

Private J. C. Hant

"A" Co. Louisiana 1st Heavy Artillery



Enlisted: September 5, 1861

Prisoner of War

Captured & Exchanged: Vicksburg Mississippi, July 4, 1863

Surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama, May 4, 1865

Confederate Bowie Knife



This Confederate Bowie knife is identified to **Private J. C. Hant Company A, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery**. The sheath is made of wood and covered with what appears to be either thin brown card board or a heavy paper and is marked "A 1 LA" "J. C. Hant."



The knife is 18 1/2" long with a 14 1/4" x 1 3/4" clip point blade. It is well made with a 4 3/8" iron cross guard and a grip made from an antler with the tang pinned tight and covered with period lead. The sheath is wood that was made to fit the blade and covered with a heavy paper that is tacked on the underside with a leather retention band tacked at the top.









Private J. C. Hant

Private J. C. Hant served with **Company A of the 1st Regiment, Louisiana Heavy Artillery** (Confederate States Army), a unit that saw significant action in the defenses of New Orleans, and during the Siege of Vicksburg.

Specific details regarding his individual record are limited to 4 Muster Sheets and one Prisoner of War document. Nevertheless, his service would have generally followed the path of his company and regiment, to include the defense of New Orleans at **Forts Jackson and St. Philip**; the defense and capture of **Vicksburg**; and the subsequent service in the **Mobile Alabama** area while participation in the defense of **Fort Gaines**, **Fort Morgan**, and **Spanish Fort**. Finally, he was with his command when it surrendered at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, and later at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865 making him a Prisoner of War twice. He was in active combat service from September 5, 1861 to May 4, 1865 and survived the war. However, his bowie knife most likely became a war trophy for a Union soldier after the fall of Vicksburg.

Muster Sheets

1297
Hant, J. C.

Co. A, 1 Louisiana H. Art'y.
(Regulars.)
(Confederate.)

Private Private

CARD NUMBERS.

1 46622805
2 2367
3 4251290

4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38

Number of medical cards herein 0

Number of personal papers herein 6

BOOK MARK:

See also

(Confederate.)	
<i>H</i>	I H. Art'y. (Regulars.)
La.	
<i>J. C. Knott</i>	
Sgt., Co. A, Reg't Louisiana Artillery.	
Appears on	
Company Muster Roll	
of the organization named above,	
for <i>Sept & Oct</i> , 1864.	
Enlisted:	<i>Sept. 05.</i>
When	<i>1861.</i>
Where	<i>Camp Moore</i>
By whom	<i>Capt. Deosieck</i>
Period	<i>war</i>
Last paid:	<i>Capt. Deosieck</i>
By whom	<i>Apr. 30</i>
To what time	<i>1863.</i>
Present or absent	<i>Present</i>
Remarks:	<i>Assigned to Co.</i> <i>Apr. 15. No 298. Admrs.</i> <i>Distr Gulf Oct. 24. 64</i>
Book mark :	
<i>Deosieck</i>	
(943)	<i>Copyist.</i>

(Confederate.)

1 H. Art'y.
(Regulars.)

La.

11

J. C. Hank

1st, Co. A, 1 Reg't Louisiana Artillery.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll
of the organization named above,

for March 1st, 1865.

Enlisted:

When Sept. 5, 1861.

Where Camp Moore

By whom Capt. Street

Period war

Last paid:

By whom Major McCay

To what time Oct. 31, 1864.

Present or absent Absent

Remarks:

Dick with full Muster
Since aft 25.

Book mark:

Revised

Copyist.

(Confederate.)

Hill and crew
J. C. Hunt
McCaughtry's Regt La Art'y
Residence St. James Parish La

Appears on a

Roll of Prisoners of War

of Quintard Hospital, Confederate States Army,
commanded by Surgeon S. V. D. Hill, sur-
rendered at Citronelle, Ala., by Lieut. Gen.
R. Taylor, C. S. A., to Maj. Gen. E. R. S.
Canby, U. S. A., May 4, 1865, and paroled at
Meridian, Miss., May 10, 1865.

Roll dated Meridian, Miss., May 10, 1865.

Number of roll:

186

(639b)

J. K. Langford
Copyist.

Prison of War

Sp	Name	Rank	Co	Regiment	Surrendered		Paroled		Residence	45
					When	Where	When	Where		
16	W H Dinkord	Private	16	7 th Ala Cav	May 4 th	Cantonville Ala	May 10 th	Mississippi Miss	Choctaw Corner Ala	711
17	J C Crocker		8	13 th Miss Inf					Imbassola Miss	712
18	J P McGough		6	11 th Miss Cav					Atlanta Ga	713
19	J P Swinton		A	8 th Ala Inf					Gainesville Ala	714
20	H J Hodder		6	22 nd Ga Cav					Atlanta Ga	715
21	William McAlister		16	27 th La Inf					New Orleans La	716
22	C E Sculford		5	1 st Miss Inf					Saint Louis Mo	717
23	J M Sculford		6	34 th Ala "					Jackson Miss	718
24	J H Lamb			Assigned to 20th Inf Regt					Memphis Tenn	719
25	W Guillotte									
26	J Davison									
27	J H Taylor									
28	W R Brooks									
29	J S Price									
30	J L Squires									
31	J L Smith									
32	J S Willis									
33	James Alexander									
34	J E Bostick									
35	W H C Omer									
36	J C Franklin									
37	H W Spring									
38	W H Squires									
1	Doas. H S	Private	A	17 th Miss					Chickasaw County Miss	734
2	Franklin J H		6	44 th "					Calhoun "	735
3	Yardle J F		6	12 th Tenn					Franklin Tenn	736
4	Shakory Cunie		D	4 th Kentucky					Henderson Ky	737
5	Carmon A L G		D	22 nd Ga					New Orleans La	738
6	Carmon James G			Massachusetts 2nd					Perry County Ga	739
7	Guiner T	Com Supt	D	22 nd La					New Orleans La	740
8	Want J C	Prvit	A	1 st La Arty					St James Parish La	741
9	McDonald John		6	2 nd La Inf					Cincinnati Dist. Ohio	742
10	Beckner G		6	22 nd La "					St Johns Parish La	743
11	Brulding S		D	19 th La					Bog Spring Ga	744

1 W Guiner T
8 Want J C
9 McDonald John

Com Supt D 22nd La
Prvit A 1st La Arty
6 25th Ga Inf



8 Hant J C

Prvit A 1st La Arty

1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery Regiment

Organization



Gen. John C. Pemberton

Commander, Vicksburg Garrison

This heavy artillery regiment was originally organized as a part of the Louisiana state forces. Although the regimental headquarters remained at New Orleans, the various companies comprising the regiment served in various locations. Companies B, C, D, E, F, H, and K served at Forts Jackson and St. Philip below New Orleans and were surrendered when that city was captured by Union forces on

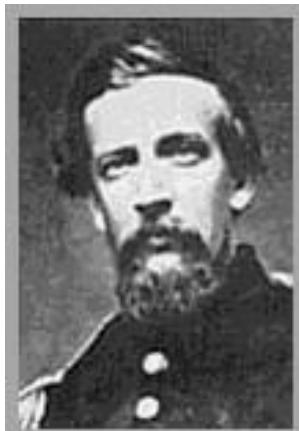
April 26, 1862. The three remaining companies went to Vicksburg, Mississippi, about May 20, 1862 to help man the river batteries. During the fall of 1862, the men captured at New Orleans were exchanged and most of them returned to their commands. The regiment was surrendered at Vicksburg on July the 4th, 1863 and was paroled several months later at Enterprise, Mississippi. It then aided in the defense of Mobile and at the battle of Tupelo on July 14, 1864, acting as an infantry reserve under Gen. Stephen D. Lee for Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry forces. The men of the regiment evacuated Mobile when that city fell and were included in the surrender on May 8, 1865.

Date Organized: February 5, 1861

Organized at: New Orleans, La.

Mustered into Confederate service: March 13, 1861

Mustered in at: New Orleans, La.



Gen. John S. Bowen
Commander, Grand Gulf Garrison

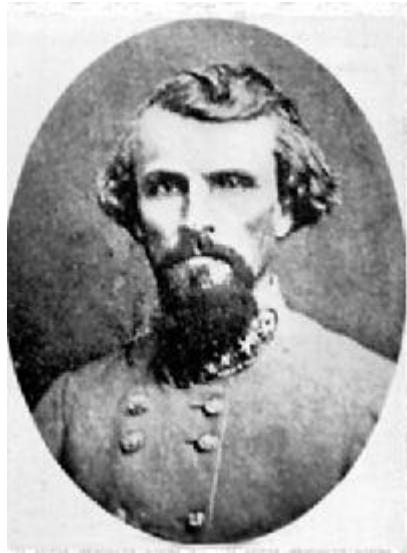
Artillery

1st Regiment Heavy

- COLONELS. Paul O. Hebert, promoted brigadier general August 14, 1861; Charles A. Fuller.
- LIEUTENANT COLONELS. Charles A. fuller, promoted colonel August 14, 1861; Daniel Beltzhoover.
- MAJORS. Johnson K. Duncan, promoted colonel in Provisional Army of the Confederate States; Daniel Beltzhoover, promoted lieutenant colonel August 14, 1861; Raymond Montaigne, died July 24, 1864; Henry A. Clinch, promoted lieutenant colonel April 25, 1865; W.C. Capers, Richard C. Bond.

Companies and Their Commanders

- *Company A.* Henry A. Clinch, promoted major August 14, 1861; John B. Grayson, Jr., transferred to Company F May 1, 1864; William C. Ellis.
- *Company B.* John C. Moore, resigned April 15, 1861; William B. Robertson.
- *Company C.* John T. Shaaff, promoted captain in Provisional Army of the Confederate States March 27, 1861; Frederick B. Brand, transferred to Company D September 6, 1861; John H Lamon.
- *Company D.* Frederick B. Brand transferred to Company C April 24, 1861; Randall L. Gibson, resigned September 6, 1861; Frederick B. Brand, resigned December 30, 1861; Rufus J. Bruce.
- *Company E.* James B. Anderson, resigned January 28, 1863; L. B. Haynes.
- *Company F.* Miles F. Squires, killed October 4, 1863; William C. Ellis, transferred to Company A May 1, 1864; John B. Grayson, Jr.
- *Company G.* W. C. Capers, promoted major July 24, 1863; Henry W. Fowler, dropped November 27, 1864; Richard Agar.
- *Company H.* Edward Higgins, resigned January 2, 1862; Edward G. Butler.
- *Company K.* Richard C. Bond, transferred to Company H February 9, 1863; Abner N. Ogden, Jr.



Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest

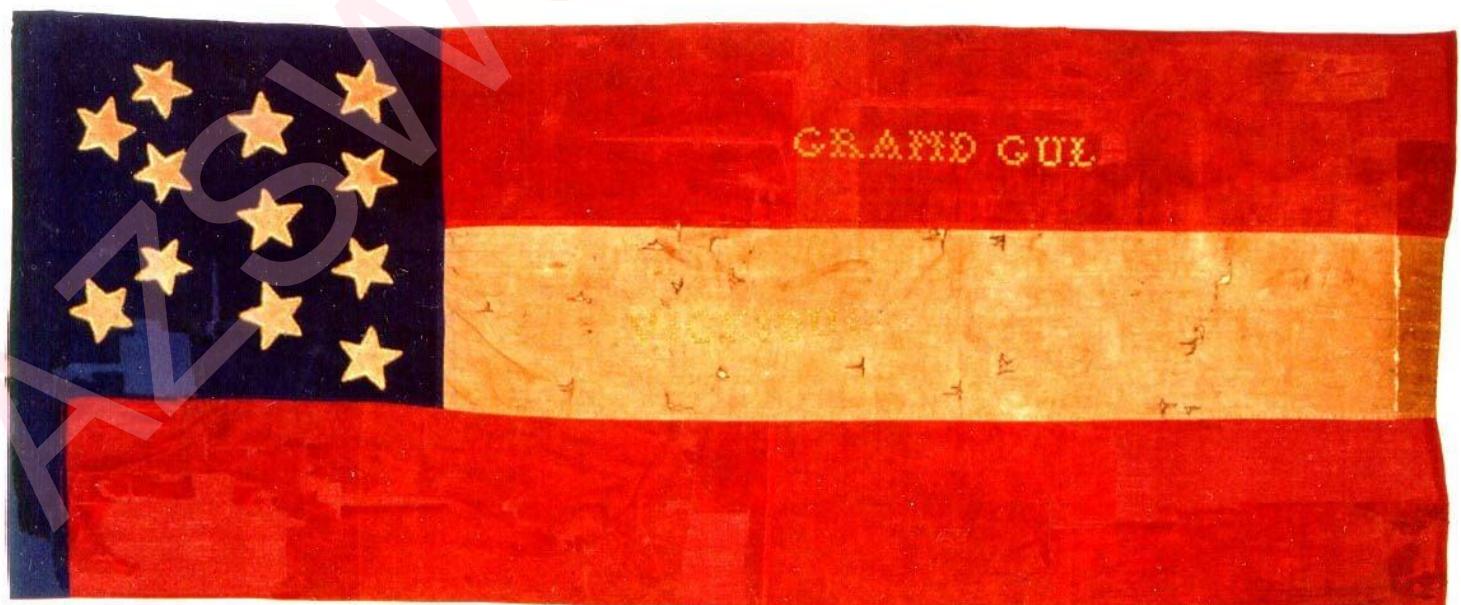
Organized February 5, 1861, as part of the Louisiana State Army, the 1st Heavy Artillery transferred to Confederate service March 13, 1861, with 744 men. Regimental headquarters remained at the New Orleans Barracks while the various companies occupied the forts of the New Orleans defenses. Throughout the fall and winter of 1861, Companies B, C, D, E, F, H, and K served in Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip below New Orleans. **Companies A and I helped defend Fort Pike**, and Company G composed part of the Fort Macomb garrison. The companies at Jackson and St. Philip fought well against Union admiral David G. Farragut's fleet during the bombardment and passage of the forts and were included in the surrender and parole of the garrisons on April 26, 1862. Company I participated in the brief skirmish with the Union fleet at the McGehee Lines on April 25. **Company A** and G evacuated their posts on April 26 and joined Company I at Camp Moore on May 3, 1862. About May 20, 1862 these three companies left for Vicksburg, Mississippi, to help man the river batteries defending that city. They served in a temporary battalion commanded by Major Henry A. Clinch during the first attack on Vicksburg, May 18 - July 27, 1862. The officers and men captured at Jackson and St. Philip received their exchanges in the fall, and most of them returned to their command. During the fall and winter of 1862 - 63, the regiment suffered heavily from sickness; and at one point nearly 500 conscripts augmented its depleted ranks. The men manned the cannons in the lower (southern) river batteries at Vicksburg. On March 11, 1863, Company A moved to Grand Gulf to occupy the upper (northern) battery there. In an engagement with Federal gunboats on March 31, the company distinguished itself by its excellent firing. This company again engaged the enemy on April 29 and participated in the evacuation of the post on May 3. During the siege of Vicksburg, May 19 - July 4, 1863, the regiment fired its cannons

at enemy gunboats on the river and enemy batteries on the Louisiana shore. The 1st Heavy Artillery marched out of Vicksburg after the surrender there and went into a camp for paroled prisoners at Enterprise, Mississippi. Major General Dabney H. Maury requested the regiment's services at Mobile, Alabama, after it was exchanged; and the regiment arrived there on January 16, 1864. From that time until summer, the companies manned various redoubts along the Mobile land defenses. Twice during July, 1864, the regiment moved to Meridian, Mississippi, to support Major General Stephen D. Lee's cavalry force. At the Battle of Tupelo, July 14, 1864, the men acted as an infantry reserve. The regiment reoccupied redoubts at Mobile in early August, 1864, and late that month the companies moved to two water batteries on islands in upper Mobile Bay. The regiment continued to garrison these batteries until April 11, 1865, when they were dismantled and their men evacuated as part of the evacuation of Mobile. When Lieutenant General Richard Taylor's army surrendered, on May 8, 1865, the 1st Heavy Artillery was camped at Cuba Station, Alabama; and the men received their paroles at Meridian as part of Taylor's army.

(*Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units*, pp 7-9)



Gen. Stephen D. Lee



Assignments & Battles

Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana

Gen. Van Doren

1861

Feb. 5 Organized in militia service, New Orleans
Mar. 13 Transferred to Confederate service, New Orleans (744 men)
Fall of '61 Co. "A" assigned to defense of Fort Pike (Maj.
Clinch, Co. Com.)
Other companies assigned to Forts St. Phillip and Jackson on the
Mississippi River south of New Orleans.

1862

Apr. 26 Evacuated post as Farragut entered New Orleans
May 3 At Camp Moore, Louisiana
May 20 Left Camp Moore for Vicksburg
May 23 thru July 27 Served defenses of Vicksburg (June and July,
Smith's Brigade)
Jul - Oct 2nd and 3rd Sub-district, District of Mississippi
Oct 2nd Military District

1863

Jan Unattached, Smith's Division, 2nd Military Division
Jan - Apr Beltzhoover, Lee's Brigade, Smith's Division, 2nd Military District
Mar 31 **Co. "A" was the northern battery in Fr. Coburn at the Battle of Grand Gulf (Mississippi)**
Apr - Jul **Siege of Vicksburg** by Grant's, river battery. Also served on the
eastern defensive line in Higgin's Command.
Jul 4 **Surrendered to Grant at Vicksburg, taken to Enterprise Mississippi**
Nov Paroled
Nov - Jan Beltzhoover's Brigade, Forney's Division

District of the Gulf
Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana

1864

Jan Higgins--Fuller's Artillery Brigade

Jul 14 **Battle of Tupelo**, Co. "A" served as reserve infantry
under Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Aug 5-23 **Battle of Mobile Bay 1865**

Mar-Apr Burnet's Command

Mar 17- Apr 12 **Battle of Mobile**

May 4 Surrendered at Cuba Station, Alabama

May 8 Paroled

**(Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana
Confederate Commands, Compiled by Andrew B. Booth,
Commissioner Louisiana Military Records, 1984: p. 473)**

MARCH 19, 1863.-Passage of the Grand batteries by the Hartford and Monongahela.

Report of Brigadier General John S. Bowen, C. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,

Grand Gulf, March 19, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the gunboats Hartford and Monongahela passed by this morning on their way up the river. Colonel [Wm.] Wade, commanding the Parrott battery, reserved his fire, as directed, until the vessels were nearly opposite his guns. The Hartford kept between the shore and the gunboat. As soon as he opened, the latter made the best possible time around the point, and all the fire was directed against the sloop of war. The firing was every accurate, and almost every shot struck the mark, but with what effect could not be perceived.* They answered with heavy guns, but harmed nothing except a battery flag-staff.

I have been anxiously looking for the Anna Perette all day, and still hope she will be here before night. The guns can be mounted in very short order, when once here, and I trust to be able to give them a better reception on their way down.

I allowed the Grand Era to go on down to Red River this afternoon, there being no danger below. The Fulton also exhibited orders to proceed to the same destination, but I retained her to go to Hard Times, 3 or 4 miles on the other side of the river, to get a thousand or so sacks of corn, which await transportation there. Every precaution has been taken to prevent surprise, and the boat will return this afternoon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO S. BOWEN

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Major J. J. REEVE, Assistant Adjutant General.

* Rear-Admiral D. G. Farragut, U. S. Navy, reports his casualties as 2 men killed and 6 wounded.

Numbers 4.

Reports of Major General Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, commanding at Vicksburg.

HDQRS. SECOND DISTRICT, DEPT. OF MISS., AND E. LA.,

Vicksburg, March 25, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that, about 5.30 o'clock this morning, two boats attempted to pass our batteries. One of them was sunk about 2 miles below the town, with almost all on board; the other was seriously disabled. When she had floated out of range of our batteries, the gunboat Albatross (heretofore called, it is thought by mistake, the Monongahela), took her in tow. She is now helpless, and it will apparently take some time for them to repair her damages. During the engagement the Hartford moved up from below Warrenton, engaging the fort there.

She approached so near that our musketry drove the gunners from the guns, when she withdrew. The officer whom I sent to Mobile and Montgomery has succeeded in obtaining a good deal of powder and projectiles for my heavy guns. It cannot pass either Meridian or Jackson without your orders; please give such that will secure its speedy arrival. I send you on the train to-day two Federal deserters and a negro taken in the act of carrying dispatches for the enemy. One of the deserters is an intelligent man, and some information can perhaps be derived from him. I enclose herewith a list of the ordnance and ordnance stores sent General Loring.*

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. L. STEVENSON,

Major-General, Commanding.

Major R. W. MEMMINGER,

Assistant Adjutant General.

VICKSBURG, March 25, 1863.

The boat which passed this morning was towed ashore just above Brown & Johnston's landing, where she now lies apparently a wreck. The Hartford, in passing up to her assistance, engaged our iron casemates at Warrenton for some twenty minutes, during which she was roughly handled, being struck some twenty-six times. We had mounted four Parrott guns in the casemate since she

went down. General [S. D.] Lee is advancing slowly. Nothing from Featherston. A regiment, the 32-pounder ammunition, and one-cotton boat went to General Loring to-day.

C. L. STEVENSON

Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

MARCH 31, 1863.- Engagement at Grand Gulf, Miss.

Report of Brigadier General John S. Bowen, C. S. Army.

HDQRS. 1ST BRIGADE, 2nd DIVISION, ARMY OF MISSISSIPPI,

Grand Gulf, Miss., April 1, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that the enemy's boats, three in number, passed down the river yesterday evening at 8.15. There having been reports of their approach during the day, everything had been held in readiness, the men at their guns and a regiment in the trenches. Night coming on, a detail was left at the guns (enough to manage them) and the infantry bivouacked in position. Owing to the negligence of the signal corps stationed over the river at Hard Times, and who should have been able to give timely notice, no warning was given during the afternoon, and at night no rocket was sent up to apprise us of their approach. They were perceived by the sentinel at the upper battery as they rounded the point and immediately opened upon. About twenty shots were fired from the heavy guns, twenty-one from the field pieces, and twenty-one from the Parrots of Wade's battery. The vessels were struck repeatedly. Seven heavy shells were seen to take effect, one raking the Hartford from stem to stern. The firing from the field batteries was excellent, the shrapnel bursting over the decks; but I have no means of discovering what damage was inflicted on the ships,* but the steam ram which passed the Vicksburg batteries was struck once amidships, swung round broadside to the current, and floated down thus, firing a lee gun, which could only have been a signal of distress.

All the vessels lay about 10 miles below during the night and passed on down this morning.

I regret to report that one of the 20-pounder Parrott guns burst at the fourth fire, killing 2, mortally wounding 1, and wounding 7, besides some scratches. I append a list. I entered the battery just as the gun exploded, and it affords me pleasure to bear testimony to the gallant conduct of the men there. Though many were knocked down, besides the wounded, only an imperceptible pause in the firing was occasioned, the men sprung up and to the other guns so quickly. The lieutenant of the burst gun replaced Numbers 1. of the next piece, who was killed, and it would not have been possible for the enemy to have discovered the accident from any slackening of the fire.

The firing from the upper battery (Captain [J. B.] Grayson's) was excellent.

The lower battery, where the accident occurred, was manned by Wade's and Guibor's companies of light artillery.

I inclose a report on the circumstances attending and the causes of the bursting of the gun.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNumbers S. BOWEN,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Major R. W. MEMMINGER,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

* Rear-Admiral Farragut, U. S. Navy, reported that the Albatross was not struck; that the Hartford was struck once, killing 1 man and that the Switzerland was struck twice, but received no damage.

Nominal list, omitted, reports 2 men killed and 1 officer (Captain Henry Guibor) and 1 man wounded, of Guibor's battery; 1 officer (Lieutenant John Kearney) and 5 men wounded, of Wade's Battery.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,

Grand Gulf, April 1, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have examined the fragments, and inquired into the circumstances attending the loading and firing of the 20-pounder Parrott gun which burst during the action last night, and believe the cause of the disaster was the bursting of a shell in the gun, there being no fuse or an imperfect fuse in the shell. I was to the right and rear of the piece, about 30 yards distant, at the time of the explosion, and saw distinctly its effect. The cascabel was blown to the rear, the lower band entire, the center band broken. The chase and muzzle were blown to the front, and the right fragments of the re-enforce to the "right and rear"; the left fragments to the "left and front." The right wheel was entirely demolished, the left and stock badly broken. The upper wrought-iron band was broken and nearly straight.

There is no apparent flaw in any of the metal, the fractures presenting the usual crystalline surface, devoid of any seam or crack. Parts of the shell were found among the fragments, and no separate explosion of the shell was noticed by anyone. If it had burst after the piece, it certainly would have been seen. I am, therefore, satisfied that the shell was ignited and exploded before reaching the chase, thus confining the gases, and bursting the piece. The fragments of the re-enforce will weigh from 5 to 30 pounds.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNumbers S. BOWEN,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Major R. W. MEMMINGER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Numbers 3.

Report of Brigadier General John S. Bowen, C. S. Army, commanding at GrandGulf.

GRAND GULF, April 15, 1863.

Colonel [F. M.] Cockrell had a skirmish to-day, killing 2, wounding 3, and capturing 4 of the enemy, releasing a major and a number of women and children held in their lines; also retaking over 100 negroes; captured 5 or 6 horses and equipage.

No loss on our side.

JNumbers S. BOWEN,

Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

Number 2.

Report of Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton, C.S.Army.

JACKSON, April 29,[1863.]

Six gunboats, averaging ten guns each, opened a terrific fire upon our batteries at Grand Gulf at 7 a.m., and continued without intermission six hours and a half, when they withdrew. Several boats apparently damaged; one, disabled, lying on Louisiana shore below. Our loss, 3 killed, including Colonel [William] Wade, General Bowen's chief of artillery; 12 or 15 wounded. Repairs are being made, expecting a renewal of attack to-morrow. Transports loaded with troops in sight, but inactive.

J.C. PEMBERTON,

Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER.

Reports of Major General Carter L. Stevenson, C.S. Army.

VICKSBURG, April 28, 1863.

The men will be ready to move promptly to cross the Mississippi, both gunboats and transports must pass the batteries at Grand Gulf. Our army large enough to defend itself on this side; would consume much time in crossing. As it is not known what force has been withdrawn from this front, it is not improbable that the force opposite Grand Gulf is there to lay waste the country on that side, and a feint to withdraw troops from a main attack here. I venture to express the hope that the troops will not be removed far until further developments below render it certain that

they will cross in force.

*Nominal list, omitted, shows, 1 enlisted man killed; 1 officer and 17 enlisted men wounded.

C.L. STEVENSON,

Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

VICKSBURG, April 29, 1863.

The line to Grand Gulf is broken. Heavy firing in that direction, under the circumstances, has induced me to start a re-enforcement.

Eight boats, loaded with troops from our front, are now moving up Yazoo. The display made in moving them showed a desire to attract our attention.

C.L. STEVENSON,

Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON, Jackson.

Number 4.

Reports of Brigadier General John S. Bowen, C.S. Army.

GRAND GULF, April 29, 1863.

Six gunboats, averaging ten guns, have been bombarding my batteries terrifically since 7 a.m. They pass and repass the batteries at the closest ranges. I cannot tell the effect of our shots. Six transports in sight, loaded with troops, but stationery. My loss as yet only 2 killed. The batteries, especially the

lower ones, are badly torn to pieces. I cannot tell the result, but think that re-enforcements would hardly reach me in time to aid in the defense if they attempt to land.

JNumbers S. BOWEN,

Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

GRAND GULF, April 29, 1863.

After six hours and a half of continued firing, the gunboats have retired. They fired about 3,000 shot and shell, temporarily disabling one gun. Our loss is 3 killed and 12 or 15 wounded. Apparently we injured two of their boats; damage unknown. Colonel William Wade, of the artillery, one of the bravest and best of my command, was killed at his post.

The men behaved like veterans (as they are), and are now hard at work preparing for another attack.

JNumbers S. BOWEN,

Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

GRAND GULF, April 29, 1863.

One disabled gunboat, after endeavoring unsuccessfully to go up the river, now lies about 3 miles below, by the Louisiana shore.

JNumber S. BOWEN,

Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

Letter from

Capt. William Coke Capers

Company Commander, Co. "G"

First Louisiana Heavy Artillery

Battery below Vicksburg

April 7th, 1863

Dear Starr:

My heart was made exceeding glad, yesterday afternoon, by the reception and perusal of a letter from you, full of kind words; beautiful expressions; vivid pictures of the olden, golden time, and sentiments of a continued personal esteem which any man might envy, and but few possess. I read the treasured communication over and over; laid it aside; took it up, and read it again and again, until I felt my heart warming towards you as never before, although you have long claimed its purest love and highest admiration. I felt oppressed by a sense of my own unworthiness, when contrasted with your generous kindness, and I involuntarily exclaimed, Oh, that I merited but one half * the esteem that my noble-souled, gifted, unselfish friend has so long lavished [u]pon me!-- A tear drop stood

trembling in my eye; my heart softened and glowed under its influence, and I felt that, of all men, these days of infidelity, I was most blessed, in the possession of a friend, who--if it is not sacrilege to use the expression--"sticketh closer than a brother". I think I can say, with truth, that my thoughts are with you daily, and always have been, although my long silence would seem to belie the statement. One reason I did not write, was the idea that my letters were not pleasing to you, and I did not wish to annoy you with them. Every officer in my company, and many in my Regiment, know you--your gifts, you noble, generous impulses, your pure, unselfish nature, and your brotherly regard for me. You must know that I am propped up in bed writing this, having been sick for five days. Yesterday afternoon, the Courier arrived from town with letters. One of my Lieutenants came into my tent saying, "Captain, I have a letter for you that will do you more good than all the medicine you can take. It is from your old friend Starr." Now, I mention this, in confirmation of what I stated above, that I not only think of you, but talk about you. The beautiful allusion you made to the interweaving of romance, poetry and sentiment of our past scenes and associations, touched a chord that awoke slumbering memories of a by-gone period, full of hope, and joy, and happiness, and, for a brief season, I lived over, in fancy, those previous days of life, but soon, the stern realities of the present chased away the pleasing vision, and left the mind sad and melancholy, by reason of the contrast.

Since my last was written, I have been moved from my former battery, to this point. The enemy was making rapid progress with the "canal", and which, being accomplished, would have enabled the entire fleet and army to pass through,--leaving Vicksburg and its defenses powerless to act--and throw the whole force upon Port Hudson, reduce it, and, joining Farragut and Banks, return, with overwhelming (sic) numbers, to crush out this. My guns being of the largest calibre, and throwing shot and shell with equal effect, I was ordered to remove them here, and dispute the passage of any boats attempting to run the "canal". I came, and found that two dredge boats had well-nigh succeeded in cutting through. I commenced, and kept up, both day and night, at irregular (sic) intervals, a telling fire, and finally drove the dredge boats and batteries away, and put a quietus to all work on the "canal". Being just two miles off the nearest point a battery could be erected--you may judge with what precision I have to fire to make my shots effective. One of their letter writers, in speaking of my firing, says, "the rebel battery threw shot and shell with wonderful precision and terrible effect, making it almost impossible to work the boats." I had my lines and angles of fire so well determined, that I could burst shell over and around them, just as well at night as in the day, and the effect of my shell exploding at night was a grand sight, and witnessed by thousands, both in the city and the adjacent hills. Unless you have witnessed the transit and explosion of these huge missiles of death, over a hundred pounds in weight you can form no idea of its grandeur. As soon as it leaves the muzzle of the piece, you can see it, by aid of the burning fuze (sic), shoot up, like a brilliant star, into mid-heaven, and trace it in its flight and descent until it explodes, when it throws out a sheet of flame and smoke, and, in a few seconds, the explosion comes back with almost the same volume of sound that issued from the gun in its discharge. The sight, I say, is a grand one, and the effect most ter-

PAGE 2 - CAPERS LETTER

rible, as these immense shells break into fragments, go hissing through the air, and which, in their fall, are as deadly as solid shot. It acquired skill and practice to explode these shells at the right point, particularly as far off as I am from my object, but I can now burst them any where I please, within two and a half miles. This accuracy depends upon the charge of powder, elevation, range, and length of fuze (sic), with a proper allowance for drift and windage. I have, perhaps, been rather minute in describing my shell operations, but, as I see you are in the habit of letting some of the fair maidens of Texas read my letters, and supposing this may share the same fate, I concluded, while on the subject, I might as well enlarge a little, for their edification.

My general officers are highly pleased with my success, and say, they would rather see me keep the dredge boats out of the canal (sic), than to sink a dozen gunboats. If I keep them out of the "canal", they will be forced to pass the batteries at Vicksburg, which they are not anxious to attempt, as we sink, cripple, and drive them back as fast as they come. I have already burned over two thousand pounds of powder, and expect to double it in a month.

I heartily concur with you in your desire for peace, but alas! When that time will come, is known only to Him, who "ruleth the armies of Heaven and earth", and who will at His own good pleasure, incline the hearts of our cruel, malignant foes to peace, and secure to us the inestimable blessing of Independence. That this much desired event is not far removed, obtaines (sic) ver (sic) generally here, both among soldiers and civilians. This opinion is based upon the disaffection of the Western troops, and the divisions and dissents (sic) springing up at the North, growing out of Lincoln's infamous Proclamation, and other arbitrary acts of unauthorized power. These Western and Northwestern troops are getting their eyes opened to the fact that it is not for the "constitution and the Union", and the "free navigation of the Mississippi", that they are in arms against their natural allies, but to carry out the nefarious designs of the Abolitionists, and they now shrink from the plans and purposes of a war, which, for cruelty and inhumanity, has no parallel, even in the annals of savage barbarity. The most benighted heathen would blush to own many, very many acts of infamy which have been perpetrated during this unnatural war, and by those, too, professing to have humanitarian, if not Christian, instincts and impulses. These things have become so very palpable, that thousands turn from them with loathing and disgust, and are only waiting a favorable opportunity to renounce a cause so brutal and accursed. This, I say, is the state of feeling among the Northwestern troops, as affirmed by many who have escaped to our lines; and such being the case, let the battle come here, when and how it may, my faith is that our arms will signally triumph.

God grant that this hopeful prediction may be realized in all its fullness, and that, with this battle, may terminate the fierce conflicts which have deluged our soil with the blood of the bravest and best, and spread ruin and devastation over the fairest land that glows beneath the sun.

That the battle will be most terrible, all admit, and as I am more exposed than any other battery, and will have two of the most formidable war vessels of the Federal navy, the "Hartford" and "Albatros" (sic), to contend with, independent of others that may succeed in running the gauntlet, I can hardly hope to come off as well as I did last year. God mercifully preserved me during the terrible conflict of last year, and I believe He will throw the Aegis of His protection around me in this. At least, let us so hope; and when the din of war shall cease, and white robed peace unfurl her banner to the breeze, and war-worn soldiers strike their tents for the last time, and take up their line of march for their far distant homes, there to receive a welcome from those who make up their all of life; I, too, will bend my footsteps towards your rural, quiet home, to meet your genial welcome and kindly smiles; and, after the partial subsiding of a job, to intense for utterance, my overflowing heart shall be enabled to give expression to its emotions, I will tell you all about my connection with the army, and

PAGE THREE - CAPERS LETTER

the thousand times you were with me, in thought and fancy, cheering my flagging energies, and whispering to my soul of a happy meeting, after so long and painful a separation. I should like, above all things, to be with you this balmy April day. We could spread us out, at full length, upon the bosom of our common mother, and, beneath the whispering boughs of the majestic oaks that stand sentry over the "Navidad", forgetful of wrong, and injury, talk, as only friends can.

Those are no false throbs of the heart of nature. The winds, as they quietly float (---) the wishes of God's (---) temple have no sound of suspicion, nor voice of detraction, nor word of calumny. All is

truth, sincerity, seriousness. Therefore, do I love nature so much, and therefore do I almost envy you your quiet forest-home.

Nothing so calms the soul of an earnest man, as communion with nature, in her great solitudes, and on the margin of her mighty waters. No matter what may be his struggles with himself, of his contest with a misapprehending world, if he will go forth thoughtfully, lovingly, and trustfully, amid the stillness of the woods, he will find that trees, and flowers, and green leaves and new morning (sic) breezes, all have voices, and will speak to him. He will find a great peace coming into his soul. Not though, unless he is a true man; I do not say a perfect one, for who is perfect? But if he be a true man, in the sense of being conscious of his weaknesses and errors; --if deeply deplored them, and of earnestly striving to make himself better, he will find communion with nature, next in importance of communion with God.

I was sorry to hear my little pet has grown so wild, however, if there is nothing really wicked in it, she will sober down to a good and true woman, as most wild girls do. My letter to her was intended as a family letter, she being the medium of communication, and, I trust, it was received in the same spirit in which it was written. I did not expect a reply, and shall be agreeably disappointed if one comes. Her mother was always kind to me, and I will remember her, with gratitude, to the last moment of existence. Bettie's child-feelings, of course, are lost in the flight of years, and even my name would die out of remembrance, unless frequently recalled by circumstances, or friends.

Major Simons' Brigade has left for Fort Pemberton. He came to see me several times before he left. He gave me the first intimation of my old sweetheart, Miss Flora, having [m]arried (---) brother. I hope existence, to them, will never be shadowed.

I have written in great (---), both of body and mind, and my (---) as well as you (---) completely exhausted so justice to myself, and mercy to you, compel me to close by signing myself, as ever,

Your faithful friend.

Coke

P.S. Remember me kindly to Mr. and Mrs. White, Bettie, Uncle Ben, and any others who may think of, or care for me.

Coke

With thanks to . . .

Archival Collection

Vicksburg National Military Park

Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

Terrence J. Winshcel, Historian

Transcription of Order from Maj. Beltzhoover to

H. W. [Fossler] (?)

Headquarters, Mil. Distr. of Louisiana.

New Orleans, April 26, 1861

Sir;

You have been appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate First Lieutenant, Rgt. Of Artillery, in the Army of Louisiana. Please report to this office by letter, your acceptance or non-acceptance of this appointment. Should your accept, you will immediately proceed to Company ('B') at Fort Jackson and report to the comdg officer for duty.

(Signed)

D. Beltzhoover

Major, Regt. Of artr,

a. a. a. ----(?)

1st Lieut: H. W. Fossler(?)

Regt. Of artr.

While you are in the City you had better call and get your commission and be mustered in to --- A.

DB



CONFEDERATE LOUISIANA TROOPS

1st Regiment, Louisiana Heavy Artillery (Regulars)

Overview

1st Regular Artillery Regiment was organized during the spring of 1861 with men from New Orleans and the surrounding area. The unit contained ten companies, but there were a number of consolidations during the war, and in 1865 it appears that only four remained.

A heavy artillery unit, it served at Forts Jackson and St. Phillip at New Orleans, then was part of the river batteries at **Vicksburg**. Here it was **captured on July 4, 1863**.

After being exchanged and reorganized, it was stationed at Mobile and saw action at Fort Gaines, Fort Morgan, and Spanish Fort. On May 4, 1865, the unit surrendered with the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana.

The field officers were Colonels Johnson K. Duncan, C.A. Fuller, and Paul O. Hebert; Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Beltzhoover; and Majors James B. Anderson, W.C. Capers, Henry A. Clinch, and Raymond Montaigne.

1st Regiment, Louisiana Heavy Artillery (Regulars) - Confederate

This unit was organized 5 February 1861 and was part of the Louisiana State Army, later transferred to the Confederate Regular Army. The regiment was headquartered at the New Orleans Barracks, but companies served at various forts defending New Orleans.

In May of 1862, the regiment was ordered to Vicksburg where they fought until surrender in July 1863. Grant, not wanting to care for 30,000 prisoners of war, immediately paroled the unit.

By January 1864, the regiment was in Mobile, Alabama. After brief stints in Meridian and Tupelo Mississippi, the unit returned to Mobile and garrisoned the batteries until surrender 8 May 1865 at Cuba Station, Alabama. The men were paroled at Meridian as part of Taylor's army

1st Regiment, Louisiana Heavy Artillery, United States Civil War

1st Regiment, Louisiana Heavy Artillery (Regulars) was organized during the spring of 1861 with men from New Orleans and the surrounding area. The unit contained ten companies, but there were a number of consolidations during the war, and in 1865 it appears that only four remained. A heavy artillery unit, it served at Forts Jackson and St Phillip at New Orleans, then was part of the river batteries at Vicksburg. Here it was captured on July 4, 1863. After being exchanged and reorganized, it was stationed at Mobile and saw action at Fort Gaines, Fort Morgan, and Spanish Fort. On May 4, 1865, the unit surrendered with the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana.

1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery

Company A

Vicksburg, Mississippi



C.S.
COMPANY A.
1ST LOUISIANA HEAVY ARTILLERY.
RIVER BATTERIES: ARMY OF VICKSBURG.
CAPT. J. B. CRAYSON.
THE COMPANY, UNDER CAPT. J. B. CRAYSON, WAS
ENGAGED IN THE DEFENSE OF GRAND CULF, APRIL 29;
CASUALTIES, NOT REPORTED. A DETACHMENT, UNDER
LIEUT. W. C. ELLIS, SERVED ONE 8-INCH SIECE HOWITZER
IN THIS POSITION FROM ABOUT MAY 25 TO THE END
OF THE DEFENSE, JULY 4, 1863.

C.S.
COMPANY A.
1ST LOUISIANA HEAVY ARTILLERY.
RIVER BATTERIES: ARMY OF VICKSBURG.
CAPT. J. B. CRAYSON.
A DETACHMENT OF THE COMPANY, UNDER LIEUT.
GEORGE P. CRANE, SERVED ONE 12-POUNDER SIECE GUN
IN THIS POSITION FROM MAY 18 TO THE END OF THE
DEFENSE, JULY 4, 1863.

COMPANY A

1st REGIMENT LOUISIANA ARTILLERY

Organized 5 Feb 1861, Company A was first commanded by Henry A. CLINCH. During the fall and winter of 1861, they helped defend Fort Pike in the New Orleans area. In May of 1862, the company evacuated their posts and joined other units at Camp Moore.

Before the end of the month, they left for Vicksburg, Mississippi to help man the river batteries that defended the city and was present during the first attack of Vicksburg, May 18-27 of 1862. Men that were captured during this Siege were exchanged in the fall and most of them returned to their command.

On 11 March 1863, the company moved to Grand Gulf, Mississippi to occupy the upper battery there. In an engagement with Federal gunboats on the 31st of March, the company distinguished itself by its excellent firing. Then on the 29th of April, they engaged the enemy again and participated in the evacuation of the post on May 3rd.

From January of 1864 until summer, Company A manned various redoubts along the Mobile land defenses as well as providing support to the cavalry force in northern Mississippi and at the Battle of Tupelo, the men acted as an infantry reserve. By August of 1864, Company A men reoccupied redoubts at Mobile.

On April 11th of 1865, the company was dismantled and evacuated from Mobile, camping at Cuba Station, Alabama. The men surrendered with the army of Lieutenant General Richard Taylor and received their paroles at Meridian, Mississippi.

FIRST REGIMENT HEAVY ARTILLERY 1861 ~ 1865

Organized 5 Feb 1861 as part of the Louisiana State Army, the 1st Heavy Artillery transferred to Confederate service 13 Mar 1861, with 744 men. Regimental headquarters remained at the New Orleans Barracks while the various companies occupied the forts of the New Orleans defenses.

The Regiment marched out after the surrender of Vicksburg and went into a camp for paroled prisoners. After being exchanged, the Regiment went into service at Mobile, arriving in January of 1864.

The Regiment continued to garrison batteries in the Mobile area until 11 Apr 1865, when they were dismantled and the men evacuated as part of the evacuation of Mobile. When Lieutenant General Richard Taylor's Army surrendered on 8 May 1865, the 1st Heavy Artillery was camped at Cuba Station, Alabama; and the men received their paroles as part of Taylor's Army.

Regimental Flag



The regimental flag of the First Louisiana Heavy Artillery. The restored flag hangs in the Hall of Flags at the Confederate Memorial Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was donated to the museum by the Jack Crane family and funds to have it restored were donated by many living descendants of George Price Crane.

George Crane's battery was among the garrison surrendered to Gen. Grant at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. Rather than have his regimental colors fall into enemy hands, Crane tied the flag around his waist and put his tunic over it. He was then able to smuggle the flag past his captors. After the war, the flag was passed down the descendants until it came to hang in the home of Jack Crane. The family donated it to the Confederate Museum in 1986. It belongs to all the people of the South.