

**PAPERS OF  
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
VOL. IX**

**OPERATIONS ON THE  
ATLANTIC COAST 1861-1865  
VIRGINIA 1862, 1864  
VICKSBURG**

**THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
CADET ARMORY, FERDINAND STREET, BOSTON  
1912**

**VI  
THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK, APRIL 11-MAY 3 1863  
BY**

**MAJOR AND BREVET BRIGADIER-GENERAL HAZARD STEVENS, U. S. VOLUNTEERS  
Read before the Society March 6, 1906**

**NOTE. The writer was Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General U. S. V. and  
Acting Inspector-General, 3d Division, Ninth Corps, at the Siege of Suffolk.**

**THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK, APRIL 11-MAY 3, 1863**

On May 9, 1862, the Confederates, blowing up the ironclad Merrimac, evacuated Norfolk, Portsmouth, and the surrounding country, and the next day General John E. Wool occupied those places with Union troops.<sup>1</sup> Soon afterwards Suffolk, twenty miles farther out northwesterly, was occupied by General Joseph K. F. Mansfield with some 7000 troops.<sup>2</sup> On September 22 of the same year General John J. Peck took post there with 9000 men and proceeded to fortify the position.  
3

Suffolk was a decayed Southern town of 1395 population, more than half of whom were colored, according to the census of 1860, and was now deserted by most of its inhabitants. It occupied a neck between the Nansemond River and the Great Dismal Swamp. The river, flowing northeasterly, joined the James 20 miles below the town, while the swamp on the south extended its dense jungles and well-nigh impassable morass to the skirts of the village. A ditch, called by courtesy the Jericho Canal, extended from the river past the eastern side of the hamlet and far into the swamp, and afforded navigation for long, narrow canoes, or skiffs, by means of which the cypress ship-knees, shingles, and lumber of that dreary region were brought out to market. The surrounding country is flat, intersected by swampy streams, and half grown up in woods, mostly the Southern pine.

Two railroads traversed the town, the Petersburg and Norfolk and the Roanoke and Seaboard, the latter running from

Portsmouth to Weldon in North Carolina. On the south side the Edenton and Somerton Roads ran south and southwest to  
1 12 W. R. 634. 2 26 W. R. 376.

• 26 W. R. 274, 275. Vol. 8, Navy Records, Map 4, Pl. 26.

#### 198 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

South Carolina, the South Quay Road led west, and the principal street crossed the Nansemond north of the village by a drawbridge and extended northward as the Providence Church Road.

Twenty miles west of Suffolk the Blackwater River flows from north to south and unites with the Chowan which empties into Albemarle Sound . It is a good-sized and deep river, and the Confederates made it their defensive line, fortifying the bridges and crossing-places and holding it with a force of from 3000 to 5000 troops .

Early in February 1863 the Ninth Corps was transferred from the Army of the Potomac opposite Fredericksburg to Newport News,<sup>1</sup> where it encamped on the broad, level plain on the border of James River, then all bare and open, but now covered with the wharves, factories, and buildings of a busy mart of commerce, and enjoyed a brief season of much-needed rest and recuperation. This movement excited the apprehensions of the Confederate authorities for the safety of their capital, and accordingly Hood's and Pickett's divisions of Longstreet's corps were despatched to Richmond from Lee's army in the same month, followed soon after by Longstreet himself, and the three departments of North Carolina, Southern Virginia, and Richmond were placed under that redoubtable commander.<sup>2</sup> Major-General D. H. Hill commanded the first named with 18,899 troops present for duty, including General Whiting's force at Wilmington ; Major-General S. G. French commanded that of Southern Virginia with 7057 troops ; and Major-General Arnold Elzey commanded the Department of Richmond, which included the Peninsula between the James and York Rivers, with 5102 troops. The two divisions of his own corps mustered 13,135, so that Longstreet now commanded 44,196 veteran soldiers, present for duty, but they were defending so widely scattered and important positions that not more than two thirds that number  
226 W. R. 883, 953.

1 26 W. R. 149. 8 26 W. R. 916.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 199

could be concentrated for either defensive or offensive operations.

This arrangement was made not only for defence, but even more for the purpose of gathering up the supplies of meat and corn, horses and forage in the eastern districts of the two states, for the Confederates were already finding it difficult to provide food for their great army of Northern Virginia. Besides, both the rebel government and generals were indulging eager hopes of beating up the Union posts in

those quarters, and inflicting a signally damaging blow upon the Union cause.<sup>1</sup>

On the Union side Major-General John A. Dix commanded the Department of Eastern Virginia with headquarters at Fort Monroe, with 24,131 troops present for duty, and Major-General John G. Foster the Department of North Carolina with 14,672 troops, a total of 38,803, holding widely scattered posts, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fort Monroe, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk in Virginia, and Newbern, Beaufort, Washington, Plymouth, Elizabeth City, and other points in North Carolina. The Union forces were even more extended than the Confederate, and equally hard to concentrate, a difficulty magnified by the exaggerated ideas of the importance of the several positions entertained by the Union generals .

As the transfer of the Ninth Corps to Newport News excited the fears of the Confederates, and caused, or at least hastened, the sending of Longstreet and his troops to the defence of Richmond, so their movement aroused in turn the apprehensions of the Union leaders. Suffolk seemed to be the most exposed and vulnerable post, and around Suffolk therefore clustered the rumors of the impending rebel attack, exaggerated indeed, yet not without foundation. Accordingly the Third Division of the Ninth Corps, commanded by Brigadier-General George W. Getty, was despatched from Newport News to Suffolk, while the other two divisions of the corps

1 26 W. R. 907, 926-27, 933, 942-43. 2 Ibid. 574, 576. • Ibid. 275.

## 200 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

were railroaded to the Mississippi Valley, there to take part in the siege of Vicksburg, the rescue of East Tennessee, and the defence of Knoxville.

The accession of Getty's division raised Peck's force to 14,997 troops, present for duty. They were organized in two divisions of three brigades each, and two regiments of cavalry and six batteries of artillery unassigned to any brigade. The organization of these troops and of those reënforcing the position during the siege is given at the end of this paper.<sup>1</sup> The brigades of Peck's division were commanded by Brigadier-General Michael Corcoran, whose brigade was known as the Corcoran Legion, Brigadier-General H. D. Terry, and Colonel Robert S. Foster. Getty's brigades were commanded by Colonel Harrison S. Fairchild, Colonel Edward Harland, and Colonel Arthur H. Dutton.

General Peck had also two small army gunboats, so called, the Smith Briggs and the West End. They were tug-boats armed with a few field pieces, manned by detachments of the 99th New York, and commanded by Captain John C. Lee and Lieutenant Frederick A. Rowe of that regiment respectively. There was also the Stepping Stones, a naval gunboat, patrolling the river to prevent illicit trade. She was a small ferry-boat, carrying four 12-pounder howitzers, and commanded by Acting-Master Thomas A. Harris .

Longstreet was given a free hand, although under the general command of Lee. Thoroughly impressed with the two objects entrusted to him to achieve, viz., to gather and save the supplies in the exposed districts, and to strike a blow if possible, he reinforced Hill with two brigades and some artillery and ordered him to essay the capture of Washington on the Tar River, at the same time threatening Newbern and other Union posts, and under cover of these movements vigorously to strip the country of the greatly needed supplies .

This last was successfully done, but although Hill closely  
1.26 W. R. 574, 575, 576, 675-77. 2 Ibid. 280. § 8 N. R. 699, 714.

## THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 201

invested the town, planted guns below it, and for a time cut it off from succor, he failed to capture it.

Meantime Longstreet had his eye on Suffolk, and Lee, too, regarded it as a promising prey. The former, in his letter to Lee of March 19, 1863,<sup>1</sup> argues in favor of crushing the Union detachments in the seaboard districts even if the main army under Lee has to fall back temporarily. He remarks that " the enemy has 40,000 men at the lowest estimate between York River and the Cape Fear. I have about the same."

In reality he had 5000 more. In a despatch to Lee two days later he remarks, " I believe that an advantageous battle could be made at Suffolk in the next fifteen days . " 2 Lee on the same day writes his great subordinate, " If, however, you see an opportunity of dealing a damaging blow, or of driving him from any important positions, do not be idle, but act promptly . " 3 On the 27th he writes, " A sudden, vigorous attack on Suffolk would doubtless give you that place. Of the propriety of this step you can best judge. To hold it you must control the navigation of the Nansemond, or the troops from Newport News could soon be thrown upon you. There is a point about six miles below Suffolk where we once had a four-gun battery that was said to be a good position." 4

We shall hear more of this point mentioned by Lee. It was known as Hill's Point, and was situated about six miles below Suffolk and just above the confluence of the Western Branch of the Nansemond, where the stream widens out. There was a bar just below the point with only seven feet of water at high tide. During the first year of the war the Confederates erected a strong earthwork here named Fort Huger and drove a row of piles and obstructions across the river on the bar, which were now broken down.

In reply Longstreet writes, March 30, " There are no particular advantages in giving battle at Suffolk, except that we might do so by rapid movements with a greater force than  
1 26 W. R. 926. 2 Ibid. 933. • Ibid. 933-34. 4 Ibid. 943.

## 202 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG

the enemy could have. This to me would be a novelty and something of a luxury. I am quite satisfied that the enemy could

be drawn from his intrenchments by threatening his rear. Then with a superior force we ought to get the entire force this side of Norfolk." 1 And on April 7 on the eve of starting his expedition he writes, " If I find it practicable I shall get around the enemy's position at Suffolk and endeavor to cut off reënforcements by batteries on the river. I do not propose to do anything more than draw out the supplies from the country unless something very favorable should offer. " 2 This last remark was evidently thrown out to excuse a possible failure, for both his preparations and his efforts during the siege show that he fully expected to strike the desired blow here .

Having decided to move on Suffolk, Longstreet applied to the Confederate Secretary of War for a naval force to close the Nansemond and support his efforts to cross that river, saying, " If the Navy Department can coöperate with us we may be able to capture Suffolk and its garrison," and at his instance Lee earnestly seconded his request. It is curious to observe how the doubts and delays of the Richmond authorities withheld this aid, which might have given them a great and glorious victory. Mallory, the Secretary of the Navy, requests the Secretary of War to cause the obstructions in the James River below Richmond to be opened in order to permit the ironclad Richmond to pass them. That official refers the request to President Jefferson Davis, who returns it for the report of the chief engineer, General J. F. Gilmer. He in turn has the matter examined and reported upon by a subordinate, and nine days after it was submitted to him reports adversely, and " earnestly represents that it will be judicious to make an opening in the James River obstructions only when a second ironclad is on the eve of completion. " 5 By this

1 26 W. R. 950.

\* Ibid. 976-977 .

2 Ibid. 970. • Ibid. 910.

5 Ibid. 1008 .

## THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 203

time, April 20, Longstreet's bold thrust had been parried. Truly such dilatory and judicious opinions do not lead to success in war. At this time the Confederate naval force at Richmond was formidable enough to give Admiral S. P. Lee, who commanded the Union ships at the mouth of the James , a great deal of anxiety. It consisted of the Richmond, built at the Gosport Navy Yard, 150 feet long between perpendiculars and 32 feet beam, armored with 26 inches of iron, oak, and hard pine, and mounting a heavy battery; the Yorktown , also partially ironclad, and five or six smaller gunboats.<sup>1</sup> The Richmond drew but 11 feet, and could have descended the James , and, ascending the Nansemond, have taken position just below Fort Huger, where, supported by land batteries, she could hardly be overcome by any force that the Union Admiral could bring to bear upon her. Admiral Lee had

two ironclads, the Sangamon, of the monitor type, and the Galena, the old wooden frigate Minnesota, two gunboats, and a number of ferry-boats and tugs, armed with a few light guns, and used in blockading the rivers and suppressing the smuggling between Maryland and Virginia. The ironclads could not approach Fort Huger nearer than a mile on account of the shallowness of the Nansemond, the other vessels were no match for the Richmond. Surely the prize within their grasp was well worth the risk of the ship. And how much more glorious to have gone down with the loss of all her crew than to meet the ignoble fate that befell her two years later, when with all her consorts she was destroyed by the Confederates on the evacuation of Richmond, and the crews organized as a naval battalion were a few days later hammered to pieces on a bare hillside on Sailor's Creek by the Sixth Corps artillery and forced to surrender.

By the 6th of April Longstreet had concentrated on the Blackwater an army of 23,000 men and 50 guns, consisting of Hood's and Pickett's divisions and a division commanded by R. S. Meade. 1 8 N. R. 68, 207. 2 Ibid. 699.

#### 204 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG

by General S. G. French, formed for this operation from the troops on the Blackwater and others, and some cavalry and artillery unattached. The organization of the army as nearly as can now be ascertained is given at the end of this paper. On the Confederate side but very few and incomplete returns of the troops, or reports of the campaign can be found.

Crossing the Blackwater on the 9th, Longstreet appeared before Suffolk on the 11th and 12th, driving in the Union outposts and invested the town on the southern and western fronts, establishing his lines two to three miles out and well beyond cannon range. Pickett invested the south side with his headquarters on the Somerton Road, French the west side, where Longstreet established his headquarters on the South Quay Road, and to Hood was entrusted the north side and the river below the town. General French was placed in special charge of all the artillery on Hood's front.<sup>1</sup>

To meet the attack the Union troops were posted as follows : General M. T. Corcoran, commanding the 1st division, held the southern front from Fort Halleck to Fort Nansemond, with General Charles C. Dodge and the 3d brigade, or Corcoran Legion, from Halleck to Union covering the Edenton Road, and Colonel Robert S. Foster with the 2d brigade from Union to Nansemond, covering the Somerton Road. On this front Captain Sullivan commanded Fort Halleck; Colonel McEvily Fort Dix ; Colonel Drake Fort Union ; and Colonel Hawkins Fort Nansemond. General Henry D. Terry held the western front from Fort Nansemond to the river and on the river to Battery Onondaga with the first brigade of the 1st, or Peck's division. On this front Colonel Thorp commanded Batteries Rosecrans and Redan ; Colonel Worth Battery Mansfield ;

Colonel Davis the Drawbridge Battery .

General Getty held the eastern, or inner, front from Fort Halleck to the river, the fortifications of which were scarcely begun. A large part of his division was sent to strengthen  
1 26 W. R. 275-280.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 205

other parts of the lines ; the 2d brigade under General Harland to the south front between Forts Union and McClellan, and two companies of the 10th New Hampshire to Fort Halleck . On the 10th Colonel Arthur H. Dutton, commanding the 3d brigade, was sent with the 4th Rhode Island, 13th New Hampshire, and 103d New York to take post on the Nansemond opposite Hill's Point with orders to fortify the position, open communications with the 21st Connecticut which was throwing up a work on the river three miles below the town, afterwards known as Fort Connecticut, and to hold the line of the river up to the mouth of Jericho Creek in order to prevent any crossing by the enemy. He reached the designated position by midnight ; at daylight commenced work on Battery Stevens, felled trees, threw up rifle-pits along the bank, and Lieutenant George A. Bruce of his staff laid out a road to the position of the 21st Connecticut.<sup>1</sup>

On the first approach of the enemy General Peck precipitately ordered these troops into the town, and abandoned to the navy the defence of this vital line of the river. Only three companies of the 13th New Hampshire were left at Fort Connecticut and six men of the 4th Rhode Island at Battery Stevens to observe the enemy...<sup>2</sup> General Getty was ordered to strengthen the inner line and to have a detachment ready and everything prepared to destroy the bridge of the Roanoke and Seaboard Railroad across Jericho Creek as soon as the enemy appeared on that side. It is clear that General Peck expected to be invested on both front and rear, but the haste and panic in which he abandoned the most and indeed only endangered part of his defences was inexcusable, and came near costing him dear.

On the 13th the 4th Rhode Island and 103d New York were sent to further reënforce General Corcoran's front and were posted on the left of Fort Union. The 9th New York  
1 26 W. R. 316. 2 Ibid. 301-02, 316. 8 N. R. 716.

<sup>8</sup> Writer's personal knowledge.

#### 206 ATLANTIC coast, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

was placed in Fort Nansemond. Colonel Dutton was given charge of the inner line from Fort Halleck to Fort Onondaga. Major Franklin A. Stratton, 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, with a battalion of his regiment, was posted at South Mills on the eastern side of the Dismal Swamp and south of Norfolk, to give notice of any movement of the enemy to the rear by passing around the swamp, but none such was attempted.<sup>1</sup> Admiral Lee, in response to the pressing calls of Generals

Dix and Peck, despatched to the defence of the Nansemond four more gunboats, viz., the Commodore Barney, commanded by Lieutenant William B. Cushing, a ferry-boat of larger size and drawing too much water to cross the bar at Hill's Point, and whose activities were therefore confined to the lower Nansemond ; the Mount Washington, Lieutenant R. H. Lamson, a ferry-boat armed with one 32-pounder and 3 field pieces, the Cohasset, a tug, armed with one 20-pounder Parrott and one 24-pounder howitzer, and the Alert, also a tug, armed with one 12-pounder and one 24-pounder howitzer. On the 12th Lieutenant Lamson steamed up to Suffolk with the Mount Washington and Alert, stationed the former near the drawbridge to command the Providence Church Road, and the latter to flank the batteries near the mouth of Jericho Creek, and sent the Stepping Stones to patrol the river. The Cohasset, delayed by grounding in the lower river, came up to the town late at night.

On the 13th Hood's division closed on the line of the river with sharpshooters, fired on the West End, which was patrolling the stream, and appeared on the Providence Church Road, drawing the fire of the gunboats. Late in the afternoon Lamson descended the river below Hill's Point with the three naval boats, accompanied by Major-General E. D. Keyes, returning from a hasty visit to the imperilled post. On the way down they received a sharp fire from the enemy's skirmishers lining the bank.

1 26 W. R. 276. 28 N. R. 713-14. • Ibid. 716, 718.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 207

The following morning at daylight he returned with the Mount Washington, followed by the army gunboats, the West End and the Stepping Stones . On reaching a point about two miles below the town known as Norfleet's Point he attempted to run past an earthwork thrown up during the night, seeing nothing but infantry behind it, and suddenly encountered the fire of seven guns. The first shot, a 20-pounder rifle , entered the boilers of the Mount Washington, the engines stopped, the vessel drifted against the bank, and the escaping steam drove the crew out of the ship, but they immediately returned, rallied by their gallant commander, and opened fire from all their guns. The West End also grounded. With the Stepping Stones Lamson at last towed both the other vessels away from their dangerous positions, and then proceeded down the river, the Stepping Stones towing the Mount Washington, and the enemy's sharpshooters firing from almost every point. Unfortunately the Mount Washington grounded on the bar below Hill's Point, and at that instant the enemy opened upon the little flotilla with six pieces of artillery in Fort Huger and four from a battery in the woods to the right, cross-firing upon the vessels. The Barney came up to the support of the assailed boats, and a severe fight ensued lasting till 6 P. M. , when the Mount Washington floated on the rising tide, and was towed

out of danger by the Stepping Stones, a battered wreck, having been struck by shot and shell ninety times. The flotilla's loss was six killed and 14 wounded.<sup>1</sup>

Thus far everything favored Longstreet's plan. His artillery had driven the gunboats out of the upper river, the Smith Briggs only remaining. She lay under and protected by the batteries at the town during the whole siege and could be safely neglected. General Peck had abandoned the land defence of the river, and there was nothing to repel a crossing, if the golden opportunity were promptly seized.

General Getty strongly disapproved General Peck's abandonment. 1 8 N. R. 722-25.

208 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, Vicksburg  
donment of the defence of the river. He foresaw that the enemy would try to turn the position by crossing below the town, and was most anxious that the stream should be defended. The noise of the artillery on the morning of the 14th, when the gunboats were driven out, so increased his anxiety that he felt impelled to reconnoitre along the river for himself. Accompanied only by a single staff officer<sup>1</sup> and an orderly, he rode down the right bank, carefully scanning the other side from point to point. Passing across the base of a long, flat, wooded point, which extended out from the right bank, surrounded by the river on three sides, and dominated by the opposite shores, the attention of the little party was attracted by the sound of an axe, apparently at the very end of the point. Leaving their horses with the orderly, the two officers pushed through the timber and dense underbrush to the end of the point, and there, hidden behind the bushes, they beheld just across the river, scarce fifty yards away, four guns in position, two 20-pounder Parrotts and two brass 12-pounders, pointing directly at them, and between and in front of the guns a large detail of rebel soldiers digging furiously and rapidly throwing up a heavy rampart to cover the artillery.<sup>2</sup> After watching these proceedings for half an hour with intense interest, counting the guns and numbers of the enemy, the spectators stole away, unheard and unseen. Post-haste General Getty despatched the orderly to General Peck with a report of his discovery, an earnest entreaty for two batteries and two of his tried regiments, and his confident assurance that he would repel the enemy if given the means requested. Then with his staff officer he set to work selecting and marking out suitable places for batteries and intrenchments. The troops and guns arrived in the afternoon, and all night the entire force toiled in the darkness with bated breath. The wooded point was filled with sharpshooters, and a strong intrenchment thrown across its base and lined with infantry,

<sup>1</sup> The writer. <sup>2</sup> 26 W. R. 302.

## THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 209

the 10th New Hampshire and a section of artillery, ready to

repel the enemy if he effected a crossing. One work was thrown up on the left side of the point and above the rebel battery, 900 yards distant from it, and another to the right of the point and 1200 yards from the enemy. The former was named Battery Morris and the latter Battery Kimball. Both were well screened by the woods and underbrush. At early dawn, the leafy screen was chopped down in front of Battery Morris and thrown aside, and Captain Beger opened a rapid and sustained fire upon the enemy. He replied vigorously, but when he was all engrossed with his opponent and had well shown his position, Battery Kimball was cleared of the trees and bushes which had concealed its existence, and its guns opened with an almost enfilade fire, raking the opposing battery, cross-firing upon it with Battery Morris, while the lusty cheers of the Union troops exultingly proclaimed that the would-be surprisers were themselves surprised. After a wellfought duel of three hours the enemy was completely silenced, and that night he withdrew his guns. General Getty promptly sent word to the gunboats below Hill's Point that the enemy's battery was silenced.<sup>1</sup>

Encouraged by this spirited and successful affair, the troops worked hard all day, connecting the works with a continuous line. More guns and troops were called for and furnished. During the night, the 15th, the enemy was discovered at work on a battery a mile and a half below the first one so summarily silenced. Again Getty and his troops worked all night, digging works and planting guns, and again at daylight an overpowering concentric fire of shells from several different directions burst upon the enemy, demolished his works, and silenced his guns. During the next three days every nerve was strained to put the river in a thorough state of defence. Batteries and rifle-pits were thrown up at every exposed point. A continuous military road ten miles long with its branches was built through

1 26 W. R. 301-08. 8 N. R. 727.

## 210 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

the woods, corduroyed across the swamps, and bridged over the creeks, clear to Battery Stevens. Colonel Andrew Derrom, with his regiment, the 25th New Jersey, was especially efficient in this work, building several bridges of a novel and ingenious plan of his own devising. Reënforcements of men and guns were received daily as the works grew. By the 18th the line was secure, and Longstreet's golden opportunity had passed.

During this critical time the entire attention of both besiegers and besieged was turned upon the line of the Nansemond. The enemy persisted in his efforts to command the river, erecting and strengthening his batteries night by night, while Getty indefatigably planted counter-batteries, threw up works and ever baffled him. There was continual artillery firing and much sharpshooting at exposed points. The troops worked night and day. Being mostly under cover they suffered few

casualties. Inspired by the presence and example of their general, their spirits rose higher and higher under the incessant labor and exposure. They called themselves " the basketmakers of the Nansemond" in allusion to the great numbers of gabions and fascines they had to make for revetment.<sup>1</sup> When the officers of one regiment, not of his own division, indulged in unsoldierly complaints, Getty sent the whole regiment back to the fortifications of Suffolk with the curt order that he wanted no unwilling troops in his command. This incident stimulated the pride of the other troops and had an excellent effect upon them.

On the 18th the positions of the troops on Getty's lines were as follows : The 13th New Hampshire with one company of sharpshooters next the mouth of Jericho Creek ; Captain Beger with two guns in Battery Morris, supported by one company of the 25th New Jersey ; Lieutenant G. B. Easterly of the 4th Wisconsin Battery at Battery Kimball with one 20-pounder Parrott and two 3-inch rifles ; Fort Connecticut  
1 26 W. R. 301-08.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 211

and the adjacent lines from Broer's Creek to Dr. Council's was held by Colonel M. T. Donohoe, with his regiment, the 10th New Hampshire, the 9th Vermont, four companies of the 19th Wisconsin, one company of the 25th New Jersey, Lieutenant Crabb and two light 12-pounders, Lieutenant Schulz and two 10-pounder Parrotts ; Captain Morris occupied Battery Stevens with two 20-pounder Parrotts, supported by Colonel Pease with four companies of the 1st New York Mounted Rifles . The 8th Connecticut, six companies of the 19th Wisconsin, and a section of artillery were in reserve .

On the 16th Lieutenant Lamson again ran past Fort Huger into the upper river with the Stepping Stones , Cohasset, and West End. They encountered only musketry fire, the enemy apparently having withdrawn their guns after the fight of the 14th.<sup>1</sup> The next day three more small gunboats attempted to follow, but now they encountered a severe artillery fire from five guns of Captain Robert M. Stribling's battery of the Fauquier Battalion of artillery, which had occupied the fort.<sup>2</sup> The Alert alone succeeded in running past. The Teaser and Coeur de Lion got aground, and drew back. In the evening, however, the latter ran past. There were now five gunboats above Hill's Point, but they were restricted to a stretch of the river of about three miles, for the narrowness of the stream, the enemy's batteries, and his sharpshooters lining the wooded banks shut them out above, while Fort Huger cut them off below. In fact they were in a trap. The enemy by erecting and fortifying batteries at suitable points on the left bank could surely destroy them. Their light guns and frail woodwork were no match for field artillery behind breastworks.

Forced to change positions several times during the next two days, Lamson soon realized his predicament. Deeming it

hardly possible to run past the fort again, for the channel lay only 50 yards from the work, and the enemy's gunners with their previous experience would be sure to make every shot 18 N. R. 730, 732. 2 26 W. R. 324-25. • 8N. R. 736.

## 212 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

tell, he besieged Peck's and Getty's headquarters with plans and entreaties to silence the fort somehow. 1

At his suggestion on the night of the 17th, Colonel Donohoe, a brave and excellent officer, with 200 men of his regiment, the 10th New Hampshire, was landed on the other side of the river, some mile and a half above the fort, with orders to capture it and bring off or spike the guns . Lieutenant Lamson's plan depended upon surprising the work, but on proceeding a short distance the party encountered the enemy's pickets , and surprise being no longer possible, it was withdrawn. The night of the 18th another like attempt was made; two parties were to cross, but delays occurred in assembling the troops, and the movement was abandoned. Lamson's anxiety was now redoubled, and in truth the little gunferryboats seemed doomed to speedy destruction .

On the morning of the 19th the enemy opened fire on the gunboats both above and below the point from two new batteries, one above Fort Huger, Captain Bradford's, and the other, Captain D. L. Smoot's Alexandria Light Artillery, on the left bank of the Western Branch, a short distance from the fort. Battery Stevens and the gunboats in the upper river silenced the first, and the Barney and Primrose the second.3

Impressed with the necessity of taking some measures to save the boats, General Getty, with a staff officer and Lieutenant Lamson, on the morning of the 19th rode down the lines to Battery Stevens, opposite Fort Huger. The 20-pounder Parrotts there had repeatedly battered the fort without inflicting the least damage upon its solid parapets. The width of the stream and the configuration of the shores ren 2 26 W. 18 N. R. 732-39, 740. R. 309. 8 N. R. 745, 748. 8 26 W. R. 304-05, 336-37, 324-40.

4 See letters of General Getty and Lieutenant Lamson to Adjutant-General, U. S. A. , recommending Captain Hazard Stevens for a medal of honor (former published in Mulholland's History of the Medal of Honor Legion, pp. 192-93) , copies of which are filed with this paper.

## THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 213

dered it impossible to bring to bear upon it a concentrated fire from the different points, and its frowning mass with gaping embrasures seemed invulnerable and impregnable. The two younger officers climbed a tree which stood near the Union battery in order to get a better view with their glasses , but the more the fort was scanned the more forbidding it appeared. Lamson complained bitterly of the failure of the night attempts. His companion, after carefully studying the

riverbank and lay of the ground above the fort, remarked :  
"Any night attack is bound to fail, for the enemy know the ground and will have ample force close by. The boldest way is the best. The only way to take that fort is to cross over in broad daylight and storm it, and I believe we can do it if we undertake it." Exclaimed Lamson, " I'll furnish the boats if you can get Getty to furnish the men." With that both slid down the tree and hastened to the general, eager to have him adopt the plan. But Getty needed no persuasion. He saw at a glance the possibility of success, and was prompt to make the effort. He saw that a landing could be made at the suggested place, partially protected by the bluff, here about twelve feet high, and upon which only one gun of the fort could be brought to bear.

The staff officer was sent galloping to Getty's headquarters, three miles away, there to order 500 men from two tried, veteran regiments to report forthwith at the landing near Dr. Council's, about two miles above the fort, in light marching order with arms and forty rounds. Lamson hurried away to get his gunboats in readiness. At 5 P. M. the troops reported, 130 men of the 89th New York, under Lieutenant-Colonel Theophilus L. England, and 140 men of the 8th Connecticut, under Lieutenant-Colonel John E. Ward. Owing to so many men of these regiments being on picket and detail, the full number ordered could not be assembled in time. With this little force Getty embarked on the Stepping Stones. At Lamson's request 40 men were detailed to man

#### 214 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG

the drag-ropes of his boat howitzers. An officer with 50 men was given strict orders to form in line at the top of the bluff with backs to the river immediately on landing, and to stand fast there in readiness to cover the retreat of the party and repel the enemy in case of repulse. But few indeed would have been left to come back in case of failure, for they were the men who at Fredericksburg paddled the unwieldy pontoons across the Rappahannock in face of deadly fire, and routed the rebel riflemen out of their holes with the bayonet. The other officers were ordered to waste no time in firing, or forming, but as soon as the troops were ashore to storm the fort in the rear without an instant's delay.

Canvas screens were triced up around each end of the boat to conceal the troops standing thick on her open deck. She pushes off and steams down the river at full speed. The other gunboats follow, blowing their whistles and firing their guns. The Union batteries all join in the thundering chorus. On speeds the Stepping Stones, silent save the throb of her engines and the splash of her paddles. Stribling's gunners stand ready with double-shotted guns to blow her into splinters when she comes abreast and only 50 yards away, for they are sure she is attempting to escape by running past the fort. In preparation for this very effort they have widened the embrasures

so as to insure three shots per gun before the swiftest boat can fly by.<sup>1</sup>

Three hundred yards above the fort Lamson heads the little vessel towards the bank and drops the screens. Just before reaching it she strikes a pile standing in the stream, slews around nearly broadside to the bank, and sticks fast about 30 feet from land with a yellow streak of water of unknown depth between. The staff officer who had suggested the daylight plan, wrought up by this untoward accident, pushes through the crowd of soldiers on the forward deck and leaps from the bow into the river and as far towards the shore as

1 26 W. R. 337.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 215

he could, and wades ashore through mud and water above his waist, calling on the men to come on. Crowding in their eagerness, they come jumping into the stream and floundering to land, holding up their muskets and cartridge-boxes to keep them dry. In a few minutes 100 dripping soldiers cluster under the steep bluff. They climb up, fix bayonets, and push across the level plateau for the fort, 200 yards distant, disregarding the dropping musketry fire from its defenders. When the boat grounds, Lamson reverses the engines, turns the rudders and backs her, and by these means swings her other end close to the bank. The rest of the troops jump ashore from this end, followed by Lamson with his boat howitzers. They, too, rush for the fort at the heels of the other party and about 60 yards to the left of it. Without firing a shot, unheeding the musketry and a charge of grape from one gun which Stribling's men jerk from an embrasure and reverse, both parties rapidly traverse the plain, swoop down into and across a ravine behind the fort, and reach the rear parapet simultaneously at two points, just as the sharp reports of Lamson's boat howitzers ring out from the higher ground behind them. Instantly the garrison fling down their arms and a dozen voices cry out, "We surrender, we surrender." Nine Confederate officers, 140 men, and 5 guns, 3 twelvepounders and 2 twenty-four-pounder howitzers, and the rescue of the gunboats were the fruits of this dash. Four officers and 66 men belonged to the battery, and 5 officers and 74 men were of the 44th Alabama. The Union loss was 1 killed, 14 wounded, one by a grapeshot. The gunboats lost two killed, and one wounded by artillery fire from the batteries above the fort, and one killed on the Barney by a shell from the Western Branch battery. The Confederates had no casualties, although a dead soldier lay cold and stiff in the work, killed in some previous affair, or, as was rumored, shot

18 N. R. 748, 758.

#### 216 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG

by one of the officers for cowardice. The garrison was taken so surprised and unprepared, half being artillery without

muskets, and able to reverse and fire but one gun, that they had no alternative but surrender. The captured commander was furious at his mishap, and loudly denounced the attack in the rear and by surprise as " a damned Yankee trick. " If a regiment had been posted near the fort in support, the attack would probably have failed, and in that event few of the assailants could have escaped. The failure to post such a supporting force was a culpable neglect justly censured by General Longstreet.

The prisoners were hurried aboard the Stepping Stones and sent across the river to the landing. A line was traced across the point behind the fort, facing inland, the handful of troops took post upon it with the captured pieces and the boat howitzers in position, and all set to work intrenching it, for there was every reason to expect that the enemy would attack the scanty force as soon as he discovered his loss. But the open fields extending back nearly half a mile to the thick woods and the gunboats on the flanks rendered it no easy position to assail. Scarcely had they begun work when a regiment emerged from the woods and advanced some distance in line, but a few shells from the gunboats sent it back again out of sight. This was the 55th North Carolina, Colonel John K. Connally, which had been ordered by General French to take post near the fort just before it was taken. Had the attack been postponed until night, Colonel Connally would doubtless have been close to the work and it would almost certainly have failed.<sup>1</sup>

An amusing double duel grew out of this affair.<sup>2</sup> Captains L. R. Terrell and Cousins of Laws' staff reported that the 55th had failed to protect the battery. Colonel Connally demanded a retraction. This being refused, the doughty colonel called together his field officers, and it was solemnly agreed

\* Clark's N. 1 26 W. R. 338-39. C. Reg't, vol. 3, p. 291.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 217

that the honor of the regiment had been aspersed and that the guilty ones should be challenged and fought until they were killed, or forced to retract the imputation. Lieutenant-Colonel Smith had the moral courage to decline any part in the performance on conscientious grounds, and being a religious man and having already given proof of his courage, his scruples were respected. Accordingly Colonel Connally challenged Captain Terrell, and Major Belo, Captain Cousins. The choice of weapons falling to the challenged parties as usual, Terrell selected shotguns loaded with buckshot, and Captain Cousins rifles at forty paces. They met in a large field. Major Belo and Captain Cousins went to work promptly and exchanged two rounds without hitting either. While these warriors were thus demonstrating their chivalric courage and poor marksmanship, the other pair and their seconds were parleying, and soon adjusted the quarrel without bloodshed, Captain Terrell consenting to amend his report.

During the night four companies of the 10th New Hampshire, 60 men of the 9th Vermont, Colonel Pease and four companies of the 117th New York, and Lieutenant Crabb, Battery A, 5th United States Artillery, with gun detachments to man the captured pieces, were sent over, and by morning a formidable line of intrenchments was erected, and flanked by the gunboats. General Getty placed Colonel Dutton in command, but remained himself at the fort all night.

That night, too, the enemy withdrew his guns from the battery on the Western Branch near the fort and from his work next above it on the river. But his pickets pushed up close and fired after dark on a small party sent out to locate him.

The next morning a considerable force of infantry with some artillery moved out of the woods and swept forward some distance in line of battle as though about to attack. There was a brisk interchange of artillery, the gunboats shelling them effectively, when they fell back. The day passed in

#### 218 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG

quiet save for some artillery firing. The following night, the 20th, the troops and guns were all withdrawn and the position evacuated by order of General Peck, on Getty's recommendation, but against the remonstrances and greatly to the disgust of the naval officers. It might well and easily have been held, but General Getty deemed the troops there too exposed, and that the point was of little military value, since the gunboats were saved and the line of the river now too strong to be successfully assailed. The gunboats all went below Hill's Point.

After the loss of his battery, Longstreet's aggressive action on the river ceased. He was content to restrict his campaign to a grand foraging expedition. But his transportation was in such wretched condition that he was unable to save all the supplies available, and only some three miles of railroad iron, although it was one of the most pressing needs, were removed. He writes Lee a pitiful account of his transportation and sends him a sketch of a North Carolina sulkey, an ox hitched to a ramshackle cart.<sup>1</sup>

General Peck on the other hand became more active and more disposed to feel the enemy. The other incidents of the siege have no great importance or interest, and may be summarized as follows : 9000 troops reënforced him during the siege, and were formed in three brigades under Colonels William Gurney, commanding division, and Colonels B. Porter, Robert S. Hughston, and D. W. Wardrop, commanding brigades . General George H. Gordon also reported a few days before the end of the siege, and was placed in command of the reserve division formed from the reënforcements . He found nothing to do but to write a report complimenting General Peck upon the defence and describing the enemy's works, from which he estimated that the investing army could not

have numbered less than 30,000. " These works were made with great skill and of great strength. The parapet for in 1 26 W. R. 959.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 219

fantry defence could have resisted the heaviest rifle calibre, being not less than 12 feet thick," etc.<sup>1</sup>

On the 21st, as General Peck reports, the command was highly honored by a visit from Major-General Halleck, Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by Major-General Dix.

On the 22d there was a severe rainstorm which suspended work and operations, but added to the strength of the Dismal Swamp.

On the 24th a reconnoissance of 5000 troops on the Edenton Road under General Corcoran, Colonel Foster, and Colonel Spear of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, drove back the enemy from his advanced works-picket-pits, probably- to his main line, where he was found in force. The Union loss was 5 killed and 26 wounded.

Lieutenant Cushing's raid on Chuckatuck on April 23 certainly ought not to be omitted in any history of the siege of Suffolk, if only to enliven its tame details.<sup>2</sup>

With 90 men from the gunboats and one 12-pounder howitzer he landed on the left bank of the river below the Western Branch and marched on Chuckatuck, a village some three miles back. Capturing a mule and cart on the way, he toggled the trail-rope of the howitzer to the rear of the cart, and went forward at a double-quick. Driving the enemy's pickets before him he entered the hamlet, when suddenly a party of cavalry, numbering about 40 men, appeared coming down the street at a sabre charge. The sailors opened fire with their muskets and the howitzer was hastily unlimbered and discharged at the enemy. The mule, scared at the explosion, incontinently bolted and ran directly towards the cavalry horses, the cart containing the howitzer ammunition clattering at its heels. The jackies, fearing to lose the ammunition, without which the gun would be useless, ran after the mule, crying, " Whoa! whoa! stop the mule! stop the mule ! " Terrified at this strange engine of war, the enemy took to flight with the 1 26 W. R. 323-24. 28 N. R. 771-72.

#### 220 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG

loss of two killed and three horses, fully equipped, captured. So far I have followed Cushing's report, almost verbatim. But another incident, not officially reported, fitly closed this rare adventure. On the return three of the party mounted the captured chargers. One of them ran away with his strange rider, who, being unable to stop him by straining on the reins, pulled out his revolver and shot the runaway steed through the head, killing him, and, as he said, bringing him down on the run.

General Garnett's brigade and probably another from General

Hill's troops in North Carolina, and at least two cavalry regiments reënforced Longstreet, and he obtained some more heavy guns.<sup>1</sup> Indeed he writes Hill that he has recovered twenty-odd siege guns that were abandoned in the James River forts when they gave up the country the preceding year.<sup>2</sup>

On the 27th the enemy opened a new battery on the river nearly opposite Fort Connecticut. Yet that night the army transport steamboats, Commerce and Swan, ran down past the batteries without loss, although fired upon, under the pilotage of Lieutenants Rowe and Horton, of the 99th New York.

On the 28th there was another rainstorm .

On the 30th the enemy opened on the Barney from three rifled guns in the sunken battery on the right bank of the Western Branch, a short distance above Fort Huger, but after a sharp contest was silenced by that vessel and Battery Stevens.<sup>8</sup>

On the 3d of May a threefold reconnoissance in force was made under General Getty. With 5000 infantry, two batteries, and a regiment of cavalry he crossed the river at Suffolk by the drawbridge and advanced on the Providence Church Road. The enemy's pickets and skirmishers made a stiff resistance from the start. The 103d New York and 25th 2 Ibid. 1 26 W. R. 663, 1025, 1032. 1031. 88 N. R. 783-84.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 221

New Jersey deployed on the right of the road ; the 89th New York and 13th New Hampshire on the left. General Harland with the 11th, 15th, and 16th Connecticut followed in support, and in the afternoon relieved the regiments in the advance. Hasbrouck's and Davis' batteries kept down the enemy's artillery. Onderdonk's 1st New York Mounted Rifles, and the 143d, 144th, and 170th New York, under the command of Colonel James P. McIvor, constituted the reserve, but were not engaged. The enemy was pushed back to the forks of the Providence Church and Reed's Ferry Roads, two and one half miles out, and to his main line, which was well entrenched, with one flank on the river and the other on a swamp, and held in force. Deeming that to carry the position would cost too great a loss, and that the object of the movement was attained by demonstrating the presence of the enemy, General Getty withdrew late in the afternoon. His loss was 60 killed and wounded. Colonel Benjamin Ringgold, 103d New York, a brave and efficient officer, fell early in the action leading his regiment.

The same morning Colonel Dutton with the 4th Rhode Island, 250 strong, crossed at Hill's Point, and being reënforced by a boat howitzer and detachment to man it from the Barney and 100 men from the 117th New York, advanced nearly to the woods, where the enemy was found, and after some skirmishing, fell back to the point and recrossed the

river.

Major Hiram B. Crosby also crossed the river to Sleepy Hole and landed below the Western Branch the same morning with his regiment, the 21st Connecticut, a section of the 4th Wisconsin battery under Lieutenant Martin McDevitt, and a sergeant and 10 men of the 1st New York Mounted Rifles. He advanced to Chuckatuck, a hamlet two and a half miles westward, driving out 300 of the enemy's cavalry, and thence to Reed's Ferry, where after a sharp skirmish an officer and 15 men were captured. He then moved down the left

## 222 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG

bank of the Western Branch to the Nansemond, bivouacked for the night, and recrossed the next morning.<sup>1</sup>

That night, May 3d, Longstreet retreated with his whole army<sup>2</sup> to the Blackwater at Franklin, where it is crossed by the Petersburg and Norfolk Railroad, whence he returned with his own corps to Lee's army, leaving General French with two brigades and some cavalry to guard the line of that river. A few days before, he reported that another fortnight would be required to get out the rest of the supplies, but summoned back by Lee, he was forced to raise the siege, his task only partially done. <sup>3</sup>

The retreating enemy was followed up in a cautious manner and some 300 deserters and stragglers were gathered up.

The Union loss during the siege was 266 , of which Getty's division suffered 130, about one half. The navy lost 11 killed and 16 wounded and 4 captured, total 31,-total Union loss 297. That of the enemy was probably about the same in killed and wounded, and adding the prisoners taken at Fort Huger and on the retreat, about 750 altogether. An astonishingly small loss on both sides ! It would be hard to find another instance where 60,000 men were in close contact for three weeks as besiegers and besieged, and inflicted so little injury on each other. In fact the siege was more distinguished for digging than for fighting. Peck's lines were constantly strengthened and added to during the siege. Of the works on the inner front and on the Nansemond, General Getty reports : " The amount of work performed by troops on this line, taken in connection with the great amount of picket duty necessitated by the extent of the line and the incessant watchfulness imposed by the presence of the daring and enterprising enemy in great force, is astonishing. On the front from Fort Halleck to Battery Onondaga there have been thrown up 3434 yards of rifle-pits and 308 yards of parapet, 1 26 W. R. 305-06, 319-20, 321-22.

2 Ibid. 1037-38 .

• Ibid. 1031-32.

4 Ibid. 288.

## THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 223

7 feet high and 7 feet in thickness on top. On the river line,

4398 yards of rifle-pits, and 1944 yards of parapet, with an average height of 8 feet and thickness of something over 10 feet on top, were constructed. In addition to which some ten miles of entirely new roads, including bridges over impassable creeks and marshes and miles of corduroying, were made. Much of the work was done under fire of the enemy's sharpshooters which proved exceedingly annoying during the whole course of the siege." 1

After speaking in terms of commendation of the deserving officers and troops in his command, General Getty pays the following tribute to the young naval officers who had aided him so gallantly. " Lieutenants Cushing and Lamson and the officers and men of their commands have shown that in their country's service they know no fear, and that the old breed of naval heroes is not extinct ; but to Lieutenant Lamson in particular, whose gallantry exhibited in his engagements at Norfleet's and at Hill's Point has been fully equalled by the willingness and desire he has shown on all occasions to coöperate with the land forces and to do everything for the good of the service, my thanks are due." 2

The Confederates were equally laborious in making their spades save their heads. All the officers who went over them were astonished at the extent and magnitude of their works which could not have been thrown up by less than 30,000 to 40,000 men according to various estimates. Lieutenant Lamson , a clear-headed and unbiassed witness in his report to the admiral describes these works as follows : " I have been entirely around their lines in company with General Getty, and was astonished at their strength and extent. They consist of rifle-pits , redans, and batteries, extending, except where their front was protected by swamps, around from the Edenton Road on their right to the Nansemond River on their left. The rebel works are much stronger and more finished than our

1 26 W. R. 307. • Ibid. 307.

224 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

own works of the same class, the parapets of their rifle-pits being from 6 to 8 feet thick, and all their lines revetted with sods or logs in the most substantial manner, and surrounded by a most formidable abattis of pine trees. On all the roads leading out of Suffolk they had several lines of intrenchments. The batteries near the Western Branch were half-sunken works, and from their position and construction as formidable as earthworks can be made." 1

A little more dash on Longstreet's part would have given him the prize he sought in all probability. Had he thrown a few more guns on the river when he first struck Suffolk, had he had his pontoons all ready to bridge it and his troops all ready to cross the instant it was cleared of gunboats, he could have effected its passage on the 12th, 13th, or 14th, when, Peck having drawn everything within the town, there were no troops to oppose it, could have planted another battery on the right

bank opposite Fort Huger, where Battery Stevens was afterwards placed, and effectually closed the river. General Peck would never have sallied out of his works. Many of his troops, too, were raw nine months regiments, having seen little or no service. He had supplies for only 20 days. Unless relieved by the Army of the Potomac, he might have been forced to surrender. It is impossible to tell, and idle to speculate upon the outcome, but with Halleck and Hooker in command of the Union armies in the east the worst might well be apprehended. Longstreet's dispositions prove his real design, his placing Hood and his division, the best general and troops in the army, on the river front, giving General French special charge of the artillery, and the aggressive and strenuous efforts to control the stream the very first thing. As it was he only missed success by a hair, for had not Getty taken upon himself to reconnoitre the river on the afternoon of the 14th, discovered the enemy's preparations for crossing, and set to work to repel it, he would have accomplished his purpose. Failing in that he 18 N. R. 795.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 225

kept his army strictly on the defensive, although making a show of activity, while he foraged the country. General Peck's attitude was strictly that of the passive defensive, although he was equal in numbers to the enemy before the siege ended. His abandonment of the river line was a gross blunder, arguing a state of panic, and nothing saved him from the worst consequences to his army and his own reputation but General Getty's prompt, resolute and skilful action. Yet the honors and advantages of the siege were unquestionably with the Union forces. They gained in discipline, training, and morale. Longstreet earned no prestige by this campaign which was generally regarded a failure by both sides, and the supplies he collected were a poor recompense for the wearing down of his cavalry and transportation, and the labors and privations of his brave troops.

Organization of Union Troops at the Siege of Suffolk, Virginia, April 30, 1863, under Major-General John J. Peck  
First Division, Seventh Army Corps, Major-General Michael Corcoran.

Brigadier-General H. D. Terry's Brigade.  
99th New York, Colonel D. W. Wardrop,  
130th New York, Colonel Alfred Gibbs,  
New York Battalion Sharpshooters, Captain Thomas Bradley,  
167th Pennsylvania, Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Davis,  
\*11th Rhode Island.

Colonel R. S. Foster's Brigade.  
6th Massachusetts, Colonel A. S. Follansbee,  
13th Indiana, Colonel C. J. Dobbs,  
112th New York, Colonel J. C. Drake,  
\*169th New York, Colonel Lewis W. Smith,  
165th Pennsylvania, Colonel C. H. Buehler,

166th Pennsylvania, Colonel A. J. Fulton Fowler.  
Joined during the siege:

## 226 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

Colonel Matthew Murphy's Brigade.

\*10th New Jersey, Colonel Henry O. Ryerson,  
69th New York, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas M. Reid,  
155th New York, Colonel William McEvily,  
164th New York, Colonel J. P. McMahon,  
170th New York, Colonel J. P. McIvor.  
Brigadier-General George W. Getty's Division.  
First Brigade, Colonel Harrison S. Fairchild. Later Colonel Rush  
C. Hawkins.

10th New Hampshire, Colonel M. T. Donohoe,  
9th New York, Colonel Rush C. Hawkins,  
89th New York, Lieutenant-Colonel Theophilus L. England,  
103d New York, Colonel Benjamin Ringgold,  
\*117th New York, Colonel William R. Pease.  
Second Brigade, Brigadier-General Edward Harland.  
8th Connecticut, Lieutenant-Colonel John E. Ward,  
11th Connecticut, Colonel G. A. Stedman, Jr. ,  
15th Connecticut, Lieutenant- Colonel Samuel Tolles,  
16th Connecticut, Colonel Frank Beach.  
Third Brigade, Colonel Arthur H. Dutton.  
21st Connecticut, Major Hiram B. Crosby,  
13th New Hampshire, Colonel Aaron F. Stevens,  
25th New Jersey, Colonel Andrew Derrom,  
4th Rhode Island, Lieutenant-Colonel M. P. Buffum .  
Artillery.

1st Pennsylvania, Battery A, Captain J. G. Simpson,  
5th United States Artillery, Battery A, Lieutenant James Gilliss.  
Colonel William Gurney's Division .  
Colonel Burr Porter's Brigade.  
\*40th Massachusetts, Major Jos. M. Day,  
\*22d Connecticut, Colonel George S. Burnham ,  
\*141st New York, Lieutenant-Colonel William K. Logie.  
\* Joined during the siege.

## THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 227

Colonel Robert S. Hughston's Brigade.

\*127th New York, Lieutenant- Colonel S. L. Woodford,  
\*142d New York, Colonel N. M. Curtis,  
\*143d New York, Colonel Horace Boughton,  
\*144th New York, Lieutenant-Colonel David E. Gregory.  
Reserve Brigade, Colonel D. W. Wardrop.  
\*99th New York, Colonel D. W. Wardrop, t  
\*118th New York, Lieutenant-Colonel O. Keese , Jr. ,  
\*9th Vermont, Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Ripley,  
\*19th Wisconsin, Colonel H. T. Sanders .

Unattached.

1st New York Mounted Rifles, Colonel Benjamin F. Onderdonk,  
11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Colonel Samuel P. Spear,

\*1st Delaware Battery, Captain B. Nields,  
 7th Massachusetts Battery, Captain P. A. Davis,  
 3d Pennsylvania Battery, Captain John A. Blake,  
 \*16th New York Battery, Captain F. L. Hiller .  
 \*19th New York Battery, Captain W. H. Stahl,  
 4th United States Artillery, Battery D, Captain Frederick M. Follett,  
 4th United States Artillery, Battery L, Lieutenant H. C. Hasbrouck,  
 2d Wisconsin Battery, Captain Charles Beger,  
 4th Wisconsin Battery, Captain John F. Vallee.  
 \* Joined during the siege. † Also in Terry's Brigade.  
 General Peck's force present for duty March 31, 14, 997 ; April  
 30, 23, 975.1  
 Strength and Organization of the Confederate Army Commanded  
 by Lieutenant-General James Longstreet at the Siege of  
 Suffolk, April, 1863  
 Major-General George E. Pickett's Division.  
 Officers. Enlisted men.  
 Garnett's Brigade, 117 1440  
 Armistead's  
 Kemper's  
 66 137 1500  
 66 115 1459  
 1 26 W. R. 574, 675.

228 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA, VICKSBURG  
 Brigade,  
 66  
 Corse's  
 Colston's  
 Officers. Enlisted men. Present for duty.  
 90  
 135  
 934  
 1998  
 Artillery Battalion, 13 274  
 607 7605 8212  
 Major-General John B. Hood's Division.  
 Texas Brigade, 110 1404  
 Law's  
 66  
 131 1650  
 Anderson's 6" 123 1734  
 Toombs'  
 66  
 96 1413  
 Artillery Battalion, 12 292  
 472 6493 6965  
 Major-General S. G. French's Division.  
 Jenkins' Brigade, 250 2394  
 Davis'  
 66  
 163 2414

413 4808 5221

Two or more regiments of cavalry and four or more batteries, estimated

Apparently unattached to division or brigade.

Colonel Ferebee's regiment of cavalry,<sup>1</sup>

Captain George Ward's battery,

Captain Bradford's battery,

Captain D. L. Smoot's Alexandria Light Artillery,

Captain S. T. Martin's Battery B. -12th Virginia

Battalion. 2500

22,898

NOTES.-Strength of Pickett's and Hood's divisions given by return of March 9 (26 W. R. 915-16) , except Colston's brigade, which is given by return December 20, 1862 (26 W. R. 807 ) .

Jenkins' and Davis' brigades given by return of May 31, 1863

1 26 W. R. 1032-44.

\* Ibid. 331, 1001.

\* Ibid. 331 , 1021, 1067.

\* Ibid. 331 .

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 229

(26 W. R. 1086). French's forces on Blackwater, April 10,-5838

(26 W. R. 978) . As to cavalry see page 1044, Colonel Ferebee's regiment of cavalry, page 1032. Longstreet regrets Hill's sending so much cavalry, only wanted one regiment.

Major-General George E. Pickett's Division . \*

Brigadier-General R. B. Garnett's Brigade. \*

8th Virginia, Colonel Eppa Hunton,

18th 66

Colonel H. A. Carrington,

19th 66

Colonel Henry Gantt,

28th Colonel R. C. Allen,

56th

66

Colonel W. D. Stuart.

Brigadier-General L. A. Armistead's Brigade. \*

9th Georgia, Major John C. Owens ,

14th

66

Colonel James G. Hodges,

38th

"

Colonel E. C. Edmunds,

53d

66

Colonel W. R. Aylett,

57th

66

Colonel John Bowie Magruder.\*

Brigadier-General J. L. Kemper's Brigade.\*

1st Virginia, Colonel Lewis B. Williams,

3d 66

Colonel Joseph Mayo, Jr. ,

7th 66

Colonel W. T. Patton,

11th

66

Major Kirkwood Otey,

24th

"

Colonel William R. Terry.

Brigadier-General R. E. Colston's Brigade. \* 1

29th Virginia, Colonel A. C. Moore,

50th "

Colonel Thomas Poage,

54th

66

Colonel R. C. Twigg,

63d 66

Colonel J. J. McMahon,

27th Battalion, Virginia, Colonel H. A. Edmunds.

\* Mentioned as at siege of Suffolk in 26 W. R.

1 Colston's Brigade assigned to Pickett's Division.-26 W. R. 909, 910.

230 ATLANTIC COAST, VIRGINIA , VICKSBURG

Brigadier-General M. D. Corse's Brigade. \* 1

15th Virginia, Colonel T. P. August,

17th 66

Colonel Morton Marye,

30th "

Colonel A. T. Harrison,

57th

66

Colonel David Dyer.

Major James Dearing's Artillery Battalion. \*

Fauquier (Virginia) Artillery, Captain R. M. Stribling, \*

66

Hampden ( ) Artillery, Captain W. H. Caskie ,\*

Richmond Fayette Artillery, Captain M. C. Macon,\*

Virginia Battery, Captain Joseph G. Blount. \*

NOTE. Organization as given July 3, 1863, – 44 W. R. 284, 5,  
except Colston's Brigade, which is found in 26 W. R. 807 .

Major-General John B. Hood's Division. \*

Brigadier-General J. B. Robinson's (Texas) Brigade. \*

3d Arkansas, Colonel Van H. Manning,

1st Texas, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Work,

4th 66

Colonel J. C. G. Key,

5th "

Colonel R. M. Powell.

Brigadier-General E. M. Law's Brigade. \*

4th Alabama, Colonel L. H. Scruggs,

15th

66

Colonel W. C. Oates ,  
44th

66

Colonel William F. Perry,\*  
47th 66

Colonel James W. Jackson,  
48th 66

Colonel James L. Sheffield .

Brigadier-General George T. Anderson's Brigade. \*

7th Georgia, Colonel W. W. White,  
8th 66

Colonel John R. Towers,  
9th

"

11th

66

Colonel John C. Mounger,  
Colonel F. H. Little,

59th

"

Colonel Jack Brown. \*

\*Mentioned as at siege of Suffolk in 26 W. R.

1 From return of Dec. 2, 1862.- 31 W. R. 1071.

#### THE SIEGE OF SUFFOLK 231

Brigadier-General R. Toombs' Brigade. \*

2d Georgia, Lieutenant-Colonel William T. Harris,  
15th

66

Colonel D. M. DuBose,  
17th

66

Colonel W. C. Hodges,  
20th

"

Colonel John A. Jones . \*

Major M. W. Henry's Artillery Battalion. \*

Branch (North Carolina) Artillery, Captain A. C. Latham,  
German (South Carolina) Artillery, Captain William K. Bachman,  
Palmetto ( ) Artillery, Captain Hugh R. Garden,

66

Rowan (North Carolina) Artillery, Captain James Reilly. \*

Major-General S. G. French's Division. \*

Brigadier-General Joseph R. Davis' Brigade. \* 1

55th North Carolina, Colonel J. K. Connally,\*

2d Mississippi,

11th

66

42d 66

Brigadier-General M. Jenkins' Brigade. \*

Organization of Jenkins' Brigade Dec. 20, 1862 , see 31 W. R. 1071

1st South Carolina, Colonel W. H. Duncan,

2d " 66

(Rifles) , Colonel Thomas Thompson,

5th

66 66

Colonel Coward,

6th

66 66

Colonel John Bratton,

Hampton Legion, Colonel M. W. Gary,

Palmetto Sharpshooters, Colonel Joseph Walker.

NOTE.- A roster of officers and men who captured Fort Huger  
and a nominal list of the killed and wounded are in the files of the  
Society with this paper.- ED.

\*Mentioned as at siege of Suffolk in 26 W. R.

1 For organization of Davis' Brigade, see Walter Clark's North Carolina  
Regiments, vol. 3, 290.