

wounded, and five prisoners. The Confederates lost Captain Winston Stevens, killed; other casualties not reported.

During March, Palatka was occupied by a strong force sent from Jacksonville, estimated by General Anderson at 1,500 men. St. Augustine and the eastern side of the St. Johns were also in possession of the Federal army, together with the north side of the river below Jacksonville, with a battery at Yellow Bluff. There was constant and uninterrupted communication between these posts and the base at Jacksonville until the navigation of the St. Johns River was made extremely hazardous by the Confederates, who, on the night of March 30, 1864, placed 12 torpedoes, each containing 70 pounds of small-grain powder, in the river channel near Mandarin Point.

At 4 a. m., April 1st, the U. S. transport *Maple Leaf*, returning to Jacksonville from Palatka with the camp equipment of three regiments, struck one of these torpedoes and sank in seven minutes. The Confederates then boarded her and burned her to the water's edge. On April 16th, the *Hunter*, another U. S. transport, returning from Picolata with quartermaster stores, struck a torpedo and sank immediately, near the wreck of the *Maple Leaf*. One man was drowned. Again, on May 9th, the U. S. armed transport *Harriet A. Weed* was destroyed at the same place, with the loss of five men. Thus within 40 days three vessels were destroyed at this point, with nine torpedoes still in the river. Farther up the river, at a place called Horse Landing, Lieutenant Letford, of Captain Dickison's command, captured and burned the U. S. steamer *Columbine*, killing 25 and capturing seven commissioned officers, 9 seamen, and 47 enlisted negroes, himself sustaining no loss whatever.

On April 2, 1864, General Henry made another reconnaissance in the direction of Cedar Creek, and in the skirmishing that followed had 8 men wounded. The Confederate casualties were not given in the reports.

These forces, the greatest number mobilized in Florida during the war, remained facing each other until the middle of April, when heavy drafts were made on both Federal and Confederate armies in this vicinity, for service in the armies of Sherman and Grant, Lee and Johnston. Beginning with the 8th of April and continuing thereafter until the middle of May, transports loaded with Federal troops left Jacksonville almost daily. The Federal forces in this vicinity were