(1

Head Qrs 16th Maine Infty. 1863
Near Mitchells Station Va
Jany 12th 1864

General;

In accordance with circular, dated Head Qrs. Adjt Genl. Office Augusta, Me., I have the honor to submit the following "condensed History" of the 16th Maine Infty. for the year ending Dec. 31 1863

On the first day of January 1863, the 16th Maine Vols, as part of 1st Brig. 2nd Div. 1st A.C. was encamped near Belle Plain Va. under the command of Lieut Col Tilden; on the 3d the regt was ordered into "Winter Quarters." It held one of the extreme outposts on the left of the army of the Potomac, a position of honor as well as danger. On the 19th the Regt broke camp in the midst of a heavy rain & participated in that unfortunate campaign of Gen Burnside, known as the "Mud March". The line of march led toward U.S. Ford on the Rappahannock, but after toiling, with almost super human efforts, for two days, the whole army became mired, & the expedition was abandoned. On the 22nd the regiment left U.S. Ford and on the 23d regained the camps near Belle Plain. The cheerfulness with which the men endured hard hardships, & the energy manifested by them in surmounting every obstacle, won the admiration of the commd officer.

During the Winter & Spring, as shown by inspection reports, the regiment, under the command of Lt Col Tilden, reached a high state of discipline & efficiency, not surpassed by any other regiment in the corps. On the

22nd of April the Regt. broke camp, & after moving only one mile pitched tents, remaining there until the 28th inst, when it took part in the Chancellorville Campaign. Until the 2nd of May the regiment held a position on the extreme left, at "Fitz Hugh Crossing", 3 miles below Fredericksburg Va. For 3 days the regiment was under the fire of the Enemy, & on the 30th of April their fire was unusually severe, the shells bursting in the air over the heads of the men, and on every side, but without any sensible effect upon the men. And here the interposition of Divine Providence is manifest. Divine Service in the Brig. had just been performed, when the rebels opened their batteries, & as the 1st Brigade was the only one in which Divine Service had been held during the day, & it was the only Brigade that did not suffer from the Enemy's fire; On the 2nd of May the regiment marched to the extreme right at Chancellorville, - crossing the Rappahannock at U.S. Ford, & making a forced march of 25 miles in 12 hrs. The position assigned to the 16th was not reached until 10 o'clock P.M. & the men were immediately set at work building breast works & abatis, no rest was allowed until the close of the ensuing day. On the night of the 4th while Co's I & E under the command of Capts. Walborn & Lovell were posted as a vidette in front of the works, the 29th New Jersey on the right became alarmed & fired into them, the 33 N.J. just in rear also became alarmed & fired directly into the 16th, & the 29th N.J. Capt. Walborn thinking the rebels had got in the rear, faced his men about & charged in over the breast works. Fortunately the mistake was discovered in time to prevent any casualties.

through several of his men received bullet holes in their clothes, On the 6th the regiment formed the rear of the retreating army &, crossing the Rappahannock at U.S. ford after a rapid march, in a heavy rain bivouacked near Falmouth, On the 10th the regiment went into camp near "White Oak church". On the 12th of June the march to Gettysburg was begun. The regiment bivouacked at Clear Springs on the night of the 12th, Beallton on the 13th, Mannassas Junction on the 14th & reached Centreville Heights early in the morning of the 15th, having marched 81 miles in four days - 31 miles of which were marched in one day. The weather was extremely warm. On the 17th the Regt marched to & bivouacked near Stafford Station Va, On the 25th it crossed the Potomac at Edwards Ferry & bivouacked at Brunswick Md.; On the 26th at Jefferson; on the 27th at Middletown, arriving at the latter place 2½ o'clock P.M. & encamping. At late in the night of the 28th arrived at Emmitsburg, Pa in the afternoon of the 29th having crossed the Katoctin Mts to Frederick City, Md making a march of 40 miles in 30 hours. On the 1st of July the regiment was hurried forward to Gettysburg Pa & almost before the men were aware the Enemy opened fire upon them. They were obliged to load while getting into position & occupied several valleys before they could return the fire. About 1 o'clock P.M. the Regt. took up a position on the brow of a small hill in a patch of woods. The position occupied by them was an important one, & the Enemy fought nearly all

their Artillery to bear upon the Brigade, & ordered up heavy bodies of Infty to dislodge it. Fortunately the fire of the Enemy was too high to be effective & the regiment, always cool kept up a regular fire upon the rebels & the number of them dead attested the accuracy of the aim. At this time Col. Fildes horse was shot from under him & Capt. Waldron received a bullet in the breast. A charge was ordered & the 16th with their accustomed yell moved on the run across the open space between them & the Enemy & drove hundreds into the lines of the 13 Mass on the right, with but small loss. When the 1st Corps began to fall back the 16th was ordered to a position on the right and held the Chambersburg turnpike "until not a man was left alive". Two regiments had already been driven from this position. Col Fildes saw the danger but obeyed the order. & almost literally; for when the regiment at length gained Cemetery hill but 5 Officers & 35 Men remained. On the 3d during the heaviest of the cannonading that day, this remnant of the 16 (Capt Martin Comdg) was ord to the support of the 2d Corps. While moving by the flank a single shell exploded in their ranks killing & wounding 2 Officers & 7 Men. At the close of the 4th all that remained for duty of 248 Officers & Men who entered the engagement on the first were 2 Officers & 15 Men. This remnant of the 16th Maj Pratt Comdg participated in the pursuit of the Enemy. On the 5th the Regiment moved to Emmittsburg - on the 6th crossed the Katoctin Mts & bivouacked near

Middleton, and on the 7th came upon the rear of the enemy near Boonsboro. From this time until the 14th the Regiment was almost continually in line of battle, and had advanced within three miles of Williamsport. On the 15th the March to the Rappahannock was begun and continued as follows: on the night of the 15th bivouacked near Crampton's Gap; on 16th passed through the Gap and bivouacked near Berlin; on the 18th crossed the Potomac at Berlin, and camped near Waterford Va; on the 19th near Harmony; on the 20th near Middleburg; on the 23d near Warrenton; and, marching by the way of Warrenton Junction, reached Rappahannock Station on the morning of the 26th. Here the Regiment remained until August 1st when it formed a part of a column which crossed the river, driving the enemy before them. Breastworks were immediately thrown up, and the Regiment occupied them until the 8th, when it recrossed the river and went into camp. The regiment remained here until the 11th of September when it marched to Stevensburg. On the 27th moved to the Rapidan near Raccoon Ford. On the 7th of October the retreat from the Rapidan began. The regiment marched to Germania Ford, thence to Stevensburg, and on the 11th forded the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford. On the 13th the retreat was

continued, the regiment reaching Bristow Station, after a march of thirty miles, in sixteen hours. On the 14th the army was massed at Centreville. The Sixteenth Maine was pushed forward to the stone bridge across Bull Run; but on the next morning was withdrawn to Cub Run, where it remained in line of battle until the 19th when it marched to Gainsville; passed through Thoroughfare Gap on the 20th; repassed it on the 24th, and camped upon the battle ground of Bristow Station. The regiment participated in the move against the Rebels on the Rappahannock, on the 7th of November, forming a part of the reserve. It crossed at Kellys Ford on the 8th bivouacing at Brandy Station; on the 9th recrossed the river at Rappahannock Station and went into camp at Liberty. On the 21st the regiment recaptured a Wagon train from Mosby's Guerillas. In five minutes after the alarm, the regiment was moving from camp, on the double quick, and recaptured the train half an hour before the arrival of the other troops. The first troops that arrived, after the train had been taken, were Cavalry, and, mistaking the Sixteenth for Mosby's men, charged upon them. Fortunately but one man was injured. The regiment participated in the movements against the enemy at Mine Run.

It was among the first to reach its position, and on the 30th of November it formed a part of the charging column intended to storm the enemys works. Knapsacks were packing and the column had moved close to the enemys skirmishers before the movement was arrested by General Meade. On the 1st of December the regiment left the retreat, and crossing at Germania Ford on the 2nd, reached Kellys Ford on the 3d and were ordered into winter quarters. But on the 24th the regiment was ordered to march to Mitchells Station, where it is now encamped. During marched during the year 672 Miles.

The following is a list of Officers.

Killed Wounded or taken Prisoners during the year.

~~Field~~ Staff Col Chas. H. Tilden, taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st 1863
Surgeon C. Alexander Wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st
Asst. Surg Wm. H. Eaton " " " " " " "

Co "A"

Capt. D. A. Pennell Wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st
2nd Lieut Nathan Fowler " " " " " "

Co "B"

Capt. E. W. Atwood Taken prisoner at Gettysburg July 1st
1st Lieut F. H. Becher Wounded " " " 3
2nd " W. C. Wadsworth Taken prisoner " " 1st

8

Co "C"

Capt Daniel Marston Wounded (accidentally) Gettysburg Pa July 3rd 63
2nd Lieut. Geo D Bisbee Taken prisoner " " July 1st "

Co "D"

Capt Oliver H. Lowell. Killed at Gettysburg Pa July 1st 63
1st Lieut S. H Plumer Struck by Shell " " 3 "

Co "E"

Capt Wm A. Stevens Wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st 63
1st Lt Lemuel H Plumer Struck by Shell Taken prisoner " " "
2nd Lt. A Leavitt. Wounded and taken prisoner at " " "

Co "F"

Capt Thos. E Wentworth Taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st 63
1st Lt Geo. A. Deering " " " " " "

Co "G"

S. Clifford Belcher, Capt Taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st 63
2nd Lt. Isaac H Thompson. " " " " " "

Co "H"

2nd Lt James H. Childs Taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st 63

Co "I"

Capt. N. H Haldron Wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg Pa July 1st "
1st Lt Lewis C. Bisbee " " " "

Co "K"

Capt. S. C. Whitehouse Killed at Gettysburg Pa July 1st 1863
1st Lt D. O. Lord Taken prisoner " " " "

Of the Officers taken prisoners only eight were in the hands of the Rebels on the 31st of December 63. namely:
Col Chas. N. Silsbee, Capts Atwood & Wentworth
1st Lieuts G. C. Bisbee, Deering; 2nd Lts G. D. Bisbee,
Childs & Wadsworth.

Officers Attached
Asst Surgeon D. B. Bayler 2nd Division Hospital
1st Lt D. H. Malbon in charge. Div ambulance train
2nd " Chas. A. Garclow " " Brig " "

Very Respectfully your obdt Servant
Arch D Leonard
Maj. Commdg Regt

Military History of the
Sixteenth Regt. Infantry
1863