

The Fort Sumter Farce

Lincoln promised repeatedly in early 1861 that he did not plan to resupply Ft Sumter, even knowing full well that they were almost out of food and supplies. He was lying, as always. He had been warned by his military advisers that if he sent a ship

to resupply the fort, it would most certainly be fired upon. And that is exactly what he was counting on. That's why he sent additional troops and war ships as well as food.

He had no intention of actually using those soldiers or war ships. They were there simply to make sure the South was sufficiently provoked into firing the first shot. Union forces were under strict orders to not fire the first shot. That would have spoiled Lincoln's carefully spun web. He wanted to make sure the world perceived the event as heartless Southerners firing on food intended for hungry Union soldiers.

Bruce Catton, historian, explains that: **If there was going to be a war it would begin over a boat load of salt pork and crackers . . . It seemed very important to Lincoln that South Carolina should stand before the civilized world as having fired upon bread.**

The Civil War author, Shelby Foote, said: **That first shot would be fired for the immediate purpose of keeping food from hungry men.**

Lincoln was the consummate con artist. Confederates fired upon the fort for 36 hours, damaging only the fort. No men on either side were killed or even wounded. Lincoln's war ships didn't return fire even once. They easily could have, but there was no need for that. The fort was soon abandoned by the Union, but they had already achieved victory. The sole purpose of the charade was to provoke the South into firing the first shot. Mission accomplished.

Lincoln would much prefer to have had at least one casualty, because there's nothing like spilled blood to get Yankees frothing at the mouth (and the South). But he got his PR victory, and that was enough to provide a pretext for the war he had already decided to wage. The South got the fort, and Lincoln got his excuse for invading the Confederacy.

Not that he fooled anyone, though. Even Yankees, gullible though they were, had sense enough to smell the rat that Lincoln was.

From an editorial in the Buffalo Daily Courier, Apr 18, 1861: **The affair at Fort Sumter . . . has been planned as a means by which the war feeling at the North should be intensified.**

From the New York Evening Day Book, Apr 17, 1861: **[The event at Fort Sumter was] a cunningly devised scheme [contrived] to arouse and, if possible, exasperate the northern people against the South.**

From the Providence Daily Post, Apr 13, 1861: **Look at the facts. For three weeks the administration newspapers have been assuring us that Fort Sumter would be abandoned, [but] Mr Lincoln saw an opportunity to inaugurate civil war without appearing in the character of an aggressor.**

The Jersey City American Standard, Apr 12, 1861: **There is a madness and ruthlessness [in Lincoln's behavior] which is astounding . . . this unarmed vessel . . . is a mere decoy to draw the first fire from the people of the South, which act by the pre-determination of the government is to be the pretext for letting loose the horrors of war.**

Lincoln, expert politician, lawyer, and debater, had a very convincing rebuttal to such sentiments expressed in newspapers, however. He simply sent in his goons to shut down newspapers he didn't like, and throw their editors in jail. Soon, as if by magic, all newspapers (that were left) were in full agreement with all of Lincoln's policies. So were all free citizens, since dissenters had all been rounded up and put behind bars indefinitely, without counsel, without habeas corpus, without contact with family, and without any formal charges ever being

filed against them. Citizens were guaranteed their First-Amendment rights, just as long as their opinions weren't offensive to Lincoln's delicate sensitivities.

All remnants of pro-secessionist dialogue in the North also disappeared at this same time. Coincidence? What else could it be?