



THE HAMPTON LEGION.

Story of an Immortal Command.

By George H. Taylor, of Company B, in the Hampton Weekly News.

Among the heroic bands of gallant soldiers which left the Palmetto State to do battle on the historic soil of Virginia for the defence of Southern rights and independence, no more illustrious nor renowned command upheld the honor of the State by its untimely but glorious and noble achievements than the Hampton Legion, organized as a Legion, it took the name of its first commanding officer, Wade Hampton—a name dear to the heart of every South Carolina and one of the annals of the State ever associated with nobleness, bravery, truth and honor.

THE FIRST BATTLE OF MANASSAS.

New in the business of war and untrained in the art of the soldier, the Hampton Legion bravely fought the campaign which the enemy, though they were waged in favor of the Southern cause, rendered him fearless of panic and consciousness of defeat. He fought on until reinforcements turned the day from disaster to a glorious victory for the Southern arms. Though the loss of men was not very large, yet in the hands of the brave Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, who fell early in the day, the Legion met with an irreparable loss. Brave and gifted he at the time held the hearts of the men of the Legion as a father in heaven.

RAIN OF LEADEN HAIL.

That the color bearers were killed in such quick succession that the flag fell to the ground and the men hesitated to lift it; seeing it lying in the dust, Major Dingle seized it and held it aloft to seal the gallant act of his men. With devoted loyalty Private Marion Withers, a brave and true soldier, rescued it and bore it safely out of the fight. For this brave deed he was appointed color-sergeant. Fearing the loss of the colors under similar circumstances it was deemed best to return them to the hands of the enemy. The Hampton Legion after this fought under a small battle flag, presented by the ladies of Lieut-Col. Logan's family. This flag was received while the Legion, on its return from Maryland, was at Charlottesville.

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It was remarkable as being one of the few, if not the only regiment of the army of the Confederacy which was known and designated by a name instead of a number. If the writer is not mistaken all other Legions were but sectional parts of larger commands, or were never fully organized. The Hampton Legion, however, was the celebrated Second South Carolina Cavalry Regiment, and was commanded by that noble soldier, now able Senator, Gen. M. C. Butler. The artillery, first under Capt. Stephen D. Lee, followed by the famous "Iron Brigade" of the Army of Northern Virginia, and came out of the great struggle for liberty covered with laurels and known as Hart's Battery.

THE STAR OF THE WEST.

The Hampton Legion, proper, had perhaps a more varied experience of war than any other regiment from South Carolina. It was the first to be organized, and was the only one that received no other honor than that of its name. It was the only one that received no other honor than that of its name. It was the only one that received no other honor than that of its name.

THE SIEGE OF KNOXVILLE.

By Longstreet, was the next act in the programme of the war, in which the Legion took part—made interesting by alternate assaults and sorties. The Rev. William Thomas, for coolly and bravely administering bodily and spiritual comfort to the men of the Legion, was made a chaplain of the Legion. He was with the Legion during the siege of Knoxville, and was with the Legion during the siege of Knoxville.

ON TO RICHMOND!

movements drew the Confederate forces from the Peninsula to the north of the threatened city in defence against this invasion. On the 31st of May the opposing armies fought in the hard fought battle of Seven Pines, in which the Legion did gallant service but with heavy loss. It was in this engagement that the banner of the Legion, which was captured by the enemy, was recaptured by the Legion.

hood of Manassas. Here on the 31st of August, a second battle was fought in this renowned field, the positions of the Confederates and Federals being in reverse to the order of the first battle. A signal victory to the South was the result. The Legion's part in this battle was very conspicuous and eventual. It swept the enemy before it.

THREE LINES OF THE ENEMY.

Following the lead of the now idolized Lee, the Legion with the army crossed the Potomac River near Leesburg, engaging the enemy at Boonesboro' and South Mountain, but it was at Sharpsburg on the 16th and 17th of September that death with a relentless hand decimated the ranks of this dauntless and loyal legion. Thinned by previous losses, the Legion met with a severe commission in this battle with nine thousand men, and seventy-five officers and non-commissioned officers were killed or wounded, five commissioned officers were killed and two wounded. A single company could muster a corporal and sergeant, and thus dwindled a once proud regiment to a few brave and true men.

PICKET DUTY ON THE JAMES.

The Legion meanwhile had been ordered to picket duty near the James River, some fifteen or twenty miles below Richmond, at localities known as Deep Bottom, Drill Shop and Double Gates. Here they spent many days without excitement, except for the occasional seizure of a good shelling from the enemy's gunboats when we ventured too near the river in reaping the grain from the rich bottoms which the farmers had been driven to abandon on the approach of Grant. Both sides were ordered to retreat at night and carry the train away to some mill and provide themselves with extra rations of flour. A venture some ranger during the day would invariably capture a body of Federal cavalrymen, and a daring and successful attempt was made to capture the James River under cover of the gunboats. In one of Grant's attempts on Richmond strong columns were simultaneously hurled by forced marches from the city towards the city of Richmond.

For a month or two this picket duty on the James was kept up, when the regiment was stirred into activity by an attack on the enemy. The Hampton Legion held them in check until the arrival of the infantry from the right moving parallel from the south side with the advancing Federals. On this occasion, being relieved by McGowan's Brigade, the Legion was ordered to retreat to the front of the works. When informed, he said: "Boys, they (the Hampton Legion) 'will stick.' I thought it was some cursed cavalry." This advance a Federal cavalry officer, while reconnoitering the camp of the post of John Lyons, of Company B, hid behind a tree, Johnnie waited until the officer approached near enough, when, rushing upon him at a "charge" he ordered his surrender in classic and forcible terms. The officer, who became the possessor of the Legion's splendid charger. This event seemed to make a brave soldier of Johnnie, who was not previously noted for his valor in fighting. Astride of his glossy steed he checked the legionnaires, and he was ready to die for the cause.

BESATTERED WITH BLOOD.

Johnnie Lyons was never more heard of. In this Deep Bottom fight the Legion sustained few casualties. The enemy retired and we camped on New Market Heights. Here for a while we had light duty and perfect peace, but we were suddenly ordered to move on by the arrival of a large attacking force on the north of the river. The whole line fought bravely against vast odds, but the overwhelming number of the enemy outflanked and drove us back towards the city. The Legion was ordered to retreat to the front of the works. When informed, he said: "Boys, they (the Hampton Legion) 'will stick.' I thought it was some cursed cavalry." This advance a Federal cavalry officer, while reconnoitering the camp of the post of John Lyons, of Company B, hid behind a tree, Johnnie waited until the officer approached near enough, when, rushing upon him at a "charge" he ordered his surrender in classic and forcible terms.

LAST STAND OF GARY'S BRIGADE.

Richmond would have been easily entered. Many soldiers of the Legion will remember the sad spectacle that presented itself on the night of the 29th, when the brigade of artillery on the right as it played upon the advancing line of the enemy was thus cut off. The Hampton Legion was ordered to retreat to the front of the works. When informed, he said: "Boys, they (the Hampton Legion) 'will stick.' I thought it was some cursed cavalry." This advance a Federal cavalry officer, while reconnoitering the camp of the post of John Lyons, of Company B, hid behind a tree, Johnnie waited until the officer approached near enough, when, rushing upon him at a "charge" he ordered his surrender in classic and forcible terms.

REFUSED TO SURRENDER.

The Legion's four companies, Hampton, Gary, Logan and Arnold, lived through the terrible experience of the night of the 29th, but without hurt to us. For the only one during the war as we pressed the Federals back I was permitted to see the flashing of the muskets of two opposing lines of infantry for nearly a half-mile distance. The sight was grand and exciting. I shall remember as long as I live the yell of victory as the boys in gray charged on the fleeing blue coats. Gary's Brigade turned the flank. The Legion captured and checked by the pursuing enemy until checked by the pursuing enemy until checked by the pursuing enemy.

CHANGING HER RELIGION AND HER HOME.

Baltimore, February 9.—Miss Lotta Galloway, aged seventeen years, brought up a Methodist, a daughter of John T. Galloway, residing at No. 223 Federal street, was converted to the Jewish faith on Sunday last by Rabbi L. M. Lillenthal, at his residence, No. 35 Front street, in accordance with the orthodox Hebrew ritual. There were a number of friends of both faiths present at the time of the ceremony, which was a very interesting one. The bridegroom, who was a young man of about twenty years, was a native of Baltimore, and had been a member of the Jewish synagogue for some time. The ceremony was performed by Rabbi Lillenthal, who is a native of Poland, and has been in the city for some time. The bridegroom, who was a young man of about twenty years, was a native of Baltimore, and had been a member of the Jewish synagogue for some time.

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FISH DISTRIBUTION.

A short time ago a palace fish-car belonging to the United States Fish Commission left here for California with 18,000 young fish. These fish are not placed loose in the tanks, but are in placed partly filled with water, so that the motion of the cars is broken. This car's first stopping place was St. Louis, where a large number of the fish were retained from twenty to twenty-five fish each were sent to various Western rivers. Since the beginning of the carp distribution season two allotments have been made to South Carolina by the United States Fish Commission to supply orders from that State. The first comprised 1,500 and about 4,200 went the last time, making 5,700 sent to the State to date. During the whole season two allotments, each of 250,000 were sent to the different rivers in South Carolina, and it is expected in a few years that the most delicious fish to Washingtonians will be within the reach of the cultured palates of the Palmetto State.

A MOUSE THAT WORE A DIAMOND.

Several months ago a lady living on Beacon street took off a number of rings from her fingers and laid them upon her dressing table. After washing her hands she returned to the room to replace her rings, when, to her astonishment, one of the rings was missing. She was certain that she took the ring from her finger, and equally certain that no one could have entered the room without her knowledge during the five minutes she had been in the bath room. A large number of the rings were sent to the missing ring, valued at \$200, was not found. A few weeks since, the lady was much annoyed by mice. Almost nightly they held their revels. They found their way into