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OPENS FRIDAY, MAY 25th, 1917

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Piedmont Springs Hotel.

The Big Fights At Fort Fisher

(By B. F. McLean.)

Recently I read in your paper an account of the capture of Fort Fisher. I noted the report was made by Captain Williams and he stated that at the time he was 12 years old and viewed both fights at the Fort from Smithville (now known as Southport).

It was one of the participants in both of them and while the report was correct in most instances, still I found that there was right much lacking in the same, both as facts and general information necessary to give the reader at this late date, a full understanding of what transpired there.

Our incident happened while we were along there which shows the different kind of bravery which different men will show under the same circumstances. The J. T. Petteway, the boat on which we were travelling was a very light and frail one and was well crowded by the two companies of soldiers.

On landing at Craig's wharf we proceeded down the river towards the fort. When about half way to the fort, we were ordered to get in light marching order, with the intention of running into the fort.

About 8 o'clock a. m. the ships opened fire again on the fort and kept it up until 5 p. m. The writer heard a man, who was under the fire, say that he was at the bombardment of Sebastopol, which up to that time, was said to have been the heaviest bombardment the world ever knew.

into the fort from 8 a. m. on Christmas morning to 5 p. m. that afternoon from these guns, 150 shells per minute. Of course this included the round shells from 8-inches up and the long or Parrot shells and that he could not see how it was possible for any of us to live under such a rain of shells of such calibre.

On Thursday evening, January 12th, 1865, it was again reported at Fort Caswell that a fleet was coming toward Fort Fisher and our company and Co. C. 3rd. N. C. H. A., which was commanded by Captain Sutton, were again, on Friday afternoon, January 13th, 1865, sent to Fort Fisher by boat and we landed at the point near Battery Buchanan and marched from there up to the land face of the fort.

on them with double charges of canister and such of us as were acting as infantry, with our rifles, and Captain Parker said afterwards in the writer's presence that at the first fire 400 of them fell, either dead or wounded.

about 9:30 or 10 a. m. The Confederates had in the fort during the engagement about 2,000 men. The fort was in the immediate command of Col. William Lamb, but General Whiting was there during the entire engagement.



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