

suffering. The battalion had been tried at Winchester, at Gettysburg and at Cold Harbor, but never before had it been called upon to undergo the terrible hardships that day and night duty in the trenches entailed. Without shelter from the weather, half-starved, they were subjected to a steady fire from the enemy every hour of the twenty-four, and were called upon from time to time to come forth from the partial protection their earthworks afforded from the shot and shell of the enemy and fight vast odds in the open field. And still under all these trying conditions there was but one desertion from the ranks of the battalion, whereas from others there were hundreds. This fact was well known to their division commander, and even to those higher in authority, and it was no wonder, then, that they were called upon to perform more than their share of outpost duty. If the men of the battalion felt proud of their achievements at Gettysburg and Cold Harbor, they had yet other laurels to win at Peebles Farm, the Weldon Railroad and Hatcher's Run, of which they were equally as proud.

During the time they occupied the trenches many of their number were stricken down. On August 9th John Parker, of Company H, was wounded ; August 12th James Abbott, of Company G, who had served in the old First from the first Manassas, was severely wounded, it being the sixth time since his enlistment. Richard T. Anderson, of Company C, was wounded at the same time ; and on the 15th George Langford, of Company G, was severely wounded.

By August 15, 1864, Grant had assembled 110,000 men around Petersburg, and this immense army was held in check by a force under General Lee of 36,000 men. After the failure of Burnside's mine, Grant abandoned the idea of further direct attack, and spent the autumn and part of the winter in attempting to extend his left around Petersburg, and in efforts to pierce the Confederate lines north of the James.

On August 16 a movement was made from the direction of Deep Bottom upon the works at Chafin's Bluff, which failed, and another movement, in which the Second Maryland became interested, was made on August 18 for the purpose of getting possession of the Weldon Railroad, over which supplies came for General Lee's army.

On the morning of the 18th the Fifth Corps reached a point about five miles southwest of Petersburg, and about one mile east of the Weldon Railroad. Warren, in command, upon reaching this point proceeded to throw out skirmishers, which soon came in contact with Deering's Brigade of Cavalry, which for some hours stubbornly disputed the Federal advance. Deering was finally forced back to within a mile or two of Petersburg, when A. P. Hill suddenly fell upon Warren and drove him back, with heavy loss. In the meanwhile General Griffin had been sent with a portion of the Fifth Corps to seize the railroad, which he did, and immediately proceeded to intrench himself.