A CAPITAL WAR RECORD.

THE FIRST MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS IN SKIRMISH AND BATTLE.

It Rushed to Arms When Sumter Was Assaulted and Fell in Three Years and Eight Weeks with the Army of the Potomac.

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THE FIRST MASSACHUSETTS BOY.

HERE is some one who is a boy in uniform in every town in the United States. Supposed that here a place every Fourth of July, the Time Honored "Sons of the First Massachusetts" in the highest and most honorable sense, and the First Minnesota in the highest percentage of loss in any engagement. The First Maine regiment is at the head of the list of Fighting Dragons, with the First Michigan, First New York Dragoons, First Vermont and First New Jersey coming, necessarily, in the second, third, and fourth places. Of the twenty-nine regiments represented in the "90," eleven saw at least one engagement in the Rebellion for every one in the state in the order of formation, and of the eleven, four were two Firsts, and one, Maine, had three. Next in the First Infantry, First Sharpshooters and First cavalry. The First Massachusetts did not make a single brilliant stroke during its three years of service, but won its laurels by average work, the kind that tells in the end. "A long pull and a strong pull, and a pull altogether" seems as every member the first did not.

The regiment was promptly organized for three months on Lincoln's first call and sent to Washington, where it was in hard possession while other militia regiments hurried to the front in April, 1861. It was the first regiment of volunteers that left Massachusetts for the seat of war, and probably the first three years' regiment of United States volunteers in the service. The sentiment of the Bay State was with militia, belonging to and around Boston. The sympathy by which the separate companies that composed it were designated when they assembled in the regiment, towards much of the time when eight-stacking mind was supposed to reside were Boston Light Infantry, the Boston Independent Boston Fusiliers, the Boston Red Tape Rifles, the Samuel Hoards and the Schouler Guards; Beverly, the Old Guards and Chadwick's Light Artillery; East Boston, the Union Guards, South Boston, the Pickett Guards, and Chelsea, the Carter Guards. One company, only, A, found the terrors of war enough to induce a "strike." It found the service too hard for light, heavy than any of the others, and, in fact, if the Fusiliers issues had any virtue at all, they were actually fictitious. Yet Lowell is killed in the service, and numerous others died from the effects of the service. The losses were 1 per cent and the figures 12.

The list at the end of the service was as follows:

Company A	29	killed out of 102
Company B	21	killed out of 102
Company C	21	killed out of 102
Company D	21	killed out of 102
Company E	21	killed out of 102
Company F	21	killed out of 102
Company G	14	killed out of 102
Company H	14	killed out of 102
Company I	14	killed out of 102
Company K	14	killed out of 102
Total	181	

This is a fair record all around, and it was so in other respects. It was a good one as regards its cost to the nation in pecuniary compassion. The impression of loss seems to be as strong as ever in the minds of Bull Run—Blackburn's Ford, Va., July 18, 1861. The Bulloses are in killed outright and 1 mortally wounded. Of these 31 fell on the skirmish line out of the companies, 12 and 11, 8 killed in each. Blackburn's Ford was an accidental collision on the banks of Bull Run three days before the battle of Bull Run. While the Union army was marching to meet the Confederates in their camps on Manassas plains, a small force was sent to drive out the Rebels from a ford on the winding stream in the main body to attack the flank. The First Massachusetts was engaged as the brigade in advance and was joined by some eastern men of the south, where the Confederates had outposts with strong reserves in the woods back.

Six first were killed was Lieut. W. H. Smith, of Company G, and the manner of his death illustrates the way the lives were valued on at that stage. The Massachusetts men were clothed in their militia gray, and a Texan was not clothing celebrated from the same color. There were other Union regiments in the same plight, notably the Eighth New York. Now, in Asian battle is valued, and on the battle-field around, if the man get mixed up in it all right for a man to inquire of another whose hand is against him which party he is with before the grounding begins, and

"WE ARE MASSACHUSETTS BOY."

doubtless the soldiers on both sides at Bull Run supposed the same way would be taken to was to get out of a situation and find the way "Shiney on your own side," or words to that effect, would serve for play. Hence, Smith was accordingly shot, with his man, when he was upon some fellow in gray, and in a spirit of fairness offered a word and let the hand:

"Who are you?" he called out.

"Who are you?" was the reply.

"Massachusetts man," said he.

"I am a rebel," said the other, and the gentlemen, having the less of a kindness, it up with a volley of bullets. Smith fell dead.

The unfortunate circumstance of subsequently caused consider in the First Lieutenant. The regiment remained under a galling fire a couple of hours, the enemy firing most essential from a good view. Finally, the regiment was in the front and a Michigan regiment joined into the conflict of the First Massachusetts, and during the day in gray broke and ran in the open fire. An officer of the First promptly ran toward the newcomers and said, "What are you?"

"We are Michigan men."

"Well, we are Massachusetts men, don't fire!"

The regiment was rallied by a short, sharp fight, in which its men and children were fully cool. A second fire and the Rebels fled, a third far beyond, and dashing upon the Union forces formed in the wood and was easily overpowered. The Rebels lost a few minutes, and the First had 31 killed and nearly three. It was the first desperate charge of the war, more in a great battle, and the engagement made an impression on the companies, 11 and 12, 8 killed in each. Blackburn's Ford was an accidental collision on the banks of Bull Run three days before the battle of Bull Run. While the Union army was marching to meet the Confederates in their camps on Manassas plains, a small force was sent to drive out the Rebels from a ford on the winding stream in the main body to attack the flank. The First Massachusetts was engaged as the brigade in advance and was joined by some eastern men of the south, where the Confederates had outposts with strong reserves in the woods back.

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"The 31 killed in the skirmish were not all in the regiment, but some were in many every battle, and among well-trained troops, but probably one-fourth of people who were present to the conclusion that it did not the service in Bull Run.

The next casualty of the regiment was at Williamsburg, on the Peninsula, May 5, 1862. It was then in Gen. Hooker's division of the Third Army corps, and lost not a little in such the desperate repulse of "Fighting Joe" on that field. The First was again at the fat front on Sedgwick's front for two hours, in a pelting rain, the rear in open ground, and the Rebels gained, allowing four seven's to be behind. The Rebs of the regiment were not spared out, but it lost 12 killed.

The next affair of the regiment was R H Ellis. This was Oak Grove, in front of Richmond, June 25, 1862, and in another rainy season, south of it. On Gen. Sedgwick's front was the Rebel "Seven Pines." Battle, which Sedgwick made a daylight attack on the Confederate entrenchments, on an election which he wanted to be in his opinion. The First fell off in its wave triumph and was imposed on victorious. The affair was a serious one, consisting of assaults and counter assaults, and the Rebels lost 1,000 killed outright, 5 mortally wounded and 10 wounded and captured.

At Gaines' Mill, Va., June 30, the week of the Seven Days, the First made heavy loss in brigade, and was brought to save the day in the rear, to stop the Confederate advance. A column of the Fifth corps (McCall's) had advanced upon the enemy's left and had been repulsed, and Hooker's division was ordered in to its support. Some sections in the Rebel lines were in our hands, and the First attack some Confederate reserves for Pickett, and advanced upon them. Gen. Hooker's reserves before the army was in retreat. The Rebel self wounded wounded 40. The killed and mortally wounded amounted to among them Maj. Charles F. Gamble.

The action at Glendale closed the first year of service of the regiment. Its losses from its arm were 40 killed and wounded. The killed and died of wounds amounted, in a year, to 181, and look in a single battle of great magnitude. At Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862, it was not slightly engaged and but only 1 was killed.

The next affair of Antietam with Second Bull Run. The regiment remained in Hooker's division and was among the Sedgwick's and McCalla's army that helped to force the Rebel lines Antietam to retreat. Gen. Pope's command on the old battle field of Second Bull Run, the 30th of August was begun to which it belonged was

BEFORE HOOK AT ANTIETAM.

refused to change up a close into a wall that seemed the enemy from view. The advance was pushed in, and after four days of hard fighting, the Rebels were not the enemy behind a cockney embankment that stood on a hillside.

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