

CHAPTER IV.

At Winchester-----A New Brigade Commander-----Scouts
And Marches-----Death of Dr. Gilkey----Battle of
Winchester, June 12th, 13th and 14th, and Bunker
Hill, June 13th-----The Retreat and Battle in the
Night-----Escape of Milroy's Army From Lee-----
Over in Pennsylvania and Maryland-----List of Killed,
Wounded and Prisoners-----Back To Martinsburg-----A
Word in Defense of General Milroy.

We were now brigaded anew and placed under command of Brigadier General W. S. Elliott. The brigade consisted of the 110th, 116th, 122d and 123d Ohio infantry regiments, the 12th and 13th Pennsylvania cavalry and Battery L, 5th U. S. artillery, a very strong brigade, but a curious mixture of arms. This returned Colonel Washburn, Adjutant Ballard, Quartermaster Williams and Quartermaster Sergeant Lee to their regiment, and Lieutenant Sibley, and Lieutenant Cochran, and Corporal Campbell to their companies. It would be hard to find words to express how well these three men...Sibley, Cochran and Campbell ... discharged the duties assigned them at Buchanan. Each man was exactly the right man in the right place, and they now returned to their respective companies with the good will of everybody and with the assurance that they had faithfully and efficiently done their work. On the 1st of April the enlisted men of the regiment purchased a fine sword for Lieutenant Colonel Wildes, which, on account of an injury he had received, was not formally presented to him until the last of May. It bore the engraved inscription, "Presented to Lt. Col. Thomas Francis Wildes, by the enlisted men of the 116th O. V. I., as a testimonial of their appreciation of his courage, zeal and kindness. April 1st, 1863." A very graceful and feeling presentation speech was made by Private W. H. Bassett, of company C, which was responded to in brief remarks by Lieutenant Colonel Wildes, in which he thanked the men most heartily for their splendid gift.

During the time we lay in Winchester, there was a great deal of serious sickness and many deaths among both citizens and soldiers, typhoid fever being the prevailing disease. Dr. W. R. Gilkey, our surgeon, died of fever on the 4th of June. Dr. J. Q. A. Hudson, our first assistant surgeon, was detached from us, and assigned to the charge of the hospital for insane soldiers at Louisville, Ky., almost immediately after the organization of the regiment and seeing no prospect of being returned to us he had resigned on the 23d of March. As before stated, Dr. Johnson resigned at Romney on the 19th of February, and for a long time, during which a great deal of sickness prevailed, Dr. Gilkey was alone and he was overworked. He really fell a sacrifice to his extraordinary devotion to duty. Dr. Thomas J. Shannon was appointed to the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Gilkey, and Drs. Smith and Brown in the vacancies created by the resignations of Hudson and Johnson.

From the time of its arrival in Winchester, the regiment was almost constantly engaged in foraging, scouting, or skirmishing with the enemy. Several very long and hard marches were made on scouts. One of these on the 22d of April, was to Strasburg, twenty miles distant, where our cavalry only had a tilt with the enemy. We returned, next day, with thirty prisoners. But long scouts up the valley were a weekly occurrence, but as nothing more than heavy marches resulted from them it would be tedious to give them in detail. On the 25th of April, we again started out with our entire brigade of infantry, Cavalry and artillery, accompanied by a pontoon train. The next day we reached Wardensville, where we went into camp, passing through Capon Springs, a beautiful watering place, on the way. On the morrow, we marched to Lost River, and finding the bridges all gone, we returned to our camp ground of the night before. We were now in the midst of some of the most enchanting scenery in Virginia. During the day Lost River was bridged with pontoons, and next morning we crossed and resumed our march to within nine miles of Moorefield. We then turned about, and marched back to Wardensville, where we again camped over night. During the night four of our pickets were shot by bushwhackers. The next morning early, we were on the road toward Strasburg, where we came up with the enemy, and had a sharp engagement. The 13th Pennsylvania cavalry was led into an ambush here and lost a few men, but the enemy was repulsed with considerable loss, retreating up the valley. The Union loss was six killed and several wounded, all from the cavalry. On the next day, the 29th, we returned to Winchester, having marched about 100 miles. On the 5th of May we started out with a week's rations and forty rounds of ammunition. Went as far as New Market,

and meeting with nothing more formidable than a few bushwhackers, returned to Winchester on the 9th. Soon after this we were engaged several days in macadamizing the road to Martinsburg, which was put in good shape for several miles out of Winchester. Several promotions took place at Winchester on account of the resignations at Romney. The following is the list:

First Lieutenant T. Mallory, to Captain, (vice) Ridgeway, resigned.
First Lieutenant H. L. Karr, to Captain (vice) Golden, resigned.
First Lieutenant Alex Cochran, to Captain (vice) Fuller, resigned.
Second Lieutenant H. L. Sibley, to First Lieutenant.
Second Lieutenant W. M. Kerr, to First Lieutenant.
Second Lieutenant Richard Chaney, to First Lieutenant.
Second Lieutenant Wilson F. Martin, to First Lieutenant.
Second Lieutenant J. C. H. Cobb, to First Lieutenant.
Second Lieutenant A. B. Frame, to First Lieutenant
Second Lieutenant John F. Welch, to First Lieutenant
First Sergeant John Manning, to Second Lieutenant.
First Sergeant Samuel D. Knight, to Second Lieutenant
First Sergeant Ransom Griffin, to Second Lieutenant
First Sergeant Richmond O. Knowles, to Second Lieutenant
First Sergeant Gottlieb Scheifley, to Second Lieutenant
First Sergeant Wm. R. (or B) Henry, to Second Lieutenant
Sergeant Major Milton A. Ellis, to Second Lieutenant
Sergeant James M. Dalzell, Company H, was appointed Sergeant Major.

On the 3d of April the regiment was armed with new Springfield rifles, and now we felt, for the first time, that we had a serviceable and respectable arm. On the 4th there was a grand review of the army by Gen. Milroy. On the 4th of June Private Jacob Butts, of company G. died in hospital. He was a fine man and one of the strongest physically in the regiment. His was the first death in the company. On the 5th companies A and I, with two companies of the 87th Pennsylvania, were sent, under command of Major Morris, to Bunker Hill. On the 6th company G, under Captain Karr, was sent out about nine miles on the Romney road, to break up, and if possible, capture a band of rebel horse thieves infesting that section. The company captured two notorious thieves, besides a rebel militia captain. He told Captain Karr that the Union forces had been after him eighteen times, and he had always eluded them until now. Captain Karr relied, "Yes, but this is the first time company G of the 116th Ohio has been after you."

For two or three days prior to the 12th of June, the whole army was on the *qui vive*. We were in the line of battle ready for orders, or on the move from one point to another, day and night. On the afternoon of the 12th the 116th and 123d Ohio, 12th West Virginia, a regiment of cavalry and a battery were ordered out on the road leading to Kernstown. Soon after passing our picket lines, we met the enemy's skirmishers, which we drove back beyond Kernstown. In this movement the 116th was on the right. We met a strong line a short distance beyond Kernstown. The 116th was quickly thrown around to a position from which it enfiladed the line, and pushing our advantage, pressed them under a hot fire, until they broke, when we charged and drove them from the field in a rout. We captured a large number of prisoners, meeting ourselves with only slight loss in wounded. It was soon seen, however, from a point of high ground which we reached in the pursuit, that we had met but a small portion of the force actually in our front. The roads for miles up the valley indicated the approach and near presence of a large force. Information to this effect being sent back to Milroy at Winchester, he came out and reconnoitered. We remained in line of battle until after dark, when we fell back to Winchester. We now expected hot work on the morrow. While we wondered at our remaining there in the presence of so large a force, it was only ours to obey such orders as were given us, ask no questions and cast no reflections. So all that night we lay on our arms behind the entrenchments. History shows that the main body of Lee's army then lay within a few miles of us, and that the movement he was then carrying out was commenced on the 3d of June. Lee says in his report of the Gettysburg campaign: "On the night that Ewell appeared at Winchester, the Federal troops, in front of A. P. Hill at Fredericksburg recrossed the Rappahannock, and the next day disappeared behind the hills of Stafford. General Ewell left Culpepper Court House on the 10th. Crossing the Shenandoah near Front Royal, he detached General Rhode's division to Berryville, with instructions, after dislodging the forces

there, to cut off communications between Winchester and the Potomac. General Rhodes attacked the force stationed at Berryville on the 13th, drove it into Winchester, and on the 14th entered Martinsburg.”

Fighting began early on the morning of the 13th all along the line in front of Winchester, and continued during the day until after dark. The 116th was engaged constantly. Towards evening, it was driven with other troops from the outer entrenchments to the second line. In the afternoon of the 13th, the two companies at Bunker Hill were attacked by a portion of Rhodes’ division. The little command under its intrepid leader, Major Morris, made a gallant stand and held its ground against vastly superior numbers, until nearly half its number was killed, wounded or captured. Among the severely wounded and left on the field was Captain Alex Cochran, of company I, and among the prisoners were Lieutenant R. O. Knowles of the same company, and Lieutenant Manning of company A. The remainder sought to reach an old brick church, and the enemy made an effort to cut them off from it, but they fought their way into it bravely, and using loop-holes which they had previously made for their rifles, soon drove the enemy beyond their reach. Here they remained until about 2 o’clock the next morning, when finding a gap in the enemy’s lines surrounding them, they made their escape, and by a long and tiresome march reached Winchester about 7 A. M. of the 14th. The troops driven out of Berryville reached Winchester also the morning of the 14th. They were followed and attacked at the crossing of Opequan Creek. This force was in command of Col. McReynolds, of the 1st New York cavalry.

General Doubleday, in his account of the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, in “The Campaigns of the Civil War,” says: “Soon after the affair at Opequan, Major Morris, with 200 men, was attacked at Bunker Hill, and outlying post of Winchester. He occupied a fortified church, but moved out to meet the enemy, under the impression it was only a small raiding party. When he found 2,000 men in line of battle, he retreated, fighting, to the church again. There, as the doors were barricaded, and the walls loop-holed, the rebels could make no impression, and were obliged to fall back to a respectful distance. In the night the Major managed to steal away, and soon rejoined the main body at Winchester.” Among those conspicuous for bravery and coolness at the battle of Bunker Hill, was Lieutenant A. B. Frame, of company I, upon whom the command of the company devolved, after the wounding of the gallant Captain Cochran. He was highly praised by Major Morris, and ever afterwards retained the confidence and esteem of his men. Under a most galling fire, he covered the retreat to the church, keeping his men in hand as well and as coolly as on a parade ground, and was among the very last to enter the church. More than half of his company were made prisoners, by being cut off from the church, and from reaching him from the skirmish line. Mere boy, though he was, he that day showed himself possessed of great courage, and superior soldierly qualities.

On the morning of the 14th the battle began in earnest, bright and early. The 116th fought at different points in the entrenchments, re-enforcing, and being re-enforced, wherever and whenever the battle was most desperate, and our lines were most hotly pressed. It was wonderful, even to ourselves, how we held that overwhelming army at bay. Just before night, however, the rebels, in overwhelming numbers, attacked us on all sides, and drove Milroy’s little army from its entrenchments into the forts, and the works in their vicinity, on Applepie Ridge. In the last charge made, Captain Frederick H. Arckenoe, as brave, noble and gallant an officer as the regiment ever had, was killed. For some time prior to the rebel’s advance on Winchester, Captain Arckenoe’s company, “C,” had been detached from the regiment to support a battery, occupying a line of works about one mile northwest of Winchester, on Flint Ridge. On the morning of the 14th, the 110th Ohio, Col. Keiffer, was added to the force at this point. At the time of the general advance of the enemy, on the afternoon of the 14th, this position was assailed by a large division of rebels, and twenty-four pieces of artillery. Captain Arckenoe fought his men with remarkable coolness and bravery, and fell, shot through the head, as he was firing his pistol in the very faces of the rebels, as they swarmed over the works in his front. Besides the Captain, Sergeant Oswald Heck was killed, and a number of men wounded, which we will mention hereafter. Lieutenant Lupton and about one-third of the company were captured. With the balance, Lieutenant Mann reported to Colonel Horn, of the 6th Maryland regiment, in one of the large forts, where he was assigned to duty on the left, and with which regiment he remained during the day. The 116th thus had three companies substantially used up. A and I at Bunker Hill, and C at this spot, with a loss of one officer killed, one wounded, and four captured. The rebels now opened a terrific fire of artillery upon us, and charge after charge was made by their infantry, which they renewed again and again, until long after dark. Often times they charged in heavy masses right up to the ditch surrounding the forts, only to be hurled back again and again in a shower of balls, and grape, and

cannister??. But they were unable to gain a footing at any point, and about 10 o'clock at night, withdrew beyond our reach. During the whole of this deadly struggle, General Milroy stood in a lookout, high up on the flag-staff in the center of the main fort, coolly directing every movement, and encouraging his troops. About 10 o'clock the firing ceased, and arrangements began for our escape during the night. The prisoners we had taken during the day, and everything else, confirmed to prove that we were in the presence of Lee's Potomac Army. As a result of a council of war, after spiking all the cannon, we moved out of the forts quietly, about 2 o'clock in the morning of the 15th. The enemy lay very close to us on our front and flanks, but, for some reason, did not close the gap in our rear, which they might have done as well as not. But we knew they were in strong force, four miles below us, on the road to Martinburg??. and to escape we must cut our way through them. At the point expected, we met the enemy drawn up in line of battle, where the road to Harper's Ferry turns off from the Winchester and Martinsburg turnpike, thus covering both roads. The 116th occupied a position on the left of the line, and some distance left of the turnpike. We were in line of battle, and as soon as the rebel line was discovered in the darkness, we made a determined charge, and broke through, at the same time capturing several prisoners. On the extreme right, several regiments, including the 110th and 122d Ohio, did the same thing. The whole of our second line, under orders of General Milroy, now moved quickly to the right, without attacking the enemy, and with the 110th, 122d, and other regiments, made their way to Harper's Ferry. The 123d Ohio and the 18th Connecticut were in the centre, and met the enemy in strong force, and though they made two or three desperate charges, were unable to cut their way through, and were obliged to surrender, portions of each regiment, however, escaping in the darkness. On the left, beside the 116th, were the 12th West Virginia regiment of infantry, a battalion of the 1st New York cavalry, and a portion of the 12th Pennsylvania cavalry, under Major Adams. From our present position, the enemy was in strong force between us and Harper's Ferry, and also between us and Martinsburg. Company C went through to Harper's Ferry with the 6th Maryland, with which it had operated the latter part of the day before. General Milroy, on being informed of our position, ordered us to move off to the left, and try to reach the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad at some point west of Martinsburg, at Hancock, if possible. We then quickly moved to the left, westward, through a piece of woods, skirmishing with an unseen foe as we went, until we reached an open field beyond, where we halted and reformed. We found we had the two regiments named, besides fragments of several others, a battalion of the gallant 1st New York cavalry, and about half of the 12th Pennsylvania cavalry. A course of retreat was soon settled upon. The infantry moved out in advance, the cavalry covering the rear. Colonel Washburn was in command of the infantry, and Major Adams of the cavalry. Knowing precisely the direction to take, and the point to make, we were enabled in the confusion following the engagement, aided by the mist of early dawn, to get well on our way before we were discovered by the rebels. When they did discover us, they followed with a considerable force, determined to cut us off from a gap in the mountains, which we were aiming, with all speed, to reach. The detachment of the 1st New York cavalry did splendid service now in protecting the rear of our column, and preventing the enemy's cavalry from obstructing our march. The 12th Pennsylvania cavalry went forward to possess and hold the gap that we were endeavoring to reach. They performed their work well. By dint of hard marching, and considerable maneuvering and skirmishing, we reached the gap, and entering the narrow mountain pass, we were safe against further successful pursuit by almost any amount of force.

That our route may be recognized by others, it may be stated, that we took the route on this march pursued by Collis' zouaves, in Banks' retreat of the year before, crossing the mountains at the same place, and marching thence through Bath and Berkley Springs, to Sir John's Run. Reaching the Springs, we rested a few hours, the men, meanwhile, taking occasion to bathe and wash up. As we were about starting again, we learned that a force of rebel cavalry was trying to get possession of certain mountain roads ahead of us a short distance, in order to cut us off from the ford of the Potomac at Sir John's Run. Hastily throwing a few companies forward, to command these roads, we moved out quickly, and crossed the ford without molestation, but we were scarcely across before the enemy appeared on the opposite bank of the river. We halted at Hancock, and placed a strong guard at the ford. From here we sent our regimental horses and mules to Cumberland, in charge of Captain Powell's company of cavalry. We rested at Hancock until 10 P.M., marched all night, and the next day, in the afternoon, reached Orleans Station, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, where we procured rations, and met a part of General Couche's division, collected from guarding the railroad. Here, learning that the enemy was in Cumberland in large force, we received orders from General Milroy, at Harper's Ferry, to proceed to Bloody Run, Pennsylvania, at which point he would meet us, for co-operation with the Army of the Potomac. We reached Bloody Run on the 19th. Milroy was

as good as his word and met us on the next day after our arrival. It was a sad meeting. The “Old Grey Eagle” looked gloomy and broken-hearted, but we drew up in line to receive him, and, as he approached, presented arms, and cheered him loud and long. Stacking arms, officers and men gathered about to shake his hand, and learn the fate of the rest of his little army. Many a heart was saddened at the news that our old associates of the 123d Ohio were prisoners. We must not pass from Bloody Run without mentioning the fact, that, upon hearing of our coming, the people of that place prepared a glorious feast for us. Long tables were placed in the middle of the principal street, which were loaded with warm and cold meats, potatoes, bread, pickles, splendid hot coffee, and great bowls and pails of milk. We were nearly starved, and no meal we ever ate was so heartily relished. The good people of Bloody Run will be remembered as long as there is a member of the 116th living. Finding we were in no condition for immediate service, General Milroy left us to await further orders. Remaining here until the 30th, we then moved to Bedford, where we remained until the 3d of July. On that day, we moved back to Bloody Run. Next day, starting at 4 A.M., we marched six miles, and stopped for breakfast. During the day we passed through the small village of Mount Zion, and camped that night six miles from McConnellsburg. It rained hard from 6 A. M. till 3 P. M. July 5th we passed through McConnellsburg to Loudon, which we reached about 2 P. M. Just after dark we received orders to move by a forced march to Mercersburg, to guard trains captured by our cavalry. We reached Mercersburg about 1 o’clock next morning. Here we met Col. McReynolds, through whose disobedience of orders, on the morning we left Winchester, a portion of our force was captured, and by whose conduct the successful escape of our whole command was thwarted. We were far from glad to see him, and every one expressed hopes that he would not be allowed to remain in command of the troops. Our hopes were gratified, for he was ordered from there in arrest, and his gallant regiment remained in command of Major Adams, and the rest of the troops breathed freer than they learned they were relieved from any further risk from his treachery. Early in the morning, we started back with the captured trains, and about 1,000 prisoners, to Loudon. Other portions of our cavalry had now joined us, and we watched closely for opportunities to strike Lee’s trains, which were passing in front of his defeated army from Gettysburg. Opportunities soon came, when our cavalry, supported by our infantry, struck his trains and captured, in the aggregate, over 400 wagons, a large number of which were loaded with wounded. The wagons, horses, and mules were run off to safe distance from the rebel line of retreat, while the wounded prisoners were distributed in Loudon and adjoining farm houses. We hung upon the flank of Lee’s retreating column, until they passed through Hagerstown, making frequent dashes upon his trains, capturing large numbers of stragglers and foraging parties, thus protecting the country from being plundered by his half-famished hordes. From a letter written from Loudon, under date of July 6th, I take the following: “We are doing good work here, harassing the rebels on their flank, cutting up their trains, and picking up their stragglers. There probably never was so complete a rout as Lee’s army sustained. A train six miles long passed by on the Cumberland pike yesterday. It was terribly cut up by our cavalry and Pleasanton’s. It will probably all be captured, or destroyed. Providence is favoring us with such copious rains. The Potomac has risen several feet. A large pontoon bridge of the enemy was swept away yesterday, near Williamsport. This was the point aimed at by the rebel train mentioned. The demoralization of Lee’s army is something awful to witness, and if General Mead could press it hard, fully half of it would certainly be destroyed, or captured. Why he does not press forward is a mystery to us, who can see it’s hopeless condition here, as it passes by.” On the 13th we marched to Greencastle, and the next day started for Hagerstown, where we met the Army of the Potomac in pursuit of Lee, now too late to accomplish what it might so easily have accomplished a week before. And here, after a month of fighting, skirmishing and hard marching, (much of the marching being night and day and forced), we stacked arms, and partaking of the first square meal we had eaten since we left Bloody Run, laid down to rest and sleep. I can never forget the appearance of those sleepers. They looked more like dead than asleep. They were utterly exhausted. For the four days prior to reaching Hagerstown, we had scarcely rested an hour at a time; had hardly closed our eyes in sleep, night or day, and had had nothing to eat, save what we could pick up as we passed rapidly along the roads, or through the fields and woods.

The next day we moved to Sharpsburg, passing over the battle field of Antietam, and then, on the 4th of August, moved to Martinsburg, by the way of Harper’s Ferry. On the way, we passed the house in which John Brown prepared for his raid on Harper’s Ferry. From the 13th of June our regiment had lost 203 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. The following is a list of our killed, wounded and prisoners:

KILLED AT BUNKER HILL

Company A—Simpson Smith, John Welch and John A. Bowman-----3

WOUNDED AT BUNKER HILL

Company A—Abel Hall, Henry Harman, Daniel P. Hubbard, James Lafever, James W. Oliver, Jacob Ring, Jacob Zimmerly, Hiram Shafer, Solomon Shafer, Cyrus Spriggs, Samuel Tidd, Edward J. Tillett, Aaron Weekly, George C. Williamson, Samuel Steel, And Corporal Newton Meek.-----16.

Company I—Captain Alexander Cochran, Caleb I. Baker, George W. Burch.-----3.

PRISONERS

Company A—Lieutenant John S. Manning, Sergeant Mann Smith, Sergeant James H. Worder, Sergeant Daniel C. Hurd, Corporal Benjamin F. Dye, Corporal Jesse Keyser, Corporal William Brock, Corporal Newton Meek, Privates, John D. Brown, Albert Gates, Joseph R. Brock, John C. Bean, William Bonam, Jesse Coulter, Abraham Coulter, William Danford, William S. Dyer, Frederick Edge, Samuel Gates, Jefferson Gratton, Abel Hall, Henry Harman, Daniel P. Hubbard, Joseph Paith, Jacob Ring, Cyrus Spriggs, Samuel Tidd, Edward Tillett, Samuel Zimmerly, James Lafever, Samuel H. McHugh, George C. Williamson, Benjamin Ring.-----33.

Company I—Captain Alexander Cochran, Sergeant George Bean, Privates, William Scott, John O. Athey, Jacob E. Athey, John C. Bailey, Caleb I. Baker, Elias Baker, Bradley?? P. Barrows, Jesse Burton, George W. Burch, James A. Campbell, Samuel H. Cramblett, John A. Dennis, Samuel P. Fleak, (escaped June 16th), Ephriam?? W. Frost, James H. Gilchrist, Samuel McCulloch, William McMillan, Leonard S. Mickel, Joseph Morrison, John J. Norris, Sheldon Parker, Hopson L. Sherman, George W. Tasker.-----25.

KILLED AT WINCHESTER

Captain Frederick H. Arckenoe, Co. C; Sergeant Oswald Heck, Co. C; Samuel Luthy, Co. E; Theodore Mathias, Co. E.-----4.

WOUNDED

John H. Lang, Co. C, in arm; Charles D. Watson, Co. C, right shoulder.

PRISONERS, JUNE 15th

Chaplain E. W. Brady, Q.M. Sergeant William J. Lee, Elmer Armstrong, Sutler, Mrs. Colonel Washburn.-----5.

Company B—Lieutenant Hiram L. Sibley, Sergeant Edward P. Tiffany, Privates Henry Jennings, Leonard J. Cooley, Benjamin McLane, John Campbell, Daniel Rose, Aurelius P. Wiley.-----8.

Company C—Lieutenant Levi Lupton, Corporal Oliver A. Hardesty, Privates Wilson A. Mann, David A. Mann, John Mahoney, Miller Booth, Jacob Butt, Eli Evans, Robert E. Chambers, George W. Gannon, William Montgomery, Reinhard Straub, Jacob Walton, John Latchaw, George W. Matchett, George W. Sampson, John Egger, William Bush, Clarkson W. Adams, William W. Wheaton, Citizen H. Henderson, Samuel Dobbins, Emon H. Beardmore, James A. Preshaw, Henry Fleishman, Lewis Steuher, Charles L. Eberle, Alexander Robbins.-----28.

Company D—Corporal William A. Ferrell, Privates Isaac Price, Jackson Cox, Leander A. Eddy, Henry Mowder, Thomas Rawley, Sampson Patterson, Robert Armstrong, Hugh Thompson, James Simmons.-----10

Company E—Corporal John J. Walter, Privates Robert S. Hutchison, John Smith, John Morrow, Benjamin J. Ridgeway, Jacob Fisher, Jacob S. Hurd, Jacob Walter.-----8.

Company F—Privates William H. Bell, Junius Early, Charles Latch, James Marsh, Christian Rhiner.-----5.

Company G—Lieutenant J. C. S. Cobb, Privates Ira Wood, James Davis, William M. Davies, Jacob Fisher, George W. Hysell, Eben Hysell, Samuel L. Smith, Isaac O. Swett, William J. Chase.-----11.

Company H—Privates Daniel Bock, Joseph Gerald, Mathew Grandon, E. J. Mathews, Lafayette Moore, Michael J. Moore, Hugh Shafer, Joseph Dudley, James Smith, Stephen C. McCoy, Jacob Wannhas, Samuel B. Mathews.-----12.

Company I—Lieutenant Richmond O. Knowles, Sergeant John B. Humphrey, Corporal Wisley Mickle, Corporal Joseph P. Parrish, Privates George Bates, Asher Buckley, Alvah D. Carlton, Luther H. Clayton, James W. Glazier, Morris Humphrey, William S. Parrott, Rufus B. Stanley, Enoch Taylor, Charles W. Waterman.-----14.

Company K—Corporal Carmi Allison, Drummer Boy Lucius Hull, Privates John Koons, Reason Risley, Hiram Pitcock, William Rutter, Abraham Butterworth, John Hartley, S. Fenton, George McDonald, Harley Gilbert, Craven Ayers, Emery Newton, William Robinett, Asa Ladd, Corporal Jesse Allen.-----16.

Making a total loss of 7 killed, 21 wounded, 175 prisoners.....203

Lieutenant Sibley was recorder of a military commission at Winchester, of which Colonel Keifer was president, when the attack was made upon the place. He was at the time quite unwell. The morning of the attack he got out of bed the first time for a week, and went to the room of the commission to be excused by Colonel Keifer. While they were talking, the rebel artillery opened. Keifer buckled on his sword, saying: "I think there won't be any further use of this commission." And left to command his regiment. Sibley was alternately in camp and hospital, until the night we moved out, when he rode Surgeon Smith's horse, and was finally captured in Colonel Ely's surrender in the morning attack. Many of the prisoners at Winchester were sick in the hospital, but it is impossible to distinguish, from any records or papers in my possession, who were captured in hospital, or who in action. Company C, after reaching Harper's Ferry, was assigned to the 110th Ohio, and served with it until August 1st. On the evacuation of Harper's Ferry, the stores were sent down the canal to Washington, the troops marching as an escort, company C accompanying the 110th on the march. Arriving at Washington, the news of Lee's defeat at Gettysburg was received, and it accompanied the 110th back to follow the retreating rebels. Reaching Frederick City, Maryland, it, with the 110th, was assigned to the 2d Brigade, 3d Division, 3d Army Corps, and marched in pursuit of Lee through Williamsport, Loudon, Upperville and Manassass Gap, where they skirmished with the enemy. Arriving at Warrenton, Virginia, the company was ordered to rejoin its regiment, which it did at Sharpsburg, on the 4th of August, having marched, in the meantime, about 250 miles, besides traveling by rail several hundred miles more. A captain's commission awaited Lieutenant Mann, Lieutenant Lupton was promoted to First Lieutenant, and Orderly Sergeant William T. Biddenharn to Second Lieutenant, and were assigned to duty with their old company.

Now a few words in general about the campaign, ending with our arrival at this point. General Milroy had 6,900 men when attacked at Winchester, on the 12th of June, by Ewell's corps, in the advance of Lee's army. He was severely censured for the "loss of his army," as the critics of those times put it. He was placed in arrest, and after waiting a time, and no charges being preferred, he asked and obtained a court of inquiry. There never was any division of opinion among Milroy's army, but that he did the best that

bravery and skill could do, under the circumstances. From it he received never a word of censure. But the public, and some others, demanded a sacrifice for the confessed blunder of leaving General Milroy's little army in Winchester until it was surrounded by Lee. General Halleck was then the commander-in-chief of the army of the United States. General Hooker, who was then in command of the Army of the Potomac, until the 28th of June, testified before the Military Court of Inquiry, "that as early as the 28th of May, he communicated information to General Halleck of the enemy's movements towards the Shenandoah Valley, and that he suggested sending General Stahl's cavalry there." But the evidence showed, that not even an intimation of this was sent to General Milroy. General Halleck communicated the information to General Schenk, but the latter never sent it to Milroy. Hooker also testified "*that he believed the holding of Lee's army in check, during the 12th, 13th and 14th of June, saved Harrisburg, and perhaps other important cities of the Union, from destruction.*" The testimony before the Court fully exonerated General Milroy, and, in this, Judge Advocate General Holt fully concurred. President Lincoln subscribed his approval to the endorsement of Judge Advocate Holt. In his approval the President said: "Some question can be made, whether some of General Halleck's dispatches to General Schenck should not have been construed to be orders to withdraw the force, and obeyed accordingly, but no such question can be made against Milroy, in fact the last order he received was, to prepare to withdraw, *but not to actually withdraw till further orders,*" which further orders never reached him. Thus it will be seen that General Milroy and his army were made the victims of somebody's incompetency other than Milroy's. That the army should have been withdrawn several days before it was, there can be no doubt, and yet, had it not been for the check given Lee's army during the 12th, 13th and 14th of June, the battle fought at Gettysburg would have been fought three days' march further north, and, as General Hooker testified, "Harrisburg, and perhaps, other cities of the Union, would have been destroyed." General Milroy acted promptly on the orders "to be prepared to withdraw, but not to actually withdraw till further orders."

In a correspondence to the Athens (O.) "Messenger," under date of October 22d, 1863, I summarized the situation, and as this was written at a time when the facts were all accessible, and were fresh in my mind, I here quote liberally from it:

"A great misapprehension has existed in the public mind, and this has been promoted by reckless correspondents in the press, in reference to the amount of public property abandoned and lost at Winchester. 'Millions of dollars' worth are spoken of, with the appropriate number of exclamation points following the startling announcement. The testimony shows that but a small amount of stores were on hand. *In fact, the men were on half rations when the retreat was ordered.* Ammunition was nearly exhausted for all arms. Under General Milroy's orders, five days' supply of ammunition and subsistence was constantly kept on hand. The last requisition of General Milroy's ordinance officer had not been filled and the supply was scanty, even for ordinary fighting, let alone three or four days' continual firing, as was the case then. *Everything had been sent out, in accordance with General Schenck's orders, that could be sent, up to Saturday night, a large train having been sent out late in the afternoon of that day,* which was followed by rebel cavalry through Chambersburg??, and nearly to Carlisle, Penna., but finally arrived safely at Harrisburg. But I am sure the holding of that place as long as we did...and I am convinced that the public now generally believe as I do...gave us information we could not have obtained otherwise, developed the plans and purposes of the enemy, checked and delayed his advance into Maryland and Pennsylvania for three days, and by these means enabled the Army of the Potomac to follow with timely resistance, and to prevent the loss of millions of property, which would otherwise have fallen into the enemy's hands. The inconsiderable loss suffered at Winchester was a trifle compared to these advantages.

"As to the conduct of the retreat, it is in evidence that the disasters which befell the command after it was forced to evacuate Winchester, are attributed in the main either to causes *beyond the control of the commanding officer, or the failure, at a critical moment, of Colonel McReynolds to obey General Milroy's orders,* the consequences of which disobedience were exceedingly serious. No skill or precaution could have enabled General Milroy to evade the enemy where he met him on Monday Morning. He was posted in a

position to command both roads, at the point where the one leading to Summit Point diverges from the Martinsburg road about four miles from Winchester. Here we fought him until a signal gun in the direction of Winchester was heard, and the enemy's cavalry and artillery were seen in hot pursuit of us, on the road leading from that place. General Milroy then ordered the march to be continued, and much the larger portion of his command escaped, though the number of the enemy around us was overwhelming! Indeed, the surprise of every one in the engagement was that so many got out of the excellent trap the enemy had set for us. Notwithstanding this attack was made at a most critical moment, and, as it appears in the evidence, important orders from General Milroy were disobeyed by Colonel McReynolds, thus in a great degree thwarting the General's plans, it was found by General Schenck that, of the 6,900 brave fellows who started from Winchester that morning, 6,000 were on duty on the 1st of September. So it will be seen that the terrible 'reports of losses' in circulation just after the retreat, are not sustained by the facts."

As a part of the history of that campaign, and as showing how ignorant the authorities at Washington and Gen. Hooker, of the Army of the Potomac, were of the movements of General Lee, we give below several dispatches taken from the "Report on the Conduct of the War Committee." We call especial attention to the two dispatches of President Lincoln, dated June 14th. The first dispatch in order is the one referred to by General Hooker in his testimony before the Court of Inquiry.

"May 28, 1863

Letter to Hon. E. M. Stanton:

It is impossible for me to give any information concerning the movements of the enemy at all satisfactory. * * * Maj. Gen. Stahl should be instructed to look into the Shenandoah Valley and see what is going on over there. * * *

JOSEPH HOOKER, Major Gen'l Com'd'g."

"WARRENTON JUNCTION, June 12, 1863 7 P.M.

Gen'l S. Williams, A. A. G.

A colored boy just captured on (Tuesday) the 9th, states Ewell's corps passed through Culpepper on Monday last, on their way to the Valley, and that Longstreet's had gone also. A second negro, just across the river, confirms the statement. I send a reconnaissance to find out the truth.

A. PLEASANTON, Brig. Gen'l."

The following is from Hooker's Testimony before the committee:

"Had this information been communicated to Gen. Milroy, probably the disaster might have been averted, as that officer would have had sufficient notice of their approach to have withdrawn his command. In view of the information I had received from Gen. Pleasanton of the presence of an infantry corps at Culpepper, I had, on the 11th, ordered the Third corps to take post on the river, from Rappahannock Station to Beverly Ford; on the 12th for the First corps to proceed to Bealton, and the Eleventh to Catlett's Station."

IN CIPHER.

"WASHINGTON, June 11, 1863

Major General Hooker:

Do you consider it possible that fifteen thousand of Ewell's men can now be at Winchester?

Sent 1:14 P. M.

A. LINCOLN"

Not less than 10,000 men of Lee's army were there then.

"WASHINGTON, D. C., June 11, 1863

Maj. Gen. Hooker:

So far as we can make out here, the enemy have Milroy surrounded at Winchester, and Tyler at Martinsburg. If they could hold out a few days could you help them? If the head of Lee's army is at Martinsburg, and the tail of it on the plank road between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the animal must be very slim somewhere; could you not break him?

Sent 5:50 P.M.

A. LINCOLN."

How characteristic is this dispatch of President Lincoln.

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY POTOMAC,
DUMFRIES, June 11, 1863, 11:15 P.M.

His Excellency, the President:

Has anything further been heard from Winchester? Will the President allow me to inquire if it is his opinion that Winchester is surrounded by rebel forces? * * * I do not feel like making a move unless I be satisfied as to his whereabouts. To proceed to Winchester, and have him make his appearance elsewhere, would subject me to ridicule. With this feeling, unless otherwise directed, I feel it my duty to proceed to execute the movement indicated yesterday. I will not, however, issue my order of march until the last moment, in the hope that further information may be received.

MAJ. GEN'L HOOKER."

"WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON CITY, June 14, 1863

Maj. Gen. Hooker, Dumfries:

No doubt is entertained here that Milroy is surrounded at Winchester, and so closely invested that no scout or other information has been had from him later than eleven o'clock Saturday night. Tyler was also surrounded to-day at Martinsburg. * *

Sent 12 midnight.

EDWIN M. STANTON."

IN CIPHER.

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 15, 1863

Major Gen'l Hooker, Army of the Potomac:

No information of enemy in direction of Winchester and Harper's Ferry as late as that from General Pleasanton. The forces at Martinsburg are arriving at Harper's Ferry.

Sent 12:50 P.M.

H. W. HALLECK, Gen'l-in-Chief."

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 15, '63

Maj. Gen'l Hooker, Army of the Potomac:

Garrison of Martinsburg has arrived at Harper's Ferry. Milroy did not obey orders given on the 11th to abandon Winchester, and probably has been or will be captured. Harper's Ferry ought to hold out some time. * * *

Sent 2 P.M.

H. W. HALLECK, Gen'l-in-Chief."

“BALTIMORE, MD., June 15, '63

Maj. Gen'l Halleck, Gen'l-in-Chief:

Nothing from Milroy since 11 P.M. Saturday. Is it not possible to have a cavalry movement in front as a diversion in his favor?

R. C. SCHENCK, Maj. Gen'l.”

“BALTIMORE, June 15, 1863.

Maj. Gen'l H. W. Halleck:

Have not yet received report from Milroy. Gen. Kelley, here on his way, via Harrisburg, to New Creek, says before he left Harper's Ferry, about 1 this P.M., about 2,000 of Milroy's men had arrived. The rebels appeared before Winchester in four divisions, commanded by Ewell, Evans, Early and Rhodes, numbering about 40,000. Milroy fought till 2 this morning, when he determined to evacuate and cut his way out. Spiking his guns, and destroying stores, he marched some distance before his movements were discovered. He was pursued and attacked six miles out of Winchester, and was shelled for several miles. His loss is probably 2,000 men, but that may be exaggerated. Will send, as soon as received, further and more exact report.

R. C. SCHENCK, Maj. Gen'l.”

“BALTIMORE, MD., June 15, 1863

Gen'l Halleck:

Gen. Milroy has cut his way through and arrived at Harper's Ferry. His losses reported considerable, with great damage to the enemy. He will telegraph soon. Tyler brought troops from Martinsburg to Maryland Heights, and is in command there. Have sent Kelley around to New Creek to concentrate troops on western portion of railroad. Ordered Averill to concentrate at Grafton, with a view to covering approaches to Wheeling, and to come eastward, perhaps also to New Creek, to hold as much as possible of the railroad eastward towards Martinsburg.

R. C. SCHENCK, Maj. Gen'l.”

Nothing could exceed the injustice of General Halleck's charge that General Milroy disobeyed “orders given on the 11th to abandon Winchester.” He, better than any other man living, *knew* that *no* such orders were given Milroy. General Halleck's dispatches were all before the Court of Inquiry, and of them Mr. Lincoln said: “Some question can be made whether some of General Halleck's dispatches *to General Schenck* should not have been construed to be orders to withdraw. But, says Mr. Lincoln, “*no such question can be made against Milroy,*” thus showing that Halleck issued no positive order, even to Schenck, to withdraw, and no order, that by any construction could be made to mean so, ever reached Milroy. Nothing ever occurred during the war for which there was so little excuse as allowing Lee's army to escape from the Army of the Potomac, and to throw itself upon Milroy's little force at Winchester, without warning to it, or without the knowledge of Halleck, the General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States. Then for him to attempt to cast the blame from himself to Milroy, was a heartless and cruel injustice, exceeding anything to be found in the ignoble career of that incompetent and malevolent chief. I take pleasure in thus again putting on record this complete exoneration of General Milroy and his little army. Every word of it has been fully verified by subsequent history, and the brave old General, being shortly afterward restored to command, did gallant service in the Army of the Cumberland, and especially at Murfreesboro, during Hood's disastrous campaign against General Thomas, in December, 1864.

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