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Where the Civil War Began--Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina

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(19)-5889-Where the Civil War began—Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor, South Carolina. Copyright Underwood & Underwood.

You are four miles below the city: Charleston itself is away at your right. James Island is off at the left beyond the fort. Morris Island is behind you.

This is where the first shots were exchanged in the Civil War. Major Anderson, a Kentuckian by birth, transferred the U. S. garrison down here from Fort Moultrie, Dec. 26, 1860, six days after South Carolina's secession. Supplies sent him from the north were fired on off Morris Island (behind you) and prevented from reaching him; Governor Pickens formally demanded the evacuation of the fort. Anderson refused. The scanty supplies had nearly come to an end by the first of April, 1861, and meanwhile, South Carolina had raised and concentrated a volunteer force of about 7000 men. Batteries were constructed over on Morris Island only three quarters of a mile away, commanding the weakest side of this fort, and others were made ready at Fort Moultrie farther up the harbor.

President Lincoln notified Governor Pickens that provisions would be forwarded for the Fort Sumter garrison and that if these were peaceably allowed to enter no additional troops would be sent, but that in any case they would enter. On the other hand, Governor Pickens authorized General Beauregard to demand the surrender of the fort to South Carolinian authority. The demand was made April 11th. April 12th Major Anderson refused. Early the next morning Beauregard opened fire upon the fort and for thirty-six hours a storm of shot and shell poured from the South Carolina batteries, answered by Sumter as long as the garrison's dwindling supplies of food could be made to hold out; no lives were lost, but for lack of food Major Anderson was obliged to evacuate the fort on April 14th, carrying the Stars and Stripes away with him to New York.

Just four years later, April 14, 1865, the same commander raised the same flag once more in its old place.

Where the Civil War Began — Fort Sumter, S. C.

Fort Sumter, Caroline du Sud — lieu où a commencé la Guerre Civile.

Fort Sumter in Süd-Carolina, wo der Bürgerkrieg anfing.

Fuerte Sumter, Caroline del Sur — donde comenzó la Guerra Civil.

Hvar inbördeskriget började — Fort Sumter, S. C., F. S. A.

Гдѣ междоусобная война началась; Фортъ Сумтеръ, А. С. Ш.