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History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Cole.

from Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1863 to Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1864.

Recd from Rpt. A. No. Jan'y 22. 64 —

The Regiment lay in Camp near Salmonsouth until the battle of Fredericksburg. On the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> of Dec. broke camp and moved towards the Rappahannock with the brigade, Col. Ames commanding the Regiment, and on the afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> crossed the river under fire of Artillery. The Regiment was engaged with the enemy during the afternoon and held the position first occupied until the following night. When the Army recrossed the river the Brigade formed part of the rear guard. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of Dec. the Division moved on reconnoissance to the Rappahannock and returned to camp on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. The Reg. shared in the movement of Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> returning to camp on the 24<sup>th</sup>. During the battle of Chancellorsville the Regiment was detached to guard the

telegraph line from right to left, was exposed only to Artillery fire and suffered no loss. After that battle the Regiment returned to the old camp near Falmouth when Lt. Col. Chamberlain took command, Col. Ames having been promoted to be Brig. General. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of May the Brigade moved to Golding's Farm, on the 28<sup>th</sup> to U.S. Ford and on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June to Ellis Ford. On the 13<sup>th</sup> broke camp and marched by way of Proviostown, Cattel's Station, Manassas Junction and Gum Springs to Aldie where the Corps encamped June 19<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup> the Brigade was sent out to reconnoitre towards Middleburgh. Two brigades of the enemy's Cavalry with Artillery were encountered beyond that place and after a sharp fight driven to Upperville. The loss of the 20<sup>th</sup> was one man killed, one officer and seven men wounded. The Corps resumed the march on the 26<sup>th</sup> and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July came upon the battle field of Gettysburg. The 20<sup>th</sup> under command of Col. Chamberlain formed

the left of the entire line of battle on the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Brigade of the enemy attempting to turn this flank, fell with the utmost fury upon the Regiment and after a protracted and bloody struggle were repulsed. The Regiment charging upon them, ~~sent them to utter rout~~ <sup>wanted them</sup> and took several hundred stand of arms and ~~about~~ <sup>over</sup> three hundred prisoners including twelve commissioned officers. After the enemy had been repulsed along the entire line the 20<sup>th</sup> by order of Gen. Sykes charged and drove the enemy from a hill on the front and left taking 24 prisoners and one commissioned officer. The total loss of the Regiment was 3 commissioned officers killed and mortally wounded and 134 men killed and wounded. On the third day the Brigade was under heavy fire of Artillery but took no active part. From the 5<sup>th</sup> until the 10<sup>th</sup> marched in heavy and incessant rain through Middletown and over South Mountain and on

the 10<sup>th</sup> encountered the enemy on the  
Sharpsburg Pike. After a severe and  
protracted skirmish the enemy were  
driven back and the road was securely  
held. The loss of the Regiment - in killed  
wounded and missing was eight.  
On the 11<sup>th</sup> moved to Williamsport, thence  
back to South Mountain, crossing the  
river at Berlin, and with brief delays  
along the Eastern base of the Blue Ridge.  
The Regiment took part in the affair  
at Frapping Heights July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Returning  
from Manassas Gap, the Corps en-  
camped at Frontenot and at Beverly  
Ford, (engaged a part of the time  
in building corduroy roads from  
Bealton to Frontenot Junction) until  
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. From Beverly Ford moved  
beyond Culpepper and encamped  
on the 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of October  
broke camp and moved towards  
the Rapidan and the next day  
fell back through Culpepper - across  
the Rappahannock.

The day following the Corps recrossed the Rappahannock and advanced toward Brandy Station. On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> moved back again crossing the river and following the line of the Orange and Alexandria R.R. the Reg. marching 19 hours out of 24. In the engagement at Bristoe Station it was with that part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps which supported the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, and after the action marched to Centreville having been on foot 21 hours. The day following moved to Fairfax and bivouacked. On the 16<sup>th</sup> marched to Centreville again, moving on the 18<sup>th</sup> back to the vicinity of Fairfax. On the 19<sup>th</sup> resumed march and encamped near Warrenton. On the 30<sup>th</sup> moved to Three Mile Station for camp and picketing until the 7<sup>th</sup> of Nov. when the Reg. under command of Major Spear took part in the affair at Rappahannock Station.

The skirmish line of the 20<sup>th</sup> (80 men) under Capt. Morrill, joining on the right with the 6<sup>th</sup> Maine, ~~simultaneously~~ charged with that gallant Regiment and entered the works of the enemy simultaneously with them. The loss of the Regiment was one killed and seven wounded. The Regiment moved afterwards with the Corps across the river at Healy's Ford and encamped two miles beyond. The Division was detached and moved back to the north bank on the 9<sup>th</sup> and guarded the Ford until the 19<sup>th</sup> then rejoined the Corps across the river. Lt. Col. Gilmore being absent the command devolved upon the Major. On the 26<sup>th</sup> moved with the Corps across the Rapidan. On the 27<sup>th</sup> encountered the enemy near New Hope Church. Moved on the 28<sup>th</sup> in heavy rain to the right to Robertson's Tavern and the next day went to the front. The Brigade was on picket under fire before the works of the enemy three days with loss of

two wounded, and formed the rear-guard  
of the Corps in the retreat on the morning  
of Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Since Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> the Regiment  
has been encamped near Pappahan-  
nock Station building roads picketing  
and guarding the R. R.

Ad Dns 20<sup>th</sup> Regt me vols  
Januy 21. 64.

May. Ellis Spear.

Military History of  
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