

train could pass up the Valley pike weakly guarded but that "the band" would dash in, disperse the guard, relieve the wagons of whatever was portable or valuable, and be off like shadows before the cavalry, galloping up from the next camp, could get within firing distance.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was the object of their unremitting and ardent devotion. They had scouts in Martinsburg or Harper's Ferry. News frequently came from Baltimore or Washington of the starting of a quartermaster or paymaster with a great sum of money for army use. That train would be run off the track by tearing up rails, stopped in a defile or deep cut and unloaded. Frequently the passengers would be relieved of their watches and pocket-books. Paymasters always met with the rough chivalry of the border; women were always respected.

Harry Gilmor enlisted as a private soldier in Colonel Turner Ashby's regiment in August, 1861, in Captain Frank Mason's company. In a few weeks Ashby made him sergeant-major. By March, 1862, he had organized a company and attached it to the Twelfth Virginia Cavalry, Colonel Arthur Harman.

This company was the nucleus of Gilmor's Battalion, and by a series of dashing exploits and gallant adventures soon occupied a conspicuous position and attracted other enterprising spirits, not in the army.

Gilmor was at McDowell with Jackson in May, 1862, when he defeated Milroy, and was sent by Jackson to follow up the routed and fugitive Federals. He was then sent with his company over the Shenandoah mountain to watch Fremont.

He gave Jackson the first information that Fremont was closing in on his only line of retreat up the Valley, for Fremont was moving down the Wardensville pike to Strasburg, while Jackson was at Charlestown and Shields marching on Front Royal. Gilmor's information was undoubtedly valuable to Jackson, for if Fremont at Strasburg and Shields at Front Royal had got into communication with each other the Valley would have been hermetically sealed, and Jackson bottled up. But Harry Gilmor's report of Fremont's movements gave Jackson warning, and he held the "Pathfinder" back with one hand at Strasburg while he passed his trains or prisoners behind his line to the rear, drew him and Shields back to the head waters of the east fork of the Shenandoah, whipped Fremont June 8 at Cross Keys, routed Shields just across the river June 9 at Port Republic, and then went into camp and rested.

He had fought and whipped four armies, each of superior numbers, trying to surround and concentrate on him, taken four thousand prisoners, many miles of wagon trains, and during this historic campaign Gilmor did most efficient service and was warmly thanked by Stonewall, who never forgot him nor his fidelity.

After the death of Ashby (June 6, 1862,) Gilmor in a measure took his place in the Army of the Valley.