

FORT MOULTRIE, NO.3

FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT
SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

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A STRUCTURAL HISTORY OF FORT MOULTRIE, NO. 3

Chapter VI

The Civil War Brings Great Changes

In the summer of 1860 the drift toward secession and dissolution of the Union was terribly apparent, as the Democratic party split, with the Northern wing nominating Stephen A. Douglas for the Presidency and the Southern faction John C. Breckinridge. With the Democratic party a shambles, the victory of the Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, was assured. A fourth party, the Constitutional Union, also entered the field, soliciting votes for its nominee John Bell of Tennessee. South Carolinians, with the Charleston fire-eaters boldly in the van, openly declared that if Mr. Lincoln were declared elected they would leave the Union.

The only United States troops in Charleston Harbor during this hectic summer were the two companies (E and H) of the 1st Artillery posted at Fort Moultrie. Colonel Gardner, who had seen action in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, because of his age was ill-fitted to weather the storm. In politics he was Southern, "frequently asserting that the South had been treated outrageously in the question of the Territories, and defrauded of her just rights in other respects." He acquiesced, however, in the need to defend the fort should it be

assailed. He and his family were quartered off the reservation.¹

Gardner's senior captain was Abner Doubleday, better known today as the father of baseball. Doubleday in 1876 recalled that the walls of the fort were but 12 feet high, and "they were old, weak, and so full of cracks that it was quite common to see soldiers climb to the top by means of the support these crevices afforded to their hands and feet." Sea breezes had drifted an immense dune against the seafront of the work, and another in the immediate vicinity. These sand hills, covered with sparse, stunted vegetation, commanded the parapet, and made the work untenable.²

Lieutenant Foster in early September 1860 was ordered by Colonel Totten "to repair to Fort Moultrie, and put that and the other defenses of Charleston harbor in perfect order." The justification for this move was that the United States was "drifting into complications" with certain European powers, including Great Britain, over their threats to intervene in Mexico to collect debts owed their nationals. To accomplish this work, Foster had available an allotment of \$8,500 for the repair of Fort Moultrie. This sum had been included in the general appropriation made by Congress for national defense in 1860 by the act approved by President James Buchanan on June 21.³

1. Abner Doubleday, Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie in 1860-61 (New York, 1876), p. 19.

2. Ibid., pp. 14-15; Samuel W. Crawford, The History of the Fall of Fort Sumpter . . . (New York, 1898), p. 6.

3. Doubleday, Reminiscences, p. 21; Crawford, Fall of Fort Sumpter, p. 6.

Foster, severely wounded at Molino del Rey and brevetted a captain, was fearless and reliable. Reaching Sullivan's Island from Baltimore on the 12th, he turned a fatigue party to removing the dune in front of the scarp-wall to form a permanent glacis. Meanwhile, his carpenters erected cross-fences made of scrap timber to check the drifting sand. The dune which overtopped the parapet was cut down to eliminate danger of escalade. In one place, at the southwest angle, it was excavated to the level of the bottom of the ditch to make room for the foundation of a flanking caponniere at that point, and the earth of the parapet removed to the proper depth "to form the communication from the terreplein to the caponniere." The two upper stories of the guard-house were loopholed. The sharp angles of brick at the salients of the scarp, which had been broken and notched, were cut-off and repointed.⁴

On his arrival at the fort, Lieutenant Foster had hired local labor and had sent to Baltimore for a large number of masons who had worked for him on Fort Carroll. Most of the 150 masons who reached Sullivan's Island from Baltimore in early November to work on the harbor defenses were not Unionists. Foster at this time did not believe that South Carolina would secede, so he did not think it necessary to pay any attention to the politics of his laborers.⁵

4. Foster to De Russy, Nov. 2, 1860, NA, RG 77.

5. Doubleday, Reminiscences, pp. 31, 33. Foster retained 120 of his people to strengthen Fort Moultrie, leaving his assistant, Lt. George W. Snyder, 109 men with which to finish Fort Sumter.

By the end of October, Foster's people had opened a postern from the interior of the fort to the flanking caponniere at the southwest angle and were cutting one to the caponniere under construction at the southeast angle. These brick caponnières were sited "to flank with their fire the fort's three seafronts." The completion of the caponnières had been delayed by the non-arrival of the embrasure irons and pintle stones from the New York Engineer Depot.⁶

Colonel Gardner was uncooperative. As the crisis heightened, he refused to allow his men to mount the big guns, or take any precautions. He alleged, with reason, that "the work was all torn to pieces by the engineers; that it was full of débris; and that, under the circumstances, he was not responsible for anything that might happen."⁷

At the end of October, Foster returned to Baltimore to bring back his masons. Disembarking at Sullivan's Island on November 11, he was disappointed to discover that the pintle-blocks for the howitzer embrasures had not yet been received from New York. During his absence, the posterns connecting the caponnières with the interior of the fort had been finished but had not been covered, so he determined to erect "temporary flanking arrangements." These defenses, which could be substituted for the caponnières, consisted of two

6. Foster to De Russy, Nov. 26, 1860, NA, RG 77.

7. Doubleday, Reminiscences, p. 25.

platforms, each designed for four field guns, and protected by a stout board fence, ten feet in height, topped by strips fitted with nails. This fence was backed by a "dry brick wall raised to the height of a man's head and loopholed and embrasured."⁸

In November, Gardner, at the urging of his officers, directed that the guns which had been dismantled to enable the engineers to make repairs be remounted at once, and Seymour's and Doubleday's companies were turned to.⁹ All told, there were 45 pieces of heavy ordnance (ten 8-inch columbiads, 16 24-pounders, and 19 32-pounders) mounted on the superior slope of Fort Moultrie. In addition to these there were one 10-inch seacoast mortar, four 6-pounder brass guns, and six howitzers (two 12- and four 24-pounders) for flanking defense.¹⁰

By November 18 the garrison considered itself "reasonably secure against a coup-de-main." The guns were emplaced and loaded with canister. Maj. Robert Anderson reached Fort Moultrie on November 21 and relieved Colonel Gardner of command of the defenses of Charleston Harbor. He felt as if he had a hereditary right to be there, because his father had distinguished himself in the Revolutionary War in defense of Sullivan's Island against the British.¹¹

8. Foster to De Russy, Nov. 14, 1860, NA, RG 77.

9. Doubleday, Reminiscences, p. 29.

10. Crawford, Fall of Fort Sumpter, pp. 5, 95.

11. Doubleday, Reminiscences, pp. 40, 41.

Foster's masons in November were employed in completing the southeast postern leading into that caponniere and relaying coping; building five gun platforms and banquettes and connecting the same; and constructing banquettes, loopholes, and embrasures in the southwest brick caponniere. At the northwest salient angle of the fort, the brickmasons had cut through the parapet, enlarged the cut of the angle, raised vertical walks on the foundation of the scarp to form a bastionet for musketry, and had relaid the coping.¹² A communication passage was cut into the upper part of the guardhouse.¹³

The bastionet at the northwest angle by December 4 had been completed, except for the embrasures. The pintle-blocks and embrasure irons still had not been received. The posterns in the east and west curtains had been walled up, because Major Anderson felt that the garrison was too weak to attempt sorties.¹⁴

With the two companies posted at Fort Moultrie at half-strength, Major Anderson demanded of Lieutenant Foster "all the auxiliary defence" that he could provide. A crew was turned to digging a wet ditch around the work, "which although necessarily shallow from the quicksand, will more than double the difficulty of scaling the walls." Anderson had asked for a fraise around the coping of the scarp, but this would have

12. At the northwest salient angle evidence of this work is still visible, as the scarp-walls flare out before coming to an acute angle.

13. Foster to Totten, Jan. 14, 1861, NA, RG 77.

14. Foster to De Russy, Dec. 4, 1861, NA, RG 77.

to be deferred.¹⁵

Foster by December 13 was able to report that his wet ditch was 15 feet wide, but not very deep in consequence of the quicksand. Fronting the ditch was a picket fence, and protected from fire by the glacis covering it. All auxiliary defenses, except the picket fence, would be finished by the 17th. As only five men could be detailed by Anderson to man the two flanking caponnières, Foster had determined to rely on the machicouli galley, which had been erected at the southeast angle, as it could be held and the wall flanked by two or three men. The cement barrels, which had been saved, were positioned as merlons on the east front facing the sand hills to provide cover for sharpshooters.¹⁶

On December 20, 1860, the day that South Carolina passed the Ordinance of Secession, 137 men were still at work upon the defenses of Fort Moultrie. The wet ditch that partly surrounded the work had been completed. The east front of the defenses had been raised and the guns facing the sand hills provided with siege-battery embrasures faced with hides, with heavy merlons between them, and strong traverses to prevent an enfilading fire. A bridge connecting the barracks and guardhouse, which had been loopholed, was finished, and communications

15. Ibid. In explaining why he declined to erect the fraise, Foster pointed out that it would have the effect of diminishing the width of the wet ditch, because the same length of ladder that would catch on the points and enable the assailants to mount would not otherwise strike the scarp more than half-way up.

16. Foster to De Russy, Dec. 13, 1860, NA, RG 77.

were opened through the Officers' Quarters and barracks.¹⁷

On the evening of December 26, Major Anderson pulled the garrison out of Fort Moultrie and transferred it across the channel to Fort Sumter. Early the next morning, Surgeon Samuel W. Crawford returned to Fort Moultrie and saw that in accordance with Major Anderson's orders the "gun-carriages which supported the heavy armament in the southwest angle of the work, and which bore directly upon Fort Sumter, were in the process of destruction." Two had already been set afire by a demolition team headed by Lts. J. G. Foster and Jefferson C. Davis. Crawford assisted the team in the destruction of the remaining eight columbiad carriages. Five of the 8-inch columbiads toppled off their carriages and onto the parapet. The rest of the guns were spiked, and the flagstaff cut down.¹⁸

The day after the evacuation of Fort Moultrie by the United States troops, Lt. Col. Wilmot G. De Saussure arrived at 9 p.m. with his battalion of Charleston Artillery and 30 riflemen. The newcomers were exceedingly cautious in entering the work, because they feared the sallyport and parade had been mined. They were enraged to find the flagstaff cut down, for they had hoped to hoist the palmetto flag.

17. Crawford, Fall of Fort Sumpter, p. 95; Foster to Totten, Jan. 14, 1861, NA, RG 77; "Totten's Report of Nov. 30, 1861," found in Message of the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress at the Commencement of the 2d Session of the 37th Congress (Washington, 1861), Vol. 2, pp. 100-101.

18. Crawford, Fall of Fort Sumpter, p. 107; Doubleday, Reminiscences, p. 69.

They found, too, a number of the gun carriages burned, and tubes, which had settled as the carriages gave way, resting with their breeches on the platforms, and muzzles resting against the breast-height walls.¹⁹

Lt. Col. Roswell Ripley of the 1st South Carolina Artillery Battalion was assigned to command the defenses of Sullivan's Island by the State authorities on January 2, 1861, at a time when most experts considered Fort Moultrie to be untenable, should secession lead to hostilities in Charleston Harbor. Soon after he took charge, Colonel Ripley turned out a 200-man Negro work gang. The first project undertaken to strengthen the defenses of Fort Moultrie was to erect three large traverses on the east half of the seafront, and an enlargement of one that Lieutenant Foster had built upon that face near the south angle. These traverses, besides providing shelter and covering the southern half of the Officers' Quarters, were positioned to secure the guns mounted on this front from an enfilading fire that could be directed at them from Fort Sumter. In mid-January, Ripley's people were turned to protecting with "high and solid merlons, formed of timber, sand-bags and earth, raised between them all guns" on the southwest front that could be brought to bear on Fort Sumter. Traverses or merlons were also erected to secure from "enfilading fire all the guns upon the sea-front " which were sited to command the channel.

19. Doubleday, Reminiscences, pp. 75-76.

Lieutenant Foster, from a vantage point in Fort Sumter, observed that

the cheeks of the embrasures are of timber, apparently set on end, like palisades, . . . and I also notice that the exterior slope of the merlons is too great to resist the pressure of the earth, and that the sand bags are pressed out in one or two places.²⁰

During the third week of February, Negro work gangs threw up an earthen parapet in front of the scarp-wall on the fort's southwest seafront. On the side next to the scarp, it was revetted with barrels, while its exterior slope, facing Fort Sumter, was "pretty steep."²¹

A number of the big guns mounted in Fort Moultrie, by the end of the first week of April, had been transferred to other works with which the South Carolinians ringed Charleston Harbor.²² In the bombardment of Fort Sumter, April 12-13, the Sullivan's Island fort was Colonel Ripley's command post. There were at this time 30 guns emplaced in the work, and of these three 8-inch columbiads, two 32-pounders, and six 24-pounders were pointed at the Union fort in the harbor. Fort Sumter returned Fort Moultrie's fire at 8:30 a.m. on the 12th with 25 guns--17 mounted en barbette and eight in casemate. From that hour until nightfall, "a steady and continuous fire" was

20. Foster to Totten, Jan. 21, 1861, NA, RG 77. The merlons along the seafronts, which were about five feet in height, covered the Officers' Quarters and barracks up to their eaves.

21. Foster to Totten, Feb. 22, 1861, NA, RG 77.

22. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Vol. 1, p. 264. Two 32-pounders, at the end of the first week of March, were removed from the fort and emplaced in the five-gun battery commanding Maffitt's Channel.

maintained by the Federals from their casemated 32- and 42-pounders. The shells of the bluecoats "told with great effect upon the quarters of Fort Moultrie continually perforating and breaking them up." But, Colonel Ripley added, "our defenses were strong, the merlons and traverses heavy and well secured, and no material damage was done to our defenses, although the principal fire of the enemy was directed on this fort during the whole afternoon."

Early the next morning, the Federal redlegs again turned their big guns on Moultrie. Almost every shot grazed the crest of the parapet, and crashed through the quarters. At 1:15 p.m. Major Anderson had a white flag hoisted alongside the United States colors, and the firing ceased--the bombardment of Fort Sumter had ended.²³

When he surveyed the damage to Fort Moultrie, Colonel Ripley saw that the fire of Major Anderson's 32- and 42-pounders had all but wrecked the Officers' Quarters and barracks, and had injured the hot-shot furnace. The furnace had been struck three times and perforated, which made one bar ineffective. Ripley credited his command's escape with four casualties to the "strength of our defenses, the material of which had been furnished under the direction of Maj. Walter Gwynn, chief engineer."²⁴

Fort Moultrie on April 7, 1863, was garrisoned by the 1st South Carolina Infantry, Col. William Butler commanding. In the engagement

23. Ibid., pp. 39-41.

24. Ibid., p. 42.

with the Union ironclads of that date, Brig. Gen. James H. Trapier maintained his headquarters in the fort and watched as the infantrymen turned artillerymen manned their guns--nine 8-inch columbiads, five rifled 32-pounders, five 32-pounder smoothbores, and two 10-inch mortars.²⁵ By 2:30 p.m. General Trapier was satisfied that the Union ironclads were about to attack, and he hastened to Fort Moultrie. Slowly, but steadily, the ironclads chugged up the Swash in single file, Weehawken leading, followed by eight others at equal distances--the flagship, New Ironsides, in the middle. At 3 o'clock Colonel Butler informed the general that the leading ship was in range. Trapier told him to open his batteries on her.

The gunners of Companies A, E, F, and G, 1st South Carolina Infantry, opened fire with nine 8-inch columbiads, five rifled 32-pounders, five 32-pounder smoothbores, and two 10-inch mortars. Trapier, fearing that the range was too great for effective work, called for the artillerymen to suspend firing after a few rounds

25. O.R., Series I, Vol. XIV, pp. 269-273. There had been a great reduction in the fort's armament since September 22, 1862. On that date the fort's armament was:

	<u>No. of guns</u>	<u>Barbette carriages</u>	<u>Casement carriages</u>
8-inch columbiads	9	9	
8-inch seacoast howitzers	3	3	
Rifled 42-pounders	1	1	
24-pounders	11	11	
24 pounder howitzers	3	3	
6 pounders	1		1

Ibid., p. 606.

were discharged. But seeing that the ironclads refused to come to close quarters, there was no alternative but to engage them at long range or not at all. After consulting Butler, he decided to resume firing, and Fort Moultrie again opened her batteries. Batteries Bee and Beauregard had also by this time roared into action.

It soon became apparent to the Confederates that Rear Admiral Samuel Dupont's plan was "to fight and not to run by, and orders were given to 'train' on vessels nearest in and to fire by battery." Salvo after salvo was delivered in this manner, "but although it was plain that our shot repeatedly took effect--their impact against the iron casing of the enemy being distinctly heard and seen--yet we could not discover but that the foe was indeed invulnerable."

About three-quarters of an hour after the first gun was fired, New Ironsides closed to within 1,600 yards of Fort Moultrie. There she took position "with a view of taking a prominent part in the action." All the guns of the fort that could be brought to bear were pointed at her and fired. Seeing that she had stirred up a hornet's nest she moved out of range. Thereafter the gunners in the fort concentrated on Weehawken. About this time, the fort's flagstaff was cut down by a shot from one of the ironclads, and in falling it struck and killed Pvt. J. S. Lusby of Company F. When the flag was struck down, Capt. W. H. Wigg replaced it with the regimental flag, which he unfurled in a conspicuous place on a traverse.

About 5:30 p.m. the Federals, having taken a fearful pounding in the attempt to reduce the Rebel forts, began a slow withdrawal.

The Confederates had repulsed the dreaded monitors with ease.

In July 1863 troops of Maj. Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore's Department of the South moved against the defenses guarding the approaches to Charleston Harbor from the south. Gillmore on July 10 opened fire from his batteries, situated on the north end of Folly Island, against those of the Confederates occupying the southern sand hills of Morris Island. Four companies of the 1st South Carolina (Regular) Infantry still garrisoned Fort Moultrie at this time. Although Fort Moultrie had not yet come under attack, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, the officer charged with the area's defense, ordered Roswell Ripley (now a brigadier general) on July 13 to see that three 10-inch columbiads were mounted in Fort Moultrie.²⁷ The chief of ordnance on the same date was directed to send the one 10-inch columbiad carriage he had on hand to the Sullivan's Island fort.²⁸ By July 28 the 10-inch columbiads had been emplaced in Fort Moultrie, and Beauregard had five of

26. Ibid., pp. 269,273. In the engagement of April 7, 1863, the Fort Moultrie guns expended:

8-inch columbiad round shot	339
8-inch columbiad shell (incendiary)	5
32-pounder round shot	243
Hollow shot (rifled 32-pounder)	38
Conical shot (rifled 32-pounder)	x
Bolts (rifled 32-pounder)	192
10-inch mortar shell	51
Friction tubes	1,200
Pounds of powder	7,375

Ibid., p. 270.

27. O.R., Series I, Vol. XXVIII, pt. 2, p. 197.

28. Ibid.

the fort's lighter weight shellguns (8-inch columbiads) transferred to Battery Cheves.²⁹

On August 17 General Gillmore, whose troops had been inching their way forward, opened fire on Fort Sumter with the batteries he had established on Morris Island. General Beauregard, realizing that Fort Moultrie would soon come under bombardment, on the 18th ordered that the south elevations of the Officers' Quarters and West Barracks, next to the guns, be razed and the debris removed, "otherwise the battery may be made untenable." Chief Engineer David B. Harris was to examine the fort to determine "what additional traverses shall be constructed." Beauregard was satisfied that "one well-protected gun is worth ten exposed to flank fire." He felt that it would be necessary to dismount and remove some of the guns "to make room" for any new traverses that may be erected.³⁰

Chief Engineer Harris, after visiting the fort and indicating where he wished additional traverses raised, ordered a supply of empty sandbags forwarded to Sullivan's Island. General Ripley was also directed to see that the covered way connecting Fort Moultrie and Battery Beauregard was "put in an effective condition as soon as practicable."³¹ Thus the task of converting Fort Moultrie from a masonry work, vulnerable to the fire of heavy rifled guns, into a

29. Ibid.

30. Ibid., p. 292.

31. Ibid., p. 295.

"powerful earthwork by banking sand against the scarp-wall, and by the introduction of numerous traverses" was begun.³²

The Confederates, by the time they evacuated Morris Island on the night of September 6, had greatly strengthened the defenses of Fort Moultrie. Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren on the 7th demanded of Beauregard that he surrender Fort Sumter, and he was informed that "he could have Sumter when he could take and hold it."

On the afternoon of the 7th, five monitors and New Ironsides moved in close to Sullivan's Island and engaged the Rebel batteries until after dark. In this engagement one Confederate was killed by a shell in Battery Beauregard. Under cover of this diversion, the monitor Weehawken attempted to pass into the narrow, shoal, and tortuous channel between Sumter and Cummings Point. In doing so she grounded. At daybreak on the 8th, the Confederate lookouts on the ramparts of Fort Moultrie notified the post commander, Maj. Robert De Treville, that a monitor had grounded within easy range of their guns. Major De Treville ordered his men of the 3d South Carolina Artillery to open fire. There were cheers as a number of projectiles from the Rebel guns were seen to strike Weehawken's hull, of which a considerable expanse was exposed because of the ebb tide. The monitor replied with her huge XV-inch guns, and New Ironsides came to anchor within 1,200 yards of the fort, while several other monitors took

32. Message of the President of the United States, and Accompanying Documents, to the Two Houses of Congress, at the Commencement of the 2d Session of the 39th Congress (Washington, 1866), Vol. 3, p. 427.

station farther up the channel and at a range of 1,800 yards opened fire. The Federal warships hammered the fort with shot, shell, shrapnel, grape, and incendiary shell.³³

A XV-inch shell from Weehawken struck the muzzle of an 8-inch columbiad, glanced, and exploded among a number of shell-boxes and ammunition chests stacked behind a traverse, where men of Capt. R.P. Smith's Company were posted, killing 16 and wounding 12. Captain Smith narrowly escaped by leaping from the parapet into the ditch fronting the work.

The Union bluejackets now increased their rate of fire, which "became furious," and broadside after broadside from New Ironsides smashed through the sections of the Officers' Quarters and barracks still standing, hurling "fragments of every description in every direction, and rendering it almost impossible to pass from one portion of the fort to another." Capt. B. S. Burnet's company of the 3d South Carolina Artillery was sent over from Battery Beauregard to replace the survivors of Smith's company. Thus the fort was able to maintain its fire until 2 p.m., when the ships, Weehawken having been refloated, retired. Despite their losses, the Confederates cheered as they saw two of the monitors towing off a third.

In addition to the 8-inch columbiad, a rifled 32-pounder was knocked out by the Federals, when one of its trunnions was torn off by a fragment from an exploding shell. Within the fort there were

33. Daniel Ammen, The Atlantic Coast (New York, 1882), pp. 136-137; O.R., Series I, Vol. XXVIII, pt. 1, p. 718.

18 dead and 27 wounded.³⁴

At 5 p.m. on September 12, as a large fatigue party was turned to razing the quarters and barracks and cleaning up the debris, General Gillmore's heavy artillerists opened fire on Fort Moultrie from one of the batteries they had established at the north end of Morris Island. The Confederates stopped work and took cover, as one projectile exploded in the fort but did little damage. This shell was significant, because it demonstrated to General Beauregard and his officers that Fort Moultrie was now within range of the Union army's big breaching batteries.³⁵

The Rebel officers pushed their men and Negro work gangs hard in the ensuing weeks, as they turned the masonry fort into a massive earth-work. It was determined on September 23 to ship the rifled 42-pounder earmarked for the battery at the foot of Laurens Street to Fort Moultrie, where Colonels Butler and Harris were to determine its position. The old rifled 32-pounder, No. 27, at Moultrie was to be sent to Charleston for re-rifling, and an artificer was to be detailed to "brush" a second rifled 32-pounder. During periods of firing, the sandbagged embrasures were to be kept wet.³⁶

34. O.R., Series I, Vol. XXVIII, pt. 1, pp. 716-717, 718-719, 720. In the engagement on the 8th, the Fort Moultrie guns from left to right were manned by Capt. R.P. Smith's Company E, Capt. B.J. Wither-
spoon's Company G, and Capt. Jacob Valentine's Company C. Ibid., p. 719.

35. Ibid., p. 127.

36. Ibid., p. 374. Colonel Jordan observed on October 7 that the rifled 32-pounder was still in position, and he reiterated the orders for it to be dismounted and shipped to Charleston to be re-rifled. Ibid., p. 400.

On October 30 there were mounted in Fort Moultrie: four 10-inch columbiads, two 8-inch seacoast howitzers, two rifled 42-pounders, three rifled 32-pounders, four 24-pounder smoothbores, and two 10-inch mortars. Within the work, there were two 24-pounders, dismantled.³⁷ Orders were issued on November 1 to transfer from Fort Moultrie two 24-pounder smoothbores and one 8-inch seacoast howitzer to Battery Marshall; two 24-pounder smoothbores to the lines in Christ Church Parish; one 8-inch seacoast howitzer to Battery Beauregard; and one of the rifled 32-pounders on the west face to the battery between Batteries Beauregard and Marshall.³⁸

Capt. Jacob Valentine of the 3d South Carolina Artillery was in charge at Fort Moultrie on November 16, 1863, when it was discovered at 7 a.m. that the monitor Lehigh was aground about a mile away on the Morris Island side. The Rebel gunners opened fire, "seemingly with good effect, as she commenced to signal the fleet."

Soon three more monitors, Montauk, Nahant, and Passaic, came to her assistance. As they came up they opened fire, throwing 50 shots at the Sullivan's Island batteries, 20 of which struck Fort Moultrie. One shell exploded in the sally port, killing one and wounding three men of the 1st South Carolina Regular Infantry. A shot struck the muzzle of the rifled 32-pounder west of the flagstaff, carrying away ten inches of it and throwing the gun in a vertical position on its

37. Ibid., p. 464.

38. Ibid., p. 466.

breach. The scarp was struck four times, the merlons five times, while one projectile hit the magazine. All damage was repaired by Capt. Thomas B. Lee of the Engineers and a 20-man crew within one hour.³⁹

Both afloat and ashore, the Federals continued to hammer away at Fort Moultrie and the other defenses protecting Charleston. The Rebel engineers and artillerists at the same time continued to strengthen the defenses of Fort Moultrie. An inspection in April 1864 disclosed that Fort Moultrie had been extensively altered to protect it from the fire of the Federals' big guns. On the east a mortar battery was located on the remains of an old outwork and needed attention. An officers' bombproof in the east curtain was nearly completed and needed to be sodded. The eastern gallery had been completed, but General Ripley wished it had been made wider. The traverses between the guns on the seafronts were strong and serviceable, while the service magazine and bombproof along the south rampart were satisfactory, but they cramped the gunpits. The western gallery and bombproof had been completed and the magazine reinforced. A detail was constructing a bombproof gallery outside the west front.

The western mortar batteries were dilapidated and required work, while the fatigue details covering the seafront were making rapid progress. General Ripley had recommended the addition of obstructions along this face to guard against an amphibious assault.

39. Ibid., pp. 739-742. The monitors, after remaining for about four hours under a slow and deliberate fire from Fort Moultrie and Battery Rutledge, withdrew at flood tide.

Fort Moultrie at this time was garrisoned by four companies of the 1st South Carolina Regular Infantry commanded by Capt. B. S. Burnet.⁴⁰

The fort's armament at this time consisted of:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description of gun or mortar & carriage</u>	<u>Condition of carriage and equipment</u>	<u>Direction & extent of fire</u>
<u>EASTERN OUTWORK</u>			
1	10-inch seacoast mortar; siege	Good	Seaward & to Morris Island.
<u>SOUTHEAST FACE</u>			
2	32-pounder rifle; barbette	Good	Shut-off from Morris Island but covers beach in front of Rutledge & on Maffitt's Channel.
3	10-inch columbiad; barbette	Good	Shut-off from Morris Island. Bears seaward about 40°.
4	10-inch columbiad; barbette	Good	Bears on Morris Island & seaward about 50°.
5	10-inch columbiad; barbette	Good	Do.
6	8-inch rifle, barbette	Good	Do.
7	10-inch columbiad; barbette	Good	Do.
<u>SOUTHWEST FACE</u>			
8	8-inch rifle; barbette	Good	Shut-off from Morris Island. Fires west from Cummings Point about 90° seaward & west about 120°.

40. O.R., Series I, Vol. XXXV, pt. 2, pp. 419-420.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description of gun or mortar & carriage</u>	<u>Condition of car- riage and equipment</u>	<u>Direction & extent of fire</u>
9	10-inch columbiad; barbette;	Good	Do.
<u>NORTHWEST HALF-BASTION</u>			
10	24-pounder smoothbore; barbette	Fair	North from rear of Magazine.
11	24-pounder smoothbore; barbette	Fair	East from north flank of half bastion.
<u>WESTERN OUTWORK</u>			
12	10-inch seacoast mortar; siege	Good	Seaward & to Morris Island.
13	10-inch seacoast mortar; siege	Good	Do. 41
14	10-inch seacoast mortar; siege	Good	Do.

The rapid advance of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's "Army Group" northeastward from Savannah in early February 1865 compelled the Confederates to evacuate the Charleston area. On the evening of the 17th, the Rebels abandoned Fort Moultrie and the other fortifications on Sullivan's Island. The crew of the monitor Canonicus, lying near Fort Moultrie, observed and reported fires in Charleston and on James Island at 1 a.m. on the 18th, and heavy explosions were heard.

Artillerists of the 3d Rhode Island Artillery manned Battery Putnam that night. Shortly after midnight they observed that a fire had broken out in Charleston, which spread rapidly, until there were seven large fires in different sections of the city. At dawn they saw that Fort Sumter had been evacuated, and between five and six o'clock the magazine

41. Ibid.

of Battery Bee exploded. While they awaited more explosions, a boat debouched from the channel separating Morris and James Islands. As she passed Battery Putnam, they recognized Lt. John A. Hackett and the boat crew from Battery Strong. Calling to Hackett, they told him that a small boat had just cast off from Canonicus, and "cautioned him not to be beaten." The men manning the oars in the two small boats pulled hard, and the redlegs in Battery Putnam cheered loudly when they saw Hackett's boat reach Sullivan's Island first, and the lieutenant leap over the gunwales, race across the strand, and disappear over the parapet of Fort Moultrie. An instant later, down came the Rebel flag and up went the "Stars and Stripes."⁴²

42. Charles H. Williams, Personal Narratives of Events in the War of the Rebellion (Providence, 1882), pp. 23-25.