

From the Charleston Mercury, March 16.

On Thursday evening, all proper arrangements having been previously made, the "forayers" (Capt. JOHN H. MICKLER and a detachment of his company, Eleventh regiment South Carolina Volunteers) started in their canoes, and followed May River down to its junction with Mackay's Creek, where the union of the two streams forms Calibogue Sound. Learning, from close observation, the picket stations, they effected a safe landing. The night was dark, and the wind high enough to send the tide to the shore with a heavy murmur. After making all necessary dispositions to insure success, the scouts moved cautiously to the high ground, and thence toward the house, which is used as a picket and signal station. The plan was to approach the place in the rear, and, if possible, capture or bayonet every one there without firing a gun; but they found that a sentinel guarded the approach from this quarter, and another was posted on the front. Under these circumstances, there was no alternative but to shoot down the sentinel at the back door, and then do their work with dispatch. Bang went a musket, and as target practice is not certain in the dark, away scampered the sentinel, followed by the attacking party, who rushed close upon his heels into the house. Before the sleeping guards could throw off their blankets, they found themselves in the grasp of a band of stern rebels. Rather than take the twenty odd bright bayonets of our men. the astonished Yankees quietly surrendered. Meantime, the noise below had awakened the sleepers above, and a Lieutenant of the signal corps [Thomas B Rushby] rushed down stairs, en dishabille, to ascertain what had occurred; but he too was soon a prisoner in the hands of a sturdy grayback, with pistol cocked, whom he encountered at the foot of the stairs. This much having been accomplished, no time was to be lost. The prisoners were marched at the double quick to the landing, the Yankee Lieutenant suffering severely from briars and thorns, he being barefooted, without hat or coat. The retreat was safely conducted, and that too over nine miles of water courses, available for gunboats of large size. The following is a list of the captives:

First Lieut. Thomas B. Rushby, U.S. Signal Corps Alfred S.C. Williams, U.S. Signal Corps: John Meir man, U.S. Signal Corps; John Hudgin, U.S. Signal Corps: Sergt. S.L. Sibley, 9th regiment Maine Volunteers: Private Leonard Baker, 9th regiment Maine Volunteers: L. Connell, 9th regiment Maine Volunteers; J.O. Chandler, 9th regiment Maine Volunteers; J.A. Hannan, 9th regiment Maine Volunteers.

A Lieutenant of the Signal Corps and a private, who remained up stairs, escaped unobserved, and the pickets on the bluff made their escape. All the rest were taken and brought off the Island without the loss of a man on our side.