

# AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it!"—A. LINCOLN.

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## Gen. Butler's Official Report.

HQRS. OF THE ARMIES OF THE U. S. City Point Va., Jan. 7, 1865.

Hon. E. M. Stanton Sec'y of War.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to forward Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler's and subordinate reports of the expedition against Fort Fisher, N. C.

As the report of Rear-Admiral D. D. Porter has been published in the papers, I would respectfully request that Gen. Butler's report, with all the paper accompanying it, be also given to the public.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen.

HQRS. DEPT. OF VA. AND N. C. ARMY OF THE JAMES, IN THE FIELD, JAN. 3, 1865.  
Lieut.-Gen. U. S. GRANT, Commanding Armies of the United States.

GENERAL: On the 7th of December last, in obedience to your orders, I moved a force of about sixty five hundred (6,500) effective men, consisting of Gen. Ames' Division of the 24th Corps and Gen. Paine's Division of the 25th Corps, under command of Maj.-Gen. Weitzel, to an encampment near Bermuda.

On the 8th the troops embarked for Fortress Monroe. On the 9th (Friday) I reported to Rear-Admiral Porter, that the army portion of the conjoint expedition directed against Wilmington, was ready to proceed.

We waited there Saturday, the 10th, Sunday, the 11th, and Monday, the 12th. On the 12th, Rear-Admiral Porter informed me that the naval fleet would sail on the 13th, but would be obliged to put into Beaufort to take on board ammunition for the monitors.

The expedition having become the subject of remark, fearing lest its destination should get to the enemy, in order to direct from all attention, on the morning of Tuesday, the 13th, at three o'clock, I ordered the transport fleet to proceed up the Potomac during the day to Mathias Point, so as to be plainly visible to the scouts and signal men of the enemy on the northern neck, and to retrace their course at night and anchor under the lee of Cape Charles.

Having given the navy thirty-six hours start, at 12 o'clock noon of the 14th (Wednesday) I joined the transport fleet off Cape Henry and put to sea, arriving at the place of rendezvous off New Inlet, near Fort Fisher, on the evening of the 15th (Thursday).

We there waited for the navy Friday the 16th, Saturday the 17th, and Sunday the 18th, during which days we had the finest possible weather and the smoothest sea. On the evening of the 18th Admiral Porter came from Beaufort to the place of rendezvous. That evening the sea became rough, and on Monday, the 19th, the wind sprang up freshly, so that it was impossible to land troops, and by the advice of Admiral Porter, communicated to me by letter, I directed the transport fleet to rendezvous at Beaufort. This was a matter of necessity, because the transports, being coaled and watered for ten days, had already wasted that time, to wit, from the 9th (the day on which we were ready to sail) to the 19th.

On the 20th (Tuesday), 21st (Wednesday), 22d (Thursday) and 23d (Friday) it blew a gale. I was occupied in coaling and watering the transport fleet at Beaufort. The Baltic, having a large supply of coal, was enabled to remain at the place of rendezvous with a brigade on board of twelve hundred men, and Gen. Ames reported to Admiral Porter that he would co-operate with him.

On the 23d I sent Capt. Clarke of my staff from Beaufort, on the fast-sailing armed steamer Chamberlain, to Admiral Porter, to inform him that on the evening of the 24th I would again be at the rendezvous with the transport fleet for the purpose of commencing the attack, the weather permitting.

At 4 o'clock on the evening of the 24th I came in sight of Fort Fisher, and found the naval fleet engaged in bombarding it, the powder vessel having been exploded on the morning previous, about one o'clock.

Through Gen. Weitzel, I arranged with Admiral Porter to commence the landing, under the cover of the gunboats, as early as eight o'clock the next morning if possible—as soon as the fire of the Half Moon and Flag Pond Hill batteries had been silenced. These are up the shore some two or three miles above Fort Fisher.

Admiral Porter was quite sanguine that he had silenced the guns of Fort Fisher. He was then urged if that were so to run by the fort into Cape Fear River, and then the troops could land and hold the beach without the liability of being shelled by the enemy's gunboats, the Tallahassee being seen in the river.

It is to be remarked that Admiral Farragut even had never taken a fort except

by running by and cutting it off from all prospects of re-enforcement, as Fort Jackson and Fort Morgan, and that no case-mated fort had been silenced by a naval fire during the war; that if the Admiral would put his ships in the river the army could supply him across the beach as we had proposed to do Farragut at Fort St. Philip; that at least the blockade of Wilmington would be effectual even if we did not capture the fort.

To that the Admiral replied that he should probably lose a boat by torpedoes if he attempted to run by. He was reminded that the army might lose five hundred men by the assault, and that his boat would not weigh in the balance, even in a money point of view, for a moment with the lives of these men. The Admiral declined going by, and the expedition was deprived of that essential element of success.

At 12 o'clock noon of the 25th, Sunday, Capt. Gleason, commanding the covering division of the fleet, reported the batteries silenced and his vessels in position to cover our landing. The transport fleet following, my flagship stood in within 800 yards of the beach, and at once commenced debarking. The landing was successfully effected. Finding that the reconnoitering party just landed could hold the shore, I determined to land a force with which an assault might be attempted. Brevet Brig.-Gen. Curtis, who deserves well for his gallantry and conduct, immediately pushed up his brigade to within a few hundred yards of Fort Fisher, capturing the Half-Moon battery and its men, who were taken off by the boats of the navy. The skirmish line advanced to within seventy-five yards of the fort, protected by the glacis which had been thrown up in such form as to give cover, the garrison being completely kept in their boom-works by the fire of the navy, which was very rapid and continuous, their shells bursting over the work with very considerable accuracy.

At this time we lost ten men wounded on the skirmish line by the shells from the fleet. Quitting my flagship I went on board the Chamberlain and run in within a few hundred yards of the fort, so that it was plainly visible. It appeared to be a square, bastioned work of very high relief, say fifteen feet, surrounded by a wet ditch some fifteen feet wide. It was protected from being enveloped by an assaulting force by a stockade, which extended from the fort to the sea on the one side, and from the marshes of the Cape Fear River to the salient on the other.

No material damage to the fort, as a defensive work, had been done. Seventeen heavy guns bore up the beach protected from the fire of the navy by traverses eight or ten feet high, which were undoubtedly bomb-proof. It was easy to maintain this position; but the shells of the navy, which kept the enemy in their boom-works, would keep my troops out. When these ceased falling the parapet was fully manned.

Lieut. Walling of the 143d New York, pressed up to the edge of the ditch and captured a flag which had been cut down by a shell from the navy. It is a mistake, as was reported to me, that any soldier entered the fort. An orderly was killed about a third of a mile from the fort and his horse taken.

In the meantime the remainder of Ames' Division took 218 men and ten commissioned officers of the North Carolina Reserves and other prisoners. From them I learned that Kirkland's and Haggood's brigades of Hoke's Division had left the front of the Army of the James near Richmond, and were within two miles of the rear of my forces, and their skirmishers were then actually engaged, and that the remainder of Hoke's Division had come the night before to Wilmington, and were then on the march.

I also learned that these troops left Richmond, on Tuesday, the 20th. Knowing the strength of Hoke's Division I found a force opposed to me outside the works larger than my own. In the meantime the weather assumed a threatening aspect. The surf began to roll in so that the landing became difficult.

At this time Gen. Weitzel reported to me that to assault the works in his judgment, and in that of the experienced officers of his command, who had a skirmish line, with any prospect of success, was impossible. This opinion coincided with my own, and much as I regretted the necessity of abandoning the attempt, yet the duty was plain. Not so strong a work as Fort Fisher had been taken by assault during the war; and I had to guide my experience, of Port Hudson, with its slaughtered thousands in the repulsed assault and the double assault of Fort Wagner, where thousands were sacrificed in an attempt to take a work less strong than Fort Fisher, after it had

continued and fully as severe a fire; and in neither of the instances I have mentioned had the assaulting force in its rear, as I had, an army of the enemy larger than itself.

I therefore ordered that no assault should be made, and that the troops should re-embark. While superintending the preparations of this, the firing of the navy ceased. Instantly the guns of the fort were fully manned, and a sharp fire of musketry, grape, and canister swept the place over which the column must have advanced, and the skirmish line was returning. Working with what diligence we could, it was impossible to get the troops aboard before the sea ran so high as to render further embarkation or even the sending of supplies ashore impossible. I lay by the shore until 11 o'clock the next day, Monday, the 26th, when having made all proper dispositions for getting the troops on board, I gave orders to the transport fleet, as fast as they were ready, to sail for Fortress Monroe, in obedience to my instructions from the Lieutenant-General.

I learned from deserters and prisoners captured that the supposition on which the Lieut.-General directed the expedition, that Wilmington had been denuded of troops to oppose Gen. Sherman, was correct; that at the time when the Army moved off Wilmington there was less than 400 men in the garrison of Fort Fisher, and less than 1,000 within 20 miles; but the delay of three days of good weather, the 6th, 17th and 18th, waiting for the arrival of the navy, and the further delay from the terrible storm of the 21st, 22d and 23d, gave time for the troops to be brought from Richmond, three divisions of which were either there on or near the road.

The instructions of the Lieut.-General to me did not contemplate a siege. I had neither siege trains nor supplies for such a contingency. The exigency of possible delay, for which the foresight of the commander of the Armies had provided, had arisen, to wit: the large re-enforcements of the garrison, with the fact that the Navy had exhausted their supply of ammunition in the bombardment, left me no alternative but to return with my Army to the Army of the James.

The loss on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the 16th, 17th, and 18th of December, was the immediate cause of the failure of the expedition. It is not my province even to suggest blame to the navy for their delay of four days at Beaufort. I know none of the reasons which do or do not justify it. It is to be presumed they are sufficient.

I am happy to bring to the attention of the Lieut.-General the excellent behavior of the troops, officers and men, which was all that could be desired. I am under special obligations to Capt. Gleason of the Santiago de Cuba for the able and effectual manner in which he covered our landing; to Capt. Alden of the Brooklyn, for his prompt assistance and the excellent gunnery with which the Brooklyn cleared the shores of all opposers. At the moment of debarkation, Lieut. Farragut of the Navy, having in charge the Navy boat which assisted in the landing, deserves great credit for the energy and skill with which he managed the boats through the rolling surf. Especial commendation is due to Brig.-Gen. Graham and the officers and men of his Naval Brigade, for the organization of his boats and crews for landing, and the untiring energy and industry with which they all labored in re-embarking the troops during the stormy night of the 7th and the day following. For this and other meritorious service during the campaign since the 1st of May, which have heretofore been brought to the notice of the Lieut.-General in my official reports, I would respectfully but earnestly recommend Gen. Graham for promotion.

The number of prisoners captured by us was 300, including 12 officers; also, 2 heavy rifled-guns, 2 light guns and 6 caissons. The loss of the Army was 1 man drowned, 2 men killed, 1 officer captured (who accidentally wandered through our pickets), and 2 more wounded, while upon the picket-line, by the shells of the Navy.

Always chary of mentioning with commendation the acts of my personal staff, yet I think the troops who saw it will agree to the cool courage and daring of Lieut. Sidney B. DeKay, A. D. C., in landing on the night of the 25th, and remaining and aiding in the re-embarkation on the 27th. For the details of the landing and the operations, I beg leave to refer you to the report of Maj. Gen. Weitzel, commanding the troops, and Brig.-Gen. Ames, commanding the division landed, which are hitherto appended. Trusting my action will meet with the approval of the Lieut.-General, this report is respectfully submitted.

BENJ. F. BUTLER, Maj.-Gen.

## LOVE'S FIRST DREAM.

BY THE BARD OF GREENOCK.  
What is more pleasing to the youth  
Than Love's first flitting sunny dream:  
The heart inspired with hope, the soul  
Young Hermes' torch the glowing gleam.  
When sparkling eyes look love to eyes,  
And touch of lip the heart doth thrill;  
Like ocean heaves the breast with sighs;  
Emotions deep the bosom fill.  
My heart doth love, and ne'er will tire;  
I'd rather spill its crimson flood  
Than lose that spark of living fire:  
I love the simple, next to die!

## WIT AND WISDOM.

—The best kind of Agricultural Fairs  
Farmer's daughters.

—Why is a gun like a newspaper?—  
Because it makes reports.

—Many a fellow, when whiskey is at  
hand, makes a rye mouth.

—Millionaires are not so called from  
the amount of airts they put on.

—Why is a sermon delivered on board  
a ship like a necktie? Because it is a  
decoration.

—Why is an infant at the breast like a  
resident of Illinois? Because it is in the  
sucker state.

—The saying that "there is nothing  
like leather," is justified by the fact that  
it is its *sole* reliance.

—Colt's arms are useful when you want  
to fight, but if you want to run away,  
colt's legs are better.

—What three words did Adam use  
when he introduced himself to Eve, and  
which read the same backwards as for-  
wards? Madam I'm Adam.

—"My son, what would you do if your  
dear father was suddenly taken away  
from you?" "Swear and chew tobacco."

—"A *miss* is as good as a *mile*," says  
an old adage; and as three miles make a  
league, it is calculated that three *misses*  
would make a *league*—with a bachelor.

—A gentleman bragging of having  
killed a panther, whose tail was three feet  
long. Brown observed that the animal  
died seasonably, as the tail was long  
enough not to be continued.

—"Henry, you ought to be ashamed to  
throw away bread like that. You may  
want it some day." "Well, mother, would  
I stand any better chance of getting it  
then, should I eat it up now?"

—"No man who is ever thoroughly  
ashamed of himself should be classed  
among the irreclaimable. The real fool  
never regrets the right thing or for the  
right season, and under no circumstan-  
ces sees himself as other see him.

—"A Scotch advocate, who in his broad,  
Scotch pronounced the word water, water,  
being asked in Court by the Concllor if  
he spelled water with two t's, replied,  
"No, my Lord, but I spell manners with  
two n's."

—"Two young ladies sat cozily by a  
comfortable fire. The married one says:  
"Whenever I want a nice snug fire all to  
myself, I tell George my mother is com-  
ing, and then I see nothing of him until  
one o'clock in the morning."—*Punch*.

—"One of the little fellows got off an  
odd expression in this form:  
"Mother, did General Mitchell go to  
Heaven?"

"Yes, my child, I think he did."  
"Bully for him."

—"At a recent railroad dinner, in com-  
pliment to the legal fraternity, the toast  
was given, "An honest lawyer, the nob-  
blest work of God;" but an old farmer in  
the back part of the hall rather spoiled  
the effect by adding, in a loud voice, "And  
about the scarcest."

—"A merchant examining a hoghead  
of hardware, on comparing it with the  
invoice found it all right except a ham-  
mer less than the invoice. "Och, don't  
be troubled," said the Irish porter; "sure  
the nagur took it out to open the hog-  
head with."

—"There is nothing in which the prin-  
ciple of life is so indestructible as an ill  
natured epigrammatic sentence; a dozen  
spoken at one moment and forgotten the  
next, will go on through years, hurting  
more persons and doing more absolute  
mischief than a piece of artillery would  
do.

—"A cobbler at Leyden, who used to  
attend the public disputations held at the  
Academy, was once asked if he under-  
stood Latin. "No," replied the mechan-  
ic; "but I can tell who is wrong in the  
argument." "And how can you tell that?"  
asked his friend. "Why, by seeing who  
is angry first."

—"Come here, my lad," said an attorney  
to a boy about nine years old. "A case  
between the devil and the people; which  
do you think will be most likely  
to gain the action?" The boy replied,  
"I guess it will be a hard squeeze—the  
people have the money, but the devil has  
the most lawyers."

## Fall of Fort Fisher.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.

The following was received at the Navy Department, from Admiral Porter:

FLAG-SHIP MALVERN,

OFF FORT FISHER, N. C.

January 14, 1865.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you

that operations have been resumed against

the forts at the entrance of Cape Fear

River. Since the attack on that place,

and the subsequent withdrawal of the

troops, I have been employed in filling

the ships with ammunition and coal. The

difficulties we have encountered no one

can conceive. All our work had to be

done with the larger vessels anchored on

the coast, exposed, you may almost say,

at sea, to the violent gales that blew here al-

most incessantly. On these gales the en-  
emy depended to break up our prepara-

tions. You will see we have gone thro'

the first of it—have held on through gales

heavy enough to drive everything to sea,

and we have sustained no damage what-

ever. After the troops arrived, the weath-

er set in bad, and the gale was very

heavy. As soon as it was over, I got un-

der way on the 12th inst., and forming

the vessels in three lines, with the trans-

ports in company, I steamed for Ft. Fish-

er. On the morning of the 13th, the

fleet took its station in three lines close

to the beach, and the boats were sent at

once to take off the troops. These were land-

ed, with about twelve days provisions, at

about 2 o'clock p. m.

This time I pursued a different plan in

attacking the rebel works. I sent in the

new Ironsides, Commodore Radford, lead-

ing the monitors Sangous, Canonicus,

Monadnock and Mahopee. At half past

seven in the morning, the forts opened

on them as they approached, but they

quietly took up their old positions within

1,000 yards of Fort Fisher, and when re-

ady they opened their batteries. In this

way I tempted the enemy to engage the

monitors, that we might see what guns

they had, and what we were able to dis-

count by fire. Quite a spirited engage-

ment went on between the fort and the

Ironsides and monitors.

It was soon apparent that the iron ves-

sels had the best of it. Traverses began

to disappear, and the Southern angle of

Fort Fisher commenced to look very dil-

apidated. The guns were silenced one af-

ter the other, and only one heavy gun in

the southern angle kept up its fire. The

fire of this gun was not at all accurate, if

it inflicted no damage on the iron ves-

sels. They were hit several times. By way

of letting the enemy see we had some shell

left on board the wooden ships, and did

not intend to take any unfair advantages

of him by using the iron vessels alone, I

ordered line No. 1, led by Capt. Alden,

of the Brooklyn, and line No. 2, led by

Commodore Tatcher, of the Colorado, to

go and attack the batteries. This was

done in the handsomest manner. Not a

mistake was committed, except firing too

rapidly and making too much smoke.—  
The heavy fire of the large vessels shut

up the enemy's guns at once, and after

dropping till after dark the wooden ves-

sels were left to their anarchy.

The Ironsides and Monitors maintained

their position through the night, firing a

shell now and then. They are now lying

within one thousand yards of the fort, and

the monitors within seven hundred yards,

and the fort does not fire a gun at a waste,

thinking, no doubt, that it is a matter of

power. The firing from the fleet will

commence as soon as we get breakfast,

and be kept up as long as the Ordnance

Department provides us with shells and

guns.

There is perfect understanding between

Gen. Terry and myself. I believe every-

thing has been done to suit him. I have

heard no complaint, and know that we

have felt every disposition to help the ar-

my along. A detailed report of our op-

erations here will be sent in when we get

through. I see no reason to doubt our

success. The forts will be used up soon.

We have a respectable force landed on a

strip of land which our naval guns com-

pletely command, and a force of defense,

which would enable us to hold on against

any large army. I will report to you

every opportunity.

I have the honor to be, very respect-  
fully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER,  
Rear Admiral.

To GIDEON WELLES, Sec'y of Navy.

SECOND DAY OF THE BATTLE.

A number of the troops advanced dur-

ing the night to the abandoned Fort Ft.

Anderson, and now holds the whole

breadth of the peninsula to Cape Fear

River.

FLAG-SHIP MALVERN,

Saturday, 11 a. m.

Up to this hour nothing has been done.

This morning the monitors are lying qui-

etly with the Ironsides under the guns of

Fort Fisher. Not a shot has been dis-

charged since 4 o'clock. A gun burst on

the Mahopee yesterday, slightly wound-

ing two officers, and one man seriously.

These were the only casualties in the

fleet.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.—The division of

wooden vessels are within short range of

Fort Fisher, and firing rapidly upon it, but

eliciting no reply.

I must close now, as the Cuyler is just

about to leave with dispatches for Fortress

Monroe.

JANUARY 13.—Before the commence-

ment of active operations this morning,

the following order from Admiral Porter,

was read on the quarterdeck of the Sata-

go de Cuba, by Lieutenant Fargubar, ex-

ecutive officer of the flag-ship Malvern:

JANUARY 14.—Before going