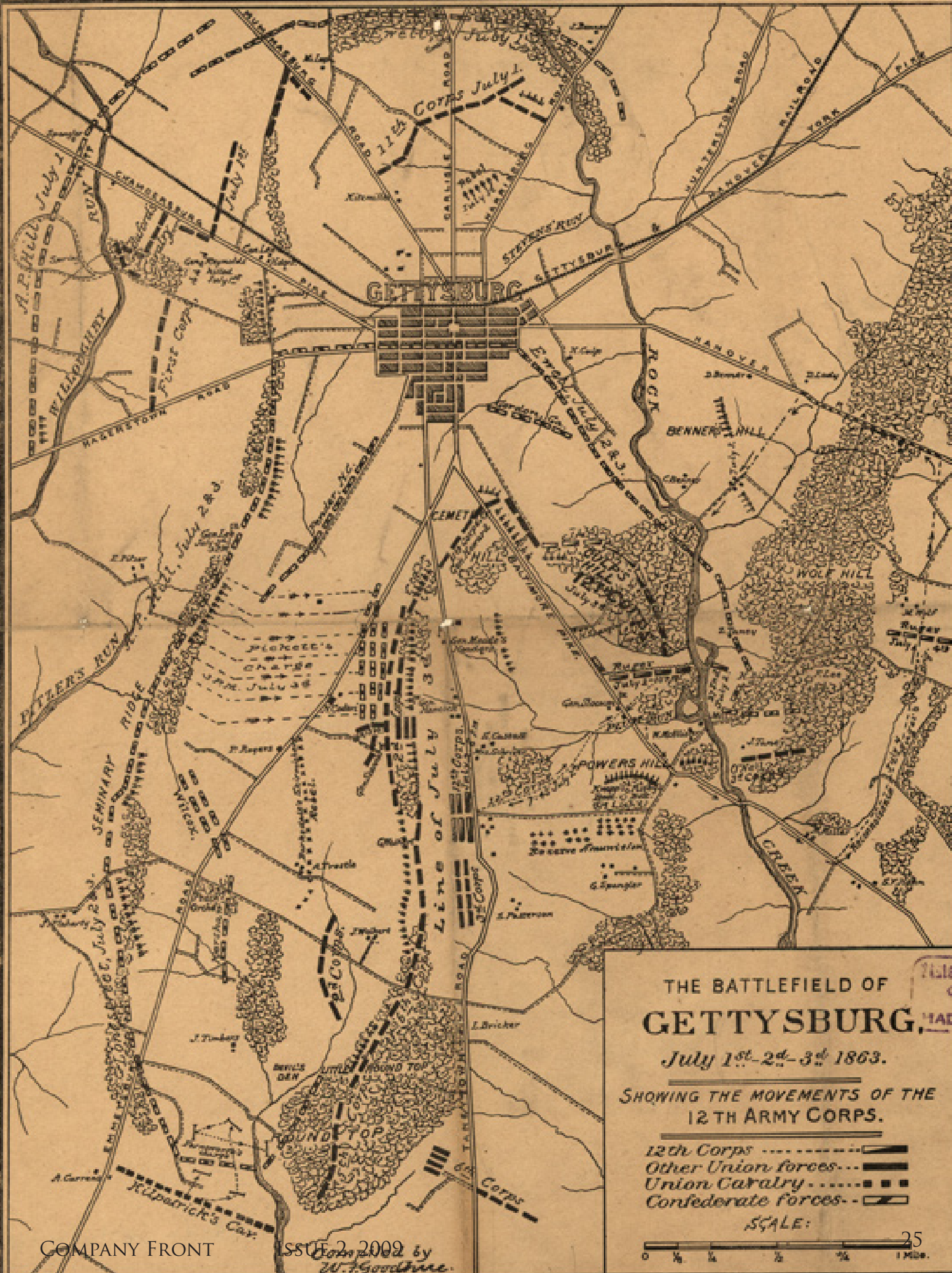
On 19 May 1863 the entire 26th Regiment received a much needed and rare complete uniform issue of 1,000 caps, trousers and jackets, according to a Quarterly Return for Uniforms and Supplies (Form 28), signed by Assistant Quartermaster Captain W.W. Peirce at the Raleigh Clothing Depot. This return was for the quarter ending 30 June 1863, and does not specify what pattern these garments were cut from or what cloth they were made of.⁴⁵

It is noted that Peirce's name also appears on numerous 26th N.C. supply documents throughout the war, and he was originally assigned to the shoe manufactory in Raleigh.⁴⁶ Incidentally, Peirce's compiled service records do not show he was ever assigned to the Richmond Depot. As a result, it seems unlikely these garments were of Richmond manufacture or provenance as has been suggested by other researchers.⁴⁷

The Gettysburg Campaign Begins

Pettigrew's Brigade, minus the 44th N.C. which was detached to assist in protecting Richmond, was ordered to march to Fredericksburg on 7 June, likely due to overcrowded railways, and thus began their trek northward.⁴⁸ One eyewitness who saw the regiment marching through Fredericksburg on 7 June 1863 described their new uniform trousers as "varied" in color, although the jackets were "confederate gray."⁴⁹ A 26th N.C. soldier described the men as they left Fredericksburg:

*"Says a member of the regiment: "What a fine appearance the regiment made as it marched out from its bivouac near Fredericksburg that beautiful June morning. The men beaming in their splendid uniforms; the colors flying, and the drums beating, everything seemed propitious of success."*⁵⁰



Co. H Demographics at Gettysburg

Capt. McIver reported on the Co. H muster roll of 30 June that he had 81 men present who would go into action on 1 July.⁵¹ Maj. John T. Jones inspected Co. H that morning, and reported their condition was “Good” for discipline, arms, accoutrements, military appearance, clothing and Discipline, and their instruction was “Very Good,” reflecting that the company was well drilled, typical of a veteran unit at that point in the war.

1 May – 30 June 1863 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi- cians	Privates	Tot. En- listed	Aggre- gate
1	1	1	0	4	4	0	70	78	81

Of the 93 who originally enlisted 3 June 1861, 25 had been lost to disease or desertion, and 11 had purchased substitutes under the 1862 Conscription Act. 64 new troops arrived between March 1862 and March 1863, and 27 of these were lost due to disease or desertion. This resulted in a difference of only 12 men from the total enlisting on 3 June 1861. This would be the last muster for many of these soldiers – Co. H lost 31 wounded, five captured, 14 killed, and 12 who were both wounded and captured, leaving 19 men on the night of 3 July. Data is not available for wounded who died later, or for those who were exchanged or otherwise returned to Co. H at a later date.

As general regimental casualty data has been discussed in numerous other studies, the following information may also provide an interesting perspective on Co. H. There seems to be a dramatic contrast in outcomes when comparing the 1861 volunteers to those who joined the regiment later and fought at Gettysburg. The first table contains only data on recruits who continued to serve after Gettysburg. Those not accounted for by each succeeding table are presumed to have continued in service after that campaign.⁵²

Table 1: Outcome of 1861 Volunteers at Gettysburg

Wounded	KIA	Captured	Wounded & Captured	Disease	Deserted	Substitute
14	8	3	11	21	4	11
15%	9%	3%	12%	22%	4%	12%

Table 2: Outcome of Post-1861 Members at Gettysburg

Wounded	KIA	Captured	Wounded & Captured	Disease	Deserted	Continued
17	6	2	1	12	15	11
27%	9%	3%	1%	19%	23%	17%

These data suggest that a soldier in Co. H had a roughly equal chance of death or capture at Gettysburg whether they enlisted in 1861 or later, although the initial volunteers had a 7% higher chance of being wounded and captured at Gettysburg than later recruits. An early volunteer had roughly a 14% higher chance of death or disability due to disease than later recruits, whereas a ‘later’ recruit was more likely to desert than an 1861 volunteer. On the other hand, some 12% of 1861 volunteers had purchased substitutes to serve in their stead under the Conscription Act of 1862, compared to 0% of later recruits; 5% of whom were substitutes themselves. Only 22 (23%) of the original 1861 volunteer members of the Independents continued to serve after Gettysburg.

After Gettysburg

About two weeks after Gettysburg, the 26th Regiment received a large supply of new ordnance from the North Carolina Ordnance Department delivered to an unspecified “camp in the field.” An unidentified officer signed an “Invoice of Ordnance & Ordnance Stores” scribbled on plain paper on 21 July 1863 which appears in the late Col. Burgwyn’s records. The note is generally difficult to read, but clearly denotes that the materials were received for “Use by Pettigrew’s Brigade, Col H.S. Burgwyn’s 26 Reg. NCT.”⁵³

This ordnance issue data shows that the 26th N.C. carried a mixture of .58 and .69 caliber long arms, rifled and/or smoothbore, at this point. It is not known how many rifles the regiment may have acquired on the various fields of battle or from other sources, but from available evidence it is reasonable to infer that Co. H may have carried rifles on 1 July 1863, particularly in light of previous ordnance records. The issue of ordnance included:

Amount	Item
6000	Six Thousand Musket Cartridges. Cal .58
2000	Two Thousand Rifle Musket Cartridges. Cal .69
2000	Buck & Ball Cartridges Cal .69
10	Ammunition Boxes

Capt. McIver later indicated that Co. H was camped near Orange Courthouse, Virginia on 30 November when they received blankets and shoes.⁵⁴ It is noted that this issue was made shortly after the brutal battle of Bristoe Station where the 26th N.C. regiment sustained several casualties as a result of bayonet wounds. Capt. McIver indicated that his men received the following items “due to supply deficiencies in my company.”

Item:	Blanket	Blankets	Blanket	Pr. Shoes
No. Received	1	5	1	4
Cost each	10.00	9.00	8.00	9.00

North Carolina was then issuing both grey domestic wool blankets, and bluish-grey blankets of English wool cloth. It is not clear from the Form 40 what characteristics distinguish the three subtypes, but it is probable that the more expensive ones were made of higher quality cloth, probably that imported from England.

By the end of December 1863, Capt. McIver reported on the muster roll shown below that Co. H had one officer hospitalized with illness, and 37 privates absent due to illness, wounds, capture or desertion. The newly promoted Colonel John R. Lane, having recovered from wounds at Gettysburg, assumed command of the 26th N.C.T. and inspected Co. H. He reported their discipline, arms, accoutrements, military appearance, clothing, discipline, and instruction as “Good.” No notes were made in Record of Events.⁵⁵

31 October – 31 December 1863 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi- cians	Privates	Tot. En- listed	Aggre- gate
1	1	1	-	4	4	0	19	28	68

Considering that the supply form showed only seven blankets issued at this point, and that there were an unknown number still carried by the 19 privates, it appears that blankets were limited. However, we do not know the number of blankets acquired from other sources such as captured blankets or those sent from home. At any rate, although admittedly limited, these data suggest a somewhat foreboding picture with winter quickly approaching.

"Tolerably Good"

Philip Hatfield, Ph.D.
Member, Company of Military Historians

1864

On 29 February 1864, several men who had been missing since the previous fall due to illness or other reasons had apparently returned during the winter, as Co. H then had an aggregate strength of 88 men assigned. Yet, two Officers were now absent sick, and one Captain was reported "Without Leave," although there is no other evidence in service records that Capt McIver had deserted or gone A.W.O.L. The absence of McIver, described as being "A most gallant and competent officer," may be explained by the fact that he resigned later in the year, on 17 June 1864, because he had been elected county court solicitor for Moore County.

Six Privates were on detached duty, 48 enlisted men were absent sick, two A.W.O.L., and two were on arrest. It is unknown which Co. H officer completed the 29 February 1864 Muster Roll, as Captain McIver's name does not appear on this document and it is unsigned other than by the inspecting officer, Maj. James T. Adams. He reviewed Co. H on 29 February and reported they were "Good" in discipline, arms, accoutrements, military appearance, discipline, and instruction, and "Tolerably Good" in clothing.⁵⁶

31 December 1863– 29 February 1864 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi- cians	Privates	Tot. En- listed	Aggre- gate
-	1	1	-	2	3	0	20	25	88

The latter statement regarding uniforms seems odd, considering that by 1864 the blockade runners such as North Carolina's own "Advance" routinely delivered English supplies to Wilmington, which were quickly taken to the Raleigh Clothing Depot. This included large runs of English-made bluish-gray uniform cloth, blankets and shoes. At that point in the war, nearly all N.C. uniform jackets, trousers and caps made by the Raleigh clothing manufactory were constructed of English cloth. Note that the well documented "Peter Tait" contract jackets from Ireland were available only in limited numbers from around August 1864 into 1865.

Illustrative of the state's effort to defeat the Union blockade is the fact that on June 10th 1864 4,574 yards of "English Army Cloth" arrived, followed by 4,983 yards on June 13th. Three days later 2,983 more yards were delivered to Raleigh. 57 Governor Zebulon Vance boasted that by 1864, North Carolina troops were better clad than at any point in the war as a result of an excess of "English Army Cloth" smuggled through the federal blockade into Wilmington. He also commented on the fact that his state was making a handsome profit from the sale of excess uniform cloth to the Confederate government.⁵⁸

By 30 June, the company census had decreased slightly, to a total of 81 aggregate men available for duty. The officer inspecting Co. H was again James Adams, newly promoted to Lt. Co. He reviewed Co. H on that day

and reported that they were “Good” in discipline, arms, accoutrements, military appearance, discipline, and instruction, and “Tolerably Good” in clothing.⁵⁹

30 April – 30 June 1864 Co. H Muster Roll

Capt	1 Lt	2 Lt	Brevet Lt	Sgt	Cpl	Musi- cians	Privates	Tot. En- listed	Aggre- gate
-	1	1	-	1	2	-	19	23	81

Out of 68 privates shown on the June chronological muster, 26 were shown as hospitalized with disease, three on furlough, six serving on detached duties, and 14 were still listed as prisoners of war. One officer was listed as a prisoner, while two non-commissioned officers were on detached duty. Five privates were killed in action at the Wilderness, and six mortally wounded. Again, illness had taken a greater toll on Co. H than combat.

There is also an undated Form 40, signed by Lt. John McGilvary, who appears to have taken command of the company from Capt. McIver at some point after McGilvary’s return from being wounded at Bristoe Station. According to this document, sometime between 1 July and September 30, clothing was delivered to the 26th N.C. camp near Petersburg. The form indicates the items were issued due to “supply deficiencies in my company,” a reflection of hard times in terms of supplies in the summer of 1864.⁶⁰

Item:	Pants	Shoes	Shirts	Drawers	Socks	Jackets
# Recd:	25	10	14	27	6	13

However, Lt. McGilvary’s file also contains a fascinating handwritten supply document in an irregular format. It provides evidence that in the last quarter of 1864 Co. H actually had “excess” uniforms, rather than a deficiency, consistent with Governor Vance’s assertion. This document also indicates that Co. H had cooking utensils, in that Lt. McGilvary also recorded that “one of the two skillets issued is unfit for use.” There were no overcoats received for winter at this point. Note that this does not imply the soldiers did not have access to captured federal overcoats.

The last supply document for Co. H is found in Lt. McGilvary’s records. This “Quarterly Return of Camp & Equipage received and issued in the field in the Quarter ending 31st Day of December 1864” is summarized below.⁶¹ The reader should consider that there were 23 enlisted men shown on the last muster roll of the company. If this continued to be the case on 31 December then there were plenty of issue shirts, and over half of the men received pants and blankets, and eight received new jackets. The latter may have been of Irish manufacture since by that



time the Peter Tait contract garments had made their way into the North Carolina supply system through the blockade.

Items	Excess Uniforms for Last Qtr	To be accounted for
Spades	0	2
Camp Kettles	0	1
H_ b Pans	0	0
Axes	0	0
Tents	0	1
Tent Flies	0	0
Skillets	-	2
Jackets	8	-
Pants	12	-
Over Coats	0	-
Drawers	10	-

Shirts	22	-
Shoes	4	-
Socks	6	-
Blankets	13	-
Caps	0	-

There were no further Form 40's for the remainder of the war found in any Co. H officer documents preserved within the Compiled Service Records. While there were periods of hardship and deprivation, the evidence contained in extant supply records provides strong evidence that Co. H of the 26th North Carolina Troops did not exhibit the stereotypical "ragged rebel" appearance the in late war period.



WHAT A FINE

APPEARANCE

THE REGIMENT MADE

THE UNIFORMS OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA AT GETTYSBURG

Philip Hatfield, Ph.D.

Member, Company of Military Historians

Editor's Note: This article is intended as historical research only and is no indication as to a uniform shift for the 26th NCT Reactivated. The required uniform remains as is. However, all members are strongly encouraged to look at the purchase of a NC shell jacket, as a supplemental or additional jacket, in order to provide the National and State Park services, as well as the public in general, with an accurate generic NC soldier impression. This viewpoint is not new and has been included in the Regiment's Uniform SOP for some time. A special deal with Ben Tart has been arranged to help facility the purchase of this jacket. For more information contact Skip Smith.

The 26th Regiment, North Carolina Troops literally 'covered itself with glory' in the maelstrom of Gettysburg, July 1st to 3rd 1863, in a well known story where one out of every four casualties were from the Old North State. The 26th NCT was then assigned to Brig. Gen. Johnston Pettigrew's Brigade, consisting of the 11th, 26th, 47th, and 52nd NCT. Co. F of the regiment, known as "The Hibriten Guards," sustained 100% casualties in the course of the battle, and the 26th NCT became legendary in Civil War history as a result. This brief study seeks to examine available evidence of what uniforms the 26th NCT were wearing at the time of the battle. This study may be useful for living historians and interested researchers of 19th Century material culture.





An original document known as a "Form 28," which was a standard quartermaster form used by the Richmond (Virginia) Depot, dated 30 June 1863, shows that the 26th NCT received an highly unusual issue of 1,000 complete uniforms consisting of trousers, jackets and caps on 19 May 1863.¹ Typically, North Carolina soldiers drew supplies by company using a standard quartermaster requisition form known as "Form 40," and throughout the war received only piecemeal issues of uniforms, drawers, shirts, blankets etc. from the North Carolina Clothing manufactory, or depot, in Raleigh, as the state made them available. From the start, outfitting an entire regiment in one issue is an unusual event among North Carolina units.

An eyewitness who saw the 26th NCT marching through Fredericksburg a few days later in early June described their new pantaloons, or trousers as "varied" in color, although the jackets were similar in some variation of a color described as "confederate gray."² The appearance of the regiment as it marched out of Fredericksburg on 7 June 1863 was also described by a soldier of the 26th NCT:

*"Says a member of the regiment: 'What a fine appearance the regiment made as it marched out from its bivouac near Fredericksburg that beautiful June morning. The men beaming in their splendid uniforms; the colors flying, and the drums beating, everything seemed propitious of success.'"*³

The phrase "confederate gray" has been used in so many different contexts that it is literally impossible to make an accurate inference in modern terms as to exactly what shade or hue those jackets were. However, based on a perusal of the Form 28, it is a reasonable to ask why the uniforms came from Richmond. Over the years some researchers have concluded that the Tar Heels serving in the Army of Northern Virginia drew their clothing primarily from the Richmond Depot, and were supplemented by state issued items. This presumption was largely based on a loosely worded agreement between North Carolina and Richmond established under the commuta-

No. 26.

Abstract of Articles received from Officers in Camp 26th NCT, in the quarter ending on the 30th of June 1863, by J. F. Young Capt. & 2nd Lt. 26th NCT

DATE	No. voucher.	FROM WHOM RECEIVED.	FUEL.		FORAGE.		STRAW.		STATIONERY.		PAINTS.		OTHER.	
			Wood.	Coal.	Barley.	Oats.	Hay.	Grain.	Books.	Paper.	Brush.	Shells.	Colors.	Blankets.
May 25 th 1863	1	Capt. R. H. Hinton		30										
April 14 th 1863	2	May. R. P. Miller												
" 29 th 1863	3	May. M. W. Penick												
" 30 th 1863	4	Capt. R. H. Hinton												
May 2 nd 1863	5	" A. W. Hinton												
" 4 th 1863	6	" Geo. B. Thompson												
" 6 th 1863	7	" G. B. Thompson												
" 8 th 1863	8	" G. B. Thompson												
" 9 th 1863	9	" W. B. Dentley												
" 10 th 1863	10	" G. B. Thompson												
" 11 th 1863	11	" G. B. Thompson												
" 12 th 1863	12	" G. B. Thompson												
" 13 th 1863	13	May. M. L. Wood												
" 14 th 1863	14	Capt. R. H. Hinton												
" 15 th 1863	15	" G. B. Thompson												
" 16 th 1863	16	" G. B. Thompson												
" 17 th 1863	17	" G. B. Thompson												
" 18 th 1863	18	" G. B. Thompson												
" 19 th 1863	19	" G. B. Thompson												
" 20 th 1863	20	" G. B. Thompson												
" 21 st 1863	21	" G. B. Thompson												
" 22 nd 1863	22	May. R. P. Miller												
" 23 rd 1863	23	" G. B. Thompson												
" 24 th 1863	24	" G. B. Thompson												
" 25 th 1863	25	" G. B. Thompson												
" 26 th 1863	26	" G. B. Thompson												
May 19 th 1863	27	May. M. W. Penick												
Total amount received			35	10										

I certify that the above abstract is correct.

J. F. Young

tion system early in the war.⁴

That conclusion is contrary to the known policy of North Carolina's strong willed Governor, Zebulon Vance, who was adamant in his determination to supply North Carolina troops from abundant state sources without reliance upon the central government. Eventually a great deal of conflict occurred between Vance and the central government due to the resultant competition between the state and central government agents, who came to North Carolina attempting to buy all available supplies for the Richmond Depot. Prospective suppliers were only too pleased to sell to the highest bidder, causing Vance to eventually threaten hostile takeover of several state resources such as textile mills for price gouging.⁵

A closer look at the original Form 28 reveals that the uniforms were delivered through, not issued from, the Richmond clothing bureau. We know this because they were actually signed for and issued by one "Captain W. W. Peirce," who is identified as an Assistant Quartermaster at the Raleigh Clothing manufactory in North Carolina. Pierce's name appears on hundreds of other North Carolina depot supply forms for uniforms and other items throughout the war, including many for the 26th NCT. This finding is a solid link to the Raleigh Clothing Depot for the 19 May 1863 uniform issue to the regiment, and precludes any hypothesis that the garments originated at the Richmond Depot.⁶

Apparently the uniforms came from North Carolina, consistent with Vance's determination to use state resources to provide uniforms and supplies for his troops serving in the Army of Northern Virginia. The Governor later reported to the state legislature that North Carolina was making large profits selling excess supplies to the Confederate Quartermaster in Richmond as early as 1862 and through 1864. It would be contradictory for Tar Heel troops to draw uniforms from the Richmond Depot in May 1863, at a time when their home state had ample supplies of uniform cloth and manufacturing capacity, as clearly indicated by Vance and other sources.⁷

Another reason that many have erroneously thought the uniforms worn by the 26th NCT at Gettysburg to be of Richmond manufacture is an image (a sixth plate Ambrotype), shown below, of Pvt. Mitchell M. Plummer of Ashe County, North Carolina who was a member of Co. A of the regiment. He was mortally wounded during one of the engagements at Gettysburg and died on 16 July, 1863.⁸

This image is commonly thought to have been taken a few days after 19 May 1863, and has been put forth as photographic evidence of the new uniforms the 26th NCT received on that date. The occasion of Plummer's death obviously rules out the making of the image after 16 July, and as a practical matter, the fact that he was mortally wounded during the battle rules out any possibility that it was made any later than 3 July.⁹

By way of further narrowing the possible time frame for the making of the Plummer image, it is recorded that the 26th NCT departed Kinston, North Carolina and passed through Richmond on or about 1 May 1863. The new uniforms were not issued until 19 May according to the Form 28, so Plummer's likeness, if he is wearing one of them, could not have been struck before that date. The 26th NCT departed Richmond shortly after arrival. It was stationed 27 miles away near Hanover Junction guarding the railroad bridges over the North and South Anna rivers from persistent threats of cavalry attack as Lee's army marched toward Fredericksburg on 7 June.¹⁰

A letter from Pvt. John A. Jackson of Co. H, "The Moore Independents," written to his sister Martha Jackson on 9 May 1863, also corroborates the location and activities of the 26th NCT after 1 May, as Jackson states that he was located "On the Fredericksburg Road at the bridge on Northanna River 27 miles from Richmond," near "Hanover Court House Va." Jackson recorded that Co. H was literally "standing" on the railroad bridge as he wrote.¹¹ Additionally, a member of the 26th NCT regimental band wrote on 18 May that the railroad service at Hanover Junction was "inadequate" and "overcrowded" due to throngs of deploying troops moving northward.¹²

Hence it is very unlikely that Plummer, in a time of great activity, movement and preparation, could have been excused from picket duty with an imminent threat of attack, and given a pass to go to Richmond on an already crowded railway to have his picture struck. It is equally unlikely that he walked over 27 miles, one way, for that purpose, braving the threat of capture by federal cavalry active in the area. As a result, the Plummer image was not likely made in May 1863 after the new uniform issue. But the question remains...What kind of jacket is Private Plummer wearing in his ambrotype?

One hypothesis is that the jacket is a unique early war privately tailored garment worn by Plummer's volunteer company, "The Jeff Davis Mountaineers," in 1861, perhaps fashioned after the Mexican War era shell jacket. This is possible considering that the jacket has several features anomalous to garments manufactured by the Richmond Depot in 1863, such as two functional cuff buttons, and a button closure front pocket, neither of which are common to Richmond "Type II" (hereafter cited as RD II) jackets made at that point in the war.¹³

For that matter, this jacket is also at variance with the typical "shell jackets" made at the Raleigh Clothing depot after mid-1862. Therefore, the Plummer image is not satisfactory evidence of the 1,000 jackets, trousers and caps issued to the 26th NCT on 19 May. So what did they wear at Gettysburg?

There are three alternative hypotheses to the notion that the 26th NCT received RD II jackets on 19 May 1863. One is that their uniforms were instead made of English cloth, manufactured by the clothing depot in Raleigh using the common North Carolina shell jacket pattern with six buttons. The second is that the uniforms were "ready-made," purchased directly from an English contract supplier, and the third is that they were uniforms manufactured at the Raleigh clothing depot of locally made jeans cloth using the shell jacket pattern. Each hypothesis will be considered in the following discussion using a combination of archival data and anecdotal source accounts to draw preliminary conclusions and stimulate further research.

It is clear that at least one North Carolina regiment, the 27th NCT, received new uniforms made entirely of imported English cloth in 1863, but not until 8 October.¹⁴ Other research has suggested that a very limited number of infantry units serving in the Army of Northern Virginia managed to acquire small numbers of uniforms made of a bluish-gray imported English army woolen cloth as early as April 1863, but the first large shipment of such cloth was not received at the Richmond Depot until 9 July of that year, and such uniforms did not become a regular Confederate government clothing issue staple for the Army of Northern Virginia until roughly October 1863.¹⁵

By late 1862 North Carolina faced a shortage of wool and leather and Governor Vance sought to buy supplies directly from English merchant suppliers. He sent two North Carolina purchasing agents to London, England in September. The agents, John White and Thomas Crossan, had orders to buy materials for uniforms, shoes and blankets as well as a ship to be utilized as North Carolina's own blockade runner. In October, the agents purchased a steamer known as Lord Clyde which was later renamed Advance. White next established contracts for military goods with British commercial suppliers such as S. Isaac & Campbell & Co, and Alexander Collie & Co. Their first shipment to North Carolina came in on Advance, and consisted of shoes, blankets and cloth for uniforms, but it did not arrive in the port of Wilmington until 28 June 1863, ruling out that first shipment of cloth as a source of the new uniforms issued to the 26th NCT on 19 May.¹⁶

Note also that Alexander Collie & Co. had a sub-contract with Peter Tait of Ireland at that time for buttons and uniforms, although it is not clear whether they sold them to North Carolina. Generally it is believed that "Peter Tait" contract jackets, imported from Ireland, did not appear in North Carolina until late December 1864. It is also known that S. Isaac & Campbell & Co. were then providing ready-made uniforms to the British military, and had recently contracted with the Richmond Depot to provide equipment and uniform cloth.

Numerous blockade runners were then owned or contracted by the Confederate government and delivered

English supplies to the port of Wilmington throughout 1863. Since Vance was not drawing from Confederate government resources at this time, it is doubtful North Carolina somehow acquired English cloth or uniforms from the 21 government and private blockade runners arriving in Wilmington between 1 January and 13 May 1863, whose cargoes were all intended for delivery to Richmond. However, two blockade runners belonging to the firm of Alexander Collie & Co., Granite City and Flora, also delivered supplies to Wilmington on 25 February and 13 April 1863 respectively, although it is not clear whether their goods were intended for North Carolina or Richmond.¹⁷ Their cargo manifests have apparently been lost or destroyed over time, but it is quite possible that they carried English uniform cloth, or even a shipment of ready-made English uniforms. Before dismissing the ideas as conjecture, one should consider that it was later reported that North Carolina received 1,002 ready-made English jackets, 1006 pair of trousers and 1012 overcoats through the blockade during 1863, although it is not known which ship delivered them or on what date.¹⁸

Once again, we are left to speculate, but it seems possible that those uniforms were sample products sent by either Alexander Collie & Co. or Isaac & Campbell. Each firm certainly had the capacity to produce large quantities of ready-made uniforms. They may have wished to increase sales to North Carolina and persuaded the purchasing agents to try out a sample on a North Carolina regiment in the field. There were four other deliveries by blockade runners operated by Isaac and Campbell to Wilmington, on 17 & 29 December 1862, (Cornuba and Giraffe), 11 February (Giraffe), and 13 April (Merrimac), but they all carried cargo bound for Richmond.¹⁹

This finding significantly raises the chances that that one or both shipments sent to Wilmington on Granite City and Flora contained either the 1,008 ready-made uniforms, or English cloth to make new uniforms in Raleigh. The number of garments issued on 19 May (1,000) so closely matches the number of ready-made garments (1,008) that it is hard to dismiss it as simple coincidence. Another point supporting that notion is that no other regiments in Pettigrew's Brigade received an entire issue of new uniforms in May 1863. The 27th NCT later received a full uniform issue that was clearly made of bluish-gray English cloth on 8 October 1863, but those were manufactured at the Raleigh clothing manufactory, and therefore could not have been part of the 1,008 uniforms mentioned by Vance.²⁰

In his report to the legislature, Vance also stated that nearly all North Carolina uniform jackets, trousers and caps made by the Raleigh clothing manufactory were constructed of English cloth by mid-1863. However he also stated that several local textile mills continued to supply the Raleigh Depot with cotton and wool jeans cloth for uniforms throughout the war, making locally made North Carolina shell jackets equally possible.²¹

Summarily, available evidence cannot confirm exactly what uniform the 26th NCT wore at Gettysburg. Available archival and anecdotal data reviewed herein did not clarify whether the 26th NCT uniform jackets received on 19 May were English ready-made, or were locally constructed of either English cloth or of domestic cotton and wool jeans cloth. A "Form 28" signed by Captain W.W. Pierce links the 1,000 matching uniforms and caps received on 19 May to the Raleigh Depot. It is known that 1,008 ready-made garments were received from England in 1863, although at the time of this study records were not located that could explain what became of them. It is this writer's opinion that the 1,000 uniforms issued on 19 May were from the 1,008 English garments. The only factor that seems clear at this point is that when the 26th NCT marched toward Gettysburg on 7 June 1863, they did not wear uniforms made at the Richmond Depot. Hopefully, future research will provide an answer to the question.

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4. North Carolina Standard newspaper, 1 May 1861, Raleigh N.C.
5. North Carolina Quartermaster files, 1861, AG-21, N.C. Archives.
6. Clark, Walter (Ed.). Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-1865. Written by Members of the Various Commands. Nash Brothers Book and Job Printers, Goldsboro, North Carolina, 1901. Reprinted by Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, North Carolina, 1992. Volume 1, 28. (Note the Index also mentions Peirce as an A.Q.M.) (Hereafter "Clark.")
7. North Carolina Ordnance Department Record of Issues 1861. Bound Volume, 75. NC/AG, No. 159.5, N.C. Archives.
8. Original letters of Private Alexander Jackson, Co. H, 26th N.C.S.T. In Papers of R.A. Cole, Private Manuscript Collection, File No. 1609. N.C. Archives. (Hereafter "Cole.")

Notes:

Richard A. Cole was John Alexander's step-brother. He was married with four children, and was a farmer by occupation. In 1861 North Carolina authorities rightfully feared their coast line would soon be the focus of a Federal invasion, which was effected by Major General Ambrose Burnside in 1862. Burnside moved not only out of strategic necessity to protect Federal shipping lanes in that region, but also because of the U.S. government's belief that eastern North Carolina was harboring a large contingent of Union sympathizers who were being coerced by the Confederates. Burnside was to provide safe escape for them. Fort Macon, an octagonal shaped brick masonry fort was one of several along North Carolina's coast that were built in the 1820-1840 era to defend against foreign invasion. It was finally attacked in April 1862 by bombardment, and changed hands four times during the war. See Richard A. Sauer, "Laurels for Burnside: The Invasion of North Carolina," January-July 1862, Blue & Gray Magazine, Volume 5, (May 1988), No. 9.

9. Ibid.

Notes:

Tom was John Jackson's younger brother. The "Wake Guards" mentioned above were a 12 month Volunteer company from Wake County that became Co. D, 26th N.C.T. in July 1861. Haywood Caddell was serving as Clerk of Superior Court in Moore County. A marsh pony was a rare breed of pony that inhabited the low country marshlands and sand dunes of North and South Carolina in the colonial period. They stood about four feet high and were quite gentle, making them a favorite with children, which is probably why Cole had mentioned it to Jackson. These animals were unique in their ability to find water; if none was immediately available, they would simply locate a low spot of ground, and dig into the earth with their hooves until it filled with water. They were also strong workers, and hundreds were taken to plantations. There are no records of their origin, but they are thought to have originally come to the New World with Sir Walter Raleigh at the Shackleford Banks in North Carolina. They eventually drifted southward into South Carolina, and are now extinct. Source: Virginia Marin, "Wild Marsh Ponies of Edisto Island, S.C."; 21 April 2006. Internet: www.Gather.com. Pleurisy: An inflammation of the pleura, usually accompanied with fever, pain, difficult respiration, and cough, and with exudation into the pleural cavity. This is the disease that Jackson thought W.C. Morris, also a private in Co. H. suffered from. Source: Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 1998. John L. Caddell was the son of I.I.H. Caddell, Clerk of Superior Court in Moore County. Samuel, Toady and Kate were Cole's children.

10. Ibid.

11. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll No. 325.

12. Clark, p. 27.

13. Devereux files, NC Archives.

See Greg Mast, "Tar Heels" in *Military Images*, Vol 11, No. 2, Nov-Dec. 1989, 6-31; and also Richard Warren, *Uniforms of the Confederacy*, Plate 72; "North Carolina State Issue Uniforms 1861-1865," *Journal, Confederate Historical Society*, Volume 28, No. 2, Summer 1990, 45-52; for a detailed analysis of 1861 – 1862 state regulations for uniforms in North Carolina. An example of what is thought to be a variant of the First Pattern N.C. Shell Jacket is found in an image of the brothers Seaton Gayles Durham, and John R. Durham, Co. E, 12th N.C.T., shown on page 303, image number 5.3.29 of "State Troops and Volunteers," Volume 1, by Greg Mast. Their jackets vary from regulations by having black trim on the cuffs and 8 buttons.

14. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll No. 325. Dowd.

15. Cole.

Notes:

Capt. Pender was commanding an artillery company and resigned sometime shortly afterward. The Jackson family was farmers and the reference to a "sill" is likely either a corn silo or could also be a misspelling of 'still' i.e. one used for making home brewed liquor.

16. "Estimate of 26th N.C. stores lost at New Bern," March, 1862. 26th N.C. Quartermaster records, AG-16, Box 52.1 Young, J. files.

17. Clark, 28.

18. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 325. Dowd.

19. Ibid.

20. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 1. .

21. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 1.

22. Underwood, George C., Assistant Surgeon. *History of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of the North Carolina Troops in the Great War 1861-'65*. Goldsboro, N.C. Nash Brothers Book and Job Printers, 1907. Reprinted 1978, 1999 by Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, North Carolina, 30. (Hereafter "Underwood.")

23. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 1. N.C. Archives.

24. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 325. Dowd.

Notes:

The N.C. Quartermaster again altered the jacket pattern in mid-July by eliminating black shoulder trim and the falling collar to a more orthodox shell jacket with five <six> buttons and a standing collar. This style would be issued to end of war. Source: Mast, G. "Tar Heels." *Military Images*, Vol 11, No. 2, Nov-Dec. 1989, 6-31. See also Richard Warren, *Uniforms of the Confederacy*, Plate 72; "North Carolina State Issue Uniforms 1861-1865," *Journal, Confederate Historical Society*, Volume 28, No. 2, Summer 1990, 45-52. For a detailed analysis of 1861 – 1862 state regulations for uniforms in North Carolina.

25. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 1.

26. Johnston, Frontis (Ed.). *The Papers of Zebulon B. Vance*, Volume I, 1843-1862. State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1963, 368. Murdock J. McSween letter to Governor Vance, November 17, 1862. (Hereafter "Vance.")

27. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 325. McIver.

28. Jordan, Volume XII, 561-562.

Notes:

The Confederate Government officially abandoned the Commutation System in October, i.e. reimbursing states for purchasing their own uniforms. North Carolina's former Governor Clark had previously arranged a rather loosely worded agreement with the Confederate Quartermaster in Richmond, allowing N.C. to supply its own troops serving in Virginia. The Confederate Government could also

purchase any surplus if available. This policy was in effect throughout the war, but in no way suggests that N.C. soldiers had to rely on other states for clothing or other supplies. Source: Clark, Vol. I, 24-36. By the end of 1862 Governor Zebulon Vance reported to the legislature that N.C. was profiting from selling surplus supplies to the government, although N.C. troops were receiving “nothing at all from the Confederate Government” because of “our agreement to furnish themselves.” Source: Clark, Vol. 1, 26. Note also that in winter encampments the army often had better mail service and soldiers received items from home more regularly. Many southern states rented warehouses to store the troops’ boxes from home while they were deployed on combat operations. North Carolina had theirs on “Main Street between 7th and 8th Streets opposite the Spotswood Hotel.” It sometimes took several weeks for delivery and many items were found missing upon receipt. Source: England Family Papers. 10 Dec. 1862, N.C. Archives.

29. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 3.

30. Day, W.A. A True History of Company I, 49th Regiment, North Carolina Troops. Army of Northern Virginia Series, Volume 8, 1893. Reprinted by Enterprise Job Office, Newton, N.C., 1997.

31. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 328. McIver.

32. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 4.

33. McGee, David. “The 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops: A History.” Cited from Chapter Three. Document posted on internet, www.26NC.org/History.

34. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 5. .

35. Ibid.

36. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 328. Lane.

37. Ibid, Burgwyn.

38. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 6.

39. Ibid.

40. Cole, undated letter of May 1863.

41. Manarin, 459.

42. Cole, 9 May, 1863.

Notes:

Jackson refers to a battle “at” Fredericksburg, but is actually speaking of what came to be known as the Battle of Chancellorsville, fought near the small town of the same name 10 miles west of Fredericksburg on 1-3 May 1863. It is common to find this reference in the soldier’s letters since at the time, Chancellorsville was not well known and Fredericksburg was considered a large city. The 26th N.C. did not participate in that engagement.

43. Ibid, 11 May 1863.

Notes:

This was the last letter written by Jackson now in public archives although he continued to serve until 1865 without being wounded. Richard Cole ignored John’s former advice to stay out of the Army, and enlisted in the 3rd N.C.S.T. in late 1863. Cole apparently quickly learned he was not fit for active campaign and wrote an appeal letter to N.C. Governor Zebulon Vance for discharge on 19 October 1864, arguing that he was in delicate health, and unable to endure hardship of any kind. (See Jordan, Volume XII, 293-294) Richard’s physician, Dr. H. Linn of Carthage, N.C. also wrote a letter to Vance on 15 October 1864 supporting the exception by reason of disability, stating it was true that Cole was unable to serve on active campaign due to “suffering from indigestion & diarrhea frequently - owing I suppose to some hepatic derangement.” However, unknown to Cole at the time, Dr. Linn also indicated that Cole could still serve, “If he were assigned to some duty commenced with his company on Qtr. Mr. department he would be very efficient.” Vance took the doctor’s prescription in spite of Cole’s protest, as Vance scribbled on the appeal “Refer to Major Rand Comdg. He may put this man into the 2nd Co.” Private Richard Cole became the Ordnance Sergeant of the 3rd N.C.S.T. on 12 November 1864, and Ordnance records contained in his files show he issued 11 “Belgian Rifles” to his regiment in November 1864, along with numerous other ordnance items including bayonet scabbards, cartridge boxes, and ammunition. Source: Papers of Richard Cole, N.C. Archives.

44. Hall, Harry H. A Johnny Reb Band from Salem: The Pride of Tarheelia. North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission, Raleigh, N.C. 1963. 27-29. Cited hereafter as Hall.

45. Pettigrew's Brigade Returns, May 1863, AG-16, N.C. Archives.
46. Clark. Vol. I, 24-38.
47. Rebel Boast. Newsletter of the 26th N.C.T. Re-activated, May, 2008. Article by 2nd Lt. Jason Goodnite.
48. Hall, 28.
49. Gragg, Ron. Covered With Glory: The 26th North Carolina Regiment at The Battle of Gettysburg. Harper Collins, NY: June 2001. 48
50. Underwood, 39.
51. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 7.
52. Ibid.
53. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 324. Burgwyn, signed by unidentified officer as Col. H.S. Burgwyn was killed in action at Gettysburg.
54. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 325. McIver.
55. 26th N.C. Muster Rolls, AG-16, Box 52.1, File 8.
56. Ibid, File 9.
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58. Wise, Stephen R. Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running during the Civil War. Columbia, South Carolina, University of South Carolina Press, 1988, 157.
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60. CSR, Group 109, M230, Roll 325. McGilvary
61. Ibid. Quarterly Return of Camp & Equipage received and issued in the field in the Quarter ending 31st Day of December 1864.

Appendix Table A
1861 Ordnance Items Issued 26th Regiment, North Carolina Troops

Item	CO: A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K
Muskets	95	-	100*	106*	111	75*	90*	109*	74	76
Bayonets	95	-	100	106	111	75	90	109	70	75
Shoulder Straps	-	-	93	106	111	-	-	-	75	-
Belts	-	-	-	106	-	-	-	110	75	-
Cartridge Boxes	95	-	96	106	111	-	90	110	75	76
Cap Boxes	95	-	96	106	111	-	90	110	75	76
Bayonet Scabbards	95	-	96	106	-	75	90	-	70	76
Cartridges	760	-	600	1,000	1,000	500	400	1,000	-	-
Gun Slings	-	-	-	106	-	-	90	-	-	-
Caps	-	-	-	-	1,000	600	-	-	-	-
Screw Drivers	-	-	-	-	-	75	90	-	-	76
Spring Vices	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	7	-	6
Ball Screws	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	11	-	6
Belts & Buckles	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	-	-	-
Wipers	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	110	-	76
Cartridges with Caps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	500
Cones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	60

Source: Adjutant General Records, (AG 23, #159.5), North Carolina Ordnance Department Record of Issues 1861. Bound Volume, 74-83. N.C. Archives.

Note: Records were not found for Co. B in the 1861 Ordnance Book.

* Record book delineates “Guns” in this column, while still showing “Muskets” to the left. The meaning is not known, however, it clearly does not specify weapon type such as M1842, Altered to Percussion, Rifle, etc. But since the writer bothered to clarify ‘guns’ from muskets, the latter is taken to mean M1842 U.S. Percussion Muskets, while “guns” is thought to reflect those Altered to Percussion.

Note: Co. F received 111 “Cartridge Box Belts” construed to mean the same as “shoulder straps” not waist belts.

26 NC Uniforms at Gettysburg

1. North Carolina Adjutant General, (AG-23), 26th NCT files, Civil War Collection. North Carolina Archives.
2. Gragg, Ron. Covered With Glory: The 26th North Carolina Regiment at The Battle of Gettysburg. (NY: Harper Collins, 2001), 48,
3. George C. Underwood, Assistant Regimental Surgeon. History of the 26th Regiment of the N.C. Troops in the Great War 1861-'65. (Wilmington NC: Broadfoot Publishing, 1999), 39.
4. Myers to Gov. Henry T. Clark, 12 June 1862, Myers to Ira Foster. Letters Sent to Confederate Quartermaster General, in Quartermaster General Files. North Carolina Archives.
5. Vance, Zebulon, Governor's Letter Book. 10 October 1862. North Carolina Archives.
6. Clark, Walter (Ed.). Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-1865, Written by Members of the Various Commands. (Raleigh NC, 1901). Vol. 1, 23-38, (Hereafter Clark).
7. Ibid. p. 28
8. Manarin, Louis, H. Compiled by Jordan, Weymouth T. North Carolina Troops 1861-186: A Roster. (Raleigh NC, 1988, second printing). Vol. 7, 477, (Hereafter Manarin & Jordan).
9. Society for Preservation of the 26th NCT Ambrotype image of Private A. Plummer, Co. A, The Jeff Davis Mountaineers. Date unknown.
10. Manarin and Jordan, 477.
11. 9 May 1863 letter of Private Alexander Jackson, Co. H, 26th NCT. Private Manuscripts Collection, Richard A Cole Papers. North Carolina Archives.
12. Hall, Harry H. A Johnny Reb Band from Salem: The Pride of Tarheelia. North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission, Raleigh, N.C. 1963, 27-29.
13. Jensen, Leslie D. A Survey of Confederate Central Government Quartermaster Issue Jackets. Military Collector and Historian, Part I in Fall Issue, Part II in Winter Issue, 1989.
14. Turner, Andrew. English Cloth on Cooke's Foot Cavalry: English Uniforms and the 27th NCT. Article courtesy of Liberty Rifles Living History organization. www.libertyrifles.org/research/englishclothhtml.
Note: This article cites an original letter from Pvt. Charles Watson written on 9 October 1863 indicating the regiment received an issue of new uniforms made of English cloth on 8 October. It also includes an image of Private J. Wooten, Co. D, 27th NCT cited by the author as an example of the new uniforms. However, that image is undated, leaving conclusions about whether it shows a uniform of English cloth based on inference alone. (See Greg Mast, State Troops and Volunteers: A photographic record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers, Vol. 1, (Raleigh NC 1995), 187, (Image No. 4.1.40) for useful discussion on Wooten's image. (Hereafter Turner).
15. Burt, David. Confederates in Blue: English Army Cloth in the ANV. Article downloaded from American Civil War Reenactment Society website, United Kingdom, 2001. www.acws.co.uk/archives/military/anvblue/htm.
16. Wise, Stephen R. Lifeline of the Confederacy, Blockade Running during the Civil War, (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1988), 105-106, (Hereafter Wise).
17. Ibid., 234-236.
18. Clark, Vol. 1, 23-28.
19. Wise, 234. See also Colin J. McRae Collection: Business Papers, (1861-1872), South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Mili-

tary Museum Archives, Columbia SC.

20. Turner.

This article also cites an original letter written by Capt. John Sloan of Company B, 27th NCT, indicating the uniforms received on 8 October had arrived via "Governor Vance's faithful ship, the 'Advance,'" The vessel "had come in heavily laden, and we were proudly and splendidly dressed in some of the gray cloth of its cargo." Other records reveal that Advance made only four deliveries of English made goods to North Carolina in 1863; the first on 28 June, then 19 August (not the 17th as Turner reported), 10 October and 10 November, each of which went directly to Raleigh to be turned into uniforms. (See Stephen R. Wise cited in No.'s 14 & 15 above, 105-106, 234-236)

21. Clark, Vol. 1, 23-28.

PICTURE CREDITS

IN ORDER OF APPERANCE

Introduction

Time Life Books. Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy.

Time Life Publishers, New York: (NC Shell Jacket)

North Carolina Museum of History. (Form 26)

Ready to Defend North Carolina

Time Life Books. Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy.

Time Life Publishers, New York: (NC Sack Coat)

Mast Greg. State Troops and Vounteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers. Vol I.

NC Division of Archives and History: Raleigh NC. 1995. (Alfred Turner image, 4th NC)

Skip Smith. (John A. Tuttle image, 26th NC)

Ibid. (George Powell image, 26th NC)

Ibid. (William F. Tuttle image, 26th NC)

Time Life Books. Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy.

Time Life Publishers, New York: (NC Sack Coat)

Without Sleep and Almost Naked

Mast Greg. State Troops and Vounteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers. Vol I.

NC Division of Archives and History: Raleigh NC. 1995. (1st NC soldiers image)

Their Splendid Uniforms

Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond VA. (26th NC Battleflag)

Time Life Books. Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy.

Time Life Publishers, New York: (NC Shell Jacket)

Skip Smith. (26th NC Watercolor)

Library of Congress, American Memories Collection: (Gettysburg Map)

Tolerably Good

Library of Congress, American Memories Collection: (Image, NC Dead at Alsop Farm)

Richmond Depot: www.kabar44.com Pg. 54 (Peter Tait Jacket)

Skip Smith. (Lt. Duval image, 26th NC)

The Uniforms of the 26th NC at Gettysburg

Skip Smith. (Mitchell Plummer image, 26th NC)

Time Life Books. Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy.

Time Life Publishers, New York: (NC Shell Jacket)

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