major clearinghouse for imports, New Orleans was the wealthiest city in the South. Despite its great wealth, however, the city was vulnerable to the threat of invasion by the rebel armies.

This blindness to the vulnerability of the city may be explained by the land-owning thinking common at the time. It was a malady that affected not only the citizens of New Orleans but affected as well most people in the military. As Union Secretary of the Navy G. Wells recorded of a New Orleans meeting in which the plan to take the city from the sea was discussed:

The President was astonished. He had always thought in terms of moving down the Mississippi. His military advisors are the politically potent governors of the Western States had reinforced this strategic notion.

Jefferson Davis similarly misidentified the Union armies in Tennessee as being to the east of New Orleans.

In the early part of 1866, so general an opinion prevailed that the greatest danger to New Orleans was by an attack from above, that Gen. Lee was said to General Beauregard a large part of the

trump in that city.

Neither chief executed the possibility of an attack upon New Orleans from the Gulf of Mexico. The difference is that, while Lincoln listened to Welles, Davis ignored the requests of Gen. M. Lovell, defender of the Confederate City. Confederate generals who ordered the mutiny of his men, Davis had, in fact, repeatedly refused Lovell critical supplies and directed him to send veteran troops, artillery, and powder to Southern armies operating far to the north—which he did only after repeated protests.

On the night of 24 April 1866, Adm. E. G. Farragut led his squadron upstream, boarding his way past the forts of Forts Jackson and St. Philip. The following day found New Orleans under the guns of the federal fleet. On 1 May Farragut presented a notice of Gen. Leconte, Jacob Bell, and Capt. D. Porter sum up the Navy's incredible victory in a letter to Aus Secretary of the Navy G. F. Glaze.

New Orleans' falling seems to have made a stampede in "Secession. You may put the rebellion down as 'quiesced': "broken-backed," and "wind-gilled." Less than a year after the beginning of the war, the Navy had captured the largest and most important city in the South. Popular attention, however, was focused on Virginia, grandly the symbolic of the eastern campaigns in the popular imagination. Minimized the importance of the western theater. The magnitude of the victory only slowly became apparent.

Conclusion

The dedication, heroism, and sacrifice of the men in the armies was great. The courage of the Union division commanders who first captured New Orleans indicates that the Union Navy played a critical role in winning the war for the Union than is generally acknowledged. The blockade severely impacted the South's ability to supply its armies and feed its people, contributing to lost opportunities on the battlefield, disf
tinction at home, and massive desertion. The fact that this was a bloodless campaign does not mean it was irrelevant. At Shiloh and Murfreesboro, SBG exhausted his ammunition. The Confederate forces continued to fight against surrender and kept New Orleans intact until April 1862. When New Orleans marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy, much hard fighting remained. The next year, New Orleans, the capital of the Confederacy, was captured by Farragut's squadron. Who contributed this recognition—recognized as the time by soldiers and citizens alike—fall from our history books and public awareness? The answer lies in the fact that years later, so many more participants arose almost uncollectable.

The position of the Southern Confederacy has been much improved by the events of the last month, and it... will not... be very long before there is peace, and the same spirit that directed the Navy and NARA officers

The US Naval Landing Party is an American Civil War living history group portraying the activities of Union sailors and marines landed on shore duty shores. Primarily active in the Northwest, the USNLP does recruit nationwide and has members in many states. For information about the group, please refer to the unit website at www.usnlp.org. The USNLP is a number of the Navy & Marine Living History Association.

The Navy & Marine Living History Association is a nationwide 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting an awareness and understanding of America's naval heritage through the medium of living history. Our member units portray sailors and marines from a century of warfare. America's history. NMHLA provides original and historic naval research at www.navyandmarINE.org. On this site you can find information about our involvement in the Navy & Marine Living History Association (NMA) of the Alligator Project—the research and search for the Civil War's last submarine.

1 Public awareness of the Navy's role is usually limited to Monitoring & Virginia, and, perhaps, the blockades.

2 Accurate numbers are impossible to agree upon. These come from Lincoln's reports to President Lincoln (PM, June 27, 1865). What's important is the imbalance between land and sea forces. The Union would often conduct an offensive campaign in which it drew Union forces away from the blockade in partiricularly North Carolina. The U.S. Navy's role in the Union Army's strategy was that the U.S. Navy played a secondary role in deciding the fate. The testimony of history is that it fell at the orders of the Union Army about where almost last time it fell.

3 United States v. Virginia, 205 U.S. 351 (1907).

4 The Navy's role: Problems

Sailor Michael Harlow model cotton the cameras seen ban among the soldiers who fought in the battle of the Presidio M. Whiting Gar Post in North Attleboro, Mass. Born 1889. That ratio of 3:1 is accepted as an accurate percentage of the entire Navy. (Despite the size of life at sea, Harlow survived all of them, passing in 1935).

5 Lincoln's Last Will and Testament, pp. 335-336.