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## NATIONAL CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM

### PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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## Commandos to raid Port Columbus

**COLUMBUS, GA** –In June 1864 the Confederate Navy made a midnight effort to capture the USS Water Witch near Savannah. The 142-year-old commando raid will be re-enacted at the National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus this weekend in the final Cool History series of this summer. The raid will be recreated on Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6.

After the successful mission, the ship became the CSS Water Witch, one of the few ships to serve in both Union and Confederate navies. “We have pulled all the stops for this event,” said Matt Young, Director of Education and Programs at Port Columbus. “In doing the research for this production, we found numerous specific recollections of the capture, many are blood-curdling,” said Young. More than 100 Confederate sailors participated in the capture of the Water Witch, crewed by approximately 60 Union sailors.

“One of the first of the raiders killed was the pilot of the group, a slave named Moses Dallas,” said museum Executive Director Bruce Smith, “and another was the skipper of the raid, Lt. Thomas Pelot.” “Dozens were killed and wounded during the short scuffle,” said Smith. “The raid seemed to resemble a classic pirate attack rather than a standard Civil War battle.”

“Many of the wounded were injured by cutlasses, the swords carried by sailors; and most of the Confederate sailors killed in the attack were by the paymaster of the Water Witch, an unlikely hero,” said Young.

Performances will be at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day. Regular admission fees apply: \$4.50 for adults, \$3.50 for active military or seniors 65 and older, and \$3 for students. Children six and under are free. Museum visitors will be treated to two cannon firings daily at 2p.m. and 4 p.m.

A special preview of the theatrical performance will take place on Friday, August 4, during the Water Witch Community Campaign Kickoff event at the museum. Tickets for that event are \$25 each. All proceeds are for the Water Witch project to rebuild the ship just outside the museum. Guests that night will not only get to preview the capture reenactment, they will also get to try the weapons themselves. “Guests will finally shoot a Civil War musket; cut up veggies with a cutlass and even sample some hardtack,” said Young.

For more information, call 706-327-9798, or see [www.portcolumbus.org](http://www.portcolumbus.org).

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