

FORT FISHER, N. C.



E. F. W. ELLIS.

GENERAL ALFRED H. TERRY.

General Terry, the hero of Fort Fisher, was one of the most brilliant volunteer leaders of the Union army. His services up to that time had been valuable, yet not above ordinary, for lack of a chance to display his peculiar qualities. He was given the high promotion of brigadier-general in the regular army for the capture of Fort Fisher.

Fort Fisher, N. C., the most powerful earthwork in the Confederacy, was carried by a bold Union assault on January 15, 1865, after a heavy naval bombardment. The traverses which intersected the parapets every few yards finally became barricades, and with their shot-proof sides and numerous passages were so many little forts over which the combatants fought, often at arm's length. The fire from the fleet had scooped out graves in the sand, and these were filled by the Confederates who had been ordered by Colonel Lamb, their commander, to dispute Terry's advance on the Union side to the first traverse. Great timbers, gun carriages, and even cannon, broken by the huge missiles from the fleet, were lying in heaps, and on and around them were the dead who had vainly tried to defend them. The advance of Terry's men had been arrested and Colonel Lamb summoned all his force to this front traverse with the determination to charge upon the assailants and drive them out. Signals were sent to the gunners in the fort to withhold their fire on the position held by Terry during this counter-charge. The distance between the combatants was not above a hundred feet, and calling on men and officers to follow, Lamb leaped the breastworks with the order, "Charge bayonets! forward! double-quick! march." Instantly a Union bullet entered his right leg and he sank on the



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works. Terry's men poured a heavy volley of bullets into the Confederates and the latter fell behind cover. Colonel Lamb was taken to a bomb-proof and the command given to Major James Reilly, who agreed to continue the struggle as long as he had a man left. The Confederate rear-guard made a desperate resistance, but seven hours after the fight began the last traverse and battery were in Terry's hands.



FINAL AND TRIUMPHANT ASSAULT ON FORT FISHER, NEAR WILMINGTON, N. C., ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 15, 1865.