

FIRST REGIMENT CAVALRY.



THE First Maryland Cavalry was organized at Baltimore and Williamsport, Maryland, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D. C., from August, 1861, to June, 1862, to serve three years. On the expiration of its term of service, the original members, except veterans, were mustered out of service, and the organization, composed of veterans and recruits, retained in service until August 8, 1865, when it was mustered out of service in accordance with orders from the War Department.

Companies A, B, C, D and E were recruited in Baltimore City, Company F at Cockeysville and Baltimore City, Companies G and K at Pittsburg, Pa., Companies H and I in Washington and Allegany Counties, Companies L and M in Washington City, D. C.

The formation of this regiment by detachments at different points on different dates divided, for a time, the regiment and their sphere of usefulness.

Companies G, I and K rendered valuable service in Western Virginia, more especially during the raid by General (Stonewall) Jackson's Confederate Army from Winchester, through Berkeley Springs, to Hancock, Md., in January, 1862; and Russell's Company I particularly distinguished itself at Bloomery Gap, West Virginia, February 14, 1862.

Companies A, B, C, G and I of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wetschy, aided in covering the retreat from Winchester, Va., of General Banks' Division, that had been attacked by an overwhelming army of the enemy under the command of Generals Jackson and Ewell, May 24, 1862.

Companies D, F, H, K and L of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, under Major Deems, arrived at Harper's Ferry, Va., on the 25th day of May, 1862, in time to aid in repulsing any farther advance of the enemy in that direction. They were pushed forward on the 28th day of May, 1862, with the 111th Pennsylvania Infantry and Cole's Maryland Cavalry and a section of Artillery, to Charlestown, Va., and there encountered the advancing column of Jackson's Army; a brisk skirmish ensued, in which the 1st Maryland Cavalry incurred serious loss.

The 1st Maryland Cavalry advanced up the Shenandoah Valley, Va., via Smithfield, to Winchester, with Banks' Division, in June, 1862, and thence into eastern Virginia, where it became a part of General Pope's Army.

In the campaign of General Pope's Army the 1st Maryland Cavalry were conspicuous, and rendered splendid service in the engagements that ensued, more especially at Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862; Centreville, August 28, 1862, and Bull Run, August 30, 1862.