

MAJ.-GEN. KILPATRICK

An Enthusiastic Cadet, Who Won a Major-General's Stars.

By WILLARD GLAZIER.

Like the French Murat, Kilpatrick seems to have been born to become a very demigod of cavalry. Daringly heroic on the field, he displayed a supreme genius for war, especially for that department of the service whose armor is "To horse!" and whose sweeping squadrons, with wild clatter of hoofs, seem to the fervid imagination to be making a race for glory, even though it be through the gates of death.

The beginning of his war career was one of romance, and his previous life indicated an unusual range of abilities. He first figures as a boy orator, speaking in favor of a Congressional candidate, with all the warmth and enthusiasm of his young nature.

Then you see him as cadet at West Point, from which he graduates 15th in his class, and is given the honor of valedictorian. The day of graduation is hastened a few months by the startling guns of Sumter, which proclaim treason rampant and fire all loyal breasts with a desire to rush to the rescue of their country's beloved flag.

The impatience and enthusiasm of Kilpatrick could not be restrained, and through his influence a petition was signed by 37 of his class to be allowed to graduate at once and go to the front. The request was granted, and that day was one of especial significance at West Point. It was also one of great significance in his life, for the little chapel where had rung out the words of his farewell address also witnessed the sacred ceremony of his marriage with the lady of his love, and on that evening the young man may have had to do with his future marvelous success. To nature like his the magic of a name thus loved, fluttering aloft in the smoke of battle, becomes talismanic and inspires almost supernatural heroism.

His first battle. Kilpatrick's first battle was fought at Big Bethel on June 11, 1861, where, in command of a portion of Duryea's Zouaves, he led the advance, and in the first charge received a gunshot wound in his thigh; but though covered with blood he led his men in several subsequent charges, and was finally borne from the field fainting from exhaustion. After this engagement he returned to New York, and was not able to take the field again before September.

During that month he went to Washington, received a brevet rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Harris Light Cavalry, and began preparations for the front. He had also received promotion to First Lieutenant in the 1st Art. in the Regular Army. In addition to this he became Inspector-General of McDowell's Division, and was also on the board for examining cavalry officers of the volunteer services.

In the grand movement on Manassas, March 8, 1862, Kilpatrick's cavalry led the advance and drove the rear guard of Lee's army from that place. He advanced to Carter's Station on the next day, where he remained until April.

When McDowell marched to Falmouth he was once more at the front, and in conjunction with Col. Bayard and the Pa. Cav. made a brilliant night attack on Falmouth Heights, routing Lee's cavalry and capturing the place. For this dash achievement Kilpatrick received the thanks of the Commanding General.

Breaking Stonewall's Line. Afterwards, under Pope's command, he made his first famous raid in breaking up Stonewall Jackson's line of communication with Richmond from Gordonsville,

in the Shenandoah Valley, over the Virginia Central Railroad. At Beaver Dam, Frederick's Hall and Hanover Junction he burned the stations, destroyed the tracks, and daringly attacked the enemy wherever he could find him. These events took place during July and August, 1862, and the boldness of his operations in the very heart of the enemy's country filled the North with Kilpatrick's fame.

In Pope's disastrous campaigning Kilpatrick's regiment was with Bayard's cavalry protecting the rear of the army on its march to Washington. When Hooker was placed at the head of the Army of the Potomac the cavalry was reorganized under Stoneman as Chief, and that General, in the following campaign, assigned to Kilpatrick the work of destroying the railroad and bridges over the Chickahominy. Four hundred and fifty men were given him for the work; but with this small



force he brought to the difficult mission his usual skill, avoiding large forces of the enemy, raided to within two miles of Richmond, where he captured "Lieut. Brown, A-ide-Camp to Gen. Winder, and 11 men within the fortifications." He says: "I then passed down to the left to the Meadow Bridge on the Chickahominy, which I burned, ran a train of cars into the river, retired to Hanover town, on the Peninsula, crossed just in time to check the advance of a pursuing cavalry force, burned a train of 39 wagons loaded with bacon, captured 13 prisoners, and encamped for the night five miles from the river."

This was the manner of his conquering quest, until, on the 7th, he again struck the Union lines at Gloucester Point, having made a march of about "200 miles in less than five days and captured and paroled over 800 prisoners. In the accomplishment of this splendid feat he lost only one officer and 37 men."

After Chancellorsville, when Lee came into Maryland and massed his cavalry at Beverly Ford, Pleasanton was sent forward on a reconnaissance and met the enemy in battle at Brandy Station. This is renowned as the greatest cavalry battle of the war. Gen. Gregg arrived upon the field at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, and though his noble squadrons fought well and bravely, their columns were rolled back, and for a moment all seemed lost and overwhelmed by the superior numbers of the foe. At this crisis Kilpatrick, posted on a

slight rise of ground, unrolled his battle-flag to the breeze, and his bugles sounded the charge. He had under his command the Harris Light, 10th N. Y., and 1st Mo. The formation for an onset was quickly made and the disciplined squadrons of these three regiments were hurled upon the enemy. But the 10th N. Y. recoiled before the murderous fire of the enemy's carbines. The Harris Light for the first time wavered.

Kilpatrick was maddened at the sight. He rushed to the head of the 1st Mo., shouting: "Men of Maine, you must save the day! Follow me!" Under the impulse of this enthusiasm they became almost irresistible, and in conjunction with the reformed squadrons of the other two regiments swept the enemy before them and plucked victory with glorious wounds from the very jaws of defeat.

On the next day Kilpatrick was made Brigadier-General, and the battle of Aldie was fought soon after.

While at the little town of Abbotsville, where the worst fighting, Kilpatrick sent the command on July 2, the thunder of guns at Gettysburg.

At once his bugles sounded "To horse!" and the splendid command dashed away toward the scene of conflict. Arrived on the field he saw at once where was most needed, and without waiting for orders moved to the right and engaged the left of Lee's line, at Hunterstown. Late that evening he rode with the charge of contest had ceased between the infantry lines, the shout of Kilpatrick's galloping squadrons on the right told that the battle there went well.

At daybreak July 3 Kilpatrick, having marched most of the night, occupied a position near Little Round Top, on the extreme left. Skirmishing had begun at about 10 o'clock in the morning, and by afternoon Kilpatrick was "far in upon the enemy's flank in the rear."

At 4 o'clock a heavy force of Confederate infantry endeavored to turn the position at Little Round Top by a grand charge of Longstreet's entire corps. If they succeeded the day was lost. But Kilpatrick comprehended the situation, and having under him the Regular Brigade and Gen. Farnsworth with the 1st Va., 12th Pa., and 5th N. Y., a counter-charge on the enemy's flank and left was ordered, which broke their lines, and was the aid of the artillery fire that now rained upon them, produced terrible confusion.

It was a grand but deadly-brought victory when such Generals as Farnsworth hurled the soil with their precious blood. But the country rang with well-deserved "pauzes for the cavalry."

At daybreak July 4 Kilpatrick's columns were in motion, marching for the nearest point on the Gettysburg and Hagerstown Road, crossing the mountains at Monterey, with orders to intercept the enemy and harass his retreat in all possible ways.

When near the mountain top, in a long, narrow, winding road, with bluffs on one side and a ravine on the other, the enemy's artillery and musketry suddenly blazed out upon them in the midnight gloom. It was raining in torrents and the darkness was so great that friend and foe flew alike indistinguishably. It indeed, require more than ordinary courage and generalship to prevent panic and compass victory. But, as on many a previous occasion, Kilpatrick was equal to it.

The recoil of the troops was only momentary. Riding at their head, Kilpatrick led the attack with such skill and impetuosity that the enemy fled, leaving in the victorious rider's hands "their guns, a battle-flag and 400 prisoners." He was now in advance of the retreating Confed-

erate army, and on the following day "captured 1,800 prisoners, including many officers of rank, and destroyed Ewell's immense wagon-train, nine miles long."

At 4 o'clock he met and defeated Stuart in an engagement at Smithburg, and then moved to Boonsboro. The battle at that place followed on July 8. It was a brilliant affair, in which Kilpatrick and Buford shared equal glory. On the 15th Kilpatrick came upon the enemy's infantry under Gen. Pettigrew, one mile from Falling Waters, and brought on an engagement in which that General was killed in a saber charge by the 6th Mich. Cav.

From the battle of Hanover Farm until this period Kilpatrick had won 15 splendid victories in as many days, had driven the enemy from Northern soil, and was at most constantly in the saddle, riding hundreds of miles. His division at the outset consisted of 5,000 men, and at the end of the campaign he reported the capture of 4,500 prisoners, nine guns and 11 battle-flags.

Unable longer to hold out against this terrible strain on his energies, he obtained leave of absence and went to his home on the Hudson, where he remained until September.

During that month he rejoined his command at West Point, and was received with unbounded joy. In the general advance of the army, which followed, Kilpatrick crossed the Rappanunculus at Kell's Ford, and on the old battleground of Brandy Station, where Gen. Gregg and Buford were hard pressed, again decided the issues of conflict.

The last fight during October, 1863, on these famous plains in which the great cavalry chiefs of the war distinguished themselves, the severe engagement at New Baltimore, the noble attempt made by Kilpatrick to rescue the Belle Isle and Liberty prisoners in February of 1864, the death of his wife, "Alice"—these events marked his record until he was needed in the great Atlanta campaign and was summoned to join Sherman at Nashville, Tenn.

KILPATRICK IN ATLANTA CAMPAIGN. When the grand armies moved Kilpatrick led the advance, and in the wild and victorious charges at Resaca reeled from the saddle and was borne from the field desperately wounded by a rifle ball. Through the long months of illness which followed he was nursed into convalescence at his home on the Hudson, and when the news came that Atlanta must fall in a few days nothing could restrain him from going at once to the front. He joined his command at Cartersville, and, not yet able to ride on horseback, went to the front in a carriage.

In the daring raid now performed by Kilpatrick on the enemy's flank, by means of which Sherman was enabled to get in rear of the Confederate army and take Atlanta, some of the most brilliant movements were executed, and no peril of any kind seemed too great to baffle his genius. Then followed his ride through the heart of Georgia, on Nov. 18, 1864, the long march from Marietta to Savannah began, Kilpatrick's command consisting of two brigades of 2,500 men each. The plan of march was to sweep across the country in seven days by way of Atlanta to Milledgeville, thence to Millen and Waynesboro, then to the sea. At Waynesboro a hard battle was fought, and the enemy, under Wheeler, routed the Union ranks.

On Dec. 21 a triumphant entry into Savannah was made. Since Nov. 14 they had "three times crossed from left to right and right to left in front of the enemy, and had marched over 541 miles. The valiant Chief was promoted to the rank of Major-General at Savannah on Jan. 14, 1865.

In the great campaign in the Carolinas rapid marches, feints and fighting were the order of the day, which at last resulted in the fall of Columbia, in the occupation of Fayetteville, and the fight at Averysboro, where Kilpatrick made a stand on a battleground with a ravine in his rear to prevent the enemy from securing it. In this action, which occurred on March 17, the cavalry and infantry fought side by side, mounted and dismounted, and behaved most gallantly. This action ended, the cavalry command went into camp at Mount Olive, on the Wilmington Military Road, and rested from its labors, after having endured marvelous hardships and rendered invaluable services.

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