North Carolina in the American Civil War

36th NC Regiment (2nd Artillery)

Date Regiment Organized	Mustered In	Date Regiment Ended	Mustered Out	Comments
May 12-14, 1862	Fort Caswell On Oak Island	April 26, 1865	Greensborough, NC	-

Field Officers

Colonel(s)	Lt. Colonel(s)	Major(s)	Adjutant	Chaplain
William Lamb	John A. Richardson, John Douglas Taylor	John Douglas Taylor, James Martin Stevenson	George D. Parker	Rev. Luther McKinnon
Commissary	**Surgeon(s)**	**Assistant Surgeon**	**Acting Assistant Surgeon**	**Assistant QM**
Charles H. Blocker	Dr. Spiers Singleton, James F. Davis	Powhatan Bledsoe	Charles G. Gregory	Robert W. Lamb

THIRTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

1. J. M. Stevenson, Major.
2. Daniel R. Perry, 1st Lieut., Co. B.
3. O. H. Blocker, Captain and Assistant Commissary.
4. Robert W. Lamb, Captain and Assistant Quarter Master.
5. H. D. Williamson, 1st Lieut., Co. E

Companies / Captains

1st Company A-New Hanover Co. Wilmington Horse Artillery	2nd Company A-Sampson County King's Artillery	1st Company B - Bladen County Bladen Guards	2nd Co. B-Cumberland County Starr's Light Battery	3rd Company B - Bladen County Bladen Stars
Capt. Samuel R. Bunting, Capt. Thomas J. Southerland	Capt. James Martin Stevenson, Capt. Robert J. Murphy	Capt. Thomas J. Purdie	Capt. Joseph B. Starr	Capt. Daniel Munn

Companies / Captains (Continued)

1st Company C-New Hanover Co. Cape Fear Light Artillery	2nd Company C-Cumberland Co. Blocker's Artillery	1st Company D - Richmond County & Robeson County Scotch Greys	2nd Company D-New Hanover County Anderson's Artillery	1st Company E - Halifax County and Edgecombe County Mayo's Artillery
Capt. John J. Hedrick, Capt. James D. Cumming	Capt. Octavious H. Blocker, Capt. Kinchen J. Braddy	Capt. Malcom McNair	Capt. Edward B. Dudley	Capt. James M. Mayo

Companies / Captains (Continued)

2nd Company E-Columbus County Columbus Artillery	1st Company F - Bladen County Bladen Artillery	2nd Company F - Craven County, Edgecombe County, and Halifax County Pamlico Artillery	1st Company G - Carteret County Leecraft's Artillery	2nd Company G-Beaufort County Kennedy Artillery
Capt. Nathan L. Williamson, Capt. Oliver H. Powell	Capt. John A. Richardson	Capt. Samuel B. Hunter	Capt. Benjamin Leecraft	Capt. Charles P. Jones, Capt. Zachariah T. Adams

Companies / Captains (Continued)

3rd Company G-Brunswick Co. Lamb Artillery	Company H - Bladen County Clarendon Artillery (aka Clarendon Guards)	1st Company I - Duplin County, Wayne County, Lenoir County, Craven County Herring Artillery	2nd Company I - Bladen County Bladen Artillery	Company K - Brunswick County Brunswick Artillery
Capt. Francis W. Potter, Capt. Daniel L. Russell, Jr.	Capt. Daniel Patterson	Capt. William A. Herring, Capt. William A. Holland	Capt. John A. Richardson, Capt. John T. Melvin	Capt. John Douglas Taylor, Capt. Daniel K. Bennett, Capt. William F. Brooks

Brief History of Regiment*

This regiment was launched in the late Summer and early Fall of 1861, with the following six (6) companies:

1st Company A - Wilmington Horse Artillery - New Hanover County - Capt. Samuel R. Bunting (June 18, 1861).
1st Company B - Bladen Guards - Bladen County - Capt. Thomas J. Purdie (August 22, 1861).
1st Company C - Cape Fear Light Artillery - New Hanover County - Capt. John J. Hedrick (August 22, 1861).
1st Company D - Scotch Greys - Richmond & Robeson Counties - Capt. Malcolm McNair (September 25, 1861).
1st Company E - Mayo's Artillery - Edgecombe County - Capt. James M. Mayo (October 9, 1861).
1st Company F - Bladen Stars - Bladen County - Capt. John A. Richardson (October 19, 1861). (this unit later became 2nd Company I - see below)

The NC Adjutant General reported that these six (6) companies were first known as the Cape Fear Regiment, but no Field Officers were elected and commissioned.

Other companies were assigned during the Fall of 1861 through early Spring of 1862:

2nd Company B - Starr's Light Battery - Cumberland County - Capt. Joseph B. Starr (March 1, 1862)
1st Company G - Leecraft's Artillery - Carteret County - Capt. Benjamin Leecraft (October 12, 1861)
2nd Company G - Kennedy Artillery - Beaufort County - Capt. Charles P. Jones (September 23, 1861)
3rd Company G - Potter's Battery - Brunswick County - Capt. Francis W. Potter (May 5, 1862)
Company H - Clarendon Artillery (aka Clarendon Guards) - Bladen County - Capt. Daniel Patterson (March 20, 1862)
1st Company I - Herring Artillery - Duplin, Wayne, Lenoir, Craven Counties - Capt. William A. Herring (October 16, 1861)
Company K - Brunswick Artillery - Brunswick County - Capt. John D. Taylor (February 19, 1862)

- 1st Company A was redesignated as an Independent Company until November 3, 1863 when it was re-assigned as 2nd Company I of the 10th NC Regiment (1st Artillery)
- 2nd Company A began as an Independent Company and was assigned to the 36th NC Regiment on May 12, 1862.
- 1st Company B was re-assigned as Company K of the 18th NC Regiment in March of 1862.
- 2nd Company B was re-assigned as Company B of the 13th NC Battalion - Light Artillery, on November 4, 1863.
- 3rd Company B began as an Independent Company and was assigned to the 36th NC Regiment on November 4, 1863, after 2nd Company B transferred out.
- 1st Company C was re-assigned as Company C of the 13th NC Battalion - Light Artillery, on November 4, 1863.
- 2nd Company C began as an Independent Company and was assigned to the 36th NC Regiment on November 4, 1863, after 1st Company C transferred out.
- 1st Company D chose to withdraw from the 36th NC Regiment before the regiment was formally organized, and it became an Independent Company until it was assigned as Company E of the 40th NC Regiment (aka 3rd Artillery) on December 1, 1863.
- 2nd Company D was created on May 3, 1862 and immediately assigned to the 36th NC Regiment.
- 1st Company E re-organized on May 1, 1862 and was redesignated 2nd Company F, with new officers and name.
- 2nd Company E was created on March 12, 1862 and assigned to the 36th NC Regiment when 1st Company E was redesignated as 2nd Company F, on May 1, 1862.
- 1st Company F was redesignated as 2nd Company I on November 4, 1863, when 1st Company I was transferred as 3rd Company G of the 40th NC Regiment (aka 3rd Artillery).
- 2nd Company F was a redesignation of 1st Company E on May 1, 1862.
- 1st Company G was re-assigned to an unnamed Infantry Battalion on March 17, 1862. Capt. Leecraft resigned on April 16, 1862, and this unit was dissolved.
- 2nd Company G began as an Independent Company and was assigned to the 36th NC Regiment on March 17, 1862, when the 1st Company G was transferred out. This unit was later transferred as Company D of the 13th NC Battalion - Light Infantry, on November 4, 1863.
- 3rd Company G began as an Independent Company, Potter's Battery, then Russell's Battery. It was assigned to the 36th NC Regiment on November 4, 1863, when the 2nd Company G was transferred to the 13th NC Battalion - Light Infantry.
- Company H was created on March 20, 1862 and immediately assigned to the 36th NC Regiment.
- 1st Company I began as an Independent Company and was assigned to the 36th NC Regiment on May 14, 1862. It was later transferred as Company G of the 40th NC Regiment (aka 3rd Artillery) on November 4, 1863.
- 2nd Company I began as Company H, then renamed to Company F, then finally redesignated as 2nd Company I on November 4, 1863, when the 1st Company I was transferred out.
- Company K was created on February 19, 1862 and immediately assigned to the 36th NC Regiment.

[Directly above dug out by the Website Author. Most comes from "North Carolina Troops 1861-1865, A Roster, Volume I-Artillery," Pages 172-334, compiled by Louis H. Manarin, 1966]

The Northern invader had early visited the seacoast of North Carolina. Hatteras had fallen on August 29, 1861. Northern emissaries had kindled the flames of disloyalty in the East, and on November 18, 1861, a convention of delegates claiming to represent forty-five (45) counties met at Hatteras, repudiated secession, announced their loyalty to the Federal Union and named one Marble Nash Taylor, Provisional Governor of North Carolina. The conduct of these Tories, or Buffaloes as they were called, was a source of annoyance to the patriots, but only served to strengthen our loyalty to our country.

Continued disasters to the Confederate cause came before the winter had ended. Roanoke Island was captured on February 8, 1862, and a few days after the Confederate fleet in the sounds was dispersed or destroyed. On March 14, 1862, New Bern was captured; on March 22, Morehead City was occupied by the Federals, and on April 26, Fort Macon fell. All these Federal victories had been won after a gallant resistance by the Confederates and the loss of many brave officers and men, carrying sorrow and mourning into many a Southern home.

On May 10, 1862, Norfolk, the inland gateway to the waters of North Carolina, with its fortifications and navy yard, was evacuated by the Confederates. Confederate diplomatic envoys, James Mason and John Slidell, had been released by the United States, thus preventing the anxiously expected recognition by Great Britain.

It was in this dark hour, in the midst of doubt and gloom in the Old North State, that on May 12-14, 1862, the 36th NC Regiment (aka 2nd Artillery, State Troops), was organized at Fort Caswell under supervision of Brig. Gen. Samuel G. French (MS), commanding the district of Cape Fear.

On this date, the regiment consisted of the following ten (10) companies:

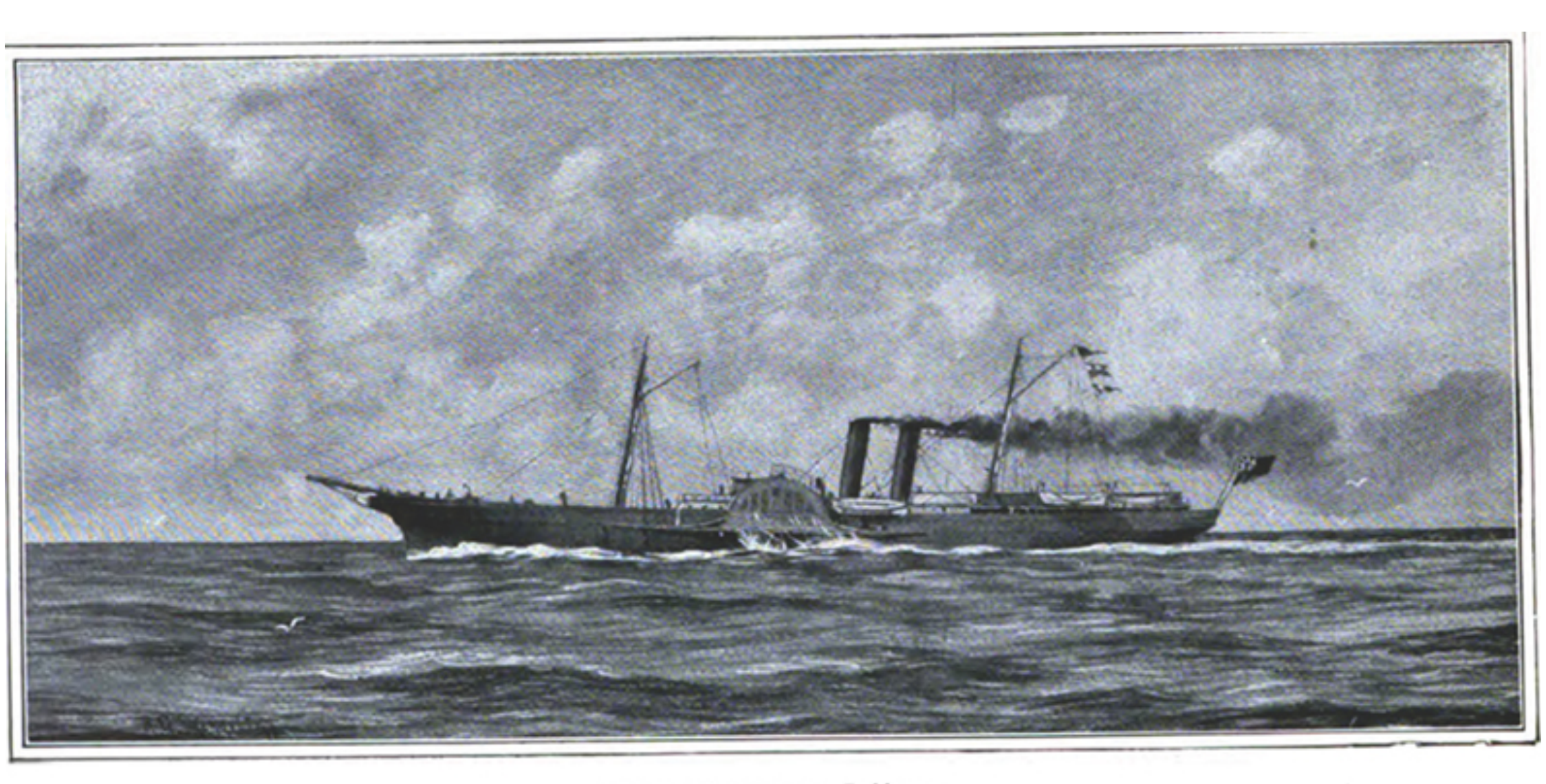
2nd Company A—King's Artillery—Capt. James M. Stevenson, from Sampson County.
3rd Company B—Bladen Stars—Capt. Daniel Munn, from Bladen County.
2nd Company C—Blocker's Artillery—Capt. Octavious H. Blocker, from Cumberland County.
2nd Company D—Anderson's Artillery—Capt. Edward B. Dudley, from New Hanover County.
2nd Company E—Columbus Artillery—Capt. Oliver H. Powell, from Columbus County.
2nd Company F—Pamlico Artillery—Capt. Samuel B. Hunter, from Craven and Halifax Counties.
3rd Company G—Lamb Artillery—Capt. Francis W. Potter, from Brunswick County.
Company H—Clarendon Artillery—Capt. Daniel Patterson, from Bladen County.
2nd Company I—Bladen Artillery—Capt. John A. Richardson, from Bladen County.
Company K—Brunswick Artillery—Capt. John Douglas Taylor, from Brunswick County.

Major William Lamb [VA], of C.S.A., was elected Colonel. Capt. John A. Richardson, of 2nd Company I, was elected Lieutenant Colonel, and 1st Lt. John T. Melvin was elected Captain of 2nd Company I. Capt. John Douglas Taylor, of Company K, was elected Major, and 1st Lt. William F. Brooks was elected Captain of Company K. On January 23, 1864, Maj. John Douglas Taylor was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in place of Lt. Col. John A. Richardson, dropped, and Capt. James M. Stevenson, of 2nd Company A, was elected Major, and 1st Lt. Robert J. Murphy was elected Captain of 2nd Company A.

Capt. George D. Parker, of Missouri, was appointed Adjutant; Capt. Robert W. Lamb, of Virginia, was appointed Assistant Quartermaster; Capt. Charles H. Blocker, of Bladen County (formerly Captain of Company F in the 14th NC Volunteers), was appointed Assistant Commissary (ACS); Dr. Spiers Singleton, of North Carolina, was appointed Surgeon; and Dr. Powhatan Bledsoe, of Virginia, was appointed Assistant Surgeon; Rev. Luther McKinnon, of North Carolina, was appointed Chaplain.

These companies were serving at different posts in the defense of the Cape Year. Colonel Lamb remained at Fort St. Philip (aka Fort Anderson), Old Brunswick, until July 4, 1862, when he relieved Maj. John J. Hedrick, in command of Fort Fisher and defenses of Confederate Point, including Zeke's Island. The command was afterwards extended to Masonboro inlet on the north. Fort Fisher was a small work which, together with adjoining batteries, mounted seventeen (17) guns, only three (3) of heavy calibre. Zeke's Island had two 32-pounders. As a defense against a Federal fleet they amounted to nothing.

Blockade running into Wilmington had just commenced. It was first carried on by any light-draft, seagoing steamer that could be procured, and even by small sailing craft, but this was of short duration. The blockade became so effective that to run it successfully required courage, nautical skill, and a thorough acquaintance with the coast. The fastest steamers were built in Great Britain for the purpose, side wheelers, or double screws, long, low, and narrow, usually nine (9) times as long as wide, and from 400 to 700 tons burden. They were painted a light gray, making them as nearly invisible as possible, light lower masts without yards, with a small lookout on the foremast. Smokestacks could be lowered close to the deck in case of need and, when possible, smokeless coal was used. No light was visible. No precaution was omitted to prevent discovery. The most skillful sailors were secured as commanders. Confederate and British naval officers were engaged when practicable, the latter being on leave under assumed names. Duiring the war about 100 different vessels were engaged in running the blockade into Wilmington. Of these, sixty-five (65) steamers were captured or destroyed.



BLOCKADE RUNNER A. D. VANCE.

One thousand pounds (£1,000) sterling was paid the captain and £750 to the pilot for a successful round trip. Very few were killed or wounded, although there were many narrow escapes. Blockade running was of vital importance to the Southern cause. During the last year of the war General Robert E. Lee's army depended upon it for subsistence. Wilmington was the last gateway closed, and New Inlet, defended by Fort Fisher, was the favorite entrance for blockade runners. Besides the armament of the fort, light Whitworth guns and field pieces were transported along the beach as far as Masonboro to protect friendly vessels. The 36th NC Regiment and their associates in the garrison saved many steamers and millions of dollars worth of valuable property, arms, clothing, provisions, etc., which composed the cargoes of these steamers and of those run ashore to prevent capture. Among the many vessels saved by timely assistance are now recalled the *Cornubia, Don, Venus, Banshee, Ad-Vance, Sumter, Nighthawk, Kate, Annie*, and *Little Hattie*. The garrison participated in the capture and destruction of the United States steamer *Columbia*, which got ashore off Masonboro Inlet, on January 14, 1863.

In the engagements incident to the defense of blockade running, a number of Federal officers and men were killed and captured and some valuable boats were secured by the garrison of Fort Fisher.

In July of 1863, the British steamship *Kate* was run ashore on Smith's Island (now Bald Head Island), some six miles south of Fort Fisher, and taken possession of by the United States steamer *Penobscot*, when 1st Company I of the 36th NC Regiment, with a Whitworth cannon detachment proceeded to the island, drove the enemy off, and re-captured the British vessel, just in time to prevent her being blown up by powder placed in the cabin with an ignited slow match. Eleven Federal (11) blockaders, the fleet of both inlets, were driven off by this gun, which on the open beach was so well served, that nearly every shot took effect and the blockaders could not afford to be seriously damaged in the contention over a craft they expected at any moment would be blown up. Her cargo was saved and all her machinery removed and sent to Richmond, where it was used in the ram *Texas*. The empty hull was gotten off at night and an attempt made to sail into New Inlet, but becoming becalmed, three (3) miles from the mound battery, she was cut out by two Federal blockaders on August 1st, but not until the enemy's vessels were injured with loss of life and the wounding of some of their men.

In defending the wreck of the *Hebe* from the attack of the United States frigate *Minnesota* and gunboat *James Adger*, Private Daniel Holland, of Company B, was killed and several wounded on August 23, 1863, five (5) miles north of Fort Fisher. The detachment had a 12-pound Whitworth and a small field piece behind an improvised sand battery to contend with over fifty (50) heavy guns afloat. An attempt was made by the Federals to send boats in to get hawsers fastened to the *Hebe* to pull her off, but the Confederates drove them off with musketry. Three hundred and eight (308) rounds of shot, shell, grape and canister were discharged by the enemy, who tore up the beach and finally drove the heroic men from their guns, which were captured, but not until they had damaged the *James Adger* with shot and shell and forced the enemy to destroy the *Hebe*. A more gallant fight against overwhelming odds was not witnessed during the war.

The garrison of the fort were ceaseless in their vigilance to protect and rescue friendly vessels and property. During the dark nights and in the early mornings succeeding, successful engagements were constantly occurring, accustoming the men to fearlessly brave the shot and shell of the Federal vessels. Admiral David Dixon Porter, in his naval history of the Civil War, pays a deserving tribute to the garrison when he says:

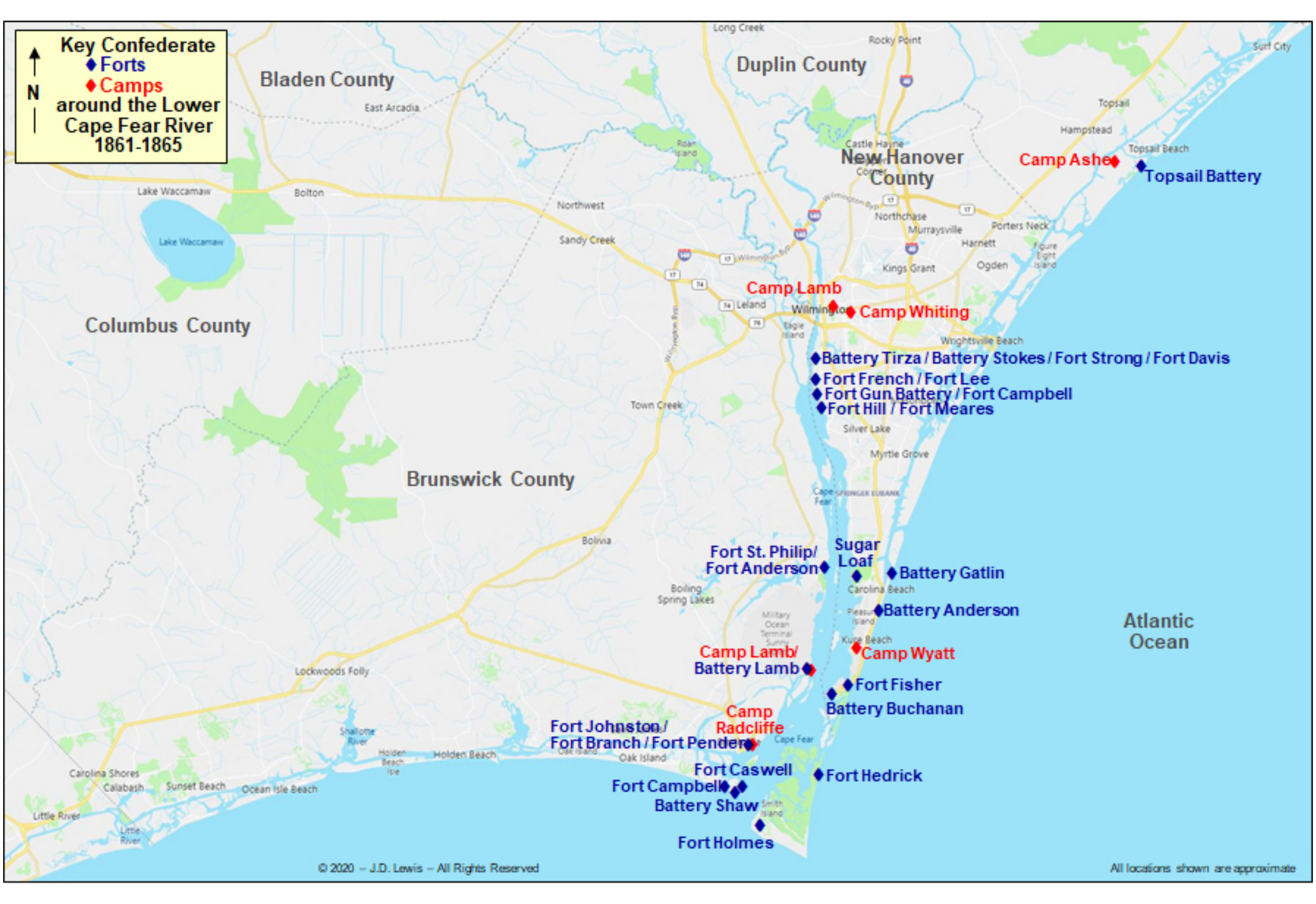
"The display of a twinkling light on board one of the gunboats, near the bar, was a signal for a general discharge of the guns at Fort Fisher, and although these shots were more noisy than damaging, yet a stray shell striking one of the Federal boats would have knocked it to pieces."

The United States tug *Aster* chased the blockade runner *Annie* ashore under the guns of Fort Fisher on the night of October 7, 1864 and was blown up.

The perfect code of signals arranged by the fort with blockade runners gave to Fort Fisher the enviable reputation enjoyed by no other seacoast fortification, that while an enemy could not approach without an assault, no friendly vessel was ever fired upon, and none ever displayed a signal without an immediate reply and the setting of the range lights for their entrance.

During 1864, the ten (10) companies of the 36th NC Regiment had been collected at Fort Fisher, and the works had assumed formidable proportions.

On Zeke's Island the two gun battery at the entrance to the river had been washed away by the action of the tides, but a mound battery had been erected sixty (60) feet high on the extreme right of the sea face of the works mounting two (2) heavy guns.



On October 24, 1864, information was received that Wilmington was to be attacked by a large Federal fleet and a supporting army; at the same time the garrison was distressed to hear that General Braxton Bragg (LA) had assumed command of the district of the Cape Fear, superseding the brilliant, capable and fearless Maj. Gen. William H.C. Whiting (MS), who, however, was to remain second in command.

On November 22, 1864, 2nd Company A, led by Capt. Robert J. Murphy; 2nd Company C, led by Capt. Kinchen J. Bradley; 2nd Company D, led by Capt. Edward B. Dudley; 3rd Company G, led by Capt. William Swain; and 2nd Company I, led by Capt. John T. Melvin, under command of Maj. James M. Stevenson, left for Georgia, to join the Confederate forces opposing Federal Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's advance to Savannah.

A contemporary publication of December 1864, says:

"At the late battle of Harrison's Old Field, which was an advance position, fourteen miles from Savannah, Major Stevenson was in command with a part of his own battalion, (Thirty-sixth North Carolina) and parts of the Fiftieth and Fortieth and Tenth battalions. General Hardee did not intend them to fight the enemy, but merely to hold them in check for a few hours, but the order to retreat failing to reach the Major, with his small force he fought the enemy until flanked by two brigades, by whom he and his whole command came near being captured, for a Yankee brigade was in the road by which he would have to retreat.

"Major Stevenson, however, seems to have known the country better than General Hardee's informant, and made his escape with all his men, except thirteen killed. He also brought off all his wounded, his artillery and wagons, and that same night marched into Savannah and reported in person to General Hardee, by whom he was warmly received and highly complimented."

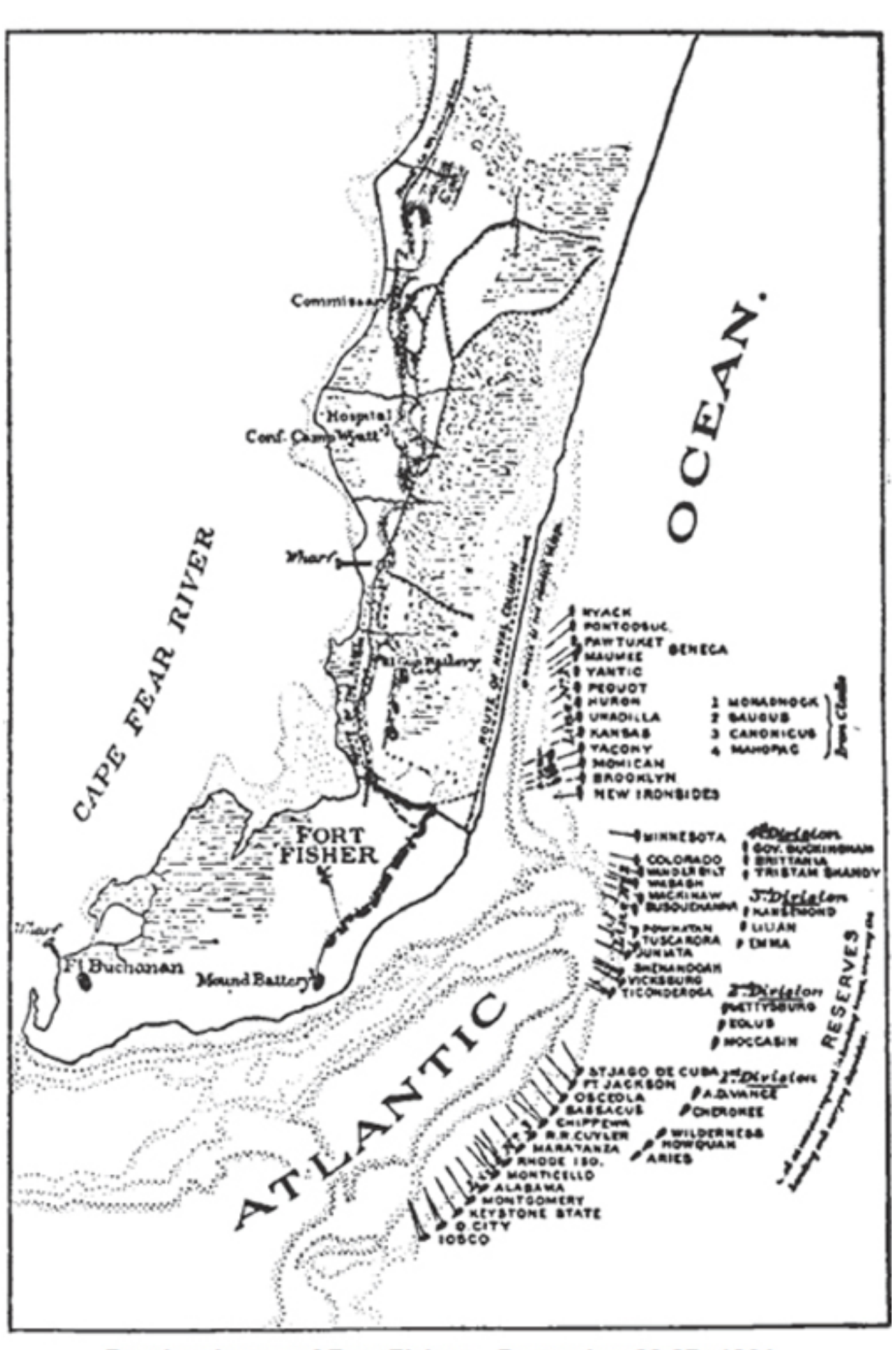
On December 20, 1864, the Federal Armada commenced gathering off New Inlet. At this time Fort Fisher extended across the peninsula 682 yards, a continuous work, mounting twenty (20) heavy guns and having two (2) mortars and four (4) pieces of light artillery, and a sea face 1,898 yards in length, consisting of batteries connected by a heavy curtain and ending in the mound battery sixty (60) feet high, mounting in all twenty-four (24) heavy guns, including one 170-pound Blakeley rifle gun and one 130-pound Armstrong rifle gun. At the extreme end of the point at the entrance to the Cape Fear River was Battery Buchanan, a naval command with four (4) heavy guns.

When the fleet appeared the garrison consisted of 3rd Company B, led by Capt. Daniel Munn; 2nd Company E, led by Capt. Oliver H. Powell; 2nd Company F, led by Capt. Samuel B. Hunter; Company H, led by Capt. Daniel Patterson; and Company K, led by Capt. William F. Brooks, numbering an effective total of less than 450 officers and men. The total number in the fort did not exceed 500 in all the departments. Before the repulse of the enemy Maj. Gen. William H.C. Whiting and staff arrived with Maj. James Reilly, of the 10th NC Regiment (aka 1st Artillery), and two (2) of his companies.

The effective total on December 25, 1864 was 1,431 consisting of 924 regulars, about 450 Junior Reserves and 60 sailors and marines. On the night of Friday, December 23rd, an attempt was made by the enemy to destroy the works by exploding the steamship *Louisiana*, with 250 tons of powder, about half a mile from the northeast salient of Fort Fisher. The explosion did no injury to the garrison or works, although the concussion was felt distinctly at Wilmington, a distance of twenty (20) miles. The vessel was evidently afloat or the damage to the fort might have been serious.

At 12:10 o'clock a.m. on December 21st, the fleet consisting of the ironsides, four (4) monitors and forty-five (45) wooden steam frigates, sloops and gunboats, commenced a terrific bombardment, surpassing anything ever before known in naval warfare. For five (5) hours a tremendous hail of shot and shell was poured upon the works, but with little effect. At 5:30 o'clock p.m. the fleet withdrew. Strange as it may appear, no effort to cross the bar and run by the guns was made, although one vessel inside the river would have taken the works in reverse and compelled a surrender. There were in the fleet a number of vessels which had been blockade runners, that had often entered this inlet. Some 10,000 shot and shell were fired by the fleet. The fort being obliged to husband its ammunition fired only 672 projectiles. The last gun was fired by Fort Fisher on the retiring vessels.

In the first day's fight, one-half of the quarters were burned, three (3) gun carriages disabled, a light artillery caisson exploded, large quantities of the earthwork torn and plowed up, with some revetments splintered, but not a single bomb-proof, or magazine injured. Only twenty-three (23) men were wounded, one (1) mortally, three (3) seriously, and nineteen (19) slightly. Never since the invention of gunpowder was there so much harmlessly expended as in the first day's attack on Fort Fisher. Among the acts of individual heroism, one must be mentioned: When the garrison flag staff, standing in the parade, was shivered by shot and shell, and the flag had fallen, orders were given to Capt. Daniel Munn, of 3rd Company B, to raise a flag on the staff on the Mound Battery. The halyards had become unreeved and it was necessary to climb the staff to fasten the flag. Private Christopher C. Bland, of Company K, 36th NC Regiment, volunteered, climbed the staff under a heavy fire of the fleet, and fastened the flag. At once a terrific fire was poured on the Mound, and the lower end of the flag being cut loose, that heroic soldier repeated the daring act, amid the cheers of the garrison, and fastened the flag securely to the staff, where it floated triumphantly, although torn and rent by fragments of shell, until the victory was won.



Bombardment of Fort Fisher – December 23-27, 1864

On Christmas day, at 10:30 a.m., the fleet having come in, reinforced by another monitor and some additional wooden steamers, commenced an incessant bombardment, if possible, more noisy and furious than that of the preceding day. At 5:30 p.m., a most terrific enfilading fire against the land face and palisade commenced, unparalleled in severity. Federal Admiral David D. Porter reported it at 130 shot and shell per minute, more than two (2) every second. The men were required to protect themselves behind the traverses; the extra men were sent to the bomb-proofs with orders to rally to the ramparts as soon as the firing ceased. As soon as this fire commenced, a line of skirmishers advanced towards the works. When the fire ceased, the guns were manned and opened with grape and canister, and the palisade was manned by 800 veterans and junior reserves. No assault was made. Some of the enemy were killed and wounded and two (2) prisoners were captured.

Our casualties for the day were: Killed, 3; mortally wounded, 2; severely, 7; slightly, 26. In the afternoon both of the seven-inch Brooke rifles, manned by sailors, exploded, wounding a number of men; five (5) other guns were disabled by the enemy and the remaining quarters destroyed. No attempt was made to pass the fort, and none, except the armored vessels, came within a mile of the heaviest guns. The firing was slower than on the previous days, only 600 shot and shell being expended, exclusive of grape and canister charges.

The fort again fired the last gun as the fleet withdrew at dark. There were only 3,600 shot and shell, exclusive of grape and shrapnel in the works, and no attempt was made to run by the fort the firing was limited to prevent the expenditure of all the ammunition. Except when special orders were given the guns were only fired every half hour. In the two (2) days the frigates *Minnesota* and *Colorado* fired 3,551 shot and shell, almost as many as were in all the batteries of Fort Fisher. It was this deliberate firing that gave the fleet the erroneous impression that the guns of the fort were silenced.

Federal Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler was severely criticized and retired from active service because he failed to capture the works. For this, he had himself to blame to some extent. On the evening of December 25th, without waiting for official reports, he listened to camp gossip and wrote Admiral David D. Porter as follows:

"Gen. Weitzel advanced his skirmish line within fifty yards of the fort while the garrison was kept in their bomb proofs by the fire of the navy, and so closely, that three or four of the picket line ventured upon the parapet and through the sally port of the work, capturing a horse which they brought off, killing the orderly, who was a bearer of a dispatch from the chief of artillery of General Whiting, to bring a light battery within the fort, and also brought away from the parapet the flag of the fort."

This absurd statement was sent North and has gotten a lodgment in current history and is repeated in Federal Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's memoirs, although Maj. Gen. Butler corrected the error in his official report. No Federal soldier entered Fort Fisher during this attack except as a prisoner. The courier was killed and the horse captured within the enemy's lines, and the flag captured was a company flag which was carried away and thrown off the parapet by an enfilading shot from the navy.

Maj. Gen. Butler could not have captured Fort Fisher on Christmas day. The armament and palisades were substantially uninjured, and the sub-terra batteries were in order. Maj. Gen. William H.C. Whiting was correct when he wrote that but for the supineness of General Braxton Bragg the 3,500 men landed would have been captured on Christmas night, and it is incomprehensible why he should have allowed the 700 demoralized soldiers who had to remain on the beach on December 26th to escape unmolested with the 200 junior reserves who had been cowardly surrendered to them without resistance.

At night on January 12, 1865, the lights of the returning fleet were seen to the north of Fort Fisher, and the fact was telegraphed to headquarters in Wilmington. The five (5) companies of the 36th NC Regiment had returned from Georgia, and this regiment constituted the garrison, about 800 strong. Daylight disclosed an even more formidable fleet than in the previous attack, with transports carrying 8,500 soldiers; and soon there rained upon fort and beach a storm of shot and shell which caused both sea and land to tremble. General Braxton Bragg had withdrawn his forces to a camp sixteen (16) miles distant, and the enemy again made a frolic of their landing on the shores of North Carolina.

All day and night on January 13th and 14th the fleet kept up a ceaseless and terrific bombardment. Reinforcements were sent from the adjacent forts. It was impossible to repair damages at night. No meals could be prepared for the exhausted garrison, the dead could not be buried without fresh casualties. Fully 200 had been killed during these two (2) days, and only three or four (3-4) of the land guns remained serviceable. The Federal army had slowly been approaching up the riverside protected from observation by the conformation of the ground. Quite early on January 14th they had possession of Craig's Landing, about a mile from the fort, In the afternoon a steam transport, the *Isaac Wells*, loaded with stores for the Fort, approached this landing which was plainly in the enemy's possession. She was fired at to warn her off, but she came up to the landing and was captured. The Confederate steamer *Chickamauga* seeing her stupid surrender, fired into her and sunk her. This incident showed that General Bragg was shamefully ignorant of the condition of affairs.

From the conformation of the Cape Fear River, General Bragg could have passed safely from his headquarters at Sugar Loaf to Smithville and with a field glass have seen everything transpiring on the beach and in the fort, and in person, or through an aide, with the steamers at his command, could have watched every movement of the enemy, and yet, thirty-six (36) hours after the battle had begun, and long after Craig's Landing had been in the possession of the enemy, he sent into the enemy's lines a steamer filled with needed stores that could have gone at night to Battery Buchanan unseen, and in the day with comparative safety. General Bragg was requested to attack the enemy under cover of the night when the fleet could not protect them. He was promised the co-operation of the garrison, and as our combined force nearly equaled them in numbers, and the garrison was familiar with the beach at night, we could have captured a portion if not the whole force. Strange to say, no response of any kind came, and the garrison waited in vain for General Bragg to avail himself of this opportunity to demoralize, if not capture the besieging forces.

On the morning of January 15th, the fleet which had not ceased firing during the night, redoubled its fire on the land face. The sea was smooth and the navy having become accurate from practice, by noon had destroyed every gun on that face except one (1) Columbiad, which was somewhat protected by the angle formed by the northeast salient. The palisade had been practically destroyed as a defensive line and was so torn up that it actually afforded cover for the assailants. The harvest of the wounded and dead was hourly increasing and at that time there were not 1,200 effective men to defend the long line of works. The enemy were now preparing to assault; their skirmish line were digging rifle pits close to our torpedo lines on the left, and their columns on the river shore were massing for the attack while their sharpshooters were firing at every head that showed itself upon our front. At the same time on the ocean side a column of sailors and marines, 2,000 strong, were approaching, throwing up slight trenches to protect their advance. On these we brought to bear our single heavy gun on the land face and the two (2) guns on the mound.

the land face and the two (2) guns on the mound.

Shortly after noon General Braxton Bragg sent Brig. Gen. Johnson Hagood's South Carolina brigade, consisting of four (4) regiments and one (1) battalion, about 1,000 strong, under Col. Robert F. Graham, from Sugar Loaf by the river to reinforce the fort, landing them near Battery Buchanan. The fleet seeing the steamer landing troops, directed a portion of their fire towards her, and although she was not struck and no casualties occurred, after landing a portion of the men (two of the regiments), ingloriously steamed off with the remainder. Never was there a more stupid blunder committed by a commanding general. If this fresh brigade had been sent to this point the night before, they could have reached the fort unobserved, could have been protected until needed, and could have easily repulsed the assault by the army on our left; but landed in view of the fleet they had to double-quick over an open beach to the mound under a heavy fire. When they reached the fort, 350 in number, they were out of breath, disorganized, and more or less demoralized. They reached our front about thirty (30) minutes before the attacking columns came like avalanches on our right and left.

There were engaged in the defense of the fort from January 13th to January 15th, the 36th NC Regiment (aka 2d Artillery), all ten (10) companies; 40th NC Regiment (aka 3d Artillery), four (4) companies, D, E, G, and K; 10th NC Regiment (aka 1st Artillery), two (2) companies, F and K; 1st NC Battalion, Company D; 3rd NC Battalion, Company C; 13th NC Battalion, Company D; Confederate States naval detachment, sailors and marines; 21st SC Regiment; and 25th SC Regiment.

At 3:30 o'clock p.m. the lookouts reported that the enemy were about to charge, and at my request Maj. Gen. William H.C. Whiting telegraphed General Bragg at Sugar Loaf as follows:

"The enemy are about to assault; they outnumber us heavily. We are just manning our parapets. Fleet have extended down the sea front outside and are firing very heavy. Enemy on the beach in front of us in very heavy force, not more than 700 yards from us. Nearly all land guns disabled. Attack! Attack! It is all I can say and all you can do."

The naval bombardment ceased, and instantly the steam whistles of the vast fleet sounded a charge. "Clamorous harbingers of blood and death."

I ordered my aide, Capt. Charles H. Blocker, to double-quick the 21st and 25th SC Regiments to reinforce Maj. James Reilly, who was in command of the left, while I rallied to the right of the land face some 500 of the garrison, placing the larger portion of them on top of the parapet of and adjoining the northeast salient. There were at least 250 men defending the left, and with the 350 South Carolinians ordered there and the Napoleon and torpedoes, I had no fears about the successful defense of that portion of the work.

The assaulting line on the right, consisting of 2,000 sailors and marines, was directed at the northeast salient at the intersection of the land and sea faces, and the greater portion had flanked the torpedoes by keeping close to the sea. Ordering the two Napoleons at the sally port to join the Columbiad in pouring grape and canister into their ranks, I held in reserve the infantry fire. Maj. Gen. Whiting stood upon the parapet inspiring those around him. The sailors and marines reached the berm and some sprang up the slope, but a murderous fire greeted them and swept them down. Volley after volley was poured into their faltering ranks by cool, determined men, and in half an hour several hundred dead and wounded lay at the foot of the bastion. The heroic bravery of their officers, twenty-one (21) of whom were killed or wounded, could not restrain the men from panic and retreat and with small loss to ourselves we witnessed what had never been seen before, a disorderly rout of American sailors and marines.

But it was a Pyrrhus victory. That magnificent charge of the American navy upon the center of our works, enabled the army to effect a lodgment on our left with comparatively small loss.

As our shouts of triumph went up at the retreat of the naval forces, I turned to look at our left and saw to my amazement several Federal battle flags upon our ramparts. Maj. Gen. Whiting saw them at the same moment, calling on those around him to pull down those flags and drive the enemy from the works, rushed towards them followed by the men on the parapets. It was in this charge that the fearless 1st Lt. Willie C. Williford, of 2nd Company F, was slain.

In order to make an immediate reconnoissance of the position of the enemy, I went through the sally port and from outside the work witnessed a fierce hand-to-hand conflict for the possession of the fourth gun chamber from the left bastion. The men, led by the fearless Maj. Gen. Whiting, had driven the standard bearer from the top of the traverse and the enemy from the parapet in front. They had recovered one (1) gun chamber with great slaughter, and on the parapet and on the long traverse of the next gun chamber the contestants were savagely firing into each others faces, and in some cases clubbed their guns, being too close to load and fire. Maj. Gen. Whiting was quickly wounded by two (2) shots and had to be carried to the hospital. I saw that my men were exposed, not only to the fire from the front, but to a galling infantry fire from the left salient, which had been captured. I saw the enemy pouring in by the river road apparently without resistance.

Ordering Capt. Adams, who was at the entrance to the sally port, to turn his Napoleons on the column moving into the fort, the gallant Maj. Mayo having already turned his Columbiad upon them, I re-entered the work, and rallying the men, placed them behind every cover that could be found, and poured at close range a deadlier fire into the flank of the enemy occupying the gun chambers and traverses than they were able to deliver upon my men from the left salient.

While thus engaged, I was informed by my aide, Capt. Blocker, that the South Carolinians had failed to obey my order, although their officers pleaded with them, and only a few had followed their flag and gone to the front; that the assaulting column had made two (2) charges upon the extreme left and had been repulsed; that the torpedo wires had been destroyed by the fire of the fleet and the electrician had tried in vain to execute my orders to explode the mines when the enemy had reached the foot of the work; that, driven from the extreme left, the enemy had found a weak defense between the left bastion and sally port in their third charge, and had gained the parapet, and, capturing two (2) gun chambers, had attacked the force on the left on their flank, simultaneously with a direct charge of another brigade, and that our men, after great slaughter, had been compelled to surrender just as we had repulsed the naval column; that to add to the discomfiture of the Confederates, as soon as the Federal battle flags appeared on the ramparts, Battery Buchanan had opened with its two (2) heavy guns on the left of the work, killing and wounding friend and foe alike. This was rather disheartening, but I felt if we could hold the enemy in check until dark, I could drive them out, and I sent a telegram by him to General Bragg imploring him to attack, and that I could still save the fort.

General Braxton Bragg in his official report does gross injustice to the garrison when he says: "The army column preceded by a single regiment approached along the river and entered the work on that flank almost unopposed."

Federal Maj. Gen. (Brevet) Alfred H. Terry says in his report that 100 sharpshooters with Spencer repeating carbines, were sent forward to within seventy-five (75) yards of the work and dug pits for their shelter, and "as soon as this movement commenced the parapet of the fort was manned and the enemy's fire both of musketry and artillery opened." The assaulting column consisted not of a regiment, but of Brig. Gen. Newton M. Curtis' brigade, supported closely by two (2) other brigades, a total of not less than 5,000 troops.

The enemy were unable to enter by the river road, and some of the most desperate fighting done in the work was in the space between the left bastion and the river shore.

Notwithstanding the capture of a portion of the work and several hundred of the garrison, the Confederates were still undaunted and seemed determined to recover the captured salient and gun chambers.

We had taken one of these in the charge led by Maj. Gen. William H.C. Whiting, and since we had opened on their flank we had shot down their standard bearers and the Federal battle flags had disappeared from our ramparts; we had become assailants and the enemy were on the defensive, and I felt confident we would soon drive them out of the fort. Just as the tide of battle seemed to have turned in our favor, the remorseless fleet came to the rescue of the faltering Federals. Suddenly the bombardment which had been confined to the sea face during the assaults, turned again on our land front and with deadly precision. The ironclads and frigates drove in our two Napoleons, killing and wounding nearly all the men at these guns, which had been doing effective service at the entrance to the sally port. They swept the recaptured gun chamber of its defenders, and their 11- and 15-inch shells rolled down into the interior of the work, carrying death and destruction in their pathways. They drove from the parapets in front of the enemy all of my men except those so near that to have fired on them would have been slaughter to their own troops.

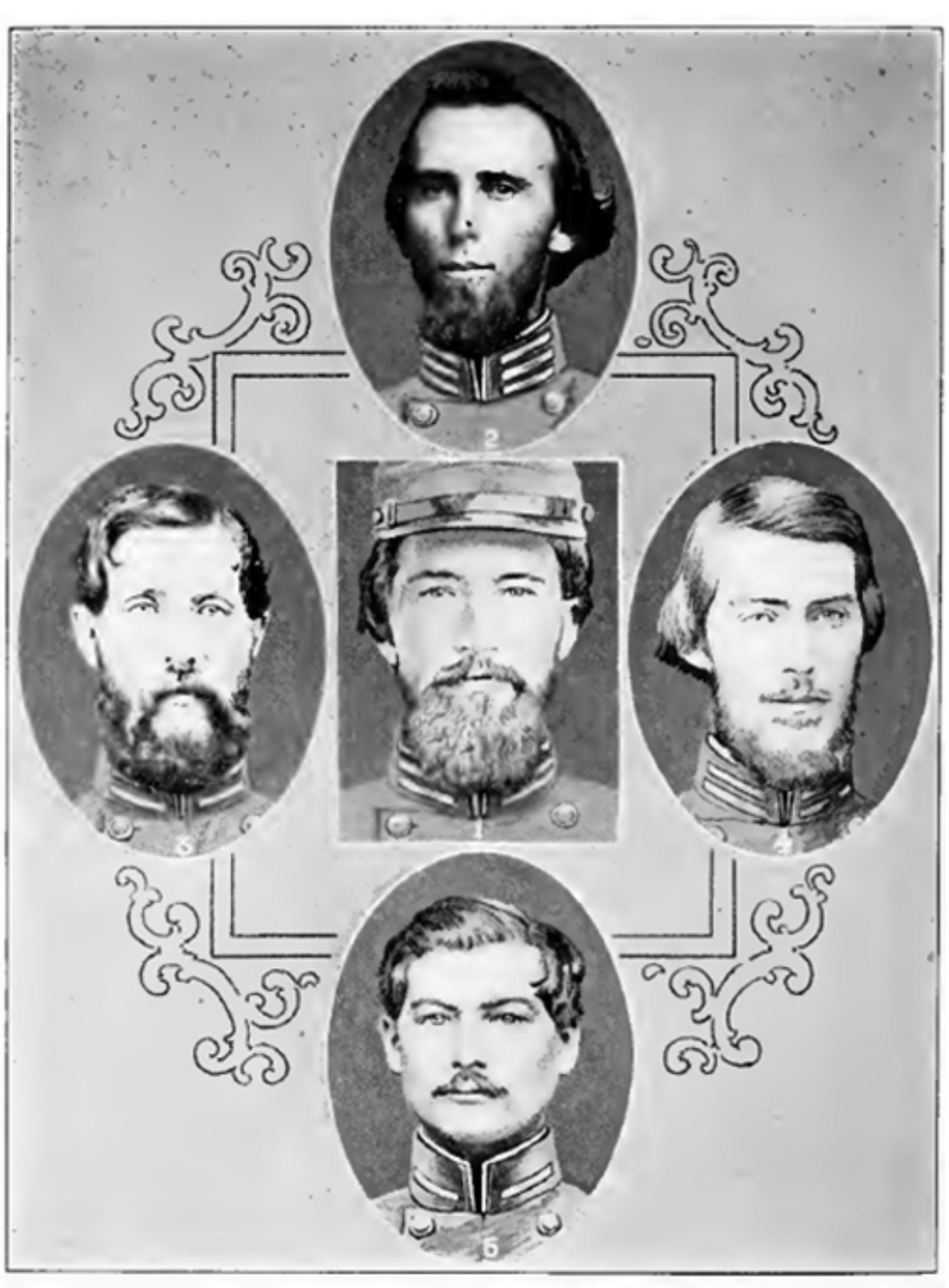
Nor was this all. We had now to contend with a column advancing around the rear of the left bastion by the river into the interior plane of the fort. It moved slowly and cautiously, apparently in column of companies and in close order. I met it with an effective infantry fire, my men using the remains of an old work as a breastwork and taking advantage of every object that would offer cover, for we were now greatly outnumbered. The fire was so unexpected and so destructive, combined with the shells from Battery Buchanan, on the massed columns of the Federals, that they halted when a quick advance would have overwhelmed us. Giving orders to dispute stubbornly any advance, I went rapidly down the sea face and turned the two (2) mound guns and two (2) Columbiads on this column in the fort. Unfortunately these were the only ones available. I brought back with me to the front every man, except a single detachment for each gun. On my return I found the fighting still continuing over the same traverse for the possession of the gun chamber, despite the fire of the fleet.

As the men would fall others would take their places. It was a soldiers' fight at that point, for there could be no organization; the officers on both sides were loading and firing with their men. If there was ever a longer or more desperate hand-to-hand fight during the war, I have never heard of it. The Federal column inside had not advanced a foot, and seemed demoralized by the fire of the artillery and the determined resistance of the garrison. More than a hundred (100) of my men had come with me, and I threw them in front with those already engaged. Going to the South Carolinians who were in a position to flank the enemy, I appealed to them to rally and help save the fort. I went to the sally port and had Capt. Adams' two (2) Napoleons brought out and manned, and opened on the enemy. I went along the galleries and begged the sick and slightly wounded to come out and make one supreme effort to dislodge the enemy. As I passed through portions of the work, the scene was indescribably horrible.

Great cannon broken in two, their carriages wrecked, and among their ruins the mutilated bodies of my dead and dying comrades. Still no tidings from General Braxton Bragg! The enemy's advance had ceased entirely; protected by the fleet, they still held the parapet and gun chambers on the left, but their massed columns refused to move, while those in their rear, near the river, commenced entrenching against any assault from us. I believed a determined assault with the bayonet would drive them out. I had sent word to our gunners not to fire on our men if we became closely engaged with the enemy. The head of their column was not over 100 feet from the portion of our breastwork where I stood, and I could see their faces distinctly while my men were falling on either side of me.

I passed quickly down the rear of the line and asked officers and men if they would follow me; they all responded fearlessly that they would. I returned to my position and giving the order, "charge bayonets!" sprang upon the breastworks, waved my sword, and, as I gave the command "forward, double-quick, march," fell on my knees, a rifle ball having entered my hip. The brave 1st Lt. Daniel R. Perry (of 3rd Company B) fell mortally wounded at my side. We were met by a heavy volley, aimed too high to be very effective; but our column wavered and fell back behind the breastwork. A soldier raised me up and I turned the command over to Capt. Daniel Munn (also of 3rd Company B), who was near me, and told him to keep the enemy in check and that as soon as my wound was bandaged, I would return. Before reaching the hospital I was so weak from the loss of blood that I realized that I could never lead my men again. In the hospital I met Maj. Gen. William H.C. Whiting suffering uncomplainingly from his wounds. He told me that General Braxton Bragg had ignored his presence in the fort and had not noticed his messages.

Perceiving the fire of the garrison had slackened, I sent my Adjutant, John N. Kelly, for Maj. James Reilly (of the 10th NC Regiment), next in command, (Maj. James M. Stevenson, who died shortly after in prison, being too ill for duty.) Maj. Reilly came and promised me that he would continue the fight as long as it was possible, and nobly did he keep his promise. I again sent a message to General Bragg begging him to come to the rescue. Shortly after my fall the Federals made an advance, and capturing several more of the gun chambers, reached the sally port. The column in the work advanced and was rapidly gaining ground when Maj. Reilly, rallying the men, including the South Carolinians, drove them back with heavy loss.



THIRTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

1. Robert J. Murphy, Captain, Co. A.
2. O. H. Powell, Captain, Co. F.
3. E. L. Faison, 1st Lieut., Co. A.
4. E. L. Hunter, 1st Lieut., Co. F.
5. W. C. Daniel, 2d Lieut., Co. F.

About 8 o'clock my aide came to me and said the supply of ammunition was exhausted and that Chaplain Luther McKinnon and others had gathered all from the dead and wounded and distributed it; that the enemy had possession of nearly all the land face, and it was impossible to hold out much longer and suggested that it would be wise to surrender, as a further struggle would be a useless sacrifice of life. I replied that while I lived, I would not surrender as General Bragg would surely come to our rescue in time to save us. Maj. Gen. Whiting declared that if I died he would assume command and would not surrender.

I have been blamed for unnecessarily prolonging the fight, but when it is remembered that I had promised the noble women of Wilmington who had visited the fort after our Christmas victory, that their homes should be protected by my garrison, and that General Robert E. Lee had sent word that if the fort fell he could not maintain his army, (and that meant the loss of our cause), is it to be wondered that I felt it my sacred duty, even after I was shot down, to appeal to officers and men to fight in defense of the last gateway to the South, as long as there was a ray of hope?

I had a right to believe that the troops which General Lee sent to our assistance would rescue us, and if General Bragg had ordered Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke (NC) to assault with his division late that afternoon, we would have recovered the works. I have positive information that so determined was our resistance that Federal Maj. Gen. Alfred H. Terry sent word to Brig. Gen. Adelbert Ames, commanding the three (3) brigades assaulting us, to make one (1) more effort, and if unsuccessful, to retire. Col. Joseph C. Abbott, who commanded a brigade, and who lived in North Carolina after the war, told Capt. Kinchen J. Braddy (2nd Company C) that at one time during our fight, only one (1) colored brigade held General Bragg's army in check, and they were so demoralized that five hundred (500) veteran troops could have captured them. But an all wise Providence decreed that our gallant garrison should be overwhelmed.

In less than an hour after I refused to surrender, a fourth brigade, (three were already in the fort), entered the sally port and swept the defenders from the remainder of the land face. Maj. James Reilly had Maj. Gen. Whiting and myself hurriedly removed on stretchers to Battery Buchanan where he proposed to cover his retreat.

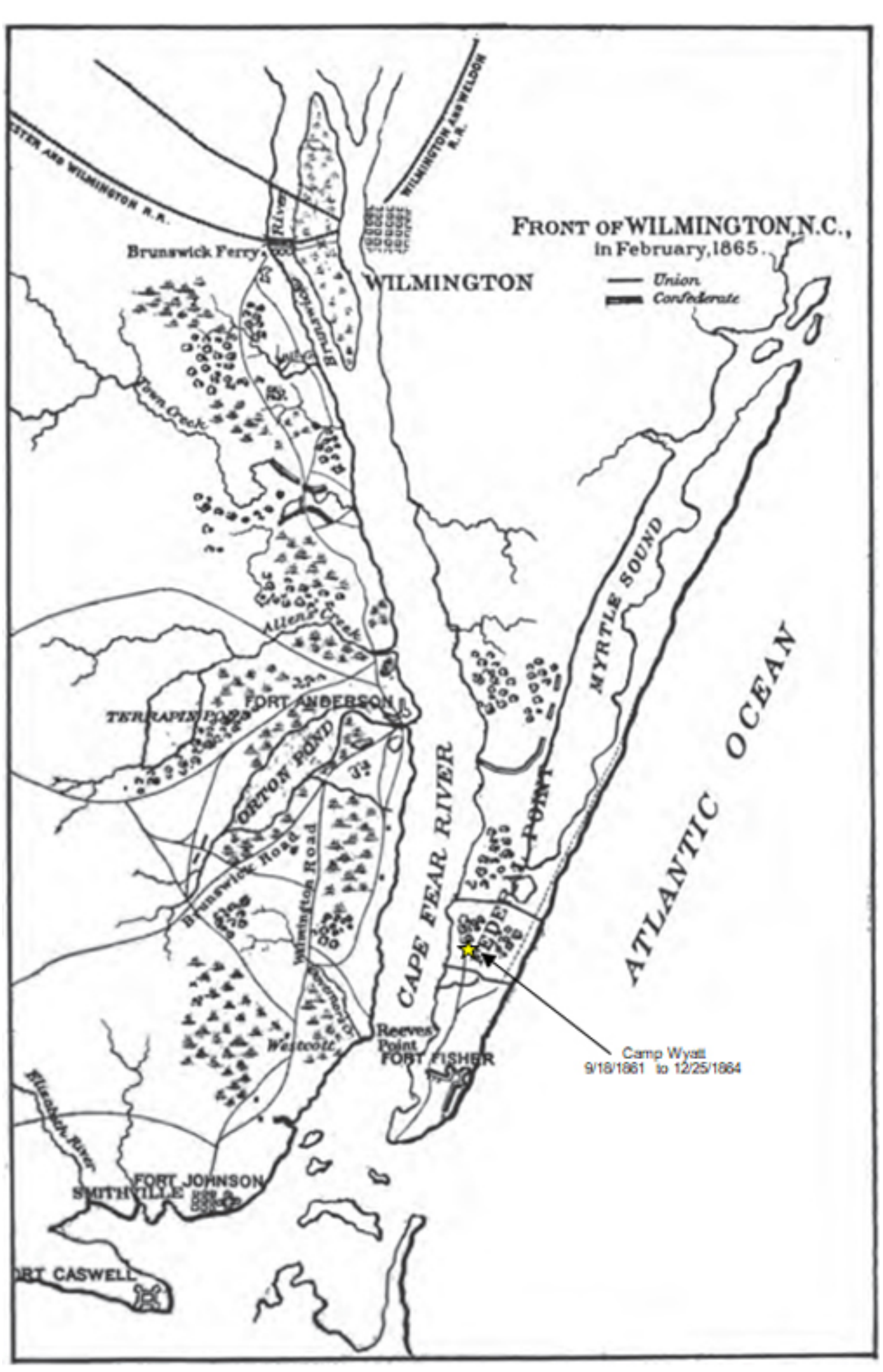
When we left the hospital the men were fighting over the adjoining traverse and the spent balls fell like hail stones around us. The remnant of the garrison then fell back in an orderly retreat along the sea face, the rear guard keeping the enemy engaged as they advanced slowly and cautiously in the darkness as far as the mound battery, where they halted. Some of the men, cut off from the main body, had to retreat as best they could over the river marsh, while some few unarmed artillerists barely eluded the enemy by following the seashore.

When we reached Battery Buchanan there was a mile of level beach between us and our pursuers, swept by two 11-inch guns and a 24-pounder, and in close proximity to the battery a commodious wharf where transports could have come in safety at night to carry us off.

We expected with this battery to cover the retreat of our troops, but we found the guns spiked and every means of transportation taken by Captain R. F. Chapman of our navy, who, following the example of General Braxton Bragg, had abandoned us to our fate. The enemy threw out a heavy skirmish line and sent their fourth brigade to Battery Buchanan, where it arrived about 10 o'clock p.m. and received the surrender of the garrison from Maj. James H. Hill and Lt. George D. Parker. Some fifteen (15) minutes before the surrender, while lying on a stretcher near Maj. Gen. William H.C. Whiting outside of the battery witnessing the grand pyrotechnic display of the fleet over the capture of Fort Fisher, I was accosted by Brig. Gen. Alfred H. Colquitt (GA), who had been ordered to the fort to take command, I had a few minutes hurried conversation with him, informed him of the assault, of the early loss of a portion of the works and garrison, and that when I fell it had for a time demoralized the men, but that the enemy was equally demoralized by our unexpected resistance, and I assured him if General Bragg would even then attack, a fresh brigade landed at Battery Buchanan could retake the work.

It was suggested that the general should take me with him as I was probably fatally wounded, but I refused to leave, wishing to share the fate of my garrison, and, desiring that my precious wife, anxiously awaiting tidings across the river, should not be alarmed, spoke lightly of my wound. I asked him to carry Maj. Gen. Whiting to a place of safety as he came a volunteer to the fort. Just then the near approach of the enemy was reported and Brig. Gen. Colquitt made a precipitate retreat, leaving our beloved Maj. Gen. Whiting a captive, to die in a Northern prison.

One more distressing scene remains to be chronicled. The next morning after sunrise a frightful explosion occurred. My large reserve magazine which my ordnance officer, Capt. J C. Little, informed me contained some 13,000 pounds of powder, blew up, killing and wounding more than a hundred (100) of the enemy and some of my own wounded officers and men. It was an artificial mound, covered with luxuriant turf, a most inviting bivouac for wearied soldiers. Upon it were resting Col. Alonzo Alden's 169th NY Regiment, and in its galleries were some of my suffering soldiers. Two (2) sailors from the fleet, stupefied with liquor, looking for plunder, were seen to enter the structure with lights and a few moments after an explosion occurred. The telegraph wires, between a bomb-proof near this magazine across the river to Battery Lamb, gave rise to the impression that the Confederates had caused the explosion, but an official investigation traced it to these drunken soldiers.



Map of Cape Fear Region & Forts 1865

So stoutly did our works resist the 50,000 shot and shell thrown against them in the two (2) bombardments that not a magazine or a bomb-proof was injured, and after the land armament with palisades and torpedoes had been destroyed, no assault could have succeeded in the presence of General Braxton Bragg's force, had it been under a competent officer. Had there been no fleet to assist the army at Fort Fisher the Federal infantry could not have assaulted it until its land defenses had been destroyed by gradual approaches.

For the first time in the history of sieges, the land defenses of the work were destroyed, not by an act of the besieging party, which looked on in safety, but by the concentrated fire, direct and enfilading, of an immense fleet, poured upon them for three (3) days and two (2) nights without intermission until the guns were dismounted, torpedo wires cut, palisades breached, so that they afforded cover for the assailants and the slopes of the work rendered practicable for assault.

I had half a mile of land face and one (1) mile of sea face to defend with 1,900 men, for that is all I had from first to last in the last battle. I have in my possession papers to prove this statement; I knew every company present and its strength. This number included the killed, wounded, and sick. If the Federal reports claim that our killed, wounded, and prisoners showed more, it is because they counted as a part of the garrison those captured outside of the works who were never in Fort Fisher or estimated them from inaccurate reports. I have challenged the correctness of the absurd claim of their having taken over 2,000 prisoners, and the War Record office has acknowleged it was guess work. The error doubtless occurred from the fact that General Braxton Bragg reported the garrison as consisting of 110 commissioned officers and 2,400 men, or 2,510, he having charged us with 1,000 men sent January 15th, under Col. Robert F. Graham, only 350 of which landed; 650 taken from 2,510 leaves 1,860. Add a detachment of sailors and marines, and it gives about 1,900.

To capture Fort Fisher, the enemy lost by their own statement, 1,445 killed, wounded, and missing. Nineteen hundred (1,900) Confederates with forty-four (44) heavy guns, contending against 10,000 men on shore and 600 heavy guns afloat, killing and wounding almost as many of the enemy as there were soldiers in the fort, and not surrendering until the last shot was expended. Should not North Carolina gratefully remember them?

With the fall of Fort Fisher and the capture of its garrison, the services of the gallant 36th NC Regiment were not ended. It was reserved for Lt. Col. John Douglas Taylor, and a detachment of this regiment, who were absent on leave when the fort was taken, to cover themselves with glory later as a part of the famous "Red Infantry" at the battle of Bentonville, NC.

After the evacuations of Fort Caswell and Fort Campbell, on reaching Fort Anderson (across the Cape Fear River in Brunswick County), Col. Charles H. Simonton (25th SC Regiment) was ordered to join his brigade and all the troops were placed under Lt. Col. Taylor, who was attached to Brig. Gen. Johnson Hagood's (GA) brigade. They remained at Fort Anderson about thirty (30) days, the fort being shelled the latter part of the time by the Federal fleet.

[Since he was a POW, Colonel William Lamb did not record two engagements of the 36th NC Regiment after 2nd Fort Fisher and before Bentonville. Remnants of his old regiment were seriously engaged at Fort Anderson on February 17-19, and at Town Creek on February 19-21, both in Brunswick County prior to the evacuation of Wilmington on February 22, 1865.]

After several times checking the advance of Federal Maj. Gen. Jacob D. Cox's troops, the Confederates fell back to Wilmington, reaching there on February 21, 1865, and next day, February 22nd, they had a skirmish at the Northeast Station along the Northeast River, then they evacuated Wilmington as a part of Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke's (NC) division.

They then marched to Kinston to check Federal Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield's advance from New Bern. After participating with Maj. Gen. Daniel H. Hill (NC) in an engagement at Cobb's Mill [aka 2nd Kinston, aka Wyse Fork], they marched through Goldsborough, to Bentonville, in Johnston County, where they joined the army under General Joseph E. Johnston. Here, the last great battle of the war was fought, beginning Sunday, March 19, 1865. Lt. Col. John Douglas Taylor fearlessly led a charge and captured the breastworks, although defended by a largely superior force. He led 267 rank and file, including a detachment of the 36th NC Regiment, and came out with only 115. Every officer was killed, wounded, or captured save two (2). Lt. Col. Taylor lost his left arm; Capt. William F. Brooks, of Company K, his right arm; Capt. Samuel B. Hunter, of 2nd Company F, wounded, but not seriously. I have not learned if any other officers of our regiment were present. In that magnificent charge Captains Taylor, Rankin, and McDougal, of MacRae's Battalion, were mortally wounded.

Officers who had served in the army of Northern Virginia said it was the hottest infantry fight they had ever been in except Cold Harbor. Thus in the closing act of the fearful drama of our Civil War, the glorious 36th NC Regiment added with their copatriots to the undying fame of the Confederate soldier.

When in the coming years the historian shall write of the peerless valor and self-sacrificing patriotism of the soldiers of this grand old Commonwealth, none will stand higher and brighter on the pages of history, than the 36th NC Regiment.

William Lamb, Colonel
Norfolk, VA
9 April, 1901

Note—Among the defenses of Wilmington was Fort Fisher, protecting the northern channel of the Cape Fear River, at New Inlet. The fort was the strongest work of the Confederacy. It was built by Colonel Lamb after plans of his own, approved by Generals French, Beauregard, and Whiting. Its model is now kept at West Point, as one of the triumphs of military engineering; the only other model of the kind at the Academy is the Malakoff Redoubt from Sebastopol. It was inside of Fort Fisher the brave General Whiting fell.—Editor.[Walter Clark]

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* Directly above was written by former Colonel William Lamb on April 9, 1901, and provided as Pages 629-651, in the compilation known as "Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-'65 - Volume II," edited by Walter Clark, and published by E. M. Uzzell, Printer and Binder, in 1901. Minor edits, additions, and deletions were provided by this Author for clarity and consistency.

Known Battles / Skirmishes	
Date(s)	**Battle / Skirmish**
Two companies participated in the 1st Battle of New Bern prior to being officially assigned to this regiment: 1st Company E and 1st Company G.	
March 14, 1862	1st New Bern, NC
November 24-25, 1862 (2nd Company G only)	Capture of the *U.S.S. Ellis*, NC
December 13-14, 1862 (2nd Company B only)	Skirmishes at Southwest Creek, NC
December 12-15, 1862 (2nd Company B only)	Naval Operations on the Neuse River, NC
December 17, 1862 (2nd Company B only)	Goldsborough Bridge, NC
March 30 - April 19, 1863 (2nd Company B only)	2nd Washington, NC
May 22, 1863 (2nd Company B only)	2nd Gum Swamp, NC
May 23, 1863 (2nd Company B only)	Skirmish at Batchelder's Creek, NC
July 12, 1863 (1st Company I only)	Blockade Runner *Kate* Salvaged at Bald Head Island, NC
December 1864 (2nd Company A, 2nd Company C, 2nd Company D, 2nd Company F, and 2nd Company I only)	Harrison's Old Field, GA
December 23-27, 1864 (3rd Company B, 2nd Company E, 3rd Company G, Company H, and Company K only)	1st Fort Fisher, NC
January 13-15, 1865	2nd Fort Fisher, NC
February 17-19, 1865 (2nd Company F and Company K only)	Fort Anderson, NC
February 19-21, 1865 (2nd Company F and Company K only)	Town Creek, NC
February 22, 1865 (2nd Company F and Company K only)	Smith's Creek, NC
February 22, 1865 (2nd Company F and Company K only)	Northeast Station, NC
March 7-10, 1865 (2nd Company F and Company K only)	2nd Kinston, NC
March 19-21, 1865 (2nd Company F and Company K only)	Bentonville, NC
Six (6) engagements above are found in "North Carolina Troops: 1861-1865, A Roster, Volume I.	

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