



AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR WAS FOUGHT FROM 1861-1865.

11 SOUTHERN SLAVE STATES DECLARED THEIR SECESSION FROM THE UNION AND FORMED THE CONFEDERATED STATES OF AMERICA KNOWN AS THE "SOUTH".

THE REMAINING STATES WERE KNOWN AS THE "UNION" OR "THE NORTH".

FOUR YEARS OF BLOODY COMBAT LEFT AN ESTIMATED 750,000 SOLDIERS DEAD ON BOTH SIDES & THE CONFEDERACY SURRENDERED ON APRIL 9TH 1865. BASICALLY THE CIVIL WAR WAS DRIVEN BY IDEOLOGY OF THE NEED TO EITHER PROTECT OR DESTROY SLAVERY.

OVER 140,000 IRISH MEN ENLISTED IN THE UNION ARMY WITH COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OPPOSING THEM ON THE CONFEDERATE SIDE IN WHAT REMAINS ONE OF THE BLOODIEST AND MOST FEROCIOUS WARS OFF ALL TIME.



FORT SUMTER

FORT SUMTER WAS NAMED AFTER GENERAL THOMAS SUMTER, REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO (1776 / 1783).

THIS WAS A SEA FORT LOCATED IN CHARLESTON HARBOUR SOUTH CAROLINA. CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGAN IN 1829 AND WAS STILL UNFINISHED ON THE 12TH OF APRIL 1861, WHEN THE CONFEDERACY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK AGAINST THE UNION FORCES THERE.

THE ATTACK WHICH BEGAN AT 4.30AM ON THE MORNING OF THE 12TH SIGNALLED A 34 HOUR BOMBARDMENT RESULTING IN THE SURRENDER OF THE UNION ARMY AT 2.30PM ON 13 APRIL.

FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS FORT SUMTER WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF SUSTAINED ATTACKS BY THE UNION ARMY.

THE DEFENCE OF FORT SUMTER BY THE CONFEDERACY WAS ONE OF THE MOST GALLANT EFFORTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WAR. WITH THE GROUNDSWELL OF SUPREMACY RUNNING WITH THEM, THE UNION ARMY FINALLY RECAPTURED FORT SUMTER RAISING THE UNION FLAG HIGH ABOVE THE SMOKING RUINS AT 9AM ON THE 18TH FEBRUARY 1865.

THE END GAME HAD BEGUN. ON THE 9TH APRIL 1865 GENERAL ROBERT E LEE, THE CONFEDERATE COMMANDER, SURRENDERED TO UNION ARMY GENERAL ULYSSES S GRANT AT APPOMATTOX COURTHOUSE.

