

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Fort Pulaski \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL PARK Monument

FILE NO.

SAND and GRIT

The Story of Fort McAllister; A. Confederate  
Earthwork on the Great Ogeechee River, Genesis Point,  
Georgia.

by

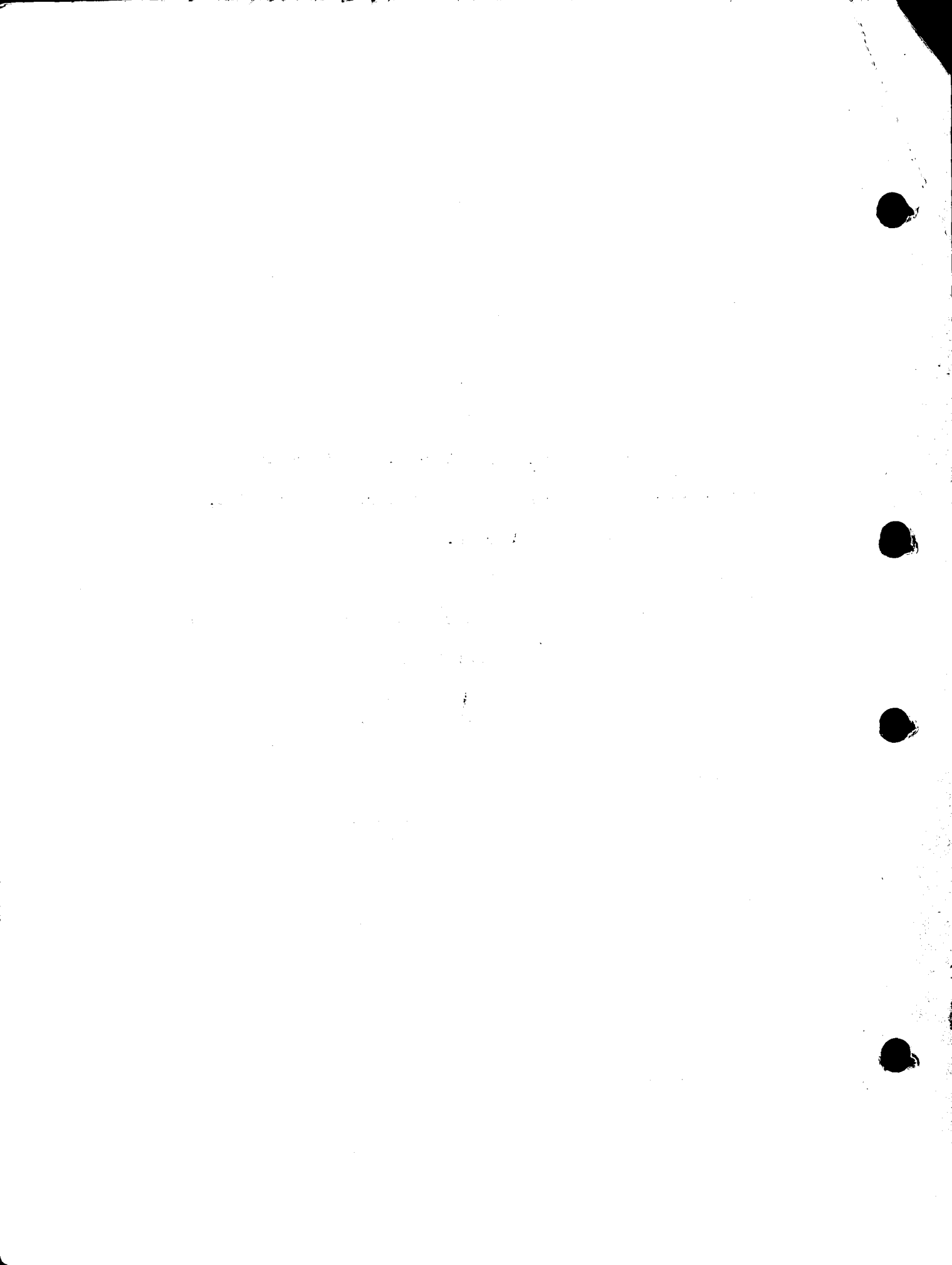
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1938

ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

September 15, 1938.

Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region One:

Respectfully submitted herewith, in triplicate, is my report entitled "Sand and Grit," a monograph on Fort McAllister, a Confederate earthwork on the Great Ogeechee river, in Georgia, prepared under assignment by the Acting Superintendent, Fort Pulaski National Monument. This comprises my summer's work as student technician at the monument.

Sincerely yours,

R. Jarvis Cook,  
Student Technician.

Checked and approved:

James W. Holland,  
Junior Research Technician.

Approved:

Ralston B. Lattimore,  
Acting Superintendent.

#### Assault on Fort McAllister

A sketch showing the advance of Brig. Gen. Hazen's division when, on the evening of December 13, 1864, they attacked and captured Fort McAllister. This sketch appeared in Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion, Part 11, p. 689. It was rephotographed by Don E. Eyles in August, 1938. Negative in the files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

**SAND and GRIT**

**The Story of Fort McAllister, A Confederate  
Earthwork on the Great Ogeechee River, Genesis Point,  
Georgia.**

**By**

**R. Jarvis Cooks  
Student Technician  
Fort Pulaski National Monument**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1936.**

## P R E F A C E

This report constitutes the summers' work of the writer while employed as Student Technician in the National Park Service, June to September, 1938.

On June 16, 1938, I received notice of my appointment to Fort Marion National Monument, Saint Augustine, Florida. When, on June 20, I reported to the Superintendent of that Monument, I was assigned the study of the period of British occupation of Saint Augustine. Upon the completion of one weeks' work, it was discovered that an error had been made in my appointment; whereupon I was transferred to Fort Pulaski National Monument, Savannah, Georgia. Here I was placed under the guidance of Mr. James W. Holland, Junior Research Technician, by the Acting Superintendent of the Monument, Mr. Ralston B. Lattimore.

Several subjects were presented as possible research projects and, upon the recommendation of the supervisory officials, I elected to make a study of Fort McAllister, an interesting Confederate-built fort on the Great Ogeechee River, Georgia. The work has been carried on mostly at the library and technician's office at the monument with, however, an average of one day a week spent in the Public Libraries of Savannah, including that of the Georgia Historical Society. It was my privilege to make one field trip to Fort McAllister.

The contemporary awakening of interest in Fort McAllister due to the survey being made of the line of Confederate defensive works around Savannah of which it was a part, and also due to the work

of combined reconstruction and restoration of the fort under the direction of its present owner, Mr. Henry Ford, makes this a most timely study.

I was somewhat hampered in my work by the problem of transportation between the monument and the city of Savannah, a distance of eighteen miles. Another difficulty encountered was the seeming lack of any material on the construction, and the paucity of material regarding the structure of the fort. The complete files of the Savannah Morning News and the Savannah Republican, in the possession of the Morning News office, were this summer in the hands of the WPA being indexed and catalogued and therefore were unavailable to the writer. Incomplete files at the Georgia Historical Society Library were used in their stead. Fortunately, nearly a complete set of The War of the Rebellion: A compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and its companion series Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion were available in the library of Fort Pulaski National Monument, and extensive use was made of this voluminous and authoritative source.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Acting Superintendent, Mr. Ralston B. Lattimore, for his interest in this study and his assistance in regard to photographs and other illustrative material; to Junior Research Historian James W. Holland for his ready counsel, sound advice, tireless patience, and willing assistance during the entire period of this study; to Miss Susan B. Harrison, House Regent

of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, Confederate Museum, Richmond, Virginia, for kindly and promptly more than complying with my request for several transcriptions of certain original manuscripts in the Confederate Museum collection; and to Mr. Don E. Eyles, a graduate student at Emory University, for assistance in re-photographing some material used in the report as illustrations.

R. J. C.  
Fort Pulaski National Monument,  
Savannah, Ga.  
September 15, 1938.



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## Chapter I

### GUARDIAN OF THE OGEECHEE

As the first rays of the morning sun fell on the west bank of the Great Ogeechee River they disclosed a small fort, built of earth, unpretentious yet formidable. Above it proudly flew the flag of the Confederacy and on its ramparts men in gray were at work. This was the morning of December 13, 1864.

In the evening of the same day, as the sun settled into the woods behind the fort, the flag of the Union flew above it and men in blue were at work. Brave Fort McAllister had fallen; gallantly had her garrison defended her, but the end had been inevitable. One hundred and fifty courageous Confederates had stood by their post and openly defied the hosts of Sherman's army. They asked no quarter; nor would they surrender. "The fighting become desperate and deadly" and victory came only after "fighting the garrison through the fort to their bomb-proofs," was the Federal report and it could have offered no higher tribute. Each man had to be individually overpowered; not one that did not do his part. Of the heroic action of McAllister's defenders, Georgians and Southerners may well be proud, for their feat of bravery has become a part of our national heritage, shared by all, both North and South.

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1 "Report of Brig. Gen. William B. Hazen, U.S. Army, commanding Second Division," Savannah, Ga., January 9, 1865, in The War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 110; Charles C. Jones, Jr., The Siege of Savannah in December, 1864, and the Confederate Operations in Georgia, and the third Military District of South Carolina during General Sherman's March from Atlanta to the Sea (Albany, N. Y., 1874), 129-130.

When, on January 19, 1861, Georgia had followed some of her sister states in seceding from the Union, it became necessary for her to prepare for the defense of her coast and of her cities. State troops, under order of the governor, Joseph E. Brown, had seized all Federal forts and works in the state, including Fort Pulaski, a strong masonry fort<sup>2</sup> which guarded the entrance to the Savannah river.

Further defensive measures were taken and on May 4, 1861, Francis S. Bartow, member of the Confederate Congress from Georgia, officially notified Brigadier-General A. R. Lawton of his appointment to command the Georgia coast defenses.<sup>3</sup> Bartow made it clear that there was no apprehension of any immediate attack. However, it was quite necessary to prepare for probable future trouble on this part of the Atlantic coast. The defense of Georgia's coast in reality was little more than the defense of Savannah, so it was there that the coastal defense work was centered. Ports Pulaski and Jackson were in the hands of the Confederates, but these could guard only one approach to the city, the Savannah river.

Four other waterways, the Vernon river, Saint Augustine creek, the Wassaw river, and the Great Ogeechee river were navigable to points<sup>4</sup> four to twelve miles from Savannah. It was necessary, then, to construct four batteries or fortifications on these rivers in addition to those inland which would guard highways, railroads and other lines of trans-

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2 Official Records (Armies), Ser. I, Vol. I, 318-325; Savannah Daily Morning News, January 3 and 4, 1861; Savannah Republican, January 3, 1861; Charles H. Olinstead, "Fort Pulaski," in Georgia Historical Quarterly, I (Savannah, 1917), 99.

3 Douglas S. Freeman (comp.), A Calendar of Confederate Papers with a Bibliography of Some Confederate Publications (Richmond, 1908), 171.

4 Official Records (Armies), Ser. I, Vol. XIV, 871.

portation or communication. Among the defenses built were forts Dartow and Boggs, batteries Beaulieu, Greenwich, Lawton, Lee, Rose-dew, Thunderbolt, and a battery on Genesis Point, later called Fort McAllister.<sup>5</sup> Savannah was then surrounded by what Major-General William T. Sherman later referred to as "a perfect string of forts."<sup>6</sup> Each guarded a different approach; therefore they were of equal importance, since if one fell it would expose all the others to attack from the rear. This chain of forts could be no stronger than its weakest link.<sup>7</sup>

On November 5, 1861, General Robert E. Lee was placed in command of a newly created military department comprising the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia and East Florida, and it was he who continued the work of Lawton on Savannah's defenses. In a report to Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of War, he stated that his troops were "fresh" and that his officers were "new in the service," all of them in need of instructions.<sup>8</sup>

In such a time of threatened invasion, when prompt action might become a necessity, untrained men were distinctly a handicap; "new" officers, if anything, made matters worse. General Lee keenly appreciated the need for one or more experienced officers to assist him in his work. He had previously requested that either General Henry Heth or Colonel Carter L. Stevenson be sent to act as general

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 864-875.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 7.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XIV, 871.

<sup>8</sup> Special Orders, No. 206, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Richmond, ibid., Ser. I, Vol. VI, 309

officer; these men, however, were being used elsewhere and their transfer was not affected. Again, in the same communication, Lee asked that an officer be sent whom he could place in command of the troops guarding the approach to Savannah from the Great Ogeechee river section.

The Great Ogeechee river has its source in Greene county, Georgia, and flows in a southeasterly direction to its mouth in Ossabaw Sound, Bryan County, Georgia, about fifteen miles south of Savannah. Its lower waters are navigable, at least up to its nearest approach to the city. The land bordering the river in Bryan and Chatham counties is very fertile and at the time of the war was rich in rice and cotton, with many prosperous plantations lining its banks. Some twelve miles above Ossabaw Sound, the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad bridge spanned the stream, and about three miles farther up was King's Bridge on the historic and important road from Savannah to Darien. Thus there were many reasons requiring that this river be protected from the sea; the presence of the plantations; the bridges, which represented arteries through which the life blood of Savannah must pass; and the approach which the river afforded to the city. It was of great importance to the Confederate cause that the Ogeechee river not fall into enemy hands.

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9 Official Records ( Arms ), Ser. I, Vol. VI, 376.

10 Built by order of Georgia's founder, James Oglethorpe, in the early years of the colony, as a military thoroughfare between the leading settlement at Savannah and the military outpost at New Inverness (Darien), this road remains in use today as part of U. S. Highway No. 17.

To complete the ring of defense around Savannah, and to guard the upper Ogeechee section, a battery was placed on Genesis Point, about eight miles up the river from Casabar Sound and on the west bank. This marked the right of the exterior line of fort-  
11  
ification around Savannah.

By the summer of 1861, the earthworks on the Ogeechee seem to have been in a stage of completion sufficient to accommodate a garrison, for, on August 5, there appeared an advertisement in a Savannah newspaper inviting contractors to bid on supplying the garrison at Genesis Point with fresh beef.  
12  
This tends to show that little time was wasted in building these works after the secession of the state. With the labor of impressed slaves, and hearty co-  
13  
operation of the landowners, a battery could be erected with considerable speed and little expense. The garrison of this battery, in September, 1861, consisted of two officers and fifty-six men;  
14  
its ordnance, of four heavy guns.

Of the construction of the battery, no records have been found, but it is to be supposed that at first there was merely an earthen barricade fronting the river to afford a certain measure of protection for the soldiers and the guns. The officers and men

11 Charles C. Jones, Jr., Historical Sketch of the Chatham Artillery During the Confederate Struggle for Independence (Albany, N.Y., 1867), 118.

12 Savannah Daily Morning News, August 5, 1861.

13 Official Records (Arms), Ser. IV, Vol. II, 35.

14 "Abstract from monthly return of the Military District of Savannah, Ga., commanded by Brig. Gen. A. R. Lawton, for September, 1861," ibid., Ser. I, Vol. VI, 286

doubtless lived in temporary quarters at this time. One of the first tasks of the builders was, of course, the sinking of an obstruction of piling across the river below the guns. The guns at the Genesis Point battery in 1861, although classed as "heavy", were not of sufficient caliber and range to inflict any serious damage to large ships, but they were adequate against any small craft such as it would be necessary to use in the removal of the obstruction in the river. Hence, indirectly, the battery in the first year of the war guarded the Ogeechee and Savannah by protecting the obstruction which blocked the ascent of the river.

In all probability, the work on this battery did not cease when one barricade was completed; instead, after the first, they built a second; then a third, improving and enlarging as they worked until they had built the strong earthen fortification that came to be called Fort McAllister. The exact date of the fort's completion is not known; at the time of the naval attack of July 29, 1862, it was not completely constructed. However, when next mentioned, on November 2, 1862, Fort McAllister apparently was a finished work.

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- 15 Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion (Washington, 1864-1922, and Index, 1927), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 718. Hereafter cited as Official Records (Navies). By October, 1861, another heavy gun had been added to the armament of Fort McAllister and the returns for that month show a garrison of 2 officers and 39 men. - Official Records (Armies), Ser. I, Vol. VI, 304.
- 16 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 114-115. The date of "the first" naval attack is given by Jones as June 29, 1862, but the fact that his details agree with the account of the attack of July 29 in the Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 221, suggests the conclusion that "June" probably is a typographical error for July.



Fort McAllister was located on the right and west bank of the Great Ogeechee river, twenty-six miles by road or fifteen miles in a straight line south of Savannah. According to one contemporary source, it was a heavy earthwork, "nearly star shaped" and well built, with its principal front toward the river. The point on which it was situated was said to have been the lowest high ground on the right bank of the Great Ogeechee river;" this was Genesis Point.

Of the several explanations of the derivation of the interesting Biblical name of this point, perhaps the most convincing is that of William Harden, who maintained that there was nothing of Biblical allusion in its origin. At a time early in the history of Georgia, he pointed out, a Charlestonian named Jennys, or Jenys, or Jennis, acquired some Bryan county land, which included the point upon which the fort was later built. When owned by Jennys, the point, properly enough, was called by his name. Even afterward the name persisted as shown by an advertisement, signed by Thomas Stone, in the Georgia Gazette of March 9, 1774, offering a "reward for the return of two horses to him at his place, Jennies Point." Through colloquial practice, then, the name underwent a slight metamorphosis, emerging as that of the First Book of Moses. The point subsequently became the property of the McAllister family.

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- 17 Savannah Republican, July 3, 1862. On the basis of plans of the fort and a personal inspection of the site, the writer is inclined to believe the correspondent of the Republican was drawing heavily upon his imagination in calling the fort "nearly star shaped."
- 18 J. D. Cox, The March to the Sea: Franklin and Nashville (Campaigns of the Civil War, X) (New York, 1886), 50.
- 19 Jones Chatham Artillery, 113
- 20 William Harden, Recollections of a Long and Satisfactory Life (Savannah, 1934) 96-97.

Across the river from the fort was a swamp with a wooded area to its rear. The fort was so placed that it commanded the channel of the river as well as the obstructions.<sup>21</sup>

Fort McAllister had five irregular sides; the one directly on the river measuring about six hundred and fifty feet; another, facing Ossabaw Sound, about seven hundred and fifty feet; the lower right side, about 400 feet; the left about six hundred and fifty feet; and the rear, about seven hundred and fifty feet. The rear was protected by a deep dry ditch or moat, and by an infantry line equipped with a series of ramps for mounting field artillery.<sup>22</sup> The right flank faced swampland and so needed no such exterior protection. The guns of the fort were all mounted on barbette.<sup>23</sup>

Inasmuch as the fort was primarily for river defense, the guns were placed in such a position as best to command the channel, that is, on the side facing the Sound, the direction from which all enemy ships must come. Huge traverses, raised some twenty feet above the river,<sup>24</sup> stood between the guns and afforded the gun crews a degree of protection against shot and shell. Within the fort were several large earthen mounds, called bombproofs, in which the garrison ate and slept and where in times of battle the wounded

21 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 113

22 Cox, March to the Sea, 50; Jones, Siege of Savannah, 1864, p. 106.

23 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 141; Edward A. Pollard, The Lost Cause; A New Southern History of the War of the Confederates (New York, 1868), 818.

24 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 717.

Plan of Fort McAllister

from the Map of Savannah, Ga. and Vicinity.  
Illustrating the Operations of the Army un-  
der Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman Resulting in the  
Fall and Capture of the City, December 21, 1864.  
Photographed by Hoffman Art Studio, Savannah,  
Ga. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski Nat-  
ional Monument.

found shelter. The largest of these occupies an area of about 41,250 square feet, and rises to a height of some thirty feet. In a position near the left flank stood a hot shot furnace, the purpose of which was to heat solid shot red-hot to be fired at wooden vessels with a view toward setting them on fire. Entrance to the fort was through the sallyport on the left flank; there may have been other entrances but no mention of them has been found.

Captain John McCrady, engineer-in-chief of the district, originated the plans of Fort McAllister and his assistant, Captain James McAlpin executed them. The names of these men are linked very closely with the history of Fort McAllister, as they were continually at work to keep it in the best of condition, and to supervise the reconstruction necessary after each engagement. McAllister's many successful repulses of the enemy were largely due to the engineering skill of these two men.

Merely a battery at first, never more than an earthwork, yet its story ranks it with the greatest of the war. Gallant is the word for Fort McAllister, the Guardian of the Ogeechee.

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25 "Map of Savannah, Ga. and Vicinity," *ibid.*, 221-222. The writer visited the site of Fort McAllister in July, 1938, and was able to gain an idea of the original height of the mounds as well as a general conception of the war-time appearance of the fort.

26 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 734.

27 Savannah Republican, March 11, 1863, quoted in Jones, Chatham Artillery, 134-135.

Chapter II

"THEY SHALL NOT PASS!"

"They shall not pass," the thrilling battle cry of the French at Verdun, might well have been the motto of the brave defenders of Fort McAllister, -- it clearly expresses the spirit with which they fought. Repeatedly, their small fort was attacked by Federal gunboats and iron-clads which hurled their destructive fire against its sand parapets. With a determination seldom equalled they stood by their guns and held the fort.

The battery at Genesis Point, in November, 1861, was garrisoned by the DeKalb Riflemen, Alfred L. Hartridge, captain; Benjamin H. Hardee,<sup>1</sup> first lieutenant; Robert Wayne, II, and Henry Herrman, second lieutenants. Colonel E. C. Anderson was in command of this battery as well as of the<sup>2</sup> other forts and fixed batteries toward the sea along the Georgia coast.

Genesis Point received its first taste of warfare on July 1, 1862. The U. S. S. Potomack, Acting Lieutenant Pen. G. Watmough, commanding, while in Ossabaw Sound sighted a schooner some six miles up the Ogeechee river. Thereupon, the Federal vessel, a three-masted wooden schooner of screw propeller type and mounting five guns, proceeded upstream until within range of the guns of the Genesis Point battery. Approaching to within a mile and a half, she opened fire, but the battery returned three or four shots so well aimed that the schooner withdrew to avoid being

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1 Savannah Daily Morning News, November 28, 1861.

2 Cox, March to the Sea, 50.

damaged, having fired about a dozen shots. At the time of this engagement, the battery mounted six heavy guns and, according to a "contraband," about two hundred infantrymen and about one hundred and fifty cavalry, were stationed at Genesis Point.<sup>3</sup>

The Savannah Republican of July 28, 1862 heralded the approach of another and more formidable attack on the battery. Four Federal gunboats had ascended the Great Ogeechee the day before to a point nearly within gunshot of the battery at Genesis Point. "We shall probably know in a day or two," thought the Republican's correspondent, "what the pirates are after."

The very next day the "pirates" made their intentions clear by attacking the battery. They were the U. S. S. Paul Jones, the U. S. S. Unadilla, the U. S. S. Huron, and the U. S. S. Madie.

Flag Officer S. F. DuPont in a communication to Commander Charles Steedman of the Paul Jones, on July 9, instructed him to make a reconnaissance of the Ogeechee river and to feel the fort out with his long-range guns and, if possible, to destroy it.<sup>4</sup> Commander Steedman accounts for the lapse of twenty days between

<sup>3</sup> Pen. G. Watmough to John R. Goldsborough, July 5, 1862, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 161-162. Jones (Chatham Artillery, 114) states that the first attack occurred

on June 29, 1862, but as the Official Records do not mention any attack on that date but do record one for July 29, 1862 which Jones fails to mention, it may be assumed that a typographical error, substituting June for July, has been made in the Chatham Artillery. Supposing this to be the case, the engagement on July 1, cited in the Official Records, precedes the attack which Jones claims to have been the first against the Genesis Point battery. "Contraband" was an euphemism employed by the Federals to refer to the negro slaves.

<sup>4</sup> Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 186.

the date of his orders and the time of attack by explaining that it was necessary to go to St. Simons Island to get Charles Tatnall as pilot for the trip up the Ogeechee. An additional day was lost when twelve tubes of one of the boilers burst and had to be plugged.<sup>5</sup>

About 10 o'clock in the morning of the 29th, the small Federal fleet started up the Ogeechee. When past Buzzard Island they commenced throwing shells in the direction of Bryan Neck and continued to shell the woods as they advanced. About half an hour later, they drew up in battle formation within range of Genesis Point and opened fire on the battery. As the guns of the battery could not reach the ships at that distance, the defenders reserved their fire until one of the boats advanced to a position near the Point. With this, the Confederates fired with regularity and apparent precision. After several rounds, the lead ship dropped back to her place with the others, only to advance again a bit later. The firing of the battery became very accurate and several shells raked the venturesome vessel, whereupon she turned and steamed past the others to lead the withdrawal down the river. Shortly after the remainder of the small fleet followed her to their anchorage in the Sound.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Report of Steedman, July 29, 1862, *ibid.*, 221.

<sup>6</sup> Savannah Republican, July 30, 1862.

The Federal ships, armed with eleven-inch Dahlgren and rifle guns, had fired some seven hundred shots, during the engagement lasting about two and a half hours. The quarters of the fort had been considerably damaged, a 42-pounder disabled, and two of the defenders wounded. One of the ships was thought to have been struck. Still garrisoned by the DeKalb Riflemen, the battery mounted one 42-pounder and five 32-pounders<sup>7</sup> at the time of the attack.

Commander Steedman reported that he was convinced that the location of the battery, the true aim of the guns, and the piling blocking the river meant that any further attempt to pass would entail "a great sacrifice of life and perhaps the sinking of one or more of the gun-boats."<sup>8</sup>

On November 2, 1862, Captain A. Bonaud, with four men, set out in an open boat to make a reconnaissance of the Federal blockading fleet anchored in Ossabaw Sound. These ships were a part of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. At noon, when they had approached to within 1200 yards of the fleet, their small boat was observed from the U. S. S. Wissahickon, Lieutenant-Commander John L. Davis. An armed boat was put out by this ship to meet them, but when the Confederate scouting party realized that they had been sighted, they turned and pulled rapidly upstream. The Wissahickon fired a 20-pounder rifle in an effort to bring the scouts boat to a stop and when

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7 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 114.

8 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 186.



One of the Guns at Fort McAllister

Showing the parapet and, in the background, the traverses and bombproofs. This gun is a columbiad. From a contemporary photograph used in the Review of Reviews' Photographic History of the Civil War (New York, 1911), Vol. V, P. 263. Rephotographed by Hoffman Art Studio, Savannah, Ga. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

this failed she was put underway and steamed up the river in pursuit. One other attempt was made with the rifle to stop them, but by this time the small boat was under the guns of the Genesis Point battery and it was necessary to recall the armed barge before the Confederate gunners opened fire on it. The Federal ship dropped her port anchor to swing into position and from a distance of two miles bombarded the battery. Five shots were returned, but all fell harmlessly in the water short of the vessel. At 1:40 P. M., the Wissahickon steamed down the river to her former anchorage. The battery, now garrisoned by the Emmett Rifles, was not damaged by the few shells directed against it from long range by the Federal  
 9  
 gunboat.

Before the next week had passed, the addition of an eight-inch columbiad had brought the number of guns in the battery up to seven. The garrison at this time consisted of the Republican Blues, a socio-military society of "gentlemen soldiers" of Savannah, and the Emmett  
 10  
 Rifles, Lieutenant George W. Anderson, commanding the post.

Exactly one week after the Wissahickon's brush with the battery, another attempt was made on Genesis Point. At 8:30 on the morning of November 19, the Federal gunboat Dawn, taking the mortar schooner C. P. Williams in tow, had steamed up the Ogeechee river from the

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9 Abstract log of the Wissahickon, November 2, 1862, ibid., 427; Jones, Chatham Artillery, 115.

10 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 115.

Sound to a place off the Florida Passage where they were joined by  
<sup>11</sup>  
 the Wissahickon. The three then moved farther up the river and  
 at 8:15 opened fire on the Confederate battery. Receiving no answer-  
 ing fire, the gunboats advanced a quarter of a mile, continuing to  
 throw shells in the direction of Genesis Point. Still receiving no  
 reply, and suspecting that the battery had been deserted, they drew  
 a quarter of a mile closer still, to a position by the bend in the  
 river about one and three-quarters miles below the battery. At 9:45  
 the Confederates opened fire, the first shot striking the Wissahickon  
 abreast of her eleven-inch gun and four feet below the water line,  
 causing her to withdraw from range to repair the serious leak. The  
 firing continued until 2:30 P. M. when the vessels withdrew as they  
<sup>12</sup>  
 had come, having fired about two hundred shots. The fort had fired  
<sup>13</sup>  
 only twelve shots; three of the garrison had been wounded.

The famed battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac (or Virginia)  
 had revolutionized naval warfare and naval armament. It gave ample  
 proof that ironclad vessels far outclassed those of wood. Thereafter  
 the shipyards of the Union began turning out a new type of gunboat,  
 modeled after the monitor, -- low-built ships with revolving turrets,  
 and completely covered with iron plating.

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- 11 Abstract log of the Dawn, November 19, 1862, in Official Rec-  
 ords (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 454. The "mortar boat No. 5"  
 cited in the source was the C. P. Williams.
- 12 Report of Lt. Com. Davis, November 19, 1862, ibid., 454.
- 13 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 115.

One of the first of these to be built was the Montauk, which was assigned to DuPont as a unit of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Contemplating an attack on Charleston, South Carolina, to be made with ships of this class, the Admiral desired to give the Montauk an advance trial. Because of the newness of this type of craft little was known of its powers or of its weaknesses; therefore a trial was necessary to determine what might be expected of them in an attack upon a fort or a fixed land battery. The Admiral sent the Montauk, with the gunboats Wissahickon, Dawn, and Seneca and the mortar schooner C. P. Williams, against the battery<sup>14</sup> at Genesis Point, now called Fort McAllister.

On Saturday, January 24, 1863, the Montauk, towed by the James Adger anchored off Ossabaw Sound Bar. There the monitor was forced to remain throughout the following day, because of heavy fog. On Monday, Commander John L. Worden called together the commanding officers of the other ships and laid plans for the attack of the next day. At 1:30 P. M., with a Mr. Murphy as pilot, the Montauk moved up the Ogeechee and anchored just out of range of the guns of Fort McAllister. The other ships in turn drew astern<sup>15</sup> of her.

On most of the ships Monday morning had been spent in preparing for action. The crew of the gunboat Seneca had placed chains

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14 James R. Soley, "Minor Operations of the South Atlantic Squadron Under DuPont," in Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel (eds.), Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. 4 vols. (New York, c. 1884-1886), IV, 28.

15 Report of Com. Worden, January 27, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 544.

up and down the outside of the vessel amidships, and on the inside of the coal bunker they placed sandbags to protect the engines. Later an iron box was placed on the forecrossbeams<sup>16</sup> for the lookout. The Montauk had been cleared for action on Sunday. Her ballast having been shifted from the body of the ship to the bow, she was in "fighting trim."<sup>17</sup> Monday evening, about eight o'clock, Commander Worden sent two boats to reconnoiter and to remove the Confederate's range markers from a position near Harvey's Cut. One of these boats was the Seneca and the other the Wissahickon; Lieutenant Commander Davis commanded the party, and on his return, he reported that the<sup>18</sup> obstructions seemed to be protected by torpedoes.

The next morning, January 27, about seven o'clock, the ironclad Montauk, armed with one 15-inch and one 11-inch Dahlgren guns, got underway and moved up to a position within 300 yards of the obstructions on the other side of the river from the fort at a distance of some 1500 yards.<sup>19</sup> The previous night Lieutenant Commander Davis had marked the position with flags. Soon after, the Seneca followed the Montauk to within a mile

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16 Abstract of the log of the Seneca, January 26, 1863, ibid., 547-548.

17 Report of Commander Worden of the Montauk, January 24-February 2, 1863, ibid., 627.

18 Report of Com. Worden, January 27, 1863, ibid., 544.

19 Report of Com. Worden, January 24-February 2, 1863, ibid., 627.

21

and three-quarters of Genesis Point. At 7:30, the Wissahickon,  
 followed by the Dawn towing the C. P. Williams drew astern of  
 22  
 the Seneca in line of battle. About ten minutes earlier, the  
 Seneca had opened fire with her 20-pounder Parrott, the action  
 23  
 becoming general when the battery replied five minutes later.

The Montauk entered the fight at 7:30 and the C. P. Williams  
 24  
 joined in with her mortar fifteen minutes later. Several times  
 during the engagement the Federal ironclad was placed at a dis-  
 advantage by fresh winds. About nine o'clock the breeze was of  
 sufficient velocity to impede the flight of their shells and to  
 affect their range. Again, at 10:35, the wind blew the smoke of  
 25  
 the fort into the eyes of the Montauk's gunners marring their vision.  
 The battery directed its whole fire against the Montauk with the  
 26  
 exception of one mortar that burst a few shells near the Seneca.  
 The ships fired steadily, but as far as they could tell they did  
 little damage to the fort. The well-laid plan to destroy the  
 fort's guns went awry, because the plucky Confederate gun crew  
 were continually moving their guns, so a devastating fire could not  
 27  
 be concentrated upon them.

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21 Report of Lt. Com. William Gibson of the Seneca, February 3,  
 1863, ibid., 629.

22 Abstract of log of the Wissahickon, January 27, 1863, ibid., 548.

23 Abstract of the log of the Seneca, January 27, 1863, ibid., 548.

24 Abstract of log of C.P. Williams, January 27, 1863, ibid., 549;  
 Report of Second Asst. Engineer Stephens of the Montauk,  
 January 27, 1863, ibid., 545.

25 Report of Com. Worden, January 24-February 2, 1863, ibid., 627.

26 Report of Lt. Com. Gibson, Seneca, February 3, 1863, ibid., 629.

27 Report of Worden, ibid., 627; Soley, op. cit., Battles and Leaders,

Not having sufficient or proper ammunition to continue the attack, the Montauk ceased firing at 11:55 and fifteen minutes later dropped down the river. The other vessels in turn then followed down the river, the tug Daffodil taking the mortar boat in tow. The Montauk, the only Federal ship to be hit during this engagement, was struck fourteen times: four times in the turret; three times in the side armor; four times in the deck armor; once in the smokestack; once on the second cutter, sinking it; and once on a spar lashed athwart the stern as a mooring.

It is of interest to note that this attack of the Montauk on Fort McAllister was the first time that a fifteen-inch shell had ever been used in an effort to reduce a shore battery.

The garrison of Fort McAllister was not taken by surprise for they saw the ships at anchor below the bend in the river the night before the attack. There had been about one hundred and sixty Confederate government negroes at work in the battery at the time; these had been hurriedly sent to the interior before the attack. Captain John B. Galie was in command of Fort McAllister at the time, and the garrison consisted of the Republican Blues, Captain George W. Anderson, and the Emmett Rifles, Captain

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28 Abstract of log of Montauk, January 27, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 547; Report of Worden, January 24-February 2, 1863, ibid., 627.

29 Abstract of log of C.F. Williams, January 27, 1863, ibid., 549.

30 Report of Com. Worden, January 24-February 2, 1863, ibid., 627; Abstract of the log of Montauk, January 27, 1863, ibid., 547

31 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 116-117.

George A. Nicoll. A battalion of sharpshooters, under Colonel R. H. Anderson, had been ordered to support the garrison in any emergency. The fort was further strengthened by the addition to its armament of another 8-inch columbiad and another 32-pounder rifle.

On that Tuesday morning, when the sounds of the bombardment were heard in Savannah, a special train carrying reinforcements and, incidentally, a newspaper report, was sent on the Atlantic and Gulf to Ways Station, the nearest approach by rail to the fort. McAllister was well prepared to meet the enemy and though at the end of the engagement she had but two effective guns, all the damage that the Federal fleet had inflicted was repaired by the next morning. No one in the fort was injured during the attack, but the sand parapet had crumbled and fallen from the weight and force of the steel that had been hurled against it.

Rear Admiral DuPont sent Commander Worden a congratulatory letter and in it slyly advised Worden to prevent "any ill-considered reports" of the affair "reaching the press and magnifying your attack into a repulse." But in another letter written the same day, he declared that if Worden could get no closer to the fort by removal of the obstructions and the torpedoes, that

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32 Ibid., 116.

33 Savannah Republican, January 28, 1863.

34 Abstract of log Montauk, January 27, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 547.

35 Savannah Republican, January 28, 1863; Jones, Chatham Artillery, 116

36 DuPont to Worden, January 28, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 546.



a renewal of the attack should not be made. "I need not add," he added, "how careful you should be if you make any attempt to deal with the torpedoes."<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Id. to id., January 20, 1953, ibid., 547

## Chapter III

## THE IRONCLAD SENDER

After the attack on Fort McAllister that had ended so unsatisfactorily for the Federal Fleet, the Confederates justly feared that another and fiercer attack would be made in an effort to destroy the fort and gain access to Savannah. A detachment of Signal Corps was sent to establish a line of communication by flags between the fort and the Atlantic and Gulf railroad bridge, from the bridge to Ways Station and thence to Savannah by telegraph. William Harden was the telegraph operator, under Lieutenant Markoe. On their first attempt, weather conditions were unfavorable and they had no success. When, on January 31, those at Fort McAllister expected another attack to be made the next day, the Signal Corps again tried to make a connection by signals from the Point to Savannah. The firing of the next day began while they were still at work on the river bank.<sup>1</sup>

On January 28, Commander Worden had learned through a contraband the position of the obstructions below the fort and also the location of the torpedoes placed in the channel. The negro had left McAllister the previous Sunday and as he had served as a pilot on the Ogeechee river, Commander Worden took him on board.<sup>2</sup>

Three days later, Worden informed DuPont that with the information

1 William Harden, Recollections of a Private in the Signal Corps, January, 1863 - April, 1865; read before the Confederate Veterans Association, Savannah, Ga., November 3, 1896 (Savannah, 1898), 19.

2 Report of Com. Worden, January 24-February 2, 1863, in Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 627-628.

gained from the contraband he would be able to get much closer to the obstructions and would be able to inflict greater damage to the fort. He expressed every confidence in his ability to destroy Fort Mollister and to remove the obstructions. He even boasted the fact that, after the reduction of the fort, he would not have the gunboat Dawn there, with the one hundred-pounder gun to assist him in dismantling it. It was his plan that, while he was dismantling the fort, the Wissahickon and the Seneca should pass the obstructions and move up the river to capture the blockade runner, C. S. S. Nashville.

The Confederates apparently shared the Federal belief that on a second attempt, the fort would be entirely destroyed by the terrific shelling from the gunboats and the new heavy fifteen-inch shells of the ironclads, for they made extensive provisions for defending the river above the fort in anticipation of its fall. On January 30, Lieutenant George A. Whitehead, with two detachments from the Chatham Artillery armed with a three and one-half inch Blakely rifle and a twelve-pounder rifle, was ordered to take up a position on the Great Ogeechee river, in supporting distance of the fort, with instructions to be on hand to repulse any landing parties. Lieutenant Thomas A. Askew, also of the Chatham Artillery, with a section of twelve-pounder howitzers and

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3 Worden to DuPoint, January 31, 1863, ibid., 576.

a detail of twenty-seven men, was stationed at Kings Bridge. With Lieutenant Whithead's section, as chiefs of pieces, were Sergeants Gordon and Mitchell, with Corporals Walker and Baker serving as gunners. One hundred and twenty-five rounds of ammunition were available for each gun, and the entire equipment of the section was complete. The position taken up was some three-quarters of a mile above the fort and in full view of the action that was to take place.

On Sunday morning, before the Federal ships came within range of the fort, Colonel R. M. Anderson ordered Captain Arthur Shaaf, commanding the First Battalion Georgia Sharpshooters, to line the river bank with his riflemen. His right flank rested about one-quarter of a mile in the rear and to the west of the fort. When it was seen that the enemy had no intention of landing at Kilkenny or at any point to attack the fort by land, but instead planned a frontal naval attack on the fort and an attempt to pass the obstructions, the captain of sharpshooters was ordered to deploy his men at intervals of ten paces. In such a formation they covered a mile of the riverbank and would have been considerably annoying to any ships going up the river.

Martin's Light Battery, another unit of reserve, was held in readiness at Hardwick, a position a mile and a half in the rear of the fort. Upon order of General G. T. Beauregard, the Nashville (which had been re-named the Rattlesnake, but continued

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4 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 112-113.

to be generally known under her old name) was moved to a position in which she might be sunk to block the channel in event of a Federal victory. Two guns from this ship were placed on Richmond Bluff, seven miles in the rear of Fort McAllister, in charge of the Nashville's commanding officer.<sup>5</sup> The fort itself was armed with an eight-inch columbiad, one forty-two pounder, five thirty-two pounders,<sup>6</sup> and one ten-inch mortar,<sup>7</sup> commanded by Captain Robert Martin.

At about 6:40 of the morning of Sunday, February 1, the Montauk, a mighty ironclad, got underway and, moving up the Great Ogeechee, anchored about six hundred yards below the fort, as near the opposite side of the channel as her draft would allow. At 4:45, after the ironclad had for some fifteen minutes presented itself as a motionless target on the farther side of the river, the fort opened with a broadside, which was returned immediately. Thereupon, the gunboats Wissahickon, Seneca, and Dawn with the mortar boat C.P. Williams in tow, which had been moving to their former positions of attack, opened fire and the affair became general.

During the early part of the bombardment, a mist hung over Fort McAllister forcing the smoke from the guns earthward so that the fort became enveloped in a curtain of smoke partially concealing it from the keen eyes of the Federal gunners. The ad-

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5 Report of Col. R. E. Anderson, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 636.

6 Beauregard to Sec. of War, C.S.A., February 6, 1863, *ibid.*, 637.

7 Report of Anderson, *ibid.*, 636.

vantage of this natural phenomenon, however, were not all on the side of the defenders, for the gunners of the garrison were forced to slacken their fire, unable to see the ships<sup>3</sup> through the heavy clouds of smoke which cloaked the fort.

The Confederates concentrated their fire upon the ironclad but, according to the log of the Seneca, at least two of the guns of the fort were directed against that ship's position. The solid shot fell short of the gunboats when fired at such long range, but the shells exploded all around them. Lieutenant-Commander William Gibson of the Seneca was convinced "that, in view of the narrowness of the channel, which forbade our keeping underway, the position of the battery, and the accuracy of its ranges, we could not have engaged nearer in support of the Montauk"<sup>9</sup> without endangering the ships.

At about 8:45, the Montauk, fearing that the ebbing tide would ground her if she remained in such shallow water as her first position, raised anchor and dropped down to about 1400<sup>10</sup> yards below the fort.

The Montauk fired mostly fifteen-inch shell, one of which

8 Detailed report of Worden to DuPont, covering the operations of the Montauk from January 24 to February 2, 1863, ibid., 628.

9 Report of Lt. Com. Gibson of the Seneca, February 1, 1863, ibid., 330

10 Detailed report, Worden to DuPont, January 24 to February 2, 1863, ibid., 628.

passed completely through the seventeen-foot parapet in front of one of the fort's thirty-two pounders. This particular section of the parapet was made of marsh sand which, it seems, was not as strong as the sand used in the other portions of the wall. The parapet in front of the eight-inch columbiad was completely blown away, but the gritty gun crew did not flinch or shirk their duty; they remained at their post by their gun, openly facing the fire of the enemy, despite the fact that previously the fire of the ironclad had been mainly directed against this gun. The fearless officer of this detachment was First Lieutenant W. D. Nixon, Republican Blues, Company C, First Georgia Volunteer Regiment.

In the first part of the fight Major John B. Gallic, the commanding officer of the fort, was struck by a shell and buried in the sand; though wounded, he refused to retire from the thick of the danger. He had the same grit that characterized his entire garrison; no matter what the odds or the danger he wanted to be in there at the front with his men. He continued to move from gun to gun and from man to man, encouraging all by his presence. Short-

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11 Report of Maj. Henry Bryan, Assistant Inspector General, CSA., February 1, 1863, ibid., 630.

12 Ibid., 633.

13 Report of Col. R. W. Anderson, ibid., 630

14 Ibid.

ly after he was first struck, he was in the vicinity of a thirty-two pounder when the piece was hit by a fifteen-inch. The left trunnion, torn off, struck the major on the head, killing him instantly. The command then fell to Captain George W. Anderson.<sup>15</sup>

The firing continued until 11:53 when Commander Worden, believing that he was doing little damage to the fort's guns,<sup>16</sup> issued the order to cease firing and dropped out of range. The Montauk had been struck forty-eight times;<sup>17</sup> the Seneca had been hit once by a shell from the mortar.<sup>18</sup> At about 12:30 in the afternoon Worden ordered the other ships to stop the bombardment and to withdraw down the river;<sup>19</sup> the order was promptly carried out and the vessels again steamed toward the Sound, the Dawn again towing towing the C.P. Williams.<sup>20</sup>

The Confederate commandant had sent a message to Brigadier-General Mercer: "We will hold the battery to the last extremity and blow her up before we will surrender."<sup>21</sup> What a gloriously different ending! The Federal ships had been repulsed and the fort was still in Southern hands. Three men, John Grey Republican

15 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 118-119.

16 Detailed report of Worden to DuPont, February 2, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. 1, Vol. XIII, 628.

17 Ibid.

18 Abstract of log of Seneca, ibid., 632

19 Worden to DuPont, February 2, 1863, ibid., 629.

20 Abstract of log of C.P. Williams, ibid., 633

21 Confederate report of the battle, Feb. 1, 1863, ibid., 633.



Blues; John Dillon and Peter Brady, Emmitt Rifles, had been wounded by shell fragments and sent to Savannah hospital for treatment. Two others, William Barber and John Mahan had been knocked down by shells and buried in sand but were not hurt badly enough to require hospitalization.

The garrison was obliged to send up the country for Negroes to work on the fort, but the damage was quickly repaired. Another thirty-two pounder was sent from Savannah to replace the one destroyed, and the fort was placed back in the same condition and appearance as before the attack.

Colonel R. H. Anderson, in his report on the attack, recommended that the garrison be allowed to inscribe "Fort McAllister" on their standard. General Beauregard, in general orders, commended the garrison for their fine defense and bravery under fire and gave them permission to add the inscription. Assistant Inspector General Henry Bryan recommended that Captain Alfred Hertridge be placed in command of the fort to succeed Major Gallie, instead of Captain George W. Anderson who had succeeded to the command through seniority upon the fall of the major.

The repeated attacks upon Fort McAllister turned the public attention to its noble garrison and to its own important position

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- 22 Savannah Republican, February 2, 1863.  
 23 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 671-672.  
 24 Report of Col. R. H. Anderson, February 2, 1863, *ibid.*, 636-637  
 25 *Ibid.*  
 26 General Orders, No. 23, of General G.T. Beauregard, February 6, 1863, *ibid.*, 639.  
 27 Report of Bryan, February 1, 1863, *ibid.*, 635.

in the defense of the city of Savannah. Whereas the newspapers had previously made little or no mention of it, they now began to feature any news from the Ogechee battery or any reports from its garrison. The public began to look with more and more interest upon the fort that for so long had been nothing but a quiescent earthwork.

For eight months, the Federal fleet had maintained a close blockade of the Great Ogechee; especial care had been taken to see that the Confederate blockade-runner the Nashville did not slip through the lines. Though she had been held in the river for many months, the press announced every three weeks or so that she had passed the blockade and had come back in undetected.

By February 27, 1863, the Nashville had been changed from a blockade-runner to a privateer, armed with a 24-pounder and a 32-pounder fife; the remainder of her armament would be picked up in Nassau. Her forward gun was mounted in a circle. Though fitted as a privateer, she had a cargo to carry through the blockade; on February 23, she had taken on a load of cotton near the Atlantic and Gulf railroad bridge. Her cargo consisted of seven

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- 28 Savannah Republican, February 9, 1863. See also editorials, ibid., February 11 and 27, 1863.
- 29 DuPont to Worden, March 1, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 705.
- 30 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 630.
- 31 Daniel Ammen, The Atlantic Coast (The Navies in the Civil War, II) (New York, 1893), 36.
- 32 C. M. Mitchel to DuPont, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 342

hundred bales of compressed upland cotton, seventy-five pounds of  
 33  
 resin, and forty boxes of tobacco. When the Federal authorities  
 learned that the Nashville planned to break through their lines  
 as a privateer they became, if possible, even more watchful. It  
 would have been a "serious matter" if she had been able to join  
 the 290 and the Orto, two other Confederate ships that were man-  
 34  
 aging Federal shipping on the high seas.

The Nashville, as she was called even though her name had  
 been changed to Rattlesnake, upon becoming a privateer held her-  
 self constantly in readiness to pass beyond the river obstructions  
 by McAllister and slip out to sea. Staying near the obstructions  
 and watching her opportunity, she would withdraw from range upon  
 the approach of any ship. Often she was sighted from the Federal  
 35  
 ships but none could get close to her.

On Friday, February 27, 1863, at about four o'clock in the  
 afternoon, as she was going up the river from Fort McAllister, the  
 Nashville ran aground on a sand bar about a mile from the fort,  
 at that part of the river known as Seven Mile Reach. Every effort  
 was made to remove her and when even high tide failed to do this,  
 36  
 she was abandoned by officers and crew. This same evening, the  
Seneca, while moving up the river apparently on a reconnaissance,  
 sighted the ill-fated vessel and realizing her plight drew closer

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33 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 766; Savannah  
 Republican, March 2, 1863.

34 DuFont to Worden, March 1, 1863, in Official Records, Ser. I,  
 Vol. XIII, 706.

35 Soley, *op. cit.*, Battles and Leaders, IV, 29

36 Savannah Republican, March 2, 1863

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and fired several shots at her. The Log of the U. S. S. Dawn 38 states that the Seneca "exchanged shots with Fort McAllister;" it is logical to suppose that the fort opened fire on the Seneca but the records kept on that ship do not mention their firing at the fort to make an "exchange".

On the following morning, February 28, the Montauk accompanied by the gunboats Dawn, Seneca, and Wissahickon, went up the river to destroy the Nashville. The Confederate reports of the 40 affair state that the mortar boat was with them; but the Federal accounts make no mention of its presence in the Sound. It seems that the C. P. Williams, mortar boat stationed in Ossabaw Sound, was in Port Royal undergoing repairs and taking on supplies until the day before the attack when orders had been given for her to 41 be taken back to Ossabaw. She could hardly have been even in the Sound at the time of the attack.

At Seven o'clock, the Montauk anchored as near the obstructions as possible and "under the hot fire" of the guns of Fort McAllister to which the ironclad "made no reply" preferring to concentrate fire as much as possible upon the luckless Nashville. There was a thin strip of land between the Montauk and her victim where the river almost doubles back. Only the superstructure of

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37 Abstract of log of Seneca, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 704.

38 Abstract log of the Dawn, ibid., 705

39 Abstract log of the Seneca, ibid., 704.

40 Report of Capt. G. W. Anderson, ibid., 708

41 Ibid., 695.

#### Confederate Blockade Runner Nashville

This ship was originally the Thomas L. Wragg; when war broke out it became a blockade-runner and its name was changed to the Nashville. In 1863, it underwent another change and became a privateer. As such it was known as the Rattlesnake; however, before it could pass the blockade and join the other privateers, it was destroyed by the Federal fleet while aground in Seven Mile Reach on the Great Ogeechee River. It is reported that its hull may still be seen at low tide, near Ft. McAllister. Rephotographed by Foltz Studio, Savannah, Ga., from an illustration in Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Ser. I, Vol. XIII, opposite p. 696. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

the Confederate ship was visible to the Federal gunners. Fog  
 42  
 settled over the group during the firing, and the gunboats, which  
 engaged the fort from about two miles down the river ceased firing  
 43  
 upon the battery during the fog. The Montauk, however, had the  
 44  
 range on its target and continued to bombard it at intervals.

Before nine o'clock, the Nashville was seen to be afire,  
 about forty minutes later there was a slight explosion aboard  
 her, and ten minutes later still a heavy explosion completed the  
 45  
 work of destruction.

During the entire bombardment the garrison of the fort  
 had been industriously firing at the ironclad, but the Federal  
 report avers that "the artillerymen in the fort did not fire  
 with their usual accuracy," for the Montauk was hit only five  
 46  
 times. One of the gunboats was struck by a shell from a thirty-  
 two pounder. There were no casualties on the Confederate side  
 and no damage aside from a slight injury to the quarters of the  
 47  
Emmett Rifles and a bit of plowed earth on the parade ground.

Soon after the final explosion on the Nashville, the Montauk  
 withdrew and the other ships were ordered to do likewise. As the  
 monitor was falling downstream she struck a torpedo off Harvey's

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42 Soley, op. cit., Battles and Leaders, IV, 29

43 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 701-705.

44 Soley, op. cit., Battles and Leaders, IV, 29.

45 Abstract of log of Dawn, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I,  
 Vol. XIII, 705.

46 Soley, op. cit., Battles and Leaders, IV, 29

47 Report of Capt. G. W. Anderson, in Official Records (Navies),  
 Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 706.

Cut; the double explosion that followed burst the boiler and water entered freely. The crew found that they could not control the rising water and it became necessary to call for men and buckets from the other ships. Mr. Murphy, the pilot skillfully grounded the ironclad and soon the water reached a level at which the buckets were no longer needed.

Admiral DuPont commended Worden very highly for accomplishing the destruction of the Nashville "under the guns of a very strong fort."

Upon the completion of three more of the ironclads, the Patapsco, the Passaic, and the Nahant, Admiral DuPont reported to Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles that he planned to test these new monitors as he had previously tested the Montauk, under the guns of Fort McAllister. That same day, February 27, 1863, he issued orders to the commanding officer aboard the U. S. S. Eriasson to tow the three mortar schooners, C. P. Williams, the Para, and the Norfolk Packet to Ossabaw Sound from their anchorage at Port Royal. At the same time, arrangements were made to tow the three new ironclads, the Patapsco, the Passaic, and the Nahant to Ossabaw.

Captain Percival Drayton of the U. S. S. Passaic was then ordered to the Sound to command the operations of this concentrated

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48 Report of Second Assistant Engineer Stephens, ibid., 701

49 DuPont to Worden, ibid., 706.

50 Confidential report, DuPont to Welles, ibid., 692.

51 Ibid., 695.

52 fleet. The gunboats Sebago and Flambeau, which had assisted in towing the ironclads, were present and these, in addition to the three gunboats already in the river, the three mortar schooners, and the four ironclads made a most impressive gathering of ships.

53 Commander Worden received explicit instructions that he was to take no part in the attack whatever unless absolutely necessary. Admiral DuPont was satisfied that the Montauk had been well tested and furthermore no fifteen-inch gun such as the Montauk carried had ever been fired more than three hundred times and the Admiral did not feel that it would be wise to pass this number without careful checking of the gun.

54 On Tuesday, March 3, 1863, the Federal armada was ready for the attack. Though they had suffered repeated repulses from this battery, they had every confidence that this time they would be successful. A landing party of soldiers, under General Seymour, was on the steamers.

55 About 7:45 the Passaic, followed by the Patapsco and the Nahant, got underway and moved upstream from the Sound. The mortar schooners were towed into position about two miles from the fort by the gunboats, and while the mortar boats opened fire

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52 Ibid., 694.

53 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 125; Official Records (Navies) Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 693.

54 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 694.

55 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 128.

56 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 720.



and engaged the battery, the ironclads dropped down to an anchorage near the obstructions close to the marsh on the bank of the river opposite the fort as possible. The Passaic got very near the piles, and in an excellent spot to bombard the earthwork. This ship was the only one to get above the Confederate range marker; in fact the Passaic got so far up the river that the traverses of the fort were little protection to the garrison.<sup>57</sup>

Fort McAllister fired on these ships as soon as they came within range, about 8:45. The Confederate gunners had learned from previous experience with the Montauk that it useless to attempt to injure ironclads by directing their guns against the plating of thick iron; accordingly they reserved their fire, aiming at the ports of the monitors when they were open for firing.<sup>58</sup>

The guns of the fort directed practically all their attention toward the foremost ship, the Passaic, firing only a scattering of shot at the others, and then only with a mortar that was located in the woods near the battery, and a few rifles. In spite of the fact that the other ironclads were practically unmolested, they did not fire calmly and deliberately as they might well have done under the circumstances, but instead fired rapidly and wildly. So safe was their position that some of the crew of the hindermost ship, the Nahant, stood on deck to watch the fight. On the whole, the

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57 Ibid., 717-718, 724-725, 730-731; Jones, Chatham Artillery, 126  
 58 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 126-127.

the ironclades fire was far from accurate, most of the shots passing  
59  
completely over the fort.

In another regard, the Confederates had profited from the attacks of the Montauk at earlier dates, as it was found to be the habit of ships of its class to stay as near the marsh as possible and still keep a position near the obstructions. Lieutenant E. A. Elarbee with a group of volunteer riflemen had stationed themselves along the marsh and worried the ships from behind. As the ports were opened on this side for reloading of the guns, the presence of the sharpshooters gave the Federal considerable trouble. It was believed that they were successful in shooting one of the Union officers who hap-  
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pened to be on deck observing the effect of the firing.

The bombardment continued until 3:30 p. m. when Captain Drayton gave the signal to retire; the Nahant obeyed, but it appeared that the Patapsco either had not heard the signal or had not seen the flag. Finally, however, it was seen that she was aground, but later, unassisted, she freed herself and steamed downstream in the  
61  
wake of the other ships. All the vessels withdrew with the exception of the two mortar schooners Para and Norfolk Packet which kept up  
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the shelling throughout the night.

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59 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 720-721, 729-731.

60 Report of Capt. John McCrady, engineer-in-chief, District of Savannah, ibid., 732.

61 Report of Com. Azmen of the Patapsco, March 3, 1863, ibid., 721 abstract of log of Passaic, ibid., 720

62 Abstracts of logs of Para and Norfolk Packet, ibid., 724-725; Savannah Republican, March 5, 1863.

The Passaic had been struck thirty-one times but was not seriously damaged. The main injury was caused by the concussion of her fifteen-inch gun which broke all the bolts holding the sides of the box to the turret. The Patapsco was struck only once and received no injury. The Nahant was not hit at all during the fight; her own guns gave far more trouble than did those of her enemy. On the thirty-ninth fire of the eleven-inch gun, it broke its yoke near the port trunnion and was disabled; the fifteen-inch gun, on its twentieth fire, lost the brass guides on the after part of the carriage, but the piece was not disabled.

"In the fort," according to Lieut. Col. C. C. Jones, Jr., Confederate artillery officer and eminent Georgia historian, "everything was characterized by deliberation, and consummate bravery." During the long engagement, the parapets had been greatly damaged; "considerable havoc was made in the sand banks in the fort, and the quarters of the men were almost entirely demolished. The officers' quarters received two or three shots, but suffered no material damage. Inside the fort, and to the rear and left of it for half a mile, the earth was dug up into immense pits and furrows by ... shell and shot" from the guns of the Federal vessels. Perhaps the greatest damage, however, was in the destruction of

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63 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 126-127; Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 719-720.

64 Report of Com. Ammen of the Patapsco, March 3, 1863, ibid., 720-721.

65 Report of Com. Downes of the Nahant, March 3, 1863, ibid.,

66 In Chatham Artillery, 127

67 Savannah Republican, March 11, 1863, quoted, ibid., 152

68

the carriage of the eight-inch columbiad.

Several of the garrison were injured, but the only life

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lost was that of the fort's pet Tomcat. Negroes could not be worked in the repair of the damage during the night because of the intermittent bombardment from the mortar boats, so it was necessary for a working crew to be detailed from the sharpshooters. These men, and their officers, under the direction of Captain McAlpin, had the damage completely repaired by morning. Fresh ammunition had been sent out from Savannah, and the fort was in as good condition to repel an attack as she had been the day before.

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In the morning, probably to their considerable astonishment and dismay, the Federal officers beheld the reconstructed earth-work awaiting a continuance of the attack and showing no sign of the terrific bombardment to which it had been subjected the day before. If they had planned to renew the attack, and they had given every indication that such was their intention, this sight made them realize that it would be of no avail, for their guns could not destroy the earthen walls of this fort beyond repair and the severest bombardment could not break the spirit of the gallant defenders.

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After the concentrated attack of March 3, Admiral DuPont

- 68 Report of Captain McCrady, March 3, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 730-731.  
 69 Savannah Republican, March 11, 1863.  
 70 Report of Capt. McCrady, March 3, 1863, loc. cit.  
 71 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 126

had sent the following communication to Captain Drayton:

As nothing will be gained by renewing the attack, you will therefore withdraw the Passaic and the other vessels from Ossabaw, returning to this anchorage [Fort Royal], leaving only the Seneca and the Dawn.<sup>72</sup>

The Savannah Republican of March 7, 1863, reported that all the ironclads had left the Sound and also related that drum beats had been heard on Ossabaw Island the day before; that, coupled with the fact that reports of heavy guns had been heard from the same direction, suggested the ceremonial of a military funeral. It was the belief of the Savannah Republican's correspondent that the sounds represented the last rites for the Federal officer whom the Confederate sharpshooters claimed to have hit during the attack of March 3.

Brigadier-General Hugh W. Mercer, in general orders, highly praised the garrison of Fort McAllister and called upon all his troops to "follow their heroic example." Furthermore, he would earnestly solicit the general commanding the Department to direct that "Fort McAllister March 3, 1863" be<sup>73</sup> inscribed on their flags.

So spectacular and important was the success of Fort McAllister in repulsing the ironclads, that the Confederate Congress

72 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 726.

73 MS General Orders, No. 21, Headquarters District of Georgia Savannah, March 9, 1863, The original is in the Georgia Room, Confederate Museum, Richmond, Virginia. Miss Susan B. Harrison, House Regent of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, Richmond, kindly furnished the writer with a transcription of this material.

on May 1, 1863, approved the following resolution:

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do resolve, That the thanks of the Congress are due, and are hereby tendered, to the officers and soldiers engaged in the defense of Fort McAllister, Georgia, on the first of February and third of March last, for the gallantry and endurance with which they successfully resisted the attacks of the ironclad vessels of the enemy. 74

Following the attack of March 3, the fort was improved by the best engineers in the district; it was particularly strengthened in its rear defenses. In the late fall of 1864, the armament of the fort consisted of one ten-inch mortar, three ten-inch columbiads, one eight-inch columbiad, one forty-two pounder, one thirty-two pounder (rifled), four thirty-pounder guns (smooth bore), one twenty-four pound howitzer, two twelve-pound mountain howitzers, two twelve-pound Napoleon guns, and six six-pound bronze field guns. Fort McAllister fairly bristled with guns, yet never again did she have to defend herself from the attack of ships.

On nine different occasions Fort McAllister had faced the enemy in the Great Ogeechee river and as many times had repulsed them. Through long hours of terrific bombardment, her garrison had stood faithfully and fearlessly at their guns and returned the enemy's fire. Federals and Confederates alike had come to respect her walls of sand and the remarkable grit of her defenders.

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74 J. D. Richardson (comp.), A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Confederacy. 2 vols. (Nashville, 1868), I, 339.  
 75 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 138.

Another of the guns at Fort McAllister

Showing behind it the brick-like formation of mud, in all probability marsh mud. This is taken from a contemporary photograph used in the Review of Reviews' Photographic History of the Civil War (New York, 1911), vol. III, p. 225. It was rephotographed by Hoffman Art Studio, Savannah, Ga. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

## Chapter IV

### THE TRIUMPH OF THE GOOD EARTH

At the beginning of the war, great importance had been attached to the city of Savannah. A city of only about 25,000 population, it was nonetheless one of the greatest cotton ports of the South and a leading city and one of the cultural centers of the Old South. Particularly would it be valuable to the Confederacy as a refuge and base for the blockade-runners, as a strong fortress guarded the entrance to Savannah's harbor, and numerous inlets, rivers and creeks through the outlying marshes afforded so many avenues to the city and convenient grounds on which to play hide and seek with the ships of the blockading squadron.

However, with the recapture of Fort Pulaski, at the mouth of the Savannah River, by the Federals on April 11, 1862,<sup>1</sup> blocking the port of Savannah and cutting it off from the sea, the city's importance was materially lessened. Proof of this lies in the fact that, though the Federals held Pulaski, had a concentration of their ships in surrounding waters, and both a naval and military base at Hilton Head, no attempt was made upon Savannah. Brigadier-General W.H. C. Whiting, C. S. A., in writing of the possibility of an attack on Savannah, said: "I do not see that they [the Federals] would gain much, even should.

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1 For the most reliable and most detailed accounts of the thrilling and significant capture of this impressive brick fort, see Q.A. Gillmore, Official Report to the United States Engineer Department, of the Siege and Reduction of Fort Pulaski, Georgia (New York, 1862), passim; Official Records (Armed), Ser. I, Vol. 132-167; New York Daily Tribune, April 19, 1862



they take Savannah, since they already hold the port of that city and Fort Pulaski, while they might lose a great deal. . .<sup>2</sup> In another letter, he wrote: "It could have no possible effect on the war if they were to take it [Savannah]."<sup>3</sup> He held the belief that any apparent attempt to take Savannah would in reality be a ruse to get the Confederates to remove troops from some strategic point.

Although the defense and retention of Savannah was now of minor importance to the Confederate cause it was still of utmost concern to the people of the city and its back country. Hereafter those defending the city of Savannah fought primarily in protection of their firesides rather than participating in any movement likely to influence the destiny of the Confederacy as a whole. The early attempts to take Fort McAllister were not made with the capture of Savannah as an objective, but rather to gain control of the piling obstructions in the river and to pursue and destroy blockade running ships known to be lurking upstream.

It might be said that all of the naval attacks on Fort McAllister were conducted for this general purpose. The Nashville had been known to be in the river for some time, and several

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<sup>2</sup> Whiting to Secretary of War James A. Seddon, March 2, 1863, in Official Records (Armies), Ser. I, Vol. XVIII, 904.

<sup>3</sup> Id. to Maj. Gen. [S. G.] French, February 3, 1863, ibid., 868.

attempts had been made to pass McAllister and destroy the blockade-runner and destroy her before the holocaust of February 28, 1863. Admiral DuPont had not yet heard of the destruction of the Nashville when he ordered Captain Drayton to make what proved to be the final naval attack on the fort, and in his letter to the captain he made it known that the purpose of the attack, aside from testing the new Armed Armed, was to capture the Nashville if the fort could be taken.

As the Nashville was of no use to the Confederates while it cooped up in the Great Ogeechee and at the same time could do no harm to the Federals, blockading of the river was sufficient action. This being the case, Fort McAllister was of no great importance except as a laboratory in developing the science of warfare. As such, for more reasons than one, the earthwork on the Ogeechee deserves a permanent place in the annals of warfare.

The very construction of the fort marked the beginning of a new era in fortification. The cheapest of materials had been used in building Fort McAllister, - timber, sand, earth, mud. No particular care had been given to the beauty of the work or to the luxury of the soldiers who were to garrison it. In the eyes, even of most experts, it was markedly inferior to the then modern forts built on a more grandiose scale and more elegantly appointed.

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44 DuPont to Drayton, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 894-895.

In the past, rock or brick usually had been employed in the building of key forts. Fort Pulaski was an excellent example of this type. Many years had been required to build it and hundreds of thousands of dollars had gone into its towering walls of thick masonry; its arched casemates, the acme of beauty and symmetry; its roomy and comfortable quarters. It was thought by the Federal engineers who built it and by the Confederates who held it, to be impregnable. Its garrison felt secure within the shadow of its parapets and the people of Savannah felt safe in the knowledge of its presence.

Fort Pulaski and Fort McAllister represented two extremes in fortification; one the height of the art of the military engineer; the other, merely an earthwork. True superiority could be ascertained only by actual testing under gunfire.

Mighty, impenetrable Pulaski fell into enemy hands after thirty hours of bombardment, failing in its first test, McAllister was put to the test nine times, and nine times successfully withstood the power of the shot and shell directed against her. The new rifled cannon which received its first real trial against Fort Pulaski and which honeycombed the impressive brick walls of that fortress, was used to no avail against the earthen fortification on the Ogeechee.

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5 No longer of any military consequence, Fort Pulaski was established as a national monument by Presidential Proclamation of October 15, 1924, and was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior in 1933. It is now maintained as an educational, inspirational, and esthetic feature and is visited annually by many thousands.

6 See ante, p. 45, n. 1.

The first attempt by an ironclad to take a land fort was made upon Fort McAllister; at the same time a fifteen-inch shell<sup>7</sup> was first used against a fort. Neither this formidable type of vessel nor guns of the new and extremely heavy caliber could bring the "Stars and Bars" from their place above the fort.

The whole secret of McAllister's success, aside from the valor of her garrison, lay in the fact that she was "merely" an earthwork. Against the smooth bore guns of the old model, firing spherical shot, Fort Pulaski was quite as impenetrable as she was thought to be. Such shot would be deflected easily from the massive masonry walls, striking, rebounding, and doing little or no damage. However, a rifle shell, attaining a higher rate of speed and especially shaped to penetrate or bore its way into its target, would not be deflected from these same walls. The brick, being too brittle, did not offer sufficient or proper resistance to this new shell once it had been hurled against the wall and Pulaski fell, a victim of progress.

In building Fort McAllister, the Confederates made use of and, it is believed, unintentionally discovered the value of the material that was to supplant brick and stone in the construction of future fortifications against the weapons of modern warfare. Of the two types of earth used- marsh mud and sand - it was found.

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7 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 116; Soley, op. cit., Battles and Leaders, IV, 28.

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that sand had by far the more resistance. A shell striking a sand parapet was not met by brittle or hard surface but instead was absorbed into the parapet; resistance was by absorption rather than by attempted deflection. Following the worst of McAllister's bombardments, when the parapets were blasted away in places and the traverses were demolished, the damage was quickly repaired merely by shoveling the earth back into place, re-forming the walls and casemates, remounting the guns, and perhaps building additional parapets where they might be needed.

The power of resistance of earth as demonstrated at Fort McAllister won the admiration of military leaders in both the North and the South. It was a triumph of the good earth.

As a naval proving ground, Fort McAllister was of great service to the United States. The first ship that Admiral DuPont tested under the guns of that fort was the U. S. Montauk. Theretofore wooden ships had been used almost exclusively in the Navy; ships of iron were an innovation. As has previously been related, the Montauk, one of the earliest of the ironclads, joined the fleet in Ossabaw Sound and participated in several attacks upon the Genesis Point fort. With the gunboats and mortars engaging the fort from a safe distance, the ironclads had approached to within 1500 yards on more than one of the attacks and had held

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8 Report of Maj. Henry Bryan, A. I. G; C. S. A., in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 635. Ibid.; DuPont to Worden, ibid., 706; Report of Com. Worden, January 27, 1863, ibid., 627; Jones, Chatham Artillery, 116-117.

### Walls of Sand

How the mounds of the fort looked when in perfect condition. The "Walls of Sand" here shown are those that so many times repulsed the Federal fleet. From a contemporary photograph in Review of Reviews' Photographic History of the Civil War (New York, 1911), Vol. III, p. 228. Rephotographed by Heffman Art Studio, Savannah, Ga. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

such a position the entire length of the bombardment, with the fire of the enemy, which they claimed to have been quite accurate, raining down on them. Careful notes were taken on observations made during these attacks and from these notes improvements were made on the Montauk and on the other ironclads then being planned or built.

One of the defects that had been forcibly brought to the attention of those on the Montauk during the first two attacks was the poor quality of metal in the bolts used to hold the plating, and in the plating itself. One of the contemporary Confederate newspapers, in referring to the ironclad Montauk and its crew, said: ". . . on the one hand you see the Abolition troops, encircled by all the invulnerability which Yankee ingenuity is so apt to contrive for the protection of human life, sulking behind and within their iron-casemated turret, and not daring to expose themselves even for one moment to the fire of the fort. . ."<sup>11</sup>

While it is quite true that those occupying the ironclad's turret were safe from the fire of the enemy, they were by no means as safe as the enthusiastic writer pictured them. The concussion of the thirty-two pound shot striking the plates on

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10 Report of engineer of the Montauk, January 27, 1863, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 631.

11 Quoted in Jones, Chatham Artillery, 120.

the outside of the turret caused the large nuts of the bolts to fly loose on the inside of the pilot house and to ricochet at great speed from one wall to another.<sup>12</sup> The men's lives were in constant danger, not from shot or shell but from a part of "their iron-casemated turret".

The plates of the side armor were indented from one to two inches and some of the boltheads were broken. Trouble also was experienced when some of the plates sprung apart as much as three-eighths of an inch; a few cracked or split. On the upper decking, indentations of from one-quarter to one and a half inches were made,<sup>13</sup> ranging in length from three to twenty-two inches.

It was found that, during an engagement, the engine room temperature did not exceed 104 degrees Fahrenheit and that the average was about 103 degrees. The smoke from the guns was forced down into the fireroom and mixed with air by fans and then passed through pipes. Usually the only real damage done in the ironclads was the breaking of glass due to jarring.<sup>14</sup>

Probably the greatest damage suffered by the Montauk during any of her attacks on McAllister was that done by the torpedo struck off Harvey's Out. The explosion took place under the rear

12 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 672-673.

13 Ibid., 630-631.

14 Ibid., 545-546.



of the port boiler, the boat's bottom at this point being very flat. The cast-iron portion of the boiler blow-off-pipe, which section was considered necessary to place between the copper pipe from the boiler and the wrought-iron of the ship's bottom to prevent galvanic action, was completely blown off. The pipe not having a shut-off valve, the water was at liberty to rise into the boat. The ship's bottom was permanently indented to a depth of two and one-half inches for five feet athwart ships and three feet fore and aft. The greatest force of the explosion was beneath a twelve-inch floor; here the floor was cracked for two feet four inches. Aside from this, the twelve-inch and sixteen-inch flooring was warped and torn from its frames. It was recommended that ten days be allotted for repairs, and that in replacing the pipe wrought-iron rather than cast-iron be used so that in a similar accident, it would be less likely to break off.<sup>15</sup>

One feature of construction was the subject of a complaint made at the time of the report of the explosion. Those in the engine room had found themselves when they tried to hurry from their quarters to seek safety from the rising waters. No ready means of escape from this room of the ship had been provided, and it was suggested that this be remedied on the new ironclads.<sup>16</sup>

~~15 Report of board of survey on damage done to Montauk, ibid.,  
707-708.~~

16 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 702.

The incident of February 28, off Harvey's Cut, ended the Montauk's period of testing. When next Fort McAllister was attacked it was to test the newer ironclads Passaic, Fatapsco, and Nahant. The Passaic received practically all of the fire but was not seriously damaged. Three shots made two-inch indentations; several bolts were shot away, and the deck plating was raised one inch. A leak over the hammock room was caused by a shell. On the Passaic, as on the Nahant, some of the damage was done by the concussion of its own fifteen-inch gun. The Fatapsco, which remained out of effective range, was uninjured.

As a result of these experiments, active operations with the ironclads was postponed until certain defects could be corrected. Admiral DuPont sent North for new iron to give each deck of the ships a fresh layer of plates. Heavy timbers were cut to place around the magazines to protect them more effectively. The admiral was also anxious to place on each of the monitors a certain "Submarine torpedo exploder."

Admiral DuPont, in a report to the Secretary of the Navy, summed up the information gained in testing the ironclads by

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- 17 Abstract of log of Passaic, March 3, 1863, ibid., 720; Report of Com. Downes of the Nahant, ibid., 720-721; Report of Lt. Com. Miller of the Passaic, ibid., 719-720.
- 18 Maj. Gen. David Hunter, Commanding Department of the South, to Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, Chief of Staff, in Official Records (Armies), Ser. I, Vol. XIV, 427.

writing: "Whatever degree of impenetrability they might have, was no corresponding quality of aggression or destructiveness as against forts." The slowness of fire of the ironclads, which always gave the enemy gunners time to seek the protection of the bombproofs, and the admirable construction of the fort (referring in each instance to McAllister), kept these ships  
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from being able to destroy it.

Following the attack of March 3, 1863, Admiral DuPont withdrew his ships from the Ogeechee and explained his action on the grounds that unless the fort were to harbor another Confederate ship, its capture was not necessary and of "no  
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practical value." He made no mention of the fact that thus far, through the capture of the fort had been of "practical value," it had been impossible to capture it with the best ships at his command. The withdrawal of his ships was the acknowledgment of the strength and impregnability of Fort McAllister against the ironclads, - it was a triumph for the good earth.

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19 DuPont to Welles, in Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XIII, 543-544.

20 Report of DuPont, March 6, 1863, ibid., 718.

## Chapter V

## LAST BARRIER TO THE SEA

By the fall of the year 1864, the superiority of the Federal resources in man and money had made itself felt. The Confederacy still held Richmond and at least theoretically governed the states of Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. Arkansas and Louisiana were for the most part under a strict military regime, due to the presence of considerable armed forces within their boundaries. A few important seaports were yet in Southern hands and were very well fortified. The blockading squadron, though remarkably efficient, was unable to stop completely all the trade of those ports or to prevent supplies from reaching the Confederate armies. The Confederate outlook was very dark, but they still hoped for European intervention or aid.<sup>1</sup> While they had hope, if only the faintest ray, they continued to fight.

It was in the spring of 1864 that General William T. Sherman began a type of warfare that was intended to devastate the South and to break the spirit and crush the morale of the Confederates. In May, his vast army, which had been lying quiet near Knoxville, Tennessee, was sent in motion. First they appeared at

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1 Report of Sec. of War Edwin M. Stanton, November 22, 1865, in Official Records (Arms), Ser. III, Vol. V, 494.

#### Sherman's Men Dismantling Fort McAllister

After the fall of Savannah, Sherman ordered the dismantling of all forts in the area with the exception of forts Pulaski, Jackson, and Thunderbolt. This picture shows the Federal troops at work. From a contemporary photograph in Review of Reviews' Photographic History of the Civil War (New York, 1911), Vol. III, p. 235. Rephotographed by Hoffman Art Studio, Savannah, Ga. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

Dalton, Georgia; then they seized Resaca; after which the army circled toward Dallas, Georgia, and threw the enemy off by subsequently moving to Acworth thereby reaching Allatoona Pass. The Georgia Campaign had begun.

Crossing the Chattahoochee river, Sherman's army broke the Augusta road. After some trouble with the force of Confederate General John B. Hood, the invaders succeeded in capturing Atlanta, an important railroad center, which they proceeded to destroy. On the fifteenth of November, the march was resumed with a point on the coast - Savannah, as later events proved - as the destination.<sup>2</sup>

Sherman's army marched in four columns. The IV and XVII Army Corps, under Major-General O. O. Howard, formed the Right Wing; the XIV and XX Corps, formed the Left Wing, under Major-General H. W. Slocum, with an aggregate strength of 60,000 in infantry. The cavalry division, commanded by Brigadier-General Judson Kilpatrick, numbered about 5,500; and the artillery was composed of about sixty-five guns.<sup>3</sup>

As this host advanced, they laid waste a strip of Georgia sixty-five miles wide. They carried away all the cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry they could find. They foraged their horses and other livestock in the rice fields after reaching the

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Sherman's General Orders No. 68, quoted *ibid.*, 509.

3 Report of Sherman to Maj. Gen. Halleck, Chief of Staff, January 1, 1865, in Official Records (Arms), Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 7.

### The Spoils of Victory

Sherman's men are shown removing a 10-inch columbiad from Fort McAllister. The heavy guns were all taken to Hilton Head, South Carolina. From a contemporary photograph in Review of Reviews' Photographic History of the Civil War (New York, 1911), Vol. III, p. 235. Rephotographed by Hoffman Art Studio, Savannah, Ga. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

coastal region. They burned houses and villages; stole, pillaged, and destroyed everything that might have been of any use to the Confederates. Sherman, in reporting on the march to the sea, wrote: "I estimate the damage done to the State of Georgia and its military resources at \$100,000,000; at least \$20,000,000 of which has inured to our advantage, and the remainder is simple waste and destruction." He admitted that this was a "hard species of warfare," then attempts to justify his action by adding, "but it brings the sad realities of war home to those who have been directly or indirectly instrumental in involving us in its attendant calamities."<sup>4</sup>

However cruel the march of destruction was to the South, it met with approval in the North. Major-General Henry W. Halleck, Chief of Staff, commended Sherman; "Your mode of conducting war," he wrote, "is just the thing we now want. We have tried the kid-glove policy long enough."<sup>5</sup>

In early December, the army reached the vicinity of Savannah, and proceeded to invest it. There were only five approaches to the city; two railroads, and the Augusta, the Louisville, and the Ogeechee dirt roads. Each of these was commanded by Confederate ordnance which was felt to be too heavy for Sherman's light field pieces to challenge to a duel. Another reason that

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>5</sup> Halleck to Sherman, September 26, 1864, Official Records (Arms) Ser. I, Vol. XXXIX, Pt. 2, p. 480.



Sherman did not hastily advance on Savannah was the fact that he had no knowledge of the strength of the Confederate forces stationed there.

For these reasons, then, Sherman ordered his troops to keep their positions and not to make any advance until he had established contact with the Federal Fleet, which he expected to find in Tybee, Wassaw, or Ossabaw sounds.

Even at this time, Savannah was practically blocked up. Slocum had cut the Charleston Railroad and occupied the river bank, breaking the Confederate communication with the ships. The right flank of Howard's Division had broken the Gulf Railroad at Flemmings and at Ways Station. All the usual avenues of supplies to Savannah had been closed.

The Right Wing of the army was in the Ogeechee sector, and with it was Sherman. As the supplies of his army were running very low, it was of the utmost importance that he make connections with the fleet, and his whole time was devoted to that end. As he was on the Ogeechee river and as this stream came close to the rear of his camps, he regarded it as the "proper avenue of supply."<sup>6</sup>

Fort Mollister was, as Jefferson Davis later wrote, ". . . a serious obstacle in his way" General Howard, under

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<sup>6</sup> Report of Sherman, January 1, 1865, *ibid.*, Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 10; Sherman, Official Account of His Great March Through Georgia and the Carolinas (New York, 1865), 76-77.

<sup>7</sup> In The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government, 2 vols. (New York, 1861), II, 572.

the direction of Sherman, sent Captain Henry Duncan, one of his best scouts, with two men in a canoe to pass beneath the guns of McAllister at night and to establish contact with the fleet in Ossabaw Sound. Sherman then sent Kilpatrick to cross the river on a pontoon bridge and reconnoiter Fort McAllister, proceeding afterwards to Saint Catherines Sound, in the direction of Kilkenny Bluff, to attempt the signalling of the ships in that section. It was determined that the capture of the fort would be too great a task for the cavalry so the details of its capture were turned over to General Howard,<sup>8</sup> to be accomplished with infantry.

Kings Bridge over the Great Ogeechee had been burned by the retreating Confederates; before infantry could cross the river considerable repairs were necessary to the bridge. The men of the Fifty-eighth Indiana Regiment, commanded by Colonel George P. Buell and working under the direction of Captain Charnsey B. Reese of the Engineer Corps, completed work on it<sup>9</sup> in three days.

On December 12, 1864, an attempt was made to feel out the guns of Fort McAllister. A section of Captain Francis DeGress's light battery, located near Dr. Cheves rice mill on the left bank of the river, opened fire on the fort at long

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<sup>8</sup> Report of Sherman, January 1, 1865, in Official Records (Armies), Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 10.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

range. The fort replied to the fire, but it was believed that  
 no damage was done to either side.<sup>10</sup> The rice mill was located  
 about two and one-quarter miles from the fort in a direct line,  
 although the many curves and loops in the river made the distance  
 about five and a quarter miles by water.<sup>11</sup>

General Howard selected Brigadier-General William B. Hazen  
 to lead the assault on Fort McAllister with the Second Division  
 of the XV Army Corps. On the morning of December 13, 1864, at  
 daybreak, they crossed the river and took up the march to Gene-  
 sis Point.<sup>12</sup>

Fort McAllister, at this time, mounted twenty-one guns and  
 a mortar. Since the naval attack of March 3, 1863, her rear  
 defenses had been greatly strengthened. An Abatis had been cut  
 from nearby trees and placed in the ditch surrounding the fort,  
 Sub-terra shells were buried at various spots near the fort and  
 particularly in the glacis.<sup>13</sup>

As a result of the retreat of the Confederate infantry  
 under the command of Colonel John C. Fiser, which had been  
 bothering the advance of the column commanded by Major-General  
 P. J. Osterhaus, and the withdrawal of the Confederate cavalry

- 10 Jones, Siege of Savannah, 119  
 11 Scaled by the author from Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army  
 Tactical Map, Controlled Reconnaissance Sheet 789-N-II-E/2  
 (Ossabaw Sound Quadrangle).  
 12 Sherman's Report, January 1, 1865, in Official Records (Army)  
 Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 10.  
 13 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 138; George W. Nichols, The Story  
 of the Great March; from the Diary of a Staff Officer  
 (New York, 1865), 89-92.

### THE Abatis of Fort McAllister

A very good picture of the abatis which was placed in the dry ditch or moat in the rear of the fort to ward off a land attack. The grass-covered walls on the left are those that Hazen's men had to scale under the fire of the fort. From a contemporary photograph in Review of Reviews' Photographic History of the Civil War (New York, 1911), Vol. III, p. 231. Rephotographed by Hoffman Art Studio, Savannah, Ga. Negative in files of Fort Pulaski National Monument.

under Colonel Arthur Hood in the direction of Liberty County,  
 Fort McAllister, by December 11, was completely isolated.<sup>14</sup>

This had been expected and ample preparations had been made for subsisting the garrison. On December 8, thirty-two days' supplies had been stored in the fort and on the following day supplied sufficient for fifteen more days were added.<sup>15</sup>

The fort was garrisoned by the Emmett Rifles, Captain George A. Nicoll; Clinch's Light Battery, Captain M. B. Clinch; Company D, First Regiment Georgia Reserves, Captain Henry; and Company E, First Regiment Georgia Reserves, Captain Morrison. Major George W. Anderson, commanding officer, had altogether about one hundred and fifty men in his command.<sup>16</sup>

When about a mile from the fort, the Federal troops captured a Confederate picket who told them the location of the torpedoes that had been placed in the nearby woods. When these had been removed, the division continued its advance.<sup>17</sup>

In the early afternoon - about one o'clock - the fort was invested.<sup>18</sup> As Hazen wished to use parts of all three of his brigades, there was some delay in making arrangements for the attack. Three regiments finally were selected from each

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14 Jones, Siege of Savannah, 107; Id., Chatham Artillery, 138-139.

15 Jones, Chatham Artillery, 139, n.

16 Jones, Siege of Savannah, 128.

17 Cox, March to the Sea, 53.

18 Nichols, Story of the Great March, 89

brigade to make the assault. At 3:30 the Federal forces closed in on the fort; the brigade under Colonel W. S. Jones on the left flank, that under Colonel John M. Oliver in the center, and that under Colonel Theodore Jones on the right flank.<sup>19</sup>

General Sherman, watching the movements with General Howard from the roof of Cheves rice mill, became impatient as the sun set and signalled Hazen that "he must carry the fort by assault, to-night if possible."<sup>20</sup> Hazen's sharpshooters had been placed behind the trees that the Confederates had felled for the purpose of getting the branches for use in construction of the abatis.<sup>21</sup> As all the guns of the fort were mounted en barbette,<sup>22</sup> the gunners of the garrison were exposed to these riflemen.

At 4:30 the signal was given to advance and the line tightened and closed in on the fort.<sup>23</sup> McAllister's guns were scarcely any use in repelling a land attack, and as the fort was not equipped and had not been intended to repulse other than a naval attack, the earthwork offered little resistance to the advancing column. The abatis had not extended below the high water mark and the tide being low at the time, many of the troops were able to pass around it; others had to break through this outer defense.<sup>24</sup> The sub-terra shells in the glacis exploded and killed some of the

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19 Cox, March to the Sea, 53-54.

20 Nichols, Story of the Great March, 89

21 Sherman's Report, Jan. 1, 1865, in Official Records (Arms) Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 10.

22 Pollard, Lost Cause, 613.

23 Itinerary of the Union Forces, Nov. 1-Dec. 13, 1864, in Official Records (Arms), Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 27.

24 Cox, March to the Sea, 54.

Plan showing position of Gen. Hassen's Brigades around Ft. McAllister.  
A reproduction of the original field plan is in the War of the Rebellion: A Com-  
pilations of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Ser. I,  
Vol. XIV, p. 112.

attacking force, but despite these difficulties, the flags of the nine regiments were planted on the ramparts of the fort only ten minutes after the signal to charge had been given.<sup>25</sup>

The fighting on the parapets then became fierce. Though many times outnumbered, the brave garrison would not surrender. "We fought the garrison through the fort to their bomb-proofs, from which they still fought, and only succumbed as each man was individually overpowered."<sup>26</sup> This was the Federal report and it tells the whole story of the bravery of these men who held honor above life itself.

A fine example of their spirit and grit was presented by Captain Clinch who, though severely wounded, held off several Federal soldiers for a time and was taken only when, after receiving eleven wounds, he was sinking exhausted to the earth.<sup>27</sup>

The Confederate loss was 48 killed and wounded, the Federal, 134. Colonel W. S. Jones had fallen at the beginning of the advance and his command had been taken by Colonel James S. Martin of the 111th Illinois.<sup>28</sup>

Just before Lasen had begun the attack, Sherman from his lookout position had sighted a ship coming up the Ogeechee. It

25 Itinerary of the Union Forces, Nov. 1-Dec. 15, 1864, in Official Records (Arms), Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 27.

26 Jones, Siege of Savannah, 129.

27 Ibid., 127

28 Cox, March to the Sea, 54-55



25

proved to be the Federal tug Dandelion; Captain Duncan, the scout,  
 30  
 had reached the fleet. With the capture of Fort McAllister,  
 Sherman's great campaign came to a close. He had marched through  
 Georgia to the sea. McAllister had been the last barrier between  
 31  
 him and his goal; with its fall came his crowning success.

The fort on Genesis Point that had for so long defied the  
 power of the Federal Navy, in a final burst of glory, had fallen,  
 32  
 and the Confederacy had made its last stand in Georgia.

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After the war, Fort McAllister was forgotten and its sturdy  
 sand parapets grew over in grass. Trees took root in the earth of  
 its bombproofs. Leaves and dirt threatened to fill its moat com-  
 pletely. For years it stood thus, -- its gun mounts empty, its  
 usefulness past, and its glorious history all but forgotten.

In recent years, Genesis Point has passed into the ownership

- 29 Sherman, Official Account of His Great March, 78; Cox, March to the Sea, 54
- 30 Official Records (Navies), Ser. I, Vol. XVI, 129.
- 31 On December 15, 1864, Major-General Peter J. Osterhaus ordered Brigadier-General Hazen to garrison Fort McAllister with a regiment of about three hundred men, for the purpose of putting it into complete order again. The same day, Hazen was ordered by Captain S. L. Taggart, A. A. G., by order of Maj. Gen. C. C. Howard, to dismount two of the 32-pounder rifled guns, and to place them on the river bank for shipment the following day to King's Bridge. It is apparent that the Federals planned to use McAllister as a Federal Fort. The explanation of the moving of several of the guns is in the fact that it was believed they would be needed in taking Savannah. However, Savannah was evacuated quietly by Hardee's forces, and on Jan. 1, 1865, Sherman stated that, with the exception of forts Pulaski, Jackson and Thunderbolt, all the ex-Confederate forts would be "dismantled and destroyed," and their heavy ordnance would be sent to the Federal base at Hilton Head, S.C., where it would be guarded. -- Official Records (Armies), Ser. I, Vol. XLIV, 13, 717.

of Mr. Henry Ford as part of his extensive holdings in Bryan County, and under his direction the fort is now being reconstructed. On July 28, 1938, the writer visited Fort McAllister, through courtesy of the Ford Farms management, and observed the work of reconstruction. A large oven-like structure, which the writer believes to be the hot-shot furnace has been unearthed near the left flank. Several of the bombproofs have been completely rebuilt and on the day of the visit a crew of Negroes was at work on another.

Apparently every effort is being made toward a faithful restoration. Timbers are carefully measured before they are replaced or new ones in replica are installed and great care is being taken to place them in original locations. A number of miscellaneous relics found on the grounds and within the fort structure, from a growing collection of considerable interest to the historian.

This the gallant fort on the Ogeechee promises in this twentieth century to assume again the appearance she had when, manned by valiant men, in America's troubled years of the nineteenth century, she held the passage of the Great Ogeechee river against all comers.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

SOURCE MATERIALMANUSCRIPTS

The following manuscript muster rolls, pay rolls, bounty rolls and pay rolls pertaining to Fort McAllister are in the Library of the Georgia Historical Society (Public Library, Hodgson Hall Branch), cor. Whitaker and Gaston sts., Savannah, Ga.

No. 306 C. S. A., Fk. 2-D ; Oct. 30, 1862; Muster and Pay Roll of the Emmett Rifles, September 1-October 31, 1862. Complete roll. (One manuscript sheet)

No. 18 C.S.A., Fk. 2-C; Muster Roll and Pay Roll of Hospital Department, Ft. McAllister, J. B. Wiggins, Asst. Surgeon, April 30, 1863. Three names; Private J. E. Meldrim, steward; Private William Jones, nurse; and William Wiggins (Not enlisted or enrolled), colored cook. (Single manuscript sheet)

No. 36 C. S. A., Fk. 2-A; Bounty Roll and Receipt, Detachment of Company C, First Georgia Regiment of Volunteers, Captain W. D. Dixon, commanding; enlisted at Fort McAllister, July 1, 1863 for three years or duration of the war: James M. Ashfield, Oscar W. Reid, and James L. Legett. (Single manuscript sheet)

No. 37 C.S.A., Fk. 2-A; Bounty Roll and Receipt, Detachment of Company C, First Georgia Regiment of Volunteers; William D. Weaver, enlisted October 12, 1863. (Single manuscript sheet)

No. 38 C.S.A., Fk. 2-A; Bounty Roll, Company E, 12th Georgia Battalion, Captain J. J. Newsome, Oct., 1863. Lists the names of men enlisting at Fort McAllister, Aug. 15 - Oct. 1, 1863, for the duration of the war, each recruit receiving a bounty of fifty dollars. They were: J. S. Armstrong, W. M. Braswell, P. Clark, E. Crawford, J. A. Curry, J. M. Duggan, E. B. Ely, J. D. Harrison, K. Hallaway, J. P. D. Oliver, W. Pierce, J. I. Renfree, H. T. Turlington, B. W. Veal, D. H. Vinson, and W. D. Walker. ( Single manuscript sheet)

No. 294 C. S.A., Fk. 2-D; Muster and Pay Roll, Company E, 12th Georgia Battalion, September 1-October 31, 1863. Complete Roll. (Single manuscript sheet)

No. 311 C.S.A., Fk. 2-F; October 31, 1863; Company C, First Georgia Regiment of Volunteers (Republican Blues) at Fort McAllister. Complete roll. (Single manuscript sheet).

No. 396 C.S.A., Fk. 1-D; Pay Voucher of Captain J. J. Newsome, commanding Company E, 12th Georgia Battalion, on detached service at Fort McAllister, Feb. 28-Mar. 31, 1863.

## MANUSCRIPTS (cont.)

- No. 170 C.S.A., Pk. 1-A, Pay Voucher, Capt. J. J. Newsome, detached service, Ft. McAllister, April 14-May 14, 1863.
- No. 292 C. S. A., Pk. 1-B, Pay Voucher, Capt. J. J. Newsome, detached service, Ft. McAllister, May 1-31, 1863.
- No. 172 C. S. A., Pk. 1-C, Pay Voucher, Capt. J. J. Newsome, detached service, Ft. McAllister, August 1-31, 1863.
- No. 364 C. S. A., Pk. 1-D, Pay Voucher, Capt. J. J. Newsome, detached service, Ft. McAllister, September 1-30, 1863.
- No. 11 C. S. A., Pk. 1-Q, Pay Voucher, Capt. J. J. Newsome, detached service, Ft. McAllister, October 1-31, 1863.  
(Each of the above pay vouchers of Capt. Newsome is a single manuscript sheet)
- No. 70 C. S. A., Pk. 1-A, Pay Voucher, Lieutenant George W. Peacock, Company E, 12th Georgia Battalion, on detached service at Fort McAllister, March 1-April 30, 1863.
- No. 365 C. S. A., Pk. 1-B, Pay Voucher, Lt. G. W. Peacock, detached service, Ft. McAllister, May 1-31, 1863.
- No. 191 C. S. A., Pk. 1-C, Pay Voucher, Lt. G. W. Peacock, detached service at Ft. McAllister, August 1-31, 1863.
- No. 455 C. S. A., Pk. 1-G, Pay Voucher, Lt. G. W. Peacock, detached service, Ft. McAllister, September 1-30, 1863.
- No. 104 C. S. A., Pk. 1-Q, Pay Voucher, Lt. G. W. Peacock, detached service, Ft. McAllister, October 1-31, 1863.  
(Each of the above pay vouchers of Lt. Peacock is a single manuscript sheet)
- No. 405 C. S. A., Pk. 1-O, Pay Voucher, Lieutenant B. S. Boatright, Company E, 12th Georgia Battalion, on detached service at Fort McAllister, Genesis Point, March 1-31, 1863.
- No. 169 C. S. A., Pk. 1-A, Pay Voucher, Lt. B. S. Boatright, detached service, Ft. McAllister, April 1-30, 1863.
- No. 362 C. S. A., Pk. 1-B, Pay Voucher, Lt. B. S. Boatright, detached service, Ft. McAllister, May 1-31, 1863.
- No. 97 C. S. A., Pk. 1-Q, Pay Voucher, Lt. B. S. Boatright, detached service, Ft. McAllister, September 1-October 1, 1863.  
(Each of the above pay vouchers of Lt. Boatright is a single manuscript sheet).

## MANUSCRIPTS (cont.)

No. 411 C. S. A., Pk. 1-0, Pay Voucher, 2nd Lieutenant James C. Smith, Company E, 12th Georgia Battalion, on detached service at Fort McAllister, March 1-31, 1863.

No. 124 C. S. A., Pk. 1-A, Pay Voucher, 2nd Lt. J. C. Smith, detached service, Ft. McAllister, April 1-30, 1863.

No. 339 C. S. A., Pk. 1-H, Pay Voucher, 2nd Lt. J. C. Smith, detached service, Ft. McAllister, May 1-31, 1863.

No. 12 C. S. A., Pk. 1-C, Pay Voucher, 2nd Lt. J. C. Smith, detached service, Ft. McAllister, August 1-31, 1863.

No. 367 C. S. A., Pk. 1-D, Pay Voucher, 2nd Lt. J. C. Smith, detached service, Ft. McAllister, September 1-30, 1863.

No. 103 C. S. A., Pk. 1-Q, Pay Voucher, 2nd Lt. J. C. Smith, detached service, Ft. McAllister, October 1-31, 1863.  
(Each of the above pay vouchers of 2nd Lt. Smith is a single manuscript sheet).

## TRANSCRIPTIONS OF MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL

1. Capt. Robert Grant, A. A. G & Inspector Genl. to Capt. G. A. Mercer, A. A. Genl. Headquarters of the District of Georgia, Office Assistant Inspector-General, Savannah, Ga., January 28, 1864. MS letter.
1. Favorable report upon inspection of Ft. McAllister, January, 1864. Tells of imminent transfer of Co. E. 63rd Georgia away from the fort, to be replaced by Co. G. of the same regiment.
2. General Orders, No. 21, Headquarters District of Georgia, Savannah, March 9, 1863, MS order.

Order commending the garrison of Ft. McAllister for their defense of the fort March 8, 1863 and stating that the commanding general would be asked to direct that "Fort McAllister March 3rd 1863" be inscribed on their flags.

Both of the above items are manuscripts found in the Georgia Room, Confederate Museum, Richmond, Va. The transcriptions were furnished by Miss Susan B. Harrison, House Regent, Confederate Memorial Literary Society, Richmond, which maintains headquarters at the Confederate Museum.

## PRINTED OFFICIAL RECORDS

1. Candler, Allen D., comp., The Confederate Records of the State of Georgia. 5 vols. Atlanta; Charles P. Byrd, State Printer, 1909-1911.

A compilation of papers from the State Archives, including minutes of the Secession Convention, messages and papers of Governor Joseph E. Brown, and miscellaneous Reconstruction records. Of little value in a study of Ft. McAllister except in furnishing background material.

2. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion. 30 vols. Washington; Government Printing Office, 1894-1921.

Correspondence, orders, returns, and other official records of the Civil War. The following volumes are especially helpful in a study of Ft. McAllister; Series I, Vols. XIII, XIV, XV, and XVI; Series II, Vols. I and II.

3. Richardson, J. D., comp., A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Confederacy. Nashville; United States Publishing Co., 1908. 2 vols.

Volume 1 contains the records of the Provisional congress of the seceded states and of the first Congress of the Confederacy. The only important material with direct bearing on Ft. McAllister is a brief historical sketch placed in the index.

4. Sherman, William Tecumseh, Official Account of His Great March Through Georgia and the Carolinas; From Chattanooga to the Surrendering of Gen. Jos. Johnston. New York; Buncie and Huntington, 1865.

A compilation of the official reports of Gen. W. T. Sherman to the War Department during his Georgia campaign including the march to the sea. Sherman was an eyewitness of the capture of Ft. McAllister.

5. The War of the Rebellion; A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington; Government Printing Office, 1880-1901. 128 vols.

## PRINTED OFFICIAL RECORDS (cont.)

This well-known and voluminous compilation of official records of the Union and Confederate Armies is invaluable in any study of the history of Ft. McAllister. Volumes that are especially pertinent are: Series I, Vol. VI, Vol. XIV, Vol. XXVIII (Pt. 2), Vol. XXXV (pts. 1 and 2), and Vol. XLIV.

6. Willmore, Q. A., Official Report to the United States Department, of the Siege and Reduction of Fort Pulaski, Georgia, February, March, and April, 1862. (Papers on Practical Engineering, No. 8). New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1862.

A source on the capture of Fort Pulaski rather than on any phase of the history of Ft. McAllister. Cited in bibliography because this work is shown in footnote in this study.

## CONTEMPORARY NEWSPAPERS

1. New York Daily Tribune, April 19, 1862.

Description of the fall of Ft. Pulaski by a correspondent who was an eye-witness. Has no McAllister material and is cited in bibliography only because previously cited in footnote.

2. Savannah Daily Morning News, 1861-1863.

Complete file of this newspaper is in the vault of the Savannah Morning News and is available for research.

3. Savannah Republican, 1861-1863.

Incomplete file in Library of the Georgia Historical Society, cor. Whitaker and Gaston sts., Savannah.

## JOURNALS AND DIARIES

1. LeConte, Joseph, 'Ware Sherman; A Journal of three Months' Personal Experience in the Last Days of the Confederacy. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1937. With an introduction by the daughter of the diarist.

Mention is made of the capture of Ft. McAllister but it is so indefinite as to be of little value. Date is given wrong.



## JOURNALS AND DIARIES (Cont.)

2. Nichols, George W., The Story of the Great March; From the Diary of a Staff Officer. New York: Harper and Bros., 1865.

The author was aide-de-camp to General Sherman. Very good as source material for the period of the assault and capture of the fort. A sketch of Ft. McAllister appears on page 92.

## REMINISCENCES AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS PARTLY REMINISCENT

1. Ericsson, John, "The Early Monitors," in Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel (eds.), Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. 4 vols. New York: Century Co., 1884-1888. Volume IV.

Plans and designs of type of construction of monitors. Valuable as background in connection with a study of the attack on Ft. McAllister by the ironclads.

2. Harden, William, Recollections of a Long and Satisfactory Life. Savannah, Privately printed, 1934.

A book of reminiscences bolstered, however, in unusual degree by written records to which Mr. Harden, as librarian of the Georgia Historical Society, had more than ordinary access.

3. \_\_\_\_\_, Recollections of a Private in the Signal Corps, January, 1865 - April, 1865; read before the Confederate Veterans Association, Savannah, Ga., November 3, 1896 (in Confederate Veterans Association, Savannah, Ga., Addresses, 1896).

The title very well describes the contents. Of limited use in regard to McAllister.

4. Jones, Charles C., Jr., Historical Sketch of the Sherman Artillery During the Confederate Struggle for Independence, Albany, N. Y.: Joel Mansell, 1867.

One of the best sources for the Confederate viewpoints in regard to the happenings at McAllister. Jones makes liberal use of quotation of original sources.

Reminiscences (cont.)

5. Jones, Charles C., Jr., The Siege of Savannah in December, 1864, and the Confederate Operations in Georgia and the Third Military District of South Carolina during General Sherman's March from Atlanta to the Sea. Albany, N. Y.: Joel Mansell, 1874.

A very good source on Ft. McAllister, covering both the naval attacks and the final assault. Written from the Confederate viewpoint. The author served as an officer of the Chatham Artillery in the War between the States.

6. Olmstead, Charles H., "Fort Pulaski," in Georgia Historical Quarterly, I, (Savannah, 1917).

No information on Ft. McAllister in this work. It is an account of the fall of Fort Pulaski by the man who was the fort's commanding officer at the time.

7. Rodgers, C. R. P., "DuPont's Attack at Charleston," in Robert U. Johnson and Clarence G. Buel (eds.), Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. 4 vols. New York: Century Co., 1884-1888. Volume IV.

A helpful account, by the chief of staff during the attack.

8. Soley, James Russell, "Minor Operations of the South Atlantic Squadron," in Robert U. Johnson and Clarence G. Buel (eds.), Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. 4 vols. New York: Century Co., 1884-1888. Volume IV.

Useful in a study of the naval operations in the Ogeechee River. The account is well written, and, checking with contemporary sources, appear reliable.

MISCELLANEOUS SOURCE MATERIAL

1. Confederate Souvenir; The Confederate States Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge for 1862, compiled and published by H. C. Clark, Vicksburg, Miss. Reprinted, with additions but same title, at Atlanta, 1896.

Contains a chronology of the war from beginning to January 1862; statistics on states; data regarding stamps, generals and commerce; farewell addresses of generals to their armies; Lee-Grant correspondence; and several Confederate poems of rare beauty.

MISCELLANEOUS SOURCE MATERIAL

2. Freeman, Douglas Southall, comp., A Calendar of Confederate Papers, With a Bibliography of Some Confederate Southern Historical Commission; Prepared Under the Direction of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, Richmond, Va. Richmond; The Confederate Museum, 1908.

Not only a mere catalogue, the notes abstracting some of the items are useful and may be regarded as source material. Contains references to Ft. McAllister.

SECONDARY MATERIAL

General Secondary

1. Anson, Daniel, The Atlantic Coast (in The Navies in the Civil War, II). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1883.

The author was a rear admiral in the U. S. Navy. The entire work shows the knowledge that he has gained through close contact with the ships and men of the Federal Navy. His account of the naval attacks on Fort McAllister is good as secondary material.

2. Cox, J. D., The March to the Sea, Franklin and Nashville (in Campaigns of the Civil War, X) New York: Scribners, 1886.

An account of Sherman's march to the sea, including the assault and capture of Ft. McAllister by the Federal troops, part of Sherman's army.

3. Davis, Jefferson, The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government. 2 vols. New York: D. Appleton, 1881.

A standard general work by the leader of the Confederacy. Volume II contains a brief general account of Hazen's successful assault on Ft. McAllister. Too general and of secondary nature insofar as this particular study is concerned.

## GENERAL SECONDARY MATERIAL (cont.)

4. Evans, Clement A., ed., Confederate Military History; A Library of Confederate States History, in Twelve Volumes; Written by Distinguished Men of the South . . . Atlanta; Confederate Publishing Co., 1899.

Volume VI was written by J. T. Derry who was also the author of School of the United States, Story of the Confederate War, etc. This volume is good as secondary material for a study of Ft. McAllister.

5. Pollard, Edward A., The Lost Cause; A New Southern History of the War of the Confederates; Comprising a Full and Authentic Account of the Rise and Progress of the Late Southern Confederacy -- the Campaigns, Battles, Incidents, and Adventures of the Most Gigantic Struggle of the World's History; drawn from Official Sources, and Approved by the most Distinguished Confederate Leaders. New York; E. B. Treat and Co., 1886.

A general treatment of the final assault on Ft. McAllister. Notwithstanding the confidence expressed in its title, this work is not completely reliable. Hazen's attack is dated December 30 in this account.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES AND NEWS ITEMS IN RECENT NEWSPAPERS  
(Chronologically arranged)

1. No by-line, "The Civil War Story of Fort McAllister," in Savannah Morning News, February 18, 1924.
2. Colquit, Adrian B., "Georgia's Thermopylae," in Savannah Morning News, April 20, 1930. Reprinted in Savannah Evening Press, March 19, 1938.
3. No by-line, "McAllister Flag is Returned Home," in Savannah Evening Press, January 24, 1938.
4. No. by-line, "To change Marker of Ft. McAllister," in Savannah Morning News, November 29, 1937.
5. Wyant, W. K., "Fort McAllister's Defense Among Bravest of All Wars," in Savannah Morning News, November 29, 1937.

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

## DESCRIPTIVE DATA ON FEDERAL VESSELS ATTACKING FT. McALLISTER

Ironclads

U. S. S. MONTAUK, Commander Worden.

Acquisition -- Built by contract with John Eriesson, who delivered her December 13, 1862. Launched at Continental Yard, Green Point, N. Y., October 9, 1862.

Cost ----- \$400,000.

Description -- Class: Screw, steamer; wood and iron; single turret.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 3d; monitor.

Tonnage ----- 750

Dimensions ---- Length 200'; beam, 46'; depth, 11'6".

Draft ----- August, 1864, 11'8"; light, 11'4".

Speed ----- Maximum, 8-1/4 knots.

Engines ----- Two; trunk.

Boilers ----- Two; Martin's patent.

Battery ----- December 20, 1862, one 15-inch and one 11-inch Dahlgren, smooth bore; same May 8, 1863; February 22, 1864, add 2 light 12-pounders smooth bore; August, 1864, add one 12-pounder rifle; November, 1864, removed two light 12-pounders smooth bore; march 22, 1865, same.

Disposition -- Sold at League Island April 14, 1904 to Frank Samuels for \$12,057.

Remark ----- Commissioned, December 14, 1862, at New York Navy Yard. The Montauk was damaged February 28, 1863, by explosion of a torpedo. She assisted in destroying the C. S. S. Nashville. Total cost of all repairs to January 1, 1869, including extra work, was \$237,917.39. Went out of Commission June 9, 1865, at Washington Navy Yard.

(Official Records)(Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 149-150)

## Ironclads (cont.)

U. S. S. MAHANT, Commander Downes

Acquisition ----- Built by contract with Harrison Loring, South Boston, Mass. Launched, October 7, 1862.

Cost ----- \$413,754.24.

Description ----- Class: Screw steamer, single turreted monitor; iron.  
Rate: 4th.

Tonnage ----- 1,875.

Dimensions ----- Length, 159'; beam, 37'8"; depth, 11'10".

Draft ----- August, 1864, 11'8".

Speed ----- 5 knots

Engines ----- Two; monitor type.

Boilers ----- Two; Martin's patent; with 3 furnaces in each.

Battery ----- April 7, 1863, one 15-inch Dahlgren, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore; December 31, 1864, add one 12-pounder rifle and one light 12-pounder; March 2, 1865, similar to that of April 7, 1863.

Remarks ----- Name changed from Mahant, June 15, 1869, to Atlas; changed from Atlas to Mahant August 10, 1869. Commissioned, December 29, 1862, at Boston Navy Yard. August 11, 1865, went out of commission at Philadelphia. Total cost of repairs to January 1, 1869, was \$211,526.57 which includes the cost of rebuilding it by John Roach, from August, 1873, to July, 1874, at a cost of \$89,000.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 153).

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U. S. S. PASSAIC, Captain Drayton.

Acquisition ----- Built by contract with John Ericsson, Green Point, N. Y. Delivered by contractor, November 25, 1862. Launched August 30, 1862.

Cost ----- \$400,000.

Ironclads (cont.)

## U. S. S. PASSAIC (cont.)

Description ----- Class: Screw steamer; single-turreted monitor; wood and iron.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th.

Tonnage ----- 844; 1,875.

Dimensions ----- Length, 190'; beam, 37'8"; depth, 11'10".

Draft ----- December 19, 1862, forward, 10'8"; aft, 11'8".

Speed ----- Maximum, 8 knots; average 4-1/2 knots.

Engines ----- Two.

Boilers ----- Two; Martin's.

Battery ----- October 27, 1862, one 15-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore; December 31, 1864, one 15-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, one 150-pounder Parrott rifle; March 1, 1865, add 1 heavy 12-pounder smooth bore and 1 12-pounder rifle to that of December 31, 1864; June 15, 1865, similar to that of December 31, 1864.

Disposition ----- Turned over 1890-5-5, to the Massachusetts Naval Militia; then to Georgia Naval Militia, 1896-7-8.

Remarks ----- Commissioned November 25, 1862, at New York Navy Yard; went out of commission June 16, 1865, at Philadelphia. She was altered and repaired by John Roach from January, 1874, to July, 1875, at a cost of \$193,740, which is included in the total cost of repairs to January 1, 1889, \$256,142.82.

{Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 170}.



Ironclads (cont.)

U. S. S. PATAPSCO, Commander Ammen.

Acquisition ----- Built December, 1862, at Wilmington, Del., by contract with John Ericsson. Launched September 27, 1862.

Cost ----- \$400,000.

Description ----- Class: Screw steamer; single-turreted monitor; wood and iron.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th.

Tonnage ----- 844; 1,675.

Dimensions ----- Length, 190'; beam, 37'8"; depth, 11'10".

Draft ----- August, 1864, 12'.

Speed ----- August, 1864, 6 knots.

Battery ----- February 11, 1863, one 15-inch Dahlgren Smooth bore, one 150-pounder Parrott rifle; October 18, 1864, add to the preceding 1 heavy 12-pounder smooth bore, and one 12-pounder rifle.

Disposition ----- Sunk by torpedo, January 16, 1865, below Sumter, Charleston, S. C., Commander S. P. Quackenbush, commanding.

Remarks ----- Commissioned January 2, 1863, at Philadelphia Navy Yard. Total cost of repairs, sundries, and extra work was \$26,730.40.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 170-171)

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Gunboats

U.S.S. Dawn, Lieutenant-Commander Barnes.

Acquisition ----- Purchased, October 12, 1861, at New York, from Barston, Pope and Co., by George D. Morgan.

Cost ----- \$35,000

Description ----- Class: Screw steamer; wood.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th schooner.

Gunboats (cont.)

U. S. S. Dawn (cont.)

Tonnage ----- 399.Dimensions --- Length, 154'; beam, 28'10"; depth, 9'8".Draft ----- Loaded, 12'; light, 10'.Speed ----- Maximum, 11 knots; average 8 knots.Engines ----- One; vertical direct-acting.Battery ----- May 6, 1861, two 32-pounders 57 cwt.; one 20-pounder Parrott rifle, two 32-pounder 57 cwt.; May 1, 1863, 1 light 12-pounder, two 32-pounders 57 cwt., one 100-pounder Parrott rifle; March 22, 1863, one 100-pounder Parrott rifle, one 20-pounder Parrott rifle, one 12-pounder Dahlgren.Disposition --- Sold at public auction, November 1, 1865, at Boston Navy Yard, to W. H. Starbuck, by Horatio Harris, for \$20,000.Remarks ----- Chartered at New York for 3 months at \$7,000 per month, April 26, 1861; afterwards purchased. Total cost of repairs while in the Government service was \$16,220.24. Commissioned May 9, 1861.(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 72).

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U.S.S. HURON, Lieutenant-Commander Downes.

Acquisition --- Built by contract at Boston, Mass. Hull by Paul Curtis; machinery by Harrison Loring. Launched there, September 21, 1861.Cost ----- \$101,000.Description --- Class: Screw steamer; gunboat; wood. Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; two-masted schooner.Tonnage ----- 507.Dimensions --- Length, 158', beam, 28'; depth, 12'.Draft ----- October 18, 1864, 10'6".

Gunboats (cont.)

U. S. S. HURAN (cont.)

Speed ----- Maximum, 10.5 knots; average, 7 knots.

Engines ----- Two; horizontal, back action; 1 Sewell's surface condenser. Diameter of cylinder, 18"; stroke, 30".

Boilers ----- Two; Martin's, with 2 furnaces in each boiler.

Battery ----- January 23, 1862, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, one 20-pounder Parrott rifle, two 24-pounder howitzers; March 14, 1862, add 1 light 12-pounder; August 6, 1864, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, one 30-pounder Parrott rifle; four 24-pounder howitzers.

Disposition --- Sold June 14, 1869, at New York for \$13,200.

Remarks ----- Commissioned January 8, 1862, at Boston Navy Yard; went out of commission June 8, 1864. Recommissioned September 26, 1864; went out of commission June 19, 1865. Recommissioned January 8, 1867, and finally went out of commission October 8, 1868.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 105)

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U. S. S. MADGIE, Acting Master Merriam.

Acquisition --- Purchased, October 14, 1861, at New York, N.Y., by George D. Morgan from R. F. Loper.

Cost ----- \$15,000.

Description --- Class: Screw steamer, wood.  
Rate: 4th.

Tonnage ----- 220.

Dimensions --- Length, 122' 10", beam, 22' 7"; depth, 8' 5".

Battery ----- November 9, 1861, one 6-inch 65 cwt., one 30-pounder rifle; March 29, 1862, one 30-pounder and one 20-pounder Parrott rifle; May 4, 1863, one 30-pounder and one 20-pounder Parrott rifle, two 24-pounder broadside howitzers, 1 light 12-pounder smooth bore.

Gunboats (cont.)U. S. S. MADGIE (cont.)

Disposition ----- Foundered, October 11, 1862, off Frying Pan Shoals, North Carolina.

Remarks ----- Total cost of repairs while in the Government service was \$26,924.93.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 131)

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U. S. S. PAUL JONES, Commander Steedman.

Acquisition ----- Built by contract; hull by J. J. Abrahams, Baltimore, Md.; machinery by Reaney, Son, and Archbold, Chester, Pa.

Description ----- Class: Side-wheel steamer; gunboat.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 3d.

Tonnage ----- 863.

Draft ----- August, 1864, 8'.

Speed ----- Maximum, 10 knots; average, 8 knots.

Engines ----- One; inclined, direct-acting, surface condenser.  
Diameter of cylinder, 48"; stroke, 7".

Boilers ----- Two; tubular.

Battery ----- June 26, 1862, one 100-pounder Parrott rifle, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, two 9-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, two 50-pounder Dahlgren rifles, two 24-pounder howitzers; September 23, 1863, one 100-pounder Parrott rifle, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, four 9-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, 1 light 12-pounder; September 10, 1864, remove the light 12-pounder from the preceding; September 30, 1865 add to that of September 10 1864, one 12-pounder smooth bore, and one 12-pounder rifle.

Disposition ----- Sold July 13, 1867, at New York, N.Y., for \$10,000.

Remarks ----- Commissioned July 9, 1862, at Baltimore, Maryland; September 15, 1863, at New York Navy Yard; April 1, 1865, at Boston Navy Yard. Total cost of repairs while in naval service was \$39,017.47.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 171)

Gunboats (Cont.)

U.S.S. POTOMACK, Commander Watnough.

Acquisition ----- Purchased September 25, 1861, at New York, N.Y., by George D. Morgan from H. Haldrege.Cost ----- \$35,000.Description ----- Class: Screw steamer; wood.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; 3-masted schooner.Tonnage ----- 287.Dimensions----- Length, 134'6"; beam, 27'; depth, 8' 9".Draft ----- August, 1864, 11'.Speed ----- Maximum, 10 knots; average 6 knots.Engine ----- One; vertical. Diameter of cylinder, 34"; stroke, 30".Battery----- December 19, 1861, four 32-pounders 57 cwt., one 20-pounder Parrott rifle; May 4, 1863, four 32-pounders 57 cwt., one 20-pounder Parrott rifle, 1 heavy 12-pounder; February 25, 1864, similar to that of December 19, 1861.Disposition ----- Sold at public auction, August 10, 1865, at Philadelphia, Pa., by Samuel C. Cook, for \$7,100.Remarks ----- At New York Navy Yard, December 20, 1861, commissioned; for repairs, out of commission at Philadelphia, August, 1862, and at Baltimore, March, 1864. Recommissioned June 21, 1864. Finally went out of commission June 16, 1865 at Philadelphia. Total cost of repairs while in Government service was \$49,099.76.(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 183).

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U. S. S. SENECA, Lieutenant-Commander Gibson

Acquisition ----- Built by contract with J. Simonson and Novelty Iron Works, New York, N.Y., where she was launched, August 27, 1861.

Gunboats (cont.)

## U. S. S. SENECA (cont.)

Cost ----- \$88,000.Description ----- Class: Screw steamer; gunboat; wood.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; 2-masted schooner.Tonnage ----- 507.Dimensions ----- Length, 158'; beam, 28'; depth, 12'.Draft ----- Loaded, 10' 6"; light, 9'. October 3, 1861  
forward, 8' 5"; aft, 9' 9".Speed ----- Maximum, 11.5 knots; average, 9.5 knots.Engines ----- Two; horizontal, back-action, surface condenser,  
Diameter of cylinder, 3"; stroke, 18".Boilers ----- Two; 2 furnaces each.Battery ----- 1861, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, one  
20-pounder Parrott rifle, two 24-pounder  
howitzers; October 23, 1862, add to the pre-  
ceding 1 light 12-pounder smooth bore; May 18  
1863, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, one  
20-pounder Parrott rifle, two 24-pounder howitzer  
November 5, 1863, add to the preceding two  
24-pounder howitzers; November, 1864, add to  
that of May 18, 1863, one 12-pounder rifle.Disposition ----- Sold, September 10, 1868, at Norfolk, Va., to  
Purvis and Son, for \$9,924.75.Remarks ----- Commissioned, October 14, 1861, at New York  
Navy Yard; finally went out of commission,  
June 24, 1865, at Norfolk Navy Yard. Total  
Cost of repairs while in naval service was  
\$36,682.12.(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 205)

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## U. S. S. UNADILLA, Lieutenant-Commander Collins

Acquisition ----- Hull built by contract with J. Englis and Nov-  
elty Iron Works, New York, N. Y.Cost ----- \$88,000.Description ----- Class: Screw steamer; gunboat; wood.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; 2-masted schooner.

Gunboats (cont.)

U. S. S. UNADILLA (cont.)

Tonnage----- 507.Dimensions ----- Length, 158'; beam, 28'; depth, 12'.Draft ----- September 30, 1861, forward, 9' 3"; aft, 9' 6".Speed ----- Maximum, 8 knots; average, 5 knots.Engines ----- Two; horizontal, back-action, surface condenser.  
Diameter of cylinder, 2' 6"; stroke, 1' 8".Boilers ----- Two; 2 furnaces in each.Battery ----- October 5, 1861, one 20-pounder Parrott rifle, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, two 24-pounder howitzers; October 23, 1862, one 20-pounder Parrott Rifle, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, four 24-pounder howitzers, 1 light 12-pounder smooth bore; June 2, 1863, remove from the preceding 1 light 12-pounder smooth bore; September 30, 1863, similar to that of October 23, 1862; July 31, 1864, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore, one 20-pounder Parrott rifle; October 19, 1864, similar to that of June 2, 1863.Disposition ----- Sold October, 1869.Remarks ----- Commissioned September 30, 1861, at New York Navy Yard, where she went out of commission May 4, 1865. Total cost of repairs while in naval service was \$19,883.73.(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 228)

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U. S. S. WISSAHICKON, Lieutenant-Commander Davis.

Acquisition ----- Built by contract with John Lynn and Merrick and Sons, Philadelphia, Pa., where she was launched, October 2, 1861.Cost ----- \$98,500.Description ----- Class: Screw steamer; gunboat; wood.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; 2-masted schooner.Tonnage-----507.

Gunboats (cont.)

## U. S. S. WISSAHICKON (Cont.)

Dimensions ----- Length, 158'; beam, 28'; depth, 12'.  
Draft ----- Forward, 9'; aft, 10'8".  
Speed ----- Maximum, 10.5 knots; average, 7 knots  
Engines ----- Two; horizontal, back-action, surface condenser.  
Diameter of cylinder, 2' 6"; stroke, 1' 6".  
Boilers ----- Two; Martin's tubular.  
Battery ----- December 30, 1861, one 11-inch Dahlgren smooth  
bore, one 20-pounder Parrott rifle, two 24-  
pounder howitzers; February 21, 1863, one 150-  
pounder Parrott rifle, one 30-pounder Parrott  
rifle, two 24-pounder howitzers, one 12-pounder  
rifle; June 1, 1865, similar to that of Feb-  
ruary 21, 1863.  
Disposition ----- Sold at public auction, October 25, 1865, at  
New York, for \$13,000.  
Remarks ----- Commissioned, November 25, 1861, at Philadelphia  
Navy Yard, where she was delivered to Govern-  
ment, November 12, 1861.  
(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 242)

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Mortar Boats

## U. S. S. C. P. WILLIAMS (Mortar Schooner No. 5)

Acquisition ----- Purchased at New York, September 2, 1861, from  
Job Fallensburgh, by George D. Morgan.  
Cost ----- \$6,000.  
Description ----- Class: Sails; wood,  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; schooner.  
Tonnage ----- 210  
Dimensions ----- Length, 103'8"; beam, 28'3"; depth, 8' 2".  
Draft ----- August, 1864, 9'.  
Speed ----- August, 1864, 10 knots.



Mortar boats (cont.)

U. S. S. C. P. WILLIAMS--Mortar Schooner No. 5 (cont.)

Battery ----- October 19, 1861, two 32-pounders 57 cwt.;  
January 25, 1862, one 13-inch mortar, two 32-  
pounders 57 cwt.; February, 1862, add 2 heavy  
12-pounders smooth bore; May 1, 1863, replace  
12-pounders by one 20-pounder Parrott rifle;  
December 31, 1864, one 13-inch mortar, two 32-  
pounders 57 cwt., one 20-pounder Parrott rifle,  
two 24-pounder smooth bore.

Disposition ----- Sold at public auction, August 10, 1865, at  
Philadelphia, by Samuel Cook, for \$7,100.

Remarks ----- Fitted for naval service by W. H. Webb. Total  
cost of repairs while in the Government service  
was \$25,763.78. Commissioned, January 21, 1862;  
went out of commission, June 27, 1865, at Phil-  
adelphia.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. 11, Vol. 1, 48-49)

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U. S. S. NORFOLK PACKET, Acting Ensign Wood.

Acquisition ----- Purchased September 10, 1861, at New York, N.Y.,  
by George D. Morgan from George E. Goodspeed.

Cost ----- \$12,000.

Description ----- Class: Sailing vessel; wood.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; schooner.

Tonnage ----- 349

Dimensions ----- Length, 108'; beam, 28'2"; depth, 9'8".

Draft ----- August, 1864, 11'.

Speed ----- Maximum, 9 knots; average, 5 knots.

Battery ----- February, 1862, one 13-inch mortar, two 32-  
pounders 57 cwt., two 12-pounder howitzers;  
May 4, 1863, one 13-inch mortar, two 32-pounders  
57 cwt., one 12-pounder boat howitzer; May 24,  
1863, two 20-pounder Parrott rifles, two 32-  
pounders 57 cwt., one 12-pounder rifle; April 1  
1865, add one 13-inch mortar to the preceding.

Disposition ----- Sold at public auction, August 10, 1865, at  
Philadelphia, Pa., by Samuel C. Cook, for  
\$9,100.

Mortar boats (cont.)

## U. S. S. NORFOLK PACKET (Cont.)

Remarks ----- Commissioned February 7, 1862, at New York Navy Yard. Went out of commission July 12, 1865, at Philadelphia, Pa. Altered for naval service by J. Englis at a cost of \$3,286.93. Cost of repairs by Government to January 1, 1863, was \$27,097.54.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 162)

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## U. S. S. PARA

Acquisition ----- Purchased September 9, 1861, at New York, N. Y., by George D. Morgan, from James Bishop and Co.

Cost ----- \$10,5000.

Description ----- Class; Sailing mortar schooner; wood. Mate, rig, etc.; 4th; schooner.

Tonnage ----- 200.

Dimensions ----- Length, 98'; beam, 24'; depth, 9'.

Draft ----- August, 1864, 9'.

Speed ----- Maximum, 12 knots; average, 5 knots.

Battery ----- February 14, 1862, one 13-inch mortar, two 32-pounders 57 cwt.; March 10, 1864, one 12-pounder rifle, two 20-pounder Parrett rifles, two 32-pounders 57 cwt.; December 31, 1864, add one 13-inch mortar to the preceding battery.

Disposition ----- Sold at public auction September 8, 1865, at Boston Navy Yard, to J. C. Osgood, by Horatio Harris and Co., for \$10,300.

Remarks ----- Commissioned February 4, 1862, at New York Navy Yard; went out of commission August 5, 1865, at Boston. December 5, 1861, the Para was selected to be converted into a mortar boat. Total cost of repairs while in service of Government was \$22,555.46. She was altered for naval service by T. Z. Tucker at a cost of \$1,791.16.

(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 170)

Tugboat

U. S. S. DAFFODIL

Acquisition ----- Purchased, in 1862, by Captain Drayton from John Schenck.Cost ----- \$25,000.Description ----- Class: side-wheel steamer.  
Rate, rig, etc.: 4th; tug.Tonnage ----- 173.Dimensions ----- Length, 110'6"; beam, 22'6"; depth, 7'3".Draft ----- 5-1/2 ft.Speed ----- Maximum, 8 knots.Engines ----- One. Diameter of cylinder, 30"; stroke, 6".Boilers ----- One.Battery ----- December 20, 1862, two 20-pounder Parrott rifles;  
March 18, 1864, one 20-pounder Parrott rifle,  
one 20-pounder Dahlgren rifle.Disposition ----- Sold at auction, March 14, 1867, at Savannah,  
Ga., by LaRoche, Bell and Williams, for  
\$5,313.75.Remarks ----- Name changed from Jonas Smith. Cost of re-  
pairs was \$5,345.17.(Official Records (Navies), Ser. II, Vol. I, 70)

## DESCRIPTIVE DATA ON THE C. S. S. NASHVILLE.

Acquisition ----- Seized in the port of Charleston, S. C.,  
in 1861 by the Confederate Government and  
fitted as a cruiser.

Description ----- Class: side-wheel merchant steamer.  
Rig: Brig.

Tonnage ----- 1,221.

Dimensions ----- Length, 215' 6"; beam, 34' 6"; depth, 21' 9".

Battery ----- November 21, 1861, 26-pounder rifles.

Disposition ----- Sold to private parties in 1862 and became  
the blockade runner Thomas L. Wragg. Sub-  
sequently became the privateer Rattlesnake  
and was destroyed by the Federals in  
Ogeechee River in 1863.

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

## CHRONOLOGY OF ATTACKS ON FORT McALLISTER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Federal Vessels or Military units</u>
July 1, 1862	U. S. S. <u>Potomaca</u>
July 29, 1862	U. S. S. <u>Paul Jones</u> U. S. S. <u>Unadilla</u> U. S. S. <u>Turon</u> U. S. S. <u>Madgie</u>
Nov. 2, 1862	U. S. S. <u>Wissahickon</u>
Nov. 19, 1862	U. S. S. <u>Wissahickon</u> U. S. S. <u>Dawn</u> U. S. S. <u>C. P. Williams</u>
Jan. 27, 1863	U. S. S. <u>Montauk</u> U. S. S. <u>Wissahickon</u> U. S. S. <u>Seneca</u> U. S. S. <u>Dawn</u> U. S. S. <u>C. P. Williams</u> U. S. S. <u>Daffodil</u>
Feb. 1, 1863	U. S. S. <u>Montauk</u> U. S. S. <u>Wissahickon</u> U. S. S. <u>Seneca</u> U. S. S. <u>Dawn</u> U. S. S. <u>C. P. Williams</u>
Feb. 27, 1863	U. S. S. <u>Seneca</u>
Feb. 28, 1863	U. S. S. <u>Montauk</u> U. S. S. <u>Wissahickon</u> U. S. S. <u>Seneca</u> U. S. S. <u>Dawn</u>
Mar. 3, 1863	U. S. S. <u>Passaic</u> U. S. S. <u>Patapsco</u> U. S. S. <u>Nahant</u> U. S. S. <u>Montauk</u> U. S. S. <u>Wissahickon</u> U. S. S. <u>Seneca</u> U. S. S. <u>Dawn</u> U. S. S. <u>Flambeau</u> U. S. S. <u>Sebago</u> U. S. S. <u>C. P. Williams</u> U. S. S. <u>Norfolk Packet</u> U. S. S. <u>Para</u>
Dec. 13, 1864	2nd Division of XV Army Corps, Brig. Gen. William (?) Hazen.