

After the expiration of the furlough of the veteran battalion, the command was recruited up to a full regiment of twelve companies. Whilst waiting for the proper mounting and equipment of the entire regiment, all of the mounted men both in the old battalion and new battalions were sent to the front. In the disastrous battles fought by General Sigel, at New Market, Va., May 13th and 15th, 1862, "Cole's Cavalry" suffered heavily, when General Hunter assumed command of this army in the Shenandoah, and again advanced. All of "Cole's Cavalry" then mounted, joined him and participated in the splendid victory at the battle of Piedmont, Va., June 5, 1864, as well as the skirmishes at Tye River Gap, June 12, 1864, Lexington, June 13, Buchannon, June 14, and Lynchburg, Va., June 18, 1864.

The arrival of another army under General Early, at Lynchburg, compelled General Hunter's command to retreat from Lynchburg by the Kanawha Valley. General Early's Confederate Army promptly moved up the Shenandoah Valley; in the mean time the balance of the regiment, still dismounted, moved out from Martinsburg with the column of troops who, at Leetown, Va., July 3, 1864, repulsed the advance guard of Early's army.

A detachment of the dismounted command was mounted and rendered good service to the Union armies during the raid into Maryland by Early's Army and his attempt to capture Washington, capturing men, provisions, etc.

After the battle of Monocacy, July 9, 1864, the repulse of Early's Army in front of Washington, July 12, 1864, and its pursuit by the 6th and 19th Army Corps, with the Army of West Virginia, "Cole's Cavalry" participated in the engagements that ensued, more especially at Ashby's Gap, Va., July 19, 1864.

"Cole's Cavalry" (mounted men) remained with the Army of West Virginia at Winchester, Va., after the 6th and 19th Army Corps returned towards Washington, where they were attacked by Early's army again, July 25, 1864, and compelled to retreat beyond the Potomac with this army.

"Cole's Cavalry" was attacked July 26, 1864, by a column of Confederates, who attempted to cross the Potomac River at that point, but promptly repulsed the enemy. After the burning of Chambersburg, Pa., in July, 1864, by a raiding party of Confederate Cavalry, "Cole's Cavalry" assisted in driving the enemy out of Maryland.

On the 5th day of August, 1864, a large part of General Early's Army, consisting of infantry, cavalry and artillery, again recrossed the Potomac river, near Sharpsburg, Md., and advanced through Sharpsburg toward the National turnpike, at Boonsboro.

The advance brigade of the column was met at Keedyville by the regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon, promptly and vigorously attacked and driven back beyond the Antietam, where they were checked by the artillery and infantry of the Confederate Army, who, in turn, compelled "Cole's Cavalry" to retreat slowly into the mountain gaps of the Blue Ridge Mountains; the enemy being satisfied with shelling the command, made no further attempt to dislodge the regiment. In this spirited engagement, lasting several hours, the command suffered severely in killed and wounded, but inflicted greater loss upon the enemy, and only retired before an overwhelming force.

The advance of General Sheridan's Army up the Shenandoah Valley, by the way of Harper's Ferry, caused Early's Army to retire to Winchester, Va.