

by the 34th Massachusetts Infantry and 10th Maryland Infantry. The battalion repeatedly charged the retreating columns of the enemy, who were compelled to stop, form line of battle, brigade front, and drive back the battalion, only to be again vigorously attacked in turn. Only at one time during the entire day did the infantry support reach the battlefield, when the enemy again retreated in haste with their prisoners.

"Cole's Cavalry" suffered severely this day in killed and wounded.

In December, 1863, Cole's Cavalry formed a part of the raiding column who were ordered to demonstrate down the Shenandoah Valley towards Staunton, whilst another co-operating column of cavalry passed on beyond their right flank to the James river and cut the railroad between Lynchburg, Va., and Bristol, Tennessee, to prevent reinforcements being sent from Lee's Army to reinforce Longstreet's Army, then besieging Knoxville, Tenn. During the fifteen days' midwinter raid, "Cole's Cavalry" suffered severe loss, but rendered invaluable service during these successful movements.

On the 10th day of January, 1864, Cole's Battalion, whilst occupying an isolated camp on a spur of the Blue Ridge Mountains at Loudon Heights, Va., were attacked at midnight, on a bitter cold winter night, by Mosby's Guerrilla Battalion, augmented by volunteers from Lee's Army. With the firm conviction that they would make a rich capture, a most sanguinary battle ensued, principally a hand to hand fight, in which the battalion suffered severely in killed and wounded, but inflicted greater loss upon the enemy, whom they drove with confusion from the camp, then mounted and vigorously pursued the enemy.

This battle evoked the following order of congratulation from the General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States, viz.:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 20, 1864.*

Brig-General B. F. KELLY,

*Cumberland.*

*General:*—I have just received, through your headquarters, Major Henry A. Cole's report of the repulse of Mosby's attack upon his camp, on Loudon Heights, on the 10th inst.

Major Cole and his command, the Battalion of P. H. B. Cavalry, Maryland Volunteers, deserve high praise for their gallantry in repelling the rebel assault.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief.*

In the latter part of January, 1864, the battalion pushed through Winchester to Romney and Moorfield, in Western Virginia, to assist in repelling a large raiding party of the enemy's cavalry.

On the 13th day of February, 1864, the battalion re-enlisted for the war, and was granted a thirty days' furlough. The battalion marched to Frederick, Md., where they received an ovation from the loyal people of Western Maryland. They were met at the outskirts of the city by the corporate authorities and a military escort, and, amidst the ringing of the church and fire bells, waving of flags and cheers of the people, conducted to the City Hall, where they were formally welcomed home by Justice Nelson, of the Supreme Court, and accorded a banquet.