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THE CONFEDERATE REGULAR ARMY, 1861 - 1865

by  
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## CHAPTER I

### THE CONFEDERACY PREPARES FOR WAR

A new nation has to create all the many governmental and administrative agencies which are taken for granted in a long established sovereign state. For a new government which is created by revolution the first and most important of these agencies of sovereignty is an army. Any type of army will do for fighting the new government's war for independence, but it must create a regular standing army if it is to maintain at least the appearance of being a permanent government.

The creation of a regular army in the midst of a revolution presents peculiar problems of its own. When a nation has ample time and reasonable security, such as the United States had following the close of the Revolutionary War, it can experiment, modify, revise, and even for a time abolish its army.

The Confederate States of America, however, was faced with a more urgent problem than the United States had faced. Thanks to the intricacies of international relations at the time, the United States easily gained recognition of its independence from many of the leading states of the world and eventually concluded an alliance with France which made the success of its revolution possible.

No such favorable international climate greeted the Confederacy. There was plenty of sympathy from abroad, but also a wariness of recognizing a government which might not be able to maintain its independence.

An internal psychological problem also hampered the leaders of the new Confederacy. They were accustomed to a smoothly functioning government and felt that they were taking an action recognized by the United States Constitution. Their legalistic minds jumped to the conclusion that the transition would be smooth and a government much like the one they left would be quickly and easily created.

A state of war did exist in fact at the beginning of 1861, even if no overt acts had taken place. Recognizing this, it was natural for the Confederate government to see to the formation of an army, soon after its organization. And as it was assumed that all would be as it was before, it was natural that a regular standing army should be one of the first military provisions. It was realized that a large volunteer force was immediately necessary, but this should be built upon the regular establishment as much as possible.

The model used by the Confederacy, as in all its other governmental creations, was that of the United

States. Because of the nature of the formation of the Confederacy there were reasonable expectations that at least a part of the old army could be taken over virtually intact to form a nucleus for the new regular army.

To understand Confederate military thinking in these days before Fort Sumter it is necessary briefly to study the United States Army as it was at the end of 1860.

The United States from the very beginning carried over the British distaste for a standing army, somewhat reenforced by its own experiences immediately prior to the Revolutionary War. As a result, the regular army of the United States had never been adequate to perform the functions posed by a vast and wild frontier, let alone fight a major war against a well organized enemy.

The United States Army at the end of 1860 consisted of ten regiments of infantry, four regiments of artillery, two regiments of dragoons, two regiments of cavalry, a mounted rifle regiment and the requisite staff departments. If all the companies had been recruited to their full authorized strength the army would have numbered 18,318 officers and men. The actual number in service on December 31, 1860, was only 16,367.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), 130 vols. (hereafter cited as OR), Series III, Volume I, pg. 22, and Army Register, 1861 (Washington, The Adjutant General's Office, 1861).

This small army was scattered from the San Juan Islands in Puget Sound to Fort Taylor at Key West and from Fort Preble, Maine, to Fort Mojave, California. Of the 198 companies composing the army, 183 were stationed west of the Mississippi River and only 5 were stationed in the coastal fortifications in the South.<sup>2</sup>

What they lacked in numbers, the officers of the United States Army in part compensated for in quality. For the most part graduates of the United States Military Academy, they received long practical experience in countless Indian wars and in the Mexican War. Slow promotion and the limitations imposed by the size of the army forced many of its best officers back into civil life and most of the colonels and generals were superannuated. But, on the whole, the company officers were to prove their outstanding military abilities in the coming conflict.

The enlisted men presented something of an enigma. The United States has always prided itself on fighting its wars with citizen soldiers. The regular was looked down upon as a mercenary and the military life held few inducements for the average American. As a result, probably half of the regular enlisted personnel at this period were foreign born, with many newly arrived in this

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<sup>2</sup>Bvt. Maj. Gen. Emory Upton, The Military Policy of the United States (Washington: Office of the Chief of Staff, 1912), pg. 225.

country.<sup>3</sup> Of the native born soldiers, a considerable percentage came from the dregs of society. These men were not citizen soldiers, they were professionals with a goodly portion having served several enlistments.

Of the officers, about one fourth joined the Confederacy, although many Southern officers chose to remain loyal. It can not be denied that the Confederacy probably inherited the cream of the regular officer corps.

The enlisted men, for many reasons, for the most part remained loyal. That this fact has usually been over emphasized will be discussed later when events in Texas are more closely analyzed. But, scattered far from civilization and with few if any state attachments, the enlisted men had little opportunity or incentive to go over to the Confederacy.

If the United States intended to fight it would once more fall back on the citizen soldier. To counter this the Confederacy at first looked to its own citizen soldiers. Basic of these were the numerous, and often ephemeral, militias of the various states. Probably of more use in the long run were the little state armies

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<sup>3</sup>Ella Lonn, Foreigners in the Union Army and Navy (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1952), Chap. IV, "The Regular Army of the United States in 1861", pg. 80-89.



which were formed as each Southern state declared its independence. From these "state regulars" came some of the finest regiments of the Confederate Army.

It may be well to clarify here the legal position of these "state regulars." According to General Samuel Cooper, "There are no regular troops authorized by acts of Congress other than those duly enlisted for the regular army of the Confederacy. What are called state 'regulars', created under acts of State Legislatures, form no part of the regular army of the Confederate States, and when in the service of the Confederacy, can only be regarded as a part of the Provisional Army, like all other volunteers in the service of the Confederacy. ..."<sup>4</sup>

The Provisional Army of the Confederate States (P. A. C. S.) was formed under authority of an act of Congress passed February 28, 1861. This authorized the President to accept into Confederate service any units then in state service for a period of twelve months.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Gen. Samuel Cooper to the Secretary of War, May 31, 1862; endorsement on letter of Maj. John D. Munford, 1st Virginia Infantry Battalion, Compiled Military Service Records (hereafter cited as CMSR), War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group No. 109, National Archives. (Hereafter records in the National Archives will be cited NA.)

<sup>5</sup>Statutes at Large of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America, (Richmond: R. M. Smith, Printer to Congress, 1864), (Hereafter cited as Statutes), Chap. XXII, Section 3.

Under an act of March 6, 1861, a call for 100,000 volunteers was made and the acceptance of the various state militias was authorized.<sup>6</sup> Although not technically part of the P. A. C. S., these troops in practice came to form part of it.

Also on March 6, 1861, Congress passed "An Act for the establishment and organization of the Army of the Confederate States of America." It was this act which established the regular army. The major staff departments, with the exception of the Corps of Engineers, were previously authorized on February 26, 1861, but no provision was made at that time for line troops.

The Act of March 6, 1861, provided for a Corps of Engineers, a Corps of Artillery, six regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry and certain additional provisions governing the organization of the staff departments.

The Corps of Engineers was to consist of a colonel, four majors, five captains and a company of sappers, miners and pontoniers. The company was composed of ten sergeants, ten corporals, two musicians, thirty-nine first class privates and thirty-nine second class privates and was to be commanded by one of the Engineer captains. It was to have as many lieutenants as the President might select from the line for engineer training.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., Chap. XXVI, Section 1.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., Chap. XXIX, Section 2.

The Corps of Artillery was an innovation on the part of the Confederacy. Since 1821 the artillery of the United States Army had been organized into regiments. The companies of these regiments, however, were widely scattered and had never served together under their regimental organization in the field. In the Old Army for many years there had been considerable discussion as to the maintenance of this regimental organization and the Confederates decided to abandon it in favor of the corps system. The Confederates also placed all ordnance duties under the Corps of Artillery, a functional allocation which had been abandoned by the United States Army. As will be seen, this latter provision did not prove practical and was abandoned in practice if not in theory.

The Corps of Artillery was to consist of a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, ten majors and forty companies of artillerists and artificers. Each company was to consist of a captain, two first lieutenants, one second lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, two musicians and seventy privates. The President was authorized to equip not more than four of the companies as six gun light artillery batteries in time of peace. No limitation seems to have been placed on the number of light batteries in war time. In addition, there was a provision for 100 mechanics to be regularly enlisted for ordnance duty.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid., Chap. XXIV, Section 5 and Section 23.

Each regiment of infantry was to consist of a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, a major and ten companies. The companies were to be composed of a captain, a first lieutenant, two second lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, two musicians and ninety privates.<sup>9</sup>

The cavalry regiment was to consist of a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, a major and ten companies. The companies consisted of a captain, a first lieutenant, two second lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, one farrier, one blacksmith, two musicians and sixty privates.<sup>10</sup>

The Corps of Artillery and each of the infantry and cavalry regiments was to have an adjutant selected from one of the lieutenants and a sergeant major selected from the enlisted men.

The highest rank provided for in the regular army was that of brigadier general. Four brigadiers were authorized and each was to have an aide-de-camp selected from the lieutenants of the line.<sup>11</sup>

Promotion was strictly by seniority in separate promotional ladders for each regiment, for each corps in the staff departments, and for the Artillery and Engineers.

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<sup>9</sup>Ibid., Section 3.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., Section 7.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., Section 8.

The exception seems to have been the appointment of brigadier generals which "shall be made by selection from the Army."<sup>12</sup>

The Act of March 6, 1861, adopted the Articles of War and Army Regulations of the United States Army by simply changing "United States" to "Confederate States." The Army Regulations, 1861 was in effect the same as the Army Regulations, 1857 of the United States Army. The 1862 edition contained a few additional changes. Articles 61 and 62 of the Articles of War were the only ones completely revised. Article 61 dealt with brevets and is not important since the Confederacy never awarded any brevet commissions. Article 62 dealt with seniority for command and will be discussed later. All military laws of the United States which did not conflict with the Confederate Constitution or laws were also continued in force.

The Adjutant and Inspector General's Department was originally authorized to consist of an Adjutant and Inspector General with the rank of colonel, four assistant adjutants general with the rank of major and

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<sup>12</sup>Ibid., Section 11 and Chap. XLI, Section 2. The brigadier generals appointed in order of seniority were Samuel Cooper, Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston. Pierre G. T. Beauregard was nominated as brigadier general, but the rank was changed to full general before the Senate acted. Albert Sidney Johnston was later appointed to the remaining vacancy. Regular Army Register, RG 109, NA.

four assistant adjutants general with the rank of captain. This was amended by an act of Congress on March 14, 1861, by raising the Adjutant and Inspector General to a brigadier general, a fifth brigadier added to the total in service. Further authorization included two assistant adjutants general with the rank of lieutenant colonel, two assistant adjutants general with the rank of major, and four assistant adjutants general with the rank of captain. The change was caused mainly by the fact that Colonel Samuel Cooper, The Adjutant General of the United States Army at the beginning of 1861, was appointed the senior regular brigadier general and The Adjutant General of the Confederate Army. An assistant adjutant general with the rank of colonel was added by an act of October 8, 1862.<sup>13</sup>

The Quartermaster General's Department, as provided for in the act of February 26, was to consist of a Quartermaster General with the rank of colonel, six quartermasters with the rank of major and as many assistant quartermasters as might be needed. The assistant quartermasters were to be detailed from the lieutenants of the line. On May 16, 1861, an act was passed which added one assistant quartermaster general with the rank of lieutenant colonel and two quartermasters with the

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<sup>13</sup>Statutes, Chap. XVII, Section 2; Chap. XLI, Section 1; and Chap. XXXV.

rank of major. The act of March 14, 1861, provided for an assistant quartermaster general with the rank of lieutenant colonel and that there would be only four quartermasters with the rank of major. In addition to their other duties, all quartermaster officers were authorized to act as paymasters.<sup>14</sup>

The Commissary General's Department was originally to consist of a Commissary General with the rank of colonel, four commissaries with the rank of captain and as many assistant commissaries as needed to be detailed from the lieutenants of the line. This was altered on March 14, 1861, so that there would be one commissary with the rank of lieutenant colonel, one commissary with the rank of major and only three commissaries with the rank of captain. On May 16, 1861, one assistant commissary with the rank of major and one assistant commissary with the rank of captain were added.<sup>15</sup>

The Medical Department was to consist of a Surgeon General with the rank of colonel, four surgeons with the rank of major, and six assistant surgeons with the rank of captain. As many additional assistant surgeons could

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid., Chap. XVII, Section 3 and Chap. XLI, Section 3. The provisions regarding paymasters were objected to by Secretary Walker in his report of April 27, 1861, but no separate Pay Department was established. OR, Series IV, Volume I, pg. 250.

<sup>15</sup>Statutes, Chap. XVII, Section 4 and Chap. XLI, Section 4. This department was usually called the Subsistence Department.

be employed on a contract basis as were needed. On May 16 six surgeons and fourteen assistant surgeons were added to the regular establishment.<sup>16</sup>

It was soon realized that the small regular army would need some expansion to fulfill its function. On May 16, 1861, Congress passed "An Act to increase the military establishment of the Confederate States and to amend the 'Act for the establishment and organization of the Army of the Confederate States.'" General Cooper appears to have been the main inspiration for this revision.

The changes effected in the four original staff departments have been noted above. The act of March 14, 1861, appears to have been an ill-timed effort by Congress at penny pinching and the act of May 16 served in part to rectify this.

The line was expanded by the addition of a regiment of cavalry and two regiments of infantry. Although no attempt was ever made to organize these units, their authorization was important because most of the additional officers were appointed.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>Ibid., Chap. XVII, Section 5 and Chap. XLI, Section 7.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., Chap. XX, Section 1.



This act rectified a situation which had nearly brought chaos to the new Confederate Army. Under the new 62nd Article of War adopted March 6, 1861, command devolved upon the senior officer present according to commission without regard to whether it was an Army, Navy, Marine or militia commission. Since no regular Confederate officer held rank higher than brigadier general, command of large numbers of troops was devolving on inexperienced officers with state volunteer or militia commissions. The act of May 16 instituted the rank of full general in place of that of brigadier general so that the regular army general officers outranked anyone they might serve with.<sup>18</sup>

The Corps of Engineers was increased by this act with the addition of one lieutenant colonel and five captains. Six military store keepers with the rank of first lieutenant were also added.<sup>19</sup>

To each regiment of infantry and cavalry a quartermaster sergeant was added and an ordnance sergeant was provided for each military post. The Medical Department was authorized to enlist as many hospital stewards as necessary with the pay and allowances of sergeant major.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Ibid., Section 2.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., Section 3.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., Sections 6 and 7.

The need for training junior officers was recognized by this act and until a military academy could be established cadets were to be attached to line companies as supernumerary officers for training. Although a naval academy was eventually established, no military academy came into being. Many of these cadets were to receive commissions as second lieutenants in the regular army or to be commissioned in the Provisional Army before the end of the war. -The system was basically the one used by the United States Army in the years immediately prior to the establishment of West Point.<sup>21</sup>

One of the most important provisions of this act was the granting of temporary rank corresponding to their duties to regular officers serving in staff positions with volunteer troops.<sup>22</sup>

A bounty of \$10 was provided for each recruit enlisted into the Army of the Confederate States. This does not seem to have been made retroactive and so had little if any effect on recruiting for the regulars. In fact, the records are not clear that any regular recruits ever received this bounty.

Two more acts completed the basic organization of the Confederate regular army. On May 4, 1861, an act

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<sup>21</sup>Ibid., Section 8 and Regular Army Register, RG 109, NA.

<sup>22</sup>Statutes, Chap. XX, Section 9.

was passed authorizing a regiment of zouaves for the regular army. It was to consist of a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, a major and ten companies. The companies were each to consist of a captain, a first lieutenant, two second lieutenants, a sergeant major, a quartermaster sergeant, four sergeants, eight corporals and ninety privates. An additional assistant surgeon over the number authorized for the Medical Department was to be appointed and an adjutant and quartermaster were to be selected from the lieutenants of the regiment.<sup>23</sup>

The other act, passed on May 17, 1861, authorized a company of sappers and bombardiers for the Corps of Engineers in addition to the company of sappers and miners previously authorized. There is no indication why the two companies were titled differently. The company was to consist of a captain, two first lieutenants, one second lieutenant, ten sergeants, ten corporals, two musicians, thirty-nine first class privates and thirty-nine second class privates. It will be seen that this act in effect added a captain and three lieutenants to the authorized strength of the Corps of Engineers.<sup>24</sup>

Various other minor modifications were also made. The most important of these was an act passed on May 21,

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<sup>23</sup>Ibid., Statute II, Chap. II.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., Statute II, Chap. XXVIII.

1861, which allowed the President to give regular officers temporary rank to command volunteer troops. It was under this act that most of the regulars served as general and field officers. This act was amended on December 31, 1861, to include officers serving with the Adjutant and Inspector General's Department, Chief of Engineers and Chief of Ordnance.<sup>25</sup>

An act of August 21, 1861, authorized the appointment of an additional lieutenant colonel and two majors for the Corps of Artillery and four military storekeepers of ordnance with the rank of captain.<sup>26</sup> An act of April 19, 1862, provided for an increase in ordnance sergeants so that there would be one for each regiment. Although written so that it applied to the regular army, it seems to have been actually used for the Provisional Army.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup>Ibid., Chap. XXX.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., Chap. XXXIV, Section 1.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., Statute II, Chap. XLIII.

## CHAPTER II

### RECRUITING THE CONFEDERATE REGULARS

Having established the legal framework of the regular army, the Confederate War Department next turned to the much more difficult task of recruiting the men.

The first step in organizing the new regular army was the appointment of its officers. Nearly twenty-five percent of the officers of the United States Army joined the Confederacy and many officers who had left the service prior to the outbreak of war also offered their services.<sup>1</sup> In order to avoid any arguments over seniority, the act of March 14, 1861, provided that all United States officers who resigned and joined the Confederacy within six months of the passage of the act should be commissioned as of the same date and take seniority by their respective United States commissions.

There were many more positions available than the number of former United States officers. In the early months appointments were given to civilians with no prior military experience, but none of these were to a higher rank than captain. The military cadets provided for did not enter service until late in 1861, and were

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<sup>1</sup>Francis B. Heitman, Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903).

never in sufficient numbers to fill the vacancies for lieutenants.

Most of the officers having formal military training came from the United States Military Academy. These ranged from seasoned officers who graduated near the top of their class, such as Robert E. Lee, to cadets still in school who were yet to prove their ability, such as Oliver Semmes.

The nature of the backgrounds of the regular officers may be gained from examining a few of the officers who will appear later in these pages. Colonel Earl Van Dorn was a West Pointer; Lieutenants Alexander Haskell and Edward Ingraham had been officers in the United States Army, but not West Pointers; Lieutenant James Baltzell was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute; and Lieutenant John Bradley was appointed from civil life, but may have had enlisted service under the United States. Lieutenant Edward Powell had served for twenty years as a non-commissioned officer in the United States Army; Lieutenant John H. Denys was promoted from the Confederate ranks and may have had previous United States enlisted service. Lieutenants Oliver Semmes and John A. A. West were cadets at West Point at the beginning of the war. Several graduates of The Citedal also held regular commissions.

With most of the officers appointed, the next problem of the Confederate War Department was to recruit the enlisted men for the regular units.

The first effort at recruitment was perhaps the strangest. Louis T. Wigfall, the brilliant and erratic senator from Texas, early in March 1861, proposed that it would be possible to obtain a large number of recruits in Baltimore for the Confederate Army. On March 5, 1861, Secretary of War Leroy P. Walker approved the plan and authorized him to ship the men to Charleston, South Carolina, to be mustered into service.<sup>2</sup> Wigfall promptly opened his clandestine recruiting office behind Yankee lines. The results were sufficiently promising so that on March 21 the War Department ordered Captain William D. Pender of the Corps of Artillery to proceed secretly to Baltimore and take over the recruiting. Concurrently General Beauregard was notified to expect the arrival of the recruits in Charleston.<sup>3</sup>

As might be expected, due to the hurried and secret manner of this recruitment effort, some confusion arose. Many recruits arriving at Charleston

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<sup>2</sup>Walker to Wigfall, letter and telegram, March 5, 1861, Letters Sent, Secretary of War, Chap. IX, Vol. I, pp. 26-28, RG 109, NA.

<sup>3</sup>Cooper to Pender and Cooper to Beauregard, March 21, 1861, Letters Sent, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 10-11, RG 109, NA.

were found unfit for military service. Also, in Baltimore the men had been promised a bounty for which there was at that time no legal provision.<sup>4</sup> In all, about 125 recruits from Baltimore were accepted for the regular army and were formally enlisted at Castle Pinckney in Charleston Harbor.

A more orderly system of recruiting was begun early in April. Captain John W. Frazer was assigned to the command of a recruiting depot at Baton Rouge Barracks, Louisiana. At the same time 1st Lieutenant Robert C. Hill was despatched on another secret recruiting mission. Hill was to proceed to Newport, Kentucky, and St. Louis, Missouri, and attempt to induce as many old soldiers returning from the frontier as possible to join the Confederate Army.<sup>5</sup>

The main recruiting drive in the Mississippi Valley started, however, with the assignment on April 13, 1861, of Captain Thomas H. Taylor, Regiment of Cavalry, to establish a series of recruiting rendezvous. Taylor was ordered to proceed from Montgomery, Alabama, to

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<sup>4</sup>Cooper to Pender, April 1, 1861, Cooper to Beauregard, April 1, 1861, and Cooper to Pender, April 8, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I, G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 10-11, 20-21, 28, and Cooper to Beauregard, March 22, 1861, Letters and Telegrams to Gen. Beauregard, Chap. II, Vol. 256, pg. 62, RG 109, NA; and OR, Series I, Vol. 1, pg. 284.

<sup>5</sup>Cooper to Frazer, April 6, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 24-25.



Louisville, Kentucky, by way of Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee. Once in Kentucky he was also to investigate the possibility of forming rendezvous at Frankfort, Lexington, Covington and Newport.<sup>6</sup>

Hill had established a rendezvous at Memphis and Taylor was directed to forward his recruits to Baton Rouge. On April 20 Taylor received additional help with the assignment of 1st Lieutenant James K. McCall to take over the station at Nashville.<sup>7</sup> Captain W. S. Walker and 2nd Lieutenant Thomas T. Grayson were ordered to Memphis to take over Hill's recruiting station.<sup>8</sup>

It was soon realized that there were not enough regular officers available to take care of all of the

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<sup>6</sup>Cooper to Taylor, April 13, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 34. Because Kentucky at this time was officially neutral, it was necessary to carry on recruiting in that state in secret. Lts. George B. Cosby and John B. Hood had been despatched by the War Department on a secret mission to the Governor of Kentucky and then were to report to Taylor in Frankfort for recruiting duty. Cooper to Taylor, April 22, 1861, and Cooper to Cosby, April 23, 1861, Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 55, 62. Hood, however, was immediately reassigned and saw no recruiting duty. John P. Dyer, The Gallant Hood (Indianapolis and New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1950). Attempts at recruiting in Kentucky were soon abandoned. Cooper to 2nd Lt. W. R. Bullock, May 17, 1861, and Cooper to Taylor, May 24, 1861, Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 122 and 141.

<sup>7</sup>Cooper to Frazer, April 15, 1861, Cooper to Taylor, April 18 and 20, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 35, 47-48, 53, RG 109, NA.

<sup>8</sup>Cooper to Walker, April 22, 1861, and Cooper to Taylor, April 27 and 29, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 55, 77 and 79, RG 109, N.A.

recruiting. The War Department fell back upon the expedient of hiring civilian recruiting agents. Apparently the first of these was R. B. Kyle of Gadsden, Alabama, who was authorized on April 27 to begin recruiting in northeast Alabama. It was necessary, however, for the actual enlistments to be signed by regular officers. For this purpose Lieutenants W. de B. Hooper and S. F. Rice were ordered to Gadsden. The situation faced by the regular army was expressed by Cooper to Kyle when he wrote, "...As these officers are both quite young and entirely inexperienced in regard to the important duties of the recruiting service, I beg to impress you with the necessity of your giving close examination of the moral and physical qualities of the men who are enlisted. ..."<sup>9</sup> These recruits were supposed to be sent to the recruiting depot at Mount Vernon Arsenal, Alabama.

The second civilian recruiting agent appointed was Dr. John C. Nicholson of Nashville who was to recruit in Middle Tennessee. The recruits were to be gathered in Nashville and forwarded to Memphis and from there to the depot at Baton Rouge Barracks.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Cooper to Kyle, April 27 and 29, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 75, 77-78, RG 109, NA.

<sup>10</sup>Cooper to Nicholson, McCall and Grayson, May 1, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 84-85. For details of the organization of the recruits at Baton Rouge, see Cooper to Frazer, April 19, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 50, RG 109, NA.

To receive the expected influx of recruits, the War Department established a series of recruiting depots at which the men would be received, equipped, organized, and trained. The depot at Baton Rouge Barracks, which has already been mentioned, was the largest. Other posts designated as recruiting depots were San Antonio Barracks, Texas, Mount Vernon Arsenal, Alabama, Augusta Arsenal, Georgia, Castle Pinckney, South Carolina, Fort Johnson, North Carolina, and Bellona Arsenal, Virginia.

Lieutenant Hill was transferred to North Carolina to continue his recruiting activities, when Taylor was placed in charge of operations in the Mississippi Valley.<sup>11</sup> Colonel Theophilus H. Holmes was named superintendent of recruiting in North Carolina with the hope that he could form his paper 2nd Infantry Regiment.<sup>12</sup>

Captain W. D. Pender, who had closed down the station in Baltimore when hostilities made it impossible for him to forward recruits, was ordered to report to Holmes. Other regular officers assigned to Holmes for recruiting were Major William H. C. Whiting, Corps of Engineers, and Captain Frederick L. Childs and Lieutenant J. P. Jones, Corps of Artillery. At the suggestion of

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<sup>11</sup>Cooper to Hill, May 3, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 91, RG 109, NA.

<sup>12</sup>Cooper to Holmes, April 22, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 56, RG 109, NA.

Colonel Holmes, the recruiting depot was ordered to be transferred from Fayetteville Arsenal to Fort Johnson, North Carolina.<sup>13</sup>

The War Department was quick to move recruiters for the regulars into Virginia when that state seceded. Captain John Scott was ordered to start recruiting in Richmond on April 22, 1861. Captain G. W. Carr was assigned to command the depot at Bellona Arsenal near Richmond, and Captain Edward J. Harvie was placed on recruiting duty in Norfolk.<sup>14</sup>

Even before the recruiting officers had arrived in Virginia, eager citizens were reporting large numbers of men ready to enlist. On April 23, 1861, Scott was directed to establish a temporary rendezvous at Alexandria, directly across the river from Washington, D. C.

Problems for regular recruiters quickly materialized in Virginia. On April 26, Carr was ordered to Harpers

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<sup>13</sup>Cooper to Holmes, May 2, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 87. Recruiting officers for North Carolina were assigned per Special Orders No. 40, May 1, 1861, No. 41, May 2, 1861, No. 42, May 3, 1861, No. 44, May 6, 1861, and No. 46, May 10, 1861, A. & I. G. O., RG 109, NA.

<sup>14</sup>Cooper to Scott, telegrams of April 20, 22 and 27, 1861; Cooper to Harvie, April 22, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 54, 57-59, 72. For further instructions regarding recruiting in Virginia, see Cooper to Scott, May 15, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 117, RG 109, NA.

Ferry to muster in volunteers and on April 27 both Scott and Harvie were ordered to muster in volunteers at Richmond. While they were thus engaged in forming the Provisional Army, recruiting for the regular army was allowed to lag.<sup>15</sup>

A somewhat ludicrous event also snarled recruiting in Richmond. On the assumption that Bellona Arsenal had been Federal property, the Confederate War Department designated it as the recruiting depot for Virginia and Captain Carr and his recruits occupied the premises. On May 24, 1861, a Mr. J. S. Archer irately informed the War Department that Bellona Arsenal was his property and he would appreciate the removal of the troops. As a patriotic gesture, however, he offered to sell the property to the Confederacy. Somewhat sheepishly, General Cooper, on May 28, ordered Carr to withdraw immediately and informed Archer that if the government ever really needed the Arsenal they would consider his offer.<sup>16</sup>

A problem of another kind faced the Confederate government at Mount Vernon Arsenal, Alabama. Here

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<sup>15</sup>Cooper to George C. Wederbum, Alexandria, Va., April 23, 1861; Cooper to Scott, April 23 and May 4, 1861; Cooper to Scott, telegrams of April 26 and 27, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 61-62, 93, 71-72, RG 109, NA.

<sup>16</sup>Cooper to Carr and Cooper to Archer, May 28, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 151-152, RG 109, NA.

recruiting for the regulars ran into direct conflict with recruiting for the Provisional Army and the volunteers.

Besides being the regular army depot for the area, Mount Vernon Arsenal was also serving as the rendezvous for the majority of Alabama troops. As a result of correspondence with the Adjutant General of Alabama, General Cooper on April 8, 1861, issued specific instructions regarding recruiting to Captain James L. White, commanding officer at Mount Vernon. White was directed to send sufficient men to fill the contingent at Fort Morgan near Mobile. Then the recruits enlisted up to February 28 were to be mustered into the Provisional Army. Those recruits enlisted after that date were to be organized into volunteer companies. When all this had been done, White was authorized to begin recruiting for the regulars. Obviously not many men would be left.

It was not until May 3, 1861, that the regular recruiting depot was established. On that date 1st Lieutenant John Mullins was assigned to command the depot. Although Cooper had optimistically estimated that there would be 200 recruits, it appears that the handful actually obtained were recruited by R. B. Kyle, the civilian agent at Gadsden, and his green lieutenants.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Cooper to White, April 8, 1861; Cooper to Mullins, May 11, 1861; Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 27-28, 106, RG 109, NA; and OR, Series IV, Vol. 1, pg. 209.

Recruiting in Georgia was centered at the Augusta Arsenal. Captain Robert G. Cole was named to superintend the recruiting, and branch stations were opened at Macon and at Milledgeville. The recruits at Charleston were originally to have been transferred to the depot at Augusta Arsenal, but recruiting in Georgia was so poor that it was decided to reverse the process and send the Georgia recruits to Charleston.<sup>18</sup>

Besides the regular recruiting efforts, several offers were also received to accept volunteer companies into the regular army. The recruiting of Jules V. Gallimard of New Orleans probably falls in this category and will be considered later. On March 25, 1861, the Governor of Mississippi forwarded to the War Department the offer of a company which had been formed. The War Department replied on April 5 that under existing laws there was no authority to accept fully organized companies into the regular army. The War Department was willing to agree that if all the men individually enlisted in the regulars, the department would assign them all, if possible, to the same company. On the other hand, the officers could not be accepted unless there were vacancies available and they passed the prescribed examination for civilian appointees. This last point seems to have closed the matter.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Cooper to Cole, May 3 and 13 and June 12, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap I, Vol. 35, pp. 90, 111, 180. For assignment of officers to recruiting duty see Special Order No. 40, May 1, 1861, and No. 41, May 2, 1861, A. & I. G. O., RG 109, NA.

<sup>19</sup>J. J. Hooper to the Hon. W. P. Harris, April 5, 1861, Letters Sent, Secretary of War, Chap. IX, Vol. 1, pp. 138-139, RG 109, NA.

A combination of the hastily written laws, inexperienced officers, and makeshift organization of the recruiting service led to problems at all the recruiting stations. The foremost problem was probably the matter of bounty. As previously mentioned, the recruits enlisted at Baltimore apparently were promised some kind of bounty, but found on their arrival in Charleston that this was illegal. The local and state bounties being offered for volunteers made it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain men for the regular army. Until the regular army bounty law was finally passed, the War Department fell back on the not too happy expedient of offering a two dollar bonus to anyone who brought in a recruit. This, of course, did the recruit no good, but it apparently did induce some men who enlisted to go out and find other men for the regulars in order to get the bonus.<sup>20</sup>

Another major problem was the physical examination of the recruits. The doctors of the Medical Department were so few in number and so badly needed with the newly forming armies, that none of them could be spared for the recruiting service. As a result, it was necessary to hire private doctors in the areas where recruiting was being done.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Cooper to Frazer, April 19, 1861; Cooper to Taylor, May 2 and 7, 1861; Cooper to McCall, May 4, 1861; Cooper to Kyle, May 10, 1861; Cooper to Scott, May 12, 1861; and Cooper to Hooper, May 18, 1861; Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 50, 88, 94-95, 99, 104, 110, & 127, RG 109, NA.

<sup>21</sup>Cooper to Grayson, May 15, 1861; Cooper to Scott, May 15, 1861; and Cooper to 2nd Lt. J. T. Mason Barnes, May 15, 1861; Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 116-118, RG 109, NA.



Clothing presented a problem in the early days. No uniforms were available despite the fact that they were minutely described in Army Regulations. A temporary uniform was devised and each regular recruit arriving at a depot was to receive a forage cap, a blue shirt as a blouse or sack coat, gray overalls and the necessary underclothing. Despite the fact that recruits began to gather in March, 1861, even this makeshift clothing issue does not appear to have been available until the end of April. Since many of the men were literally swept off the streets, it was often necessary for the recruiting officers to spend money not only for their food and transportation, but also on enough clothing to get them to the depots.<sup>22</sup>

The organization of the regular army quickly became involved in the problems facing the War Department in forming the much larger Provisional Army. On April 1, 1861, Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker, in a communication addressed to Attorney General Judah P. Benjamin, called attention to the complications in the several acts of Congress providing for a regular army, a Provisional Army, and a volunteer service, and in making provision for the support of these three distinct military organizations. Walker stated that it was not altogether clear to his mind out of which appropriation the troops then in service should be

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<sup>22</sup>Cooper to Taylor, April 22, 1861; Cooper to Scott, April 22, 1861; and Cooper to Harvie, April 22, 1861; Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 55, 57-59, RG 109, NA.

paid. He called attention to the several laws bearing on the subject and requested an official opinion in regard to them.

Benjamin replied that from the confused way the troops were mustered into service it was impossible to clearly tell the difference between the volunteers and the Provisional Army. As Congress had appropriated enough money to run the regular army as envisioned by the various acts, but nowhere near that many men had been recruited for the regulars, he advised that the War Department use the regular army appropriation to defray the Provisional Army expenses until Congress could untangle the mess.<sup>23</sup>

By June, 1861, recruiting for the regular army began to fall off badly. Evidence of enlistments in the regulars can be found as late as 1862, but the vast majority of the men who served with the regulars had enlisted by the end of June, 1861. Because of the pressing need of the Provisional Army for officers, and probably also as a result of the decision to use regular army funds for the Provisional Army, it was decided to close down the recruiting stations and transfer the recruiting officers to duty in the field. On May 24, 1861, the stations at Pikesville, Montgomery, Florence, Frankford and Gadsden, Alabama, and at Vicksburg, Mississippi, were closed. On June 6, 1861, the stations

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23OR, Series IV, Vol. 1, pg. 202, and Opinions of the Confederate Attorney General, pp. 6-8.

at Mount Vernon Arsenal and Mobile, Alabama; Nashville, Tennessee; Wilmington, North Carolina; and Macon, Milledgeville and Augusta, Georgia, were closed.<sup>24</sup>

It is impossible to ascertain exactly how many men enlisted in the regular army. From the muster rolls and returns which have survived, it appears that there were approximately 800 enlisted men who served at one time or another in the regular army. Added to these were the approximately 850 officers and cadets who received regular army appointments. This total of a little more than 1,600 officers and men is a far cry from the 15,000 envisioned by Congress and the War Department.

The atmosphere surrounding the formation of the regular army and the ensuing frustration is well illustrated by the following comments of Thomas Cooper De Leon:

The skeleton of the regular army had just been articulated by Congress, but the bare bones would soon have swelled to more than Falstaffian proportions, had one in every twenty of the ardent aspirants been applied as matter and muscle. The first "gazette" was watched for with straining eyes, and naturally would follow aching hearts; for disappointment here first sowed the dragon's teeth that were to spring into armed opponents of the unappreciative power.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>Cooper to Capt. Theodore O'Hara, May 24, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 142; Special Orders No. 58, May 24, 1861, and No. 65, June 6, 1861, A. & I. G. O., The fall in the number of enlistments may be seen in the following entries in the Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., for which no letters have been found: Taylor, Nashville, Tenn., May 30, 1861; 2nd Lt. W. B. Ochiltree, Fayetteville, N. C., June 5, 10 & 15, 1861; Capt. F. L. Childs, Wilmington, N. C., June 12 & 17, 1861; 1st Lt. C. W. Phifer, New Orleans, La., June 25, 1861; & Capt. W. S. Walker, Memphis, Tenn., July 6, 1861; Chap. I, Vol. 45, pp. 224, 164, 162, 175 & 262, RG 109, NA.

<sup>25</sup>Thomas Cooper DeLeon, Four Years in Rebel Capitals (Mobile: The Gossip Printing Co., 1890), pg. 26.

John B. Jones, who was just embarking on his career as the "Rebel War Clerk", also was struck by the potential dangers arising from the appointments in the regular army, remarking in his diary: "May 20th (1861) - ... The applications now give the greatest trouble; and the disappointed class give rise to many vexations."<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup>John B. Jones, A Rebel War Clerk's Diary (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1866), Vol. 1, pg. 38.

### CHAPTER III

#### COMPANY A, REGULAR CAVALRY

The surrender of the Department of Texas by Major General David Twiggs on February 16, 1861, provided the Confederate War Department an unexcelled opportunity to obtain a ready made regular army. As has been indicated, the Confederates believed that a fair proportion of the United States Army could be induced to go into Confederate service. There were at that time in Texas the better part of four regular regiments, the largest body of organized troops in the entire South.

These forces consisted of the 2nd United States Cavalry, the 1st, 3rd, and 8th United States Infantry, and several batteries of the 1st and 2nd United States Artillery.

Beginning early in March 1861, these widely scattered units slowly abandoned the various posts in Texas and marched for Indianola on the Gulf of Mexico, where they were to be embarked for the North. The companies, which came from as far as Fort Bliss near El Paso, left behind a trail of stragglers and deserters.

The companies which reached Indianola by the beginning of April were safely embarked and sailed for

New York or the posts in Florida still held by the Federals. But on April 12 conditions changed. Up until that date it was hoped by the Confederate authorities that secession could take place peacefully. With the firing on Fort Sumter they were confronted with a state of war.

On that fateful day Colonel Earl Van Dorn was in the Confederate capital at Montgomery, Alabama. He received orders from General Cooper directing him to proceed immediately to Texas and to capture all United States troops still within that state. He was at the same time given authority to enlist as many of the men as he could in the Confederate Army.<sup>1</sup>

He moved quickly. On April 23, the United States officers at San Antonio were seized as prisoners of war and a company of the 8th United States Infantry near the city was captured. Then, gathering all the Texas troops he could, Van Dorn descended upon the main group of United States troops which was embarking at Saluria and made them prisoners.

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<sup>1</sup>IOR, Series I, Vol. 1, pg. 623. Van Dorn had originally been commissioned colonel of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, but was transferred to the 1st Cavalry Regiment by Special Order No. 30, A. & I. G. O., April 20, 1861. He was first assigned to duty in New Orleans, but never seems to have actually served there. George Deas to Van Dorn, March 15, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 150, pg. 2, and Special Order No. 16, A. & I. G. O., April 8, 1861; RG 109, NA.

This final blow completed the demoralization of the Federal units. Confederate recruiting officers, many of them recently members of these same units, made the rounds of the prisoners held at Indianola. The United States officers attempted to persuade their men to remain loyal, which brought forth an order that no officer would be allowed to visit the enlisted men unless accompanied by a Confederate officer.<sup>2</sup>

It has always been maintained that despite the fact that a large percentage of the regular army officers joined the Confederacy, the enlisted men almost all remained loyal. This is not true in the case of the troops in Texas. In the period February to April, 1861, a total of 319 men deserted from the 1st and 3rd Infantry, 2nd Cavalry and 1st and 2nd Artillery in Texas. This compares with a total of only 43 for the month of January, before Texas seceded. Apparently most of these men ended up in the Confederate Army. The above figures do not include the 8th United States Infantry or desertions from the organizations that were held as prisoners in Texas during May and June. It may be assumed that the total number of men who went over to the Confederates was approximately 400.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Capt. H. M. Lazelle to Brig. Gen. L. Thomas, Jan. 4, 1862, enclosing Special Order No. 25, Headquarters Troops in Texas, June 8, 1861, QR, Series II, Vol. I, pp. 68-69.

<sup>3</sup>There were 2,079 enlisted men reported present for duty in the Department of Texas in January, 1861, so that approximately 19.23% deserted following the secession of Texas. Returns of the Department of Texas, Office of the Adjutant General, Record Group No. 94, NA. Figures for the 8th Infantry are not included because of the poor condition of the original returns and muster rolls.

Van Dorn immediately set about to implement the act of March 6, 1861, by using the former United States regulars as a nucleus for the Confederate regular army. Two regular units were formed from the deserters: Haskell's detachment of recruits for a regular infantry regiment, and a company for the cavalry regiment. The latter unit was placed under the command of 1st Lieutenant Edward Ingraham, a former officer of the 1st United States Cavalry and one of the most active of the Confederate recruiters at Indianola.

Van Dorn was able to report the formation of the company as early as April 27, 1861, but it was not until May 1 that Ingraham was officially placed in command and 2nd Lieutenant John Bradley, C. S. Infantry, placed on temporary duty with the company. The new unit was designated Company A, Confederate States Cavalry, and ordered to San Antonio.<sup>4</sup>

The company had been organized on the promise to the men that the Confederate government would meet the back pay and allowances which they had forfeited by deserting the United States service, and that the term of enlistment would be for the unexpired portion of their last United States enlistment. Cooper admitted to Van Dorn that he

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<sup>4</sup>Van Dorn to Cooper, April 27, 1861, Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 241; Special Order No. 2, Headquarters Troops in Texas, May 1, 1861; RG 109, NA. The designation of the company became Company A, 1st Confederate Cavalry, when the second cavalry regiment was authorized on May 16, 1861.



could not positively say that the Confederate government would live up to this agreement, but he thought President Davis was in favor of it and Van Dorn should do his best to get accurate copies of the men's United States Army records.<sup>5</sup>

The demoralization resulting from the surrender presented the new company officers with some disciplinary problems. On May 8, 1861, Private Thomas Fitzgerald, late of the 3rd United States Infantry, got staggering drunk in the company quarters at San Antonio and attempted to shoot Corporal John Ramsey, late of the 1st United States Infantry. He got thirty days hard labor for his trouble.<sup>6</sup>

On June 8 the company was ordered to take all the Federal prisoners in San Antonio and establish a camp for them on the Salado River. The Federal officers were relieved from all further control over their men. This was another obvious attempt by Van Dorn to induce more men to desert and join the Confederate ranks.

The first muster roll of the company, prepared June 30 at Camp Van Dorn, as the new post was called,

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<sup>5</sup>Cooper to Van Dorn, May 24, 1861, Letters Received, Department of Texas, RG 109, NA.

<sup>6</sup>General Order No. 7, Headquarters Troops in Texas, May 22, 1861, RG 109, NA.

showed that the company was almost up to authorized strength. There were on the roll one officer, four sergeants, four corporals, two buglers and fifty-five privates. Three privates had already deserted. This was as close to being full as the company ever got. A few of the men were Texans who had signed up for the Confederate regular army hitch of either three or five years, but the great majority were former United States regulars.

The United States Army now safely out of the way, the immediate problem facing Van Dorn was growing Indian unrest. With the abandonment of the frontier posts by the United States Army the Indians were again committing depredations among the scattered settlements and ranches.

On July 21, 1861, Ingraham, with four non-commissioned officers and twenty-five privates, was ordered to march to the ranch of Marcellus French on the Atascosa River where recent Indian depredations had been committed. If he discovered that the Indians had been more recently on the Medina, he was to exercise his discretion in first pursuing them, but in any case he was to "chastise" them. Richardson's company of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles, stationed at Fort Inge, was to cooperate in this movement.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Special Orders No. 43, Department of Texas, July 21, 1861, RG 109, NA.

The result of this expedition is not recorded, but it is typical of the type of service performed by Company A during this period.

On August 17, orders were issued to Company A to escort the prisoners of war from Camp Van Dorn to Camp Verde and turn them over to the officer commanding that post. Bradley then was to return to San Antonio and take charge of the eight piece howitzer battery and then to report to Brigadier General H. H. Sibley for duty. The last part of this order apparently was revoked and the company missed being part of Sibley's Brigade bound for New Mexico.<sup>8</sup>

The company broke up its camp and moved to its old barracks at San Antonio, on September 1, 1861. That afternoon for the last time in Texas, they were paraded and inspected by Van Dorn on the square adjoining the Alamo.<sup>9</sup>

San Antonio Barracks had been garrisoned up to this time by 1st Lieutenant Alexander M. Haskell's detachment or regular infantry. This unit had not been a success and the hoped for infantry regiment never materialized. Haskell had been a lieutenant of Company K, 1st United

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<sup>8</sup>Special Orders No. 57, Department of Texas, August 17, 1861, RG 109, NA.

<sup>9</sup>Special Orders No. 69, Department of Texas, August 30, 1861, RG 109, NA.

States Infantry, before his resignation, and it may be assumed that it was mainly due to him and to Sergeant William Barrett, now of Company A, that twenty-four enlisted men of that company had been induced to desert to the Confederates. But besides commanding the detachment, he had also been acting as post commander, quartermaster, commissary, and any other type of staff officer needed. The detachment consisted of only thirteen men and it was decided to break it up and let Haskell spend full time on his staff duties. Two of the men who had been court-martialed deserted. Two were transferred to Captain William Edgar's Texas Light Artillery Battery, another unit composed almost exclusively of old United States regulars. The sergeant was discharged at the end of his old hitch and the remaining five men were attached to Company A. This temporary attachment proved even more permanent than Bradley's.

Van Dorn, by now a brigadier general in the Provisional Army, was relieved of command of the Department of Texas early in September and ordered to duty with the army in Virginia. He was temporarily succeeded by Colonel Henry E. McCulloch, 1st Texas Mounted Rifles.

Company A was ordered on September 9 to march for Fort Inge to relieve Richardson's Texans as garrison of

the post. The company left San Antonio on September 13, completing the ninety mile march to Fort Inge on September 17.<sup>10</sup>

Ingraham had spent too much time in remote frontier posts in the Old Army, to want to sit out the war in a backwater like Fort Inge. He submitted his resignation as company commander on August 29, 1861, and left to join Van Dorn in Virginia. Command of the company again reverted to Bradley who found himself the only officer within ninety miles of Fort Inge.

The first month at Fort Inge was uneventful. During the second week of October a raid by hostile Indians caused Bradley to send out a scouting party. Being the only officer present, Bradley was forced to remain at the post, but on the evening of October 11, Sergeant William Barrett with two non-commissioned officers and fifteen privates left the fort, taking four days' rations. They soon discovered that the hostiles were headed for the Nueces River. Barrett immediately gave chase, camping that night on the Rio Frio.

Early the next morning they struck the trail of the Indians between the Rio Frio and the Leona and continued to follow it until dark. The pursuit continued on October 13, the trail now heading for Fort Yulee. That

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<sup>10</sup>Post Return, Ft. Inge, Texas, for September, 1861, RG 109, NA.

night two mules and two ponies with arrows sticking out of them staggered into camp and died. On Monday, October 14, the pursuit was resumed, but the trail was lost after about half a mile. After some back tracking, Barrett discovered that the Indians were retracing their steps toward the Rio Grande.

The trail crossed back and forth across Barosito Creek as the troopers pressed on in a steady rain. Many of the crossings were boggy, causing the horses to become stuck and the ammunition wet. Much time was wasted in pulling the animals free with lariats.

About sunset the detachment arrived at a small clearing and Corporal Kasimir Kraus and Privates William Gibbons and Peter Gernhardt dismounted. Suddenly the surrounding scrub was alive with Lipan Indians. The troopers had blundered into the Indian camp.

The men immediately unslung their carbines and tried to put up a fight, but not one in half a dozen would fire despite the use of four or five caps. The drenching suffered during the day had made the guns and ammunition completely unfit for action. The troopers resorted to their sabres, one of the few times in the American Indian wars this weapon saw service, and the three dismounted men engaged in a hand to hand battle with the hostiles, killing several. The fight lasted for about half an hour.

The three dismounted men were dead, Private George Smith and four of the horses had been wounded, and more Indians were arriving every minute. Barrett wisely decided to call a retreat. In the desperate encounter his men had killed about ten Indians and wounded several more.<sup>11</sup>

On Tuesday morning the battered detachment headed back for the fort, arriving the evening of October 16. Bradley reported bitterly that being the only commissioned officer at the post he was unable to lead a fresh expedition to recover the bodies of the dead troopers and properly chastise the Indians. McCulloch relented enough to assign 2nd Lieutenant James P. Baltzell, C. S. Infantry, to temporary duty with the company. Baltzell, a Texan and an 1860 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, had already served a couple of short details with Company A and was now to be "temporarily" attached to it for over a year.

There was no further major trouble with the Indians, but Bradley was again faced with the problem of maintaining discipline. On November 13, he tossed Privates John Meara, Brinton Miles, Thomas McCarthy, Martin Monnahan and George Wright into the guard house and forwarded court-martial charges to Department headquarters in Galveston. Bradley's request for a general court-martial was turned down on the

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<sup>11</sup>Report of Sgt. W. Barrett to Bradley, October 16, 1861, OR, Series I, Vol. IV, pp. 33-34.

grounds that it would be injurious to the interests of the service to convene a court-martial at so remote a place as Fort Inge. It was suggested that he convene a garrison court-martial. Since Bradley and Baltzell were the only officers at the post this was not legally possible. On December 13, Bradley requested that the charges be withdrawn since the men had already spent a month in the guard house and there was no likelihood of a court-martial being organized in the near future.<sup>12</sup>

Near the end of December orders were received from McCulloch, now commanding the Western District of the Department of Texas, relieving the company from duty at Fort Inge and sending it back to San Antonio. A lack of transportation delayed the move until the first week of January 1862, but then the company marched to San Antonio and again occupied its old quarters at San Antonio Barracks.

While Company A had been isolated at its small outpost on the Western frontier, the war in the East had been getting into full swing. Van Dorn, now a major general, had been ordered from Virginia to join Major General Sterling Price in Missouri. On January 15, 1862, probably on his suggestion, Ingraham was ordered by the War

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<sup>12</sup>Bradley to Capt. D. C. Stith, November 22, 1861; Maj. Samuel Boyer Davis to Bradley, December 9 and 12, 1861, Letters Sent, Department of Texas, Chap. II, Vol. 135, pp. 29, 42; and Bradley to Davis, December 13, 1861, Letters Received, Department of Texas, RG 109, NA.



Department to return to Texas, take command of Company A, and bring it to Van Dorn in Missouri.

The following day Ingraham wrote to General Cooper regarding an unsettled obligation to the company. "... Company A, C. S. Cavalry, which I enlisted and organized, has not to my knowledge been paid its back pay which was promised them by me under verbal authority from Major General Earl Van Dorn. They were promised all the back pay due them by the U. S. Government and the extra pay for re-enlistments in that service - their whole contract with that government in fact being transferred to the Confederate States. Being under orders to join my company, I would very like this matter settled and an order given for the payment of these men previous to their being moved to Missouri."

Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin was of the opinion that he had no power to make any such payments, but if a complete statement of what was due to the men could be furnished he would ask Congress for permission to pay what had been promised. Apparently the men never did get the money due them.<sup>13</sup>

Ingraham reached San Antonio from Richmond on February 24, 1862, and succeeded Bradley in command of

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<sup>13</sup>Special Order No. 15, A. & I. G. O., January 15, 1862; and Ingraham to Cooper, January 16, 1862, Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., RG 109, NA.

the company. The company had been moved from San Antonio Barracks to a camp six miles out of town on Salado Creek. Ingraham found the company in good shape and well armed with Sharps carbines and sabres. The one thing that worried him was their uniforms. They were in good condition, but unfortunately were blue and he was afraid the company would be mistaken for Yankees the first time they got into battle.<sup>14</sup>

By the time the company finally started east, the situation had changed drastically for the worse. Van Dorn's dreams of reconquering Missouri had ended in a bloody defeat at Pea Ridge in northern Arkansas and the battered Confederate army was now stretched along the Arkansas and White Rivers in an attempt to cover Little Rock and the approaches to Memphis. But if the situation west of the Mississippi was bad, the situation east of the river was rapidly turning into disaster. Grant had opened the route of invasion along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers with the conquest of Forts Henry and Donelson, Nashville had fallen and the main Confederate field army had suffered a crushing defeat at Shiloh. Beauregard had fallen back to Corinth in northern Mississippi and now sent a frantic appeal for reinforcements.

Troops from Texas for Van Dorn's now vanished

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<sup>14</sup>Muster Roll, Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, dated February 28, 1862, RG 109, NA.

invasion of Missouri began arriving in Arkansas during the first part of April. Company A was encamped on April 13, 1862, seven miles from Lewisburg on the Arkansas River northwest of Little Rock.<sup>15</sup> Orders now came for Van Dorn to move his entire army east of the river by way of Memphis and join Beauregard, leaving behind only a small covering force in Arkansas. On April 15 orders were issued for Ingraham to immediately proceed with Company A to Memphis and report to Van Dorn for duty.<sup>16</sup>

On April 25, Van Dorn promoted Ingraham to major in the Provisional Army. Although this was a staff appointment, Ingraham was immediately assigned to duty commanding a temporary cavalry battalion consisting of Company A and Captain Reeve's Company of Scouts. This battalion served directly under Van Dorn, and Bradley once more assumed command of Company A.<sup>17</sup>

Van Dorn's army was not to remain in Memphis long. By May 4 he had completed the movement to Corinth and joined Beauregard. The Union pressure already was building up and the siege lines were drawing closer to the city.

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<sup>15</sup>This information is found, interestingly enough, on a property voucher for a dead mule. CMSR, 2nd Lt. James P. Baltzell, Staff File, RG 109, NA.

<sup>16</sup>Special Order No. 52, Trans-Mississippi District, Department No. 2, April 15, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. XIII, pg. 818.

<sup>17</sup>Special Order No. 65, Army of the West, April 25, 1862, and Return, Army of the West, May 4, 1861, RG 109, NA.

On May 9, Van Dorn led a counter attack against the portion of the Union line at Farmington commanded by Major General John Pope. After an all day fight the Federals were driven from the town. A cotton gin and bridge were fired and then the Confederates withdrew. Losses in Van Dorn's command had been light, but Company A had suffered its first loss of the war. Major Edward Ingraham fell mortally wounded at Farmington and died the next day, deeply mourned by his general.<sup>18</sup>

After the evacuation of Cerinth on May 30, Company A was permanently assigned as escort for Van Dorn and fell back with his army to Priceville and finally to Vicksburg, when he was assigned to the command of the Department of Southern Mississippi and East Louisiana on June 20, 1862. The company was now down to an aggregate strength of 58 officers and men.<sup>19</sup>

In September Lieutenant Baltzell was relieved from duty with the company. Before the end of the year two enlisted men who had originally enlisted in the Infantry School of Practice and had survived the debacle of the fall of New Orleans were transferred to the company. Bradley was also promoted to captain in the Provisional Army in recognition of his long command of Company A.

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<sup>18</sup>OR, Series I, Vol. 10, Part 1, pg. 808.

<sup>19</sup>Return, District of the Mississippi, July 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. XVII, Part 2, pg. 661, and Muster Roll, Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, July 1, 1862, to August 31, 1862, RG 109, NA.

Company A from this time until the end of the war participated in the major cavalry campaigns in the West. With the assassination of Van Dorn on May 7, 1863, at Spring Hill, Tennessee, the company performed its last service for its colonel by escorting his body to Columbia, Tennessee. The following extract from the record of events on the company muster roll dated June 30, 1863, is typical of the service of the company:

May 8, (1863,) Company escorted remains of General Van Dorn to Columbia; May 9, returned to Springfield. May 18, attached to General Armstrong's Brigade as Escort to the General. May 29, left Springfield. May 30, Marched 48 miles; May 31, marched 22 miles. June 1, Marched 22 miles, camped near Lawrenceburg. June 2, marched 20 miles, camped near Mount Pleasant. June 3, marched 12 miles, camped near Columbia. June 4, marched 11 miles, camped near Springfield. June 5, marched 12 miles, fight near Franklin. June 6, marched 18 miles, camped near Springfield. June 7, left camp 8 o'clock P. M., marched 8 miles. June 8, left camp 4 o'clock A. M., skirmish at Triun(e) 3 P. M. June 11, skirmish at Triaon. June 12, arrived at Springfield 10 P. M., heavy weather. June 13, camped near Springfield. June 25, left Springfield. June 26, camped near Unionville. June 27, skirmish at Shelbeville. June 28, camped near Tullahoma. June 29, camped near Dehar Station. June 30, camped Arazona, (East Tennessee.)<sup>20</sup>

With the assignment as escort to Brigadier General Frank C. Armstrong, Company A became a part of the legendary cavalry of Nathan Bedford Forrest. Armstrong had commanded

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<sup>20</sup>Muster Roll, Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, dated June 30, 1863, RG 109, NA. The roll shows one officer and forty-six enlisted men.

a Union cavalry company at First Manassas and had then resigned and been appointed a second lieutenant of the 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry. He rose quickly to the rank of brigadier general and in 1863 commanded one of Forrest's brigades.<sup>21</sup>

Perhaps the hardest battle of the war for Company A is the little known battle near Franklin, Tennessee, on June 4, 1863, mentioned in the record of events above erroneously as occurring on June 5.

At 3 P. M. on the afternoon of June 4, 1863, the First Brigade, First Cavalry Division of the Army of the Cumberland made contact with pickets of Armstrong's Brigade about a mile and a half east of Franklin, near the Murfreesborough Road. Armstrong attacked the flank of the 2nd Michigan Cavalry and in turn was charged by the 6th Kentucky Cavalry (Union). His troops fell back across the Harpeth River and then across the Lewisburg Pike. The 2nd Michigan then dismounted and deployed as skirmishers along the center of the line with the 4th Kentucky Cavalry (Union) to its left and the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry covering the flanks.

Finally the 4th Kentucky charged while the 2nd Michigan attacked the center of Armstrong's line.

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<sup>21</sup>Generals in Grey, pp. 12-13, and Regular Army Register, pg. 60, RG 109, NA.

Armstrong fell back, but the Union troopers managed to turn his left flank, forcing a hasty retreat. By this time it was completely dark and in the confusion the Confederates were able to disengage and make good their withdrawal. In the fierce hand to hand fighting the flag and four troopers of Company A were captured. Armstrong and 17 men of Company A were briefly in the hands of the enemy, but all but four managed to escape in the dark.<sup>22</sup>

On November 2, 1863, Bradley requested that Company A be transferred back to Texas before the enlistments of most of the men expired on April 25, 1864. It was apparent that under the terms of the Conscription Act the men would be held in service after the expiration of their enlistments and they requested that in such case they be allowed to serve under the command of General E. Kirby Smith, who as lieutenant colonel of the 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry had succeeded to the titular head of the regiment on the death of Van Dorn. Armstrong forwarded the application with the endorsement: "Disapproved. This Co. only has about 28 men left and is now on duty at my Hd. Qrs. as couriers, etc. - Respectfully request the Co. may be left where it is." The request was not approved by

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<sup>22</sup>OR, Series I, Vol. XXIII, Part 1, pp. 359-362. An attempt to determine the fate of the flag of Company A has been unsuccessful. Many captured Confederate flags forwarded to the War Department were never identified.

General Bragg and so the company remained east of the Mississippi for the duration.<sup>23</sup>

Bradley, however, had had enough. On May 2, 1864, he requested a transfer to the Trans-Mississippi Department. The War Department agreed to this with the provision that he resign his Provisional Army commission of captain and revert to his regular army rank of second lieutenant. Bradley compiled and finished the war on staff duty in Texas as a lieutenant. Command of Company A devolved upon 2nd Lieutenant John Denys who had been the first sergeant of the company before he was commissioned in the regular army.<sup>24</sup>

The remainder of the story of Company A may be briefly told. On September 26, 1864, Armstrong reported that out of the one officer and forty men of the company, thirty men were barefooted. Denys deserted to the enemy on December 26, 1864, and took the oath of allegiance to the United States. By January 1, 1865, there were only two corporals and twelve privates left, under the command

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<sup>23</sup>Bradley to Cooper, November 2, 1863, from Cleveland, East Tennessee, CMSR, Capt. John Bradley, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, RG 109, NA. There is no record showing Kirby Smith being promoted to colonel, although by the terms of the act of March 6, 1861, he would have succeeded to the rank by seniority.

<sup>24</sup>Bradley to Cooper, May 2, 1864, from Tuscaloosa, Ala. Bradley submitted his resignation on August 10, 1864, from East Point, Ga., CMSR, Capt. John Bradley, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, RG 109, NA.



of Corporal James Smith. Shortly thereafter the company was consolidated with Company D, 2nd Mississippi Cavalry, and served with that unit until the end. On May 16, 1865, twelve enlisted men were paroled at Columbus, Mississippi; all that remained of Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry.<sup>25</sup>

It is impossible to tell exactly what happened to all of the sixty-nine officers and men carried on the first company muster roll. From the records which have survived it appears that one officer and four men were killed in action or died in service, two men were absent as prisoners of war, five men were discharged, one man was transferred, twelve men were paroled at the end of the war, and one officer and eighteen men deserted or were last reported absent without leave. There is no final record of separation for forty-two men.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup>CMSR, 2nd Lt. John Denys, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry; Muster Roll, Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, dated January 1, 1865; Columbus, Miss., Parole Roll No. 29; RG 109, NA.

<sup>26</sup>CMSR, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, RG 109, NA. Several men enlisted in Company A or were transferred to it subsequent to the first muster roll. Most of the men who are not accounted for disappear from the rolls at the time the company left Texas and during the period of the Nashville Campaign in late 1864.

## CHAPTER IV

### LOUISIANA REGULARS

Recruiting for the Confederate regular army was most successful in the Mississippi Valley and surrounding area. Here was obtained the largest number of men and here was formed the largest unit of the regular army, the Infantry School of Practice.

At Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were located Baton Rouge Barracks and Baton Rouge Arsenal, two former United States military posts. Their location on the Mississippi River and at a convenient distance from the distractions of New Orleans, made the place ideal for a general recruiting depot. Captain John C. Booth, Corps of Artillery, was assigned to command Baton Rouge Arsenal in March 1861 and was acting commander of the Baton Rouge Barracks until the arrival of Captain Frazer. Booth enlisted several recruits and also hired Dr. P. M. Enders, who entered into a contract as acting assistant surgeon for the post on April 1, 1861.<sup>1</sup>

On April 5, 1861, Captain John Frazer was ordered to take command of Baton Rouge Barracks. This order was

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<sup>1</sup>LCMSR, P. M. Enders, Staff File, RG 109, NA. As in the United States Army, acting assistant surgeons were civilian doctors serving under contract with the army. For the purposes of rolls and returns they were usually carried as officers, but normally they did not wear uniform and exercised no military authority.

followed by two letters from General Cooper outlining Frazer's duties as superintendent of the recruiting depot.<sup>2</sup> Frazer was still involved in various duties in New Orleans and during the first few weeks command of the recruits was exercised by 2nd Lieutenant Edward Powell.<sup>3</sup>

The recruiting station in New Orleans was commanded by 1st Lieutenant Charles W. Phifer, Cavalry. With Phifer were Sergeant Leopold Waterman and Private John N. Hetzel. In addition, 1st Lieutenant Edward Ingraham was in New Orleans at this time, having accepted his commission there on April 16, 1861. In an apparent attempt to try to induce more former United States regulars to desert, the steamer Star of the West carrying the men from Texas was detained at Fort Jackson and thirty-four men were left at the forts

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<sup>2</sup>Special Order No. 15, A. & I. G. O., April 5, 1861; Cooper to Frazer, April 15 and 19, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 35, 50, RG 109, NA.

<sup>3</sup>CMSR, Maj. Edward Powell, Staff File; Cooper to Frazer, April 19, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., op. cit.; Special Order No. 29, A. & I. G. O., April 19, 1861; RG 109, NA; Regular Army Enlistment Papers, RG 94, NA. Powell, who was a New Yorker, later became a Provisional Army major in the Quartermaster Department. He had been discharged from the United States Army at St. Augustine, Fla., as an ordnance sergeant by Military Store Keeper F. C. Humphrys, who was soon to be serving with him at Baton Rouge. Humphrys endorsed the discharge: "The within named Sergt. has served in the U. S. Army 22 years, nearly the whole of which time in the grade of Staff Non-commissioned offr. and from the testimonials which he has in his possession I find that he has been highly distinguished in an action in New Mexico. He served through the War in Mexico and was thrice wounded in the field of action. ..."

by order of Colonel Earl Van Dorn. When they still refused to enlist in the Confederate service they were allowed to proceed to New Orleans and presumably made their way back to Union territory.<sup>4</sup>

On April 20 the War Department issued a requisition for \$2,000 to run the depot.<sup>5</sup> Besides Powell, Frazer was also assigned 1st Lieutenant William C. Porter. Porter, being senior in rank, succeeded Powell as acting commander of the depot in the absence of Frazer. On May 10 he telegraphed that he had arrested three deserters. Things apparently were not going well in Baton Rouge and on May 11 Frazer was ordered to turn over his duties in New Orleans and immediately take command in Baton Rouge.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Muster Roll of Recruiting Party stationed at New Orleans, Louisiana Muster Rolls; Ingraham to Cooper, April 16, 22, and 22; Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 93; Post Return, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, La., April 1861; RG 109, NA. Waterman for some reason was never transferred to the Infantry School, but served in the 1st (Strawbridge's) Louisiana Infantry and 28th Mississippi Cavalry, becoming a quartermaster sergeant before he deserted August 14, 1863. Hetzel eventually became a corporal in the 1st Confederate Regular Light Artillery Battery and was captured in 1863. CMSR, RG 109, NA.

<sup>5</sup>Frazer to Cooper, April 17, 1861, Register of Letters Received, Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 67; Cooper to Frazer, April 20, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 54.

<sup>6</sup>Special Order No. 29, A. & I. G. O., April 19, 1861; Porter to Cooper, May 10, 12, and 12, 1861; Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 172; Cooper to Frazer, May 11, 1861, and Cooper to Porter, May 11, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O.; Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 106, 108. The deserters apparently got into the hands of civil authorities since on May 12 Porter wrote that they had claimed habeus corpus and reported the decision of the judge. Unfortunately these letters have not been found.

The recruits at Baton Rouge were soon numerous enough to be divided into four companies. Additional regular lieutenants were assigned to the depot to drill the men. Discipline still remained a problem, and on May 31 Frazer reported to the War Department that Private M. Kelly had been killed while resisting the corporal of the guard. Recruiting was also beginning to drop off. Captain Taylor reported from Nashville on May 30 that recruits were unwilling to go to Baton Rouge Barracks and asked permission to establish a camp of instruction under his command. Apparently no action was taken on this request.<sup>7</sup>

Events quickly brought changes to the Infantry School. Originally modeled on the United States Army system developed at the Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Virginia, the Confederate Infantry School of Practice was only allowed time enough to get the men organized into companies, equipped with the minimum, and undergo the barest of training before the troops were ordered to active duty. New Orleans was the largest city in the Confederacy and its most important port. In the summer of 1861 the city was virtually undefended and offered a prize which the Union could not long resist.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Frazer to Cooper, May 31, 1861; Taylor to Cooper, May 30, 1861; Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pp. 224, 70.

<sup>8</sup>For a detailed account of conditions in New Orleans and events leading up to its capture see Charles L. Dufour, The Night the War Was Lost (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1960).

Frazer, a West Pointer whose ambitions were bigger than training recruits, accepted a commission as lieutenant colonel of the 8th Alabama Infantry on June 17, 1861, and left Baton Rouge. He was succeeded in command by Captain Alfred Mouton. Mouton's connection with the Infantry School was to be brief, but he was to serve with regular troops until his death at Sabine Cross Roads, Louisiana, on April 8, 1864.

On June 19 Mouton reported that he had 417 recruits under his command. He requested additional officers and asked for instructions. Major General David Twiggs, commander of Department No. 1, was desperately searching for men to man the defenses of New Orleans. Most of the troops in the Gulf states had become tied down in the siege of Fort Pickens at Pensacola, Florida. Cooper authorized him on June 20 to make use of the recruits at Baton Rouge.<sup>9</sup>

Mouton led 304 recruits to New Orleans on July 4, Powell taking command of those remaining for the time at Baton Rouge. Mouton's detachment was divided between New Orleans Barracks and Fort Pike, Louisiana, which guarded the eastern approach to New Orleans. At the end of July the post returns showed that Companies, A, B, C, and D at

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<sup>9</sup>Mouton to Cooper, June 19, 1861, Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 285; R. H. Chilton to Twiggs, June 20, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 207; RG 109, NA.

New Orleans had an aggregate strength of 67, 67, 64, and 74 men respectively. The newly formed Company E at Fort Pike had an aggregate strength of 77.<sup>10</sup>

Mouten resigned from the regular army on July 16, 1861, becoming colonel of the 18th Louisiana Infantry and eventually a brigadier general.<sup>11</sup> From this date the Infantry School ceased to function as a battalion and its companies were designated simply as "C. S. Recruits." Although no officer was given command of the battalion, the dominant figures apparently were 2nd Lieutenants J. K. Dixon and Oliver J. Semmes at New Orleans and 2nd Lieutenant George H. Frost at Fort Pike.<sup>12</sup>

Powell's detachment at Baton Rouge originally consisted

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<sup>10</sup>Post Returns, Baton Rouge Barracks, July 1861, and July 4, 1861; New Orleans Barracks, July 1861; Fort Pike, July 1861; RG 109, NA. The special return for Baton Rouge Barracks of July 4 shows 304 men sent to New Orleans while the regular post return for July shows 292 men and the New Orleans Barracks return shows 295 men arrived July 6. Since Powell is shown to have accompanied the detachment, it is possible the other men returned with him to Baton Rouge on July 11.

<sup>11</sup>Regular Army Register, pg. 127, RG 109, NA; Generals in Grey, pp. 222-223. The reason for his resignation from the regular army is obscure.

<sup>12</sup>Post Returns, New Orleans Barracks, July 1861 and August 1861, Fort Pike, July 1861. Officers were assigned to the companies at New Orleans per Special Order No. 44, Department No. 1, July 17, 1861. Company E was organized and so designated per Special Order No. 47, Department No. 1, July 23, 1861. Frost and 2nd Lt. Lucius D. Sandidge were assigned to duty with the company per Special Order No. 40, Department No. 1, July 13, 1861; RG 109, NA.

of one officer and fifty-four enlisted men, but presumably since it was only to be temporarily detached from the battalion it was not given a separate company designation.<sup>13</sup> Included in this detachment, although also mustered separately, was the Baton Rouge hospital detail. Sergeant Louis Lapointe of Company C had been detailed as acting hospital steward in the hospital on May 1, 1861, and continued this assignment until the evacuation of Baton Rouge in May 1862. Powell and his detachment were ordered to join the battalion in New Orleans on September 23, leaving a sergeant and six privates behind in charge of Baton Rouge Barracks.<sup>14</sup>

Captain Frederick C. Humphrys, Military Store Keeper of Ordnance, had been ordered to take command of Baton Rouge Arsenal on October 8 and for a few days also commanded the regular detachment at Baton Rouge Barracks. He was succeeded in command of the barracks by Lieutenant J. H. Stith.<sup>15</sup> Humphry's first duty after taking over Baton Rouge Arsenal was to organize an Ordnance detachment.

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<sup>13</sup>Muster Roll, Powell's Detachment, Infantry School of Practice, August 31, 1861; RG 109, NA.

<sup>14</sup>Field Report of Detachment of Recruits, Infantry School of Practice, September 23, 1861; Muster Rolls of Steward, Wardmaster, Cooks, Nurses, etc., in Hospital at Baton Rouge, La., filed with Louisiana Muster Rolls; RG 109, NA. The last muster roll of the Infantry School detachment at Baton Rouge Barracks is dated May 1, 1862.

<sup>15</sup>Muster Roll of Detachment of Recruits, October 31 and December 31, 1861; RG 109, NA.



Under the provisions of the act of March 6, 1861, the President was authorized to enlist not more than a total of 100 master armorers, master carriage-makers, master blacksmiths, armorers, carriage makers, blacksmiths, artificers, and laborers for Ordnance duty to be attached to the Corps of Artillery. As had been the case in the United States Army, these Ordnance mechanics were regularly enlisted into the army in the same manner as line enlisted men. They did not receive ordinary military rank, but were carried on the muster rolls with the designations enumerated in the act.

During the first week of December Humphrys enlisted ten men in the Baton Rouge Arsenal Ordnance Detachment. On January 23, 1862, Private George Woodruff of the Infantry School detachment at Baton Rouge Barracks was detailed to the Ordnance Detachment. This detachment consisted of one blacksmith, three carriage-makers, two artificers, and five laborers.<sup>16</sup> The detachment abandoned Baton Rouge Arsenal before the fall of that city May 8, 1862, after which there is no record of most of the men or of those belonging to the Infantry School detachment. During this period one man was discharged and three were detailed to report to Captain Richard Lambert, the Military Store Keeper at Louisiana Arsenal in New Orleans.

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<sup>16</sup>Statutes, Chap. XXIX, Section 23; Humphrys to Cooper, January 7, 1861, CMSR, Staff File; CMSR, Louisiana Ordnance Detachment; RG 109, NA.

Two of these men were attached to Company A, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, and continued to serve with that unit after New Orleans fell.<sup>17</sup>

Men from the regular companies in New Orleans were detailed to duty on the steamers Arrow on July 25 and Oregon on July 27, 1861.<sup>18</sup> These were among the little ships which controlled Mississippi Sound and kept open communications with Ship Island and Mobile. Commanded by Confederate Navy officers, they also carried Confederate Marines and Army personnel to man the guns and form landing parties. Captain Edward Higgins, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, had already used this motley collection to seize the important unfinished fort at Ship Island.<sup>19</sup>

Work on Fort Twiggs at Ship Island was under the direction of Major Martin L. Smith, Corps of Engineers. The sailors and marines originally landed by Captain Higgins had been replaced by four companies of the 4th

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid. and CMSR, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, for John A. Dunn and Matthew Murray, RG 109, NA.

<sup>18</sup>Special Orders No. 49 and 51, Department No. 1, July 25 and 27, 1861. The Muster Rolls, Infantry School of Practice, indicate which men were detailed for duty on the ships, but do not give exact dates or any information about their duties. RG 109, NA.

<sup>19</sup>Information about the seizure of Ship Island can be found in Dufour, op. cit., pp. 48-54. See also Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922), 26 vols., (hereafter cited as ORN), Series I, Vol. XVI, pp. 580-583.

Louisiana Infantry. These were new troops and knew nothing about handling the heavy guns which Smith was mounting in the fort. Colonel Johnson K. Duncan was sent to Ship Island on September 3 to inspect the fortifications and their garrison. With him went four officers of the 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery to instruct the infantrymen in the handling of big guns. Duncan was not pleased by much he saw on Ship Island, but he reported, "The two detachments of regulars are more than sufficient to man all of the guns and afford the necessary reliefs. ...The regular detachments there are in command of Lieutenants Semmes and Barnes, from West Point, and as they requested permission to drill their own companies at the heavy guns I of course granted it, these officers being fully competent to the task. These two companies alone can furnish all the necessary reliefs and gun detachments to man and fight the battery at any time. ..."<sup>20</sup>

The regulars referred to by Colonel Duncan were Companies B and D. When they were transferred to Ship Island is unknown, but they are shown as being present at New Orleans Barracks on the August post return. Their stay on Ship Island was brief. The night of September 16 the Confederates abandoned the island; the garrison, guns, and equipment being withdrawn on the Oregon among other

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<sup>20</sup>Duncan to 2nd Lt. J. C. Devereux, A. A. A. G., September 9, 1861, OR, Series I, Vol. VI, pp. 733-734.

ships. The two regular companies temporarily returned to New Orleans Barracks and Semmes' Company B was detailed to guard the prisoners of war in the Parish Prison.<sup>21</sup>

On October 3 the Infantry School battalion was re-organized. Companies A and B were consolidated into a new Company A and Companies C and D were consolidated into a new Company C. Company E remained at Fort Pike. Company A was then attached to a light artillery battery being formed in New Orleans, leaving the post for its new assignment on October 20. On October 6, under the command of Lieutenant Dixon, Company C had left to join the garrison of Fort Jackson.<sup>22</sup>

Dixon's command originally consisted of 104 officers and men. During November ten men were transferred to the light artillery battery and forty-one more recruits were transferred to Company C from New Orleans Barracks.<sup>23</sup> During December the company was assigned to form part of the garrison of Fort St. Philip. Fort St. Philip was about 700 yards higher up the Mississippi and on the opposite bank from Fort Jackson. The fort was an irregular

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<sup>21</sup>Duncan to Devereux, Sept. 17, 1861, OR, Series I, Vol. LIII, pg. 741; Special Orders No. 80 & 99, Department No. 1, Sept. 2 and 24, 1861, RG 109, NA.

<sup>22</sup>Post Return, New Orleans Barracks, Oct. 1861; Special Order No. 107, Department No. 1, October 4, 1861, RG 109, NA.

<sup>23</sup>Post Return, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Nov. 1861; Special Order No. 28, Department No. 1, Nov. 18, 1861; RG 109, NA.

quadrilateral measuring about 150 by 100 yards, and mounting twenty heavy guns bearing on the channel. Two external batteries near the fort mounted fifty-two more guns.<sup>24</sup>

Originally 2nd Lieutenant Joseph D. Mayes was the only officer besides Dixon serving with Company C. He was transferred to the light artillery battery on March 22, 1862, and 2nd Lieutenant Henry L. Blow took his place at Fort St. Philip. On March 10 the 22nd Louisiana Infantry was organized from unattached companies at the forts. To complete this regiment Company C was attached to serve as Company K, 22nd Louisiana Infantry, but it retained its identity as a regular unit and was mustered separately.<sup>25</sup>

The long awaited attack on the forts began the morning of April 19, when Commander David Dixon Porter's mortar squadron opened fire. The mortar fire was directed almost exclusively against Fort Jackson. The guns at Fort St. Philip attempted to reply to the Union fire, but were too far upstream to have much effect. On April 22 about 100 men were ordered by Duncan from the garrison of Fort St. Philip to man the guns of the unfinished ironclad

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<sup>24</sup>Dufour, op. cit., pp. 220-221. The capture of the forts is fully described in this book and many other published sources. Only the part played by Company C will be described here.

<sup>25</sup>Post Returns, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, March 1862; Special Order No. 60, Department No. 1, March 22, 1862, for assignment of officers; General Order No. 8, Department No. 1, March 10, 1862; RG 109, NA. The 22nd Louisiana Infantry was subsequently redesignated as the 21st (Patton's) Louisiana Infantry and the records are so filed.

Louisiana. Most of these apparently were men of Company C under the command of Lieutenant Dixon.<sup>26</sup>

In the darkness of early morning on April 24 the Union fleet finally began its attempt to run the forts. The guns of Fort St. Philip fired furiously at the enemy, but some confusion arose in the upper water battery. Captain M. T. Squires, commanding the fort, explained that the guns originally had been manned by Company C which was fully prepared to work the battery, but when they had been withdrawn for duty on the Louisiana inexperienced men had been detailed to the guns. The Louisiana took only a small part in the action and the regulars were returned to Fort St. Philip that evening. By then it was too late.<sup>27</sup>

After the Union fleet had passed the forts the Confederate garrisons were hopelessly cut off. Dixon accompanied Captain Squires to a conference at Fort Jackson on April 28. They reported that under the circumstances there was no choice but to surrender. Casualties in the forts during the engagement were surprisingly light, but a mutiny by most of the garrison of Fort Jackson on April 27 made further resistance hopeless. The troops at Fort St.

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<sup>26</sup>Report of Capt. M. T. Squires, April 27, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. VI, pg. 551.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., pp. 551-552; Report of Commander John K. Mitchell, August 19, 1862, (ORN, Series I, Vol. XVIII, pp. 292, 298, 302) and General Order No. 1, C. S. S. Louisiana, April 25, 1862.

Philip had not yet mutinied, but Squires felt that considering the conditions at Fort Jackson, his men could not be trusted. Duncan swallowed his humiliation and surrendered the forts to Porter.<sup>28</sup>

The behavior of Company C following the surrender was disgraceful, but not unique. New Orleans was the most cosmopolitan city of the South. A large proportion of the militia and the few volunteer units which defended the city were composed of soldiers of foreign birth. There had been trouble with those foreign troops in February when it was rumored that they would be sent into Confederate service outside the city. These units willingly fought to defend New Orleans, but once the city had fallen they no longer felt any attachment to the cause of the Confederacy. The regular troops of the Infantry School of Practice were little different from these Louisiana units. Although they had been recruited from a much larger area, the percentage of foreign born was very high. Available records show that 47.2% of the Infantry School recruits were foreign born. Actually the figure is probably well over 50%, but the lack of enlistment papers for all recruits makes it impossible to give an exact figure.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>Report of Brig. Gen. J. K. Duncan, Apr. 30, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. VI, pp. 531-532.

<sup>29</sup>For the attitude of the foreign troops in and around New Orleans see Dufour, *op. cit.*, pp. 181-184. The figures for the Infantry School of Practice were computed from information in the CMSR, Infantry School of Practice, & enlistment papers scattered in the "Unfileable File," RG 109, NA. Actually the number of enlistment papers, which contain such information as place of birth, age, description, and occupation, are much higher for the regulars than for the Confederate Army as a whole. For a description of the garrison of Ft. St. Philip see George C. Harding, The Miscellaneous Writings of George C. Harding (Indianapolis: Carlen & Hollenbeck, 1882), pp. 264-265.

General Duncan summed up the situation following the fall of the city when he wrote from New Orleans on May 13, "... I endeavored, to the best of my ability, to see that they (the garrisons) were properly cared for until such time as they could be sent out of town. ...Notwithstanding that they were thus amply provided for, scores of them have been daily going over to the enemy and enlisting since, until now there are but a very few left from either fort not in the ranks of the enemy. Although I really did think at the time of the surrender that some few of the men were loyal, the facts which have since come to light have perfectly satisfied me that nearly every man in both forts was thoroughly implicated and concerned in the revolt on the night of April 27. ..."<sup>30</sup>

With the exception of the men in the light artillery battery, only ten other men from the Infantry School who were in New Orleans or at the forts ever rejoined the Confederate Army. Privates James Finn and Frederick Greves had been serving on detached duty as orderlies at Department Headquarters and with Brigadier General Martin L. Smith, respectively. Sergeant Cornelius O'Leary had been on extra duty in the Quartermaster Department with Captain Edward Powell. These three went with Department Headquarters when

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<sup>30</sup>Brig. Gen. J. K. Duncan to Maj. J. G. Pickett, A. G., May 13, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. VI, pg. 535.



it retreated to Jackson, Mississippi. It is interesting to note that Greves is found as late as November 30, 1863, in Athens, Georgia, serving on detached duty from Company C, C. S. Recruits.<sup>31</sup>

Private Frederick Heine is the only man from the forts found to have rejoined the Confederates. After the surrender he was taken with the garrison to New Orleans and paroled. He reported for duty in May and was serving at Jackson in June. Still being on parole, he was sent to Camp Lee, Virginia, until exchanged. After his exchange he became first sergeant of Company B, Camp Lee Guard. On June 2, 1864, he requested his discharge since his enlistment was up. This caused some head scratching at headquarters, but it was finally determined that he had enlisted for three years as a regular and not being a citizen could not be held in service. Sergeant Heine was discharged on August 26, 1864, probably the last man of Company C still in service.<sup>32</sup>

Only nine men of Company C have been identified as having subsequent service in the United States Army. The total who enlisted in the Union forces is undoubtedly much larger, but the habit of giving false names makes

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<sup>31</sup>CMSR, Infantry School of Practice, vouchers and enlistments in "Unfileable File," and Receipt Roll No. 204, RG 109, NA. There is no record of Finn after June 30, 1862, and for Greves after Nov. 30, 1863. O'Leary was discharged on August 21, 1862.

<sup>32</sup>1st Sergt. F. Heine to Maj. T. G. Peyton, June 2, 1864, CMSR, Conscripts, Camp Lee, Va.; Special Order No. 202, A. & I. G. O., August 26, 1864, RG 109, NA. Heine was a German.

identification impossible. The subsequent service of two of these men throws a little light on the type of men who made up Company C. Edmond Downing had enlisted in 1849 in the 3rd United States Infantry and rose to the rank of sergeant. He enlisted in Company C, Infantry School of Practice, and was a sergeant at the time of the surrender. He then deserted and joined the 9th Connecticut Infantry, being commissioned a second lieutenant in 1865, and was honorably mustered out of service at the end of the war.<sup>33</sup>

William C. Tully has probably one of the strangest military records. He enlisted in 1854 in the 1st United States Artillery; was court-martialed and sentenced to be shot; escaped and enlisted in the Confederate regular army; apparently deserted in 1861; joined the United States Navy in 1862; joined the 198th Ohio Infantry in 1865 and was mustered out; enlisted in the 8th United States Infantry in 1865 and was recognized as a deserter from the 1st Artillery; escaped and joined the 3rd United States Cavalry in 1866; enlisted in the 35th United States Infantry in 1869 from which he deserted; was recaptured and again recognized, but received a Presidential pardon; enlisted in the 18th United States Infantry in 1870 from

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<sup>33</sup>Regular Army Enlistment Registers and Papers, RG 94; CMSR, Infantry School of Practice, RG 109; CMSR, 9th Connecticut Infantry, RG 94; NA. Downing died in Connecticut shortly after the regiment returned home to be mustered out.

which he was discharged because of syphilis and intemperate habits; and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1871, and is last reported as a deserter in 1873.<sup>34</sup>

On January 1, 1862, seventy-six men of Company E had been assigned to form Company I, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, which had never completed its organization. Lieutenant Frost and a detachment of fourteen regulars remained at the post. On March 2 this detachment was also broken up, the men being attached to Companies A and H, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, at Fort Jackson where they were captured on April 28.<sup>35</sup>

Fort Pike had not been attacked, but with the fall of New Orleans there was no longer any reason to hold the position. The fort was abandoned April 25 and Company I marched to Camp Moore, Louisiana, north of Lake Pontchartrain. Twenty men deserted from the company as it passed through New Orleans. From Camp Moore the company joined the

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<sup>34</sup>CMSR, Infantry School of Practice, and "Unfileable File," RG 109; Regular Army Enlistment Registers & Papers; File WALZ-3287-65, Enlisted Branch, RG 94, NA. There is a letter in the Enlisted Branch file from Tully to Senator Henry Wilson dated June 1, 1869, which gives his side of this peculiar story. Tully pointedly avoided mentioning his Confederate service, in fact declaring that he had acted as a Union spy while making his way from New Orleans to Memphis.

<sup>35</sup>Post Returns, Fort Pike, January and March 1862; Special Order No. 45, Department No. 1, February 27, 1862; RG 109, NA. The officers of the new Company I were all Louisiana volunteers. Frost eventually received the temporary regular rank of captain and was serving as assistant inspector general of Brig. Gen. Frank C. Armstrong's brigade and so with Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, at the end of the war.

fragments of the New Orleans forces in Mississippi, eventually being assigned to Vicksburg. To replace casualties the company periodically received Louisiana conscripts. The company was captured at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, at which time seventeen more men deserted. After its exchange, the company was assigned to the defenses of Mobile. When Mobile was abandoned in April 1865, five more regulars deserted. The last remnant of old Company E, Infantry School of Practice, ten men, was surrendered May 14, 1865, at Meridian, Mississippi. Company E had seen four years of hard service. It lost thirteen men dead, fifty-three by desertion, seven by discharge, and thirteen by transfer. Two of the dead had been killed in action and two of the men transferred were assigned to Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry.<sup>36</sup>

Companies A and B, Infantry School of Practice, were consolidated into a new Company A on October 3, 1861, at New Orleans Barracks. This company was attached to a light artillery battery on October 16.<sup>37</sup> Captain Edward Higgins, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, had been ordered to organize the light artillery battery on October 9.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Muster Rolls, Company I, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, for April 30, 1862, Feb. 29, 1864, and Apr. 30, 1865; Parole Roll No. 83, Meridian, Mississippi, RG 109, NA.

<sup>37</sup> Special Order No. 118, Department No. 1, October 16, 1861, RG 109, NA.

<sup>38</sup> Special Order No. 112, Department No. 1, October 9, 1861, RG 109, NA.

Higgins had been a lieutenant in the United States Navy and had been commissioned to command Company I, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, but the company never finished its organization and Higgins had been an officer without a command. He served as an aid to General Twiggs and commanded the semi-naval expedition which first occupied Ship Island. He set about to organize the light artillery battery during the last few months of 1861, but apparently resigned his army commission in January 1862 to organize a navy for the state of Louisiana. This plan was foiled by both the Confederate Navy and Army and in February he became lieutenant colonel of the 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery and commanded Fort Jackson during Farragut's attack.<sup>39</sup>

Senmes apparently remained with the regular recruits from the time they were attached to Higgins' command. He was joined on October 17 by 2nd Lieutenant John T. Mason Barnes, who had served with him on Ship Island. The company was mustered on October 29 with 120 rank and file. It had left New Orleans Barracks on October 20, apparently being stationed at Camp Lewis, just outside of New Orleans. The drummers with the company were transferred to Company E

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<sup>39</sup>Thomas H. S. Hamersly, Complete General Navy Register of the United States of America from 1776 to 1887, (New York: T. H. S. Hamersly, 1888), pg. 345; Dufour, op. cit., pg. 169; CMSR, Lt. Col. Edward Higgins, 1st Louisiana Artillery and Staff File, RG 109, NA.

on November <sup>4</sup> and by the end of the month the aggregate company strength was about 115.<sup>40</sup>

With the resignation of Higgins, Semmes apparently became commander of the battery, although he was not promoted to the temporary regular rank of captain until March 3, 1862.<sup>41</sup> One of the major problems facing Major General Mansfield Lovell, who had succeeded Twiggs in command of Department No. 1, was the constant calls made on him from other fronts for troops. On February 20 Brigadier General Daniel Ruggles at Corinth requested that Semmes' Battery be sent to him. Lovell apparently was able to ignore this request since the light artillery battery was reported at New Orleans when the Union Navy arrived.<sup>42</sup> With the evacuation of New Orleans the battery, which by now was designated the 1st Confederate Regular

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<sup>40</sup>Special Order No. 119, Department No. 1, Oct. 17, 1861; Special Order No. 10, Department No. 1, Oct. 29, 1861; Special Order No. 12, Department No. 1, Nov. 4, 1861; Quartermaster Receipts dated New Orleans Barracks, November 13 and 22, 1861, in CMSR, Lt. Col. Edward Higgins, Staff File; RG 109, NA.

<sup>41</sup>CMSR, Maj. O. J. Semmes, Staff File, RG 109, NA. Semmes was the son of Adm. Raphael Semmes, commander of the famed C. S. S. Alabama. He had been a cadet at West Point at the beginning of the war. Thomas W. Owen, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921), Vol. IV, pp. 1525-1526.

<sup>42</sup>Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles to Maj. Gen. Lovell, Feb. 20, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. VII, pp. 894-895; statement of Lt. Col. E. F. Palfrey during the Court of Inquiry into the Fall of New Orleans, OR, Series I, Vol. VI, pg. 620. The company muster roll, dated April 31, 1862, at Camp Moore, La., states that it moved from Camp Lewis on Apr. 21 and arrived at Camp Moore on Apr. 22 under orders from Brig. Gen. M. L. Smith, RG 109, NA.

Light Artillery Battery, moved to Camp Moore. From Camp Moore it was assigned to the First Sub-District of Major General Earl Van Dorn's District of the Mississippi with headquarters at Vicksburg.

The 1st Confederate Regular Light Artillery Battery was soon to see its first action. Major General John C. Breckinridge's Division reached Camp Moore from Vicksburg on July 28. Here it joined a small force under General Ruggles and was divided into two divisions for the advance on Baton Rouge which was held by a Union force under Brigadier General Thomas Williams. In this expedition the 1st Regular Battery was attached to the Second Brigade of Ruggles' Second Division.

The evening of August 4 a section of the 1st Regular Battery commanded by 2nd Lieutenant Thomas K. Fauntleroy with three companies was detached to advance on Baton Rouge down the Clinton Road. The Confederate troops mistakenly fired into each other in the dark, killing 1st Lieutenant David H. Todd who had commanded the regulars in Richmond and was serving as aide to Brigadier General Ben Helm.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>43</sup>Report of Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, dated August 9, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. XV, pg. 90. There are two David H. Todds in Louisiana at this time and their records in the National Archives are hopelessly mixed.

As the first scattered shots of the main advance began, Fauntleroy's section with the three companies advanced under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Shields against the enemy right flank. The section was posted so that it raked the 14th Maine Infantry and allowed the Confederates to advance within 250 feet of the enemy camp. The enemy was soon reenforced and the small Confederate force began to pull back. Four of the artillery horses were killed and Sergeant Philip Bellam was seriously wounded, but the horses were replaced and the guns safely withdrawn to join the main Confederate body. Shields was warm in his praise of Fauntleroy and the regulars, but felt they could have done much better service except for faulty friction primers, nine out of ten of which proved worthless.

Fog shrouded the woods and fields around Baton Rouge the morning of August 5 as Semmes and the main section of the 1st Regulars went into position between Allen's and Thompson's brigades. The Confederate advance struck the 21st Indiana Infantry which was supported by the 6th Massachusetts Battery. A well directed fire by the 1st Regulars and Ruggles' infantry soon forced the withdrawal of the Union battery and infantry. Semmes was then shifted to the right flank of the division to cover the advance and continue to engage the 6th Massachusetts. An attempt at a Union counter attack was broken up as Semmes' gunners poured grape and cannister into the advancing column.



The Confederates had captured two of the enemy's camps, but by this time both brigade commanders of the Second Division and the commander of the First Division were badly wounded and the lines were in great confusion. General Williams had decided to pull back the Union troops under the cover of the gunboats, but just as this movement began he was killed. Breckinridge had also had enough, and leaving Semmes with a section of guns supported by the 7th Kentucky Infantry, the Confederates also withdrew. The rear guard held the enemy in check while the stragglers and wounded were gathered up. The weary troops camped on the battlefield, but when it was learned that night that the powerful ironclad Arkansas was unable to reach Baton Rouge and drive off the gunboats, Breckinridge decided to retreat.

The 1st Regulars had a bloody baptism of fire. Five men had been killed, five seriously wounded, and five slightly wounded. Nine horses were killed, two badly wounded, two missing, one caisson blown up by an enemy shell and another smashed so badly it was abandoned. Semmes had fired 200 rounds of smooth-bore 6-pounder ammunition and 120 rounds of 6-pounder rifled ammunition.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>Report of Capt. O. J. Semmes, Aug. 8, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. XV, pp. 107-108. This is the only battle report of Semmes found for the entire war and is very sketchy. The story of the 1st Regulars in this action has been pieced together from the following reports in the above cited volume of the OR: Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge, Sept. 30, 1862, pp. 77-79, 82; Capt. John A. Buckner, Aug. 9, 1862, pg. 84; Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles with casualty return, pp. 90-93; Col. H. W. Allen, August 18, 1862, pg. 100; Col. Edward Crossland, Aug. 7, 1862, pg. 99; Col. Gustavus A. Breaux, Aug. 8, 1862, pg. 102; Lt. Col. S. E. Hunter, Aug. 7, 1862, pg. 103; Lt. Col. T. Shields, Aug. 7, 1862; pp. 104-105. The report of Col. N. A. M. Dudley, 30th Massachusetts Infantry, pg. 60, refers to "Semmes' celebrated battery".

The 1st Regulars went into camp near Port Hudson, Louisiana, which Breckinridge began to fortify.<sup>45</sup> The campaign had at least accomplished one thing - the Union army evacuated Baton Rouge on August 21. Breckinridge felt Port Hudson was a much stronger position and did not attempt to reoccupy the capital city. The 1st Regulars did not remain long in Port Hudson. On September 2 they were ordered to cross the Mississippi and report to Major General Richard Taylor at Opelousas, Louisiana. The battery had seen its last service east of the Mississippi.<sup>46</sup>

Semmes joined Colonel W. G. Vincent's small command at Donaldsonville. On September 24 the battery participated in an engagement with the 21st Indiana Infantry. A Union expedition under Brigadier General Godfrey Weitzel forced Vincent to fall back up the La Fourche where he was joined by Brigadier General Alfred Mouton's command. On October 27 the Union force caught up with Mouton at Georgia Landing north of Labadieville. After a sharp fight, during which the 1st Regulars were engaged on the left bank of the bayou,

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<sup>45</sup>Muster Roll, 1st Confederate Regular Light Artillery Battery, August 31, 1862, Camp near Port Hudson, La.; RG 109, NA. This is the last company roll on file. Abstract of Morning Report of Troops at Port Hudson, La., August 31, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. XV, pg. 804, shows an aggregate company strength of 103.

<sup>46</sup>Special Order No. 58, Army of the Mississippi, Sept. 2, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. XVII, Part 2, pg. 691; Richard Taylor, Destruction and Reconstruction (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1879), pg. 113; Alwyn Barr, "Confederate Artillery in Western Louisiana, 1862-1863," Civil War History, IX (May 1963), pp. 74-75.

Mouton was forced back and decided to evacuate the entire La Fourche district.<sup>47</sup> The 1st Regulars were moved by train to Berwick Bay, which they crossed and took up position on Bayou Teche. Here a section of two James 12-pounder bronze rifles went into battery with the Pelican Light Artillery. On November 3 they engaged four Union gunboats at 300 yards range. The Confederate artillery withdrew after inflicting considerable damage.<sup>48</sup>

The 1st Regulars remained at Camp Bisland on Bayou Teche, with one section sometimes stationed at the Cote Blanche on the Gulf coast, until April 1863. On April 9 two divisions of the XIX Corps and Weitzel's Brigade crossed Berwick Bay and began a campaign to clear Bayou Teche of Confederates. The 1st Regulars advanced from the camp to a line of entrenchments covering the bayou which were called Fort Bisland by the Union troops. The four smooth-bore 6-pounders under Lieutenants Barnes and Fauntleroy were placed on the left of the line west of

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<sup>47</sup>Report of Brig. Gen. Godfrey Weitzel; Report of Brig. Gen. Alfred Mouton, OR, Series I, Vol. XV, pg. 168, 176, which shows 75 men with Semmes at the time of the battle. George C. Harding, who was captured in the September 24 battle, wrote, "I also met Capt. Semmes and Lieut. Fauntleroy, of the battery. Semmes was a slight, sallow-faced, volatile man, apparently not more than twenty-one years old. ... Fauntleroy was a fine-looking, amiable, red-headed young fellow, with a most amusing 'stutter' in conversation." Harding, op. cit., pp. 321-322.

<sup>48</sup>Report of Capt. T. A. Faries; Report of Lt. Cmd. Thomas McKean Buchanan, U. S. Navy, OR, Series I, Vol. XV, pg. 1087, 184.

the bayou while the two 3-inch rifles under 2nd Lieutenant John A. A. West went into position midway between the bayou and the swamp on the extreme right. Throughout the day the 1st Regulars fired on the enemy, but it was not until just before the attack that Semmes and many of his men were detached to man the gunboat Diana. Semmes hotly contested the enemy advance until a 30-pounder Parrott shell from the 18th New York Battery penetrated the plating in front of the boilers and exploded in the engine room, killing two and wounding five of the gunboat's crew. The Diana was then withdrawn from the action for repairs. During this time the 1st Regulars, under command of Lieutenant Barnes, continued to keep up a steady fire. The section under Lieutenant West was withdrawn several times to be sent to join the forces covering the rear, but each time was returned to the line before it had gone far. The enemy attacks were repulsed, but that night Taylor learned that Grover's Division had landed in his rear.<sup>49</sup>

Taylor began an immediate withdrawal. West's section was detached to cover the retreat, displacing from point to point until it reached Centerville. Here he masked the pieces and covered by Colonel Thomas Green's 5th Texas Cavalry fired into the advancing column at close range.

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<sup>49</sup>Pickering D. Allen to Brig. Gen. Weitzel, Feb. 21, 1863; Report of Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, April 23, 1863, OR, Series I, Vol. XV, pg. 680 & 390; Report of Lt. J. T. Mason Barnes, April 23, 1863, OR, Series I, Vol. LIII, pg. 463; Taylor, Destruction and Reconstruction, pp. 130-32; Barr, "Confederate Artillery in Western Louisiana, 1862-1863," pg. 79.

He then opened an effective fire on a bunched up battery, but by this time a second battery had arrived and the Union infantry was deploying. West and Green then fought a retiring action, stopping every 500 yards to fire on the enemy until they had covered the five miles to Franklin. West then covered the burning of the bridge two miles beyond Franklin and a second bridge several more miles up the bayou. He reached Jeanerette that night without having lost a man or a gun.<sup>50</sup>

At first light on April 14 Taylor's troops struck Grover's surprised division at Irish Bend near Franklin. The road was cleared but a heavy fight followed. Suddenly the peculiar whistling sound of a Parrott shell announced the arrival of Semmes and the Diana. Under this heavy covering fire Taylor managed to get his men past the enemy position. Just after Taylor was clear, Green and West arrived, still holding back the advance of Emory's division. Semmes kept the Diana in position and covered the successful withdrawal of the rear guard. He then abandoned the ship and blew it up. By this time the enemy had arrived in full force and Semmes and his crew were captured before they could get away.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>50</sup>Report of Lt. John A. A. West, Apr. 23, 1863; Report of Lt. Mines T. Gordy, April 23, 1863, OR, Series I, Vol. LIII, pp. 464-65, 469; Report of Maj. Gen. Taylor, op. cit., pg. 392.

<sup>51</sup>Report of Maj. Gen. Taylor, op. cit., pp. 392, 395; Report of Brig. Gen. Alfred Mouton, op. cit., pg. 399, Report of Lt. Barnes, op. cit., pp. 463-64; Taylor, Destruction and Reconstruction, pp. 132-34.

The Confederate retreat continued, with Fauntleroy and a section of guns relieving West's section with Green on April 15. Fauntleroy engaged Battery F, 1st United States Artillery, at Jeanerette, but was seen forced to withdraw before the superior numbers of the enemy. Barnes commanded a section on picket duty near Opelousas on April 18 and then the retreat was continued to Lecompte near the Red River. During the campaign the 1st Regulars had lost one man killed, two wounded, twenty-five missing, and one caisson destroyed. Many of the missing were captured although quite a few apparently deserted on the retreat. Semmes and the other officers captured during the campaign were placed on the Maple Leaf which sailed from New Orleans for New York on June 2. The ship was diverted at Fort Monroe, Virginia, on June 8, where it picked up more prisoners and headed for Fort Delaware. Off Cape Henry on June 10 the prisoners captured the ship and a large number, including Semmes, made good their escape. By September he had managed to recross the Mississippi and again took command of the 1st Regulars.<sup>52</sup>

Taylor's small force was not strong enough to hold permanently all of western Louisiana, but he kept the Union

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<sup>52</sup>Report of Lt. Barnes, op. cit., pg. 464. The capture of Semmes was so noteworthy that Maj. Gen. N. P. Banks reported it to both Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant and Adm. D. G. Farragut; OR, Series I, Vol. XV, pp. 303, 707. There is not room here for the fascinating story of the capture of the Maple Leaf, but full details can be found in the following sources: OR, Series I, Vol. XXVII, Part 2, pg. 786, & Series II, Vol. V, pp. 731-32; Volunteer Service File V-209-1863; and Adjutant General's Office Document File 2061885; RG 94; Commissary General of Prisoner's File L-212-1863; RG 249, NA.

troops under constant pressure. On June 8 he sent Colonel James P. Major's cavalry brigade, accompanied by West's section of the 1st Regulars, on a raid down the Mississippi and La Fourche. This brigade united with Green's brigade which had captured Brashear City on Berwick Bay, bagging a large number of prisoners. Attached to Green's cavalry brigade, the 1st Regulars left Thibodeaux on June 27 in an expedition against the fort at Donaldsonville. Following a bloody repulse on the morning of June 28, Green was forced to retreat down the La Fourche. On July 3 a section of the 1st Regulars and Hardeman's Texas regiment crippled the Union transport Iberville.<sup>53</sup>

After again serving on Bayou Teche, the battery accompanied Green's division in an advance across the Atchafalaya against the Union post at Sterling's Plantation on Bayou Fordouche near Morganza. On September 29 Green's cavalry caught the unsuspecting Federals in a pincers. West's section deployed with the 4th and 5th Texas Cavalry and fired on the enemy cavalry near the Catlett house. Meanwhile the other two sections with the 7th Texas Cavalry pushed rapidly down the road toward Fordouche Bridge. The battery was reunited at the bridge and a cavalry charge routed the enemy. When the firing ceased Green had captured

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<sup>53</sup>Report of Brig. Gen. Alfred Mouton, July 4, 1863; Report of Col. James P. Major, June 30, 1863; Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas Green, OR, Series I, Vol. XXVI, Part 1, pp. 216, 218-19, 227.

two entire Union regiments and much equipment and had routed the rest of the enemy force. After a demonstration toward Morganza, Green returned with his force to Opelousas and then joined Mouton.<sup>54</sup>

On November 7, with the warm endorsement of Major Joseph L. Brent, Taylor's Chief of Artillery, Semmes was promoted to major in the Provisional Army and given command of a battalion. Barnes in turn was promoted to captain in the Provisional Army and assumed command of the 1st Regulars.<sup>55</sup> The battery participated in the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill on April 8 and 9, 1864. On the morning of April 11 it accompanied Bagby's cavalry brigade in an effort to cut off the retreating enemy at Grand Bayou. Barnes continued to pursue the transports down the Red River until the first week of May. The large number of guns captured at Mansfield helped equip the 6th Louisiana Battery which West had been promoted to captain to command. Although this battery had originally been formed with a surplus of guns belonging to the 1st Regulars,

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<sup>54</sup>Lt. Col. Frank H. Peck, commanding U. S. Forces at Brashear City, to Lt. Col. Richard B. Irwin, July 30, 1863; Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas Green, October 2, 1863; Report of Maj. Gen. N. J. T. Dana, September 30, 1863; OR, Series I, Vol. XXVI, Part 1, pp. 323, 329-30, 662; William M. Levy to Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, Part 2, pg. 295.

<sup>55</sup>Maj. J. L. Brent to Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, Sept. 8, 1863, CMSR, Maj. O. J. Semmes, Staff File, RG 109, NA. This letter gives a brief account of the service of the 1st Regulars from the time it joined Taylor and is highly commendatory of both Semmes and the battery. Semmes later served as Chief of Artillery of Green's cavalry division and commander of the 1st Battalion Field Artillery (Mounted).



West was apparently the only member of the regulars transferred to the new battery.<sup>56</sup>

At Mansura on May 17 the 1st Regulars, with the other batteries of the Second Infantry Division, was hotly engaged. Posted on the left of the artillery line, the battery fired from 7:30 a. m. to 10:30 a. m., then withdrew and went into position near Debray's Texas cavalry brigade. In this action the 1st Regulars had one man wounded. On May 18 at Yellow Bayou the 1st Regulars were posted on the right of the line. The engagement opened at 3 p. m., with the guns finally covering the withdrawal of the Confederates as they retired firing by section. The battery fired seventeen solid shot and forty shells from the two James rifles and eight solid shot and seven shells from the 12-pounder at a range of 800 to 1,000 yards. No casualties were suffered.<sup>57</sup>

On November 19, 1864, the 1st Regulars were assigned to the 3rd Battalion Field Artillery (Mounted) which was commanded successively by Majors T. A. Faries and C. W. Squiers. It acted as Company A of this battalion until the end of the war. The battery, with three 3-inch rifles and three 6-pounders, was at Tyler, Texas, when General E. Kirby Smith surrendered the last Confederates forces. Many men

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<sup>56</sup>Reports of Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor of April 18 and 27 and May 6, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. XXXIV, pp. 570, 584, 588; CMSR, Capt. J. A. A. West, 6th Louisiana Battery and Staff File, RG 109, NA.

<sup>57</sup>Reports of Maj. Thomas A. Faries, OR, Series I, Vol. XXXIV, Part 1, pp. 630-32, May 17 and 19, 1864.

of the battery, however, were scattered in details throughout the Trans-Mississippi Department.<sup>58</sup>

Because of the almost complete absence of muster rolls for the 1st Confederate Regular Light Artillery Battery it is impossible to give a really accurate summation of its service. One point is noteworthy, however. The parole rolls of the battery at the end of the war show that thirty-three regulars were still serving with the battery, the largest number of regular troops to be surrendered as a unit. The efficiency and discipline of the battery was often commended during the war and it seems probable that one reason was that three of the officers were West Pointers. This probably had much to do with molding the unit. In addition to the regulars, sixty Louisiana conscripts assigned to the battery were surrendered. It appears that from at least 1863, the battery was kept up to strength by the addition of conscripts. The available records for the regulars show six men killed in action, two died, two discharged, eighteen prisoners of war, and fourteen deserted, with no final record for seventy-one.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>58</sup>Report of Field Artillery in the Trans-Mississippi Department, June 1, 1865, OR, Series I, Vol. XLVIII, Part 2, pg. 963; Special Order No. 290, Trans-Mississippi Department, November 19, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. XLI, Part 4, pp. 1064-65.

<sup>59</sup>Compiled from Muster Rolls and CMSR, 1st Confederate Regular Light Artillery Battery, RG 109, NA. Considering the prolonged hard service of the battery the number of killed & died is probably larger. The figures for the company are for the period after the fall of New Orleans and do not include the period when it comprised two companies of the Infantry School.

Congress passed an act on May 17, 1861, authorizing a company of sappers and bombardiers for the Corps of Engineers in addition to the company of sappers, miners, and pontoniers originally authorized. It may be assumed with some certainty that a unit known as Gallimard's Company of Sappers and Bombardiers became the company authorized under this act. The exact classification of Gallimard's Company has been a matter of dispute, apparently since the Civil War. Louisiana claimed it as a state unit and there are Confederate orders referring to it as "Louisiana Sappers and Miners."<sup>60</sup>

Early in March 1861, Jules V. Gallimard of New Orleans visited President Davis in Montgomery and requested authority to organize a company of sappers, miners, and bombardiers for the regular army. According to Gallimard, this authority was granted and he returned to New Orleans and soon raised the company. Apparently Davis was thinking of the company authorized under the act of March 6, but Gallimard was not commissioned in the regular Corps of Engineers and the War Department seems to have forgotten completely about him.

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<sup>60</sup>James L. Nichols, Confederate Engineers (Tuscaloosa: Confederate Centennial Publishing Co., Inc., 1957), pp. 91-2. When the United States Adjutant General's Office was organizing the Confederate compiled military service records there was a lively debate amongst the clerks as to whether this was a Louisiana or a Confederate unit, the Confederate side finally winning out. The record of this discussion, which contains a full examination of the evidence, is filed with the Muster Rolls, Gallimard's Company of Sappers and Bombardiers, RG 109, NA. In the Nichols books it is suggested that the other regular Engineer company was formed at Knoxville, Tennessee, by George R. Margraves and Edmund Winston, but an examination of the records of this company shows no basis for such an assumption. Apparently the company originally authorized was never formed.

On June 7, 1861, a rumor that Federal ships had appeared off the mouth of Bayou Bienvenue cause General Twiggs to dispatch Gallimard's Company under Major Martin L. Smith to garrison Tower Dupre. The company returned to New Orleans on July 24. A detachment of five men under 2nd Lieutenant P. N. Judice accompanied Major Smith to Ship Island and worked on the fort until its abandonment in September. The rest of the company left New Orleans for Proctorville on August 8 to continue work in the fortifications at Bayou Bienvenue.<sup>61</sup>

The company returned to New Orleans on December 23 and was stationed at the New Marine Hospital, which it helped to organize. In addition to this, the company provided daily details for Captain Richard Lambert at the Louisiana Arsenal.<sup>62</sup> With the evacuation of New Orleans, the company was transferred to Fort Pillow, Tennessee. The company worked for fifty-three days under the fire of enemy gunboats and mortars erecting and equipping new batteries and powder magazines.

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<sup>61</sup>Dufour, op. cit., pg. 46; Report of Col. J. K. Duncan, Sept. 17, 1861, OR, Series I, Vol. LIII, pg. 741; Post Returns, New Orleans Barracks, July and August 1861. Cooper telegraphed Frazer on April 24, 1861, wanting to know what induced an inquiry for the enlistment of sappers. On July 19, 1861, he telegraphed Brig. Gen. A. R. Lawton at Savannah, that the regular army company of sappers and miners had been raised and was in service; an interesting statement considering the later attitude of the War Department, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 65, 273; RG 109, NA.

<sup>62</sup>Capt. J. V. Gallimard to Capt. R. Lambert, Jan. 9, 1862; Maj. M. L. Smith to Capt. R. Lambert, Jan. 16, 1862; CMSR, Capt. J. V. Gallimard, Confederate Sappers & Miners, RG 109, NA.

After the abandonment of Fort Pillow on June 5, 1862, Gallimard's men withdrew to Grenada, Mississippi, with Brigadier General John B. Villepique's command. When Villepique was transferred to Port Hudson he requested the company, but instead it was assigned to Van Dorn's army at Corinth.<sup>63</sup>

With only forty-seven men, Gallimard constructed in three and a half hours a 220 foot long bridge over the Hatchie River which was used by the entire army. In the retreat the company moved one day in advance of the army, opening new roads through the thick woods and building bridges over the numerous creeks and rivers. During Grierson's raid through Mississippi, the company on May 1, 1863, built a temporary bridge over the Amite River which allowed Colonel W. R. Miles' Louisiana Legion with its artillery and trains to cross.<sup>64</sup>

The War Department had been reminded of the existence of Gallimard's Company in January 1863 when he wrote asking to be allowed to fill his depleted ranks with conscripts. Colonel Josiah Gorgas, the Chief of Ordnance to whom the letter was erroneously addressed, stated in his endorsement that Gallimard's was the company organized under the act of

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<sup>63</sup>Return of Troops at Grenada, Miss., June 14, 1862, OR, Series I, Vol. XXVII, Part 2, pg. 600; Return of the District of the Mississippi, July 1862, pg. 661.

<sup>64</sup>Report of Col. W. R. Miles, May 5, 1863, OR, Series I, Vol. XXIV, Part 1, pg. 545.

May 17, 1861. Colonel Jeremy F. Gilmer, the Chief of Engineers, pointed out that the company had been organized in March 1861, and so could not be the May 17 one. This also seems clear from the fact that Gallimard had written that the company was to have as its main duty the instruction of officers and men in engineering duties, which sounds quite like the company envisioned in the act of March 6.

Gallimard had energetically set to work in his spare time on this project and devised a course of eight classes for his men: fortifications; saps; mines; bridges and pontoons; defense and attack of places; military field constructions; military reconnaissance; and castrametation. He stated in his letter that they had mastered the first two and wanted to know if he should proceed with the rest of the schedule. Unfortunately, if any reply was ever made to this portion of the letter it has not survived.<sup>65</sup>

Finally made aware of the existence of the company, the War Department decided to make it what its captain always thought it was. On October 24, 1863, the Bureau of Engineers wrote Gallimard that he had been appointed a captain in the Corps of Engineers to command the Company of Sappers and Bombardiers under the act of May 17, 1861. Congress confirmed

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<sup>65</sup>Capt. J. Gallimard to Gen. G. G. Gorgas (sic), January 26, 1863, Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., RG 109, NA. This letter contains a complete history of the company up to the time it was written. Gorgas had been acting Chief of Engineers when the company was organized.

the appointment on February 16, 1864, with the date of Gallimard's rank to be May 17, 1861. It is interesting to note that in October 1863 the company muster rolls stop being made out as Sappers and Miners and become Sappers and Bombardiers. The names of the lieutenants appearing on the company muster rolls in the War Department differed from those in an order of Major Martin L. Smith. The appointments were held up awaiting an explanation of this discrepancy and were never made.<sup>66</sup>

On July 26, 1863, the Company of Sappers and Bombardiers was transferred to Mobile. The company was employed on the various fortifications in the area and received conscripts to bring it up to strength. Gallimard was captured at Fort Morgan on August 23, 1864. Command of the company had been exercised since March 7 by 1st Lieutenant Jacques Emile Bel, but he was not recommended by Lieutenant Colonel Victor von Scheliha, the Chief Engineer at Mobile, for retention as an engineer officer. Instead the company was apparently reorganized at the end of 1864 under the

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<sup>66</sup>James A. Seddon to President Davis, February 5, 1864, Letters Sent, Secretary of War, Chap. IX, Vol. 99, pg. 121; Lt. Col. A. L. Rives to Capt. J. V. Gallimard, October 24, 1863, Letters Sent, Engineer Bureau, Chap. III, Vol. 4, pg. 45. The remarks about the company's lieutenants are on the back of an endorsement dated October 13, 1863, in CMSR, Col. R. R. Garland, 6th Texas Infantry, RG 109, NA. Since the act providing for the original engineer company specified that it would be commanded by one of the ten engineer captains and all of these vacancies had been filled, it appears Gallimard was appointed under the second act because that was the only vacancy in the grade of captain.

command of 1st Lieutenant Charles Armand Brisset and eventually the remnants were assigned to the 2nd Confederate Engineer Regiment. The company disappears from the records with the evacuation of Mobile in April 1865.<sup>67</sup>

A half-hearted attempt at organizing the zouave regiment authorized under the act of May 4, 1861, was made. On May 12, 1861, General Cooper telegraphed Lieutenant Colonel Gaston Coppens, who commanded the famous Louisiana Zouave Battalion at Pensacola, that he was authorized to muster in a sixth company and that if he could persuade his men to enlist for three years the officers of the regiment would be commissioned in the regular army. On the same date Cooper telegraphed Brigadier General Braxton Bragg, the commander at Pensacola, that if the Zouave Battalion was increased to a regiment and enlisted for three years it would be received by the War Department as part of the regular army. On May 17 Bragg was informed that Coppens had been furnished regular army enlistment blanks, but first the battalion would have to be mustered into the volunteer service under its original organization and then

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<sup>67</sup>Lt. Col. V. Scheliha to Col. S. H. Lockett, December 10, 1864, Letters Sent, Engineer Office at Mobile, Chap. III, Vol. 13, pp. 225-27. This letter contains an account of the services of the company in Mobile and recommendations for the reorganization of the engineer troops. Special Order No. 6, Engineer Office, Mobile, Ala., March 7, 1864, Chap. III, Vol. 12, pg. 643, contains the assignment of Bel. RG 109, NA. A Field Return of Engineer Troops, Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, November 1, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. XXXIX, Part 3, pg. 877, shows only two officers and eighteen men in the company.



re-enlisted for the regulars. Something then went wrong with the plan. On May 21 Cooper wrote Bragg that the battalion would be mustered as a volunteer unit of six companies and no attempt would be made to organize it as part of the regular army. Also, any idea of increasing the battalion to a regiment was dropped.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>68</sup>Gen. S. Cooper to Lt. Col. G. Coppens, May 12, 1861; Gen. S. Cooper to Gen. Bragg, May 12, 1861; Gen S. Cooper to Brig. Gen. Braxton Bragg, May 17 and 21, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pp. 109, 126, 132. There were letters from Bragg to President Davis on May 18 and General Cooper on May 19 which may have caused the abandonment of the plan, but no copies of these have been found. A pencil notation in the back of an appointment register shows Prince Camille J. de Polignac as lieutenant colonel of the zouave regiment, but the Regular Army Register shows him as a lieutenant colonel of infantry commissioned under an honorary appointment in addition to the authorized number. There are no zouave officers shown in the Regular Army Register, RG 109, NA.

CHAPTER V

EASTERN REGULAR ORGANIZATIONS

There were four other attempts to form Confederate regular army units. Of these, only the artillery batteries in Charleston were of significant size. Recruiting in the eastern states of the Confederacy for some reason was not successful. The Charleston companies were recruited for the most part in Baltimore, which was not actually even in the Confederate States.

The number of recruits received at the depot at Mount Vernon Arsenal, Alabama, is not known. There is a possibility that some of the men originally intended for the regular army were diverted immediately to volunteer units which were also being organized at the Arsenal. At least one recruit, Private Simeon McDonald, was discharged from the service at Mount Vernon Arsenal while the depot was still in operation. On June 15, 1861, Lieutenant Mullins reported the breaking up of the depot.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently all the regular army recruits remaining at Mount Vernon Arsenal were transferred to Fort Morgan at the entrance to Mobile Bay. There they were formed into an Ordnance detachment under the command of 1st Lieutenant Charles D. Anderson, Corps of Artillery. This detachment

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<sup>1</sup>Order No. 4, Recruiting Depot, Mount Vernon Arsenal, Ala., June 12, 1861, "Unfileable File" for Simeon McDonald; Special Order No. 129, August 20, 1861, A. & I. G. O., 1st Lt. John Mullins to Gen. Samuel Cooper, June 15, 1861, Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 142; RG 109, NA.

consisted of two officers and nine enlisted men. It was mustered separately, but for administrative purposes was attached to the 2nd Alabama Infantry, which formed part of the garrison of Fort Morgan. Anderson was the post ordnance officer and his detachment handled the routine ordnance duties of the fort. On November 9, 1861, Anderson became major of the 20th Alabama Infantry and command of the detachment devolved on 2nd Lieutenant Alfred M. O'Neal.

In April 1862, the 2nd Alabama Infantry was broken up at the expiration of its term of service. Many of the enlisted men re-enlisted in the 1st Confederate Infantry Battalion, to which O'Neal was assigned, ultimately receiving a promotion to captain in the Provisional Army. Although the Ordnance detachment was never actually part of the 2nd Alabama Infantry, it too was broken up at this time. One of the men joined the 1st Confederate Infantry Battalion and the others were transferred to Company A, 1st Alabama Artillery Battalion. Two men eventually deserted, one was discharged, four were captured when the forts guarding Mobile fell, one was paroled with the 5th Company, Washington (Louisiana) Artillery at the end of the war, and one was last reported in a hospital. One of the men captured died while a prisoner of war. The composition of the detachment is

interesting for two reasons. All the men were recruited at Gadsden, Alabama, and all were native born Southerners.<sup>2</sup>

Anderson's Ordnance detachment was composed of regular army line recruits. In Savannah, Georgia, another Ordnance detachment was formed under the same authority as the Baton Rouge Arsenal Ordnance Detachment. This detachment consisted of one officer, a sergeant, and three privates. The enlisted men had originally enlisted in the 1st (Olmstead's) Georgia Infantry, a state regular unit, in February 1861. Five men from this regiment were permitted to be discharged on July 9, 1861, to enlist in the Ordnance Department, but only four of the men are subsequently picked up on the detachment muster roll.<sup>3</sup>

Ordnance Sergeant Harvey Lewis and Private John Parker were captured at Fort Pulaski, Georgia, on April 11, 1862, but were exchanged in August and rejoined the detachment. The detachment served at the Savannah Ordnance Depot until Sherman captured the city on December 21, 1864. Unlike the

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<sup>2</sup>Muster Roll of a Detachment of Recruits of the Army of the Confederate States, Aug. 31 and Oct. 31, 1861, filed with 2nd Alabama Infantry Muster Rolls; CMSR, 2nd Alabama Infantry and 1st Alabama Artillery Battalion. Anderson had been appointed a first lieutenant, his former rank in the United States Army, when he joined the Confederates and was then promoted to captain when the appointments were actually sent to the Senate. He had not been notified of his promotion. The same thing had also happened to Mullins. On June 13, 1862, Anderson wrote the War Department about his rank and was finally informed of his promotion. CMSR, Col. C. D. Anderson, 21st Alabama Infantry, RG 109, NA.

<sup>3</sup>Muster Rolls, Cunningham's Confederate Ordnance Detachment; Special Order No. 73, District of Georgia, July 9, 1861; RG 109, NA.

Baton Rouge Arsenal Ordnance Detachment, which was engaged in the manufacture of ordnance supplies, the Savannah unit was only concerned with repairs and distribution.

The detachment's first commander was Captain Richard M. Cuyler, Corps of Artillery, a former lieutenant in the United States Navy. He was succeeded in command of the detachment and as ordnance officer of the District of Georgia by 1st Lieutenant Alexander T. Cunningham, Provisional Army. There is no record of the detachment after the fall of Savannah.<sup>4</sup>

The difficulties encountered by the recruiting officers in Richmond, Virginia, have already been recounted. The regular infantry detachment which had been recruited by Captain Scott was transferred back to the city from Bellona Arsenal under the command of Captain Carr on May 28, 1861. On June 6, 1st Lieutenant David H. Todd, the brother of Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, was ordered to Richmond.<sup>5</sup> He took over command of the detachment and on July 1 was placed under the command of Brigadier General John H. Winder, the provost marshal of Richmond. Todd served as a prison commander until his transfer to the 1st Kentucky Infantry in September.

Todd was succeeded in command of the regular detachment

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<sup>4</sup>CMSR, Cunningham's Confederate Ordnance Detachment, RG 109, NA; Hamersly, Navy Register, pg. 187.

<sup>5</sup>Special Order No. 65, A. & I. G. O., June 6, 1861, RG 109, NA. Todd had been on recruiting duty in Wilmington, North Carolina.

by 2nd Lieutenant William B. Ochiltree, Jr. The regulars were mainly assigned to guarding prisoners of war and provost duties. In addition to these duties, men from the detachment were also detailed as orderlies and couriers in the various War Department bureaus. The detachment was broken up in November 1861. Of the twenty-six recruits who formed the detachment, one died, four deserted, twenty were transferred to Company E, 1st Virginia Regular Infantry Battalion, and there is no final record for one.<sup>6</sup> The 1st Virginia Regular Infantry Battalion was a state regular unit and acted for most of the war as the provost guard of the Army of Northern Virginia.

The recruits enlisted by Captain Pender in Baltimore began to arrive in Charleston, South Carolina, on March 26, 1861. They were assembled at Castly Pinckney under the command of Captain Frederick L. Childs, Corps of Artillery. For some strange reason the War Department felt that it was not necessary to equip these recruits immediately, although hostilities momentarily could be expected to begin at Fort Sumter, just across the harbor from Castly Pinckney. Childs was replaced on April 22 in command of the recruits by

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<sup>6</sup>Special Order No. 85, A. & I. G. O., July 1, 1861; CMSR, Ochiltree's Detachment of Confederate Regular Recruits, RG 109, NA. R. H. Chilton to Capt. John Scott, June 21, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 208.

1st Lieutenant William F. Barnwell when he was ordered to North Carolina on recruiting duty.<sup>7</sup>

General Beauregard felt that some use should be made of the regular recruits on May 1 recommended that they be formed into two artillery companies. This request was approved on May 3 and Beauregard was given discretion in assigning the officers to the companies. On the same day Captain Cole at Augusta was notified that the recruits would not be sent to his depot as planned. The companies were organized on May 11 with Captain Stephen D. Lee and Captain Charles S. Winder in command.<sup>8</sup> On June 12 Captain Childs recommended that the recruits enlisted in North Carolina be sent to the artillery companies at Charleston. Captain Alfred Iverson was ordered to forward the ten North Carolina recruits from Fort Johnson.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Capt. Stephen D. Lee to Gen. Cooper, March 26, 1861, & Brig. Gen. G. T. Beauregard to Gen. Cooper, Apr. 1, 1861, Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pp. 123, 19; Capt. F. L. Childs, Childs' Company South Carolina Artillery, to Brig. Gen. S. Cooper, Apr. 9, 1861; Gen. Cooper to Gen. Beauregard, Apr. 9, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 29; RG 109, NA.

<sup>8</sup>Brig. Gen. G. T. Beauregard to Gen. Cooper, May 1, 1861, Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 26; Gen. Cooper to Gen. Beauregard, May 3, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 91; Special Order No. 111, Provisional Army, Charleston, S. C.; Muster Roll of Detachment of Recruits, May 11, 1861; RG 109, NA.

<sup>9</sup>Capt. F. L. Childs to Gen. Cooper, June 12, 1861; Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 45, pg. 39; R. H. Chilton to Capt. A. P. Iverson, July 4, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. I, Vol. 35, pg. 236; Capt. F. L. Childs, June 21, 1861, ordering Lance Isaac Marsh to proceed with recruits from Wilmington to Ft. Johnson, CMSR, Capt. F. L. Childs, Childs' Company South Carolina Artillery; Special Order No. 34, Ft. Johnson, N. C., July 7, 1861, transferring ten recruits to Charleston, CMSR, Col. Alfred Iverson, 20th North Carolina Infantry; RG 109, NA.

Winder's Company was ordered immediately to Charleston Arsenal. Lee's Company remained at Castle Pinckney until it was ordered on May 23 to Fort Palmetto. The company left Castle Pinckney on May 30, leaving one non-commissioned officer and ten men under the command of 2nd Lieutenant Joseph G. Blount, and arrived on Coles Island on June 1. Captain Lee was detailed from the company on various assignments and command again reverted to Lieutenant Barnwell. Barnwell apparently died November 23, 1861, and 2nd Lieutenant Theodore B. Hayne succeeded to the command.<sup>10</sup>

At the time of their organization Winder's Company consisted of sixty men and Lee's Company of seventy-eight. In addition to Winder's Company, there were also at Charleston Arsenal at the end of June two unassigned recruits and Master Blacksmith James O'Neill who had enlisted in the Ordnance Department. Winder was not happy in Charleston. On June 27 he wrote the War Department requesting to be promoted in the Provisional Army and transferred or to have his company ordered to active duty. On July 8 he accepted a commission as colonel of the 6th South Carolina Infantry. Captain Childs was assigned to command Charleston Arsenal and on July 26 he was notified that he was also to succeed

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<sup>10</sup>General Order No. 39, Provisional Army, Charleston, South Carolina, May 23, 1861; Muster Roll, Capt. Lee's Company of Artillery, June 30, 1861; Maj. J. Jonathan Lucas, February 17, 1864, enclosure in J. W. Hayne to James A. Seddon, February 23, 1864, CMSR, Capt. T. B. Hayne, 15th South Carolina Heavy Artillery Battalion; RG 109, NA.



Winder in command of the artillery company.<sup>11</sup>

On October 25 fifty enlisted men of Childs' Company under the command of 2nd Lieutenant John F. O'Brien left Charleston Arsenal for detached duty at Fort Sumter. Differences in the inspection reports of the two companies during this period are interesting. The military appearance of Lee's Company was reported as "magnificent" while Childs' Company only rated a "tolerable." Lee's Company was rated good as far as discipline and instruction while the best that could be said for Childs' Company was that they were improving. The reason for this difference may be that Captain Childs had to devote most of his time to ordnance duties while Lieutenant Hayne and his men were actually in the field.<sup>12</sup>

From Fort Sumter, O'Brien's detachment was ordered on January 25 to Simons Farm, which they left on February 25 and marched nine miles to Camp Verdier. In August the entire company was finally transferred from Charleston Arsenal to Fort Pemberton on James Island. On November 15, the War

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<sup>11</sup>Post Return, Charleston Arsenal, June 1861; Capt. Charles S. Winder to Gen. Cooper, June 27, 1861, Register of Letters Received, A. & I. G. O., Chap. 1, Vol. 45, pg. 260; Maj. J. Gorgas to Gen. Cooper, July 11, 1861, pg. 202; R. H. Chilton to Capt. F. L. Childs, July 26, 1861, Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., Chap. 1, Vol. 35, pg. 285; RG 109, NA. Winder was actually a major, but like Anderson he had never been informed of his final regular rank.

<sup>12</sup>Post Return, Charleston Arsenal, October 1861; Muster Roll, Capt. Stephen D. Lee's Company of Artillery, December 31, 1861; Muster Roll, Capt. Frederick L. Childs' Company, Corps of Artillery, August 31, 1861; RG 109, NA.

Department decided that both companies were so reduced in size that they should be consolidated. They were then attached to the 15th South Carolina Heavy Artillery Battalion commanded by Major J. Jonathan Lucas. This battalion had originally consisted of two companies of state regulars. After the company joined the battalion it was kept up to strength with South Carolina conscripts. Hayne had requested on March 30 that since it was obvious Captain Lee would never return to the company, that he be promoted to captain in the Provisional Army. Hayne received his promotion on November 7 and took over command of the consolidated unit now designated Company C.<sup>13</sup>

The new Company C consisted of four officers, six sergeants, seven corporals, and eighty-eight privates. There seems always to have been a shortage of adequate clothing for the company. The small arms carried by the men were a mixed lot, some being ancient smooth-bore muskets altered from flintlocks with a few new Springfield muskets. On January 30, 1863, a detachment of fifteen men of the company under Hayne manned one of three rifled 24-pounders at

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<sup>13</sup>Muster Roll, Detachment of Capt. F. L. Childs' Company, Corps of Artillery, February 28, 1862; Muster Roll, Capt. Frederick L. Childs' Company, Corps of Artillery, Aug. 27, 1862; Special Order No. 268, A. & I. G. O., Nov. 15, 1862; Lt. T. B. Hayne, to G. W. Randolph, Mar. 30, 1862, CMSR, Capt. T. B. Hayne, 15th South Carolina Heavy Artillery Battalion; RG 109, NA. A good example of the forgetfulness of the War Department is shown by the transposition of the abbreviation C. S. Artillery to S. C. Artillery in the consolidation order and all records of these two companies have since been filed as South Carolina organizations. A biographical sketch of Hayne appears in David D. Wallace, The History of South Carolina (New York: American Historical Society, Inc., 1934), Vol. IV, pg. 887.

Grimball's Plantation guarding the Stone River. That afternoon the gunboat U. S. S. Isaac Smith came up the river. A hot fight ensued, Hayne's gun being hit by an enemy grape shot, but the gunboat was finally forced to surrender.<sup>14</sup>

The company next served as part of the garrison of Battery Wagner on Morris Island from July 27 to July 31, and then returned to Fort Pemberton. The company was back at Battery Wagner on August 20. This position was the primary target of the Union army besieging Charleston. The battery was subjected to intensive artillery and naval bombardment while trenches were being advanced to bring the enemy infantry into position to storm the work. On August 24 a detachment under the command of 2nd Lieutenant Francis C. Lucas was complimented by Brigadier General Johnson Hagood for repairing a damaged 8-inch siege howitzer under a fire of great precision and rapidity. The howitzer was finally dismounted and completely ruined by being hit full in the face by a 200-pounder bolt. By the time the company was withdrawn from Morris Island on August 26, having also served at Battery Gregg, it had lost four men died of wounds and two officers and fifteen men wounded.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Muster Roll, Company C, 15th S. C. Heavy Artillery Battalion, Dec. 31, 1862, Feb. 28, 1863, and Apr. 30, 1863, RG 109, NA; Report of Capt. John H. Gary, 15th S. C. Heavy Artillery Battalion, Feb. 1, 1863, OR, Series I, Vol. XIV, pp. 203-4.

<sup>15</sup>Brig. Gen. R. S. Ripley to Brig. Gen. Thomas Jordan, July 31, 1863; Special Order No. 264, First Military District, July 31, 1863; Report of Brig. Gen. Johnson Hagood, Aug. 24, 1863; OR, Series I, Vol. XXVIII, Part 1, pg. 375, Part 2, pp. 248-49, Part 1, pg. 442. Muster Roll, Co. C, 15th S. C. Heavy Artillery Battalion, Aug. 31, 1863, RG 109, NA. Lieutenant Lucas was assigned to the company in April, but he was not a regular army officer.

On October 21 Major Lucas forwarded a recommendation by Hayne that another enemy gunboat operating in the Stone near Grimball's might be ambushed in the same fashion as the Isaac Smith had been in January. After considerable discussion it was decided that the circumstances were not as good as in the former case, but an attempt might be made. Apparently the enemy did not give them another opportunity to attempt the plan.<sup>16</sup>

In December the company was stationed at Battery Pringle on James Island. Captain John J. Allen, who inspected the artillery on James Island at this time, reported that Company C in military appearance, drill, and discipline was first class. The company's muskets, garrison equipage, and accoutrements were in good order and police of the camp was good. In three months there was a radical change in the company. It moved in March 28 to Battery Ramsay in Charleston. At the end of April discipline was reported not good. Two sergeants and four privates had deserted during the month and one corporal and seventeen of the regular army privates were confined in the Charleston Jail.<sup>17</sup>

The reason for this sudden collapse of discipline in what by all inspection reports and comments of senior

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<sup>16</sup>Maj. J. Jonathan Lucas to Capt. George C. Grattan, October 21, 1863, OR, Series I, Vol. XXVIII, Part 2, pp. 435-38.

<sup>17</sup>Report of Capt. John J. Allen, December 31, 1863, OR, Series I, Vol. XXVIII, Part 2, pg. 599; Muster Roll, Company C, 15th South Carolina Heavy Artillery Battalion, April 30, 1864; RG 109, NA.

officers was an excellent unit may be traced to an inconsistent War Department policy. In March the three year enlistments of the regulars expired. The War Department in the case of Company C maintained that the men could be held in service under the conscription act. In the case of Company A, 1st Confederate Regular Cavalry, this position was not taken and the men who refused to re-enlist had been discharged. When the men of Company C learned the War Department decision they were on the verge of mutiny and the company had to be withdrawn from the front lines to Charleston. It appears that many of the regulars did want to continue to serve, but most of them were Marylanders and wanted to leave South Carolina and join units operating nearer to home.

This unpleasant situation was in part remedied. A plan had been approved by the War Department, mainly at the instigation of Colonel Bradley T. Johnson, to organize a unit known as the Maryland Line. In addition to the Maryland units already serving in the Army of Northern Virginia, all citizens of Maryland serving in units from other states would be transferred at their own request to the Maryland Line. The plan was a failure, but it did serve to allay the problem in Charleston. On April 29, 1864, forty-two men of Company C were transferred to the Maryland Line. These men, under the command of 2nd Lieutenant W. W.

Reveley, arrived in Richmond and finally received a clothing issue on May 21. They were then taken to Camp Staunton, Virginia, where Major General Arnold Elzey was trying to organize the Maryland line. Apparently only twenty-five of the men ever reached Camp Staunton, the rest deserting before the transfer or on the way. Most of them were assigned to the 2nd Maryland Cavalry Battalion under the famous guerrilla leader Major Harry Gilmore. The men had hardly arrived when Major General David Hunter's Union force threatened Lynchburg. The men were thrown into a hopeless engagement at Piedmont and most of them were captured on June 5. Elzey in disgust wrote the War Department that the entire plan was a failure and should be revoked.<sup>18</sup>

After the departure of the men transferred to the Maryland Line, thirteen regular army privates remained with Company C. The remainder of the company was now principally composed of South Carolina volunteers and conscripts. The company continued to man the 11-inch and 10-inch Blakely

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<sup>18</sup>General Order No. 38, A. & I. G. O., March 23, 1864; Special Order No. 100, A. & I. G. O., April 29, 1864; Clothing Receipt Roll No. 2574; RG 109, NA. Maj. Gen. Arnold Elzey to Gen. S. Cooper, June 13, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. XL, Part 2, pg. 650. Special Order No. 134, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, May 14, 1864, RG 109, NA. Maj. Gen. Sam Jones to Gen. Cooper, June 15, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. XXXV, Part 1, pg. 121; Jefferson Davis to Gen. S. Jones, June 15, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. LIII, pg. 341. Several men ordered transferred did not leave the company. A good presentation of the attitude of the men and the official position taken in regard to holding the men in service appears in a letter of Sgt. Frederick F. Crate to Brig. Gen. Thomas Jordan with endorsements, March 29, 1864, CMSR, Frederick F. Crate, 15th South Carolina Heavy Artillery Battalion, RG 109, NA.

guns in Battery Ramsay until June 2, when it was returned to Battery Pringle. The company again served under heavy enemy fire and won the praise of Brigadier General William B. Taliaferro, the district commander. By the end of July the company was back for a short stay at Battery Ramsay and then went to Fort Pemberton, where it remained until shifted to Battery Tynes on October 16.<sup>19</sup>

With the evacuation of Charleston on February 17, 1865, the 15th South Carolina Heavy Artillery Battalion as part of Colonel Edward C. Anderson's Brigade, Taliaferro's Division, was attached to the remnants of the Army of Tennessee and retreated into North Carolina. Most of the remnant of the company was captured in an engagement near Smith's Ford, North Carolina, on March 15 and 16. During the last few weeks of the campaign Hayne commanded the battalion. By the time the Army of Tennessee surrendered on April 26 only six regulars of Company C were left and the unit had in effect been destroyed.<sup>20</sup>

On the whole the service of the Company was creditable.

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<sup>19</sup>Muster Rolls, Company C, 15th South Carolina Heavy Artillery Battalion, August 31 and October 31, 1864, RG 109, NA; Organization of Artillery in the Fifth Military District, May 3, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. XXXV, Part 2, pg. 469; Charles S. Stringfellow to Brig. Gen. William B. Taliaferro, July 2, 1864, pg. 548; Report of Brig. Gen. William B. Taliaferro, July 23, 1864, Part 1, pg. 170.

<sup>20</sup>Special Order No. 311, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, December 28, 1864, OR, Series I, Vol. XLIV, pg. 997; Report of Brig. Gen. William B. Taliaferro, April 4, 1865, OR, Series I, Vol. XLVII, Part 1, pp. 1084-86; Parole Roll No. 526, Greensboro, N. C., RG 109, NA.

Repeatedly senior officers commented on the efficiency and courage of the company. During its service Company C lost two men killed in action and four died of wounds, with four men still assigned to the company being prisoners of war. Seventeen of the men transferred from the company were captured and nine of these were still prisoners at the end of the war. Except for the unfortunate situation which arose when the men were held in service at the end of their enlistments the record of the company was probably as good as any unit serving at Charleston.

There were no other units of the Confederate regular army organized. A few individual members of the regular army served in the Ordnance and Medical Departments or as couriers and orderlies at various headquarters. The number of such regulars could not have been large and it is impracticable to try to identify their service.

Without a doubt the most important regulars in the Confederate Army were the officers serving in the various War Department bureaus at Richmond. Under the act of February 26, 1861, the Adjutant and Inspector General's Department, Medical Department, Commissary Department, and Quartermaster Department were created. To these the act of March 6, 1861, added the Engineer Department. The original organization of these departments have been discussed in a previous chapter. With the modifications necessary to handle the large volunteer army this organization was



continued throughout the war. With few exceptions the senior positions in these staff departments were occupied by regular army officers serving with their regular army rank. Because there were few opportunities for Provisional Army promotions in these staff positions, almost all the regular army promotions during the war were received by officers in the staff departments. The other major exception to this promotion policy was in regard to cadets promoted to second lieutenants and will be discussed later.<sup>21</sup>

A discussion of the activities of the regulars in the staff departments would involve the entire military policy of the Confederacy, a subject much too broad for this study. Only a few observations relating directly to the regular army will be made here.

There was no consistency in regard to the rank of the senior officers of the staff departments. Samuel Cooper became the Adjutant and Inspector General, the equivalent of the position he had held in the United States Army, but received the regular army rank of full general. The senior officers of the other staff departments held the regular army rank of colonel. Of these, Jeremy F. Gilmer was eventually promoted to the Provisional Army rank of major general. Gilmer saw much service in the field and the

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<sup>21</sup>Regular Army Register, RG 109, NA.

administration of the Engineer Department often devolved on Colonel Alfred L. Rives, a Provisional Army officer.<sup>22</sup>

The Commissary and Quartermaster Department were subject to the most criticism during the war. The attempt of President Davis to have Colonel Lucius B. Northrop, the Commissary General, promoted to brigadier general in the Provisional Army was rejected by the Senate. The case of Abraham E. Myers, the Quartermaster General, is an even more interesting example of the way in which regular and provisional rank could be used in juggling staff positions. Myers had been appointed Quartermaster General with the regular army rank of colonel. On March 20, 1863, Congress passed an act authorizing the Quartermaster General to hold the Provisional Army rank of brigadier general. Since Myers had fallen into disfavor he was not nominated for promotion and instead Brigadier General Alexander R. Lawton was assigned to the position and the appointment was ratified by the Senate. Lawton was a West Pointer, but had resigned from the United States Army in 1841, and was not commissioned in the Confederate regular army. The appointment of Lawton in fact legislated the unfortunate Myers right out of the army. The Attorney General held that the act creating the Quartermaster General a brigadier general in the Provisional Army had in effect abolished the position of Quartermaster Department colonel in the regular army and left Myers without any rank.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>Warner, Generals in Gray, pg. 105; Nichols, Confederate Engineers, passim.

<sup>23</sup>Warner, Generals in Gray, pp. 175-76, 225-26; Opinions of the Confederate Attorney General, pp. 428-37.

The Ordnance Bureau, the other major staff department of the Confederate War Department, is unique in that it never legally existed. On April 8, 1861, Major Josiah Gorgas, Corps of Artillery, was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance. When the final regular ranks were submitted to the senate he was commissioned lieutenant colonel in the Corps of Artillery. Subsequently he received promotions to colonel and brigadier general in the Provisional Army. The Ordnance Bureau ultimately became one of the most important staff departments, but it was never legally constituted. Ordnance duties had been assigned under the act of March 6, 1861, to the Corps of Artillery and this is probably the origin of the Ordnance Bureau. Benjamin Huger, the colonel of the Corps of Artillery, had been promoted to major general in the Provisional Army. When he proved to be an incompetent line commander he was named as Inspector of Artillery and Ordnance in 1862, a position actually similar to the one he would have held in the regular army.<sup>24</sup>

The War Department actions in regard to the promotion of cadets was almost as badly bungled as the handling of the expiration of enlistment terms. President Davis at the beginning of the war made it a rule not to commission any officer in the regular army who had not reached the age of twenty-one. The ones most vitally affected by this decision

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<sup>24</sup>Special Order No. 17, A. & I. G. O., April 8, 1861, RG 109, NA; Warner, General's in Gray, pp. 112, 143-144; OR, Series IV, Vol. III, pp. 943-44; Army Regulations, 1862, Article 44.

were the former cadets at West Point who joined the Confederacy. Men who had reached their majority were commissioned while those who still were minors, even though they might have had a higher standing at West Point, were made cadets. By the time these latter were of age, the War Department had forgotten about the matter. After protest from the men involved they usually were promoted to second lieutenant in the regular army. Again no consistent policy was shown. Some were promoted simply for coming of age if their Provisional Army service had been satisfactory, others had to take the regular cadet promotion examination before a board of officers.<sup>25</sup>

The importance of the regular army officer corps in the Provisional Army is hard to judge. Many of the regular officers ultimately received line commissions in the Provisional Army and served with distinction. Because the regular officers did not hold positions under the individual states probably a majority of them ended up as staff officers with the field armies of the Provisional Army. Perhaps the best indication of the importance of the regular army officer corps can be gained by examining the general officers of the Confederate Army.

There were eventually commissioned in the Confederate

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<sup>25</sup>The problems in regard to promotion policies are illustrated by correspondence in the CMSR, Staff File, RG 109, NA, of the following officers: W. E. Stoney, W. Q. Hullihen, and G. A. Thornton.

Army, under a variety of acts, eight generals, seventeen lieutenant generals, seventy-two major generals, and 328 brigadier generals. Of these, all eight generals, seven lieutenant generals, twenty-eight major generals, and sixty-four brigadier generals were regulars. Even more impressive is a comparison of the number of regular officers of field grade who served as generals: all eight infantry colonels, eight of the nine infantry lieutenant colonels, six of the eight infantry majors, both of the cavalry colonels, both of the cavalry lieutenant colonels, both of the cavalry majors, the artillery colonel, both of the artillery lieutenant colonels, and six of the eleven artillery majors. The various staff departments, especially the Corps of Engineers, also provided several generals.

While most of the company grade regular officers served in higher company or field grades in the Provisional Army, there were a few instances of spectacular rises in rank. The largest increase was 2nd Lieutenant Pierce M. B. Young, Corps of Artillery, who became a major general; 2nd Lieutenant Frank C. Armstrong, was a brigadier general; and 1st Lieutenant Fitzhugh Lee was a major general. Two of the regular army first lieutenants who became general officers of the Confederate Provisional Army, Fitzhugh Lee and Joseph Wheeler, were also to become general officers in the United States Army during the Spanish-American War.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup>This comparison was drawn from material in Warner, Generals in Gray, and the Regular Army Register, RG 109, NA. The totals follow Warner and include several officers, such as Northrop, who were never actually confirmed by the Senate as generals.

CHAPTER VI

THE REGULARS IN RETROSPECT

The Confederate regular army is an example of attempting to meet a revolutionary situation with formal traditional means. It took the Confederacy about four months to realize that a neatly organized, small standing army was not the answer to its military problem. The full military energies of the Confederacy were then committed to the formation of the Provisional Army and the regular army was allowed to wither.

There are certain striking similarities and some basic differences between the Confederate and United States regular armies during the Civil War. In June 1861, the United States regular army had an actual strength of 16,422, or about ten times the highest strength attained by the Confederate regular army. The United States regulars reached their peak in June 1862 with a strength of 25,480, which was the highest total until the army expansion after the war.<sup>1</sup> The great advantage the United States regular army had, of course, was that it was an organized force in being at the outbreak of the war. Despite the losses of the Confederacy and normal attrition the regular units were able to continue their existence throughout the war. The Confederacy had to create its regular units from scratch in direct competition with the more attractive volunteer organizations.

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<sup>1</sup>Heitman, Historical Register of the United States Army, Vol. II, pg. 626.

After what was an apparently energetic and reasonably successful start, why did the Confederate regular army fail to come even close to its authorized organization? Even the modest army envisioned amounted to 15,003 officers and men formed into eleven regiments and forty-two separate companies. Of these, only three infantry companies, three artillery companies, one cavalry company, and one engineer company were formed and only one of the artillery companies was still serving as a regular army unit at the end of the war. Only in the staff departments did the regulars come near to fulfilling their authorized mission. The United States regulars had their problems too. The authorized strength of the United States regular army during the war was 41,819.<sup>2</sup> Except for 1862 the actual strength was half this figure or less. Despite the great paper expansion of the army, there were only about 6,000 more regulars in service at the end of the war than there were at the beginning.

The basic reason for the Confederate failure to come even close to the authorized strength of the regular army probably goes back to that letter from Secretary of War Walker to Attorney General Benjamin. This was one of the first tangible evidences that the events of the day had far outstripped the fine legal military structure which Congress had created. The appropriation for the regular

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<sup>2</sup>OR, Series III, Vol. V, pg. 127.

army had already been passed by congress, but faced with a large and growing Provisional Army and virtually no funds for its maintainence, Walker followed Benjamin's advice and used the regular army appropriation for the Provisional Army. This was a contributing factor in the closing of the regular recruiting stations in May and June 1861, and no efforts were made to form any additional units after that time.

Another important reason for the failure of recruiting efforts was one which also plagued the United States regular army at this time. Enlistment in the regulars was for a definite period of three or five years no matter how long the war lasted. The volunteers could go home when the shooting was over. The Confederates did not at first offer bounties for enlisting in the regulars while this was increasingly the practice of the states when forming volunteer units. And finally, discipline was much stricter and training much more rugged in the regulars than it was in the volunteers.<sup>3</sup>

A factor which certainly contributed to the failure of the United States regular army from ever, in peace or war, coming near its authorized strength was the traditional American attitude toward standing armies. It is impossible

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<sup>3</sup>Upton, Military Policy of the United States, pg. 235, comments on the difficulties of recruiting regulars in competition with volunteers.



to tell what effect, if any, this attitude had on the Confederate regular army, but it has already been noted that half or more of the recruits were foreigners.

As the war progressed there was a scattering of the regulars of both sides amongst the volunteer forces. For the Confederate regular army, which had no organized units to begin with to keep at least as cadres, this dissipation was fatal. Only a very few of the Confederate regular officers were ever able to serve directly with regular troops. Because these officers held commissions directly from the Confederate government rather than the states it was often hard for them to gain promotion. This was especially true of the more junior officers who were just beginning their military careers and did not have previous records which might attract a state commission. This lack of state attachment probably caused the majority of Confederate regular officers to serve in staff positions. Much the same thing happened to the United States regulars. Most of the junior officers were forced to remain with the regular units without any chance for promotion, while the more experienced officers took volunteer commissions. The situation was so bad late in the war that a second lieutenant commanded the 19th United States Infantry in the Battle of Chickamauga.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>The Army Lineage Book - Infantry, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1953), pg. 119. This event is still commemorated in the regimental coat of arms.

There were two solutions to this problem. One, suggested by Upton, was to completely break up the regular units and use the officers and men to give some experience to the raw volunteers. This is what happened in effect to the Confederate regular army, though it certainly was not the intention of Congress or the War Department. The other alternative was to use conscription to keep the regular units filled. This has been the method used by the United States since World War I and was common in many foreign countries since the early Nineteenth Century.<sup>5</sup>

The Confederate regulars certainly did not play a vital part in the Civil War as organized units. They were so small in numbers that their very existence has been forgotten. In fact, late in the war even in the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office the regular units had been forgotten. There is a letter from that office in 1864 declining to make an appointment in the regular army of a civilian because only resigned United States officers or Confederate cadets were receiving such appointments and there is an endorsement from the same office, dated in August 1864, stating, "There have been no appointments in the regular army for several years, there being no regular army."<sup>6</sup> This statement would have been amazing enough to

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<sup>5</sup>Upton, op. cit., pp. 235-38.

<sup>6</sup>Miscellaneous Drafts of Letters Sent, A. & I. G. O., filed with Letters Received, and endorsement in CMSR, Pvt. Henry Murfree, 1st (Feild's) Tennessee Infantry, RG 109, NA. This latter endorsement has caused confusion at the National Archives for many years, it being cited as positive proof that there was no such thing as a Confederate regular army.

Barnes' regulars in Louisiana, but it is even more so since there were appointments of regular officers throughout the war and as late as 1865.

It would appear from the records that the regulars of the Confederacy, despite their small numbers, gave a good account of themselves in battle. There is no doubt that the military success of the Confederacy was due in large part to the regular army officers who served during the war with temporary or Provisional Army rank in the volunteers. Time has obscured the very existence of the Confederate regulars, who today are only a nearly forgotten monument to an improvised military policy. If the South had won the Civil War it would have been a titanic legal snarl to reorganize the regulars on a permanent basis. Perhaps the best epitaph to the Confederate regulars is that their war record was in the finest tradition of the American professional soldier.

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- Reference Compilations

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