

South Carolina
Historical Magazine

Volume 86 Number 2

April 1985

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Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Required by 39 USC 3685). 1. Title of Publication: *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, No. 00383082. 2. Date of filing: Sept. 20, 1984. 3. Frequency: quarterly. 4. Address: Fireproof Building, 100 Meeting St., Charleston, SC 29401. 5. Address of publisher: same. 6. Publisher: South Carolina Historical Society; Editor: Elise Pinckney; Managing Editor: Gene Waddell, Fireproof Building, Charleston. 9. The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal Income tax purposes have not changed during preceding 12 months. 10. Circulation: total: average, 3500, last, 3755; Paid circulation: none; Mail subscription: average, 3200, last, 3312; Total paid circulation: average, 3200, last 3312; Free distribution: average, 100, last 50; Total distribution: average, 3300, last, 3362; Copies not distributed: average, 200, last 393; Returns from agents: none; Totals: average, 3500, last, 3755. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete, Gene Waddell.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES MARINE CORPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 1861-1865

DAVID M. SULLIVAN*

Of all the military units that passed through or served in South Carolina, perhaps the least remembered is the Confederate States Marine Corps. Despite the fact that C.S. Marines took part in almost every major and minor engagement in the Charleston area, their contributions go virtually unnoticed by historians and devotees of the War Between the States. While representation by the Corps was relatively small, no history of the siege of Charleston is complete without including the services of the Confederate States Marines.

C.S. Marines first arrived in Charleston during the fall of 1861, when the city was visited by the gunboat CSS *Huntress*. This ship was part of the naval defenses of the southern Atlantic coast, a unified command known as the Georgia and South Carolina Station. *Huntress* carried a guard of marines believed to have been commanded by South Carolinian 2d Lt. James Thurston, CSMC.¹ These marines were part of Capt. George Holmes' Company A, CSMC. The company had just been transferred from the Pensacola Theater of Operations² where the men had learned the business of becoming marines. Tough Mississippi River men and dock hands, Irishmen for the most part and no stranger to a fight, these fellows had proved to be good students.

CSS *Huntress* was one of five vessels that made up Commodore Josiah Tattnall's minisquadron. These converted merchantmen were charged with the defense of some four hundred miles of inlets, bays and beaches on the Georgia and South Carolina coasts. To oppose any Federal naval threat, the "Mosquito Fleet," as it became known, mounted a grand total of eight guns.

The first threat to South Carolina came during the daylight hours of November 3, 1861, when the largest United States fleet assembled by that time arrived and took up positions just off the bar at Port Royal Sound. Seventy-seven vessels carrying 16,000 troops prepared to reduce and capture Forts Walker and Beauregard, the guardians of the harbor entrance. When the attack began on November 7, Tattnall's fleet could do

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¹ United States National Archives, *Subject File of the Confederate States Navy, 1861-1865, National Archives Microfilm Publication M 1091* (Washington, 1982), subject file NF.

² Special Order 237, paragraph I, HQ Troops CS near Pensacola, Sept. 18, 1861, Entry 265, Record Group 109, National Archives.

little more than put up a spirited, albeit long distance, harassing fire on the enemy ships, which, in turn, pounded the two forts incessantly. After an hour of exchanging shots with the Federals, Commodore Tattnall decided to end the uneven contest and retired up the Skull Creek to render assistance to the exhausted garrison of Fort Walker.

Arriving at Seabrook's Landing on the inland side of Hilton Head Island around 11:00 a.m., Tattnall ordered the marine guard of the flagship CSS *Savannah* under the command of Captain Holmes to hurry across the island to reinforce Fort Walker. Shortly afterward, the Commodore, a few of his officers, several seamen and the marine guard of CSS *Sampson* went ashore and rushed with a supply of naval ammunition to replenish the guns of the beleaguered battery. They were too late. Fort Walker had been abandoned and all the navy could do at this point was to evacuate the dissipated soldiers to safety.

About a quarter of a mile from the fort, Commodore Tattnall came across the marines from CSS *Savannah* minus their commanding officer. After questioning the men, he learned that upon arriving within sight of the battery, Captain Holmes had ordered his men to halt while he went ahead to determine the state of affairs. He had yet to return from his reconnaissance and Tattnall feared he had been captured. Second Lt. David G. Raney, Jr., CSMC, was then put in charge of the marines and ordered to cover the withdrawal.³ Fortunately, Holmes, who had eluded the enemy, later made his way back and rejoined his command at the landing. In the midst of this bitter defeat, the seed bearing the full potential of the C.S. Marine Corps was sown. It would grow to full maturity within a few short years.

The tiny Confederate fleet made its way around the back of Hilton Head Island and to the safety of Savannah. CSS *Huntress*, which had just transferred her marine guard to CSS *Savannah* a few days previously, had been caught at the wharf at Beaufort by the sudden arrival of the Federal ships. With no hope of joining her sisters, she took on board the sick and wounded naval personnel from a nearby hospital and headed for Charleston.⁴

³ U.S. Navy Department, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies During the War of the Rebellion*, 30 volumes and index (Washington, 1894-1922), Series I, vol. 12, 295-98, "Account of an Eyewitness," quoted from the *Savannah Republican*, Nov. 12, 1861. See also, Ralph W. Donnelly, *The History of the Confederate States Marine Corps* (Washington, N.C., 1976), pp. 62-63, passim.

⁴ U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 volumes and atlas (Washington, 1880-1901), Series I, vol. 6, pp 29-30.



Cover of a piece of sheet music.
Collections of Charles V. Peery, M.D.

On November 25, 1861, Lt. Thurston received orders transferring him from Charleston to Savannah.⁵ Relieving him as commander of the marine guard of the CSS *Huntress* was 2nd Lt. Francis Hawkes Cameron, CSMC. Cameron remained on this duty for almost two months before he too, was ordered back to Savannah.⁶ With the arrival of Commander Duncan Nathaniel Ingraham, CSN, in early 1862, a separate squadron was created at Charleston. It appears that all the marines were sent to the Savannah Station at this point to avoid any confusion of command. After the departure of *Huntress'* guard, no marines would serve at Charleston for many months to come.

During the first several weeks of 1863, information regarding Federal plans against Charleston found its way to Confederate Secretary of the Navy, Stephen R. Mallory. Reacting to the threat, Mallory devised a plan to counter the impact of the Federal ironclads that must surely spearhead any attack upon the city. In a lengthy letter to Lt. William A. Webb, CSN, the Secretary proposed several methods of neutralizing the enemy vessels. All involved the dangerous and daring use of boarding parties.⁷

Ideally suited to the task were the C.S. Marines. Accordingly, orders were issued to the Marine Battalion at its base atop Drewry's Bluff on the James River in Virginia to prepare an expedition to Charleston. Three companies of marines — Company A, Capt. George Holmes, Company B, 2nd Lt. David Bradford III, and Company C, Capt. Thomas Smith Wilson — were dispatched under the command of Capt. John D. Simms, CSMC. Within days of receiving their marching orders,⁸ the marines were once again on duty at Charleston harbor. A short time later, Captain John R. F. Tattnell, CSMC, son of the old Commodore and commander of the marines of the Savannah Station, was ordered to Charleston to lend his able assistance to the project.

Once on station, Captain Simms' immediate problem was housing for his nearly three hundred marines. With no permanent barracks available, Simms was compelled to lodge the men in private housing along or near the Battery. One impromptu barracks was created by

⁵ National Archives, *Subject File, CSN*, subject file NV.

⁶ Personal papers of 1st Lt. Francis H. Cameron, CSMC, ZB file, Early Records Section, Operational Archives, Naval History Division, United States Navy.

⁷ Mallory to Webb, Richmond, Va., Feb. 19, 1863, *Official Records, Navies*, Series I, vol. 13, pp. 820-21.

⁸ National Archives, *Subject File, CSN*, subject file NV: letter of Capt. T. S. Wilson, CSMC, describing the theft of government property from his quarters discovered upon his return to Drewry's Bluff from Charleston, noted the date of his orders to that city as Feb. 19, 1863.

renting several rooms in a dwelling owned by Mr. S. S. Mills at the rate of \$75.00 per month.⁹

With the housing of the marines attended to, Captain Simms' attention was directed to the military situation at hand. Secretary Mallory's instructions called for boarding parties to be broken down into groups of ten to twenty men, each group having a special objective aboard an enemy ironclad, and each attached to similar units from the army and navy.¹⁰

One such assault group was assigned to the steamer *Sumter* which was to lead the attack on the Yankee monitors.¹¹ Captain Wilson would personally lead a squad of thirteen marines¹² onto the deck of the enemy and take the smokestack out, rendering the engines inoperative. A scaling ladder was to be brought aboard and placed against the stack. Bottles of sulphur, gunpowder and wet blankets would then be thrown down the smokestack by marines perched atop the ladder. This part of the task accomplished and the engine room quite useless, the stack was to be battered down and an iron plate slammed over the exposed base to make sure the noxious fumes stayed below decks.

While the marines were seeing to their part of the business, two army contingents would attack the turret, pilot house, ventilators and hatches in similar fashion. The turret was to be jammed with iron wedges, the hatches nailed shut and the pilot house and ventilators covered with blankets and tarpaulins. More sulphur and powder would be added to the witches' brew cooking below decks. A huge sail would then be thrown over the turret and tied down, denying any fresh air to the unfortunate sailors trapped inside the vessel. Surrender or slow death by asphyxiation would be their fate.

Exercises were conducted throughout the month of March, training and refining the plan of attack. Spar torpedoes, designed and built by

⁹ Ibid., subject file OV: Bill for \$175.00 paid to S. S. Mills, April 22, 1863. "Two months rent of several ground and second story rooms for the quartering of a company of marines."

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| At \$75.00 per month | \$150.00 |
| Damages to premises | 25.00 |
| | <u>\$175.00</u> |

¹⁰ Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard to Secretary Mallory, Charleston, S. C., March 11, 1863, *Official Records, Armies*, Series I, vol. 14, p. 818.

¹¹ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of the Confederate States Navy* (New York, 1887) pp. 688-89.

¹² Ibid., p. 688. Wilson's squad consisted of Sgt. James A. Mercer, Privates Hugh Aird, Patrick Hart, William Bell, Stephen Caul, Henry Curren, James Grogan, Thomas Crilley, Theodore Davis, Richard McGregor, John Barrett, Abraham Bessant, Anthony Cannon and Samuel C. Curtis. (Spellings corrected.)

Capt. Francis P. Lee, Engineers, CSA, were fitted out on the boats of the attacking flotilla as a means of primary assault.¹³ The boarding parties would then capture those ships the torpedoes failed to sink. Satisfied with the training, Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, commander of Charleston's defenses, ordered an attack to be made at the earliest opportunity.

Before the plan could be put into effect, the long awaited attack on Charleston began. On April 6, 1863, Rear Adm. S. F. DuPont, USN, ordered his fleet of nine ironclads into the harbor and anchored just out of range of the Confederate guns to await clearing weather conditions. At 3:00 the next afternoon the ironclads got underway and the contest began. The advantage was immediately on the side of the defenders. Months of planning paid handsome dividends as the attacking monitors drew near range marker buoys and were inundated by a storm of accurate artillery fire.

The boarding parties, with their marine detachments, stood to their boats, ready to take under attack any enemy vessel that broke through the first line of defenses.¹⁴ This precaution proved unnecessary as at dusk DuPont withdrew his battered fleet beyond the range of the rebel guns. Assessing his damages, he found his ironclads had taken a total of 346 hits. This was a heavy price to pay for the minimal damage inflicted by his vessels on the harbor forts. The Admiral knew that a great victory had been won by the Confederacy and he had no wish to turn his defeat into a disaster by resuming the battle with his heavily damaged fleet.

General Beauregard immediately saw the opportunity to complete the victory by destroying the enemy before he could repair his damages.¹⁵ The torpedo boat and boarding attack was to be launched without delay! Confident of the success of his plan, Beauregard telegraphed Richmond and put the Capitol on notice of his impending master stroke.¹⁶

During the evening of April 12, Commodore J. R. Tucker, CSN, assembled the raiders off Cummings Point and waited for the tide to drop. The officers of the expedition were aboard the CSS *Stono* receiving their final instructions when Tucker came into the room with disappointing news. The monitors had left the bar and were enroute to their

¹³ Beauregard to Commodore Ingraham, Charleston, S. C., March 13, 1863, *Official Records, Navies*, Series I, vol. 13, p. 819; Beauregard to Commander Tucker, Charleston, April 7, 1863, *Official Records, Armies*, Series I, vol. 14, pp. 887-88.

¹⁴ Lt. William A. Webb, CSN, to Lt. William G. Dozier, CSN, Charleston, S. C., March 23, 1863, *Official Records, Navies*, Series I, vol. 13, p. 821.

¹⁵ Beauregard to Lt. Webb, in Charge of Boarding Expedition, Charleston, March 23, 1863, *Official Records, Armies*, Series I, vol. 14, p. 895.

¹⁶ Beauregard to Orr and Barnwell, Confederate States Senators, Charleston, April 12, 1863, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 14, p. 898.

bases at Port Royal and the North Edisto River. The attack was cancelled.¹⁷

Col. G. W. C. Lee, aide-de-camp to Jefferson Davis, wrote the President from Charleston on April 15, informing him of the state of affairs at the city.¹⁸ Lee felt another attack most unlikely despite Beauregard's opinions to the contrary. Satisfied that the situation was relatively secure, Richmond authorities ordered the special expedition dismantled. The marine Battalion packed up and left for Drewry's Bluff on the 22nd.¹⁹

The brief stay of the Marine Corps was not without problems. On March 24, 2nd Lt. Bradford was involved in an altercation with a would-be deserter named Patrick Welsh. Pvt. Welsh chose a very inopportune moment to make his escape, running down the street just as Bradford came upon the scene. The Company Commander immediately drew his revolver and fired three shots at the fugitive. Two struck Welsh and brought him down. His wounds were found to be superficial and he was lodged in the guardhouse. He was soon restored to duty,²⁰ hopefully a wiser man for the experience.²¹

There were others who took advantage of the situation and made good their desertions. In an effort to recover these men, 2nd Lt. Henry Melville Doak, CSMC, was sent to Charleston from Drewry's Bluff.²² Doak took out an advertisement in the Charleston papers promising no punishment to the men if they would voluntarily return to the Corps.²³ Acting on a tip, Lt. Doak visited Col. Alfred Rhett, commander of the 1st South Carolina Artillery at Fort Sumter for the purpose of claiming several of the gunners as deserters. Colonel Rhett refused to allow Doak to examine the men in person, granting permission only to look at the muster rolls. Since the men had enlisted under assumed names, Lt. Doak left Fort Sumter empty-handed.

On a later visit to Sumter, Doak was able to see several ex-marines

¹⁷ Beauregard to Capt. Tucker, Commanding Naval Forces Afloat, Charleston, April 13, 1863, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 14, p. 898.

¹⁸ G. W. C. Lee to His Excellency, the President, Charleston, April 15, 1863, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 14, p. 899.

¹⁹ Beauregard to Adjutant General Cooper, Charleston, April 23, 1863. *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 14, p. 908.

²⁰ *Charleston Mercury*, March 24, 1863.

²¹ Transfer roll of pay accounts, CSS *Raleigh* to CSS *Arctic*, June 1, 1864, Entry 419, Record Group 45, National Archives. Private Welsh was killed by a sentry during an attempt at desertion on May 25, 1864.

²² *Memoirs*, H. M. Doak Papers, Manuscript Section, Archives Division, Tenn. State Library and Archives, p. 33 1/3.

²³ *Charleston Daily Courier*, May 5, 1863.

servicing the heavy artillery. After a conversation with Rhett, who told him that the suspects were his best men, Doak agreed to leave them where they were. An appeal to legitimize the agreement was later made to Richmond by Rhett and was favorably received.²⁴

During the month of April, Lt. H. H. Hicks of the Charleston Police was called upon by Captain Simms to investigate the theft of ordnance stores from the Marine Barracks. Several pistols that were to be used by the marines of the boarding parties had been stolen while they were away from their quarters. Lt. Hicks later recovered fifteen of the revolvers and was paid a reward of \$150.00 for his services.²⁵

On August 2, 1863, marines were once again ordered to Charleston.²⁶ This detachment of twenty-five enlisted men came south under the command of Lt. Doak to serve as a guard for the newly commissioned ironclad ram, CSS *Charleston*, reporting for duty on August 4.²⁷

The detachment had no sooner arrived in Charleston than it was called upon to assist in a raid on the enemy picket station near the mouth of Vincent's Creek. On the night of August 4, a mixed force of marines, sailors and infantrymen from the 25th South Carolina set out in four boats under the command of Lt. A. F. Warley, CSN.²⁸ The soldiers were put ashore and marched overland to engage the Federals from the rear while the naval contingent took the boats to the mouth of the creek to close the trap. In a spirited encounter, the Confederates destroyed the post and an unfinished battery nearby. One officer and ten enlisted men of the 100th New York were taken prisoner on one barge while another managed to escape downriver after running a gauntlet of rifle fire.²⁹ Lt. Doak was well-satisfied with the performance of his men in this first encounter with the enemy.

The next several days were spent taking in supplies for the Marine Barracks (known then as the Middleton House) on the Battery. After the domestic chores were finished, the men reported to duty aboard *Charleston*. Lt. Doak was placed in command of two broadside guns of

²⁴ Doak Memoirs, p. 31.

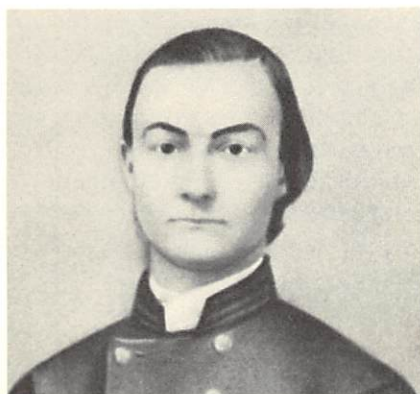
²⁵ National Archives, *Subject File, CSN*, subject file OV: Hicks was paid \$100.00 on April 22, 1863 and \$50.00 on June 3, 1863.

²⁶ Muster Rolls and Pay Rolls of Marine Detachments of the Confederate States Navy, Item 426, Record Group 45, National Archives. Notations found under individual names of marines on muster rolls of Companies A, B and C.

²⁷ National Archives, *Subject File, CSN*, subject file NA: Expenses for marine guard, CSS *Charleston*, Aug. 4-15, 1863.

²⁸ *Richmond Examiner*, Aug. 7, 1863.

²⁹ Doak Memoirs, p. 31; Report of Brig. Gen. R. S. Ripley, Commanding 1st Military District, Charleston, Aug. 21, 1863, *Official Records, Navies*, Series I, vol. 14, pp. 738-39, 747-48.



Courtesy of Thomas Hammack, Jr.

Lt. Eugene Robinette Smith

Tennessee State Library and Archives

Lt. Henry Melville Doak

the ironclad³⁰ and was soon putting his marines through their paces. The guard was to serve several functions aboard *Charleston*: gunners for the heavy ordnance; and, the traditional role of soldiers of the sea, ship's police to enforce discipline, and riflemen to engage in close quarters combat with the enemy.

Apparently, the remaining ironclads of the Charleston Squadron, *CSS Chicora* and *CSS Palmetto State*, were intended to receive marine guards also. Both vessels were assigned marines, recently released from Federal captivity, in July of 1863. These six men, formerly of the ill-fated ironclad *CSS Atlanta*, were shipped aboard the two vessels on July 21. Since the Corps did not have a sufficient number of junior officers to spare for the command of two additional marine guards at this time or an available surplus of enlisted men, the plan never came to fruition. On August 11, these marines were ordered back to Company E at the Savannah Station.³¹

At one point during the Federal campaign to capture Battery Wagner on Morris Island, *CSS Charleston* was called upon to break up an enemy force on Vincent's Creek. Three northern regiments were being transported in several small boats with the obvious intention of attacking Battery Wagner before the garrison could recover from a severe working over by the guns of several Federal ironclads lying offshore.

³⁰ Doak Memoirs, p. 31.

³¹ Payroll accounts for the third quarter, 1863, for *CSS Palmetto State* and *CSS Chicora*. Pvts. Francis Conway, Luke Maley, Thomas Devaney and Antonio Garcia served aboard *Palmetto State* and Pvts. Michael Nagel and John Quinn, aboard *Chicora*. Item 419, Record Group 45, National Archives.

Charleston slipped into the head of the channel and greeted the surprised regiments with a hailstorm of murderous fire from her double-shotted big guns and from marine rifleman deployed on her decks. When the firing ceased, the Federal landing party had been destroyed, the boats sunk and most of the soldiers killed, wounded or captured.³²

The marines were soon again called into action when a landing force of several hundred enemy sailors and marines attempted to surprise and take Fort Sumter just after midnight on September 9, 1863. The Confederates were well-prepared, having intercepted a signal from the Federal fleet and decoding it with a codebook salvaged from the wreck of the USS *Keokuk*.³³

Just as the attackers reached the shore beneath the battered walls of Fort Sumter, they came under fire from the alert garrison. The heavy guns of Fort Moultrie and every other battery in the harbor that could bear upon the enemy opened fire.³⁴ Lt. Doak and his marines, this time apparently using the deck of CSS *Chicora* as a firing platform, accentuated the accurate enfilading fire of the ship's guns.³⁵ The attack was repulsed with more than one-fourth of the landing party numbered as casualties. The defenders escaped injury entirely.

A short time later, Lt. Doak and Captain I. N. Brown, CSN, commander of CSS *Charleston*, became embroiled in a difference of opinion serious enough to cause the marine officer to be transferred to the Savannah Station.³⁶ His place was taken by the tallest man in the Corps, six foot, six inch, 2d Lt. Albert Seaton Berry. Berry was ordered from Drewry's Bluff on October 21, 1863 and reported to Squadron Commander, Flag Officer J. R. Tucker, CSN, on November 3.³⁷

The next several months saw no serious threat to Charleston, although the Station was continuously alert to the possibility of a sudden attack by enemy ironclads. This danger and the probability of more boat assaults was a constant source of concern to General Beauregard. To counter these threats, a special landing force of sailors and marines was

³² Doak Memoirs, pp. 31-32.

³³ Naval History Division, Navy Department, *Civil War Naval Chronology, 1861-1865* (Washington, 1971) Section III, p. 140.

³⁴ Maj. S. Elliot to Capt. W. F. Nance, AAG, HQ, Fort Sumter, Sept. 9, 1863, *Official Records, Navies*, Series I, vol. 14, p. 637.

³⁵ Doak Memoirs, p. 32. Doak states that his marines fired from the decks of CSS *Charleston* but both Beauregard and Elliot name the vessel engaged as CSS *Chicora*. It is probable that Doak's memory failed him in this instance. His memoirs were written nearly sixty years after the war.

³⁶ Doak Memoirs, p. 33.

³⁷ Special Orders 163, HQ, CSMC, Richmond, Oct. 21, 1863 plus endorsements, ZB file, 2d Lt. Albert S. Berry.

ordered into existence on June 29, 1864, and was officially called the Naval Battalion. Lt. Berry was posted as adjutant of the new organization.³⁸

The effectiveness of the new unit was tested sooner than anyone had anticipated. In the first days of summer, 1864, Federal attention was directed toward Fort Johnson and Battery Simkins, two key defense works on the southern side of the harbor. To reinforce these critical positions, Brig. Gen. William B. Taliaferro, PACS, called upon Flag Officer Tucker for the services of additional naval personnel.³⁹ It is not known to what extent the Naval Battalion helped in the repulse of the July 3rd attacks on Fort Johnson and Shell Point, but it certainly did a commendable job in the fighting a few days later.

Just after nightfall on July 9, the enemy launched a series of fire rafts at the unfinished bridge over the Stono River near Fort Johnson. Lt. Commander Dozier, the commanding officer of the Naval Battalion, ordered the sailors and marines to board the rafts and turn them away from the area. The dangerous mission was accomplished without injury. At eight o'clock the next evening, several barges loaded with Federal soldiers appeared off Fort Johnson and soon attempted a landing. The garrison, with the able assistance of Dozier's naval troops easily drove off the attacking force.⁴⁰ The continued cooperation of Confederate naval and army contingents was the key to these successes, and official note was taken.⁴¹

The morale of the marines on the Charleston Station was kept high through vigorous training and discipline, tempered by constant attention to the material needs of the men. Surviving documents show a continuing supply of uniforms and provisions being issued to the men by Lt. Berry.⁴² Coats, pants, fatigues, shoes, socks, undergarments and other clothing were regularly sent by Maj. A. S. Taylor, CSMC, Quartermaster of the Marine Corps at Richmond. Fresh beef, pork and vegetables in addition to rice, bread, salt, sugar and coffee were readily available to the mess tables of the marine guard. Being a regular service

³⁸ General Order dated June 29, 1864, Flagship *Charleston*, Charleston, S. C. January-June folder, Box 9, Papers of Lt. James H. Rochelle, CSN, Duke University, Durham, N. C.

³⁹ Taliaferro to Maj. Stringfellow, AAG, Battery #2 (Fort Johnson), July 3, 1864, *Official Records, Armies*, Series I, vol. 35, part 1, p. 161; Taliaferro to Stringfellow, AAG, Royal's House, July 2, 1864, *ibid.*, p. 158.

⁴⁰ Taliaferro to Stringfellow, AAG, James Island, July 8, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. 35, part 1, p. 169.

⁴¹ Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones to Adjutant General Cooper, Charleston, Aug. 22, 1864, *ibid.*, Series I, vol. 35, part 1, P. 126.

⁴² National Archives, *Subject File, CSN*, subject file OV.

organization, supported directly by the Confederate government, accounted for this general well-being of the Marine Corps.

As the ironclad CSS *Columbia* was nearing completion, Flag Officer Tucker ordered Lt. Berry to recruit a guard of marines to serve aboard the ram. Previously untapped sources of possible manpower were the conscript camps at Raleigh, North Carolina, and Columbia, South Carolina. Accordingly, on September 27, 1864, Berry was instructed to take Assistant Surgeon N. P. Henderson, CSN, and Private John Buckman with him to Raleigh to recruit up to thirty-five men.⁴³ Failing to fill his quota at that city, Berry was to proceed to Columbia to complete his task.

On October 25, Berry was again sent to the conscript camps for additional recruits.⁴⁴ Taking with him Acting Sergeant Wiley B. Garrand, Berry reported to Commander C. F. M. Spotswood at Raleigh and sought more suitable men to enlist in the Corps. Enlistment records show that the entire marine guard for CSS *Columbia* was recruited on these two trips to Raleigh. It is ironic that the city for which the vessel was named supplied none of its marines.

One of the men enlisted during Berry's final trip to Raleigh proved to be a greater benefit to the Lieutenant than he had anticipated. According to family tradition, nineteen year old Private William B. Hawes returned from furlough with a bottle of fruit brandy as a gift to his commanding officer. The liquor was so thoroughly appreciated by Lt. Berry that Hawes received several such leaves of absence, always returning with a similar favor.

On December 16, 1864, another marine officer was ordered from Drewry's Bluff.⁴⁵ 2nd Lt. Eugene Robinett Smith reported to Charleston shortly thereafter and took up his post as commander of a newly formed marine guard of CSS *Columbia*. Twenty-six of the recently recruited marines formed the guard and Smith soon had them aboard ship, exercising at the heavy guns.⁴⁶ Unfortunately, *Columbia*, one of the strongest ironclads ever built by the Confederacy, ran onto a sunken wreck near Fort Moultrie and could not be extricated from her predicament. This magnificent vessel had to be abandoned and her crew re-

⁴³ *Ibid.*, subject file NV: General Order dated Sept. 27, 1864, Flagship *Charleston*, Charleston.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, subject file NV: General Order dated Oct. 25, 1863, Flagship *Charleston*, Charleston.

⁴⁵ Special Orders #88, HQ, CSMC, Richmond, Dec. 16, 1865: ZB file, 2d Lt. Eugene R. Smith.

⁴⁶ Undated muster roll of CSS *Columbia*, Entry 419, Record Group 45, National Archives.

turned to Charleston. The marine guard subsequently transferred to the receiving ship of the Station, CSS *Indian Chief*.⁴⁷

In the meantime, the juggernaut commanded by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman had forced the evacuation of Savannah during the closing days of December 1864. Company E, CSMC, under the command of Capt. J. R. F. Tattnell, was ordered to Charleston and arrived during the night of December 23. The Charleston marines made room for most of their Savannah comrades at the Middleton House.⁴⁸ The remainder of the newcomers were dispatched to Fort Johnson as reinforcements and shared the less comfortable accommodations of the army garrison.

It is apparent that Captain Tattnell intended his stay at Charleston to be of long duration. He wrote to Flag Officer W. W. Hunter, CSN, at Augusta on January 25, 1865, in regard to the weapons and accoutrements of the marine guard of CSS *Macon*.⁴⁹ Tattnell wished this ordnance sent to him at once so that all the marines under his command would have identical weapons, thereby facilitating issuance of the same caliber ammunition. Apparently no rifles in army stores at Charleston were of similar pattern to the Enfields in the hands of the marines of Company E. Tattnell's request could not be granted, however, as Hunter replied that all of *Macon's* marines had been rushed to the Shell Bluff Battery, some miles from Augusta, and were out of his immediate control.⁵⁰

Sherman's advance pressed irrevocably forward and by February had placed the city of Charleston in jeopardy. Berry was ordered to report to Tattnell with all of his marines on February 10. In the event that circumstances had forced Tattnell to leave the city before Berry could join him, the junior officer was to march his detachment to the works on James Island and place his men at the disposal of General Taliaferro.⁵¹ Every man capable of firing a rifle was to be placed in the path of the enemy! Too little and too late; hundreds could not oppose thousands and the Confederates were forced to abandon their positions.

⁴⁷ Ibid., undated roll of men transferred to CSS *Indian Chief* from CSS *Columbia*.

⁴⁸ Richard Harwell, ed., *A Confederate Marine: A Sketch of Henry Lea Graves with Excerpts from the Graves Family Correspondence, 1861-1865* (Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1863), Henry L. Graves to Mrs. Sarah D. Graves, Charleston, Dec. 28, 1864, pp. 124-27.

⁴⁹ Capt. J. R. F. Tattnell, Commanding Company E., C.S. Marines, to Flag Officer Hunter, Commanding Savannah River Squadron, C.S. Marine Barracks, Charleston, Jan. 23, 1865, Savannah Squadron Papers, Emory University.

⁵⁰ Flag Officer Hunter to Captain Tattnell, Co. E., CSMC, Augusta, Jan. 26, 1865, W. W. Hunter Papers, Tulane University, Section 55-H-3, pp. 77-78.

⁵¹ Flag Officer Tucker to Taliaferro, Charleston, Feb. 10, 1865, *Official Records, Armies*, Series I, vol. 47, part 2, pp. 1141-42.

Charleston was evacuated during the night of February 17, 1865. The fleet was destroyed and the naval forces of the Squadron, sailors and marines, were formed under the command of Flag Officer Tucker into an enlarged Naval Battalion of about four hundred men and marched out of the city. On the 19th, Tucker had reached Florence and telegraphed General Braxton Bragg in North Carolina of his intention of taking his troops to Wilmington for service in the heavy artillery batteries, provided, of course, the city was still in Confederate hands.⁵² Bragg replied on the 21st that Tucker should stop at Whiteville, North Carolina, in order to check any enemy advance toward the arsenal at Fayetteville.⁵³ Wilmington was no longer a viable alternative as Federal forces under General Schofield were on the verge of capturing the city and did so on the very next day.

General Beauregard was still devising grand schemes to thwart the intentions of the enemy despite the decaying military situation. On the 21st, as Tucker contemplated the news from Bragg, the commander of the Naval Battalion received a telegram from A. N. Toutant Beauregard, expressing his father's wish to resurrect the long neglected plan to board and capture the ironclad fleet of the Union Navy. Somewhat out of touch with the true state of affairs, General Beauregard reported six monitors were in the North Edisto River and provided a splendid opportunity for the Naval Battalion to execute the boarding attack.⁵⁴ At this point Tucker was nearly one hundred and fifty miles from the site of the proposed attack and in absolutely no position to even consider the suggestion. More realistically, Tucker offered the services of the Battalion to Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke, PACS, who immediately requested him to come on with his force from Whiteville.⁵⁵

Shortly thereafter, Tucker apparently received word that the Naval Station at Charlotte was in danger and changed his mind about attaching his troops to General Hoke. He telegraphed Bragg and told him that he intended to travel by train to quickly reinforce the place and to save his foot-sore sailors the discomfort of a lengthy land march.⁵⁶

The rapidly changing fortunes of the Confederacy soon modified Tucker's plans. The following day, orders were received from Richmond, and Tucker informed Bragg that he and his entire force had been

⁵² Tucker to Bragg, Florence, Feb. 19, 1865, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 47, part 2, p. 1227.

⁵³ Bragg to Tucker, Wilmington, Feb. 21, 1865, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 47, part 2, p. 1243.

⁵⁴ A. N. Toutant Beauregard to Tucker, Feb. 21, 1865, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 47, part 2, p. 1243.

⁵⁵ Tucker to Hoke, Whiteville, Feb. 21, 1865, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 47, part 2, p. 1243.

⁵⁶ Tucker to Bragg, Whiteville, Feb. 21, 1865, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 47, part 2, p. 1243.

directed to report to the Confederate Capitol. He requested Bragg to hasten any other naval detachments, especially that of Lt. Evans, which included Lt. E. R. Smith and the former marine guard of the CSS *Columbia*, to him in Virginia.⁵⁷

Several weeks later, the final chapter of the Charleston marines was recorded. Lt. Berry and his guard were reunited with friends from Companies A, B and C at Drewry's Bluff, and Lt. Smith introduced his marines to the home of the Corps. The entire Marine Battalion was integrated with Tucker's force and formed part of the rear guard during the withdrawal from Richmond on April 3, 1865. At Saylor's Creek a few days later, the marines fought their final battle. The Naval Battalion was decimated, suffering tremendous casualties.⁵⁸ When the firing had at last ended, only ten of the former Charleston marines had survived to be taken prisoner. This group spent about three months in confinement as prisoners of war at Point Lookout, Maryland.⁵⁹ Berry and Smith were also captured and suffered a similar fate on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie.⁶⁰ A handful of enlisted marines escaped the fate of their captured brothers-in-arms. Two surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9⁶¹ and five others, who managed to attach themselves to Captain Tattnall's detachment, were paroled at Greensboro on April 28.⁶² These fortunate few were allowed to return to their homes without delay.

The Confederate States Marines who served in South Carolina and particularly at Charleston put into effect those principles that are the backbone of the modern marine service. Under combat conditions, the C.S. Marines developed into a mobile assault force, capable of fighting on ship or ashore. It is altogether fitting that Parris Island, the eastern training center of the United States Marine Corps, lies within a few miles of the site where, on a chilly November morning in 1861, history recorded the first landing of Confederate States Marines.

⁵⁷ Tucker to Bragg, Fayetteville, Feb. 27, 1865, *Ibid.*, Series I, vol. 47, part 2, p. 1289.

⁵⁸ Joseph Warren Keifer, *Slavery and Four Years of War* . . . , 2 vols. (New York, 1900), II, pp. 208-211.

⁵⁹ Individual prisoner of war records of marines captured at Saylor's Creek and vicinity, April 6, 1865, Hospital and Prison Records of Persons Serving in the Navy and Marine Corps, 1862-1865, Item 198, Record Group 109, National Archives.

⁶⁰ Personal papers of 2d. Lt. Albert S. Berry and 2d. Lt. Eugene R. Smith, Carded Records, Record Group 109, National Archives.

⁶¹ Individual parole records of marines paroled at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865, Item 198, Record Group 109, National Archives.

⁶² *Ibid.*, Individual parole records of marines paroled at Greensboro, April 28, 1865, *ibid.*

THE WARING HISTORICAL LIBRARY MANUSCRIPT GUIDE

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In 1950 Dr. Joseph I. Waring wrote in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*: "The surviving books of the once proud library of the Medical Society of South Carolina now lie battered and scattered in several cubby holes in Roper Hospital and in the Library of the Medical College, with many pilfered items sprinkled in libraries and bookshops over the country." In 1985, that particular Roper Hospital, the former teaching hospital of the Medical College affectionately called "Old Roper" by all medical students of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, is a parking lot, and the approximately 3,500 surviving books of the Medical Society of South Carolina form the nucleus of the rare book collection of the Waring Historical Library of the Medical University of South Carolina.

The Medical University of South Carolina, founded in 1824 as the Medical College of South Carolina, is the oldest medical school in the southeast. Acting upon the advice of Dr. Thomas Cooper (president of the South Carolina College in Columbia), members of the Medical Society of South Carolina, a Charleston society founded in 1789, petitioned the legislature to establish a medical school in Charleston. Considering it "the duty of an enlightened government to aid the advancement of science," the General Assembly amended the Society's original act of incorporation to allow it to "organize a medical school." Five students entered this new Medical College of South Carolina in November of 1824, and the first commencement took place in the spring of 1825. The school was an immediate success.

But by the early 1830s dissension arose between the faculty and the Medical Society over the control of the school. The faculty resigned in a body in 1832 and petitioned the legislature for a charter to establish another medical school. The charter was granted and classes began at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina in the fall of 1833. The students followed the faculty, and the original school finally closed its doors in 1839. The building was turned over to the new school, and the Medical College of the State of South Carolina has been in continuous operation since, with the exception of the four years during the Civil War. In 1913 the school became a state institution in fact as it had long

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