

Reminiscences of B. V. Artillery (Continued)

About two miles below Fayetteville, N. C. we were ordered into line of battle with Gen. Hardee's whole corps. Skirmishing went on for some time, and towards evening the enemy withdrew, and we resumed our march and crossed the Cape Fear river north of Fayetteville. Two days after in the evening, the battle of Averysboro' was fought. Only one of the B. V. Artillery's guns was ordered into the battle, and it missed, the horses were killed, and it being impossible to bring the piece away, we lost it. Wilson Hall lost one foot in that battle. He was taken to the Hospital at Raleigh and we found him there when we were retreating from Smithfield some weeks later. Two days after the battle of Averysboro', the battle of Bentonville occurred. We took no part in it, as we occupied both flanks. The enemy had made a cavalry charge at the Church (in Bentonville) on our left flank and got to our rear, but the Eighth Texas Regiment was there, and Gen. Hardee led it in person, and drove them back, but he lost his son, Willie Hardee, who had only two hours previous got a transfer from the B. V. Artillery to that Regiment (the Eighth Texas), and was killed in the charge. Several of the men who had left our Company to join other commands, or to receive Commissions to the regular army were killed. After this battle, we returned to Smithfield,

where we waited for two weeks that the rest of the  
army of Tennessee might return and join us.  
Many of them had arrived at that place in advance  
of us. Lieut. Rhodes, who had been off on sick for  
long, but, had been detained at Raleigh by Gen.  
Beaurgard, also joined us at Smithfield. From  
there we marched on to Raleigh, the enemy fol-  
lowing us. Between Raleigh and Greensboro the  
first Armistice took place. We tarried there  
for two days, but no agreement having been ar-  
rived at, we started our retreat. Imagine our  
feelings if you can. About Greensboro we heard  
news of Gen. Lee's surrender, and our officers  
went to Gen. Anderson to find out about it, but,  
he did not know anything about it, but he would  
go and see. He did go, and found that it was  
really so. Then the second Armistice was called,  
and terms arranged. We were then ordered to  
park our Battery at Greensboro, and turn in our  
horses to U. S. Agents and receive our paroles, and  
Capt. Stuart then turned the Company over to  
Lieut. Rhodes to bring back to South Carolina, as,  
Capt. Stuart could rejoin his own family by a  
shorter route. He brought us back to Chester, and  
discharged us there. Comrades of four years  
then parting, to seek their scattered families  
and friends, finding refuge in every quarter  
of the State. We divided into squads, to keep  
together as much as possible, many having no  
houses to go to. I stayed in D. Ben. Rhodes.