

As soon as Captain Steuart took charge he found that several companies were only skeletons, with no prospect of filling up to the legal complement, and by authority of General Johnston he consolidated the companies of Price and Holbrook, thus making six companies of the battalion, which thus consisted of : Company A, Captain Bradley T. Johnson ; Company B, Captain C. C. Edelin ; Company D, Captain James R. Herbert ; Company E, Captain Harry McCoy ; Company F, Captain Louis Smith ; Company G, Captain Wilson C. Nicholas. Three companies from Richmond were subsequently ordered to it, consisting of Company C, Captain E. R. Dorsey ; Company H, Captain William H. Murray ; Company I, Captain Michael Stone Robertson. And these nine companies constituted the First Maryland Regiment.

It was organized June 16, 1862, by commissioning Arnold Elzey, late Captain of Artillery, United States Army, as Colonel ; George H. Steuart, late Captain of Cavalry, United States Army, as Lieutenant-Colonel, and Bradley T. Johnson as Major.

After General Joseph E. Johnston had evacuated Harper's Ferry and fallen back to Winchester, that General learned that much property still remained at Harper's Ferry which had escaped the torch of Lieutenant Jones when he evacuated the place. Among this property were 17,000 gun stocks, which at that time were of inestimable value to the Confederate Government. Lieutenant-Colonel Steuart, with his Maryland command, was ordered by General Johnston to Harper's Ferry to complete the work of destruction that had been left undone by Lieutenant Jones, and remove the property above mentioned. How well and fully this duty had been performed is shown by the following official order of General Johnston :

HEADQUARTERS, WINCHESTER, June 22, 1861.

*Special Order.*

The commanding General thanks Lieutenant-Colonel Steuart and the Maryland regiment for the faithful and exact manner in which they carried out his orders on the 19th instant at Harper's Ferry. He is glad to learn that owing to their discipline no private property was injured and no unoffending citizen disturbed. The soldierly qualities of the Maryland regiment will not be forgotten in the day of action.

BY ORDER OF GENERAL JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON.

W. H. WHITING, *Inspector-General.*

When the middle of May had passed, it was rumored in the camp of the companies in Richmond that the men from Maryland were to be organized and