

FIFTY-FIRST NEW YORK INFANTRY — “SHEPARD RIFLES.”

FERRERO’S BRIGADE — STURGIS’S DIVISION — NINTH CORPS.

(1) COL. EDWARD FERRERO ; BVT. MAJOR-GEN.
(2) COL. ROBERT B. POTTER ; MAJOR-GEN.

(3) COL. CHARLES W. LEGENDRE ; BVT. BRIG.-GEN.
(4) COL. JOHN G. WRIGHT ; BVT. BRIG.-GEN.

<i>Losses.</i>	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>En. Men.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Killed and mortally wounded.....	9	193	202
Died of disease, accidents, etc.....	2	105	107
Died in Confederate prisons.....	..	69	69
Totals	11	367	378

<i>Battles.</i>	<i>Killed.</i>	<i>Wounded.*</i>	<i>Missing.†</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Roanoke Island, N. C.....	3	11	9	23
New Berne, N. C.....	11	60	..	71
Manassas, Va.....	10	49	17	76
Chantilly, Va.....	..	8	5	13
South Mountain, Md.....	4	12	..	16
Antietam, Md.....	19	68	..	87
Fredericksburg, Va.....	10	61	2	73
Jackson, Miss....	..	1	..	1
Knoxville, Tenn....	..	1	..	1
Wilderness, Va.....	20	54	5	79
Spotsylvania, Va.....	11	32	..	43
North Anna, Va.....	..	1	..	1
Bethesda Church, Va.....	3	8	6	17
Petersburg Mine, Va.....	10	21	2	33
Weldon Railroad, Va.....	..	1	..	1
Peebles’s Farm, Va.....	2	10	33 ²	344
Siege of Petersburg, Va.....	21	73	4	98
Totals	124	471	38 ²	977

*Includes the mortally wounded. †Includes the captured.

Present, also, at Blue Springs, Tenn. ; Campbell’s Station, Tenn. ; Siege of Vicksburg, Miss. ; Cold Harbor, Va. ; Hatcher’s Run ; Fort Stedman, Va. ; Fall of Petersburg, Va.

NOTES.—Recruited in New York City, and formed by uniting the “Scott Rifles,” two companies, and the “Union Rifles,” two companies, with the Shepard Rifles. It was mustered in by companies from July 27 to October 23, 1861. In January, 1862, it embarked at Annapolis on the Burnside Expedition, having been assigned to Reno’s Brigade. At the battle of New Berne it encountered the brunt of the fighting, and sustained the severest loss of any regiment in that action. During its subsequent service it was in the Second Division which was commanded, successively, by Reno, Sturgis, and Potter. The Fifty-first distinguished itself particularly at Antietam, where, under Colonel Potter, it supported the Fifty-first Pennsylvania, of the same brigade, in their desperate charge across the stone bridge, an action which forms one of the most brilliant episodes of the war. Following the fortunes of the Ninth Corps it served under Burnside on the Carolina coast, took part in Pope’s Virginia campaign, fought under McClellan in Maryland, was present at the Siege of Vicksburg, participated in the fighting in East Tennessee, in the gallant defense of Knoxville, and then returned to Virginia in time to take part in Grant’s campaigns of 1864 and the final triumphs of the following year. The regiment reenlisted in December, 1863, and in the following winter was recruited anew nearly to its maximum. During the campaigns of 1862–63 the regiment served in Ferrero’s Brigade ; in the battles of 1864–65 it was in Curtin’s (1st) Brigade, Potter’s (2d) Division. The graves of the Fifty-first are scattered far and wide. Few regiments saw a more active service, and none left a more honorable record.