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mules refused to cross the bridge. The soldiers had to uncouple the mules and pull the nearly three-ton cannons across the two-mile bridge. The Confederate naval forces had been spotted by the Union's gunship, *Harriet Lane*, but this did not deter them. By about 4:00 a.m. all the Confederate ground and navy forces were in place. General Magruder fired the first shot and is quoted as saying "Now, boys, I have done my best as a private, I will go and attend to that of a General" (6).

If you are standing in front of the Cushman mural in the Museum of Southern History that depiction is where we are in the battle. By about 6:00 a.m. on New Year's Day, 1863 the *USS Owasco*, the *USS Corypheus*, and the *USS Sachem* were pummeling the Confederate ground forces into retreating. The *USS Westfield* tried to turn and lucky for the Confederates it became grounded. The *Bayou City* and the *Neptune* were attempting to ram the *Harriet Lane* to board her but failed in their first attempt. The situation was not looking too good for the ground troops or the Confederate ships. In the first attempts to fire the cannons on the *Bayou City*, Captain Wier missed horribly hitting a ship not even in the battle. On the third attempt the wrong charges were loaded into the *Bayou City's* cannon and exploded "killing the gallant Captain Weir and two of his men were blown overboard and never seen"(7). The tide of the battle quickly turned with the crippling of the *Harriet Lane*. On a second pass, the *Neptune* inflicted heavy damage on the *Lane* and suffered severe damage too. The *Neptune's* Captain grounded the ship as it started to sink. The *Bayou City* had successfully flanked the *Lane* and became tangled in her paddle wheel. Shots continued to be exchanged between the ships. The *Lane* had been so damaged; they raised a white flag for a truce. All of the Union ships had suffered considerable damage and their commanders were either dead or badly wounded. Captain R.L. Law of the *USS Clifton* requested a three-hour truce to meet with the other Union commanders and discuss their surrender. As the truce came to a close, the Union soldiers from the *Owasco* and the *Clifton* rowed back to their ships presumably to surrender. As they boarded their ships the paddles began to slowly turn and the ships began to slowly slip away from the battle. The Confederates fired on the ships but were in no condition to pursue them. Robert Franklin, one of the soldiers from the cottonclad steamboats summed up General Magruder's part in the Battle of Galveston. "Texas owes much to the memory of the gallant Magruder. Proud by nature, haughty of men, 'Prince John' as his old West Point comrades dubbed him. He was far from perfection. Neithe

(5) Thomas Michael Settles and Kimberly Curtis Campbell, "High Tide, Low Tide in Texas," *John Bankhead Magruder a Military Reappraisal* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2009), 244.

(6) Cotham, "The Blockade Begins," 140.

(7) Robert Franklin, *Battle of Galveston, January 1st, 1863* (Charleston, SC: Nabu, 2010), 14.

(8) Franklin, *Battle of Galveston*, 18.