

Sept 7. 1861 - Entered the Naval Service at
New York, for 3 years -

Sept 8.

Went on board the U.S. Receiving Ship
"North Carolina" at Brooklyn Navy Yard -
was rated "Captain of Forecastle"

Oct 16th - was drafted to the U.S. Sloop
"Smith" of guns. Lt. Commdr. J.W.A. Nicholson, comm.

Oct 18th

Left the Brooklyn Navy Yard, steamed down
the river to the Powder Magazine and took in powder -
"this day" all hands were stationed. I Captain of
No. 1 Gun -

Oct 19th

Sailed for Hampton roads to join
Commodore "DePout's" Fort Royal Expedition -

Oct 21st

Arrived in Hampton roads - coaled ship -
practised at landing troops

Oct 25th

Sailed for Fort Royal in company with
the Squadron, and a number of transports
loaded with troops under command of Genl. D.

experienced a severe gale of wind on the passage, in consequence of which we were separated from the Squadron -

Nov 1st Gale continuing, steamer labouring very heavy made a steamer to windward with signal of distress proved to be the Sts "Governor" with a battalion of Marines on board, in a sinking condition, in order to save them, hoisted our broadside battery overboard consisting of 8, 8ⁱⁿ shell guns (6000 lbs), - stove a boat while endeavoring to cast lines to her - parted our heavy hawsers in the attempt of towing her in shore; in the mean time the frig. Sabine being to windward of us hove down for us, and after consultation the comdng officers anchored their asp. vessels & transferred the Marines on board the frig. Sabine, after which the "Governor" sunk to the bottom of the deep, and we hove up anchor & stood for Port Royal S. C.

Nov 4th

Arrived off Port Royal, where we found the frig. Wabash (flag ship) and several others of the Squadron anchored. Afternoon we Gunboats of light draft engaged "Com. Patualis" Rebel Mosquito

fleet and sent them a flying up the Bay -
Nov 5th

Reconnoitred Port Royal Bay in company with Sts "Pawnee", Ottawa, Seneca & Porpoise - engaged Bay Point Battery, got our jib stay shot away. (Pawnee acting with a little too much prudence) after accomplishing our object we returned to the fleet outside the bar -

Nov 6th

All quiet in consequence of rough weather.

Nov 7th

A beautiful morning - At 11.30 AM the fleet weighed anchor formed in line of Battle and steamed in to Port Royal Bay to engage the enemy's works at Hilton Head and Bay Point.

The fleet consisting of the following vessels, viz: Frig. Wabash (flag ship) - Despatch, Mahican, Seneca, Bienville, Alabama, Augusta, Ottawa, Seneca, Unadilla, Porpoise, Coles, Pawnee, Pocahontas, Isaac Smith with Vandalia in tow and R. R. Forbes - It was a grand and magnificent sight to see our fleet steaming around in a fiery circle engaging Bay Point going in and

11
Hilton's fleet coming out, so grand the sight was, as
terrible must have been the effect of our fire
for in less than five hours the Rebels fled in
disorder giving us full possession of Port Royal S.C.
it is needless for me to describe the wild excitement
and rejoicing of those connected with the Squadron
and Transports at this signal victory, which the
country so much needed at this present time.

The greater part of the evening we were employed in
landing troops from the Transports among low
hills, & fleshy lights, Rockettes &c &c

Nov 8th
This day paid a visit to the former Rebel Earthworks
they were very formidable indeed, the works at Bay
Point were mounted by 17 Guns of heavy calibre,
Hilton's fleet about 21 also of heavy calibre.
There was no telling of the Rebel loss although they
then were signs of great slaughter they managed
to carry their wounded of the field & our
loss in the fleet was 11 killed and some 20 wounded
some of the Gunboats were more or less injured,
we lost our fore Chaff.

Nov 9th Steamer up to Beaufort S.C.

11
distance 15 miles, a lovely little place, signs
of wealth & comfort - There was but one white
man left in the place, and he was in a deplorable
condition, the place being deserted by its inhabitants
we made a good many appropriations to which we
had an undisputed right.

Nov 10th
Returned to Port Royal harbor - took on board
a new Battery from Sloop of War "Vandalia" consisting of
6, 8th 5500 weight, 2, 32 per 1300 weight - during the
remainder of this month we were principally stationed
in this harbor, with an occasional cruise up Broad
and Coosaw rivers.

Dec 2nd
Left Port Royal for St. Helena sound ^{in company} with
'Fawcett' "Unadilla" & Dixon, while at the
this point has considerable skirmishing with Rebel
picket stations - took possession of three
Batteries - has fine sport in foraging, & during
a few days after our arrival the "Fawcett" "Unadilla"
and Dixon left the sound for some other parts of the
coast, and Sloop of War "Date" acceded as in doing
blockade duty. The rest of this month was passed

by running out and down the river and other duties connected with blockading.

January 1st 1862

This day heard very heavy firing in the direction of Fort Royal Ferry - ascertained through Drury Signal our Gunboat being engaged with "Johnny Reb" at the Ferry, in which "Johnny" is getting the worse very fast.

The latter part of this month went to Fort Royal to coal ship.

February 2nd

Sailed for "Warsaw Sound" in company with "Ottawa", "Pumpkin", "Potomack" and "Western World" and a portion of the troops stationed at Hilton Head ^{troops} under command of Genl. Wright - after our arrival at the Sound, the

Gunboats steamed up Wilmington river and anchored near Wall's cut about 5 miles above Fort Pulaski, here we had a lively engagement with "Patrols" Rebel forces who were plying the Savannah river between "Pulaski" and "Savannah" evidently reinforcing the "Fort" -

after thoroughly fighting "Johnny Reb" we returned to our anchorage in Warsaw Sound where we remained blockading.

March 1st

Joined an expedition under "Dupont" to make a lodgement on the coast of Florida.

March 2nd

Arrived off Cumberland Sound where the fleet was divided in two divisions, Gunboats of light draft steaming up Cumberland river, Ships of heavier draft going to Fernandina - the Gunboat I was attached to, was one belonging to the division of light draft Gunboats - steaming up Cumberland river, we expected some very hot work, the Captain is reading prayers this being Sunday, he also made us a little speech preparing us for ^{the} fray.

March 3rd

This day after much disappointment re: the fighting, we captured Fort Clinch, Fernandina and St. Mary's without firing a Gun - The "Ottawa" captures the Steamer "Darlington", which was trying to make her escape with some of the prominent Rebels of Fernandina, she also fires in a train who was just leaving Fernandina - we steamed up to our anchorage in the harbor.

March 6th

Off St. Louis Co. captured 6 Cavalry horses with equipments - Picket duty on shore all night - town deserted by youth on beauty - had considerable fun while on picket.

March 11th

Ordered to St. John's river with gunboats Ottawa, Seneca, Seneca, Onondaga & Alton, also the 4th New Hampshire Vol. Inf. - steamed up river and took possession of "Jacksonville" Fla. - going up this river I saw a most grand and magnificent sight in the burning of a number of Saw Mills which lined the banks of the river and who were destroyed by the order of the "Rebel Government" - Captured Batteries on St. John's bluff

March 12th

Left St. Louis river for St. Augustine Fla.

March 13th

Arrived at St. Augustine, the oldest town in the United States, while staying here we had a right good time we found 7000 slaves, which we took possession of with 7 guns, ammunition & c c during our

stay in this place, we had the pleasure of capturing a blockade runner "The British Empire" with general cargo from Nassau & she being pronounced not seaworthy to proceed north, was condemned and her cargo sold at Auction to the inhabitants of St. Augustine, which realized from 4 to 5000 dollars - we laid here until the latter part of April, when we were ordered back to St. John's river, during our stay in St. John's we had numerous engagements with detached bodies of the enemy and Guerrillas, both at yellow Bluff and some miles above Dilaska, during these skirmishes always resulted in the defeat of the Rebels without any injury to ourselves, the only serious loss we suffered was the death of Lieut. "Sprocket" of the Gunboat "Seneca" while ^{leading} a party of sailors to capture a notorious Guerrilla chief by the name of "Houston" - Lieut. S. ... was the first one to receive Houston's fire and fell, shot through the heart - Houston was literally cut to pieces by the enraged sailors, he ended his miserable life on board of our ship after the most acute suffering for 8 days.

1863.

January 1st

The second year of a bloody war has fled and the third one has commenced with no hopes for peace.

January 20th

What a hot and bloody day this has been on board of this old vessel, oh Heavens! To think of it makes one shudder! At 2.30 p.m. up anchor steamer up Stone river, at 3.30 p.m. unanchored abreast of "Gouinballe's plantation" - At 4 P.M. The report of a gun and the simultaneous crash of a shot passing through the ship's side threw us all in a momentary confusion, I say momentary for a second shot brought us to our senses - the order "of Portwatch man the port battery, Harbour watch up anchor" was quickly obeyed, and in less than 15 minutes our port battery had silenced the master's Battery which opened on us from James Island so unceremoniously, and has the gratification of seeing one of their guns & carriages getting knacker legs in the air, for this success however we had to pay an enormous price, as we turned a point

21.

in the river just below "Gouinballe's", and were opened upon by a master Battery ahead of us from St. John's Island, by one on our Portbow from James Island, by one on our Star Quarter & Port Quarter in fact we were in a trap, shots were pouring in on us from all sides, - our only hope was to run the "Gouinballe's". The Captain gave orders to the Chief Engineer: to put on all steam, we were returning their fire as fast as we could, with little standing, 6 guns being disabled out of 10. Oh Heavens! I shall never forget the sight, the gun deck was flooded with human blood, the groans of the dying and wounded was indeed heart-rending, in less time than it takes me to describe, we had 11 dead and 17 wounded some of them mortally, all scattered over the deck, we got abreast of the last Battery steaming at full speed, when a shot fired from one of the upper Batteries pierced our stern-chest and thus expectantly disabled

as the Gundeck immediately filled with ^{Steam} smoke,
 the vessel stopped and we were at the mercy
 of the enemy, who took advantage of our
 situation and poured a most galling fire
 of Musketry & Grape & Canister into us. The
 Captain seeing no way to get clear ordered
 the Flag to be hauled down & surrendered
 in order to stop the unnecessary bloodshed.
 I had the gratification of firing the last shot
 at the enemy from the Starboard Gun.
 The appearance of the Ship after our surrender
 was indeed worthy of description, we had on
 one side 13 shot holes within 1/2 inch of the
 water edge - All boats but one were shot
 from the "Davits" the Bulwarks were
 riddled with Musketry or Grape & Canister.
 The appearance of the Gundeck beggars all
 description, a beg here and now there
 pieces of human flesh (pasted as it were)
 against the ceiling of the Gundeck, then
 your attention would be drawn to some
 man's intestines rolling about still smoking
 or to some headless trunk or shank.

human body, enough of this ~~was~~ the
 word was passed for every body to prepare
 to leave the Ship with Bag & Bannocks -
 The Paymaster Kindey distributed some of
 the Ship's money among the crew & Officers,
 and we landed on the beach where we were
 received by a detachment of "Fort Sumter
 Artillery" of S. C. Regulars and some S. C. Volunteers
 under command of Col: Plett & Gates -
 while we were landing the "Quibour" Com.
 Mr. Honough's steamed up the river, but too
 late to do us any good, however she
 was soon driven back by the Rebel batteries.
 At about 5 P.M. we were all landed
 and (Johny Reb.) had possession of our
 vessel, it was hard indeed, but we had
 to submit, we were marched all the
 evening and all that long night without
 rest or food, that was a hard tramp
 for us "shell backs" who were not accustomed
 to walking or rather marching double quick
 at such a distance.

January 31st

This morning at early daylight we arrived at Stons Ferry, where we threw ourselves on the frosty ground fatigued & wore out, we snatched a few minutes sleep whilst waiting for the ferry boat. As soon as we landed on the other side of Stons we were bundled in to a train & transported to Charleston, where we arrived about 8 A.M. We were formed by the "right flank & Foot Hunter Artillery," under command of Capt. John Mitchell, jr (son of the Irish Refugee) took charge of us. Being the first batch of (Yankee Razy Boys) since opening of hostilities we raised considerable excitement, every body turned out to see the wild (Yankees) Boys & children hooted at us, the fire was turned up their noses, men jeered at us making all sorts of insulting remarks, after showing us off to the best advantage we were marched down ^{formed} the wharves facing the sea, where our Guard was relieved by the Charleston "light Battalion" from here we again took up the march for "Charleston jail" on our arrival there we were drawn up in the

25

yard, where they counted us & took our names - and again exhibited us to some of the prominent citizens of Charleston who came to the conclusion that we were a villainous looking set, and laughed at the idea of us coming down there to subjugate them, but we thought different and felt confident that the day will come when we can turn the tables on them. About 5 p.m. we were assigned our quarters from 8 to 10 were jammed in one of the prison cells, we had thieves, murderers, deserters and the lowest of the low for fellow prisoners, after being quartered, we received our first ration since we left our ship, consisting of a pot of water and a piece of corn bread as hard as flint, we were obliged to soak the bread in water before we could eat it, this we received twice a day - every morning at 8 we had the privilege of going down the yards for half an hour, at the expiration of it, we were again locked up in our cells, but even of this privilege we were deprived, just

because we felt happy enough one night to sing the "Star Spangled Banner", "Hail Columbia" and other national airs with which we made the cells of Charleston jail ring -

Febr 2^d.

This day "Genl. Beauregard's Staff" paid us a visit after asking a good many questions to which they received very unsatisfactory answers, they stopped so low as to ask some of us to enlist in their "Navy" which offer our boys in blue rejected with the utmost contempt -

Febr. 3^d 4^d & 5^d in Charleston jail in "close confinement"

Febr. 6^d.

This day we signed our "parole" and at about 10 AM left for Richmond by Railway leaving our wounded in Charleston under medical care - The train went along at the speed of 6 miles per hour, every thing connected with the road is in a horrible condition, decay & neglect is predominant - The prices we had to pay along the road for little luxuries such as "sandwiches" sweet potato pie &c were

really fabulous, varying from 2 dollars up ^(per sandwich) -

Febr. 7^d.

Arrived at Wilmington, stayed all night in the "depot" (comfortable quarters considering)

Febr. 8^d.

At Wilmington N.C. plenty of visitors to look at the wild "Gaudes" - "Longstreet's" Corps marching through the city South had a lively argument with some of the "Louisiana Tigers"

Febr. 9^d.

Off for Richmond -

Febr. 10^d.

Arrived at Petersburg & stayed all night - Quarters in a Tobacco Warehouse -

Febr. 11^d.

Arrived at Richmond Va. - After patiently undergoing the usual ceremony of being inspected & scrutinized by the "mob" we were taken to "Libby" which looked a good deal better than Charleston jail, being loftier & much more comfortable and besides we were put on regular rations (such as they were) - Nothing broke the

monotony of a Prison life, with the exception of an occasional arrival of "fresh fish" (the cognomen of newly arrived Prisoners of war) while here we had again had to sign our "parole" - On one occasion I had to "mark time" for two hours, with a sentry over me.

Because I asked the "redoubtable and amiable" D. Turner (command the Prison) for some fire wood to cook some coffee, which we managed to smuggle at a fearful price - (\$10. ^{per bushel} per bushel) for it means all this ~~is~~ not last long, for on the

20th of February - before break of day we were ordered out, formed in line & marched to the Petersburg R.R. Depot from Thence to City Point^{by Rail}, where the "Flag of Truce" boat "State of Maine" ^{is} ~~is~~ in sight with the "Glorious old Flag" floating proudly over her, which we greeted with a loud "Hurrah" we speedily went embarked on board of her, after which we steamed down the river with "jigging hearts" - bound to Annapolis via Fort Mifflin ^{where} where we arrived on