

In April 1865, the 11th Missouri Veteran Infantry would fight their battle near Mobile, Alabama. The regiment was commanded by Major Modesta Green. The brigade and corps reports are included.

O.R.--SERIES I--VOLUME XLIX/1 [S# 103]

**MARCH 17-MAY 4, 1865.--The Mobile (Ala.) Campaign.
No. 2.--Organization of the Union Forces, commanded by Maj. Gen. Edward R. S. Canby, operating against Mobile, Ala., March 17-April 12.**

SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Maj. Gen. ANDREW J. SMITH.

Second Brigade.

Col. LUCIUS F. HUBBARD.

47th Illinois:

Maj. Edward Bonham.

Col. David W. Magee.

5th Minnesota, Lieut. Col. William B. Gere.

9th Minnesota, Col. Josiah F. Marsh.

11th Missouri, Maj. Modesta J. Green.

8th Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. William B. Britton.

O.R.--SERIES I--VOLUME XLIX/1 [S# 103]

**MARCH 17-MAY 4, 1865.--The Mobile (Ala.) Campaign.
No. 41.--Report of Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Smith, U.S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps, of operations March 25-April 9.**

**HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Montgomery, Ala., May 13, 1865.**

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the part taken by my command in the operations around Mobile, which resulted in the capture of Spanish Fort and Blakely:

The corps having been concentrated at Dannelly's Mills, the head of navigation on the North Branch of Fish River, on the morning of the 25th of March, the command moved forward northwest by north, menacing both Spanish Fort and Blakely. Continuing the march on the 25th with some slight skirmishing we reached Sibley's Mills, a point on Minette Creek four miles from Spanish Fort and about seven miles from Blakely. On the morning of the 27th, in obedience to instructions from Major-General Canby, the Second Division of my command, Brig. Gen. K. Garrard commanding, was left at this point in an entrenched camp covering the Blakely road where it crosses Minette Creek, in charge of the supply trains of the corps. With the First and Third Divisions of the corps, I moved southwest of Spanish Fort, driving the enemy's skirmishers and pickets inside their works. The divisions were placed in position as follows: The Third Division, Brig.

Gen. E. A. Carr, on the right, with his right resting on Minette Bay, the First Division, Brig. Gen. J. McArthur commanding, on the left, <ar103_229> connecting with the Thirteenth Corps on the left and the Third Division on the right, with their lines advanced to within about 400 yards of the enemy's works, at which distance the first parallel was made. From this parallel saps were worked forward by each brigade, and these again connected by trenches at a distance of about 200 yards from the enemy's works. From the second parallel saps were again worked forward by each brigade to distances varying from twenty-five to seventy-five yards, depending upon the nature of the ground. The saps of the First Division were the nearest to the works of the enemy at the time of the capture of the forts. During the time occupied in making these approaches, siege artillery was brought forward and placed in every available position along the line. Two forts of the enemy, Forts Huger and Tracy, situated on islands above Spanish Fort, enfiladed the right of my line, and, with the assistance of two gun-boats, killed and wounded many men in the Third Division. They so completely enfiladed my right flank that it became necessary to build traverses on the right of every exposed company. Every man in my command was on duty once in twenty-four hours, and at one time in the Third Division the officers and non-commissioned officers held the trenches while the men slept. Two 30-pounder batteries of the First Indiana Heavy Artillery arriving, were placed on the bay in rear of the right of my line, and by them the gun-boats were driven away and the two forts nearly silenced. Siege mortars were placed along the first parallel and the pioneer corps of both divisions instructed to manufacture wooden mortars of 4.62 for use in the saps. Six were made by each division and rendered excellent service. Everything being prepared, on the 8th of April orders were received to open at 5.30 p.m., with every piece that could throw iron into the fort, and continue until dark. Both divisions were ordered into the trenches to be ready for any emergency. Just before dark, pushing forward two companies of skirmishers on the extreme right of the Third Division, supported by the remainder of the regiment, they succeeded in gaining a foothold on the left of the enemy's works, enfilading the left of their line with musketry. The other' regiments of the brigade (Third Brigade, Third Division, Col. J. L. Geddes, Eighth Iowa Infantry, commanding) following immediately, they took about 300 yards of the enemy's main line of works, capturing many prisoners in them. As soon as support could be withdrawn from other parts of the line and sent them, they continued advancing slowly, meeting with but little resistance, and by midnight the whole fort was in our possession. About two-thirds of the garrison escaped by crossing the river on a foot bridge to the island on which Fort Huger was situated, and from thence by steamers to Blakely. The captures amounted to 540 prisoners, 46 pieces of artillery, including three 7-inch Brooke in the water battery, and two 8-inch columbiads in front, and 4 stand of Colors. Our entire loss during the siege is 26 killed, 319 wounded, and 3 captured; total, 348. The fort and its contents were turned over to Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger on the morning of the 9th of April, and my forces withdrawn and sent to the support of General Garrard at Blakely, where he had been ordered to co-operate with General Steele and complete the line of investment on the 3d of April. On the morning of the 9th of April I directed General Garrard to assault Fort Blakely at 5.30 that night, and also

directed Generals McArthur and Carr to move within supporting distance and assist him, if necessary. General Garrard made the assault at the time indicated by advancing a double line of skirmishers, followed by a second line of the same kind, <ar103_230> with directions to his main line to occupy their places in the advanced pits as soon as they left them, and charge as soon as the advanced line reached the works. By this happy arrangement but few men were exposed to the enemy's fire until the advance skirmish line was near enough to silence the enemy's artillery, although all were in easy musket-range. The first line advancing under a heavy fire of musketry and canister, covered by a sharp fire from the main line, soon reached the main works, and a cheer was given as a signal to charge. The charge was made successfully and taken up by the Thirteenth Corps and General Steele's command on the right. I am certain that the advance line of General Garrard was on the parapet with their colors at the time the other commands started. He captured in his immediate front 1,624 prisoners, including 2 brigadier-generals and 98 officers, 4 stand of colors, 21 pieces of artillery, and 4 mortars. His loss was 42 killed, 142 wounded, and 4 missing; total 188. This makes the results of the two days at Spanish Fort and Blakely as follows: 2,164 prisoners, 71 pieces of artillery, 8 stand of colors, and nearly 3,000 stand of small-arms. The loss of the command at both places is, killed 68, wounded 461, captured 5, missing 2; total 536. I transmit herewith the reports of division and brigade commanders and a full list of casualties, (*) with a schedule of the artillery captured. My division and brigade commanders behaved nobly throughout, and to their energy, skill and endurance is due the main credit of the success. I would especially mention Col. James L. Geddes, Eighth Iowa Infantry, commanding Third Brigade, Third Division, for his gallantry and grit in the charge on Spanish Fort. Although suffering with a severe chill at the time, yet he remained upon the field and superintended the movements. Also Lieutenant-Colonel Lackland, One hundred and eighth Illinois Volunteers, serving upon the staff of General Carr, who took a musket and led personally the two skirmishing companies that first gained a foothold within the enemy's works. Capt. Bluford Wilson, assistant adjutant-general, Third Division, particularly distinguished himself during the siege and acted as aide to Colonel Geddes during the assault. Capt. H. L. Wheeler, Ninety-sixth U.S. Colored Infantry, acting engineer officer, Third Division, performed his work with great skill, energy, and industry. In the Second Division, Col. T. J. Kinney, One hundred and nineteenth Illinois Infantry, and Lieut. Col. Charles S. Hills, Tenth Kansas Infantry, led the advance skirmish line in front of their respective brigades and have more than earned promotion. First Lieut. and Bvt. Capt. Charles J. Allen, U.S. Army, chief engineer, performed his duty excellently well and rendered efficient help both at Spanish Fort and Blakely by his judgment, ability, and industry. To my staff is due much credit for their intelligent appreciation and prompt execution of the duties pertaining to their several departments.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. SMITH,

Major-General.

Brig. Gen. P. J. OSTERHAUS,

Chief of Staff, Military Division of West Mississippi.

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[Inclosure.]

List of artillery captured at Spanish Fort, &c., Ala., by the Sixteenth Army Corps on the 8th day of April, 1865.

Place of capture.	Number.	Kind of gun.	Caliber.
Spanish Fort	8	6-pounder gun, smooth, bronze	3.67
Do	3	12-pounder gun, smooth, bronze	4.62
Do	2	8-inch columbiad	....
Do	3	Blakely rifled gun	3.10
Do	9	Coehorn mortar	5.82
Fort Alexis	1	80-pounder Parrott gun	....
Do	2	24-pounder Dahlgren boat howitzer	....
Do	1	24-pounder siege howitzer, iron	....
Do	3	6-pounder gun, smooth, bronze	3.67
Do	2	Rifled gun, bronze	8.67
Do	1	Rifled gun, iron	8.67
Do	1	Coehorn mortar	5.82
Do	1	Brooke rifled gun	8.4
At landing	4	Coehorn mortar	5.82
Do	2	Mountain howitzer	4.62
Water Battery	3	Brooke rifled gun	6.4
Total guns	46		

CLASSIFICATION.

8-inch columbiads	2
Brooke rifled guns, caliber 6.4	4
Parrott 30-pounder gun	1
Blakely rifled guns, caliber 3.10	3
Rifled guns, bronze, caliber 3.67	2
Rifled gun, Iron, caliber 3.67	1
24-pounder Dahlgren boat howitzers, bronze	2
24-pounder siege howitzer, iron	1
12-pounder smooth guns, bronze, caliber 4.62	3
6-pounder smooth-bore guns, bronze, caliber 3.67	11
Mountain howitzers, caliber 4.62	2
Coehorn mortars	14
Total	46

I certify that the above is a correct account of artillery captured at Spanish Fort, &c., Ala., April 8, 1865.

JOHN B. PANNES,

Second Lieutenant, Seventeenth New York Veteran Volunteers, and Acting Ordnance Officer, Sixteenth Army Corps.

ADDENDA.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In the Field, Ala., April 12, 1865.

Lieut. Col. C. T. CHRISTENSEN,

Asst. Adjt. Gen., Army and Division of West Mississippi:

COLONEL: I have the honor to forward herewith eight Confederate flags captured by the troops of this corps at Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. Five of them were captured in the charge under circumstances which entitle the captors to medals of honor, to wit: Capt. Samuel McConnell, (*) One hundred and nineteenth Illinois Infantry; Sergt. George F. Rebman, (*) One hundred and nineteenth Illinois Infantry; Private John Whitmore, (*) One hundred and nineteenth Illinois Infantry; Private John H. Callahan, (*) One hundred and twenty-second [Illinois Infantry], each of whom captured a flag at Fort Blakely, Ala., in the charge on enemy's works, April 9, 1865; First Sergt. Edgar A. Bras, (*) <ar103_232> Company K, Eighth Iowa Veteran Volunteers, who captured a flag from the hands of the color-bearer, in the charge on Spanish Fort, April 8, 1865. I have had the names of the above men written in ink on the flag captured by them. The other three were found in Spanish Fort after it had been taken, and no special credit attaches to the capture.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. SMITH,

Major-general..

HDQRS. ARMY AND DIVISION OF WEST MISSISSIPPI,

April 12, 1865.

Maj. Gen. A. J. SMITH,

Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps:

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of the major-general commanding, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date and of eight rebel flags, captured by officers and men of your command in the charges on Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. The persons named in your communication will be recommended to the War Department for medals of honor.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. T. CHRISTENSEN,

Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

O.R.--SERIES I--VOLUME XLIX/1 [S# 103]

MARCH 17-MAY 4, 1865.--The Mobile (Ala.) Campaign.

No. 48.--Report of Col. Lucius F. Hubbard, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, of operations March 20--April 9.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., *FIRST DIV, 16TH ARMY CORPS,*
Near Blakely, Ala., April 12, 1865.

CAPTAIN: The following report of the part taken by the Second Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, in the operations which have recently culminated in the capture of Spanish Fort and its dependencies, is respectfully submitted:

On the 20th day of March the command broke camp at Dauphin Island and moved by transports up Fish River. Disembarked at Dannelly's Mills on the 21st, and encamped in that immediate vicinity. On the following day a new position was taken and intrenchments constructed covering the front of the brigade, which were occupied as a line of defense until the 25th. On the 23d and 24th our pickets were attacked by the enemy, but each time the latter was repulsed with the occurrence of but a single casualty in this command. At 8 a.m. on the 25th of March the brigade, holding the advance of the corps, moved out on the Deer Park road. A small force of the enemy was soon encountered, with which skirmishing at once commenced. With four companies of the Ninth Minnesota Infantry deployed as skirmishers, and the balance of the regiment as support, the enemy was steadily pressed back and the road made clear for the column to pass. Until ordered to halt and encamp for the night the skirmishers made no pause in their advance. During the following day's march the brigade, being in the rear, encountered no enemy. On the 27th during the progress of the investment of Spanish Fort, the Second Brigade held a position in the center of, and advanced in line of battle with, the First Division. A line of skirmishers deployed along my front met those of the enemy within perhaps a mile of the rebel defenses and engaged them actively, the latter slowly giving way, but contesting the ground quite stubbornly. The line of battle advanced by degrees until a position was secured within about 800 yards of the fort, the enemy the while delivering from his works a spirited fire of musketry and artillery. During the following night a line of investment was established and the command employed intrenching the position. The Second Brigade held a front of four regiments running from right to left in the following order, viz: Eighth Wisconsin, Forty-seventh Illinois, Fifth Minnesota, and Ninth Minnesota, the Eleventh Missouri being held in reserve. My skirmishers were advanced during the night and posted as pickets within 300 yards of the enemy's works. The 28th and 29th were spent in strengthening our defensive works and constructing bomb-proofs for the protection of the men. On the night of the 29th I commenced to run a sap in the direction of the fort, and on the 31st had reached a position and constructed a parallel within 300 yards of the main works of the enemy. This parallel was at once manned with sharpshooters, a detail of 250 picked men, the best shots in the brigade, being made for that purpose, and placed under the command of Capt. A. P. French, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, which detail was retained permanently on duty during the continuance of the siege. These sharpshooters rendered very effective service throughout the siege, greatly annoying the enemy's artillerists, in some instances compelling him to abandon the use of his guns and fill his embrasures with earth. Captain French is entitled to much credit for the efficient management of his command.

The work upon the approaches to the fort was actively prosecuted until the night of the 8th of April. At that date my sharpshooters had <ar103_240> been

advanced to a second parallel about 100 yards farther to the front, and my sappers had reached a point and partially constructed a parallel within sixty yards of the enemy's works. My first parallel had been converted into an emplacement, in which I had located a regiment, the Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry, as a support to the sharpshooters. At about 2 a.m. of the 9th instant developments upon the right of our lines created a suspicion that the enemy was evacuating his works. Captain McGrew, of my staff, who at that time was superintending the operations of the sappers, directed Captain French to move forward his command as skirmishers and ascertain what enemy, if any, was in his front. The order was promptly obeyed, the enemy's pickets posted outside the fort captured without opposition, and the works found to be abandoned. Captain McGrew immediately moved the Forty-seventh Illinois, Major Bonham commanding, into the fort, and crossing the ravine to the left occupied Fort Alexis, placing guards upon the guns, magazines, and other property left by the enemy. In this work were ten pieces of artillery, one mortar, and much ammunition. In the meantime Captain French moved his skirmishers through Spanish Fort to the bank of the river at the point where the enemy was crossing, capturing several prisoners and one piece of artillery abandoned near the bridge. About half an hour after the occupation of Fort Alexis by the Forty-seventh Illinois the troops of General Benton's division, Thirteenth Army Corps, moved in, and Captain McGrew formally surrendered possession to Major Boydston, of General Benton's staff. At 9 a.m. on the 9th instant the command moved out on the Blakely road and encamped at night near its present location. During the siege of Spanish Fort the brigade excavated 7,000 cubic yards of earth, and expended 169,000 rounds of musket ammunition. The labors of the siege were very arduous. The men were worked by large details night and day upon fortifications and approaches, yet they bore their trials patiently, and cheerfully responded to every call of whatever character. Colonels Marsh, Gere, and Britton, and Majors Green and Bonham, commanding their respective regiments, were untiring in their efforts to facilitate the operations of the siege. Capt. J. G. McGrew, aide-de-camp, rendered very valuable service while performing the dangerous duty of superintending the construction of the approaches to the enemy's works. Captains Cleland and Kendall and Lieutenant Kelly are also entitled to much credit for their activity and energy during the recent operations.

The total casualties suffered by the brigade within the time embraced in the above report is 99, as follows:

O M	Officers. Men.	T	Total.				
			O	M			
			-Killed.-		Wounded		
Command.			O	M	O	M	T
11th Missouri Veteran Infantry			1	5	....	27	33
8th Wisconsin Veteran Infantry			2	....	17	19
5th Minnesota Veteran Infantry			16	16
9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry			2	1	13	16
47th Illinois Volunteer Infantry			1	3	11	15
Total			1	10	4	84	99

L. F. HUBBARD,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Capt. W. H. F. RANDALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General, First Division.

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ADDENDA.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., *FIRST DIV. 16TH ARMY CORPS,*
Near Blakely, Ala., April 9, 1865.

Col. L. F. HUBBARD,
Commanding Second Brig., First Div., Sixteenth Army Corps:

Immediately after the evacuation of Spanish Fort, by your order I moved the Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteers, Major Bonham commanding, into the enemy's works simultaneously with the troops on our right, after which I moved to the left, occupying Fort Alexis, placing guards over the guns, magazines, and various other property before the works were entered by the troops of any other command. After we had been in possession of the works about half an hour I was met by Major Boydston, of General Benton's staff, to whom I turned over the captured property, calling the attention of Major Bonham, Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteers, as well as other officers of his regiment, to the transaction, when Major Boydston placed guards over the premises. I then directed Major Bonham to return with his regiment to the remainder of the brigade within the works of Spanish Fort.

JAMES G. MEGREW,
Captain and Aide-de-Camp.

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., *FIRST DIV., 16TH ARMY CORPS,*
Near Blakely, Ala., April 9, 1865.

Respectfully forwarded.

The within statement is forwarded for the purpose of vindicating the claim of this command to the credit of first occupying and obtaining possession of the property in Fort Alexis. The facts within stated can be sustained by abundant proofs.

L. F. HUBBARD,
Colonel, Commanding.