

7-1-1954

A history of Virginia in the Spanish-American War

Virginia Rowe Christian

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/masters-theses>

Recommended Citation

Christian, Virginia Rowe, "A history of Virginia in the Spanish-American War" (1954). *Master's Theses*. Paper 94.

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Research at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Master's Theses by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

A HISTORY OF VIRGINIA IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

BY

VIRGINIA ROWE CHRISTIAN

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
IN CANDIDACY
FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
VIRGINIA

AUGUST, 1954

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
VIRGINIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Chapter | Page |
|---|------|
| PREFACE..... | ii |
| I. WAR SPIRIT AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT..... | 1 |
| II. MILITARY VOLUNTEERS..... | 14 |
| III. FORTIFICATIONS..... | 30 |
| IV. INSTALLATIONS..... | 37 |
| V. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE..... | 44 |
| VI. VIRGINIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS..... | 56 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY..... | 61 |

PREFACE

Various bits of information exist in many widely-scattered sources which, when compiled, present an interesting and somewhat exciting story of Virginia's role in the Spanish-American War. Being particularly interested in this period of American history, it has been my desire to investigate as many of these sources as possible and to present as complete a picture as possible of the events that occurred in the State at this time.

No doubt there are many Virginians still living who, if questioned, could relate many more interesting facts than have been presented in this paper as it has been based entirely on printed information obtained at the Richmond Public Library, the Virginia State Library, and the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

Virginia Rowe Christian

CHAPTER I

WAR SPIRIT AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT

Half a century ago, on February 15, 1898, the United States Battleship Maine was destroyed by a mysterious explosion as she lay peacefully at moorings in Havana Harbor. At the time, the sympathy of the United States citizens lay strongly with revolutionists in Cuba who were then attempting to secure their freedom from the galling yoke of Spanish rule. The episode of the Maine gave added impetus to the trend which was inevitably drawing the United States and Spain into a state of war and the final breach occurred on April 19, 1898, when the United States government recognized the independence of Cuba. Spain's answer was to sever diplomatic relations with us on April 21 and our country followed suit by making a formal declaration of war on April 25.

During those crucial days early in 1898 when our government sought to negotiate grievances with Spain concerning the insurrection in Cuba, and also appease her own citizens, the people of Virginia were concerned but not caustic in their remarks regarding the Maine disaster. The day after the disaster occurred they were reluctant to place responsibility for the unfortunate incident

on the Spanish Government. Many were aware that the public mind could be further inflamed against Spain and strained relations would result unless it could be proven that the explosion was due to circumstances aboard ship.

Two days later, an editorial in the Richmond Evening Leader led one to believe that any thought of war with Spain was preposterous and that the matter was being settled peaceably, even though the idea of war could become popular with the masses and many would delight in a brush with Spain.^I

Virginians followed closely the results of investigation conducted by government officials of the United States and those of Spain. By February 24 there was a drastic change of opinion in the State. Rumors that the Maine incident was not an accident, but that it had been blown up by a prominent Spanish official in connivance with the Spanish government made many think that the Maine disaster may not have been in vain, for if this were true, the United States Government would have further grounds for saying that Spain was incapable of measuring up to the responsibility of Cuba and that the time had come to settle the affair through negotiation. In such a case, Spain could not decline the offer of U. S. assistance. Taking this view, many Virginians thought the situation had promise of early settlement, for as the saying goes, "When things get to the worst,² then they begin to mend."

1. The Evening Leader, February 18, 1898.

2. Ibid., February 22, 1898.

While our diplomats continued to make peaceful overtures, many plans for war were also being made, and the people of Virginia probably realized this much sooner than the rest of the people of the nation because it involved them directly. By March 1 the Norfolk Navy Yard was already the scene of hurried war preparations to meet government demands. Newport News was planning to build the largest dry dock in the world, on March 24 large crowds witnessed the launching of two new battleships at the Navy Yard, and many young men were already asking the question, "Am I eligible for military service? Will I enlist or be drafted?"³ Knowing only too well what the solution probably would be, Virginians hoped for a peaceful settlement, all the while believing Spain would go to war before paying an indemnity.

There was a common, national feeling for war rather than yield one inch to Spain, but the people of the South, and all Virginia, did not want war if it could be avoided with due regard to the call of humanity and the honor of the nation. In fact, it is difficult to believe that there was any subject upon which there could have been more all-prevailing unanimity than existed in Virginia in opposition to sending troops and ships down to Cuba to hasten settlement of a trouble that could be settled peaceably by time and mutual concessions, but which the United States government was determined to enforce at once with arms.⁴

3. Ibid., February 26, 1898.

4. The Richmond Times, April 21, 1898.

Those few who were loudest in clamoring for war were gradually coming to the conclusion that fighting was not such a good thing after all. Those men who took such delight in denouncing the President and Congress did not rush forward to volunteer to go to Cuba. Even the militiamen, who were always ready to answer the call of their State or their country, did not cry out for war at any cost.⁵

An editorial in a Richmond paper ventured the suggestion that a lot of the war talk in that city was in revolt against monotony. The people didn't want anyone to get hurt, but they wanted something to happen. There was even disappointment when it was announced that war might be evaded. Many Richmonders, who were in their hearts rejoicing in the promise of peace, had a sort of sneaking regret that the period of excitement was gone. However, if they had been as warlike as appeared on the surface, there would have been a rush to the recruiting stations, but the recruiting officers certainly had not been overworked. Those who were spoiling for a fight had not witnessed the serious consequences that follow such a conflict, and were moved only by the spirit of adventure and the love of excitement, rather than patriotism.⁶

According to the Richmond Times, in other cities in the Commonwealth, sentiment concerning foreign entanglement was initially the same. Military companies in Lynchburg were shocked at the idea of being dragged off to fight for people in whom they felt only the remotest interest. Leading citizens in Lexington reported that not a man could be found who was in favor of war. The same thing was true in Charlottesville.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid., April 6, 1898.

A well-informed gentleman stated that in the neighborhood west of that city, the only volunteers that could be gotten there were those who were prepared to lynch the Congressmen who were so eager to get the country into a difficulty from which they were confident they themselves would be exempt. In Harrisonburg there was no sentiment for war with Spain. Every expression of opinion in the Valley concerning such a war, was that our interests in Cuba were too small to justify us such a serious move. Nor were there any volunteers in that part of the State. In Norfolk the same feeling existed. If anyone had found a war spirit there, he had not disclosed it to any of those whose duty it was to find out the news.⁷

Virginia was reluctant to accept war as a solution to the situation in Cuba. Her newspapers voiced the opinion that Congress had forced the issue with the President and the struggle had been between the parties for some political advantage based upon the preemption we were involved in a controversy from which it would be difficult to recede without loss of character and the respect of the nations, and above all our own self-respect. She felt that if the President had been left with the discretion to use the armed power of the United States if it should become necessary, sufficient pressure could have been brought to bear upon Spain to secure relief for the suffering reconcentrados and to give to all the people of Cuba such liberty as would have been satisfactory to reasonable men. But our demand

7. Ibid., April 21, 1898.

that Spain should vacate Cuba at once brought an instantaneous crisis, which even if successful, after the design and contemplation of those who passed it, would place the United States in the position of a bully who would admit of nothing except of obedience to his own dictum, and who was both ignorant and indifferent to the rights of others. Our only hope of not suffering the consequences of a blunder that was akin to a crime would depend upon the wisdom, prudence, and moderation of the President.⁸

A few days later, when war had become a reality, the Times told her readers that our government could have accomplished the greatest good for Cuba by such a demonstration of determination as would have wrung from Spain every proper concession without recourse to war. Recent changes in the government of Cuba and suspension of hostilities by the Spanish troops gave evidence that the prospect for Cuba's enjoying constitutional liberty under the Spanish flag was well-nigh assured. Even with the destruction of the Maine it would have seemed that war between the United States and Spain, on account either of Cuba or the Maine was not necessary to secure the rights of the one or reparation for the destruction of the other. In conclusion the Times asked this question, "What then has forced us into war?" And the answer, "The approaching elections in the fall are the cause for the war spirit which has taken possession of Congress. The war with Spain which is now upon us is clearly attributable to political maneuvers."⁹

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid., April 22, 1898.

The editor of the Times was severely criticized in his column when he insinuated, "The war is not of the South's making."

"When one speaks of the South in Congress," retorted a reader, "does he not mean her Congressmen? What side were they on? Was it not the war side?"¹⁰

A few months later, after loyal sons had fallen in battle, the same newspaper addressed an editorial entitled, "How Did It All Come About Anyhow," to its subscribers and received this reply from a citizen in Hanover. "Sir in your editorial you state the truth with reference to feelings of our Virginia people about the war, and I have puzzled to account for our delegates acting as they did. My explanation of their going counter to the wishes of their constituents is that they didn't know what those wishes were. But you say, 'Did not all representative bodies, boards of trade, chambers of commerce, and the like express their opposition to war?' Yes, but that made matters worse. It would have been better if they hadn't spoken because the Southern congressmen were elected to destroy the money-power if possible. Their resolutions showed what the money-power wanted. They reasoned the money-power is against war, therefore the plain people, the bone and sinew of the country, are in favor of it. Having thus discovered the wishes of the people, no wonder they were eager for war. They could gratify their constituents and at the same time strike a blow at their great enemy. The money-power is responsible for the war, for had they kept their big mouths

10. Ibid., April 29, 1898.

shut, our representatives would have discovered their constituents,
¹¹
 the people, did not want war."

Citizens of Virginia also had ideas as to how the expense of the war, both in terms of money and men, should be distributed. A strong feeling that prevailed among many was that the rich should bear the expense of the war. When it was suggested that an income tax be levied to cover the cost of the war, many felt that only corporations and annual incomes over \$4,000 should be taxed. ¹² They argued that you could count on your fingers all those who would be reached by an income tax who would volunteer to fight, while there would be thousands of heads of dependent families sacrificed on the battlefield. How could the government ask the poor to furnish lives to defend the country's honor, when at the same time it was asking them to protect the rich man's purse from taxation? The Times, in several issues, countered with the argument that the tax, no matter how levied, would be paid, undoubtedly, in part by the poor. An internal tax could not be levied on any one class of citizens without making all classes of citizens bear their part of the burden. The honest way was the simplest way, and the best. Every man should bear his part of the public burden and all taxes should be levied with that end in view. ¹³

The legitimacy of the war was also thoroughly discussed in many camps. Confederate veterans at the George E. Pickett Camp were strongly

11. Ibid., July 3, 1898.

12. Ibid., May 5, 1898.

13. Ibid., May 12, 1898.

in favor of peace and refused to give their moral support to the National Government in its declaration of war on Spain. In a speech to his comrades, R. L. Maury voiced the opinion of many at the camp when he said the war was an unrighteous one brought on by politics paving the way for the next election. They saw no occasion for the war and therefore urged against what might cause young men to enlist,¹⁴ only to die of the fever.

Many Virginians too were unwilling to volunteer their services in a fresh encounter until the Federal Government had settled old war debts with the State. The United States still owed the State \$112,000 which she had received as a loan during the War of 1812. At that time Virginia was wealthy, and now she was in need of funds to put troops in the field to defend her own seacoast. It seemed that one good turn¹⁵ deserved another.

The belief that Virginia's coastal towns would be the heaviest hit in a disastrous war, as well as other coastal towns farther south, also dampened their enthusiasm. They reasoned that the South would suffer greatest in loss of life and property since the fighting would be done along or near the Southern coast where the cities were probably less protected than those of the North. Citizens of Phoebus, Virginia felt their town would surely bear the brunt of an attack. Hampton, Virginia had been destroyed thrice in three wars, and if Fort Monroe

14. The Evening Leader, April 26, 1898.

15. The Richmond Times, April 7, 1898.

were passed by a hostile fleet it would again be in danger. Even should the Fort be shelled from outside, both Phoebus and Hampton would be in direct line of enemy guns.

Nor had the Old Dominion forgotten the destruction it had reaped during the Civil War. There was a tendency in some quarters to criticise the South for her indisposition to furnish the volunteers required from it for the war with Spain. Although Virginia supplied her quota of men when the call came for volunteers, and readily so, she defended her position by explaining that any reluctance to volunteer ought not be surprising because the South had come out of the Civil War totally ruined and her people were more concerned with eking out a living than with questions relating to war with Spain. She admonished the North for calling upon the grey brothers to join them in helping out the oppressed in Cuba. Why this great outburst of sympathy for the "rebels" in Cuba and a desire to give them their freedom when the people of the South only a few years before had to suffer in defense of their homes and constitutional rights? Virginia newspapers were quick to draw a close parallel between the cause of the Cubans and their own. It was difficult, they pointed out, to see how the President of the United States could charge Spain with a greater cruelty toward its non-combatant Cuban subjects than the government had practiced toward citizens who sympathised with the Southern cause. No Spanish cruelty or barbarity could equal the living pictures the South harbored of

16. Ibid., April 5, 1898.

17. The Evening Leader, April 15, 1898.

18. Ibid., April 15, 1898.

gangs of thieves, unworthy of the name soldier who were sent through their lands, not to fight but to steal and destroy. In remembering these things it was difficult to gush with Northern jingoes, they knew what war meant.¹⁹ But whatever also might result from the war, the South felt it would receive greater consideration from the Federal Government than it had received in days past. They had demonstrated their loyalty to the Union, to their entire satisfaction by meeting the demands made upon them, so far, in materials and volunteers, and by spurning the assistance of a Spanish dignitary who threatened to send emissaries into the South and stir up an insurrection against the government.²⁰ Had it not been for the North accusing the South of seeking an opportunity to rebel, the Spanish would never have gotten the idea they could incite a revolt in the Southern states. Now they could see that the South was as devoted as any other section to the Stars and Stripes, and was as essentially as any other section a part and parcel of the great federation of States.

Such apparent disinterest and opposition perhaps is misleading, for even though many Virginians did not feel the war necessary, they, in company with other Southern states, stood loyally by the government and exhibited great patriotism when it occurred. The patriotic fervor which the situation kindled in the breasts of all loyal Americans, to a large extent blotted out for the time sectional lines and partisanship. Many agreed that the country was just now reaping the full benefits of the War between the States, some thirty odd years before.

19. The Times, April 18, 1898.

20. Ibid., June 21, 1898.

There had never been a time when there was less sectional prejudice; when the people were so harmoniously united; when liberty was more precious; when men were more completely in enjoyment of liberty; when all our institutions were quite so strong. Nothing could more effectively obliterate the last vestige of sectionalism engendered by the Civil War than a conflict with some foreign power in which the men of the North and South faced a common enemy. Virginia also remarked the growth in patriotism throughout the State as evidenced by a sudden show of popularity of the Stars and Stripes. Since the Civil War, persons were reticent to display the flag even though loyal to the government. But with the beginning of hostilities, a new era began. There were as many displayed in Southern towns as in the North. Demonstrations of great welcome to Northern troops as they moved into Southern cities was another indication of the change that had taken place. When Pennsylvania troops arrived in Newport News it was the first time Pennsylvania troopers had been greeted with cheers in the land of Dixie. The Mason and Dixon line no longer separated the two sections of the Union; the North and the South were welded together.

Despite the bad effects war would have upon the State, there were those who foresaw definite benefits. People were advised through the papers to invest in good Virginia farming land or desirable property in the city of Richmond.

21. Ibid., July 24, 1898.

22. The Petersburg Index- Appeal, April 26, 1898

23. The Times, May 7, 1898.

24. Ibid., May 12, 1898.

Land could not get away from them, war or no war, and probably after the war there would be a real estate boom. The farmer was advised to raise everything at home so that he would be independent and the war could not touch him. It was suggested that he convert lands intended for cotton into corn, oats, peanuts, and other foodstuffs. Many predicted a rise in prices, and if such were the case, the farmer would be rich. Merchants and traffic lines in Richmond also expected to take in a great deal of money when the troops gathered in the city. Supplies, provisions, and transportation for so many people would net many thousands of dollars weekly. Even a heavy migration from the North was predicted by Fred O. Whitworth of Lynn, Massachusetts to the Charleston News Courier--

If we have a war and a few hundred thousand volunteers come down South and see what a country you have here it will be followed by the biggest tide of immigration ever. They will go home, sell their high-priced, worn-out farms and buy your cheap farms by the thousands. They have never heard of good farming territory worth five or ten dollars an acre. Furthermore capital will come here to develop your industries and you will be the gainers in the long run. So if I were a Southern man with interests to develop I would say, let the war go on. 25

CHAPTER II

MILITARY VOLUNTEERS

On April 25, 1898, an act was passed by the United States Congress declaring that a state of war existed between Spain and the United States, and had existed between the two governments since April 21, 1898. On the same day the Secretary of War, General R. A. Alger wired the Governor of Virginia that the number of troops required from the State, under the call, would be three regiments of infantry, and that it was the wish of the President that the regiments of National Guard or State Militia be used so far as their numbers would permit as they were armed, equipped, and drilled.¹ This was Virginia's quota of the 125,000 men called for as volunteers for the armed service. Weeks prior to this time, Governor Tyler had received numerous requests from gentlemen all over the State asking permission to organize various military units and telegrams from ex-Confederate soldiers placing themselves at the Governor's disposal. It was understood that those who enlisted in the militia would be given preference, and those of the Virginia volunteers who did not volunteer in this instance would be drafted at once and placed in companies promiscuously should another call for troops be

1. Cutchins, A Famous Command, The Richmond Light Infantry Blues, p. 42

made in the State.

Under this first call the Governor designated the Second Virginia Regiment, composed of the following companies as one unit:

Company A (Woodstock) Captain John W. Magruder
 Company B (Richmond) Captain Russell
 Company C (Harrisonburg) Captain E. W. Sullivan
 Company D (Tom's Brook) Captain John E. Fleming
 Company E (Lynchburg) Captain Robert E. Craighill
 Company F (Roanoke) Captain Robert F. Taylor
 Company G (Roanoke) Captain Ballard F. Hatcher
 Company H (Salem) Captain Wingfield Griffin
 Company I (Richmond) Captain George F. Shackelford
 Company K (Staunton) Captain Richard S. Ker
 Company L (Portsmouth) Captain Owens
 Company M (Formerly the Richmond Greys) Captain C. Gray Bossieux

Colonel James C. Baker, commanding

The Third Virginia Regiment, composed of the following companies:

Company A (Danville)
 Company B (Culpeper)
 Company C (Farmville)
 Company D (Charlottesville)
 Company E (Lynchburg) Captain Frank C. Scruggs
 Company F (Alexandria)
 Company G (Petersburg) Captain J. A. Nichols
 Company H (Danville)
 Company I (Fairfax) Captain Joseph E. Willard
 Company K (Fredericksburg) Captain M. B. Rowe
 Company L (Lynchburg) Captain Richard L. Miller
 Company M (Richmond) Captain Morgan R. Mills

Colonel Grenville Gaines, commanding, later replaced by
 Colonel William Nalle

The Fourth Virginia Regiment composed of the following companies:

Company A (Norfolk) Captain Henry H. Sheen
 Company B (Norfolk) Captain Marshall Terrell
 Company C (Newport News)
 Company D (Hampton) Captain George W. Hope
 Company E (Norfolk) Captain Thomas J. Nottingham
 Company F (Suffolk)
 Company G (Suffolk) Captain Philip S. Wilson
 Company H (Richmond) Captain Clarence Wyatt
 Company I (Richmond) Captain Mayo, replaced by George B. Pegram
 Company K (Petersburg) Captain Montgomery C. Jackson
 Company L (Portsmouth) Captain Brooks
 Company M (To be designated)

Colonel Harry Hodges, commanding later replaced by Colonel George Taylor ²

The volunteer companies mentioned above, composing the three regiments, as designated, were detached from the First Brigade, and were formed into a provisional brigade. Brigadier-General William Nalle, Adjutant General of Virginia was assigned to the command of the Provisional Brigade until appointment of a permanent commander could be made. These regiments, of twelve companies each, were to be recruited up to the required strength of eighty-four non-commissioned officers and privates by the commanding officers and all were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to move at once upon receipt of orders. ³

The commanding officers of each regiment were to be commissioned officers. The two colonels in Virginia who first volunteered their services were Colonel James C. B. Baker of the Second Regiment, whose headquarters was at Woodstock, and Colonel Grenville Gaines of the Third Regiment with headquarters at Culpeper. Their regiments were to be recruited to the

2. MacClenny, United Spanish War Veterans, p. 63
 3. The Richmond Times, April 23, 1898.

required strength, and any companies from other sections of the State would be attached to either of these two regiments.⁴ In Richmond, Company A and Company B of the Blues' Battallion became Company H and Company I respectively of the Fourth Regiment, under the command of their old officers.⁵ The new companies known as the Fitz Lee Rifles, one organized by J. E. Willard of Fairfax, and the other by R. L. Miller of Lynchburg,⁶ were also added to these regiments. The Virginians who would fight were those who had volunteered under General order Number 8 to go anywhere outside the United States when called upon. Those companies who declined to volunteer would not be called out. (The oath taken by the volunteers when they first joined the militia did not bind them in this case, and they had therefore to make the additional declaration required by General Order Number 8.)⁷ The volunteers enlisted for two years, or until the termination of hostilities if it should be less than two years, and any company volunteering as a body for service would be mustered in with its own officers.

The secretary of War selected Washington, Richmond, and Atlanta as the three points at which soldiers would be formed into brigades and divisions. Richmond was to be the rendezvous of Virginia troops,

4. Ibid.

5. Cutchins, A Famous Command, The Richmond Light Infantry Blues p. 43.

6. The Richmond Times, April 27, 1898.

7. Ibid., April 23, 1898.

and the old State Fair Grounds, or what was called Camp Lee during the Civil War, (about where the Broad Street Station is now located), was the site selected and used.⁸ Due to poor drainage, locations for a new camp were inspected late in May, and Forest Hill was chosen as a new site for the troops if they remained in the city.⁹ Virginia had made no provision for assembling troops prior to mustering them into the regular army and there were no appropriations for such spending in the State treasury. Many volunteers were anxious to be mustered in as they had given up their businesses. Others had gone far from home to enlist and were idle and paying their own expenses. Finally it was announced the Federal Government would bear expenses of transporting the troops to Richmond, but there was further delay in ordering them into camp because the government had not provided tents and blankets for their use.¹⁰

First Lieutenant David Price, First Artillery, United States Army, who was stationed at V.M.I. in Lexington, was ordered to Richmond to perform the duties of Quartermaster, Commissary Officer, etc. Major George W. Adair, Surgeon, United States Army, was designated as Chief¹¹ Medical Examiner for Virginia troops, Dr. C. V. Carrington, Richmond.

8. MacClenny, United Spanish War Veterans, p. 25

9. The Evening Leader, May 30, 1898.

10. The Richmond Times, April 27, 1898.

11. MacClenny, United Spanish War Veterans, p. 26

Dr. W. S. Sayer, Norfolk, and Major G. W. Adair, United States Army were recommended by Governor Tyler to the War Department for appointment as members of the board to examine candidates for surgeons in the United States Army, and on May 5 the following Virginia doctors were mustered into the service: C. E. Peyton of Pulaski; Simmons of Roanoke; Dr. Smith, from Alexandria; Anderson of Farmville; Caldwell of Wytheville, from the Second Regiment; and Camm of Lynchburg, from the Third Regiment.¹²

The State military authorities began to prepare to move the troops to Richmond, and on Saturday, May 7, 1898, Company A, Fourth Virginia Regiment, Norfolk, (Captain H. H. Sheen) arrived and was quartered in the large auditorium that stood on the sixty-acre tract of Camp Lee. On May 9, the following companies arrived: Company E. Third Regiment, Lynchburg, Captain F. C. Scruggs; Company E. Second Regiment, Lynchburg, Captain R. E. Craighill; Company L. Third Regiment, Lynchburg, Captain R. L. Miller. On May 10, the following companies arrived; Company F, Second Regiment, Roanoke, Captain R. F. Taylor; Company G. Second Regiment, Roanoke, Captain B. P. Hatcher; Company H. Second Regiment, Captain W. Griffin, Salem. On May 11 the following companies arrived; Company K, Second Regiment, Captain R. S. Kerr, Staunton; Company K. Fourth Regiment, Captain M. C. Jackson, Petersburg, Virginia.

12. The Richmond Times, April 30, 1898.

Companies continued to arrive at Camp Lee until May 25 when Company H, Fourth Virginia Regiment, Captain C. Wyatt, Richmond, Virginia and Company M, Fourth Regiment, Captain G. B. Pegram, marched into the camp grounds.

Many of the companies remained in the auditorium until they were examined, while others were provided with tents and moved out into the camp grounds. By May 25 all the men had been examined. The Second Regiment was mustered in May 21, 1898, the Fourth Regiment on May 25, and the Third Regiment on May 26.

The troops were poorly provided for. There was a lack of cooking utensils and at one time, when the contract for feeding the men had expired, (six days feeding was all that was authorized), those in charge didn't know how they would provide meals in the future. Many remember Brown's Hotel in the camp grounds where an improvised restaurant was set up and the men were fed for several days, after they left off eating down
13
town.

On May 25, the President called for 75,000 more men for the war. The three regiments that had been mustered into the United States service remained in Camp Lee until June 2, when the Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel J. C. Baker, was ordered to proceed to Jacksonville, Florida, arriving there on June 3 where it was assigned to the Seventh Army Corps, commanded by Major-General Fitzhugh Lee, and at that time encamped at Camp Cuba Libre.

On June 5, under orders to break camp, the Third Virginia Regiment entrained for Camp Alger, near Dun-Loring or Falls Church, Virginia, and the Fourth Regiment entrained at Broad Street Station at noon for Jacksonville, Florida, the Third Regiment being commanded by Colonel William Nalle and the Fourth Regiment being commanded by Colonel George W. Taylor. The Third Regiment reached Camp Alger, near Dun-Loring, Virginia, on the afternoon of the same day on which it left Camp Lee and was assigned to the Second Army Corps. The Fourth Regiment reached Camp Cuba Libre, on June 7, and was assigned as the Second Regiment had¹⁴ been, to the Seventh Army Corps. The Second and Fourth Virginia Regiments with the 49th Iowa Regiment constituted the Third Brigade of the Second Division of the Seventh Army Corps. The Fourth Regiment, on October 13 was transferred to the Second Brigade, Second Division of the Seventh Army Corps which was composed of the 49th Iowa Volunteer Infantry and the 6th Missouri Volunteer Infantry under Brigadier-General Henry C. Hasbrouck.¹⁵ The Third Virginia Regiment with the First Connecticut Regiment¹⁶ formed the Second Brigade of the Third Division of the Second Army Corps.

The second call for volunteers from Virginia on May 25, 1898, was met by mustering into the United States service two batallions of colored troops under the command of First Lieutenant Richard C. Croxton, First

14. Ibid., P. 28.

15. Ibid.

16. Ibid.

United States Infantry, whom Governor Tyler had requested be granted leave of absence to accept the appointment as Lieutenant-Colonel of Virginia Militia, which was granted on July 12.

These companies were as follows and were mustered in on the given dates:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Company A | Richmond, Capt. W. A. Hankins, July 9, 1898 |
| Company B | Richmond, Capt. Charles B. Nicholas, July 11, 1898 |
| Company C | Richmond, Capt. Benjamin A. Groves, July 15, 1898 |
| Company D | Norfolk, Capt. Ed. W. Gould, August 4, 1898 |
| Company E | Petersburg, Capt. James E. Hill, July 19, 1898 |
| Company F | Petersburg, Capt. Pleasant Webb, July 23, 1898 |
| Company G | Petersburg, Capt. John A. C. Stevens, July 30, 1898 |
| Company H | Norfolk, Capt. Peter Shepherd, Jr., August 9, 1898 |

This battalion was known as the Sixth Virginia United States Volunteer Infantry. The companies were ordered from their home towns, after being mustered in at Richmond, Norfolk, and Petersburg, and encamped at what was called Camp Gorbin, which was located on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway about ten miles southeast of Richmond. They remained there until September 12, 1898, when the battalion was moved to Camp Poland at Knoxville, Tennessee, and became a part of the Third Division of the First Army Corps.

The Negroes in Virginia were slow to volunteer, and there was strong feeling among them as to who their regimental leaders would be. Since there were to be separate colored brigades, they wanted their own officers. They felt that if they were to be subjected to the insult of separation, they preferred being officered by men of their own selection. Many adopted the slogan, "No officer, no fight."

The Times was vitriolic in an editorial in regard to the Negroes. It warned that this was a white man's country and the black men would do well to recognize this and stop pressing so-called claims which only convinced the whites that he was impractical and malapropos. The Harrisonburg Spirit of the Valley reprimanded the Times for being incensed with the attitude of the Negro troops and the Times then modulated its remarks. "It had the interests of the Negro at heart, it stated, "but the thing that prejudiced many against him was his mingling in politics and seeking office, and it believed Negroes, as leaders, would make for poor efficiency and impair morale. As mentioned before, the Governor appointed Lieutenant Croxton as regimental commander and those positions in the regiment which still remained unfilled were allowed to remain so until the troops were mustered into the Federal Service. In this manner the Governor successfully avoided decision in a situation which had caused so much discussion in the State.

The Peace Protocol was signed on August 12, 1898, and active hostilities were ended. The War Department determined to muster out of the United States service 100,000 men, and among the many regiments designated for release were the Second and Third Virginia Regiments, the Second being at Jacksonville, Florida where orders for its deactivation were received, and the Third Regiment at Camp Alger, Virginia. The latter camp had been ordered discontinued. Many of the regiments were ordered to Camp Meade, Middletown, Pennsylvania, and the remainder, including the

18. The Richmond Times, June 18, 1898.

Third Virginia Regiment, were ordered to their respective State rendezvous preparatory to being mustered out of the service.¹⁹

The Third Virginia Regiment left Camp Alger on the 8th of September, 1898, and arrived at Richmond, Virginia on the evening of the same day. On the following day the tentage, arms, and equipment, belonging to the regiment were stored there, and in accordance with orders, the entire regiment was furloughed for thirty days. At the expiration of that time it was reassembled at Richmond, Virginia, and assigned to quarters in the old Exchange and Ballard Hotels until November 5, 1898. When all muster out rolls and other necessary papers were prepared, the regiment was finally mustered out with forty-six officers and 1,222 men. The payment of the men took three days, November 5, 6, 7, 1898.²⁰

The Second Virginia Regiment which was ordered to be mustered out at the home stations of the companies of which it was composed, left its camp at Pablo Beach, Florida, (sixteen miles east of Jacksonville to which it had gone after orders for its muster out had been received) on September 19, 1898. Traveling in four sections, it reached Richmond on the evening of September 20, and the morning of September 21. The fourth section on the route did not reach Richmond until September 21. All property was then stored in Richmond, and on the 23rd the regiment was furloughed for thirty days. At the

19. MacClenny, United Spanish War Veterans, p. 29

20. Adjutant General's Office, Correspondence Relating To The War With Spain, p. 621, Vol. I, p. 621.

expiration of the thirty days the companies were assembled at their several home stations where they were finally mustered out December 13,²¹ to December 20 with forty-six officers and 1,146 enlisted men.

The Fourth Regiment remained at Jacksonville Florida until October 25, 1898, when it was moved with the Seventh Army Corps to Savannah, Georgia (Camp Onward), where it remained until December 15. At that time, with the remainder of the Seventh Army Corps, it was sent to the Province of Havana, in Cuba (Camp Columbia) where it stayed from December 21, 1898, to March 25, 1899. It was then transferred to Savannah, Georgia where it remained from March 28, 1899, until April 27, 1899, when it was mustered out of the United States service with forty-six officers and 1077²² enlisted men. This regiment was not furloughed prior to being mustered out as the second and Third Regiments had been, but instead of furloughs, the officers and men were paid at muster-out for two month's additional service.

The Sixth Virginia Regiment remained at Camp Poland, Knoxville, Tennessee, until November 18, 1898, when it was sent to Macon, Georgia, where it remained until mustered out of the United States service on²³ January 26, 1899 with twenty-eight officers and 804 enlisted men. After they had been mustered out, many men from the Second Virginia Regiment, as many of the men had been discharged on account of fever and ill-health and other causes; therefore, many men from Virginia saw

21. Ibid.

22. Ibid.

23. Ibid., Vol. I, p. 517

service in both regiments.

The total number of officers and enlisted men who served in the four Virginia regiments during all, or a portion of the time those regiments were in the United States service, is 198 officers and 5,128 enlisted men. This does not, however, include Virginians who went into the regular Army at the time, nor those who entered the Navy and Marine Corps, as Virginia was in a position where many of her men entered all three of the above branches of the service; nor does it include the names of many men who served with the Fourth United States Immune Infantry Volunteers, a regiment attached to the ²⁴ Seventh Army Corps that had many Virginians on its roster.

The condition of the regiments with respect to arms and equipment was pitiful and disgraceful. About half of the men were without either arms or equipment and many of them without suitable clothing and shoes, having been told not to bring a change from home. The men at Camp Lee, discouraged and disheartened, were ashamed to see friends and relatives who came to visit them and there was hardly a company among them ²⁵ equipped for marching. The War Department, busy with the routine handling of its small Regular force, was totally unable to meet the requirements of a quickly expanded army of men. Many companies wore their ²⁶ own uniforms until furnished later with the regulation khaki.

-
24. MacClenny, United Spanish War Veterans, p. 30
 25. The Richmond Times, June 1, 1898.
 26. Cutchins, A Famous Command, The Richmond Light Infantry Blues, p. 45.

The drilling and training in Florida in midsummer was of the most gruelling kind. The supplies furnished by food speculators were so inferior, if not actually dangerous, as to constitute a national scandal. Overcrowding in tents, with insufficient sanitary and medical arrangements brought on epidemics of typhoid fever which took deadly toll of the troops in every camp and was particularly prevalent in the Southern camps. ²⁷

The total losses of the four Virginia regiments were two officers and sixty-eight enlisted men. Two of the enlisted men committed suicide while on furlough, two were killed by civilians, and sixty-four died of disease, mostly typhoid and other semi-tropical fevers brought on and aggravated by unsanitary conditions.

Despite those conditions, it is necessary to say that volunteers in these units, contrary to public opinion, represented men who were socially prominent as well as the poor who were thought to bear the whole burden of fighting for their country. ²⁸

27. Ibid.

28. MacClenny, United Spanish War Veterans, p. 31

NAVAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Service of the Virginia Naval Reserves

Under orders from the Navy Department, the United States Auxiliary Naval Force in Virginia was examined and the following were selected to serve in the United States Navy during the war with Spain. The following officers were appointed:

Lieutenant-Commander William H. Willard, who ranked as Lieutenant in the United States Navy.

Lieutenant Charles J. Calrow, who ranked as Ensign in the United States Navy.

The following men, all Quartermasters, were enlisted in the United States Navy and assigned to the Coast Signal Service.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| Walter P. Cake | _____ | Nicholson |
| Charles E. Cullipher | _____ | Griffith |
| Andrew J. Buckwalter | _____ | Fitchett |
| William S. Hubbard | _____ | Smith |
| John D. Mc Farlane | _____ | Pannill |
| John A. Scott | | |

A total of thirteen officers and men:

The following men were enlisted as seamen and assigned to various vessels of the auxiliary fleet.

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| John A. Hawke | Wesley James |
| John A. Farron | Clifton Holloway |
| Allen W. Heffley | Richard Ellis |
| Edward Shusted | William C. Tatem |
| Leonard Seay | Charles E. Haislip |

James Paulson
 Charles E. Powers
 John G. Carlson
 William D. Flora
 Charles Meister
 John T. Evans
 Nathaniel Holmer
 Andrew Miller
 Karl Amtser
 Edgar R. Joyner
 W. Searl Holland
 Myron E. Bristow
 Percy A. Robinson
 John H. Staub
 Ernest S. Payne
 Guy C. Jeffers
 James E. Bruce
 William D. Lannigan
 John Docker
 Walter C. St. Clair
 Philip McEntree

Benjamin F. Topping
 Victor E. Lyons
 John Hampton
 Thomas K. Farley
 William K. Terry
 Thomas J. Wilson
 Robert J. O'Connor
 George Pritchard
 John Whitcomb
 William Warren
 Thomas Purcell
 Charles A. Simpson
 Joseph Arbe
 Joseph T. Addison
 James Mulholland
 George W. Dawley
 John R. McDowell
 Laban M. Ashmead
 Edward Duncan
 Joseph H. McGreal

The men taken from the Virginia Naval Battalion did not serve together during the war with Spain. They were mustered out at various times during the close of the year 1898. Many of them re-enlisted in the State service where their experience gained in the United States Navy rendered them exceedingly valuable.

CHAPTER III

FORTIFICATIONS

All was life and movement in Virginia's coastal towns as war clouds darkened the horizon and a clash with the Spanish seemed imminent. People living in Norfolk and the Hampton Roads area were keenly aware of the importance of their strategic position. The eyes of the world rested upon Old Point Comfort and Fort Monroe, the "watchdog of the Chesapeake Bay." While ships of all descriptions slowly converged upon the Newport News Shipyard for repairs or conversion in anticipation of great activity in Cuban waters, Commodore Schley and his famous "Flying Squadron" rendezvoused at the Roads and maneuvered in Bay waters awaiting orders to proceed south. Many felt they had but to lift some smiling mask and see the face of war beneath it.

Citizens of Norfolk considered themselves in considerable danger should war come because Fort Monroe would be of little protection. Her present gun equipment could not prevent Spanish torpedo boats from making their way there on a dark night, for there were no rapid firing guns at the Fort, and even her large guns and mortar battery couldn't stop torpedo boats. To the eye, this massive old stone work seemed impregnable, but as small a gun as an eight-inch rifle could lay it in

ruins very quickly; however, silent preparations wer being carried on at the Fort to make it a veritable Gibraltar.¹

Two new batteries of light artillery, completely equipped, were quickly added to make it a seven battery post and new recruits were being received daily. At various times the batteries could be seen parading through Hampton, exercising the horses and men, the guns and caissons being drawn by the horses.² A new 35,000 candle power search light was sent from Sandy Hook and mounted on the ramparts of the Fort. When it was turned on even the smallest vessels could be seen a long distance from shore. Many thousands of pounds of powder had been placed inside the grass-covered fortification and many thousands of pounds of high explosives had been received and were undergoing the tests required by law.³ A new installation known as the "Pines Battery" was placed some distance up the beach from the Fort, overlooking the Bay to better advantage than Fort Monroe, proper.⁴ A masked battery of twenty-four mortars, well-stocked with ammunition, constituted this defense point.⁵ Four large guns, mounted on disappearing carriages, were installed behind parapets of sand and concrete on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay midway between the Fort and the Pines Battery.⁶ These

-
1. The Richmond Times, May 17, 1898.
 2. Ibid., April 6, 1898.
 3. Ibid.,
 4. Ibid.
 5. The Evening Leader, March 4, 1898.
 6. Ibid.

guns and crews went through practice exercises daily. Early in April cables and electric apparatus for the mooring and operation of controlled mines in Hampton Roads were laid. Later in the month squares were laid off for an extensive system of mines in the harbor between Cape Charles and Cape Henry, and by the time the war was declared, 150 of them had been placed in position in Norfolk harbor and about the Capes.⁷ From the two mining casements at the Fort, cables ran out to the expanse of water between the horseshoe and the Fort, and other cables extended across to submarine mines, which were of themselves almost sufficient protection to the Fort.⁸ Work at the Capes was conducted with utmost secrecy and none except those actually engaged in the work and a few officers of the rank of captain and above were permitted to learn anything. No vessels thereafter were allowed to pass Fort Monroe between sunset and sunrise or to approach the Fort nearer than three miles. By the last of July, 1898, the Fort was closed to visitors and no one could enter without a pass. No one knew what went on inside, but it was known that an engineering force was kept at work early and late.⁹

Late in May, at the suggestion of the Naval War College, a signal tower was to be constructed at Cape Henry for the purpose of notifying Fort Monroe of the arrival of vessels an hour in advance. The site selected was upon a bluff thirty feet high, about a mile inside the

7. The Richmond Times, April 23, 1898.

8. Ibid., April 20, 1898.

9. Ibid., July 31, 1898.

Capes facing the Chesapeake Bay and a quarter of a mile from the life-saving station at Cape Henry. Twenty miles in the distance, Old Point Comfort and Fort Monroe, although they would not be visible from the ground because of the intervening trees, could be seen clearly from the signal tower. The tower was to be manned by the Norfolk Naval Reserves and the station was connected with Fort Monroe and the Norfolk Navy Yard by telegraph. The reserves got their orders from Lieutenant W. H. Willard of the Naval Reserves, who from the navy yard directed the signalling from all the stations along the immediate coast. The station had a powerful telescope with which the signal corps could spy upon passing ships, and a telephone line was being run to connect it with the line running from Virginia Beach to Norfolk. There were about fifty flags at the station and a number of colored and white lamps. The main duty of the corps was to report to the navy yard the signals shown by passing ships and their report was then sent to Fort Monroe and to the commander of the warships at Old Point. From the station, signals would be exchanged with every passing ship, and when the tower was completed, with Fort Monroe. It would be the duty of the corps to report every ship passing up the Chesapeake Bay to Brigadier-General Frank, commandant of Fort Monroe. Lieutenant Willard at the navy yard and the commander of the fleet in Hampton Roads would be advised fully an hour in advance of the arrival at Fort Monroe of any vessel, and could

prepare a warm welcome if it should be the enemy.

At Buckroe Beach, (a piece of thickly-wooded ground about one and one-half miles north of the Fort), a large number of men were engaged in planting heavy mortars and disappearing guns. Completed, this was expected to be one of the most powerful fortresses along the Atlantic Coast, and those who were to operate the guns were confident that no Spanish fleet could get beyond their range of fire, which was effective at ten miles.¹¹ The old-fashioned guns on the parapet were being rapidly replaced with eight-inch converted rifles and rapid-fire guns were being mounted where it was felt they could perform well if it should be necessary to do so. It was believed the latter would be a certain protection against the swift and dangerous torpedo boats. The new guns would be mounted on the upper rampart, facing both Hampton Roads and the Chesapeake Bay.

Another defense, proposed by the Government, but one that did not actually materialize, was a battery of artillery to be located at Point Breeze, at the mouth of the James River. After considering the fortification at the Capes and Fort Monroe, the War Department decided, as a precautionary measure, more protection should be afforded the ship yard where three battleships, the Kentucky, the Kearsarge, and the Illinois were in the course of construction to say nothing of the work

10. Ibid., May 29, 1898.

11. Ibid., April 20, 1898.

that would be done in event of hostilities. The number of artillery companies that were to be stationed at Point Breeze was not known, but it was understood that there would be a strong battery of artillery equipped with both heavy and light guns. This fortification was to prevent the destruction of the shipyards by smaller craft. The big guns at Fort Monroe and the mines that were being planted would take care of the large vessels and the smaller ones too for that matter; but should a torpedo boat succeed in sneaking inside the Roads during a dense fog, it could be intercepted at Point Breeze. Guns planted there could sweep the river from shore to shore, thus preventing vessels from moving up the river. Besides affording protection to Newport News, the fortification would guard Richmond and landings along the river.¹² When the Government decided to abandon this plan for the defense of Newport News, Brigadier-General Royal T. Frank, commandant of Fort Monroe said that two batteries of field artillery would be stationed in the city for protection of government interests. The camp was to be known as Camp Warburton and its batteries were to consist of sixteen guns manned by about 250 volunteers from Pittsburg. The men were to bring their horses with them and would go into camp just above the shipyard. Two of the guns would be mounted in the shipyard, one on the northern-most pier and one on the extreme southern

12. Ibid., April 21, 1898.

pier. It was the duty of these men to guard the shipyard and the
government work under course of construction.¹³

Because of increase in the volume of munitions being received and distributed to these coastal fortifications, the new government magazine at St. Julian's Creek, near Norfolk, was enlarged to handle it.¹⁴
A large force worked overtime loading projectiles. One load of supplies consigned to St. Julian's Creek Magazine, delivered on special train from Washington, D. C., consisted of thirteen rapid-fire rifles, three Gatling guns, six torpedo tubes, and 6,500 pounds of steel-tipped,
deck-piercing, projectiles.¹⁵ A marine guard was constantly on duty at the magazine, and after an attempt was made to blow it up, the guard was doubled as a precaution against further sabotage.

-
13. Ibid., May 6, 1898.
14. Ibid., May 11, 1898.
15. Ibid., April 4, 1898.

CHAPTER IV

INSTALLATIONS

As a part of the preparations for the Spanish-American War there were six military installations in Virginia which were actively engaged in training troops and caring for the sick and wounded. They were; Camp Lee in Richmond; Camp Corbin, ten miles southeast of Richmond; Camp Alger, near Falls Church, Virginia; Camp Bristow, at Beverly Mills near Bristow, Virginia; Point Sheridan, and Fort Myer, near Washington, D. C. All of these installations were improperly prepared for the activities necessary for the preparation of the war effort. A clear picture of the inadequacies of supplies and the deficiencies in food that prevailed can best be seen in Red Cross Relief reports compiled after special committees investigated conditions in the various camps.

A committee investigating conditions at Camp Alger found experienced nurses were badly needed. Patients were not receiving the necessary care and attention, and the surgeons at the hospitals seemed to be timid

1. American National Red Cross Relief Committee Reports,
May 1898, March 1899, p. 43.

about asking the government for supplies. They felt it much easier to ask the Red Cross for supplies as they could be obtained sooner than by asking the government and becoming involved in so much red tape. When the kitchens at Camp Alger were inspected the food did not appear to be of the right kind and was not properly cooked. The Surgeon-in-chief seemed to think that the soldiers who were taken sick should be treated in such a manner as would inure them to the hardships of camp and the life of a soldier. When spoken to on the subject he said, "These men must understand that war is not play."²

The numbers in the hospitals were large and increasing. Point Sheridan, Virginia was visited on July 29 and sixteen men were found sick. They seemed to be suffering from lack of supplies especially. Medicine which had been ordered on June 27 had not been received. Articles needed were supplied from Red Cross headquarters in Washington, and large shipments were also sent direct from New York to various³ points.

The secretary of War gave authority for the establishment of diet kitchens in the camps near Washington. One was set up at Camp Bristow and also one at Fort Myer. At Fort Myer nearly 400 patients were suffering with typhoid and no provision existed for preparing special diets for such cases.

2. Ibid., p. 205.

3. Ibid.

Canned soup was heated and served to those just leaving a strictly milk diet, and the so-called chicken broth which was served, was very unsatisfactory. Since there was no building furnished at Fort Myer, the Red Cross Committee made a contract for one of a temporary character which was put up at a cost of \$350 complete with range and plumbing. In not more than ten days from the time of its commencement the building was completed, furnished, and the orders were being filled from foods prepared daily in the manner best calculated to bring out the nutritive value of the food.⁴ These kitchens were of great assistance not only in furnishing properly cooked food, but invaluable as an object lesson in neatness and skilled cooking.

During the month of September 550 orders, averaging 15 portions each, or 8,250 patients, were filled. This aid was of inestimable value, not only in saving lives, but in hastening the recovery of all.⁵

When hostilities first began, it was expected that the hotels at Old Point Comfort would be converted into hospitals for the wounded, and in July it seemed almost a certainty. It was rumored that the owner of the Hygia Hotel at the Point had been notified by the War Department that his building would be required for use as a hospital to care for wounded soldiers who were to be brought there, and that the

4. Ibid., p. 206

5. Ibid.

Chamberlin Hotel was expected to be called later. These buildings, being on government land, were subject to such action, for the government, under the reservation in the permit to build, could do pretty much what it liked with the buildings when necessity arose.⁶

It was later discovered there was no foundation to the report about the Hygia, but arrangements were being made at Fort Monroe to accomodate large numbers of wounded there. A temporary hospital constructed partly of wood and partly of canvas, capable of housing 500 men, was erected on the government reservation. Chosen because of availability, climate, and accessibility from the sea, the wounded were to be sent to Fort Monroe directly according to a dispatch received from General Shafter.⁷ When these accomodations were filled, government hospitals were erected at Phoebus to care for the surplus.⁸

The men were in need of many comforts when they arrived at the hospital. A special committee of the Red Cross was sent to Fort Monroe to meet the first wounded who came from the battlefields of El Caney, San Juan, and Guasimas. The Surgeon-in-charge, Dr. DeWitt, stated their immediate needs and supplies were sent one day after they were called for, consisting in part of 500 pairs pajamas, 25 pairs crutches, 200 pairs slippers, 350 yards of rubber sheeting, large quantities of antiseptic dressings, five dozen gallons of whiskey and brandy, 200 cans of soup, granite ware, basins,

6. The Richmond Times, July 7, 1898.

7. Ibid., July 8, 1898.

8. Ibid., August 14, 1898.

pitchers, dishes, and many other useful items.

It was said the Red Cross Society agents at the Point had bought about all the pajamas available in the cities of that area for the soldiers. Some 500 were bought from Max Marcus in Hampton, and 100 were bought from S. Hirsh and Son of Norfolk. It was amusing to see the men on the streets clad in boots and pajamas. The Point seemed to be peopled by pink and blue-clad sonambolists. (The officers wore polka-dot pattern.)¹⁰

One had only to visit Fort Monroe if he wished to see direct results of the war in its worst form. By July 24, more than 450 sick and wounded had arrived at Newport News, and their condition was deplorable. The fever patients were starving for milk. 104 typhoid and malarial cases, mostly Chickamauga troops, arrived on the hospital ship Lampassas, and the nurses aboard said they had had nothing but eggs, condensed milk and oatmeal porridge during the voyage. Ice gave out while the ship was still at sea and the men were forced to drink condensed sea water. They were bunking in accommodations that had been previously used for mules and horses, and many died from the privations and improper diet.¹¹

There was a great fear of yellow fever breaking out at the Point. When ships arrived with wounded aboard, all the sick and wounded were carefully examined and suspicious cases were not allowed ashore. This fear led

9. American National Red Cross Relief Committee Report
May 1898, March 1899, p. 207.
10. The Richmond Times, July 20, 1898.
11. Ibid., July 24, 1898.

the Governor to protest the landing of any more men at Old Point Comfort, for should yellow fever break out there it would probably put a stop to the work at the Newport News Shipyard and otherwise do injury to trade and commerce. The Governor's request was given due consideration and later arrivals were sent directly to facilities in New York.

The Red Cross increased the Hospital Corps at the Fort by the addition of more trained nurses and surgeons. Acting-Assistant Surgeons S. Melville Waterhouse, John S. Fogg, and A. W. Williams,¹² were ordered to Fort Monroe from Fort Myer.

Many local citizens volunteered time and money to help care for the sick and wounded. The women in the vicinity of Fort Monroe took up the work of supplying the soldiers with luxuries while the ladies of Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk and Richmond, donated many useful articles.

Stenographers were engaged to write letters for those who were not able to do their own, and C. W. Freeland, Chaplain of the Fort, undertook the work of classifying and arranging names, and handling the large volume of mail for the soldiers as soon as they were placed¹³ in the hospital.

The arrival of the wounded brought many visitors to

12. Ibid., 12, 1898.
13. Ibid., July 24, 1898.

Old Point Comfort, and not since the days of the Confederacy had so many troops been in Newport News as were camped at that time about the shipyard awaiting orders to proceed to Cuba. The town was crowded with families who had come to see their men off for Cuba and to visit the sick. In the Roads were vessels of all sorts; sightseeing boats for the benefit of sightseers, pleasure yachts, fishing smacks, and transports with wounded and sick aboard, which when discharged, would be replaced by troops enroute to Cuba. The wounded walked up and down the reservation in their pajamas smoking cigars, answering questions, and talking to friends. In the evenings there were concerts and when the band began the Star Spangled Banner, no one cheered louder than those who had driven the Spanish out of the trenches at Santiago.¹⁴ What with people so intent upon the victories of the present, Sigsbee, Captain of the Maine walked among the crowds, now a forgotten man.

14. Ibid., July 31, 1898.

CHAPTER V

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Prior to actual hostilities, both the Norfolk Navy Yard and the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company had felt the result of the growing spirit for war. This was evidenced not only by an increase in the number of workers and the total salaries paid, but also by the fact that on March 18 Newport News contracted to build, with private funds, the largest dry dock in the country, perhaps in the world, which would accommodate the largest battleships. Of latest design, its total length was to be 1150', width at bottom 80', and the width at the top 105'.¹ Early in April, the Senate Naval Affairs Committee reported favorably on granting \$160,000 for lengthening the stone dry-dock at the Norfolk Navy Yard enabling it to take vessels of the cruiser class.² In addition to the lengthening of the dry dock, the work of erecting a torpedo plant was begun at the Norfolk Navy Yard and was rushed to an early completion. The purpose of the torpedo plant was to provide torpedoes for harbor defense.³

1. The Evening Leader, March 18, 1898.
2. The Richmond Times, April 3, 1898.
3. Ibid., April 6, 1898.

For the first time in its history, the Norfolk Navy Yard was advertising for men to work as riveters, ship fitters, drillers, and helpers. In March, 1898, the total monthly payroll at the Yard amounted to about \$70,000.⁴ In April, 1898, it was \$180,000, more than double that of the previous month, and greater than it had ever been in the history of the Yard.⁵ Over 2,000 men were employed that month at the Yard, working seven days a week. In June, the activity at the Yard decreased to a point where men had to be laid off. This⁷ was due to completion of contracted work and the lack of new work.

When the conflict broke out, the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, in its first dozen years of existence, had completed and delivered a total of some sixteen vessels and had provided the machinery for two others. These vessels comprised four tugs, four freight steamships, one pilot steamer, two bay-and-river steamers, and two passenger-and-freight steamships. Contracts had been signed for three battleships, Kearsarge, Kentucky, and Illinois, which they were then building, the first two named having been launched on March 24, 1898, in a fervor of patriotic enthusiasm and to the slogan, "Remember the Maine!" But none of the trio was completed in time to

-
4. The Evening Leader, March 4, 1898.
 5. Ibid., April 9, 1898.
 6. The Richmond Times, April 16, 1898.
 7. Ibid., June 9, 1898.

take part in the war which proved to be of only some four months duration.

Of the sixteen Newport News-built vessels which were then in the service, nine took an active part in the war as units of the United States Navy. All saw duty in the Atlantic.⁸

The participation of the Nashville in the Spanish-American War is of greatest interest to residents of Newport News inasmuch as it was she who fired the first shot of the war. The little gunboat Nashville, whose pop-gun blast started off the Spanish-American War,⁹ is from this point of view Newport News' most important warship.

With a profile characterized by two slim and extremely tall funnels, the Nashville had the following dimensions when completed: 233' 8'' length over all, 220' length between perpendiculars, 38' beam, 25' 1'' depth, and 11' mean draft. She was of 1371 tons normal displacement and 1620, full load. She had two quadruple expansion engines, 11'', 17'', 24'', 34'', by 18'' stroke, and developed 2524 indicated horsepower on official trials. She had six Mosher boilers and bunker capacity for 363 tons of coal. Her armament consisted of eight 4-inch, 40-calibre, rapid-fire guns, and two each 6-, 3-, and 1-pounder, rapid-fire guns. On her trial trip she logged 16.30 knots.¹⁰

8. Brown, A Record of Newport News Ships In Naval Service In The Spanish-American War, p. 3.

9. Ibid.

10. Ibid., p. 4.

In April of 1898, the Nashville, along with other units of the Atlantic Fleet, was stationed at Key West in anticipation of the war's breaking out. With seemingly damnable slowness Congress considered the establishing of the blockade of Spanish possessions which could only lead to war. Finally, on the evening of April 21, the word came through to acting Rear Admiral W. T. Sampson, and the squadron prepared for departure early next morning to blockade Cuba. A sizeable array of strength steamed out on course south-south-west from Key West. It included the flagship, armoured cruiser New York; battleships Indiana and Iowa; protected cruiser Cincinnati; small cruiser Machias; gunboats Nashville, Newport, and Wilmington; and torpedo boats Foote, DuPont, and Porter. On April 22, the Spanish steamer Buena Ventura was sighted on its way to Norfolk, Virginia for bunker coal. The Nashville fired three shells across her bow, after which she stopped and hauled down her colors. It would have been a pleasure to report that Commander Washburn Maynard's men of the Nashville had fought a battle characterized by conspicuous gallantry and bravery against superior odds. This was not the case; however, it was routine gun practice. The episode wherein a dozen warships subdued a lone, unarmed merchantman who was unaware that war even existed does not seem to reflect any great credit on the country, despite its contemporary acclaim. But such was the first shot of the war and the circumstances

attending the firing of it. For the remainder of the war, the Nashville rendered useful blockade duty off Cienfuegos with the Atlantic Fleet and added another steamer, the Argonauta, and two sailing vessels to her list of captures.

Like the Nashville, both Wilmington and Helena were attached to the North Atlantic Squadron and were dispatched south for blockade duties off Cuba and to keep their eyes peeled for Cervera's fleet, where they gained the reputation of being heavy rollers. Both served well, if not spectacularly, captured prizes and assisted in bombardments of shore installations and Spanish gunboats. The Wilmington's men effected the difficult task of cable cutting off Santa Cruz on June 17, and both gunboats were in on the attack of Manzanillo of July 18, 1898. ¹²

The iron, single-screw steam tug El Toro was built in 1891 by the Shipyard for use of the Morgan Line in New York Harbor and measured 90' long, by 19' beam, by 9' deep, displacing 187 tons. On May 5, 1898, shortly after war had been declared, the El Toro was purchased by the Navy and named U.S.S. Accomac. During the war she served as a dispatch boat at Key West attached to the Atlantic Fleet and distinguished herself by capturing three Spanish schooners. ¹³

Excepting the tugs Dorothy and El Toro, the first steamships built

11. Ibid.
12. Ibid., p. 7.
13. Ibid.

at Newport News were the four Morgan Line fast freighters El Sud, El Norte, El Rio, and El Cid. These single-screw sister vessels measured 405' 9" by 48' 0" by 33' 9" and were of about 7,360 tons displacement.¹⁴ In anticipation of the war, the Navy acquired the El Sud on April 6, 1898, and she returned to the Shipyard for conversion into an auxiliary cruiser. As U.S. Yosemite, she was armed with ten 5-inch guns and six 6-pounders, and manned by Michigan Naval Reservists. Although she missed capturing the Spanish blockade runner Purissima Concepcion on June 16, 1898, her most spectacular performance of the war was the destruction of the Spanish supply ship Antonio Lopez on June 28, 1898. At the time, the Yosemite was blockading San Juan, Porto Rico, and the Spaniard attempted to run the blockade into port, but was sighted and pursued by the Yosemite and ultimately driven ashore off Punta Salinas. A Spanish cruiser and gunboat came out of San Juan to assist the Antonio Lopez, but despite the superior odds, the Yosemite drove them off. For this exploit her crew received double prize money, the last time that such an award was made.¹⁵

El Norte was also taken over from the Morgan Line and commissioned at the New York Navy Yard on April 14, 1898, as an auxiliary cruiser named U.S.S. Yankee and manned by the Naval Militia of the State of New York. Her crew received particularly warm commendation from

14. Ibid., p. 8.

15. Ibid.

Admiral Sampson for "spirit and efficiency, " shown at Santiago
 16
 and Cienfuegos.

El Rio, the fourth Newport News-built Morgan liner, was acquired by the Navy on April 15, 1898, and converted to war service by the Shipyard as U.S.S. Dixie. She, also was manned by Naval Reservists, the unit being supplied by Maryland. The Dixie took part in the Cuban blockade and received the surrender of Ponce, Porto Rico, on July 28, 1898. 17

The Cromwell Line steamship Creole was the final Newport News-built vessel to see war duty in the Spanish-American War. Smaller than the Morgan liners, the Creole was of about 6,000 tons displacement and measured 375' 0'' length over all, by 44' 0'' beam, by 32' 6'' depth. She was delivered by the Shipyard on December 5, 1896, and purchased by the Navy on April 7, 1898, for conversion into a hospital ship named Solace. It is said that the Shipyard fitted her out for this duty in the remarkably short time of sixteen days and she became the first United States vessel to fly the 1864 Geneva Convention Red Cross flag adopted by our country in 1882. Her white hull and the red cross on her funnel made her conspicuous in her humanitarian duties. Following the Battle of Santiago on July 3, 1898, the Solace brought four hundred wounded Spanish prisoners to Norfolk and she followed

16. Ibid., p. 9.

17. Ibid.

that by returning United States yellow fever victims to the States.

Before the outbreak of the war, the Federal Government realized the importance railroads would play in transporting men and materials should a national crisis present itself, and government agents were sent to railroad offices to present blank forms with the following question:

1. Is your road in a position to transport coal and supplies without interference from the ocean?
2. What is the capacity of your road for carrying coal?
3. What facilities could you furnish for transportation of men upon short notice?
4. What are your wharf facilities, depth of water, etc?

The Norfolk and Western Railroad was busy carrying Pocohontas coal, purchased by the Government from Petersburg to the coaling station at Lambert's Point. On May 15, five carloads of 1300 pound shells were sent from the Navy Yards to Tampa via the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and a battery of artillery was sent from Fort Monroe to Tampa via the Seaboard Air Line. In advertising its rates, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad not only offered cheap fare between Richmond and Norfolk, but promised a view of the warships of the "Flying Squadron" at Newport News to those who made the trip. In spite of all this activity railroad stock was a bit unsteady. A

-
18. Ibid.
 19. The Evening Leader, March 4, 1898.
 20. The Richmond Times, April 19, 1898.
 21. The Evening Leader, March 21, 1898.

well-known business man in Richmond said he had been to New York to try to float some railroad bonds which parties in the metropolis had practically agreed to take. They changed their minds and said they would have to wait until some solution of the difficulty between the United States and Spain was offered.

22

Many steamship companies operating ships along the Atlantic coast did a profitable business during the war by chartering their vessels to the Government for use in transporting troops, munitions, and supplies.

The Petersburg Iron Works had one hundred men at work day and night making shot and shell for the Government. The men in charge even asked permission of the mayor to work on Sunday when an urgent order such as a shipment of heavy bolts to be used in strengthening Fort Monroe was needed immediately.

23

In Pulaski and all Southwest Virginia, iron furnaces did a heavy business. Hundreds of carloads of iron and iron ore passed out of there daily to adjoining counties and to Eastern and Northern markets. Pulaski also found it necessary to enlarge its telephone system due to the large number of troops passing through there.

24

The State, because of its fine breed of horses, was considered by the Quartermaster-General as a good area from which to obtain

22. The Richmond Times, April 23, 1898.

23. Ibid., April 19, 1898.

24. Ibid.

desirable stock for the Army. Mr. Connally F. Trigg of Abingdon went to the War Department to talk to army officers concerning the merits of these animals who could go without food for two or three days and retain their fiery spirit to quote Mr. Trigg. These horses averaged over \$150 apiece and the Army indicated its intention of buying 2,000 of them.

The Equitable Life Insurance Company, the Mutual Life, and the New York Insurance Company in Virginia in April, 1898, were feeling the effect of the war talk on their businesses, but by July, 1898, they were confident that their companies would not suffer so heavily from the war.

Richmond papers devoted extensive wordage to the increase in tobacco trade due to several large orders from the military services. They elaborated upon the excellence in quality of the Virginia tobacco and its methods of preparation, stating that Virginia tobacco manufacturers had a skill which was possessed by few and surpassed by none. The first contract in the State went to Mr. W. T. Hancock for 150,000 pounds of naval tobacco supplied in part to the extent of 20,000 pounds by Butler and Boshier, also a well-known Richmond firm. Butler and Boshier were also later awarded a supplemental contract for 150,000 pounds of naval tobacco. The Revenue Department was also realizing

25. Ibid., April 23, 1898.

26. Ibid., July 14, 1898.

27. Ibid., August 4, 1898.

an increase in income because of the Revenue War Bill which went into effect July 1, 1898, increasing the tax on manufactured tobacco from six to twelve cents per pound, which taxed snuff, cigars, and cigarettes.

In August, 1898, Newport News showed a rapid gain in her exports which were 2.4 per cent of the total of the country, against 2.1 per cent in 1897, 1.6 per cent in 1894, 1895 and 1896, and a little less than 1 per cent in 1893. Her imports had all increased materially, being at that time more than three times those of 1894. The total, however, formed less than 1 per cent of the total imports into the country, while her share of the total imports, and exports of the country was in 1898 1.7 per cent, in 1897 1.2 per cent, while prior to that time they formed less than 1 per cent of the total. Part of this increase was due to a gain in wheat exportation by Newport News from less than 1 per cent in 1896 to over 2 per cent of the national total in 1898.

On the period immediately following the war, the Times wrote thus concerning business. "Better times are expected in Richmond. The city will enter upon a period of prosperity, and real estate values will be increased 25 per cent. The establishment of peace and the cessation of war will take from the minds of the people a disturbing element. It will put the country on a firm settled basis and remind

-
28. The Evening Leader, June 14, 1898.
 29. The Richmond Times, August 9, 1898.

the citizens with unemployed funds to look for more remunerative investments than 3 per cent bonds. Plenty of money at low rate, settled finances, freedom from political excitement, and the restoration of confidence will untie the purse strings and set the congested wheels of business revolving. The past July was the busiest for years, and the month of August has surpassed it. We predict bright things for the real estate market with large quantities of uninvested capital on the market."

30. Ibid., August 14, 1898.

CHAPTER VI

VIRGINIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The Spanish-American War marked an era in our history, especially for the South, and more especially for the Virginians. The reaction of the State after February 15, 1898, was that Virginia was no longer a conquered province. It was significant that President McKinley selected General Fitzhugh Lee, a Confederate veteran, one of the last commanders in the field at Appomattox, the nephew of Robert E. Lee, the Governor of Virginia, and a staunch Democrat, as our representative extraordinary to Cuba on April 13, 1896, which office he retained during the confused events preceding the outbreak of war in 1898.¹ The tact and firmness which he then displayed made him a national figure and his return to Washington on April 12, 1898, took on something of the nature of a triumph. Commissioned Major-General of volunteers on May 5, 1898, he was assigned the Seventh Army Corps, which was designed to be the chief combat force in the occupation of Cuba.²

Late in June when rumors began circulating that General Lee might

-
1. Squires, Through Centuries Three, p. 554.
 2. Dictionary of American Biography, Vol., XI, p. 114.

be sent to lead the invasion of Porto Rico instead of Cuba, the Richmond Times directed this strong editorial to the administration.

Virginians hope the administration is not thinking of denying General Lee a part in the invasion of Cuba, when that event takes place. In Virginia this would be looked upon as an outrage. The people of Virginia have set their hearts upon seeing General Lee military governor of Cuba when our army takes possession of the island to occupy and preserve order until the Cubans are able to have a stable government equal to ruling the island justly. If any army officer is to occupy such a place, the Virginians think that General Lee comes as near to being entitled to it as an officer can be. The people of Virginia love General Lee and are proud of him, and they will not willingly see him slighted.³

And in August another editorial reminded the Government and President McKinley to deliberate well before it did an injustice to a native son.

.....It is rumored that intrigue is afoot to cut Lee out of the place of military governor of Cuba to which the American people have, with practical unanimity, assigned him. Whether this be partly political, or partly army red tape, we caution President McKinley to deliberate well before he does such an injustice to a native son.⁴

The capture of Santiago obviated the necessity of other operations, but Lee took his command to Cuba, established headquarters at Camp Columbia, near Havana, and was charged with the reestablishment of order. From April 12, 1899, to March 2, 1901, he was Brigadier-General of volunteers under the act of March 2, 1899, and for part

3. The Richmond Times, June 23, 1898.

4. Ibid., August 7, 1898.

of this time commanded the Department of the Missouri. On March 2, 1901,
5
he was retired a Brigadier-General.

Perhaps one of Virginia's most valuable contributions came as a result of the Spanish-American War in the person of Doctor Walter Reed, an army physician from Gloucester County. During hostilities he investigated the epidemics of typhoid fever which were fatal to so many young soldiers. After the war he was sent to Havana to investigate the yellow fever situation. He proved that yellow fever was contracted by the sting of a vicious mosquito which was without a doubt the most important discovery ever made in the science of bacteriology, and one
6
of the greatest scientific discoveries of the age.

Against the memories which the Spanish-American War scandals have left behind them, the actual loss may not seem great. It must be remembered, however, the typhoid and malarial fevers did not really begin until the end of the war, and that a far more serious catastrophe was probably averted (or concealed through the early mustering out of the volunteers.) As it was, in the period up to September 30, 1898, 425 men died at Chickamauga in Tennessee, 246 in camp at Jacksonville, Florida, 107 at Camp Alger in Virginia, and 139 in the camps near
7
San Francisco from which the Philippine expeditions were dispatched.

-
5. Dictionary of American Biography, Vol., XI, p. 115.
 6. Squires, The Days of Yester-Year, p. 99.
 7. Millis, Martial Spirit, p. 366.

Up to the end of 1898, total of deaths in the American Army at all camps and in all theaters of war, was 5462⁸ men and officers. Of these, only 379 were killed in action or died of wounds. (The total battle casualties, including wounded, was 1983.) Compared to that figure, the loss through disease during the brief period in which the troops were under arms is sufficiently appalling. Yet it could have been worse, considering the enormous handicaps under which the Army was obliged to work.

From a survey of regular army enlistment records for the period 1893 to 1898, there were approximately 600 persons on active duty with the army who claimed Virginia as their birthplace or who were enlisted from the state of Virginia.⁹ Of these 600, we are chiefly concerned with those who enlisted from Virginia, and were either killed or wounded. According to army records there was only one man killed in action who enlisted from the state of Virginia. He was Private Edward J. Ross of Company G, Sixth Cavalry, who enlisted January 17, 1898, at Fort Myer, Virginia, and was killed July 1, 1898, at San Juan, Cuba. Other war casualties listed are a total of 20 dead from yellow fever, typhoid fever, and other causes.¹⁰

The total casualties from the Navy and Marine Corps were 84. Sixteen of these were killed outright, 68 were wounded, and 2 died

8. Ibid., p. 367.

9. Adjutant General, Register of Enlistments, 1893-1898, A-Z.

10. Ibid.

subsequently of wounds received. In this total there were two
 Virginians.¹¹ From the Marine Battalion in action at Quantanimo,
 Cuba, from June 11 to June 20, 1898, was Marine Private Goode Taurman,
 born in Henrico County, Virginia, and enlisted at Portsmouth, Virginia
 on August 17, 1897.¹² The Navy's only casualty was Frank I. Blakely,
 Apprentice First Class, who was killed off Santiago, Cuba, June 12, 1898,
 while serving on board the U.S.S. Texas. It is ironic that his enlist-
 ment had expired on June 3, but that he had been retained on board¹³
 under orders of the Secretary of the Navy.

It is significant to note that Virginia's casualties were few
 as compared to her total number in service at that time, and it is
 also a stronger contrast to compare her contributions with those of
 the whole nation.

11. Navy Department, Appendix To The Report of The Chief of
 the Bureau of Navigation, 1898, p. 705.

12. United States Marine Corps, United States Marine Corps
 Size Roll, August 1897-July 1899.

13. Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation, Muster Roll of the
 Crew of the U.S.S. Texas, on board, June 30, 1898.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS

Cutchins, John A., A Famous Command, The Richmond Light Infantry Blues.
Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1934.

Millis, Walter, Martial Spirit, Cambridge, Massachusetts:
Riverside Press, 1931.

Squires, W. H. T., Through Centuries Three. Portsmouth:
Printcraft Press, Inc.

By Various Hands, Richmond Capital of Virginia, Approaches to Its History.
Whittet and Stepperson, 1938.

Dictionary of American Biography, Volume XI, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

NEWSPAPERS

The Evening Leader, Manchester and Richmond, Virginia, February-
August, 1898.

The Petersburg Daily Index-Appeal, April-May, 1898.

The Richmond Times, February-September, 1898.

BULLETINS

Brown, Alexander Crosby, "A Record of Newport News Ships in Naval Service
in the Spanish-American War." Shipyard Bulletin,
XII (March-April, 1948), 3-10.

MacClenny, Wilbur E., United Spanish War Veterans, Annual Report of the
Department Historian, Suffolk: 1937.

American National Red Cross Relief Committee Reports, New York:
Knickerbocker Press, May 1898, March 1899.

United States Adjutant General's Office, Correspondence Relating To The
War With Spain, Volume I.

DOCUMENTS

Adjutant General's Office, Enlistment Records of the United States Army, 1893-1898, A-Z. (National Archives)

Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, United States Marine Corps Size Roll, August 1897-July 1899. Washington: (National Archives)

Navy Department, Muster Roll of the Crew of the U. S. Texas, June 30, 1898. Washington: Bureau of Navigation.

Navy Department, Appendix To The Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, Washington: Bureau of Navigation, 1898.