

ANDERSON ZOUAVE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ANDERSON BATTALION, AUSTRALIA.

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NEW DOCUMENTS ARRIVE

LETTERS FROM THE NEW YORK SUNDAY MERCURY - It has been an interesting couple of months for acquisitions. The most recent and exciting of the documents to arrive are copies of letters written by members of the Anderson Zouaves and printed in the *New York Sunday Mercury*. An example of one of the letters appears below.

Sixty-Second Regiment N. Y. S. V. (Anderson Zouaves).

[Special Correspondence of the N. Y. Sunday Mercury.]

CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, VA., Feb. 16.

Some Pay Received—Rumors—A Mistake—Rain Half a Foot Deep—False Alarm—Furloughs.

On the 2d we received two months' pay, and there was a good deal of murmuring, as five months' were due. There is a rumor around camp that our corps is going to remain here while the rest of the Army goes to the South and Southwest. But Dame Rumor is a fickle jade, so we don't place any reliance in anything she utters. Thursday, last we started for picket on the river, in a heavy snow-storm. It wasn't bad enough to be out in the storm, but, as we passed the Reserve Post, we had such epithets as "Cracker Hunters", "Coal Heavers", etc., thrown at us. But it was through a mistake, they thought we were the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth (Persimmons) Regiment. We were on the reserve, at an old mill a little distance from the river. Very few of us slept that night, as the rain came down in a continual stream. I lay down under my rubber blanket to sleep, but I didn't sleep long, as the water began to get a little too deep for me. I don't mind a couple of inches, but hang me if I can lie in it six inches deep! Friday night, a scared corporal being on guard at the river, and thinking he heard the "Rebs" crossing, aroused the whole guard. Out they tumbled, with their rifles in one hand, their shoes in the other, and put themselves in a listening attitude. The moon now appeared, it having been obscured by a cloud, and revealed to their anxious gaze ten or twelve large musk rats sporting on the ice. There was a general laugh at the Corporal, and the boys turned in to snatch a few hours more sleep. Furloughs have been granted for every one hundred enlisted men.

Yours, S. S.

A total of 16 letters appeared in the pages of the *Sunday Mercury* between October 13, 1861 when the regiment was encamped at Tennallytown, D. C. and February 22, 1863 when the regiment was at Falmouth opposite Fredericksburg, Va. The letter printed above is the last of those letters. After this all correspondence with the *Sunday Mercury* suddenly stopped. In light of this it might be interesting to speculate as to the identity of the writer of this particular letter - S. S.

Assuming that S. S. are the initials of the writer then a quick look at the roster will show only three soldiers sharing those initials - Smith E. Slocum, Samuel F. Stewart and Samuel Skidmore.

Smith E. Slocum enlisted on September 10, 1861 at the age of 35 as a musician and joined the company (regimental) band on September 21, 1861 along with Edward B. R. Champlin (or Chaplin) and Henry S. Knapp. At this stage the regiment was encamped at Camp Lincoln on Meridian Hill having just joined Peck's brigade (the original brigade was composed of the 6th NJ, 55th NY, 62nd NY and the 102nd PA the 93rd PA and the 98th joining sometime after this). As an aside, Camp Lincoln appears to have been a name assigned specifically to the camp of Peck's brigade as it is only ever found to be mentioned in relation to

the aforementioned regiments. However, whether or not Slocum could have been the writer of the above letter is easily answered by the fact that Slocum died of disease at Georgetown D.C. while the regiment was stationed at Tennallytown on November 3, 1861, being one of at least four members of the regiment who died in that year. He is interred in the Military Asylum Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

In any case, the band of the Anderson Zouaves was mustered out of the regiment two days before the Battle of Williamsburg, on May 3, 1862, while the regiment was on the extreme left wing of the army at Warwick Courthouse on the Warwick River. Which means that it would be unlikely that any member of the regimental band could have been the penned the above letter.

Samuel F. Stewart enlisted as a private on June 15, 1861 aged 34 and was mustered into Company 'B' on June 30, 1861. He served throughout the war reenlisting on January 1, 1864 and was mustered out at Fort Schuyler on the 30 August 1865. Stewart may well have been the writer of this letter, but as he appears to have gone through the war without injury, one would have cause to ask why he wrote no others after this date.

Samuel Skidmore enlisted as a private on June 29, 1862 at the age of 20 and joined Company 'D' on September 2, 1862. Despite having enlisted on June 29, it is likely that Skidmore only joined the regiment at Alexandria upon its return from the Peninsula on the September 1, 1862, and took part in the march of the division to Fairfax to cover the retreat of Pope's army. It would seem unlikely that he would have joined the regiment a couple of days before the Battle of Malvern Hill as it struggled through White Oak Swamp, fighting-off enemy cavalry. Whatever the facts of his enlistment, it is possible that Skidmore could have been the writer of the above letter and the sudden cessation of correspondence from the Anderson Zouaves to the *Sunday Mercury* may conveniently be explained by the fact that Skidmore was, soon after the writing of this letter, wounded in his arm at the Battle of Fredericksburg and Salem Church on May 3, 1863. However, remembering that Skidmore was but 20 years or so at the time this letter was written, may favour Samuel F. Stewart as the writer when one considers the vocabulary used.

Transcripts of the letters will appear in *Anderson Zouave* over the following months and the documents will become part of the newspaper archive which now has more than 250 entries. It is hoped that this archive will soon be available on the internet.

MORE BUGLES, BATTLES AND BELVIDERE - Also received during the last month is a privately published journal *More Bugles, Battles and Belvidere: Warren County Civil War Letters to Home 1861-1865*, by Jay C. Richards, published Phillipsburg, N.J., 1999. On page 15 of this journal Richards promulgates the popular image of the Anderson Zouaves as infamous shabby looking thieves. Upon enquiry it seems that Richards took the opinion from page 69 of a work by Francis A. Lord (Phd), *Uniforms of the Civil War*, published 1970.

On pages 23-24 of the journal is a letter by Private Aaron Watson Smith of the 7th NJ Volunteers, written on October 1, 1861, from Camp Casey on Meridian Hill, Washington D.C., to his brother at home in Belvidere, Warren County, New Jersey (Warren County was the last slave owning county in New Jersey). The interesting part of the letter is the reference Aaron makes to his brother Joseph C. Smith who was enlisted in the Anderson Zouaves. A verbatim transcript of the letter [with annotations in square brackets] follows:

Dearest Brother, I received your kind and welcome letter to day and was very happy to hear from you But very soory to hear that you have met with sutch & soriful accident But i hope it will not turn out to be so bad as what i think it is. Dearest Brother keep in good hart And as long as i live i will do All that's in my position to help you. Any thing that i have got home take it and converte it to your own use i give it to

you freely. When i return i think i can do a good deal Better for you. i was telling Joseph [Joseph C. Smith] who i left to take care of his things And he was very well pleased you take his Clothes and if there is any you want to use, use them in Welcome that is what your Brother Joseph told me to tell you. John i was very soory to hear that mothers Arm is so Lame it appears to me that all the bad luck must happen after i leave. If i had been with you that accident never whould happened to you. But it is so and can't be helpt maybe it has All bin for the Best that i am hear. i forgit weather i told you in my other letter that Joseph's Regiment [Anderson Zouaves] had left hear [Meridian Hill, Washington D.C.] one [on] last Thursday [26 September 1861] to join the Army Along the Potomac. he told me he whould right and tell me ware he was But i have not receaved Any word from him yet. Although i can see those Baggage wagons pass hear Everyday. Every thing is quiet around hear at present. little Jersey is All right. the Jersey Troops took possession of Munson Hill one Saturday. it was the hid quarters [headquarters] of the Rebels But now the stars and stripes are planted On the Rebels ground to wave in triumph Again over the oust land of the free and home of the Brave. today We can hear canonading over in Virginia. i don't think we will ever be cauld in to Battle. if i can keep my health and don't git sick i will be all Right. i suppose you hear more about the war in Belvidere than We do hear. don't Believe All the news you see in the daley papers.


Tell Jacob Smith to send me a Bottle of Good Gin as he promist. he told me the night i was in town that he whould send me anything i rote fur. now tell him i will take a small Bottle of Gin don't send a very Big Bon of you please. i now must begin to draw my short letter to a close. i have bin sick since i have bin hear but not to goo in the hospital But i am a Good deal Better so that i am around and got a good Apitite and plenty to Eat. i now feal Good. John as soon as i Receive my money i am going to send it home in your care till i return then you shall Receive your Reward from me. tell mother i hope she will Be better Until i hear from Sally... [the words here are too faded to read]. ...tell Georgey and Sally that i am coming home to see them. Direct your letters the same as you did. i Remane your Affectionate Brother Aaron W. Smith.

P.S. right soon. i like to hear from home. Tell Call that i am very glad to hear that she is taking care of mother while she is sick. Tell her i will send her a nice Present as soon as i Receive my money if she stays home. John, i can't git any stamps hear...

Joseph C. Smith enlisted in Company 'H' as a private on August 20, 1861, the day before the regiment left Camp Astor on Riker's Island for Washington. In the course of the change-of-base and retreat to Harrison's Landing on the James River, during the Peninsula Campaign, Smith was promoted to Sergeant. However, Sergeant Joseph C. Smith was badly wounded in the hip and thigh at the Battle of Fredericksburg and Salem Church on, or about, May 5, 1863 and died of his wounds in a Washington Hospital on May 16, 1863.

ANDERSON ZOUAVES BROADSIDE - Another exciting acquisition is a copy of the Lowville (Lewis County, N.Y.) Anderson Zouave Broadside from the collection of the New York State Library. Despite being an interesting artifact in itself, the broadside is, unfortunately, not quite what it appears to be. An analysis of the broadside and its relevance to the regiment will appear in the October issue of *Anderson Zouave*.

ATTENTION COMPANY!



ANDERSON ZOUAVES!

The 2d Company of Volunteers in Lowville and vicinity, have been accepted and will join the ANDERSON ZOUAVES, of New-York City.--Col. Riker. This Regiment is one of the 14 that were accepted by the Government through the influence of the Union Defence Committee.

All those whose names are enrolled and those who wish to join the Company, will meet at the COURT HOUSE, in Lowville,

On Saturday, June 15, 1861,

At one o'clock P. M. for permanent organization, election of Officers, &c.

YOUNG MEN OF LEWIS COUNTY, let us rally round the "Old Flag," resolved to vindicate those principles of Constitutional Liberty for which our Fore-Fathers so freely shed their blood. "Now is the time."

PHILIP W. SMITH, Captain.

AUSTRALIAN REENACTORS GET HOT UNDER THE COLLAR AS COLLECTORS AND DEALERS GO AFTER RIKER IMAGE

The recent sale on Ebay of a CDV of John Lafayette Riker, the organiser and first commanding officer of the Anderson Zouaves seemed to attract a lot of attention both here and in the US from collectors dealers and reenactors. In Australia Dr Stephen Gapps of '62nd New York Anderson Zouaves Inc.' launched an appeal on the Australian American Civil War List to purchase the artifact. However, it was not Australian 62nd Reenactors who were the only ones interested in the image of the Civil War Colonel.

The CDV was listed on Ebay by seller *cdvsutler* at a starting price of US\$9.99 late in the afternoon of July 30. The CDV did not remain unnoticed for very long with the first bid being placed by *ypsi-kid*, who would appear to be a collector or a dealer in American Militaria, about 12 hours later on the morning of July 31. The bid placed by *ypsi-kid* was pushed to its maximum of US\$120 over the next four days by, amongst others, Dave Sanders 62nd NY Company F. Emotional attachment of some Australian reenactors became apparent when Dr Gapps rebuked Dave Sanders for the bids he had placed on the CDV, accusing him of pushing up the price of the CDV and of trying to hide his interest in the image from the consortium Dr Gapps was hoping would be able to raise the funds to purchase the image. In response Dave Sanders posted the following on the Australian ACW List:

No Steve

I havent been hiding my interest in the photo. Ypsikid who has the highest bid must have a "ceiling bid" so every bid I put in was automatically gazumped. I am now finished bidding, god knows what the ceiling bid is... good luck.

Dave S.

In total there were nine buyers who placed a total of 24 bids on the CDV with most bids coming in the last 34 hours of the auction. It became clear during the course of the auction that two buyers *ypsi-kid* and *circusreb* had become emotionally attached to the CDV, engaging in a bidding war, pushing up the total by \$10 or \$20 at a time.

With a little under 2 hours to go a new bidder, *carlislepa* placed a very high maximum bid of US\$299 which quickly knocked *ypsi-kid* out of competition with a final bid of US\$172.00. This high maximum bid also gobbled up an attempt by Keya Gallery of New York - *keya-gallery-nyc*, (the gallery specialises in buying and selling authentic historical items), to purchase the CDV for US\$210.00. The buyer *circusreb* was not to be put off and kept bidding against *carlislepa* until the upper limit of the bidding was found, however within 2 minutes *carlislepa* had come back with a maximum bid of US\$350 which forced *circusreb* to up his/her US\$311 bid to US\$377 which is where the bidding stopped for this buyer.

This was the point where any potential bid by the Dr Gapps cartel evaporated. Dr Gapps had successfully raised US\$250, but by this stage there was no chance of him bidding for the image. With seven minutes to go he sent a somewhat disappointed email to the Aussie ACW List:

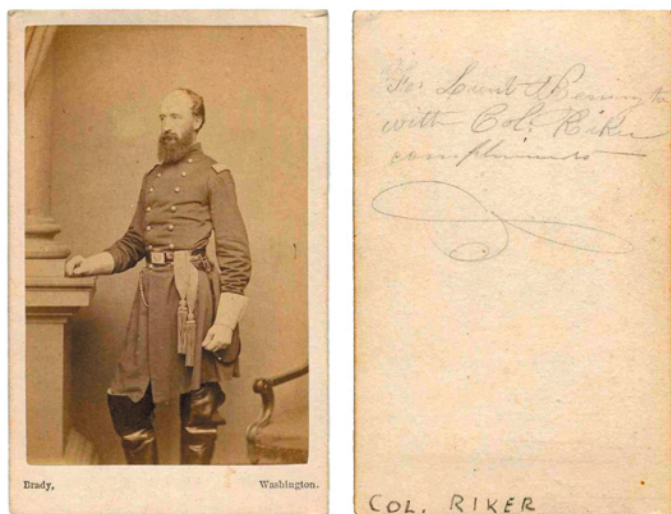
Thanks so much to all who offered support in trying to purchase the Riker CDV! What an inspriing collective effort! We ended up with a fighting fund of pledges of \$250US! However the good Colonel has 7 minutes to go and is at \$355. Cest le Guerre.

Half a minute later *carlislepa* upped the ante with a high bid of US\$405 which ate up the maximum of a new buyer *ktcw* who had joined the bidding 30 second after the *carlisle* bid with a high amount of US\$399. Clearly desperate to claim the CDV *ktcw* came back with a second bid of something in excess of *carlislepa*'s high of US\$405.

With just a little over a minute to go before the end of the auction *ktcw* was the high bidder with the CDV looking like it would sell for US\$410. But then, with only *five seconds* to go, a mystery buyer, *wolffvanharlem*, (the buyer had a "0" history rank) attempted to snap up the CDV using a tactic called "sniping" in which a bidder leaves it until the very last moment to make a bid in order to avoid competing bidders from attempting to outbid the new buyer. However, *ktcw* must have placed a bid somewhat higher than the maximum of US\$426.56 placed by *wolffvanharlem*. The winning bid for the CDV was US\$431.56.

It is interesting to speculate about the identity of the final bidder,

wolffvanharlem. As the amount bid was not in round US dollar figures it could be this buyer was bidding in foreign currency and the “0” history ranking would lead one to suspect that this person may have been attempting to hide his or her identity – perhaps a German or Australian 62nd reenactor who, in the end, obviously wasn’t desperate enough.



The closest you are likely to get to owning a CDV of Colonel John Lafayette Riker of the Anderson Zouaves – For the meantime, Australian reenactors and researchers will have to be happy with this screenshot of the Colonel from the recent Ebay auction.

BY WAY OF APOLOGY

There was an intention to transcribe the muster roll of Company A of the Anderson Zouaves from October 15, 1861, in this issue, however, due to space constraints, it will have to be held over until October.

COMING EVENTS

Taminick 2006 – *Taminick Military Weekend* is on again. This year it will be held between September 30 & October 1, 2006. The *Taminick* event is held each year at the range of the North East Muzzleloaders and Colonial Firearms Club Inc. in Taminick Victoria. The event caters for groups which have an impression which falls into the black powder period up to the year 1899. The host unit for this year will be the the 42nd Regiment of Foot. For information contact Lauris Fraumano on (03) 57981899 <fraumano@origin.net.au>.

Friends of Colonel Riker (FOCR) at First of the Summer Ale – There was an intention to have a meeting of FOCR to commemorate New York’s Evacuation Day on November 25, 2006. However, as this would clash with the Living History Resource Group’s famous *First of the Summer Ale* event it has been decided that it will give way and encourage FOCR members to attend the *First of the Summer Ale* instead. The event is to be held on the November 25, 2006 at Old Sydney Town, Somersby, one hour north of Sydney from 11am. A light lunch and dinner will be provided. The historical theme for *First of the Summer Ale* is 17th century to early 19th century English, with dance, song, food and real ale. The organisers hope to have two morris teams for some traditional May dancing. If you have some activity you wish to host or if you would like further information please contact Bill Lincoln on 04 1142 2144 <pikenshot@yahoo.com>.

Thanks-Giving/Christmas Gathering – The Second Virginia, CSS Shenandoah, Company B 62nd New York and ACWRTA are having a Thanks-Giving/Christmas/End-of-year weekend event at Camp Pines, Altona, Victoria December 8–10, 2006. For further information, please contact Jeff Yuill, P.O. Box 74, Violet Town, VIC, 3669, <darleith@optusnet.com.au>.

A Civil War Christmas Ball – 62nd New York Anderson Zouaves Inc. and the 2nd US Cavalry, invite you and your dance partner to the Bushranger Hotel in the town of Collector, NSW, on the Night of the 2nd of December 2006, for a Christmas Ball. RSVP and enquiries to Lieutenant Gapps of the 62nd New York Anderson Zouaves Inc. at your earliest

convenience. M. 0402 969 535 or <stephen.gapps@optusnet.com.au>. Very reasonably priced accommodation available at the Bushranger Hotel \$40 single room, \$75 double room <www.bushrangerhotel.com.au>. Cost of dinner: T.B.A.

THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES AFLOAT

*The following article has been edited down from a much larger article originally intended for publication in the forthcoming journal **Riker’s Island**. The full article will, hopefully, appear in the Journal at a later date.*

There was a period of time in the history the division to which the Anderson Zouaves belonged, in which it marched so much and so quickly that it became known as “Couch’s Flying Division”. The VI Corps, to which the Anderson Zouaves later belonged, became famous for its long marches, notably the march from Fairfax Courthouse to the Battlefield at Gettysburg, in which the corps covered about 125 miles in just 7 days, with Wheaton’s (Nevin’s) brigade going straight from the march into battle on the afternoon of the second day, having covered over thirty miles that morning.

However, the Anderson Zouaves did not march everywhere and there are some notable occasions when the regiment travelled by ships, better known in the literature of the day as steamers, and in trying to imagine the Anderson Zouaves it would be interesting if we were able to see these ships. Aside from the individual journeys made by wounded or detached individuals, it is possible to use the historical record to identify definite ships by which, at certain times, the regiment travelled during the course of the war.

On Monday July 15, 1861 the regiment moved from Camp Lafayette, at Newark Bay House in New Jersey, to it’s new camp on Riker’s Island. The *New York Times* reported the event on July 17th:

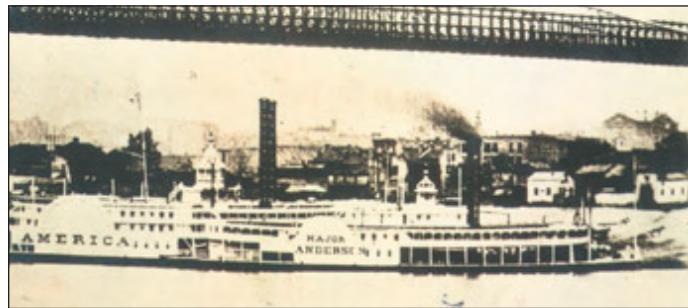
The Anderson Zouaves.

This regiment was transferred on Monday from Salterville, N. J., to the barracks on Riker’s Island. The trip up and around the bay on the camp steamer, Major Anderson, was made the occasion of quite a gala time among the soldiers, who had a little field piece along and fired any number of salutes on the way...

So, it would appear that the *Major Anderson* was the regular steamer used by the regiment while it was on Riker’s Island with the ship appearing once again in the *Times* in connection with the regiment on Friday, August 8, 1861:

Flag Presentation to the Anderson Zouaves

This afternoon a splendid American Flag will be presented to the Anderson Zouaves, on Riker’s Island, where the regiment is presently encamped... All who wish to witness the ceremony can do so, as the Steamboat Major Anderson leaves Peck-slip for Riker’s Island at 2 o’clock P. M., and returns same afternoon.



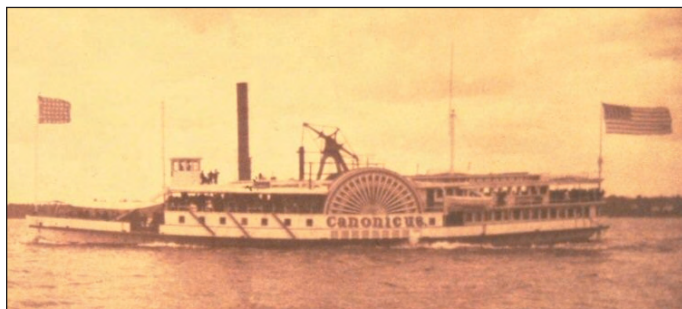
Despite being a little unclear this picture is of the ‘Major Anderson’, the camp steamer of the Anderson Zouaves, in front of the steamer ‘America’.

After its long winter sojourn at Camp Tennally, the 62nd, along with its brigade and division, was ordered to the Peninsula on March 26, 1862. This required the brigade to march down from the heights where it had been guarding the northern approaches to Washington and board transports at the harbour at Georgetown.

The ships which formed the flotilla of Couch’s division, and the regiments they carried on that day, are quite well documented – all except a few. Not so well documented is the ship, or ships, which carried the Anderson Zouaves.

According to Regis De Trobriand, the Colonel of the 55th New York, the five regiments of Peck's brigade (55th & 62nd NY, 93rd, 98th & 102nd Pa) embarked in the evening of March 26, on six steamers, with eight companies of the 55th boarding the New York steamer *Croton*. According to A. M. Stewart, Chaplain of the 102nd Pennsylvania, the steamer *State of Maine* took on board not only his regiment, but the brigade staff, horses, wagons, baggage and commissary stores as well as a company from one of the other regiments (possibly from the 55th). From the regimental history of the 93rd Pennsylvania we know that the 98th Pennsylvania boarded the *John A. Warner* which had arrived late from a previous trip to Fortress Monroe transporting the 12th New York. The *Croton* had a schooner in tow and the brigade had three other vessels which have not as yet been identified. However, from other histories of regiments that sailed as part of the division we know that there were three ships for which regiments have not been identified – the *State of Georgia*, the *Canonicus* and the *Golden Gate*. As most of the transports for the other regiments of the division have been identified, it is possible that the 62nd and the 93rd were aboard one of these three.

these sea transports. However, when one reads the accounts of the time these journeys clearly deeply impressed the men who took part in them.

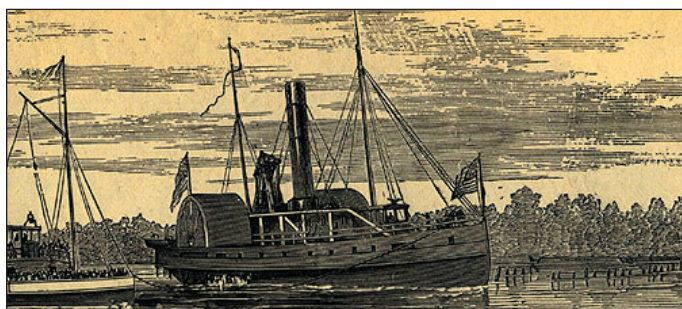


The '*Canonicus*' (top) and the '*Golden Gate*' (above) two steamers which may have transported the 62nd NY to the Peninsula on March 26, 1862.

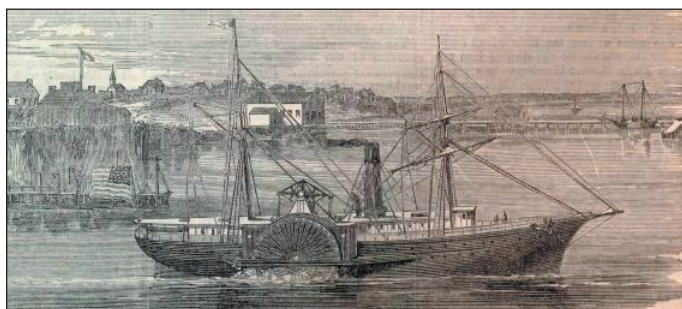


The '*State of Maine*' (top) which transported the 102nd Pa and the brigade staff and the '*John A. Warner*' (above) which transported the 98th Pa to the Peninsula.

The next time the Anderson Zouaves boarded a ship it was when the Army of the Potomac made its retreat from the Peninsula. According to De Trobriand, on August 30, 1862 the 62nd and the 55th New York embarked upon a three masted sailing ship *Conquest* and were towed by another of the steam vessels transporting the brigade from Yorktown to Alexandria. The 102nd Pa had embarked upon the *Cossack* while the 93rd (and probably the 98th) boarded the *Daniel Webster* which had been the flagship of Couch's division back in March.

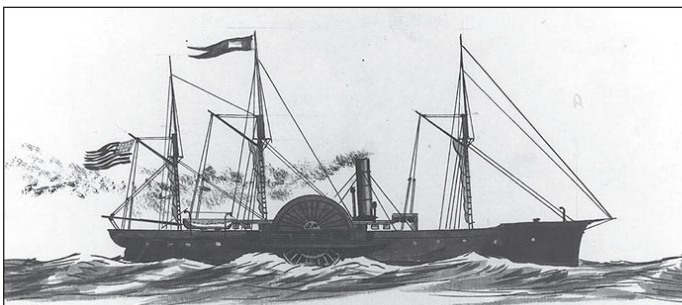


The '*Cossack*' which transported the 102nd from Yorktown to Alexandria.



The '*Daniel Webster*', flagship of the flotilla which left on March 26, later carried elements of Howe's (Peck's) brigade back to Alexandria after the disaster of the Peninsula Campaign.

Following is a list of the ships known to have been part of the flotilla that transported Couch's division to the Peninsula on March 26, 1862.



The '*State of Georgia*' may have carried the Anderson Zouaves from Georgetown to the peninsula on March 26, 1862.

The regiment sailed again when the Sixth Corps was rushed to Washington to repulse Early in 1864 and again when it was returned to City Point, however space does not allow further comment on these "pleasure cruises". The purpose of this article was to provide some visual aids to assist in the way we imagine the 62nd. It is likely that in our imaginations we probably most often see the Anderson Zouaves marching, fighting or in camp. It is unlikely that we often think of the regiment on board

VI CORPS COMMAND:

Daniel Webster – Gen. Couch & Division Staff; Gen. Keyes & Staff;

PECK'S BRIGADE:

State of Maine – Gen. Peck & Staff, 102nd Pa, Baggage, + one other (unknown) company;
Croton – 55th NY (8 companies);
John A. Warner – 98th Pa;
 Unknown – 62nd NY;
 Unknown – 93rd Pa;
 plus another unknown steamer.

BRIGG'S BRIGADE:

John Brooks – 2nd RI & 36th NY;
Daniel Webster – 7th Ma;
Ariel – 10th Ma;
Sea Shore – 10th Ma;
Donaldson – 10th Ma;
Mystic – 10th Ma.

GRAHAM'S BRIGADE:

Vanderbilt – 23rd Pa;
Daniel Webster – 31st Pa;
Wilson Small – 61st Pa;
Farmer – 61st Pa;
Daniel Webster – 67th NY.

Also with the flotilla *Canonicus*, *Golden Gate*, and the *State of Georgia*.

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