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Compiled from

The Official Records on file in the State Military Bureaus and at Washington

by William F. Fox, Lt. Col., U.S.V.

Although dating from 1898, the work of William F. Fox still constitutes today a major reference on the losses suffered by the North and the South during the war. If the majority of Civil War buffs are accustomed to see "Fox" mentioned in the footnotes of their historical books, it is likely that few of them ever consulted his text in its entirety. We thus felt that the following extract would be indicative of the human price paid by the Confederate male population during its conflict with the North.

The eleven States of the Southern Confederacy had, in 1860, a military population of 1,064,193 with which to confront the 4,559,872 of the same class, belonging to the other States and Territories. This number was largely supplemented during each successive year of the war by those who attained their eighteenth year of age, at which time they became liable to military duty. The phrase "military population," as used in the Eighth Census, represented the white males between the ages of 18 and 45, and included all who were unfit for military duty on account of physical or mental infirmities. These exempts - which include, also, all cases of minor defects - constitute, in every country, one-fifth of the military population. But the Confederate recruiting officers did not insist on any high standard of physical requirements. Their need was too pressing ; and they accepted all recruits or conscripts except those whose disabilities manifestly incapacitated them for military service.

The Confederate States, however, could send to the war a far greater proportion of their military population than the Northern States, as they possessed a large agricultural population of blacks who were exempt from military service. The aggregate enrollment of the Confederate Armies during the whole war, according to their best authorities, numbered over 600,000 effective men ; of whom not over 400,000 were enrolled at any time. These eleven States furnished, also, 86,009 men to the Union Armies, receiving in return over 19,000 men from the Border. Many will hold, and with good reasons, that 600,000 is too low an estimate for the total number that served in the Confederate Armies.

Their military population and sweeping conscription acts indicate more. The number of regiments which served continuously during the war indicate more. A compilation made from the official rosters of the Confederate Armies as they stood at various

battles, and at various dates covering the entire period of the war, shows that the different States kept the following number of regimental organizations in almost continuous service in the field :

- ALABAMA - 55 regiments, and 11 battalions of infantry ; 5 regiments of cavalry ; 3 regiments of partisan rangers ; and 16 batteries of light artillery.
- ARKANSAS - 35 regiments, and 12 battalions of infantry ; 6 regiments, and 2 battalions of cavalry ; and 15 batteries of light artillery.
- FLORIDA - 10 regiments, and 2 battalions of infantry ; 2 regiments, and 1 battalion of cavalry ; and 6 batteries of light artillery.
- GEORGIA - 68 regiments, and 17 battalions of infantry ; 11 regiments, and 2 battalions of cavalry ; 1 regiment, and 1 battalion of partisan rangers ; 2 battalions of heavy artillery ; and 28 batteries of light artillery.
- LOUISIANA - 34 regiments, and 10 battalions of infantry ; 2 regiments, and 1 battalion of cavalry ; 1 regiment of partisan rangers ; 2 regiments of heavy artillery ; and 26 batteries of light artillery.
- MISSISSIPPI - 49 regiments, and 6 battalions of infantry ; 7 regiments, and 4 battalions of cavalry ; 2 regiments of partisan rangers ; and 20 batteries of light artillery.
- NORTH CAROLINA - 69 regiments, and 4 battalions of infantry ; 1 regiment, and 5 battalions of cavalry ; 2 battalions of heavy artillery ; and 9 batteries of light artillery.
- SOUTH CAROLINA - 33 regiments, and 2 battalions of infantry ; 7 regiments and 1 battalion of cavalry ; 1 regiment, and 1 battalion of heavy artillery ; and 28 batteries of light artillery.
- TENNESSEE - 61 regiments, and 2 battalions of infantry ; 21 regiments, and 11 battalions of cavalry ; 1 regiment, and 1 battalion of heavy artillery ; and 32 batteries of light artillery.
- TEXAS - 22 regiments, and 5 battalions of infantry ; 28 regiments, and 4 battalions of cavalry ; (*) and 16 batteries of light artillery.
- VIRGINIA - 65 regiments, and 10 battalions of infantry ; 22 regiments, and 11 battalions of cavalry ; 1 regiment of partisan rangers ; 1 regiment of artillery ; and 53(+) batteries of light artillery.
- BORDER STATES - 21 regiments, and 4 battalions of infantry ; 9 regiments, and 5 battalions of cavalry ; and 11 batteries of light artillery.
- C. S. REGULARS - 7 regiments of infantry ; 6 regiments of cavalry ; and one battery of light artillery.
- AGGREGATE - 529 regiments, and 85 battalions of infantry ; 127 regiments and 47 battalions of cavalry ; 8 regiments and 1 battalion of partisan rangers 5 regiments and 6 battalions of heavy artillery ; and 261 batteries of light artillery. In all, equivalent to 764: regiments of 10 companies each.

These were all troops of the line, and they served during the whole, or the greater part of the war. The number does not include regiments which served a short time only ; neither does it include disbanded or consolidated regiments ; nor State militia, Junior Reserves, Senior Reserves, Home Guards, Local Defense regiments, and separate companies. And, yet, these miscellaneous organizations rendered effective service at times, and took the place of regular troops. The Petersburg entrenchments on June 15, 1864, were held successfully by militiamen during the first assault, until the arrival of Lee's army. Partisan bands like Mosby's and John Morgan's kept ten times their number of Union cavalry employed in protecting the territory in which they operated, or in watching their movements.

The question arises, next, as to the average enrollment of the Confederate regiments. That known, the strength of their armies could be soon computed. The rolls of the North

Carolina regiments have been printed and, - with the eight regiments of Junior and Senior Reserves not included in the foregoing list, - show a total enrollment of 125,000 men. These rolls, incomplete as they necessarily are, show that twenty-two of the North Carolina regiments numbered over 1,500 men each ; and some of them over 1,800. The Confederacy organized but few new regiments after 1862 ; the recruits and conscripts were assigned to the old regiments to keep them up to an effective strength.

The total loss of the Confederate Armies in killed and mortally wounded will never be definitely known, and can be stated only in round numbers. A summing up of the casualties at each battle and minor engagement - using official reports only, and in their absence accepting Confederate estimates - indicates that 94, 000 men were killed or mortally wounded on the Confederate side during the war.

In the report for 1865-66, made by General James B. Fry, United States Provost Marshal-General, there is a tabulation of Confederate losses as compiled from the muster rolls on file in the Bureau of Confederate Archives. The returns are incomplete, and nearly all the Alabama rolls are missing. Still the figures are worth noting, as they show that at least 74,524 were killed or died of wounds ; and, that 59,297 died of disease.

From Gen. Fry's tabulation the following abstract is made :

DEATHS IN CONFEDERATE ARMIES

State	Killed			Died of Wounds		
	Officers	Men	Total	Officers	Men	Total
Virginia.....	266.....	5,062.....	5,328.....	200.....	2,319.....	2,519
North Carolina.....	677.....	13,845.....	14,522.....	330.....	4,821.....	5,151
South Carolina.....	360.....	8,827.....	9,187.....	257.....	3,478.....	3,735
Georgia.....	172.....	5,381.....	5,553.....	140.....	1,579.....	1,719
Florida.....	47.....	746.....	793.....	16.....	490.....	506
Alabama.....	14.....	538.....	552.....	9.....	181.....	190
Mississippi.....	122.....	5,685.....	5,807.....	75.....	2,576.....	2,651
Louisiana.....	70.....	2,548.....	2,618.....	42.....	826.....	868
Texas.....	28.....	1,320.....	1,348.....	13.....	1,228.....	1,241
Arkansas.....	104.....	2,061.....	2,165.....	27.....	888.....	915
Tennessee.....	99.....	2,016.....	2,115.....	49.....	825.....	874
Regular C. S. Army.....	35.....	972.....	1,007.....	27.....	441.....	468
Border States.....	92.....	1,867.....	1,959.....	61.....	672.....	733
Totals.....	2,086.....	50,868.....	52,954.....	1,246.....	20,324.....	21,570

Died of Disease

State	Officers	Men	Total
Virginia.....	168.....	6,779.....	6,947
North Carolina.....	541.....	20,061.....	20,602
South Carolina.....	79.....	4,681.....	4,760
Georgia.....	107.....	3,595.....	3,702
Florida.....	17.....	1,030.....	1,047
Alabama.....	8.....	716.....	724
Mississippi.....	103.....	6,704.....	6,807
Louisiana.....	32.....	3,027.....	3,059
Texas.....	10.....	1,250.....	1,260
Arkansas.....	74.....	3,708.....	3,782
Tennessee.....	72.....	3,353.....	3,425
Regular C. S. Army.....	25.....	1,105.....	1,040
Border States.....	58.....	2,084.....	2,142
Totals.....	1,294.....	58,003.....	59,297

If the Confederate rolls could have been completed, and then revised, - as has been done with the rolls of the Union regiments, - the number of killed as shown above (74,524) would be largely increased. As it is, the extent of such increase must remain a matter of conjecture. The Union rolls were examined at the same time, and a similar tabulation of the number killed appears, also, in General Fry's report. But this latter number was increased 15,000 by a subsequent revision based upon the papers known as "final statements," and upon newly-acquired information received through affidavits filed at the Pension Bureau. To understand the full meaning of these figures one must keep in mind the sparse population of these States. Their military population in 1861 was :

Alabama	99,967
Arkansas.....	65,231
Florida.....	15,739
Georgia.....	111,005
Louisiana.....	83,456
Mississippi	70,295
North Carolina	115,369
South Carolina	55,046
Tennessee.....	159,353
Texas.....	92,145
Virginia	196,587
Total	1.064.193

Of this number, Tennessee furnished 31,092 to the Union Armies ; and the western counties of Virginia - afterwards set apart as West Virginia - furnished 31,872 men.

From the preceding figures it appears that South Carolina lost in killed over 23 per cent. Of her entire military population ; and that North Carolina lost over 17 per cent. Add to this the loss by disease, and the maimed or crippled for life, and the result becomes extraordinary in its heroic aspect. The Confederate Armies lost, in the aggregate, nearly 10 per cent. in killed or mortally wounded. The average loss in the Union Armies was 5 per cent. (*) But in the latter there were over 300 regiments which were not in action, with as many more which were under fire but a few times. A large part of the Union Armies was used in protecting communications, guarding lines of supplies, in garrison duty, and as armies of occupation.

The Confederate regiments were all at the front, and, although repeatedly filled up with recruits, were held there until many of them were worn out by the constant attrition. For these reasons it is evident that although the Confederate Armies were much smaller, their losses were not necessarily smaller in proportion. Their generals displayed a wonderful ability in always confronting the enemy with an equal force at the point of contact. What mattered Hooker's extra thousands at Chancellorsville ? In two corps not a shot was fired. What if Meade did have 20,000 more men at Gettysburg than Lee? The Sixth Corps lay in reserve. But in these battles, as in others, every Confederate regiment was put in and not relieved until they had lost killed and wounded men by the score.

The aggregate of killed and mortally wounded in the Confederate Armies during the war was 16,000 less than in the Union Armies ; or, adding the usual proportion of wounded, a difference of about 60,000, killed and wounded, in favor of the Confederates. Up to 1864, the aggregate of losses on each side was substantially the same. There was a small percentage in favor of the Confederates up to that time ; but, if

their casualty lists could be subjected to the same revision as that recently applied to the nominal casualty lists of the Union Armies, it is probable that their official returns as thus corrected would show an increase which would largely offset the difference prior to 1864. The excess of 16,000 killed, in the Union aggregate - or, its equivalent of 60,000 in killed and wounded - occurred almost wholly in the campaigns of 1864-5.

The severity of the losses among the Confederates, and the heroic persistency with which they would stand before the enemy's musketry, becomes apparent in studying the official returns of various regiments.

At Gettysburg, the 26th North Carolina, of Pettigrew's Brigade, Heth's Division, went into action with an effective strength which is stated in the regimental official report as "over 800 men." They sustained a loss, according to Surgeon-General Guild's report, of 86 killed and 502 wounded ; total, 588. In addition there were about 120 missing, nearly all of whom must have been wounded or killed ; but, as they fell into the enemy's hands, they were not included in the hospital report. This loss occurred mostly in the first day's fight, where the regiment encountered the 151st Pennsylvania(+) and Cooper's Battery, of Rowley's Brigade, Doubleday's Division. The Quartermaster of the 26th, who made the official report on July 4th, states that there were only 216 left for duty after the fight on the 1st inst. The regiment then participated in Pickett charge, on the third day of the battle, in which it attacked the position held by Smyth's Brigade, Hays's Division, Second Corps. On the following day, it mustered only 80 men for duty, the missing ones having fallen in the final and unsuccessful charge. In the battle of the first day, Captain Tuttle's company went into action with 3 officers and 84 men ; all of the officers and 83 of the men were killed or wounded. On the same day, and in the same brigade (Pettigrew), Company C, of the Eleventh North Carolina, lost 2 officers killed, and 34, out of 38, men killed or wounded ; Captain Bird, of this company, with the four remaining men, participated in the charge on the 3d of July, and of these the flag-bearer was shot, and the captain brought out the flag himself. This loss of the 26th North Carolina, at Gettysburg, was the severest regimental loss during the war.

The next instance, in point of numerical loss, is that of the 6th Alabama - Colonel John B. Gordon - at Fair Oaks. This regiment was then in Rodes's Brigade of D. H. Hill's Division, which in this fight was pitted against Naglee's Brigade of Casey's Division. The regiment lost 91 killed, 277 wounded, and 5 missing ; total, 373, out of about 632 engaged.

In the same battle, and in D. H. Hill's Division also, the Fourth North Carolina, of G. B. Anderson's Brigade, sustained a loss of 77 killed, 286 wounded, and 6 missing ; total, 369, out of 678 engaged.

At Gaines's Mill the First South Carolina Rifles, Gregg's Brigade, A. P. Hill's Division, charged a battery, which was supported by the Duryea's Zouaves. The Rifles lost in this affair, 81 killed, 234 wounded, and 4 missing ; total, 319, out of 537 engaged.

At Stone's River the Eighth Tennessee, of Donelson's Brigade, Cheatham's Division, lost 41 killed and 265 wounded ; total, 306, out of 444 engaged. The 8th sustained the principal part of this loss while engaged with some troops of Sheridan's Division, and in a successful charge on Houghtaling's Battery, in which they captured several pieces of artillery from that and other batteries.

The severest losses are not always the largest numerically. To understand the extent of a regimental loss in any particular battle, one must know the number of men taken into action by the regiment. Many of the Confederate Colonels were intelligent and thoughtful enough in making their battle reports, to mention in connection with the casualties, the number of men engaged, without which all such statements convey no

definite idea. By doing so they have, in many instances, secured for their regiments an honored place in history which otherwise would have been lost.

The following table of percentages was compiled from the official reports of Confederate regimental commandants :

**REMARKABLE PERCENTAGES OF LOSS IN
CONFEDERATE REGIMENTS AT PARTICULAR ENGAGEMENTS**

Regiment	Battle	Division	Present	Killed	Wounded	Missing	%
1st Texas.....	Antietam.....	Hood	226	45	141	--	82.3
21st Georgia	Manassas.....	Ewell	242	38	146	--	76.0
26th N. Carolina	Gettysburg.....	Heth	820	86	502	(++)	71.7
6th Mississippi.....	Shiloh.....	Hardee.....	425	61	239	--	70.5
8th Tennessee	Stone's River.....	Cheatham	444	41	265	--	68.2
10th Tennessee	Chickamauga.....	Johnson	328	44	180	--	68.0
Palmetto Sharpsh ^{fers}	Glendale	Longstreet	375	39	215	--	67.7
17th South Carolina.....	Manassas.....	Evans	284	25	164	1	66.9
23d South Carolina.....	Manassas.....	Evans	225	27	122	--	66.2
44th Georgia	Mechanicsville	D.H. Hill	514	71	264	--	65.1
1st Ala. Battalion.....	Chickamauga.....	Preston	260	24	144	--	64.6
2d N. C. Battalion.....	Gettysburg.....	Rodes	240	(§)29	124	--	63.7
16th Mississippi.....	Antietam.....	Anderson.....	228	27	117	--	63.1
27th North Carolina.....	Antietam.....	Walker	325	31	168	--	61.2
5th Georgia	Chickamauga.....	Cheatham	317	27	165	2	61.1
2d Tennessee	Chickamauga.....	Cleburne.....	264	13	145	1	60.2
15th and 37th Tenn.....	Chickamauga.....	Stewart	202	15	102	4	59.9
6th Alabama.....	Seven Pines.....	D.H. Hill	632	91	277	5	59.0
16th Alabama.....	Chickamauga.....	Cleburne.....	414	25	218	--	58.6
15th Virginia.....	Antietam.....	McLaws	128	11	64	--	58.5
6th & 9th Tennessee	Chickamauga.....	Cheatham	335	26	168	--	57.9
18th Georgia	Antietam.....	Hood	176	13	72	16	57.3
1st S.C. Rifles	Gaines's Mill.....	A.P. Hill	537	81	225	--	56.9
10th Georgia.....	Antietam.....	McLaws	148	15	69	--	56.7
18th North Carolina.....	Seven Days.....	A.P. Hill.....	396	45	179	--	56.5
3d Alabama.....	Malvern Hill.....	D.H. Hill	354	37	163	--	56.4
18th Alabama.....	Chickamauga.....	Stewart	527	41	256	--	56.3
17th Virginia.....	Antietam.....	Pickett	55	7	24	--	56.3
7th North Carolina.....	Seven Days.....	A.P. Hill.....	450	35	218	--	56.2
12th Tennessee	Stone's River.....	Cheatham	292	18	137	9	56.1
22d Alabama.....	Chickamauga.....	Hindman	371	44	161	--	55.2
9th Georgia.....	Gettysburg.....	Hood	340	27	162	--	55.0
16th Tennessee	Stone's River.....	Cheatham	377	36	155	16	54.9
4th North Carolina.....	Seven Pines.....	D.H. Hill	678	77	286	6	54.4
27th Tennessee	Shiloh.....	Hardee.....	350	27	115	48	54.2
23d Tennessee	Chickamauga.....	Buckner.....	181	8	77	13	54.1
12th South Carolina.....	Manassas.....	A.P. Hill.....	270	23	121	2	54.0
4th Virginia.....	Manassas.....	Jackson.....	180	18	79	--	53.8
4th Texas	Antietam.....	Hood	200	10	97	--	53.5
27th Tennessee	Chaplin Hills.....	Cleburne.....	210	16	84	12	53.3
1st South Carolina	Manassas(+).	A.P. Hill.....	283	25	126	--	53.3
49th Virginia.....	Fair Oaks.....	D.H. Hill.....	424	32	170	22	52.8
29th Mississippi.....	Chickamauga.....	Liddell.....	368	38	156	--	52.7
12th Alabama.....	Fair Oaks.....	D.H. Hill.....	408	59	156	--	52.6
7th South Carolina.....	Antietam.....	McLaws	268	23	117	--	52.2
58th Alabama.....	Chickamauga.....	Stewart	288	25	124	--	51.7
7th Texas	Raymond.....	John Gregg.....	306	22	136	--	51.6
6th South Carolina.....	Fair Oaks.....	D.H. Hill.....	521	88	181	--	51.6
15th Georgia.....	Gettysburg.....	Hood	335	19	152	--	51.0
11th Alabama.....	Glendale.....	Longstreet	357	49	121	11	50.7

17th Georgia	Manassas	Hood	200	10	91	--	50.5
37th Georgia	Chickamauga	Stewart	391	19	168	7	50.1
3d North Carolina	Gettysburg	Johnson	312	29	127	(++)	50.0
63d Tennessee	Chickamauga	Preston	402	16	184	--	49.7
41st Alabama	Chickamauga	Breckenridge	325	27	120	11	48.6
4th Virginia	Chancellorsville	Trimble	355	14	155	3	48.4
32d Tennessee	Chickamauga	Stewart	341	9	156	--	48.3
20th Tennessee	Chickamauga	Stewart	183	8	80	--	48.0
1st Maryland	Gettysburg	Johnson	400	(§)52	\$140	--	48.0
8th Mississippi	Stone's River	Breckenridge	282	20	113	--	47.1
44th Georgia	Malvern Hill	D.H. Hill	142	9	40	16	45.7
32d Virginia	Antietam	McLaws	158	15	57	--	45.5
1st Arkansas	Chickamauga	Cleburne	430	13	180	1	45.1
18th Mississippi	Antietam	McLaws	186	10	73	--	44.6
9th Kentucky	Chickamauga	Breckenridge	230	11	89	2	44.3
14th South Carolina	Gaines's Mill	A.P. Hill	500	18	197	--	43.0
33d North Carolina	Chancellorsville	A. P. Hill	480	32	167	--	41.4
5th Alabama	Malvern Hill	D. H Hill	225	26	66	--	40.8
Hampton Legion	Fair Oaks	Hood	350	21	120	--	40.2
26th Alabama	Malvern Hill	D.H. Hill	218	10	76	--	40.0

But the foregoing were only a few of the many instances of heavy percentages of loss. They represent only the few cases in which the official reports happened to mention the number of effectives taken into action, and which, again, happened to appear before the order was issued, forbidding any further mention in official reports of the strength in action. Equally surprising percentages are found in the brigade reports :

BRIGADE LOSSES

<u>Brigade</u>	<u>Battle</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>%</u>
Garnett (Va.)	Gettysburg	Pickett	1,427	78	324	539	65.9
Perry (Fla.)	Gettysburg	Anderson	700	33	217	205	65.0
Wofford (Texas)	Antietam	Hood	854	69	417	62	64.1
Anderson (S.C.)	(+)Seven Days	Longstreet	1,250	136	638	13	62.9
Pryor	(+)Seven Days	Longstreet	1,400	170	681	11	61.5
Wilcox (Ala.)	(+)Seven Days	Longstreet	1,850	229	806	20	57.0
Benning (Ga.)	Chickamauga	Hood	900	88	412	10	56.6
Bate	Chickamauga	Stewart	1,187	66	541	--	51.1
Ramseur (N. C.)	Chancellorsville	D. H. Hill	1,509	154	526	108	52.2
Featherston (Miss.)	(+)Seven Days	Longstreet	1,350	115	542	9	49.3
Lane (N. C.)	Gettysburg	Pender	1,355	41	348	271	48.7
Donelson (Tenn.)	Stone's River	Cheatham	1,529	108	575	17	45.7
Gregg	Chickamauga	B.R. Johnson	1,352	109	474	18	44.4
Clayton (Ala.)	Chickamauga	Stewart	1,446	86	535	13	44.4
Semmes	Antietam	McLaws	709	53	255	6	44.2
Daniels (N. C.)	Gettysburg	Rodes	2,100	165	635	116	43.6
Rodes (Ala.)	Malvern Hill	D.H. Hill	1,027	81	344	--	41.3

These terrible losses were not confined to regiments and brigades ; in some divisions the men were cut down equally fast throughout the entire ranks of the command. During the Seven Days' Battle, Longstreet's Division lost in the actions at Gaines's Mill and Glendale 766 killed, 3,435 wounded and 237 missing ; total, 4,438, - out of 8,831 engaged, or, 50.2 per cent.

Nor was this an uncommon loss. The official reports of Confederate Division-Generals, though lacking the figures necessary for a statement of an exact percentage, often indicate plainly a division-loss in killed and wounded of over forty per cent.

Through four years of desperate war and its score of battles, these excessive percentages divided and subdivided the ranks, until the end came and with it a division, which was merely a thing of shreds and patches.

If each regiment in the preceding list had fought in no other battle than the one mentioned in connection with it, the record would still be a heroic one ; but the battle mentioned-was one of a score of bloody contests, in each of which the gallant command was decimated. In fact, any regiment in the American War considered itself fortunate if it could come out of a battle with no greater loss than decimation. But, in May, 1863, General Lee issued an order which has an important bearing on the subject of regimental casualties in the Confederate Army :

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 63 - MAY 14, 1863.

“The practice which prevails in the Army of including in the list of casualties those cases of slight injuries which do not incapacitate the recipients for duty, is calculated to mislead our friends, and encourage our enemies, by giving false impressions as to the extent of our losses.”

“The loss sustained by a brigade or regiment is by no means an indication of the service performed or perils encountered, as experience shows that those who attack most rapidly, vigorously, and effectually generally suffer the least. It is, therefore, ordered that in future the reports of the wounded shall only include those whose injuries, in the opinion of the medical officers, render them unfit for duty. It has also been observed that the published reports of casualties are in some instances accompanied by a statement of the number of men taken into action. The commanding general deems it unnecessary to do more than direct the attention of officers to the impropriety of thus furnishing the enemy with the means of computing our strength, in order to insure the immediate suppression of this pernicious and useless custom.”

“By command of General Lee.

W.H. TAYLOR, Assistant Adjutant-General.”

If this order was observed, it is evident that all subsequent casualty lists are of little value for statistical purposes ; and, if enforced, that many a gallant regiment has been deprived of the laurels to which its heroic record would have entitled it. The effect of this order is manifest in the tone of the official reports made by the regimental commandants at the next battle. For instance :

“I herewith respectfully submit a detailed statement of casualties, giving names and description of wounds in full, from which I have omitted all slight wounds which, though sufficient to disable a man for a day or two, will not prevent his taking part in the next battle, - say a week or ten days from the time the hurt was received”.

Official report of 9th Georgia, for Gettysburg.

“Below I submit a list of killed, wounded, and missing. The wounded include only those disabled indefinitely. Quite a number were temporarily disabled by slight wounds, but resumed their duties in a few days ; hence I make no mention of them in this report”. Official report of Colonel V. H. Manning, Third Arkansas ; for Gettysburg.

This order lays too much stress upon the hackneyed assertion that losses are by no means an indication of the service performed or perils encountered. Such statements have, indeed, proved true in a few particular instances ; but, in only a few. They were exceptions, which only proved the rule. A study of regimental actions shows clearly that the battalions, which faced musketry the steadiest, longest, and oftenest were the ones

whose aggregate loss during the war was the greatest. Fighting regiments leave a bloody wake behind them ; retreating regiments lose few men. At Chancellorsville, the heaviest losses were in the corps that stood ; not in the one that broke.

In the following table is given the leading regiments, in point of loss, at various battles. The list is incomplete, as there are few Confederate official reports for the latter part of the war. Still the record is one which will ever redound to the credit of American manhood, and to the glory of the American soldier.

There are no muster-out rolls of the Confederate regiments. There are partial sets of muster-rolls and monthly returns at Washington in the Bureau of Confederate Archives; but they are defective and incomplete. There is no way of determining accurately the mortuary loss of each Confederate regiment during its entire service. The total losses of a few regiments have been ascertained from other sources. The History of Gregg's South Carolina Brigade states the number of deaths in each regiment, and, judging from the casualty lists given for each action, the statistics are substantially correct.

Gregg Brigade	Killed and Died of Wounds			Died of Disease		
	Officers	Men	Total	Officers	Men	Total
1st South Carolina	21	260	281	--	156	156
12th South Carolina	17	213	230	2	182	184
13th South Carolina	17	203	220	5	257	262
14th South Carolina	16	208	224	4	322	326
1st South Carolina Rifles	19	305	324	3	198	201
Total	90	1,189	1,279	14	1,115	1,129

But the loss in action of this famous brigade was largely in excess of other commands. The average number of killed in the Confederate regiments was something less than 150.

RANDOW PRINTING COMPANY, ALBANY, N.Y., 1889



Unidentified dead Confederate soldiers on the battlefield (Library of Congress)