

Private Daniel Dailey, Company C, 4th Rhode Island Volunteers

Daniel Dailey was born in County Kerry, Ireland about 1835 and immigrated with his parents to the United States prior to the Civil War. According to an 1860 federal census report he was living as a boarder in the Knightsville section of Cranston, Rhode Island, and was employed as a laborer in a local calico mill.

With the outbreak of the war Dailey enlisted in the 4th RI Volunteer Infantry on 9 September 1861, signing on for a three year term of service. The regiment was organized at Providence and left the state for Washington, D.C. on October 2nd. The troops were officially mustered into the regiment on October 30th at “Camp California” in Alexandria, Virginia and initially served in the defense of Washington. Records indicate that Pvt. Daniel Dailey was mustered into “*Captain Simon’s Company*”; i.e., Company C of the 4th Regiment.

For its first significant mission the 4th was assigned to the lesser known but important Burnside Campaign to seize coastal positions on the Outer Banks of the North Carolina Coast. On January 3, 1862, the 4th RI became engaged “Burnside’s Expedition” to Hatteras Inlet and



Roanoke Island, N. C. Between January 7th and February 8th, 1862 the 4th Rhode Island fought in Battle of Roanoke Island. March 11-13, the regiment fought in Battle of New Berne, and from March 14th to April 26th in the bombardment and capture of Fort Macon.

In July 1862, the 4th RIVI left for Virginia to eventually participate in the Peninsula Campaign although General Burnside did leave behind a force of 8,000 troops to secure his wins on the coast. Private Daniel Dailey also remained behind with the troops in North Carolina and while there he died from Typhoid Fever on Roanoke Island on the 18th of August 1862.

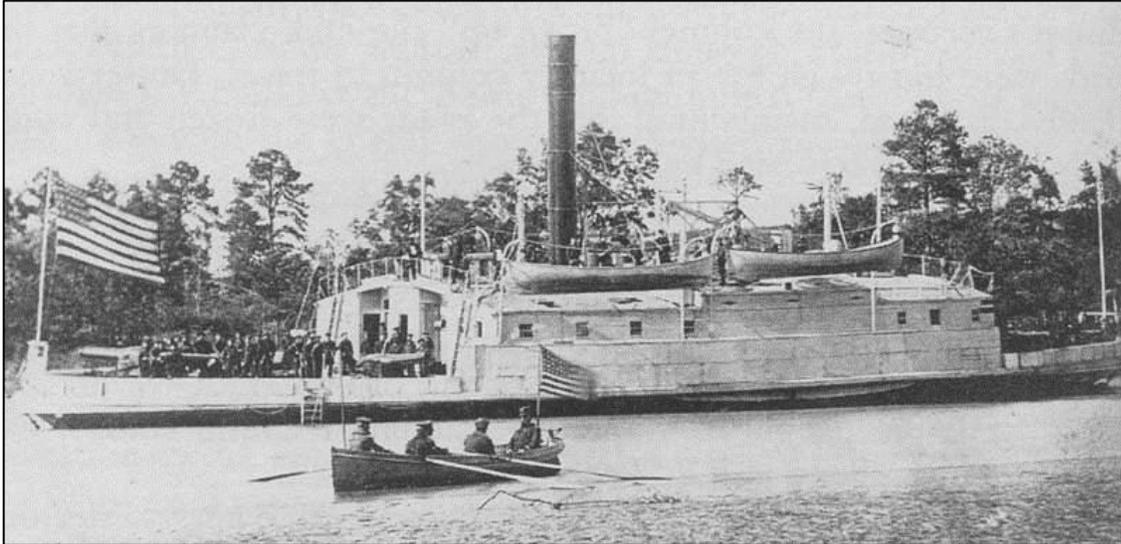
His place of burial is unknown, but his name is listed on the Providence Soldiers and Sailors Monument that memorializes Rhode Islanders who died in that conflict. The monument (on the left) was dedicated on the 16th of September 1871.

Interestingly, during the North Carolina operation General Burnside organized his force of mostly North Eastern troops, some of

whom were familiar with the sea, into an *ad hoc* flotilla to conduct his amphibious movements. He had determined that the Navy alone did not have enough shallow draft craft for mounting his envisioned operations and a number of soldiers were employed as seamen on what he later referred to as his “motley” fleet.

From January – August 1862, Pvt. Dailey is listed on a “special muster” as serving on the gunboat Commodore Perry. (The Commodore Perry is pictured below.) At the time of his death

the army reported Daniel's occupation as "sailor" although he continues to be reported as a member of Company C of the 4th RI Regiment.



During its entire war service the regiment lost five officers and 68 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 67 Enlisted men felled by disease for a total of 140 losses.