

Mechanicsburg

CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL

Mechanicsburg has the questionable distinction of being the northern-most town to have been captured by the Confederate forces during the Civil War. Gen. Lee's unsuccessful advance into Pennsylvania, with Harrisburg his potential goal, came to a gradual halt, at the eastern terminus of the Trindle Road at Oyster's Point, due to the forced marches of the Army of the Potomac, under its newly appointed General George Gordon Meade.

Harrisburg was a tempting prize to Gen. Lee as it was the railroad center for supplies to all war fronts and the encampment of most of the men entering the military service before assignment, especially from the northern and eastern states. The capture of this important center would release pressure on all Rebel forces, who were vainly defending the last strongholds on the Mississippi, without which the South must eventually capitulate. Gen. Ewell, in response to Gen. Lee's dispatch, ordered Jenkin's cavalry to lead the advance into Cumberland Valley and brigades of Early's division with Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry to York and Wrightsville to outflank the defenses of the capitol city of Pennsylvania and destroy rail connections with Washington.

Strategic risks are often commendatory, when opportunity presents itself very unexpectedly and unless the advantage is immediately seized, it is usually lost forever. The Confederate advisory staff agreed with Gen. Lee's summation of the recent events leading up to the lethargy of the Army of the Potomac, under the leadership of Gen. "Fighting Joe" Hooker, Pres. Lincoln and Gen. Halleck of the War Department, that an attempt to invade Pennsylvania must be made at once.

To prevent possible leaks of troop movements, Gen. Lee ordered an end of all fraternizing with enemy troops on every front. During periods of inactivity the enemy pickets would engage in comradely trades for such items as tobacco, coffee and sugar as well as newspapers.

Following the battle of Fredericksburg in December of 1862, under the leadership of Gen. Burnside, the Union forces withdrew to winter quarters, to recover from their wounds and equip for the coming summer campaign. While the Confederate forces were victorious in this fray, they welcomed the recuperation of the winter season, as their manpower replacements were limited and industrial supply sources becoming

very scarce, not to mention food stuffs for man and beast. When the Quartermaster of the Army of Northern Virginia appealed to Richmond for additional food supplies to supplement their meager rations he was advised "If Lee wishes rations, let him seek them in Pennsylvania." The financial demands upon the Confederacy were becoming very precarious; their indebtedness had risen to the then unheard-of amount of one billion dollars and their credit in foreign markets had dropped to five cents on the dollar, with no further extension.

Their only escape from the approaching dilemma was to hope for an opportunity to invade the northern end of Shenandoah Valley and possibly as far down Cumberland Valley as Harrisburg, where horses, cattle and foodstuffs could be readily seized. The capture of a Northern state capitol would enhance their foreign credit and increase the growing anti-war sentiment which the "Copperheads" and "Peace at any Price" party was advocating in many of the northern newspapers. Pennsylvania was faced with some sections ignoring their draft quotas and demanding cessation of hostilities.

During the early winter months of sixty three, the subordinate officers were busy inculcating an air of contempt and superiority, into the men in the ranks of the Rebel forces, over his adversary. In combat, their selfconfidence and respect for their leadership was very evident; neither of which was present in the opposing forces. Both at Antietam and Fredericksburg, the Federal forces outnumbered them but defective leadership was unable to get the full fighting force into action, especially at decisive moments.

At Chancellorsville in May of 63, the Rebel forces were again victorious and the Federal troops had a numerical superiority of two to one, with apparent inept leadership. Gen. Hooker was so confident of the outcome of this battle that he wired Pres. Lincoln "The Army of Northern Virginia was the legitimate property of the Army of the Potomac". In this engagement, both Gen. Lee and Gen. Jackson noted the poor defensive attitude exhibited by the Federal troops and ordered a bold offensive against superior numbers and put to rout some of the best defensive units of their army. Poor placement of fighting units, insufficient space for operation of large corps and uncertainty of leadership, were responsible for defeat of Gen. Hooker's men.

The regimental Historian of the "Old Iron Brigade," composed of Midwesterners, summed up the feelings of the men in the ranks, when he stated "There was not an hour from the beginning of this movement to its close, when victory was not within the grasp of the Union Commander; but sad to say, it was frittered away. Oh, for a leader for the Army of the Potomac".

There were no apparent inequalities between the fighting forces, as both were of the same type Americans, with the same number of stragglers; yet the Southerner had confidence in his fighting ability. The commanders of the Union Army never seemed to be in favor with the War Department and there were many changes in leadership, neither of which was evident in the Confederate forces. Most of the men in the southern ranks were veterans, while those from the north were serving limited enlistment terms, many with bounty pay. Enlistment terms would expire for 25,000 men in the Union Army before the first of June and the inexperienced men filling those vacancies would not produce good esprit de corps. In the Mechanicsburg area a number of men enlisted during the Antietam emergency for a nine month stint and they returned home on May 21, 1863 after participating in Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville with Company F. 130th regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. The southern Press used propaganda in those days by building successful skirmishes into victorious engagements with a complete rout of all enemy forces; all of which had its desired effects on the morale of the fighting men.

After the battle of Chancellorsville, Gen. Hooker withdrew his troops to the northern bank of the Rappahannock, for a regrouping of men and materials, in anticipation of the next clash. This battle was a very costly one to the South as they lost Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson, who was accidentally killed by his own troops. Lee knew Hooker's procrastinating tendencies, so he began planning a northern invasion, with his recent morale building victory.

Gen. Jackson's death and the anticipated invasion required strengthening and reorganizing of Gen. Lee's army into three corps. Each corps contained three divisions of infantry and one of artillery; the cavalry under Gen. Stuart, consisted of six brigades and was assigned, as and where needed. Most of Jackson's troops were placed in the Second corps under Gen. Ewell, who drew the assignment to lead the invasion since Jackson's troops were accustomed to feast marches and outmaneuvering the enemy. Gen. Ewell had stopped a minie ball with his knee last August and the wound refused to heal after the amputation of his leg; as he was unable to wear an artificial leg his transportation was a horse and buggy. Generals Longstreet and Hill were in charge of the First and Third corps, respectively.

Lee knew that Hooker would not take the offensive unless under very favorable conditions, while Lee with his inferior numbers knew a defensive campaign would force his army back to Richmond, where it could not be supplied. Lee's first thought was to clear the entire Shenandoah Valley of all Federal troops, so that he could maneuver his army and capture the Arsenal at Harper's Ferry with all its supplies.

This work was assigned to Ewell's corps with two brigades of cavalry under Gen. Jenkins and Fitzhugh Lee respectively. Jackson's troops had captured the same Arsenal in Sept. of 1862 and they took great delight in being reassigned the task, with the possible capture of many supplies needed for personal use.

Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, with four brigades of cavalry or about ten thousand mounted men and a portion of Hill's corps, was to engage a portion of Federal troops near Fredericksburg, as a feint only, while Ewell's corps with Jenkins' cavalry in advance, was to make a dash for southern Pennsylvania.

On June 1st, Lee ordered the initial troops into action by sending Jenkins' cavalry brigade toward Culpepper with instructions to drive-in all Union pickets and scout positions of Federal troops in the surrounding area. On the next day five additional brigades of Stuart's cavalry were dispatched into the same area, while Jenkins was to continue toward Chester Gap, at Front Royal, Virginia. On the 3rd of June Stuart's cavalry occupied the plains around Brandy Station, with the apparent intention of establishing a camp. Some of Longstreet's corps were withdrawn from the Fredericksburg front on the 4th of June and dispatched into the Culpepper area, while Jenkins was continuing his advance toward Winchester. Gen. Milroy was stationed at Winchester with four thousand inexperienced Federal troops and he alarmed Washington concerning the advance of Rebel forces. Longstreet's corps had arrived at Culpepper on June 6th and Ewell's corps was the next outfit to be withdrawn from the Fredericksburg front; leaving Hill's corps and two regiments of cavalry to occupy their old positions.

On the 9th of June Lee ordered a review of his troops in the Culpepper area, to conceal his invasion plans from the Federal scouts, whom he knew were in the area. On the 10th Hooker became suspicious of Lee's movements and placement of troops near Culpepper and ordered Gen. Pleasanton to beat up Stuart's camp and obtain information of future plans. The action was carried out with cavalry, fighting a dismounted attack and for the first time Pleasanton's men felt they were equal to Stuart's so called supermen. The Union cavalry claimed victory by restricting Stuart's men from crossing the Rappahannock and at the same time capturing some important orders and dispatches none of which held up Lee's plan of invasion.

It was very evident to the Washington Officials that Gen. Lee was planning an offensive into southern Pennsylvania and as a defensive measure, the Department of the Susquehanna was established on June 10th, with Maj. Gen. D.N. Couch as Commander, with headquarters in Chambersburg, Penna. Gen. Couch had commanded the Second army

corps of the Army of the Potomac in the recent Chancellorsville campaign and being in utter disagreement with his superior, Gen. Hooker, asked the War Department to be relieved of duty, for reassignment. Couch was a tough West Point graduate of 1846 with an excellent service record and was given the task to assemble a military force of such strength, to aid the Army of The Potomac in the defense of northern soil. Gov. Curtin made frantic calls for volunteers to serve during the emergency but they were slow to offer as the War Department ruled the emergency would last until cessation of hostilities and that no bounties would be paid. Up to this time volunteers were given a bounty of \$20.00 but \$50.00 was now demanded for enlistments. On Monday, June 15th, Gen. Couch had 250 men in his Department of the Susquehanna while Jenkins was in Greencastle with his advance pickets of the Confederate Army.

Gov. Curtin sent urgent appeals to all surrounding States for any and all types of military organizations for immediate duty. By June 22nd, New York state had forwarded about 5,000 men, very few of whom had any combat experience. At the same date there were 25,000 hardened Confederate soldiers at Hagerstown, Md. and the first clash had occurred at Greencastle. The general public still doubted the seriousness of Lee's intentions and refused to forward volunteer units under such uncertain conditions.

On Friday June 12th the remaining Rebel units on the Fredericksburg front were ordered to withdraw and report to Longstreet at Culpepper. In the meantime Ewell's entire corps had left Culpepper and were near the gap at Front Royal. Imboden's cavalry division was ordered by way of Romney to Cumberland, Md. to destroy railroad connections and portions of the canal at Martinsburg, W. Va.

On the 13th, Rodes division and Jenkins cavalry unit were dispatched by Gen. Ewell to capture McReynold's Union troops in Berrysburg but the later was warned of their approach and had time to withdraw and join Milroy at Winchester. Jenkins and Rodes continued on to Martinsburg, where a garrison of Union infantry was quartered under command of Col. Smith, who hastily withdrew and crossed the Potomac to avoid capture but he did lose five guns in the melee. Gen. Milroy was stationed at Winchester with 9,000 Federal troops, plus McReynold's newly arrived men and he wired Washington that he felt he could hold the town and was safe for the time being. Johnson's division of Ewell's corps marched directly to Winchester and completely surrounded the town with excellent artillery coverage, compelling Milroy to evacuate with a loss of 4,000 captured men, 28 artillery pieces, and three hundred loaded wagons of supplies of all types, many of which contained small arms. Milroy was able to dispatch 300 wagons loaded with supplies

down the Cumberland Valley before Johnson's arrival and he fought his way through the encircled Rebel forces to escape with many of his troops to Bedford, Pa. With the loss of Winchester, Gen. Couch knew it would be impossible to continue the headquarters of the Department of the Susquehanna at Chambersburg and it was moved to Carlisle, where it remained but a few days before going into Harrisburg.

On Monday the 15th, Ewell's troops crossed the Potomac river and occupied Sharpsburg and Hagerstown, while Jenkins was ordered to the Chambersburg area for reconnaissance and destruction of the railroad bridge at Scotland. The Confederates were alerted about defensive units in the region and their advance was rather cautious, with pickets extending six miles beyond his line of march. Greencastle was entered about 11:00 A. M. by Jenkins with 1140 cavalry and a regiment of mounted infantry. Meeting with no resistance, everything movable that appealed to the Rebel hordes, was confiscated to their use. Jenkins' pickets informed their commander that no Federals were in the immediate area, so the advance was continued to Chambersburg, where they arrived about 11:00 P. M.

To eliminate a surprise attack in the area, Jenkins ordered a contingent of his men to Scotland with orders to destroy the railroad bridge. Either in their haste or due to lack of combustible material, only a small portion of the wooden structure was consumed as it was repaired and in service one week later. Jenkins having accomplished his assignment, ordered a casual withdrawal through the countryside adjacent to the Waynesboro and Greencastle roads, commanding all livestock, harness, shoes and provisions as well as wagons for conveyance. Although the marauders stole 300 horses and a like number of cattle in addition to many wagons loaded with provisions, they were disappointed in that the raid was not as successful as the one they pulled in the fall of 1862, when 1200 head of horses and cattle were collected.

When Milroy's escaping wagons came down the Valley on the night of the 14th, the alarm was spread of the Rebel approach and the farmers having suffered in the other raid, took precaution and hustled all livestock into valleys over the North mountain where they could be protected from small bands of marauders. Milroy's wagons created a never forgotten spectacle as they rolled toward Harrisburg with cargoes of war materials. These canopied wagons made a train over five miles long and from nearly every wagon there peered heads of negro children, whose parents would be trudging along in the dust covered road. These fleeing negroes were known as "Contrabands" and while a few may have been Run-a-way slaves, most of them were free but knew if they were caught, they would be shipped south and sold into slavery. These half clothed, barefooted and dusty ragamuffins lunged on with bulging

eyes fixed straight ahead and an old gunny sack over a shoulder, containing all their worldly possessions.

Many farmers were hesitant about sending their livestock to the mountains as a fine crop of needed timothy was ready for harvest and their horses were needed. These unprudent farmers lost all their livestock. Those who resisted marauders were shot and in one instance the victim was buried in the manure pile by his barn. As squads of raiders would procure good horses, they would immediately saddle the new steed and put their worn out "plugs" in the herd or if in bad shape, was left by the roadside to wander.

The reactions, of Washington in regard to Gen. Hooker's ability to command the Army of the Potomac, were and still are an enigma. It was quite evident that Hooker had knowledge or at least good suspicion on June the 4th that Lee was moving away from the Fredericksburg theatre of war; as on the 5th, he inquired of the War Dept. whether he should attack the enemy if but one corps was left on that front. He was advised against an attack as it might endanger the safety of Washington. On the 10th, he made inquiry at the same source, wheather he would march on Richmond, while Lee's army was scattered from Fredericksburg to Hagerstown and again he was advised that the Confederate Army was his goal and not Richmond.

In contrast to the above we know that Lee had full co-operation of his Secretary of War, Mr. Seddon, for the later concurred that all attendant risks and sacrifices must be accepted. Gen. Lee had full support of his Government, while Hooker was greatly handicapped by the lack of it. On June 28th, Hooker was restrained by Gen. Halleck of the War Dept. from maneuvering his own Army in the presence of the enemy, when he asked to be relieved of his command. His request was immediately granted and Major General George G. Meade was appointed to assume command. This was the fifth change of commanders in ten months.

The information center for the defense of the Cumberland Valley was quite unique during those hazardous days of the invasion. Mr. Thomas Scott, a vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, with headquarters in Harrisburg, sent several men down the valley to act as scouts and report all news to the nearest telegraph operator along the way. Mr. Scott, when informed, would pass the word to Gov. Curtin, who in turn would notify Washington. Chambersburg was supposedly the center of the Department of the Susquehanna and frequently orders were dispatched there from Washington for troop movements and no available troops were closer than Harrisburg.

The Confederates were not without friends in the Cumberland Valley, as they were supplied with marked maps and informed at various times where certain supplies were stored or hidden. Their squads of pickets were constantly on the move as the Invaders moved into the supposedly defended Department of the Susquehanna.

Chambersburg was very quiet on the 18th and the whereabouts of the Rebels was uncertain. The Valley folks felt that Lee would not attempt any further action than the raid for supplies and would turn toward Washington at any moment. Many of the farmers brought their horses from hiding and began cutting hay. The banks opened for business in a limited way and change was very scarce. Most of the merchants brought back a stock of daily necessities but kept their stock of staples under cover, which was very wise as the next ten days were a continuous raid.

The resistance movement of Union activity was slowly getting under way at the Harrisburg end of the valley. Gen. Couch ordered gun emplacements, mounted in ditches on the hillside to the west of the river, overlooking the bridge approaches to the city. The newly enlisted troops rebelled at such manual labor and the authorities were forced to hire labor in Harrisburg at \$1.25 per day to complete the defenses. Harrisburg was crowded with "Contrabands" and they were glad to get the opportunity to earn a little cash. Contrabands were urged to seek shelter at Reading, hoping that this plan would thin out their ranks into the adjacent countryside. Their constant appeal was "Don't let the chivalry catch us". That being their name for Rebel troops.

On the 15th, Gen. Couch ordered additional entrenchments along the hillside north of the pike near the eastern borough limits of our present Camp Hill; these were to be used as rifle pits, to slow the advancing columns. As the various fortifications were progressing, a writer from the Harrisburg Telegraph made the prediction, "The Enemy will meet a severe check if he gets this far". One week later when they were finished and the guns mounted, the same reporter writes, "The Rebs can't take our entrenchments and we have sufficient force to repel any attack". On June 19th, Gen. W.F. (Baldy) Smith was placed in command of the fortifications along the approach to the bridges. Gov. Curtin made an urgent call for Minute Men to come to the defense of the border as a raid was expected any day.

Gen. Couch's most valuable and reliable unit was a cavalry troop of less than one hundred, mostly business and professional men from Philadelphia, who volunteered for the emergency with their mounts, but were without experience. A similar number of mounted recruits were at the Carlisle Barracks under Lt. Stanwood. The two units were combined

and sent forth to do scouting activities and offer resistance to pickets of the advancing forces. Capt. Boyd commanded this combined unit. Two units of New York State National Guards were on hand for emergencies; the 8th or Washington Grays and the 71st, spoken of as the Blues due to the color of their uniforms.

A steady rain fell most of Friday the 19th and the Confederate Army was cautiously advancing toward Williamsport, Md. Jenkins had returned to Greencastle with his plundered spoils, which were forwarded to Williamsport under a convoy guard for the urgent needs of the famished troops. Jenkins continued his marauding tour by way of Mercersburg, Cove Gap and McConnellsburg, thence going to Williamsport, Md. Jenkins had heard of horses being taken to some valley over the mountains and consequently was interested in locating them.

On this day at Harrisburg, the two units of New York State National Guards were dispatched by train to Shippensburg and as it was raining when they arrived, they did not detrain until morning. Brig. Gen. J.F. Knipe, an experienced officer from Lancaster, was placed in charge of these two units and his first duty was to wire Harrisburg for forgotten rations. Gen. Knipe stationed the two Guard units at the eastern outlet of Shippensburg to guard the roads out of town. Capt. Boyd's cavalry troops arrived about noon and they were sent to Chambersburg for reconnaissance. Finding no resistance in the Chambersburg area, Boyd sent one half of his unit toward Mercersburg and the other half toward Greencastle, where they were to unite on Sunday morning. Neither unit found any Rebels so they returned to Greenvillage, where the 71st New York State Guards were on duty. Sunday afternoon Knipe and Boyd ordered their troops into Chambersburg. Gen. "Baldy" Smith was given charge of all troops in the defense area west of the Susquehanna, on this day.

Up to this time, June 21st, Gen. Lee had been very successful with his invasion plans and the morale of his men was exalted with the captured supplies from Milroy. He forwarded a dispatch to Gen. Ewell "To proceed down Cumberland Valley and if Harrisburg comes within your means, capture it". Jenkins' cavalry returned to the Middleburg area, just south of Greencastle, on Sunday for another raid of overlooked cattle and was continuing same on Monday morning, just north of Greencastle, when a squad of his men was attacked by Boyd's cavalry and sent scurrying back to town. Early on Monday an infantry contingent, probably of Iverson's Brigade was advancing along the road north of Greencastle, when they saw the cloud of dust down the road being raised by a fleeing squad of raiders, who were pursued by Federal cavalry. Their unit withdrew to the side of the road and concealed themselves in

a wheat field and as Boyd's men came abreast of them, they opened fire and two men were shot. One, Wm. J. Rihl, was fatally injured and became the first casualty of the Gettysburg Campaign.

Seeing that he was far outnumbered Boyd withdrew his men to the southern border of Chambersburg, where he met Gen. Knipe and the 71st Guard unit. Knipe was appraised of the approaching Confederates and he ordered his men to proceed with haste to Chambersburg and board a waiting train for Shippensburg. In their haste to depart, they abandoned their tents and field pieces, which were salvaged by a Home Guard unit from Chambersburg, who placed them on a following train. Gen Knipe rode out the road to Marion to get a first-hand look at the enemy and in the excitement he forgot to order a retreat for the other Guard unit on the Waynesboro road. An orderly was sent and they were told to report at once, to the train in Chambersburg. The train left hurriedly before the second Guard unit arrived and they were forced to hike to Shippensburg, where they arrived at 2 A. M.

According to the Greencastle Pilot, Jenkins was reported to have had 600 cavalry, supported by a like number of mounted infantry and two batteries of artillery, when he passed through that town. His advance was rather slow as he did not want to outdistance his support of 40,000 troops along the highways, between Hagerstown and Williamsport. In Gen. Rodes report of the day he says "On the 22nd the division resumed its march and on that day penetrated into the enemy's country. Iverson's brigade was the first foot soldier to touch the soil of Pennsylvania.

The Harrisburg Telegraph reported great activity in that area. Troops were pouring into the city and Camp Curtin was overflowing. "Johnny Reb would be taught a sad lesson should he ever get this far". Gen. Couch notified Washington that he could prevent a crossing of the Susquehanna but cautioned Stanton that his men were utterly inexperienced. There were 13 mounted pieces on Fort Washington, most of which were 3" rifles, carrying a ten pound bolt. In speaking of his men, he says there were four to a tent and each had a tin basin and a pewter spoon and the food was beans and rice with fresh meat and salt pork. The neighbors complained bitterly of the vandalism and suggested that the Rebels could not have been worse. After the Fort was completed and the defense thought to be perfect, the Rebel scouts laid plans to outflank it as the guns were placed to fire in one direction only.

On Tuesday June 23rd, a squadron of Jenkins cavalry rode into Chambersburg rather early and separated at the Diamond into pairs for raiding purposes. Two of these mounted cavalymen rode up to two exservice Union soldiers and made some unreasonable demands, where-

upon the soldiers whipped out guns and relieved the raiders of their arms and horses. Then both soldiers rode out East Market Street toward Fayetteville, leaving some very indignant raiders to report their loss to their commanding officer. When Jenkins heard of it he demanded the return of the horses and equipment or he would burn the town. The town officials did not know who had pulled the trick and neither could they promise the return of the horses. Finally one of the horses was found and returned and a price of \$900.00 was agreed upon to settle the affair. In the interim Jenkins men had been purchasing many items from the local merchants and paying for same in Confederate script, which Jenkins claimed was as good as any Federal money. The town officials made the rounds and collected the worthless Confederate script to the amount of \$900.00 and tendered same to Jenkins for payment and closure of the case. Jenkins was forced by his own valuation to accept the worthless script, although he did think he would be paid in good Federal cash.

A volunteer unit for the defense of Mechanicsburg was proposed and many offered their services for the emergency only and then if the bounty was raised to \$50.00, instead of the former \$20.00. Levi Markel was the chairman for the relief of the poor in town and he could not get the committee to raise the bounty. The Government refused to furnish arms unless they would enlist for the duration of the war and no bounty could be paid. In the spring of 63 a feeling of indifference was beginning to penetrate the country. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation issued earlier in the year did not meet with a universal approval. Men were willing to enlist and fight for the preservation of the Union but they were not too sure about sacrificing their lives to liberate the slaves. Finally it was suggested to forget the Home Guards and bury the idea in the new Chestnut Hill cemetery.

Tuesday the 23rd, all trains were taken out of service and all rolling stock was gathered up along the line and transported across the river to safety. Gen. Knipe had to commandeer wagons to haul his equipment and supplies from Shippensburg to Carlisle where he established a temporary camp on the north side of town on the old Fairgrounds. The roads in Cumberland County were crowded with farmers taking their livestock over the river. Contrabands were still mending their weary way to Harrisburg. Jenkins covered the immediate area north of Chambersburg with his pickets to ascertain Federal strength and finding none, they withdrew with sheep and pigs, which farmers were forced to abandon in their flight. Ewell's corps was passing through Hagerstown, from which place Early's division was sent to Waynesboro, with orders to proceed to Gettysburg, York and Wrightsville, while Rodes', and Johnson's divisions were to come down the valley with Harrisburg their ultimate goal. A

deserter from Ewell's corps was picked up in Chambersburg and he claimed six regiments were ordered to proceed to and capture Harrisburg.

In our area, business was entirely suspended. The banks were loading their money and records into farm wagons and forwarding same to Philadelphia for safe keeping. The merchants were sending their supplies by the same method to Reading and Lebanon. The various manufacturers and wagon shops loaded their removable equipment on wagons for shipment over the river. Long lines of wagons were backed up into the streets of Bridgeport, awaiting their turn to cross the old camel back bridge to Harrisburg. The typical small farmer would load his choice possessions in his wagon and tie several boxes of chickens along the sides. His wife and small children would be on the driver's seat, urging the horses at a faster pace, while his cows and his sheep would be herded by himself and a boy or two, immediately following the carry-all. The Harrisburg Telegraph reporter was confident of our defensive forces and his comment was "Unless the Rebel forces retreat, they will suffer defeat". Housewives were not as confident, and they were busily engaged in hiding their possessions. Valuables were often buried in the vegetable gardens and fast germinating seeds were sown over the cache. Good china, glassware and silverware were dropped in wells and cisterns to be retrieved later. Many items were buried under coal or piles of wood.

On the 24th, Jenkins entered Chambersburg early in the morning and demanded complete surrender; there being no opposing troops his wishes were respected. Rations for his men and horses were demanded. A rare incident occurred when Jenkins was accepting the capitulation from the town officials. As he was being introduced to the prominent citizens he refused to shake hands with the Postmaster, whom he apparently knew or had knowledge of his affiliations. People known to be sympathetic to the South and hostile to the Lincoln Administration were called "Copperheads". Jenkins remarked "I am willing to take the hand of an open foe but scorn to touch the flesh of those who do not support their Government". He termed them sneaks and hypocrites unworthy of the recognition of brave men. Many of the Copperheads thought they would receive preferential treatment from the Invaders and were greatly disappointed when their choice livestock was seized. Jenkins demanded the opening of all stores so his men might buy needed supplies, with their worthless Confederate script.

Rodes' division of Ewell's corps was leading the advance down the valley and encamped on Wednesday night just north of Chambersburg. The divisional staff officers made themselves comfortable in the home of Col. McClure, who made it his business to be absent. Jenkins' Raiders arrived in Shippensburg that afternoon and continued their usual manner of requesting and purchasing supplies. Their special needs in this

community were harness and wagons, as no stables were left unentered and wagons of all types were confiscated for their needs. Capt. Boyd reported the Raiders were in the Newville area that night. Johnson's division of Ewell's corps was ordered to follow Rodes down Cumberland Valley. Early's division was in the vicinity of Greenwood and Gettysburg, Longstreets troops of the Third Corps were enroute from Hagerstown to Greencastle, with Hill's division in advance. Rodes troops were ordered to Shippensburg and to proceed down the Walnut Bottom road to Carlisle. Johnson's division was to follow to Shippensburg and proceed to Carlisle on the old pike. Jenkins spent this day, raiding the Newville area of anything the farmers were unable to transport, in their flight over the river. The advance units of Early's division entered Gettysburg and made their usual raids on supplies and shoes.

Thursday the 25th was consumed by troops advancing on all fronts toward their respective goals. The advance cavalry units in York and Cumberland Counties were occupied with continued raids, making good use of hogs and chickens, that owners had to abandon for lack of space in transportation.

An incessant downpour of rain was reported on all sectors for Friday 26th, but all troops slouched through the rain, making a small advance. Jenkins had arrived on the outskirts of Carlisle but hesitated to enter before his pickets could report the position and placements of defensive troops, which were reported to have been sent from Harrisburg.

For three days the Confederate Army was passing through Chambersburg on their route to Harrisburg. On the fourth day or Friday, during the rain, Gen. Lee arrived, with Hill's division of Longstreet's corps, at the Diamond in Chambersburg. Residents said he looked very weary and the rains had done nothing to add to his bearing. He drew up his sorrel horse in the southern quadrant of the Diamond and awaited the arrival of several staff officers. A short conference was held and Hill's troops were ordered to encamp east of Chambersburg in Shetter's and Messersmith's woods. Gen. Lee and his staff joined Hill and his staff until word could be received from Stuart's reconnaissance. The three most valuable days of Lee's life were spent in those woods, awaiting news from Stuart, who traded a possible victory for his beloved Confederacy, for a paltry personal gain. Stuart was to keep on the right flank of advancing Confederate Army; instead of which he got the right flank of the Army of the Potomac. Stuart captured a Federal Wagon Supply train, which would bolster their shortages but the slow progress of the train defeated his purposes of reconnaissance; becoming his handicap instead of a prize of war.

About 10:00 A. M. on Saturday morning Jenkins entered Carlisle with cavalry pickets converging from all side roads. After being assured of Gen. Knipe's departure with his troops from the Fairgrounds he advanced to the Square for a conference with several prominent citizens, where it was agreed if no resistance was offered he would withdraw his men to the Barracks. A routine procedure of Jenkins' entry into any town, was to destroy telegraph connections by felling poles and wires. Dole's brigade of Rodes' division entered from the Walnut Bottom road very shortly after Jenkins left for the Barracks. As it was just twelve noon, Dole's men made small fires along the main street and prepared their hot meals. Their meal was barely over when Gen. Ewell, in his buggy arrived with his staff and four brigades of Rodes' division from the Walnut Bottom road. After a staff meeting at the Square, Dole's men were ordered to encamp on the College campus and Daniel's, Iverson's and Ramseur's troops were sent to the Barracks and vicinity while Rodes' brigade of Alabama troops with 20 pieces of artillery bivouaced near Bosler's Mill at the head of LeTort's spring and covered the Mt. Holly road. Carlisle residents said the columns were so long it took 1¼ hours for the troops to pass a given point. Gen. Ewell had spent a stint of service at the Barracks following his graduation from West Point and was well acquainted with the neighborhood. Johnson's division had proceeded down the old pike to Alexander's spring about three miles south of Carlisle, where they were instructed to bivouac along the highway and intersecting roads across the valley. Only the farmers in that area knew how much an army could eat in three days of occupation. One can better appreciate the immensity of these armies when it was said that Johnson's division with its wagon trains strung out for ten miles when in movement and it was but one of nine such divisions.

In preparation for his advance on Harrisburg, Gen. Ewell ordered Jenkins' cavalry, supported by Capt. Richardson and his engineers, as well as two batteries of three inch field pieces, to proceed part of the way on Saturday evening. Jenkins sent one group of pickets and three field pieces down the Harrisburg pike near the Ridge. Jenkins took the remainder of his troops down the Trindle road and encamped at Hoges Run near the Ridge.

The Carlisle authorities were unable to meet the demands for supplies issued by Gen. Ewell the day before and on Sunday all stores were forced to submit to a search by squads, accompanied by officers and great quantities of needed materials were commandeered. About fifty or sixty Confederate officers attended the Sunday morning services of the Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches. In the afternoon Gen. Ewell was amusingly entertained by a Confederate Flag raising ceremony at the Barracks, complete with speeches and a band concert.

Having heard nothing from Stuart and believing that Hooker was south of the Potomac on Sunday afternoon, Lee issued orders for Hill and Longstreet to join Ewell in his drive on Harrisburg. Later that night one of Longstreet's scouts came into camp and reported the Federal Army had crossed the Potomac and had advanced to Frederick, Md. under its new commander, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, who was in hot pursuit of the Rebel forces. Lee was immediately forced to change his plans. Ewell was notified to cancel his plans for Harrisburg and report to Cashtown, with all haste, where a defensive campaign would be planned. Johnson's division was ordered to retreat up the valley to Greenvillage and thence to Scotland and Greenwood. Rodes' division was to proceed to Mt. Holly and cross the mountains to Gettysburg. Gen. Ewell had wisely refrained from dispatching additional troops into the Harrisburg campaign until he would receive an encouraging report from Jenkins and Richardson, who were on reconnaissance in the Camp Hill area.

Just west of Mechanicsburg, a small company of cavalry scouts under Capt. Murray were keeping watch on Jenkins' activities. As Jenkins advanced on the town early on Sunday morning; Murray, and most of his men, entered town about 8:30 A. M., going directly to the telegraph operator at the railroad depot to send his last message from this place. After sending the message, the operator took his instruments and left town by way of East Main Street, with a group of Murray's men. About 8:45 A. M. the rear guard of Murray's unit galloped through town toward Harrisburg.

Jenkins made his usual cautious advance down the Trindle road and into Mechanicsburg, giving his pickets time to cover the lateral roads and lanes and insuring himself against a surprise attack. Jenkins' troops hesitated at Main and York Streets until his pickets, coming from the north and south, could report the absence of Federal troops. The pickets assigned to the southern edge of town noted freshly turned soil on Chestnut Ridge and thinking this might be some advanced position of entrenched defense, warned Jenkins of the same. It was later found to be the newly laid out roads in the recently organized Chestnut Hill Cemetery. As a precautionary action, Jenkins sent two of his orderlies to the Square with a soiled white rag on a stick as a flag of truce, inquiring whether the town would surrender without bloodshed. When informed that no troops were in the area and no defense would be offered, the orderlies rode out West Main Street to the awaiting troops, and the entire mounted contingent, clanked slowly to the Square.

Upon seeing the flagless flagpole, the surrender of the flag was demanded. To avoid threatened violence, the flag's presence was disclosed at the home of the Burgess, Mr. Geo. Hummel on East Main

Street. A detailed squad was sent to Mr. Hummel's home and he reluctantly parted with the flag, only to see it crumpled and placed under the rear portion of the saddle as a contemptuous disposure. The squad returned to the Square and after a short conference, all departed out East Main Street. Jenkins continued east on the Trindle road to the junction of Brandy Lane, where the troops bivouaced along the south side of the road between the Neidig and Rupp properties.

Jenkins and several officers returned to Mechanicsburg and proceeded to the Railroad Hotel, where dinner was ordered. During the preparation of the meal, he wrote his first and only proclamation for 1500 rations for his men and grain for his horses, to be produced in an hour and a half. Jenkins then ordered a pitcher of water and all the recent newspapers were scanned for news events and descriptions of the defenses on Fort Washington. The town authorities appealed for a time extension on the ration demands as many of the residents would be in Church. Jenkins replied, that unless his demands were met, he would permit his men to search for their food. Boys were sent over the streets of town, appraising the residents of the demands and the reprisal. The residents quickly obeyed and filled baskets of food were at Town Hall within the hour. The response was generous and more than anticipated or needed, as much food was wasted. In case of insufficient provisions, a listing of all donors was demanded and those withholding would be visited by Jenkins' men. Many troopers were detailed on the Square and those men ate while on duty. The Rebels had an old style haywagon, with ladders attached, in their possession when they entered town and they seemed to get quite a thrill out of it by pulling it through town with confiscated horses attached thereto. The haywagon and several others were pressed into service when the food was taken to their camp. There were many trees of ripened sour cherries along the roadside across from Neidig's and they were stripped bare in a very short time.

The authorities had no source of grain for their horses, so the Rebels forced the doors at the stone warehouse on Walnut Street and the railroad. Some of Jenkins' sick and ailing men were placed in the warehouse as a temporary hospital. People by the name of Emminger, lived in the brick house on the southwest corner of Main and Walnut Streets, baked flannel cakes for these men until their supply of flour was exhausted. The recipients were very grateful and expressed their thanks to the family. For the most part the Rebels were rather gentlemanly and well behaved while in town. They did have a trick that they enjoyed pulling in all of the valley towns. They would ride up to a man, with a good hat on his head as if to make inquiry, when they would make one swoop and ride off clutching his hat, in a trade for their old ragged and weather worn rag. The Neidig's had three officers as sleeping guests in their

parlor for two nights, at the officers demands, of course. Neidig's small son was showered with affection by the Rebels and some shed tears when they were permitted to hold him in their arms, as they were reminded of their own sons at home.

Jenkins had a squad of demolition workers in his brigade and on Sunday afternoon they ripped up a section of railroad track, a short distance to the east of Irving College. Some of the men came into town on Sunday afternoon and forced the merchants to open their stores for business. Stocks of merchandise were very low and the merchants were not out too much in the acceptance of the Confederate script. The officers were said to be a rather stout set of fellows and were clad in butternut colored uniforms and all wore hats. The horses they rode and the fittings were in fine shape and of good quality, as most of it was stolen property. The men in the ranks were not so nattily dressed but their horses were in good shape. Their guns were mostly of carbine type, with a few old muskets in evidence, and all carried some type of side arms and sabres.

On Monday morning Jenkins dispatched his pickets in all directions, covering all lanes and byways as far north as Enola and to Lewisberry on the south. A battery of four three inch filed pieces was placed on the hillside between old St. John's and the Peace Churches, to cover the advance of Jenkins' mounted infantry into Oyster's Point, which was at the junction of the Trindle road and the Harrisburg pike. Federal troops under Gen. Knipe were stationed at Oyster's Point and they were covered with a battery of Miller's guns, placed on the pike at our present 26th street in Camp Hill. A skirmish resulted as the enemies came face to face and each withdrew, while the batteries exchanged several rounds of shells until they learned they were out of range. Many of the defenders thought this was the beginning of a powerful thrust at the Capitol, it was only a patrol skirmish in which as far as the reporters could learn, there had been no casualties. The troops in Fort Washington for the first time began to realize the seriousness and nearness of war. The Fort troops went into battle positions at their entrenchments, while others labored frantically to eliminate possible points of vantage from which Confederate sharpshooters could operate. Monday night the Rebel forces were withdrawn to their camp on the Trindle road. On Tuesday troops from the Fort Washington area braved their way to Sporting Hill on the Harrisburg pike and set up several field pieces, knowing that a detachment of Confederate troops were doing reconnaissance from the Salem Church as a base. Some Rebel sharpshooters were concealed in a nearby barn and opened fire on the gun crews who returned the fire with a direct hit on the barn, causing the sharpshooters to retreat. The Confederate battery at the Salem Church opened fire with three inch Reed shells

but quickly discontinued when they saw they were out of range. The Federal troops withdrew when they saw they were being outflanked with Rebel cavalry along the Conodoguinet Creek. Jenkins dispatched reinforcements from the Trindle road by way of the old Brandy Lane and this hastened the Federals to limber their battery and retreat to Oyster's Point.

On Tuesday afternoon Jenkins was ordered to withdraw his troops to Carlisle, at which place he would receive additional orders. The troops from Trindle road site retreated through Mechanicsburg about dusk and set up their battery west of town. After firing a few shells to discourage any attempts to follow, they departed for Carlisle. Jenkins' troops from the Salem Church site, withdrew about the same time and the units joined at Carlisle about 11:00 P. M., having been ordered to the Gettysburg area.

Thus Mechanicsburg was freed of all Confederate troops.

Rodes' division left Carlisle early Tuesday morning, headed for Gettysburg. The last of his troops disappeared by 9:00 A.M.; although 200 cavalry troopers were left on provost duty until 6:00 P. M. when they retired rather hurriedly. During the afternoon Cochran's cavalry of Early's division arrived on the Dillsburg road, having come from the York-Wrightsville campaign and proceeded to the edge of Carlisle. They loitered at the junction of the Trindle and Dillsburg roads until dusk, when they entered and passed through Carlisle.

Wednesday morning July 1st, Capt. Boyd's cavalry entered Carlisle at sunrise and after feeding man and beast, departed for the front. During the day many regiments arrived from Harrisburg and took up positions on the various streets near the Square while a battery of artillery was stationed on Hanover Street. At 6:30 P. M. Gen. "Baldy" Smith arrived with three additional regiments of infantry and 100 cavalry. Smith had just placed his artillery in position on Main street, when Fitzhugh Lee's Confederate cavalry of Stuart's division appeared at the junction of the Trindle and Dillsburg roads. A call to arms was issued and the inexperienced infantry units from Harrisburg anxious to get into a fight, volunteered and hurried into secure positions along the eastern section of town, where they opened fire, forcing the Rebels to fall back. A Confederate battery was wheeled into position and the town was shelled for half an hour, after which grape and canister raked Main street. About dusk a Confederate officer under a flag of truce approached Gen. Smith's headquarters at the Square and demanded unconditional surrender. Upon Smith's refusal, the officer returned to his ranks and more intensive shelling was opened. To make it more impressive the Barracks were fired. The fire spread to the Delancy lumber yards and the

Gas Works. Gen. Smith was approached during the height of the fire by another truce bearer but his mind had not changed. A third shelling of shorter duration was interrupted by an urgent messenger from Gen. Lee's headquarters to cross the South Mountains and report at Gettysburg at once.

Prayers of relief were offered up on Thursday July 2nd, as all Rebel invaders had departed and it was hoped they would never return, except maybe as prisoners. The next scene opens at Gettysburg and becomes the Battle of the Ages. Students of military tactics are still analyzing the methods of those two great Generals of one hundred years ago. Lee's patience of waiting hour after hour for three days for some word from Stuart, when such important decisions were at stake and every elapsing moment meant the sacrifice of men's lives, yet we are pawns in the hands of fate. With the outcome of Gettysburg, the last hope of the Southern Confederacy merely becomes a question of expenditure of men and materials. A Century has now passed since those catastrophic days and while a slight bigotry still exists, the progress of toleration is constantly advancing for a final and stronger unification.

Gen. Meade rose to the heights of popularity for the Union victory at Gettysburg but was strongly censured for permitting Lee to escape and continue the slaughter of war. President Lincoln made a slurring statement, when he referred to the lack of action of his commanders with "I would give much to be relieved of the impression that Meade, Couch, Smith and all, since the Battle of Gettysburg, have striven only to let Lee over the river, without another fight".

Under such criticism Gen. Meade asked to be relieved of his command but Pres. Lincoln half heartedly apologized and Meade was asked to remain in charge.

"Possibilities are always accompanied with probabilities".

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