

CHAPTER III.  

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On the evening of the 12th of June, General A. G. Jenkins left Cedar Creek with all the cavalry except Company A, First Maryland, commanded by Captain Frank A. Bond, which company was ordered to remain with the Maryland infantry and Baltimore Light Artillery until Winchester was reached, where Captain Bond was to report with his company to General Ewell for special service.

As this company was for a long time separated from the rest of the battalion, to make the operations of the whole intelligible to the reader it will be necessary to treat of them separately.

At this time Company A was as fine a body of cavalry as there was in the service. There were one hundred men in its ranks for duty, well equipped, splendidly mounted and thoroughly drilled and disciplined. The average age of the men was twenty-one years, and there was an unusual amount of intelligence pervading the whole. The officers had all seen two years' service, and one-half the men had seen the same, and most of the remainder one year. General Ewell had selected this company to be attached to his headquarters, not as couriers or as a headquarters guard, but for special service on important occasions, and to accompany the corps upon its advance across Maryland and into Pennsylvania. On the 13th of June, when Early made his attack upon Winchester, Company A was with the Second Maryland Infantry, and advanced with the skirmishers, taking position on their right.

From Winchester to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Company A was in the advance of Ewell's Corps, but whilst not under fire during this time, Jenkins having preceded them, they rendered valuable service in guarding the stores abandoned by the enemy, and turning them over to the commissaries of the various infantry brigades. On June 28 Ewell's Corps was encamped around Carlisle, and on the 30th it moved to Heidlersburg, twelve miles distant. Company A was to remain at Carlisle until two hours after the last of the troops had left, and then to release one thousand prisoners under guard. Captain Bond's situation became a critical one when the one thousand prisoners and citizens realized that the city was in the possession of but one hundred cavalymen, and a collision seemed inevitable. But the firmness of Captain Bond prevailed, for he assured them that he would drench their streets with blood and destroy their city should they attack his command.

After reaching General Ewell's headquarters on the afternoon of the 30th, Captain Bond was ordered to proceed to Gettysburg, as a report had come that a body of the enemy's cavalry had been seen in that vicinity. Reaching the