

and the men lay down in the snow, which covered the ground to the depth of ten inches, to get a little rest. In the meantime General Lomax, who had been notified in the beginning of the enemy's advance, was assembling at Liberty Mills his different brigades, which had necessarily been scattered in order to subsist.

By daylight General Jackson was moving to that point, where, after partaking of some food, the troops were directed to throw up rude breastworks, which was done by piling fence-rails along the banks of the stream. This had scarcely been accomplished when the enemy made his appearance and deployed most beautifully on the opposite hills, when a brisk skirmish began, which continued all day and until night, when the exhausted troops were ordered to unsaddle and seek some rest, but they had barely dismounted when a courier dashed up and reported that the enemy had crossed the stream, and that they were to be charged at once.

In an instant the gallant troopers sprang to their horses, and Jackson's Brigade dashed at the enemy's advance. For some time the ground was stubbornly contested, when Jackson's column to the right and left of the First Maryland broke, which compelled the whole to fall back. They were quickly rallied, however, when a desperate charge was made, and the enemy in turn compelled to retire. Lomax then withdrew his division to Gordonsville, where it rested that night, and at daylight it was again drawn up in line of battle to meet the enemy, who had made his appearance. A sharp but brief conflict ensued, in which the enemy was repulsed, when he withdrew, and finally retired by the road he came to Winchester.

After this last encounter with the enemy, Jackson's Brigade retired to within twelve or fifteen miles of Orange Court House, where it remained until about the 1st of March, 1865, when Sheridan moved down the Valley in heavy force, and captured the little that remained of Early's command near Waynesboro'. The First Maryland was ordered to hang upon his flank, which it did with great tenacity, first striking him on James River, beyond Charlottesville, and following him to the White House, on York River. So small a force could accomplish nothing by a direct attack, and it therefore confined its operations to cutting off scouting and marauding parties, which amounted in the aggregate to more than their own number three times over.

The battalion rested for some days near Richmond after it had returned from following Sheridan, when it was ordered to join Lomax in West Virginia. It accordingly marched to join that officer, and when about two days advanced on the journey was ordered back with all speed to report to General Fitzhugh Lee at Stony Creek, twenty miles from Petersburg.

Reaching Richmond on the evening of April 2, 1865, it went into camp on its suburbs. Early next morning (Sunday) the battalion moved through the city, and had the pleasure of greeting many of their comrades, prisoners on parole, awaiting exchange. The day had nothing of Sabbath quiet; churches were unattended,