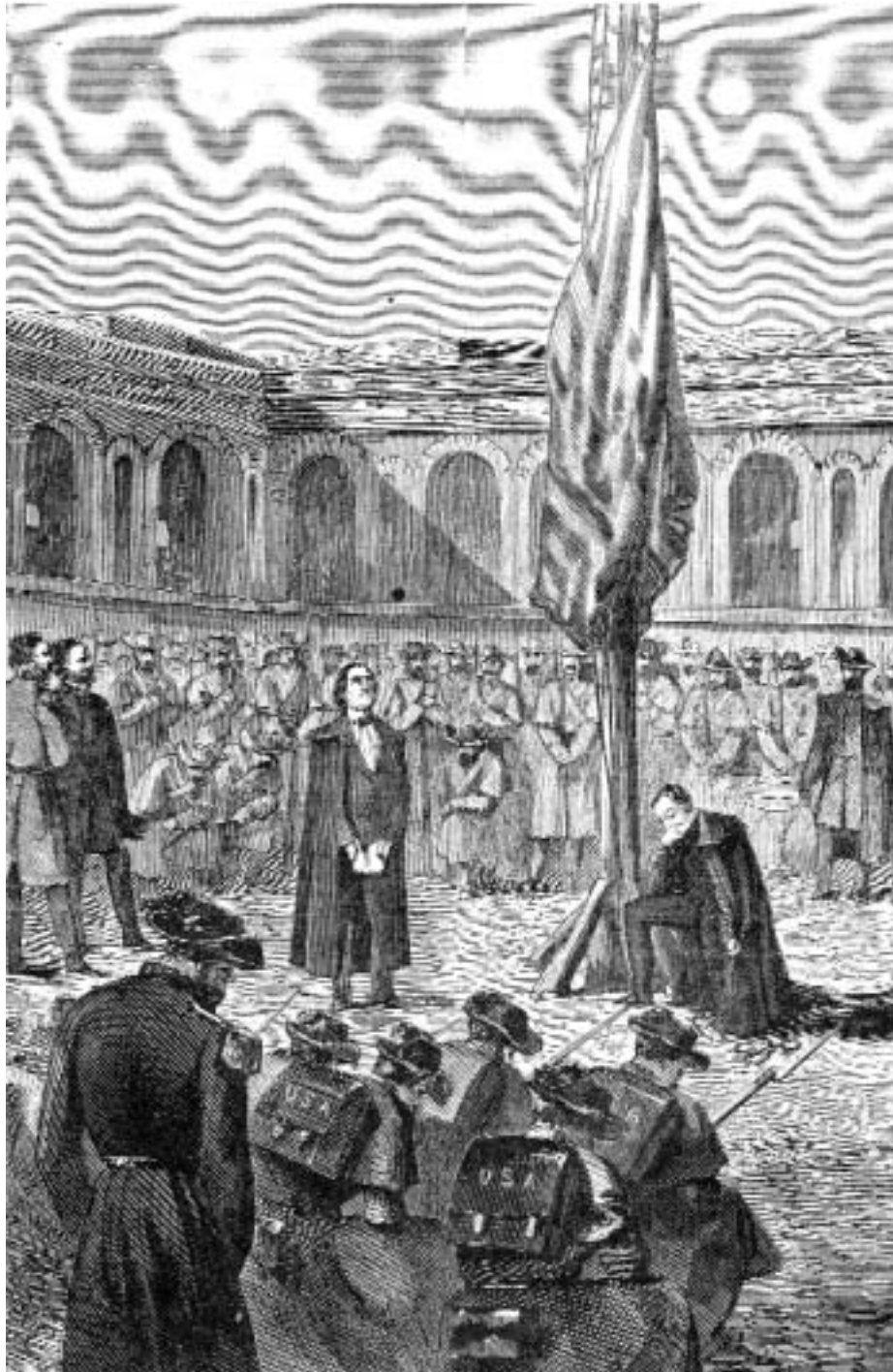


Evacuation of Fort Moultrie

Artist: William Waud
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

Major Robert Anderson's decision to leave Fort Moultrie for Fort Sumter was kept secret, even from his officers, until twenty minutes before his departure. Only Lt. Norman Hall, who escorted the women and children, and Capt. John Foster, who was to bring up a number of small vessels for the troops, knew of Anderson's bold plan.

As the federal troops set out for Sumter, Anderson left a few men to defend the moving troops with Moultrie's guns if necessary. Showing no weapons or uniforms and covered in the approaching darkness, Anderson's men had the appearance of workmen moving to and from Sumter, rather than a garrison on the move.



Prayer at Sumter

Artist: officer in Major Anderson's command
Harper's Weekly

Under cover of darkness, Major Robert Anderson and his troops moved into Fort Sumter on the evening of Dec. 26. At noon the following day, he assembled the Union troops to hoist the garrison flag brought from Fort Moultrie. The words of an eyewitness were published in *Harper's Weekly*:

A short time before noon, Major Anderson assembled the whole of his little force, with the workmen employed on the fort, around the foot of the flag-staff. The national ensign was attached to the cord, and Major Anderson, holding the end of the lines in his hands, knelt reverently down. The officers, soldiers, and men clustered around, many of them on their knees, all deeply impressed with the solemnity of the scene. The chaplain made an earnest prayer – such an appeal for support, encouragement, and mercy, as one would make who felt that 'Man's extremity is God's opportunity.' As the earnest, solemn words of the speaker ceased, the men responded Amen with a fervency that perhaps they had never before experienced, Major Anderson drew the 'Star Spangled Banner' up to the top of the staff, the band broke out with the national air of 'Hail Columbia' and loud and exultant cheers, repeated again and again were given by the officers, soldiers and workmen.



Goodbye to Sumter

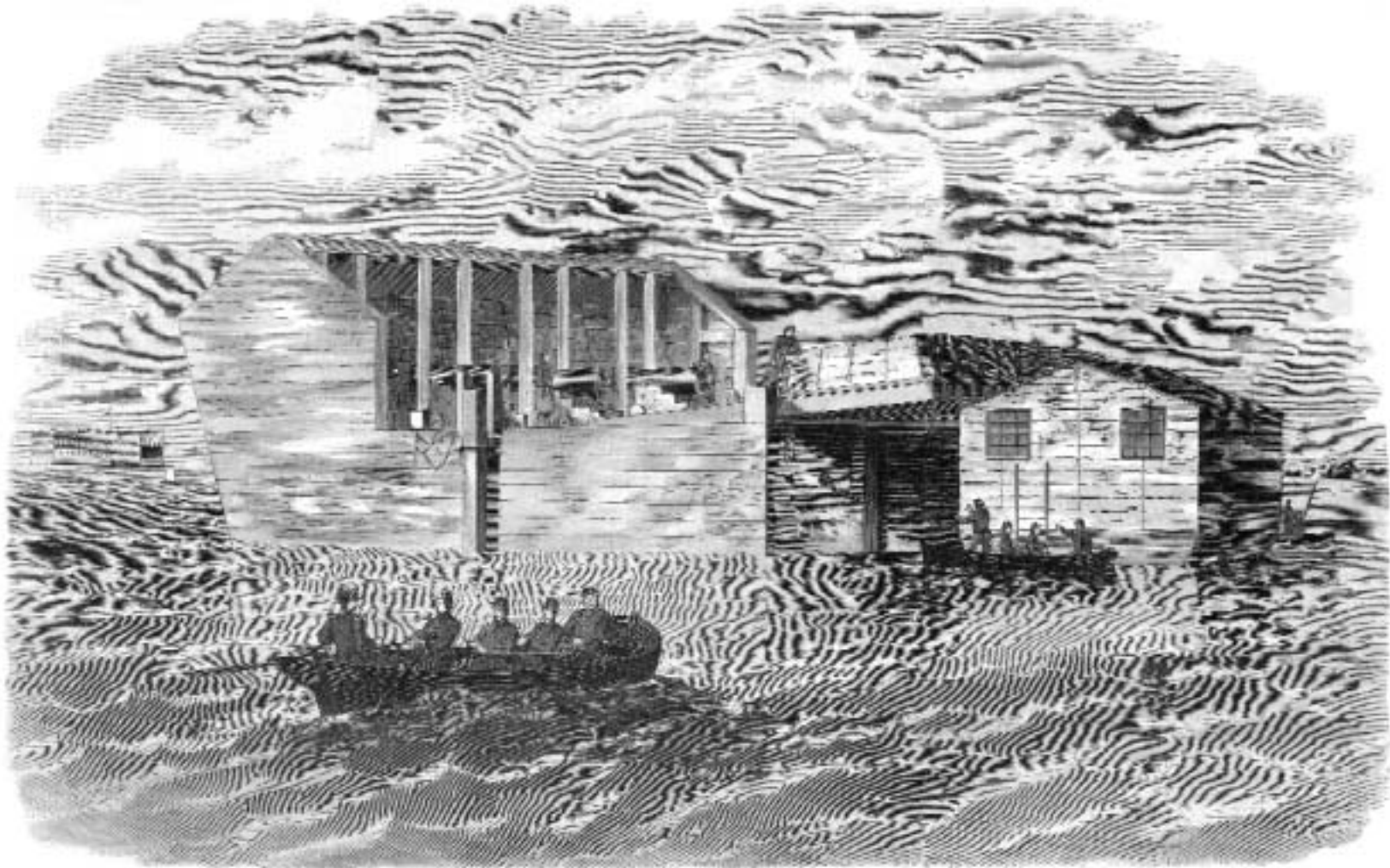
Artist: M. N.
Harper's Weekly

As tensions mounted between the small federal garrison at Sumter and the South Carolina authorities, the presence of women and children in Fort Sumter became an increasing concern for both parties. This was particularly so for Major Robert Anderson. He was concerned that these loved ones might find themselves in harm's way, but they were also contributing to the depletion of a sparse food supply.

Anderson requested permission from Gov. Francis W. Pickens to have the women and children evacuated and sent by ship to New York. On Feb. 3, the steamer *Marion* was made available as requested, and the women and children boarded for the long trip.

One of the wives aboard the *Marion* recorded as they pulled away:

When the ship was passing, [the fort] fired a gun and gave three heart-thrilling cheers as a parting farewell to the dear loved ones on board, whom they may possibly never meet again this side of the grave. The response was weeping and waving adieux to husbands and fathers. A small band put up in an isolated fort, and completely surrounded by instruments of death, as five forts could be seen from the steamer's deck, with their guns pointing toward Sumter.



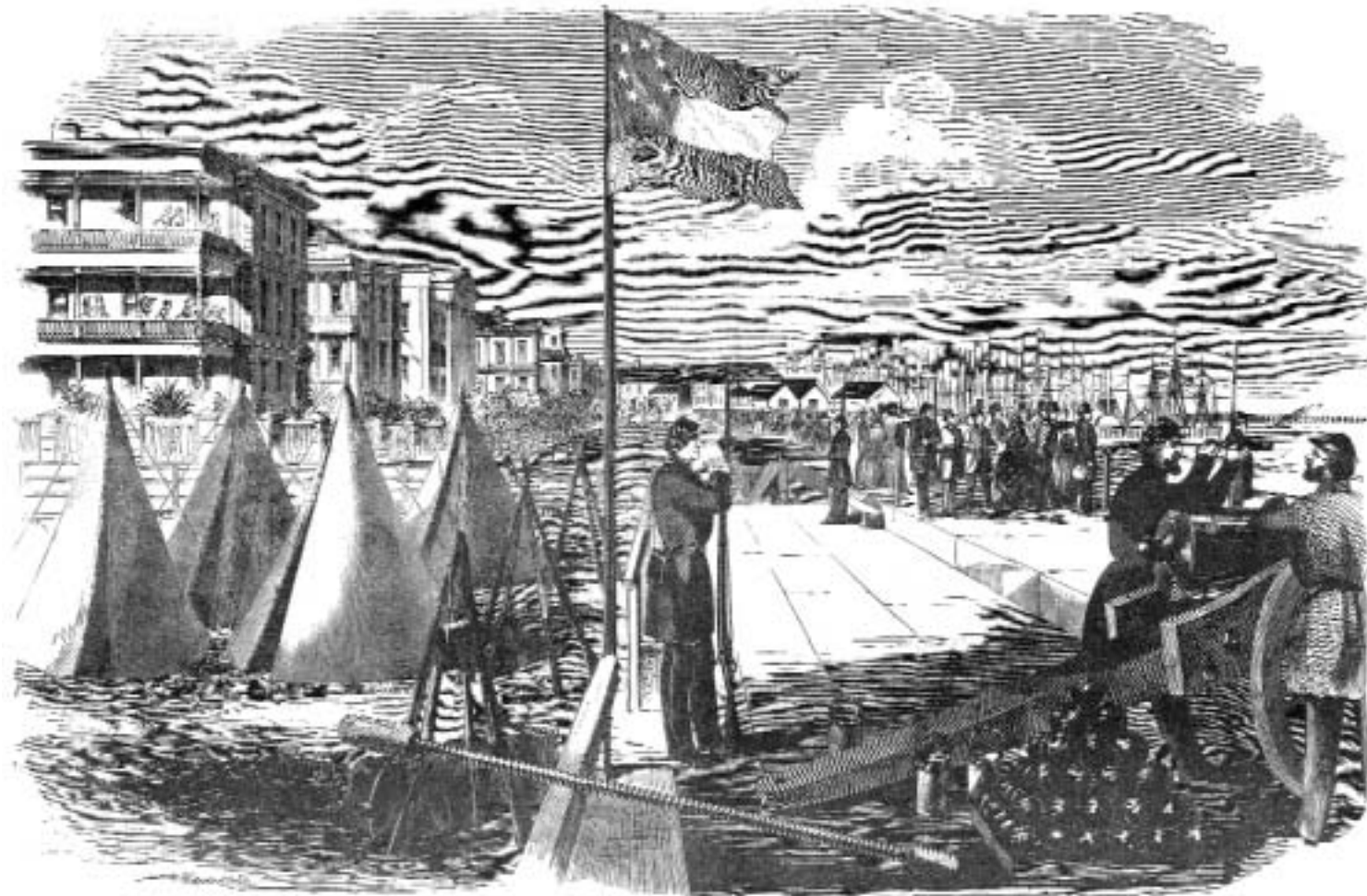
The Floating Battery

Artist: William Waud

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

Capt. John Hamilton, CSN, late of the U.S. Navy, developed the idea of a floating barge to act as a movable battery in the eventual assault on Fort Sumter. Supporters called it a marvelous innovation in naval warfare, while critics called it a "slaughter pen." Permission was granted to build the 100-ft. x 25-ft. floating battery. It was constructed of heart pine timbers sawed 12-in. square and reinforced on the face with two layers of railway iron installed vertically and four layers of boiler iron, all bolted to the timbers.

The battery was designed for four heavy caliber guns and was installed with two 42-lb. guns and two 32-lb. guns. The magazine was built in the rear of the hold, surrounded by a six-ft. thick layer of sand bags. The immense weight of the sand bags also served an important function as a counter balance to the large guns.



The Battery at Charleston

Artist: unknown
Harper's Weekly

By early April 1861, Gov. Francis W. Pickens and Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard were aware that a naval expedition was en route to Fort Sumter from New York. Word spread quickly throughout Charleston, creating both excitement and anxiety. Was this expedition simply sent as a relief mission? Everyone was aware that the federal garrison at Sumter would soon exhaust its food rations. Beauregard was concerned that a large amphibious assault would be staged on Morris Island as this naval expedition arrived. Citizens gathered at the Battery daily to watch for any developments in the impending confrontation.

On April 11, three of Beauregard's aides delivered a letter to Major Robert Anderson demanding the surrender and evacuation of Fort Sumter. In his proposed terms,

Beauregard suggested, "All proper facilities will be afforded for the removal of yourself and your command, together with company arms and property, and all private property, to any post in the United States which you may select."

Anderson met with his officers to read Beauregard's demand. After the unanimous agreement of all the officers, Anderson refused to surrender the fortification saying, "It is a demand with which I regret that my sense of honor, and obligations to my government, prevent my compliance."