

one other, who was wounded and had his arm amputated on board this vessel.

I am, yours, truly,

EARL ENGLISH,  
*Lieutenant-Commander.*

Captain MACOMB.

The paymaster's steward thinks there were all of 3,500 men in the place at the time of our attack.

E. E.

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Report of Lieutenant-Commander Truxtun, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Tacony.

U. S. S. TACONY,  
*Plymouth, N. C., November 1, 1864.*

SIR: I have to report that in obedience to signal made from the flagship at 10:35 a. m., on the 31st ultimo, I got underway and took position with this vessel in line of battle astern of the *Otsego* (with the U. S. S. *Whitehead* lashed to our port quarter), being the fourth vessel in line.

Stood slowly down the Roanoke River till 11:30 a. m., when we opened on the batteries and rifle pits surrounding the town of Plymouth, N. C., with our starboard battery, which consisted of two XI-inch, three IX-inch guns, two 12-pounder and one 24-pounder howitzers.

Continued heavily engaged till 12:40 p. m., when we ceased firing by your order.

During the engagement the officers manifested the most commendable zeal, while the crew distinguished themselves by a display of coolness, which, considering the fact that it was the first time the greater proportion of them had ever been under fire, was truly astonishing.

I am happy in having to report no casualties—not a man scratched.

I beg leave to make particular mention of Acting Master's Mate F. W. Worstell, who, with Martin Howard (landsman), James Tallentine (quarter gunner), Robert Graham (landsman), Henry Brutche (landsman), landed and spiked a loaded IX-inch gun under quite a sharp fire of musketry.

After anchoring abreast the wreck of the rebel ram *Albemarle*, Acting Ensign Rudolph [S.] Sommers, raised and destroyed two torpedoes. I also have on board one brass fieldpiece and three copper percussion torpedoes.

One shell cut away the port fore-topmast backstay just above the rail, and a second, a 20-pounder Parrott, passed through the foremast about 25 feet above the deck; this, with some shattering of the starboard boats, caused by the explosion of one of our guns, constitutes all the damage done to the ship. I herewith report her in all respects ready for immediate service.

The engineers' department, under its very efficient chief, First Assistant Engineer Thomas M. Dukehart, performed its duties in the most satisfactory manner.

In conclusion, I deem it proper to commend to your favorable notice Acting Master Nathaniel S. Morgan, the executive officer of this vessel, who has at all times so ably seconded me in the duties of my command.

I enclose herewith the gunner's report of ammunition expended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. TRUXTUN,  
*Lieutenant-Commander.*

Commander W. H. MACOMB,  
*Commanding Division of the Sounds, Plymouth, N. C.*



Report of Lieutenant-Commander Truxtun, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Tacony, transmitting additional reports.

U. S. S. TACONY,

*Cape Fear River, North Carolina, January 19, 1865.*

SIR: I have to submit the following report of the part taken by this vessel in the reduction of the enemy's works at New Inlet, North Carolina:

On the 13th instant, at 4:50 a. m., got underway and took position assigned in line of battle and at 7:20 a. m. commenced shelling the woods to the northward of Fort Fisher. At 8:12 sent the boats to aid in landing troops and continued thus employed until 3:35 p. m., when stood in and opened fire on Fort Fisher. At 5:50 p. m. ceased firing and retired from action by signal from flagship. No casualties during the day.

At 1:30 p. m. on the 14th instant again took position and opened fire upon the enemy's works; continued engaged till dark, when ceased firing by order; remained in position near the forts all night. No injury to vessel or crew during this day.

On the 15th, at 12:10 a. m., opened a rapid fire for one hour on the forts. By the premature explosion of a gun Hugh Lee, landsman, had his right arm blown off. John Wild, ordinary seaman, and Thomas Stanton, captain forecastle, were wounded. At 10:15 a. m. sent a detachment of 30 men, under Acting Ensigns James B. Taney and Thomas Golding, to assist in storming the batteries. At 1 p. m. again opened fire on the enemy's works. Continued engaged until 2:35 p. m., when ceased firing by signal from flagship. During the night our boats returned, also one belonging to the *Iosco*, bringing a number of men, wounded during the charge by the seamen on Fort Fisher. At 10 p. m. the fleet were informed of the surrender of Fort Fisher.

On the 16th instant, at 2 p. m., anchored in New Inlet, North Carolina, in company with the *Sassacus* and *Kansas*, all having followed the lead of Commander Clitz in the *Osceola*.

On the 17th instant Acting Assistant Surgeon George Hopkins attended the rebel wounded on shore. The vessel's boats employed removing torpedoes from the channel.

On the 18th instant crossed the Rip, entered Cape Fear River, and at 3:10 p. m. anchored near Fort Lamb, the gun carriages, traverses, and woodwork of which I destroyed, in obedience to your orders. In Fort Lamb was a galvanic battery in good working order, connecting with copper wires, which I this morning caused to be underrun, and which I found led directly across the river to the magazine in Fort Fisher. This, I believe, will fully account for the mysterious explosion on the 16th instant by which over 200 gallant men lost their lives; if so, it was the most dastardly act of the war.

I can not too highly commend the conduct of all under my command. Acting Ensigns James B. Taney and Thomas Golding gallantly led the seamen in the assault of Fort Fisher, in which 4 men were killed and 10 wounded; James Tallentine (quarter gunner), ever foremost in the discharge of his duties, reached the top of the parapet under a murderous fire, only to fall inside the fortifications, giving a valuable life to his country.

Acting Assistant Paymaster William S. Hosford, who for more than a year has commanded the after powder division, worked as usual most untiringly. I am greatly indebted to Acting Master Rudolph Sommers, who acted as signal officer. The good conduct of Acting Master's Mate John A. Orcutt deserves to be mentioned. In fact, sir, the conduct of all during the past seven days has been most praiseworthy.



I enclose report of killed and wounded; also gunner's report of ammunition expended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. TRUXTUN,  
*Lieutenant-Commander.*

Rear-Admiral DAVID D. PORTER,  
*Commanding North Atlantic Squadron.*

[Enclosures.]

U. S. S. TACONY,  
*Cape Fear River, North Carolina, January 18, 1865.*

SIR: The following is a list of the killed and wounded of this vessel during the late engagement at Fort Fisher, N. C.:

15th instant, wounded (by the premature discharge of one of the guns of this vessel): Hugh Lee, landsman; right hand shattered and right arm broken; amputation below the elbow. Thomas Stanton, captain fore-castle; left eye badly injured by the burning of the powder while serving the vent; serious. He is also much bruised in left side and hip by the recoil of the gun. John Wild, ordinary seaman; left hand burned and contused; not serious.

Same date, killed: Richard Acton, landsman; James Tallentine, quarter gunner; Cornelius Blachiere, ordinary seaman.

Wounded: William Brown, seaman; shot through both thighs and left arm, musketry; died next morning. Jas. H. Spencer, ordinary seaman; gunshot fracture of right thigh, musketry; serious. Martin Goberty, seaman; gunshot fracture of left thigh, upper third, musketry. John Van Schoten, landsman; conical ball through pelvis; result doubtful. Horace Wheeler, ordinary seaman; gunshot fracture of left leg, musketry; serious. Samuel McKinley, landsman; flesh wound of both legs, musketry; not serious. Patrick Kelly, landsman; flesh wound of right leg, musketry; not serious. Martin Howard, landsman; flesh wound of right leg, musketry; not serious. William Stewart, landsman; right elbow, musketry; ball probably lodged in or near the joint.

William Gillespie, ordinary seaman, and Henry Miller, ordinary seaman, who are missing, were reported to me as wounded and taken on board some other vessel.

Very respectfully,

GEO. HOPKINS,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon.*

Lieutenant-Commander W. T. TRUXTUN,  
*Commanding U. S. S. Tacony.*

*Ammunition expended by the U. S. S. Tacony during the engagements of the 13th, 14th, and 15th January, 1865, with the forts at New Inlet, North Carolina.*

On the 13th January, 1865:	
20-second XI-inch shell .....	48
20-second IX-inch shell .....	51
15-second 12-pounder rifle shell .....	36
Percussion rifle shell .....	3
On the 14th January, 1865:	
XI-inch shell .....	165
IX-inch shell .....	186
12-pounder rifle shell .....	32
On the 15th January, 1865:	
XI-inch shell .....	48
XI-inch shot .....	21
IX-inch shell .....	108

Respectfully,

ROBERT CAMPBELL,  
*Acting Gunner.*

**OFFICIAL RECORDS**  
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IN THE  
**WAR OF THE REBELLION.**

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