

urated by General Meade, then in command of said army during the latter part of the summer, autumn and winter of 1863 and 1864.

The winter of 1863 and 1864, spent by the Army of the Potomac on the Rapidan, was dreary, gloomy and severe.

The consolidation of the Army of the Potomac into three instead of five army corps made the 1st Maryland Regiment a part of the (Maryland Brigade) 3d Brigade, 2d Division, 5th Army Corps.

This consolidation necessitated the displacement of several valuable officers, including General Kenly, the former commander of the 1st Maryland Infantry, much to the regret of his old comrades in arms.

The Government having offered strong inducements to the soldiers in the armies of the United States who had served in the field for two years to re-enlist for the war, about three hundred and forty of the 1st Maryland Regiment availed themselves of the offer, and about the 1st day of April, 1864, this portion of the regiment, under Col. Dushane, returned to Baltimore on a thirty days' furlough, where they were received with high honors by the Baltimore City authorities, and thence furloughed to their respective homes.

The balance of the regiment, under the command of Major B. H. Schley, remained in camp until the 3d day of May, 1864, when it moved with the Army of the Potomac, under General Grant's immediate supervision, to engage in the terrible Wilderness campaign.

At midnight on the 3d the regiment moved out of camp and crossed the Rapidan river the next day at 12 M.

On the morning of the 5th the regiment took its place in line of battle in the Wilderness. The Maryland Brigade, of which the 1st Regiment formed a part, supported the famous Iron Brigade, who were fired upon by the enemy covered by the thick forests and undergrowth. At a distance of forty paces the Iron Brigade returned the fire with visible effect, immediately charged with the bayonet and drove the enemy to his second line, who, being reinforced, drove back the Iron Brigade in confusion, to be repulsed in turn by the severe fire of the Maryland Brigade.

So the tide of battle ebbed and flowed all day and far into the night, and the entire Army of the Potomac was more or less engaged, the losses on both sides being very severe.

The battle was renewed on the 6th, raging with great fury and with frightful losses on both sides. To add to the horrors of the battle the undergrowth took fire, sending up great volumes of flame and smoke, in which many of the helpless wounded perished.

The evening of the second day's battle left both armies substantially on the same ground.

On the night of the 7th, General Grant inaugurated his famous flank movements that inspired the confidence of the Army of the Potomac in ultimate success under his guidance.

About 8 P. M. on the evening of the 7th, the 1st Maryland, with its Corps (5th Army Corps), took up the line of march for Spottsylvania Court House; the night was intensely dark and the roads almost impassable. After a most fatiguing march, the command arrived on the battlefield of Spottsylvania Court House on the morning of the