

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIV, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1964

## 14th Annual Tour - To Battle Sites of Louisiana - April 29 to May 4

BY C. ROBERT DOUGLAS

South to Louisiana for our 14th Annual Battlefield tour, April 29 to May 4! The battlefields of Port Hudson and Baton Rouge! The naval and army campaign of Farragut, Porter and Butler for Forts Jackson and St. Philip and for New Orleans! And the Creole charm of that 250 year old city with a heritage of France, Spain, the West Indies, and American Indians!

The Panama Limited, one of America's great trains, takes us south. We get off at Hammond, La., at 7:40 a.m. Leave heavy luggage on the train and it will be taken to your hotel room in New Orleans. Prepare for a field trip, but carry a light bag for a change of shoes and shirt and anything you wish.

Breakfast is at the Casa de Fresa hotel, across the street from the Illinois Central's Hammond station. Then, buses supplied gratis by the Louisiana Civil War Centennial commission will take us to the Port Hudson battlefield, north of Baton Rouge. Edward Cunningham, author of "The Port Hudson Campaign", will be our guide, along with our transplanted former member, Robert M. Reilly, president of the new Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table. A box lunch will break a four-hour study of the battlefield.

Into Baton Rouge, we will see the cemetery on the site of the battle of Baton Rouge; the old and new capitols, and the old arsenal, as time permits. Rooms at the Oak Manor motor hotel will be available for freshening up and any clothing changes.

T. Harry Williams, our honorary award life member, and Mrs. Williams will be our hosts at a party with cocktails and snacks in their home. Then the buses will take us on the hour and a half drive to New Orleans and to our headquarters at the Royal Orleans hotel. It is at the corner of Royal and Orleans streets in the middle of the Vieux Carre, the old French quarter. The Royal Orleans is new, but in a reserved splendor that fits the surroundings. Since New Orleans has many famed restaurants, the first evening is open for you to choose your own dining place.

Charles L. (Pie) Dufour, twice our speaker in Chicago, author of "The Night the War Was Lost", and our co-chairman in New Orleans, has arranged a river trip for the second day. Buses will take us down the Mississippi river shore to Venice. There we will board a boat provided by the Freeport Sulphur company and another chartered boat.

We will cruise to the Head of the Passes (the outlets to the gulf) then back to the Garden Island headquarters of Freeport Sulphur for lunch. Afterward the cruise is to the area where Porter's mortar fleet bombarded the forts. Our boats will cruise past Forts Jackson and St. Philip and back to Venice. The buses will take us to Fort Jackson for an on-the-ground inspection and afterward back to the Royal Orleans.

TOUR (Continued on Page 3, Column 1)



### COST OF TOUR

\$177 - Joint occupancy on train and at hotel (\*)

\$192 - Roomette on train, single room at hotel.

INCLUDES: Round trip fare and pullman fees on Panama Limited; room fees at Royal Orleans hotel; bus and boat transportation; all meals (except breakfasts, meals and beverages on train, and first dinner in New Orleans); admission fees where required; command post costs; group service tips; tour literature, and \$5 registration fee to cover promotional and overhead costs.

(\*) Indicate person with whom you wish to share room.

FOR PORTIONS OF TOUR, individual meetings or meals, and other variations, write or phone Registrar: Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut street, Chicago, Illinois 60611; phone (area 312) Whitehall 4-3085.



### THE PORT HUDSON CAMPAIGN

By Edward Cunningham

After months of preliminary skirmishing and a bloody naval battle on March 14, 1863, in which the USS Mississippi was destroyed, the situation in the Port Hudson, Louisiana, area finally rose to the crisis point when in mid-May, Gen. N. P. Banks, commanding the U.S. Army of the Gulf, launched a two-pronged attack against the Confederate bastion.

Troops from the Port Hudson garrison attempted to stop one Union army driving up from Baton Rouge on May 21, at Plains' Store, La., but were forced to fall back after a sharp fight. Two days later the Baton Rouge force linked up with Banks' main army, driving down from Bayou Sara to trap the 6,800 man Confederate garrison which was commanded by New York-born Gen. Franklin Gardner. After several days of sharp skirmishing, Banks launched an all-out attack at dawn on May 27. Twelve hours of bloody fighting, and 2,000 casualties later, Banks decided to try to capture the position by a formal siege. Artillery and fresh troops were brought in to bolster the Union army which began digging siege approaches toward the southern fortifications. As the Confederate works came within range, Banks launched a second massive attack on Sunday, June 14.

Even before the early morning fog had cleared, two infantry divisions tried to storm the Confederate posi-

CAMPAIGNS (Continued on next Page)

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FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,  
Chicago 11, Illinois  
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

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BATTLEFIELD TOUR, April 29-May 4, 1964,  
to Baton Rouge and New Orleans - C. Robert  
Douglas and Ralph G. Newman, co-chairmen; all  
officers are members; Al Meyer and Brooks  
Davis, marshals; Baton Rouge - Robert M. Reilly,  
chairman, T. Harry Williams and Edward Cun-  
ningham; New Orleans - Charles L. Dufour, chair-  
man.



CAMPAIGNS (Continued from Page 1)  
tion known as the Priest Cap. Eighteen hundred men fell  
in the brief but sanguinary struggle.

After this second failure, Banks decided to dislodge  
the Southerners by starvation, bombardment, and min-  
ing, to be followed by a final infantry assault.

For three weeks the two armies dug, sniped and threw  
grenades at each other until news reached Port Hudson  
that Vicksburg had fallen. Reduced to rations of mule,  
horse and rat meat, the Confederate garrison yielded on  
July 9, 1863, after 48 days of encirclement - the longest  
single siege in American history.

## PORT HUDSON TODAY

By Robert M. Reilly

To most readers of Civil War history, Port Hudson  
means little more than "the place that surrendered after  
Vicksburg fell". Yet it should be noted that without Port  
Hudson, Vicksburg could not have lasted as long as it did.  
Port Hudson was the southern flank of the Vicksburg de-  
fense. The ragged defenders of Port Hudson tied up Gen.  
Banks' entire army at a critical period when Gen. U. S.  
Grant had other, more important, uses for these men.

The Mississippi river has changed course drastically.  
Port Hudson is now nearly a mile inland and little re-  
mains of the town save a few battered, time-worn founda-  
tions in an otherwise open field.

The river shift cut away what was the Confederate  
right anchor position which the Federals named "The  
Citadel". With this exception, however, and excluding a  
few minor points where farmers plowed down a small  
portion of a work, all the breastworks remain very much  
intact. Several miles of well-defined Confederate works  
are to be seen as well as many Federal siege works -

from the  
Editor's pen



Rene-Robert, Sieur de LaSalle, an itinerant resident  
of Fort St. Louis (Starved Rock) and Fort Crevecoeur  
(Peoria), Illinois, reached the mouth of the Mississippi  
in 1682. The Spaniards Cabeza de Vaca and Hernando de  
Soto had been to the river before him, but Rene-Robert  
claimed the river and all the land that it drained in the  
name of his patron, King Louis XIV of France.

Louis de Phelypeaux, Count of Pontchartrain, minis-  
ter of marine, interested himself in doing something  
about the territory. His interest was defensive.

Pontchartrain chose Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iber-  
ville, 38, son of a Quebec family of the petit nobility, to  
lead an expedition to the gulf coast. Iberville selected  
his 17-year-old brother, Jean Baptiste le Moyne, Sieur  
de Bienville, and the Sieur de Sauvole as his chief lieu-  
tenants. The three ships of the expedition reached the gulf  
coast in January 1699. On March 2 they entered the mouth  
of the Mississippi on a bayou which they named Mardi  
Gras, that being the day. They went beyond the present  
site of Baton Rouge before turning back. Iberville found  
a big lake and named it Pontchartrain for his sponsor.

Iberville didn't set up a fort, as planned, at the mouth  
of the Mississippi because of the danger of flooding. He  
placed Sauvole in charge of building a fort at Biloxi, with  
Bienville second in command, then sailed back to France.

Bienville explored the coast. Almost 20 years later  
he was ordered to move the seat of government from the  
gulf coast to a point on the banks of the Mississippi at a  
point of his own choosing.

In 1718, Bienville sent a detachment of 50 artisans  
to clear the bank on the Mississippi for the new capital.  
He named it Nouvelle Orleans in honor of Philip, duke of  
Orleans, regent of France.

gun positions, rifle pits, etc. The interior Federal de-  
fensive lines, built after the capture, remain much as  
they were 100 years ago.

## FALL OF THE FORTS AND NEW ORLEANS

By Charles L. (Pie) Du Four

Two forts, Jackson and St. Philip, almost opposite  
each other on the neck of the Mississippi delta, guarded  
the passage to New Orleans, thriving metropolis of the  
South. The campaign against the city was under Flag  
Officer David Farragut and Capt. David Dixon Porter of  
the navy and Gen. Benjamin Butler of the army.

Farragut assembled his fleet of 24 wooden vessels  
(about 200 guns) and Porter's mortar boats at the Head  
of the Passes, where the Mississippi splits into several  
channels to flow to the gulf. The first ironclad, the Ma-  
nassas, went into action October 12, 1861, against the  
Federal flotilla.

In 1862, Farragut made his move against the forts.  
On April 18 Porter's mortar boats started a bombard-  
ment to silence the forts and permit the wooden ships to  
pass. They fired many shells at Fort Jackson, but did  
little damage.

At 2 a.m. on April 24, Farragut gave the signal to run  
past the forts, and by dawn he had accomplished this.  
He did not lose a ship. He continued 60 miles up the river  
and captured the undefended New Orleans on April 25.  
Civil authorities surrendered the city on April 29.

Cut off, the demoralized troops in Forts Jackson and  
St. Philip mutinied and forced their commanders to sur-  
render on April 28. Butler garrisoned the forts with one  
regiment, occupied New Orleans on May 1, and started  
his controversial administration of the city.



St. Louis Cathedral and Statue of Andrew Jackson in Jackson Square

TOUR (Continued from Page 1)

After freshening up, the Command Post will be in operation with cocktails, shrimps, and hors d'oeuvres. The dinner will be in the hotel and the speaker one familiar with the Louisiana campaigns.

The Saturday schedule gives ample time for breakfast - perhaps at Brennan's, across the street from the Royal Orleans - and a browse around the French quarter. Buses leave the hotel at 11 a.m. for the start of a tour of historic and modern New Orleans. Fitzgerald's restaurant on the 24-mile causeway across Lake Pontchartrain will serve a seafood lunch. Reactivated Civil War units - one wearing the dress of the Louisiana Tigers - will have a camp pitched on the restaurant grounds. After lunch the units will give an exhibition of artillery and rifle firing. Then the tour of New Orleans will resume.

At 4 p.m., Kenneth T. Urquhart, executive secretary of the Louisiana Historical association will guide us in an inspection of Confederate Memorial hall. Afterward, at Gallier hall (the old city hall, where the non-surrender of the city took place), the historical association, the Louisiana Centennial commission, and the New Orleans Civil War Round Table will be our hosts at a cocktail party.

There will be time to freshen up at the hotel, then a half block walk to the world famous Antoine's. After cocktails comes a dinner suggested by Roy Alciatore, the owner-proprietor: Oysters Bourguignonne (Oysters Rockefeller served for a large party), turtle soup, pompano pailotte or poulet Rochambeau, pommes souffles, green salad, crepes suzette, cafe brulot, and white or red wine, depending on the main course.

It is fun night and the unexpected always will happen. There will be time after the dinner to investigate Bourbon street and the quarter's night spots.

Sunday, early breakfast and church is indicated. There is a choice of two bus tours, both leaving early. The first is along the gulf shore to Biloxi and Beauvoir, the last home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The other is down the Mississippi river through the storied plantation country. You will be asked for your choice during Saturday.

Bags should be packed before the tours and placed on the buses. On the return to New Orleans they will go directly to the station to board the Panama Limited.

There is not room in this leaflet to detail the wonders of New Orleans, but brochures in the tour packet can be studied on the southward train trip. For advance reading, Pete Long has provided a ample listing of books.

The ROYAL ORLEANS hotel is in the heart of the New Orleans French Quarter. There are the Riviera pool, cabanas, and cocktail service atop the hotel. There is a view on four sides to the French quarter and the river.

## TOUR SCHEDULE

(Any schedule changes will be announced on tour)

WEDNESDAY, April 29, 1964

4:30 p.m. (Daylight time) - Report to Registrar at Panama Limited desk, Illinois Central station, Michigan Ave. at 11th place. Put tags on luggage. Train departs at 5:30 p.m. Pay own meal and beverage costs and tips on train.

THURSDAY, April 30

7:40 a.m. (Local time) - Arrive Hammond, La. Heavy luggage continues with train; carry light bag.

Breakfast at Casa de Fresa hotel, pay your own.

Buses to Port Hudson; box lunch on battlefield.

To Baton Rouge; cleanup rooms at Oak Manor motel.

Cocktails and snacks, Dr. and Mrs. T. Harry Williams hosts.

Buses to New Orleans and register at Royal Orleans hotel.

Dinner on your own. See brochure, Where to Eat in New Orleans.

FRIDAY, May 1

Breakfast on your own.

8:30 a.m. - Board buses at hotel.

10:30 a.m. - Venice, La., board boats for Mississippi cruise to Head of Passes, Farragut's assembly area.

12:30 p.m. - Lunch at Garden Island headquarters of Freeport Sulphur company.

1:30 p.m. - Cruise to area of mortar fleet bombardment; pass Forts Jackson and St. Philip and return to Venice.

2:30 p.m. - Buses to Fort Jackson for inspection.

6:15 p.m. - Arrive at Royal Orleans hotel.

6:45 p.m. - Command Post, cocktails and snacks.

8:00 p.m. - Dinner at hotel; speaker to be announced.

SATURDAY, May 2

Breakfast and browse at will.

11:00 a.m. - Board buses at hotel for New Orleans tour.

12:30 p.m. - Seafood lunch at Fitzgerald's restaurant on Lake Pontchartrain causeway. Reactivated Confederate units' camp and gunnery display.

3:00 p.m. - Continue tour of New Orleans.

4:00 p.m. - Visit Confederate Memorial hall.

5:15 p.m. - Cocktails at Gallier hall (Old City hall), guests of Louisiana Centennial commission, Louisiana Historical association, and New Orleans Civil War Round Table.

8:00 p.m. - Command Post and dinner at Antoine's. Fun Night.

SUNDAY, May 3

Breakfast and church on your own. Bags packed.

8:30 a.m. - Bus A to Biloxi and Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' last home.

9:00 a.m. - Bus B on River road Plantation tour. Box lunches on tours.

4:30 p.m. - Depart on Panama Limited; dinner and beverages on train, pay your own.

MONDAY, May 4

10:00 a.m. (Daylight time) - Arrive in Chicago.

LUGGAGE TAGS will be provided with train and hotel accommodations marked on them. In New Orleans luggage will be moved from train to hotel and to rooms.

## HOMWORK



Prepare! Any battlefield tour is enhanced by a refresher course in the history of the sites to be seen, the generals to be encountered, the battles to be fought. Here suggested is a partial boning-up course:

### PORT HUDSON AND BATON ROUGE

Battles and Leaders, III, Irwin, Col. Richard B., The Capture of Port Hudson, p. 586. Also Opposing Forces, p. 598. Also Irwin on Baton Rouge, pp. 582-584.

Cunningham, Edward, The Port Hudson Campaign, a new and useful study.

Cunningham, Edward, Battle of Baton Rouge 1862, with text, maps, and illustrations, published by the Committee for the Preservation of the Port Hudson Battlefield.

De Forest, John Williams, A Volunteer's Adventure. Dimitry, John, Louisiana, Vol. X, Confederate Military History.

Fiske, John, The Mississippi Valley in the Civil War.

Foote, Shelby, The Civil War, A Narrative, Vol. II.

Greene, F. V., The Mississippi, pp. 209-237, Campaigns of the Civil War Series. Port Hudson and Baton Rouge.

Harrington, Fred Harvey, Fighting Politician, Major General N. P. Banks.

Official Records, Vol. XXVI, Parts I & II for Port Hudson, also Vol. XV for Baton Rouge and early Port Hudson.

Palfrey, John C., Port Hudson, Papers of the Military Historical Society of Mass., Vol. VIII.

Report of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, 1865, Vol. II, Red River Expedition.

Williams, K. P., Lincoln Finds a General, Vol. V, first 50 pages give proper emphasis to Port Hudson.

Wright, Lieut. Howard C., Port Hudson, Its History From an Interior Point of View, an 1863 eyewitness, reprinted in pamphlet.

Maps. Official Atlas XXXVIII, map 3 for siege and CLVI for area.

### NEW ORLEANS CAMPAIGN

Battles and Leaders, Vol. II, a series of very useful articles by J. Russell Soley, George W. Cable, D. D. Porter, John Bartlett, William T. Meredith, Capt. A. F. Warley, Albert Kautz, Marion A. Baker, William B. Robertson, J. G. Duncan, and J. K. Mitchell. These cover the pre-campaign, passages of the forts, occupation of the city, and are many of them excellent.

Catton, Bruce, Terrible Swift Sword.

Dufour, Charles L., The Night the War Was Lost. If you read nothing else on New Orleans, this is a must! Good for maps, too.

Fiske, John, The Mississippi Valley in the Civil War, pp. 111-132, summary.

Foote, Shelby, The Civil War, A Narrative, Vol. I.

Greene, F. V., The Mississippi, Campaigns of the Civil War.

Jones, Virgil Carrington, The Civil War at Sea, Vol. II.

Lewis, Charles Lee, David Glasgow Farragut, Our First Admiral, a fine biography.

Mahan, A. T., The Gulf and Inland Waters, Vol. III, The Navy in the Civil War.

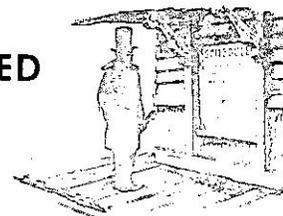
Official Records, Army, Vol. VI.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies, Vol. XVIII.

West, Richard S., Jr., Mr. Lincoln's Navy, pp. 130-157, summary.

(There is an extensive literature on New Orleans in the Civil War in addition to the above and we suggest consulting "Pie" Dufour's bibliography.)

## ALL ABOARD! PANAMA LIMITED



WEDNESDAY, April 29

CHECK-IN TIME: 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, (Daylight saving) at Panama Limited desk, Illinois Central station, Michigan Avenue at 11th place, Chicago.

TRAIN DEPARTS: 5:30 p.m. (DST).

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times. Marshals Al Meyer and Brooks Davis will be on hand for guidance. Notify them if leaving the party for side excursions.

LOCAL TIME applies at all events in Louisiana.

### NEW ORLEANS, THE CITY

A few of the titles, the list is not intended to be all inclusive:

Arthur, Stanley Clisby, Old New Orleans, this and other pamphlets are available in New Orleans.

Asbury, Herbert, The French Quarter, an informal history.

Basso, Etolia S., The World From Jackson Square.

Cable, George W., New Orleans Before the Capture, Battles and Leaders II, an excellent picture of the city in early days of the war.

Early, Eleanor, New Orleans Holiday.

Kane, Harnett T., Queen New Orleans.

Parton, James, General Butler in New Orleans.

New Orleans City Guide, Federal Writer's Project.

Rouse, J. Fred, Chalmette National Historical Park, National Park Service Historical Handbook Series No. 29, for the "other battle of New Orleans."

Saxon, Lyle, Fabulous New Orleans.

E. B. LONG

NEW ORLEANS... The Cabildo (now a museum) ... Ursuline convent, second oldest building in Mississippi Valley... Old Spanish Arsenal... Old Absinthe House (1806)... Le Petit Theatre de Vieux Carre (beautiful foyer and courtyard)... Office building of Judah Touro, philanthropist... Clothing store of Paul Tulane... Chalmette... Pakenham ruins... St. Louis and Metairie cemeteries... Pontalba buildings... French Market...

Old U. S. Mint... U. S. Customs House (cornerstone laid in 1847 by Henry Clay; beautiful marble staircase and marble hall)... Cotton Exchange... International Trade Mart... Foreign Trade Zone... river wharves... banana docks... industrial canal... molasses refinery... sugar refinery...

Audubon park (whooping cranes)... Delgado Art museum... Loyola University... Tulane... Sugar Bowl... Charity Hospital Medical Center...

Magnolias... wrought-iron balconies... courts... paved patios...

The chef is king... Antoine's... Arnaud's... Court of Two Sisters... Galatoire's... Broussard's... Brennan's... Commander's Palace... Dunbar's... Kolb's... T. Pittari's...

Pirates' Alley... artists' easels in the street...

Bourbon street... Dixieland jazz... Preservation Hall... Famous Door... Pete Fountain's... Al Hirt... Basin street...

Original Absinthe bar... Sazerac bar... Ramos fizz (Roosevelt)... Ched's lounge... Dan's Pier 600... Hotel New Orleans Zebra lounge... Monteleone Carousel... Prince Conti's Le Petit bar... Sheraton-Charles Le Pub... Sloppy Jim's...

Ride behind a hatted horse...