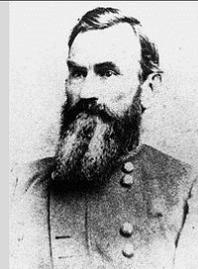




The Delta General

August, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 8

Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Saturday August 9, at Grand Gulf Military State Park – Meet at Walmart 10:30 AM in Vicksburg as the rallying point
- August 9, Beauvoir Board Meeting at Beauvoir, 10:00 AM
- August 23, Division Executive Council Meeting in Jackson, MS at the War Memorial Building
- Heritage Rally in Franklin, TN – September 13
- Sept 27, Caledonia Rifles Day in Caledonia, MS
- October 17-19 – Fall Muster at Beauvoir in Biloxi, MS

Camp News:

Commander's Message – Joe Nokes

Editor's Note: Please keep Commander Nokes and his family in your prayers. His sister died Wednesday morning, 7/30/14. At the time this article is being written he is making arrangements for his sister's funeral and the editor has taken liberty to compile his thoughts into his Commander's message to the Camp.

To all,

Well, the SCV National Reunion in Charleston, SC has come and gone. The MS Division was well attended by several Camps as well as our OCR Chapter. Those that attended from our area were Larry and Annette McCluney, Sandra and Missy Stillman, Patty and myself.

Congratulations goes out to Larry for winning the AOT Commander's position as well as winning the Robert E. Lee award. The award is the second highest award that can be bestowed upon an SCV member.

On Saturday, August 9th we will be making our pilgrimage to Grand Gulf State Park instead of our regular Camp meeting. We will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs that will be provided by the Ella Palmer Chapter, OCR. We are asking everyone that will be attending to meet at the Wal-Mart in Vicksburg at 10:30 AM Saturday morning so we can determine how many are attending. We are asking everyone to bring the other items such as buns, chips, drinks, plates condiments, and side items necessary. There will be an opportunity to purchase these items at the Wal-Mart once the number of people are determined that are attending. If you like, donations can be made to the OCR and they can purchase these items as well. Once we get to the Pavilion at Grand Gulf you can see my grilling skills put to work.

After we eat and maybe tour the park, we will then go to Port Gibson and pay homage to General Humphreys at his grave site.

I close my message with a few lines from a letter written by Pvt. William "Billy" Elliotte of Co. A, 11th NC Infantry Regiment. He would be killed at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Richmond Virginia
May 5 1863

Dear Father I seat myself this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I hope those few lines may find you all injoying the same good blessing of health. well I cant say that I have mutch to rite to you at this time. I will state to you the time that we got heare we got heare on Sunday the third. d we are camp about a mile from town in side of the brest works. we were expecting a fight all day yesterday. the yankees is in eight miles of heare. theare was four companys went out of our Regt on the train last night to fetch in the sick and wounded. they like to run right in to the yankees and they had to turn back. They have bin fighting at Fredericksburgs. the reports says that our loss is heavy and the yankees still greater. old General Jackson he got wounded in his arm and a good many more of our big officers. Cyrus and Samuel Auten and Jonas is all well. I like this place first rate but we only get a quarter of a pound of meat a day to the man and a pound of loaf to the man. we have just got word that theare is twenty eight Regiments of Yankees on the Fredericksburgs Rail Road. they burnt up a train of cars Sunday night of ours so I will close for this time. So rite soon. Direct to Richmond Virginia 11 Regt in care of Capt Hand.

W A Elliotte

I remain your fellow "un"subjugated friend,
Joe Nokes

Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

First, I want to remind everyone of our up and coming Chapter meeting. We will not be meeting on Thursday August 7, but instead will be going on a pilgrimage to Grand Gulf Military State Park on Saturday August 9 to picnic then to go to Port Gibson. We are asking everyone that will be attending to meet at the Wal-Mart in Vicksburg at 10:30 AM Saturday morning so we can determine how many are attending. We are asking everyone to bring the other items such as buns, chips, drinks, plates condiments, and side items necessary. There will be an opportunity to purchase these items at the Wal-Mart once the number of people are determined that are attending. If you like, donations can be made to the OCR and they can purchase these items as well.



Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

Our meeting for August will be our Pilgrimage / Picnic to Grand Gulf Military State Park and Port Gibson. Our September speaker will be, The Medicine Lady, Diane Bonert. We can always count on Diane for a surprising, interesting, and informative presentation.

Mechanized Cavalry Report: Richard Dillon, Cpl

Our Camp Meeting for August will be the annual pilgrimage to Grand Gulf and Port Gibson. We will be joined by Lt. Gunner Rutherford and perhaps a few of the North East Squad members. They will meet us in Greenwood and they will ride down with us. After our visit to Port Gibson we will ride to the Ruins Of Windsor. The Ruins are a "must see" site and they offer a fantastic backdrop for motorcycle pictures.

We will leave from Greenwood McDonalds West at 8:30. Our route will be Hwy 49E to Yazoo City, Hwy 3 to Hwy 61 at Redwood. We will have a rest stop at the Kangaroo Station on Hwy 61 just North of the I-20 intersection.

I would really like to see every North West Squad member on this ride. We have never had everybody together on a ride and this would be a great time for that.



Adjutant's Report for July, 3, 2014 – Dan McCaskill

Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Compatriot Junior Stillman. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Jimmy Alford was absent. Larry McCluney led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. Following the pledges, Commander Nokes read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Program: The program for the evening was presented by fellow Camp Member Richard Dillon. His subject for the evening was the "Pursuit and Capture of Jefferson Davis" in the form of a DVD presentation. One thing the program debunked was the myth that Jefferson Davis put on women's clothes in order to elude capture with evidence given by a Union officer who was present at the capture.

Announcements: The Nathan Bedford Forrest Memorial will be held Sunday, July 13th at Forrest Park in Memphis, TN at 2:00 pm. The National Reunion will be held in North Charleston, SC July 16-20, 2014. Joe Nokes and Larry McCluney will be representing the Camp.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Richard Dillon announced that August will be our pilgrimage to Grand Gulf & Port Gibson to honor B/G Benjamin Humphreys. This will be our August Meeting. We will meet at the pavilion at Grand Gulf Military Park. The September speaker will be the "Medicine Lady". 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell had no report; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Membership Renewal Statements would be mailed to members the second week in July. No money had been spent since the last meeting. The Camp currently has \$ 3,058 in the checking account. No new or past members had been recruited since last meeting. The Camp's collection for the Confederate Headstone stands at \$ 307 with \$ 168 needed to purchase one Confederate Headstone. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired if anyone had problems receiving the Camp Newsletter; OCR President Sandra Stillman announced that their members had a successful State OCR Reunion at Corinth...

Camp Business: A few items of importance at the National Reunion were discussed. Being an election year, the primary candidates seeking office that affect the Camp were: Kelly Barrow for Commander-in-Chief; Tom Strain for Lt. Commander-in-Chief; Larry McCluney for Army of Tennessee Commander and James Patterson for Army of Tennessee Councilman. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dan McCaskill and 2nd by Kenneth Ray for the Camp to support these candidates for their respective office. Two amendments were discussed. A "One man, one vote" amendment and an amendment to change the Charge have been proposed. After discussing each, motions were made by Richard Dillon and Dan McCaskill, each duly seconded not to support these amendments. Each motion passed. With no other business coming before the Camp, the business session was adjourned. The Yankee continues to elude capture. Attendance for the evening was 16. Compatriot Junior Stillman dismissed the Meeting with a word of prayer.

Contratulations to our Camp Members and Mississippians at National Reunion

Congratulations goes out to the following for their success at the National Reunion in Charleston, SC:

- Larry McCluney won the AOT Commander's Election and the Robert E. Lee Award, 2nd highest in the SCV
- Joe Nokes was appointed AOT Chief of Staff
- Connor Bond was appointed AOT Adjutant
- Bro. James Taylor was appointed AOT Chaplin
- Chuck Bond was made Historian-in-Chief

Mississippi Division News

Father, son work on Miss. monument: Sculptors work to capture spirit of Mississippians at the Battle of Shiloh.

BROOKHAVEN – Kim Sessums and his son Jake Sessums work in a room of giants. Three eight-foot Confederate soldiers tower over the men as they form and shape clay around the giant bodies. Kim and Jake are working to capture the spirit of Mississippians in the Civil War, specifically those who fought in the Battle of Shiloh, a task so monumental it would dwarf many artists.

On April 6, 1862, Confederate soldiers stormed federal troops camped around Shiloh hill. The bloody battle, which would lead to the control of the railroad junction in Corinth, lasted two days at the cost of 23,746 men who were killed, wounded or missing; 1,728 of them were Mississippians. This was the largest battle in the Mississippi Valley campaign.

In the sculpture, three Confederate soldiers proudly carry their flag into the battle. The color bearer is hit by a bullet and begins to fall as the flanking color guards reach for the flag and offer support to their fallen comrade. Kim Sessums captures the moment of recoil and heroism. "This grouping would seek to be an action composition, the Color representing all that the soldiers are fighting for and thus must not fall or be lost," he wrote in his artist's proposal for the project. "At the falling of the Color Bearer, the guards and their comrades are reminded in an instant of their reason to be in the midst of all the death and destruction around them ... duty and honor to push forward to victory or death." (Continued on pg 3)

Shiloh Monument continued from page 2 . . .

Kim Sessums begins every sculpture with research. The counters in his studio are lined with Civil War history books and narratives he references with every detail, which results in a sculpture meticulously true to the period. He said each detail will become a conversation piece for Civil War buffs because of the accuracy.

Sessums has modeled his three soldiers after the sixth Mississippi regiment with a Hardee pattern flag. Every minute detail is historically accurate, from the button on a soldier's satchel to the bridle pike cutter atop the flagpole. To properly represent the physicality of the figures in a pose, Kim had three men act out the scene as he took photos to study the exact muscular systems of each performer.

"All the elements are implemented to give an overall narrative," Sessums said.

Although everything is historically accurate, he said the actual men are fictional and, by doing this, the piece does not reflect any individual; it reflects Mississippi Confederate soldiers as a whole. He is representing the anonymous Confederate soldiers who lost their lives "struggling in the ultimate sacrificial way for a cause."

Unlike the majority of his work, Sessums competed for the chance to erect the monument in honor of Mississippi soldiers at the Shiloh National Military Park. Since the founding of the park in 1894, there have been monuments for Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Texas and Wisconsin. Sessums' sculpture will join as the tribute to Mississippi.

"As an artist you go to these national parks to see the great turn of 20th Century figurative sculptures," he said. "Not everyone can be there; pieces there last forever."

This will be the fifth monumental statue constructed by the artist. Previous ones include a tribute to black troops at the Vicksburg National Military Park and the six-foot statue of the legendary football coach John Vaught on the University of Mississippi campus. However, this is the first time his son has been involved in the process. "I've really enjoyed it, seeing the beginning and seeing it as it comes together," said Jake. "I never thought about what went into these works. I thought it was something he could just do."

Jake has been doing the majority of the manual labor involved in working with the giants, while also witnessing the process of how his father works in the studio. "I'm giving him the assistance he needs to finish in a timely fashion," said Jake. "I'm working harder than I normally would because this is part of my history, too, and I want to add to it. I learn as much as I can when I can." Kim and Jake are about five months into the sculpting process, not including the three months Kim spent researching. The deadline for completion is April 6, when it will be unveiled at Shiloh on the battle's 153rd anniversary. The preparation includes six months at the bronze foundry.

Currently, the two men are adding and sculpting clay around the giant armature. They are using small loop tools, knives and brushes to carve every detail, perfect every fold, crease and line, and to give a subtle texture to the piece that adds another dimension to the work.

"The big projects are more complicated to maintain the integrity of design," said Kim. "It needs to look like it was created, scored and patina applied by the same artist's hand. I don't want an inconsistent design." He added that it's a balance to have both personalities in the piece but with the same intentions.

Sculpture is not Kim's only artistic passion. He is also a talented two-dimensional artist, who utilizes several media to create figurative works. Kim is also a local full-time OB/GYN for the Brookhaven community at King's Daughters Medical Center. He has been practicing medicine for 25 years and has a passion for the medical field as well his art. Throughout his medical career, he has never stopped creating art.

Kim said he has gotten his brain to work in small amounts of time. It's not easy for him to find six-hour increments to work on his sculpture projects, but all those 45-minute sessions add up over time. "He lives a life of no wasted time," Jake said. The two men will continue their sculpting work on the Confederate giants until it's time to send them to the foundry, where the work will be bronze cast in 18 sections and reassembled as a whole. The monument will find its final resting place with fallen soldiers at Shiloh National Park.

Katie Williamson, The Daily Leader 7:09 p.m. CDT July 27, 2014

SCV National News:

Protest Rally

On Saturday, July 26th, there will be a rally in Lexington Virginia at 12 noon in protest of the decision by Washington and Lee University to tamper with the grave site of General Robert E. Lee. The rally will be held at Hopkins Green, which is at the intersection of Jefferson and Nelson Streets in downtown Lexington.

It has become even more important that every compatriot who can possibly attend this rally do so. A press release from Washington and Lee has basically accused the SCV of being potential thugs and vandals. W&L has closed the Lee Chapel from Friday afternoon through Sunday July 27th. According to the University, "This unscheduled closing is based on concerns for the safety of the facility and its staff on the day that the Sons of Confederate Veterans have scheduled a rally in Lexington. We must take this unfortunate precaution because of the inflammatory and threatening letters, emails and phone calls the University has received in response to the removal of reproduction battle flags from the statue chamber in Lee Chapel..."

In other words, they are suggesting that SCV members would desecrate the Lee Chapel or injure its staffers because of the disingenuous actions of President Ruscio. No group honors the Lee Chapel and wishes it to be protected more than the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This closure is a gratuitous insult to one of America's finest and oldest heritage groups.

It is imperative that our members attend the rally if possible, and it is important that we gather as Southern gentlemen in the manner of General Lee himself and with the dignity that his memory deserves. We must show the University that the continuing attempt to demonize the tens of millions of descendants of the Confederacy should stop and be replaced with genuine understanding and communication.

Ben Jones, Chief of Heritage Operations



From the New Commander-in-Chief

Compatriots,

Let me take this time to tell you what an honor it is to be elected as your Commander-in-Chief. Words cannot adequately describe my feelings. I am humbled to hold an office that only seventy-three men before me have held. It is my pleasure to be a thirty-five year member of the SCV. I remember attending my first Lee-Jackson Banquet at Aunt Fanny's Cabin in Smyrna, Georgia where all of my family was inducted into the SCV, UDC and CofC. It was a special moment for me but little did I know what the future held.

Through the unity of our organization and the strength of our Confederate Ancestors, we shall continue to move forward to be the preeminent authority on Southern heritage. There are many days ahead of us in the Sesquicentennial and beyond that give us opportunities to promote and honor the heroic deeds of the men and women of 1861-1865. By their examples we can learn a considerable amount; it is our ancestors who endured "Total War" from an illegal invader. Today, like our ancestors, we must also choose to stand fast or retreat? They knew their duty, do we know ours? General Robert E. Lee once said, "Duty then is the sublimit word in the English language, you should do your duty in all things, you can never do more; you should never wish to do less."

The Confederate soldiers we honor and whose DNA flows in our veins took a stand to proclaim to the world the values of our American Liberties and their commitment to its Cause. Those Principles of 1776 and 1861 are still alive today. Friends, let us reconfirm our commitment to those liberties and the Cause which we hold so dear.

I would like to close with a quote from Jefferson Davis' proclamation from April 5, 1865 in the capitol in Danville, Virginia. "Let us not, then, despond, my countrymen; but relying on the never-failing mercies and protecting care of our God, let us meet the foe with fresh defiance, with unconquered and unconquerable hearts."

I now ask you to make a stand as they did, to be unified with others of the same mindset and lineage. As with anything in life, a unified group is more effective than any individual could ever be. I hope you will join me as we honor our Confederate ancestors and as we re-dedicate ourselves to those Principles of 1776 and 1861.

In light of the issues at Washington Lee University, I feel it is important to let the membership know who I appointed to the position of Chief of Heritage Operations. Mr. Ben Jones, currently from Virginia, was a former US Congressman from the state of Georgia. His expertise in dealing with high profile situations is one of the many reasons he was chosen. His diplomatic skills will prove to be invaluable in this position.

On many occasions he has proven that he loves his Southern heritage by the fights he has already participated in. One of the most recent that many may remember is when he took on Warner Brothers after they announced they would remove the Confederate Battle Flag off the General Lee, a car he repaired in the Dukes of Hazard. Yes, Mr. Jones is none other than "Cooter" in the hit TV series that still captivates audiences through out the world. He won that battle, as he has many, and brought awareness to the history of the flag, as well as the Southern people. I hope you will join with him as he guides us through the future heritage issues.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has been blessed to have Ben Sewell as Executive Director for 12 years. Under his leadership, the SCV has prospered and flourished with his expertise. When Mr. Sewell announced that he would retire, it was known that it would be difficult to find someone of the same caliber. In Charleston, at the National Reunion, it was announced that Lt. Col Mike Landree, USMC, will follow Mr. Sewell as Executive Director. It is an exciting new chapter for the SCV, and I feel like Lt. Col Landree will continue to lead the SCV into the future. Lt. Col Landree will begin in his new position on December 1, 2014. So at this time I would like to say welcome aboard to Lt. Col Landree and God Speed to Mr. Sewell.

Deo Vindice!

Charles Kelly Barrow, Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans

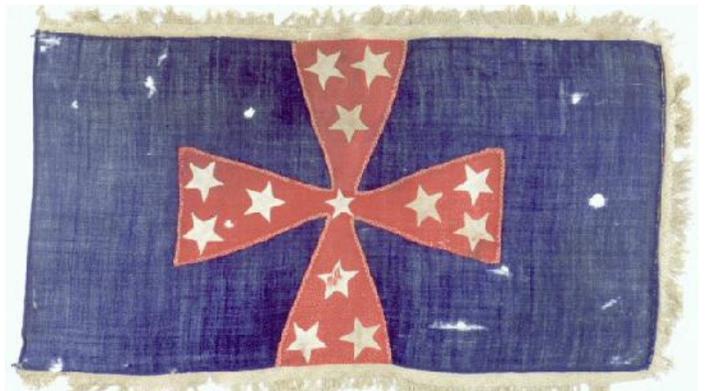
Heritage Rally 2014

This year our Sesquicentennial Event/Heritage Rally will be held September 13th, 2104 in Franklin, TN. This site was chosen in recognition of the Battle Franklin and other area battles in the fall of 1864. Compatriots in that area are working very hard to put together an excellent event with many extra activities the membership will enjoy. It is to be held at the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park in Franklin. This is adjacent to MacGavock Cemetery and Carnton Plantation. Visit the website for more details.

\$6,500 Needed to Restore Confederate Flag

A historic, and controversial, battle flag is getting a lot of attention. It was used by the South during the Civil War and now it's starting to fall apart. Historians say despite the negative history surrounding the Confederacy it's important to preserve this part of the Battle of Franklin. The flag was originally used by Confederate Brigadier General John Adams in 1864. To help prevent the flag from further distress, historians moved it from the Tennessee State Museum to a specialized conservator in West Virginia. It will cost about \$6,500 to properly preserve. The Tennessee State Museum displays both Union and Confederate artifacts. They are seeking donations to cover this flag conservation through www.saveourflags.org.

Read More at: <http://www.fox17.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/6500-needed-restore-confederate-flag-kai-beech-22484.shtml>



Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence Articles:

The Battle of Mobile Bay

The Battle of Mobile Bay of August 5, 1864, was an engagement of the American Civil War in which a Federal fleet commanded by Rear Adm. David G. Farragut, assisted by a contingent of soldiers, attacked a smaller Confederate fleet led by Adm. Franklin Buchanan and three forts that guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay.

The battle was marked by Farragut's seemingly rash but successful run through a minefield that had just claimed one of his ironclad monitors, enabling his fleet to get beyond the range of the shore-based guns. This was followed by a reduction of the Confederate fleet to a single vessel, ironclad CSS Tennessee. *Tennessee* did not then retire, but engaged the entire Northern fleet. The armor on *Tennessee* gave her an advantage that enabled her to inflict more injury than she received, but she could not overcome the imbalance in numbers. She was eventually reduced to a motionless hulk, unable either to move or to reply to the guns of the Union fleet. Her captain then surrendered, ending the battle. With no Navy to support them, the three forts within days also surrendered. Complete control of the lower Mobile Bay thus passed to the Union forces.

Mobile had been the last important port on the Gulf of Mexico east of the Mississippi River remaining in Confederate possession, so its closure was the final step in completing the blockade in that region.

This Union victory, together with the capture of Atlanta, was extensively covered by Union newspapers and was a significant boost for Abraham Lincoln's bid for re-election three months after the battle

Mobile is situated near the head of Mobile Bay, a natural harbor formed where the Mobile and Tensaw rivers meet before they enter the Gulf of Mexico. The bay is about 33 mi (53 km) long; the lower bay is about 23 mi (37 km) at its greatest width. It is deep enough to accommodate ocean-going vessels in the lower half without dredging; above the mouth of Dog River the water becomes shoal, so deep-draft vessels could not approach the city.

The mouth of the bay is marked on the east by a long narrow peninsula of sand, Mobile Point, that separates Bon Secour Bay, where the Bon Secour River enters the larger bay, from the gulf. The land ends at the main channel into Mobile Bay, and here the United States (U.S.) government had erected a fort in more peaceful times to shield Mobile from possible enemy fleets.

Across the entrance, the line of the peninsula is continued in a series of barrier islands, beginning with Dauphin^[2] Island. Northwest of Dauphin Island is Little Dauphin Island, then a series of minor islands that are interrupted by a secondary entrance to the bay, Grant's Pass.^[3] A few other small islands and shoals lie to the south of Dauphin Island, defining the main channel for as much as 10 mi (16 km) south of the entrance.^[4]

Rather early in the war, the Confederate government decided not to defend its entire coast, but to concentrate its efforts on a few of its most important ports and harbors.^[5] Following the loss of New Orleans in April 1862, Mobile was the only major port on the eastern gulf that would be defended.^[6]

The city subsequently became the center for blockade running on the gulf. Most of the trade between the Confederacy and Havana and other Caribbean ports passed through Mobile.^[7] A few attempts were mounted to break the blockade, but they were not large enough to have lasting impact.^[8] Among the most embarrassing episodes of the war for the U.S. Navy was the passage of the raider CSS Florida through the blockade into Mobile Bay on September 4, 1862; this was followed by her later escape through the same blockade on January 15, 1863.^[9] Although the orders given to Flag Officer David G. Farragut when he was assigned to command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron had included instructions to capture Mobile as well as New Orleans, the early diversion of the squadron into the campaign for the lower Mississippi meant that the city and its harbor would not receive full attention until after the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863.

Given respite by the Union strategy, the Confederate Army improved the defenses of Mobile Bay by strengthening Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines at the entrance to the bay. In addition, they set up the smaller Fort Powell, a work that guarded the Grant's Pass channel.^[10] Grant's Pass was also obstructed by a set of piles and other impediments, which had the effect of diverting the tidal flow to Heron Pass.^[11]

Mobile and Mobile Bay were within the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, led by Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury. Although Mobile was site of department headquarters, Maury did not exercise immediate command of the forts at the entrance to the bay, and he was not present during the battle and ensuing siege. Local command was entrusted to Brig. Gen. Richard L. Page.

The primary contribution of the Confederate Army to the defense of Mobile Bay was the three forts. Fort Morgan was a masonry structure dating from 1834.^[12] The fort mounted 46 guns, of which 11 were rifled. Its garrison numbered about 600.^[13] Across the main channel from Fort Morgan on Dauphin Island was Fort Gaines, containing 26 guns, and with a garrison of about 600. When Page was not present, command of the fort fell to Col. Charles D. Anderson.^[14]

At the western end of the bay was Fort Powell, smallest of the three with 18 guns and about 140 men. It was commanded in Page's absence by Lt. Col. James M. Williams.^[15] All three forts were flawed in that their guns were unprotected against fire from the rear; in addition, forts Powell and Gaines lacked adequate traverses.^[16]

The raw numbers of troops available do not indicate how effectively they would fight. The war was already winding down, and assertions were made that the morale of the soldiers was bad. The judgment is hard to quantify, but it would explain at least in part the poor performance of the defenders.^[17]

The Confederate Torpedo Bureau, directed by Maj. Gen. Gabriel J. Rains, contributed a passive weapon to the defense. Men of the bureau had planted 67 "torpedoes" (naval mines) across the entrance, leaving a gap on the eastern side of the channel so blockade runners and other friendly vessels could enter or leave the harbor.^[18] The minefield was well marked by buoys, which Farragut knew well.^[19] Its purpose was not necessarily to sink enemy vessels trying to enter, but rather to force them to steer close to Fort Morgan and its guns.

The Confederate Navy likewise used the time they were given to improve the defense. Three small sidewheel gunboats of traditional type were stationed in the bay: CSS Selma, carrying four guns; Morgan, with six guns; and Gaines, also with six guns. In addition to these was the ironclad ram Tennessee, which, though carrying only six guns, was a far more impressive fighting machine by virtue of her armor.^[20]

Tennessee had been built on the Alabama River near the town of Selma. Her guns were prepared under the direction of Commander Catesby ap Roger Jones, the man who had commanded CSS Virginia (ex-USS Merrimack) in her famous duel with USS Monitor on March 9, 1862.^[21] On the first day of that battle, *Virginia* had been led by Flag Officer Franklin Buchanan, before he was wounded. Buchanan had been promoted to the rank of admiral for his exploits that day, the first admiral in the Confederacy. Adm. Buchanan now appeared in Mobile, to lead the small flotilla.^[22]

Launched before her machinery and guns were in place, *Tennessee* was towed down to Mobile Bay for completion. Once that was done she had to cross the Dog River Bar to get into the lower bay. *Tennessee* drew 13 ft (4.0 m), but the bar had only 9 ft (2.7 m) of water at high tide. To get her across, workers had to build a set of caissons, called "camels" by shipbuilders. These were fitted to her sides and pumped out, and barely lifted the ship enough to clear the bar. On May 18, 1864, she finally entered the lower bay.^[23]

Battle of Mobile Bay Continued Continued on page 6 . . .

Tennessee was the only armored vessel that the Confederate Navy put into lower Mobile Bay,^[24] but there were plans for others. Buchanan hoped that he would have as many as eight, including a pair of floating batteries, with which he could challenge the Union blockade, attack Pensacola and perhaps even recapture New Orleans.^[25] The manufacturing and transportation facilities of the South were not capable of this ambitious program, however. Some of the projected fleet were completed in time to defend Mobile after the lower bay had been lost, but they were not there when most needed. Nevertheless, they imparted some urgency to Farragut's plans to maintain the blockade.^[26]

The man who led the Union fleet at Mobile Bay was Rear Adm. David G. Farragut, no longer Flag Officer Farragut. The U.S. Navy had undergone an organizational change in the second year of the war, one feature of which was the creation of the rank of rear admiral. The new rank implied that the ships of the navy would be employed as members of a fleet, not simply as collections of vessels with a common purpose.

The ships that made up his attacking fleet were of several distinct types, including some that had not even existed when the war began. Of the 18 vessels selected, eight were conventional wooden-hulled ships carrying large numbers of guns that fired broadside. Four of these (flagship Hartford, Brooklyn, Richmond and Oneida) had been with the West Gulf Blockading Squadron from the start, and had fought in its battles on the Mississippi. Two smaller gunboats, Kennebec and Itasca, had likewise been with Farragut since the capture of New Orleans.^[27]

One, Galena, was now very much like the others, but she had begun life as an experimental ironclad. Her armor had been found to be more hindrance than help, so it was removed.^[28] Three (Octorara, Metacomet and Port Royal) were double-enders, a type of warship that had been developed during the war to navigate the tortuous channels of the interior rivers. Finally, four were representatives of the New Navy — ironclad monitors. Two of these, Manhattan and Tecumseh, were improved versions of the original Monitor, featuring two large guns in a single turret. The other two, Chickasaw and Winnebago, were twin-turreted river monitors of light draft; each mounted four guns that were smaller than those carried by the other two.^[29]

Army cooperation was needed to take and hold the enemy forts. The man in command of the Military Division of West Mississippi, and as such the man whom Farragut would have to work with in planning the attack on Mobile, was Maj. Gen. Edward Richard Sprigg Canby, a career soldier. He calculated that 5,000 soldiers could be taken from other responsibilities in the division, enough to effect a landing behind Fort Morgan and cut it off from communication with Mobile. Their plans were undercut, however, when General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant made an urgent call for troops to be sent to the Virginia theater, then entering its critical phase.

Canby then believed that he could spare no more than 2,000, not enough to invest the largest fort, but enough to take Dauphin Island and thereby secure contact between the fleet inside the bay and their support in the gulf. Canby and Farragut recognized that they would not be able to threaten Mobile, but possession of the lower bay would be of great enough use to the blockading fleet that the projected attack should not be canceled.^[30] Because communication between the fleet and the landing force would be needed, Canby suggested that a contingent of his signal corpsmen be distributed among the major ships of Farragut's attacking force. Farragut accepted the offer. This almost casual mingling of the services would be found quite useful during the battle.^[31]

On August 3, 1864, in preparation for the Siege of Fort Gaines, 1,500 men were landed approximately 15 miles west of the fort while under protection from one of Farragut's flotillas. The troops consisted of infantry detachments from the 77th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 34th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 96th Ohio Infantry, as well as the 3rd Regiment Maryland Volunteer Cavalry. With Gen. Gordon Granger acting as commander-in-chief of the detachment, the troops marched until the evening of August 4, when they entrenched and formed their skirmish line less than a half mile from Fort Gaines.^[32]

The army landing force, under Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, was ready to launch the attack on August 3, but Farragut wanted to await the arrival of the fourth of his monitors, USS Tecumseh, expected almost momentarily but delayed at Pensacola. The admiral almost decided to proceed with only three monitors and the army, acting under a misapprehension of naval intentions, went ashore on Dauphin Island. The fleet was not ready to move yet, so the defenders were able to rush additional forces to Fort Gaines. After the battle, Farragut concluded that the delay had actually worked to the advantage of the Federal forces, as the reinforcements were not great enough to have any effect on the battle, but they were included in the surrender.^[33]

While the army was going ashore, Tecumseh made her belated appearance and Farragut made his final dispositions for the fleet. The 14 wooden-hulled vessels would be lashed together in pairs, in a reprise of a tactic that the admiral had used earlier at Port Hudson, Louisiana.^[34] The intent was that, if a ship were to be disabled by battle damage to her engines, her partner would be able to keep her moving.

The monitors would form a column and lead the way into the bay, moving in close to Fort Morgan, on the right side of the channel as they went in. The other ships would form a separate double column and pass on the port side of the monitors, so the armored ships would shield their wooden sisters from the guns of the fort. When the Confederate fleet made its expected appearance, the monitors would move to attack the armored CSS Tennessee, while the rest of the fleet would fight the faster gunboats.^[35]

At dawn on August 5, conditions were nearly ideal for the attack. The tide was running in, so Farragut had his ships reduce steam pressure in order to minimize damage if their boilers were to be hit; he relied on the current to give them speed. The southwest breeze that sprang up would carry smoke from the guns away from the fleet, and into the faces of the artillerymen in Fort Morgan. With Tecumseh, Manhattan, Winnebago and Chickasaw in order leading the way, the fleet approached the fort.

The second column was led by USS Brooklyn, lashed to Octorara. Brooklyn had the lead because she carried four chase guns that could fire forward, while the other large ships had only two. She was also fitted with a device for removing mines, referred to as a "cowcatcher" by Farragut in his reports.^[36]

Following were Hartford and Metacomet, Richmond and Port Royal, Lackawanna and Seminole, Monongahela and Kennebec, Ossipee and Itasca, and Oneida and Galena.^[37]

The Confederate ships were ready for the attack, and they moved into position to intercept the Union fleet just beyond the minefield. At 6:47 a.m. Tecumseh fired the first shot, the forts replied and the action became general.^[38] The ships in the second column, excepting Brooklyn, could not reply to the guns of the Confederate vessels, so they had to concentrate on the fort. Perhaps because the fire from the fort was suppressed, most of the damage done to the Federal fleet was caused by the enemy ships.^[39]

Shortly after the start of the action, monitor Tecumseh moved past the fort and toward Tennessee, apparently in obedience to that part of her orders. Commander Tunis A. M. Craven neither disregarded or forgot the instruction to stay to the east of the minefield, so he took his ship directly across. Almost immediately a torpedo went off under her hull, and she filled with water and sank in two or three minutes. Only 21 of her crew of 114 were saved. Craven was among those lost, so he could not explain his decisions.^[40]

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Cap. James Alden of *Brooklyn* was apparently confused by conflicting orders, to stay on the port side of the monitors and to stay to the right of the minefield, so he stopped his ship and signaled Farragut for instructions. Farragut would not stop the flagship; he ordered Cap. Percival Drayton to send *Hartford* around *Brooklyn* and into the lead of the column. This took the ship into the torpedoes that had just sunk *Tecumseh*, but Farragut was confident that most of them had been submerged too long to be effective. His seeming gamble paid off, and the entire column of 14 warships passed through unharmed.^[431]

Tennessee lacked the speed needed to ram the Union vessels as they passed, allowing Farragut to order some of his small, faster gunboats to attack the three Confederate gunboats. *Metacomet*, unleashed from *Hartford*, captured *Selma*. Fire from the gunboats holed *Gaines*, and she would have sunk had she not been beached; she was then burned by her crew. *Morgan* put up no resistance, but fled to the protection of the guns of Fort Morgan; next night she crept through the anchored Union fleet and escaped to Mobile.^[421]

Farragut expected *Tennessee* to take shelter under the guns of Fort Morgan while he rested his ships and assessed battle damage in the middle of the bay, but Buchanan instead decided to take on the entire Federal fleet single-handed. Possibly he hoped to repeat the ramming tactics that had been so successful at Hampton Roads two years earlier; Buchanan did not explain his reasoning.

This time the ships he was facing were in motion, and he had to contend with three monitors, not one. Because *Tennessee* was so slow she, rather than her opponents, became the target of ramming. Several of the Federal sloops managed to ram, including one, *Monongahela*, that had been fitted with an iron shield on her bow just for this purpose. None of the collisions harmed the ironclad; in every case, the ramming vessel suffered more. Shots from Farragut's fleet bounced off *Tennessee's* armor, but the effectiveness of the *Tennessee's* was lessened by inferior powder and multiple misfires.^[43]

The balance was tilted finally when two monitors arrived. *Tennessee* was already almost motionless, her smokestack shot away and unable to build up boiler pressure. Her rudder chains were parted, so she could not steer. Furthermore, some of the shutters on her gun ports were jammed, rendering the guns behind them useless. *Chickasaw* took up position at her stern, and *Manhattan* began to pummel the ram with her 15 in (380 mm) guns. The heavy shot bent in the iron shield and shattered its oak backing.

Fragments killed or wounded some of the crew; one of the casualties was Adm. Buchanan himself, who suffered a badly broken leg. No longer able to fight, Commander James D. Johnston, captain of *Tennessee*, requested and received permission from the wounded admiral to surrender.^[441] A little more than three hours had elapsed since *Tecumseh* had fired the first shot.

With the fleet no longer facing opposition from the Confederate Navy, Farragut could pay some attention to the forts. He dispatched monitor *Chickasaw* to throw a few shells at Fort Powell and then to assist the troops ashore at Fort Gaines. Although neither fort suffered significant casualties or damage, the bombardment was sufficient to reveal the vulnerability of each to fire from the rear.

At Fort Powell, Lt. Col. Williams asked for instructions from Brig. Gen. Page. Page responded with ambiguous orders that may have been justified when dealing with spirited troops, but were disastrous when issued to men as seemingly demoralized as those at Fort Powell: "When no longer tenable, save your garrison. Hold out as long as you can." Williams was convinced that resistance was futile, so he had his guns spiked and his magazines blown up; then he and his garrison waded to the mainland and made their way to Mobile.^[451]

Col. Anderson at Fort Gaines held out longer, although he faced a more formidable foe. Maj. Gen. Granger's soldiers vastly outnumbered his own, no matter whose figures for the garrison are accepted. The Federal troops could bring their artillery up to close range with impunity, being shielded behind the sand dunes of Dauphin Island. In position, they were able to take in reverse two guns that fired on Farragut's fleet when it was entering the bay.

In the judgment of an engineering officer who inspected the fort after the Union army had taken possession, "It was utterly weak and inefficient against our attack (land and naval), which would have taken all its fronts in front, enfilade, and reverse."^[461] Recognizing that his situation was hopeless, Anderson opened communication with Granger and Farragut under a flag of truce; ignoring orders from Page forbidding him to do so — and eventually removing him from command —, he surrendered the fort on August 8.^[471]

As soon as the surrender of Fort Gaines was completed, Granger moved his force from Dauphin Island to the narrow strip of mainland behind Fort Morgan, where they were landed without opposition about 4 mi (6.4 km) away, well out of range of its guns. The fort was thus immediately invested, cut off from all communication with Mobile.

Granger set about taking the fort by regular approaches — that is, establishing a sequence of trenches or other protective lines drawn ever closer to the objective, until finally its walls could be breached and it could be taken by assault. His first line was a gift: a line of trenches that had been prepared by the garrison of the fort and then for some reason abandoned. At 1,400 yd (1,300 m) from the fort, it was a little farther than he would have liked, but it served quite well. Additional parallels were built with little interference, as the laborers could work behind the sand dunes. While this was going on, the three monitors, *Winnebago*, *Chickasaw*, and *Manhattan*, were engaging in occasional bombardment. They were later joined by the former CSS *Tennessee*, captured on August 5, since repaired, and now renamed USS *Tennessee*. The most serious hindrance to the advance in this period was the weather; a storm on August 20 halted work for a while, and left standing water in low places. The fort was subjected to a day-long bombardment on August 22 from 16 siege mortars, 18 guns of various sizes and the fleet: the monitors and *Tennessee* at short range and the rest of the ships at long range.^[481]

Inside the fort, Brig. Gen. Page feared that the bombardment would endanger his magazines, which contained 80,000 lb (36,000 kg) of powder. To avoid the risk, he had the powder brought out and flooded. That night, the magazines were indeed threatened when the woodwork of the citadel caught fire. The fire brought an increase in the rate of bombardment, and was extinguished only with great effort.

Feeling now that further resistance was useless, on August 23 Page ordered his remaining guns spiked or otherwise destroyed as far as possible. At 6 am, he ordered the white flag raised, and the siege was over.^[491]

The Battle of Mobile Bay was not bloody by standards set by the armies of the Civil War, but it was by naval standards. It was only marginally, if at all, less bloody than the Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip and the Battle of Hampton Roads. The Federal fleet had lost 150 men killed and 170 wounded; on the Confederate ships, only 12 were dead and 19 wounded.^[601] Union Army losses were very light; in the siege of Fort Morgan, only one man was killed and seven wounded.^[611] Confederate losses, though not stated explicitly, seem to have been only slightly greater.^[621] The continued presence of a Union Army force near Mobile constrained the Confederate Army in its last desperate campaigns. Maury realized that the numbers opposite him were inadequate for an attack, but the possibility of loss of Mobile would have been such a severe blow to the public mood that he would not send his guns or spare troops to support other missions.^[631]

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Battle of Mobile Bay continued from page 7 . . .

This was particularly important to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, who was at that time engaged in the Atlanta campaign. Because Mobile remained unconquered the significance of Farragut's victory initially had little effect on Northern public opinion. As time passed and a sequence of other Union victories seemed to show that the war was winding down, the battle began to loom larger.

When Atlanta fell, in the words of historian James M. McPherson, "In retrospect the victory at Mobile Bay suddenly took on new importance as the first blow of a lethal one-two punch."^[65] The dispersal of Northern gloom assured Pres. Abraham Lincoln's reelection in what was regarded as a referendum on continuation of the war.

With the capture of Fort Morgan, the campaign for the lower Mobile Bay was complete. Canby and Farragut had already decided before the first landings on Dauphin Island that the army could not provide enough men to attack Mobile itself; furthermore, the Dog River Bar that had impeded bringing CSS Tennessee down now prevented Farragut's fleet from going up. Mobile did come under combined army-navy attack, but only in March and April 1865, after Farragut had been replaced by Rear Adm. Henry K. Thatcher. The city finally fell in the last days of the war.^[65]

A number of Civil War-era shipwrecks from the battle and its aftermath remain in the bay into the present, including American Diver, CSS Gaines, CSS Huntsville, USS Philippi, CSS Phoenix, USS Rodolph, USS Tecumseh, and CSS Tuscaloosa.^[66]