

**The North Carolina Sixth Regiment.**  
CAMP BEE, 4 MILES N. E. MANASSAS }  
JUNCTION, VA., July 28, 1861. }

Gentlemen:—I know you would like to hear from us, and as I have a leisure moment now, and a chance to send a letter, (for we have no mails,) I drop you this scroll. We of the Sixth N. C. State Troops, Col. Fisher, were ordered to Gen. Johnson's command at Winchester, where we arrived in time to join in the celebrated "forced march" across the mountains to Gen. Beauregard's aid, and which has been spoken of by President Davis as the great military achievement of the age. Yes, sir, we travelled on foot, day and night, without even stopping to eat! We arrived Sunday morning of the memorable 21st, at the Junction, about 8 o'clock, and while Col. Fisher was calling at Headquarters for orders we heard the opening fire. Soon after, Col. F. returned and ordered us to "forward," and at a rapid pace, we set out for the battle field, without rest, water or food for 26 hours. As we approached, the musketry opened on the enemy, (the fire before was that of Artillery) when we quickened our step till within range of the enemy's guns. Under cover of some timber we formed our line and for a few minutes practised the men in manner of firing—then loaded and went on.

Owing to the position of the enemy the skirts of timber and the manner of carrying up the Regiment into action by the right flank, three of the extreme rear Companies never could get to "open" on the enemy, although exposed to a heavy cross fire of musketry and rifles all the while. The other seven Companies of the Regiment getting in, had the work to do, and right well did they do it.

In our rear was posted a Regiment of the enemy's riflemen and in front Michigan Marine, Regular and three Regiments in almost endless number, while our left on tops of the hill, some 50 paces distant was the Sherman Battery.

On receiving fire from so many directions at the same time our men were thrown into temporary confusion and were ordered to "fall back" into the timber just in the rear and reform. Col. Fisher again ordered them to "forward" in the direction of the Battery, he leading, some distance in advance. When ordered, the poor Colonel was dead, 25 yards beyond the Battery. About this time Lieut. Col. Lightfoot was wounded and an officer mounted came up and ordered the men to "cease firing." Just here there was great confusion, for there was scarcely any telling friends from foes. Yet the Yankees with their red breeches could always be distinguished, and they kept pouring in a murderous fire. Capt. Avery saw it would not do to remain there inactive and took the responsibility to order a charge upon the Battery and with a yell the men moved rapidly on and driving the enemy from the guns, took possession—our Mississippi and South Carolina friends could not believe but they were the enemy and opened fire on them compelling the gallant Captain and his brave North Carolinians to abandon the guns—which were afterwards seized by other Southern men. This much is certainly true, that after Capt. Avery took the Battery no enemy ever used it, or was near it, for soon after the Yankees began a retreat which finally ended, as all know, in a rout.

Many of our North Carolina boys acted heroically, but it would be perhaps better not to name these without explanations, which would be too tedious. It is sufficient to say that the fame of our State will not suffer by reason of loud conduct on the part of the Sixth Regiment State Troops. The less is killed 16, wounded 64. Total 80. Several of the wounded will prove fatal.

Yours,  
AN EYE WITNESS.

## 6th NC An Eye Witness

Clipped By:



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