

# The News and Herald.

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY.

WINNSBORO, S. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1901.

ESTABLISHED 1844.

## IN THE TRENCHES OF PETERSBURG.

Mr. Editor: As I have been repeatedly requested by several old veterans and their sons to write a sketch of Hagood's brigade or the soldier's life in the trenches at Petersburg, I have consented to comply with their request in my humble and feeble way, hoping if you choose to publish it your many readers will excuse mistakes and shortcomings. Some detailed accounts of the part borne by one brigade in that terrible siege is indicative of the service of others, and while the narrative must necessarily be largely personal to the command to which I belonged. The record of their devotion is that of all who there followed the sword of Lee.

Hagood's brigade consisted of the 11th South Carolina, Colonel Gault; 21st South Carolina, Colonel Barnes; (I think) 25th South Carolina, Colonel Simonton, (known as the Eatwags); 27th South Carolina, Colonel Gaillard; and the 7th Battalion, (known as Rion's Swamp Angles.) This battalion had eight companies at one time; each company being 100 men strong. Hagood's brigade left the coast of South Carolina about May 1st, 1864, with 4,600 strong, as fine a command and as well equipped and equipped as ever marched to battle.

The adorned regiments of the brigade arrived in the city of Petersburg on the night of the 5th and pushed out on the R. & P. railroad, four miles from the city of Petersburg where there was heavy fighting going on all day, Gen. Butler having laid a force of 30,000 at Drewry's Bluff, running up and cutting the railroad at Port Walthall. Owing to a broken engine the 7th Battalion did not arrive in the city until 11 o'clock on the 6th. We were moved rapidly by rail up the road within one-half mile of the fighting. There we jumped off the cars and double-quick to the field just in time to join in the victory and see the Yankees disappearing through the woods under cover of their gunboats. We lay on the battlefield all that night.

The next day we fell back to Swift Creek. There we formed a line of battle and remained for several days awaiting his advance. They came up about the 10th, attacked our lines, and for about 45 minutes there was as hard and bloody a battle for the time as was fought in that campaign. The 11th was in the hottest of the fight and suffered heavily. The Battalion was about 400 yards across the creek in the rear, held as reserves. We were ordered to attack them on their right. In making this move we had to wade Swift Creek nearly shoulder deep, holding our guns and equipments above our heads to keep them dry.

We crossed in a hurry and all right. We hurried on within a few yards of them, but were concealed by the woods. When on the eve of charging them, we were ordered back across the creek in good order. We were not engaged but were exposed to their fire. We lost one man from Co. H., Sergeant John Robinson; he fell just at my left a few feet off. He was carried back to the rear and died that night; he was a good man and a gallant soldier. After this fight the enemy fell back to and occupied the works near Drewry's Bluff. We followed them up and entrenched our brigade just in their front. Here we had heavy skirmishing day and night up till the 16th. When the final blow came on the morning of the 16th about 6 o'clock amidst a heavy fog, our entire lines made a desperate assault on their works which were stubbornly held for nearly two hours when they gave way, leaving a battery of several guns and the field covered with their dead. Here Hagood's men covered themselves in glory. Never did men stand up facing death more nobly than the troops engaged in the battle of Drewry's Bluff on the 16th of May, 1864. Our loss was great, but that of the enemy was much greater. The next day Butler withdrew his troops and joined Grant on the north side of the James river. The loss of the 7th Battalion was the greatest in this fight of its history up to this date. The total I do not now remember, but I do remember Co. H., commanded by the gallant Capt. J. H. Brooks, of Edgewood, lost 19 killed straight out, and 40 wounded. He himself was wounded in three places, but never did leave the field till all was over. He had his dead men carried to one place and buried in one grave. Co. B., (Rion's old company) lost 9 killed, and 20 old wounded. J. E. Harrison, Jacob P. Teet, Allen Trapp, Alex. Buzzard, Isaac Perry, Lee Bagley were among the dead. Co. R. Beaty Barnes Robertson, a youth of just 13, fell while leading the Battalion with his colors flying in the breeze. Jeff Davis was on the field that day and witnessed a great part of the fight. He said that evening to General Beauregard while commenting on the troops that were engaged that day, pointing at the 7th Battalion, "There is as fine a regiment as there was in the Confederate service. This fight wound up the campaign on the South side of the James for several weeks.

Well, I must halt, I have strayed far from the subject. I sat down to write the soldier's life in the trenches, though there could be volumes written on this subject, but for fear of wearying your readers I must come to the point.

After the disastrous repulse at Cold Harbor in June, Grant lingered for a few days on that front of Richmond and then determined to transfer his operations to the south side of the James, making Petersburg his immediate objective. At this time Hoke's division, of which Hagood's brigade was a part, was ordered to the defense of Peterburg. At noon on the 15th Smith's corps of the Federal army was before the eastern defense of Peterburg. Hagood's brigade reached the city at dark, while hurriedly being marched through the city. The whole town was in an uproar from excitement as we passed through; the streets were thronged with frightened women and children. As we moved on a man one called out, "What brigade is that?" Col. Rion, at the head of the Battalion, answered, "Hagood's South Carolina brigade." Down they went on their knees, crying, "Thank God, we are safe now; Hagood's brigade has saved us twice before!"

On the 18th, while quietly awaiting for orders to charge the heavy works of the enemy, Col. Nelson, of the 7th, was standing by Hagood's side on the right of the line when Hoke's aid brought the order to advance. The men who had been told off to follow his lead were intently watching him, and when he was directed to go, without speaking a word, he drew his handkerchief from his breast and raised it aloft. The men sprang over the parapet with a yell and rushed upon the enemy across the intervening space, he moving upon the right of the line. When they were driven back and had laid down amid the oaks, keeping up their fire and awaiting the coming of the supporters, he moved erect along the whole length of his line. Just as he reached the left, he fell. It was learned that he was killed. Thus fell a patriot and gallant soldier. Major Rion was in command of the brigade skirmishers on that fatal day and he did his work nobly. He was wounded in the arm early in the day, but would not leave the field until night. Our loss in officers and men that day was very heavy. I can't take the space to name them. Col. Rion assumed command of the Battalion the next morning. After this bloody battle Grant sat down and laid siege to Petersburg. The Confederates fell back and occupied the works known as the New Fort on the left in the trenches.

The ordinary details from the troops for guard and picket and fatigue duty were very heavy. All the men were required to sit in line of battle upon the bayonet, guns in hand and rifles at their post for the half hour after dark. From this time till an hour before day-light one-half of the men not on other duty were kept awake at a time in the same position while the other half were allowed to get what sleep they could. In the bottom of the trench their arms and equipments were laid aside but near at hand, and disturbed by the frequent passages of inspecting officers or fatigue parties blundering along in the dark over their prostrate forms. From an hour before day until after good day-light all were aroused and stood to arms fully equipped and prepared to repel assault. Again during the day only one-half were allowed to lay off their equipments at a time, and none were permitted day or night to leave their assigned places in the trench without special permission. The company officers remained at all times with their men in the trench; the field officers had their respective pits some six to ten feet in rear of the general trench, and were permitted to use them except when the men were standing to arms. The constant use of the shoulders in shooting produced bruises and soreness to that they accustomed themselves to resting the rifle on the parapet and firing it as a pistol. The accuracy of their fire was frequently spoken of by letter writers to the northern papers, and our men, as at Wagners, became very fond of it. It was a relief to the passive endurance which made up so large a part of their duty. Such severe service continued day in and day out for so long a time was trying to the last degree upon men already jaded by an actual campaign. For some time during July not a field officer was present for duty, and four out of five regiments of the brigade were commanded by lieutenants. To preserve anything like organization and efficiency, Gen. Hagood was compelled to consolidate companies temporarily and to assign to duty as commissioned officers to commissioned officers and privates. In doing this he selected men who had hitherto been mentioned for good conduct in battle. Not a day passed without more or less casualties, and from the fact that the wounds were generally in the head or upper part of the person, and from the enfeebled state of the general health of the men, they were mostly fatal. Diseases of a low nervous type carried the men to the field infirmary and at one time there were five hundred cases in Hagood's alone. The regimental surgeons were there; the company surgeons were more or less sheltered as near as possible to the trenches. Litter-bearers brought the wounded to them, and after temporary treatment they were dispatched in ambulances to the infirmary. The various post hospitals in Peterburg and Richmond received the severe cases.

The foregoing narrative has given the outline of the military events and surroundings—the naked skeleton of

the history; but it is difficult to convey to one who has not had a similar experience an idea of the actual reality of the labor and sufferings of the men who for those long hot summer months held without relief the trenches of Peterburg. Endure as much as was exiled upon to the troops who occupied the trenches of Peterburg during the months of June, July and August. It was endurance without rest; inactivity without rest; constant apprehension, requiring ceaseless watchfulness. The nervous system was continually strained till the spirits became depressed almost beyond endurance. Day after day, as soon as the mists which oversprung the country gave way to the dawn and on it might spread her welcome mantle over the earth, the sharp shooting was incessant, the constant rattle of small arms, and the spitting hissing of bullets never ceased and was only drowned by the daily bombardment from the heavy guns. No place along the line could be considered safe; the most sheltered were penetrated by glancing bullets and many severe wounds were received in this way. The trenches themselves were filthy, and though policing was rigidly enforced, it was impossible to keep down the constant accumulation. Vermin abounded and diseases of various kinds showed themselves. The digestive organs became impaired by the ration issued and the manner in which they were cooked; diarrhoea and dysentery were universal, and the legs and the feet of the men swelled until they could not wear their shoes and the filth of their persons from the scarcity of water was almost unbearable. But all of this they endured and stood all their suffering with unflinching constancy and never yielded till disease drove them to the hospital. On the 30th of July at daylight Grant sprang a mine under the bastion on the Baxter road held by Elliott's South Carolina brigade. The breach was immediately assailed and occupied but the enemy were unable to get beyond the crater where he was held at bay until the arrival of reinforcements expelled him and our original lines were re-established. This was perhaps the most prominent event of the siege but it is not within the scope of this sketch to go into its details, Hagood's brigade being in no way connected with it.

The fighting over the crater was desperate. The Confederates sustaining 1,200 casualties and inflicting a loss of over 6,000 to the enemy, of which 1,000 were prisoners. Such was the life of the soldier in the trenches. The following verses appeared in a Petersburg paper during the siege. The verses may lack smoothness but those who were there will recognize the realism of the picture:

Dirty and haggard,  
Almost a blackguard,  
They bore him away  
From the terrible fray;  
From the clash and the rattle  
In the front rank of battle,  
Almost dead, shot through the head,  
They reached his gory ambulance bed.

The ambulance jolt,  
But the driver bawl,  
And away he flies,  
Drowning the cries  
Of the poor private;  
Glad to arrive at  
The hospital door where to be sure,  
The surgeon he thinks can effect a quick cure.

So worn and pale,  
With plaintive wail,  
All alone he dies,  
But nobody cries;  
Bear away the clay  
To the dead-house away,  
Who cares who ever sheds tears  
Over ragged and dirty soldiers' biers.

A box of pine,  
Say three feet by nine,  
They plac'd him in,  
Away from the din  
Of battle and strife,  
Then hurried for life,  
Under the stones to bury the bones  
Of the poor soldier whom nobody mourns.

In his home far away,  
A letter came day,  
Perhaps may tell  
How the poor soldier fell;  
Then tears, ah, how deep  
The loved one will weep,  
When they hear that the bier  
Of him they so loved awake not a tear.

Hagood's brigade served sixty-five days in the trenches of Peterburg entering them with 2,800 men and officers when withdrawn on the 20th of August to take part in the Weldon road fight the next day he had but 59 officers and 681 men present for duty. Well do I remember the morning when the battalion filed out of the trenches of seeing Col. Rion with Mrs. Rion and Dr. Hasbun standing on the parapet, Col. Rion being in the city at the hospital, his arm not yet healed and his wife was there with him nursing him. The hearing of the movement of the brigade came over to the 7th Battalion leaving the trenches and to give them words of cheer and comfort. It was with some difficulty that Mrs. Rion and Dr. Hasbun kept him from following us. Col. Rion held great esteem for his loved battalion and the men had equally the same for him. Little did he think the next time he should see the battalion in a few days, there would not be over 20 men in it for duty. There in this terrible battle of the 21st of August the writer received his discharge and

never saw that gallant band again as a battalion.  
To our dead:  
Nor shall their glory be forgot,  
While time her record keeps,  
Or honor guards the hallowed spot  
Where valor proudly sleeps.

J. H. N.  
Co. B (Lyle's Rifles) 7th Battalion  
Hagood Brigade.  
White Oak, S. C., March 12, 1901.

The merited reputation for carrying piles, sores and skin diseases acquired by DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, has led to the making of worthless counterfeits. Be sure to get only DeWitt's Salve. McMASTER & CO.,

MOSQUITOES SPREAD THE YELLOW FEVER  
Washington, March 12.—Dr. Louis H. Day, the delegate of Nicaragua and several other Central American countries at the recent Cuban medical congress, is in Washington as the guest of the Nicaraguan minister, Senor Cores. Dr. Day is the son-in-law of ex-President Serrano of Nicaragua. He says the medical delegates recently assembled in Cuba were impressed by the remarkable sanitary improvements going on through the enterprise of the Americans, and particularly by the scientific experiments being conducted to learn the cause and to check the progress of yellow fever.

"The experiments on yellow fever are being conducted just outside of Havana," said he, "under conditions which make most exact results attainable. Certain apartments are filled with yellow fever flies of all kinds, with a degree of temperature and an amount of moisture exactly similar to the conditions which breed yellow fever. Here animals, and in some cases medical men, expose themselves with a view to determining just how far contagion and infection can be spread under the worst possible conditions. In other apartments the best sanitary conditions prevail, except in the presence of mosquitoes, confine in jars and allowed to circulate through the room when an experiment is being made. It has been demonstrated beyond a doubt that these mosquitoes, when once inoculated with the yellow fever, communicate it by their bite, the disease developing in from two to three days. In another room there is another class of mosquitoes, which by actual experiment have failed to convey the disease."

In the rooms where yellow fever flies is located, individuals have lived for from thirty to fifty days, showing that there is no danger from this cause. As a result of these American experiments the delegates to the congress were of the opinion that the settlement of the cause of yellow fever had gone beyond the experimental stage, and that it was now an accepted medical fact that a particular class of mosquitoes conveyed the disease. I will also report to the governments which I represent. I do not mean to say that this is absolutely the only way of communicating the disease, but it is certainly proved that it is the most efficient cause of the spread of the disease in yellow fever localities. Such a conclusion is not only of importance to Cuba, but to all countries similarly affected, as well as to the United States and other adjacent territory likely to be invaded by such a plague. Already the American administration has established this valuable scientific fact and has reaped great practical benefit from it. There are now not more than four or five cases of yellow fever in Havana, and at times the number is as low as two cases, which is an exceptionally good showing.

The Americans are to be congratulated also on the excellent sanitary conditions throughout Havana. Modern sanitation has been carried into every house, perfect methods of plumbing taking the place of defective and dangerous old systems. The streets are kept scrupulously clean, garbage is systematically removed and not only the public but all private localities are kept in the best sanitary condition. This alone speaks much for the beneficial influence which the Americans have exerted.

As to political conditions, I find the Cubans have a natural aspiration for self-government, although they are quite willing to concede guarantees to the United States which will prevent foreign aggression. With these views prevailing, there seems to be little but detail to arrange to afford Cuba a free government and at the same time give just security to the United States."

RACE QUESTIONS.  
Negroes Are to Test Constitutionality of Louisiana Disfranchisement  
Washington, March 7.—The executive committee of the National Afro-American council which has been holding its third annual session here has given public expression on "several questions of vital importance to the race as represented."

A circular issued says the disfranchisement of American citizens is a menace to the permanence of the republic, and appeal is made to congress to publish the text of all disfranchisement State laws, together with the approximate number of citizens whose suffrage rights are denied. The council promises it will call on the colored people everywhere to support the movement to test the constitutionality

of the Louisiana disfranchisement laws. The council declares further that the "system of slavery practiced in Anderson county, South Carolina, accidentally disclosed at a murder trial, calls the earnest attention of the public to the alarming encroachment of the contract system upon the labor and liberty of American citizens and demands the immediate repeal of all slavery contract laws."

Appeal is made for a trial by jury for every person charged with crime, for swift and certain punishment of the guilty by due process of law, which law, it is said, was suggested by the burning alive of two human beings during the past few months."

We are still in the market to sell you your Paint and Painters' Supplies, and

Want you to see our goods are guaranteed first-class in every respect and stands the test of time and weather.

To Paint with cheap paint is false economy, which none can afford. Good paint is an investment that pays a large dividend, and we want

The Town and country to call and examine our stock of Paints, Oils, Brushes and Painters' Supplies. If you want to paint anything from a rocking chair to your house it will pay you to call and see us.

Yours respectfully,  
JOHN H. McMASTER & CO.,  
Druggists.

THE MALLARD LUMBER CO.,  
(Limited),  
OF  
GREENVILLE and GREENVILLE, S. C.,  
Furnishes Lumber, Building Materials of all kinds, and are contractors for brick or wood houses.  
Their representative,  
MR. J. M. McROY,  
is now in Winnsboro doing work for the cotton mills and erecting several dwellings in town.  
Information will be given by Mr. McRoy at Winnsboro. 11-13 3m

## A SWELL LINE OF SPRING AND SUMMER NECKWEAR

MANUFACTURED EXPRESSLY FOR OUR TRADE IN ALL THE LATEST STYLES.

BAND BOWS,  
CLUB TIES,  
TECKS,  
FOUR-IN-HAND,  
BAT WINGS, and  
WINDSOR TIES.

All Ready for Your Inspection  
\*\*Popular Prices.\*\*  
D. V. Walker & Co.

## Getting Thin

is all right, if you are too fat; and all wrong, if too thin already. Fat, enough for your habit, is healthy; a little more, or less, is no great harm. Too fat, consult a doctor; too thin, persistently thin, no matter what cause, take Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil.

There are many causes of getting too thin; they all come under these two heads: over-work and under-digestion. Stop over-work, if you can; but, whether you can or not, take Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil, to balance yourself with your work. You can't live on it—true—but, by it, you can. There's a limit, however; you'll pay for it.

Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil is the readiest cure for "can't eat," unless it comes of your doing no work—you can't long be well and strong, without some sort of activity. The genuine has this picture on it, take no other. If you have not tried it, send for free sample, its agreeable taste will surprise you. SCOTT & BOWNE Chemists, 409 Pearl Street, New York.

50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States desires to announce the appointment of Mr. J. M. Elliott as Resident Agent for Winnsboro and vicinity.

## 50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

# PATENTS

TRADE MARKS DESIGNS COPYRIGHTS &c.

Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Handbook on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice, without charge, in the Scientific American.

A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year; four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers.

MUNN & CO. 361 Broadway, New York  
Branch Office, 65 F St., Washington, D. C.

## MONEY TO LEND

AM PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE loans on improved country and town property at 6 per cent per annum.  
1-18-2m  
PRESTON RION.