

A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

OCT. 12-18, 1862

Armed with six pieces of artillery, 500 Union cavalry and 6,000 infantry marched from Sharpsburg, Md., toward Kearneysville, W.Va. on Oct. 15, 1862, where they exchanged fire with Confederate troops. The skirmish lasted less than 15 minutes.

Brig. Gen. A.A. Humphreys said he later learned that the enemy's infantry had advanced from Bunker Hill the night before, and were in the process of destroying the Winchester Railroad near Smithfield when Humphrey's troops arrived.

The next day, Humphreys' troops advanced to Leetown on a successful reconnaissance mission and were on the return march to Sharpsburg when

"the enemy opened his artillery upon us" two and a half miles outside Shepherdstown.

"Two of his regiments of cavalry charged the rear guard of ours, which, at 40 paces, fired upon them, emptying many saddles of the first platoon, throwing the head of the column into some confusion, and bringing it to a temporary halt," the commander said in his Oct. 19, 1862, dispatch to headquarters.

At least seven men died and 22 were wounded during the fight.

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.



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