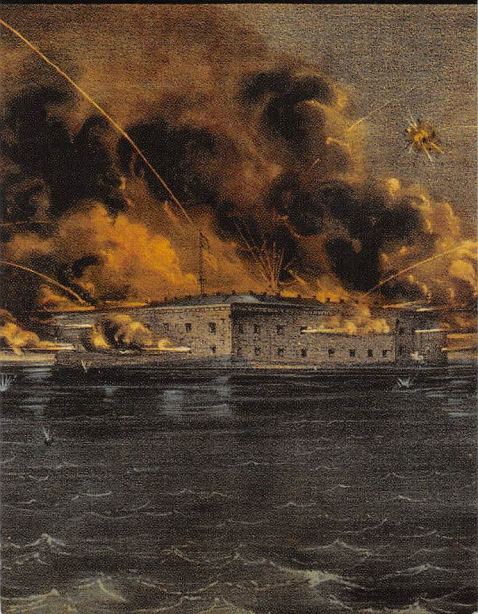


Fort Sumter National Monument



The First Shot

At 4:30 am on April 12, 1861, Confederate troops at Fort Johnson fired a mortar shot that exploded directly over Union troops at Fort Sumter. This explosion signaled that decades of compromise over slavery had failed and a war had begun which would decide the very nature of the Union.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/fosu

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