

OPERATIONS ON THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHAN- NOCK RIVERS.

JANUARY 5 TO DECEMBER 7, 1861.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Colonel Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, regarding the occupation of Fort Washington.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *January 5, 1861.*

SIR: Upon the receipt of this you will send a detachment of forty marines, under the charge of proper officers and properly manned and equipped, to occupy Fort Washington for about fifteen days and to protect public property.

A conveyance will be furnished by the Navy Department, which will receive them at the navy yard wharf.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. TOUCEY.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
Commandant Marine Corps, Headquarters.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of execution of Department's orders.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, January 7, 1861.

SIR: Your order of the 5th instant, directing Colonel John Harris, Commandant Marine Corps, to be furnished with whatever provisions and ordnance he may designate, etc., was duly received on that date.

Provisions for fifty men for fifteen days were furnished. No ordnance was required by Colonel Harris.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Hon. I. TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Captain Taylor, U. S. Marine Corps, commanding Fort Washington, Md., regarding the defenseless condition of that place.

FORT WASHINGTON [MD.], *January 16, 1861.*

SIR: I presume that the object of the Government garrisoning this fort at this time was to hold and retain possession of it in case of its

being attacked. I therefore feel it my duty, in consequence of its defenseless and pregnable condition, to request a reenforcement.

It is the opinion of Lieutenant [George W. C.] Lee, of the engineers, who is now here professionally, that 150 tolerably organized men could enter the place against the force now here. As I do not wish to be placed in a position to detract from the high character of my corps, I feel myself bound to make this report.

Lieutenant Lee is now preparing some of the embrasures to mount howitzers in, but, when mounted, I have not men sufficient to work them and at the same time protect other assailable portions of the fort.

Very respectfully,

A. S. TAYLOR,

Captain, U. S. Marine Corps, Commanding Fort Washington.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,

Commandant U. S. Marine Corps.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the U. S. S. Anacostia.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 7, 1861.*

SIR: It is the wish of the Department that the steamer *Anacostia* shall not leave Washington for the present unless it specially so directs.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. TOUCEY.

Captain F. BUCHANAN,

Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting correspondence with Captain Dahlgren, U. S. Navy, Ordnance Department, regarding measures of protection for that yard.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,

Washington, February 27, 1861.

SIR: In reference to the conversation which passed between us some weeks since, relating to the defense of this yard in certain contingencies, I herewith enclose to you a copy of my confidential instructions to Commander Dahlgren, and also a copy of his report in obedience to them. I also forward for your information my plan of partial detail for defense of the yard.

The *Anacostia*, propeller, is kept in readiness for any service that may be required of her and to receive on board the powder from the main magazine, should I decide to remove it.

Commander Dahlgren has made available the following described howitzers: Five 12-pounder smooth bore, three 12-pounder rifled, in addition to which we have in the armory about 800 muskets and rifles and a number of sabers and pistols.

The arrangements are as yet kept secret, except from the officers. Should I receive information from reliable persons in whom I can place confidence, and who have promised to inform me of any contemplated movement to seize the yard, I will at once assemble all the employés of

the yard and promulgate my orders, and have extra sentinels posted and a lieutenant stationed, at night, with a gun's crew in the ordnance building.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Hon. I. TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosures.]

Strictly confidential.] NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *January 8, 1861.*

SIR: Various rumors are in circulation that a mob will attempt to possess themselves of this yard between this and the 4th of March next for the purpose of securing the arms and ammunition now in the armory and magazine, to be used in preventing the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, the President-elect. You will therefore prepare for the defense of the yard all the howitzers now available in the Ordnance Department with as much secrecy as possible; this yard shall not be surrendered to any person or persons except by an order from the honorable Secretary of the Navy, and in the event of an attack I shall require all officers and others under my command to defend it to the last extremity, and should we be overpowered by numbers the armory and magazine must be blown up. You will therefore make all necessary arrangements for the execution of this order and submit to me the plan you propose. At the proper time the officers will be designated by me to apply the match. Precautionary arrangements will be made in time to prevent the seizure of the main magazine up the river. You will make to me such suggestions to carry out these arrangements as your judgment may dictate.

Respectfully, etc.,

FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Commander DAHLGREN,
Ordnance Department.

ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 14, 1861.

SIR: Your letter of the 8th, marked "strictly confidential," was received on the 11th instant and has received my careful consideration.

In compliance with the directions therein contained to make suggestions in relation to the defense of the yard against the anticipated attack of a mob, I have to remark that it is merely a collection of buildings open to the water on nearly one-half of its outline, and on the land side enclosed by a wall, easy of escalade; it could only be held with certainty in its whole extent by occupying it in force, with detachments in every building. The northwest angle is entirely open to attack, as nothing but a slight board fence is erected, and just here are the most important objects to defend—light cannon, rifles, and ammunition.

As the ordnance buildings have been built without reference to any defense, they, like all the buildings of the yard, will require more men. I think 200 men would make good the defense of the department and 500 or 600 men the rest of the yard.

It may not be easy to procure this force, and hence such as can be had should be concentrated as much as possible on the most important points.

To this end I have nearly completed the withdrawal from the yard magazine of the ammunition there to the attic of the main buildings, which also contains the cannon and rifles, of which there are available, howitzers, five 12-pounder smooth, three 12-pounder rifled, and about 800 muskets and rifles. I would suggest, therefore—

1. Withdrawal from general magazine of all the powder and transferred to Fort Washington, the magazine being too far from the yard and not easy of defense.

2. Patrol, by day and night, about the northwest angle, by marines. A few of the trusty ordinary men to sleep in the main ordnance building.

3. Require 200 able seamen from the receiving ships to man the howitzers and handle the rifles. I have the means of drilling them; they can be messed and lodged in the yard.

4. In the event of an actual attack by a mob, volunteers can be had from the mechanics, which I can arm.

5. The marines at the headquarters should secure the streets leading to the yard, using a night patrol; if forced back they should retire upon the yard and not on their barracks. There is much of detail that can be arranged at the time and which I therefore omit now.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commander.

Captain BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, U. S. NAVY YARD,
Washington, January 23, 1861.

SIR: In furtherance of your instructions, I have caused to be removed the contents of the yard magazine to the attic of the main building, together with the best arms in the armory, so they can not be reached by force until the defense of the building is overpowered. The operation has been conducted secretly by two trusty men at dinner hours when the other men are absent, and I believe the knowledge is limited to them and the two clerks. Whatever small amount of ammunition may accumulate from the product of the laboratory can easily be wetted at short notice, which is better than firing it, as the explosion might damage the defense of the main building, which is very near it.

I now only need about 100 good men (prefer seamen) to hold this building, but they should have some drill.

Whenever you direct me to lay communications for blowing up the main magazine I shall begin to do so, though the distance from the yard will render the success very doubtful.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commander.

Captain F. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

U. S. NAVY YARD,
Washington, February 1, 1861.

GENERAL ORDER:

In the event of an attack upon this navy yard by a mob, the following order will be observed by the officers and employés connected with it:

The main entrance to the yard will be defended by Lieutenant H. H. Lewis, in charge of a 12-pounder howitzer and the marine guard.

The east entrance will be defended by Lieutenant Simms, in charge of a 12-pounder howitzer.

The west entrance will be defended by Lieutenant Russell, in charge of a 12-pounder howitzer.

Three howitzers, under command of Lieutenants Wainwright and Nelson and Gunner Clapham will defend the ordnance buildings and west side of the yard, all under command of Commander Dahlgren.

Lieutenant Commanding Fillebrown, with the howitzer of the *Anacostia*, assisted by Carpenter Rainbow and Boatswain Willmuth, each in charge of a howitzer will defend the lower part of the yard.

The marines and howitzers will be concentrated as necessary at any point where their services may be required.

Commander McBlair will see this order executed and superintend generally, under my directions, the defense of the yard.

FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, New York, regarding the U. S. S. Pocahontas.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 15, 1861.

SIR: The U. S. S. *Pocahontas* is under orders to enter the port of New York. You will direct her immediately on her arrival to proceed to the navy yard at Washington.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commodore S. L. BREESE,
Commandant Navy Yard, New York.

Report of Commander Dahlgren, U. S. Navy, in charge Ordnance Department, navy yard, Washington, relating to the decreased force in that department.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, U. S. NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 15, 1861.

SIR: There are twenty-six persons in this department absent this morning. I understand that this arises from the most of them, if not all, having been mustered into military service.

It is with no little difficulty that I have been able hitherto to supply with howitzers, etc., the current wants of the service; and the withdrawal of so many of the best hands at this time, when I am actually preparing to increase the number in order to meet contingencies, will be almost equivalent to a suspension of the work.

It will therefore be necessary to excuse from military duty all the men employed in this department who may prefer this duty if the usual supplies for our ships of war are to be furnished, and in this respect I would request prompt action.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commander, in charge of Ordnance Department in Yard.

Captain FRANKLIN BUCHANAN,
Commandant U. S. Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of arrival of U. S. S. Pawnee.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, April 19, 1861.

SIR: I have to report for the information of the Department that the U. S. S. *Pawnee*, Commander Rowan commanding, arrived off the Washington Arsenal this morning, where she is now at anchor.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding cause of delay in work of Ordnance Department.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, April 19, 1861.

SIR: I beg leave to call your attention to the communication I laid before you a day or two since in reference to the mechanics of this yard serving in the Army. Very important work is delayed in consequence, particularly in the Ordnance Department. An act of Congress dated September 30, 1850, prohibits a person from receiving the pay for performing two duties for the Government, consequently I can not pay the men as mechanics while they receive their pay as soldiers.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 19, 1861.

SIR: Send the *Pocahontas* to Washington without a moment's delay, with all the marines that can be detailed. Prepare the *Harriet Lane* and await further instructions.

I am, sir, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commodore SAMUEL L. BREESE,
Navy Yard, Brooklyn.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to the Colonel Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, to furnish guard for the U. S. S. Anacostia.

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 20, 1861.

SIR: You will send a guard of twenty marines, fully equipped, in charge of an officer, on board the *Anacostia* for temporary service, to be placed in charge of the commanding officer of that vessel.

I am, sir, very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
U. S. Marine Corps.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding marines and supplies for the U. S. S. Anacostia.

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 20, 1861.

SIR: You will permit a guard of marines to be placed on board of the packet *Anacostia* and furnish Lieutenant Fillebrown with such other assistance in men, provisions, ammunition, etc., as will enable him to carry out his instructions. You will be pleased to dispatch the vessel immediately.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Captain F. BUCHANAN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, to prevent obstructions being placed in the Potomac River.

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 20, 1861.

SIR: You will take on board a guard of twenty marines, proceed down the Potomac to the Kettle Bottom Shoals, below Alexandria, and protect the same from any obstructions in the channel.

I am, sir, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Lieutenant Commanding T. S. FILLEBROWN,
Steamer Anacostia.

Additional orders of the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, regarding the duty of that vessel.

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 20, 1861.

SIR: In addition to the instructions already given you will take prizes or prisoners if you meet with any interference.

During the day you may pass above or below this locality under slow steam and watch all suspicious movements and at night anchor in or near the shoals.

If you deem it necessary report at any time to the Department through the commandant of the yard.

I am, sir, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Lieutenant Commanding T. S. FILLEBROWN,
Steamer Anacostia.

Letter from the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Secretary of the Navy, requesting that officers of the Capitol be furnished with revolvers.

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: Can you let me have seventy-five navy revolvers for the officers of the House of Representatives of the United States for the defense of the Capitol? We shall need them.

The Secretary of War promptly let me have rifles, but it is suggested that the navy revolvers might be useful. They shall be taken care of. Please let bearer, Mr. Power, have the order if you agree to this request.

Yours, truly,

J. W. FORNEY.

Hon. Mr. WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Letter from Colonel Smith, U. S. Army, commanding Department of Washington, to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding disposition of vessels seized by order of the President of the United States.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON,
Washington, D. C., April 21, 1861.

SIR: By direction of the President of the United States I have seized and hold under guard the steamers *Baltimore*, *Mount Vernon*, *Philadelphia*, and *Powhatan*, plying between Aquia Creek and this city. It is deemed advisable they should be sent to the navy yard.

By direction of Lieutenant-General Scott I have the honor to request that some directions may be given to receive these vessels at the Washington navy yard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. F. SMITH,
Colonel, U. S. Army, Commanding.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding equipment of vessels for war service.

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 21, 1861.

SIR: The steamers *Baltimore*, *Mount Vernon*, *Philadelphia*, and *Powhatan*, having been seized by order of the War Department, are transferred to the Navy Department.

You will remove them to the navy yard and cause them to be armed and equipped for war service without delay.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commodore F. BUCHANAN,
Navy yard, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Commander Dahlgren, U. S. Navy, commanding Ordnance Department, regarding equipment of steamers for war service.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 22, 1861.

SIR: The mail steamers *Baltimore, Mount Vernon, Philadelphia, and Pochatan*, having been turned over to the commandant of this yard, you will please to have them equipped for war service forthwith, in conformity to my verbal instructions of this morning.

Respectfully, etc.,

F. BUCHANAN.

Commander DAHLGREN, etc.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding equipment of vessels for war service.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 22, 1861.

SIR: The steamers *Baltimore, Mount Vernon, Philadelphia, and Powhatan* have been received at this yard, as directed in your letter of the 21st instant, and are moored alongside the wharf. Commander Dahlgren has been directed to have them equipped for war service forthwith.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding U. S. S. Anacostia.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 22, 1861.

SIR: The U. S. S. *Anacostia* left this yard on Saturday evening, the 20th instant, in conformity to the orders of the Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANKN. BUCHANAN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Commander Dahlgren, U. S. Navy, to take charge of the defenses of that yard.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 22, 1861.

SIR: As I have this day resigned my commission as a captain in the Navy and consider myself only temporarily in command here, you will carry out all the instructions you have received in preparing the steamers for war service, as directed by my order to you this morning, and superintend the defense of the yard when necessary. I shall not take any part in the defense of this yard from this date.

Respectfully, etc.,

F. BUCHANAN.

Commander DAHLGREN, etc.

Report of acting commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding equipment of vessels for war service.

U. S. NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, April 22, 1861.

SIR: In the absence of the commandant of the yard, I have to report to you that I have prepared the steamer *Mount Vernon* for service to receive your orders, so far as the following extends: A 32-pounder with appliances; a breech-loading rifle for each hand on board; a pilot, six hands, seamen to operate the gun.

I have also directed Boatswain Willmuth to be ready to take the command of the vessel in case the Department has made no other arrangements.

There is wanted an assistant pilot, a corporal's guard of United States troops or marines, and about six more men for guard duty and defense.

One of the greatest difficulties will be to procure pilots. Several have already declined, therefore very liberal compensation is necessary, and I have offered the pilot of the *Mount Vernon* \$35 per month, which is better than he can get from any other party and contents him perfectly.

There are provisions for ten days for 50 men; water for the same period.

The deficiencies of the yard in many respects are so great that I shall be obliged to supply them as quickly as possible.

I am not yet informed whether the men in the yard are released from militia duty. It is absolutely necessary to the equipment of these steamers and to the defense of the yard that this should be done at once.

As soon as I learn that the resignation of Captain Buchanan has taken place I shall lose no time in putting the yard into the best state of defense that the time and means permit.

I shall be glad to have your full directions for the steamer and will proceed to get ready the other three.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Acting Commandant of Yard.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Instructions of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding reconnoissance of the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 22, 1861.

SIR: The Department is pleased to learn that the *Mount Vernon* is ready for service. Your offer to the pilot of pay is approved for temporary duty. You will employ a second pilot if one is required. Dispatch the steamer under the charge of a boatswain, if no reliable commissioned officer is available, with orders to reconnoiter the River Potomac and render assistance to any vessel of the Federal Government requiring it; observe if guns are being planted on either shore, and return in one week, unless by some cause compelled to do so sooner; defend the vessel against assault; as well as others of the Federal Government requiring aid.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the cruise of that vessel from New York to Washington.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Potomac River, April 22, 1861.

SIR: In compliance with your order, through Commandant Breese, received at navy yard, New York, forenoon of the 19th instant, we hastened some repairs of damages from stress of weather at sea during the time we were coaling ship and left evening of same day for port of destination.

Not finding a pilot off or in the Chesapeake I proceeded on up the bay by soundings and bearings of lights until 3 o'clock a. m. Sunday morning. After anchoring for three or four hours in the hope of seeing or hearing of the steamer *Baltic* we got underway, stood on, and entered the Potomac River. No pilots to be procured. Anchored at dark and again this morning continued up the river. I hove to a schooner about 70 miles from Alexandria, bound to Boston, and compelled her master to come on board this vessel as pilot. We will reach the arsenal or navy yard at Washington this afternoon and I will report in person as directed.

I forward herewith passed Assistant Surgeon Kitchen's report of the decease of Jacob Newhouse (seaman).

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding the duty of that vessel in the Potomac.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 22, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed immediately with the *Pocahontas* down the Potomac as far as the White House, or thereabouts, to seize any vessel

that has troops or munitions or provisions for the enemy on board; to repel all attacks, and to disperse all hostile gatherings or preparations that may be discovered, if in your power, and report to this Department.

I am, sir, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLS,
Secretary Navy.

Commander J. P. GILLIS,
U. S. S. Pocahontas.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. ship North Carolina, regarding proposed "flying flotilla" for duty in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

U. S. RECEIVING SHIP NORTH CAROLINA, *April 22, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to press upon your attention an organization I propose of a flying flotilla, to be composed of one larger and two smaller steamers and three light-draft schooners, the larger steamer to be commanded by myself (in charge also of the whole), the two smaller by Lieutenant D. L. Braine, U. S. Navy, and Mr. Budd, now a master in the U. S. Coast Survey, the whole to draw (loaded) but 7 feet of water; to carry a sufficient armament, and the steamers to be very fast. Every arrangement exists for immediately chartering and speedily equipping the light flying force with a view to service in the Chesapeake and its tributaries; to interrupt the enemy's communications; assuredly keep open our own; drive from those waters every hostile bottom; threaten all the points of a shore line accessible to such a force exceeding 1,000 miles in extent; protect loyal citizens; convoy, tow, transport troops or intelligence with dispatch; be generally useful; threaten at all points, and to attack at any desired or important one.

For the particulars I refer you to Master W. Budd, U. S. Coast Survey, bearer of this, who is in full possession of the details.

Very respectfully,

J. H. WARD,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Endorsement.]

Plan commended and the communication forwarded.

SAMUEL L. BREESE,
Commandant.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of War, regarding detail of troops for the defense of the navy yard.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 23, 1861.*

SIR: I would respectfully request that a corporal's guard of United States troops be detailed for the defense of the navy yard with as much speed as practicable. They will report to Commander J. A. Dahlgren, who has assumed the charge of the yard.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

HON. SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of War, regarding detail of troops for the defense of the navy yard.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 23, 1861.*

SIR: On a verbal requisition of Commander John A. Dahlgren, I would respectfully request that at least a battalion of reliable troops be ordered at once for the protection of the navy yard.

Commander Dahlgren deems this protection absolutely necessary for the preservation of the Government property, and I would express my urgent concurrence and that there should be no delay.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the departure from that station of steamer Mount Vernon, and regarding measures for the defense of the yard.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *April 23, 1861.*

SIR: Conformably with your orders,* the *Mount Vernon* left this yard about midnight. A 32-pounder was mounted forward and a complement of breech-loading rifles for the crew were put on board. Having no commissioned officer to spare, Boatswain Willmuth was intrusted with the command. Gunner Ellis volunteered and also went. Besides the pilot, engineer, firemen, etc., there were four marines and ten men of the Ordnance Department sent.

These could illy be spared from the defense of the yard, but I had no alternative, for the captain of the volunteer Company A, Washington infantry, declined to detail any of his men for this service; and they refused to volunteer, the duty being out of the District, and some of the men considered the boat unsafe or that the gun might burst.

Mr. Willmuth was instructed in writing as directed by your order. I also told him to communicate with Fort Washington and ascertain if anything was needed.

A number of the people at work in the yard left yesterday. The force for the defense of the yard last night consisted [of]:

	Men.
Company A, Captain Towers.....	75
Company C, Union Volunteers, Captain Miller.....	93
Company A, German Turner Rifles.....	109
Marines.....	37
Ordnance Department.....	34
Total.....	348

You will perceive, however, that when troops are at liberty to discuss the orders and even to refuse obedience, on any ground whatever, they are no longer to be considered as effective.

One of these companies left the yard this morning without permission and all of them are fed outside of its limits. I would therefore request that the companies now on duty for the yard may be relieved by others who may not be indisposed to meet the responsibilities of the time.

* See p. 419.

This yard is of importance, not only because of its furnishing the Navy so largely with naval stores, but also as a position in the general defense of the city. Near it is a bridge easily reached and passed whenever an attack may be conducted by crossing from Alexandria, then over the low heights opposite the yard.

I sent a howitzer with ten men and a howitzer and corporal's guard of marines to guard this bridge and found there four dragoons.

The companies were distributed along the borders of the yard, which were also patrolled by a strong body of marines. Cannon were planted looking down the stream, as well as several howitzers. In fact, the whole force was on the alert for any contingency.

The *Pocahontas* arrived last night and on receiving a pilot came up and anchored off the yard, as you are already aware from my directing the officer with Captain Gillis's reports to deliver them to you in person.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, regarding a reconnoissance of the Potomac River.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA, April 23, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that up to the present time there have been no obstructions placed in the channel of this river to impede navigation, neither can I discover any semblance of batteries or earthworks in the course of erection on either bank of the Potomac between the Lower Cedar Point and this place. Very particular attention has been paid to these matters.

The steamer *George Page* lies moored at the railroad terminus at Aquia Creek. As there is not sufficient water for this vessel to approach near enough, I can not say if there have been any defenses erected there or not.

Yesterday, at the request of Major [J. A.] Haskin, the commander of Fort Washington, I took the steamer *Jerome* alongside and convoyed her to the Washington Arsenal. There were reasons to suppose that she would be detained at Alexandria. She had on freight—144 barrels of gunpowder and other stores for the Government. I also convoyed a large schooner laden with cement and other matter for the United States Capitol.

I beg leave to represent that I have no pilot that can carry me below the Lower Cedar Point, my regular pilot having been transferred to the U. S. S. *Pawnee* for special and particular service.

In conclusion, I beg leave most respectfully to request that at least one other responsible officer be ordered to this vessel, as the constant and unremitting attention that is necessary to the proper execution of my orders is more than nature will stand. I have not laid myself down since Thursday night.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. SCOTT FILLEBROWN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding convoy duty in the Potomac River.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 23, 1861.

SIR: When your ship is ready for service, proceed as early as practicable, having the tide in view, and anchor somewhere a short distance below the White House, as you were directed by my dispatch of the 22d, and await the arrival of troops that are coming up the Potomac.

Should they not arrive before the steamer *Pawnee* shall join you, then together you will proceed down the river until the expected transports shall be met, not going so far in the bay as to miss seeing them in their passage. When met, convoy them to any convenient point of landing so that they may reach the capital.

Be at quarters at any point where a battery may open and do your best in the performance of the duty assigned.

If the troops do not appear in three days return to your anchorage.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander JOHN P. GILLIS,
U. S. S. Pocahontas.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding convoy duty in the Potomac River.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 23, 1861.

SIR: In addition to the instructions already given, when ready to sail you will join the *Pocahontas* below the White House, unless you meet her returning with the steamers for this city, and go down the bay until the troops now on their way to the capital are met, not venturing so far in the bay as to miss seeing them and not remaining absent more than three days. You will detain everything you meet with arms and armed men and bring them to the yard.

I am, sir, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander STEPHEN C. ROWAN,
U. S. S. Pawnee.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding U. S. S. Keystone State.

U. S. NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, April 23, 1861.

SIR: The *Keystone State* is alongside the wharf; needs a supply of hard coal, which I can furnish, and some provisions, which I regret to say are very short. As soon as I took the command I required a moderate quantity for the use of the yard, but it is not easy to say when they can be obtained.

The steamer has 134 marines to disembark, which I will retain in the yard until the Department instructs me further. They are very necessary to its defense and its approaches and will relieve a corresponding number of volunteers.

The *Pawnee* has not yet been able to get up.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding force of marines at the yard.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, April 24, 1861.

SIR: The Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps did me the honor to call at this office this morning in order to confer upon measures taken in regard to certain detachments of marines which I had detained in the yard. I did this under the supposition that I was authorized so to do by a verbal order from Commodore Paulding. I learn, however, from Colonel Harris that I was mistaken and that Commodore Paulding did not intend to give any such permission.

I regret having made this mistake and lose no time in correcting it by returning at once to headquarters the marines so detained. This will, of course, leave me with some forty marines, which will be totally inadequate for the defense of the yard. Colonel Harris made certain proposals to me in regard to the disposition of the guard which are on duty in the yard, which I could not concur with. As a consequence I shall have but forty marines in the yard for its defense.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

[HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.]

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, to proceed on convoy duty.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 24, 1861.

SIR: On the arrival of a pilot you will proceed without delay down the river to the bay to convoy any vessels that may be bringing troops to Washington and when you return report to this Department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander J. P. GILLIS,
Commanding Pocahontas, Washington, D. C.

Additional order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding convoy duty.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 25, 1861.

SIR: In addition to your instructions of the 22d instant you will be pleased to proceed down the Potomac River to its mouth and from

thence down the Chesapeake Bay, in order to intercept transport vessels laden with troops and provisions. You will inform them that the War Department directs that they reach Washington by the Potomac River and not by way of Annapolis. Your stay in the Chesapeake Bay will be limited by your supply of coal.

I am, sir, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander J. P. GILLIS,
Commanding Pocahontas.

Report of Commander Dahlgren, U. S. Navy, transmitting minutes of Boatswain Willmuth, U. S. Navy, steamer Mount Vernon, regarding cruise of that vessel.

NAVY YARD, Washington, April 25, [1861]—9 a. m.

Captain Dahlgren has the honor to acquaint the honorable Secretary of the Navy with the arrival of the *Mount Vernon*, which reports the river open as far as Cedar Point, the extent of his trip. No signs of batteries on the banks.

Enclosed is a copy of Boatswain [George] Willmuth's minutes.

[JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.]

[HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.]

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. MOUNT VERNON, April 22, 1861.

At 11:30 left the wharf at navy yard. In winding steamer our stern struck the wharf, damaging rudder; proceeded down river. At 1:30 a. m. made fast to wharf at Fort Washington. At 6:30 a. m. left the wharf and steamed down the river. At 9 a. m. fell in with U. S. steamers *Pawnee*, *Keystone State*, and *Anacostia*, under command of Commodore Paulding. Boarded *Keystone State* and reported. Returned on board and steamed down river. At 12:30 p. m. came to anchor—miles from Lower Cedar Point light-ship, light-ship bearing N. E. by E. by compass. Shortly after coming to, saw smoke in direction of light-ship. In a short time saw a boat with twenty men leave the light-ship. Shortly after the boat left discovered light-ship on fire. Fired ten rounds from muskets to bring boat to; boat took no notice of the musketry; fired a shell across his bow, but they proceeded on and effected a landing. Meantime steamer *James Guy*, maneuvering in a suspicious manner and communicating with the shore, steamed alongside and hailed her; having lady passengers on board, allowed her to proceed. We then returned to light-ship, lowered a boat and went alongside, but finding her a perfect wreck, returned to steamer and proceeded to Fort Washington. Commander of fort expecting an attack, concluded to remain all night. During the night, steamer leaking badly, kept the watch at the pumps all night. At 5 a. m. lit fires, ready for a start. At 7:30 a. m. U. S. S. *Anacostia* hove in sight. At 8:20 boarded *Anacostia* and received orders from captain of *Anacostia* to proceed down the river. Followed instructions, and scrutinizing the shore on both sides saw no signs of batteries. At 11 a. m. passed

wreck of Lower Cedar Point light-ship; proceeded on; ascertained that buoys had not been removed. At 12:30 turned the steamer's head up river. At 2:30 mustered the crew for drill and small-arm exercise, also target exercise. At 3 p. m. beat the retreat. At 5:30 p. m. made fast to wharf at Fort Washington. Steamer still leaking badly. At 11:30 p. m. boarded a suspicious schooner, but found her to be coal loaded and twenty-five passengers on board, bound for Philadelphia. Allowed her to proceed. At 5 a. m. started fires. At 7 a. m. cast off from wharf and steamed up river. At 7:30 passed the U. S. S. *Pocahontas*; gave her instructions concerning light-ship, buoys, etc. At 8:30 a. m. made fast alongside U. S. S. *Powhatan*.

[GEO. WILLMUTH.]

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the movements of U. S. steamers Anacostia and Mount Vernon.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 25, 1861.

SIR: The U. S. S. *Anacostia*, Lieutenant Commanding Fillebrown, returned to this yard yesterday evening. The *Mount Vernon* returned this morning.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, to proceed down the Potomac River.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 25, 1861.

You will be pleased to direct Lieutenant Commanding Fillebrown to proceed down the Potomac with as little delay as practicable, following the instructions of the Department of the 20th instant in all their details.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding U. S. S. Anacostia.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 25, 1861.

SIR: The U. S. S. *Anacostia*, Lieutenant Commanding Fillebrown, has just left this yard, 2 p. m.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, to dispatch a vessel down the Potomac to convey Department's instructions.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 25, 1861.

SIR: You will be pleased to dispatch with as little delay as possible the steamer *Mount Vernon*, and if not in condition to sail one of the other steamers recently seized by the Government, transferring to her the officers and men.

You will direct her commanding officer to proceed down the river until he meets the *Pocahontas*, when he will deliver the instructions sent herewith.

If you find it necessary to employ an additional engineer you can detain either Mr. Morris or Mr. Mudd, of the steamers *Philadelphia* and *Baltimore*.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

P. S.—You will also be pleased to send one or more pilots to be placed on board the *Pocahontas* for the use of the transports.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding employment of pilots.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 25, 1861.

SIR: It would be highly conducive to the public interests to have at all times within the call of this yard a supply of Potomac River pilots. I therefore respectfully request the authority of the Department to employ a sufficient number to meet the wants of the service here at this time, the pay to be from \$50 to \$80 per month, according to value of service; there are two here now whom I would wish [to] employ at once.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding pilots.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 25, 1861.

SIR: In accordance with your request the Department has employed six pilots for the Potomac River, who will be kept in readiness for service when required.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Names of pilots.]—Captain Mitchell (old man), J. T. Hilton, O. C. Pearson, H. Hayne, Robert Walter, ——— Roberts.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of U. S. steamers Anacostia, Powhatan, and Mount Vernon.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 26, 1861.

SIR: The U. S. S. *Anacostia* and also the mail steamer *Powhatan* left this yard yesterday evening and proceeded down the river.

The *Mount Vernon* is now in the railway dock undergoing some repairs.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding the movements of that vessel in the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off the Mouth of Potomac, April 26, 1861.

SIR: On receipt of your order on the evening of the 24th we left in thirty minutes the navy yard, Washington, and owing to the stupidity of the pilot (whom I had cautioned before leaving) grounded hard opposite the arsenal. I sent to commandant of navy yard, requesting the *Powhatan* sent to our assistance by high tide on the following morning, having used all exertions with our crew, which had been hard worked since 4 o'clock a. m. of same day. With the assistance of the *Powhatan* at 6 a. m. 25th we got afloat and proceeded down the river, closely observing its banks; no offensive demonstrations were seen. Light-boats on the river P. [Potomac] and at Smith's Point taken away; a number of the buoys gone.

Got underway at daylight (26th) and ran down the Chesapeake Bay to opposite Windmill Point, where we boarded the ship *Martha Whitmore*, from Baltimore, bound to Liverpool. Her master informed me that three large sea steamers and a brig of war in tow were at anchor off the Potomac yesterday (25th) at noon; that they contained troops and passed on up toward Annapolis. A large sea steamer passed down the bay on the 24th; another yesterday about 3 p. m.

Upon receiving this information I immediately stood up the Chesapeake, intending to proceed as far as Annapolis, trusting to your approval of my course, believing it the desire of the Government to have the troops brought to Washington by way of the Potomac River.

At meridian, 26th, received your order of the 25th by Lieutenant Sproston, of *Powhatan*, as we were passing the Potomac, and to fulfill the spirit of your instructions will proceed to Annapolis to communicate with the commanding officer of the troops if there.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,
JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, of the cruise of that vessel in the Potomac River.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
Washington, April 26, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that yesterday afternoon I proceeded down the Potomac under slow steam as far as Occoquan, keeping a strict lookout to both sides of the river. I could not discover that any earthworks were being thrown up or batteries erected, neither could I detect any suspicious movements on the part of vessels or persons on shore.

This morning at daylight I proceeded down to about 5 miles below Maryland Point (50 miles from this) without discovering anything to attract my attention, except that on passing Aquia Creek I noticed that the steamer *George Page* had left her moorings at the wharf. My impression is that she has proceeded up the creek to avoid seizure.

On my return I dispatched a reliable person to the White House Bluff to ascertain if any fortifications were in progress at that point. After a careful reconnoissance he reports none whatever. A battery on this point would command the approach to it for more than 3 miles, and vessels of more than 12 feet draft can not pass more than three-eighths of a mile from it. The deepest water is near the bluff.

On passing Fort Washington I have deemed it advisable to communicate with the commander thereof with the view of conveying such dispatches or information as he may wish to transmit to the Government.

On passing Glymont I was boarded by Captain [D.] Pierson, of the schooner *John McAdam*, of St. George, Me., who claimed my protection. He reports that he was ordered by citizens of Charles County, Md., to leave that place or his vessel would be burned to-night. His cargo consisted of timber destined for the U. S. navy yard, Charlestown, Mass., and has other freight to take from the navy yard here. I took him in tow and anchored him under the guns of the fort.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. SCOTT FILLEBROWN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding steamer Philadelphia.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 26, 1861.

SIR: You will cause the steamer *Philadelphia* to proceed immediately to Fort Washington with stores.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,
GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Russell, U. S. Navy, regarding transportation of stores to Fort Washington.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 26, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the steamer *Baltimore*, now at this yard, and proceed with her to Fort Washington, taking such stores as will be put on board, accompanied by a list of the same.

You will stop at the Washington Arsenal and take such stores as may be ready there for the same place.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant JOHN H. RUSSELL, U. S. Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, New York, detailing Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, and other officers for duty in the proposed "flying flotilla."

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 27, 1861.

SIR: You will be pleased to detail for special duty Commander James H. Ward and Lieutenant D. L. Braine to carry into effect the expedition proposed in the communication* of Commander Ward to the Department of the 22d instant.

Master Budd, of the Coast Survey, has been detached from that duty and will be connected with the expedition. In the further completion of a flying flotilla you will be governed by the details set forth in the communication above cited and you will afford every facility to these officers to expedite the same.

You direct these officers on their arrival in the waters of the Chesapeake to report to Flag-Officer G. J. Pendergrast or the senior officer of the squadron.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain SAMUEL L. BREESE,
Commandant Navy Yard, Brooklyn.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of United States vessels.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 27, 1861.

SIR: The steamers *Anacostia* and *Powhatan*, which went down the river on the 25th, returned to this yard last night.

The *Baltimore*, which left yesterday evening for Fort Washington, returned this morning after landing the stores she took down.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

* See p. 420.

Instructions of the Secretary of the Navy for Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, for a reconnoissance in the Potomac River.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 27, 1861.

SIR: You will order Lieutenant Commander Fillebrown, of the U. S. S. *Anacostia*, to proceed with all dispatch down the Potomac River to the White House or thereabouts and to make a careful examination with reference to the erection of batteries on shore or any supposed hostile gatherings. You will also direct him after the fulfillment of this order to return to Washington with as little delay as possible, and you will report his arrival to the Department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding replacement of buoys, on Kettle Bottom Shoals.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 27, 1861.

SIR: The pilots report to me that the buoys on the Kettle Bottom in the Potomac River have been taken away and that it will be difficult for a vessel of any size to pass that place without such marks of the channel. I therefore respectfully suggest that one of the river steamers, with one or more pilots, be sent down to replace the buoys in question immediately.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding replacement of buoys.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 27, 1861.

SIR: In compliance with your suggestion in your letter of this date, you will be pleased to dispatch one of the river steamers, with one or more pilots, to replace and protect the buoys lately removed from the Kettle Bottom Shoals. If necessary the steamer will remain two or three days.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting reports of commanding officers of U. S. steamers Pocahontas, Powhatan, and Baltimore, regarding cruises of those vessels in the Potomac River.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, April 26 [28?], 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith the reports of Captain Gillis, from the *Pocahontas*, of Lieutenant Sproston, from the *Powhatan*, and of Lieutenant Russell, from the *Baltimore*.

It appears that the ordinance stores at the arsenal were not all ready for transportation when the *Baltimore* touched there and consequently were not sent to the fort. The *Powhatan* and *Baltimore* are both at disposal for this purpose if the Department desires.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosures.]

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Mouth of Potomac, April 27, 1861—12:30 p. m.

SIR: After a short chase and firing two guns we have intercepted the transport *Bienville* with 550 Rhode Island troops on board for Washington.

Directed her to proceed up the Potomac to navy yard. Two of the pilots we received from *Powhatan* proving inefficient, and admitting they were only capable for vessels of 10 or 12 feet from Maryland Point up, I took the lead in this vessel and will convoy the transport to Washington.

Communicated this forenoon with U. S. S. *Monticello*, Lieutenant Braine, [and] Captain Eagle, U. S. Navy, on board with dispatches for Washington via Annapolis. Continued on up the Potomac until dark, when we anchored for the night, *Bienville* in company; had an interview with Lieutenant-Colonel [J. T.] Pitman, commanding the troops on board transport, and learned that 4,000 volunteers in New York await transportation.

The *Parkersburg* sailed on Wednesday with Albany troops, the *Kill von Kull* on Thursday, in company with the *Monticello*. She had supplies and material for repairing railroad from Annapolis.

April 28, 10 a. m.—Having overhauled the *Daylight* near Alexandria, I have the honor to report my arrival off the arsenal, Washington, convoying the two transports mentioned, with about 800 troops. In a former letter I advised you of having directed the *Daylight* to proceed up the Potomac with the recruits for Seventh Regiment, New York State Militia.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

10 a. m.—The *Bienville*, with Rhode Island troops, is anchored off the arsenal waiting permission to land her troops at the point. The *Pocahontas* is at anchor off [the] navy yard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

U. S. S. POWHATAN, *April 27, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor of reporting the arrival of the *Powhatan* at the navy yard, having left the same in obedience to instructions on the evening of the 25th instant. Steamed down the Potomac, speaking the *Anacostia* off Freestone Point, and anchored at midnight below Maryland Point. It was here that I discovered having in my possession orders for the *Anacostia*, which I much regretted, as distance and time precluded my steaming back to deliver them.

At daylight weighed anchor and continued down stream, noting the condition of the channel buoys, more especially in that section of the stream styled Kettle Bottom. Both light-boats had been destroyed, the stem piece of one being visible above water. The lower can buoy and stakes in position; those above gone. Neither going nor returning were there any appearances of batteries being erected at Cedar or other points; found also the light-boat missing off Smith's Point and learned from a schooner master that it had been towed inshore. When 5 miles beyond the mouth of the river made out the U. S. S. *Pocahontas* steaming up from the southeast; stood for her and communicated with Captain Gillis, delivering to him the three pilots sent down in my charge as directed.

The expected transports having proceeded up the bay, even before the arrival of the *Pocahontas*, I suggested to Captain Gillis the utility of the *Powhatan* accompanying him to Annapolis, to which he assented, but on a comparison of coal and distance it was doubtful if the former would hold out the required time. Since then by experimenting—i. e., working expansively in connection with the cut-off—a much less consumption of coal has been obtained and a fair rate of speed maintained.

While in company with the *Pocahontas* a bay steamer appeared in sight standing to the northward. In obedience to orders from Captain Gillis, I steamed down to her. She proved to be the *Belvidere*, from Richmond, bound to Baltimore, cotton and tobacco as freight. Ordered the captain to hoist his colors and follow in my wake. A boarding officer was sent to her from the *Pocahontas* and she soon after kept on her course.

Stood in for the Potomac, passing Point Lookout at 4 p. m.; *Pocahontas* when last seen standing up the bay.

Reached the Kettle Bottom Channel after dark, but the pilot (Captain Walter) took the steamer through safely and I reached the navy yard at 2:30 a. m.

Enclosed are the dispatches of Captain Gillis; also the orders for the *Anacostia*.

	Tons.
Estimated consumption of coal during the steamer's absence.....	19
On hand at time of departure.....	35
	<hr/>
In the bunkers.....	16

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *April 27, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 26th instant I took charge of the steamer *Baltimore*, and after receiving on board 700 24-pounder shot and four boxes of ammunition proceeded with her to Fort Washington, stopping at the Washington Arsenal and taking in six boxes of hand grenades.

After landing stores at 11:30 p. m. returned to this place. There was a flat boat anchored under the guns of the fort containing the property of a gentleman from Virginia, who had been driven off his place. He was desirous of reaching Washington if the Government would allow one of the steamers to tow him by Alexandria.

The upper work of the *Baltimore* was slightly injured in going alongside of the arsenal wharf.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. RUSSELL,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Morris, U. S. Navy, regarding transportation of stores to Fort Washington.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 27, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the steamer *Philadelphia* and proceed to Washington Arsenal and take on board such stores as may be ready there for Fort Washington. Let me know if you expect to be detained all night. Proceed thence to the fort and after landing the stores return to the arsenal with anything that may have to be brought to it. After executing these orders return to this place and report to me in writing.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding G. U. MORRIS, etc.

Order of the commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Morris, U. S. Navy, to transport stores to Fort Washington.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 27, 1861.

SIR: Proceed immediately with the steamer *Philadelphia* under your command to Fort Washington with stores.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding GEORGE U. MORRIS, U. S. Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, of the examination of White House Bluff.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, April 28, 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith the report of commander of *Anacostia*, from which it will be perceived that the White House Bluff is so far unoccupied.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

P. S.—I would respectfully suggest that one of the river steamers be kept in motion along the river in the vicinity of the most important points.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
 Washington, April 28, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that your order of yesterday has been strictly obeyed.

At daylight this morning I sent an officer on shore to make a careful examination of White House Bluff and vicinity. On his return he reported that he had carefully examined the whole length of the bluff, including the site of the old works, and saw no signs of any force having been there. There were no hoof marks in the clay or tracks of wheels.

He ascertained from persons on the beach that about fifty men from the back country had been there last week, but they had no implements for throwing up breastworks, and after a short stay they disappeared.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOS. SCOTT FILLEBROWN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of vessels to and from that yard.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, April 28, 1861.

SIR: The steamer *Philadelphia*, which went down to Fort Washington with stores from this yard and the arsenal yesterday evening, returned to the yard during the night.

The *Anacostia*, which went down the river yesterday evening, is just returned to the yard—10:15 a. m.

The steamboat *Daylight*, from Fort Washington last, is up to the yard, 10:15 a. m., with troops and provisions (recruits for Seventh Regiment).

The *Pocahontas* is just up from the mouth of the Potomac—10:30 a. m.

The steamer *Bienville* is coming up the Eastern Branch. She has 550 troops, and horses, on board.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Lieutenant Morris, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Philadelphia, of duty performed by that vessel.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, April 28, 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith the report of Lieutenant G. U. Morris, who was dispatched to Fort Washington yesterday evening and returned to the yard this morning.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

STEAMER PHILADELPHIA,
 Washington Navy Yard, April 28, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your order of the 27th instant, I proceeded to the Washington Arsenal and conveyed from there 115 shells to Fort Washington. Received from the fort a number of boxes, which I landed at the arsenal; contents not known. Arrived here at 11:45 p. m. yesterday.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 G. U. MORRIS,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Washington Navy Yard.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Sproston, U. S. Navy, to assume command of the steamer Powhatan and replace buoys on Kettle Bottom Shoals.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, April 28, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the steamboat *Powhatan* and proceed down the Potomac in order to replace and protect the buoys at the Kettle Bottom Shoals, which have been removed. If light-boats are no longer of service in distinguishing the dangers for which they were placed, you may also mark the proper locality with buoys. Two pilots, Messrs. Stephens and Walter, are sent with you for this duty.

You will observe closely the bank of the river so as to notice any battery that may exist, particularly the bluff near the White House.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
 J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant SPROSTON, U. S. Navy.

Letter from Major Ramsay, U. S. Army, to commandant navy yard, Washington, giving information regarding suspicious movements of a steamer.

WASHINGTON ARSENAL,
Sunday [April 28, 1861.]

CAPTAIN: The steamer which passed down from the yard this evening, when abreast of Alexandria, was seen by my orderly and the sentinel on the wharf to be bows on to the town. The orderly came to call me when it was too dark to discern. The sentinel is certain that the boat went in to the wharf. There has been no firing heard.

I think it proper to give you the information for what it is worth, as the destination of the steamer is doubtless by your order. The boat was not seen to go out from the town. The twilight, however, rendered objects so indistinct that with a glass I could only recognize the light-house.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. D. RAMSAY,
[Major Ordnance.]

Captain DAHLGREN, or
COMMANDING OFFICER, WASHINGTON NAVY YARD.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding search for steamer at Alexandria, Va.

MONDAY MORNING [April 29, 1861,]—3:30 a. m.

Captain Dahlgren has the honor to inform the honorable Secretary of the Navy that the boats have just returned from Alexandria. One of them was fired at twice while pulling along the wharves about 100 yards distant. Nothing was seen of the steamer. Captain D. will send the steam tug at daylight in order to make sure.

[JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.]

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Lieutenant Russell, U. S. Navy, commanding steam tug Robert Leslie, of reconnoissance of Alexandria, Va.

U. S. NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, April 29, 1861.

SIR: I had the honor to inform you last night that the reconnoissance by small boats reported the *Powhatan* not at Alexandria. This morning at early light I sent the steam tug with an officer to make this certain. His report is enclosed, by which which you will perceive that the report of the boats is confirmed. Had the contingency arisen the steamers and troops would have moved at early dawn.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *April 29, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to your order I proceeded with the steam tug *Robert Leslie* below Alexandria, examining the shore and wharves, and could perceive nothing unusual. The following is a list of the vessels: Steamers *Collyer* and *Gipsy*, bark *Admiral Bromney*, schooner *Onward*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. RUSSELL,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding replacement of buoys.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 29, 1861.

SIR: The steamboat *Powhatan*, in charge of Lieutenant Sproston, was sent down the river yesterday evening to replace the buoys on the Kettle Bottom Shoal and at Cedar Point, as directed in your order of the 27th instant.

The steamer *Anacostia* was also sent down the river to-day on service. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding convoy of transports.

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 29, 1861.*

SIR: You will direct the *Pocahontas*, Commander J. P. Gillis, to proceed as early as practicable down the river until expected transports are met, not going so far in the bay as to miss seeing them in their passage. When met he will convoy them to any convenient point of landing, so that they may reach the capital with as little delay as possible.

If the troops are not met in three days the steamer will return to her anchorage.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, to proceed down the Potomac River on transport duty.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 29, 1861.

SIR: I have to inform you that it is the order of the Department that the *Pocahontas* proceed down the river as early as practicable

until expected transports are met, not going so far in the bay as to miss seeing them in their passage. When met you will convoy them to any convenient point of landing, so that they may reach the capital with as little delay as possible. If the troops are not met in three days you will return to your anchorage.

Any facilities to forward the order of the Department will be furnished from this yard with pleasure.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Commander J. P. GILLIS,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Jeffers, U. S. Navy, to assume command of the steamer Philadelphia.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 30, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the steamboat *Philadelphia*, take on board such troops as may present themselves for Fort Washington, and after landing them at that place return to this yard with anything the commandant of the fort may have ready for transportation hither.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant JEFFERS, U. S. Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *April 30, 1861.*
(Received at Washington 1:25 p. m.)

The *Philadelphia* leaves for Fort Washington as soon as the troops come from the Capitol. She might continue to Fortress Monroe; if not, the *Baltimore* or *Mount Vernon* will be ready as soon as steam is up.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Commodore PAULDING,
Navy Department.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant West, U. S. Navy, to assume command of the steamer Baltimore.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 30, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the steamboat *Baltimore* and proceed with her to the U. S. ship *Cumberland* and report to Captain Pendergrast, who will be furnished with further instructions with regard to your instructions.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant W. C. WEST, U. S. Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the departure from that yard of steamers Philadelphia and Baltimore.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, April 30, 1861.

SIR: The steamboat *Philadelphia* with troops for Fort Washington left the yard this evening at 4 p. m.

The steamboat *Baltimore*, in charge of Lieutenant W. C. West, also left the yard this evening at 6:30 p. m., in obedience to order of this date.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of vessels to and from that yard.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 1, 1861.

SIR: The steamboat *Philadelphia*, which took down troops to Fort Washington last evening, returned during the night to this yard.

The steamer *Keystone State*, with provisions for the yard.

The U. S. S. *Anacostia*, Lieutenant Commanding Fillebrown, returned to this yard this morning about 10:30 a. m.

The steamer *Boston*, with stores from Annapolis, arrived at 11:50 a. m. and left for the arsenal.

The steamboat *Powhatan*, which went down to replace buoys on the Kettle Bottom Shoal, etc., returned this afternoon.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, etc.,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Lieutenant Trenchard, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Keystone State, of the cruise of that vessel to New York and return.

U. S. S. KEYSTONE STATE,
U. S. Navy Yard, Washington, May 1, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in conformity with the order of the Department of the 24th ultimo, having proceeded to New York, arriving there on the 26th ultimo, and having received on board the provisions, have returned with all possible dispatch to this place. This duty was delayed some twenty hours in consequence of the light-boats in the Potomac and off Smith's Point being burned.

The mails received on board at Washington were landed at New York and dispatched to the post-office in that city immediately after our arrival, and the dispatches from the War and Navy Departments were forwarded at once in charge of an officer in advance of the mail.

The *Keystone State* can be got ready for service in four hours after the removal of the provisions brought from New York. There is a detachment of men on board that were transferred from the receiving ship *North Carolina* by order of Flag-Officer Breese for service at the Washington navy yard.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
STEPHEN D. TRENCHARD,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Lieutenant Sproston, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Powhatan, of the replacing of buoys in the Potomac River.

U. S. NAVY YARD, *Washington, May 1, 1861.*

SIR: I enclose herewith the report of Lieutenant Sproston, just returned from replacing the buoys that had been removed from the Kettle Bottoms. He also marked the dangers formerly indicated by the light-boats that were burned.

There is not the least evidence of any attempt yet to fortify the bluff near the White House, but all that is necessary could be done in a night, so that continued observation is requisite. It may be well occasionally to send a steamboat to look at the buoys which have been just replaced.

The duty assigned to Lieutenant Sproston appears to have been executed intelligently.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. POWHATAN,
Washington Navy Yard, [May 1, 1861.]

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of the return of the *Powhatan* and to submit a report of the duties performed under instructions.

Having got on board the number of buoys, sinkers, and spars required, I left the navy yard on the afternoon of the 28th and proceeded down the river, running close in to Alexandria, communicating with Fort Washington, and taking the inshore channel past White House Point. Too dark to make observations. At 11:30 anchored below Freestone Point. As usual, an armed watch and sentries posted; banked fires. During the night heard in the distance the sound of wheels, as if a steamer had gone up Aquia Creek. At 5 a. m., underway; passed Maryland Point and prepared buoys and spars for launching. Commencing off Upper Cedar Point planted buoys in the following order:

Upper Cedar Point, small red buoy; Yates Bar, large black buoy; Montgomery Bluff P[oint], Virginia side, large black and white buoy (charred stem of light-boat close to this buoy); Swan Point, spar buoy; Kettle Bottom No. 1, spar buoy; Kettle Bottom No. 2, spar buoy. Found the three buoys below this in position.

At low water steamed up the channel again and sounding found nothing less than 22 feet 6 inches. At 2 p. m. anchored off Montgomery Bluff (one-third of a mile). During the forenoon obtained fish from the fishermen and threatened to stop fishing on the river if the buoys were cut away. At sunset steamed up and anchored in Machodoc Creek. The men who burned one of the light-boats reside in this neighborhood. At daylight weighed anchor and steamed down along the settlement of Madrick. At the point, seeing the people seining, pulled on shore, bought fish of them, and held a conversation of a civil character. A friend of the pilot's went on board and we learned that two schooners that we had seen the day previous up a creek, but had now left, had bodies of armed men on board. Steamed to the opposite side of the river and anchored off Ludlow's Ferry, inside of Lower Cedar Point. In a little inlet nearby discovered one of the channel buoys and the longboat of the light-ship. Went on shore with an armed boat's crew and towed them off. Found the people rank secessionists. They had not received a mail for two weeks in this part of the country. This day spoke a store steamer bound up and informed them of the buoys being placed. A steamer passed down also. At noon a heavy squall of wind and rain coming up from the northeast, was obliged to get underway and steam to the lee of Upper Cedar Point for shelter. At 4 p. m. the U. S. S. *Pocahontas* passed down, also the *Erickson*, canal steam packet between Philadelphia and Baltimore, with deck freight visible. In coming up the channel sighted all the buoys. Within these limits channel passes a half mile from Montgomery Bluff and close to Upper Cedar Point; all other points are distant more than a mile. From Lower Cedar Point to the mouth of the river ships are entirely out of range. No signs of batteries in contemplation have yet been seen.

May 1, got underway at 5 a. m. and, steaming up to Tompkin [Matomkin] Point, planted a spar buoy in 4 fathoms. *Keystone State*, *Boston*, and tug passed up. Steamed along the beach of Sandy Point and anchored off Stump [Neck] Point; went on shore, communicated with the people, and bought fish. But little provision in the county. Boatmen afraid to bring it over. At 11:30 anchored off the White House Bluff; landed with an armed boat's crew; divided and ranged the heights; saw no one but fishermen and negroes. While on the summit of the hill the troopship *Daylight* passed in the regular ship channel, well outside of the *Powhatan*. The altitude was such as to enable me to look directly down on her deck. The land opposite is low and sandy, distant a mile.

Provisions, more than a week's supply, excepting butter, of which five days remaining.

	Tons.
Coal received	30
Coal expended	18
	<hr/>
On hand	12

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, Commanding Powhatan.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, New York, regarding purchase of two vessels for the "flying flotilla."

NAVY YARD [NEW YORK], *May 1, 1861.*

SIR: In compliance with your order to forward the fitting [of] the flotilla to be in charge of Commander Ward, I have this day agreed to purchase two very fast screw steamers selected by Commander W[ard] as adapted to his purpose. They are entirely new and will mount a 24-pounder howitzer. One larger is being sought for. The price of those purchased is \$15,000 each, some six or eight [thousand], I understand, less than the cost. I will give acting appointments to their commanders as masters, also to their engineers, as I have done with the others. Shall I place them on the books of the receiving ship for pay? As the purser of the receiving ship is now removed, I may be excused if I apprise the Department that Paymaster Cahoon is in this city.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. L. BREESE,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding continual reconnoissance in the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 2, 1861.*

SIR: You will be pleased to direct Lieutenant Commanding Fillebrown, of the steamer *Anacostia*, to proceed at the earliest period down the Potomac River as far as Aquia Creek for the purpose of making a careful examination with reference to the erection of batteries on shore or any supposed hostile gatherings, and on his return report to the Department. He will continue to move up and down the river until otherwise ordered.

I am, very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, for reconnoissance in the Potomac River.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 2, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed at the earliest period with the *Anacostia*, under your command, down the Potomac River as far as Aquia Creek for the purpose of making a careful examination with reference to the erection of batteries on shore or any supposed hostile gatherings, and on your return report to the Department. You will continue to move up and down the river until otherwise ordered.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding FILLEBROWN, etc.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant-General Scott, U. S. Army, regarding transportation of ordnance equipments.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 2, 1861.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 2d instant and will give instructions to the commanding officer of the steamer *Keystone State* to drop down to the arsenal some time during the day (about 3 o'clock) for the purpose of receiving the ordnance stores and gun carriages which you wish to send to Fort Washington and Fort Monroe.

He will also be instructed to comply with your wishes with regard to receiving certain articles at Fort Monroe, etc.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GIDEON WELLES,
 [Secretary of the Navy.]

Lieutenant-General WINFIELD SCOTT, U. S. Army,
 Washington.

Report of Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, of a reconnoissance in the Potomac River.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
 Washington Navy Yard, May 3, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that, in obedience to instructions received yesterday afternoon, I proceeded down the river as far as Aquia Creek and executed my orders.

On my arrival there I sent a boat with a reliable officer to make a careful examination of that locality, and he reports that there were no evidences of any batteries in the course of erection, nor could he perceive any hostile gatherings. There were very few persons to be seen, no persons in uniform, or indications of troops thereabouts.

Just as I anchored I observed a train of cars, three in number, arrive and after a stay of about fifteen minutes they departed, accompanied by another train of eight or ten platform or dirt cars.

The White House Bluff remains the same as indicated in my last report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOS. SCOTT FILLEBROWN,
 - Lieutenant, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
 Secretary of the Navy.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Trenchard, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Keystone State.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, May 3, 1861.

SIR: You will receive on board the *Keystone State* and carry to New York such invalid persons as may be sent by you from the *Pawnee*, with a list of their names.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.
 Lieutenant-Commanding TRENCHARD,
 Commanding Steamer *Keystone State*.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of State, regarding allowance of time for departure of neutral and foreign vessels.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 3, 1861.

SIR: In answer to your letter of yesterday, suggesting a compliance with the application of the minister of Bremen concerning the Bremen bark *Admiral Bromney*, now loading at the port of Alexandria, Va., I have the honor to state that the commandant of the blockading squadron, Captain Stringham, has not yet arrived at his station. After he reaches it and the blockade is established with a force sufficient to close the ports, his instructions are "to neutral or foreign vessels that are already in the port you will allow a reasonable number of days to leave them." He will be instructed to give at least fifteen days' notice for vessels to leave, with or without cargoes.

The Bremen vessel, therefore, will have ample time to depart without molestation if her captain exercises ordinary vigilance.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the cruise of that vessel in the Potomac River from April 30 to May 4, 1861.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Entrance [to] Potomac River, May 1, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 29th ultimo, we left the navy yard on the 30th April, 9:30 a. m., and proceeded down the Potomac; no evidence of offensive demonstrations on its shores. Spoke the *Anacostia* bound up and the river steamer *Powhatan* at anchor.

After dark we came to at the entrance of the river off Point Lookout light-house. At midnight a large steamer passed up the Potomac, too distant to hail; we burned blue light; supposed her to be the *Baltic*. At daylight two steamers were discovered standing up the Chesapeake too far off to be made out.

As we stood into the bay, fell in with and boarded a small schooner. Her crew anchored her and fled in their boat to the shore. She proved to be an empty lime vessel. Continuing down the bay, so as to intercept any vessels coming up, spoke the ship *Heloise*, one hundred and two days from Valparaiso, bound to Baltimore. She reports no steamers outside.

Being off Windmill Point, we now stood up the Chesapeake. Spoke bark [—], from Baltimore, bound to New York. She reports passing last night at 9 o'clock (about the time we reached the mouth of [the] Potomac) a steamer at anchor off the Patuxent with troops on board; all quiet in Baltimore and generally in the State. Spoke Bremen ship from Baltimore, bound to Bremen; stood down the bay and spoke steamer *Adelaide*, from Old Point for Baltimore; no news. She has not seen any sea steamers. We then stood up the bay; fresh gales from northwest; anchored for the night to the southward of Smith's Point, off Bluff Point; heavy squalls of wind through the night. At daylight steamed up to Point Lookout, Potomac, thence out into the Chesapeake. Several river steamers passed up. Running off and on in track of vessels, and at sundown anchored in the bay off Point Lookout. Fresh breezes from northwest. Weighed anchor at 8 p. m. and chased

a steamer bound up; fired a shot; could not overhaul her; supposed her to be a river steamer. Anchored in the bay. At daylight steamed out and spoke ship *Neptune*, from Bremen, bound to Baltimore. She reports two steamers with troops gone into Fortress Monroe yesterday (2d May) and the *Quaker City* cruising at entrance of Chesapeake Bay. Exercised the crew daily at the great guns and small arms. Blowing fresh from southward and eastward. Kept in the bay until near dark, then ran into mid-channel, entrance of Potomac.

At daylight, 4th May, got underway and stood out; spoke brig *Trial*, from St. Johns [San Juan], Port [Puerto] Rico, bound to Baltimore. Ship *John Clark*, from Liverpool for Baltimore, reports no steamers down the bay except *Quaker City*, lying off and on the entrance. Spoke steam tug *Commerce*, from Washington for Philadelphia, via canal. Vessels generally seeking a harbor, owing to rough and thick weather, with strong breezes from northward and westward. Anchored off Point Lookout; raining; thermometer 42° F.

I have written in detail, showing that we have been actively employed. About 6:20 p. m. discovered two steamers standing up the bay; made chase, firing guns, and after dark sent up rockets to bring them to; overhauled them off the Patuxent; they proved to be the *Harriet Lane*, in company with the transport *Star of the South*, having on board 600 troops, Brooklyn regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel [Michael W.] Burns, commanding. Communicated with him and directed her to follow the *Pocahontas* to the Potomac. They report the U. S. steam frigate *Niagara* to leave New York to-day (Saturday, 4th May) for Chesapeake Bay; transport *Columbia* to leave with Maine regiment. I learn also that Colonel Ellsworth, with Firemen Zouaves, is at Annapolis; the Ulster County Guards left in barracks in park, New York. *Star of the South* waited in New York until 4:30 p. m. on Thursday for *Columbia*; *Harriet Lane* has orders to proceed to mouth of Patapsco River, there to lie off and on until further orders. I will convoy the transport to Washington 5th May. Troops will debark at Arsenal [Greenleaf] Point. The motion of propeller almost prevents writing.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,

Commander, U. S. Navy.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Sproston, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer *Powhatan*, to proceed to Fort Monroe as bearer of dispatches.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 4, 1861.

SIR: You will take command of the steamboat *Powhatan* and proceed to Fort Monroe without delay, hand the dispatches as addressed or to the senior naval officer, and to return to this place.

In passing up and down lose no opportunity of examining the commanding points of the shores and of obtaining any information that may be of use to the Government. On your return you will resume your usual duty in the yard.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant SPROSTON,
Commanding Steamer *Powhatan*.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding reconnoissance in the Potomac River.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 4, 1861.

SIR: In order to have made at once a reconnoissance of the Potomac River, I would respectfully request that the steamer *Mount Vernon*, now at the Washington navy yard, with her present force and four good landsmen, and the steamer *Anacostia*, with her present force, as a guard vessel, be placed at the disposal of this Department, which has directed the Superintendent of the Coast Survey to make this reconnoissance. Not more than three working days will probably be required for this purpose, and it is important that the work should be done at once.

Very respectfully,

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, regarding reconnoissance in the Potomac River.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
Washington, May 5, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that yesterday and to-day I proceeded down the Potomac as far as Aquia Creek, keeping a strict lookout on both banks of the river for any suspicious movements or hostile gatherings, and have to report that none could be detected.

The foliage at the White House Bluff is getting quite thick, but as far as I could observe there was nothing to indicate its being occupied by any military or other force.

At Aquia Creek everything seemed quiet; but very few persons to be seen.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. SCOTT FILLEBROWN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the arrival of that vessel at Washington navy yard on convoy duty.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Navy Yard, Washington, May 5, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you the arrival of this vessel, having in convoy the transport *Star of the South*, with 600 troops on board, Brooklyn regiment; also four other small steamers with stores, etc. Permit me to submit the letter of first assistant engineer of this vessel for the consideration of the Department.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington City, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., May 5, 1861.

I respectfully request that a week be granted this department (if possible) to enable me to clean boilers, grind in valves and cocks; also would recommend that the cylinders of this steamer be felted and covered with sheet iron, as they are exposed in all weathers, not only detracting from the efficiency of the engines, but making a great waste of fuel.

If the Navy Department can not dispense with this vessel's services this department is ready at your order.

I am, sir, yours, respectfully,

JAMES M. ADAMS,
First Assistant Engineer, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN P. GILLIS, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant navy yard, Washington, to place at the disposal of the Secretary of the Treasury the steamers Mount Vernon and Anacostia.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 6, 1861.

SIR: For the purpose of making a reconnoissance of the Potomac River, the Secretary [of the Treasury] desires to have placed at his disposal for a few days the steamer *Mount Vernon*, with her present force and four good landsmen, and the steamer *Anacostia*, with her present force, as a guard vessel. I have informed him that his request can be complied with and you will therefore be pleased to give the necessary instructions to the officers in charge of those vessels.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 6, [1861.]

The steamers *Mount Vernon* and *Anacostia* have to-day been detailed for the use of the Treasury Department. If there are two other steamers at the yard use them as desired by Colonel Mansfield.

GIDEON WELLES.

Commodore J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant West, U. S. Navy, to transport supplies to Fort Washington.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 6, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the steamboat *Baltimore* and proceed with her to the foot of G street to take supplies for Fort Washington, which are to go under the orders of Lieutenant Snyder, Corps of Engineers.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant WEST.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Jeffers, U. S. Navy, to transport supplies to Fort Washington.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 6, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the steamboat *Philadelphia* and proceed at once to the Washington Arsenal to take supplies to Fort Washington, which are to go under the orders of Lieutenant [George W.] Snyder, Corps of Engineers.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding JEFFERS.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 7, 1861.

SIR: You will, with the *Anacostia* under your command, report to Lieutenant Phelps for such duty as he may direct in making a reconnoissance of the Potomac.

When completed return and report to me.

Respectfully, etc.,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding FILLEBROWN,
Commanding U. S. S. Anacostia.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Russell, U. S. Navy, for reconnoissance in command of steamer Mount Vernon.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 7, 1861.

SIR: You will, with the steamboat *Mount Vernon*, which you will take charge of, report to Lieutenant Phelps for such duty as he may direct in making a reconnoissance of the Potomac.

When completed return and report to me.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant J. H. RUSSELL, U. S. Navy.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant West, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Baltimore, to proceed down the Potomac River to the assistance of a U. S. steam transport.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 8, 1861.

SIR: You will take command of the steamer *Baltimore* and proceed down the Potomac to assist a steam transport employed by the United States to carry stores from Annapolis to Washington and said to be ashore on the Virginia side above Cedar Point.

You will use every exertion in your power to float this vessel and then see her safely to this place.

If the persons in charge have been dispossessed you will recapture the propeller with the cargo and bring her to Washington.

If necessary you can have the assistance of any of the steamers from this yard that may happen to be at hand.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Lieutenant W. C. WEST,
Commanding Steamer Baltimore.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 8, 1861.*

You will direct the U. S. S. *Pawnee* to sail as early as practicable to-morrow morning and convoy a schooner lying at the navy yard, having on board munitions of war, etc., to Old Point.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commodore J. A. DAHLGREN,
Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, for duty as convoy and bearer of dispatches.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 8, 1861.

SIR: You will, at the earliest time of the morning when the light is sufficient, proceed with the *Pawnee* under your command to convoy a schooner as far as Old Point, now lying at the navy yard and having on board munitions.

Please deliver the dispatches and letters herewith sent you to the senior naval officer in the vicinity of Fortress Monroe, and receive any communications which the commandant of the fortress may desire to transmit.

You will observe the condition of the commanding points on the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

Report of Lieutenant Jeffers, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Philadelphia, regarding duty executed by that vessel.

STEAMER PHILADELPHIA,
Navy Yard, Washington, May 9, 1861—6 p. m.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 6th instant, I proceeded to the arsenal and conveyed to Fort Washington in two trips eleven cannon, with their carriages, and a large quantity of ammunition and other

stores, 72 barrels of musket powder to the arsenal from the fort, and conveyed a propeller loaded with powder, and two other vessels with stores to the city.

Yesterday, while loading at the arsenal wharf, the steamship *Columbia* ran into this vessel, staving the port wheelhouse and breaking one of the braces of the framing. I temporarily repaired it to enable me to complete the service upon which I was engaged, but some further work will be required.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. N. JEFFERS,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Lieutenant Sproston, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Powhatan, of the cruise of that vessel in the Potomac River.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, May 9, 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith report of Lieutenant Sproston, of the *Powhatan*, returned last night about 3:30 a. m. from below.

The *Baltimore* left last night to assist the propeller ashore, with orders to recapture if taken. The accidental presence of the other steamers probably prevented this.

The *Pawnee* left early this morning with schooner under convoy.

I have received and will deliver the detachment of Lieutenant Sproston, which will be an inconvenience to the service here at this time.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. ARMED STEAMER POWHATAN,
Washington Navy Yard, May [9], 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report having left Washington navy yard on May 5 at 11:30 a. m., in obedience to instructions.

Communicated with Major Ramsay at the arsenal; he had no dispatches to send. Stopped at Fort Washington and landed stores. Commandant of fort was advising all store steamers to await convoy up; he also spoke of the want of a serviceable battery at the fort, the guns there being few and old. Spoke the *Pocahontas* (convoying) and *Anacostia*. At 4 p. m., off Lower Cedar Point, found the store steamer *Cataline* aground on a ledge of rocks near mid-channel buoy, the buoy being placed to indicate their position. She had struck at 2:30 p. m., high water. Anchored near her. Also anchored the *Kill von Kull*, which was steaming by, and placed her in charge of Mr. Stephens, pilot. Anchored off the steam tug alongside the *Cataline*, a portion of the cargo being transferred to her. Sounding, my pilot reported 2½ feet forward and 9 feet aft. Made preparations for towing the *Cataline* off. Sent a midshipman with sixteen soldiers to assist in transporting cargo aft. At 9:30, hawsers being fast from this steamer and the *Kill von Kull*, commenced towing her off. At 11 she swung into the channel

and at 12 got clear of the rocks. Anchored the steamers for the night, it being dark and rainy. At daylight steamers underway, *Cataline* and tug steaming up the river.

May 6.—Rainy, blowy weather, wind S. E. Spoke the *Chesapeake*, bound up with stores. Exercised the crew at quarters, fired a canister (300 yards), 5-second shell, 1,600 yards. At 1:30 p. m., blowing very fresh. A heavy sea on for the day. Consuming much coal and making little way; stood inshore and anchored off Mill Creek with both anchors, keeping 12 pounds of steam on. Remainder of the day blowing a S. E. gale. At sunset saw two transports in the bay steaming up; blowing too heavy to go out to them. At 10 p. m. gale broke up in a thunderstorm. Lights and boats collecting from the shore astern, hailed the nearest and fired a musket. No reply. Went to quarters; prepared for slipping. Manned a boat and pulled in a circuit of 2 miles round and inshore of the steamers; lights out and boats gone.

May 7.—At 3 a. m., underway; a fresh S. W. wind. Twelve miles N. E. from New Point passed a sunken schooner; half of lower masts above water; some rigging still on topmasts. Three miles below this passed another wreck awash; position dangerous for vessels bound down. No masts standing on the second wreck. Off New Point made a ship standing up; fired a blank cartridge; no notice being taken, sent a shell across her bows. She hove to. Boarded her; found her to be a Richmond vessel (*Cherubim*) bound to Baltimore, with a pass from Captain Marston, of the *Cumberland*. At 11 a. m. anchored alongside the flagship *Cumberland* and delivered dispatches to the flag-officer; then steamed to Fortress Monroe and took in 6 tons of coal from one of several prize schooners. Lifted the cylinder head and repacked the piston. At 5 p. m. steamed up to the *Cumberland*, received dispatches, and kept on up the bay. At midnight off the mouth of the Potomac. Shore lights confusing and water shoaling; stood out to 4 fathoms and anchored.

May 8.—At daylight found the ship anchored off Smith's Point. The lights seen during the night, from bearings taken, must have been false lights on the Virginia side. Such lights about Smith's Point are very dangerous. Point Lookout light was not lighted. At 10 a. m. sent an officer on board a schooner; her deck load proved to be hogsheads of tobacco; and then to a Bremen bark, bound from Alexandria to New York for a cargo. At 11 spoke the *Mount Vernon* surveying. At 30 minutes p. m. boarded the propeller *Octagon* [*Octorara*] ashore on the Virginia side; found a guard on board from the *Anacostia*, the propeller having fieldpieces and stores on her decks. Got a hawser and kedge from the *Anacostia*, steamed into draft, carried out the hawser, and commenced towing off the tug, when the hawser parted. Shortly after the discharge box of this steamer's engine (of cast iron) commenced leaking badly, and was obliged to get underway at once. Put on all steam pumps, stood up the river, and kept leak under. Passing a propeller steaming down, by request of Lieutenant Commanding Fillebrown, ordered her to pass within hail of the *Anacostia*. A side-wheel steamer of light draft and two hawsers are requisite to get the propeller off, or a large boat to discharge portion of cargo into. The pilot of this propeller was picked up at the mouth of the river, and was allowed to leave her after the vessel grounded, very improperly. The vessel is on shore nearly a mile from the channel, and the whole has the appearance of intention. Her position is on Yates Bar, near wreck of light-boat on Virginia side. *Anacostia* at anchor two-thirds of a mile off near white and black can buoy. Guard is to remain on board propeller and night signals are arranged.

While at Old Point noticed great activity on the part of gunboats. *Monticello* came down from off Craney Point; had been well within range of battery without being fired at. Tug *Neptune's Car* had gone up the Virginia side of the bay looking for batteries. The *Yankee* had just returned from off Yorktown, York River, 60 [6] miles up. A battery there fired ten times at her; no shot struck. The steamers *Kedar* and *Kill von Kull* were landing ordnance stores and provisions at the fort, which is garrisoned by 1,600 men. A schooner loaded with arms and clothing for North Carolina is a prize. Two little steamboats and a dozen schooners are prizes. The *Niagara* is expected daily. Saw a secession gunboat at the end of James River reconnoitering. Intelligence from the Gosport [Norfolk] navy yard unreliable. *Quaker City* off the Horseshoe boarding. Soldiers in Fortress Monroe mounting guns. Large gun still on beach in front of fort. Vessels when boarded are warned not to attempt to enter a Virginia or Southern port. The bay boats from Baltimore have been stopped.

	Tons.
Coal at the navy yard	45
Received at Fortress Monroe	6
	51
Expended	40
	11
Remaining	11

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, Commanding Powhatan.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding U. S. Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Letter from Robert Spear, esq., to the Secretary of the Navy, requesting Government protection of his property.

WASHINGTON, May 10, 1861.

SIR: I have a large quantity of ship timber lying on the banks of the Potomac in Maryland cut for the navy yards. I had dispatched vessels to take the timber away, but the crews, warned of danger when near the landing, departed without attempting to load. One of these vessels now lies in a creek on Virginia side river, the crew having abandoned her. The other has retreated to some place of safety and suppose her to be lying near Fort Monroe.

I respectfully solicit the protection of the Government and the assistance of a steam tug to enable me in security to bring these vessels to the landing of the timber.

With great respect, your obedient servant,
 ROBERT SPEAR.

Hon. SECRETARY OF NAVY.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the return of steamers Mount Vernon and Anacostia from duty under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, May 10, 1861.

SIR: The steamers *Mount Vernon* and *Anacostia*, which, by your order of the 6th instant, were placed at the disposal of the Secretary of the

Treasury for a few days, returned yesterday and I forward herewith the reports* of the officers commanding them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

STEAMBOAT MOUNT VERNON,
Navy Yard, Washington, May 9, 1861.

SIR: Having performed the duty assigned me in your order of the 7th instant, I have the honor to report my return.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. H. RUSSELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant West, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Baltimore.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 10, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed with the *Baltimore* to the Washington Arsenal and take on board such persons and things as may be there for Fort Washington. After remaining at the fort a reasonable time return to this place.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commander.

Lieutenant WEST,
Commanding Steamer *Baltimore*.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Master Howison, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Baltimore, of assistance rendered to transport Octorara.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 11, 1861.

SIR: I forward herewith the report of Master Howison, who was sent down the river in the steamboat *Baltimore* on the 8th instant in conformity to orders of the Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

* Report of *Anacostia* not found.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. BALTIMORE,
Washington, May 9, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 8th I took command of the *Baltimore* and proceeded down the river. Spoke the steamer *Powhatan*, bound to Washington. Found the steamer *Octorara* afloat off Lower Cedar Point. Took her in tow and brought her to the navy yard. Spoke the steamer *Mount Vernon*, at anchor off Maryland Point; the *Anacostia*, at anchor off Lower Cedar Point. No appearance of hostilities along the shore.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. L. HOWISON,
Master, U. S. Navy.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Naval Station, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Pocahontas*, for convoy duty.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 11, 1861.

SIR: It is the direction of the Secretary of the Navy that you will get steam up at once to convoy down the river the steamer *Philadelphia*.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Commander J. P. GILLIS,
Commanding Steamer *Pocahontas*.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Pocahontas*, of immediate compliance with orders from the Department.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Navy Yard, Washington, May 11, 1861—11 a. m.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of the 10th instant. Will finish the work on engines on our return. We hasten to get up steam to comply with your telegraphic order received at navy yard a few moments since, as we desire to be always at call for duty.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington City, D. C.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Jeffers, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer *Philadelphia*, to proceed on transport duty to navy yards at Philadelphia and New York.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 11, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the *Philadelphia* and after leaving this yard touch at the stone wharf of the observatory and receive from the

superintendent such articles as he desires to send to Philadelphia or New York. You may also touch at Fort Washington if necessary, thence proceed to Fort Monroe and deliver the dispatches herewith handed you. Also land the rifled howitzer addressed to Commodore Stringham.

Proceed thence to the Philadelphia navy yard and land the articles designed for that place; then to New York yard, where you will leave the remainder. Finally, receive on board supplies of any description for ordnance or other purposes for this place and return to Washington.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding JEFFERS,
Steamboat Philadelphia.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, *May 11, 1861.*

I have just been informed by a Mr. Burch that two small vessels were detained last evening at Alexandria. One of them was fired at. He says also that some changes in telegraphic communications are making near Alexandria. I have sent up the man with a note.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

[NAVY DEPARTMENT], *May 11, [1861.]*

If you have an armed vessel capable of affording protection to vessels send her off Alexandria. Answer.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Captain DAHLGREN.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, *May 11, 1861.*

The river steamers have each a 32-pounder and some rifles, but they are mere shells and could not resist grapeshot from the wharves. Their weakness might invite aggression. The heavy broadside of the *Pawnee* is just suitable for the case, as it would overawe all opposition, and I would recommend a steamer to go from here with orders for the *Pawnee* to take position near Alexandria for the purpose intended.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

SECRETARY NAVY.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, *May 11, 1861.*

(Received at Washington, 8 o'clock p. m.)

Immediately after Mr. Fox had left the yard the *Pawnee* was seen coming around the point, and in order to expedite her departure for

Alexandria, as most fit to execute your telegraphic order, I proceeded myself in a steamer. She entered the branch, however, too soon, and being so very long could only wind near the navy yard. In her cabin I wrote an order to Captain Rowan to go to Alexandria to protect passing vessels, and about 6:30 [p. m.] I left him in the Potomac well on his way to his post. I propose to communicate with him to-morrow at 1 o'clock and will send any further orders you please.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. SECRETARY OF NAVY.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding protection to vessels at Alexandria, Va.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 12, 1861.

SIR: When your telegraphic order of yesterday was received in the afternoon there was no armed vessel at the yard properly capable of affording protection to vessels passing Alexandria, but soon afterwards the *Pawnee* was discovered below Giesboro Point. With a view of acting more promptly than by a written order I went to meet her in a steamboat, and gave directions to her commander to return to Alexandria and carry out there the written order, copy of which is herewith enclosed. The *Pawnee* reached her station off Alexandria by dark and awaits the further orders of Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Navy Yard, May 11, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed off Alexandria with this steamer under your command, in order to protect vessels passing that place, and keep the Navy Department informed of your movements and of any that may come under your notice ashore.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Captain ROWAN,
Commanding Pawnee.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the cruise of that vessel in performing convoy duty.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Potomac River, May 11, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order, we left the navy yard about 1 p. m., taking under convoy the river steamer *Philadelphia*, heavily laden with munitions of war. Proceeding down the river, met the U. S. S. *Pawnee* above Fort Washington, bound up.

At 5:30 a. m., 12th, spoke the transport steamer *Bienville*, with Maine troops on board; having a pilot, directed her to continue on to Arsenal [Greenleaf] Point. She reports another to arrive with more troops from Maine. At 8 a. m., spoke transport propeller *Matanzas*, from New York, with 70 troops and a quantity of stores; she also had a pilot, and reports *Cahawba* coming with Maine regiment 1,500 strong (a portion of them on board the *Bienville*). Instructed her to proceed to navy yard, Washington. We then steamed down the river, *Philadelphia* ahead. At 9:45 a. m., spoke steam tug *Elizabeth*, from Perryville, with Government stores, bound to navy yard. At meridian, boarded the schooner *Sally Frances*, from Accomac, bound to Washington with provisions. At 1:30 p. m., in Chesapeake Bay, spoke ship *Scotia*, from Rotterdam for Baltimore. At 6:45 p. m. spoke the *Kill Von Kull*, from Perryville for New York; no steamers then in sight, stood into the entrance of Potomac and took in tow the schooner *Sally Frances*. Finding her owner to be a good Union man, I dispatched him off Arsenal [Greenleaf] Point to Washington, with his provisions, and will now proceed in search of the *Cahawba*, transport.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington City.

Report of commandant navy yard, New York, regarding the preparation of the "flying flotilla."

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK, May 12, 1861.

SIR: I beg leave to inform the Department that the flotilla preparing here under the direction of Commander Ward consists of the *Thomas Freeborn*, side-wheel steamer, carrying two 32-pounders, and the small screw vessels *Resolute* and *Reliance*, carrying each a 24-pounder howitzer with a 12-pounder if it is to be had. It will probably be ready for sea in four or five days. Their officers, with one or two exceptions, have been appointed as suggested by Commander Ward. I subjoin a return of the personnel of each as required by the commander of the flotilla.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. L. BREESE,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

For the Thomas Freeborn.—1 master (appointed), 2 master's mates, 1 assistant surgeon (selected), 1 second assistant engineer, 1 third assistant engineer, 1 purser's clerk (appointed), 1 carpenter's mate, 1 gunner's mate, 1 ship's cook, 7 seamen, 7 ordinary seamen, 8 landsmen, 2 boys, 3 extra men for schooners (one each) as ship keepers, 1 Chesapeake pilot, 1 first-class fireman, 2 second-class firemen, 2 coal heavers.

For the Resolute.—1 master (appointed), 1 master's mate, 1 second assistant engineer (appointed), 1 first-class fireman, 2 second-class firemen, 1 ship's cook, 1 quartermaster, 3 seamen, 6 ordinary seamen, 3 landsmen.

For the Reliance.—1 master (appointed), 1 master's mate, 1 second assistant engineer (appointed), 1 first-class fireman, 2 second-class firemen, 1 ship's cook, 1 quartermaster, 3 seamen, 6 ordinary seamen, 3 landsmen.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May [13], 1861.*

If the *Pawnee* remains within reach you can send the *Pocahontas* as suggested. One of these vessels should remain near Washington.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Washington Navy Yard.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding dispatch of vessels to the mouth of Rappahannock River.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 13, 1861.

SIR: On the receipt of your telegraphic dispatch* the *Pocahontas* had gone down the river, but I sent an order after her, a copy of which is enclosed. In pursuance thereof the *Pocahontas* will repair to the mouth of the Rappahannock, attended by the *Mount Vernon*, and observe the steamers said to be at that river.

The *Pawnee* is at Alexandria and can be recalled here in an hour's notice.

The *Powhatan* remains here, but not being in serviceable order the *Anacostia*, if not otherwise required, might also remain during the absence of the *Baltimore*, which may not [be] beyond to-morrow.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 13, 1861.

SIR: It is the direction of the honorable Secretary of the Navy that you proceed on the receipt of this to the mouth of the Rappahannock River and there remain in observation of two steamboats said to be armed and plying in that vicinity.

They are the *Virginia* and the *Logan*, reported to be armed each with a 32-pounder and a number of men.

The order* of the Navy Department, which I enclose, will be your guidance in case you fall in with either of them.

The *Mount Vernon* will bear you company and you will deliver to the commanding officer the enclosed order in case of meeting him.

You will remain there until recalled or until your coal or provisions require renewal; of which, however, you will advise the Navy Department in advance if an opportunity occurs.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Commander J. P. GILLIS,
Commanding Steamer Pocahontas.

* Not found.

[Subenclosure.]

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 13, 1861.

SIR: Proceed with the *Powhatan* [Mount Vernon] under your command down the bay to examine and replace, if necessary, such buoys as have been removed.

Touch at Fort Washington, examine the banks, communicate with the *Pawnee* or other vessels. Armed steamers are said to be in the habit of crossing the bay from the Rappahannock at night. You will verify this as far as it is in your power to do so.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant [JOHN G.] SPROSTON,
Commanding Steamer *Powhatan* [Mount Vernon].

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant West, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Baltimore.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 13, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed with the steamer *Baltimore* under your command and on falling in with the *Pocahontas* you will deliver the enclosed document* and convoy back any vessels she may have under care at the time.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant W. O. WEST, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Steamer *Baltimore*.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the cruise of that vessel in performing convoy duty.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Arsenal [Greenleaf] Point, Washington, May 13, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order, proceeded on the 11th instant convoying the *Philadelphia* down the Potomac.

On the 12th spoke transport steamers *Bienville* and *Matanzas*, with troops and stores on board. Instructed them to proceed to Arsenal [Greenleaf] Point and navy yard.

The *Cahawba* is reported as on her way here with the remainder of the Maine regiment on board (1,500 strong in all). I will go in search and convoy her up.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington.

* See two preceding dispatches.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, *May 13, 1861.*

The *Pocahontas* reports arrival, having convoyed *Bienville* and *Matanzas*, and returns to convoy *Cahawba* with 1,500 Maine troops. Written report just forwarded.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the cruise of that vessel in performing convoy duty.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Cockpit Point, Potomac River, May 13, 1861—8 p. m.

SIR: After reporting my arrival to you at meridian to-day I proceeded down the river in search of the transport steamer *Cahawba*, the same we were on the lookout for in the Chesapeake yesterday. We have fallen in with her off this point and are now convoying her to Arsenal [Greenleaf] Point. She has 800 troops on board, Maine regiment mentioned in my last. We will arrive early in the morning (14th) and proceed to navy yard to finish repairs of engine, etc., alluded to in a former communication.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

P. S.—I had written the preceding when the *Baltimore*, river steamer, was met with dispatches for me. Your orders to proceed to Rappahannock River shall be promptly obeyed. We carry but seven days coal and have now been out three days, leaving four days of fuel.

Very respectfully, etc.,

JNO. P. G.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, [*May 13, 1861.*]

Commander Ward's vessels are very much wanted. There is great delay.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Captain BREESE,
New York Yard.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, transmitting report of Lieutenant Sproston, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Mount Vernon, regarding battery on Aquia Creek.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Potomac River, near Blakistone [Island] Point,
May 14, 1861—11:30 a. m.

SIR: Having reported to you by the *Baltimore* last evening, we proceeded down the Potomac, and this morning, 7 a. m., fell in with the

Mount Vernon off Aquia Creek. Delivered to Lieutenant Sproston his orders with instructions. He reports to me an earth battery with four embrasures and one 32-pounder mounted; also one fieldpiece, with about fifty men. Their gun was manned, but no further aggressive movement seen.

I directed Lieutenant Sproston to send his pilot on board this vessel, who reports the channel at Aquia very narrow, with but 10 to 12 feet of water—not room enough to turn the vessel in. My pilot says there is but 9 feet.

I conclude it best under the circumstances to proceed in obedience to your instructions to the Rappahannock.

If a storming party were in an armed steamer of light draft, with boats to land, the battery could be taken and destroyed. Report says they have four 32-pounders and two fieldpieces.

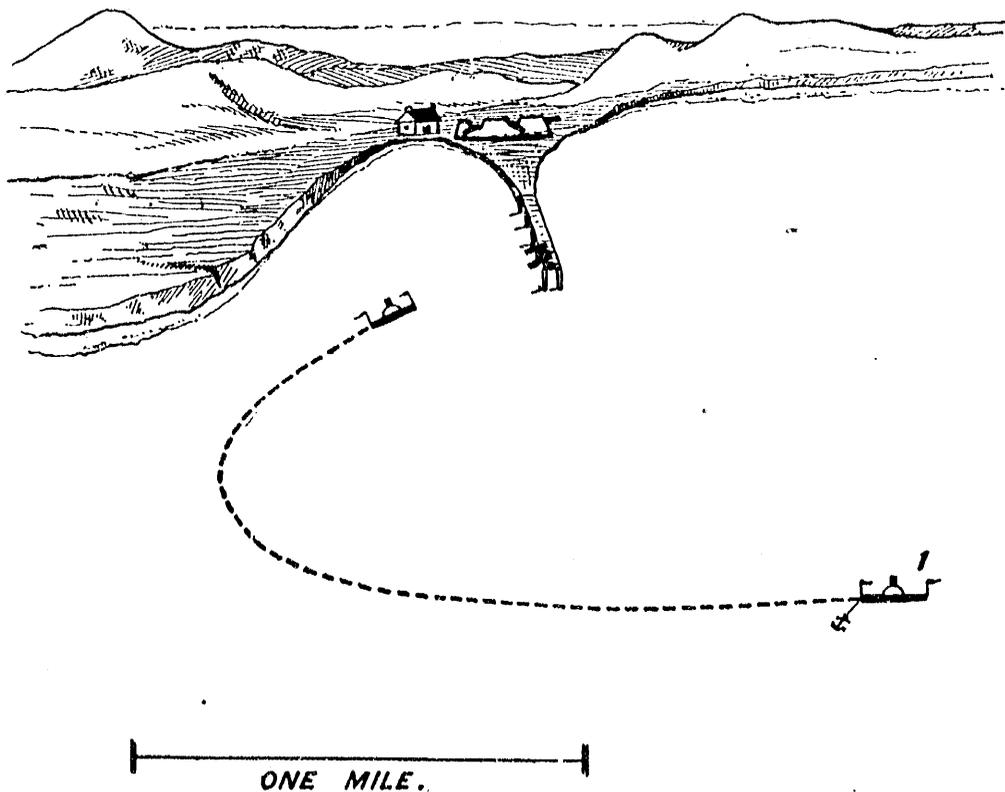
I forward this by the *Marion*, transport, bound to Washington from New York, with stores, I suppose.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]



MOUNT VERNON,
Lieutenant Sproston, Commanding,
Off Aquia Creek, May 24.

Anchored the night previous in position 1. Shortly after heard the beating of drums at Aquia Creek landing. At midnight blowing and raining, let go the second anchor. At daylight the reveille was beaten in the same

quarter. Weighed anchor and stood in as indicated by curved line. Discovered an earthen battery inshore of the end of wharf. When within about a third of a mile stopped the boat, keeping the long gun trained on the battery. Observed with the glass an earthen battery, semicircular in form, having four embrasures; in the one next the house was a 32-pounder manned and trained on the boat, an officer holding the lock string. In the second embrasure they were preparing to mount a gun. In the third was apparently a fieldpiece pointed toward the opposite side of the wharf, at the end of which we supposed, from the number of men gathered there, were two more fieldpieces concealed. The men, some twenty in number, at first advanced to the end of the wharf, and then, as we approached, retired to the main fortification, where they were now engaged in cutting down two trees in front of the fort, training the large guns and loading small arms and digging out the interior of the fort, most of which was visible to the eye unassisted by a glass.

While steaming into position noticed the *Pocahontas* coming down the river. Having remained stationary some ten or fifteen minutes, making the above observations, backed round, steamed out, and communicated with the *Pocahontas*.

I am informed by my pilot (Captain Walter) that a young man, Henry Hainey, who runs a sloop in the river and who was driven out of Alexandria on account of his Union sentiments, came up from Aquia Creek yesterday and reported having seen there in battery four guns of the size of this steamer's (32-pounder) and two fieldpieces. I noticed about fifty men in and about the battery, many muskets, and some in uniform.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, Commanding Mount Vernon.

Commander GILLIS, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

Report of Lieutenant Trenchard, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Keystone State, of transport duty performed by that vessel.

U. S. S. KEYSTONE STATE,
Washington, May 14, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival here of this vessel, which sailed on the 4th instant in conformity with instructions from the Department of the 3d instant.

The steamer proceeded on the afternoon of the 3d to the arsenal, received on board a number of gun carriages, ordnance stores, etc., which were landed at Forts Washington and Monroe. Upon arriving at the last-named place I found the steamer *Cambridge* taking in the Columbiads, shot, and shell that this vessel was designed to convey to Washington. I then proceeded with all possible dispatch to New York, arriving there on the afternoon of the 7th and, after receiving on board from the navy yard the provisions and from the assistant quartermaster-general three rifled cannon and two brass fieldpieces, sailed for this place, arriving here at 10 o'clock this morning. The vessel was delayed some twelve hours in the Potomac, owing to a dense fog.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STEPHEN D. TRENCHARD,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant West, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Baltimore, for duty as transport and bearer of dispatches.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 15, 1861.

SIR: You will take command of the steamer *Baltimore*, proceed with her to the steamer *Pocahontas*, and deliver the coal intended for that vessel. After delivering the coal, proceed to Fort Monroe and deliver the dispatches herewith handed you. Touch at Fort Washington in passing if there be any necessity for so doing.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant W. C. WEST, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Steamer Baltimore.

Report of Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, of information received during a reconnoissance on that vessel.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
Washington, May 15, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report to the Department that to-day I made a trip down the Potomac as far as Smith's Point (about 45 miles), having on board Lieutenant [Thomas S.] Phelps, of the Coast Survey, now engaged in making a reconnoissance of the river.

As far as we could discover, there were no indications of batteries being erected, nor could we perceive any hostile gathering or any assemblage of persons.

From a fisherman who was at Dumfries on Sunday last I gathered the information that there were no troops assembling there. He reports that a week previous to that time there had been a company of about one hundred men there, but they only remained one day.

This man also informed me that there is a battery being constructed at Aquia Creek, a short distance from the wharf, the guns, some ten or fifteen in number, having been brought either from Richmond or Fredericksburg by rail.

This fisherman obtained his information from hands employed by a man named Evans, who, he says, is engaged in conveying mails to the Maryland shore from a place known as Evansport, opposite Budd's Ferry.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. SCOTT FILLEBROWN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of condition of affairs in the Rappahannock River, transmitting report of Lieutenant Sproston, U. S. Navy.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Chesapeake Bay, May 16, 1861.

SIR: I would respectfully state that this vessel and the *Mount Vernon*, steamboat, ran up the Rappahannock 20 miles to the town of

Urbana without meeting or seeing any offensive demonstrations; all peaceful along the shores, and the people employed [in] farming and fishing.

We have some reports, which may be of the sensation order or very much exaggerated, circulated possibly by secessionists to bring on some aggressive act which may be used politically to affect the election soon to come off in Virginia.

I dispatched the *Mount Vernon* to overhaul two schooners standing up the bay. They proved to be from the Piankatank, with strong Union passengers on board, bound to Baltimore.

On the 15th instant sent the *Mount Vernon*, Lieutenant Sproston, to Indian Creek to look for light-boat reported to be there. His report is respectfully submitted.

We have seen nothing of the steamers *Virginia* and *Logan*, and probably will not, as they are reported to be at or near Fredericksburg.

Chased to-day the schooner *Osprey* and having to run to abreast of Old Point before overhauling her, I communicated with the flagship *Minnesota*. There has been captured here a quantity of tobacco, rumor says \$300,000 worth, and sent North. No further news.

Left the *Mount Vernon* lying off and on the entrance of the Rappahannock. Met the river steamer *Baltimore*. The *Osprey's* papers were all right; her cargo, resin, for New York. Am on the lookout for transports with troops; will convoy up and be vigilant in examining all vessels of a suspicious character.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

P. S.—The *Monticello*, I hear, is blockading at the entrance of James River and the [*Dawn*], Commander [William] Chandler, at York River.

We are in want of boarding nettings and desire to finish the repairs of engine. The health of crew may require some fresh provisions, as they have received it but two or three days since we left Norfolk early in April and have been on service some fifteen months.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. ARMED STEAMER MOUNT VERNON,
Chesapeake Bay, May 15, 1861

SIR: In obedience to your instructions, proceeded up Indian Creek in the *Mount Vernon* as far as practicable—about 5 miles. No light vessel to be seen. Returning, anchored at the mouth; landed with the pilot and called at the residence of Judge Carter, who states that the light-boat had been taken away the week previous by a naval party. I proceeded then to steam into Great Wicomico, below Smith's Point, and examined Cackle's [Cockrell], the main branch, and Mill Creek, but could see no light-boat. From what was said at Indian River [Creek?], we expected to meet with a show of resistance in these last-mentioned creeks, but none was made.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, Commanding *Mount Vernon*.

Commander GILLIS,
Commanding U. S. S. *Pocahontas*.

Report continued.

At 5:30 p. m., when off the mouth of the Rappahannock, spoke a Philadelphia schooner from Fredericksburg last Sunday. Captain reports having been detained prisoner there for a time. States 800 soldiers and 4 pieces of cannon had left there for Aquia Creek on Sunday morning. They wanted him to bring down in the schooner guns to Mathias Point [Potomac River]. His excuse was that the guns were of such a size that they would stave in his deck. The *Virginia* (steamboat) brought them down yesterday, May 14. Bowlers Rocks, on the same river [Rappahannock], being fortified also with great guns, with a garrison of 1,000 men. Reports the *Virginia* having come down and gone up the river last night.

Respectfully submitted.

J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander GILLIS, U. S. Navy,
U. S. S. Pocahontas.

[Endorsement.]

Allowance may be made for exaggeration in all reports from secession districts. Politicians are interested in keeping up an excitement, particularly until the election (to take place soon) is over.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

[Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.]

Report of Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, regarding Confederate battery at Aquia Creek.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
Washington, May 17, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that a battery has been erected at Aquia Creek immediately around the hotel at the terminus of the railroad.

As far as I could discover there are only four guns mounted, one of which appeared to be of heavy caliber and was manned while I was passing. The work does not appear to be completed on the east front.

I observed a number of men, I should judge about 200; some were armed and the others were laboring at the earthworks.

A small Confederate flag is hoisted upon the engine house and the steamer *George Page* is lying at anchor in the creek about half a mile above the battery. I could not see that any picket guards or sentinels were stationed along the heights extending from the battery toward the mouth of Potomac Creek.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. SCOTT FILLEBROWN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, New York, regarding the "flying flotilla."

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK, May 17, 1861.

SIR: I have to inform the Department that Commander Ward, in the steamer *Thomas Freeborn*, and one of the small propellers of his flotilla, left last evening for the Chesapeake Bay. The other propeller, I learn, met with a slight injury, which may detain her here a short time.

I enclose a muster roll of the officers and crew of the flotilla.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. L. BREESE,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding the movements of vessels.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Rappahannock, May 17, 1861.

SIR: I had the honor of sending you a report by the river steamer *Baltimore* on the 17th, and would respectfully request that we be permitted to make the repairs of engine, etc., mentioned.

The accompanying report is submitted. We are lying off and on the entrance of this river on the lookout for vessels and transport steamers. Learned to-day by a schooner bound up that one was to leave New York for Washington on the 15th instant, Wednesday.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

SATURDAY, May 18, 1861.

The *Roanoke* to leave New York on the 16th instant with troops. Regiments in Fort Schuyler, Throgs Point, to leave on 15th. Schooner *Arctic* came into Chesapeake 17th with Government stores from New York. *Coatzacoaleos* to leave 15th.

Meridian.—I dispatched the *Mount Vernon*, Lieutenant Sproston, to convoy the *George Peabody* to Washington with Government stores and return here with dispatches, should it meet your approbation.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. ARMED STEAMER MOUNT VERNON,
Inside Windmill Point, Rappahannock River, May 16, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that during the day no vessels have passed up or down the river. The people on shore consider the river in a state of close blockade. Boarded a schooner, the *Falcon*, in ballast, belonging to the settlement opposite, who stated that the inhabitants on the banks of the river were fearful that we would attack them.

I told him to say to them that we were here to attack only those who were in arms against the U. S. Government or were assisting the rebels. Discovering a pole at the end of the point, went on shore in an armed boat; found halyards attached to it; considered it erected to show a false light, cut it down, and sent word to the people living in the neighborhood the reason for my doing so. Learned that during the night it had been guarded by a party of eighteen armed men, and that it was the first of a system of poles used for telegraphic purposes between the point and Fredericksburg, lights being hoisted at night and flags by day. Afterwards noticed similar poles farther up the river, time of communication with Fredericksburg being from one to two hours. A man also came off from Stingray Point who said the authorities permitted but would not authorize him to come. He said the residents on shore wanted to know the steamer's intentions; I replied as above.

At 2 p. m. the steamer *Baltimore* passed down the bay. During the night all quiet, no sails passing up or down the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, Commanding Mount Vernon.

Commander GILLIS, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

[Endorsement.]

Some of the poles mentioned in the report we saw on our passage up the Rappahannock. They were erected by surveying party some years since.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. GILLIS,
Commander U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington City.

Report of Brigadier-General Butler, U. S. Army, commanding Department of Annapolis, of an expedition for the recapture of Smith's Point light-boat, in Wicomico River, Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ANNAPOLIS,
Washington, May 18, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, having received information that one of the light-ships removed from their stations in Chesapeake Bay was concealed in a branch of the Wicomico River, I ordered Lieutenant Flusser, of the U. S. Navy, with the chartered steamer *William Underwood*, having on board thirty seamen from the *Alleghany* and *Forward*, and a detachment from the force at Annapolis to find and recapture her. This service was successfully performed and the prize now lies in Annapolis Harbor. A force of about thirty men disputed the recapture of the vessel and a brisk fire was kept up on the steamer while she remained in range. I am happy to report no casualties on our side.

Owing to the concealed position of the enemy it is impossible to say whether they incurred any loss. The detachment composed of five men from the Thirteenth New York, Lieutenant Woodward, and two

guns and twenty men from the Eighth New York, Lieutenant Byrnes, the whole under command of Captain [R. S.] Fay [jr.], of my staff, behaved with great steadiness. The prize is the Smith's Point light-ship. She has been stripped of everything which could be removed, but the vessel is perfectly good.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,
 BENJ. F. BUTLER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Brigadier-General Butler, U. S. Army, regarding recapture of Smith's Point light-boat.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 20, 1861.*

SIR: The Department has received your report of the 18th instant and is much gratified at the success of the expedition under Lieutenant Flusser, of the Navy, dispatched to the Wicomico River for the recapture of the Smith's Point light-boat.

For the information of the Secretary of the Treasury, who has charge of the light-house establishment, I have sent a copy of your report to him.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GIDEON WELLES.

Brigadier-General B. F. BUTLER,
Headquarters Department of Annapolis.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *May 18, 1861.*

The *Anacostia* is just in and reports a battery at Aquia Creek; four guns, and one of heavy caliber. Work not completed. About 200 men about it.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Letter from Colonel Commandant U. S. Marine Corps, to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding the distribution of marines.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,
Washington, May 18, 1861.

SIR: A detachment consisting of 1 commissioned officer, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 17 privates was sent on board of the *Anacostia* on the 20th of April. They are still on board, with the exception of the officer (Lieutenant Meiere), who has resigned.

We are much pressed for men for the large vessels that are fitting for sea, and those men would help us.

I therefore respectfully recommend that the marines on board the *Anacostia* be ordered to report to Brevet Major Zeilin, commanding marines, Washington, D. C.

I am, sir, very respectfully, yours,

JNO. HARRIS,
Colonel, Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Abstract log of steamer Mount Vernon, Lieutenant Sproston, U. S. Navy, commanding, from May 13 to 19, 1861.

May 13, 1861.—1 p. m., left the yard. Communicated with the *Pocahontas*, *Parnee*, and Fort Washington. At 8 p. m., anchored off Aquia Creek. Heard the beat of tattoo and reveille and standing in.

May 14.—This morning discovered Aquia Creek battery. Stood out and made report to Commander Gillis. *Pocahontas* in company, steamed down the river and bay to mouth of Rappahannock. Stood in and boarded schooners; no news. Out again and anchored alongside *Pocahontas*.

May 15.—In company with *Pocahontas* steamed up the Rappahannock to country town of Urbana (20 miles up the river). Returned again to the mouth. River deserted by crafts. 9 a. m., parted company with *Pocahontas*. Steamed up and into Indian Creek to head of navigation and returned. Country quiet; but few inhabitants visible. At the mouth anchored; visited a county judge; learned that Mr. Price's property was held by the authorities until he presented himself for examination; men still in confinement. Steamed up the Virginia side and into Great Wicomico Branch, Cockle's [Cockrells], and Mill Creek. From information received, expected resistance here. None was offered. Returning, boarded a schooner of Philadelphia from Fredericksburg; had been detained by authorities for several days; wanted him to convoy guns to Mathias Point. Reported sending guns and several companies to Aquia Creek. On Sunday, *Virginia* carrying guns to Bowlers Rocks, which point, 40 miles up the river, strongly fortified. Did not know where steamer *Logan* was. With *Pocahontas*, anchored off mouth of river.

May 16.—At 2 a. m., chased a passing steamer; did not come up with her; steamer bound down the bay. At daylight steamed out into the bay with *Pocahontas*; blowing fresh. Parted company, returned and anchored well inside the mouth of the river. 2 p. m., discovering a pole with halyards rove at end of Mill Creek Point, considered erected for the purpose of hoisting a false light; landed and cut it down. Boarded a schooner, and a boat from shore came off. Learned an armed guard had been stationed at pole night previous; that it was one of a chain communicating for telegraphic purposes with Fredericksburg. During the night anchored with spring on cable. During the day no vessel passed up or down.

May 17.—At daylight, *Pocahontas* steaming up the bay; anchored during the forenoon, boarding vessels in the bay; *Pocahontas* went down the bay and returned in the evening; no vessels in the river during the day.

May 18.—At daylight, steamed out into the bay in company with the *Pocahontas*; left the *Pocahontas* outside and returned to anchorage; visited the shore in an armed boat; people distrustful, otherwise civil;

obtained a quantity of water for the steamer; was told anyone who brought off supplies to the steamer would be hung; volunteers of county to muster on Wednesday next; county much in want of usual supplies from Baltimore; hauled alongside of *Pocahontas* to coal; smoke of steamer seen down the bay, Virginia side; cast off, steamed out, met and boarded the *George Peabody*, with Government stores; communicated with the *Pocahontas*; received orders and dispatches; returned to *George Peabody* and, with her in convoy, steamed up the bay and Potomac River, speaking and boarding vessels and propellers on the way; anchored at 8 p. m. off Lower Cedar Point. A schooner with Government lumber also anchored near.

May 19.—At daylight got under way; *Peabody* and schooner in company; on Mathias Point, no battery; at Aquia Creek, three more guns mounted in barbette below the house; steamer *Page* in sight below the bend of the creek; no signs of her having steam up; sent Captain Walter on board *George Peabody* to pilot her up; lost sight of schooner above Aquia Creek; communicated with Fort Washington and *Pawnee*.

NOTE.—The residents along the shore of Virginia have threatened Captain Walter, my pilot, through those who have communicated with the steamer, his knowledge of every creek and inlet on the coast being the cause.

Respectfully submitted.

J. GLENDY SPROSTON,
Lieutenant, Commanding Mount Vernon.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding U. S. Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *May 20, 1861*

The steamer *Freeborn*, Captain Ward, has arrived with two small craft in tow.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *May 20, 1861.*

I have not heard any such report. The *Freeborn* has just come up and Captain Ward has not mentioned anything of the kind.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

G. V. FOX.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of vessels to and from that station.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 20, 1861.

SIR: The steamboat *Baltimore* left the yard yesterday morning, went down to Fort Washington and returned at 9 a. m.

The steamboat *Mount Vernon* returned to the yard yesterday at 11 a. m.

The steamboat *Baltimore* left the yard for Fort Washington at 11:30 a. m.

The steamer *Thomas Freeborn*, Commander Ward commanding, arrived at the yard at 2 p. m. from the bay.

The *Baltimore* returned from Fort Washington at 5:40 p. m.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the arrival of that vessel at Washington from a ten days' cruise.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Navy Yard, Washington, May 21, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival of this vessel after ten days' cruising in the Potomac, Chesapeake Bay, and Rappahannock.

We have under convoy the transport steamer *Coatzacoalcos* with Government stores; also the small steamboat *James Guy*, which we picked up off Machodoc Creek and brought to navy yard.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the cruise of that vessel in the Potomac, Chesapeake Bay, and Rappahannock River.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Potomac River, May 21, 1861.

SIR: My last report to you was by river steamer *Mount Vernon*, which vessel I dispatched to convoy the transport *George Peabody* to Washington with Government stores. Since then we have run up to near Urbana (second time) on the Rappahannock, looked into the Piankatank, and run up the bay alongshore. All quiet.

[May] 19th discovered a steamer ahead and aground off the entrance of the Potomac. Went to her assistance. She got off at sunset and was the *Baltimore*, of Baltimore, laden with lard and bacon, bound to Havana.

[May] 20th stood down the bay. Off the Rappahannock met transport steamer *Coatzacoalcos*, from New York, with Government stores for Washington. Took her under convoy, directing her to follow astern. Blowing fresh. While running along with her well off our port quarter she took a sheer and ranged up alongside suddenly; put our helm a port, but could not prevent the collision. She struck us on the port quarter, stove in our quarter boat, bending iron davits, carrying away

part of main channels, railing and stanchions on poop, etc. I censured the master for his awkward, lubberly management. He replied he could not help it. Had he stopped his engines or sheered her with starboard helm the accident would not have occurred. It will be necessary to make these repairs, as also to finish those on engines.

We had intercourse with several persons on the Rappahannock and have concluded that the reports given generally are for sensational articles, either without foundation or very much exaggerated, particularly in regard to batteries, number of soldiers, etc.; *vide* that published in connection with Aquia Creek, where one gun frightened off three or four steamers. The old *Virginia*, steamboat, is at Fredericksburg and *Logan* up York River, which is blockaded. One or two of the river steamboats would be more efficient off the Rappahannock on account of their speed. At 7:30 a. m., 21st, picked up the steamboat *James Guy*. She came off from Machodoc Creek. Ran in as far as water would permit to Aquia landing. The steamboat *James* [*George*] *Page* lying in the creek. Saw an earth battery of four embrasures, but no guns visible; a wheel carriage for howitzers on beach; about 100 men seen on the wharf and about dwelling house. We remained a short time making observations, then proceeded up the river. Will deliver the *James Guy* at navy yard.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Philadelphia, to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding return of the Philadelphia Ice Boat.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Philadelphia, May 20, 1861.

SIR: From what I learn I infer that the city *Ice Boat* from hence is of no further service at Annapolis. If this is the case will the Department be pleased to order her back to this yard? Her expenses are much too great for the services now rendered.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. F. DU PONT,
Commandant

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 21, 1861.

SIR: Inform the Department if the Philadelphia *Ice Boat* can be spared from her present service at Annapolis.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

COLONEL COMMANDING MILITARY FORCES,
Annapolis.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 21, 1861.*

SIR: Be pleased to send the Philadelphia *Ice Boat* to the navy yard at this place.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Colonel ABEL SMITH,
Commanding at Annapolis.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 21, 1861.*

Ascertain and inform the Department if the city authorities of Philadelphia will permit the *Ice Boat* to be employed on the Potomac River.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Captain S. F. DU PONT,
Commandant Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

[Telegram.]

PHILADELPHIA, *May 21, 1861.*

No objection to employing *Ice Boat* on the Potomac, but she is slow, consumes much coal, has no bulwarks, carries only 32-pounders. The extra civilians on board should be discharged, and she wants provisions. As soon as she can be relieved she had better be sent back. The fine steamer *Union* must have reached Hampton Roads; she has four 8-inch cannon.

S. F. DU PONT.

Hon. G. WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of United States steamers.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 22, 1861.

SIR: The steamer *Pocahontas* arrived at this yard yesterday evening with the steamboat *James Guy* under her convoy.

The steamer *Thomas Freeborn*, Captain Ward, left this morning for Fortress Monroe, etc.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of affairs on the Potomac River.

U. S. S. (FLOTILLA) FREEBORN,
Potomac River, May 22, 1861.

SIR: Steaming down the river to-day, I have gone close in with several points designated as the White House, etc., on the Virginia shore, but could discover no signs of a hostile nature.

The pilot ran me fast aground at a point 5 miles above Mathias. Every effort to get afloat having failed, I have taken the liberty to detain the *Philadelphia*, armed tug, which conveys this. With her aid in various ways, lightening, etc., I hope soon to get off. The place is rendered dangerous by removal of the buoy, which secession parties have done.

Landing abreast this place on the Maryland side, I found the inhabitants strongly Union in sentiment. They had no intercourse with the other shore, knew nothing of any batteries there; said, however, that constant communication was kept up between Port Tobacco, a little way below, and Mathias Point. Disaffected Marylanders, they say, go over that way to join the Virginia forces; also that supplies pass. I shall report all this to the flag-officer below.

If I chance to pass Mathias Point by daylight shall give it a critical inspection and go so close as to tempt their fire, and know therefore if their preparations have progressed considerably.

Possibly the flag-officer may direct my return to this region, in which event I shall be pretty sure to know something about it.

Considering that the detention of the tug will make only the difference between arriving in the evening of to-day and the morning of to-morrow, I have not hesitated in the matter.

Very respectfully, I am, sir, your obedient [servant],
J. H. WARD,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—I open this to say that the shoal is off Maryland Point, called Tomkins Shoal [Matomkin?]. The buoy was in place when I went up on Sunday and was set adrift last night; hence our difficulty.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding steamer James Guy.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 22, 1861.

SIR: A small steamboat called the *James Guy* has been brought here in convoy of the *Pocahontas*. The owner of her professes it to have been done at his instance to save his vessel, but I believe Captain Gillis entertains different views, and I therefore refer the matter to your decision.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding seizure of small craft.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 22, 1861.

SIR: Captain Ward brought to this yard a small craft in which were a number of men. He made no disposition of them himself before leaving this morning with his vessel, but last evening he desired me to send to the depot the men who were passengers in the vessel and allow them to go to Baltimore, then set the craft and her crew at liberty to go where they pleased.

It seems proper for me to know your pleasure on the subject, and I therefore await your instructions respecting them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding crew of seized craft.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 23, 1861.

SIR: Conformably with your order dated the 22d, I have set the men on board the craft brought to this yard by Commander Ward at liberty and discharged the schooner and her crew.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Instructions of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the Philadelphia Ice Boat, loaned for the use of the Government.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 23, 1861.

SIR: The Philadelphia Ice Boat has been ordered to the Washington navy yard. The authorities of Philadelphia city loan her to the Government free of expense, excepting officers and crew. A lieutenant will be detailed to command her and you will please discharge her present large complement, retaining only those actually necessary to man her for service in the Potomac River. The United States sailors will be retained, and the Department will give an order for the transfer of their accounts from Philadelphia to the Washington navy yard. Persons on board discharged by this order and returning to Philadelphia will be paid there whatever may be due them. No facts have been submitted to this Department requiring the detention of the small craft and the men seized by Commander Ward. You will detain the steam tug seized by Commander Gillis and send her captain up to report to this Department with any information you may have bearing on the case.

In regard to administering the oath, no reports have been received from the other yards. With the exception of the officers and the heads of the different departments, it may be done by all raising their right hand in the presence of some person legally competent to administer it.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *May 23, 1861.*

The *Ice Boat* has arrived in forty hours from Annapolis.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The occupation of Alexandria, Va., May 24, 1861.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the assistance rendered by the Navy in the occupation of Alexandria, Va., and of the killing of Colonel Ellsworth.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 24, 1861.

SIR: Conformably with the request of General Mansfield, the steamers, lighters, and boats at this yard were sent to assist in the operations of last night.

Between 2 and 4 a. m. the regiment of Zouaves, commanded by Colonel Ellsworth, were embarked from Giesboro Point in the steamers and moved to Alexandria, where they landed and occupied position about daylight.

After this was effected, I regret to say that Colonel Ellsworth was deliberately murdered by one of the inhabitants, who was himself killed instantly by a private who was near the colonel at the time.

My short acquaintance with this officer fully impressed me with the correctness of the common opinion of his excellent qualities as a citizen and a soldier.

I conveyed his body to this place, where, with every mark of respect, it has been landed under the escort of Zouaves, Seventy-first Regiment, and marines, and deposited in a suitable place under a proper guard.

The remains of this gallant soldier await the further disposition of the authorities.

The steamers *Baltimore*, *Mount Vernon*, and *Guy* were commanded respectively by Lieutenant West, Master Morris, and Acting Master Woods; the creditable performance of the duty intrusted to them in this case entitles them to my thanks.

The presence of Mr. Fox, the chief clerk of the Department, was exceedingly acceptable, and the interest he manifested during the whole affair had an excellent effect in impressing all concerned with a sense of the importance which the Department felt in the operation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, to furnish a detailed report regarding the occupation of Alexandria, Va., May 24, 1861.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 28, 1861.*

SIR: You will please furnish the Department with a minute report of your proceedings during the night and morning of the 23d and 24th instant, communicating everything of interest or importance that came under your observation.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, Washington.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, regarding the occupation of Alexandria, Va.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, May 29, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of yesterday's date, to furnish the Department with a minute report of your (my) proceedings during the night and morning of the 23d and 24th instant, communicating anything of interest or importance that came under your (my) observation, in reply, I have the honor to state that during the night of the 23d nothing of interest or importance occurred. On the morning of the 24th, about daylight, two steamers containing the Zouave regiment approached Alexandria from the navy yard, for the purpose of landing and occupying that city. As soon as the steamers came in full view of the city, and so near as not to expose the secrecy of the expedition, I sent Lieutenant [R. B.] Lowry on shore to demand the surrender of the town. Lieutenant Lowry returned to the wharf in time to meet Colonel Ellsworth as he landed and informed him that no resistance would be made—that the town would be evacuated. Shortly after Lieutenant Lowry left the ship I sent Lieutenant [J. C.] Chaplin in the first cutter to lie off the starting point of the railroad cars, and to jump on shore immediately the steamers touched the wharf and cut off the departure of the early morning train then at that point. The engine escaped, but the burden cars laden with railroad iron were captured.

I sent a cutter in charge of the master to bring out two steamers, the *Collyer* and *Gipsy*, that had been seized by the secessionists. The former belongs to parties in Washington and the latter to parties in Maryland. Both these vessels have been turned over to their respective commanders by the authority of the Department and are now on their routes, the first between Washington and Alexandria and the other between Alexandria and Fort Washington.

I directed Lieutenant Lowry to return to the town and cooperate with the troops, under the impression that Colonel Ellsworth's command was the only force then moving on Alexandria, and that his knowledge of the localities, together with this additional force, would, in case of resistance, be valuable.

In demanding the surrender of Alexandria I was actuated solely by motives of humanity. I knew the town to be full of helpless women and children, mostly of the middle and poorer classes, whom I saw running frantically through the streets in search of protection as the troops landed.

A detailed account of what took place on shore connected with this ship will be found in the accompanying report made by Lieutenant Lowry.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, Va., May 24, 1861—10:30 a. m.

SIR: In obedience to your verbal order given this morning about 4:20 a. m., I proceeded on shore at this place and communicated with a Major [George H.] Terrett, commanding the Virginia secession forces at Alexandria. In your name I demanded the surrender of the place, stating that as we were prepared to seize the place, it would be useless to resist, and that you were actuated simply by a desire to spare the shedding of blood of women and children.

The interview was held in the open street, surrounded by excited soldiers. Major Terrett said he would not surrender; that he would evacuate, or was about evacuating; that if hostilities were not opened upon him he would not use any. He wanted to know how much time he could have. I told him I did not know; I would return to the *Pawnee*; that no time was to be lost. He said he would require till 8 a. m. to get such women, children, and property out as he would require. I said, "Very well; I will go at once to the *Pawnee*. Should the troops land and you make no resistance, I have no doubt that no harm will be done to the town and its inhabitants. Should the *Pawnee* be obliged to open her batteries no one knows better than yourself what would be the result."

I hastened to the river side and reached the wharf just in time to witness the first approach of the Zouaves under Colonel Ellsworth. The sentries on the wharf fired their muskets, which was returned by a scattering fire from the troops on board the transports. As the troops commenced to land I sought out Colonel Ellsworth, told him in these words: "Sir, I am an officer of the *Pawnee*. I have been on shore with a flag of truce, demanding the surrender of the town. The commanding officer is already evacuating. He promises to make no resistance. The town is full of women and children." Colonel Ellsworth replied: "All right, sir; I will harm no one."

I then proceeded with a detachment of men from the *Pawnee* under Lieutenant Chaplin and took possession of the railroad and some burden cars.

I informed Colonel Ellsworth of the whereabouts of the telegraph and other places. He landed his regiment with great rapidity. I proceeded to the *Pawnee* and reported to you, when you sent me back at once to cooperate with the troops and to say that, as they had landed, you had no further jurisdiction, and that I should accompany the troops, with the *Pawnee's* force, and take part in what should occur. I did so; found Colonel Ellsworth was not at the head of his regiment, which had marched some distance up the street. After waiting some time I advanced through the upper part of the town, hoisted the American ensign on a street flagstaff, and also upon the custom-house, where I left a small guard, and after a rapid march through the town reached the depot, where I found troops of the United States in possession.

These troops had advanced by land from Washington and were under command of Colonel Willcox. I stated to him the substance of the above report subsequently, as Colonel [O. B.] Willcox called on board this ship for a better explanation of our position. It is proper to state that your order to me was simply "to demand the surrender of the town." Any misunderstanding which the rebels may have had was owing to their excited condition and exhibited by the rapidity in which they evacuated, not even waiting for the time for which they stipulated.

The spirit of my language was intended to apply only for the "protection of helpless women and children," and I so distinctly stated to Major Terrett.

In passing to and from the interview with Major Terrett I observed small bodies of men in marching order, hastening out of the town.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. Steam Sloop Pawnee.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, expressing disapproval of his course in connection with the occupation of Alexandria, Va.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 3, 1861.*

SIR: I have received your report of the 29th ultimo, made in pursuance of the order sent to you by the Department on the day preceding, together with a copy of the report of Lieutenant Lowry to yourself on the 24th ultimo, detailing his proceeding at Alexandria on the morning of that day, which had not previously been communicated to the Department.

It is stated in your report that on the morning of the 24th instant, about daylight, two steamers containing the Zouave regiment approached Alexandria from the navy yard for the purpose of landing and occupying that city. As soon as the steamer came in full view of the city and so near as not to expose the secrecy of the expedition, I (you) sent Lieutenant Lowry on shore to demand the surrender of the town. This portion of your report, so manifestly inconsistent with correct discipline and the obligations due to the army which was making a secret movement on Alexandria, was read with pain and surprise. You have received no orders from this Department to demand the surrender of Alexandria, yet when you became aware that a portion of the army was moving on that place you volunteered an interference, which attended, perhaps, by no serious inconvenience in this instance, might have defeated the object intended and been followed by serious disaster. As it was, your demand was a notice to the leading insurgents to escape capture, and they availed themselves of it.

You say that "In demanding the surrender of Alexandria I was actuated solely by motives of humanity. I knew the town to be full of helpless women and children, mostly of the middle and poorer classes, whom I saw running frantically through the streets in search of protection as the troops landed." While I will not question the humane motives alleged as a justification for interfering in a manner that might have defeated an expedition planned without your knowledge, let me say to you that before arriving at that conclusion it would have been well to have considered that those who projected and those who exe-

cutted that expedition were governed by motives of humanity also. They were not barbarians, unworthy or incapable of carrying into effect the orders [with] which they had been intrusted, but your countrymen; and why you should have availed yourself of the first intelligence that came to you by giving an alarm, appears so unaccountable that, after waiting a reasonable time for a report or explanation and receiving none, the order of the 28th ultimo was issued. In demanding the surrender of the town when the expedition from Washington was secretly approaching it, you committed, to say the least, a grave error. The promptings of humanity are commendable, and the sympathy which you felt for the "women and children, mostly of middle and poorer classes, whom [you] saw running frantically through the streets in search of protection" after notice had been given them and as the troops landed, may do credit to you as a man, though having its origin in your error as an officer.

The Department deems it a duty to express its disapproval of your interference under the circumstances, and it also regrets that you should have omitted a prompt and frank report of your proceedings on so eventful an occasion until an order was issued demanding it.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, Washington.

Report of Colonel Terrett, C. S. Army, commanding at Alexandria, Va., of the evacuation of that place by the Confederate forces.

MANASSAS JUNCTION, VA.,
Camp Pickens, May 28, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to instructions from headquarters of this day's date in regard to the capture of Captain Ball and his troops, I have to report that on the morning of the 24th instant about 1:30 a. m., Captain Ball came to my quarters and reported that one of the vedettes stationed at the Chain Bridge, about 3 miles west of Georgetown, D. C., had informed him that a squadron of cavalry had crossed over to the Virginia shore. I immediately ordered my command under arms to await further orders. About 5:30 a. m. an officer was sent from the steamer *Pawnee*, Northern Navy, to inform me that an overwhelming force was about entering the city of Alexandria and it would be madness to resist, and that I could have until 9 a. m. to evacuate or surrender. I then ordered the troops under my command to assemble at the place designated by me on assuming command in Alexandria, that I might either resist or fall back, as circumstances might require. As soon as the troops were formed, which was promptly done, I repaired to the command, and then, ascertaining that the enemy were entering the city by Washington street and that several steamers had been placed so that their guns could command many of the principal streets, I ordered the command to march, and proceeded out of the city by Duke street. Captain Ball accompanied me as far as his quarters, a little west of the railroad depot, where he halted, and I proceeded to the cars, which were about half a mile from the depot, where I had ordered them to be stopped; and, from orders given before marching out of the city, the cavalry was to follow in my rear for the purpose of giving me informa-

tion in regard to the movements of the enemy. Captain Powell followed my instructions and why Captain Ball did not I am unable to report.

Respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

GEO. H. TERRETT,
Colonel, Commanding Alexandria.

Lieutenant-Colonel THOMAS JORDAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *May 24, 1861.*

The *Baltimore* has returned from Alexandria with thirty-six prisoners of war taken this morning, of which one is a captain and another a lieutenant. Will the Department please to direct me what to do with them?

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant navy yard, Washington, in regard to prisoners.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 24, 1861.*

SIR: The prisoners of war reported in your telegraphic dispatch of this day as having been taken at Alexandria, Va., and now at the navy yard under your command, you will retain until further instructed by the Department.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of War to the Secretary of the Navy, requesting the use of a vessel for convoy duty.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 24, 1861.*

You will oblige this Department if you can order a vessel to convoy from the mouth of the Potomac the *Sea Gull*, loaded with stores sent by the city of Providence for the Rhode Island troops.

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Hon. G. WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding convoy of the steamer Sea Gull.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 24, 1861.*

SIR: At the request of the Secretary of War you will direct a steamer to proceed immediately to the mouth of the Potomac River

and give convoy to the steamer *Sea Gull* to the Washington navy yard, loaded with stores sent by the city of Providence for the Rhode Island troops.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the movements of U. S. steamers Anacostia and Philadelphia.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 24, 1861.

SIR: The steamer *Anacostia* left the yard this morning for the mouth of the Potomac.

The steamer *Philadelphia*, which was sent to Philadelphia and New York with stores some days ago, returned to the yard this morning.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Lieutenant Jeffers, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Philadelphia, of the cruise of that vessel to New York and return.

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA,
Navy Yard, Washington, May 24, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of May 11, I proceeded to Fortress Monroe, Philadelphia, and New York and landed the ordnance stores destined for those places.

On Tuesday morning, the 21st ultimo [instant], after being detained by bad weather for several days, I sailed for Fortress Monroe, which place I reached on Thursday afternoon, having been obliged to harbor at the Delaware Breakwater on account of the weather.

On the passage from the breakwater encountered a heavy swell from S. E., which, coupled with previous straining, broke the A frame of the port wheelhouse. This I temporarily secured, but it will require a thorough repair.

Left Fortress Monroe at 8:30 p. m. Thursday. This morning, off Kettle Bottom, fell in with propeller *City of New York*, laden with army stores. The captain desiring convoy, towed her as far as Alexandria.

On my way up carefully examined both shores of the river. At Aquia Creek a secession flag was flying over what appeared to be a battery and the steamboat *George Page* lay at the wharf. No signs of batteries at any other point.

In conclusion I would state that this steamer is in no respect suitable for outside service.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM N. JEFFERS,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *May 25, 1861.*

Captain Rowan, commanding the *Pawnee*, has sent up to the navy yard one small steamer (the *Thomas Collyer*), which he found at Alexandria and took possession of. Will the Department please direct me as to the disposition which is to be made of the vessel?

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Fillebrown, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, regarding marine guard.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 25, 1861.

SIR: Be pleased to transfer the marine guard from the steamer *Anacostia* to Colonel Harris at headquarters upon their being relieved.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding FILLEBROWN.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, of having assumed command of the U. S. S. Pocahontas.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Navy Yard, Washington, May 26, 1861.

SIR: I have had [the honor] to receive your order to take command of this vessel and reported accordingly yesterday.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN M. DOVE,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding the Potomac Flotilla, regarding proposed blockade of the Potomac River.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Nanjemoy Creek, Potomac River, May 27, 1861.

SIR: For information of the Department I beg leave to say that, having been assigned to the duty of blockading the Potomac River, etc., I propose to make this my principal rendezvous and from it put out to watch principally all the points between Mathias, perhaps Cedar Point, and White House, especially Aquia Creek and Budd's Ferry. I hear there is much communication across there and mean to keep one vessel continually at that part of the river in the hope of producing a complete interruption. The others will be kept actively moving; the schooners

at anchor in this creek being laden with the supplies, which, if on board the steamers, would increase draft and impair speed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 J. H. WARD,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—No signs of works yet discovered. In a night or two will have had a critical reconnoissance of Mathias Point to determine the facts positively. A furious gale is now blowing.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of movements of vessels to and from that yard.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
 Washington, May 28, 1861.

SIR: The U. S. S. *Anacostia* returned to this yard last night with the *Sea Gull*, which she went down the river to convoy up.

The steamboats *Baltimore* and *James Guy* left the yard about 5 a. m. for Alexandria with the Seventy-first New York Regiment on board, and returned to the yard after landing it.

The steam tug *Yankee* arrived at the yard at 2:30 p. m. from Fortress Monroe.

The steamer *Thomas Collyer* was released and taken away from the yard this morning.

The steamboat *Philadelphia* left the yard at 4:30 p. m. with dispatches, etc., for Fortress Monroe.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Collins, U. S. Navy, of having assumed command of the U. S. S. Anacostia.

STEAMER ANACOSTIA, May 28, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 17th, I reported yesterday for the command of this vessel.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 N. COLLINS,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Letter from Colonel Commandant U. S. Marine Corps to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding transfer of marines.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,
 Washington, May 28, 1861.

SIR: I sent to Captain Dahlgren this morning to know if he had received an order from the Department to transfer the marines from

the *Anacostia* to the barracks, and he replied that he had and would send them on shore as soon as he could obtain a relief from the Seventy-first Regiment; that he had no other means of relief.

It appears that regiment left the navy yard this morning for Alexandria and its return is uncertain. I respectfully suggest to the Department that they be relieved from some other source; and if that can not be, as other steamers of her class are without marines, I recommend that she be without them also, as the men are greatly needed for seagoing vessels of a larger class.

I am, sir, very respectfully, etc.,

JNO. HARRIS,
Colonel, Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Instructions from the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the repairing of vessels.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 29, 1861.

SIR: Please have the *Yankee* calked as early as convenient. If you desire to alter her armament, giving her rifled guns, which Flag-Officer Pendergrast very much desires at Hampton Roads, or in any other matter to render more efficient, you are authorized to do so. If any of the employes of the yard are in the militia and the work is retarded by their absence send their names to the Department with a request for their discharge. The *Pocahontas* should be in condition to move at short notice and signals arranged to bring up the *Pawnee* if wanted. The *Anacostia* might be sent down occasionally to communicate with Commander Ward, who will be found about Nanjemoy Creek, and to prevent any breaking of the blockade of the Virginia shore which is said to be done to a great extent.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, May 29, 1861.

In answer to the enquiry of the Department by Captain Page, I would say that his boat, the *James Guy*, is very useful to the public service and I have been obliged to employ her already for such purpose, the *Powhatan* and *Mcunt Vernon* being disabled.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Collins, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, to proceed down the Potomac River on blockade duty.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 30, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed with the *Anacostia* to communicate with Captain Ward, who will be found about Nanjemoy Creek, and to pre-

vent any breaking of the blockade of the Virginia shore, which is said to be done to a great extent.

You will also note carefully any attempt to fortify the banks of the river or to obstruct the channel and displace the buoys.

The length of your absence from the yard will depend on circumstances, but must not extend beyond one week.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Lieutenant [N.] COLLINS,
Commanding Steamer Anacostia.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, to cooperate for the protection of Alexandria, Va.

Confidential.] NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 30, 1861.

SIR: There is reason to believe that Alexandria will be attacked by the rebels.

You will be pleased to confer with the colonel commanding the forces there and cooperate with him as far as may be necessary.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 30, 1861.

The Government, in absence of any knowledge of agreement, pay nothing to the *Yankee*. If they go, ship another crew and send her back under the charge of the midshipman who came passenger in her. Prisoners to be detained until further orders. Let the *Anacostia* communicate with Commander Ward and return to-morrow or next day. Send the four iron surfboats on board the *City of Richmond*, which will stop at the navy yard for New York.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Secretary of the Navy regarding movements of vessels to and from the port of Alexandria, Va.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 30, 1861.

SIR: Instructions having been this day given to the collector of the customs at Alexandria, Va., to permit vessels from Northern ports to enter at that port and to grant clearances to vessels destined for Northern ports, it is respectfully suggested that the proper orders should be given to the officers commanding the blockading squadron to allow

vessels destined to and from Alexandria, as aforesaid, to proceed without molestation.

I am, very respectfully,

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting order regarding movements of vessels to and from Alexandria, Va.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 31, 1861.*

SIR: Enclosed herewith is a copy of an order issued by the Department to-day to the commander of the Atlantic Blockading Squadron. A similar order has been given to the commandant of the Washington navy yard.

In executing the blockading duties assigned to you, you will permit vessels of the character referred to to proceed without molestation.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JAMES H. WARD,
Commanding Flotilla, Potomac River.

[Enclosure.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 31, 1861.*

SIR: The Secretary of the Treasury has instructed the collector of customs at Alexandria, Va., to permit vessels from Northern ports to enter at that port and to grant clearances to those destined for Northern ports. You will therefore direct the officer in command of the Government steamers on the Potomac to permit all such vessels to proceed without molestation.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding telegraphic communication.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, May 31, 1861.

SIR: There is telegraphic communication now open between the Headquarters of the Army at Washington and the commander of the forces in Alexandria. Colonel Stone informed me last evening that he would forward any order from the Navy Department to this immediately, night or day.

I enclose the general order* on the subject of telegraph.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington.

* See preceding order,

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 31, 1861.*

Send the *Pocahontas*, or let her relieve the *Pawnee* and send the latter, and the *Yankee* might stop a few hours if necessary.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *May 31, 1861.*

The *Pawnee* has gone down to Aquia to assist in the attack and the *Pocahontas* is at anchor off Alexandria.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Collins, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 31, 1861.

SIR: On receipt of this you will return without delay to this yard.
Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Lieutenant COLLINS,
Commanding U. S. S. Anacostia.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Acting Master Stuyvesant, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Yankee, to proceed to Hampton Roads as bearer of dispatches.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 31, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed with the *Yankee* to Hampton Roads and report to Flag-Officer Pendergrast, delivering the dispatches herewith intrusted to you.

You will communicate with the *Anacostia* in passing down the river and deliver the order enclosed.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Acting Master M. S. STUYVESANT,
Commanding U. S. S. Yankee.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding transfer of marines.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, May 31, 1861.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th instant, with enclosure from Colonel Harris, relative to the marines on board the *Anacostia*,

In conformity to the directions contained in the letter of the Department dated the 24th instant, the marine guard of the *Anacostia* was transferred to headquarters on the 29th and a guard from the Seventy-first New York Regiment supplied its place on board that vessel.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Engagements between vessels of the Potomac Flotilla, Commander James H. Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding, and the batteries at Aquia Creek, May 29–June 1, 1861.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

U. S. S. THOMAS FREEBORN,
Off Aquia Creek, Potomac, May 31, 1861.

SIR: My immediate commanding officer (Flag-Officer Stringham) not being present to receive it, I communicate directly to the Department the report of a serious cannonade made by this vessel, supported by the *Anacostia* and *Resolute*, steamers, upon the batteries at Aquia Creek this morning.

After an incessant discharge, kept up for two hours by both our 32-pounders, and the expenditure of all the ammunition suitable for distant firing, and silencing completely the three batteries at the railroad terminus, the firing from shore having been rapidly kept up by them until so silenced, and having been recommenced from the new batteries on the heights back, which reached us in volleys, dropping the shot on board and about us like hail for nearly an hour, but fortunately wounding but one man, I hauled the vessels off, as the heights proved wholly above the reach of our elevation.

Judging from the explosion of our 10-second shell in the sand batteries, two of which were thrown by the *Anacostia*, it is hardly possible the enemy can have escaped considerable loss. Several others of the *Anacostia's* shells dropped in the vicinity of the battery.

I can not speak in too high terms of the officers and men, whose coolness and activity under great exposure are beyond praise. As the former are all acting, having volunteered from civil life, none but myself being of the Regular Navy, I beg leave to ask for them a favorable consideration by the Government.

The long 32-pounder in use is of the old pattern cast in 1819, and can not be excelled in precision.

Both the guns are on carriages of the new construction, devised by myself, and answered admirably, working with such ease that the crews came out of action wholly unfatigued. In the extreme sweep of 140° which these carriages have, together with their ease and rapidity of movement, enabling the vessel to constantly change position, yet keep up accurate fire, which impaired the enemy's range and direction—he firing always with rifled cannon—is to be materially attributed our escape without loss of life or damage to the vessel or machinery. The men say they are as free from fatigue as when they entered action.

We cannonaded for an hour before the same batteries the day before yesterday, but the tide being out, neither party reached with any considerable certainty.

I doubt if it is possible to reduce the batteries now established on the heights from ships; nor is it at all important, considering that they are remote from the ship channel of the river and command only the railroad terminus.

Yesterday I landed in person with Acting Master Budd and Master's Mate Lee and a small party of seamen and made a most minute exploration, extending over the whole of Mathias Point. I am therefore able to speak with ocular certainty and to say that not a sign of a movement, the cutting of a sapling, driving a stake, or casting a shovelful of earth toward the erection of a battery exists. The jungle is very thick, but we penetrated a belt of it 300 yards wide from the shore and 3 miles in length, assuring ourselves of the facts as stated in this report.

I have especially to ask for the steamers *Reliance* and *Resolute*, of the flotilla, each a small rifled cannon in addition to the smoothbored gun with which they are provided. For the want of a rifled gun in them I was obliged to forbid their coming closely under a fire to which they could not reply with even an approximate effect.

Lieutenant Commanding N. Collins, of the *Anacostia*, will make his own report.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JAS. H. WARD,

Commander, U. S. Navy, Commanding Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Potomac River, June 1, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report a renewal of the bombardment at Aquia Creek, commencing 11:30 a. m. this day and terminating from fatigue of the men—the day being very warm and the firing on our side incessant—at 4:30 p. m., making a duration of five hours.

The firing on shore was scarcely as spirited at any time as yesterday. The heights were abandoned, the guns apparently having been transferred to the earthworks at the railroad terminus in replacement of the battery silenced there by us yesterday. During the last hour of the engagement only two or three shots were thrown from the shore, by a few individuals seen stealthily now and then to emerge from concealment and hastily load and fire a single gun. The bulk of the party had left a half hour before, and squads were observed from time to time taking to their heels along the beach with a speed and bottom truly commendable for its prudence and highly amusing to the seamen. It did not seem advisable to permit so feeble a fire to wear out my men, therefore discontinued the engagement.

Several shots came on board of us, causing the vessel to leak badly, and beside other injuries crippling the port wheel, the wrought-iron shaft being gouged by a shot which would have shattered it if of cast iron, a point considered by me in selecting this vessel for purchase. Fortunately, I have again neither killed nor wounded to report, though the shot at times fell thick among us, testing the gallantry and steadiness of my people, which I consider of standard proof for any emergency.

I proceed to Washington to repair damages and refill my exhausted magazines. The *Paronee* remains meantime below to supply my place in the blockade. Captain Rowan, of that ship, joined me last night,

replenishing my exhausted stores, and most gallantly opened the fire this morning, having followed my lead inshore toward the batteries. His ship received numerous wounds both below and aloft, inflicted by the enemy's shot, appearing from her size—therefore most easily hit—to be their favorite mark, and was herself often a sheet of flame owing to the rapidity of her discharges.

I have instructed Captain Rowan to report circumstantially direct to the Department.

The enemy set fire to the large passenger and freight depot on the end of the long pier as we were approaching, probably to remove it as an obstruction to their aim, but were not permitted to extinguish the flames during the whole five hours' cannonade, consequently nearly the whole pier was destroyed, only the charred piles remaining above the water to mark its former position.

My gun carriage endures its continued test admirably. The pivoting arrangement of the after one gave out in the last hour of the action, when the gun was fought on its trucks, which had neither been removed nor in any manner interfered with in the construction.

The recoil, however, became severely racking to the vessel; the gun was served slower and with less accuracy, and with greatly increased awkwardness as well as fatigue to the men.

Though not assuming to be proper judge of my own invention, it is possible the officers and men, especially the gun's crews, are competent to speak after the several cannonades in which we have been engaged, amounting altogether in the two weeks we are commissioned to ten hours, nine of it under fire returned upon us with more or less vigor and effect.

More than 100 shots have fallen aboard and around us, any one of which would have struck a frigate. We have had more than 1,000 shots discharged at us within range, and have ourselves fired upward of 300 shots and shells, with 1,700 pounds of powder. What damage we have inflicted remains to be seen. That we have received none not easily repaired is truly remarkable.

The *Anacostia* and *Reliance* were not permitted to come under damaging fire, their support having been necessary to embolden those engaged by giving them confidence that if disabled in the machinery, assistance was at hand to drag them out.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WARD,

Commander, Senior Officer on the Potomac.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy.

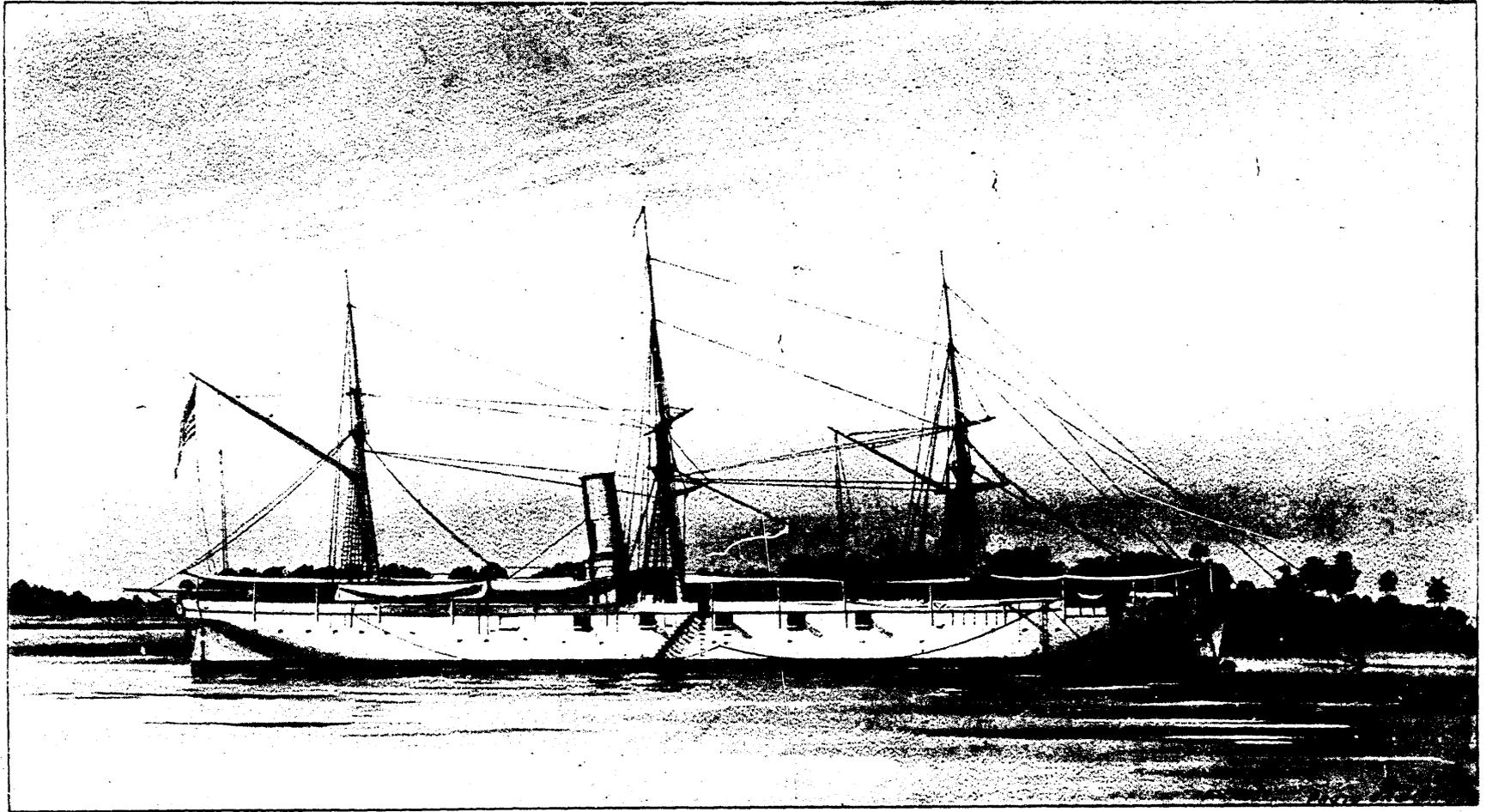
Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,

Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 2, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to an order received on the evening of the 31st ultimo, I proceeded immediately to join Captain Ward.

In passing down the river I was informed by Lieutenant Mygatt, of the steamer *Reliance*, that Captain Ward had gone 10 miles below Aquia Creek for the night. I continued down the river, passing the creek about 3 o'clock a. m. of the 1st of June. At 6 o'clock I joined Commander Ward. At 9 I stood for Aquia Creek in company with the *Freeborn* for the purpose of attacking the batteries. We arrived off the



UNITED STATES STEAMER PAWNEE.

creek at 11 o'clock and at half past 11 we ran in, the *Freeborn* leading, being of a lighter draft than the *Pawnee*, while this ship kept just outside on her starboard quarter to avoid grounding. As we ranged up the enemy set fire to the buildings on the end of the railroad wharf and then opened his fire, which was promptly returned by us. Finding my 15-second shell fell short with all the elevation the ports admitted of, I ranged ahead of the *Freeborn* and edged in as near as I could, feeling the way with the lead till I got within range of the forts with the 15-second shell, when we opened a heavy fire. I held this position as long as possible, when the ship fell off against our exertions to keep her steady and [it] became necessary to round out into the river and approach a second time on the same tack. Having got the ship nearer than the first position and as near as was safe, with but 2 feet of water to spare, and to the northward and westward of the *Freeborn*, we opened a terrible fire from five 9-inch guns. The batteries were twice silenced under the weight of our fire, but resumed again when our fire ceased. The houses near the forts were destroyed and the southern end of the bridge set on fire by the shells.

The wind being from the southward the bridge was destroyed. The enemy's fire was almost exclusively directed at this ship, his rifled shot passing constantly over and around us.

This ship was struck nine times during the bombardment, four of the shot in the hull, one of them, passing through the bulwarks, tore up the deck and was glanced on board by one of the iron straps. Of the shot that hit the ship above the hull one passed through the maintop-sail yard, another shattered the mizzenmast head and topmast, and another passed through the smokestack.

The cool and gallant bearing of the officers and crew excited my warmest admiration. Every man of the divisions performed his duties coolly and promptly and intelligently, showing the ship in a high state of training; to attain this end I have been ably seconded by the divisional officers, Lieutenant Chaplin and Master Blue, but above all by my able executive officer, Lieutenant R. B. Lowry, whose fine bearing on the occasion was everything I could wish.

I am happy to inform you that I have no casualties to report; the only scratch was one that I received on the face from a small splinter.

At 4:30 p. m., having expended all my 10-second and 15-second shell and the 38 rounds of ammunition for the rifled cannon and 155 hollow shot, I hauled off out of range.

As soon as I am relieved by Commander Ward it will be necessary to return to the navy yard for repairs and supplies.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], June 2, 1861.

The *Anacostia* arrived from below last evening. Yesterday the *Pawnee*, *Freeborn*, and *Anacostia* engaged the batteries near Aquia at 2,000 to 2,500 yards for above four hours. The commander of the *Anacostia* will report in person. The *Freeborn* is on her way up.

JNO A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Unofficial letter from Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

[U. S. S.] FREEBORN, *June 11, 1861.*

MY DEAR CAPTAIN FOX: Captain Budd, of the *Resolute*, had a conversation with Mr. Goff, agent of the *St. Nicholas*, steamer, in Breton's Bay, Maryland, a day or two since. Mr. Goff spoke in terms of surprise at the heroic persistency with which Captain W. F. Lynch, formerly of our Navy, who commanded at Aquia during my several attacks, held his post, glass in hand, on the ramparts, against all the urgency of his men to quit a post made desperately hazardous by the shot and shell falling thickly and exploding about him.

Mr. Goff, though, could not be made to divulge in regard to the execution we did. His expressions regarding Captain Lynch imply, however, that it was considerable, if not great. I would like you to talk with Budd or set him in hands of the reporters. I am quite disposed to have this thing published.

Very truly,

J. H. WARD.

Letter from Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, to the Secretary of the Navy, acknowledging receipt of letter of approval from the Department.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,

Off Aquia Creek, June 26, [1861.]

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication* dated the 20th instant, approving of my conduct and vigilance in seizing provisions, etc., and destroying rebel property.

I regret that the receipt of my report, under date of the 3d [2d] instant, has not been noticed by the Department, while another report was promptly acknowledged and appeared in the *New York Herald* of the next morning. I have no desire to appear in the public prints, but should have been very much gratified had the Department authorized me to say to the gallant crew I have the honor to command, "Your Government appreciates your good conduct before the enemy."

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, expressing approval of his conduct in the action of that vessel with the Aquia Creek Battery.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 1, 1861.*

SIR: The Department inadvertently omitted to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the action of the *Pawnee* with the rebel battery at Aquia Creek. It takes this occasion to do so and to express its appreciation of the conduct of yourself and those under you on that occasion.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, Potomac River.

* See p. 526.

Report of Captain Lynch, Virginia navy, commanding naval defenses of the Potomac.

NAVAL BATTERY NO. 1,
Aquia Creek, June 2, 1861.

SIR: On Thursday p. m., as my telegram the next morning apprised you, the enemy engaged us for a short time and then withdrew. The Washington papers state that one of them had a Massachusetts regiment on board for the purpose of landing. One of the steamers was crowded with men.

On Friday, at 10:30 a. m., two out of three steamers abreast of the battery opened fire upon us and continued the cannonade for three hours, when they withdrew. The largest steamer very much resembled the *Crusader*. As they kept at long shot, mostly beyond our range, I economized ammunition and only fired fifty-six times. One of the steamers had a rifled gun, the shell from which penetrated through the sand bank, and one of them exploded in and completely demolished the room occupied by the officers and myself.

Upon our part no one was injured, but lookers on from the hills and opposite shores state that the enemy was repeatedly struck.

Yesterday the steamers, which had laid off during the night, were reinforced by the *Pawnee*, and at 11:30 a. m. they commenced a brisk cannonade, which continued with little interruption until about 4:30 p. m., during which the *Pawnee* fired 392 shot and shell and the other steamer 207, the greater portion of the latter being rifled shells.

Our sand banks not being en barbette, we could only fire as the enemy came within range through the embrasures. This, added to the long distance at which he kept, and the necessity of occasionally repairing damages to the breastwork, combined with my desire to save ammunition, constrained me to withhold fire except when something like a fair shot presented. The houses in the rear were very much knocked about and the railroad track torn up in three or four places, but thanks to a kind Providence, who seems to smile benignly upon our cause, no one with us was injured.

As the enemy had on Friday made the buildings at the extremity of the wharf his line of sight upon the battery, I had all the furniture, etc., together with the weatherboarding, conveyed to the rear of the battery, and in the course of the forenoon set fire to and blew up the platform and outer end of the bridge.

I have spoken of Commander Thorburn's zeal in the first engagement, and can not too highly applaud the spirit and alacrity, tempered by deference to orders, of Commander Cooke and Lieutenant Trobel. With the exception of Gunner's Mate Cunningham and Master's Mate Larmour, whose services were of inestimable value, our guns' crews consisted only of volunteer militia, who stood their ground bravely.

We had yesterday, in addition to our guns, a small rifled one from Captain Walker's battery, under the immediate command of Lieutenant Robertson, of Tennessee, which rendered efficient service.

In connection with the transportation of the Columbiads to the summit of a lofty hill, I can not speak in too highly commendable terms of the zeal and untiring energy of Lieutenant Charles C. Simms.

One of the enemy's steamers went up the river yesterday afternoon, we think for ammunition or additional force. The *Pawnee* and another

steamer remained at anchor all night near the Maryland shore, and at this time, 9:15 a. m., occupies the same position.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. F. LYNCH,
Captain, Virginia Navy.

Captain S. BARRON, Virginia Navy,
In charge of Office of Naval Detail and Equipment, Richmond, Va.

Report of Captain Lynch, Virginia navy, commanding naval defenses of the Potomac.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVAL DEFENSES OF THE POTOMAC,
Aquia Creek, June 6, 1861.

SIR: In my report of the engagements with this battery I am not certain of having stated that on Friday Walker's battery of four 3-inch rifled guns opened fire from an eminence in our rear; and although their shot fell short they evidently diverted a portion of the fire of the enemy.

On Saturday one of the four guns was placed in battery here and was well and bravely handled under the immediate command of Lieutenant Robertson, a volunteer from Tennessee.

I am, very respectfully,

W. F. LYNCH,
Captain, Virginia Navy.

Captain S. BARRON,
In Charge of Naval Detail and Equipment, Richmond, Va.

Report of Colonel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Fredericksburg, Va.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FREDERICKSBURG,
Fredericksburg, Va., May 30, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that two small steamers of the enemy attacked the Aquia Creek Railroad battery last evening about sunset with twelve shot and shell. Our battery returned the fire with twelve shot and shell. The contest terminated about 9 o'clock, when the enemy departed. One man was slightly wounded in the hand by the fragments of a shell. I prepared to cover our front with my whole force, comprising the Tennessee regiment and a battalion of volunteers, assembled at Camp Mercer, and proceeded with some 700 men to the point attacked, having in view sending back the train for the remaining 500. The conflict having terminated before we reached the scene of action, I returned with the forces above specified, reaching this town about 5 a. m. The spirit and conduct of the troops have been admirable in connection with this little affair. Much agitation prevails along the Potomac coast from apprehension that the enemy will land in large and small numbers to devastate and plunder. I respectfully recommend that guns of heavy caliber be furnished (say 12's, 18's, and 32's) for use at various points on the coast for surprising and harassing the enemy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Colonel, Provisional Army, Commanding Forces.

Colonel R. S. GARNETT,
Adjutant-General, Virginia Forces.

Report of Colonel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Fredericksburg, Va.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FREDERICKSBURG,
Fredericksburg, Va., June 1, 1861.

SIR: The enemy attacked the naval battery at Aquia Creek yesterday about 10 a. m. The enemy had three war steamers and some small transports, not containing, however, many troops. They had some longboats, or launches, but, so far as observed, made no preparation for landing. The fire on both sides was skillfully directed and continued up to about 1 p. m., when the steamers hauled off, and, it is supposed, in a partially disabled condition. I took all the available forces, comprising the four companies of infantry and one of cavalry, from this vicinity, and Colonel Bate's Tennessee (Walker) Legion with me, reaching the Potomac soon after the firing ceased. The conduct of the troops in the batteries—that of Captain Walker, with his 6-pounder rifle guns, having been brought early into the action—is represented as having been admirable, including the covering and protecting force on the field. I have transferred the Tennessee (Walker) Legion to Brooke's Station, where I have reestablished Camp Jackson. From that point lateral movements may be easily made to cross the coasts and forward movements to cover the batteries with great facility.

The ladies are now making tents, cartridges, and belts, and I hope soon to have our forces sheltered and better equipped. I left Aquia Creek late last evening and return there this morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Colonel, Provisional Army, Commanding Forces.

Colonel R. S. GARNETT,
Adjutant-General, Virginia Forces.

Report of Colonel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Fredericksburg, Va.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., *June 1, 1861.*

SIR: The report has arrived this moment that five of the enemy's steamers, with two transport ships, one of which is of considerable size, had appeared off Aquia Creek battery, with the evident intention of attacking it. When the train left (11 a. m.) soon after heavy firing was heard from that point. I am in want of at least 1,000 well-deciplined volunteers as soon as it is possible to send them. Twenty thousand musket-rifle caps are absolutely necessary for the use of troops with percussion arms. I go to the battery at once. Communicate with Major [W. S.] Barton, acting assistant adjutant-general to this office.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Colonel, Provisional Army.

Colonel R. S. GARNETT,
Adjutant-General.

Report of Colonel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Fredericksburg, Va.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FREDERICKSBURG,
Fredericksburg, Va., June 2, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to state for the information of the commanding general, that four of the enemy's armed steamers commenced firing

on our batteries at Aquia Creek yesterday morning at about 9 o'clock and continued until about 4 p. m. On our side nobody was hurt and no material damage was done to our batteries. The enemy gave no indications of an intention to land, but hauled off to the Maryland shore at the close of the action. This demonstration, thus persevered in, is made, I doubt not, in view of collateral action and movements. I arrived on the field about midday and returned to this place at night. The batteries were commanded by Captain Lynch and other naval officers. The conduct of my entire force, under the command of Colonel Bate, of the Walker Legion, until my arrival on the field, was admirable throughout the day. The enemy is represented to have thrown 597 shots and shells and our battery, under Captain Lynch, 75.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Colonel, Provisional Army, Commanding Forces.

Colonel R. S. GARNETT,
Adjutant-General, Virginia Forces.

P. S.—The colors were cut away from one of the enemy's ships by a shot from our battery.

D. RUGGLES,
Colonel, Commanding.

Report of Colonel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Fredericksburg, Va., regarding measures of protection against further attacks upon Aquia Creek batteries.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FREDERICKSBURG,
Fredericksburg, Va., June 4, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to state for the information of the general commanding, that since Saturday last no attack has been made on our batteries at Aquia Creek, and that the steamer *Pawnee* only has been lying off at that point repairing damages and in communication with various steamers and other vessels passing up and down the Potomac. It has just been reported to me, however, that after I left the creek yesterday, and at about 9 o'clock at night, two or more war steamers, with a vessel in tow, came down the Potomac and joined the *Pawnee*. Thus far I have no report of the renewal of the attack this morning. It is my intention to throw the Arkansas regiment, Colonel Fagan, now at Camp Jackson, upon the Potomac coast, near Chopawamsic, as soon as it is in condition to do so.

I am much in want of an effective battery of 24-pounder howitzers for service in conjunction with that force to prevent the enemy from landing. The Fredericksburg Artillery, of 6-pounders, will be wanted at Aquia Creek to prevent landing there if an attack is made. The movements of the enemy indicate that an attempt will soon be made in force to land at or in the vicinity of Mathias Point in a brief period of time. I respectfully recommend that that point be covered by a good regiment of infantry, with a good battery of field guns, until measures are taken to establish a good and sufficient battery at that point to command the channel, for the establishment of which I respectfully renew my former recommendation. Under authority given me I have fabricated here carriages for a battery of 6-pounder guns, and respectfully request that guns may be furnished me without delay for use in the field.

Since it has become impracticable to establish a battery at the White House to command the Potomac, I respectfully recommend that a com-

petent engineer be sent me to examine the vicinity of Evansport with that view, and, if found suitable, that a battery may be established there with as little delay as is practicable. That point is important in connection with the position at Manassas Junction, as well as the avenues of approach from the Potomac to this town.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,

Provisional Army, Commanding Forces.

Colonel R. S. GARNETT,

Adjutant-General, Virginia Forces.

Letter from Captain Lynch, C. S. Navy, to the editor of the Fredericksburg News.

NAVAL BATTERY, *Aquia Creek, June 9, 1861.*

SIR: My official report of our recent contest with the enemy was rendered as brief as possible, embracing only the names of those who were legitimately engaged; but as there were several instances of individual gallantry by volunteers, some of whom reside in this vicinity, I deem it proper to give publicity to them.

To this I am the more impelled by the slanderous assertion cast upon them by the commander of the enemy's flotilla.

Had that officer, whose characteristic traits long since earned for him in his profession the cognomen of "Yankee Ward," for once violated his instincts and been sincere he would have stated that men were seen running toward, as well as from, the batteries, mostly bearing ammunition.

The attack on Wednesday evening was repelled with spirit by Commander Thorburn, as I did not reach the battery until very near the close of the engagement.

In writing my official report I labored under the impression that the shot from Captain Walker's battery during Friday's engagement fell short, although it diverted the fire of the enemy; but the admission of that enemy proved the fire of the rifled battery to have been effective and that my impression was an erroneous one.

During Friday's attack Lieutenant Barnes, of the Stafford Guards, bore a message from me to Captain Walker and returned with his reply, his course being along the causeway over which the enemy's shot was sweeping.

On the same day, too, if I remember aright, Lieutenant Betts, of the Washington Guards, came to the battery and tendered his services.

On Saturday Lieutenants Yancey and Eckles, of the Tennessee volunteers, with two others, whose names I unfortunately do not know, volunteered their services at the guns just before the conflict. I stationed them near by, to be ready in the event of casualties. One of them bore a note from me to the mainland during the hottest of the fire and two or three others went for and brought ammunition.

So far from trepidation, one of the messengers stopped upon the causeway and picking up a shot which had fallen near him brought it in as a trophy.

Captain Sener, of the Washington Guards, was present during the day's conflict and volunteered to extinguish a fire kindled at the inner end of the wharf, but I withheld consent.

Captain Wise, of Company E, Richmond volunteers, was by me throughout Saturday's engagement, and while the enemy's fire was hottest volunteered to go for infantry to repel an apprehended landing of

the enemy under cover of the smoke. Before recognizing Captain W[ise] I twice ordered him, the last time peremptorily, within the redoubt, for, next to damaging the enemy, it was my duty to preserve the lives of those around me. These are all the individual cases I can call to mind. The demeanor of the men at the battery is so worthy of commendation that it would be invidious to particularize, even if they were not mentioned in my official report. Being short of ammunition our guns were worked discreetly, but now we are prepared to warm them thoroughly.

Very respectfully,

W. F. LYNCH.

EDITOR FREDERICKSBURG NEWS.

Letter from Colonel Bate, C. S. Army, commanding Walker Legion, to the Secretary of War.

CAMP JACKSON, ON THE POTOMAC, *June 11, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I suppose you have heard all the particulars of the Aquia Creek fight and the part borne by the Walker Legion. One company of it was in one of the batteries and the celebrated rifled cannon, so effective upon the enemy, was managed by one of our young lieutenants. The remainder of the regiment was held in reserve, though within range of their guns, at a point of concealment to prevent a landing if such was attempted. The boys were too eager and courted a hand-to-hand fight. I made a report to Colonel Ruggles and forbear further trespass now. I want the Walker Legion to be in the column which advances upon Washington. I believe we will have skirmishes here now, nothing more. We will sink their ships on another effort if they come in range. I had Walker's rifle battery under my command placed with two rifle companies to sustain and one company of mounted men with carbines within hailing distance on Symmes's Point under cover—a masked battery—Saturday night after the fight, thinking they would return to their same position next morning. That night we worked 300 men all night to have two Columbiads and this battery of Walker's in place, but the enemy being so crippled did not return.

The arrangement Sunday morning would have sunk their ships in an hour had they resumed their position. We are drilling daily and almost hourly and will look to you to give us a chance.

I want one-half hour's talk with you, and if you will telegraph General Holmes to send me individually to Richmond for a day I can get to go; otherwise I don't think the Old Tycoon (Holmes) will let me, and I never disobey orders. You may be sure I will not leave when there is a prospect of a fight. Everything is peaceable here now except the *Pawnee*, which still coils about our shore like a wounded viper. We have vedettes near her.

I get information from above and below this point for 20 miles every day through couriers and can know when it is safe to leave for Richmond only a day.

Pardon the length of this free-and-easy letter. I know it is a trespass on your much-engaged time. Let me hear from you. Send the dispatch spoken of, or write letter, and oblige.

WM. B. BATE.

Hon. L. P. WALKER,
Secretary of War.

P. S.—I am expecting that field battery promised me at Montgomery. I have a company preparing for it.

B.

Letter from M. W. McCluskey, esq., to the Secretary of War of the Confederate States, describing the attack by United States vessels on Aquia Creek battery, June 1, 1861.

AQUIA CREEK, June 1, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: I had the pleasure of witnessing at this point to-day most of the engagement between one of our batteries and three Lincoln men-of-war, one of them supposed to be the *Pawnee*, the other the *Anacostia*, and the other unknown. Our forces acted manfully and suffered no injury, though some of the enemy's shot were well directed, and where it seemed providentially averted from doing mischief. The fight was a continuation of the one the day before. Our battery fired the first shot to-day, then all of its garrison mounted the fort and cheered in defiance of the enemy. The shot was promptly returned and the enemy kept up a brisk cannonading, firing before the close 592 shots, comprised of shell and balls of the largest dimensions. The only damage to our side was the death of a chicken, though a stray ball killed a horse on the opposite side of the creek. Our own battery fired but 76 shots, three of which are said to have been fired with effect. The firing ceased at 3:30 p. m., when a barge from the *Pawnee* went to the Maryland shore and returning the *Anacostia* proceeded up the river, supposed to be bound for Washington for a fresh supply of ammunition.

One of the guns on our battery was under the command of one of the Walker Legion, Cadet Patton Robertson, of Nashville, who fired the rifled cannon with remarkable precision, and displayed, for a young man, not yet of age, the most dauntless and cool bravery. The big gun on the new battery, which is garrisoned by the Carolina Greys, of our regiment, under command of Captain Hunt, was placed in position about 5 o'clock this afternoon and will thunder in the anticipated engagement of to-morrow. Another one for the same battery will be planted to-morrow. These guns are in the most splendid locality to command the river that could well be wished for.

To-morrow Captain Walker's command of rifled cannon will be at a prominent point of land at the mouth of the creek on the opposite side, which will bring him within a mile and a quarter of the location of the Lincoln vessels in the engagement of to-day. Pits will also be dug to-night at the same place for the use of two of the rifle companies of the Walker Legion. We are all at the creek, though our encampment is 4 miles back.

The vindictiveness of the enemy is shown by the quickness with which they throw their shells at any body of men who may appear on the height to view the engagement. One of our companies was fired at with a shell the moment they emerged from the woods to obtain a more satisfactory view of the fight, which exploded over them and miraculously scattered so as not to hurt one of the number.

Colonel Bate has been assigned the command of the brigade here, composed of his own regiment and the Virginia troops present, and is working with a zeal consistent with the energy and enthusiasm of his nature. I have written these lines thinking you would be glad to learn that the regiment which has appropriated your name as its designation is confided with the most important posts of duty in the engagement at this point and vicinity.

Your friend,

M. W. MCCLUSKEY.

Secretary L. P. WALKER.

Permit of the Secretary of the Navy to the longboat Morning Star, of Alexandria, Va.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 1, 1861.*

SIR: The *Morning Star*, of Alexandria, used for transporting wood, will be permitted to continue in that employment, carrying only wood from Fairfax, Va., to Washington, for one month.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

To the COMMANDING OFFICER OF ANY U. S. VESSEL
IN THE POTOMAC TO WHOM THIS MAY BE PRESENTED.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *June 3, 1861.*

Captain Ward desires to say that the repairs for wheel of *Freeborn* will detain him here one week and suggests that the *Pawnee* should occupy his cruising ground till his return there.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 3, 1861.*

Direct *Pawnee* to proceed immediately to cruising ground of the *Freeborn* and to remain until relieved by Commander Ward.

G. WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.
Per G. V. FOX.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the Philadelphia Ice Boat.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 3, 1861.

SIR: The *Philadelphia Ice Boat*, now here, might be rendered serviceable by some changes in her equipment and fixtures if authorized by the Department; and in this case I would also suggest that some name be given this vessel to distinguish her, as she has none.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Trenchard, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Keystone State, to proceed to Philadelphia.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 3, 1861.

SIR: In conformity to instructions from the Navy Department you will discharge the *Keystone State* and proceed to the Philadelphia navy yard as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding TRENCHARD,
U. S. S. *Keystone State*.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Acting Master Hannum, U. S. Navy, commanding tug James Guy.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 3, 1861

SIR: Proceed in the *James Guy* to the *Pawnee* and deliver the dispatches herewith handed you, touching at Fort Washington and delivering the mails herewith sent you, and return immediately to this place.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Acting Master HANNUM, U. S. Navy
U. S. Tug *James Guy*.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 3, 1861.

SIR: Captain Ward wishes you to be ready with the *Resolute* to sail this evening at 7 o'clock and to receive on board Captain [William R.] Palmer, of the U. S. Topographical Engineers, whom you will assist in every possible manner in the reconnoissance he is about to make on the Potomac.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Acting Master [WILLIAM] BUDD,
U. S. S. *Resolute*.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of vessels.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 3, 1861.

SIR: The steam tug *James Guy* left this yard at 2 p. m. for the *Pawnee* and Fort Washington.

The steam tug *Resolute* left the yard at 7 p. m. for a reconnoissance on the Potomac River.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, *Secretary of the Navy*.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding tug Young America.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 4, 1861.*

SIR: Flag-Officer Pendergrast has been instructed to send the steam tug *Young America* to the Washington navy yard for repairs. You will please send the *Anacostia* to Hampton Roads as a substitute for the *Young America* during her absence.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding protection to Union citizens of Maryland.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 5, 1861.*

SIR: On the next page you will find certain information which has been communicated to this Department.

You will be pleased to afford such protection in the premises as you may deem necessary.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,

[*Secretary of the Navy.*]

Commander J. H. WARD,
Commanding Flotilla in the Chesapeake.

[Enclosure.]

The mouth of the Pocomoke River, in Maryland, empties in Accomac County, Va., and the vessels of the Union men of Maryland are in danger of molestation by the secession parties of Virginia. They need immediate protection, and it will require a vessel of light draft of water to afford it, as at the mouth of this river there is a place 6 miles long called the Mudds, and at low tides the vessels from Maryland stop there, and would be in greatest danger while thus aground. One steamer, the *Wilson Small*, from Baltimore, has quit the route in consequence of threats which she considered well authenticated.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Acting Master Hannum, U. S. Navy, commanding tug James Guy.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *June 5, 1861.*

SIR: Proceed to Fort Washington, land mails and passengers, then return. Ask commandant if he needs anything.

Respectfully,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Acting Master HANNUM,
Commanding Tug James Guy.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Collins, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, to proceed to Hampton Roads.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 5, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed in the *Anacostia* to Hampton Roads and report to Flag-Officer Pendergrast as substitute to the *Young America* during her absence from that station.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant Commanding COLLINS,
J. S. S. Anacostia.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding movements of blockade runners.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 6, 1861.

SIR: This Department has information that vessels clear from Baltimore for St. Mary's River laden with provisions and stores. Arriving at St. Mary's, they wait a favorable opportunity, cross the Potomac, and enter Coan River and discharge. Two vessels have been known to have discharged their cargoes.

It is understood that the rebels have commenced throwing up earth-works between Aquia Creek and Chopawamsic. This is not vouched for, but it is said they are secretly doing it

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy].

Commander J. H. WARD,
Commanding Flotilla in Chesapeake.

Report of Captain Palmer, U. S. Army, of topographical reconnoissance in the Potomac.

COAST SURVEY OFFICE, June 8, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to report that in conformity with your instructions of the 31st ultimo I have completed the reconnoissance of Lower Cedar, Mathias, and White House points, on the Potomac River. I was informed on the 3d at the Navy Department that the small steamer *Resolute*, with sixteen armed men, would be placed at my disposal for this duty. At 7 p. m. that evening I left the navy yard in that vessel and the next day, the 4th, made the necessary examination at Lower Cedar Point, Md. On the 5th I carefully examined Mathias Point, Va., and the Maryland shore opposite. On the 6th your instructions were accomplished at White House Point, Va.

The three sketches herewith enclosed, giving the width and depth of the river, the height and topographical features of the banks, etc., exhibit the details of the work executed during my short absence.

I am confident that at the date of my visit no batteries had been erected at either of these points, although both are commanding positions and thickly wooded.

I beg leave to state that I am much indebted to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding the U. S. sloop of war *Pawnee*, whose ship I found opposite the rebel batteries at Aquia Creek, for the great assistance he gave me. At Lower Cedar Point he lent me one of his boats and carried his ship to Mathias and White House points. The proximity of her guns may have had a good influence on the rebels there, as, although I landed and scoured the woods at these places with an escort of two officers and twenty men only, I was not disturbed by them.

The negro slaves expressed a strong desire that I should take them with me; this I declined doing.

Acting Lieutenant Blue, of the *Pawnee*, executed a part of the hydrography for me.

My assistants, Messrs. Junken and Sands, from this office, were very zealous and industrious.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. PALMER,
*Captain, Topographical Engineers,
 Assistant Coast Survey, in charge of office.*

Professor A. D. BACHE,
Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *June 8, 1861.*

The [*Mount*] *Vernon* has returned from Fortress Monroe, where the *Anacostia* had arrived. The *Pawnee* at anchor 3 miles below Aquia. Some communication suspected there between the two shores. Saw wharf at Evansport on fire 11 miles above Aquia, probably to prevent our landing there.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, of reconnoissance in the Potomac and burning of the schooner Somerset.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 10, 1861.

SIR: The blockade of the Potomac is conducted with as much watchfulness as the nature of the case and the force will admit.

I find it necessary to remain off Aquia Creek with this ship, particularly at night.

There is communication between the Maryland and Virginia shores throughout its entire length. The people on the Maryland side all sympathize with the enemy, so far as I can judge.

On the 5th instant Lieutenant Mygatt captured a rowboat on the Virginia shore that had crossed from the Maryland side at Budd's Ferry, supposed to have taken mail matter over. The crew took a package from the boat and ran into the woods.

I gave Captain Palmer the aid of this ship to make reconnoissance and survey of Mathias Point and the White House.

The *Resolute*, Acting Master Budd, returned from the lower Potomac yesterday, having closely examined the shores and burned a schooner. His report is herewith enclosed for the information of the Department.

I dispatched the *Reliance* yesterday to blockade the Virginia shore between St. Mary's and Wicomico and to give some ammunition to the light-house keeper. I recommend that he be furnished with six muskets.

The prize tug *Young America* has just reached here in a crippled state, and I have directed the *Resolute* to tow her to the navy yard.

The enemy is constructing other batteries on the heights overlooking Aquia Creek.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, June 9, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions I have made an examination of the lower part of the Potomac River and have the honor to lay before you the following report of the same:

Leaving the anchorage off Aquia Creek early on the morning of the 6th instant, I proceeded to and landed at Blakistone Island light-house and learned from the keeper that he had received a letter a short time since threatening him with violence and the building with destruction if the light was not extinguished at once. He declined complying with the order and requests that arms and ammunition may be given him to defend himself and the property intrusted to his charge.

A person named Blackwell, living on the Virginia shore immediately opposite, and two others, named Key and Harris, residing in Breton's Bay, Md., were, as far as I could ascertain, the authors and senders of the letter above alluded to.

Learning that supplies and men were constantly passing from Breton's Bay to Virginia, I left an officer and boat's crew to keep a strict watch on all vessels in the vicinity and proceeded to Piney Point light, the keeper of which stated that the supply of oil was almost exhausted, there being only 5 gallons on hand the day of my visit; nothing else required at this point.

After visiting St. Mary's, I returned to Breton's Bay, where I captured the schooner *Somerset*, which vessel was there and had been for some time engaged in carrying provisions and men from Maryland to Virginia. As I could not spare men to take care of her, I towed her close to the Virginia shore and burned her on the night of the 8th.

From reliable information and my observation, I am positive that large quantities of supplies and numbers of men are constantly passing the Potomac at Breton's Bay and St. Mary's. Vessels are loaded with provisions in Baltimore and dispatched without clearances or manifests, some for St. Mary's, others for Breton's Bay, and many when boarded state that their cargoes are for farmers along the Maryland shore of the river. There have been more provisions landed in St. Mary's within the last month than the inhabitants of that vicinity would require for three years. One schooner after anchoring in the harbor crossed over to Yeocomico [Va.], twice discharged her cargo there, and is now in Baltimore loading for the third trip.

I examined the Virginia shore closely down as far as Hog Island, but could not discover anything like batteries below Potomac Creek. Hearing that there was a battery at Ragged Point I went close in there this morning and fired three or four rounds from my bow gun without receiving any reply. No works of any kind were visible.

There are two small vessels lying at Currioman Bay. I could not see any others between Hog Island and Aquia Creek. The illness of my engineer compelled me to return without extending the examination to the mouth of the Rappahannock.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BUDD,
Acting Master, Commanding Resolute.

Captain Rowan,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

Additional report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding reconnoissance in the Potomac River.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Potomac River, June 12, 1861.

SIR: In my communication of the 10th instant I omitted to inform the Department that another schooner was burned on the Virginia shore below Budd's Ferry on the morning of the 28th [8th?] by the *Resolute* [*Reliance?*].

I had dispatched that vessel the night previous with directions to drop up opposite Budd's Ferry and watch that point. The ferry at Thomas's Point [Thom's Point?] is watched by this ship in boats at night. The communication between the two shores at these points is now very limited.

A colored man came off this morning in a small boat, stating that he belonged to a Mr. Healy, and asked my protection. Having little faith in the loyalty of the people residing on the Maryland bank of this river, I declined to receive him. He left the ship and continued down the river.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting increased force for the schooners of his command.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Washington, June 10, 1861.

SIR: With a view more effectually to stop supplies from Maryland to Virginia, I respectfully ask for the three schooners of my flotilla a master's mate and six enlisted men each, and propose to anchor one or let her cruise under canvas in the neighborhood of St. Marys, another at Port Tobacco or that region, and a third at such point as an examination may prove best.

Musketry will be a sufficient armament. If the Department approve this suggestion, I respectfully ask an order for Captain Dahlgren to supply the men on my requisition.

The flotilla under my command consists of the steamers *Thomas Freeborn*, mounting one long and one light 32-pounder; the *Resolute*, with a 24-pounder howitzer; the *Reliance*, the same, and three schooners* of light draft, taken with all their equipments from the Coast Survey.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

J. H. WARD,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, granting an increase of force for the schooners under his command.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 10, 1861.

SIR: In compliance with your request of this date the Department authorizes a master's mate and six enlisted men for each of the three schooners attached to the flotilla under your command.

Commander Dahlgren has been instructed to furnish the men on your requisition.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JAMES H. WARD,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of affairs on the Potomac River and urging the need of a permanent guard for the Maryland shore.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Navy Yard, Washington, June 10, 1861—p. m.

SIR: Acting Master Budd, commanding the *Resolute*, having towed up the disabled Government steamer *Young America*, I have directed him to communicate verbally with the Department and convey such intelligence gathered in the cruising service as it may desire.

It will be unwise to leave the Maryland shore opposite Aquia and Potomac creeks without constant watch, the accumulation of supplies there being great, to be run over the moment obstructions now offered by the *Pawnee* cease.

So long as the rebels possess the steamer *Page* at Aquia only a steamer is fit to watch that place. I had contemplated an enterprise to burn the *Page*, but she is removed a considerable distance up the creek and guarded by a considerable force. It will be inexpedient to detail one of my active steamers on the service, nor is any one of them but the *Freeborn* of sufficient force to encounter the *Page*, and even she, with her low sides, would fare badly if attacked by some hundreds of troops in the *Page*.

* The *Bailey*, *Cobb*, and *Dana*.

I therefore respectfully suggest either the *Pawnee* or *Pocahontas* as a permanent guard there; to row boats also at night off the Maryland wharves and creeks.

I am, sir, respectfully,

J. H. WARD,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of Commander Rowan, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, to Lieutenant Mygatt, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Reliance, regarding blockade duty.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 11, 1861.

SIR: You will continue to blockade the shores of Virginia between Hog Island and Currioman Bay and if possible prevent intercourse between Maryland and Virginia shores.

You will if you can extend your visits to the light-house at Point Lookout and obtain all the information you can from the light-house keeper; also visit the light-house at Blackistone Island for the same purpose and extend your visits to Wicomico Bay.

Be as guarded as the nature and object of your service will admit not to interfere with the people of the Maryland shore. I send a copy of letter from Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Lieutenant J. P. K. MYGATT,
Commanding Steamer Reliance, Lower Potomac.

Letter from Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting increased force for the Potomac River.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Washington, June 12, [1861.]

SIR: With a view to render my proposed cordon of observation along the Maryland shore of the Potomac complete, I respectfully ask that two more of the Coast Survey schooners remaining in New York may be towed here by some steamer coming, to be left with the *Pawnee* off Aquia Creek or with this vessel if met. It is believed two schooners remain in New York which are unfit for any other service, yet all abundantly fit for this. With this addition of force I think the communication with Maryland from Virginia can be cut off with certainty, for every essential point will be guarded by a small fixed force, leaving the light steamers free for active movements from one to another as circumstances may require. Please order a master's mate and six armed men put in each schooner.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WARD,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting enclosure regarding contraband trade between Maryland and Virginia.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 12, 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith for your information copy of a letter received at the Treasury Department and referred to this.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Commander J. H. WARD,
Commanding Flotilla, Chesapeake Bay.

[Enclosure.]

CUSTOM-HOUSE, BALTIMORE, June 5, 1861.

SIR: We have good reason to believe—in truth we have almost undoubted evidence of the fact—that there is a large quantity of goods now being shipped from our city on board the schooner *Mount Vernon*, ostensibly intended for Tall Pine, St. Mary's County, Md., but really en route for Virginia. If we are correctly informed, they will be landed at Tall Pine and from thence wagoned across the country to the Potomac, a distance of 12 or 15 miles, to the neighborhood of Swan Point, where a wagon road to Fredericksburg intersects. It would be well to have a Government vessel in the neighborhood of said locality for the next two or three nights, as no doubt such vigilance would detect the parties in this illicit trade and the seizure more than repay the Government expense and trouble.

Very respectfully, etc.,

WM. THOS. VALIANT,
Deputy Collector.

Hon. S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Charles W. Carrigan, esq., granting permission to pass from Maryland to Virginia shore.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 12, 1861.

SIR: Your communication of June 10 concerning Mrs. M. A. F. Stratton is at hand. This is to authorize the steamer *Wilson Small* to pass from the Maryland to the Virginia shore for the special purpose, and no other, of conveying the aforesaid Mrs. M. A. F. Stratton, an invalid, and yourself, as her companion, to Pungoteague, Accomac County, Va., on her way to her residence in Northampton County, on the eastern shore of Virginia. Upon the accomplishment of the object for which this permission is given it is expected that this paper shall be returned to this Department. To be done in the month of June, 1861.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GIDEON WELLES.

CHARLES W. CARRIGAN, Esq.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Instructions from Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, relative to an effective blockade of the Potomac.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Potomac River, June 13, 1861.

SIR: You will be pleased to remain, with the *Pawnee*, under your command, at or not unnecessarily far from your present station off Aquia Creek and effectually continue the blockade of that region against all egress of vessels or persons, and ingress of them, or supplies of any sort, in any form, or on any pretense whatever.

No one of the smaller vessels of my command is fit to lie there, subject to be boarded suddenly at night by large numbers of troops put on board the rebel steamer *Page*, known to be in the creek, too high up for attack by us, and too well guarded by soldiers. You will exercise every degree of vigilance against such surprise and maintain yourself in all needed preparation.

You will permit no craft of any description to be underway at night. The object of this precaution is to insure a discontinuance of all intercourse between the Maryland and Virginia shores, which object must be carried out, and no discretion in any case whatever exercised to the contrary by any one subject to my command. Vessels sailing at night can elude any amount of vigilance if permitted to continue so and watch their opportunity. Any discovered so underway are to be ordered under the guns of the *Pawnee*, and if found in disobedience after such orders, either on the same or a subsequent night, will be made prize.

Two or three armed boats will row guard or station themselves off such points on the Maryland shore, near Maryland Point and opposite Aquia, or at such other localities conveniently near as there is reason to apprehend supplies may be collected for transportation to Virginia, and exercise such vigilance and activity as will put the effective execution of the object in view, as explained in this communication, beyond a doubt or question in the part of the Potomac where you are or may be stationed.

I shall leave above Cedar Point the steamer *Reliance* as an active, movable force, subject to your discretion within the limit of these orders, directing the officer in charge of her to report to you for instructions.

I shall further anchor one of the flotilla schooners, with a master's mate and six hands armed with muskets, off Port Tobacco or Nanjemoy, probably between the two places, as a permanent guard, whom you will please see are heartily engaged in carrying out the spirit of these instructions in that quarter, keeping the schooner's small boat out at night for that purpose, giving the men rest during the day.

My intention is that the *Reliance* shall as a rule cruise at night under low steam, giving the people rest while at anchor during the day. It is at night that the violation of blockade is most apprehended. Hence these specific directions.

I am in expectation of another schooner, to be stationed as part of a cordon of observation, at or near Budd's Ferry (Chicomuxen Creek), which place is reported as a depot of supplies for rebel forces.

Until I get such schooner it would be well to put your armed launch there every night, to be towed up by the *Reliance* and brought down in the morning, said launch being one of the two or three boats ordered on guard at night. This boat service can be made easy for your crew

by so dividing the duty as to detail no one upon it oftener than every third night, to which end the boats need not, except the launch, be your heaviest, nor, unless beyond reach of ready support from you, will they be fully manned.

If you have undoubted conviction that a depot of supplies, arms, ammunition, or provisions exists in Maryland within your ready reach, destined for Virginia, awaiting only the opportunity to elude you and be carried over, you will seize such property and hold it subject to my decision. I shall probably pass my time in the lower Potomac, but will visit you at short intervals and keep you provided with the necessary provisions and stores.

The schooners of this flotilla, which may be stationed above Cedar Point, you will be pleased to look after so far as possible consistently with your other duties, particularly their safety. I am aware of their exposure to capture by surprise at night and for that reason have preferred that they should be armed only with musketry. They should lie always in a state of preparation for scuttling, the arms and ammunition ready to be thrown overboard, so that in the event of being overpowered by numbers the capture could add neither trophy nor strength to the rebel forces.

The boats of Budd's Ferry must cease to ply, otherwise they must be seized and sent to Washington, leaving the owners to find a remedy there against the Government. In my absence, while perfecting arrangements for a more complete blockade on the lower Potomac, you will be pleased to carry out this order in respect to Budd's Ferry as thoroughly as your means will possibly allow.

Very respectfully,

J. H. WARD,

*Commander, U. S. Navy, Senior Officer on the Potomac,
Commanding Blockade.*

Commander S. C. ROWAN,

Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, Potomac River.

*Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee,
regarding George A. Bates, a citizen of Virginia.*

U. S. S. PAWNEE,

Potomac River, June 14, 1861.

SIR: Early this morning a person calling himself George A. Bates came off to the ship for permission to pass to the Virginia shore. He informs me he resided in Prince George's County, Md., not far from Annapolis, until the riot in Baltimore. He then removed his wife to Virginia and returned to Maryland to settle his business. He is now waiting for permission to cross with some household effects subject to inspection and search. He declares himself a loyal citizen and willing to take the oath of allegiance. Shall I permit him to pass if he takes the oath?

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,

Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 15, 1861.

SIR: Your letter* of the 12th instant has been received.

Your application will receive attention; but the Department considers a schooner with only six men armed with muskets as entirely unsafe in occupying any position near the Virginia shore.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Commander JAMES H. WARD,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, etc., Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the steamer St. Nicholas.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 15, 1861.

SIR: The Department has received information from a reliable source that the steamer *St. Nicholas*, running between Baltimore and Washington, leaving the former city on Friday afternoons at 4 o'clock and Washington every Tuesday morning at 6 o'clock (advertised to make landings on the Maryland shore of the Potomac), is engaged in conveying and disposing of contraband articles to parties in Virginia, particularly cloth for the use of the soldiers. You will cause this vessel to be carefully searched and if the facts are as supposed you will seize her.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Captain JAMES H. WARD,
Commanding U. S. S. *Thomas Freeborn*.

[Enclosure.]

The steamer from Baltimore, *St. Nicholas*, arrived yesterday (Sunday a. m.) and announces her departure for to-morrow a. m. The captain reports being brought to by a shotted gun on the river and compelled to lay by during the night, and on assuring the commander of the war steamship of the *St. Nicholas* being a peaceful steamer, resuming her regular trips to and from Baltimore and Washington, he was allowed to proceed.

The plan of communication between Baltimore and Richmond is for the steamer to land at a small port on the Maryland side nearly opposite Aquia Creek, where a depot has been established. Small boats are ready to carry over the passengers, merchandise, and mails during the night.

I would most respectfully suggest sending a person in her to-morrow to observe, and then take care of her on the second trip, at which time the apparent success of the first trip would insure a good haul of contraband.

* See p. 510.

OPERATIONS ON THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK. 515

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Lieutenant Collins, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, giving list of vessels examined in the Potomac River.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 15, 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith the report of Lieutenant Commanding Collins, of the steamer *Anacostia*, showing the vessels examined by him in the Potomac River; also letters acknowledging the receipt of letters, etc.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
Hampton Roads, June 12, 1861.

SIR: Enclosed I herewith send you a list of vessels examined in the Potomac River on the 6th and 7th instant.

There is one, you will perceive, which is marked suspicious. She was so marked because I found him at anchor when he might have been on his way to Washington. Should he not have delivered at the latter place his cargo ere this he should be marked for capture.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
N. COLLINS,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Subenclosure.]

List of schooners examined in the Potomac River by the U. S. S. Anacostia, June 6 and 7, 1861.

Date.	Name.	From.	Bound.	Loaded.	To whom consigned.	Master.
June 6	Octavia Ellen ...	Philadelphia..	Washington ...	Coal	Elliott.
	Watchman.....	do	do	do	Given	
	Ann Pickrell.....	do	do	do	Water	Partridge.
	Castillano.....	do	do	Fish	Master	
	Ben Vandiver*..	Baltimore	do	Hay and corn..	Morrison ..	
William Peters..	Havre de Grace.	do	Coal	C. Keys...		
	H. M. Smith.....	Baltimore ...	Wicomico Creek [River].	Light	
June 7	Lloyd Milton....	Doking River.	Washington ...	Wood	
	John Rowlett ...	Baltimore	do	Light	
	Mary Ann Kelly..	Philadelphia..	Old Point.....	Coal	
	William Henry..	Baltimore ...	Salisbury Point.	Goods, whisky, etc.	
	S. G. King	Philadelphia..	Washington ...	Coal	
	Alvarado.....	Baltimore ...	Fortress Monroe	do	

* Suspicious.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Lieutenant Prichett, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Mount Vernon, regarding the capture of the sloop Alena, June 15, 1861.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, September 27, 1861.

SIR: I transmit herewith the report of Lieutenant Prichett in regard to the seizure of the sloop *Alena*, as called for by your letter of the 24th instant.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

FORT ELLSWORTH, September 26, 1861.

SIR: On the 15th of June I was ordered by Commander J. A. Dahlgren to take charge of the steamer *Mount Vernon* and make a reconnaissance of White House Bluff, to determine if any rebel batteries had been erected there. When off the mouth of Pamunkey Creek (nearly opposite to White House Bluff) the pilot of the *Mount Vernon* pointed out to me a small sloop at anchor in the creek, which he knew had been engaged in carrying rebel troops from Maryland across to Virginia. I immediately returned to the navy yard to obtain the authority of Commander Dahlgren to seize her; after obtaining this authority, I proceeded to the creek and found the sloop had got underway. I then followed the Maryland shore up the river and found the sloop some 2 or 3 miles above her original position. When those on board saw I was in pursuit they ran the vessel on shore, after which I seized and towed her to the navy yard. The name of the vessel was the *Alena*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAS. M. PRICHETT,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of the burning of the schooner Christiana Keen by a party of Virginians and transmitting copy of warning to vessels against sailing at night.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Potomac River, June 16, 1861.

SIR: Accompanying this I send a paper drawn up in the form of a public notice, which contains information [that] it seems to me should be made known to prevent an unnecessary alarm.

The master of the schooner burned very unnecessarily exposed himself to this disaster by sailing at night when the navigation is very intricate and keeping to windward on the Virginia shore, when the channel lay on the other shore, the wind being entirely fair.

The burned wreck now lies opposite Cedar Point, not far from where the light-boat was, where also a buoy was until two or three days ago. The wreck is now a good mark, one not easily removed.

The party of thirty or forty which made the attack were uniformed in gray, with felt hats, so the master of the schooner says, and I judge they were a detachment of soldiers. This fact, and their proximity to Mathias Point, together with information gathered yesterday at Coan River that a company had lately gone from there to Mathias, indicates the protection of that point against visits such as have recently been made in two instances for reconnoissances, once by myself and since by Captain Palmer, of the Army. I see yet no signs of a battery, but shall watch for any which may be discoverable.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

J. H. WARD,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Potomac River, June 15, 1861.

The schooner *Christiana Keen*, running last night in the Potomac near Lower Cedar Point, grounded on the Virginia shore off Upper Machodoc Creek, not far below Mathias Point, and was burned by a party of thirty Virginians, who put out from the creek in rowboats for that purpose.

The officer in command on the Potomac does not, as a rule, permit vessels to sail at night, nor does he consider it prudent for them to do so even when permitted, but counsels them, for mutual protection against marauders, to anchor at St. Mary's River, Blakistone Island light, Nanjemoy, or off Aquia, at each of which points a Government armed vessel will generally, if not always, be found to afford further protection.

By sailing two or more in company, the mutual support arising from such an arrangement, especially if all vessels trading to this river be armed with musketry and observing the precautions indicated, the little danger existing only in case of calms and grounding will be obviated.

To mitigate alarm, which this accident will produce, it is proper to state that the schooner first grounded fast in $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, only half a mile from the Virginia shore on the weather side of the river, where it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide and the channel near the Maryland shore.

The flotilla on that night was distributed at Budd's Ferry, Aquia, Nanjemoy, Blakistone, St. Mary's, and Smith's Point, at any of which localities there was protection.

Since the removal of buoys, light-boats, and other marks, the navigation between Cedar and Maryland points is altogether too hazardous for the night. Some of the buoys, it is true, remain, but one or another is from time to time removed, so that no dependence whatever can be placed on them as marks. The master of the schooner burned inferred (all see now how erroneously) that because Piney Point and Blakistone Island lights are burning, all the others on the river were, including the light-boat formerly on the flats where he grounded.

This fact is published as a warning to others against a similar mistake.

Pass granted by order of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, to schooner Bachelor.

U. S. STEAM SLOOP PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, June 16, 1861.

The schooner *Bachelor*, H. Knight [Henry Neitzey?], owner, has permission to pass to Nanjemoy Creek to fish. She is not to visit or communicate with the Virginia shore on pain of seizure and confiscation; not to be underway at night.

By order of Commander S. C. Rowan, U. S. Navy:

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

[Endorsement.]

[FLOTILLA STEAMER] FREEBORN, *June 17, 1861.*

The above pass is not recognized because it does not bear the signature of a commanding officer, who alone is authorized personally to hear and decide cases of the kind and to grant passes.

The present case is one in which the vessel had been found by me on the Virginia shore and ordered to Washington to get a pass from authority there and not to be found down the Potomac again without one. The master did not go, but practiced this deception, for which he is a prize.

The *Bachelor* has further offended by being found several miles below Nanjemoy without permission, and anchored close under the Maryland shore, opposite to and in the nearest and most convenient position for communicating with Mathias Point, where there are troops stationed, as there is every reason to believe. A small vessel like this went to Mathias yesterday and escaped during the night. The troops there undoubtedly get supplies from the Maryland side by means like this, hence the summary proceedings in this case.

J. H. WARD,
Commander.

Pass granted by order of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, to the shallop H. Day.

U. S. STEAM SLOOP PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, June 16, 1861.

The shallop *H. Day*, Henry Knight [Neitzey?], master, has permission to pass to Nanjemoy Creek, to fish, and back. Not to communicate with Virginia shore on pain of seizure and confiscation. Not to be underway at night.

By order of Commander S. C. Rowan, U. S. Navy:

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

[Endorsement.]

[FLOTILLA STEAMER] FREEBORN, *June 17, 1861.*

This and all other passes given possess no validity, and will not be recognized, unless bearing the signature, the actual signature, of a commanding officer, who alone has power to judge the case and grant the pass, and that only after a personal hearing, which the master of the *Day* says was not had.

J. H. WARD,
Commanding Blockade.

[Second Endorsement.]

[FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,] *June 17, 1861.*

The *H. Day*, having been found below Nanjemoy and opposite Mathias Point under suspicious circumstances, is seized and will be sent back to Washington. She will not be again permitted to pass on the river unless by permission of superior authority in Washington.

J. H. WARD,
Commander.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, for release of vessels Bachelor and H. Day.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 20, 1861.*

SIR: Mr. Henry Neitzey being favorably commended to the Department as the owner of the schooner *Bachelor* and sloop *H. Day*, recently taken by Captain Budd, you will be pleased to release the same and deliver them to Mr. Neitzey.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Navy from Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the execution of Department's orders.

[FLOTILLA STEAMER] FREEBORN, *June 17, 1861.*

Please not fail to get from Captain Mygatt a letter I gave him for New York this morning and mail it in Washington.

Say to the Secretary of the Navy that I have already given the *St. Nicholas* such an overhauling as will render her circumspect, but on her next trip will search her thoroughly.

Will also watch with the greatest care the schooners of the flotilla that they are not exposed greatly to attack. They ought to have twelve men each instead of six, but I asked for all I thought I could get at the time. You can represent the judiciousness of their use. With twelve men, four could, much of the time, be out doing good service in boats about the creeks; you may so represent from me.

J. H. WARD.

Captain BUDD.

Order of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, to proceed to Washington towing prize schooner Buena Vista.

FLOTILLA STEAMER THOMAS FREEBORN,
Potomac River, June 17, 1861.

Tow the prize schooner *Buena Vista* to Washington, reporting her as seized with a suspicious cargo in the St. Mary's and as having, according to information previously obtained at Coan River, been there already with a similar cargo via St. Mary's once before. The *Mount Vernon*, as

represented by parties who gave this information, has not succeeded in landing a cargo at Coan River or that neighborhood. Report circumstantially to the Department (exhibiting this memorandum) verbally.

Return to Aquia as soon as possible and report to Captain Rowan, giving him directions from me to detain you as a relief to the *Reliance*; send her to Washington for repairs, then ordering her to delay there the least possible, and when she returns from Washington use her as before and send you to the lower Potomac (where I shall remain) in execution of the orders which I have given you (and which you have so efficiently carried out as to merit praise). The sooner the *Reliance* can release you from above, so that you can relieve me below, the better.

JAS. H. WARD.

Acting Master BUDD,
Commanding U. S. S. *Resolute*.

P. S.—The schooner *Bachelor*, warned by me three or four days ago, has been found in disregard of it; has deceived Captain Rowan by false statements or suppression; has violated Captain Rowan's pass, and been found by me concealed on the Maryland side opposite Mathias Point, at the place most convenient for crossing. I have therefore seized her and send her up by you as at least a more effectual warning than was before given her. Perhaps some detention, while it is just, may be a sufficient penalty and deter the owner from so exposing himself again. It will also put others on their guard.

The sloop *H. Day*, belonging to the same owner, I have detained for use at Nanjemoy, where just such a vessel is needed to watch the place she was taken in. She was taken in company with the schooner and under circumstances of equal suspicion. What disposition is ultimately made of her will depend, I suppose, in part upon the necessities and upon the justice of the case.

J. H. WARD.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, requesting instructions regarding discovery of suspicious stores at Maryland Point.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, June 17, 1861.

SIR: Some two weeks since, we discovered a number of hogsheads of bacon, barrels of whisky, etc., in a fish house near Maryland Point. Having suspicions of the loyalty of the owner of the property, I caused a strict watch to be kept in boats at night, fearing that the goods might be intended for the enemy. To-day I sent Lieutenant Lowry on shore to examine the premises and ascertain whether the goods had been removed. He reports that everything is still there and the people about the house say that the owners have not yet sent for them.

I respectfully request instructions in the premises. I believe they are intended for shipment to Virginia, but have no proof. I send a description of the articles with the marks, etc.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

HON. G. WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

Marks, etc., on stores in fish house.

10 hogsheads of bacon:

3 marked R. D. P. Radeliff, care of G. W. Carpenter.

3 marked T. A. Smith, care of G. W. Carpenter.

2 marked E. R. W., care of G. W. Carpenter.

2 marked A. P., care of G. W. Carpenter.

6 barrels whisky, [marked] G. H. Simmons, care of G. W. Carpenter.

3 casks sugar, [marked] E. R., care of G. W. Carpenter.

2 sacks coffee, [marked] A. P. Posey, T. A. Smith, care of Carpenter.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, enclosing instructions regarding suspicious stores at Maryland Point.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 18, 1861.

SIR: On the next page you will see a copy of a communication from this Department to Commander S. C. Rowan, which is sent you for your information.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Commander J. H. WARD,
Commanding Flotilla in Chesapeake.

[Enclosure.]

Confidential]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 18, 1861.

SIR: Yours of the 17th is received, reporting stores of bacon, whisky, and other articles in a fish house near Maryland Point, which you have reason to believe are intended for shipment to Virginia, and requesting instructions in regard to them.

The place of storage and attending circumstances are presumptive evidence that they are intended for the opposite side of the Potomac; and unless those who have the care and custody of these stores can satisfy you that such is not their destination, but that they belong in good faith to citizens of Maryland, and are to be retained and consumed in that State, you will be justified in seizing them.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commodore S. C. ROWAN,
U. S. S. Pawnee.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding the seizure of suspicious stores at Maryland Point.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Potomac River, June 18, 1861.

SIR: On the 3d instant I discovered stowed in a fish house owned by a Mr. Carpenter, residing at a landing place opposite Aquia Creek,

a number of hogsheads and some barrels and bags. Suspecting that it might be provisions intended for the enemy, I kept a close watch on it up to the 16th instant, when Lieutenant Lowry demanded the keys and took the marks, etc., which I have already given in my communication of the 17th.

Having determined in my own mind that this provision was not intended for consumption in Maryland, partly from the length of time it was allowed to remain in store, and partly from a firm conviction that Carpenter holds intercourse with the enemy and has been in Virginia the last two weeks, from whence he returned the night before last, crossing the river in a small boat near Nanjemoy Creek. The most of my information is derived from colored people, who answer questions without reserve when opportunity offers. To-day I seized the provisions in Carpenter's fish house and put them on board a wood schooner that happened to be loading here, and directed Lieutenant Mygatt, of the tug *Reliance*, to tow her to the navy yard and deliver the provisions to the commandant of the yard.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, of the seizure of stores at Maryland Point.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 19, 1861.

SIR: I seized 10 hogsheads of bacon (upward of 10,000 pounds), 3 barrels whisky, 2 barrels of sugar, and 2 bags coffee that I found stowed in a fish house on the Maryland shore belonging to a man named Carpenter. I am convinced from all the circumstances of the case that the provisions were not intended for consumption in Maryland and determined to capture them and send them to you.

I have made no agreement with the wood schooner for the freight of the captured goods sent in tow of the tug *Reliance*, but should judge \$20 would be more than ample.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, to Lieutenant Mygatt, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Reliance, regarding disposition of captured stores.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, June 19, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed in the *Reliance* under your command to the navy yard, Washington, taking in tow the wood schooner containing

the captured provisions. On your arrival you will report to the commandant of the yard for such repairs, etc., as you may require.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Lieutenant MYGATT,
U. S. S. Reliance, off Aquia Creek, Va.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the restoration of seized stores.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 29, 1861.*

SIR: On the 18th instant Commander Rowan reported the seizure of a lot of provisions belonging to Mr. George W. Carpenter on the Maryland shore of the Potomac, which were sent to the navy yard, Washington. From statements that have been made to the Department by reliable parties with regard to the character of Mr. Carpenter it is disposed to direct the return of the seized articles. You will therefore be pleased to have them returned to Mr. Carpenter, who will call upon you Monday with regard to them. You will have them conveyed to Mr. Carpenter's residence or the place from which they were taken. He will go down with them.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *June 18, 1861.*

The *Resolute* is just arrived from below with two small prizes. Reports the *Freeborn* coming out of Port Tobacco last evening; also that Mathias Point is certainly occupied by a small body of infantry. The *Seventy-first* left this morning at 3 o'clock for Alexandria by order of General Scott.

About 9 p. m. last evening a detachment of the *Seventy-first* of 150 men proceeded to seize the arms said to be collected near Port Tobacco, as directed yesterday by the Department. I expect them back before this evening. The *Resolute* needs some small repairs of engine.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *June 18, 1861.*

The expedition has returned from Port Tobacco without finding any arms. It was conducted with secrecy and expeditiousness, but it is probable that the negroes were afraid to give information as to the place of concealment. Mr. Woods reports nothing on Mathias Point; the battery looking finished at Aquia and a number of tents there.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *June 19, 1861.*

There is a rumor in the morning papers of a movement about the White House Bluff. May I send a steamer to make sure of the real state of affairs there?

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 19, 1861.*

Send steamer to White House Bluff, as requested.

GIDEON WELLES,
*Secretary of the Navy.*Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of expedition to Port Tobacco, Md., June 17, and reconnoissance to White House Bluff, Va., June 19.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 20, 1861.

SIR: Upon information given by certain parties, a detachment of the Seventy-first Regiment left here at 9 p. m. of the 17th, in order to seize some arms said to be collected near Port Tobacco.

The movement was made by night with judgment and great celerity, the troops being commanded by Captain Ellis, but there is every reason to believe that it only failed because the arms had been removed to Virginia.

Yesterday a reconnoissance was made of the White House Bluff. It appears to have been visited on Saturday last by an officer and some men of the secessionists, who were overheard to speak of the probable erection of a battery. On the same day it was also stated that a small village not far from the bluff was occupied by some companies of secessionists.

The steamer *Mount Vernon* was subsequently dispatched to seize a small sloop which is known to have conveyed armed men from the Maryland to the Virginia shores, and in all probability the arms secreted near Port Tobacco.

This vessel is now here subject to the orders of the Navy Department. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
*Commandant.*Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of Lieutenant Chaplin, U. S. Navy, of the capture of nine rowboats on the Virginia shore.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 19, 1861.

SIR: One of the boats rowing guard every night was directed to reconnoiter the Virginia shore last night and to capture or destroy all the rowboats that could be found. This service was performed by Lieutenant Chaplin in the first cutter, assisted by the tug *Reliance*.

A copy of Lieutenant Chaplin's report is herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Potomac River, June 19, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the evening of the 17th, I took the first cutter with sixteen men and, in tow of the U. S. S. *Reliance*, proceeded to Cockpit Point, where I landed and found several boats, and being satisfied that they were used for bringing men and provisions from the Maryland shore, took possession of them and towed them to the *Reliance*, where they were destroyed. I also skirted the beach for several miles but saw nothing suspicious. From this point I proceeded to Evansport, and landing half a mile below, sent six men in charge of Master's Mate Bogert to reconnoiter, keeping the larger portion with me. In about ten minutes Mr. Bogert returned and informed me that they had driven in a picket guard of mounted troopers. My not knowing what force the enemy may have had stationed in the vicinity, I deemed it expedient to return to my boat and follow out your orders farther down the river. On arriving at Scott's Landing I landed and found several boats hauled up on shore under a fishing shed, and while a portion of my men were getting these boats in the water I took the rest up to a dwelling house to examine the premises, and on gaining the rear of the house discovered three troopers who galloped off on discovering who we were. I then returned to my boat and towed off four boats to the *Reliance*, the same I brought alongside.

The *Reliance* then steamed up again to Evansport, where we saw a large number of men running along the shore, all of them armed, but it being early daylight we were unable to tell how well.

We lay off the place for some time and finding we could do nothing further I concluded to return.

While turning around some muskets were fired from behind some bushes, which we returned with canister from the howitzer on the *Reliance*. As no other shots were fired from the shore, and my men having been up all night and much fatigued, we returned to the ship. During my absence from this vessel I captured nine boats, five of which were destroyed.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. CHAPLIN,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, expressing approval of his action.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 20, 1861.

SIR: Your letters of the 18th and 19th instant, the latter covering a report from Lieutenant Chaplin, have been received. Your action in seizing the provisions and destroying the boats is approved, and the Department commends your vigilance in watching and frustrating the movements of the insurrectionists.

Be pleased to convey to Lieutenant Chaplin an approval of the energetic manner in which your orders were carried out.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WEILES.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
U. S. S. Pawnee.

Letter from Mr. George D. Wise, to Professor A. D. Bache, Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey, giving information regarding shipment of provisions to Virginia.

Private.]

BALTIMORE, June 19, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I have reason to suspect that quite an amount of aid and comfort is being sent from this city to Virginia by way of the Rappahannock River. Small crafts load here, ostensibly for the eastern shore of Maryland, but rendezvous among the Tangier Islands. Watching their opportunity they cross the bay and sail up the Rappahannock to a small town called Tappahannock and there discharge their cargo. The principal articles shipped have been provisions, of which I am informed the Virginians are much in want.

I write the above in case you should consider it of sufficient importance to communicate to the blockading division.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. D. WISE.

Professor A. D. BACHE,
Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey, Washington.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, relating to the capture of the schooner Buena Vista and other affairs on the Potomac River.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
St. Mary's River, June 20, 1861.

SIR: The prize schooner *Buena Vista* was sent by me to Washington on Monday, the 17th, in charge of the *Resolute*, Acting Master Budd, with orders to report verbally the circumstances of the seizure and the grounds on which it was made.

Enclosed is the report* I have required Acting Master's Mate [James L.] Gray, in charge of the flotilla schooner *Bailey*, to make of his knowledge and agency in the case. By said report it will appear that the *Buena Vista* is the first fruit of the arrangement by which the schooners of this flotilla are stationed at Nanjemoy and Port Tobacco, at Breton's Bay (Leonardtown), and at St. Mary's. I had anchored the *Bailey* on the evening of Friday, the 14th, having that morning

* Not found.

anchored the flotilla schooner *Cobb* at Breton's Bay to cut off traffic with Virginia from Leonardtown; at which place, as well as at Port Tobacco, the secession feeling is largely demonstrative.

The flotilla schooner *Dana*, in charge of Acting Master's Mate [Robert B.] Ely, watches at Nanjemoy and Port Tobacco, both which she is enabled to do by means of the small sloop *H. Day*, seized under suspicious circumstances a few days ago and appropriated by me to serve as tender to the *Dana*.

These schooners serve also as depots for coal in aid of the active vessels of the flotilla, the endeavor being, by taking coal from Government or other transports as they pass up the river, to keep the supply in each schooner equal to 40 or 50 tons. With the two other schooners asked for I shall be able to stop the illicit trade with Virginia so far as carried on from the Potomac shore of Maryland.

On Friday evening, the 14th, I had sent the *Resolute* to Smith's Point with orders to make a thorough reconnoissance and join me off the Yeocomico at noon on Saturday. On his way up Saturday morning Acting Master Budd cut off from the shore and captured two fishermen, bringing them to me at Yeocomico. On a close examination of the prisoners I extracted from them the information that the suspected schooner *Mount Vernon* has not made a successful trip, at least directly to Coan River, but the schooner *Buena Vista* had. I therefore issued orders that said schooner should be seized whenever and wherever found and detained for my adjudication. To blockade Coan River and Yeocomico closely against entrance from Baltimore direct I need another steamer, one like the *Leslie*, at the Washington yard, with a rifled howitzer, to watch these points closely and constantly and the whole breadth of the Potomac at this point. To anchor a sailing vessel off either of these rivers might be hazardous, both on account of the weather and liability to attack. I think the schooners on the Maryland shore are safe enough in all respects with their present force of six men, visited so often as they are by the steamers. Whatever the force, unless very large, it is liable to possible capture, and if captured the smaller the better. I have an especial repugnance to the loss of a cannon, therefore have not proposed one as an armament for either of the schooners. The officers in charge have orders to be in constant readiness to scuttle or burn their vessels, with provision for the escape of their men. They express a determination never to be taken and I believe so intend.

In regard to the reported rebel project of obstructing the channel of the Potomac, I look upon it as futile; for below White House Point it is not anywhere less than a large three-fourths of a mile wide, steep, too, on both sides. The steamers or boats of the flotilla pass to and fro daily, besides being in constant communication with private vessels trading up or down or public transports, any of whom would be likely to know and will be instructed to report any indications of the kind which observation can detect. Above White House Point I recommend a reconnoissance by boats from the *Pocahontas*, such as I have directed to be kept up by the boats of the *Pawnee* between Aquia and Budd's Ferry, until I get another schooner to anchor off that point.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WARD,
Commanding Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—A smart schooner like the *Savannah* (privateer) might make a good blockader off Coan River, etc., in lieu of a steamer.

J. H. WARD.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding measures for the protection of communication in the Potomac.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 20, 1861.

SIR: As circumstances may lead to some attempt on the communications of this place by the Potomac, I beg leave to submit the following remarks thereon:

There are only two points where this can be done successfully. The lowest of these is Mathias Point, about 50 miles from Washington.

The channel is so narrowed here that vessels can not keep farther than 1,400 yards from the point at one place, exposing them to considerable chance of damage by daylight.

The distance of the opposite bank (4,000 yards) is so great as to preclude the possibility of silencing batteries on Mathias—they could only be annoyed.

If suffered to remain the passage must be effected under cover of the night.

The best plan is to seize and hold the point at once, which, from the nature of the ground, would not be difficult nor require a large force.

Its extreme margin presents firm ground of no great extent, separated from the remainder by a swamp which can no doubt be made impassable by some fieldworks and artillery, supported by five or six companies of good troops, and the guns of a few vessels near the edge of the channel. I would recommend a reconnoissance by proper officers to this end, and if in their opinion advisable, to be carried out without delay.

White House Bluff is the other position that may be used to hinder the communication by the river.

This, like the other, would be best guaranteed by occupation, but the operation would require more force, is not assisted by the nature of the ground, and is so near to the principal secessionist force that it could hardly be made secure except by a larger body of men than could be spared.

Resort must be had, therefore, to a counter battery on the opposite shore, distant 1,700 to 2,000 yards, and some heavy pieces afloat to enflade the principal front. Even with these it would be impossible to free the bluff entirely from batteries, so that the cover of the night would have to be used in passing.

A railroad acting below this point would obviate the difficulty, but might not be made available in the time required. Other modes of communication might also be substituted for transportation, which I need not enlarge on here.

I would advise, however, that some measures be taken toward the occupation of Mathias Point and the counter battery to the White House Bluff.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], June 20, 1861.

The [Mount] Vernon seized the sloop she was sent for, having been identified by the pilot as the vessel which he saw taking armed men to

Virginia. Shall I deliver her to the U. S. marshal? The *Reliance* has arrived. The two heavy cannon will be placed in the *Ice Boat* as soon as possible.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 20, 1861.*

Receive the provisions sent up by Commander Rowan. Retain the sloop seized by the *Mount Vernon* in your possession.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, referring to Department's instructions in the matter of seizing suspicious stores.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Nanjemoy, June 21, 1861.

SIR: Having arrived here this morning, am in receipt of the Department's communication of the 18th, with copy of instructions to Commander Rowan, of the *Pawnee*, respecting suspected bacon stored in Maryland.

Enclosed I send copy of my instructions* to Commander Rowan, which, it will appear, embraced in their scope authority sufficient to justify the seizure made without appeal. The delicacy of the proceeding, however, undoubtedly rendered the highest authority within reach desirable.

I can not too strongly urge upon the Department the necessity of continuing the *Pawnee* or some other steamer of size fit to resist boarders off Aquia. I had laid plans for cutting out the rebel steamer *Page*, which is the cause of this precaution, but they have been frustrated by her removal up the creek.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. WARD,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Instructions of the Secretary of the Navy regarding sloop Ocean Eagle.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 21, 1861.*

The sloop *Ocean Eagle*, Captain Philip G. Pote, is represented by responsible parties to be engaged in the summer fisheries and leaves Washington for the mouth of the Potomac loaded with ice. She is not

* See p. 512.

to go upon the Virginia shore, but is engaged the whole length of the Potomac fishing. If these representations are correct the officers of the Navy on the Potomac will refrain from disturbing said vessel.

GIDEON WELLES.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting statement of a deserter from the Confederate Navy.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 21, 1861.

SIR: At daylight this morning a man was seen swimming toward the ship from the Maryland shore. A boat was sent to his aid and he was brought on board. He states that his name is John Dowling, of Great Barrington, Mass., is a carpenter by trade, and has been residing in the South since April, 1860. He is last from the batteries at Aquia Creek, where he arrived the day before his desertion. He went down to the end of the wharf to bathe, and before he was observed he was half a mile distant from the batteries, swimming for this ship. Several shots from cannon, which he says were rifle, were fired at him. We heard the firing, but supposed it was practice.

This escape showed coolness and nerve, as well as great physical endurance. The distance from the battery to where we landed on the opposite shore is about 6 miles. Added to this his exposure during the night on the beach naked, and a walk of 2 miles up the beach opposite the ship, and another swim of a mile to the ship, all bespeak character and energy.

I enclose a detailed statement of all he saw during his residence in the South.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

Statement of John Dowling, a deserter from the (so-called) Confederate Navy.

AQUIA CREEK, *June 22, 1861.*

I reside in Great Barrington, Mass. I left home on the 5th April, 1860. I am a carpenter by trade. I went to Savannah, Ga., and worked there at my trade till the following November.

I left Savannah on the 12th of November for Montgomery, Ala.; worked there and in the vicinity five months. Having no further employment, I went to Columbus, Ga.

There I joined the Confederate States Sentinels on the 15th of May, 1861, to prevent being arrested as an abolitionist. May 18 the Sentinels were moved to Richmond, Va., where I remained with the troops six days and deserted. I took the direction of Yorktown in hopes of escaping by water. When within 9 miles of Williamsburg I was told I could not get through, martial law being declared in Williamsburg and a cordon of troops between the two rivers. I then went off in the direction of York River and crossed it at West Point, which is the terminus of the Richmond Railroad. I there found an earthwork prepared for three or four guns; the guns were daily expected from Rich-

mond. I went to West Point to enlist with a hope that I might have an opportunity of deserting, but I was required to take the oath of allegiance, and refused to do so. I then took the train for Richmond, having seen in the papers that carpenters were wanted there. I worked in Richmond six and a half days. This was in early part of this month. I finished the work I could get and left Richmond for Fredericksburg, where I was told I could not get to the river. Finding no way of escape, I shipped in the (so-called) Confederate Navy. Captain Robert Thorburn shipped me for twelve months without requiring the oath of allegiance. This was on the 19th instant. I came down on the train to Aquia Creek and reported to a person by the name of Cunningham, and he reported my arrival to Captain Lynch. On the evening of the 20th I went to bathe and started from the end of the burned wharf for the *Pawnee*. After getting out about a half a mile I was discovered and fired at eight or ten times from a rifle cannon. I was swept down by the tide and reached Maryland shore near Maryland Point. I saw but one company of troops in Fredericksburg. There were no defenses in and around Richmond when I left on the 16th instant. I heard that a battery was being erected 10 miles below Williamsburg, between the two rivers. I heard they were preparing or had a battery near Jamestown. There were some 3,000 troops between James River and Yorktown, mostly cavalry. There were about 3,000 troops at Richmond, mostly from cotton States.

I was told in Richmond that the principal crossing place for troops, etc., from Maryland was at a point about 35 miles below Alexandria.

At Aquia Creek there are three or four regiments, about 3,000 men, encamped behind the hills. Forty-two men are stationed at the depot. The steamboat *Page* is up the creek and not manned or armed. The new battery on the north hill has three 8-inch guns; the south battery, two rifled cannons; the lower battery, one rifled cannon.

The earthworks on the point were almost leveled the day of the bombardment and the shells burst in, over, and around the fort, while the empty shells went through the portholes and earthworks.

[Endorsement.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE, BLOCKADING,
Aquia Creek, June 22, [1861.]

The above statement was taken from the lips of the person in my presence.

S. C. R[OWAN].

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding detention of John W. Quinn and William C. Riffin, of schooner Secretary.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Lower Potomac, June 22, 1861.

SIR: Under date June 5 I received from the Department a communication,* accompanied by information respecting detention of Union men of Maryland in Pocomoke Sound, and giving me qualified directions. I have not, until yesterday, been able to obtain any certain and reliable intelligence in the premises, when I ascertained as follows, which is a copy of a memorandum taken down after a close examination of

* See p. 504.

the two parties mentioned in the memorandum, who came on board here from their schooner *Secretary*. Both were strongly Union in their expressions:

Captain John W. Quinn and Captain William C. Riggin, of schooner *Secretary*, belonging to and now from Snow Hill, Md., laden with lumber for Washington, boarded by me in the Potomac, June 21, 1861, on being questioned, say that, trading constantly as they do to and from Snow Hill, Quinn as part owner and Riggin as master, they are prepared to and do say with confidence and certainty that no vessel trading from Maryland out of the Pocomoke River has been molested by parties in or from Virginia; that the steamer *Wilson Small* did not abandon the route up the Pocomoke from fear of molestation, but because she could not, after the blockade of Virginia, land freight and passengers in the Pungoteague and Chesconessex rivers [creeks?] in Virginia, and could get her Maryland freight, etc., at Annessex without the time and cost of going 50 miles round to Newtown on the Pocomoke, the end of her route, it being but 15 miles by land across Maryland territory from Annessex to Newtown.

Assuming this information to be correct, I suppose the Department will not expect me to abandon more important duties in the river; therefore shall not at present make the trip I had contemplated to the eastern shore.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 J. H. WARD,
Commanding Potomac Blockade.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.],
 June 23, 1861—1 p. m.

The *Philadelphia* has returned from Fortress Monroe, and the same officer that had examined White House Bluff some days since reports going over it again to-day and finding everything as before; a few negroes, no battery, and but one white person had been there since. A letter from Captain Ward states he had been fired at with musketry from Mathias Point and believes that batteries are being put up.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. G. WELLES.

Letter from J. B. Mannar, esq., to Lieutenant-General Scott, U. S. Army, giving information of regular communication between Maryland and Virginia.

NO. 137 AISQUITH STREET,
 Baltimore, June 24, 1861.

DEAR SIR: You may not be aware that there is a regular communication between Salisbury, eastern shore of Maryland, and some point in Virginia. It is a fact known to the writer of this note; a channel through which passes men and munition of war. The travel to that point is by the Delaware Railroad and by the Chesapeake Bay. The name of the principal agent at that point is Andrew Scoot. Letters reach Virginia with as much facility through this route as through the regular mail when it was in operation.

Yours, respectfully,

J. B. MANNAR.

Lieutenant-General WINFIELD SCOTT.

P. S.—The above is confidential.

Report of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting 200 troops to assist in clearing Mathias Point.

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
— Potomac River, Cedar Point, June 24, 1861.

SIR: I sent yesterday informally to Captain Dahlgren asking the aid of 200 troops with materials, for the purpose of denuding Mathias Point of the jungle and thicket of young growth which now conceal from view soldiery and their works. They have fired several volleys of rifle bullets into the *Freeborn*, as I understand also into other vessels. The distance they fire is about 500 or 600 yards. It is the alarm more than the material damage produced by this firing which is injurious and ought to be abated. Hence the enterprise I propose. It is possible I could effect it without troops; nevertheless it is best to be sure and have them if convenient.

Vessels in the river, bound up, report to me that they have been advised at Cape Henry to await convoy in Hampton Roads for Washington. This is decidedly unnecessary and wrong. Will the Department please apply the correction? No convoy is necessary except that which three or four vessels together will afford one another, and for this purpose they should assemble at Blakistone Island light-house, where there is a man-of-war schooner for protection.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. WARD,
Commanding Blockade.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Descent on Mathias Point, Va., June 25, 1861.

Report of Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Resolute*, relative to his burning of a depot for contraband goods.

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, June 25, 1861.

SIR: I made a descent on the Virginia shore yesterday and broke up a depot that was there for harboring and forwarding men and supplies to the enemy. Dr. Hooe, the proprietor and owner, has been very active in his efforts against the Government. He sent for the marauders and requested them to burn the *Christiana Keen* (that New Jersey schooner that was burned a short time since).

She got ashore before daylight within one-quarter of a mile of his place, and, as I said, he caused her destruction. He has had a number of mounted troopers quartered in and lying about his premises, who were there for the purpose of protecting boats which got across from Maryland with men, etc.

My boats and the boats of the flotilla have been fired upon from his place when not interfering with his property.

Major Watson, on the Maryland shore opposite, receives the contraband supplies and forwards them to Hooe. His boats and his negroes have been actively engaged in this business, and his house is the rendezvous.

Hooe's place was a barracks; he had accommodations put up in his schoolhouse and outhouses for twenty-five men.

At the time of my attack there were few troopers at the house. I dispersed them with a few rounds from my bow gun, and before they could return in force I landed and fired the premises, which were completely destroyed. I got some information also.

I took a secession dragoon uniform (officer's) that I found there, and destroyed everything else.

I enclose a description of an agent of the rebels, who is a spy and is now in Baltimore procuring arms to run across the river. He has made two trips already.

I send you this, as Captain Ward is not here.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM BUDD,
Acting Master, Commanding Resolute.

[Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.]

[P. S.]—Excuse great haste. The agent is the owner of the uniform. He left it at Hooe's previous to crossing the river.

[Enclosure.]

Description.—John M. Goldsmith (officer), small and slight of figure; short, black hair; small black moustache; no whiskers; deep blue eyes; small head and face; complexion fair; quick in action and speech; strong voice.

Came across from Baltimore on the 21st; went to Fredericksburg. Returned from Fredericksburg and left Hooe's for Baltimore on the evening of the 24th; is now supposed to be there purchasing revolvers.

Report of Brigadier-General Holmes, C. S. Army, relative to the burning of the house of Dr. Hooe.

HEADQUARTERS, BROOKE'S STATION, VA., *June 27, 1861.*

SIR: I have to report that a small party of the enemy landed at Mathias Point on the 25th and burned the house of Dr. Howe [Hooe]. The landing was effected under the guns of the enemy, and doubtless was with a view to discover whether we were erecting a battery there. If it be the wish of the commanding general that a battery should be erected to prevent the free navigation of the river, I respectfully recommend that the neighborhood of Evansport should be preferred to Mathias Point. There is very little difference in the distance of the channel from the shore, and large guns will command either. From Evansport there is a good road to Fredericksburg, which would turn this position, and a good road to Manassas, turning that position; whereas from Mathias Point it would require a long land travel to any vulnerable point. If you can send me two 32-pounders (rifled), or two 8-inch Columbiads, I believe I could stop the navigation of the river, if the general commanding thinks it a matter of sufficient importance to justify the expense. I could use the rifled 6-pounders that I now have in Walker's battery to annoy the enemy's commerce, but we have not the ammunition to spare.

I am, colonel, very respectfully,

T. H. HOLMES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Colonel GEORGE DEAS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, C. S. Army.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, of a reconnoissance of Mathias Point.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Potomac River, June 25, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that I left Aquia Creek this morning at half past 2 o'clock and proceeded to Mathias Point, accompanied by the steamboat *James Guy*, having on board Captain Woodbury, Engineer Corps, and Captain Palmer, Topographical Engineer Corps, U. S. Army, for the purpose of making a reconnoissance of the point and to ascertain whether the enemy was erecting batteries or not. At 5 o'clock a. m., I sent an escort on shore, in two boats, of forty sailors and marines, in charge of Lieutenant Chaplin and Master Blue, and placed them under the command of Captain Woodbury.

As we approached, the enemy appeared in numbers equal to one or more companies. A few shells from the *Pawnee* soon made them scamper over the hills, and an occasional shell kept them in check while the officers completed their work. Our sailors captured two horses, saddled and bridled, and compelled the riders to seek shelter in flight. One of the men received a slight graze from a revolver ball on the wrist. The horses were brought off to the ship and hoisted into the *James Guy* and sent to the navy yard, Washington, as prizes.

During the reconnoissance I threw some thirty shells, which kept the enemy in check, notwithstanding their reported force is 600 men, of whom 100 or more are mounted. On the return of the party to the ship I was informed that they saw the enemy's camp from Grimes's house on the hill, and having pointed out its direction, I hauled the ship inside the shoal and with 15-second shells dispersed the camp and set fire to something behind the hills. A negro man, who was standing by a boat on the beach that I sent Lieutenant Chaplin to bring off or destroy, came off and gave us information that 200 troops are kept on the beach constantly, and the remainder in camps aforesaid. I regret that the negro was brought off, but being on board I don't know what to do with him. I send him in the *Guy* to the navy yard to be disposed of as you may direct.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of commandant, navy yard, Washington, transmitting information regarding the Potomac and adjacent rivers.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 25, 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith for the consideration of the Navy Department a paper in relation to the Potomac and adjacent rivers, and have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD,
Tuesday, June 25, 1861.

Below you will find the names of the various creeks and rivers leading up into the State of Virginia, from the Potomac down, which are not blockaded.

Yeocomico, Coan River, Great Wicomico, Rappahannock, Piankattank, Nomini.

Up all these streams there is freely passed anything from Baltimore or Delaware.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT WALTER,
Pilot.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *June 25, 1861.*

Acting Master Reynolds informs me he was told last evening that a Dr. Cox, who had come from Richmond, passed over [from] Mathias Point [to Port] Tobacco and had seen them working at a battery. There were some forty men on the point. I give this for what it is worth; shall soon have exact information.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *June 25, 1861.*

The engineer officers have returned from Mathias Point and report a body of men there but no battery. The Department will receive details from them.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Affair at Mathias Point, Va., June 27, 1861.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding the affair at Mathias Point and the death of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 28, 1861.

SIR: I forward herewith the report of Commander Rowan, with the accompanying papers relating to the affair in which Commander Ward was killed, as called for by telegraphic dispatch.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FOXHALL A. PARKER,

Lieutenant and Executive Officer, in Absence of Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Potomac River, June 27, 1861.

SIR: About sundown the evening of the 26th instant, while at anchor off Aquia Creek, I received an order from Commander Ward, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, to send him two boats, armed and equipped, in command of Lieutenant Chaplin. This order was immediately complied with in all its details and the party left the ship in tow of the *Resolute* at 9 o'clock p. m. To-day about noon the *Resolute* returned with a request from Captain Ward that I should send her back if I had no more important service for her. I immediately dispatched the *Reliance* to Captain Ward, knowing the danger to which our people would be exposed if he contemplated a landing at Mathias Point, as I feared was his intention, judging from the nature of the order he gave me to furnish him with such equipments as were necessary to cut down the trees on the point and burn them. At 9 o'clock this evening the *Freeborn* and *Reliance* came up, having been repulsed by the rebels at Mathias Point, in which Lieutenant Chaplin and his command escaped utter destruction by a miracle.

It becomes my painful duty to announce to the Department the death of Commander J. H. Ward, of the *Freeborn*. He was shot in the abdomen while in the act of sighting his bow gun.

I beg leave to call the attention of the Department to the gallantry, coolness, and presence of mind of Lieutenant Chaplin, of the *Pawnee*, commanding the party on shore. He remained steady and cool amongst a perfect hail of musketry from hundreds of men, while he collected his own people and made good his retreat without leaving the enemy a trophy beyond a few sand bags and some axes and, so far as I can ascertain, the muskets of the wounded men. The last man left the shore with him, and not being able to swim to the boat with his musket, Lieutenant Chaplin took him on his shoulders, musket and all, and safely reached the boat without a scratch, save a musket hole through the top of his cap.

In consequence of the want of ordinary comforts in the *Freeborn* for wounded men, I brought the two wounded men belonging to that vessel, with those two of this ship, with the remains of the late commander J. H. Ward, to the navy yard, Washington, where I now await orders.

I must also call attention of the Department to the bravery of John Williams, captain of the maintop of the *Pawnee*, who told his men while lying off in the boat that every man must die on his thwart sooner than leave a man behind, and when the flagstaff of his boat was shot away and the ensign fell, he, although suffering from a gunshot wound of the thigh, seized it in his hand and bravely waved it over his head.

A copy of the surgeon's report of casualties is herewith enclosed. The wounded have been removed to the hospital. I also enclose copies of orders addressed to Lieutenant Lowry.

Lieutenant Chaplin's report of the affair is not yet ready. When it is presented, I shall forward a copy for the information of the Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, and Senior Officer of the *Potomac*.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

[Subenclosures.]

FLOTILLA STEAMER FREEBORN,
Lower Potomac, June 26, 1861.

SIR: On receipt of this order you will be pleased to send your second launch, by which I mean your second-sized boat; also your smallest boat, not estimating your gig, which need not be sent, with their crews armed with muskets having bayonets, or, if without bayonets, their cutlass with each musket, and a suitable amount of ammunition; also provisions for three or four days, in charge of Lieutenant Chaplin, down to Nanjemoy, alongside the schooner *Dana* there, and await my arrival in the *Freeborn*, when Lieutenant Chaplin will report to me with the boats so armed and provisioned.

You will further be pleased to send in the boats all the tar you have on board the *Pawnee*, a gallon of spirits of turpentine in a can, all the shovels and all the coal bags you have, except twelve retained to handle coal with; all the oakum you have, not exceeding one bale in quantity; a quantity of old canvas, all you can possibly spare, and your gunner's dark lantern. Send also every ax and hatchet you have, except the cook's. The launch and boat you will see are provided with their kedges and all other expeditionary outfits, as prescribed in the ordnance regulations, including howitzer for the large boat, if you have two and one is fitted to sailboat.

You will, while your boat expedition ordered down to Nanjemoy is serving as I intended at Matthias Point, let the *Reliance* visit me at least once every day, and twice or oftener if convenient with other duties you may need her for.

I am, sir, respectfully,

J. H. WARD,
Commander, U. S. Navy, Comdg. Flotilla of the Potomac River.

Commander S. C. ROWAN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. *Pawnee*, Potomac River.

—
U. S. STEAM SLOOP PAWNEE,
Potomac River, June 27, 1861.

SIR: I have to report the following casualties resulting from the action at Mathias Point this afternoon:

Killed.—1. Commander J. H. Ward, commanding flotilla, gunshot wound of abdomen; almost immediately fatal.

Wounded dangerously.—1. William J. Best, ordinary seamen, belonging to the *Pawnee*, gunshot wound fracturing both bones of left leg; a second gunshot wound in soft part of right forearm; a third gunshot wound of right hand. 2. William McChenny, landsman, belonging to *Thomas Freeborn*, gunshot wound of left thigh, fracturing the femur.

Wounded severely.—1. John Williams, captain maintop of *Pawnee*, gunshot wound of soft part of right thigh. 2. George McKenny, yeoman of *Thomas Freeborn*, gunshot wound of soft part of left thigh.

Respectfully, yours,

F. M. GUNNELL,
Surgeon, U. S. Navy.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding Flotilla in the Potomac River.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 27, 1861.

SIR: In consequence of the lamented death of Commander J. H. Ward, you are hereby ordered to assume the command of the steamer *Freeborn* until the pleasure of the Navy Department is made known.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, and Senior Officer in the Potomac.

Lieutenant Commanding R. B. LOWRY,
Commanding Steamer Freeborn, off Aquia Creek, Va.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., June 27, 1861.

SIR: You will continue the close blockade of Aquia Creek in the steamer *Freeborn*, under your command, until my return or until ordered elsewhere by higher authority.

You will direct the commander of the steam tug *Reliance* to keep underway during the night between Cockpit Point and Budd's Ferry to look out for boats or vessels that may be moving at night. From sunrise to sunset the *Reliance* will remain off Mathias Point, keeping out of musket range, for the purpose of protecting vessels in passing. When the *Resolute* returns you will dispatch her to St. Mary's and Leonardtown to examine those harbors for vessels carrying aid to the enemy and to obtain all the information in relation to the movements of those engaged therein and to visit Lower Cedar Point and Hooe's Ferry.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, and Senior Officer in the Potomac.

Lieutenant Commanding R. B. LOWRY,
Commanding Steamer Freeborn.

Letter from Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, senior officer present, Potomac River, to the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting report of Lieutenant Chaplin, U. S. Navy.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Navy Yard, Washington, June 27 [28], 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith Lieutenant Chaplin's report of the affair at Mathias Point, which he had not time to prepare when my report was forwarded.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, and Senior Officer on the Potomac.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. STEAM SLOOP PAWNEE,
Washington, D. C., June 28, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your orders of the 26th instant, I took charge of the first and third cutters, with twenty-three men, and went to the *Reliance* to be towed to Nanjemoy to report to Captain Ward, of the *Freeborn*. Not finding her that night, anchored at Nanjemoy, and yes-

terday morning proceeded to Mathias Point and discovered the *Freeborn* some 4 or 5 miles below. I immediately went to her and reported to Commander Ward for service.

The *Freeborn* then stood up for Mathias Point, and on arriving there threw shot, shell, and grape into the woods near where we were to land. About 10 [a. m.] the landing was effected, my party under the charge of Commander Ward, who landed with me. I threw my men out as skirmishers, and on getting about 300 yards from the boats discovered the enemy's pickets, who fired and retreated. My men followed them for a short distance and fired on them. I then discovered the enemy coming toward me over the brow of a hill and judged there were some four or five hundred men. I went back to Commander Ward and reported, when he ordered me to take to the boats and lie off while he went on board of his vessel and fired into the bush again. After some fifteen minutes' firing I was ordered to land again and throw up a breast-work of sand bags. I sent out four men as pickets and commenced the work, and at 5 [p. m.] had nearly completed it, when the signal was made for me to return. I sent everything to the boats and with seven or eight men covered the bags with limbs, that the enemy might not distinguish it from the dense thicket near, and was about leaving when the enemy opened on us with muskets at a distance of 250 yards, and for some reason the *Freeborn* did not open on the place with her heavy guns to cover my retreat. I sent all my men in the boats and stayed on the beach till I had counted and found they were all safe.

By this time the boats had drifted some distance out, and rather than bring the men any nearer, swam to the third cutter and pulled off to the *Freeborn*.

My boat was riddled with shot, the flagstaff shot away, and nineteen holes through the flag.

I am sorry to report that two of my men were seriously injured: John Williams, captain maintop, musket ball in thigh; William J. Best, ordinary seaman, wounded in four places, the hand, the arm, the leg, and body.

I can not speak in too high terms of the gallantry of my men, and particularly of John Williams. Though wounded he retained charge of his boat, and when the staff was shot away held the stump in his hand with the flag till we got alongside the *Freeborn*, when I learned of the injury to Commander Ward and also to several of his men. Commander Ward not being able to give any orders, and with the advice of the surgeon, started for the *Pawnee* for medical aid, where I arrived at 9 last evening.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. CHAPLIN,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Commander S. C. ROWAN, U. S. Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], June 28, 1861.

With deep regret I announce the death of Captain Ward. He was killed yesterday while attempting to cover a landing on Mathias Point; a musket ball struck him as he was sighting his 32-pounder.

I await your orders as to the disposition of the body of the gallant officer.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

SECRETARY OF NAVY.

Report of Acting Assistant Surgeon Moore, U. S. Navy, U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, regarding the death of Commander Ward, U. S. Navy, late commanding Potomac Flotilla.

WASHINGTON, June 28, 1861.

SIR: I hereby certify that J. H. Ward, who was a commander in the U. S. Navy, while attached to the steamer *Freeborn* and holding rank above mentioned, departed this life on the 27th day of June, 1861, and that he died of a gunshot wound of the abdomen received while acting in the line of his duty, as held forth in the record of his case of which the following is a copy:

Commander Ward had been on shore with a party consisting of 34 seamen besides Lieutenant Chaplin, of the *Pawnee*, and Master's Mate [John] Kellogg, of the *Freeborn*. He returned, however, soon after and remained on board until his death, which took place off Mathias Point about 6 p. m. He was struck by a musket ball from the enemy while sighting his forward gun. The ball entered at a point just above and a little to the right of the umbilicus and passed directly through the abdomen, escaping at a point opposite, about 2 inches to the right of the spinal column. He died from internal hemorrhage about an hour after being shot.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. MOORE,

[Acting] Assistant Surgeon, Steamer [Thomas] *Freeborn*.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

[Secretary of the Navy.]

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, relative to the affair at Mathias Point and announcing the appointment of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, to the command of the Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 29, 1861.

SIR: The Department has received your communication of the 27th instant in relation to the occurrence at Mathias Point.

You will return down the Potomac with the *Pawnee* as early as practicable. Commander T. T. Craven has been ordered to the command of the flotilla.

For his courage and gallant bearing at Mathias Point you will please rate John Williams, captain of the maintop of the *Pawnee*, master's mate, at \$40 per month.

The Department is highly gratified with your report of the gallantry, coolness, and presence of mind of Lieutenant Chaplin, and has expressed its appreciation in a separate letter, enclosing an extract from your report to him.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,

Commanding U. S. S. *Pawnee*, Washington.

Letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Chaplin, U. S. Navy, U. S. S. Pawnee.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, June 29, 1861.

SIR: Annexed is an extract from a report* of Commander S. C. Rowan in relation to your gallant conduct at Mathias Point on the 27th

instant, when you had command of a detachment from the U. S. S. *Pawnee*. The Department highly appreciates your brave and heroic bearing on the trying occasion, and is happy to communicate to you the complimentary extract from the report of your commanding officer.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Lieutenant J. CROSSAN CHAPLIN,
U. S. S. Pawnee, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 29, 1861.*

Send to the Department the flag defended by John Williams, of the *Pawnee*, at Mathias Point.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Brigadier-General Holmes, C. S. Army, transmitting report of Colonel Ruggles, C. S. Army, relative to the affair at Mathias Point.

HEADQUARTERS, BROOKE'S STATION, VA., *June 28, 1861.*

GENERAL: Herewith you will please find the report of Colonel Ruggles of an affair at Mathias Point. There are now there fifteen companies of volunteers, and I have ordered a section of Walker's battery to reenforce them. This force I think sufficient to prevent a landing for purpose of holding the point. If it be your design to erect a battery there to command the river, I think instructions to that effect should be given immediately and another regiment ordered to report to me for its defense after construction.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. H. HOLMES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

General R. E. LEE,
Commanding.

[Enclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS,
Camp Ruggles, Va., June 27, 1861—9:30 p. m.

SIR: I have the honor to state for the information of the general commanding that in conformity to his orders received last evening at 7 o'clock I ordered Major Mayo with his battalion, composed as indicated, to proceed without delay to Brooke's Station, for which ample preparation has been made, to commence the movement to-morrow morning.

I have also the honor to state that at an early hour this morning a steamer, supposed to be the *Freeborn*, and two tugs, having in tow a large open boat or raft, with several small boats suitable for landing men, took position nearly in front of this camp, and was represented to have effected that purpose. The employment of the principal part of command for some hours was thus rendered necessary to ascertain the fact, with a view of repelling the enemy, which fortunately proved

groundless. At about 1 p. m. our pickets reported that the enemy, whose steamers had returned to the immediate vicinity of Mathias Point, had already effected a landing of a strong detachment of men at the point, from which the pickets were mainly driven by the raking fire of shell and shot from the enemy's steamers. The condition of things rendered vigorous measures on our part indispensable, and which has resulted, I am happy to inform you, in complete success. The enemy, who had landed, as before reported, with a detachment of at least fifty men, was driven after a short conflict on board of his steamers in a state of undoubted discomfiture, and immediately withdrew from our shores. Night having closed in about the time this success was obtained, full particulars as to any loss of the enemy have not yet been obtained. I shall embrace an early moment to forward detailed reports of subordinate commanders.

I deem it of the utmost importance for your information that we discovered, immediately after the enemy was driven off, the foundation of a regular sand-bag battery, in the erection of which considerable progress had been made during the brief period the enemy had occupied the position, which would have completely commanded Mathias Point, where it has been in contemplation that a permanent battery may be established commanding the Potomac River channel. In addition to the sand bags we captured a considerable number of axes and spades, a very large coil of heavy rope (evidently to draw heavy guns on shore), left by the enemy in his precipitate flight. I have been thus particular in stating the arduous service in which this entire command has been engaged to-day, and from which we have this moment returned, at 9:30 p. m., to apprise you as to how completely paralyzed we are for the want of a battery of heavy guns to command the channel and one field battery of effective rifled guns to enable us to drive the enemy's steamers from almost every portion of the extended range of coast constantly threatened by them. During the entire period of our operations this afternoon one or more of the enemy's steamers has thrown shot and shell in rapid succession, sweeping almost the whole space in which the successive positions of our troops were taken, and at times greatly endangering them. Under the circumstances I am constrained to request that you will send me Captain Walker's light battery of rifled guns, or, in the event that it can not be spared, Captain Braxton's field battery, for a brief period of service which I consider of vital importance to the interests of the State. I am also constrained to delay the movement of Major Mayo's command, owing to the very critical condition of affairs in this district, rendering it necessary to employ strong pickets to-night and to commence the erection of breastworks at Mathias Point and near Grimes's house without a moment's delay, and for which purpose detachments are now moving to the ground, until I may be enabled to receive further orders of the general in the case. I have reason to apprehend that the enemy may return strongly reinforced before morning. I have the gratification of being able to bear testimony as to the excellent tone which has been exhibited by this command to-day and the zeal with which officers and men have participated in the stirring scenes through which we have passed.

In conclusion I feel constrained to express the opinion, in which all the field officers concur, that without artillery this command can not hold this important position and prevent the enemy from effecting a substantial lodgment and strike an irretrievable blow against the interest and material defenses of the State.

I have to request that this communication may be forwarded to the War Department of the Confederate Government as my report of the events of the day.

I am happy to state that no casualties have occurred to our forces.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Colonel, Provisional Army.

Lieutenant H. H. WALKER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General,
Hdqrs. Department of Fredericksburg, Brooke's Station, Va.*

Report of Major Mayo, C. S. Army.

MATHIAS POINT, VA., *June 28, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor of communicating to you the action of my command yesterday. About 3 o'clock I received a communication from Colonel Brockenbrough that the enemy were landing at the point and that he wished my cooperation. The distance from my camp to the point is about 3 miles. I immediately put my command, consisting of one cavalry and three infantry companies, in motion. On arriving near the point I found Colonel Claybrook with several companies in reserve. Being confident that I was better acquainted with the topography of this point than almost any officer in this district, I determined, without waiting further orders, to take my command through the woods in an entirely different direction from that followed by Colonel Brockenbrough and yourself. Having heard from Colonel Brockenbrough's pickets that they thought the enemy were erecting a battery in the pines on the end of the point, I took ten men from Captain Gouldin's company, and, halting the rest of my forces, went into the bushes with them to ascertain the correctness of the report. Having progressed some distance into the pines, and on the immediate brink of the river, where we could see a steamer and a sail vessel about 300 or 400 yards from the shore, I found that my skirmishing party was too small to examine properly the ravines and bushes, and returning to my command deployed Captain Gouldin's company and Lee's Legion (under command of Lieutenant Beale, Captain Garnett being sick and absent) dismounted as skirmishers, leaving the rest of my command in reserve. We swept entirely through the bushes on the point and did not get in view of the enemy until we reached a marsh that separated us from them, and was entirely commanded by the steamer and the vessel. On arriving in this position we discovered the enemy getting into their boats about 250 or 300 yards distant, and we immediately commenced a fire both upon the boats and the steamer. The boats returned our fire two or three times, and then all of their men, except two or three who had fallen overboard, lay down in their boats and it was some time before they could get their oarsmen to pull the boats from the shore.

We feel confident, from the number of men who never rose from the bottom of the boats and the blood upon the shore, that there were eight or ten killed and several more wounded.

After we had fired five or six rounds the steamer opened fire upon us with shot and shell, but by making my men lie down nobody was hurt. After firing several times went high up the river in order to meet their boats, which could not come to them, as they would have to approach nearer to our skirmishers. Having accomplished my purpose I would

not allow my men to cross the marsh, as it would have exposed them to a raking fire from the steamer, but returned in the same direction we had come.

I have never realized until yesterday how absolutely necessary artillery is at this point. With a single smooth-bore 12-pounder I could have sunk the steamer and vessel without exposing my men more than they were. I am happy to say that my men acted very gallantly throughout the action.

Very respectfully submitted.

RO. M. MAYO,
Major, Commanding.

Colonel D. RUGGLES.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of United States vessels.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, June 28, 1861.

SIR: The U. S. S. *Pawnee* arrived at this yard at 9:30 a. m., with the body of Commander Ward on board.

The tug *Rob. Leslie* returned to this yard at 3 p. m. from Fortress Monroe, etc.

The steamboat *Mount Vernon* left the yard at 6:30 p. m. for Fortress Monroe.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, to assume command of the Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 28, 1861.*

SIR: Upon the completion of your duties as a member of the court-martial now in session at New York, you will proceed to Washington City and report in person at the Department for the command of the naval flotilla employed on the Potomac River.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
[*Secretary of the Navy.*]

Commander THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
New York.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, of the condition of that vessel upon his assuming command.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Off Aquia Creek, June 28, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order* of yesterday I assumed command of this vessel.

* See p. 539.

Upon examination I have to report that the condition of said vessel is far from serviceable. The frequent firings from her heavy 32-pounders and stern gun have very much shattered the upper works and weakened the frame, at no time a strong one. The crew are very much worn out by exposure, bad quarters, want of fresh provisions, and constant, severe duty. The ship's account of stores, men, and ammunition seems to be in utter confusion, as the crew's stores, etc., of all the flotilla come under one head. The sudden death of Commander Ward has deprived me of all clue to readily taking it in hand. The accounts are still at the navy yard, New York.

On an examination of the magazine I found only 67 charges of powder, 32 shell, 100 round shot, no grape. The 32-pounder gun is worn, honeycombed, and past effective service.

The provisions of the flotilla are very much reduced, as per report from Acting Paymaster [Edward] Foster enclosed. The propellers [sic] order from this ship. I enclose engineer's report on condition of engines and boilers, which speaks for itself. The vessel leaks badly. On yesterday eleven Sharps rifles were lost by the men of this ship, leaving only ten on board, insufficient to arm her men for proper defense.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, etc.,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Senior Officer Blockading Potomac.

[Enclosure.]

POTOMAC RIVER, *June 27, 1861.*

SIR: The following damage has been done to the machinery of the U. S. S. *Freeborn* and will need repairing.

The engine is very much out of line; the expansion joint on the exhaust pipe is cracked, and the joint on the condenser and steam chest is blown out, all caused by the cannonading the vessel has been subjected to.

A great amount of sand has accumulated in the boilers, on account of our having been run ashore so often, and require cleaning. Steam has been kept on the boilers constantly since the 12th June.

The vessel is leaking very freely, caused by having been hard aground several times.

There are about fifteen tons of coal aboard. The state of the machinery is such that, in my opinion, the repairs should be made without delay.

C. B. SPENCER,
Chief Engineer.

Lieutenant R. B. LOWRY, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla (pro tem.), forwarding information regarding shipment of goods in the Potomac River.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 28, 1861.*

The following is copied from a letter received at this Department:

BALTIMORE, *June 26, 1861.*

When in Washington on Tuesday morning I had the pleasure of having a conversation with you in regard to parties shipping goods in the lower part of Maryland, to be shipped thence to Virginia.

I promised to call and see you again before I left for Baltimore, but business prevented me.

I hasten to give you all the information I can. The name of it (the boat) is *Ada*, of Baltimore, bound for the Rappahannock River. The captain's name is Sutton. Schooner painted dark green, with a red stripe round her bends. The gentleman who shipped the goods on the above vessel left here on last Friday afternoon in the steamer *St. Nicholas* for Leonardtown, Md., with a young girl in his charge for the purpose of carrying letters and papers on her person, and from there, or some other point in the neighborhood, to cross the Potomac for the Virginia shore.

The party's name is William Bayne, doing a cigar and tobacco business in the city of Baltimore, and having a brother in Westmoreland County, Va., doing business at Baynesville, Va., 2 miles from the Potomac, opposite Port Tobacco, Md.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Commander S. C. ROWAN.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, of condition of affairs on his line of blockade.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Off Aquia Creek, June 29, 1861.

SIR: I have to report all quiet on my line of blockade. Yesterday the enemy at this place exposed five large fishing boats filled with armed men, which he was exercising up and down the beach, in embarking and disembarking and other drills belonging to boat expeditions. At sunset the five boats were left off the beach at different points, extending from the outer point with the White House as far as the gorge below the railroad curve. I am convinced that he is preparing his men for boat service of some sort. Not feeling able to defend this vessel, with her guards and bulwarks, against a strong boarding party, I deemed it prudent to move my position till daylight.

The *Reliance* reconnoitered off Mathias Point all of yesterday. Lieutenant Mygatt reports seeing a large body of men and a camp near Grimes's house. The master's mate in charge of schooner *Dana* reported seeing men at work near where the *Pawnee's* party had been. Three armed steamers from Boston, with the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment, passed this morning at 9 a. m. They reported having tried their guns on the point with shell.

Two of those steamers seemed admirably adapted for service in this river, one being armed with four heavy broadside guns, the other with a bow and stern chaser, evidently rifle; names *Oambridge* and *Pembroke*. On going to quarters last night at 11, owing to the suspicious movements of a steamer, which proved to be the U. S. S. *Mount Vernon*, I found great difficulty in working the gun carriages of this vessel. In shifting the guns from the turntable to the slide, great nicety must be observed, as the slightest deviation from a straight line destroys the continuous line of rails and prevents the running out to fighting position. A connecting block in front of the gun is also difficult of adjustment; this, at night when the men must go by feeling, is a serious objection.

There is not in this vessel one cartridge belt or box, not one belt for captain of gun; never has been.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. LOWRY,

Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,

Senior Officer of Flotilla.

[Endorsed on envelope.] Since sealing this two trains of cars have arrived at Aquia filled with troops.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *June 29, 1861.*

Captain Rowan wishes the *Guy* to be sent down the river immediately with some coal for the *Reliance* and *Resolute*, which they need to proceed to the Rappahannock to intercept the schooner *Ada*.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *June 29, 1861.*

Send her immediately.

GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREN,

Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, senior officer present, Potomac River, to Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, to proceed in search of schooner Ada, of Baltimore.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,

Navy Yard, Washington, June 29, 1861.

SIR: On the receipt of this order you will dispatch, without delay, one of the tugs, the *Reliance* or *Resolute*, to blockade the Rappahannock River at its entrance and to keep a vigilant watch for the schooner *Ada*, of Baltimore, reported to be bound there with provisions for the rebels. You will direct the commander of the tug to take from the *James Guy* as much coal as will be necessary for a blockade of two weeks, at the expiration of which he will return to Aquia Creek, unless he should sooner fall in with and capture the *Ada*, in which case he will return with his prize to Washington, reporting to you en passant.

The *Ada* is a schooner belonging to Baltimore, painted dark green, with a red stripe round her bends.

The captain's name is Sutton. William Bayne is the name of the shipper. He left Baltimore for Leonardtown in the *St. Nicholas* on Friday, accompanied by a young girl for the purpose of carrying letters on her person.

You will order the other tug to visit Leonardtown and St. Marys, and should the vessel be found there or in the river or in the bay you will direct either of the tugs to capture her.

I send you coal and provisions. Distribute them as required and see to the wants of the schooners.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, and Senior Officer in the *Potomac*.

Lieutenant R. B. LOWRY,
Commanding Steamer *Freeborn*, *Aquia Creek*.

Capture of the steamer St. Nicholas, June 29, 1861.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Thomas Freeborn*, forwarding information regarding the capture of the steamer *St. Nicholas*.

[U. S. S.] FREEBORN,
Off *Aquia Creek*, June 31 [July 1], 1861.

SIR: I send Acting Master Budd to you with information conveyed by Lieutenant Mygatt. Mr. Budd's reports will convey to you the state of affairs down below. I think Mr. Mygatt did right in going to flag-officer at Hampton.

I shall guard the river as well as I possibly can. On every hand the rebels seem to be getting bolder, while our force is getting weaker. I send the two men captured by Mygatt. Please send the *Resolute* back at once, as I am all alone.

[R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding.]

[Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding Steamer *Pawnee*, *Aquia Creek*.]

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. RELIANCE, June 30, 1861.

SIR: After leaving the steamer *Mount Vernon* I made the best of my way down the Potomac River.

On my way down a boat was seen that was trying to escape to the Virginia shore. In it were two men. They state that the *St. Nicholas* was captured by a party of men off Point Lookout, who went on board in women's clothes at the point and took possession of her after leaving the wharf. She was afterwards taken into Coan River and then taken down the bay, the man says, into the Rappahannock.

He accounts for his being in the river by saying that he had taken some men over who were on their way to Baltimore, and that they gave him \$5 in paper money. On examining I found \$13 in Virginia paper money and 70 cents in silver. Under the circumstances I think it best to send the men to you.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. P. K. MYGATT,
Acting Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Commanding R. B. LOWRY,
Commanding U. S. S. *Freeborn*.

[P. S.]—Upon consulting with Mr. Budd I find that it is not known where the *St. Nicholas* is. Both he and myself think that the best plan is for me to go right to the Roads and inform Flag-Officer Stringham, as there is a chance of the steamer's doing much mischief. A ves-

sel can get to the mouth of the Rappahannock sooner from Old Point than from Washington. Hoping that you will approve of the decision, I remain, your obedient servant,

J. P. K. MYGATT,
Acting Lieutenant.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 1, 1861.*

The *Reliance* is up from below and reports the seizure of the *St. Nicholas* at Point Lookout on Saturday morning, supposed to be taken to the Rappahannock.

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington.

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 1, 1861.*

SIR: The *Resolute* has just (2 p. m.) arrived from below, bringing information of the seizure of the *St. Nicholas* at Point Lookout by a party of men just after midnight on Saturday morning. They carried the steamboat over to Coan River, and after a short stay left, supposed for the Rappahannock.

The *Freeborn* is off Aquia, and reports that the *Page* has had steam up; also the presence of three large launches at Aquia wharf with men, who are being exercised.

The *Reliance* reports the continued passage of men from Maryland in the lower Potomac. Passed Mathias Point early this morning and saw only the usual pickets.

I regret to say that the *Pocahontas* has not yet left Alexandria. Captain Dove came up to the yard not long since, and I urged him to return to his vessel and proceed at once down the river.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from Charles Worthington esq., to the Secretary of the Navy, reporting the capture by a party of Confederates of the steamer *St. Nicholas*.

WASHINGTON, *July 1, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: The steamer *St. Nicholas* left Baltimore on Friday last at 4 p. m., laden with freight for the consumption of the citizens of St. Mary's and Charles counties, Md., and with other cargo for Washington, Alexandria, and Georgetown. She also had on board a number of passengers who were to be landed at her regular landings on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River.

It is reported by the officers of the steamer *Diamond State*, which arrived here on Saturday, that they saw her about 1 o'clock that morning leaving Point Lookout and heading under great speed for the Virginia shore, presumed to be destined to Kinsale. There is no doubt but that she was taken forcible possession of either by parties who came passengers on her from Baltimore or by a force from Virginia.

It is not known that she had on board any suspicious persons when she left Baltimore, but such may have been the case unknown to her officers. Nothing has been heard of her since.

I will add that after an interview with yourself and your chief clerk a week since, I took passage on her on Tuesday last for Baltimore for the purpose of consulting with Captain Ward as to the most effectual mode of preventing the landing on the Maryland shore of any articles intended for transportation across the river into Virginia and at the same time avoiding any unnecessary detention to her. The arrangement we made was mutually satisfactory, and he promised to meet her on every Saturday morning at the mouth of the river and give her a pass to proceed on her trip. But alas! he is no more. Doubtless ill-disposed persons took advantage of the absence of a Government vessel and made the seizure. As the lives and property of loyal citizens of Maryland and the District of Columbia are hazarded by her detention, may I ask that measures may at once [be] taken for her recapture.

Yours, respectfully,

CHAS. WORTHINGTON.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Letter from Samuel Hinks, esq., to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding steamer *St. Nicholas*.

BALTIMORE, *July 2, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I heard to-day that the steamboat *St. Nicholas* affair was a trap set to catch the *Pawnee*. There may be other enterprises of the same character on foot and it would be well to be on the lookout for them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL HINKS.

Hon. G. WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Order of the Secretary of War of the Confederate States to Brigadier-General Holmes, C. S. Army.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, June 25, 1861.

SIR: You are authorized to cooperate with Lieutenant Lewis, C. S. Navy, with any part of the force under your command, as you may deem advisable, in the operations which he has explained to this Department and with which you are acquainted.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. P. WALKER,
Secretary of War.

General T. H. HOLMES,
Commanding at Fredericksburg.

Order of the Secretary of War of the Confederate States to Brigadier-General Holmes, C. S. Army.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, June 27, 1861.

SIR: If you deem the suggestions of Commander Lewis feasible you are authorized to detail 500 troops for the purpose of cooperating with

him. In doing this it would be proper to select from the different regiments under your command.

If, however, you do not concur with Commander Lewis in the feasibility of the undertaking, it will be proper for you to send a detachment of troops to Coan River to support him in the event he should find it necessary to run in at that point.

Very respectfully,

L. P. WALKER,
Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General HOLMES,
Aquia Creek, Va.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy of the Confederate States to the Secretary of War of the Confederate States.

[No date.]

DEAR SIR: General Holmes suggests that instead of obtaining volunteers from him you order the Tennessee regiment to the duty required in our joint machinations against the "peace and dignity" of Abraham and the *Pawnee*, and that a line from you to Colonel Bate would "enthuse" them, etc. Captain Maury calls on you at my request to attend to this. Our commander, Lewis, of the Navy, will command the party afloat and will succeed.

Truly, etc.,

S. R. M.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

Report of Brigadier-General Holmes, C. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS,
Brooke's Station, June 27, 1861.

SIR: In answer to yours relative to cooperating with Commander Lewis, Confederate Navy, I have respectfully to say that I did not feel justified in ordering volunteer troops on an expedition so fraught with ruinous consequences if it failed, and the success of which required that so many contingencies should be effectually accomplished. I referred the matter to the colonels of regiments and they declined to volunteer their men.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. H. HOLMES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Hon. L. P. WALKER,
Secretary of War.

Report of Brigadier-General Holmes, C. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS,
Brooke's Station, June 28, 1861.

SIR: Pursuant to your instructions received last night I dispatched Colonel Bate, with the effective force of his regiment present, to support Commander Lewis, C. S. Navy. I consider the command (about 400) unnecessarily strong, as Colonel Bate is positively ordered to take

no part in the expedition on the water. I sincerely hope your excellency will not consider me extra cautious in this matter, for when we consider that an indispensable requisite to success would be the absolute concealment of 300 or 400 men on a comparatively small steamer, and those men untrained volunteers, and that this is only one of several other contingencies equally difficult to be reconciled, it seems to me that success would be miraculous.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. H. HOLMES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Hon. L. P. WALKER,
Secretary of War.

Extracts from notes by Commander George N. Hollins, C. S. Navy.

At 6 o'clock a. m., June 18, 1861, I left Baltimore on the *Mary Washington*, a steamboat running to the Patuxent. On landing at one of the landings on the river I went to the plantation of Mr. S., where I suggested the idea (which originated entirely with myself), of seizing the *St. Nicholas*, a boat running between Baltimore and Washington, and manning her with volunteers, and then to take the *Pawnee*, a United States steamer commanded by Yankee Ward, and which was a great annoyance to the boats on the Potomac. I was told that the plan could not be carried out, as there were so many Union men about; that it must be certainly discovered before it could be executed. Finding I could not act there, I crossed the Potomac in an open boat pulled by four negroes. On reaching the Virginia side I went to the residence of Dr. Howe [Hooe], about 20 miles from Fredericksburg. This place I reached at 1 a. m. This gentleman was a perfect stranger to me, but he received me kindly, entertained me handsomely, he and his charming family so soon to be rendered houseless and homeless by the incendiary act of the vandal Captain Budd, of the United States gunboat, a name ever to be remembered, desecrated as the insulter of unprotected females, firing into barns and houses, and everything but what might have been expected of an officer or a gentleman.

The same day Dr. Howe [Hooe] chartered a buggy and drove me to Fredericksburg, where I arrived at 6 o'clock in the afternoon. On registering my name at the hotel, a gentleman, Mr. Chew, introduced himself to me and insisted most kindly on taking me to his house, where he entertained me most handsomely and hospitably. Next morning I went to Richmond on the cars. I immediately proceeded to the Navy Department and reported myself to the Secretary, and at once received my commission as captain in the Confederate States Navy. After getting my position and commission I went into the Bureau of Details, where I met many of my old friends, who had also resigned—Barron, Maury, Lewis, Spotswood, and many others. In conversation in that office I suggested my plan of seizing the *St. Nicholas* and carrying out the scheme that had suggested itself to me at Colonel S's. I was told that the Secretary, Mr. Mallory, would not agree to the plan, but that the governor (Letcher) would. I then remarked that I would obtain Mr. Mallory's permission to apply to the governor. I walked into Mr. Mallory's room and asked his permission. He granted it, and I at once went straight to the governor's. When I made my proposition, Governor Letcher, without a moment's hesitation, acceded to the

proposal and gave me a draft for \$1,000 to send North for arms and men, etc. He then and there introduced me to Colonel Thomas, of Maryland, alias Zarvona, as a person who could be trusted to go North and purchase arms or transact other business. That same afternoon I started off for Point Lookout via Fredericksburg. After leaving Fredericksburg I met my two sons, who were on their way to Richmond; they joined me, of course. That next evening we recrossed the Potomac to the Maryland side, St. Mary's County, where I went to the house of a friend and remained until sundown, when I, my two sons, and five men started in a wagon in a pouring rain, a nasty, dirty night, for Point Lookout, where the *St. Nicholas* had to stop on her way to Washington. About an hour after our arrival at Point Lookout the *St. Nicholas* came to the wharf. After reaching the Maryland side I signed the draft and Colonel Thomas took the Patuxent boat and went on to Baltimore and Philadelphia to purchase the arms, etc. I directed him to get the arms and return down the bay in the *St. Nicholas*, and get as many men to join him as he could. I also stated to him that I should join him at Point Lookout. At 12 p. m. midnight I went on board with my party; I saw Colonel Thomas dressed as a woman, to avoid suspicion, as he had high, large, trunks such as milliners use; they contained arms and ammunition. I told Colonel T. to hold himself in readiness; as soon as we cleared the wharf we would take the steamer. In a few minutes we left the wharf and I soon made the appointed signal. The trunks were then opened, the men seized the arms; I took a musket, or rather a Sharps rifle, and a pair of pistols, ran up to the wheelhouse, put my hand on the captain's shoulder and told him I had captured his boat, and ordered him to take the boat over to Coan River, but he declined, saying he was no pilot. I told him I knew he was a pilot and that if he did not pilot me over I would set fire to the *St. Nicholas* and land all my men in his boats, as I was determined she should not fall into the hands of the enemy. I learned since that the captain became so uneasy that another man piloted her over. About an hour after my arrival at Coan River Landing a body of Confederate soldiers and sailors came down to assist me, the soldiers commanded by Captain Lewis. I then read the Baltimore morning papers and ascertained that Captain Ward had been killed while making an attack on Mathias Point and all the gunboats had left the river and gone up the river to Washington to the funeral.

There were several passengers on board, but I landed them and gave permission to all who wished to return to Baltimore to do so. Few returned, as nearly all were on their way South, and although it was Sunday the ladies amused themselves by making Confederate flags out of the Yankee flags I had captured.

Finding there was no chance of capturing the *Pawnee*, and deeming it unsafe to remain where I was in a steamer without guns, I resolved to go up to Fredericksburg, and immediately ran out into the Chesapeake Bay. I saw a fine brig; ran alongside of her; she proved to be the brig *Monticello*, from Rio, loaded with coffee and bound for Baltimore. I merely captured her, taking the crew on board the *St. Nicholas* and leaving the captain and his wife on board, as I did not wish to terrify the lady or render her uncomfortable. I put Lieutenant Robert [D.] Minor on board with orders to take the brig to Fredericksburg. The coffee, a full cargo, was a great treat to our "boys in gray," who were already beginning to endure some of the many privations that made them in later days "truly an army of martyrs." In an hour or less I captured a schooner from Boston loaded with ice and bound for

Washington. I placed an officer and prize crew on board and dispatched her to Fredericksburg. The ice just got there in time, for the wounded and sick in the hospitals were suffering for the want of it; and the Yankee captain of the schooner attended the sale, and seeing the fine prices paid for the ice he came to me and proposed that he should go to Boston, get another vessel loaded with ice, bring her down and let me know precisely when to meet him that I might capture him, take the vessel to Fredericksburg, sell the ice and divide the proceeds. Would anyone but a Yankee have been guilty of such rascality? He had a splendid flag of a 74, an ensign that he had borrowed from the navy yard, Boston, to hoist on the occasion of Douglas's death, but of that same ensign a goodly number of secession flags were made. I next captured another vessel from Baltimore, loaded with coal, bound to Boston—a most fortunate prize, as I was on my last bucket of coal in the *St. Nicholas*. I filled up as I went along, as I began to feel a little fearful that some of the gunboats might be after me, so we went up to Fredericksburg, I towing my prize. We reached there safely. The Government bought the *St. Nicholas* for about \$45,000 and turned her into a gunboat. The coffee sold well, but as she was a Baltimore vessel and owned by gentlemen of that city, Government ascertained the price of the coffee in Baltimore and paid Messrs. Spence and Reid 12 cents a pound, and sold it at 25 or 30 cents in Richmond. The vessel was returned to the owners. I then went to Richmond and was ordered to the command of fortifications on the James River. After having been there for some time, and knowing I was not competent to build longshore fortifications, whatever other navy officers might have been, I applied for other duty more in the line of my profession, and was ordered to take command of the station at New Orleans, with the rank of commodore.

List of the officers and men of the steamer *St. Nicholas*, under command of Captain George N. Hollins, U. S. Navy, when she captured the prizes *Monticello*, *Mary Pierce*, and *Margaret* in Chesapeake Bay, June 29, 1861.

Officers.—George N. Hollins, captain; Charles C. Simms, Robert D. Minor, lieutenants; Charles E. Thorburn, lieutenant, Virginia navy; Thomas Skinner, acting master; Algernon S. Garnett, assistant surgeon; Charles Schroeder, first assistant engineer; John W. Tynan, second assistant engineer; John M. Maury, captain, provisional army of Virginia; Richard L. Maury, first lieutenant, provisional army of Virginia; — Harrow, — Yancey, Army officers.

Seamen.—John Curran, Peter Manning, John Colbert, Daniel W. Williams, Charles Summers, James M. Smith, Owen Corbatt, Hiram Whetmore, Louis Buissere, Antonio Frances, George Bennett, Henry Cheny.

Ordinary seamen.—James P. Hunt, James Murray, Nicholas Brady, Edward Cone.

Landsman.—James Thompson.

Maryland Zouaves.—Colonel R. Thomas of Richard, commanding; George H. Alexander, F. Gibson, lieutenants; Fred. H. Hollins, George N. Hollins, jr., William O'Keefe, William Powers, R. Fellon, Francis Duffin, Joseph Thompson, G. H. Frazier, John Daley, George Watts, John Brown, James Laughlin, Richard Fuller, Samuel Tatem, privates.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, transmitting report of Lieutenant Mygatt, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Reliance, regarding destruction of sloop Passenger.

[U. S. S.] FREEBORN,
Off Aquia Creek, June 30, 1861.

SIR: I enclose a report from Lieutenant Mygatt with papers. As it is near dark, with a heavy squall approaching, I do not wish to detain the *Mount Vernon* by an investigation.

Respectfully,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

Commander S. C. ROWAN, U. S. Navy,
Senior officer, Potomac Flotilla.

Referred to Captain Dahlgren with all the papers sent me.

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. RELIANCE, June 30, 1861.

SIR: This morning on my way down the river I fell in with a sloop capsized. A moment after we saw a man floating in the water, evidently trying to conceal himself by floating behind the centerboard, which he was using to make the best of his way to Virginia. Enclosed I send you some papers that were found on him which are apparently trivial, but may give some information.

She was the sloop *Passenger*, of Baltimore. The man's name is Kerr. He says that he crossed to Virginia on Thursday last. I have destroyed the sloop. I have not met the *Resolute*. Excuse my writing in pencil, as I am in a great hurry.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. P. K. MYGATT,
Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Commanding R. B. LOWRY,
U. S. S. Freeborn.

[P. S.]—I send the man to you with this. She is the sloop *Passenger*, of Baltimore. I have destroyed her. The man's name is Kerr. He says that he has deserted from Virginia. I do not believe him.

[Subenclosures.]

By steamer express to either Setterly Point, Hog Point, or Point Patience, in St. Mary's [County]; then to Newport, in Charles County, and from there to either Stony Point or Point Washington, in King George County, Va.

The boys all arrived safe across the Potomac. Give our respects to John Mortimer.

DAD.
HUGH.
SNIDER.

HENRY C. BALKMAN,
Corner of Gough and Register.

Order of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, senior officer present, Potomac River, to Lieutenant Prichett, U. S. Navy, to assume temporary command of tug Resolute.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Navy Yard, Washington, July 1, 1861.

SIR: You will assume temporary command of the steam tug *Resolute* and proceed in that vessel to Aquia Creek and report to the senior officer present.

You will remain in command until relieved by Acting Master Budd.

Respectfully, etc.,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, and Senior Officer in the Potomac.

J. M. PRICHETT,
Master, U. S. Navy.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of War, representing the need of troops at prominent points on the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 1, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that this Department is entirely satisfied from reports of its officers that the Potomac River will soon be closed by the batteries of the rebels unless one or more prominent points are occupied by the Federal troops.

I am, with high respect, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War, Washington.

[Telegram.]

[NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 1, 1861.]

SIR: Let the *Refrigerator** relieve the *Pocahontas* at Alexandria and send the latter down the river. Have the *Pawnee* got ready with the utmost dispatch.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of vessels.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, July 1, 1861.

SIR: The *Ice Boat* left this yard at 9 a. m. for Alexandria, Va.

The steamboat *Resolute* arrived at the yard at 2 p. m.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

* Known also as the *Ice Boat* and the *Release*.

[Telegram.]

[JULY 1, 1861.]

The *Refrigerator* may be used to pull off the *Cambridge*, returning to her station at night.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Captain. DAHLGREN.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 1, 1861.*

The *Pocahontas* is urgently needed down the river. Get underway immediately.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander B. M. DOVE,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, Alexandria, Va.

Order of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, senior officer present, Potomac River, to Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, to guard Aquia Creek.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Washington Navy Yard, July 1, 1861.

SIR: You will please remain off Aquia Creek until I arrive in this ship. I hope to leave here to-morrow morning. If the *Page* should attempt to get up steam you might possibly reach her with your 10-inch over the land, keeping your ship outside the enemy's batteries.

When I arrive I shall move you down to observe the point at Mathias. I send the tug down in command of Acting Master [Lieutenant] Prichett, Mr. Budd being absent from his vessel and has not appeared up to the hour of starting. Keep the tug also till I come.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander, and Senior Officer in Potomac.

Commander B. M. DOVE,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, off Aquia.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 1, 1861.*

The *Resolute* is leaving for below. The *Pocahontas* left Alexandria at 5 p. m.

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 2, 1861.*

Let the *Pawnee* and *Pocahontas* both remain down the river for the present. If there is nothing against the four men, discharge them.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

PHILADELPHIA, *July 2, 1861.*

The *Yankee* will leave early to-morrow morning. The *St. Lawrence* has been at the magazine since Saturday.

J. L. LARDNER.

Hon. G. WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Order from the commandant navy yard, Philadelphia, to Lieutenant Werden, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Yankee, to proceed to Washington, D. C.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, U. S. NAVY YARD,
Philadelphia, July 2, 1861.

SIR: Proceed with the steam tug *Yankee* to Washington and take with you the prize crew of the *Amelia*, which, on your arrival at Hampton Roads, you will report to Flag-Officer Stringham for orders relative to them. You will then proceed to Washington and report to the commandant of the navy yard and to the Department.

By order of the Secretary of the Navy:

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. L. LARDNER,
For the Commandant.

Lieutenant R. WERDEN,
Commanding Steam Tug Yankee, Philadelphia.

[Endorsement.]

U. S. S. MINNESOTA, HAMPTON ROADS,
Reported July 5, 1861.

You will proceed to execute the remaining part of your orders.
Respectfully,

S. H. STRINGHAM,
Flag-Officer Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, of the arrival of that vessel off Aquia Creek.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, July 3, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival off this place. I shall proceed to Leonardtown and St. Mary's this evening, leaving the *Pocahontas* at Mathias Point and the *Resolute* and *Freeborn* to guard Aquia.

560 OPERATIONS ON THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK.

From all I can learn I fear the rebels are working at masked batteries at Mathias Point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. O. ROWAN,

Commander, and Senior Officer Present.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, senior officer present, Potomac River, regarding movements of vessels in those waters.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,

Off Mathias Point, July 3, 1861.

SIR: On my way to St. Mary's and Leonardtown I fell in with the tug *Reliance* on her return from Hampton Roads and the Rappahannock. Lieutenant Mygatt reported to Flag-Officer Stringham that the steamboat *St. Nicholas* had been captured and taken into the Rappahannock. The *Penguin*, Commander Livingston, was ordered immediately to the mouth of the river and subsequently relieved by the *Mount Vernon*. The tug *Reliance* returned to the Potomac, touching at St. Mary's and Breton's Bay.

It is reported that the steamers *Patuxent*, *Planter*, and *Mary Washington* are in the habit of carrying numbers of men from Baltimore and landing them at some point on the Patuxent from whence they cross to the Potomac and so into Virginia.

I passed Mathias Point to-day without seeing anyone. The point is apparently deserted. I saw no signs of entrenchments. The *Pocahontas* is anchored off the point, keeping a close watch on the rebels' movements.

Lieutenant Mygatt, commanding *Reliance*, reports serious defects in the engine, which makes it necessary to send him to Washington for repairs. The engineer's report of defects is herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. O. ROWAN,

Commander, and Senior Officer in Potomac.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of Navy, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Acting Master Woods, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Mount Vernon, to proceed to Fort Monroe and return.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,

Washington, July 3, 1861.

SIR: Proceed with the *Mount Vernon* to Fortress Monroe and deliver such papers and articles as are given you for that purpose.

You will enquire whether the rough casting of a heavy cannon has arrived from New York, and bring it with you to this place.

Receive from the *Roanoke* the men which the Navy Department has directed to be sent to this yard and then return.

Communicate by the way with our vessels in the Potomac and observe carefully the condition of the river shores, particularly Mathias Point, Aquia, and the White House Bluff.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Acting Master [D. C.] WOODS,
Commanding Steamer Mount Vernon.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], July 3, 1861.

The *Guy* is just in from below. Reports the *Pawnee* grounded last evening above Aquia. Pulled her off this morning. Passed *Pawnee*, *Freeborn*, and *Resolute* at Aquia. *Pocahontas* had gone lower down.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], July 3, 1861.

The *Pocahontas* reports having been close in with Mathias Point, and upon careful examination could not see any one nor a sign of batteries.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding the erection of batteries on the Potomac.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Mathias Point, July 4, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that yesterday I left here early in the morning for Aquia Creek to look after the smaller steamers and examine the river, and had the pleasure of seeing also the *Pawnee* and *James Guy* there. After communicating with Captain Rowan and sending letters by the *Guy*, I returned here in the afternoon.

The steamers *Ben Deford* and *Pembroke* came down past the point in company with me.

On passing Nanjemoy Reach the officer in charge of the tender *Dana* reported that during my absence a large party of men came down on the point and tore down two fish sheds and carried off the boards for the purpose, he supposed, of erecting batteries.

The large lighter or longboat used by Captain Ward having dragged her anchor from the Maryland to the Virginia shore, I towed her back again. I cautioned the two steamers about passing too near the point and to keep outside of me, as the report of batteries might be true, the absence of the fishing sheds confirming it partly.

They mistook a wood pile for one and opened fire as they went by. Their shells were well thrown, but it was a useless expenditure. I anchored near the same position I had before and could discover nothing. One part of the point is a dense pine thicket; the other and the highest, where Captain Ward attempted to make a lodgment, is partly cleared, but nothing is yet visible.

Professor Lowe and his military balloon are the only means of ascertaining the fact of erecting fortifications. The commanding officer of the *Dana* also reports that a schooner in passing was fired at with rifles.

Both the *Freeborn* and *Reliance* are in bad condition and it is a difficult matter to decide which can be best spared. Captain Rowan passed by yesterday, bound down, to be absent two or three days. He sent me a short note, leaving the matter to me, but I can only decide on consultation with Lieutenants Lowry and Mygatt, whom I will see this afternoon, as I will go up to Aquia for that purpose.

You will oblige me very much if you will send me down 100 bags of coal. The tops of the cylinders are quite exposed and a single well-directed rifle cannon shot may disable the steamer. I wish the bags for a barricade on the spar deck, around them, and to fill up the passages. The sooner I receive these bags the better, as there is no telling the emergency requiring them.

I have also to report the erection of an earthwork on the south side of Potomac Creek at the entrance. Three embrasures look toward the river and one to the northward across the creek.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. M. DOVE,
Commander.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington.

P. S.—The chief engineer informs me that there [were] 250 gunny-bags left at the navy yard by this ship in charge of your master laborer.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 4, 1861.*

The *Reliance* has arrived for repairs; reports the *St. Nicholas* in the Rappahannock, to which has been sent the *Mount Vernon*. All quiet at Mathias Point.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Capture of the sloop Teaser, July 5, 1861.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Pocahontas*, transmitting report of Master's Mate Ely, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner *Dana*, of the capture of sloop *Teaser*.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Nanjemoy Reach, July 5, 1861.

SIR: Enclosed are the license of the sloop *Teaser*, of Washington, and the report of Mr. Ely, of the schooner *Dana*, who brought her to, this afternoon. On examining the case I find that her owner was formerly keeper of the Long Bridge and gave up that office to join the

Confederates. The sloop has nominally been employed in fishing, but there seems little doubt that she has long been made use of for the purposes mentioned in the report.

A thorough search was made of her, but nothing like letters or papers could be found. She has two women as passengers and a load of crabs from St. Clement's Bay.

I have ordered the *Mount Vernon* to tow her up to Washington navy yard and to give the women more comfortable quarters on the way, subject to your approval.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. M. DOVE,
Commander.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding Steamer Pawnee, Aquia Creek.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. SCHOONER DANA,
Nanjemoy Creek, July 5, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you the capture of the sloop *Teaser*, answering to the following description, viz: Painted black, with a yellow bead and white topmast, clean built, and a fast-sailer. This sloop was reported to me nearly three weeks ago by the captain of a small fishing vessel as being engaged in carrying letters, arms, and other contraband goods from the Maryland to the Virginia shore. My informant was unwilling to give me his name, fearing (as he said) that in the event of the capture of the *Teaser* the owner of her might by some means find out who gave me the information and do him some personal injury. Since then I have heard the same reports concerning the *Teaser* from other vessels trading up and down the river. Their testimony concerning her corresponded exactly with what I had heard at first. I have consequently been on the alert for her and this afternoon succeeded in capturing her.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. ELY,
Master's Mate, in Charge of U. S. Schooner Dana.

COMMANDING OFFICER,
U. S. S. Pocahontas.

Statement of Dr. John B. Blake to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the character of the owner of the sloop *Teaser*.

JULY 8, 1861.

DEAR SIR: The bearer, Mrs. Huselman, informs me that while on her way to this city in her son's sloop, the *Teaser*, the sloop was seized by a United States vessel and ordered to report to you at the navy yard. I know the old lady and her son Charles well. They formerly lived in this city, but are now residents of Charles County, Md. They are honest, truthful, and in all respects well-meaning people, and I do not think would do anything wrong knowingly. Charley mainly depends upon ducking and fishing for the support of his old mother and his wife and four children.

Very truly, yours,

JNO. B. BLAKE.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREEN,
Commanding Washington Navy Yard.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant navy yard, Washington, for the release of captured sloop *Teaser*.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 13, 1861.*

SIR: From representations made to the Department by responsible parties in Washington—Dr. John B. Blake, Dr. William B. Magruder, and others—of the good character and intentions of the owner of the small sloop *Teaser*, seized by the *Dana* and brought to the navy yard, I think the vessel should be released and the persons who were on board permitted to return to their homes. You will therefore be pleased to give directions to that effect.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, regarding the rescue of schooner J. W. Maitland.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., July 6, 1861.

SIR: I enclose herewith a report made by Lieutenant Lowry, commanding the *Freeborn*, of the manner he rescued the schooner *Maitland*, laden with Government property, from a most perilous situation, and of the conduct of the officer in charge of the steamer *Yankee*.

I would call to the recollection of the Department the fact that a schooner had been burned a few days since at this point, and had it not been for the presence of the *Freeborn* and the exertion made by Lieutenant Lowry this schooner would have shared the same fate. The conduct of the *Yankee* was doubly reprehensible in not offering assistance to the schooner and in treating with contempt the order of Lieutenant Lowry. I refer the matter for the consideration and action of the Department.

These men should be taught common civility at least, and if they persist in refusing to answer hails, as some of them do, they may get shot. In these times we can't tell at night who are friends unless we get prompt evidence.

Lieutenant Lowry would have been justified in sending a shot after the *Yankee* and compelling him at all hazards to answer him and explain the reason for his hurry.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE, *July 6, 1861.*

SIR: While proceeding down the Potomac last night, about 11:30 p. m., I observed several suspicious lights on board of some vessels. On giving chase I found that the Government steamer *Mount Vernon*

had been on shore off Yates Shoal, and that she had left the Government steamer *Yankee* hard aground on the same shoal. I steamed to within hailing distance and anchored. I then found the schooner *J. W. Maitland*, from Philadelphia (with 280 tons of Government coal on board), hard aground on Lower Cedar Point shoals, and within three cables' length of the *Yankee*. As this was the place, the most dangerous on the river, where the Virginia rebels had burned a vessel under the same circumstances, I decided to remain by them till daylight. At about 3:30 a. m. the *Yankee* floated and steamed within 20 yards of me. I hailed him and received for a reply, "Halloo." I said, "This is the *Freeborn*; that schooner is loaded with Government property. I want you to lie by me till I get her off, when I want you to convoy her to Mathias Point." To my utter surprise, the *Yankee* took no further notice, but steamed directly up the river without taking the slightest notice.

I have no knowledge who the commander of the *Yankee* is, but as she is in the employ of the United States, I suppose he is subject to some of the rules of the naval service. If he is my senior in the service he exhibited an amount of discourtesy and indifference to the public service not usual; if my junior, a positive disrespect to me, which sanctions me in asking for the action of the Department. My consideration for him and the public service prompted me to stay by him all night when I had other important duty to perform.

Finding the schooner *J. W. Maitland* in a precarious situation, I remained by her, using every exertion to get her afloat. To that end I transferred from her to this ship about 25 tons of coal for the use of the *Freeborn*. Having parted all the hawsers and lines belonging to this vessel and the schooner, I proceeded to Nanjemoy and obtained a new 4½-inch manila hawser; with this I was fortunate enough to get the *Maitland* afloat at 3 p. m., having worked at her incessantly for nearly twelve hours. The crew and engineer department are very much exhausted, while the engineer reports his engine needing repairs very badly.

I have towed the *Maitland* to this anchorage.

I am, very respectfully, etc., your obedient servant,

R. B. LOWRY,

Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

Commander S. O. ROWAN,

Senior and Commanding Officer, Potomac Blockade.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of demonstration by that vessel on the steamer George Page, July 7, 1861.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Aquia Creek, July 9, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that on the suggestion of Commander Rowan I made a demonstration on the *George Page*, steamer, last Sunday morning.

I got underway and steamed up the river a short distance to enable me to get ready for action, lowered down the launch and starboard quarter boat and towed them astern; shifted the port quarter-deck gun to the starboard gangway, making four in battery. When all ready I

ran down the Virginia shore to about 500 yards of Brent's Point. The *Page's* smoke pipe was the target and I estimated the distance to her across the point about 500 more. Heel of the steamer by the spirit level of the pivot gun was 1 degree. A quartermaster was stationed in the fore-topmast crosstrees with a spyglass to observe the effect.

The first shell from the 10-inch was directed admirably by Lieutenant Semmes, and broke, after grazing the top of the hill on or immediately over her. Four shots were then fired from the batteries on the hills south of the creek, but we were not within their range and they discontinued. After our first shot a large gang of men was immediately set to work on the *Page*, but for what purpose the lookout could not determine. Some of the 32-pounder shells broke well, but the most of them were too high. Three round shot from them ricocheted in the creek and went into the cornfield on the other side. The third and last shell from the 10-inch I think set the *Page* on fire. There was smoke of a different color from that of the charge, which lasted about ten minutes, the men at work on her all the time.

We laid off about an hour, during which we were able to throw about fourteen shells. The steamer grounded in backing up nearer the shore, but she did not stick long.

The *Page* was moved higher up the creek, out of range, and I returned to the anchorage at 7 a. m. on the Maryland side. She was afterwards again moved down to a place from which her smoke pipe could not be seen.

I ought to add that the gangway gun was manned by our marine guard, and they made the second best shot of the 32-pounders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. M. DOVE,
Commander.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, of the discovery of a torpedo in the Potomac River, July 7, 1861.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Aquia Creek, Va., July 9 [7], 1861.

SIR: This afternoon two large casks were seen floating down the river, passing within some 200 yards of this ship. The *Resolute* being in the act of getting underway to proceed down the river on special service, went to the casks and brought them alongside of her with one of her boats. Mr. Budd towed them under the stern of this ship, when I directed him to be careful, that they might be explosive machines acting upon concussion or friction, and to tow them to Nanjemoy to the schooner, and there land them on shore and examine them and report to me the result. In doing so one of the casks sprung a leak and sunk. I enclose a diagram of the machine, drawn by Mr. Budd, which I find upon personal examination to be correct of the one saved, and the other was of course of the same character. The evident intention of the design of the machine was to drop it down with the tide, and at a suit-

able distance to set fire to matches, and when it had swung across the cable with one of the machines close under each bow, to explode in due time and so destroy the ship.

The idea was a wicked one, but the execution clumsy. I send the machine by the *Freeborn* to Captain Dahlgren to receive that close and thorough examination on shore which would not be safe to make on board ship.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. O. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosures.]

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, *July 8, 1861.*

SIR: On proceeding down the river to destroy the infernal machine I picked up yesterday morning I discovered that there was some heavy substance attached to the casks underneath the surface of the water. On attempting to raise one of the casks, which had partially filled, the iron straps parted and it immediately sank. I secured the other, with its attendant torpedo, and hoisted the whole affair on board this vessel complete.

The apparatus in its perfect state consisted of two large oil casks connected by 25 fathoms of $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch manila line, the line being kept on top of the water by corks secured to it at intervals of 2 feet. Underneath each cask, at a distance of 6 feet, was slung an iron cylinder, 4 feet 6 inches in length and 18 inches in diameter at one end and 17 inches at the other. The fuze for igniting the combustible material contained in the cylinder was placed in the cask in the following manner: The upper end of the fuze was secured on the top and near the outer end of the cask, being protected from moisture by a square box and gutta-percha pipe following it through the aperture it was placed in. It was carefully coiled on a platform secured on the inside of the cask for the purpose of protecting it from any water that might lodge in the bottom. From the platform it entered a copper pipe that connected with a gutta-percha hose, the lower end of which was secured to the iron cylinder below. In each cask were two fuzes, each about 40 feet in length. All four had been on fire. Whether they were on fire or not when I first reached them I can not say, as my first act was to throw water down the air holes that were bored in the upper stave of each cask. I enclose a rough sketch with the distances marked according to measurements made by me at the time I secured the apparatus.

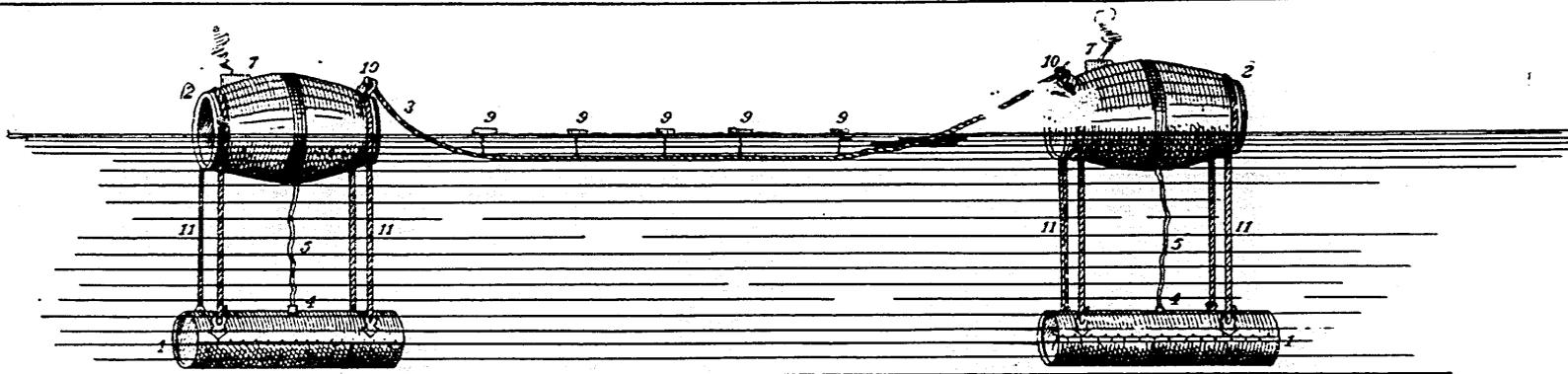
The sunken torpedo I think I can obtain, as I took ranges to determine its position before leaving the locality it went down in.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM BUDD,
Acting Master, Commanding Resolute.

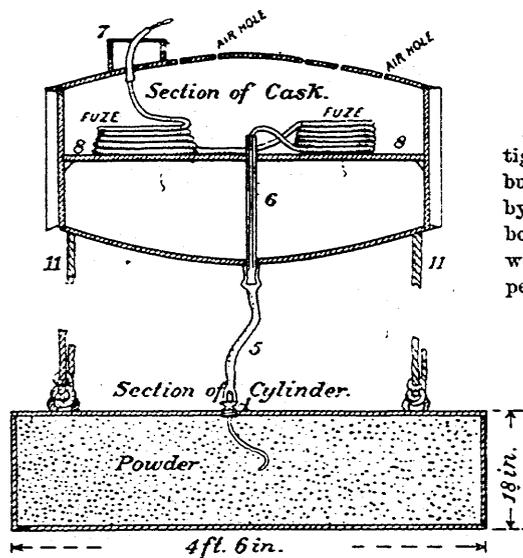
Commander S. O. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, Potomac Flotilla.

Machine designed to blow up the vessels of the Potomac Flotilla, set adrift by the rebels near Aquia Creek, and picked up floating toward the Pawnee, Sunday, July 7, [1861.]



REFERENCES.

1. Iron bomb, of boiler iron.
2. Casks, for buoys.
3. Connecting line to buoys.
4. Brass taps in bomb.
5. Gutta-percha fuze (connecting with bomb and cask).
6. Metal tube in cask.
7. Wooden box with gutta-percha tube and fuze.
8. Platform of cork for fuze.
9. Cork floats to buoy up line.
10. Iron handles to which line was secured.
11. Slings.



Description.—Two large, 80-gallon oil casks, perfectly water-tight, acting as buoys, connected by 25 fathoms of 3½-inch rope, buoyed with large squares of cork every 2 feet, secured to casks by iron handles. Suspended to casks, 6 feet under water, a heavy bomb of boiler iron heavily riveted, fitted with a brass tap, filled with powder. On top of cask a wooden box with fuze in gutta-percha tube. In center of cask a platform with fuze coiled.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of State, transmitting information regarding proposed plan for the capture of one of the Potomac River steamboats.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 8, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a memorandum that has been left with me giving information of a plan said to have been formed by a person named James O. Hurry, of Baltimore, for the capture of one of the steamboats plying between Baltimore and the Patuxent River. The memorandum is from a responsible source.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Enclosure.]

Memorandum.—A man of notoriously bad character named James O. Hurry, a resident of Baltimore, has formed a plan for the capture, during the present week, of one of the steamboats plying between Baltimore and the Patuxent River, either by putting his men on board the boat at Baltimore, or at Millstone Landing, on that river.

This Millstone Landing, or Point, is a position whence more smuggling of men and provisions is carried on than any other place in the Chesapeake waters. Small vessels are constantly plying between that position and the Rappahannock and Coan rivers, chiefly to the latter, where a Tennessee regiment is posted.

These vessels are run outside of Captain Budd's lines.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of cruise of that vessel in Potomac and Patuxent rivers.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,

Off Aquia Creek, July 9, 1861—1 o'clock.

SIR: The *Pocahontas* has just arrived from a cruise down the bay. Commander Dove's report is important. I enclose it for the information of the Department. I intended to have sent the *Freeborn* to the navy yard for repairs, but Lieutenant Lowry thinks under the circumstances and the necessity of having a force immediately in the bay that he can make her work a day or two longer.

I have dispatched her to Cape Lookout and the mouth of the Patuxent; the *Resolute* is ashore on the Kettle Bottom. I directed Lieutenant Lowry to get her off and take her with him, and be in position to-night to cut off communication to Coan River. I shall follow immediately in this ship, leaving the *Pocahontas* here.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS, July 9, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order I proceeded down the river and carried out the programme except as to communicating with the tender at Breton's Bay, which I did not find.

Nothing required my particular attention until I reached Point Lookout, when I learned that a pungy had come over from Coan River and landed the crews of the three vessels captured by the *St. Nicholas*. The crews proceeded by land to Millstone Landing, on the Patuxent, and the pungy went on a cruise up the Chesapeake Bay. She was manned by well-armed men, variously estimated from eighteen to thirty. I then debated whether I should send a force on board the tender stationed in the neighborhood with the howitzer, or whether I would go up to the mouth of the Patuxent myself in the steamer, and decided upon the latter cruise.

Upon arriving there yesterday afternoon about 7, I communicated with a Bremen bark, at anchor, and learned that the men overland arrived safely and had taken passage in the steamer *Mary Washington* for Baltimore, but that the piratical pungy had not been seen.

The notorious Thomas went up in disguise, and the idea of him and the armed party in the pungy is to capture the next steamer from Baltimore, which will be the *George Weems*. I have therefore to request that I may be allowed to return immediately and try to prevent it. The pungy is too powerful for any of the tenders and the presence of one of the larger steamers is very necessary between Point Lookout and the Patuxent.

All the inhabitants on the Maryland shore are put to great inconvenience from not having a regular steam communication as formerly by the line from Baltimore to Washington. It is of such importance to them as to require notice given to the Department to which it belongs.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN M. DOVE,
Commander.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Steamer Pawnee, Aquia Creek.

P. S.—The trip to the Patuxent and the hazy weather of last night, which obliged me to anchor at the narrows below, prevented my returning as soon as was indicated in your order of the 7th.

Instructions of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, ordered to command the Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 9, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed down the Potomac River as early as practicable and take command of all the naval vessels now employed there, viz: The *Pocahontas*, *Pawnee*, *Yankee*, *Freeborn*, *Release*,* *Reliance*, schooners *Chaplin*, *Dana*, and two others† whose names have not been furnished the Department, composing part of the flotilla under command of the late Captain J. H. Ward.

Your principal duty will be to blockade the coast of Virginia, agreeably to the proclamation of the President, excepting only the port of Alexandria.

A great deal is left to your discretion in the delicate duty of discriminating between loyal citizens and those who are in insurrection against the Government; but it is very important that a full and final end should be put to the intercourse between the two shores, and the capture or destruction of all vessels engaged in this crime is fully

* Known also as *Ice Boat*.

† *Bailey and Howell Cobb*.

warranted. You will give full protection to all vessels of loyal citizens passing on their lawful business and furnish the Department with frequent reports of your doings.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of United States vessels.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, July 9, 1861.

SIR: The steamer *Cambridge* left this yard at 9:30 a. m.

The steamer *Yankee* left the yard at 6:30 p. m. with Commander Craven on board, for the flotilla.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, of warning given to steamer George Weems.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Point Lookout, July 10, 1861.

SIR: I informed the Department under date of the 7th [9th] instant that I should move down the river with this ship, *Freeborn*, and tug *Resolute* for the purpose of intercepting the steamer *Weems* and frustrating the designs of the party that crossed to seize her. The *Freeborn* and tug were sent in advance to the Patuxent, while this ship followed shortly after and took a position for the night to cut the rebels off from Coan River.

Not being certain that the blockade of the Rappahannock was kept up, I left the Potomac as soon as the weather was clear enough to run and shaped a course for the Rappahannock. Arriving within 10 or 12 miles of that river, I saw a Government steamer at anchor, and being satisfied that all was safe, hauled toward the Virginia shore to examine a wreck, which I found to be a ship or bark that had been grounded on the flats, laden with corn. While making this examination the *Mount Vernon*, Commander Glisson, came up from the mouth of the Rappahannock and informed me that he held the mouth of that river. I returned to the mouth of the Potomac, where I found the *Freeborn* and *Yankee*.

Lieutenant Lowry's report of his visit to the Patuxent is enclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Potomac River, July 10, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order I proceeded down the river last night as far as St. Mary's, for the double purpose of securing an anchorage for the night—the night being dark and squally—and for supplying provisions to the schooner *Bailey*, which vessel I did not find at her anchorage. At 3:30 I got underway and stood by Point Look-out and thence to the Patuxent River. There I found at anchor the U. S. steam gunboat *Penguin*. Communicated with Commander Livingston, who informed me that he had been in search of a schooner named the *Georgiana*, said to be armed and full of men.

A plan was supposed to be laid to seize any steamer which might run to the Patuxent. At 8 a. m. the *Penguin* left. I remained till the *George Weems* came down the river; boarded her; found a large number of passengers, twenty-five men and about twelve women. Warned the captain about the attempt to take him. He vouched for all his passengers, that they were planters and farmers and that he knew every one of them. I beg leave here to suggest that all steamers running from Baltimore should have a guard of United States soldiers on board. I observed sufficient from the manner and bearing of the passengers to satisfy me that all were enemies of our flag and the Union.

The women did not hesitate to insult us by sneering remarks and cries of three cheers for Jeff. Davis. The object of [my] visit to the Patuxent being accomplished, viz, to look after the safety of the *Weems*, I have returned to await further orders.

Respectfully, etc., your obedient servant,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding *Freeborn*.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
U. S. S. *Pawnee*.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, of the impaired condition of that vessel.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Potomac River, Va., July 10, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that the condition of the *Freeborn* is such that repairs are positively needed to make her efficient. The battery requires changing, as the bow gun, a 32-pounder of 1819, is vent-worn, cracked, and unsafe. The gun carriages are very much broken by incessant use. The engines are very much out of line and various parts require repairing, an engineer's report of which I forwarded through Commander Rowan some weeks since. The crew is much reduced by detailing men for the schooners and by men going to New York with the body of Commander Ward who have not and who may not return. The arms and stores of the vessel are very much reduced in consequence of the affair at Mathias Point, when at least eleven Sharps rifles were lost. The effectiveness of the vessel has been kept up by a detachment of men from the *Pawnee* who must be returned to-night. The ammunition has been reduced to about 70 charges of all calibers, 26 shell, 70 round shot, 20 canister. The ship leaks badly, but that can be remedied

only by docking, which I do not propose. The engine pumps can keep her free.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,
 R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

Commander TH. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Potomac River.

Order of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, to Acting Master's Mate Frank, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Howell Cobb, to proceed to Point Lookout.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Potomac River, July 11, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed without delay to Point Lookout and report to Commodore Thomas T. Craven, commanding the Potomac Squadron, on board the U. S. S. *Yankee* at that anchorage, or to the senior naval officer present.

Respectfully, etc.,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

Master's Mate A. J. FRANK,
Commanding Schooner Cobb, etc.

Order of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, to Acting Master's Mate Gray, commanding U. S. schooner Bailey, to proceed to Point Lookout.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Potomac River, July 11, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed to Point Lookout and report to Commodore Thomas T. Craven, commanding the Potomac Squadron, on board of the U. S. S. *Yankee*, or to the senior officer then present.

Respectfully, etc.,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

[Acting] Master's Mate JAMES L. GRAY,
Commanding U. S. Schooner Bailey.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 11, 1861.*

The captain of police at the Capitol calls with a written request from General Mansfield to go by steam to Port Tobacco to arrest a person who is in possession of papers of great importance and who is to cross the river this evening. There is not time to wait an order from the Department, as every moment is stated to be important. I have therefore sent the *Guy* to take the captain of police down the river, hoping the Department would approve the action.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. SECRETARY OF NAVY.

[Endorsement.]

Approved.

G. W.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding movements of vessels.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, July 11, 1861.

SIR: The steamers *Baltimore* and *Philadelphia* left this yard at 10:45 a. m. and returned to the yard at 9 and 12 p. m., respectively.

The tug *James Guy* left the yard at 5 p. m. for Port Tobacco.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], July 12, 1861.

The *Guy* has returned and was successful in the arrest.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. G. WELLES.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding the pursuit and capture of one Taliaferro.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Aquia Creek, July 12, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that yesterday at 8:30 p. m. the steamer *James Guy* came down from the navy yard, having on board the U. S. marshal, in pursuit of one Taliaferro, who left Washington in the morning by stage for Port Tobacco, in whose trunk was correspondence for various parties in Virginia, which he intended to carry over and deliver.

The steamer having left the navy yard in great haste, and the marshal being of opinion that she had not sufficient force on board in case of resistance, her commanding officer applied to me; whereupon I sent the launch with her howitzer and crew armed with Sharps rifles and our marine guard, sergeant, and eleven men.

She was taken in tow by the steamer to Port Tobacco Creek [River] and this morning at 8 returned, having been entirely successful in the object of the expedition.

The marshal expressed himself much pleased with the assistance rendered and with the activity and zeal with which his orders were carried out by the party furnished to him.

The *Guy*, after returning the launch and men, proceeded up to Washington in all haste with the prisoner and his correspondence.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN M. DOVE,
Commander.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, U. S. S. Yankee, Aquia Creek.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], July 12, 1861.

The *Freeborn* has arrived; reports nothing new along the Virginia shore; brings up an infernal machine that had been set for some of our vessels.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. SECRETARY OF NAVY.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding the examination and detention of Mr. and Mrs. Travers.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Piney Point, July 13, 1861.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to enclose a report from Commander S. O. Rowan. Upon questioning Mr. Travers and his wife as to their motives in crossing the Potomac River they informed me that they had left their residence in Washington on Monday last for the sole purpose of receiving some valuable property which they had near the mouth of Coan River.

Mr. Travers was by my order thoroughly searched for papers, etc., and there being nothing found upon his person I ordered Acting Master Budd, in command of the *Resolute*, to take him to his place of destination and aid him in saving his property and while doing so not to allow him to communicate with any person on shore. Mr. Budd performed the duty assigned him, removing to the *Resolute* a quantity of household furniture from the shore, and returned to this anchorage at about 10:30 p. m. of yesterday.

The fact of Mr. Travers having so much luggage with him when captured excites in my mind the suspicion that he must have had some further object in view than that of landing for the purposes assigned, and I have thought proper to order Commander Rowan, who necessarily goes up the river for the purpose of filling up his water, to take them in charge and send them, under a proper officer, to Washington navy yard, there to await your further orders.

Since joining this flotilla the vessels composing it have been constantly and actively employed in cruising.

On my visit to the mouth of the Patuxent River on the afternoon of the 11th instant I learned that since the capture of the *St. Nicholas* there had been no communication by the usual steamers between that place and Baltimore and I have since heard it reported that the owners had withdrawn their steamers from that line.

On my way down the Potomac on the 10th instant I steamed sufficiently close in toward Aquia Creek to satisfy myself that there were one or two small batteries there, but not so well manned [or] armed as I had been previously led to believe; and passing within 600 yards of Mathias Point I could discover no indications of the rebels or of their having made attempts to fortify it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Piney Point, July 13, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order I got underway on the morning of the 11th instant and proceeded to the mouth of the Patuxent to look out for the schooner *Georgiana* and the steamer due from Baltimore. The Baltimore steamer had not made her appearance at sundown, when I left, although due at 12 o'clock m. I then proceeded to Cape [Point] Lookout, where I anchored at 10 o'clock p. m.

Next morning got underway and stood up toward Piney Point. About 11 a. m. saw a small boat under sail on the Virginia side standing toward the shore; stood for her and found it to contain two persons, a lady and gentleman named Travers, man and wife. I took them on board this ship with some baggage—a trunk, carpetbag, and bonnet box—and brought them to Piney Point, when I reported the circumstance to you. I shall put Mr. and Mrs. Travers on board the *Mount Vernon*, as you directed, to be landed at the navy yard, Washington.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. S. *Yankee*, Senior Officer in the Potomac.

Commendatory letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 15, 1861.

SIR: The Department has received your communications of the 6th, 9th, and 10th instant, with their respective enclosures from Commander Dove, of the *Pocahontas*, Lieutenant Lowry, of the *Thomas Freeborn*, and Acting Master Budd, of the *Resolute*.

The activity of yourself and the officers of the vessels acting under your orders in discharging their duties, respectively, is pleasing to the Department.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. *Pawnee*, Potomac River.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Gray, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Bailey, of services performed by that vessel.

U. S. SCHOONER BAILEY,
Potomac River, July 18, 1861.

SIR: According to your orders of the 12th instant I delivered all the coal, 175 bags, to the *Ice Boat*, Lieutenant Commanding [W. N.] Allen, retaining the empty bags on board. On Sunday, the 14th, while cruising in the river, spoke the propeller *Sophia*, bound to Washington, and received information from an officer on board of her that he saw a schooner close inshore near Coan River. Immediately made sail and

ran over to Virginia and examined it from Jackson's Creek to Coan River, but could not discover anything. At 4:30 p. m. came to anchor off Point Lookout. On Tuesday, 16th, went up the St. Mary's River for water, and while on shore had conversation with several of the planters in that vicinity; they all wished me to request of you to allow a steamer to run between Baltimore and Washington, allowing her to stop only at such points as you should see fit and by daylight. I have still on board the two negroes which I picked up off Lynch's Point on the evening of July 10. One, William Jenkins, says he is free; the other, Sam, says he is a slave, belonging to Colonel T. R. Shackelford, of Warsaw, Va., who is now at Mathias Point with the rebel troops.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES L. GRAY,

Acting Master's Mate, Commanding.

Commodore CRAVEN,

Senior Officer, Potomac Squadron.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of the seizure of the schooners Brunette and Ring Dove and other services performed by the vessels under his command.

U. S. S. YANKEE,

Off Aquia Creek, July 19, 1861.

SIR: On the morning of the 16th instant, while off the mouth of the Patuxent River, I was informed by an oysterman that there were two suspicious schooners anchored in the Nanticoke, on the eastern shore of Maryland. I immediately stood across the bay, and on our arrival at a point about 5 miles above Vienna, discovered the schooners *Brunette*, of Vienna, and *Ring Dove*, of Georgetown, D. C. The *Brunette* was found to be partially laden with about 10 tons of pig iron, 500 kegs of nails, and a quantity of camp kettles; the *Ring Dove* with about 80 tons of pig iron and two carboys of vitriol. Upon examining one George H. Stewart, who was on board the *Brunette*, he said the *Ring Dove* was loaded at Philadelphia and her cargo was consigned to some one in Richmond. The *Brunette* was loaded at Baltimore and was destined to Norfolk and Petersburg.

As there was no doubt that these two vessels were in the employment of the rebels, I have seized them and placed them in charge of Lieutenant Commanding R. H. Wyman, who is directed to take them to the navy yard at Washington and to await your further orders.

On Sunday last, as I was proceeding down the Potomac, off Mathias Point, spoke the steamer *Sophia*, bound to Washington. The officer in charge of her informed me that he [had] just been fired into from the point. The *Yankee* was then steamed in close under the land, and throwing three shells in among the trees I was unable to discover any signs of an enemy.

On Monday, with the *Resolute* and three boats from the *Pawnee* in company, I made a thorough reconnoissance of the Yeocomico and its branches. We found several small schooners there, but all except one had their sails unbent and had apparently been laid up for some time. The one with her sails bent, the *Favorite*, was evidently preparing for a trip outside. We took her in tow and anchored her off Piney Point, when, on my return yesterday, I found she had been sunk, either by

being carelessly run into by another vessel or from the neglect on my part to leave men on board to watch and keep her pumped out.

Yesterday morning Master Budd, commanding the *Resolute*, towed into Piney Point a fine little puny, the *Ocean Wave*, of Great Wicomico, which he had captured after a long chase off the mouth of the Great Wicomico. Her officers and crew made their escape by taking to their boat, taking with them everything from the vessel. She is now being employed under the direction of Commander Rowan, whom I have detailed to watch by night the coast from Smith's Point down toward the Rappahannock River, where I am satisfied from information obtained while in the Nanticoke, the greater part of the supplies furnished the rebels is conveyed from the eastern shore or Tangier Sound.

Those points—Tangier and Pocomoke sounds—require a thorough examination, and as I can spare the vessels, a search will be made. The *Resolute* left yesterday for Wicomico River, where I am informed is a schooner laden with supplies of ammunition for the rebels.

Commander Dove, with the *Pocahontas*, *Release*, and *Reliance*, is stationed off Aquia, where he is directed to watch the movements of the rebel steamer *Page*, and to offer protection to vessels passing up and down the river. The tenders *Bailey*, *Dana*, and *Cobb* are engaged constantly in affording convoy by day and in watching the movements of all boats by night. They are so stationed as to be within easy access of some one of the steamers of the flotilla.

Judging from appearances and from what Commander Dove has mentioned to me, I am satisfied that the rebels have been moving the greater part of their forces from the heights back of Aquia Creek. Their camp, which was quite conspicuous a few days ago, is now broken up.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding release of schooners Brunette and Ring Dove.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 29, 1861.

SIR: Upon papers that have been submitted to the honorable Secretary of State, he recommends the release of the schooners *Brunette* and *Ring Dove*, recently seized by Commander Craven, and you will therefore give the necessary orders to effect that object.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Petition of citizens of St. Inigoes, Md., to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding steamboat navigation in the Potomac.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD., July 21, 1861.

SIR: We, the undersigned, citizens of St. Inigoes district, in St. Mary's County, ask your kind offices to cause the resumption of the steamboat navigation between Baltimore and Washington, via Potomac

River, which has for some time past been interrupted, to the great injury and detriment of all persons living upon or contiguous to the Potomac River landings, leaving to the proper authorities such restrictions and regulations as the case may require.

We have the honor to be, your obedient servants,

A. J. FOXWELL.	O. N. EVANS.
RANDOLPH JONES.	THOS. J. BYRD.
C. M. JONES.	JOS. MILBURNE.
JAS. F. ELLICOTT.	HEFLEBOWER & Co. (Point
J. W. HERREST [FORREST?].	Lookout).
J. PITT FORREST.	J. E. BRUFFEY.
JAMES [illegible].	W. MURPHEY.
WM. P. SMITH.	B. F. MCKAY.
JNO. A. CRANE.	J. B. COURTNEY.
WM. C. BAYNE.	H. M. LANGLY.
JOS. T. ARTIS.	J. H. HOPKINS.
JNO. W. BENNETT.	JNO. G. LILBURN.
THOS. J. BENNETT.	JAS. K. JONES.
R. B. CRANE.	WALTER LANGLEY.
W. L. BISCOE.	N. B. LANGLEY.
ROBT. CRANE.	T. T. DRURY.
JAMES B. LOCKER.	JAS. H. MILES.

Commodore CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Squadron in Potomac River.

Cooperation of the U. S. Marine Corps in the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Colonel Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, regarding detail of marines.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 15, 1861.*

You will be pleased to detail from the barracks four companies of eighty men each, the whole under command of Major Reynolds, with the necessary officers, noncommissioned officers, and musicians, for temporary field service under Brigadier-General McDowell, to whom Major Reynolds will report. General McDowell will furnish the battalion with camp equipage, provisions, etc.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
U. S. Marine Corps.

Report of the Colonel Commandant U. S. Marine Corps, transmitting report of Major Reynolds, U. S. Marine Corps, of cooperation with the U. S. Army in the Bull Run campaign.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,
Washington, July 24, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose Major Reynolds's report of the proceedings of the marine battalion detached for service with the Army and recommend that they again be assigned, as they are wanted to their more legitimate duties in the corps.

I am, sir, very respectfully, yours,

JNO. HARRIS,
Colonel, Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, *Secretary of the Navy.*

P. S.—In view of the report made by Major Reynolds I recommend that the Department order an extra issue of blankets to the men who have lost them.

J. H.

[Enclosure.]

MARINE BARRACKS, HEADQUARTERS,
Washington, July 21, 1861.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report the movements and operations of the battalion of marines under my command, detailed to cooperate with the Army.

The battalion left the barracks at headquarters in time to reach the Virginia end of the Potomac Long Bridge at 3 p. m. July 16, and proceeded up the Columbia turnpike until an officer purporting to be the assistant adjutant-general of Colonel [Andrew] Porter's brigade came up and assigned us position in the line of march, which placed us immediately in the rear of Captain [Charles] Griffin's battery of flying artillery. This assignment was continued up to the period of the battle of Bull Run. On reaching the field, and for some hours previously, the battery's accelerated march was such as to keep my command more or less in double-quick time; consequently the men became fatigued or exhausted in strength. Being obliged at this period to halt, in order to afford those in the rear an opportunity of closing up and taking their proper place in line, the battery was lost to protection from the force under my command.

This I stated to Colonel Porter, who was ever present watching the events of the day. The position of the battery was pointed out and I was directed to afford the necessary support. In taking this position the battalion was exposed to a galling fire. While holding it, General McDowell ordered the battalion to cover or support the Fourteenth New York Regiment, which was about to be engaged. The battalion in consequence took the position indicated by the general, but was unable to hold it, owing to the heavy fire which was opened upon them. They broke three several times, but as frequently formed, and urged back to their position, when finally a general rout took place in which the marines participated. No effort on the part of their officers could induce them to rally. I am constrained to call your attention to the fact that, when taking into consideration the command was composed entirely of recruits, not one being in service over three weeks, and many had hardly learned their facings, the officers likewise being but a short time in the service, their conduct was such as to elicit the highest commendation. Of the 350 officers and enlisted men under my command, there were but 2 staff officers, 2 captains, 1 first lieutenant, and 9 noncommissioned officers, and 2 musicians who were experienced from length of service. The remainder were of course raw recruits, which being considered, I am happy to report the good conduct of officers and men. The officers, although but little experienced, were zealous in their efforts to carry out my orders. In the death of Lieutenant Hitchcock the corps has been deprived of a valuable acquisition. On the field he was ever present and zealous. He sought and won the approbation of his commanding and brother officers. Enclosed please find a return of the battalion, showing its present strength with casualties, etc. The abrupt and hasty retreat from the field of battle presents a deplorable deficiency in both arms and equipments. The rout being of such a general character the men of all arms commingled, the only alternative

left was to hasten to the ground occupied by the brigade to which we were attached on the morning of the day of the battle. On my way thither I had the good fortune to fall in with General Meigs, whose consternation at the disastrous retreat was pictured upon his countenance. He was of the opinion the army should hasten to Arlington, fearing otherwise the enemy would follow up their successes and cut us off on the road. My men being weary and much exhausted, without blankets and other necessaries, I determined to strengthen such as should pass the wagons by hot coffee, and move on to headquarters at Washinton City, where their wants could be supplied. But few came up, others continued on to the Long Bridge, where, on my arrival, I found some seventy or more, who, at my urgent solicitation were permitted to accompany me to the barracks. In assuming the responsibility of the return to headquarters, I trust my course will meet the approbation of authority.

Blankets were thrown aside by my order on entering the field, which, from force of circumstances, we were afterwards unable to recover.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. GEO. REYNOLDS,
Major, Commanding Battalion.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
Commandant Marine Corps, Headquarters.

[Subenclosure.]

Report of marine battalion under command of Major John G. Reynolds in the recent battle before Manassas, July 21, 1861.

	Killed and wounded.											
	Major.	Captain.	First lieutenant.	Second lieutenant.	N. C. staff.	First sergeant.	Second sergeant.	Corporals.	Drummer.	Fifer.	Privates.	Aggregate.
Killed <i>a</i>				1							8	9
Wounded, absent <i>b</i>								1			4	5
Wounded, in hospital <i>c</i>	1			1							12	14
Missing <i>d</i>											16	16
Total strength <i>e</i>	3	2	1	6	2	4	3	8	2	2	320	353
Killed, wounded, missing, and sick.....		1		2				1			40	44
Present, fit for duty.....	3	1	1	4	2	4	3	7	2	2	280	309

a Second Lieutenant Hitchcock, Privates Clegg, Harris, Hughes, Lane, Moore, Perkins, Riley, Ward.

b Corporal Steiner, Privates Stewart, Bowers, Slemons, Bradford.

c Brevet Major Zeilin, Lieutenant Hale (in quarters), Privates Dodge, Etchells, Tiger, Lang, McKenna, McCann, Whelan, McGulgan, Howell, Rannohan, Cook, Potter.

d Privates Barrett, Hunt, McCristal, Clark, McCoy, Lewis, Beans, Dempsey, Kressler, Dermott, Otto, Cannon, Stanley, Ducanson, Foley, Wood.

e Major Slack, quartermaster. Not in action.

AUG. S. NICHOLSON,
Adjutant and Inspector.
JNO. ROBINSON,
Sergeant-Major.

MARINE BARRACKS,
Washington, D. C. July 23, 1861.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 21, 1861.*

The *Perry* has been sent to Alexandria and the steam tug with her. The *Pawnee* has been sent for, as Mr. Fox has probably informed you, and should be off Alexandria by morning.

The *Freeborn* is being got ready and has all the force which this yard possesses.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

HON. SECRETARY OF NAVY.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 22, 1861.*

The *Baltimore* has returned and the *Pawnee* will be soon up. I have therefore directed the *Pocahontas* to return down the river to her station off Aquia, as the *Ice Boat* is here alone and the commanding officer sends word he does not consider the vessel safe. The *Freeborn* is nearly ready to leave. Shall she return to the flotilla?

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

JULY 22, 1861.

Do not send off the *Freeborn* until further orders.

G. V. FOX,
For Secretary Navy.

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *July 22, 1861.*

The *Freeborn* will not leave until further orders.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

G. V. FOX,
Navy Department.

Letter from Brigadier-General Runyon, U. S. Army, to commanding officer U. S. brig Perry, regarding removal of means of retreat.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH DIVISION,
Alexandria, July 22, 1861.

SIR: To prevent the soldiers of the column now retreating to the Potomac from going over to Washington and creating a panic in that city, you will remove out of their reach every means of conveying them by water from the wharves of this city.

Respectfully, etc.,

THEODORE RUNYON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Fourth Division.

COMMANDER OF PERRY.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, stating the cause of his presence off Alexandria, Va.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Alexandria, July 22, 1861.

SIR: Having waited some hours after Lieutenant Parker (with orders for the flotilla) passed down this morning for Captain Craven and the other steamers, and they not making their appearance, I considered the emergency to require the presence of this steamer up here and have accordingly arrived to render such service as may be in my power. I left the *Ice Boat* to guard Aquia Creek.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. M. DOVE,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 22, 1861.

Commander Dove has come up to Alexandria in the *Pocahontas*, the *Refrigerator* [*Ice Boat*] at Aquia Creek. The Department would prefer to have the *Refrigerator* up, if necessary, leaving the *Pocahontas*, as the stronger vessel, down the river, where a guard is necessary.

Send her down and do not bring up the *Refrigerator* unless the colonel in command strongly desires it, as the *Pawnee* has been ordered up.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Washington Navy Yard.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, of the arrival of that vessel off Alexandria, Va.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, July 22, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival off this city at 5:30 p. m. this afternoon, in obedience to an order received this morning off Cape [Point] Lookout.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, requesting instructions regarding refugees.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, July 23, 1861.

SIR: Early on Saturday morning last while off Point Lookout three negroes came to the ship in a canoe from the Virginia shore. They

say they are free, but have no free papers, and assign as a reason for running away that they were required to fight. I have also on board two slaves taken from the Virginia shore by the late Commander J. H. Ward; they say they belong to Mrs. Stewart, a widow, residing near Mathias Point. I respectfully request instructions in relation to all these people.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. O. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

Instructions from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding refugees.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 26, 1861.

SIR: I have received your communication of the 23d instant concerning certain free negroes and slaves belonging to Virginia who are now on board the *Pawnee*.

It has not been the policy of the Government to encourage the emigration of this class of persons, whether bond or free; but where you have them, as in this case, on board, you can, as I understand verbally you do, employ the slaves, and those who are free need not be returned.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
GIDEON WELLES.

Commander S. O. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. *Pawnee*, Potomac River.

Report of Lieutenant Parrott, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. brig Perry, transmitting communication from Major Haskin, U. S. Army, commanding Fort Washington, Md., regarding steamer Gipsy.

U. S. BRIG PERRY,
Off Alexandria, July 24, 1861.

SIR: On the 22d instant the commander at Fort Washington sent to me the steamer *Gipsy* with a guard on board with a letter, a copy of which I enclose. I have since kept her alongside, under the advice of the commanders of the *Pawnee* and *Pocahontas*. Our pilot and the captain of the *Gipsy* both say she has not power enough to tow the *Perry* against the tide, but I have thought she might be of service in towing under some circumstances, and have kept her alongside rather than send her to the yard. The commandant at Fort Washington sent a verbal message that her owner was a secessionist, and that a rifle secession company had lately been raised at Piscataway.

I await your orders in regard to the steamer *Gipsy*.
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
E. G. PARROTT,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

FORT WASHINGTON, MD., *July 22, 1861.*

The steamer *Gipsy*, belonging in Piscataway, Md., having returned here before her regular hour, and believing this steamer may be of service to the Government, I send her back to report to you. Piscataway is a strong disunion place, and for the present I do not think it prudent that she should go there if the reports which she brought here are true. I send a guard with her and one of the boats belonging here. They can return in the boat if you detain the *Gipsy*.

In haste, yours, etc.,

J. A. HASKIN,

Brevet Major, and Captain, U. S. Army, Commanding Post.

COMMANDER OF U. S. NAVY,
At Alexandria, Va.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the furnishing of reenforcements for the forts of the Potomac.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, July 24, 1861.

SIR: On the 22d instant I received a request from Major [G. D.] Ramsay to furnish some seacoast howitzers or ammunition to assist the forts on the south side of the Potomac.

Last night I also received your order to send some officers and men to assist in working the guns of Fort Ellsworth; also to have landed from the *Pawnee* and *Perry* some officers and men for the same purpose.

With a view to meet both of these contingencies contemplated by your order and the request of Major Ramsay, I have forwarded some IX-inch cannon and eight howitzers with 70 seamen from the yard, 20 from the *Pawnee*, and 20 from the *Perry*, with a request to the commanding general to assign a position where the detachment can be kept together under its own officers.

This amount of ordnance will be well supplied with ammunition, and I have also made arrangements for the subsistence of the detachment.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 25, 1861.*

Send Captain Dahlgren fifty marines for service within the lines.

GIDEON WELLES.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
U. S. Marine Corps.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Colonel Commandant U. S. Marine Corps regarding increase of force under his command.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 25, 1861.*

Captain Dahlgren writes that "there are required for the proper service of the yard 40 seamen and 50 marines in addition to those now

in the yard," and "also 20 marines to protect the magazine, which is outside of the yard."

You will be pleased to consult with Captain D[ahlgren] on the subject, supply the demand, and make necessary arrangements for quarters for them.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
U. S. Marine Corps.

Report of Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, of a reconnoissance in Wicomico and Pocomoke rivers.

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, July 25, 1861.

SIR: By direction of Commander Craven I have the honor to lay before you the following information obtained by me in a recent reconnoissance of the Wicomico and Pocomoke rivers and of Tangier and Pocomoke sounds:

Large numbers of men and quantities of supplies are constantly [carried] into Accomac County, Va., and from there transferred to the York and Rappahannock rivers, leaving the eastern Virginia shore by Pungoteague, Onancock, and Cherrystone inlets, the means of transportation across the bay being small schooners and large rowboats; the trips are made principally at night. A person named Wilson, proprietor of the Washington House at Princess Anne, Md., receives and harbors supplies and recruits. He forwards them by hacks and wagons to Newtown, Md. At the latter place H. Dryden, of the Union Hotel, forwards them to Virginia. Virginia hacks and wagons come and go to and from Newtown; the men and arms pass through daily. There is a large number of Union men in Newtown, but they are helpless and unarmed. I would particularly call your attention to the steamer *Wilson Small*, running between Baltimore and Princess Anne, making an intermediate weekly trip to Annessex. She has violated the blockade twice by going twice into Virginia during her absence from Baltimore during the past twenty days. She carries large quantities of goods to Annessex marked P. Cary & H. Dryden. These goods all find their way to Accomac and from thence to west Virginia. The captain of the *Wilson Small* owns a store in Pungoteague, Va.

In the river Wicomico, at Salisbury, a person named Parker is engaged in forwarding supplies obtained from Baltimore to Virginia.

The United States collector at Deal's Island, W. Price, has issued licenses to vessels owned in Virginia, permitting them to hail from Deal's Island under *sub rosa* owners. These vessels are engaged in furnishing supplies to the rebels, regularly clearing from Baltimore. I obtained the name of only one, the *Dispatch*. I had information that the collector at Snow Hill had also issued licenses in the same way. Supplies are sent also from the North to Chincoteague, on the Atlantic coast, from thence across country and ultimately to west Virginia. A person named Clark, a pretended Union man in Newtown, furnishes large quantities of supplies to rebels in east Virginia. There is a camp of insurgents near Eastville, one at Horntown, one at Drummond Town, also at Pungoteague and Onancock inlets; they are, as far as I could ascertain, well supplied with arms. The inhabitants of Tangier and Watt's islands are constantly threatened with attacks from maraud-

ing parties from east Virginia. They are able to give plenty of information, and would hail with delight the appearance of a couple of our small steamers, who, by cruising in Tangier and Pocomoke sounds, would effectually stop the passage of supplies and protect them at the same time. I captured three small schooners who have been and are engaged in carrying supplies to the rebels, namely, the *Artist*, the *Chesapeake*, and the *Jno. McCabe*. I would respectfully again call your attention to the steamer *Wilson Small*. She will be seized at Annemessex, as the *St. Nicholas* was in the Potomac, if measures are not instantly taken to stop her nefarious traffic.

While in the Pocomoke River an attempt was made by the Virginians to intercept and capture my vessel on my return down the river. Six hundred riflemen were sent up with two fieldpieces from Horntown. Happily, I got a hint of what was going on and dropped quietly down at night below the point of danger. The insurgents came, but too late.

I remain, respectfully,

WILLIAM BUDD,

Acting Master, U. S. Navy, Commanding U. S. S. Resolute.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, of the capture by that vessel of the sloop A. B. Leon.

[U. S. S.] FREEBORN, *July 25, 1861—4. p. m.*

SIR: I send Acting Master Bogert with sloop *A. B. Leon*, the master of which, with two boats, I captured on the Virginia shore; the sloop at anchor opposite on the Maryland shore. I captured two pungies and one sloop on representations from Fort Washington and handed them over to Major [J. A.] Haskin. On board of one I found a Mr. Nagle, of Philadelphia, who, by his own admission, has just left Virginia. By his papers and contradictory statements I have no hesitation in pronouncing him an enemy to our cause and recently in communication with the rebels.

Very respectfully, etc.,

R. B. LOWRY,

Lieutenant, Commanding Freeborn.

Commander THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Squadron.

Report of Acting Master Bogert, U. S. Navy, regarding the capture of the sloop A. B. Leon.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *July 26, 1861.*

SIR: While proceeding down the river yesterday in the *Freeborn*, when off Fort Washington, we were boarded by an officer from the fort who reported several vessels below landing men in Virginia. We went down and took possession of them, bringing them up to the fort and delivering them over to Major Haskin, from whom we

received the information. On again leaving for our station below we found the sloop *A. B. Leon* anchored near the Maryland shore, opposite White House Point, while the captain with one man was seen on the Virginia shore with two large boats. Lowering the cutter we proceeded toward the shore to take possession, when, seeing escape impossible, they came off. Not trusting the story they told, Captain Lowry ordered me to take them to the navy yard and report to Commander Craven. Meeting him on the river in the night he ordered me to report to you directly. The vessel is now at the navy yard, subject to the disposition of the Government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. BOGERT,
Acting Master.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding disposition of prisoners.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 29, 1861.*

SIR: The communication of Acting Master J. W. Bogert of the 26th instant forwarded by you has been received.

You will have the men who were captured with the schooner *A. B. Leon* turned over to the civil authorities and retain the vessel.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting assistance in the seizure of secreted arms.

U. S. S. YANKEE,

Off Piney Point, July 26, 1861—11 p. m.

SIR: I have received reliable information that there are now secreted at Leonardtown, Md., two pieces of cannon and about forty stand of arms. The cannon have arrived there but recently and are en route for the rebels. The small arms are supposed to belong to the State and should have been turned in, in obedience to a proclamation issued some time since by the governor.

Could I be assisted by the marshal or one of his deputies with the necessary search warrant, I have no doubt that these arms can be found and seized.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, granting authority for seizure of secreted arms.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 27, 1861.

SIR: Yours of the 26th is received. No search warrant will be necessary. You are hereby authorized, if you are satisfied that the arms are intended for the rebels, to seize them and refer the parties to the Department. You will call on Colonel Harris or Captain Dahlgren for assistance should any further force be necessary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commander of the Flotilla off Piney Point.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding further reenforcement for Fort Ellsworth.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, July 27, 1861.

SIR: In pursuance of your telegraphic order* of the 22d I sent a detachment of officers and men from this yard to assist in the defense of Fort Ellsworth, and having some pieces of heavy and light ordnance also at hand, which would be very useful and to which the seamen are better accustomed than to army ordnance, I sent them also.

A suitable position having been designated by the proper military authority the guns have been placed there and I have now the satisfaction to inform you that last night, when a general beat to quarters occurred, our naval battery of three IX-inch guns and five howitzers was manned and ready to take its part in defending the lines.

The site of the battery is a spur of the plateau where stands Fort Ellsworth, but to which the work can not be conveniently extended. It is therefore of importance and is perhaps the most accessible to attack from the character of the ground.

The total force is 110 seamen and 40 marines.

Lieutenant Parker, to whom I have assigned this charge, has asked of me some reenforcement of seamen and marines, which I am unable to give without lessening the force in the yard too much.

I would like to do so, however, if the Department thinks proper and would allow me a reenforcement of about 100 seamen for the yard.

It is due to our men to say that they have laid the platforms and done all the work necessary to the operation of the guns.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

* Not found.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding exchange of shots with the battery on Marlborough Point.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia Creek, July 29, 1861—11:30 a. m.

SIR: At about 10 o'clock, as I was passing the mouth of Potomac Creek, I discovered an encampment of the rebels upon Marlborough Point, and at the same time a battery of about five heavy guns on the southern bank of the creek.

With a view of ascertaining if the rebels were there in force, accompanied by the steamer *Reliance*, I opened fire upon the encampment. Our fire was promptly returned by a concealed battery on Marlborough Point, the first shot from a rifled cannon taking effect upon our port wheelhouse, but without doing any material damage. The little *Reliance* gallantly tried her best to reach the rebels. Having accomplished the object of my examination, and finding our guns had not sufficient range to be effective, I proceeded on my course.

At Marlborough Point there is encamped at least one regiment of men. They have mounted at least five rifled cannon, besides the five just mentioned on the south side of the creek.

When passing Mathias Point it was supposed by several of the officers on board of the *Reliance* and this vessel that they observed signs of the rebels having been at work throwing up batteries of earthworks.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, enjoining a critical examination of cargoes of vessels to prevent smuggling.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 29, 1861.

SIR: The Department would impress upon you the importance of examining very critically the cargoes of vessels that are engaged in commerce with the Maryland shore for the purpose of ascertaining that they are such as described in their manifests. As an instance of the means resorted to for smuggling arms and contraband goods into the insurrectionary States, the case of the schooner *Buena Vista* I would refer to. She cleared from Baltimore for St. Mary's with an assorted cargo and was seized by the late Commander Ward as a suspicious vessel and brought to the navy yard here. Her cargo was sold, and it has since come to light that 5 barrels purporting to contain whisky were filled with pistols.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

P. S.—The articles as per manifest were shipped from Baltimore by G. R. H. Leffler.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, of services performed by that vessel.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Alexandria, July 29, 1861.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to enclose a communication from Lieutenant Commanding Lowry, with a letter* which he intercepted this morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

[U. S. S.] FREEBORN,
Potomac River, July 29, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order I have been cruising in this vessel between Fort Washington and Budd's Ferry. The prize schooner *Ocean Wave* is in progress [of] refitting. Major Haskin, commandant at Fort Washington, having no regular means of communicating with Alexandria, I have placed the schooner at his disposal when he needs her. As my crew is small I proposed to place an officer and a few men on board at night to cruise near the White House to intercept parties. This morning I discovered two boats pulling for the Virginia shore opposite Indian Head. They succeeded in landing, but my boat was so close in pursuit that she succeeded in picking up three carpetbags which the fugitives threw away.

They contain some clothing of no value and the enclosed letter. I have information that a great deal of communication is carried on near Marbury's Landing and near White House. I have just begun to be familiar with the ground and think that if I continue on this ground I can succeed in effectually destroying [communication]. I cruised all last night off Budd's Ferry, but could discover no indications of communication.

On the Virginia shore I found a large bateau, evidently lately used, which I have seized; another, too large to launch, I destroyed.

I am, very respectfully, etc.,

R. B. LOWRY,
U. S. Navy, Commanding Freeborn.

Commander THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Squadron.

Letter from Assistant Surgeon Storrow, U. S. Army, to Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, regarding suspicious steamer.

FORT WASHINGTON, MD., July 29, 1861.

SIR: I am requested by Major Haskin, commanding this post, to ask you to keep close watch for a steam wood boat, usually plying between Washington, D. C., and Bryant's Point, 2 miles below the fort. The

* Not necessary to publish.

boat passed down some week or more ago and since has not been seen or heard of. Finding her below Bryant's Point would, in the major's opinion, be sufficient cause for her capture.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant, --

SAMUEL A. STORROW,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army

Lieutenant R. B. LOWRY, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. Freeborn.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Freeborn, regarding permit in the case of William Clare.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Potomac River, July 29, 1861.

I have investigated the case of William Clare, a resident of Accotink, Va., who has a family at that place and also much property. He professes to be a Union man and has been ordered to leave Virginia. In the execution of my duty I have stopped him from passing this point in the longboat *Crystal Palace*, which vessel has a pass from the honorable Secretary of the Navy. I think his case one of great hardship and meriting the indulgence of the Government; but not feeling justified in passing him, am obliged to send him back to Alexandria for a proper permit.

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding, U. S. Navy.

Commodore T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Squadron.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the U. S. collector of customs at Baltimore, regarding the cargo of the captured schooner Buena Vista.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 29, 1861.*

The Department deems it proper to communicate the following facts to you:

The schooner *Buena Vista*, William Fallon, master, which cleared from Baltimore about the 11th ultimo for St. Mary's River with an assorted cargo, was seized as a suspicious vessel by the Potomac Flotilla and brought to Washington. Her cargo was sold and it has just come to light that 5 barrels purporting to contain whisky were filled with pistols. It appears from the manifest of the *Buena Vista* that the cargo was shipped by G. R. H. Leffler, of Baltimore.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,
Baltimore.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting information regarding the arming of the steamer Page.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Alexandria, July 30, 1861

SIR: For the information of the Department I enclose the accompanying letter, just handed me by Commander Rowan. It appears to

me that the collection of so many flatboats in that neighborhood must be for some other object than that of intercepting passing steamers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

ALEXANDRIA, Monday, July 29, 1861.

SIR: I learned last evening that a person had arrived here from Aquia Creek who states that the Confederates have taken all the upper works off the steamer *Page* and have put six guns on board of her, and that all the flat boats on the Rappahannock have been brought over to the Potomac, the party saying they had a great many in the creek.

I thought you might not be aware of this, as the boat is some distance up the creek. I suppose their object is to intercept some of the propellers on their way up the river with stores, etc.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

UNION.

Captain ROWAN,
U. S. S. *Pawnee*.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 31, 1861.

You can send the *Pawnee* off Aquia Creek if you consider it necessary.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Steam Tug *Yankee*, off Alexandria.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, transmitting report of Acting Master's Mate Harris, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Scout, regarding captures by that vessel.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Potomac River, August 1, 1861.

SIR: I have towed to the navy yard two wood boats and one sloop, captured under circumstances narrated in the enclosed reports of Master's Mate Harris, in charge of the schooner tender *Scout*, to this vessel. I am satisfied that much mischief is done under this wood trade, and as our orders are to cut off all communication with Virginia, I can form no other conclusion but that these three vessels are lawful prizes. The masters of them plead ignorance of the blockade, but the pains they have taken to obtain passes from the honorable Secretary of the Navy, disprove it.

I am, very respectfully, etc., your obedient servant,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington City.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. SCHOONER SCOUT,
Off Fort Washington, August 1, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your orders I have been cruising the river between Fort Washington and Mowbray's [Marbury's] Landing. On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 30, I captured the longboat *Morning Star*, coming out of Accotink Creek with a cargo of wood. July 31, captured the longboat *Richard Lacy*, coming out of Dove Creek [Doag Creek?], Va., with a cargo of wood.

August 1, captured the sloop *Jane Wright* at anchor under Holland's [Hallowing?] Point, Va.

August 1, captured two slaves leaving Virginia, off Holland's [Hallowing?] Point, in a skiff.

I took them all to Fort Washington to await your orders.

Yours, very respectfully,

A. G. HARRIS,
Master's Mate.

Lieutenant R. B. LOWRY, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. Freeborn.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, transmitting report of Acting Master's Mate Harris, commanding U. S. schooner Scout, regarding captures by that vessel.

[U. S. S.] FREEBORN,
Potomac River, August 1, 1861.

SIR: I enclose report* of Acting Master's Mate Harris, in charge of the schooner tender *Scout*, of three captures made by him on the Virginia shore and of two fugitives (slaves) from Virginia, picked up in the Potomac. I have towed the prizes to the navy yard to be subjected to the decision of the Navy Department.

The schooner *Scout* is the captured schooner *Ocean Wave*, of Yeocomico, Va., altered to a tender to the steamer, and manned by four men and one officer. I have named her the *Scout*. Master's Mate Harris has exhibited great vigilance.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Squadron, Potomac River.

Letter from U. S. District Attorney Carrington to the Secretary of State, relative to the longboats Morning Star and Richard Lacy, and sloop Jane Wright.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 13, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the longboats *Morning Star* and *Richard Lacy* and the sloop *Jane Wright* were captured as prizes and brought to the port of Washington.

* See preceding report.

There is no ground upon which they can be condemned by a court of admiralty, nor can I discover any reason from the evidence for their detention. This, too, is the opinion of the prize commissioners.

I have the honor to remain, with great respect, your obedient servant,
 EDWARD C. CARRINGTON,
U. S. Attorney for District of Columbia.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, relative to the release of vessels Morning Star and Richard Lacy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 15, 1861.

SIR: You will be pleased to have delivered all the wood in your possession belonging to the longboats *Morning Star* and *Richard Lacy* to the masters or owners, said vessels having been released by proper authority.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the search for secreted arms at Leonardtown, Md.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 1, 1861.

SIR: Acting under your authority,* I yesterday proceeded to Leonardtown with the *Freeborn*, *Reliance*, and *Yankee* and landed a party from each of these vessels under the command of Lieutenant Commanding Wyman, who had my instructions to visit the town and state to the chief magistrate that he was there for the purpose of searching for ordnance, small arms, etc., which I had been informed were secreted in the place. After a careful search without finding any of the articles in question, and being informed by some of the most prominent gentlemen of the town that there was nothing of the kind there, Lieutenant Commanding Wyman returned on board.

I can not help feeling a distrust in the statements of these people, and have stationed the tenders *Dana* and *Cobb* off the mouth of Breton's Bay, with orders to cruise night and day, for the purpose of intercepting any vessels or boats which may have contraband articles on board.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

* See p. 589.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to furnish information regarding the detention of schooner Robert K. Scott.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 1, 1861.

SIR: On the 22d June the Department gave permission to the schooner *Robert K. Scott*, John Johnson, master, to follow fishing from Washington to Point Lookout on the Potomac. The master and one of the crew of the schooner have made affidavit that the vessel was detained at Piney Point by James L. Gray, U. S. schooner *Bailey*, by which detention they sustained damages in the way of the loss of fish, stores, and ice, amounting to \$59.28.

It also appears from an endorsement in pencil on the permit made by James L. Gray that the schooner *Robert K. Scott* was detained from the 22d to the 25th of July by your order. You will please inform the Department why she was detained, etc.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, stating the cause of the detention of the schooner Robert K. Scott.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Potomac River, August 3, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 1st instant calling my attention to the detention of the schooner *Robert K. Scott*, and asking me why she was detained.

On the morning of the 22d ultimo I received verbal orders from the Department, through Lieutenant F. A. Parker, to take what measures I thought proper to prevent the rebels from following our army across the Potomac.

In accordance thereto, as there were a great many of such craft sailing upon the river, and which of all others would be made available for the transportation of troops, I ordered the commanders of the different vessels composing the flotilla to intercept and detain until further orders all fishing smacks, flatboats, scows, etc., in fact everything sailing up the river, excepting such as were laden or freighted by the Government, until further orders from me. It was not until about the 24th ultimo that I thought it prudent to revoke this order.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting report of the senior engineer of that vessel regarding needed repairs.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, August 2, 1861

SIR: I enclose herewith a copy of a communication from W. H. Rutherford, senior engineer of this ship, in relation to the necessary repairs to be made on the engines of this ship.

Much, if not all, the necessary work can be done while the ship remains off Alexandria, provided I have permission to let steam go down.

In case the enemy should attempt an advance on this end of our lines the motive power would be essential to her operations. I do not, therefore, feel at liberty to put the fires out without permission.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, Va., July 30, 1861.

SIR: I respectfully inform you that the engines of this ship require overhauling, readjusting, and thoroughly repacking, and request that proper time may be allowed me to execute the above.

Very respectfully, yours, etc.,

W. H. RUTHERFORD,
Senior Engineer.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 5, 1861.

SIR: The Department has received your letter of the 2d instant, and authorizes you to let down the steam of the *Pawnee* for the purpose of repairing her engines.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander S. C. ROWAN,
Commanding U. S. Steam Sloop Pawnee, Alexandria.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, commanding Potomac Flotilla, for the suppression of all communication between Maryland and Virginia.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 2, 1861.

SIR: This Department has granted some passes to small vessels to run wood from Virginia shore to Washington. As it is very important that no communication should exist you will cancel these passes as soon as found. Those now granted are with the express understanding that any visit or communication with the Virginia shore renders their vessel liable to immediate destruction. You are hereby directed to destroy all vessels violating such passes, also all craft found on the Virginia shore or up its creeks; and you will search, without further warrant, upon the Maryland shore for arms, ammunition, or supplies,

where there are reasonable grounds for believing they are intended for the rebels. If found send them to Washington.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding information received from two refugees.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
Off Aquia Creek, August 3, 1861.

SIR: By direction of Captain Craven I send up herewith two colored men whom I picked up off Maryland Point while cruising yesterday morning. The account they gave of themselves seemed of so much importance, if their statement can be relied upon, that I sent them first down to him off Point Lookout by the *Reliance*, as he could more readily from them ascertain the truth, and they were brought back to-day with the orders above mentioned.

They say that they belong to Mr. Daingerfield Lewis, of Marmion, about 3 miles back from the Virginia shore; that the governor sent an order to their master for his people to go to the mouth of the Rappahannock to assist in building a fort there; that Mr. Lincoln's steamboat (meaning, I suppose, the *St. Nicholas*), a brig, and a large scow, loaded with men, cannon, and tools for that purpose [were there]; that their master did not like it, and told them to get off if they could, and that they followed his advice and escaped.

The boat was very old and leaky, calked with strips of guano bags, one of the men bailing her constantly, the other rowing. It contained besides two bags of clothes a bag of corn meal, and one of peaches. There was a heavy fog on the river all the morning, to which they owed their safety, as the shores seem to be well guarded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. M. DOVE,
Commander.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Acting Master Bogert, U. S. Navy, of the capture of the schooner Pocahontas and sloop Mary Grey.

U. S. S. FREEBORN, *August 4, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to your orders to bring out the vessel seen from the steamer in Pohick Creek, I took the first cutter and a crew of seven men to obey. On getting alongside I found her to be the schooner *Pocahontas*, loaded with wood.

Saw several persons on the hills at some distance from us, but could not get them within speaking distance. I then took possession and got her underway.

There were several other vessels farther up the creek, but being short of men was only able to bring off one more, the sloop *Mary Grey*, said to belong to Mr. Jonathan Roberts.

In getting out of the creek I was considerably troubled by head winds and tide, but at last got them out by towing first one a short distance and then the other.

I saw a couple of armed men come down on a point it was necessary to weather, and sit down behind some driftwood. Thinking it more than probable they were going to fire into me on my rounding the point, and being alone in the sloop, I took the first shot myself, upon receiving which they left over the hill. I then got the vessels out to the steamer and delivered them to you.

Very respectfully, etc.,

J. W. BOGERT,
Acting Master.

Lieutenant T. H. EASTMAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Freeborn.

[Endorsement.]

SIR: I forward to you the above account of the capture of two vessels.
Respectfully,

T. H. EASTMAN,
Lieutenant.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding ferrying across the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 5, 1861.

SIR: The following information has been communicated to the Department from a reliable source, and the matters referred to should receive attention:

The sloop *James Skidmore* and other boats ferry across the Potomac between Pamunkey Creek and Mattawoman. They go to Evansport and into Occoquan Creek. A family of Johnsons, from Alexandria, located at Stump Neck, are engaged in ferrying boats from Stump Neck to Cockpit Point. It is said that the *James Skidmore* has moved down to Sandy Point recently, between Chicomuxen and Maryland Point. A strict watch should be kept over Herring Creek.

The ferrying is carried on both night and day in the interim between the passage of the steamers up and down the river.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, giving information regarding ferrying across the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 7, 1861.

SIR: Your attention is invited to the following statements that have been made to the Department:

That one Dr. Morgan, living at Yates Creek or Breton's Bay, ferries over troops twice a week.

That one Goldsmith, of Bedlam's Neck, has two cannon at [St.] Clement's Bay, which he is anxious to have transported to Aquia Creek.

I am respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

[*Secretary of the Navy.*]

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,

Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding orders to Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy.

U. S. S. YANKEE,

Off Aquia Creek, August 8, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 5th and 7th instant. I have directed Lieutenant Commanding R. H. Wyman to make a statement of the state of affairs on this river to you in person.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,

Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding prisoner on that vessel.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *August 9, 1861.*

SIR: This morning, as I was off Sandy Point, there came alongside in a small skiff a man calling himself William McCue, who said he had yesterday escaped from the Virginia shore and wanted my permission to go down the river as far as Thom's Gut (opposite to Aquia) to see his mother.

He stated that about a month ago he left Alexandria in a small row-boat for the purpose of visiting his parents, who live between Thom's Gut and Smith's Point, and being driven over toward the Virginia shore by a strong gale he was captured at Cockpit Point by a party of seven armed men. Since his capture he has been kept under strict guard for about three weeks at Aquia Creek. He was then taken to Chopawamsic Creek, where he was also kept carefully watched and not allowed to see or hear anything of their movements.

At Quantico Creek he says there is an encampment of about 2,000 men from Tennessee, commanded by one Colonel [W. B.] Bate. At Chopawamsic there is a troop of cavalry numbering some 300 men, commanded by Captain [Samuel A.] Swann, and at Aquia, or in its immediate neighborhood, a regiment of men is always kept somewhere back of the hills.

As my pilots, who say they know the man by sight, have hinted that the man's reputation is bad, and as I have my doubts as to the cause of his being in Virginia, I have sent him on board of the *Pawnee*, there to await your further orders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,

Commander, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding prisoner.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 20, 1861.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 9th instant, relative to William McCue, whom you picked up at Sandy Point.

You will send him to the navy yard, at Washington, as a prisoner.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,

[Secretary of the Navy.]

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from Major-General McClellan, U. S. Army, to the Secretary of the Navy, recommending the destruction of all small boats on the Potomac River, in order to prevent the enemy from crossing into Maryland.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE POTOMAC,
Washington City, D. C., August 10, 1861.

SIR: The major-general commanding this division directs me to say to you that he has been of late frequently informed from sources of indisputable authority that a flotilla is being gathered together at or near Aquia Creek by the rebels, consisting of several small steamers, scows, and flatboats. This, he has no doubt, indicates their intention to make some demonstration toward Maryland and perhaps by that means to reach Washington. The general respectfully suggests that measures be immediately taken to frustrate this design by destroying any craft that may be assembled, and thinks the most effectual method of doing so would be the employment of as many more steamers as can be made available by the Navy Department.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

LAWRENCE WILLIAMS,

Captain and Aid-de-Camp.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Washington City, D. C.

Letter from Commander Davis, U. S. Navy, to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding intended movement of the enemy across the Potomac River.

Confidential.]

BUREAU OF DETAIL,
Navy Department, August 10, 1861.

MY DEAR CRAVEN: The Secretary has requested me to say to you that a confidential communication has been received from headquarters to the effect that a column of the enemy, 14,000 strong, is about to move across the river somewhere below Alexandria, and that in furtherance of this movement there is a more than usually active intercourse between the two banks, advantage being taken of the night and of the unavoidable absence of the vessels of the flotilla from points most favorable for this intercourse.

602 OPERATIONS ON THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK.

You are requested, therefore to extend your examinations as far into the tributary creeks and rivers of the Potomac as possible.

Very faithfully, your friend,

CHARLES H. DAVIS.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Potomac River Flotilla.

Report of Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, transmitting copy of order from the Secretary of State and report of Acting Master Blue, U. S. Navy, regarding arrest of J. H. Lindemberger.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, Va., August 11, 1861.

SIR: In compliance with an order from the State Department (a copy of which is enclosed), I sent a detachment of marines under Lieutenant Blue to arrest Mr. Lindemberger.

Mr. Blue's report is also enclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 10, 1861.

Arrest and detain J. H. Lindemberger, recently from California, who has proceeded toward Port Tobacco this morning.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

To the COMMANDERS OF THE LAND AND
NAVAL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Off Alexandria, Va., August 11, 1861.

SIR: In the afternoon of the 10th instant, in compliance with orders, I took command of eleven marines from this ship, proceeded to Port Tobacco, and about half past 3 this morning there made prisoner of J. H. Lindemberger.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. BLUE,
Master.

Commander S. C. ROWAN.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting reports of officers of his command of services performed by them.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Piney Point, August 11, 1861.

SIR: Herewith I send you a letter from Acting Master Budd, which speaks for itself. I received it last night from on board the *Dana* while on my way down the river.

As the vessels of the flotilla are getting short of provisions, I have ordered Mr. Budd to proceed with the *Resolute* to the navy yard to obtain a full supply for six weeks; also to report to you in person the circumstances attending the capture of the ten negroes, who have been returned to his vessel to await your further orders.

Four other negroes taken by Lieutenant Mygatt are also sent up; his report concerning them is herewith enclosed.

This evening at sunset a negro came on board and intimated to my steward that he could give me some important information. Upon questioning him he stated that there was at Herring Creek one Maddox, an Irishman, who has been quite active in procuring supplies of men, munitions of war, clothing, etc., for the rebels, and that he had sent many boat loads of them over to Virginia; that on Tuesday last he sent eight wagons and sixteen horses to Maryland Point (one wagon was loaded with uniforms), and on the same day eight men, who came from Baltimore, were sent across the river. Cooperating with Maddox is one Dr. Combe, [Coombs?] who has appropriated an old outhouse as a barrack for the reception of volunteers for the rebel Army. Yesterday week there were ten men lodged in this barrack and two men and a woman in his house. The man Maddox and Dr. Combe employ their negroes, horses, and wagons in transporting recruits to the various landings, at night, watching their opportunity when our cruisers are out of sight.

One Ben. Hughes furnishes the recruits with shoes. His brother ran the *Pocahontas* with freight to and from Baltimore and has brought provisions for the rebels. Maddox has been absent for a few days in Baltimore; was expected back to-day (he was seen this afternoon by Mr. Budd). Two boats are now in Herring Creek. They came from Virginia, containing three men, one woman and child, and the owner of the boat, who is now at the house of one Johnson. Johnson's house is also a depot for recruits. At his house there is a minister who came from Virginia and acts as a spy, and is in constant communication with one Bell. Bell came over from Virginia on Wednesday night; does not stay at any particular place for fear of being taken.

This statement, sir, although made by a negro, has every appearance of being truthful, and from hints which have come to me from the proprietor of the hotel here, I am convinced that all these persons are active participators in the rebellion and are constantly engaged in traitorous acts.

At 11 p. m. (it is now 1 a. m. of the 12th) I started a party of eight men, under charge of Acting Master's Mate Street and my clerk, Mr. Swift, to seize the boats. I shall use my utmost efforts to obtain other and legal evidence against these people, and, if good and sufficient, shall adopt such means as will insure their capture.

From all I can see and learn of the people of Maryland I am convinced that along the shores of the Potomac there is not one in twenty who is true to the Union, and I sometimes think there are many hundreds of them thoroughly organized into companies, perhaps regiments, and prepared to act against the Government at any moment.

5 a. m., 12th.—The boat under charge of Acting Master's Mate Street has just returned with three fine boats as prizes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosures.]

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, *August 10, 1861.*

SIR: I broke up the depot for receiving recruits and supplies from Herring Creek this morning, said depot being near the mouth of the Machodoc Creek, Virginia. On going into the creek I was fired at with musketry. I landed, destroyed the premises, and captured a large boat that arrived from Maryland the night before. When I landed there was a party of secessionists from Maryland in the house; they made their escape into the woods. I chased them for a mile, but they got off. I took ten contrabands who belonged to the person (Colonel Brown) owning the premises. Colonel Brown has been the receiver and forwarder of supplies and recruits, and of course his property used for that purpose is confiscated. As the schooner *Dana* is entirely out of provisions, and I have none to supply her, I send her up with the contrabands. The foreman of the contrabands, who is a remarkably intelligent negro, informs me that an expedition is organized in Machodoc to capture any of the schooners that are anchored or becalmed in that vicinity. I am getting out of provisions and it will be necessary to supply me soon.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM BUDD,
Commanding Resolute.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla.

U. S. S. RELIANCE,
Potomac River, August 12, 1861.

SIR: On the night of the 9th, while this vessel was at anchor under Piney Point, a boat was seen pulling about and acting in a suspicious manner. Upon being hailed it came alongside. The crew was composed of four negroes, who represented themselves as having belonged to a Colonel Forbes, and that he lived on Machodoc River, Virginia. They stated that they had run away from their master because he intended to use them for military purposes, or, to use their own word, "because he wanted to send them to the wars." I detained them subject to your action.

In obedience to your order they have been sent to the *Resolute* for transportation to Washington.

Respectfully, etc., your obedient servant,

J. P. [K.] MYGATT,
Acting Lieutenant.

Commander THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding expedition to Kinsale, Va.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Piney Point, August 12, 1861.

SIR: This morning a person calling himself William Gemeny and hailing from Baltimore came on board with a note from General Dix,

asking my assistance in getting his wife and children away from Virginia. With the *Reliance* in company, I proceeded over to Little Yeocomico, where, on entering its mouth, I hoisted a flag of truce and steamed up its main fork to Kinsale, where Gemeny said his family had resided several months past. On our arrival there an officer was sent on shore with a request that Gemeny's family might be permitted to leave Virginia. After waiting there five hours for an answer from the commanding [officer] of the forces, who was said to be some 8 miles distant from the landing, and receiving a flat refusal to permit the removal of his family, on the plea that Gemeny was a deserter from the Virginia militia, I returned to this place.

While in the creek, owing to the carelessness of the pilot in backing the vessel, she struck a sand bank and considerably damaged our rudder. As we have no material for repairing it, unless I can obtain it and a competent carpenter from the *Pocahontas*, I shall be obliged to resort once more to the navy yard for repairs.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,

Commander, U. S. Navy, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding a rumor of the intention of the Confederates to throw a force across the river from Aquia Creek.

Unofficial.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 12, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: I had a talk last eve with General McClellan, who feels somewhat anxious about a small force being thrown across the river from Aquia in combination with other movements.

I suggested that you better come up and have a talk with him, which he wished very much. Will you come in the next three days?

The boat that takes this note is bound to Hampton Roads for four launches, each having a 12-pound rifled gun and equipments complete. You can have these boats delivered to you as they return, or they can be landed at the navy yard and ammunition provided, etc. I am more afraid of the capture of the *Ice Boat* than anything else.

We have several prizes here. If they could be sunk in the Aquia Creek channel they are at your service. Your force will be much increased very soon, as we have purchased several very nice tugs and are fitting them with iron bulwarks to resist rifled shot from muskets.

Very truly,

G. V. Fox.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting letter from General McClellan, U. S. Army, urging extreme vigilance in preventing movements of the enemy across the Potomac.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 13, 1861.

SIR: Enclosed is a letter from General McClellan, which is forwarded to you by special messenger for your information. The *Pawnee* can not

get up steam before Thursday, when she will be sent immediately to report to you at Aquia. An officer will be sent to-day to Flag-Officer Stringham to bring up the *Harriet Lane* or some other light-draft vessel, which will also be ordered to join you at Aquia Creek. In the meantime, the Department has every confidence that you can prevent the crossing of any considerable force. If coal (or other important supplies) is wanted, do not send up your vessels at present, but send a requisition to the yard by the steamer that takes this to you.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE POTOMAC,
Washington, August 12, 1861.

SIR: I have to-day received additional information which convinces me that it is more than probable that the enemy will, within a very short time, attempt to throw a respectable force from the mouth of Aquia Creek into Maryland. This attempt will probably be preceded by the erection of batteries at Mathias and White House points. Such a movement on the part of the enemy, in connection with others probably designed, would place Washington in great jeopardy. I most earnestly urge that the strongest possible naval force be at once concentrated near the mouth of Aquia Creek, and that the most vigilant watch be maintained day and night, so as to render such passage of the river absolutely impossible. I recommend that the *Minnesota* and any other vessels available from Hampton Roads be at once ordered up there, and that a quantity of coal be sent to that vicinity sufficient for several weeks' supply. At least one strong war vessel should be kept at Alexandria, and I again urge the concentration of a strong naval force in the Potomac without delay. If the naval department will render it absolutely impossible for the enemy to cross the river below Washington, the security of the capital will be greatly increased. I can not too earnestly urge an immediate compliance with these requests.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. B. MCCLELLAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary, U. S. Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 13, 1861.*

Have the *Resolute* ready for immediate departure upon the arrival of her commander. Lieutenant Parker will go down in her as a passenger to the *Ice Boat*.

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Commander DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, suggesting for the Army measures of cooperation in preventing the movement of the enemy across the Potomac.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia Creek, August 13, 1861—10 p. m.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date and its accompanying copy of a letter from General McClellan.

I have at present lying off Aquia Creek the *Pocahontas*, *Ice Boat*, *Reliance*, and *Yankee*. Have sent by the *Mount Vernon* for the *Freeborn*, which is somewhere between this and Fort Washington. She will probably arrive here before daylight.

The *Resolute* is now at the navy yard and will be down here early in the morning. I was on my way to Washington, in compliance with a request received this morning from Assistant Secretary Fox, and for the purpose of having my rudder repaired, when I received your letter.

I have been apprehensive for some time past that points this side of Washington would be chosen by the rebels in case they should attempt the passage of the Potomac, and in view of strong secession feeling which prevails all along the Maryland shore and the possibility that they have already organized bands to assist the rebels, I would respectfully suggest through you to General McClellan whether, as a matter of precaution, batteries should be erected and occupied by two or three regiments, so as to command the crossings at or near Marshall's Point, Indian Head, Stump Neck, Budd's Ferry, Smith's, Lower Thom's, and Upper Cedar points, and at the mouth of Port Tobacco River. Such occupancy on the part of our military forces, with the small force under my command, would in my opinion render it absolutely impossible for the enemy to cross the river.

Be assured, sir, that no effort on my part shall be spared to render the Potomac Flotilla worthy of the confidence reposed in it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Rowan, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 14, 1861.

SIR: Proceed down the River Potomac, with the *Pawnee* under your command, with all practicable dispatch, and upon falling in with Captain Craven, commanding Potomac Flotilla, you will report yourself to that officer.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.
Commander S. O. ROWAN,
Comdg. U. S. Steam Sloop of War *Pawnee*, off Alexandria, Va.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the condition of U. S. S. Yankee.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 14, 1861.

SIR: Having this morning carefully examined our rudder, I find it will be impossible to repair it here. It is badly shattered, and the storm of last night has so weakened it that it will scarcely hang together more than forty-eight hours; besides, it is so much slued to one side as to be almost useless in turning the vessel, excepting with a port helm. Under these considerations I respectfully submit whether it would not be better to send the *Yankee* immediately to the yard, where, with ordinary diligence, she can be made serviceable in a few hours.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 14, 1861.*

Could you arm the *Collyer* or some suitable vessel and send her to the mouth of the Rappahannock, to remain there with the *Mount Vernon* for ten days?

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Commander DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 14, 1861.*

I can put some cannon and men in the *Collyer*. This morning the owner declined to charter her or the *Guy*. I hope also to report the *Pawnee* ready this evening.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 14, 1861.*

The *Pawnee* has left Alexandria on the way down the river. The Seventy-ninth, after a short halt near the yard, are passing over the Anacostia bridge.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Letter from the commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, relative to boats and scows in the possession of the Confederates on the Potomac River.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 15, 1861.

SIR: I am directed by the Navy Department to inform you that up Aquia Creek are 142 scows and longboats; up Chopawamsic are the same; up Quantico are the same; up Powell's Creek are the same; up Neabsco 7, and up Occoquan 15.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla, etc.

[Telegram.]

[NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, D. C.,] August [15th], 1861.

The [Mount] Vernon is leaving with the dispatches and a communication from me to Captain Craven informing him of the scows.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

G. V. FOX.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, of casualties resulting from an attempt to capture a boat on the Virginia shore near Persimmon Point.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia Creek, August 15, 1861.

SIR: This morning at about 11 o'clock I dispatched the steamers *Resolute* and *Reliance* to make a reconnoissance of Mathias Point. At about 3 p. m. the *Resolute*, Acting Master Budd, returned to this anchorage and made this report, which is herewith enclosed.

I have ordered Mr. Budd to proceed with his dead and wounded to the navy yard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, August 16 [15], 1861.

In obedience to your orders I proceeded down the river to make an examination of Mathias Point and the immediate vicinity. Nothing indicating a hostile movement could be discovered at or about the

point. Hearing that a schooner was ashore at Lower Cedar Point I thought it advisable to go down to her and get her off if possible. A boat was seen on the Virginia shore a short distance this side of Persimmon Point, and I dispatched an officer and five men in a boat for the purpose of capturing her. They had just reached her and were in the act of making fast when a volley of musketry was fired from the adjoining bushes, not more than 5 or 6 yards distant, instantly killing three of the boat's crew and wounding another. I immediately opened fire, throwing shell into the cover that sheltered the enemy. After four or five rounds they were driven out, running in parties of three and four in different directions, some of them running into some dwelling houses on the right. The survivors of the boat's crew succeeded in getting her off from shore while I was firing. The *Reliance* coming up at this moment commenced throwing shell at the flying enemy, and also sent a boat to assist in getting my boat off. Nothing was left behind.

My boat is completely riddled, particularly in the after part. The attacking party numbered about thirty. Lieutenant Mygatt remained with his vessel in the vicinity until I could report to you. The following persons were killed and wounded:

Killed.—John T. Fuller, master's mate; George Seymour, seaman; Thomas Tully, seaman.

Wounded.—Ernest Walter, seaman.

The men that escaped state that the boat on the shore had two cracks in her. We were unable to secure her.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM BUDD,
Commanding Resolute.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Surgeon Gunnell, U. S. Navy, U. S. S. Pawnee, of casualties resulting from the attempt to capture a boat on the Virginia shore near Persimmon Point.

U. S. S. PAWNEE,
Aquia Creek, August 15, 1861.

SIR: The following are the casualties on board the U. S. S. *Resolute*:

Killed.—1. Mr. John T. Fuller, master's mate; gunshot wound of head and of right arm; immediately fatal. 2. George Seymour, gunner's mate; gunshot wound at right side of spine, a second through the left lung; almost immediately fatal. 3. Thomas Tully, seaman; gunshot wound of head; immediately fatal.

Wounded.—1. Ernest] Walter, seaman; gunshot wound of left side of head; probably mortal.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. M. GUNNELL,
Surgeon, U. S. Navy.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Naval Forces in the Potomac River.

Letter from Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, to General McClellan, U. S. Army, regarding the activity of the enemy and laxity of the Federal Government.

U. S. S. RESOLUTE,
Off Aquia, August 15, 1861.

SIR: The whole naval force in the Potomac, with the exception of the brig *Perry*, at Alexandria, is now at anchor at this point. The squadron consists of the *Pawnee*, *Pocahontas*, *Ice Boat*, *Yankee*, *Freeborn*, *Resolute*, and *Reliance*.

There is not a single Federal gun between Aquia Creek and Fort Washington, nor from Aquia to the mouth of the Rappahannock.

I would call your attention to the fact that close to the mouth of the Potomac, in Virginia, are two rivers (Coan and Yeocomico), both capable of admitting vessels drawing 12 feet of water.

Also, between the Potomac and Rappahannock, there is an estuary (Great Wicomico Bay [River]), also having a depth of 14 feet. These inlets possess admirable facilities for concealing vessels and boats, and are all unguarded. You will see by consulting any map of the county that there is an abundance of land and water communication from these places to the Rappahannock.

The enemy has within a short time cut down all the woods and large trees on Brent's Point (which forms one side of Aquia Creek), so as to enable him to sweep the point with guns, which have lately been placed in position on the opposite side of the creek, and are as yet masked, his object being to guard himself from any attempt to land above and out of the range of his main works. Last night he threw up an earthwork connecting two of his hill batteries, about 1,200 yards distant from each other. While I write this he is fortifying a ravine between Potomac and Aquia creeks. The *Pawnee* is within good shelling distance looking at the performance. His rifle guns will hunt her out of that when he gets them in position. The enemy is evidently strengthening his position by every possible means. We do nothing.

I suppose if anything takes place here we are all to fight on our own hook, as we have no plan of signals, organization, or attack.

The promised increase of force has not yet arrived, and the enemy has the river to himself above and below us.

2 p. m. I have just returned from an examination of Mathias Point. Nothing indicating a new or hostile movement is visible, but the woods and undergrowth are so dense that it is impossible to find out.

Pushing my reconnoissance a little farther down, and endeavoring to cut out a boat with supplies for the insurgents, I fell on a party of about thirty Confederates. We had a brush. I lost three killed and one wounded, but can not tell the loss on the other side. I hunted them out of their cover with shell and shrapnel, but only one of their number was actually seen by me to be killed. I was not in force to penetrate the cover after they abandoned it.

Will you not change the policy of the naval force and Department, and compel them to drop Micawber's rôle and do something?

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM BUDD,
Commanding Resolute, Potomac Flotilla.

Major-General G. B. MCCLELLAN,
Commanding Potomac Division.

Instructions from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, in view of information received from the Assistant Secretary of War regarding intentions of the enemy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 15, 1861.

SIR: In forwarding the enclosed memorandum, received from the Assistant Secretary of War, the Department desires to place you fully on your guard, and to require of you to destroy every vessel or boat within your reach, whether on the Maryland side or not, and without regard to passes given, should there be any concentration or apparent design to use them for this purpose. Forty-eight permits to vessels have been given to trade on the Potomac. These may be canceled by your endorsement at any moment your judgment considers it necessary.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

AUGUST 13 [1861].

President Davis has written within two days:

Have no street fights; keep Baltimore quiet for the present; in ten days I shall command the Potomac and cross between Mathias Point and Aquia Creek into Charles and St. Mary's counties (they are all friends there) and march upon Annapolis. Then, having two of the approaches to Washington in possession, let Baltimore rise and burn the bridges. The movements in the upper Potomac are only feints.

Source unquestionable. The same party informs me that a regular communication exists by means of the St. Mary's steamboat line from Baltimore up the Patuxent and then in an open boat from Port Tobacco to the Virginia shore after the police boat has passed. This was interrupted by [General] Banks for a time, to the great confusion of the enemy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, forwarding copy of newspaper clipping containing petition of crew of Philadelphia Ice Boat.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 15, 1861.

SIR: Before the Department takes any action in regard to the enclosed communication, your report is desired thereupon; also ascertain if these names are genuine, and whether all of them are enlisted in the United States service. From the manner in which the rebels have treated flags of truce, the Department desires that you should not place yourself or vessel within their reach under such a flag.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure—Newspaper clipping.]

Philadelphia Ice Boat at Aquia Creek.—Bad treatment of the crew.

U. S. S. ICE BOAT,
Aquia Creek, August 10, 1861.

DEAR SIR: The object of this letter is to give yourself and our friends at home a sketch of the manner in which we have been used since leaving Philadelphia. At that time we had no less than four captains, one lieutenant, purser, gunner, and purser's clerk. Since that time we have changed commanders no less than eight times, so that by the time one commander has about become acquainted with the boat and her crew he is ordered away and another takes his place, and he, finding out his own position and about [how] long he will probably remain, cares not how the men are cared for and leaves everyone to shift for himself. By that means you will see there are no regulations of any kind and no one to take an interest in the men. By that means we are left to suit our own taste about the arrangement of matters aboard the vessel. Four weeks after we had left Philadelphia we had no whisky, coffee, or stove in which to cook what provisions we had on board, the pay for which we will never get. At one time, somewhere in the neighborhood of two weeks, while outside cruising in the bay, we lived entirely on raw meat and biscuit. At another time we were for seven weeks without fresh provisions of any kind, although we were in port every few days. There are now some forty blue jackets on board, and we can sling but fourteen hammocks, and I have seen the time, when it rained very heavy, that no one on the vessel closed his eyes for twenty-four hours at a time, there not being even a dry place to stow our bags in, our clothes being always in a damp and dirty condition. Before we came around here to Washington some of the men had gone barefooted for two weeks, the officers telling us that we were likely to be out of commission soon and such things would not be needed until we got aboard our regular seagoing ship.

Now, sir, we all know it is not the right thing for any man, especially in times like these, to complain of their officers, and we have not done so until forbearance has ceased to be a virtue, and we are now compelled to speak for ourselves. At the time we shipped we did so with our minds made up to go through, without complaint, any task or hardship that might fall to our lot; but, sir, for all that, we do still consider ourselves men, and think that we should be treated as such, and not like dumb brutes. At the present time our battery consists of one 9-inch shell gun, one 6-inch rifled gun, two 32-pounders, one 12-pounder howitzer, beside Minié muskets, carbines, boarding pistols, cutlasses, boarding pikes, and battle-axes, with revolvers for the picked men. And now we are stationed here without even the common necessaries of life, to lead the van in every affair where there is likely to be plenty of hard work and no thanks for the same; and at this present time I can safely say there is not a man on the vessel who will not dare as much to serve his country as any man in the United States Navy, but at the same time, as we have said before and now repeat, we wish to be treated as men. There is not a week goes by but we are short in our allowance in some way or another. At present we are living on ten days' allowance of old, moldy bread that they would not or could not use themselves, and also drinking our coffee without sugar, although we are only 55 miles from the capital. Now, sir, we expect nothing but what is allowed us, and want nothing unreasonable, but, sir, as a matter of justice, we demand our rights, or, whatever may be the conse-

quence, the muster roll aboard this vessel will be found short before many days pass by, and to let you know that these are not the sentiments of one man, but of the whole ship's crew, every man on the vessel signs this letter of his own free will; and, sir, if you will be kind enough to have this inserted in your paper you will receive the thanks of the whole ship's crew.

With much respect, sir, we sign ourselves unanimously,

JOHN KENNEDY, <i>Boatswain's Mate.</i>	ROBERT McCLENAGHAN,
SAMUEL T. SCHOFIELD,	HENRY A. STIRK,
ROBERT OAIN,	CHAS. KELLY,
SAMUEL ERSKINE,	JOHN ARMSTRONG,
JOHN STEWART, <i>Quartermasters.</i>	FRANCIS P. SLAVIN,
JAMES H. PATTERSON,	CHARLES J. PETIT,
<i>Purser's Steward.</i>	HENRY S. HOTCHKISS,
DANIEL DOYLE,	R. O. JONES,
<i>Captain's Steward.</i>	M. C. PARKER,
WILLIAM MCGARVEY, <i>Ship's Cook.</i>	LA FORREST BOND,
LEONARD SCHREPLE,	JOHN LANNAN,
JOHN SWIFT, <i>Mess Cooks.</i>	JAMES REED,
WM. C. HOLTON,	HENRY S. GATES,
GEORGE W. BROWN,	JOHN SHERWIN,
HENRY McCAFFERTY,	F. A. HEATH, <i>Ice Boat's Crew.</i>
HIRAM LAWRENCE,	B. W. FOWLER, <i>Third Engineer.</i>
DAVID R. CARLAND,	THOMAS E. RILEY,
GEORGE W. FISHER,	JOHN McANULTY,
WILLIAM J. McCORMICK,	THOMAS HICKEY,
H. W. NEILL,	EDWARD MCKAY,
JOSEPH MARLEY,	PETER F. FOX,
JACOB MORROW,	THOMAS J. BALDWIN, <i>Firemen.</i>
J. W. SPEERE,	WM. DEVLIN,
ALBERT M. HAWKINS,	PATRICK McLAUGHLIN, <i>Water Tenders.</i>
WILLIAM TUCKER,	WILLIAM McCARTHY, <i>Wheelman.</i>
JACOB EYRING,	
THOMAS WALPOLE,	
JOS. R. FLANIGAN, Esq., <i>Editor of Daily News.</i>	

N. B.—Philadelphia papers please copy.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, recommending the erection of batteries on the Maryland shore opposite Aquia Creek.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 15, 1861—10 p. m.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two communications of this date, one accompanied by information relative to the movements of the enemy, the other without its intended accompanying enclosure.

Since our arrival off this station the rebels have been constantly at work in throwing up heavy earthworks in every available position com-

manding the mouth off Aquia Creek and are beyond doubt making extensive preparations for some great move. Unless the landings on the Maryland side are immediately occupied by our troops and made secure by extended batteries I shall be placed between two fires, and it will be hardly possible with the small force under my command to protect the passages across the river.

As I informed you in my letter of yesterday, the rudder of the *Yankee* is badly injured, and in case of having any extraordinary work to do it will be very difficult to maneuver her. I hope, sir, in view of the present aspect of affairs the Department will see the necessity of largely increasing my forces immediately.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 16, 1861.*

Was any firing heard from the river this morning? Have you any information from that quarter?

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 16, 1861.*

On enquiry I learn that some firing was heard this a. m. between 4 and 6 o'clock in the direction of the river, but not since 6 this a. m.

Lieutenant Wyman, who came up an hour ago, reported a few shot fired at the *Pocahontas* and left here to go to the Department. It is now 3 p. m.

JOHN A. DAHLGREN.

G. V. FOX.

Destruction of the Sloops Jane Wright and T. W. Riley, August 16, 1861.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to forward information in the case of the sloop T. W. Riley.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 20, 1861.*

SIR: James W. Gessford, owner of the sloop *T. W. Riley*, called at the Department this morning and stated that his vessel was scuttled on Friday last, in Wade's Bay on the Potomac River, by your order and no reasons therefor assigned to him. You will be pleased to inform the Department as to the facts in this case.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Petition of John Lawrence, esq., captain of sloop *Jane Wright*, for damages in the case of the destruction of that vessel by U. S. S. *Yankee*.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 12, 1861.*

SIR: Your petitioner, Captain John Lawrence, of St. Mary's County, Md., captain and owner of the sloop *Jane Wright*, on the 15th day of August, A. D. 1861, obtained from the Navy Department, a written permission to go with his said sloop from the city of Washington to his home in St. Mary's County, and on that day, accompanied by Mr. John F. Russell, his hand on said sloop, your petitioner left Washington at about 3 p. m. and proceeded on his way down the river, and on the morning following (to wit, the 16th of August), about one hour after sunrise, when near Smith's Point, your petitioner was hailed by the Government war vessels and ordered to come to, when your petitioner immediately obeyed and ran his said sloop, as ordered, alongside of the war steamer *Yankee*, and the papers of said sloop were demanded and delivered over to one of the officers or men, and your petitioner was informed that his said sloop would be sunk and destroyed.

Your petitioner immediately protested against such an act, and claimed that he had the right to go home, and that the permission was endorsed on one of the papers delivered up, and your petitioner requested the commandant of the *Yankee* to inform him the reason why his sloop was thus seized, but no reason was given for the act, and your petitioner was told that he might go on shore in his small boat, but that his sloop would be sunk and destroyed, which has since been done.

Your petitioner further states that he is acquainted with Mr. William H. Bailey, the engineer of the *Yankee*, to whom he refers the Department for the evidence of the facts herein stated in reference to the seizure of his said sloop.

Your petitioner, who is a poor man, is, in consequence of the loss of his said sloop, greatly distressed, having been heretofore engaged in carrying oysters and fruit, etc., to the Washington market for a support.

Your petitioner further says that he should not have started down the river with his sloop had he not first received the aforementioned written permission, which he was advised would insure him protection and a safe conduct home; and inasmuch as your petitioner has lost his sloop under such circumstances, according to justice and equity, your petitioner should be paid the amount of damages sustained thereby; and your petitioner prays the Government to pay him the amount of damages he has sustained in consequence of the loss of his said sloop, which is about \$450.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN (his x mark) LAWRENCE.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to forward report in the case of destruction of sloop *Jane Wright*.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 13, 1861.*

SIR: Captain John Lawrence, of St. Mary's County, Md., owner of the sloop *Jane Wright*, informs the Department that while he was proceeding down the Potomac under a pass from this Department on the morning of the 16th August, he was ordered to come to when near Smith's Island, which he did, and his papers demanded and delivered up. He

was informed that his sloop would be sunk and destroyed, which he says was subsequently done, and he was allowed to go ashore in his small boat and no reasons were given for these proceedings.

No report has been received from you in this case, which you will please make and inform the Department of all the circumstances connected with this seizure.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the destruction of sloops *Jane Wright* and *T. W. Riley*.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 14, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant asking for information relative to the destruction of the sloop *Jane Wright*, near Smith's Island [Point?], on the morning of the 16th August.

On that morning I received a special dispatch from the Department, with an enclosure of a memorandum from the Assistant Secretary of War, relative to the intended invasion of Maryland by the rebels.

In that dispatch I was authorized under certain contingencies to destroy every vessel or boat within my reach. Under that order the sloops *T. W. Riley* and *Jane Wright* were scuttled and sunk.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the governor of Maryland to the Secretary of War, relative to increasing the force on the Potomac in view of a descent upon Maryland by the Confederates.

STATE OF MARYLAND, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Annapolis, August 16, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I am advised in a way, and it comes from a source that leaves no ground for doubt, that the Confederate forces south of the Potomac and the disloyal men of Maryland are acting in vigilant concert, with a design to make a descent upon Maryland at some point, most likely, I think, to be from St. Mary's or Charles counties. Will it not be well, I respectfully suggest, to increase the Government forces with efficient vessels to ply between Washington and the mouth of the Potomac River to cut off their forces if they attempt to cross; also allow me to advise an increased force of men and vessels to watch the two eastern shore counties of Virginia in General Butler's division. The 20th instant is the time designated by them for assault. Do not think me scared; I only wish to head off the rebels.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. HICKS.

Hon. S. CAMERON,
Secretary War.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 16, 1861.*

Get underway and proceed into the Potomac River and report to Captain Craven the earliest period your repairs are concluded.

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Lieutenant P. G. WATMOUGH,
U. S. S. Union, Baltimore, Md.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 17, 1861.*

Has the order from the Department to leave for the Potomac when ready been received, and when does she sail?

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander J. R. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Senior Officer on board U. S. S. Union, Baltimore.

[Telegram.]

BALTIMORE, *August 17, 1861.*

The order from the Department to leave for the Potomac has been received and she [*U. S. S. Union*] sails this afternoon in obedience to that order.

J. R. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Commander.

HON. G. WELLES.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to obtain information regarding the presence of batteries at Mathias Point or White House.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 17, 1861.*

SIR: The Department would be glad to learn if there are any batteries at Mathias Point or White House. Can you obtain this information without unnecessary exposure to any of your command? Supply yourself with plenty of provisions and coal, so that a battery above and below will not cut you off.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 17, 1861.*

The [*Mount*] *Vernon* has returned from Aquia and reports all quiet.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Lieutenant Parker, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Release (Ice Boat), relative to the condition of that vessel.

U. S. S. RELEASE [ICE BOAT],
Off Aquia Creek, August 17, 1861.

SIR: It becomes my duty for the good of the service to make known to you that on the 13th instant when I took charge of this vessel she was in a disorganized and almost defenseless condition.

The crew were not properly stationed at quarters or armed. There were no boarding nettings or defenses against boarders rendered imperatively necessary in a vessel without bulwarks whose guards are not above 3 feet from the water.

The shot and ammunition for the bow guns were aft and the shot for the after guns forward, while the long engine room would have prevented these articles being moved rapidly in time of action.

In the after magazine, with open barrels of powder, were stowed iron shovels and other articles belonging to the engineer's department and a number of percussion shells for the rifled gun (whether filled or not I have been unable to ascertain) were exposed in the engine room.

The crew are now stationed and armed, the arms and ammunition properly distributed and stowed, and boarding nettings are being made. To man all the guns, however, twenty more men are requisite.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

FOXHALL A. PARKER,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain THOMAS CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from E. J. Hall, esq., to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, furnishing information regarding Confederate intercourse.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, August 17, 1861.

SIR: At the request of Judge Blair, I report to you the following information communicated to me by a reliable man:

A certain Lemuel W. Hammond, keeper of Pye's or Guymont [Glymont] Wharf, Charles County, Md., is in the habit of crossing at Piscataway Creek and obtaining recruits for the rebels, and giving and carrying information to the enemy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. J. HALL.

Captain G. V. Fox.

Report of Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, of a night cruise of that vessel.

U. S. S. RESOLUTE,
August 19, 1861.

SIR: I cruised all night between Quantico and Indian Head. No boats or movements on the river were discovered.

Immediately above Cockpit Point men and lights were seen in considerable numbers on the beach and adjoining heights busily moving about

from 1 to 4 o'clock. I watched them till daylight, when nothing could be discovered, either of them or their operations.

Very respectfully,

WM. BUDD.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Acting Master's Mate Ely, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Dana, of reconnoissance on St. George's Island, Md.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 19, 1861.

SIR: The accompanying report and letters were received by me last night, and I take the earliest opportunity, by the *Robert Leslie*, to forward them.

Mr. Ely's opinion of the organization of military bodies of men, is without the slightest doubt correct, and I am more than ever convinced that the people on the Maryland shore are secretly lying [in] wait for a move on the part of the rebels to uncover and fly to their assistance.

As yet, sir, I see no signs of a reenforcement of this flotilla. I hope you [will] pardon me for the solicitude I feel for seeing not only a large increase of the forces afloat, but an immediate occupation of some of the prominent landings hereabouts by our military forces.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commander, U. S. Navy, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. SCHOONER DANA, *August 18, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to report to you the proceedings of Mr. Gray and myself as follows, viz:

On the night of the 14th instant, a Mr. Smith, who keeps a store on St. George's Island, came alongside of my vessel and made complaint to me that he had been threatened with personal injury by several parties residing on the Maryland shore, in particular by Captain Code [Coad?], on account of his Union sentiments, and requested of me that I would solicit protection for himself and the other inhabitants of the island, who are all Union men, from the commander of the flotilla. At the suggestion of myself and Mr. Gray they drew up a memorial, which I enclose to you, signed by the two most prominent men on the island. After some further conversation with Smith I found that the aforesaid Code [Coad?] and his father (Colonel Code [Coad?]), who resides in the neighborhood, have been in the habit of sending provisions to Virginia, and that Captain Samuel Trader, of St. George's Island, was the man whom they had endeavored to persuade to engage in this contraband trade, and that he had at present in his possession certain goods bound to the sacred soil.

Acting upon this information, Mr. Gray and myself got our vessels underway and went to St. George's Island, where we landed in two

boats and called on Captain Trader. Having called him aside I told him that I had sufficient evidence of his contraband predilections to warrant me in searching his premises. He immediately delivered to me one-half barrel of coffee, one-half barrel of sugar, and some salt, which he said had been given to him by Colonel Dix to take to Virginia on the 4th of July last; that he had had them ever since, and had been using them in his family and never intended to take them to their places of destination. I, however, took them and have them now on board awaiting your orders as to what disposition I shall make of them. I would respectfully suggest that they may be useful as a bribe to him for further information. The idea struck me that he might have some letters, and I asked him for any letters he might have in his possession; he at once gave me the enclosed letters, which implicate several other parties; one of them, Mr. Dix, who sent the captured articles and the letters, I found upon enquiry had a large six-oared boat which had taken several loads of men to Virginia. I, therefore, went that night and took her, and being without a boat, I have appropriated her to the use of my vessel. On returning to our vessels we met a Mr. Roswell, whose father is the principal owner of St. George's Island. He thought it more than probable that we might find a quantity of contraband goods in possession of Captain Code [Coad?]. A difficulty now arose in my mind as to what might be the best mode of procedure. Mr. Gray thought we were not allowed to search private property in Maryland without an order from yourself or the Secretary of the Navy. Force, therefore, being out of the question, we determined to try a stratagem. After some deliberation we decided on the following plan, in the execution of which Mr. Roswell kindly offered his assistance, as he was well acquainted with Captain Code [Coad?]. It made the execution of the following plan comparatively easy:

The night being very dark, I got the *Dana* underway, and with Mr. Gray and six of his men on board, and Mr. Roswell and Captain Trader as pilots, we steered our course up St. George's Creek and anchored within musket shot of Code's [Coad?] house. I then disguised myself and two of my men and in company with Mr. Roswell went on shore to pay our compliments to the captain. Mr. Gray had his boat filled with armed men and ready to give any necessary assistance should our disguise be discovered.

The darkness and rain, together with the dilapidated condition of the boat in which I landed, made recognition next to impossible.

Mr. Roswell introduced me as Captain Williams, of the schooner *John Grant*, a good secessionist, and bound to Coan River with bacon and salt from Port Tobacco. Captain Code [Coad?] asked me how I had escaped the steamers. I told him that was easily done; that I had been carrying coal for the Government; that almost all the steamers had taken coal out of my vessel; consequently, being well acquainted with me and believing me to be a good Union man, they never took the trouble to search me. He then asked me if I was not afraid of being seen by the cutters. I said no; that the night was very dark and that one of the cutters was up the river and the other two had gone out into the bay. He complimented me on my sagacity and said it rejoiced him to meet a man of my stamp and wished me all possible success. The conversation then became general. He freely expressed his sentiments to me, offered us wine and cigars, and gave me much valuable information as to the state of feeling in his neighborhood; told me that several

parties had crossed from his immediate vicinity and expressed his sympathy for them, and from the tenor of his conversation I was led to believe that there were organized companies of armed men ready to cooperate with any forces which might land from Virginia in an attack upon the Government, which event, he said, the Unionists had more cause to fear than armed men going from Maryland to Virginia. As Colonel Code [Coad?] is an influential man and a politician, I report his conversation thus minutely.

It now showed signs of clearing away, and daylight coming on I signified my intention of leaving while the darkness favored me. I called him to one side and offered to carry any goods or letters he might wish to send over to Virginia.

He said he was sorry he had nothing at present, but that he thought if I had the time I might get quite a quantity up the St. Mary's River, near the factories; but, said I, "I may speak to a Union man and get myself into trouble." Said he: "You can not find a Union man from Breton's Bay to Point Lookout, except Dr. Jones and the inhabitants of St. George's Island." I then left him, having promised to call and see him again and let him know how I succeeded in my enterprise.

We had intended to go up to the factories, but when we got into the St. Mary's River it was broad daylight. We therefore gave it up and returned to our anchorage with my prize and information.

I have since thought it was better to keep things dark and content ourselves with keeping a strict watch until we got advice and further orders from yourself as to our future movements.

I forgot to mention that Mr. Gray took a runaway negro, claimed by Colonel Code [Coad?] and also by his son-in-law, Dr. Coombs. The negro says that his master threatened to shoot him for reporting certain boats to you as having been engaged in contraband trade and that he ran for his life.

He says he is the person who was on board your vessel last Sunday night and gave you the information for which he is now a fugitive. Colonel Code [Coad?] and Dr. Coombs both came to Piney Point yesterday and demanded him from Mr. Gray, but he refused to give him up without orders from you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT B. ELY,

Acting Master's Mate, Commanding U. S. Schooner Dana.

Commander CRAVEN,

Commanding Chesapeake Flotilla.

[Subenclosure.]

ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND, *August 15, 1861.*

SIR: We, the undersigned, do hereby certify and are willing to take oath to the same, that we, the inhabitants of this island (St. George's), have been threatened by Captain Edward Code [Coad?], captain of a cavalry company in Maryland, and residing on St. George's Creek, and having in his possession the arms for a cavalry company, and never having taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, as follows, viz:

First. On August 6 at 9 o'clock a. m. Captain Code [Coad?] said in conversation that should the Southern Confederacy by any means gain so much the advantage of the North as to enable Maryland to secede or to be able to declare her sentiments, that we, the inhabitants of this

island (St. George's) will be compelled to leave our homes at the shortest possible notice and that at least 300 men would be employed to expel us if necessary.

RICHARD J. BENEDICK,
Z. R. SMITH.

Commodore CRAVEN.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of the arrival of the U. S. steamers Penguin and Union.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 19, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that Commanders J. [W.] Livingston and J. [R.] Goldsborough, with their commands, the steamers *Penguin* and *Union*, arrived here and reported to me for duty about half past 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, forwarding information of the erection of a battery at Mathias Point, Va.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 19, 1861.

SIR: Enclosed is a copy of a letter referred to this Department.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

NEW YORK, August 12, 1861.

SIR: The rebels are at work now planting two 8-inch Columbiads on Mathias Point. At present only the two guns and the round shot are there. The carriages are now about ready to be conveyed. They are being constructed a few miles back. Sappers and miners are throwing up earthworks to enclose about 100 by 100 feet round the guns and an outer work 20 or 30 yards distant. No soldiers are there now, but there are plenty near by. Do not move to suppress it with less than 5,000 men that can be depended on. No water attack with guns would avail after it is planted, but it could now be taken from the water side. A secret night expedition might easily bring away the two guns with a small force, but that would be of no use, as they have plenty more guns. If attacked it should be held, and it is a good spot for us to have. And a dock should be built there for open communication.

Respectfully, yours,

J. B. BENSON.

The PRESIDENT.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting information received at the Department.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 19, 1861.

SIR: The following copy of a letter received at this Department is given for your information.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1861.

SIR: I thought that I would just drop you a few lines to give you some sort of a notion about the land side of the Potomac from Aquia Creek up as far as Mrs. Nelly Moncure's farm—about 8 miles. Aquia Creek or Bay is about 2 miles long and one-fourth to one-half mile wide. Our boats could not get up there unless the rebels would let them go, and they would not fire a gun until you got in there, and then you would never get out again. Just across from the creek landing on that point it is called Smith's Point. It is a level country all around there for about 2 miles, and I have no doubt but they have a heavy battery on that point, and 7 miles up this way also, to prevent us from going up and down the river. The river is only 3½ miles wide all along there, and at low tide a man can wade out about one-half a mile all along that shore. In that case they could land 10,000 men over on the Maryland side in twenty-four hours. Look out for Smith's Point. And 8 miles this side of the creek, there is a creek—I think it is called Quantico—where there is a small bay that would hold 100 fishing boats, and you could not see them going up and down the river. There is a small island called Fox Island that hides that little ducking river. We might make a halt there about daybreak some morning; but look out for masked batteries. There is a large brick house a little below it as you go down the river. It is between two high hills. But the mischief is how to get ashore unless you have small boats. The channel is on the Maryland side of the river.

Up the Aquia Creek, I have no doubt, at the place called the Landing, there are several schooners in the wood and rock business. With a fair wind they could soon run out of that place.

I. C. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting information received at the Department.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 19, 1861.

SIR: Enclosed is a copy of a letter referred to this Department; also of telegram.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.—Telegram.]

NEW YORK, August 19, 1861.

The following reports come to us:

The rebels are preparing to attack General Banks with 50,000 men; part are now at Leesburg; threatened attack on Washington only a blind. At Mathias Point two Columbiads, 8-inch; two 32-pounders, rifled; garrison, 700 riflemen and two 12-pounders; 5,000 men encamped 5 miles; 5,000, 10 miles distant, with telegraph lines between. Below the point, 7 miles, on Maryland side, extensive preparations for formidable battery; 1,000 men at work to plant twenty 10-inch Columbiads to come at night from Norfolk; each gun on flotilla covered with railroad iron. A force will move from Leesburg Tuesday night, though not entirely certain. I hope the information will do no harm.

Lieutenant-General SCOTT.

Order from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to the Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps, regarding men for special service.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 19, 1861.

SIR: Detail 200 marines with proper officers in marching order and place them in the navy yard at the disposal of Captain Dahlgren by 10 o'clock this evening.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
Commanding U. S. Marine Corps.

Order of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding detail of marines for duty in the Potomac Flotilla, and enclosing instructions to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 19, 1861.

SIR: The Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps has been directed to place 200 marines in marching order at your disposal by 10 o'clock this evening. You will send this force to Captain Craven as early as practicable, with the enclosed order to be delivered to that officer.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding Navy Yard, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 19, 1861.

SIR: In accordance with your suggestion, 200 marines are hereby placed at your disposal for the examination of Port Tobacco, and such other places as in your judgment are suspected of being depots of provisions or arms. As no accurate knowledge exists at the Department relative to any force which may oppose you, and as the general commanding designs sending a battalion into the Potomac counties

of Maryland, it is desirable that you should not go beyond the reach of the support of your accompanying vessels. Capture whatever arms are found, and destroy or bring off such provisions or other contrabands as are evidently intended for the rebels across the river.

Get a report, if practicable, from Maryland Point.

The *Jacob Bell* forms part of your flotilla, and you will arrange the crew and engineers on similar pay as the *Yankee* and *Freeborn*. The *Underwriter* will also join you as soon as armed.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 19, 1861.*

Send armed launches and men to Captain Craven, if you have them; also one midshipman, if any came up from Hampton Roads.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commander DAHLGREN,
Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 19, 1861.*

The *Baltimore* has arrived with four launches and seven cutters. Captain Craven sends word he would like to have the boats to-morrow with men, etc.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 19, 1861.*

There will not be men for the launches unless I take some of the crew of the *Pensacola*. If this be done the launches will go down to-night.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.],
August 19, 1861—11:30 p. m.

The steamer left at 11 o'clock with the marines and four launches armed and manned.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary of Navy.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding chartered tugs.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 19, 1861.

SIR: The steam tugs *Tigress*, *Edwin Forrest*, and *E. H. Herbert*, of Baltimore, have been chartered and will be delivered to you at the navy yard as soon as possible. The first two leave Baltimore at daylight to-morrow morning. The *Herbert* will leave on the 21st instant.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the arrival of the steamer Baltimore with eleven boats.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 20, 1861.

SIR: I have to report the arrival here yesterday afternoon of the steamboat *Baltimore* of this yard with eleven boats. Four of these were sent to the flotilla before midnight, armed, equipped, and manned by fifty-three seamen, under charge of Master's Mate White.

In the steamer which towed them down the river was a detachment of marines, with whom I sent rations for ten days, but did not communicate any orders, as the commanding officer did not report to me.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding change of command of Ice Boat.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 20, 1861.

SIR: I transfer to you, by order of the Navy Department, four launches, armed, equipped, and manned by fifty-three men.

Lieutenant [Thomas] Pattison will report for command of the *Ice Boat*, by order of the Navy Department, in place of Lieutenant [F. A.] Parker, who is to return to this place.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Pattison, U. S. Navy, to assume command of the Ice Boat.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 20, 1861.

SIR: You will take charge of the *Bell* and deliver her to Captain Craven, to whom, by order of the Navy Department, you will report for command of the *Ice Boat*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Lieutenant T. PATTISON.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of War, urging the necessity of fortifying Mathias Point.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 20, 1861.

SIR: The importance of keeping open the navigation of the Potomac is so obvious that no argument is necessary on the subject.

So far as is possible this Department has and will continue to discharge its duty in this matter by an armed flotilla; but there are one or two points where shore batteries can be made to intercept communication, and in view of that danger and recent investigations I would most urgently request that immediate measures be taken by the War Department to fortify and intrench Mathias Point. A single regiment aided by two of our steamers could heretofore, and perhaps may still, take possession and secure it; but if more than a regiment is required it appears to me indispensable that the requisite number should be furnished.

Attention, on separate occasions, has been called to the particular necessity of holding that place as absolutely essential to the unobstructed navigation of the Potomac. The Navy will at any moment contribute its efforts toward seizing and holding that place, and I apprehend there should not be any delay. Can not a sufficient force be sent down forthwith to seize and, in connection with such armed vessels as we can order for that purpose, hold Mathias Point and thus keep open the navigation of the Potomac?

I understand that troops will be sent to the lower Maryland counties to keep the peace and prevent batteries from being erected on the left bank. This is a timely and wise precaution, but it is equally necessary that we should take possession of Mathias Point. Should the insurgents get possession of that point it will require a very large force to dispossess them.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES

Hon. SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.],
August 21, 1861—11 p. m.

The *Baltimore* and marines have just returned; no persons arrested, but some papers secured at Port Tobacco.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding temporary transfer of U. S. S. Pawnee to the command of Flag-Officer Stringham, U. S. Navy.

Confidential]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 21, 1861.

SIR: Very important operations under Commodore Stringham render it desirable that the *Pawnee* should be sent to him, if, in your judgment, she can be spared from the Potomac for ten days. Such being the case, you may send her without delay, letting her communicate with the vessels off the mouth of the Rappahannock River. Mr. Cash, who seems to have missed the opportunity to return to you, reports to General Mansfield that a battery has been erected at Smith's Point, in Maryland, opposite Aquia Creek. The general does not credit the statement. There is an officer named William F. Dement, of the rebel Army, recruiting in Charles County, Md.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Acting Master Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, of information received from a captured negro.

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, August 22 [1861].

SIR: I captured last night off Evansport a negro man attempting to cross the river to Virginia.

He states that he was sent by Messrs. Posey and Renner, in Maryland, to assist in the construction of a battery between Possum Nose and Cockpit Point and also to inform Mr. Evans that a party of six or eight intended to cross on the first opportunity. He states that there is almost daily communication between Evans's and Budd's houses and men are taken across.

A person named Renner, living near Budd's, has a schooner called the *Constitution* engaged in the wood trade, which, on her return trip, generally brings ammunition, etc., in small, detached parcels stowed under the cabin floor. She is now up and expected down in a day or two. The negro's conduct, the circumstance of his capture, etc., are calculated to excite suspicion. He says he belongs to a Mr. Griffin, in Virginia; was sent across three weeks ago for safe-keeping.

I am of the opinion that he is a spy or trap of some kind.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM BUDD.

Captain CRAVEN.

Order from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, to transmit telegram.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 22, 1861.

SIR: You are desired to forward the accompanying telegraphic dispatch to Captain Craven when an opportunity occurs.

Very respectfully,

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Captain J. A. DAHLGREN,
Washington.

[Enclosure.—Telegram.]

ALEXANDRIA, August 22, 1861.

The schooner *Free Wind*, just arrived from New York, was fired at yesterday [by] musketry as she passed Chopawamsic, 12 miles above Aquia Creek. They are preparing to build a battery at that point and I understand the Confederate flag is flying there. All sea vessels must pass within 1 mile of the same. Dumfries is distant about 5 miles.

LEWIS MCKENZIE.

SECRETARY OF NAVY.

Letter from Lewis McKenzie, esq., to the Secretary of the Navy, giving additional information regarding schooner Free Wind, of New York.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., August 22, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I telegraphed you to-day that the schooner *Free Wind*, from New York, was fired upon yesterday from Chopawamsic, 10 or 12 miles above Aquia Creek, and that they were probably erecting a battery at that point. On further enquiry of the master of the schooner I learn there were nine shots at him from muskets, fired from a place called the Dipret, owned and occupied by E. B. Hooe, opposite Sandy Point. It is, however, only a short distance from Chopawamsic. I deem it of importance you should know the precise point, provided you desire to communicate with the Potomac Flotilla.

Your obedient servant,

LEWIS MCKENZIE.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from the commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding transfer to his command of U. S. S. Underwriter.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 22, 1861.

SIR: I transfer to your command the U. S. S. *Underwriter*, Lieutenant Prichett, who is temporarily in command of her, and has been directed to return to this yard. Two armed cutters accompany the steamer. I also transmit herewith two dispatches from the Navy Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, off Aquia Creek.

Order from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to seize Henry Pye and his boat.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 22, 1861.

SIR: Henry Pye, who was captain of the light-boat near Cedar Point, on the Potomac, which was destroyed by the rebels, has in his posses-

sion the yawl which belonged to that boat, formerly painted yellow, but now black, with which he transports mails, etc., across the river. You will be pleased to look after him and seize him and his boat if you can.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Report of Lieutenant McCrea, U. S. Navy, of having assumed command of the U. S. S. Jacob Bell.

U. S. S. BELL,
Off Aquia Creek, August 22, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have assumed command of the *Jacob Bell*, in accordance with the orders of Captain T. T. Craven, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of this date, and I respectfully request that my appointment to the command of this vessel may be approved by the Navy Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. MCCREA,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to seize mail matter at Nanjemoy post-office, Md.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 23, 1861.

SIR: The Department has reason to believe that Nanjemoy post-office, in Charles County, Md., is a medium of communication with the Virginia rebels, and that letters addressed to William S. Brown and George W. Carpenter are especially intended to cover communications to parties in Virginia. You will be pleased to have a watch kept in that quarter, and at a suitable time seize the contents of said office and send them to the Dead-Letter Office in Washington.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 23, 1861.

Place the *Tigress* and *Forrest* at the disposal of Captain Craven armed with one howitzer, if you have the men.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], August 23, 1861.

I will arm the *Tigress* and *Forrest* as directed, but have no men. Captain Craven has sent back to me the last two armed cutters for the want of men, which I had not.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Engagement of U. S. steamers Jacob Bell and Ice Boat (Release) with Confederate batteries at mouth of Potomac Creek, August 23, 1861.

Report of Lieutenant McCrea, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Jacob Bell.

U. S. S. JACOB BELL,
Off Aquia Creek, August 24, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report:

Having heard that there was an encampment of the enemy conspicuous on Potomac Creek, I offered to go in and examine closely the possible strength, by permission of Commander Dove, to report to Commander Goldsborough, of the *Union*. I got underway with the *Resolute* and *Reliance* and proceeded off the creek. After communicating with Commander Goldsborough I stood in with the *Resolute*, but she drawing too much water I stood in alone. Getting close to the encampment, in 9 feet water, I threw two shells over their tents, which caused them to rally around the colors. At that moment a battery on their left and on the beach opened upon me. I threw several shells at it, when it ceased firing and two batteries of rifled guns opened from the point of the creek. They fired rapidly and all the shots and shells came close, and several passed over, but none struck the vessel. Finding my guns would not reach, I came out of range of the enemy's batteries, when they then engaged the *Ice Boat*, which had just arrived in position for her rifled gun. No damage sustained by her. At 6:30 I returned to my anchorage here.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
EDWARD P. MCCREA,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Pattison, U. S. Navy, commanding steamer Ice Boat.

U. S. S. ICE BOAT,
Off Potomac Creek, August 23, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to orders I got underway at half past 4 p. m. and stood over to the Virginia shore and engaged two of the enemy's batteries of rifled guns, placed on opposite sides of the Potomac Creek. One battery consisted of four heavy guns, the other of two long-ranged rifled guns. At 4:45 I opened upon the enemy with my heavy rifled gun, and soon after brought my 9-inch Dahlgren gun to bear upon the batteries. At half past

5 the battery on the south side of the creek ceased firing, consequently I devoted my attention to the rifled-gun battery on the north side of the creek, which was playing upon me with vigor. Two shells passed over my hurricane deck and six or eight burst under the bows, doing no injury to the vessel or crew. At 6 p. m. I withdrew from the batteries, in obedience to a signal from my commanding officer.

Captain Mygatt, of the *Reliance*, came on board just as I was getting underway, and was of the greatest service to me. Being thoroughly acquainted with the river, he piloted me into safe water, and then at my request took command of our enormous rifled gun and fought it during the action with skill and judgment that entitles him to all praise.

The conduct of the officers and men meet my warmest approbation. Respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. PATTISON,
Lieutenant, Commanding Ice Boat.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, off Aquia Creek.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Mygatt, U. S. Navy.

U. S. S. PENGUIN, August 24, 1861.—

SIR: In obedience to your order I submit the following statement:

When down the river yesterday an encampment was seen on the bluff to the southward of Potomac Creek. Commander Dove was informed of the matter and he gave the commanding officers of the *Jacob Bell* and *Resolute* and myself permission to go in and see what they were doing. The *Jacob Bell* and *Resolute* went close in and fired a shot, when they immediately fired from three different points. I went in on the *Ice Boat*, Lieutenant Commanding Pattison. Several shots were fired from her rifled gun, but the effect could not be seen. The encampment is a very large one.

I think that I discovered another large encampment on the hills nearly opposite Sandy Point, but could not see distinctly as the light was too glaring.

Very respectfully, etc.,

J. P. K. MYGATT,
Acting Lieutenant.

Commander J. W. LIVINGSTON,
Commanding U. S. S. Penguin, Potomac River.

Report of Colonel Cary, C. S. Army, commanding Thirtieth Virginia Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS MARLBOROUGH POINT, August 23, 1861.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that this afternoon at about 4:30 o'clock the enemy's steamer *Yankee* [*Jacob Bell*] and a tug were seen standing in the mouth of Potomac Creek. I ordered down on to the point the siege rifled gun (Betty Holmes) and a section (rifle) of Walker's battery.

The enemy fired the first shot, not aimed at this point, however. Smith's battery replied. As soon as our fieldpieces opened, the U. S. S. *Release* [*Ice Boat*] stood in and engaged us.

The officers in charge of the pieces and the men behaved with proper coolness and deliberation. They were Lieutenants Hagerty, Pegram, and Dabney.

The enemy's fire was very accurate, frequently bursting his shell in close proximity to our pieces. It is believed that both the *Yankee* and the *Release* were hit, the former more than once. No one was hurt on our side.

The action lasted about forty minutes, during which we fired some twenty-five shot and shell, the enemy as many more. Captain R. L. Walker was present, in immediate command of all the pieces.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. M. CARY,
Thirtieth Virginia Infantry, Commanding.

D. H. MAURY,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Department of Fredericksburg, Brooke's.

Report of Lieutenant-Colonel Moses, commanding Third Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, of active aid furnished to the Confederates.

CAMP CALDWELL,
Washington, D. C., August 19, 1861.

MAJOR: I have to report on the authority of two negroes who presented themselves in camp last night, that about 20 or 25 miles below camp, at the crossing of the Potomac where there is a schoolhouse, armed men are said to have taken possession and parties are crossing the river from the Virginia side. Also that there are a number of arms in the vicinity and a general appearance of complicity and active aid being afforded to the rebels.

Very respectfully,

I. MOSES,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Third Regiment, Excelsior Brigade.

Major S. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army.

[First endorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS, ETC., *August 21, 1861.*

Respectfully referred to Brigadier-General [Andrew] Porter, provost-marshal.

By order S. Williams, assistant adjutant-general.

[Second endorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS CITY GUARD, *August 21, 1861.*

Respectfully forwarded to division headquarters for the orders of the division commander, as the point from which the information comes is not within my command.

A. PORTER,
Brigadier-General, Provost-Marshal.

[Third endorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, *August 24, 1861.*

Respectfully submitted to the honorable Secretary of the Navy with the recommendation that an examination of the point indicated may be made by a boat party.

Camp Caldwell is just beyond the navy-yard bridge.

GEO. B. McCLELLAN,
Major-General, U. S. Army.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 24, 1861.*

Prevent any rowboats passing your vessel up or down the river without a pass. Row guard at night to stop any communication of this kind with either shore. Answer by telegraph.

GIDEON WELLES.

Lieutenant F. S. HAGGERTY,
Commanding Brig Perry, Alexandria.

Instructions from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, in view of enclosed information of the shipment of arms and supplies.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *August 24, 1861.*

SIR: The information contained in the enclosed paper has been received from the lieutenant-general commanding in chief, and it is regarded as of so much importance as to require your particular attention.

You are hereby authorized to call upon Colonel Harris, Commandant of the Marine Corps, for a force of marines, not exceeding 200 in number, to assist in your examinations.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla of the Potomac.

[Enclosure.]

Two thousand five hundred men in rear of Mathias Point, 2 miles. Randolph Walton at Leonardtown and Tom Maddox at St. Inigoes, regular messengers. Two pieces heavy ordnance in back cellar of courthouse at Leonardtown.

Twenty-three cases of Minié muskets at Spencer's Wharf, Patuxent River.

Pope's Creek and Port Tobacco, principal depots.

No batteries on Maryland shore.

No batteries on Mathias Point; some clearing of underbrush.

Joe Maddox, brother of Tom, is engaged in furnishing supplies to go into Virginia.

Eight oyster pungies went into Machodoc Creek, near Ragged Point, last Sunday.

Stations for troops: Pope's Creek and Port Tobacco.

[Telegram.]

ALEXANDRIA, *August 25, 1861.*

Yesterday I intercepted a mail on its route outward. It was carried by women and one man. They obtained passes by false representations. What shall be done with the women? There was nothing of importance

in the letters. The commander of the *Perry* yesterday, under orders from Navy Department, stopped the Maryland ferryboat. These people in Alexandria depend for their marketing on that boat and I think it ought to be permitted to run. I presume the captain misunderstood his orders, as rowboats give the trouble.

W. B. FRANKLIN,
Brigadier-General.

Mr. J. S. WILLIAMS.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the seizure of twenty-eight boats.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 25, 1861.

SIR: The four steamers sent last evening in command of Captain Wainwright to secure all boats along the shore by verbal direction of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy returned last night at 3 o'clock, having taken twenty-eight boats, most of them small. They are now in the yard awaiting the disposition of the Department.

Learning this morning that there might be a number remaining in the Tiber, which were not visible in the night, I dispatched an officer with a small steamer to complete the order.

I telegraphed this morning to ask the pleasure of the Department in case a request was made by Mr. Russell, of the London Times, to pass down the river in one of our boats, which he has in view, I believe.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 25, 1861.*

The small steamer sent this morning to complete the seizure of boats, according to order of last evening, has returned with seventy-five boats, taken in the canal and near Long Bridge, which were all to be seen, except two that escaped.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 26, 1861.*

The tugs *Tigress* and *Forrest* went to the flotilla to-day, each having a rifled howitzer.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Commander Livingston, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, relative to the arrival of the steamer Pembroke in the Potomac Flotilla.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac River, August 27, 1861.

SIR: On the 26th the gunboat *Pembroke*, fitted out by the State of Massachusetts, arriving here with orders to report to you, I have detained her until your arrival.

Some of the officers here represent their commands in bad condition. I will send to you their reports as soon as received.

Captain Budd, of the *Resolute*, yesterday unfortunately was disabled by wounding his foot, which will lay him up for some time.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. LIVINGSTON,
Commanding *Penguin*.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding *Flotilla*.

P. S.—Your presence is now needed here.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Commander Livingston, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, regarding capture of A. B. Carhart.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
August 27, 1861.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to enclose a communication from Commander J. [W.] Livingston.

The person, A. B. Carhart, I have turned over to the charge of Captain J. A. Dahlgren to await further orders from you. He appears to be quite intelligent and pretty well posted as to the doings of the rebels.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding *Potomac Flotilla*.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac River, August 26, 1861.

SIR: This person, purporting to be A. B. Carhart, from Westmoreland County, Va., reports that he escaped yesterday to schooner *Pilot* to avoid being pressed into the Southern Army, which he looked upon as certain did he remain during the present week; thence transferred to schooner *Lloyd Milton*, from which he was taken by boarding officer of the *Penguin* to this vessel.

He reports residence in Virginia the past four years, where he now leaves a brother and family; former residence, Cecil County, Md., to which he proposes to return. And now, judging it expedient, [I] forward him to you for further investigation before being permitted to go at large.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. LIVINGSTON,
Commanding U. S. S. Penguin.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN, or
COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of occurrences during absence of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS, August 27, 1861.

SIR: Nothing very particular has occurred during your absence.

The *Jacob Bell* and *Release* [Ice Boat] made a reconnoissance of Potomac Creek and its vicinity last Friday [Thursday]. A few shots were exchanged without damage to either side. The encampment near was found much increased, indicating large reinforcements.

The wreck of the sloop which you sunk has been drifting about the river and I have made several attempts to get her on shore without success.

While two of the launches were employed about here yesterday afternoon they drifted toward Aquia Creek and the upper battery fired a blank charge, I suppose by way of warning, and I made the signal of recall.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. M. DOVE,
Commander.

[Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.]

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.],
August 27, 1861—1:45 p. m.

Captain Craven wishes to have forty men from this yard for the Potomac Flotilla.

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

[AUGUST 27, 1861.]

Furnish the Flotilla with all the men they require.

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 28, 1861.

Your vessel will be required to go to sea shortly. Call upon Captain Dahlgren to have her in all respects ready without leaving Alexandria if possible.

GIDEON WELLES.

Lieutenant F. S. HAGGERTY,
Commanding U. S. Brig Perry, Alexandria.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Prichett, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Underwriter, regarding the condition of that vessel.

U. S. S. YANKEE, August 28, 1861.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to enclose a report from Lieutenant Prichett, relative to the condition of the steamer *Underwriter*. I have ordered Lieutenant Prichett to proceed immediately to the navy yard for the purpose of having the *Underwriter* put in proper serviceable order. Her decks particularly require strengthening.

There is great want of efficient officers in all of the vessels recently sent to join the flotilla, and for the proper discipline of their crews I most earnestly request that at least six or eight competent drill officers may be ordered to report to me immediately.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNDERWRITER, August 27, 1861.

SIR: I am compelled to report to you the condition of this vessel, as I consider her unfit for service.

The armament of the vessel consists of one 8-inch shell gun, of 63 hundredweight, and one 6-inch rifled gun, of about the same weight, and there are only twenty-one men to work these guns and pass powder and shells.

The cooking arrangements are very incomplete, there being but a small stove for this purpose, thus making it necessary to cook the rations in small portions.

Neither officers nor men have sufficient quarters; the latter are compelled to sleep about the deck, and even then it is difficult to find sufficient room to protect them from the weather.

The apartment in which the ammunition is stowed is very incomplete, as the projectiles and powder are stowed together.

There are neither day nor night signals on board. But one small boat belongs to the vessel, and there are no boat davits.

No small arms of any description whatever or spyglass have been allotted to the vessel.

The boiler is leaking so much that it is necessary to get underway every eight or ten hours to pump it up. The vessel itself is leaking so much that it requires from three to four hours pumping to keep her clear.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. M. PRICHETT,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

J. W. LIVINGSTON,
Commanding U. S. S. Penguin, and Senior Officer, Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of the overhauling, by U. S. S. Yankee, of schooner Remittance, of Baltimore.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 30, 1861.

SIR: On the 28th instant, off Lower Cedar Point, we overhauled the schooner *Remittance*, of Baltimore, from Port Tobacco, bound to Balti-

more, commanded and owned by one James H. M. Burroughs. Upon examining this vessel, which is laden with tobacco and grain, we found five passengers, three of whom, viz, Alexander Johnson, Edward Sanders, and Charles A. Yates, say they are farmers, living in the neighborhood of Port Tobacco, are owners of part of the cargo of tobacco, and are going to Baltimore for the purpose of selling it. One, a Mr. Lancaster, is going to St. Mary's for the purpose of collecting debts. The fifth, calling himself John P. Richards, is a person who came down in the schooner on her last trip from Baltimore. He asserts that his trunk, which is a large one, was thoroughly searched by the boarding officers at Baltimore and "passed" by them; that it contained nothing more than it has in it at the present moment, which consists of very few articles of old and dirty clothing and could readily be made up into a very small bundle. One of the crew of this schooner, William Posey (colored), who has sailed in her for several years, states most positively that the trunk was not examined at Baltimore, and moreover that it was tightly packed with some heavy articles which he believes to have been contraband and that they have been conveyed over into Virginia.

In the left-hand end of the trunk are evidences of there having been false lining, which was stuck to the true lining by wafers, affording a space between the two where letters, etc., could have been concealed. As this person, John P. Richards, could not give a satisfactory account of himself, and his whole manner and appearance are suspicious, I have thought proper to send him to Washington for further examination.

The man, William Posey, states that the master, James H. M. Burroughs, is a rank secessionist; that his vessel has been used for carrying contraband goods from Baltimore, and that his boats have been frequently used for conveying goods, men, horses, and other contraband articles across the river to Virginia, and that Thomas F. Burroughs, brother of the master and mate of the vessel, has been in the habit of going over, and that he, William Posey, has been made to help pull the boat on these "excursions," and he states further that the *Remittance*, with the same master, mate, and crew who are now on board of her, was one of the vessels which went alongside the light-boat off Cedar Point and set fire to her in March or April last. Edward Ellis, who was one of the light-boat keepers and now a resident of Allen's Fresh, Charles County, Md., may be able to identify these brothers, Burroughs, as a part of the party concerned in the destruction of the light-boat.

I send, under charge of Lieutenant Mygatt, James H. M. and Thomas F. Burroughs and John P. Richards, with the witness, William Posey, to the navy yard at Washington, with orders to deliver them in charge of Commander Dahlgren, there to await further instructions from the Department.

The *Remittance* is now at anchor at Piney Point under the safe-keeping of Acting Master's Mates [James L.] Gray and [A. J.] Frank, whom I have ordered to detain her until next Wednesday, when, if they should receive no further order from yourself, to allow her to sail for Baltimore.

Very respectfully, etc.,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding disposition of schooner Remittance.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 31, 1861.

SIR: Your letter of the 30th instant has been received. You will send the schooner *Remittance*, which you report as being detained at Piney Point, to the Washington navy yard, to be delivered to Commander Dahlgren.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the schooner Remittance.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, September 3, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 31st ultimo, I have directed Lieutenant Mygatt to tow the schooner *Remittance* up to the navy yard, where she will be turned over to the care of Commander Dahlgren, to await further orders from the Department.

The crew of the *Remittance* still remaining on board are named John F. Bradley (white), Henry Lockett (colored), R. S. Mitchell; also, a passenger. The passengers are Alexander Johnson, Ed. Sanders, and Charles A. Yates.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 28, 1861.

Send 300 men into Fort Ellsworth at 4 o'clock p. m. More seamen will arrive from the North, when the fort will be delivered to the Navy.

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Navy Yard, Washington.

Order of commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Roe, U. S. Navy, to proceed to duty at Fort Ellsworth.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 28, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed with the seamen from this yard on board the steamboat *Philadelphia* to Fort Ellsworth and report to Brigadier-General [William B.] Franklin for duty in said fort.

You will promptly make requisitions on the quartermaster of General Franklin's brigade for tents and other necessaries for the men.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant ROE, U. S. Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August 28, 1861.*

The 400 men left for Fort Ellsworth at 3:40. I had to ask Captain Morris to loan a lieutenant, which he did—Lieutenant Roe. The men have their hammocks and bags, but nothing else. Please ask General McClellan to order tents, rations, etc., for these men. The night will be inclement, and if not under cover there will be many sick. A guard of fifty marines should also be detailed by Colonel Harris.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *August [28], 1861.*

The 400 seamen left here as directed for Fort Ellsworth. Lieutenant Roe reports that on arriving at Alexandria he went out to the fort and found it occupied by other troops. He could not find the commanding general of brigade. No provision being made for our men, either as regards food or shelter, he writes me that he remains at the wharf under shelter with the men until further orders. I shall immediately cause a steamboat to return with the men's rations. Captain Wainwright has been sent for and will, I hope, report in season to go down in the steamboat. Should there be an alarm in the night the seamen will speedily be at the fort. It would be well, however, that General McClellan should know the circumstances above stated.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. G. V. Fox,
Assistant Secretary of Navy.

[Telegram.]

ALEXANDRIA, *August 28, 1861.*

I was absent on a reconnoissance when the steamer arrived. I was informed by General McClellan that 400 sailors were to come to Fort Ellsworth, but as they have no tents I recommend that they stay aboard the steamer till morning.

W. B. FRANKLIN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

G. V. Fox,
Assistant Secretary Navy.

[Telegram.]

ALEXANDRIA, August 28, 1861.

The men have been disposed of comfortably to-night. There is no necessity for troubling Captain Dahlgren.

W. B. FRANKLIN,
Brigadier-General.

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting information regarding signals by the enemy.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 29, 1861.

SIR: The enclosed communication from Lieutenant Parker is respectfully transmitted for the information of the Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, August 28, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that during my late trip to Fortress Monroe and back in the *Philadelphia* I observed that the movements of the steamer were signalized by lanterns from the Maryland to the Virginia shore throughout the whole extent of the river. This signalizing was especially apparent last night upon my coming to anchor a few miles below Mathias Point.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

FOXHALL A. PARKER,
Lieutenant and Executive Officer.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commanding U. S. Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the vessels of his command.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 29, 1861.

SIR: Your letter of the 28th instant, with the enclosure from Lieutenant Prichett, has been received. You will send the vessels of the flotilla one at a time to the Washington navy yard for thorough repair and adaptation for service. Officers will be appointed and sent to the yard to be drilled at great guns, that being the only means by which you can be furnished with drill officers.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

644 OPERATIONS ON THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK.

Order from commandant navy yard, Washington, to master of tug B. H. Herbert.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, August 29, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed down the river and report for duty with the *Penguin*, Commander [Samuel] Lockwood, at his station off the Rappahannock, remaining at his disposal until further orders.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Mr. HARDEE,
Commanding Tug [B. H.] Herbert.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 30, 1861.

Have the lighters and boats off and near Alexandria seized and taken to the yard.

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Navy Yard.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 30, 1861.

Allow no boats to approach or leave Alexandria without a pass from the Army or Navy.

GIDEON WELLES.

Lieutenant F. S. Haggerty,
Commanding Brig Perry, off Alexandria.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], August 30, 1861.

I have sent two steamers, etc., to obey your orders. The *Resolute* has arrived with dispatches from Captain Craven, which I forward, and some prisoners.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. G. WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Report of Lieutenant Collins, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, acknowledging receipt of orders.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA,
Washington Navy Yard, August 30, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of yesterday detaching me from this vessel and directing me to report to

Commodore Breese for the command of the U. S. steam gunboat *Undulla*.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 N. COLLINS,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of information received from refugees.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 30, 1861.

SIR: This morning as we were passing Upper Cedar Point there came on board four colored men; one, named James Scott, states that he belongs to a Mr. Benjamin Weaver, of King George Court-House, Va., and that he (Scott) and Henry Young have been employed helping to build batteries at Mathias Point. There are two batteries now at the point ready for their guns, which are now on their way from Richmond and are daily expected. Henry Young says he belongs to one Dr. Young, who lives at Lemon [Orange?] Court-House, Va.; he states also that he has worked at a battery which is being built at Mathias Point, and that there are three heavy guns to be mounted there sometime during the present week.

The other two slaves, William Henderson, belonging to one John E. Wilson, of Wakefield, Va., and Grandison Piper, belonging to one Dr. Frederick Wheelwright, of Westmoreland, Va. These four men left Virginia in a small skiff last night. I sent them to the navy yard for your final disposition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, urging immediate action for the protection of navigation in the Potomac.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, August 30, 1861.

SIR: The more I witness the operations of the rebels, the more I am satisfied that if some prompt and efficient step is not taken to prevent it, the navigation of the Potomac River will be entirely cut off.

Unless there are batteries immediately erected opposite Mathias Point and the White House, and the Maryland shore occupied by a strong military force, the vessels of this flotilla, instead of being able to enforce the blockade, are momentarily threatened with some serious disaster.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.],
August 31, 1861—6 a. m.

About thirteen boats, mostly small, were gathered up last night conformably to order. The *Resolute* returned to the flotilla last evening.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of War, urging cooperation for the protection of navigation in the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 31, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose copies of dispatches received from Captain Craven, in command of the Potomac Flotilla, and beg to call your attention to his suggestions of the necessity of prompt and efficient measures for keeping open the navigation of the Potomac.

I have heretofore, on repeated occasions, called the attention of the War Department to this subject, which is of immense importance to this city and the operations of the Army as well as of the Navy.

It appears to me there should be no delay in taking the precautionary steps recommended by Captain Craven, and this Department, with the naval force on the Potomac, is ready at all times to aid in this measure.

I remain, very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

HON. SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting information regarding shipment of arms.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 31, 1861.

SIR: The enclosed extract is sent for your information, with the earnest recommendation that the points alluded to be closely watched.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.—Extract.]

AUGUST 26, 1861.

There have been forwarded to the eastern shore of Virginia, across the bay from Richmond, Va., six brass cannon for the troops in Accomac County, Va., and from a good source I learn that they are in camp drilling, etc., 3,000 strong and well supplied with ammunition of all kinds, and also are receiving and forwarding the same to the western shore to the enemy. The way the cannon were sent over to eastern Virginia from Richmond was down the Rappahannock River to a point inside the said river 10 miles and then sent to a place called the Dividing Creek, running up into the land above the mouth of the Rappahannock River some 12 miles. You can carry 12 feet water up this creek some 5 miles out of sight of the Chesapeake Bay. It is at this point where powder is being received and sent to the enemy in various parts

of western Virginia. It is sent into Chincoteague Inlet, on the coast, in vessels on the southerly side of Cape Charles and taken across the county [of] Accomac to Cherrystone, and from there sent across the bay to this Dividing Creek, above the Rappahannock River, inland, and then sent to the various rebel armies. The supplies sent are large, as the vessels discharge the powder on the sea side of Accomac County and have been doing so for some time. The powder is from New York and Philadelphia. I believe that the larger portion of their powder has been received through this channel, which up to the present has been overlooked.

This information I most respectfully submit.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Acting Master's Mate Foster, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Resolute, of the burning of four boats.

U. S. S. YANKEE, September 2, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a report from Acting Master's Mate Amos P. Foster, relative to the burning of some scows and other boats on the Virginia shore.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. RESOLUTE, August 31, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that at 5 o'clock p. m. of this day I discovered four boats on the Virginia shore, at a place called Ferry Landing, which I deemed necessary to destroy. I first endeavored to shove the boats out and tow them, but failing in this I proceeded to burn them. Learning that rebel pickets were in the habit of frequenting the place, I fired two shots in the nearest thicket to drive away anyone who might be concealed there. I then, with a boat's crew of five men, went on shore and set fire to the boats and boathouse, having my gun ready to cover my crew in case of an attack. The flames from the boats communicated to the small dwelling, which was also destroyed.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS P. FOSTER,
Acting Master's Mate, Commanding U. S. S. Resolute.

Commodore T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, U. S. S. Yankee, Potomac River.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to forward report regarding the capture of schooner Eagle.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 31, 1861.

SIR: By a memorandum left at the Department by you it is informed that William Laycock, of the schooner *Eagle*, charged with sailing his

schooner before day, but without intending to disobey orders, etc., was sent to the Washington yard with his vessel and is there at present confined. No report has been received by the Department in this case, and it would call your attention to the fact, and also the impropriety of not forwarding a detailed report immediately upon the seizure of any vessel.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the capture of the schooner Eagle.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 1, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 31st ultimo.

The schooner *Eagle*, Captain Laycock, was detained by Acting Master Budd, of the *Resolute*, on or about the 21st ultimo. He had spoken her during the night and ordered her to go up the river and anchor near the *Penguin*, and apparently the *Eagle* started to go in that direction, but some time afterwards, when on his tour of night scouting, he discovered the *Eagle* running down the river, evidently intending to disobey the order.

Under these circumstances, and the then apprehended attempt of the rebels to cross the river, Mr. Budd took charge of the schooner, and upon his report of the circumstances I ordered her to be taken to the Washington navy yard, there to await further instructions from yourself.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Commander Livingston, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, acknowledging receipt of orders.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac Flotilla, September 1, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of the 31st ultimo, detaching me from the command of this steamer and to proceed to New York and report for the command of the U. S. S. *Bienville*, when my relief, Lieutenant Thomas H. Stevens, shall report, which order will be obeyed accordingly.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. LIVINGSTON,
Commanding U. S. S. Penguin, Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Seizure of schooner T. J. Evans, September 1, 1861.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Acting Master's Mate Ely, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Dana.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
September 2, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose the report of Acting Master's Mate Ely, relative to the capture of the sloop *T. J. Evans*.

I had received information of the *Evans* being at anchor off Holland Island, on the eastern shore of Maryland, on the 29th ultimo, and that she was suspected of being engaged in illicit trade, and dispatched the *Dana* with orders to seize her.

Mr. Ely's account of the escape of the owner of the cargo, George Henry, is not satisfactory to me, and I regret that from the representations made to me by one of the *Dana's* crew, there appears to be strong ground for suspecting Mr. Ely of having been bribed by the rebel to allow him to escape. I respectfully request that his conduct may be thoroughly investigated.

By Acting Master Foster, temporarily in charge of the *Resolute*, I send the prize *T. J. Evans*, with her master, calling himself Thomas Stewart, and cargo, consisting of 9 bales of waterproof blankets, 6 cases of surgical instruments, 4 boxes of percussion caps and friction primers, and 4 Colts navy revolvers, to be delivered to the care of Commander Dahlgren at the navy yard, Washington, there to await further orders from the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

P. S.—My informant of the suspicious sloop *T. J. Evans* was one Thomas J. Potts, master of the schooner *North Star*, of Deal's Island, Somerset County, Md.

Respectfully,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

P. S.—One of my pilots, Bailey, informs me that Thomas Stewart is a fictitious name; that his true name is Daniel Bird, of Accomac County, Va.

Very respectfully,

THOS. T. CRAVEN.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. SCHOONER DANA, *September 1, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to report to you the capture of the sloop *T. J. Evans*, from Baltimore, bound to Annemessex River, having on board 3 large boxes of percussion caps, 4 Colts revolvers, 6 boxes of surgical instruments, 1 box of cannon primers, and several bales of gutta-percha mattress covers and blankets, together with two men, who were sailing the vessel, one of whom subsequently escaped.

In accordance with your orders I started in pursuit of her from Piney Point on the 29th day of August. By your instructions I went to Hol-

land Island, where the vessel was reported to be, but on arriving there I found that the vessel and one of the men had left. I immediately took charge of the other man, whom I found there and whom I now deliver to you, and obtained the following information in regard to the vessel, viz:

That the owner of the cargo had pushed the vessel off from the beach in spite of the efforts of several of the inhabitants to detain him. He threatened to shoot the first man who put a foot upon his vessel. Not understanding the mode of working a small vessel he got her aground near Clay Island, where he was captured by stratagem by some of the islanders, who had followed him in their canoes, and taken to the magistrate's house on Clay Island. I then took six men in my boat and pulled to Clay Island, where, after walking 5 miles, I found the man and the sloop, and at once took them in charge and returned to the vessel. I then got underway and came to Piney Point, where I found the steamer *George* [E. H.] *Herbert*, which towed me up the river to your vessel this morning.

While lying at Piney Point Mr. George Henry, one of the prisoners and the owner of the cargo, who was very sick, asked permission of me to go on shore and get his supper, as he could not eat the salt provisions which I had on board of my vessel. I granted his request and went on shore with him, where we took supper at the hotel. After tea he asked me to permit him to go out to fulfill the call of nature. I permitted him to go, but fearing that he might attempt to escape, I followed immediately after him, but favored by the darkness and the thick growth of trees, I am sorry to say that he succeeded in making good his escape. The other man, Thomas Stewart, the vessel and cargo, I now deliver to you.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. ELY,

Acting Master's Mate, Commanding U. S. Schooner Dana.

Commodore CRAVEN,

Flag Officer, Chesapeake Flying Flotilla.

Statement of officers of U. S. schooner *Dana* regarding conduct of commanding officer of that vessel in permitting the escape of owner of cargo of schooner T. J. Evans.

U. S. SCHOONER *DANA*, *September 5, 1861.*

SIR: As instructed I have questioned the undersigned men and they give this as their statement in regard to Mr. Ely and the escape of his prisoner. After taking the prize, with two prisoners, he returned to Piney Point, being absent two days. Mr. Ely immediately after arriving took the cargo out of the prize and loaded her with hawsers, etc., to take them on shore, taking the starboard watch with him (four men). Leaving them on shore, he then, with Mr. Marshall's boy, went back to the schooner and asked the prisoners to go on shore with him, which they did. The captain of the prize took several articles out of his carpetbag and told one of the men that if he did not return the man might have it. They then went on shore, Mr. Ely returning again to the schooner for the balance of his crew to help draw the wagon on which the four men had placed the rigging, leaving one man without arms to take charge of the prisoners. When the crew got on shore the captain of the prize gave one of the men \$1 to treat themselves with. After they

drank Mr. Ely treated them again. The crew then hauled the rigging up and put it away, after which they went on board to get their supper, leaving Mr. Ely and the prisoners at the hotel to get their suppers.

The crew, after getting their suppers, went again on shore and saw Mr. Ely and the two men going out of the dining room into the bar-room, shutting the door when they saw the crew coming on the porch. They remained in the room about fifteen minutes, when Mr. Ely came out. He had Mr. Marshall and one of the prisoners with him, leaving the captain of the prize in the room. Mr. Ely then ordered the crew to the boat and went on board the *Bailey*. While there he wrote a letter, intending it for you. When finished he asked Captain Gray how it would do. Mr. Ely went on shore with the prisoners at 4:30 p. m. and did not return until 10 o'clock.

These men say they felt satisfied the prisoner would not come back when he left the vessel, and further that Mr. Ely was very familiar with him, telling him of all proceedings of the flotilla on the river.

This being all I have been able to learn, I remain, very respectfully,
your obedient servant,

WM. T. STREET,
Master's Mate.

Signed:

JOSEPH R. FOSS.
BENJAMIN W. GATCH.
MORRIS KANE.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from Thomas R. Stewart, esq., to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, requesting an early investigation of his case.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA, *Sunday, September 8, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I would like very much for you to have my case brought up for trial or whatever process of law I have to go through. I am an innocent man and would like to be released. I will state the circumstance under which I was arrested or taken:

I was not arrested; I gave myself up to the captain of the U. S. schooner *Dana*; his name is Ellie [Ely]. I was hired in Baltimore by a man by the name of George Henry as a sailor or pilot in his boat, to go as far as Annesessex River, Maryland. We stopped to get a rudder on Holland Island. There was an officer came down and requested the captain to show him what those things were, or what kind of goods he had on board, which he refused to do. I, thinking something was wrong, left the boat. He ordered me to get on board, which I refused to do. He then started away, and was arrested some 15 miles from where I was by the officer of Dorchester County, and kept until the cutter came over and took charge of the boat and Captain Henry and myself. He acknowledged to the captain of the cutter that I knew nothing about what kind of goods he had on board; that he was the owner of the goods, and I was hired by him as a sailor or to pilot him to Annesessex River. I asked him what those things were and he told me they were dry goods and ready-made clothing. The captain and myself were allowed to go on shore at Piney Point with Captain Ellie

[Ely] to get supper, and after supper Captain Henry ran off and made his escape. Then I was sent here. By your having my case investigated would oblige me very much.

Yours, respectfully,

THOS. R. STEWART.

Mr. G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary Navy.

[Endorsement.]

Return with any report against Stewart.

[G. V. Fox.]

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to U. S. marshal, District of Columbia, transferring schooner *T. J. Evans* to his charge.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, September 13, 1861.

SIR: I am directed by the honorable Secretary of the Navy to turn over to you the prize schooner *T. J. Evans*, now at this yard, with the cargo and the prisoners sent to the yard in her.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

WARD H. LAMON, Esq.,
U. S. Marshal, District [of] Columbia.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, acknowledging receipt of information from the Department.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 2, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 31st, with an extract enclosed, relative to the transfer of six brass cannon across the Chesapeake to Accomac County, Va., etc.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Commander Livingston, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Penguin, regarding capture of W. T. Dean.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 2, 1861.*

SIR: I send in charge of Acting Master's Mate Foster, of the *Resolute*, one William Thomas Dean, who was taken up this morning by the steamer *Tigress*. He will be delivered to the care of Commander Dahlgren at the navy yard, there to await your further orders.

I have the honor to enclose herewith Commander J. W. Livingston's report of his capture.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac Flotilla, September 2, 1861.

SIR: I send you this morning, by the steam tug *Tigress*, a white boy of 20 years of age, who was captured this morning on the river, making his escape from the Virginia shore. He seems deplorably poor and destitute; says his father told him to escape and seek some employment on the Maryland shore.

He seems disposed to give information of what is going on there, and if true is valuable. He says they are preparing a fort at some position on Shipping Point, Quantico Creek, and that they have laid straw on the road to bring the guns over, and that soldiers are assembling at Dumfries, the village near, and more which you will obtain from him yourself.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. W. LIVINGSTON,
Commanding U. S. S. Penguin.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, etc.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, forwarding information received by the Department.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 2, 1861.*

SIR: The following information has been given the Department:

MOUTH OF SMITH'S CREEK, *St. Mary's County, Md.*

There is a great deal of passing to and from Virginia at this place—men and contrabands. This has been going on some time, and not being molested, they pass in open day. They have gone, a great many, from my neighborhood, I think as high as forty a night. I think it would be sufficient to put a tug at that place, and I think it would soon put a stop to the passing. The passing is principally from the mouth of Smith's Creek.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 2, 1861.*

Major Barnard, Chief Engineer of the Army, asks me if I have rifled cannon that will reach to Munson's Hill [Va.], three or three and a half miles. I answered I have three, and in a few days two more.

I have offered to place these cannon and to conduct the practice with them, which I hope the Department will sustain.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Commander Goldsborough, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, relative to affairs at Aquia Creek.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Potomac Creek, September 2, 1861—8 p. m.

SIR: I have just understood from the captain of a schooner, who, on beating down the river stood well over to Aquia Creek, that a long train of cars, apparently loaded with troops, had arrived at the depot a little before sundown, and that the Confederate steamer *Page* was well out in the stream with her steam up. Also from the captain of a tug coming up the river that a number of men were seen upon Mathias Point.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding the garrison of Fort Ellsworth.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, September 3, 1861.

SIR: Fort Ellsworth is now fully in the occupancy of the detachment of seamen sent by your order from this yard.

Commander Wainwright is in command, with Lieutenants Roe and Prichett, a master and midshipman, and 397 seamen.

In order to meet the exigency of the moment I detailed Lieutenant Roe for duty at the fort, but as he belongs to the *Pensacola* the confirmation of the Department is needed.

To complete the efficiency of the garrison a guard of at least fifty marines is required from the headquarters of the corps.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding Fort Ellsworth.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 3, 1861.*

SIR: Your letter of the 3d instant, reporting the occupancy of Fort Ellsworth, has been received. The Department approves your course in detailing Lieutenant Roe for temporary duty at the fort.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of Commander Goldsborough, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, acknowledging orders regarding transfer of command.

U. S. S. UNION,
Potomac Flotilla, September 3, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of the 2d instant, detaching me from the command of the *Union* and directing me to proceed to New York and take command of the U. S. S. *Florida*, which order I shall obey without delay.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Colonel Commandant U. S. Marine Corps, regarding detail of marines.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 3, 1861.*

Detail a guard of thirty marines in command of an officer to report to Commander Wainwright as part of the garrison of Fort Ellsworth under his command.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
Washington, D. C.

Order from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to send the steamer Pembroke to Boston, Mass.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 3, 1861.*

SIR: Herewith enclosed is a copy of a note, written by direction of his excellency Governor Andrew, giving notice of the sale of the propeller *Pembroke* to private parties.

You will please order the *Pembroke* to Boston, as requested.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla, etc., Potomac River.

[Enclosure.]

WILLARD'S,
Washington, August 29, 1861.

SIR: His excellency Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, directs me to say to you that he has sold the propeller *Pembroke* to private parties, and respectfully to ask that she may be ordered to Boston and her charter canceled.

With high respect, your obedient servant,

C. H. DALTON.

Hon. G. V. Fox,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to forward information regarding detention of vessel Maturity.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, September 3, 1861.

SIR: Mr. C. J. Norris, the owner of the vessel called the *Maturity*, brought to the Department the permit given to his captain August 9, and renewed August 26, and stated that his vessel had been turned back without any reasons therefor being given. No information has reached the Department in this case. You will be pleased, therefore, to give the facts in the case, and in all similar cases apprise the Department immediately, in order that proper explanations may be given to parties asking them.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding vessels under repair.

NAVY YARD, September 3, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I believe the bags and hammocks have all been sent; also 5,000 rounds for Sharps rifles and 50 pistols with ammunition.

It is not possible to man the cutters and the steamers now fitting.

The *Ceres* is being pushed forward and will soon be ready. She has been calked and coppered, etc.

The *Underwriter* is now on the rail [ways] and will be thoroughly repaired—calked, coppered, etc.

Then comes the *Island Belle* (like the *Ceres*), and then the *Anacostia*; so you see there is plenty to do.

The *Ceres* has the lightest gun above a boat howitzer; hope it will not be too heavy.

We have possession of Fort Ellsworth, and yesterday the Chief Engineer of the Army asked if I had cannon that would reach Munson's Hill, 3 miles off. So I offered to put a number of rifled 80-pounders there on the condition that I should conduct the operation; not accepted yet.

The *Savannah* has been fired at and I sent her a rifled 80-pounder last night.

Very truly, yours,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

[Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.]

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to General McClellan, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Potomac, regarding captured boy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, September 3, 1861.

SIR: I enclose you a copy of a note received by this Department, from the commander of the U. S. S. *Penguin*.* The commandant of

* See p. 653.

The navy yard has been directed by telegraph to send the boy alluded to, to you for interrogation.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Major-General GEORGE B. MCOLELLAN,
Commanding Army of the Potomac.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Major-General Dix, U. S. Army, regarding expedition to the mouth of the Potomac River.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 3, 1861.*

SIR: I enclose herewith a copy of a report of an expedition sent by Major-General Dix to the mouth of the Potomac.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES,
[*Secretary of the Navy.*]

Captain T. T. CRAVEN [U. S. Navy],
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Baltimore, Md., August 27, 1861.

GENERAL: I advised you on the 24th instant that I had sent an officer and some thirty men to the mouth of the Potomac on the steamboat *Hugh Jenkins*, to protect her and make observations.

I have now the honor to enclose a copy of his report.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. DIX,
Major-General, Commanding.

Major-General G. B. MCOLELLAN,
Commanding Army of the Potomac.

[Subenclosure.]

CAMP FEDERAL HILL,
Baltimore, August 21, 1861.

SIR: On the morning of the 21st, in compliance with special order No. 138, I embarked with thirty-four, rank and file, of my company, on board the steamer *Hugh Jenkins*, and accompanied her as a guard on her trip to Point Lookout, St. Mary's County, Md., arriving there on the evening of the same day at 8:15.

We discharged our passengers and anchored in the stream till Friday morning at 8 o'clock on the 23d, at which time we again touched at the dock, took on our passengers, and left for this city, arriving at 5:45 p. m. same day.

The sentiment of the people at Point Lookout is intensely Southern, and I was informed by slaves who came on board to sell fruit that their masters offered every facility to the rebels in the way of information and passing to and from the loyal States. Our anchorage was in the Potomac River, opposite Coan River. Vessels were passing in and out

close under the Virginia shore at all times with perfect freedom, there being no blockading vessel at the mouth of the Potomac, and I saw none while we were at Point Lookout, or during our trip.

H. DURYEA,

Captain, Fifth Regiment New York State Volunteers.

Lieutenant J. B. HAMBLIN,

Adjutant Fifth Regiment New York State Volunteers.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, denying the charge of negligence on the part of the officers of his command.

U. S. S. YANKEE, September 5, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, with its accompanying copy of a report of an expedition sent by Major-General Dix to the mouth of the Potomac. As the report of Captain H. Duryea, New York State Volunteers, seems to imply that the officers of this flotilla are negligent in the performance of their duties, and it has apparently been endorsed by no less a person than General McClellan, I beg leave to submit the following statement. Captain Duryea in his report of the 24th August says:

Our anchorage was in the Potomac River opposite Coan River. Vessels were passing in and out close under the Virginia shore at all times with perfect freedom, there being no blockading vessel at the mouth of the Potomac, and I saw none while we were at Point Lookout or during our trip.

When I was called by your order of the 13th August to concentrate my forces before Aquia Creek, knowing that the schooners *Dana*, *Bailey*, and *Cobb* could be of no earthly assistance to me, I left them near the mouth of the river, with orders to watch closely the movements of rebel sympathizers, whom I knew to be located about Herring Creek, St. Mary's River, and Point Lookout. On my first visit to Piney Point, after an absence from there of about ten days, Acting Master's Mates Ely and Gray both informed me of the visit made to Point Lookout by the steamer *Hugh Jenkins* on the evening of the 21st August. They were both in the vicinity of that point when she first made her appearance and there during her stay, watching, not only her movements, but as usual that of all other vessels passing up or down the river, and to-day upon questioning those gentlemen as to the passing of vessels "close under the Virginia shore at all times," they state such was not the fact. I can only attribute this misstatement of Captain Duryea's to his ignorance of nautical affairs, and, therefore, incapacity to distinguish a national cruiser from a wood barge. Vessels passing 4 or 5 miles from Point Lookout might to the inexperienced eye appear to be close to the Virginia shore, when in reality they would be at least 3 or 4 miles distant from it. Notwithstanding the foregoing statement, sir, I must confess from what I can learn that for the past two weeks there has been an unusual amount of intercourse between the rebels of either shore of the Potomac, particularly from Mathias Point down as far as Herring Creek; but situated as I have been, with so few vessels at my command, and these few but half equipped and manned, it has been impossible to prevent it. Yesterday and to-day I received an accession to my forces of two small steam tugs and three cutters. The steam tugs have each a small rifle cannon, and a crew of but six or seven men; they are totally unprovided with muskets, pistols, pikes,

or sabers. The cutters, instead of being manned by thirteen or fifteen men, which is the least number sufficient to manage them, have come down with but six and seven men. As poorly provided as they are, I have been busy all day in stationing them at the most important points from Pope's Creek to the mouth of the river: At Pope's Creek, a steam tug; at Lower Cedar Point, a cutter; at Cobb's Point, a steam tug; Blakistone's Island, a schooner, and so on down; four steam tugs, three schooners, and three cutters. With two additional steamers and four more cutters, properly armed and manned, this part of the river would be perfectly secure against crossings, and a large amount of aid and comfort which has but recently accumulated on the Maryland shore would have to seek some other outlet in order to reach its destination.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Watmough, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, acknowledging the Department's orders.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Potomac Creek, September 4, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's communication of the 2d instant ordering me to report to Captain Craven for the temporary command of the U. S. S. *Union*. I reported to Captain Craven this morning in obedience to said order. I would respectfully call the attention of the Department to a clerical error in addressing me as J. H. Watmough.

Very respectfully,

P. G. WATMOUGH,
Acting Lieutenant, Commanding.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington City, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 4, 1861.*

Send the *Satellite* and *Putnam* to Washington. The sailors telegraphed for from New York will be sent around here from Boston. You need send none.

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary.

Commodore S. L. BREESE,
Commandant Navy Yard, New York.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Gray, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Bailey, regarding reported breach of blockade.

U. S. SCHOONER BAILEY,
Potomac River, September 4, 1861.

I received information last night that a man living in Pope's Creek had anchored a large sailboat at Wicomico and hauled her overland to

Pope's Creek to convey passengers and goods to Mathias Point. His name is John Dent; the boat is called the *Lizzie Dodge*.

The rebels have soldiers now at Ragged Point; also at Cole's Point, a few miles above. There are also signals used almost every night between the two shores by rockets.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. LAWRENCE GRAY,
Acting Master's Mate, U. S. S[chooner] Bailey.

Commodore T. T. CRAVEN,
Potomac Squadron.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 4, 1861.*

The Department desires you to consult with General [W. R.] Montgomery, commanding at Alexandria, about boats crossing the river, and to permit such to cross as he may designate.

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary Navy.

Lieutenant F. S. HAGGERTY,
Commanding United States Brig [Perry], Alexandria, Va.

[Telegram.]

ALEXANDRIA, *September 4, 1861.*

I respectfully state that I have received your telegraphic communication. In obedience to the order I will consult with General Montgomery immediately.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. S. HAGGERTY,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary Navy.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding progress of repairs to vessels.

NAVY YARD, *September 4, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I regret that you feel troubled by the unavoidable diminution of your force. Whatever can be done here shall be done. The *Reliance*, *Herbert*, and *Pusey* I hurry down to join you to-night, and two cutters, perhaps three, the difficulty being to man them. The Navy now furnishes 400 men at Fort Ellsworth, 160 to the naval battery near it, and detachments to the bridge and magazine. The instruction department has much less than 100 in it and to draw them off too soon is not good policy.

A reenforcement of men is on the way.

The boiler of the *Ceres* is not finished; when it is the vessel will join you. The *Underwriter* can not be ready in less than two weeks, but the *Island Belle* will be, which will add materially to your number.

I was anxious to have some practice at Munson's Hill, but fear the chance will not be given me.

Yours, very truly,

JOHN A. DAHLGREN.

[Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.]

Letter from Lieutenant Parker, U. S. Navy, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding concealed arms.

[NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON,] *September 4, 1861.*

The negro, Henry Young, who was sent to this yard from the Potomac Flotilla on the 30th day of August, reports that in a barn on the plantation of Captain Cox, 3 miles from Chapel Point [Md.], are secreted a keg of powder and a sack of musket balls. Young further says that Captain Cox's colored overseer told him he could show him a place where many arms were concealed.

FOXHALL A. PARKER.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the impaired strength of his command.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Aquia, September 4, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 3d, I have this day ordered the steamer *Pembroke* to proceed to Boston, Mass.

The U. S. S. *Pawnee*, which by your order was sent to Fortress Monroe on the [—] ultimo, to be absent for ten days, has not yet returned.

By the withdrawal of these two vessels, sir, although numerically greater, the strength of this flotilla is not one-half so great as it was two weeks ago.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting letter from the provost-marshal regarding breaking of blockade in the Potomac River.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 4, 1861.*

SIR: A copy of a letter written to the Department by direction of the provost-marshal is herewith enclosed for your information.

Very respectfully,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS CITY GUARD,
Washington, September 4, 1861.

SIR: By direction of the provost-marshal, I have the honor to submit the following for the information of the Department, viz:

Crossings are made nightly from Maryland to Virginia at the mouth of Breton's Bay, St. Mary's River, Pocomoke River, and Nanticoke River.

I am, very respectfully,

WM. W. AVERELL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Order of the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting information.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, September 4, 1861.

SIR: The Department is desirous of learning the result of your examinations at Leonardtown, Port Tobacco, etc., as called for in its letter of the 24th August.

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary Navy.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of reconnoissances at Leonardtown and Port Tobacco.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Piney Point, September 5, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two communications of the 4th instant, one asking for a report of the result of the examinations made at Leonardtown, Port Tobacco, etc., as called for by you in your letter of the 24th August, the other accompanying information from the provost-marshal relative to crossings made nightly from Breton's Bay, St. Mary's River, etc.

In reply to the first, I would respectfully state that but two days previous to its receipt there was an examination made under the charge of Major Reynolds, of the Marine Corps, who proceeded to these two places and to Pope's Creek with 200 marines in the *Mount Vernon*. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Commanding Harrell, in the *Freeborn*. Major Reynolds reported to me verbally that he could discover nothing at either of these places. The positions named in your letter of the 24th August were thoroughly searched, and so was every place likely to contain concealed arms or supplies for the rebels, but without being able to discover anything.

On the 31st of July I had myself been at Leonardtown in search of these two pieces of cannon, and reported the result to the Department on the 1st of August. A few days since that time, and only a few days after the search made by Major Reynolds, I was informed by three or

four different parties that the guns in question had been at Leonardtown, but about the middle of July they were removed back toward the Patuxent River.

I am aware, sir, that I should have made a full statement of these facts to you at the time of their occurrence, but I was then so absorbed in the task assigned me by an order from the Department of the 13th August, requiring the concentration of all my forces before Aquia Creek for the purpose of preventing the enemy's crossing the river, that I overlooked, perhaps, many things of minor importance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy, forwarding information regarding breach of blockade.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 6, 1861.*

SIR: The following is sent for your information:

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 6, 1861.*

I have the honor to report that I have, while on guard, received reliable information that numbers of persons are crossing the Potomac from Maryland to Virginia nightly at Pope's Creek. They use punts or low ducking boats, by which a person is enabled to pass within a short distance of a sentinel without being observed.

Very respectfully,

WM. FLETCHER,
Sergeant of Guard, Alexandria Steamboat.

THE COMMANDING OFFICER, BATTALION, EIGHTH INFANTRY.

Very respectfully,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary Navy.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant McCrea, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Jacob Bell, of the result of an inspection of the Virginia coast.

U. S. S. JACOB BELL, *September 6, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to your order of this date, I made a thorough inspection of the coast of Virginia from opposite the anchorage as far as Indian Head. I saw no batteries, mounted or dismounted guns, and no changes on the said coast. I saw six men near a house on the beach opposite Sandy Point. I communicated with the *Penguin*, but received no intelligence of any moment.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. MCOREA,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander BENJAMIN M. DOVE,
Commanding Second Division, Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

ALEXANDRIA, *September 6, 1861.*

General Montgomery, commanding Alexandria, understands the ferry line has been closed by order of the honorable Secretary of the Navy.

Citizens here are anxious to have it reestablished for market purposes; indeed, public interest would be promoted thereby. Will the Secretary authorize its reestablishment between here and Maryland?

W. R. MONTGOMERY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 6, 1861.*

The Department has no objection to the ferry line being reopened upon such terms as yourself and the commanding naval officers may agree upon.

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary.

Brigadier-General MONTGOMERY, U. S. Army,
Alexandria, Va.

Report of Commander Dove, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of the shelling of the Virginia shore opposite Sandy Point, Md., by the U. S. S. Resolute.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS, *September 7, 1861.*

SIR: I have to report that the *Resolute* fired three shells (one of which burst) at a house on the Virginia shore nearly opposite Sandy Point, known as West's farm, on her way up the river this morning.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJN. M. DOVE,
Commander.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, U. S. S. Yankee.

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting letter from the Quartermaster-General's Department regarding purchase of steamers.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 7, 1861.*

SIR: I herewith enclose for your information an extract from a letter addressed by the Quartermaster-General of the Army to Major-General McClellan in relation to two vessels which the former has purchased, one of which it is proposed to station in the creek at Port Tobacco.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary Navy.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.—Extract.]

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, September 3, 1861.

I have ordered the purchase of the *Balloon* and *Hugh Jenkins*, two of the three Baltimore steamboats, the purchase of which you lately recommended. They need some slight repairs and will be ordered here as soon as ready. Mr. Tucker, of Philadelphia, who has conducted the negotiation for them, advises that one of them be armed and put into the creek at Port Tobacco, from which place he says he knows that a large trade is carried on with Virginia.

He knows of overtures being made to persons in Philadelphia to embark in this trade as profitable and safe; dark nights and foggy days cover it.

Would it not be well to put a small vessel there before these are made ready? I presume that, though bought by the quartermaster, these vessels will be armed by the Navy and at this navy yard. * * *

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General.

Major-General G. B. McCLELLAN,
Commanding General.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, acknowledging receipt of orders from the Department.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac Flotilla, September 8, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of orders for the temporary command of the U. S. S. *Penguin*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. BUDD,
Acting Lieutenant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, City.

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding reported movements of the Confederates.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, September 8, 1861.

SIR: Reports from scouts on the other side of the Potomac represent a concentration of the enemy about and near Occoquan Creek. I have dispatched a telegram to-day to have the *Seminole* sent up at once to report to you.

Very truly,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla in Potomac.

Communication from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding cooperation of the Army.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 8, 1861.*

SIR: I have just seen the chief of General McClellan's staff, and he informs me that one regiment of foot and a squadron of horse have been dispatched to Piscataway, and another similar force to Upper Marlborough, and that they have orders to scour the counties. The general requests that you will convey the earliest information of any attempt at crossing.

The steamer that takes this goes on to Hampton Roads for the *Seminole* and tug *Rescue*, to be sent to you, and men enough to man all the launches should arrive within twenty-four hours. The ferryboat to accommodate them will probably arrive Wednesday.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. V. Fox,
Acting Secretary.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Bentrick, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. tug E. H. Herbert, of shelling a light on the Virginia shore.

STEAM TUG HERBERT,
Sunday Morning, September 8, 1861.

SIR: My coal will not last more than two days longer. None on the way from Philadelphia for Government as I learn.

I put out a revolving light very suddenly on Friday morning, 3 a. m., on the Virginia shore. I watched it for two hours; it worked beautifully. Two Union shells made it disappear very suddenly. I want coal.

CHARLES BENTRICK,
Master's Mate, in Charge.

Captain JOHN A. DAHLGREN.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding distribution of vessels.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 9, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th instant.

I have this day stationed off Occoquan Creek the steamers *Penguin*, *Pocahontas*, *Jacob Bell*, *Yankee*, *Reliance*, *Tigress*, *James Murray*, and [*E. H.*] *Herbert*, and four cutters: Off Aquia are stationed the [*Thomas*] *Freeborn*, *Ice Boat*, *Union*, and *Resolute*, and two launches. Below Lower Ceder Point there are only three schooners to watch the coast thence as far as Point Lookout.

* * * * *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. G. V. Fox,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Lieutenant Pattison, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Release (Ice Boat), regarding fugitive slaves.

U. S. S. RELEASE,
Off Potomac Creek, September 10, 1861.

SIR: James Minor, George Washington, and Samuel Bunn, slaves, belonging to Phelan [Fielding] Lewis, of Virginia, who is at present acting with the rebels, came off from the Virginia shore yesterday in a small boat and were picked up by the *Union* and delivered to me.

This morning at daylight a slave by the name of James Lawson, belonging to John Tayloe, of King George County, Va., came alongside the *Union* and was transferred to me. This man states that his master is a colonel in the rebel Army.

I send the four above named to you by the tug *Tigress*.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. PATTISON,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding the blockade of the Potomac.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
September 11, 1861.

SIR: When the moon went down last night I sent our launch in toward High Point with orders to keep a lookout that no boats passed close inshore. This morning the coxswain in charge reports that near midnight he discovered a large boat coming from the direction of the Occoquan River toward High Point. He pulled in and the boats crew seeing our launch pulled back. She pulled very fast, and though he tried to get his gun to bear, she was out of sight inside the point before he succeeded. As you remarked a day or two since, should they attempt a crossing they would be likely to pull up close under the land to Hallowing Point [Va.], and then cross to the creek which makes up at Chapman's Point [Md.], within a very short distance of the road leading to Piscataway. The head of the creek is also but a short distance from the head of Mattawoman Creek.

When a boat goes down to Aquia Creek, can I be permitted to send down the launch now here and take the launch originally belonging to this vessel, which is now at the *Freeborn*, and in which are some articles belonging to the crew of this launch?

Should there be a smoothbore 12-pounder howitzer available, it would add to this vessel's efficiency to mount it on the field carriage which we have on the poop deck, our 12 [pounder] being mounted on the boat carriage on the topgallant forecastle.

The crew of the vessel are short three ordinary seamen and two or three messenger boys, which can be had from the *Freeborn*, they wishing to transfer them. Even could we have three howitzers on field carriages they could be mounted astern with advantage.

I find that some time ago Mr. Budd took Mr. Page over to Dr. Stewart's (once if not oftener) to see one of Dr. Stewart's daughters, to whom he is engaged; that Dr. Stewart told Commander Dove, who went in

under a flag of truce, that he wished Mr. Budd to discontinue coming there, as he feared that some of the neighbors might kill him, and he would not wish that to happen on his property. I return enclosed the order marked confidential. Commander Dove appeared to be wholly ignorant of any cause for arrest, and said that he was entirely innocent of any action or thought which could justify it.

As far as I can judge thus far, this vessel is in a very efficient state, and their pivot gun, which has just been exercised, is handled admirably.

Some time since Lieutenant Magaw applied for the command of the *Underwriter*. He is now the senior without command in the flotilla.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. WYMAN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, forwarding information regarding battery under construction by the Confederates on Mathias Point.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 11, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of the arrival last evening on board the *Yankee* of four contrabands from Virginia, three of whom, viz., James Minor, George Washington, and Samuel Bunn, belong to Phelan [Fielding] Lewis, who resides on the Rappahannock River. The fourth, James Lawson, a house servant, belonging to John Tayloe, of King George County, Va., a colonel in the rebel Army, is quite an intelligent man, states that the rebels are building a battery at Mathias Point, for which there are now in Fredericksburg seven guns, three of 9-inch bore, and the rest are from 8 to 7½-inch bore. They intend to convey these guns to Hop Yard Wharf, which is 2 miles above Cherry Point, on the Rappahannock, and from thence across to Mathias Point, so that they will have them the day the battery is prepared, and they will clear the trees off in front of the battery as soon as it is fully equipped. The statement of this man is similar to that I have received from other sources. He also says they have 700 militia encamped 5 miles back from Mathias Point, on Machodoc Creek, and 2,000 men on Potomac Creek. I will send them by the first opportunity to the navy yard, there to await the disposition of the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 11, 1861.*

The *Seminole* and *Rescue* have joined the flotilla. There is a report that the *Tigress* was sunk last night by a steamer supposed to be *State of Maine*, but have no certain information of it.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 11, 1861.*

A good deal of smoke from firing seen to-night off Munson's Hill [Va.]; the sound heard, too; troops skirmishing probably.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, transmitting enclosure.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac Flotilla, September 12, 1861.

SIR: Herein I forward some information procured by the officer in charge of the steam vessel *Herbert*.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. BUDD.

Commodore T. T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

On Tuesday, September 10, I saw a small sloop under cover of night run into a creek near my anchorage and manned the boat and pursued him. He appeared well acquainted with the ships of the flotilla, and, in answer to some questions, stated that there is in Pope's Creek a boat that did belong to the light-ship that was burned some time since. Said boat is used by an individual at the creek in transporting sundry articles across to the Virginia shore. A few days since a wagonload of boots and shoes and mail matter were sent across. This information, if deemed of any importance from such a source, is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. BENTRICK,
Steam Tug E. H. Herbert,

Report of Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, regarding boats concealed in creeks.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS,
September 12, 1861.

SIR: In a creek which makes up just below Freestone Point I have seen this afternoon, for the first time, the three masts of a longboat and the single mast of another boat.

This creek has its entrance below Freestone Point, but makes up (as the pilot says) to the northward, the boats being seen over the low land above Freestone Point. I am inclined to believe that there is a creek making in just to the northward of the point.

The masts of these boats have again been taken down, so it may be that there are many more in this creek that are concealed by the land. It has occurred to me that the "varmints" might try and spring a fire ship on us out of some of these creeks, but I will look out for these two entrances with the tug and launch. Sending aloft, three boats can be seen in this creek, two large and one small. Above and over the sandy beach which

makes inside of High Point toward Occoquan River, a longboat is visible, hauled up, and some six to eight men appear to be working on her.

Respectfully,

R. H. WYMAN,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN.

[P. S.]—I have just received Mr. Fox's reprimand, which I look upon as entirely uncalled for and unjust. I enclose the acknowledgment of it, which, if you consider necessary, please send, if not, tear it up. I am very sorry that Mr. Howison is detached; that leaves us but one regular officer, Mr. Magaw, first lieutenant, and the pivot gun here requires more knowledge than these acting masters possess, though I think that Mr. Parker will do very well at it.

Could the *Ceres* go far enough into the bay to make out anything of their movements?

Report of commandant navy yard, New York, of the departure of vessels from that station for the Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK, *September 13, 1861.*

SIR: I have to report the departure this day for Washington of the following vessels, viz: Propeller *Valley City*, Lieutenant Commanding J. O. Chaplin; steam tug *Satellite*, Acting Master Spinney; steam tug *General Putnam*, Acting Master Hotchkiss.

I enclose herewith the muster roll of the steamer *Valley City*. I have directed the accounts of the crews of the *Satellite* and *Putnam* to be transferred to the acting paymaster of the flotilla in the Potomac.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAM. L. BREESE,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

P. S.—I have only put on board each of these vessels twelve men.

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting enclosure urging increased restrictions to communication via Mathias Point.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 13, 1861.*

SIR: I enclose herewith a copy of a communication for your information, referred to this Department by Major-General McClellan, in regard to the transit of newspapers into Virginia by way of Mathias Point.

I am, respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

CLERK'S OFFICE,
Hagerstown, August 31, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I dislike very much to be obtruding so frequently upon your attention, but a matter has come to my knowledge recently that were I not to disclose it I should feel that I was derelict in my duty as a good citizen.

I learn from a gentleman just returned from Richmond, Va., that the Baltimore papers are received there almost as regularly and promptly as they are here in Hagerstown, and that they cross at Mathias Point.

The gentleman from whom I derived this information has been to Richmond, by permission of our Government, on a mission of mercy, to obtain the release of a prisoner who had fallen into the hands of the rebels while General Patterson's division was at Charlestown; and my informant was only defeated in his errand by the appearance in Richmond one morning of the Baltimore American and Sun, containing a notice of its [his] visit and its object.

I do not know, of course, that your Department is aware of this point of transit for the newspapers of Baltimore, and therefore make this communication for what it is worth. A much closer watch than that heretofore observed must be inaugurated so as to prevent all intercommunication between us and the rebels, or our plans will be constantly liable to be frustrated.

With great regard, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC NESBITT.

Hon. M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting convoy for coal schooner.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, September 13, 1861.

SIR: You will perceive by the enclosed that the schooner *John Lenthall* has a cargo of coal shipped by the navy agent to the flag-officer at Fortress Monroe.

If perfectly convenient to do so, will you please give her a convoy to the mouth of the river, as I have no vessel at command to send so far with her.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, relative to movements of vessels on the Potomac River.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac Flotilla, September 13, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that a short time before midnight a howitzer was fired down the river and two blows from a steam whistle heard. I

at once unshackled chain and prepared to go to her assistance, supposing it to be the *Herbert*. Soon after a tug hove in sight with a launch in tow, and although hailed frequently by me and a musket fired no reply was given except two blows from her whistle. I thought I recognized her to be the *Resolute*. Please instruct me whether I am to allow these vessels to pass under like circumstances or whether I am to enforce an answer to my hail.

About 1 o'clock a. m. it was reported to me that exhaust steam was heard toward the Virginia shore and a dim light seen. I watched very closely the position designated, but saw nor heard nothing, else I should have reconnoitered. This morning, however, the tug *James Murray* has been seen at daylight anchored between us and Cockpit Point. Her officer stated that he had been instructed to watch for two boats that had been seen under Freestone Point. He had therefore evidently mistaken his position.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. BUDD,
Acting Lieutenant, Commanding U. S. S. Penguin.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

My instructions to the captain of the *Herbert* are to allow no vessels to pass up at night unless in the Government service. Is this correct?

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, acknowledging receipt of reports.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 13, 1861.*

SIR: The Department has duly received your communications of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, two of the 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th instant.

An extract of your report of the 5th, relative to the expedition sent by General Dix to the mouth of the Potomac, has been transmitted to Major-General McClellan, with a request for him to forward it to General Dix.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary Navy.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding escaped United States prisoners.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 13, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the freight steamer *James Jerome* put on board of this vessel three gentlemen of our volunteers, who say they were captured at the battle of Bull Run, and who made their escape from Richmond on the 5th instant.

I have sent them up to the navy yard in the *Resolute* to be turned over to the care of Captain Dahlgren.

Their names are W. H. Raynor, lieutenant, First Regiment Ohio Volunteers; John R. Hurd, captain, Second Kentucky Volunteers; Charles J. Murphy, lieutenant and quartermaster, Thirty-eighth New York Volunteers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting information regarding Confederate batteries.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 13, 1861.*

SIR: The enclosed paper is sent for your information.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

The Richmond Examiner of the 9th says, before many hours the Potomac will be effectually closed by powerful batteries. The chief of ordnance in Virginia is responding to the call for all the field artillery. The Examiner also says that ten batteries are now ready for immediate duty, and that eight or ten more could soon be got ready.

The Examiner further remarks that President Davis has so far recovered from his recent severe illness as to take an airing in a carriage on Saturday.

It is stated in the papers that Captain Buchanan, late U. S. Navy, is engaged in erecting a battery near the White House.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, urging prompt action to prevent the closing of the Potomac River.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Indian Head, September 14, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday, with its enclosed extract from the Richmond Examiner.

The information contained in this paper coincides with all I have been able to pick up since joining this flotilla, and I am fully satisfied that there is much truth in it.

Unless something is speedily done to protect the channels at Mathias and Whitestone points [House] the Potomac River may be sooner and more effectually closed than seems to be apprehended by authorities in Washington.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. G. V. FOX,
Acting Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Frank, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Howell Cobb, of the operations of his vessel from September 9-14, 1861.

U. S. SCHOONER HOWELL COBB,
Potomac River, September 14, 1861.

SIR: This is a part of my work that I have performed since 9th of this present month.

September 10.—I went on shore at Ledowes Ferry, Mr. Henry Ferguson's, and learned that there was a boat there, [in] which he had been conveying men across the river to Virginia; so I took her in charge and kept her until Friday, 10th [13th], and she proved to leak very badly; so I had her cut up.

September 13.—I took three men on board from Lower Cedar Point, who were fugitives from Richmond, taken at the battle of Manassas, from their statement, viz: First, Quartermaster Charles J. Murphy, of the Thirty-eighth Regiment New York Volunteers; Second, Captain J. R. Hurd, Second Regiment Kentucky Volunteers, Scott Life Guards; Third, Lieutenant W. H. Raynor, First Ohio Regiment.

13th.—I took a reconnoissance and found one of the best boats that has been captured for the use of the secesh [to] cross to Mathias Point. It was belonging to Mr. George Dent. The boat was used on the 12th at night. She carried over four men, from what I can learn. There was some wheat to go on the same night, but I have not learned whether the wheat went or not.

Captain Craven, sir, as far as I have learned, and my judgment serves me, I think it would be advisable to have three or four of these gentlemen arrested, viz, Mr. Jones, Mr. Watson, Mr. Dent, Mr. Ferguson.

I boarded twenty-one vessels on the 14th, bound up the river, laden with assorted articles—coal, wood, wheat, hay, oats, lumber, etc.

Respectfully, yours,

A. J. FRANK,
Acting Master's Mate.

Captain CRAVEN,
U. S. S. Yankee.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 15, 1861.*

SIR: You will send to the Washington navy yard the U. S. S. *Pocahontas*, so that she may arrive by Tuesday morning, the 17th instant.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, regarding movements of a suspicious vessel.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Potomac River, September 15, 1861.

SIR: I was informed last evening by Captain Cottrell, of schooner *J. R. Griffiths*, employed in transporting lumber for the quartermaster's

department, that on Thursday afternoon last, when between Barn [Barren?] Island and Hooper Strait [Maryland], he saw a puny off his port bow, and when near Point Lookout he distinctly saw from thirty-five to forty men on her deck. She stood over between Coan Creek [River] and Smith's Point. I desired him to communicate these facts to you.

I have further to report that in accordance with your permission I allowed Mr. Posey to enter the creek below me with his guano, but hearing subsequently a rumor that he had been engaged with others previously to the present rigid blockade of the river in swimming horses across from the Maryland side to the Virginia shore, I deemed it my duty to have his vessel thoroughly searched and shall further attend to her. He had quite a large flatboat in tow.

I have been informed by Lieutenant Commanding McCrea that an order existed prohibiting any communication between the officers of the flotilla and the residents on the Maryland shore. I respectfully ask whether these instructions apply to supplies of vegetables furnished by the negroes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. BUDD,
Acting Lieutenant, Commanding U. S. S. Penguin.

Captain THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla regarding supplies, in view of the possible closing of the river.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 15, 1861.*

SIR: The Department and the major-general are fully apprised of the probability of closing the river by the enemy at certain points.

In such an event supplies must be conveyed to you by land, and the Department will thank you for any suggestions as to the point where they should be delivered, as well as any other considerations connected with such a movement by the enemy. You will notify the Department at once of any important act of the enemy and act upon your own good judgment until the major-general shall feel himself called upon to act. You should get as much coal and provisions as possible to retain your position in case of being cut off above and below.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, urging immediate occupation of Mathias Point by United States troops.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Indian Head, September 16, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th, in reference to the probability of the closing of the river by the enemy. To prevent such an event I would respectfully

suggest that Mathias Point be immediately taken possession of and occupied by a strong body of our troops. Batteries from Chapin's to Marshall's points would command the opposite positions on Hallowing and Whitestone points. To prevent the possibility of the enemy's crossing the river, either I must have a much more powerful and efficient force than I have at present, or I should be backed by batteries to the positions whence the enemy would be most likely to make a demonstration. Those places, in my opinion, are Occoquan and Neabsco rivers, Powell's, Quantico, Chopawamsic, Aquia, and Potomac creeks. Should such an attempt as the closing of the river by the enemy be successful, supplies could reach me at or near the mouth of the Mattawoman Creek. While employed here with the whole of my force to guard against a possible attempt to cross the river, I frequently hear rumors and occasional reports of the intercourse kept up from the Maryland shore to Mathias Point. Within the past three weeks I have had seized from Pope's Creek no less than three fine boats, which are said to belong to one Mr. Dent, who is largely engaged in the transportation to Virginia of mails, passengers, and munitions of war.

Again, sir, I beg leave to remind the Department of the very inefficient condition of the vessels comprising this flotilla. With the exception of the *Pocahontas*, *Seminole*, *Penguin*, and *Union*, there is not [one] of the steamers that is not liable, in consequence of the exposed condition of their engine, to utter disability by even a musket ball; and besides all this there are almost daily complaints from some one of them of repairs needed to engines, strengthening of decks, etc.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 16, 1861.*

The *Satellite* has arrived from New York; she is armed; wants coal only and a few men. The *Lockwood* awaits the orders of the Department. The ferryboat has arrived.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 16, 1861.*

The *Putnam* has just arrived; is she to join the flotilla? The *Satellite* has just left for the flotilla. The ferryboat is being loaded with provisions and coal. The yard will need a supply of provisions. I can send two men for gunners, and five of the twenty are reported as fit for advancement.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 16, 1861.*

The *Lockwood* is to be manned and armed for the flotilla. Make the best terms for coaling the flotilla. The ferryboat should have cooking arrangements and hooks for hammocks.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary.

Captain DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *September 17, 1861.*

The *Island Belle* has left for the flotilla. She carries a 32-pounder of 27 hundredweight and a rifled 12-pounder.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of additions to his command.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Occoquan Creek, September 17, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the steamers *Satellite*, *Valley City*, and the *Island Belle* have arrived and joined the flotilla under my command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *September 18, 1861—10:42 a. m.*
The *Putnam* left last night to join the flotilla.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla regarding battery at Whitestone Point.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 18, 1861.*

SIR: This evening the officer [in] charge of the dispatch boat *Pusey* from the navy yard informed me that as he passed Whitestone Point he observed several men at work upon an earthwork battery.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

678 OPERATIONS ON THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding inefficient condition of the vessels of his command.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 18, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a report made by the engineer of the *Ice Boat*.

Besides the *Ice Boat*, the *Resolute* and *Jacob Bell* both need repairs; as disabled as they are, and as inefficient as are several of the vessels belonging to this flotilla, I shall be obliged to hold on to them for the present.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. RELEASE [ICE BOAT],
Off Potomac Creek, September 18, 1861.

SIR: It is my duty to report to you that the starboard and port bed-plates of this vessel are broken and in a dangerous condition. If the shafts are not attended to soon the vessel will be entirely disabled as far as her engine is concerned.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. BURKET,
Chief Engineer.

Lieutenant Commanding THOMAS PATTISON.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the transfer of U. S. steamers General Putnam and Ceres to the Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 18, 1861.*

SIR: Send the *General Putnam* and *Ceres* to Old Point with instructions to report to the senior naval officer present. The accounts of the officers and men you will transfer to the Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Allow clothes to the contrabands who are engaged in any public services in your flotilla.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Frank, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Howell Cobb, of the rumor of an intended attack on his vessel.

U. S. SCHOONER HOWELL COBB, *September 18, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: On the 15th I sent you a dispatch by the steamer *Baltimore*, but not hearing from you I avail myself of this opportunity to report to you these few facts.

Sir, last Saturday night was set apart by Messrs. Ferguson, Watson, Jones, and Dent, with a posse of 16 men and 5 boats, which they have in Virginia, from what I can learn, to capture me and vessel. I was at Lower Cedar Point last Saturday night. The schooner *John Wilson*, of Baltimore, Captain Benjamin Hardy, and the schooner *Catharine Jane*, of Baltimore, Captain Rosenbrock. These rebels took the schooners' boats and took two loads apiece, and sent the boats back and said to the men they would want them when they commenced their batteries in Maryland.

I took a boat from Mr. Ferguson and cut her up, and since then I took Mr. Dent's boat, which has been their main boat, so these men are hot foot after me and threaten to capture me the first opportunity.

Captain Craven, sir, I call on you for more arms and ammunition. If you please, let me have a howitzer, for I can assure you it is for the safety of the vessel and crew. If you should send me any help I think the steamer *Rescue*, Captain Haines, seems to be well acquainted, and the steamer makes less noise than any I have seen.

If you conclude to send the arms, I should like four men more, and I think that we can take care of ourselves then with the assistance of a steamer. My ammunition is getting short and had to get some from Captain Haines.

We are well at present but the cook, who has something of a bilious attack.

I hope, captain, this will meet your approbation.

Respectfully, yours.

A. J. FRANK.

Captain CRAVEN.

[P. S.]—Paper is scarce.

Seizure of schooner Harford, September 18, 1861.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Acting Master's Mate Haines, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Rescue*.

U. S. S. YANKEE,

Off Occoquan River, September 20, 1861.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to enclose a report made to me this morning by Acting Master's Mate Edward L. Haines. As the schooner *Harford* has no license or enrollment and appears to be sailing under false owners, I have determined to send her to the navy yard at Washington to await further orders from the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,

Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. RESCUE,

Potomac River, September 20, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to your order I proceeded with this vessel, on the 18th instant, to make an examination of Mathias Point and Pope's Creek. On arrival at the latter place dis-

covered the schooner *Harford*, loaded with 3,800 bushels of wheat and 160 hogsheads of tobacco. She being without papers of any description I seized her, and, leaving her in charge of Master's Mate Frank, commanding U. S. schooner *Dana*, I returned to this anchorage, having discovered nothing suspicious except the schooner above mentioned.

Yesterday, in obedience to your order, I proceeded to Pope's Creek for the purpose of towing up the schooner *Harford*, and when opposite the house of Mr. Grimes was fired upon with musketry by a force of at least 200 cavalry. I returned the fire with four shell, which put them to flight. While at Pope's Creek I received on board two negroes, the property of Henry Ferguson, a resident of Maryland, living on the Maryland shore above Cedar Point. The negroes inform me that their owner, Mr. Ferguson, has been engaged in carrying mails and passengers from Maryland to Virginia and that when I received them on board they were returning from having landed Mr. Ferguson in Virginia.

My master's mate and myself know that the schooner *Harford* had painted on her stern as late as August 1, "Tappahannock, Va.," although she now hails from Baltimore. This is confirmed by one of the crew now on board.

From Mr. Burrows, residing at Lower Cedar Point, I received information that Mr. George Dent, residing on the high bluff opposite Mathias Point, which bluff has a commanding view up and down the river, signalizes to the rebels at Mathias Point all the movements of the flotilla.

From one of the crew of the schooner *Harford* I have the following information: George Brent, lawyer, at Port Tobacco; J. H. Neil, two farms above Dent's, and John Ware, first farm above Dent's, have aided in conveying men and provisions to Virginia.

Walter and Heb Mitchell, residing near Port Tobacco, left three days since to join the rebels in Virginia. John Johnson, William Campbell, Alexander Campbell, Frank Clements, and Alfred Naley, are the names of the parties who burned the light-boat. All of them are now in Virginia except the latter, who resides at Chapel Point, Port Tobacco Creek [River].

Francis Dilehay, with several others, took up arms, joined rebel company organizing at Port Tobacco. He is still in Maryland and resides at Chapel Point.

With the schooner *Harford* in tow, her officers and crew in custody, and the negroes received on board at Pope's Creek, I returned to this anchorage at 1 a. m. this morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD L. HAINES,

Commanding Steamer Rescue.

Commodore THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,

Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 24, 1861.*

SIR: The Department duly received your letter of the 20th instant enclosing Acting Master's Mate Haines's report of the seizure of the schooner *Harford*, with papers relating to disloyal parties in Maryland. Instructions have been given to deliver the *Harford*, her officers, and

crew to the civil authorities. If evidence is conclusive that Alfred Naley assisted in burning the light-boat he should be arrested. It may be well to seize other rebels if there is proof sufficient of their guilt.

I take this occasion to acknowledge the receipt of the following letters from you, which require no special answer:

One of the 13th, three of the 14th, two of the 16th, one of the 17th, two of the 20th, and one of the 22d instant.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, of reconnoissance of Whitestone Point.

U. S. S. POCAHONTAS, *September 19, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: From the reconnoissance made last night of Whitestone Point there are no troops, breastworks, or anything of the kind there; neither have there been any troops there. About 2 miles up the creek (Polick) there is a body of troops, but how many could not be ascertained. We have been lying here now two days and no court yet. Our coal is in, flues and boilers cleaned, and we are ready to go. I suppose that the court will meet to-day. There is nothing new here. The *Underwriter* looks as if she might be ready in a week, and the *Forbes* is on the ways. I have not seen Captain Dove, but intend calling there this forenoon.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. WYMAN,
[*Lieutenant, Commanding.*]

Captain CRAVEN.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 19, 1861.*

The ferryboat, with provisions and coal, was towed down last night to the flotilla. Mechanics were sent along to repair her boiler.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding contrabands.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 19, 1861.*

SIR: I send to your care, for the disposition of the Navy Department, thirteen contrabands: Richard White, Harris Filmore, Mason Washington, Jilson Hall, John T. Dixon, Bonaparte Mathias, and Joshua Hall, said to be the property of Dr. Stewart, of King George County, Va.; William Henry Granison, John Hughes, and Elick White,

property of Thomas Penny Grimes; Thornton Chew, belonging to Dr. Hooe; Archie Green, belonging to a Mr. Fairfax, and Agnes Chew (female), the property of Charles Mason.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

[Pencil endorsement.]

I think these persons might be turned over to General McClellan, who wants their labor.

W[ELLES].

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding batteries at White House Point.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 20, 1861.*

SIR: Your letter of the 18th has been received. An examination has been made of White House Point and no batteries could be discovered.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Haggerty, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. brig Perry, regarding seizure of boats for Confederate use.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 20, 1861.*

SIR: I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Lieutenant Commanding Haggerty, of the *Perry*, dated the 17th, and forwarded to the Department by Brigadier-General Montgomery, by which you will see that the boats of vessels in the river are seized and used for the purpose of transporting men from the Maryland to the Virginia shore.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. BRIG PERRY,
Off Alexandria, September 17, 1861.

SIR: One of the acting masters of this vessel, Mr. [Henry] Lelar, while performing guard duty this morning between the hours of 12 and 4 a. m., boarded a vessel in the river, the captain of which informed him that he had seen and conversed with two captains of vessels, who informed him that their boats had been taken from them in the vicinity

of Mathias Point for the purpose of transporting men across the Potomac River from the Maryland to the Virginia side.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 F. S. HAGGERTY,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Brigadier-General MONTGOMERY,
Alexandria, Va.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of constant intercourse between Maryland and Virginia.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *September 20, 1861.*

SIR: From all I can hear there is a considerable traffic being carried on between the eastern shore of Maryland and the mouth of the Rappahannock River, and below Mathias Point there is almost constant intercourse between the rebels and the Maryland shore.

If there is no further apprehension of the enemy's attempting a passage across this river, I would like to make a reconnoissance about the places above indicated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, advising reconnoissance.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 21, 1861.*

SIR: The Department has received your letter of the 20th instant and approves of your proposition to make a reconnoissance of the points mentioned, and authorizes it.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from Acting Master's Mate Bentrick, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. tug E. H. Herbert, to Captain Craven, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting instructions in regard to the destruction of boats on the river.

STEAM TUG E. H. HERBERT, *September 21, 1861.*

SIR: The steam tug *Resolute* hailed me at midnight September 19, and stated that the captain of the *Ice Boat* gave him orders to bring away or destroy a certain fishing boat in Ohicomuxen Creek, and he requested that I might attend to the matter. On Friday afternoon I took my yawl boat, lead, and line and proceeded up the creek. I saw several boats, some on the shore and two housed. The person I met on shore (Mr. Posey) claimed longboat *General Worth*, an old affair sunk since December, 1860.

Mr. Posey owns two good boats, housed, 20 and 21 feet keel, used for gilling and occasionally going to mill in Virginia; one small scow; also *Rising Sun*, licensed, and a scow tender and bateau for *Rising Sun*.

I was informed that one good boat on the shore belonged to a Mr. Joseph R. Spransey, formerly of Marcus Hook, Pa., now working in the navy yard, Washington, as a ship carpenter. J. L. Speake owns a boat; also Captain Wheeler one boat. A large seine boat lies sunk at the head of the creek. I saw two wherries at the upper point at the entrance of the creek. Not having official notice for the taking or destroying any boats, I conferred with Captain Budd, of the steamer *Penguin*, who deemed it advisable to bring the matter before you for such instructions as you may be pleased to give in the case.

I would respectfully ask if it is right to ask questions of a citizen of Maryland, as in the above case, when information for the U. S. Government may be obtained without committing myself in questioning parties.

Respectfully, yours,

CHARLES BENTRICK.

Commander CRAVEN.

Report of Midshipman Walker, U. S. Navy, regarding sloop Maryland and signals between the Maryland and Virginia shores.

U. S. STEAM SLOOP SEMINOLE,
Potomac Flotilla, September 22, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report:

Last night, while cruising between Indian Head and Chapman's Point, rapid signals were discovered between the Virginia and Maryland shores. Pulling in toward the latter side, I discovered and boarded a small sloop, the *Maryland*, but found no persons on board. Her sails were loosed and the cabin hatch left open, although the weather was very inclement and rainy. On boarding her a signal was made from the Maryland shore, and I was hailed with "What boat is that?" Returning no answer, all lights were at once extinguished.

Judging from circumstances and contents of vessel (a list of which is herein enclosed), I sent her to the *Seminole*. Continuing the cruise, the signals still being exchanged between the two shores, I ran close in to the Maryland side and remained for about an hour, when all signals ceased.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD A. WALKER,
Midshipman, U. S. Navy.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to General McClellan, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Potomac, regarding United States marines.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 24, 1861.*

The United States marines at present engaged at the naval batteries within your lines are required for other purposes, and I therefore have to request that you will make arrangements for their relief.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Major-General GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN,
Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting a telegram.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 24, 1861.*

SIR: The following telegram received by Hon. W. H. Seward, is sent for your information and direction.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.—Telegram.]

NEW YORK, *September 24 [1861].*

Have every hay vessel on the Potomac watched from Cape Lookout upward, or searched for munitions as soon as getting to the river.

JOHN A. KENNEDY,
Superintendent.

W. H. SEWARD.

Communication from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting letter from superintendent of police, New York, regarding shipment of arms and ammunition.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 25, 1861.*

SIR: Enclosed you have a copy of a letter addressed to the Hon. W. H. Seward, which is sent for your information.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT METROPOLITAN POLICE,
New York, September 24, 1861.

SIR: A day or two since I received intimations that parties in Philadelphia were forwarding pistols, fuses, caps, etc., in vessels sailing from that port up the Potomac, with hay, etc., which were landed on the Virginia side of the river.

I was also informed that it made but little difference whether the vessels were in the employ of the Government or not, as the price paid for carrying such articles was liberal.

To-day I am further informed that the principal operator in that way was William Gilchrist, who was arrested at Philadelphia a day or two since and sent to [Fort] Lafayette.

I telegraphed to you to-day to search vessels having hay on board coming up the Potomac. I would now add, that it now appears proper that the search should be thoroughly made. There is little doubt that vessels both from Philadelphia and Baltimore have been so employed as well as from other places.

Very truly, yours,

JOHN A. KENNEDY,
Superintendent.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Report of Lieutenant McCreá, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Jacob Bell, of information obtained regarding batteries at Evansport, Va.

U. S. S. [JACOB] BELL, POTOMAC FLOTILLA,
Off Indian Head, September 24, 1861.

SIR: Considering the following intelligence and report of great and immediate value I send it directly to the Department, the commander in chief being absent down the river some ten hours distant, leaving me senior officer present at this point commanding the division. The following is a copy of my dispatch to the commodore, which I sent immediately to him by a tug:

I proceeded to Indian Head this day at meridian. I took that anchorage to facilitate overhauling vessels, as all vessels were sent to me for examination. As soon as anchored a person came down to the beach in front of Smoot's house. I sent a boat and brought him off. He proved to be Lieutenant [E. A.] Sherburne, of the Arkansas regiment, in the service of the Confederates. I have examined him and gleaned the following: He was a two years' resident of Arkansas, formerly of Wisconsin; his regiment is encamped a short distance back of Evansport; he left the lines yesterday at 3 p. m., and left the Virginia shore at dark, having constructed a raft of wood logs to get across the river. He landed near Budd's Ferry and came up on foot till opposite to my anchorage. He reports erecting heavy batteries at Evansport and along the connecting shore $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles; four rifled guns and one 64-pounder at Evansport. Lieutenant Simms, formerly U. S. Navy, conducts operations; their object, says Lieutenant Simms, is to get all ready with their batteries, leaving the woods up in front of their works till then, when at night "let fall" and open on the vessels. He says there are 10,000 troops within one and a half hours from Evansport, General Holmes, brigadier-general commanding; and that the *St. Nicholas*, steamer, is fitting out at Fredericksburg. He speaks of the men of the Confederates as indifferently supplied with blankets and shoes.

I made a reconnoissance of all the shore near where he mentions the batteries and found his information correct as far as points go, but could not see any guns, though evidently a change since my last scout of the Virginia shore some four days ago. At Freestone Point I observed persons on the hill evidently laying out positions for batteries, and I am informed by some contrabands that 200 men are employed digging at night, and that there are now two guns mounted. The thick chaparral makes it impossible to see anything beyond the front, though I go as close as the draft of my vessel will permit (about 6 feet is the draft). I would inform the Department that I am in no condition for attacking batteries, having carried the deck away forward, which supports my 8-inch shell gun, a month ago while engaged with the batteries at Potomac Creek. I have only 15 working men; the forward gun demands 14, after one 10; but I will go in and attack any battery and fight my guns till they go through the bottom. This vessel has not been at the yard for repairs (or fitting up). She had two guns put on her upon her arrival there from New York, and sent down to tow a lot of launches, to return immediately; that was on the 20th of August. She has been down ever since. No accommodations for officers or men for the coming winter.

I have the honor, sir, to be your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. MCCREA,

Lieutenant, Commanding, and Senior Officer Present.

[Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.]

I sent Lieutenant Sherburn[e] to the commander in chief per tug Herbert.

E. P. McC.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Norton, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Seminole, giving information regarding battery on Freestone Point.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Point Lookout, September 25, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a report from Lieutenant Norton concerning five negroes picked up by one of the boats of the *Seminole* while crossing the Potomac; also a copy of a report* made to me by Lieutenant Commanding Mc'rea in relation to a supposed refugee from the Confederate Army who calls himself E. A. Sherbourne [Sherburne], lieutenant of the Arkansas regiment.

This Lieutenant Sherbourne [Sherburne] appears to be disposed to give information relative to the movements of the rebels, and, if not a spy, what he relates of their operations may be valuable.

I send him and the negroes to the navy yard to await further instructions from the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. STEAM SLOOP SEMINOLE,
Potomac Flotilla, September 23, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that this morning at 7 o'clock a party of contrabands, consisting of four men and one woman, was picked up by a boat from this ship while making their way out from the Virginia shore in an old scow. They claim to be the property of one T. B. Robinson, of Ohio Farm, Virginia, and report that there are in [and] about that vicinity about 400 armed men, and that two days since they commenced erecting a battery on Freestone Point, about 4 miles from our present anchorage, and that 200 men with two heavy siege guns passed through their place yesterday. They tell a consistent story, but none have positively seen the aforesaid battery.

As the presence of the woman, from want of accommodation, is rather embarrassing, I respectfully request, at your convenience, instructions as to their disposition.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. S. NORTON,
Lieutenant, and Commanding Officer.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, U. S. S. Yankee.

* See preceding page.

Letter from the commandant navy yard, Washington, transmitting a report of Acting Master's Mate Bentrick, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. tug E. H. Herbert, of the seizure of three boats.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, September 25, 1861.

SIR: I transmit for the information of the Department the enclosed paper in relation to the ownership of boat No. 1, mentioned therein.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. STEAM TUG E. H. HERBERT,
Budd's Landing [Ferry?], September 23, [1861.]

SIR: In compliance with a general order issued by Captain Craven, commanding Potomac Flotilla, I send to your care the following property for safe-keeping, viz:

No. 1. A boat alleged to belong to a Joseph R. Spransey, a ship carpenter working in the navy yard. It was in care of a Mr. Posey, noted for secession proclivities. You will perceive the ground of seizure, etc.

No. 2. A wherry, or bateau, owned by a man in Alexandria. Why not keep his wherry at home?

No. 3. A wherry, or bateau; the owner, or reported owner, is a slave; the property of a James Milsted, secessionist, a resident of Chicomuxen.

The above doubtless have been used to carry night mail across to Virginia, and in order to suppress the business as far as practicable I have seized the above. I shall hereafter seize all boats when there is just room for suspicion, and send them to the navy yard.

Respectfully, etc.,

CHARLES BENTRICK, U. S. Navy.

Captain DAHLGREN.

P. S.—I have no stationery.

Engagement between vessels of the Potomac Flotilla and the Confederate battery at Freestone Point, Va., September 25, 1861.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Seminole, of the distribution of vessels of the flotilla, and transmitting report of Lieutenant McCrea, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Jacob Bell.

U. S. STEAM SLOOP SEMINOLE,
Indian Head, Potomac River, September 25, 1861—9 p. m.

SIR: Having returned this evening from near Piney Point, whither I proceeded last night to report to Captain T. T. Craven, in obedience to your order, I respectfully submit to you the report of Lieutenant Commanding McCrea, of transactions occurring during my absence.

I have stationed for the night, in order to prevent the crossing of the rebel forces in boats below this, the *Seminole* at Indian Head, *Jacob Bell* at Stump Creek, *Valley City* near the Six Chimneys, *Satellite*, north point of Mattawoman, and the *Penguin* at south point of same creek. The vessels will return at early daylight to this anchorage, when I shall

dispose of them as circumstances may require, should Captain Craven not arrive from the lower part of the river. I forward some dispatches from Captain Craven, also five contrabands—four men and one woman—from the *Seminole*. A refugee, Lieutenant E. A. Sherbourne [Sherburne] of the First Arkansas Regiment, is sent to [the] navy yard by same conveyance. He has information in relation to the rebel force near Evansport.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington City.

JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. JACOB BELL,
Indian Head, Potomac River, September 25, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report:

This morning about sunrise I discovered men at work digging, etc., at Freestone Point. I got underway at 9.30 a. m. (having satisfied myself that they were making batteries) in company with the *Seminole*, Lieutenant Norton in charge. I ordered her to follow my motions. We proceeded to Freestone Point, and I went in and fired six shells, dispersing the workmen. Receiving no return of fire I stood out. At that moment the *Seminole* opened fire with her battery, which was immediately answered from the said point with rifled shots, disclosing the existence of a battery there. The *Seminole* continued her fire some time, answered continually by the battery on shore. After she fired sufficiently long, in my opinion, I ordered her to cease firing and return to her anchorage. After taking a curve by the nature of the channel, and on standing up the river, she was fired upon by the battery on shore, which she returned; and while passing the *Valley City* she was informed that a shot from shore had passed through the bows of the said vessel; and not having sufficient steam to make any progress to get out of the reach of the enemy's battery, requested Lieutenant Norton to tow him toward Indian Head, which was done. The enemy's battery continued their fire upon all vessels and steamers passing up and down until 3 p. m. To the best of my judgment there are four guns at said battery, one rifled gun, extreme range, as many of their shots during their firing almost touched the Maryland shore. No one was injured during the action, the officers and men firing deliberately and coolly.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. MCCREA,
Lieutenant, Commanding, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN P. GILLIS,
Commanding Division of Potomac Flotilla.

Further report of Lieutenant McCrea, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Jacob Bell.

U. S. S. JACOB BELL,
At Anchor off Indian Head, Potomac River, September 26, 1861.

SIR: I herewith submit the following report of my attack upon Freestone Point yesterday. I have already written one and forwarded it to Captain [J. P.] Gillis, of the *Seminole*, who arrived at this point last evening after the affair. Under pressure of time I was unable to keep a copy for you as commander in chief upon your arrival here:

At sunrise yesterday morning I discovered a number of men digging

and throwing up earthworks on Freestone Point. After having satisfied myself that they were engaged in erecting batteries on said point, I got underway in company with the *Seminole*, Lieutenant Norton in charge, and stood close to the point. At about 9:30 a. m., I got close under the point and opened my guns with shell, throwing several among the workmen, dispersing them. After having fired sufficiently long without any return of fire I stood out from underneath the point. At that moment a shot was fired at me from the point. The *Seminole* also about that time opened her guns upon the discovered battery, planting her shell fairly. After thirty minutes continued firing on both sides, I ordered the *Seminole* to cease firing and return to her anchorage. The enemy then turned their fire upon the *Valley City*. The *Seminole*, by the nature of the channel, could not turn at once, in obedience to my orders, but was obliged to take a curve, which brought her close to the *Valley City*, when he was informed by Captain Chaplin that a shot had passed through his bows, and not having sufficient steam to get quickly out of the enemy's line of fire, he requested Lieutenant Norton to take him in tow to follow me.

All the vessels of this division, namely, *Seminole*, *Valley City*, *Penguin*, *Satellite*, *Murray*, and this vessel, anchored here at about meridian. The enemy continued their fire on all the vessels passing up and down the river until about 3 p. m., when they ceased. I judge from close observation, only three guns were in use and mounted, though they no doubt attempted by their rapid firing to deceive us in the idea that they had more. They are rifled guns and of long range, for I observed many of their shot striking close to the Maryland shore. No one was injured; the officers and men acting deliberately and coolly throughout.

The *Murray*, in charge of Midshipman McGlensey, took in tow a launch that was anchored in front of the enemy's batteries, which drew a fire upon her, but she accomplished it without any injury to herself or those on board.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 EDWARD P. MCCREA,
Lieutenant, Commanding, and Senior Commanding Officer
Of this Division During the Engagement.
 Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn.

U. S. S. FREEBORN,
Off Aquia Creek, September 25, 1861.

SIR: I dispatched the *Resolute* to inform you that a secession battery at Freestone Point opened fire upon the Potomac Flotilla stationed at that point, this morning at 9 o'clock. The firing going on at this time.

I can not leave this place under the orders which I have received from you until I hear from you. I am ready to repair to that point with all the vessels, or such as you may designate, at the moment I receive your orders.

In great haste.

Very respectfully,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 25, [1861.]*

The *Pusey* is up from below; reports some firing between a battery at Freestone Point this a. m. with *Seminole*; no result; also reports the desertion of an officer from the rebel forces with important information. A dispatch is sent to the Department.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Colonel Wigfall, C. S. Army, commanding First Texas Infantry.

DUMFRIES, *September 25, 1861.*

The fleet lying in this portion of the river sent an armed tug to feel our batteries. She fired ten shots into the point occupied by Hampton's battery before they were returned. The battery then drove her off. The war steamers then opened. We fired thirty shots; the enemy twenty-two. General Whiting ordered the firing to continue after they ceased to show them we could drive them. The fleet is now divided—part above Powell's Run and part below. When Stevens's batteries are ready they will stop the lower detachment of the fleet. The infantry supports are active and ready. If the enemy land our knowledge of the ground will make us equal to ten times our numbers. All are cheerful, and the army will send you its congratulations if a serious action results.

Your friend,

LOUIS T. WIGFALL.

President JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to cancel permit.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 25, 1861.*

SIR: Four different parties having charged Perry Fields, of the schooner *Six Sons*, with being a secessionist, you will cancel his permit to run on the Potomac River.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 25, 1861.*

Let the *Lockwood* be ready to leave at 3 p. m., officered, provisioned, and manned, as she will form a part of Flag-Officer Goldsborough's force. Transfer the accounts to him. Commander Stellwagen will take passage in her.

G. V. FOX.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Navy Yard, Washington.

Report of Lieutenant Haggerty, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. brig Perry, regarding batteries at Freestone Point, Va.

U. S. BRIG PERRY,
Off Alexandria, September 26, 1861.

SIR: I respectfully make known to you the following intelligence: Acting Master Lelar, attached to this vessel, while performing guard duty last evening, boarded two vessels on their passage up the Potomac River, the captains of which informed him that in passing a place on the river called Freestone Point, they were fired at from shore batteries, and subsequently Acting Master French boarded several vessels, bound up to Washington, the captains of all of them stating that while passing the same place their vessels were fired at, and that men were employed on shore in clearing away trees and other obstacles from about these batteries.

I remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
F. S. HAGGERTY,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Brigadier-General MONTGOMERY, U. S. Army,
Alexandria, Va.

Instructions from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, relative to contrabands (fugitive slaves).

NAVY DEPARTMENT, September 25, 1861.

SIR: The Department finds it necessary to adopt a regulation with respect to the large and increasing number of persons of color, commonly known as contraband, now subsisted at the navy yards and on board ships of war. They can neither be expelled from the service to which they have resorted, nor can they be maintained unemployed, and it is not proper that they should be compelled to render necessary and regular services without a stated compensation. You are therefore authorized, when their services can be made useful, to enlist them for the naval service, under the same forms and regulations as apply to other enlistments. They will be allowed, however, no higher rating than boys, at a compensation of \$10 per month and one ration a day.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, acknowledging receipt of communications from the Department.

U. S. S. YANKEE, September 26, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 21st, 23d, and two of the 24th instant, the first authorizing me to make a reconnoissance of the Lower Potomac and the eastern shore, the second requiring the canceling of the pass of the schooner *Problem*, the

third in relation to the search of hay vessels for munitions of war, etc., and the fourth acknowledging the receipt of my letter of the 20th, enclosing Acting Master's Mate Haines's report of the seizure of the schooner *Harford*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDÉON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *September 26, [1861].*

The *Delaware* just arrived with 300 men from Philadelphia. Ran down steamer *Planet* in the Potomac last evening. Was fired at this morning about 9 o'clock from Freestone Point; seven shots.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Colonel Commandant U. S. Marine Corps, regarding transfer of arms to the navy yard.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 26, 1861.*

You will transfer to the commandant of the Washington navy yard 200 army muskets of .69 caliber, together with the accouterments. The above arms are required for immediate use and, as there are none in store in the Ordnance Department, it is deemed necessary to call for them from the Marine Corps.

I am, very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Colonel JOHN HARRIS,
U. S. Marine Corps.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to cancel permits.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 27, 1861.*

SIR: Capain Andrew Hitch, of the schooner *Laura*, and Captain Marcellus Hitch, of the schooner *Escort*, have been represented to the Department as secessionists.

They both have permits from the Department, which you will cancel and thus stop them from running on the Potomac.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. S. Seminole.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *September 27, 1861.*

SIR: The *Seminole* will be detached from your command about the 1st of October. Have the vessel in all respects ready for sea at that time.

Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting instructions.

U. S. S. FREEBORN, *September 27, 1861.*

SIR: I have understood that the batteries at Freestone Point [Va.] fire upon vessels passing and particularly those having Government stores on board. Under these circumstances, shall I permit all vessels to pass up the river? There is a large iron propeller here now with Government stores and I will detain her until I hear from you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Potomac River.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Seminole, of information received from an escaped prisoner.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Indian Head, September 28, 1861.

SIR: Enclosed herewith is a report made to me by Commander J. P. Gillis, of the U. S. S. *Seminole*. The man, William O'Donohue, was sent up to the navy yard and placed in charge of Captain Dahlgren this morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. STEAM SLOOP SEMINOLE,
Off Indian Head, Potomac River, September 28, 1861.

SIR: William O'Donohue, orderly sergeant of the the Sixty-ninth Regiment of New York Volunteers, taken prisoner at the battle of Bull Run, escaped from Richmond on the 18th instant, crossed the Potomac on a raft from bight above Freestone Point (Occoquan Bay), left two

other escaped prisoners in an old fishing house at same place; their names, Kelly and James Rorty, of the Sixty-ninth.

Officers and men, prisoners at Richmond, he says, are confined in tobacco warehouses, without any conveniences; not even a blanket supplied.

O'Donohue reports a great number of rifle cannon passing through Richmond toward Yorktown, and some fifty army wagons, new harness, and fine mules, going same direction. North of Richmond are two forts, one like Fort Corcoran. Colonel Corcoran and about 28 officers and 130 privates sent to Charleston 10th September. Many of our men attempted to escape, but were brought back. All citizens of the country around Richmond and in other parts of Virginia act as police. Negroes arrested two of our men. He further states that 1½ miles from Free-stone Point are two camps of the rebels, one infantry, one other cavalry. He has other information which he will impart on arrival at Washington. Will send him to Captain Dahlgren, commandant of navy yard, for your disposal.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding disposition of escaped prisoners.

U. S. S. YANKEE, September 29, 1861.

SIR: I send to the navy yard by the steamer *Reliance* two men who made their escape from the Virginia shore last night, and who state that they belonged to the Sixty-ninth Regiment New York Volunteers and were captured by the enemy at the late battle of Bull Run.

They left Richmond on the 18th instant, at which time the enemy were moving in great numbers toward Yorktown and Norfolk, transporting thither their heavy cannon and fieldpieces. Their names are James M. Rorty and Peter Kelly.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Watmough, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, acknowledging orders of detachment from that vessel.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, September 29, 1861.

SIR: Lieutenant Commanding Harrell having relieved me this day, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's communication detaching me from this vessel.

* * * * *
 I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 PEN. G. WATMOUGH,
Acting Lieutenant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Lieutenant Miller, U. S. Navy, of having assumed command of the U. S. brig Perry.

U. S. BRIG PERRY,
Off Alexandria, September 29, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the order to remain in temporary command of this vessel.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. N. MILLER,
Lieutenant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting reports relative to collision between U. S. steamers Valley City and Seminole.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Indian Head, September 30, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of the 27th instant to have the *Seminole* ready for sea by the 1st of October.

Herewith I enclose a report of a collision which took place on the 25th instant and the carpenter's report of defects of that vessel.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. STEAM SLOOP SEMINOLE,
Potomac Flotilla, off Indian Head, September 27, 1861.

SIR: I beg leave to lay before you the following statement with regard to the collision between the gunboat *Valley City*, Captain Chaplin, and the U. S. S. *Seminole* on the 25th instant:

While standing down the river, in passing the *Valley City* I saw a shell from the battery go through her bows and her men attempting to lift her anchor in great haste. On my return, in about fifteen minutes after, I was hailed by the commanding officer of the *Valley City* and asked to take his hawser and tow him out from under fire, at the same time waving a white handkerchief, which I took to be a signal of distress.

I backed in toward him to meet his boat with the end of his hawser, and when about three ship's lengths off, I first discovered that he was underway under steam and had considerable headway.

I immediately reversed our engines, put the helm hard aport, hailed, and told him to put his helm to starboard, as he was pointing directly for our starboard mizzen chains.

Before we could overcome our sternway and start her ahead the stem of the *Valley City* struck us just over the starboard stern port (see enclosed report of carpenter).

There was an abundance of time and space for the *Valley City* to have avoided us had she minded her helm, nor did I see any indica-

tion of an attempt upon that vessel's part to reverse her engines, and, by checking her own headway, thus avoid collision.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. S. NORTON,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN P. GILLIS,
Commanding U. S. S. Seminole.

[Subenclosure.]

U. S. STEAM SLOOP SEMINOLE,
Potomac Flotilla, off Indian Head, September 28, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of defects of this vessel:

The head is started to starboard some 2 inches, from the effects of the collision with the U. S. frigate *Wabash*. It sways, and head sail can not be set in heavy weather when at sea.

The ship usually makes from 16 to 18 inches of water in the twenty-four hours, increasing considerably after the firing of guns.

The lower boxes of the main pumps have to be drawn almost always after pumping, on account of coal choking up the boxes. This can not be remedied without free access to the bottom of the pipes, which can not be had except at such times as the coal bunkers are empty.

The bilge water is very bad, which I judge is caused by the decomposition of chips, coal dust, and drippings of oil from the machinery between the timbers, as there is no filling in the ship.

There appear to be no limbers under the engine, as the water can not flow aft. The limber chain runs only from the after part of the engine to the after part of ship. It should run fore and aft.

The damage sustained by our collision with the *Valley City* is as follows: Stove in the main rail on starboard quarter over the after port; started the battery [sic] and portion of plank below after port, and that portion of plank shear. Both the battery [sic] and rail I find to be rotten, so much so that the fastenings will be very insecure, and I have no means of repairing it.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JACOB M. DALLAS,
Carpenter, U. S. Navy.

Commander JOHN P. GILLIS,
Commanding U. S. S. Seminole.

Letter from Assistant Adjutant-General Williams, U. S. Army, to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding marines on duty near Alexandria, Va.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Washington, September 30, 1861.

SIR: The commanding general directs me to inform you that the marines now on duty near Alexandria have been ordered to be relieved, as requested in your letter of the 24th instant, and they are expected to start for this city at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.],
September 30, 1861—8 p. m.

Brigadier-General Van Vliet has just telegraphed from General McClellan's house that the boats of the yard will not be wanted to-night. If so, are the scows for landing to be sent with the *Underwriter*? How is Captain Craven to know of the change in operations?

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, regarding a proposed movement.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *September 30, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: The movement has been postponed until to-morrow night.

Very truly, yours,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla, etc.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 1, 1861.*

I have only heard from yourself that the movement is postponed. I informed Captain Craven last night, as directed, that it would be made to-night, and I renewed the message to-day. The steamboats as well as the *Underwriter* and [R. B.] *Forbes* have steam ready to start the screws with them. Combustibles are also ready.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. G. V. Fox.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding proposed expedition.

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, *October 1, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I informed you last night that other orders had been received. To-night, I believe, is fixed for the movement.

The *Underwriter* and *Forbes* are ready; both have the rifled 80-pounder. The scows, too, are prepared with the pitch, turpentine, etc., with some other combustibles.

I will start these vessels soon after dark unless otherwise ordered.

Very truly,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Captain CRAVEN.

Lieutenant Mygatt is suspended by order of the Department.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of the readiness of the U. S. S. Underwriter for service in the Potomac Flotilla.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, October 1, 1861.

SIR: The *Underwriter* has been made fully equal to any service and was in readiness to join the flotilla last night. In fitting her for an armament it was necessary to replace the slight deck beams and plank entirely, so as to endure the weight of the heavy guns. The bottom required calking and was also coppered.

These, with repairs of boiler and engine and a renewal of the joiner's work, are estimated to have cost about \$9,000, so that the expense of the vessel in her present condition has been \$27,500.

She is, however, in the most complete order except the boiler, which may last six months.

The frame and planking were found to be strong and perfectly sound, a few feet of stuff replacing all the unsound plank in her bottom.

The vessel mounts a rifled 80-pounder and an 8-inch shell-gun of 63 hundredweight, one rifled and one smooth 12-pounder.

She carries also more than two months provisions, is very fast, and of light draft.

I consider her the best vessel of the class that has been at this yard, and obtained at a much less price than paid for vessels much inferior, if I am correctly informed.

In this connection I may mention a sample of quick work last night. The [*R. B.*] *Forbes*, which, but for the neglect of a master workman, would have been launched in the morning, was not afloat till the afternoon tide, about 4 p. m., and it was 5 o'clock before she was under the shears. In four hours her masts had been hoisted in, stepped, and the rigging set up, the armament on board, powder, shells, etc., stowed, provisions and water in, steam up, men aboard, and all ready to join the flotilla and go into action by 9 p. m., the greater part of the work being done by the light of lanterns.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Endorsement.]

Very satisfactory, and the dispatch in getting the [*R. B.*] *Forbes* ready deserves special commendation.

W.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 1, 1861.*

The *Pusey* brings from the flotilla an account of a battery near Evansport just noticed; said to have five guns. You may remember that Mr. Sherburne, who left the Arkansas regiment, stated that he saw seven guns lying on the ground in this vicinity. I have sent down a small steamer, with a pilot who knows the place, to learn more of the battery.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. SECRETARY OF NAVY.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding preparation of vessels for sea service.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 1, 1861.*

SIR: In addition to the order directing you to have the *Seminole* ready to go to sea on the 5th of this month, you will also have the *Pocahontas* in all respects ready to move at the same time.

The *Harriet Lane*, under charge of her first lieutenant (acting), R. Townsend, is on her way to receive her armament at this yard, after which she will be placed at your disposal.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 1, 1861.*

The *Dawn* has arrived. Her engine disabled. Was towed up by *Island Belle*. Commander Chandler will report in person immediately. Lieutenant Commanding Lowry has arrived and taken command of *Underwriter*. What shall Lieutenant Roe do? The *Island Belle* will take down the Adams family.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Lieutenant Lowry, U. S. Navy, of having assumed command of the U. S. S. Underwriter.

U. S. NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, D. C., *October 1, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 21st September I have this day reported for the command of the U. S. S. *Underwriter*.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. LOWRY,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding Confederate means of communication.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 1, 1861.*

SIR: The following is a copy of information deposited in this Department:

Information is communicated to the Confederates in Virginia by persons who cross the Potomac from Maryland and land on the Virginia side at Muddy Creek, just below the dike of Johnston's farm, and a short distance below the mouth of Hunting Creek. Landing there they keep on down to the Red House farm and via Gum Spring, about a mile north of Mount Vernon, until they pass the range of the

Federal pickets. They can easily carry supplies by the same route. This could all be broken up by a small, light-draft vessel, properly armed, and stationed opposite the Tent Landing.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to forward report in the matter of the schooner Samuel B. Grice.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, October 2, 1861.

SIR: A claim has been presented to the Department for damages sustained by the schooner *Samuel B. Grice*, in a collision with the steamer *Yankee*. Will you please report the circumstances of the collision? The damage is stated at \$405.90.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, relative to collision between U. S. S. Yankee and schooner Samuel B. Grice.

U. S. S. YANKEE, October 3, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant asking for a statement of the circumstances attending the collision between this vessel and the schooner *Samuel B. Grice*.

On Saturday evening at about 8 o'clock, the night being quite dark, the pilots suddenly discovered a schooner on our starboard bow; we were then hard over on the east side of the channel, and about 1½ miles below Alexandria. Immediately upon the discovery of the schooner (which was at that time supposed to be at anchor) the engines were stopped. A moment thereafter the schooner was discovered to be underway and standing directly toward our starboard bow. The vessel was hailed and ordered to put his helm hard down, that is, astarboard, which he failed to do, and, as a collision was inevitable, our pilots, very properly, to avoid being struck on our broadside, put our helm hard aport. The consequence was that we took her on her port bow, starting three or four of her planks and carrying away her bowsprit. The damage sustained by the schooner could not, in my opinion, amount to more than \$150.

When the *Grice* was first discovered this vessel was going at the rate of about 7 knots, or at half speed; the schooner had shown no lights, and from the discovery, or alarm, to the moment of colliding the time was scarcely a minute and a half.

We towed the schooner up and secured her to a wharf at Alexandria.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. S. Seminole.

U. S. S. YANKEE, October 3, 1861—9 p. m.

SIR: In obedience to your order of yesterday just received, I have ordered the *Seminole* to proceed at daylight to-morrow morning to the navy yard at Washington for repairs.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding collision between U. S. steamers Jacob Bell and Island Belle.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Occoquan River, October 3, 1861.

SIR: An unfortunate collision took place yesterday between the steamers *Jacob Bell* and *Island Belle*, which so damaged them that I was obliged to send them up to the navy yard for repairs. The tug-boat *Herbert* has entirely broken down and this morning was towed up for repairs. So soon as I receive the official reports from the commanders of these vessels of the circumstances leading to the disaster, I will forward them to the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding increase of Confederate force.

U. S. S. YANKEE, October 3, 1861.

SIR: Lieutenant Commanding Magaw, who has just come up from Aquia Creek for the purpose of filling up his water, informs me that within the last twenty-four hours there has been a large increase of rebel forces at the mouth of Potomac Creek. He supposed there are about three regiments now encamped at that place.

I noticed this morning what appeared to be smoke from camp fires extending from Powell's Creek along the road toward Dumfries, a distance of some 3 or 4 miles. Excepting these indications of the presence of a large force of the enemy between Occoquan and Aquia, everything is quiet along the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, October 5, 1861.

SIR: You will dispatch the *Pocahontas* immediately to the navy yard, Washington.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, to proceed to Washington.

U. S. S. YANKEE, October 5, 1861.

SIR: You will please proceed, with the *Pocahontas* under your command, to the navy yard at Washington, and on your arrival there report to the Department.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Lieutenant Commanding R. H. WYMAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas, Potomac Flotilla.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding U. S. steamers Harriet Lane and Pocahontas.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, October 5, 1861.

SIR: You will assume charge of the steamer *Harriet Lane* and prepare her for service in the Potomac as Captain Craven's ship.

The *Pocahontas* is ordered to the yard to make some changes in her battery. Commander Drayton will take command of her.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

Letter from Leonard Marbury, esq., to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, proposing means for the capture of a party of secessionists.

GLYMONT [MD.], October 5, 1861.

SIR: I have good reason to believe that there will be an attempt made from Glymont wharf to-night to ferry across the Potomac to Virginia a party of secessionists, which I think, with proper vigilance, could be prevented by the capture of the party. After nightfall persons might be secreted near and about the place where the demon-

stration will be made, and every one engaged could be arrested. If you should think proper to make an effort for their detection, the person who brings this will conduct you to a place where he would meet you (at my barn), as it would not do to come to my house, as it would excite suspicion.

Yours, respectfully,

LEONARD MARBURY.

THE COMMANDER OF ANY UNITED STATES VESSEL
AT ANCHOR IN THE POTOMAC.

P. S.—If you should come, try to get to my barn at half past 6 a. m.
[p. m. ?]

L. M.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to General McClellan, U. S. Army, regarding increase of Confederate force.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 5, 1861.*

I herewith enclose for your information a copy of a letter* received at the Department from Captain T. T. Craven in relation to an increase of the rebel force at the mouth of Potomac Creek.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Major-General GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN.

Report of Acting Master Cash, U. S. Navy, of an expedition under his command to the St. Mary's River, Maryland.

U. S. S. JACOB BELL,
Potomac River, October 7, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to your orders of the 5th instant, I proceeded with ten men from U. S. S. *Yankee*, in this vessel to Piney Point, and there taking on board Acting Master's Mate Gray, commanding U. S. schooner *Bailey*, proceeded to an anchorage in St. Mary's River, where we arrived at 7 a. m. yesterday.

At 8 a. m., with Mr. Gray and the two officers accompanying the expedition, I landed at the residence of Mrs. Booth, from whom I obtained information regarding the different localities. I then proceeded to the post-office at Great Mills, distant 8 miles from our anchorage, and seized all the mail matter then in that office, consisting of fifty-five letters, giving the postmaster a receipt for the same. From the postmaster, who appears to be a loyal citizen, I received valuable information regarding the operations of a Mr. Allison, a merchant and resident of Great Mills; it appears beyond doubt that he has been engaged in aiding the enemy in many ways; forwarding men and provisions and allowing his store to be used as a storehouse for goods and rendezvous for men en route to Virginia. I am of opinion, from my conversation with the postmaster, that the majority of the people in that section of the country are engaged in the same business, and do not hesitate to forward men and provisions to Virginia whenever the opportunity offers.

* See p. 702.

After returning to the vessel at 6 p. m., I proceeded to the residence of Mr. J. Thomas Travis and succeeded in arresting him without difficulty, and transferred him to officer Thomas E. Williams, thus accomplishing all the objects of the expedition with the force under my immediate command.

For the further operations of the party I refer you to the report of Lieutenant Commanding E. P. McCrea, of this vessel, who at this point assumed command. I turned over to him all the mail matter seized and it now remains in his custody.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. M. CASH,
Acting Master, U. S. Navy.

Commodore THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding disposition of vessels.

NAVY YARD, October 7, 1861.

MY DEAR COMMODORE: I have just arrived from Hampton Roads with Flag-Officer Goldsborough. He told me that the *Mount Vernon* must leave the Rappahannock and proceed to Baltimore for repairs, leaving the river open. He was not aware that the *St. Nicholas* was in there armed. We send you the *Hale* to relieve some vessel, which please send off at once to the river to relieve the *Mount Vernon*. I suggest the *Penguin*, or some one with a Navy officer on board, which is the reason the *Hale* is not sent directly there. I will send the official order in the premises to-night or to-morrow. The [*Harriet*] *Lane* is here. I suggest your running up to give directions about fittings, etc., for your own comfort.

Yours, truly,

G. V. FOX,
[*Assistant Secretary of the Navy.*]

[Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.]

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding relief of U. S. S. Mount Vernon.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, October 4 [7], 1861.

SIR: Upon the arrival of the *E. B. Hale*, temporarily attached to your flotilla, you will dispatch a suitable vessel commanded by an officer of the Navy to relieve the *Mount Vernon*, now off the Rappahannock, which steamer is ordered to Baltimore for repairs.

It is reported that the *St. Nicholas*, a small armed vessel, is at Fredericksburg.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, requesting instructions regarding passage of vessels.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, October 7, 1861.

SIR: I fear you have not received my message asking for instructions as to the passage of vessels up the river. There is quite a little fleet assembled here and many more below. Among those here are some half dozen with Government stores, three of them steamers, one having on board a company of soldiers acting as escort. I will thank you to give me specific orders for my government upon this subject; I do not like to permit them to pass without your orders. The tugboat *Cœur de Lion*, towing a small sloop belonging to the Government, has just anchored. She is without armament and has orders to proceed to the navy yard, Washington. I shall permit her to leave during the night if you do not order the contrary. Nothing new at this point. Captain Amos P. Foster, of the *Resolute*, reports that he saw four boats under the batteries at Shipping Point.

Your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Williamson, U. S. Navy, of having reported for command of the U. S. brig Perry.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., October 8, 1861.

SIR: In obedience to the orders of the Department of date the 3d instant I have this day reported to Commander Dahlgren for the command of the U. S. brig *Perry*.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. WILLIAMSON,
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, of the collision of that vessel with U. S. tug Rescue.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Rappahannock River, October 8, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that I arrived at this station this p. m. and relieved Commander Glisson in conformity to your orders.

In consequence of the inclemency of the weather and darkness of last night I was obliged to anchor off Maryland Point, previous to reaching which, this vessel, I regret to state, came in collision with the tug *Rescue*. She was first discovered on the starboard bow. I slowed, stopped, steered well clear of her, and started ahead; soon after which she also started her engine and ran directly athwart my bows, regardless of my frequent orders to back. We both showed lights. The only

excuses offered by her officer in charge were that he took us to be the *Resolute*, which he knew to be at anchor near him. As I had no difficulty in determining her size from the first, I can not conceive how he could have made this mistake, except that much confusion prevailed on board of her. I was informed that no serious damage was done to her.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. BUDD,
Commanding U. S. S. Penguin.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Lieutenant Wainwright, U. S. Navy, commanding Fort Ellsworth, for 200 men for special service.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, October 8, 1861.

SIR: The Secretary of the Navy desires to have 200 men from Fort Ellsworth for special service. You will therefore make a selection of good men, with their complement of petty officers, in such a way that the body shall include a complete corps for the management and supply of a gun as mounted in shore battery.

I will send you 200 men to supply their places, from whence you can make the required rates. Be careful to transfer your own seamen without rates.

Please to have the detachment ready by 4 p. m.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Lieutenant WAINWRIGHT,
Commanding Fort Ellsworth.

Order from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, detaching a vessel from his command.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 8, 1861.*

SIR: Instead of the steamer [tug] *Rescue* you will dispatch the chartered steam tug *Murray* to Hampton Roads, Va., immediately, directing her commanding officer to report to Flag-Officer Goldsborough.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to Lieutenant Eastman, U. S. Navy, to assume command of U. S. S. Yankee.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *October 9, 1861.*

SIR: You are hereby detached from the U. S. S. *Pawnee* and will assume the command of the steamer *Yankee*, subject to the approval of

the honorable Secretary of the Navy. So soon as the *Yankee* has filled up her coal you will proceed down the river and report to Lieutenant Commanding McCrea.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Lieutenant Commanding THOMAS H. EASTMAN,
U. S. S. Pawnee.

Report of Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy, of having assumed command of the U. S. S. Pawnee.

U. S. S. PAWNEE, *October 10, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an order detaching me from the command of the U. S. S. *Yankee* to assume the temporary command of the U. S. S. *Pawnee*, and have reported in obedience to said order.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. WYMAN,
Lieutenant Commanding, U. S. Navy.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of execution of Department's orders regarding U. S. S. Penguin.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *October 10, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of the 4th instant, and to inform you that in obedience thereto, immediately on its receipt, the 7th instant, I dispatched the *Penguin*, Lieutenant Commanding Budd, to the mouth of the Rappahannock River to relieve the U. S. S. *Mount Vernon*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Report of Lieutenant McCrea, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Jacob Bell, of services performed by vessels of the First Division under his command.

U. S. S. [JACOB] BELL,
Off Indian Head, October 11, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report the movements of this division during your absence. On the night of the 9th I stationed the [*E. B.*] *Hale* off Budd's Ferry, *Valley City* off Holland's [Hallowing, or Hollis's?] Point, *Reliance* off Mattawoman Creek, with orders to return at daylight, which duty was performed. Last night I stationed the *Valley City* and

Hale off Budd's Ferry, but they were withdrawn by Lieutenant Commanding Harrell's order at a later hour. The *Reliance* I stationed at Holland's [Hallowing, or Hollis's?] Point. At 3 a. m. this morning I discovered a rocket going up and saw flashes of light and heard reports of artillery down the river. I got underway with the *Valley City* and went as far as Quantico Creek, where I saw something burning, making a large fire; to the best of my judgment I made it to be a schooner. I returned to my present anchorage before daylight without making any further discoveries, the *Valley City* following.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. McCREA,

Lieutenant, Commanding, Senior Officer of First Division.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,

Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, of boat expedition for the destruction of large schooner.

U. S. S. YANKEE, October 11, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report from Lieutenant Commanding A. D. Harrell, relative to the burning of a large schooner in Quantico Creek.

The affair seems to have been well planned and gallantly executed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,

Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION,

Off Aquia Creek, October 11, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for your information:

Being informed of a large schooner lying in Quantico (or Dumfries) Creek, knowing also that a large number of troops were collected at that point with the view of crossing the Potomac River, as was reported to me, I conceived it to be my duty to destroy her. With this object in view I took two launches and my boat and pulled in for the vessel at half past 2 this morning. One of the launches was commanded by Midshipman W. F. Stewart, accompanied by the master, Ed. L. Haines, of the *Rescue*, and the other by Acting Master Amos [P.] Foster, of the *Resolute*. I took with me the pilot of this vessel, Lewis Penn.

Some little difficulty was experienced in finding the entrance to the creek, which you will remember is very narrow; but having found it we pulled up this crooked channel within pistol shot of either shore until we discovered the schooner. She was close to the shore in charge of a sentry, who fled at our approach and alarmed the camp. She had a new suit of sails, and all the furniture complete in the cabin, which was collected together and fired, producing a beautiful conflagration, but unfortunately revealing our position to the enemy, who commenced

a rapid fire from both banks of that narrow and tortuous stream and kept it up, intermingled with opprobrious epithets, until we were beyond their range.

Our crews returned a random fire from the boats and two steamers, gave three cheers, and pulled for their vessels, the light from the burning schooner guiding them on their way. Her destruction was complete, and although the clothes of the men and the boats were perforated with balls, not a man [was] killed. Officers and men vied with each other in the performance of their duty. Acting Master Foster applied the match in the cabin of the doomed vessel. Acting Assistant Surgeon W. R. Bonsall accompanied the expedition, ready, should his services be required.

I hope what I have done will meet your approbation, notwithstanding I have acted without orders. This little affair will show the enemy at least that we are watching him and ready to meet and destroy his preparations for crossing this river at all times.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, commending him and the officers under his command for the destruction of the schooner in Dumfries Creek.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 12, 1861.*

SIR: The gallant achievement performed by yourself and the officers and men under your command at Dumfries [Quantico] Creek, in destroying the schooner which the insurgents had fitted for service, deserves and receives the approval and commendation of the Department. The successful result under great disadvantages, without loss of life, demonstrates the daring intrepidity of the Navy, which only requires a field whereon to prove the quality of those who serve under its banners. The Department will take great pleasure in assigning you to the command of a better vessel when the exigencies of the service in the Potomac will permit of your being removed from the sphere of duty where you have proved yourself so useful. You will cause this letter to be read to those who took part with you in the expedition, and express to them the thanks of the Department for their good conduct.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Lieutenant Commanding A. D. HARRELL, U. S. Navy,
U. S. S. Union, Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding steam tug James Murray.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *October 11, 1861.*

SIR: In consequence of the report of Mr. William J. Odeon, first assistant engineer of this vessel, I am compelled to send the steam tug *James Murray* up to the navy yard for repairs. When at the Depart-

ment on the 8th instant I understood it was your intention to detach the *Murray* from the Potomac Flotilla and order her to report to Flag-Officer Goldsborough at Fortress Monroe. If such an order has been issued it has miscarried. Should it still be the intention to send one of the small tugs away from the river, I would respectfully suggest that the *Pusey* or *Herbert* be substituted for the *Murray*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Street, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Dana, of engagements with Confederates at Stafford Mills.

U. S. SCHOONER DANA, October 11, 1861.

SIR: While cruising close along the Virginia shore on the 7th instant I was fired into by the rebels with rifles at Stafford [Stratford?] Mills. I fired one shot at them; the second jammed in the gun. It being near dark I withdrew. On the 10th I again sailed over to the mills, intending if fired upon to retaliate. On my approach horns were sounded around the country and in a few minutes I could see men on the bluffs (which at this place are 200 feet high) and on the beach. Those on the beach, after getting behind the wood piles that are there, fired upon us. I fired five shrapnel at them, being all the dry ammunition I had on board, each of which went on shore among the wood and bushes, but with what effect I could not ascertain. Those on the bluffs fired constantly at us while we remained near the shore, but did not hit anyone on board.

The *Island Belle* came down the river shortly afterwards and fired a few rounds and returned up the river again. Sailing down the river, and when near the mouth of Nomini Bay, I saw a man on the hill waving a signal attached to a pole. The wind being offshore I worked in toward him and when near enough he halloed to us that he wanted to come on board. I told him to go down to a long sand beach, about 300 yards below, and I would take him on board. Finding that we were as near to the shore as we would go, a fire was opened on us from the bushes with rifles. Judging from the number of shots fired the first round, there were from fifteen to twenty men. Not having any dry ammunition, I gave the order for the men to lie down on deck, took the helm and sheered off from shore. I am happy to state that no one was injured, although the balls fell thick around us.

I remain, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

WM. T. STREET,
Acting Master's Mate.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Harris, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Island Belle, regarding engagement at Stafford Mills.

U. S. S. ISLAND BELLE, October 12, 1861.

SIR: Yesterday evening the U. S. store boat *Wyandank* came steaming down the river, bound to Piney Point. I got underway and accom-

panied him to Blakistone Island, where I discovered a schooner under the White [Nomini] Cliffs, Va., directly opposite, firing upon some persons ashore. I immediately directed our course for them and on coming up with them I found it was the U. S. schooner *Dana*. I enquired the cause of his firing. He said they were reconnoitering along the shore when a party of men ran out of an old mill and fired upon his vessel, the balls falling all around him. He returned their fire with three shell without doing any execution, so I steamed along within half a mile of the beach and fired a rifle shell at the mill, when I distinctly saw some thirty men running from different hiding places and, concentrating their whole force behind a wood pile, they commenced a deliberate fire at us, their aim being either too high or too low; so I directed our guns for the wood pile, the first shell passing over their heads and the second too low; the third exploded in their very midst, scattering the wood in every direction and maiming, if not killing, several of them, as I saw some of them assisting others to get away. I continued firing as long as I could see them. I then returned to my station. I sincerely hope this will not meet your disapprobation, for I acted as I thought you would have me act were you here.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ARNOLD G. HARRIS,
Acting Master's Mate.

Commodore THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla; transmitting information regarding affairs on the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 11, 1861.*

SIR: I enclose herewith a copy of a note of this date, received from Brigadier-General Marcy, together with a copy of the report accompanying it, which contains information of some importance respecting affairs on the Potomac.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Enclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Washington, October 11, 1861.

SIR: The following report has been received from a very reliable source.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. MARCY,
Brigadier-General and Chief of Staff.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Subenclosure.]

I left Baltimore Thursday morning and landed at Millstone Landing at 8 o'clock p. m. I left there Friday morning for Herring Creek. I employed a negro man Friday night to take me over to Ragged Point. There is nothing whatever going on at that point.

I left there and went to the mouth of Machodoc Creek (under the plea of delivering some letters to soldiers from Maryland). An old man, a farmer, told me that a small oyster schooner came into the creek about three-fourths of a mile up with 200 kegs of powder and 5,000 Minié cartridges. He told me that nearly every week some one or more vessels come up the creek. The schooner referred to received her cargo at or near Newcastle, Del., and came through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

I went back to the creek and from there went near Port Tobacco, and at night (Sunday) hired a man to take me to Mathias Point. I landed and walked fully 200 yards before I met a rebel soldier, who conducted me to Captain Edelin, of St. Mary's County, when I delivered five letters to be sent to Richmond. He told me that there are two regiments stationed near the point. One is commanded by Colonel Burgess, of Virginia. All of his men belong to the eastern part of Virginia. The other is commanded by Colonel ———, also of Virginia. It is composed of companies from Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties, of Maryland, and the rest of Virginia.

There were five regiments stationed there until last week, Monday, when three left to go in the neighborhood of Freestone Point.

They have no battery at Mathias Point, but two 8-pounder cannon, mounted on four wheels. They would have larger, and would erect a battery at the point, but the land in the rear of the point is swampy and they can not get larger cannon there. They commenced making a battery there, but abandoned making it.

Edelin also told me that they wanted the Government to believe that there was a battery there, so as to prevent our troops landing there to go to Fredericksburg.

He says there is not less than 10,000 men between Mathias Point and Aquia Creek; that the only strong batteries that they have on the Potomac are at Aquia Creek. He also says that on nearly every point on the Potomac they have brush batteries with one and two guns each. The guns are not exposed, with no breastwork, but brush in front.

He also says they are going to erect a large battery at the White House, 5 to 8 miles below Mount Vernon, and that they can prevent the navigation of the Potomac alone at that point, as vessels have to come within 200 yards of the Virginia shore at that point.

He also told me that they received Washington papers, etc., every other night; that every week three men come over to the point separately, once a week; they come from Washington, and report to Colonel Burgess.

Two of them are named Reynolds and Maxwell, from Maryland. When they want to go over to the point a small red lantern is hoisted in a cluster of trees between Port Tobacco and Pope's Creek.

He says these men go to Washington by an old road to Washington and Baltimore turnpike road.

The men are stationed about 400 yards directly in the rear of the point, and the officers' quarters are at the large white house, which is on a large hill, also in the rear.

Instructions from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding volunteer appointments.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 11, 1861.*

SIR: In this great emergency the Department has made many appointments from outside of the Navy for the numerous vessels fitted

out. It made them upon the best recommendations possible to obtain, but on several melancholy instances has been deceived.

The Department relies upon the vigilance of the flag-officers to watch over these appointees, instruct them carefully in their duties, perfect them in the drill at the great guns and small arms, but to take care that no movement is hazarded by being confided to [in]competent hands.

The loss of one of our useful steam tugs, most of which are commanded by persons from the merchant service, would be felt far beyond its pecuniary value, as the offensive operations of the Navy thus far have been skillful and successful. You will make such changes in the commanders of these vessels and the subordinate officers as shall insure their safety and efficiency.

The patriotism of the merchant service gives us a volunteer force of excellent seamen, brave and loyal, and you will take care that the inefficient under your command are removed immediately from positions of trust, reporting action in all cases to the Department.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, acknowledging receipt of letters from the Department.

U. S. S. YANKEE,
Off Occoquan River, October 11, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of this date, one, with its enclosures from Brigadier-General Marcy, containing information respecting affairs on the Potomac, the other relating to the appointment of subordinate officers from outside of the Navy.

So soon as the Department thinks that two or three of the vessels now blockading Occoquan River can be spared, I would like to make a visit to the creeks in the lower part of the Potomac.

I respectfully request that four master's mates be ordered to report to me to fill up the requirements of the flotilla.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to the commanding officers of the U. S. steamers Seminole, Pocahontas, Pawnee, and R. B. Forbes for duty in the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 12, 1861.*

SIR: You will leave the navy yard as early as practicable (not later than Wednesday morning next) and proceed to Hampton Roads with

the vessel under your command, and there await the arrival of Flag-Officer S. F. Du Pont, commanding the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, to whom you will report.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN P. GILLIS,
Commanding U. S. S. Seminole, Washington, D. C.
 Commander P. DRAYTON,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas.
 Lieutenant R. H. WYMAN,
Commanding U. S. S. Pawnee.
 Lieutenant H. S. NEWCOMB,
Commanding U. S. S. R. B. Forbes.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. S. Penguin.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 12, 1861.*

SIR: Have the steamer *Penguin* relieved as early as practicable, and send her to Hampton Roads to report to Flag-Officer S. F. Du Pont, commanding the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. The condition of this vessel is not known at the Department, but if she is unfit to go down the Atlantic coast this order is void.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla, etc.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Frank, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Howell Cobb, of action with the Confederates on Mathias Point.

U. S. SCHOONER HOWELL COBB,
Mathias Point, October 12, 1861.

In running up to Pope's Creek I discovered a schooner ashore on Mathias Point and ran up to see what she was. I came to anchor about 50 or 60 meters off and I manned my boat with four men and myself, and started for the vessel that was aground, but before we could reach the vessel there was a volley of musketry fired on me from the shore, so I had to retreat to my vessel again, and I opened fire on the rebels and kept it up until I had fired thirty rounds, which silenced them. This action took place about 1 o'clock. I heard our shot strike very distinctly. They had two guns that would reach us and all the rest fell short. After a short period of time I got on the way and went in search of the *Island Belle* and met her, and she took the *Howell Cobb* in tow and ran up to Mathias Point, and Captain Harris fired a few shells in those pines, and the rebels ran down the shore like wild turkeys through the bushes. I lay all night off the point to guard the schooner. They seem to know my boat, for in leaving the steamer to go on board they fired on the boat from down the beach from the thicket.

Since I last saw you, sir, I have paid Port Tobacco Creek three visits and making [made] strict enquiry of the said Naley, but found he had gone to Virginia. In cruising down the Virginia shores, I find there

are pickets stationed along the shore; there are some ten or twelve at the mouth of Pope's Creek on Virginia shore. I see them very distinctly through the glass.

Yours in haste.

Respectfully yours,

A. J. FRANK.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla regarding disposition of some of the vessels of his command.

U. S. S. YANKEE, *October 13, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to your order of yesterday to have the steamer *Penguin* relieved, I dispatched the *Valley City* last evening for that purpose.

I beg respectfully to state that the withdrawal of so many of the largest vessels from the flotilla has made it necessary (for the want of accommodation of their crews) to return six of my launches to the navy yard.

This afternoon Lieutenant Commanding E. P. McOrea, whom I had sent down the river as far as Aquia Creek, reported on his return that the enemy had erected a battery on Shipping Point and had already several guns mounted there.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding affairs connected with his command.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 14, 1861.*

SIR: Your letter of the 11th instant has been received.

The commanding general of the Army of the Potomac considers the possibility or probability of the enemy crossing so remote that the Department suggests that you visit, as your judgment dictates, the whole length of the Potomac.

Commander Dahlgren has been directed to send four master's mates to you for service in the flotilla, in compliance with your request. You will retain both the *Murray* and the *Herbert* in the Potomac.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding U. S. Flotilla, Potomac River.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 14, 1861.*

The small steamer has returned and reports that parties of men are engaged [at] work from the wharf at Evansport toward Shipping Point

for a distance of about 400 yards. The deep channel takes close to the position and extends three-quarters of a mile from it. Small vessels can pass farther off. As our vessels go down a few rounds of shell and grape would disturb this operation.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Letter from Brigadier-General Van Vliet, U. S. Army, to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, transmitting information regarding Confederate battery.

WASHINGTON, October 14 [1861.]

DEAR SIR: I transmit you herewith the statement of a man just escaped from the Confederates. He was pressed into their service and was driving a team, hauling supplies, etc., at the place he designates as Allen's Point.

The general thinks that there may be something in his statement, and desires me to send it to you.

Yours, etc.,

STEWART VAN VLIET,
Brigadier-General.

Hon. Mr. FOX,
Assistant Secretary Navy.

[Enclosure.]

Report of a wagoner who was in the Confederate service, given to Mr. Duffy.

At a point on the Potomac near Aquia Creek is a point called Allen's Point, or house. One-half mile in rear of that house stands battery of 18 guns, covered by a pine forest. The guns are in two batteries of 9 guns.

The front on river is cornfields.

Report of Acting Lieutenant Budd, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Penguin, regarding the condition of that vessel.

U. S. S. PENGUIN,
Hampton Roads, October 15, 1861.

SIR: In compliance with your orders of the 12th, I was relieved off the Rappahannock by the *Valley City* yesterday a. m., and the same p. m. reported for duty to Flag-Officer Goldsborough (in the absence of Flag-Officer Du Pont) for duty on the South Atlantic Blockade.

I beg leave to state in reply to the clause in your instructions, which says, "Should the *Penguin* in your judgment be unfit to go down the Atlantic coast," that Commander Livingston reported her condition to the Department, I believe, some weeks since. Her boilers require bracing and are now being cooled off preparatory thereto, and the coal removed from the side bunkers. But not being aware of the service on

which she may be required, I do not feel prepared to do otherwise than to prepare for sea with the utmost dispatch.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. BUDD,

[Acting] Lieutenant, Commanding U. S. S. *Penguin*.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN.

Passage of U. S. steamers Pocahontas and Seminole by the Confederate batteries on the Potomac River.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

U. S. S. YANKEE,

Off *Occoquan Creek*, October 15, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the U. S. S. *Pocahontas* passed this anchorage at about 9:40 this morning. At about 10:30, when abreast of Evansport, she commenced firing.

The *Seminole*, which was at that time abreast of me, immediately started on her way down the river. After firing some eight or ten shots the *Pocahontas* ceased firing. I could not discover that her fire was returned from the shore, but distinctly saw the enemy gather in large force upon the river bank, cutting and clearing away trees. At about 11:20, the *Seminole* being directly abreast of Evansport, the rebels commenced firing upon her from a battery of at least ten heavy guns, two or three of which were rifled and of large caliber. As long as they were within range, some twenty minutes, the *Seminole* returned their fire with great spirit. Some thirty or thirty-five shots were fired from the shore and some twenty were fired from the *Seminole*.

Since the engagement the rebels have been amusing themselves by firing at a small schooner which is at this time out of reach of his [their] guns.

At the time of this engagement, sir, I was compelled to be an inactive and useless spectator, the engineers being at work upon our engine. So long as that battery stands at Shipping Point and Evansport the navigation of the Potomac will be effectually closed. To attempt to reduce it with the vessels under my command would be vanity. Had our army occupied the points opposite, as I have suggested in two previous communications, this insult would not have been perpetrated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,

Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,

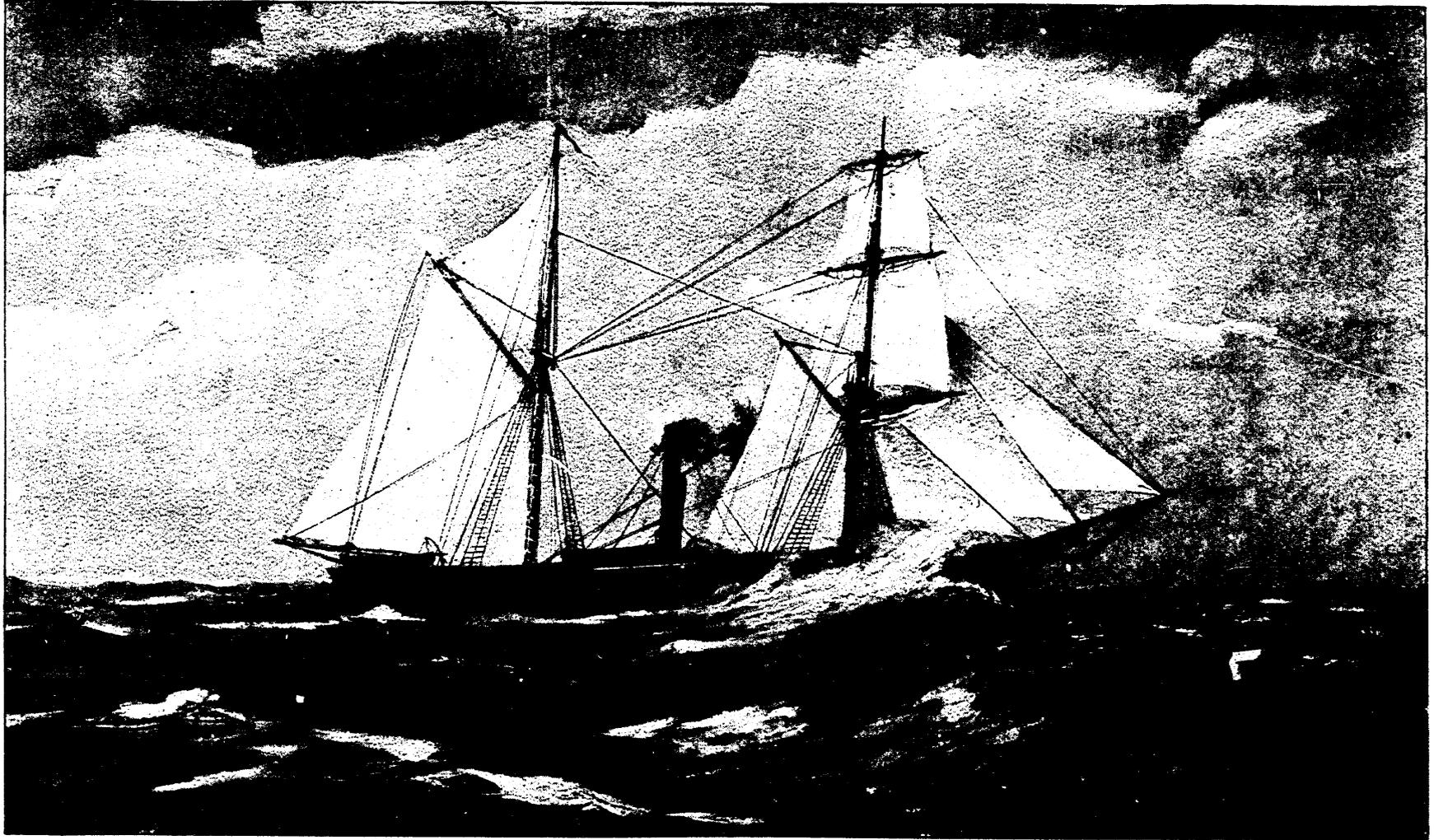
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Seminole*.

U. S. STEAM SLOOP SEMINOLE,

Potomac River, October 15, 1861.

SIR: Detained yesterday to make some repairs of work imperfectly done, I have the honor to report to you that we proceeded this morning in obedience to your order of the 12th instant, *Pocahontas* ahead.



UNITED STATES STEAMER POCAHONTAS.

We discovered a short distance below the White House a body, say a battalion, of men on the hills of Virginia, moving up the river; between Freestone Point and Cockpit another body of Confederate troops moving in same direction.

The *Pocahontas* being some distance ahead, was seen to open fire on the shore below Freestone Point and at Evansport or Shipping Point, which was not observed to be returned by the Confederates.

At 10:45 a. m., as the *Seminole* was passing majestically slow by Evansport, three batteries opened a brisk fire of rifled shot and shell upon us. Two of these batteries were on the bank of the river; the other lies a short distance, say 400 yards, inland. We returned their fire from our pivot gun and two medium 32-pounders with effect, as our shell were seen to fall in and around their works, keeping steadily on our course, as a matter of more importance to take our vessel to her place of destination uninjured.

The length of the *Seminole* and her very slow rate of speed made us a fine target for the rebel rifled guns, to which we returned fire with interest.

One of their shot crippled our mizzenmast about 15 feet below cross-trees, and cut away starboard after mizzen shroud; another carried away mainstays near masthead; another passed through the rail near pivot gun; another, amidships, passed through both hammock nettings and rail, covering the deck with splinters; a heavy shell burst close under our starboard bow; fragments of shell taken out; waist boat shot through; a rifled shot struck obliquely and glanced off quarter seizing of after swifter; starboard fore rigging shot away, and some injuries inboard.

Several persons were scratched by the splinters, but providentially none killed; officers and crew did their duty gallantly.

I shall endeavor to have damages repaired at the anchorage designated in your order, and am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,
JNO. P. GILLIS,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, Washington.

Unofficial report of Commander Gillis, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Seminole*.

[U. S. S.] SEMINOLE,
Hampton Roads, October 16, 1861.

DEAR CRAVEN: Did you hear the row? We had quite a sharp action with the rebel batteries, three in number, as we passed Evansport yesterday. It continued about forty minutes, as the "old wagon" moved leisurely down the river. Two of the forts are on the bank of the river, the other lies inland 300 or 400 yards. They poured the rifled shot and shell into us in a lively manner, which we answered briskly so long as our guns could be brought to bear. We kept steadily on our course, deeming it a matter of more importance to take the vessel uninjured to her destination for work of more consequence than shelling the batteries of the Potomac.

The *Pocahontas* stirred up the party with a gun or two as she steamed down ahead of us, which the batteries did not reply to. She continued on, leaving us to do battle with the Dixie boys. They did us some damage. The "varmints" shot away our mizzenmast and mizzen after

shroud, also both mainstays near masthead, sent two shot through our rail and hammock nettings, and doing us some injury inboard, as they passed through both sides. A shell or two burst close under our starboard bow, giving us a fine shower bath at pivot gun, and burying some fragments in outside planking, etc. Providentially none were killed; a few scratches from splinters. Our shell fell in and around their works, and I should think with effect, but of course they will not acknowledge any damage.

How are you getting on? - Has your flagship arrived yet? We will probably be here a day or two. We are employed getting out the mizzenmast. It hung by a thread as it were, the shot taking effect about 15 feet below the crosstrees. Have procured a spar for another, an indifferent stick, 7 feet shorter than old mast.

Will be pleased to hear from you. I hurried, or hastened away, from your vessel to assist the *Pocahontas*. Did she come back to mine? Yes, some thirty or forty minutes after the fight was over—well, what of it? There was nobody hurt.

Sincerely yours,

JNO. P. G[ILLIS].

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Steamer Harriet Lane.

Report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, October 15, 1861.

SIR: I have to inform you that while passing down the river to-day the *Seminole* was fired upon by a battery from the Virginia shore, located at the mouth of Quantico Creek. The *Seminole* returned the fire with shells, many of them bursting in the enemy's batteries.

I boarded her as she passed down, and Captain Gillis informed me that his ship had been struck five or six times. His mizzenmast was nearly cut away; he was then fishing it. No person hurt. There is a steamer here, which I have detained, loaded with Government stores. Please inform me whether I shall permit vessels at present to pass up the river.

There is a transport steamer on shore below Maryland Point. She was passing down the river when she took the ground. I have nothing to send to her assistance, as the *Freeborn* has not returned.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Magaw, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Thomas Freeborn*, regarding the schooner *Henry Smith*.

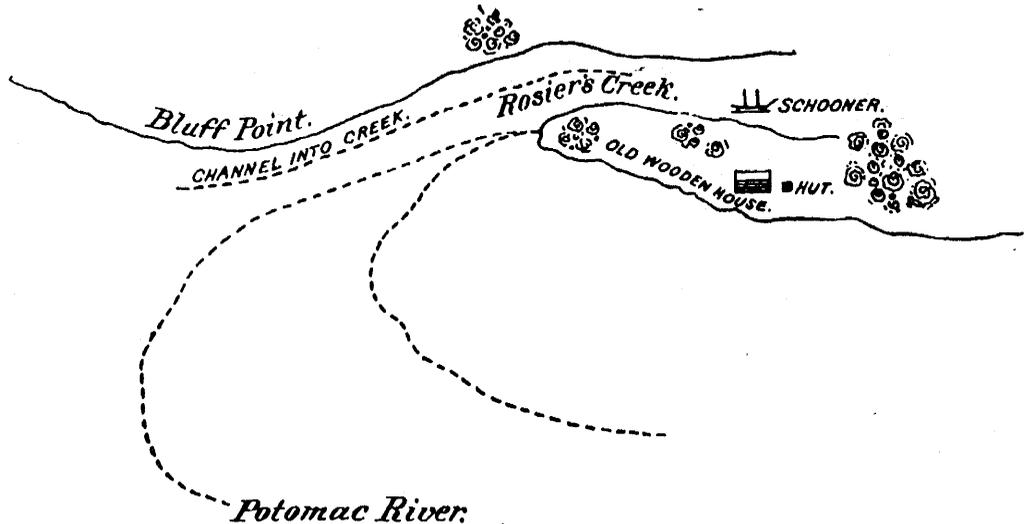
STEAMER FREEBORN,
Off Potomac Creek, Tuesday Night.

DEAR SIR: On the opposite leaf I have attempted to give you an idea of where and how the schooner lies that I reported on Sunday

night last. I succeeded in getting the schooner *Henry Smith* off the shoal at Mathias Point at high tide to-day; her rudder was slightly injured.

Respectfully and faithfully, your obedient servant,
SAMUEL MAGAW.

Commodore CRAVEN.



The schooner's mastheads are painted white, and will not be seen from the river except by sharp lookout. She was as represented above, at sundown, October 15.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 15, 1861.*

Captain Craven has come up. He reports that the *Seminole* was opened on by the new battery at Evansport. The *Pawnee* is just about to start, but I have detained her for further orders from the Department, as she is so filled by the troops that the effect of shot or shell might be very fatal. Please to direct whether the vessel shall proceed in this condition or not.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 16, 1861.*

The *Yankee* left at 8 o'clock last evening and the *Harriet Lane* at 10 o'clock. The *Pawnee* left before midnight with the two tugs; also the *Mount Vernon* with the marines, but the two steamboats from the city could not be used, as they reached the yard when it was time to start and had no coal to put in, which would have made it too late. No news yet from below, as it is not yet time for the tugs to get back.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 16, 1861.*

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of the safe passage of our vessels. The *Mount Vernon*, with the marines, went by the batteries in good time and was not fired at. The *Pawnee* was a little late; the day had begun to break and the batteries blazed away sharply, but apparently without effect. The above is from Captain Craven, just arrived with the *Harriet Lane*, 4 p. m.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting private letter of Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Pawnee, regarding the passage of the batteries on the Potomac River.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 17, 1861.*

SIR: I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a copy of a private letter just received from Lieutenant Commanding Wyman. It shows that the fire from the rebel batteries was much more effective than I at first supposed it to be. It was most fortunate that Captain Wyman followed my advice "not to return the fire of the enemy," for, as he says, had the men been at their quarters several of them would in all probability have been killed.

Considering the improvement of their gun practice I would respectfully suggest that until the enemy's batteries be silenced or removed that there shall be no more transportation of Government stores upon the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. PAWNEE, *October 16, [1861.]*

DEAR SIR: We have received no damage of any importance, and I believe that the main object has been accomplished. No material damage to hull or spars and no one hurt.

After having the guns all ready I sent all the men to the opposite side of the deck, protecting them by hammocks, etc., across the launch. As agreed upon, I had determined not to fire unless I found the enemy's fire annoying or destructive, and as it was neither, not a gun was fired by us. I am glad that I pursued that course, as, had the men been at the guns, several of No. 2 gun's crew would have been killed. The shot which struck or passed close to us were: One through nettings, starboard and port, in wake of No. 2 gun, cutting hammock in two; one glanced on starboard bow; one shot amidships, 2 feet above water line; one shot through dingy and into side, not going through, lodged just above air port of first lieutenant's room and started it; one knocked off boat's rudder abaft starboard gangway, and one cut away fore vang; another or perhaps the same cutting ridgerope of awning.

I think there are five or six guns—two 32-pounders, one heavy rifle, say 6-inch, two or three small rifles, and placed in two batteries.

I am now waiting at Maryland Point merely to pack our engines and shall be underway as quickly as possible and shall be glad to get to Old Point and get rid of the marines, as we are crowded to death.

Respectfully, and truly, yours,

R. H. WYMAN.

[Captain THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.]

The *Seminole* sustained no injury excepting a shot through mizzenmast.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 17, 1861.*

I sent down three tugs and one steamer to try the passage last night. Two of the tugs got by before they were seen. The steamboat would not attempt it, and the other tug ran into a propeller coming up and disabled her. The tugs that got by towed back two loaded vessels and were fired at, but not struck. Some measure is needed to lessen the risk of the passage, and even if counter batteries are erected I think the plating of the *Anacostia* will contribute very much. It might be done in two weeks from order. Lights are shown on the Maryland side to give notice of our vessels coming and should be seized. Small parties of troops should be distributed near the locality to observe and check communication by boats between the shores. The *Cœur de Lion* arrived last night from New York with a sloop in tow; was not hit by the batteries. The *Harriet Lane* went down about half an hour since.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 17, 1861.*

On a close examination of the masters and pilots I find only one, the master of the *Leslie*, who thinks there is a new battery above Shipping Point, and that, he says, is about half a mile. They all differ, too, as [to] the force of the batteries, but agree as to the risk in passing them, so as to make it doubtful whether the trading vessels could be towed past.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding condition of that vessel.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 17, 1861.*

SIR: Enclosed herewith is a letter just received from Lieutenant Commanding Harrell. The *Union* has been leaking almost ever since joining the flotilla, but not to such an extent as to make it necessary to send her up for repairs. It seems now that a further delay would

be hazardous, and, as there is already a vessel hauled up at the navy yard, I would respectfully suggest that the *Union* be sent to Baltimore, where her repairs can be effected immediately.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, October 16, 1861.

SIR: I regret to be compelled to call your attention again to the condition of this vessel. The leak increases constantly and now amounts to more than 8 inches an hour. The boilers are perfectly tight. I am compelled to remove the powder and shells from their respective rooms and have no place for the powder below the water lines.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting reports of boat expedition from U. S. S. Yankee, Lieutenant Eastman, U. S. Navy, commanding.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE,
Off Indian Head, October 18, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith for the information of the Department reports from Lieutenant Commanding Eastman and Acting Master Cash.

It would seem that the rebels are actively at work extending their batteries both up and down the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. YANKEE, *October 17, 1861.*

SIR: This evening, while lying near Stump Neck, I saw a boat with three men crossing from the Virginia to the Maryland shore. I sent Mr. Cash in the gig to seize her, but she escaped and the men reached the Maryland shore and escaped. I enclose the report of Mr. Cash with regard to the batteries on the Virginia shore.

Several vessels have attempted the passage of the batteries and succeeded, both steamers and sailing vessels.

Very respectfully, your obedient,

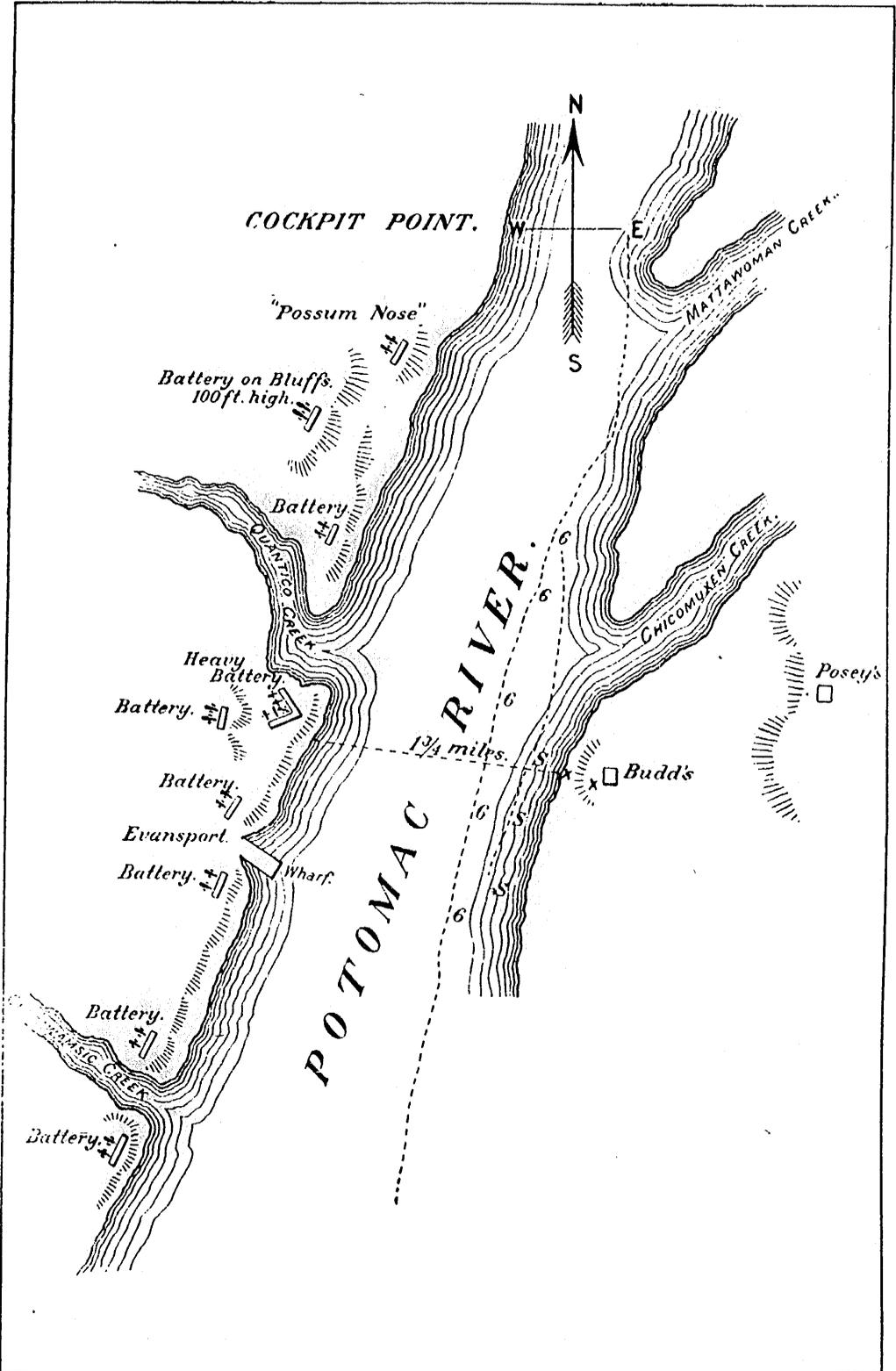
T. H. EASTMAN,
Lieutenant, Commanding Yankee.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Subenclosures.]

U. S. S. YANKEE, October 17, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your orders, I proceeded with the gig of this vessel and four men for the purpose of



seizing a boat containing three men, seen crossing from Ship [Shipping] Point, on the Virginia shore, to Maryland.

On reaching the north point of the mouth of Chicomuxen Creek I discovered a number of men on the south point, close to where the boat landed, and thinking it possible a number might be there superior to my boat's crew, I deemed it advisable to communicate with one of the vessels lying in the creek before proceeding to land. On reaching the schooner and communicating with her captain, I learned that several boats had crossed from Virginia to Maryland and back since the battery at Ship [Shipping] Point opened its fire. Thinking from this information that the enemy might have landed a small force, I deemed it advisable not to land. While on board the schooner I was able to view the Virginia shore from the mouth of Chopawamsic Creek to Cockpit Point, and the captain of her kindly furnished me with information of the number and locality of all the batteries, he having been at the same anchorage from the time they first opened fire. I enclose a sketch made from the information gained from him, and am indebted to him for a 30-pound Parrott Rifle shot which was fired this morning from the battery at Ship [Shipping] Point at a small schooner passing down the river, and which landed directly in front of Mrs. Budd's house. I have marked the spot on the enclosed sketch thus, x. He informed me that many of their shot reached far on the Maryland shore.

After receiving this information I deemed it best to return to the vessel.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. M. CASH.

Acting Master, U. S. Navy.

Lieutenant T. H. EASTMAN, U. S. Navy,

Commanding U. S. S. Yankee.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding battery at Cockpit Point.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 18, 1861.*

SIR: Acting Master Foster, in command of the steamer *E. B. Hale*, reports that at 5:30 p. m., a few minutes before we left Stump Neck, where he has been stationed for the last twenty-four hours, the enemy had cleared away the trees and revealed a new battery at Cockpit Point.

In consequence of the extended line of the rebel batteries, I have deemed it proper to detain all vessels bound down the river to-night.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,

Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Major-General McClellan, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Potomac, regarding the navigation of the river.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 18, 1861.*

The Department is advised that the navigation of the Potomac River is becoming daily and almost hourly more dangerous. Commander Dahlgren telegraphs this morning that "some measure is needed to

lessen the risk of the passage. Lights are shown on the Maryland shore to give notice of our vessels coming and should be seized. Small parties of troops should be distributed near the locality to observe and check communication by boats between the shores."

Similar views are expressed by Captain Craven, in command of the flotilla. The Navy has exerted itself to keep open this important avenue to the city, and thus far with success, but the erection of extensive batteries and stationing troops to the amount of many thousands in their vicinity, imperatively requires the action of the Army, unless communication by the river is to be abandoned, which on many accounts would be unfortunate and almost disastrous. I deem it important to communicate to you these reports and suggestions from the officers named and would add my concurrence.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Major-General GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN, U. S. Army,
Washington.

Letter from Major-General McClellan, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Potomac, to the Secretary of the Navy, regarding action taken by the Army for the protection of the navigation of the river.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
October 18, 1861.

SIR: I have this minute received your letter of this date with reference to the navigation of the Potomac, and in reply have the honor to inform you that a command composed of infantry and cavalry started this morning for different points below here on the Potomac River, accompanied by a staff officer, with orders to examine the country thoroughly, to ascertain whether or not it is necessary to erect heavy batteries for the protection of navigation and to accomplish the object asked for in your letter.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. B. MCCLELLAN,
Major-General.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of the capture by Confederates of a hay-laden schooner.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, October 19, 1861.

SIR: I send Acting Master Foster, commanding the steamer *Resolute*, to report to you in person the situation of affairs upon the river this morning.

The necessary abandonment of a schooner laden with hay, and which has fallen into the hands of the rebels, has so mortified me that I can add nothing but my regrets that the attempt to pass the batteries was made this morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding movements of the enemy.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 20, 1861—5 p. m.*

SIR: I enclose for the information of the Departments of War and the Navy the enclosed paper, just received from Lieutenant Commanding A. D. Harrell.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION, *October 19, 1861.*

I have just learned that the enemy crossed the river yesterday morning during the fog 500 strong. They crossed in fishing boats and scows. A consultation was held with the leading men of the neighborhood, conspicuous among whom was Mr. Posey. They were told that all was ready for them in that part of the State; they then returned, with the understanding that they would be in Maryland immediately. Maryland Point is to be fortified. I shall keep a watch upon that place, and the moment I see a movement I shall at once destroy certain houses and endeavor to keep the enemy from that point. As they have command of the river and can transport artillery across at pleasure, I fear I shall be compelled to drop farther down the river. To add to my unpleasant situation I have only two days' provisions. I may be able to get some from the *Ice Boat*; if not, I must depend upon the shore. Please give me some general instructions as to my course should the Maryland shore become fortified, which most assuredly will be the case in a few days unless the enemy is checked. You are aware, no doubt, that they captured two schooners during the fog. I permit nothing to pass and will not until I receive orders to the contrary. The man I send this by is a most trustworthy person.

Yours, very respectfully,

A. D. HARRELL.

[Captain THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.]

P. S.—I send the bearer of this out for information more than anything else, but as he will be in your vicinity I avail myself of the opportunity to communicate.

[Endorsement.]

[OCTOBER 20, 1861.]

The bearer of this says it was last night and not yesterday that the rebels crossed the river. This note was written this morning instead of yesterday.

Very respectfully,

THOS. T. CRAVEN.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Bentrick, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. tug E. H. Herbert, regarding reconnaissance.

U. S. S. E. H. HERBERT,
Off Indian Head, October 21, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that according to instructions I started about daylight this morning for the point from where I heard

the drum beat last evening. After getting about 2 miles over fences and through cornfields and pine woods, I heard the report of musketry across Mattawoman Creek. I at once discovered by the army baggage wagons all was right. I fired a rifle several times and hoisted a white flag, which soon attracted the attention of Colonel Taylor, of the New York Third "Excelsior." A scow at hand was paddled across the creek and I was introduced to the officers, Captain [R. S.] Williamson, topographical engineer, and Major William O. Stevens, from Washington, last Friday, 2 p. m., and bound to Budd's Landing. The regiment consists of 830 men and officers, viz, 130 cavalry, 700 infantry. Colonel Taylor informed me that a corps of cavalry that was to have reported to him had not done so yet; ought to have communicated yesterday.

There was some degree of reserve on the part of Colonel Taylor to communicate with me till I produced a letter, written last evening, to the editor of the Philadelphia Evening Journal. He then expressed himself very freely and gave his compliments to Commodore Craven, and also said it would afford him pleasure to cooperate with him in every legitimate way possible. I informed him of your willingness to afford him every facility to promote the wishes of the War Department and your hearty cooperation with Colonel Taylor, and at any time that he had any communications to make to Commodore Craven that the tugs running up and down the river would transmit the news. I made known your wish in reference to Mr. Posey, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Runyea, and if the above parties were arrested to let you know.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES BENTRICK,
Commanding E. H. Herbert, U. S. Navy.

Commodore CRAVEN.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding protection to navigation in the river.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 21, 1861.*

SIR: A captain of one of the vessels which came up the river yesterday reported to General Van Vliet that over forty vessels were awaiting a passage below the batteries, and that none of the armed steamers were in sight to protect them from the enemy. The Department, of course, denied the statement. Measures will be immediately taken to erect batteries on the Maryland shore. In the meantime, if any of your heavy rifled guns can reach the works of the enemy without exposing your vessels and their crews, thereby causing an expenditure of their ammunition, you are requested to keep up at your discretion a fire upon them. You will take prompt and severe measures with any parties on the Maryland shore who shall have made signals to the Virginia side.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, etc.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, urging an increased force for his command.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 21, 1861.*

SIR: In view of the evident preparations of the rebels for crossing the river, I respectfully suggest to the Department the urgent neces-

sity of increasing the force of the Potomac Flotilla with as little delay as possible. There should be at least five or six more vessels in the division off Aquia Creek, and four or five additional ones in the division here above the enemy's batteries.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter of the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of War transmitting copy of report from Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 21, 1861.*

SIR: Herewith I send a copy of a letter* from Lieutenant Harrell, in command of the *Union*, on the lower Potomac, disclosing the aggressive movements of the insurgents and the connections that exist between those in Maryland with those on the Virginia shore. Efficient and thorough measures ought not longer to be delayed in sending detachments below to check and crush their proceedings.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Letter from Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding battery on Mathias Point.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 22, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received at midnight from Lieutenant Commanding A. D. Harrell, of the U. S. S. *Union*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla,

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, October 21, 1861.

SIR: I learned last night through a trusty channel that a battery at Mathias Point was nearly ready to open fire. Although I placed full confidence in the statement, I determined to wait until this morning to verify it. I sent the *Rescue* down with orders to Lieutenant Magav to keep a sharp lookout upon that point. Shortly before sundown this evening I heard firing in that direction and immediately dispatched the *Rescue* to ascertain what it meant. She met a schooner close to the

* See p. 728.

point and was informed by the captain that the *Freeborn* and *Island Belle* fired into the bushes, and the fire was immediately returned by the rebels. Several shots were exchanged, when the steamers retired below the point.

My informant stated last night that the battery consisted of eighteen guns. Soon as I received the information last night I ordered all vessels below the point, and I believe there are but two schooners at this time above that place. You will perceive that I am placed between two fires. I await your orders.

In haste, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], *October 22, 1861.*

Captain Craven has arrived from below. He states that Mathias Point is occupied by a battery, believed to be of eighteen guns, which opened on the [*Thomas*] *Freeborn* and *Rescue* last night. The *Union*, *Satellite*, and *Ice Boat* are still off Aquia.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Hon. SECRETARY OF NAVY.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

Letter from Colonel Taylor, U. S. Army, commanding Third Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, New York Infantry, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding movements of the Confederates.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD REGIMENT, EXCELSIOR BRIGADE,
Camp Hooker, near Budd's Ferry, October 23, 1861.

SIR: The steamer *Page*, which has been lying in Aquia Creek, made her appearance in the river opposite here a short time since, and is now lying under the guns of the rebel battery at Shipping Point. She has thus succeeded in eluding the U. S. S. *Union*, which was watching her off Aquia Creek. As there are some indications on the other side of preparations for crossing to this shore, and as I have no artillery and would be unable to oppose a landing by them, I shall this evening move my encampment to some point upon the road leading from here to Washington, and near where I encamped last Sunday on Mattawoman Creek.

If you can move any of the vessels under your command somewhat farther down the river, I think they will be unable to land above the mouth of Mattawoman Creek, and their movements from Shipping Point may be observed if not prevented.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

NELSON TAYLOR,
Colonel Third Regiment, Excelsior Brigade.

Commodore CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting telegram from Brigadier-General Sickles, U. S. Army.

NAVY YARD, *October 23, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I send you the enclosed telegram from General Sickles's headquarters only that you may be informed of what may be going on in relation to anything in the limits of your command. You know that our right wing has crossed into Virginia at Leesburg, after a sharp resistance. The enemy was repulsed in every attempt.

I send down a boat to verify the position of the *Tigress*, as the Department desires me to have her raised.

Very truly, yours,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

Captain CRAVEN,
Commanding Flotilla.

[Enclosure—Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS EXCELSIOR BRIGADE,
Good Hope [Md.], 9 p. m.
(Received 9 p. m. October 22, 1861.)

Is there a man in the Navy of the United States now on duty on the Potomac called Charles Bentrick, U. S. master and commanding *E. H. Herbert*? A courier just arrived from Budd's Ferry, sent by Colonel Nelson Taylor, commanding a detachment of this brigade, on special service on the lower Potomac. He desires to know these facts. Should the said Charles Bentrick be an enemy in disguise there might be danger to compromise the safety of our troops.

By command of Brigadier-General Sickles:

JAS. L. VAN BUREN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Captain DAHLGREN.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding affairs on the Potomac River.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 23, 1861.*

SIR: Last night I received a message from Lieutenant Commanding Harrell informing me that there were no sailing vessels between Smith's and Lower Cedar Points, and a statement that by to-morrow morning there would be four additional heavy guns mounted at Mathias. In view of being entirely cut off, both from above and below, he requested permission to drop down under cover of the night to Lower Cedar Point. The case seemed to be an urgent one, and taking into consideration that the vessels at anchor off Aquia could be of but little service there, I sent word to him that I should leave him to act altogether upon his discretion. This morning, from a fishing boat just up from below, I learned that the *Union*, *Ice Boat*, *Satellite*, and *Rescue* had gone down the river, and that the rebel steamer *George Page* had gone up to Quantico Creek, where she is safe under the batteries of Shipping Point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting to be detached from that command, in view of its uselessness for the protection of the river.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *October 23, 1861.*

SIR: In view of the utter uselessness of the Potomac Flotilla for the further protection of the river, I feel it my duty to respectfully suggest for the consideration of the Department that the guns of all the vessels be landed at Mattawoman Creek and mounted upon Stump Neck. In addition I would propose that the guns of the *Pensacola* be also mounted at that point; then, with the aid of as many heavy siege mortars as are available, we might, by concentrating our fire upon one battery at a time, be enabled to drive the enemy from his positions on the opposite bank of the river.

I must confess, sir, that I am wholly ignorant of the proper management of such an operation, but if intrusted to a competent officer I have no doubt that it would result to our advantage.

Feeling that my position here in command of the flotilla can be of no further benefit, I most respectfully request to be detached from the command and appointed to some seagoing vessel.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,
THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding movements of Confederate steamer George Page.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE,
October 23, 1861—3:30 p. m.

SIR: I have just been informed by the master of the *Wyandank* that the steamer *Page* has crossed the river, apparently with a deck load of troops on board. I can hardly believe it possible that she has any troops, but I send this for what it is worth.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

3:40.—The *Page* is below Stump Neck, apparently shelling our troops on the Maryland shore.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from commandant navy yard, Washington, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding cooperation of the Army.

[WASHINGTON] NAVY YARD, *October 23—11 p. m.*

DEAR SIR: The Secretary of the Navy desires me to inform you forthwith that General Hooker will proceed at daylight with a division of 8,000 men and eighteen guns to cooperate with you.

Very truly, yours,

J. A. DAHLGREN.

Captain CRAVEN.

Instructions from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, urging continued vigilance in cooperation with the Army.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 24, 1861.*

SIR: Your several favors of the 23d are received, stating the dismembered condition of the flotilla under your command, the withdrawal of its vessels from before Aquia, the egress of the *George Page* into the Potomac, and the further demonstrations by the batteries of the insurgents. These evidences of accumulated force in that quarter may for a time embarrass your command, but must not be permitted to discourage you, and I am confident will cause no relaxation of your vigilance or exertion.

I notified you briefly at a late hour last night that General Hooker's division, with three batteries, would commence their march from Bladensburg this morning. Such, I am informed, is the fact, and they go with a view of cooperating with and assisting you in repelling the enemy. In order to operate effectually against the batteries on the Virginia shore, guns of a larger caliber than are in possession of either yourself or the army under General Hooker will be necessary. It will not be advisable, therefore, to land the guns from your vessels, as suggested, but keep them prepared for active use on board, as occasion will soon require.

You will communicate with that portion of the flotilla that is below you, enjoining upon them to exercise unremitted vigilance in detecting and preventing all hostile movements in that quarter and to hold themselves in readiness for orders to proceed up the river when you shall require. Great firmness and resolution are expected of them in times like these, as well as constant watchfulness. In all these your example and counsel will have their effect, and in you the Department has implicit confidence.

If these demonstrations of the enemy on the lower Potomac are temporary, and designed as much to draw attention from movements in other quarters as to effect the lower Maryland counties, it is none the less necessary that our forces and vigilance should be exercised.

You will put yourself in communication with General Hooker as soon as practicable after he arrives in your vicinity. It is expected he will reach Budd's Ferry or some point in that neighborhood to-morrow afternoon. Communicate freely and fully with that officer, who will receive similar instructions in regard to yourself, and let your mutual counsels produce unity of action.

Write freely and fully to the Department by every opportunity when you have anything to communicate, and keep us advised of the condition of affairs as thoroughly as possible.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Request of Brigadier-General Sickles, U. S. Army, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, for cooperation in reconnoissance.

POPE'S CREEK [MD.],
Thursday [October 24, 1861?]-2 p. m.

General Sickles presents his compliments to Commodore Craven, and requests that if not inconvenient a steamer be placed at his disposal for two or three hours to facilitate a reconnoissance he is directed to make farther down the river.

(This request is addressed to the commander of any United States vessel the master of the *Rescue* may meet, in case he is not able to convey it to the commodore in season.)

D. E. SICKLES,
Brigadier-General, U. S. Army.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, regarding means for protecting river communication.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, October 25, 1861.

SIR: The Potomac is now so far obstructed that it is no longer used by the army for the transportation of supplies, and the sole dependence for that purpose and for the supplies of the inhabitants of this city is limited to the railroads alone.

The daily consumption of the Army of the Potomac is about 700 tons, including the feed for the horses. The travel and trade of the city will bring the total to nearly 1,000 tons daily.

The capacity of the railroad is stated at about 1,500 to 1,600 tons per day. This would seem sufficient to meet ordinary wants and even those of an unusual description, yet some days since, when I wished to obtain some bales of hay for a special purpose from the Quartermaster's Department, I was answered by Colonel [D. H.] Rucker that he had scarcely more than one day's provender on hand for the horses, and up to this time both the railroad and river had been open for all manner of supplies.

It does not seem advisable, therefore, to permit the river to be closed without some effort, for the railroad is not infallible, but is liable to interruption from severe storms, particularly in the approaching season. Moreover, the disposition of the hostile batteries is such as not only to separate our flotilla, but to exclude its action from some 25 or 30 miles of the river and leave this extent open to their one steamer

and other facilities by water for communicating with the Maryland shores and supply their forces along the bank, when by land this would be tedious and uncertain.

The advance of the army will undoubtedly clear the Virginia bank effectually, and even cause the loss of the cannon, which are too heavy for withdrawal, but it may be a question whether it is not better to relieve the army of this necessity and be ready to assist its interim operations as well as to open an important avenue for its supply. To this end we must resort to counter batteries, which, if they will not destroy those of the enemy, will at least clear the river of his craft, and probably cover the passage of our own.

I assume the distance across as 3,500 yards, and propose to operate against the batteries from Cockpit Point to Evansport with not less than fifty heavy pieces.

Of these there are now disposable here (including battery of *Pensacola*) 27 of IX-inch, 2 of XI-inch, 1 50-pounder, 4 mortars (10-inch), 3 rifled 80-pounders; total, 33 cannon and 4 mortars. Three mortars on their way, leaving only ten cannon to be provided, which can no doubt be done in season.

If the operation is to be performed it should be begun in twenty-four hours; and if unlimited means be placed at the disposal of the officer who is to command, the batteries should be ready in two weeks from this date.

Of course I am to be understood to speak of a naval affair only, which is not to embarrass the army or to divert from it anything necessary to the particular designs of the commanding general. The troops that may assist in throwing up the entrenchments, and to guard against unfriendly designs in the rear, will be most convenient for crossing to the opposite shore by the naval forces when their services may be needed.

Indeed, if we are able to silence the hostile batteries, an opportunity may be found for attacking in good force when the advance of the main army may render it advantageous.

It is needless to enter upon technical details. These must be left to the option of the officer in command, and he must also have control of the flotilla.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from Lewis McKenzie, esq., to the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting information regarding Cockpit Point battery.

ALEXANDRIA, October 26, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I send the enclosed. I hope it may be of some service, if [you have] any intentions of dislodging the Confederates. They seem now entirely to have the control of at least 15 miles of the river, and the *George Page* is cutting around considerably.

With great regard, your friend and servant,
 LEWIS MCKENZIE.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Enclosure.]

Cockpit Point where the Confederates have a battery, is in some respects a remarkable military position. It commands Freestone Point on the north, Ship [Shipping] Point on the south, being distant from either about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The land is higher than either of them and it projects farther into the Potomac. In the rear it is defended by Power's [Powell's] Creek, the low grounds of which are commanded by it.

Opposite, in Maryland, are Stump Neck and Budd's Ferry. The height of the land at Cockpit above the river is from 40 to 50 feet, while that of Stump Neck is not more than 8 or 10 for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles back from the river. The river here being $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles wide, the distance from this rebel battery to high ground in rear of Stump Neck would be $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles; to the heights at Budd's Ferry not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles at most.

A vessel lying at Six Chimneys (the upper point of Mattawoman) would be in range and could choose her position anywhere between that point and Cockpit, the channel being deep and bold.

See accompanying sketch.*

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding prisoners captured by the U. S. steamers Island Belle and E. H. Herbert.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, October 28, 1861.

SIR: On the 20th instant a person calling himself Patrick McCafferty was picked up by the steamer *Island Belle* while in the act of crossing over in a small boat from the Maryland shore toward Mathias Point.

He tells a very lame story of his having always been a common day laborer, of his destitution for want of means of support, and that he was going to Fredericksburg to see a friend, from whom he was certain of obtaining assistance. He pretends also that it was only a drunken spree that brought him to this trouble; that he did not know where he was or where he was going to when he was taken on board of the *Island Belle*. A day or two after he was received on board of this vessel, Acting Master Cash recognized him as a person who had been in the employ of Norris Brothers, of Philadelphia, where he held the responsible trust of timekeeper at a salary of \$1,000 per annum. Upon being recognized by Mr. Cash, McCafferty exhibited a considerable degree of uneasiness. This morning, upon further questioning by myself, he acknowledges that he had been in the employ of Norris Brothers, of Philadelphia; E. S. Norris, Schenectady, and Richard Norris & Son, of Philadelphia. E. S. Norris, he says, has recently gone to Europe. Looking upon his case as a suspicious one, I have sent him up to the navy yard to await the disposition of the Department.

This morning the master of the *Herbert* took a man from the beach at Smoot's Landing. This person pretends, although he has lived all his life in this country, that he can not talk English; says his name is Albert Jackson; has a brother living in Virginia, where he left him about ten or twelve days ago. Not being satisfied with his account of

* Not found.

himself, and particularly with the evident disguise in which he has habited himself, I have thought proper to send him also to the navy yard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Endorsement.]

Let Commander Dahlgren detain and examine these men and report in regard to them.

W[ELLES].

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding disposition of vessels.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 28, 1861.*

SIR: The *Valley City* and *Rescue* are detached from the flotilla and now form part of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. As they are both in the Rappahannock River, Flag-Officer Goldsborough has been notified of the fact and their positions.

The steamer *Baltimore* has been ordered to remain in the lower part of the Potomac River, attached to your force. Should the senior officer below the batteries require supplies from Hampton Roads, that vessel can be used for the purpose of obtaining them.

The *Stepping Stones*, of 3 feet draft, left New York for the Potomac a week ago.

Direct the paymaster of the flotilla to forward to their proper destination the accounts of such vessels as have left your command.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Clary, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Dawn, to proceed with that vessel to Hampton Roads, towing sloop Granite.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 28, 1861.*

SIR: Get underway as soon as practicable, with the sloop *Granite* in tow, and proceed to Hampton Roads and report to Flag-Officer Goldsborough. Do not pass the batteries on the Potomac until the night is favorable for so doing. The sloop might pass under sail, if you deem it advisable. When Flag-Officer Goldsborough can spare you, or the next repairs are required, proceed to New York for a new boiler.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Lieutenant A. G. CLARY,
Commanding U. S. S. Dawn, Washington.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding steamer George Page.

Confidential.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 29, 1861.*

SIR: The military opposite Quantico propose to open a few rifled guns upon the *Page* to-morrow at daylight, should she still be in her old position. You will notify the force below the batteries in case she should attempt to return to Aquia, and take such other measures as in your judgment may be necessary. Forward the messenger who takes this with all dispatch, if he has letters for the force near your anchorage.

Very respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, etc.

Letter from Brigadier-General Hooker, U. S. Army, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding proposed attack on steamer George Page.

HEADQUARTERS HOOKER'S DIVISION,
Six Miles from Budd's Ferry, Md., October 29, 1861.

COMMODORE: On my return here this evening I found the dispatches referred to by you. On conferring with Captain [T. H.] Williamson, my engineer, who has been down to the ferry, I find that the *Page* is not in sight and has not been to-day. For this reason I think it advisable to defer the attack until she presents herself. If she is up the creek where the schooners are her hull is completely covered by the high banks of the river. I will advise you when an opportunity presents itself for opening on the *Page*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HOOKER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Commodore CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Fleet.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Major-General McClellan, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Potomac, regarding seamen on duty at Fort Ellsworth, Va.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *October 29, 1861.*

This Department is beginning to feel the want of seamen and, desiring to send a large force to the Western waters, requests that you will take measures to relieve the seamen now occupying Fort Ellsworth and the adjacent battery.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Major-General GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN,
Washington.

Letter from Samuel W. Adams, esq., to the Secretary of the Navy, making statement of the serious loss resulting from interrupted communication by the river.

NANJEMOY, CHARLES COUNTY, MD., *October 29, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I have to call your honor's attention to the subjoined statement of facts, of serious import to myself and some of my neighbors, and to ask your favorable consideration of the same.

The facts are as follows, viz: That we are unable to get our grain to market, in consequence of a late order from the Navy Department to allow no vessel or sailing craft to pass up the Potomac above Mathias Point, thereby subjecting many of us to great inconvenience and pecuniary embarrassment and perhaps loss. If we can't get our produce to market we have not the means to purchase supplies of stores and clothing for our families.

Hence, I respectfully ask for myself and neighbors that if we can get vessels from below to carry our produce to market, inasmuch as the flotilla has returned to Smith's Point, that an order may be given to the flotilla below Mathias Point to allow vessels to come up as far as Smith's Point to take off grain and produce for the farmers living between those points.

I would further state to your honor that I make petition at the suggestion of an officer of the flotilla off Smith's Point.

I would also state that it bears particularly hard upon me, as I was prevented from shipping my grain by an order for arrest from your Department in the case of Commander Dove and detained at Washington with my entire white family for nearly three weeks, and I had made arrangements to commence shipping my grain the day following the night of my arrest, and hence the unfortunate situation in which I am placed.

Your early attention to and favorable consideration of the above statement will greatly oblige, sir, yours, respectfully, etc.,

SAML. W. ADAMS,
Smith's Point, Md.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy, U. S. A.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Charles W. Adams, esq., regarding navigation in the Potomac.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 1, 1861.*

Your letter of the 29th ultimo, asking that vessels may be allowed to pass up the Potomac to Smith's Point for the purpose of transporting produce, etc., has been received. I have to inform you in reply that orders have been issued to permit vessels to navigate the Potomac at their own risk.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

SAMUEL W. ADAMS,
Nanjemoy, Md.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding affairs on the lower Potomac.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, October 31, 1861.

SIR: Enclosed herewith is a communication which I received yesterday from Lieutenant Commanding Harrell.

Owing to the extent of the batteries now erected on the Virginia shore, I deem it next to an impossibility for any vessel drawing more than 8 feet to pass up or down the river, and have therefore ordered Captain Harrell to detain the *Mount Vernon* until further instructions from the Department.

The *Dawn*, Lieutenant Commanding Clary, came down the river night before last with orders to proceed to Old Point. I have, for the reasons above stated, thought proper to detain her.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, October 30, 1861.

SIR: I have nothing new to report from this part of the river, except the discovery of a battery of rifled guns of, I think, three in number, about 1½ miles below any that have been fired heretofore. It is situated a little below a new brick house which you may remember stands below the wharf at Evansport. I sent the *Ice Boat* up to try the range of her long guns upon the lower battery (as I supposed) of the enemy. After she had fired several times the new battery disclosed itself within easy range. In fact some of the shot went entirely across the river. She was struck by only one shot, which did no damage. I have sent the steamer *Baltimore* to Old Point for provisions and water. I have detained two coal schooners, which will supply us with coal for a month or nearly.

I have detached the *Rescue*, by order of Mr. Fox, and sent her to the mouth of the Rappahannock.

I have stationed the *Island Belle* at Mathias Point, and send the *Freeborn* down every day to shell the place. As there are no troops at that point, except militia, who run away when fired at, I hope to delay if not entirely put a stop to their operations. I wish much to establish a signal, which can only be done by rockets, with our pickets at Budd's Ferry to warn me in case the *Page* should start down the river. I am induced to believe that she is anxious to return to her old place of refuge. When she came out Aquia Creek she supposed we had abandoned this part of the river. She is in a much worse position now, for her own safety, than she was before.

Please send any orders you may have for me by the bearer, who is a trusty man.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Potomac River.

P. S.—Since writing the above the steamer *Mount Vernon* has arrived here with orders from Captain Dahlgren to go to Washington if she

can. I do not think it safe to permit her to proceed. If you think she can pass the batteries with safety I will allow her to go; please say what I shall do with her.

A. D. HARRELL.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding navigation of the river.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, October 31, 1861.

SIR: The Department understands that a number of vessels having cargoes deliverable under contract at Washington are detained in the lower Potomac by the officers of the flotilla.

These vessels may be permitted to pass if they desire to assume the risk, and you will therefore give directions accordingly. Care will be taken, however, to warn each vessel of the danger of attempting to pass the batteries.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Potomac River.

Letter from Brigadier-General Hooker, U. S. Army, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding Confederate steamer George Page.

HEADQUARTERS HOOKER'S DIVISION,
Six Miles from Budd's Ferry, Md., October 31, 1861.

COMMODORE: Yesterday I made an examination of the enemy's defenses on the opposite shore of the Potomac, and found them with plenty of guns in position and actively employed in establishing additional ones. The *Page* is lying up Quantico Creek, and so much sheltered by the high bank between her and the Potomac as to expose only about two-thirds of her length of smoke pipe and her walking beam, a very small object for me to open my batteries on at our distance.

Last night a parapet was thrown up by men to shelter a few pieces, but I would not advise the use of it until the *Page* moves from her present moorings. Under the most favorable circumstances our batteries will be exposed to a much heavier fire than we can give, as regards calibers and number.

I have written to Major-General McClellan to this effect.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
JOSEPH HOOKER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Commodore CRAVEN,
Commanding the Fleet of the Potomac.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding army cooperation.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, October 31, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 24th, 28th, and 29th instant.

In accordance with your instructions, I called upon Brigadier-General Hooker on the 26th instant, and was gratified to find that he was ready and willing to cooperate with me at all times in repelling the enemy. On the 29th instant the general informed me that the rebels had sent a small boat from Quantico Creek over toward Budd's Ferry bearing a flag of truce, and that when she had approached within 200 or 300 yards of the Maryland shore a barrel with something attached to it was thrown overboard, and the boat immediately turned and pulled back to the Virginia shore. I have no doubt but this is one of their infernal machines. If this is the use to which the enemy is to put flags of truce, God help us from Southern chivalry.

General Hooker thinks with me that for the present any demonstrations on the part of the flotilla by firing upon the enemy might possibly embarrass him in his operations, and I have therefore not yet fired at him, as suggested in your letter of the 21st instant.

The *Page* is still at Quantico Creek, but hauled up so far that she is not discernible from the Maryland shore. Three small oyster pungies passed up last night, reporting all quiet below.

There are some six or eight Northern schooners now lying off Indian Head awaiting a fair wind and dark night to pass down the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from Brigadier-General Hooker, U. S. Army, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding attack on Confederate steamer George Page.

HEADQUARTERS HOOKER'S DIVISION,
Camp Baker, Md., October 31, 1861.

COMMODORE: As two of my Parrott guns are in position, I have directed them to open fire on what we can see of the steamer *Page* this afternoon at 4 o'clock. I consider it merely target practice.

As the presence of some of your vessels is expected by Major-General McClellan, I shall be gratified to have them in that vicinity at that hour.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
JOSEPH HOOKER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

COMMODORE CRAVEN,
Commanding Fleet of the Potomac.

Letter from Brigadier-General Hooker, U. S. Army, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding attack upon Confederate steamer George Page.

HEADQUARTERS HOOKER'S DIVISION,
Camp Baker, Lower Potomac, Md., November 1, 1861.

COMMODORE: The only visible result of our experiment of yesterday was the change in the moorings of the rebel steamer *Page*. She moored about 100 yards higher up the river, without improving her condition so far as it regards exposure. She must have been about 2 miles from our battery, for in order to reach her at all with our small

guns it was necessary to discharge them at an angle of eight or nine degrees of elevation. The line firing was excellent.

This fact was established yesterday to my satisfaction, that it will be extremely hazardous for the *Page* to attempt to pass into the Potomac by daylight with our guns in their present position. We were not damaged from the enemy's batteries.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JOSEPH HOOKER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Commodore T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, Commanding U. S. S. Union, of affairs on the lower Potomac.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, November 1, 1861.

SIR: I have given permission to an engineer who is attached to the *Ice Boat* to go to Washington for a day or so, if it meets with your approbation. Lieutenant Commanding Pattison says he can spare him.

I have nothing new to report on this part of the river. Men occasionally show themselves at Mathias Point, but retire upon the approach of our vessels. The place is shelled every day, and I keep a steamer there always at night. The steamer *Baltimore* has returned with all that I required.

The captain of that vessel reports his pilot, Ransom Brown, as having deserted his ship yesterday, but after an absence of some hours returned, having changed his mind. He was excessively insolent, abusing the operations of the flotilla, and saying if I were not a d——d coward I would open the river, and much more infamous language. I had him put in irons. The captain of the *Baltimore* says he has a man on board who is a good pilot, and he hopes you will authorize his appointment. Most assuredly such a scoundrel as Brown should be dismissed and never permitted to reenter the service in any capacity. He has forfeited his pay by desertion. I beg you to excuse my earnestness in this matter, as this man has outraged my feelings much more than I have expressed. It was entirely gratuitous on his part, too, as I had never seen him before.

I stretch my vessels across the river at night, so that the *Page* can not escape us if she attempts to regain her old anchorage.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
 A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Potomac River.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.],
November 2, 1861—10 a. m.

The *Powhatan* has arrived from Annapolis. She passed the batteries last night and was not fired at. Reports that several small river craft

passed down a day or two since; were fired at, but not hit; that no vessels are waiting to come up, as our own vessels prevent their attempting it.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Letter from Colonel Brewster, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding a proposed reconnoissance.

HDQRS. FOURTH REGIMENT, EXCELSIOR BRIGADE,
Camp Wilson, November 3, 1861.

COMMODORE: I have been requested by the general commanding to make a reconnoissance on the Virginia shore, in the vicinity of Occoquan Bay, and propose to do it to-night.

Should I do so it will be with a small boat and some eight or ten men, under the command of an experienced officer.

Please advise me as to the feasibility of such a reconnoissance and if in your opinion it can be successfully accomplished.

Should you think favorably of it, when the boat is challenged from your squadron the reply will be "Union."

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

WM. R. BREWSTER,
Colonel Fourth Regiment, Excelsior Brigade.

Commodore CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. S. Dawn.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, November 4, 1861.

SIR: Please inform the Department if the *Dawn* has passed down the river. Her presence is imperative under Flag-Officer Goldsborough.

Allow any vessel going down with a pass from the Navy Department to go by the batteries after warning them of the danger.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order from the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant navy yard, Washington, changing the names of the steamboats Mount Vernon and Powhatan.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, November 4, 1861.

SIR: To prevent confusion, let the steamboat *Mount Vernon* be designated hereafter as the *Mount Washington* and the *Powhatan* as *King Philip*. When these boats are painted lead color paint their names on them.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding the U. S. S. Dawn.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE,
Off Giesboro Point, November 5, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, asking to be informed whether the *Dawn* has passed down the river.

On or about the 31st of October I addressed a letter to the Department, informing it that I thought it almost impossible for the *Dawn* or *Mount Vernon* to pass the batteries, and that I had ordered their detention until further orders from yourself.

The *Dawn* is still at anchor off Indian Head, and when I left there yesterday I placed Lieutenant Commanding Clary in temporary charge of the flotilla.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Acting Master's Mate Gray, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Bailey, regarding a suspicious schooner seized by that vessel.

[U. S. SCHOONER] BAILEY,
Piney Point, November 5, 1861.

SIR: I send you this schooner and two men with her papers for future action. I will get up to you as soon as I can get there. My hands are full. I have fifteen more negroes, which I caught last night, and as soon as I get them regulated will come up. I think that there is a good deal of suspicion about this vessel, so you had better hold on to her until we have orders from above.

Respectfully, yours, in haste,

JAS. LAWRENCE GRAY.

Master's Mate W. T. STREET,
Commanding Cutter *Dana*.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. steamers Dawn and Hetzel.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, November 6, 1861.

SIR: Your letter of the 5th instant, saying that the *Dawn* is still at anchor off Indian Head, is received.

The Department directs that you will delay neither the *Dawn* nor the *Hetzel*, but speed them on their course as heretofore directed.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Brigadier-General McClellan, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Potomac, renewing a request regarding seamen on duty at Fort Ellsworth, Va.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, November 6, 1861.

The Department would respectfully renew its request made to you on the 30th ultimo, for the relief of the seamen employed at Fort Ellsworth and the adjacent batteries. Men of this class are very much needed on the Western rivers, and the Department is somewhat embarrassed in supplying them.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

Major-General GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN,
Commander in Chief, U. S. Army.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], November 6, 1861.

The ferryboat *Stepping Stones* has arrived from New York and passed the batteries last night at 11 o'clock without being fired at.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Order from the commandant navy yard, Washington, to the U. S. naval storekeeper at that yard, in view of the Potomac River being closed to navigation.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, November 8, 1861.

SIR: You will send by railroad and transportation line to Philadelphia and New York the public stores returned to this yard from the steamer *C. C. Alger*, in consequence of that vessel not being able to pass the blockade of the Potomac.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

G. N. BEALE, Esq.,
U. S. Naval Storekeeper.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, of affairs on the lower Potomac.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE,
Off Giesboro Point, November 9, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of an extract of a letter* dated 1st instant, and of a letter of the 8th instant, recently

* See p. 744.

received from Lieutenant Commanding A. D. Harrell. I have ordered him to dismiss the pilot, Brown.

The *Ice Boat* must be by this time in a very unsafe condition. When I first joined the flotilla she was reported as breaking down. I would respectfully suggest that her armament be removed to the navy yard at Washington, and that she be sent to Baltimore for repairs, or to be laid up.

I have ordered Lieutenant Commanding Harrell to send the contrabands up to the navy yard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, November 8, 1861.

SIR: I have nothing of importance to communicate in relation to the enemy at this point. I have been down the river and examined Mathias Point; found everything still as death. The talk among the negroes, however, is that a battery will be opened there soon as they can get soldiers.

The *Island Belle* picked up in the river the other day twenty-three negroes—men, women, and children. There are now some forty or more contrabands on board the different vessels. These people have all to be rationed, and it is becoming very embarrassing to me, short of provisions as I am. The last party of twenty-three have not been employed on any military works, according to their own confessions, and ran away, as they allege, because their masters did not give them enough to eat, which their appearance by no means indicates. I think it would be a good stroke of policy to return these negroes to their owners. It would tend to put a stop to the wholesale desertion that is now going on, and relieve us of a most unpleasant difficulty. I have no doubt that many of them are from Maryland, notwithstanding they invariably represent themselves as coming from Virginia. Please give me instructions as to the disposition to be made of these, and for my government in future similar cases.

The *Ice Boat* is becoming more rickety every day; her fires are now down and they are endeavoring to patch her boilers. I fear every day to hear of her breaking entirely down; in that event she would be a source of great trouble to us. Should you have any vessels above that you could spare, they could be most usefully employed below. I understand there is communication across the lower part of the river constantly.

I have the pilot of the *Baltimore* still in confinement, awaiting your decision.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 9, 1861.*

The sailors now at Fort Ellsworth will be sent to Cairo under charge of Commander Wainwright and the necessary officers. You will take the necessary measures in the premises and notify the Department when they will leave.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Lieutenant Clary, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Dawn, of engagement with Confederate battery below Maryland Point.

U. S. S. DAWN,
Potomac River, November 10, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that on the passage down the river this p. m. [we] were fired upon from a small battery of two or three guns (rifled and smoothbore), none of which struck us. We returned the fire, but ineffectually.

This battery is located at about 1½ miles above Boyd's Hole, 3 miles below Maryland Point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. G. CLARY,
Lieutenant, Commanding U. S. S. Dawn.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting reports regarding Confederate battery on Virginia shore.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE,
Off Giesboro Point, November 11, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith for the information of the Department a letter just received from Lieutenant Commanding Harrell.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, November 11, 1861.

SIR: I have to inform you that I learned at 12 o'clock last night that a battery was ready to open fire from Virginia shore nearly opposite to Maryland Point. I sent the *Freeborn*, Lieutenant Commanding Magaw, at daylight this morning to ascertain the truth of the information. I herewith enclose his report. It will be seen by an inspection of the chart

that all vessels drawing 6 or 7 feet of water will have to pass within less than three-quarters of a mile of the battery, which is located in a ravine, and, with pits in the ground for the men, is completely sheltered from our guns.

It may be the intention of the enemy to cross from the Potomac Creek. Maryland Point should be occupied immediately by our troops. I have sent an officer to General Hooker to inform him of the situation of affairs.

You will perceive that I am between two fires, with a hostile population on either shore. My situation is by no means enviable. It is true I can pass below during a favorable opportunity and escape. If I do, however, this part of the river falls into the enemy's hands at once. He could employ the steamer *Page* and all his boats for such purposes as he chooses; in short, nothing could appear upon this part of the river except with his consent. I shall therefore remain here until otherwise ordered. I have more than fifty contrabands here. I must dispose of them soon or I shall be short of provisions. I have a schooner of about 100 tons loaded with coal. When that is gone I fear I can get no more from below.

I have just learned that the *Island Belle* landed a party of men from Colonel [Charles K.] Graham's regiment last night at or near Mathias Point, and are burning houses, etc. I have not learned whether they met with opposition or not.

As I informed you in my last we are much in want of clothes, peajackets, blankets, shoes, etc. I have ordered my messenger to follow you in order that he may bring back your orders to me. I think the *Resolute* could pass the batteries with safety, and did I have her below I could communicate with you with ease; now it is difficult.

In great haste, I remain, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,

Lieutenant, Commanding Second Division, Potomac Flotilla.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Subenclosure.]

U. S. S. FREEBORN,

Off Maryland Point, November 11—8 a. m.

SIR: In obedience to your verbal order, I made an examination of the Virginia shore in this vicinity and was fired on by a battery of field-pieces, I think four in number.

This battery is situated about 200 yards below the landing at Boyd's Hole and is protected by a natural embankment.

The enemy threw twelve shell over and around us, and strange to say we were untouched even by a fragment. I fired but once, throwing an 8-inch shell; the morning was so dark I could see nothing but the flashes. At 7 a. m. the house of Mr. Grimes and others in that vicinity on Mathias Point were in flames.

Yours, respectfully,

SAMUEL MAGAW,

Lieutenant, U. S. Navy, Commanding.

A. D. HARRELL, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Lower Division, Potomac Flotilla.

General instructions from the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 12, 1861.*

SIR: Yours of the 11th instant, enclosing a letter from Lieutenant Commanding Harrell and also one from Lieutenant Commanding Magaw, has been received; also your dispatch of the 9th instant.

The dismissal of the pilot, Brown, is approved, and I congratulate you on the favorable termination of the disease. Cut the hatches, as you request, as early as practicable. You will take the public property out of the *Ice Boat* and send her to Philadelphia under charge of Acting Master Parks and such crew only as are necessary to carry her safely home, where she will be turned over to her owners. If Acting Master Parks and her engineer consider her unsafe to make this trip, she might be temporarily repaired at Baltimore. The shipped men's accounts will be sent with them to Philadelphia. Furnish the Department with a list of the other persons who leave in the vessel.

The Department presumes that you will have no difficulty in keeping open communication sufficient for transportation of stores, etc., between your vessels with the light-draft steamer *Stepping Stones*. If this is impracticable please notify the Department, as it will involve leaving the river above Mathias [Point], according to the dispatch of Lieutenant Commanding Harrell. This must be avoided if possible. The Navy Department has some 200 tons of coal at Annapolis, which you can use if necessary.

The ways at the navy yard are now free and can take another vessel for repairs.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Acting Master Street, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Dana, regarding combined reconnoissance to Mathias Point.

ON BOARD THE U. S. SCHOONER DANA,
Off Blakistone Island, November 12, 1861.

DEAR SIR: Having received information from Captain Arnold Harris, of the steamer *Island Belle*, that Lieutenant Commanding Samuel Magaw, of the steamer *Freeborn*, and himself had arranged an expedition to Mathias Point, in conjunction and by direction of Colonel Charles K. Graham, Fifth Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, for the purpose of landing a military force and making a reconnoissance, and as the commander of the *Freeborn* was prevented by circumstances from carrying out his intentions, I was applied to to furnish, as far as lay in my power, means of transportation in lieu of that vessel. Judging the object to be attained, viz, the ascertaining the positive existence of the presumed batteries on Mathias Point to be a fact, and the making a general inspection of the country to be a sufficient apology for leaving my station, I did so and was, on the evening of the 10th, towed up by the steamer *Island Belle* opposite Chapel Point, on the Port Tobacco Creek [River], where, at 10 o'clock p. m., I embarked, by order of Colonel Graham, about 200 men, one-half the force to be employed on the expedition, consisting of Companies B, C, and D and a howitzer squad.

During the afternoon of the 10th, in order to facilitate matters, I seized boats, such as I deemed suitable for the purpose, either from vessels on the river or fishing boats on the shores, which, in connection with the launch of the *Island Belle*, furnished adequate means for embarking the troops in perfect good order and without confusion in about three-quarters of an hour.

Arrived at Mathias Point, the debarkation was superintended by myself and was successful, as was in fact the whole expedition, for a detailed account of which, on the part of our military allies, I would respectfully refer you to Colonel Graham's official report to General D. E. Sickles.

After making a thorough reconnoissance and seizing and destroying a large amount of rebel property and skirmishing with the enemy's pickets, killing one man and wounding two others, the troops were withdrawn and reembarked in capital order about 9 o'clock a. m., and we reached Chapel Point at 12 m., finishing an affair that will set at rest the supposed existence of heavy artillery on that point, and throwing the ~~enemy into a~~ great state of trepidation for their unprotected coast on the Potomac.

It was the original intention to have landed from the *Dana* the howitzer, but it was finally decided to advance without it.

I can not close this report without referring to the conduct of the regiment, or rather detachment, engaged in this matter. They preserved the most perfect order, silence, and quiet on board the vessels employed, and while engaged ashore evinced the coolness and determination of veterans.

There are on the point partially masked and unfinished intrenchments in three places, which have not been apparently worked upon nor occupied for some time and are of no particular moment in their present condition. The cord wood and buildings on the point and the building known as Grimes's house were all destroyed by fire, thus unmasking to the fire of passing boats the only earthworks, as spoken above. There were also numerous attempts made to fire the woods upon the point, but with only qualified success, on account of the dampness from the recent storms and noninflammable nature of the timber. The crew of the *Dana* conducted themselves with the greatest coolness and propriety during the affair, and merit mention for their general demeanor and prompt obedience to orders.

I remain with great respect, your obedient servant,

WM. T. STREET,
Commanding U. S. Schooner *Dana*.

Commodore THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of Lieutenant Williamson, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. brig Perry, giving information, received from schooners spoken, regarding batteries on the Potomac.

U. S. BRIG PERRY,
Off Alexandria, November 12, 1861.

SIR: On the night of the 11th instant our guard boat spoke two schooners coming up the river near the bluff just above Fort Washington; one, the *Enterprise*, of Baltimore. The captain reports having had two shot fired at him without effect. The other, the *Village Belle*, of Deal's Island. Captain reports having had several shot fired at him

and thinks one took effect below water line, as she made considerable water afterwards. Also reports having seen Federal troops landing at Mathias Point; thinks from 1,500 to 2,000. All the firing was from batteries near Quantico Creek, which they passed on the night of the 10th instant.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. C. WILLIAMSON,
Lieutenant, Commanding.

Commander J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Report of commandant navy yard, Washington, of readiness of seamen on duty at Fort Ellsworth to be transferred to other duty.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, November 12, 1861.

SIR: Conformably to your directions, the seamen are prepared to leave Fort Ellsworth, and will only be delayed by the time required in the settlement of their accounts by the paymaster.

So far as I am informed, there will be no difficulty in transportation by rail, the authorities of the road here being prepared to move them at short notice.

The transfer of the seamen to their destination will commence as soon as the necessary orders are received from the Navy Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding U. S. S. E. B. Hale.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 14, 1861.*

SIR: The propeller *Hale* is to be temporarily detached from the flotilla under your command, and you will please dispatch her to the navy yard, with orders to report to Commander Dahlgren.

I am, respectfully, etc.,

GIDEON WELLES.

Captain T. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Letter from Brigadier-General Hooker, U. S. Army, to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting protection for army supply steamers.

HEADQUARTERS HOOKER'S DIVISION,
Camp Baker, Lower Potomac, Md., November 15, 1861.

COMMODORE: I am looking for my supply steamer to-day, and as the captain of her seems to be fidgety I request that one of your vessels may take such a position as will afford her protection until discharged.

I presume that it is proper that she should have it, and I request that in future this protection may be extended to all vessels arriving with supplies.

Under the direction of the major-general commanding, I have concentrated my division between Budd's Ferry and Sandy Point, and it will cause me less hauling to have the supplies landed at a point near the mouth of Mattawoman Creek hereafter. The roads are in such a frightful condition this change becomes almost imperative.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
 JOSEPH HOOKER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Commodore CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding disposition of the Philadelphia Ice Boat (Release).

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE,
Off Indian Head, November 16, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 12th and 14th instant. On the first favorable occasion the *Wyandank* and *Stepping Stones* will be sent down to receive the public property now on board of the *Ice Boat*, and that vessel will be sent, in accordance with your instructions, to Philadelphia. The *Hale* has been ordered up to the yard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to John Devereux, esq., regarding useless condition of the Ice Boat (Release).

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 19, 1861.*

I have received your communication of the 13th instant. The Department has given instructions for the *Ice Boat* to be sent back to Philadelphia, as she has been for a long time utterly useless.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES.

JOHN DEVEREUX,
President, etc., Philadelphia.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, requesting orders to a seagoing vessel.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *November 20, 1861.*

SIR: I respectfully request to be detached from the command of the Potomac Flotilla and assigned to the command of a seagoing steamer

In making this application I am actuated by the deep sense of the utter uselessness of my services upon this river, besides which the long-

continued confinement and inactivity to which I have necessarily been subjected is bringing back upon me an old malady which, if not checked, will soon render me unfit for active service.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,
 THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding affairs of the flotilla.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, November 20, 1861.

SIR: I avail myself of the opportunity offered by the *Stepping Stones* to report all quiet on the lower part of the river at present. The enemy's battery at Boyd's Hole has been withdrawn. Troops are numerous in the vicinity of Aquia and Potomac creeks. No new batteries have been discovered. I have removed all the public property from the *Ice Boat*, as directed, and will send her to Philadelphia immediately. I have taken fourteen of her crew to fill vacancies on board this vessel, and respectfully request your approval of the same. I enclose you a list of the men thus retained, and should it meet your approval, please direct the transfer of their accounts to this ship. I enclose also a list of those who accompany the *Ice Boat*; also of those I send to you, together with a list of contrabands that have been collected by the various vessels of the flotilla.

Some means should be adopted by which we could receive a regular supply of coal. There are no coal vessels in the river except one, which is partially discharged. We require about 100 tons per week, and have sufficient for nearly three weeks. If an arrangement could be made by which I would be certain to receive that quantity of coal, I could dispense with the *Baltimore* and send her to Washington. The pilot of the *Island Belle* has run that vessel ashore repeatedly and is entirely unfit for his position. He wishes to be discharged. There is a man on board the U. S. schooner *Bailey* who is represented to be an excellent pilot; if you will authorize his employment as such, I will give him the order. If he proves capable, as he is said to be, he should receive his discharge and be rated pilot.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding Second Division, Potomac Flotilla.

Commodore THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order from the commandant navy yard, Washington, to Acting Master Foster, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. E. B. Hale, regarding transportation of ordnance.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, NAVY YARD,
Washington, November 20, 1861.

SIR: Conformably to the order of the Bureau of Ordnance, you will proceed to Fort Monroe and land there the four IX-inch guns that have been put on board of your vessel.

Thence proceed to New York and deliver the two XI-inch guns to Flag-Officer Paulding, commandant of the navy yard, New York.

On your way down you will report to Captain Craven your freight and destination, with the request for such assistance as he may deem proper.

It will be necessary, from the value of the freight, that every precaution be used in passing the batteries in the vicinity of Evansport, [Va.].

Select an obscure night when the moon is not seen, have such lights as are indispensable carefully screened, and pass as near the Maryland shore as the draft of your vessel will safely permit. On no account must the vessel be suffered to ground.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant.

Acting Master [WILLIAM J.] FOSTER,

— Commanding U. S. S. [*E. B.*] *Hale*.

Report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding construction of earthworks by the enemy in the vicinity of Aquia Creek.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, November 21, 1861.

SIR: Everything tranquil here. The enemy has been engaged during the last three days in throwing up works, as we can see with our glasses, on the hills about 1 mile in the rear and a little above the lower battery. It must be intended for defense of the river battery against a flank attack. This looks very much like a determination to remain on the river until he is driven away.

I have a contraband on board this vessel who is a good cook, and I will thank you for permission to ship him, if not against the regulations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding Second Division, Potomac Flotilla.

Commodore THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD [WASHINGTON, D. C.], November 21, 1861.

The *Anacostia* having now two 9-inch guns which can be worked at one time, will need more men than before. May they be taken from the men sent from the *Ice Boat*?

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, November 22, 1861.

The [*E. B.*] *Hale* passed the batteries last evening and was not fired at. She had on board six heavy guns and some ordnance stores.

J. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding Confederate encampment.

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, November 25, 1861.

SIR: I have to report all quiet on this part of the river. Lieutenant Commanding Magaw, who has just returned from a cruise below, reports an encampment below Boyd's Hole. From the number of camp fires observed he thinks the force about a regiment.

I enclose an application for the discharge of a servant, who is worthless. I will thank you to endorse it and forward it to the honorable Secretary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding Second Division, Potomac Flotilla.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla Potomac River.

Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to John Devereux, esq., thanking him for the use of the Philadelphia Ice Boat (Release).

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 28, 1861.*

The Department desires to express to you and your associates its gratification for the generous proffer of the Philadelphia Ice Boat at a period when her services were much needed, and will thank you to furnish this Department with an estimate for the necessary repairs required and any other charges justly due from Government.

Very respectfully,

G. V. FOX,
Assistant Secretary.

JOHN DEVEREUX, Esq.,
President Board of Trustees, etc., Philadelphia.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, to proceed to Philadelphia for command of U. S. S. Brooklyn.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 29, 1861.*

SIR: You are hereby detached from the command of the Potomac Flotilla, and you will proceed without delay to Philadelphia and report to Commodore Pendergrast for the command of the U. S. steam sloop of war *Brooklyn*.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
[*Secretary of the Navy.*]

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, to assume command of Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, November 29, 1861.

SIR: You will assume the temporary command of the Potomac Flotilla, to relieve Captain Thomas T. Craven.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Lieutenant A. D. HARRELL,
U. S. S. Union, Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, transmitting report of Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Union, regarding affairs on the Potomac.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, November 30, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a report which I received last night from Lieutenant Commanding Harrell; also one from the engineer of the *Union*. I would respectfully suggest that the *Union* be ordered either to Baltimore or some one of our Northern dockyards for repairs, and should it be the intention of the Department to comply with my request of the 20th instant, to be detached from the command of this flotilla, which I earnestly hope for, I most respectfully recommend Lieutenant Commanding Harrell as in every way deserving to be my successor.

Excepting on the occasion alluded to in Captain Harrell's report, the *Page* has not been outside of Quantico Creek. The *Island Belle* was, as is usual, cruising during the night that the *Hale* passed down, and no doubt mistaken by the latter for the *Page*, hence the ill-founded report, which I have observed in some of the papers, of the *Page's* appearance on the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION,
Off Aquia Creek, November 29, 1861.

SIR: Nothing new has transpired on this part of the river since my last report. I have seen it stated in the newspapers that there is a battery 5 or 6 miles below Aquia Creek; such is not the fact. Since the removal of the guns from Boyd's Hole none have been seen below Potomac Creek.

I have caused a strict watch to be kept upon the *Page*, and have never seen her outside Quantico Creek until last night. The guard boat of this vessel found her at 10 o'clock last night in the middle of the river opposite Budd's Ferry. She was lying across the stream, evidently waiting for something to pass. The guard boat pulled close to her, so close as to see [a] great many men on board. She hailed and said she was the *Penguin* and had important dispatches, and desired the boat

to come and get them. The boat, however, knowing that the *Penguin* was not in the river, thought it advisable to pull in another direction. I suppose she was afraid to fire upon the boat, lest she should draw the fire of our batteries upon herself.

The *Cœur de Lion* has arrived here from Fortress Monroe, and I thought it best to detain her under the circumstances until I hear from you. Should she fall in with the *Page* her capture would be almost certain. Please inform me whether I shall permit other vessels to pass up.

I have refrained from reporting the condition of this vessel until I can defer it no longer. She has been leaking very badly for a long time past and it is increasing daily, and has now reached from 9 to 10 inches per hour. As we have no means of freeing her except by the hand pumps, the crew are now employed nearly half their time in keeping the water below the floor of the engine room. We have lost a quantity of powder, and have no secure place to store it below the water line.

Her boilers and machinery also are much out of order. I enclose the report of the engineer for your information in that department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. D. HARRELL,

Lieutenant, Commanding Second Division, Potomac Flotilla.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,

Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Potomac River.

[Subenclosure.]

U. S. S. UNION, *November 28, 1861.*

SIR: I take this method of informing you of the condition of the engines and boilers of this vessel.

In the first place the engines are an old pair, and are considerably out of order and want repairing in many places; the packing bolts in the steam cylinder are completely gone, and is the cause of our using a greater amount of fuel than we should do. One of the air pump rock-shaft arms is cracked and bent and is liable to give out at any moment.

Both of the boilers are in a very bad condition, especially the star-board boiler; there are thirty-two of the tubes entirely stopped up and entirely useless, and the others are leaking badly and getting worse every day. And by having no auxiliary power for pumping up the boilers while lying at anchor, we have to blow off steam and pump up by hand, which is a great injury to them.

JOHN F. McCUTCHEON,
Senior Engineer in Charge.

Lieutenant A. D. HARRELL.

Report of Acting Master Bentrick, U. S. Navy, commanding steam tug E. H. Herbert, relative to guard duty performed by that vessel.

U. S. S. E. H. HERBERT,
Off Indian Head, December 1, 1861.

SIR: I beg to submit the following as my report:

According to instructions last evening, "to get underway and follow the *Anacostia* down to Stump Neck and keep a lookout, in company with her and the *James Murray*," I proceeded down to the mouth of

Chicomuxen Creek, and, failing to find the *Anacostia*, ran up to Stump Neck and anchored; kept all hands on deck. Saw a fixed light on the point at Budd's Ferry all night, and also a light shown at Timber Creek [Branch], on the Virginia side. Three small schooners passed down without attracting any attention from the batteries. Midnight calm; latter part, ditto. *Anacostia* above Budd's Ferry.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES BENTRICK, U. S. Navy,
Master E. H. Herbert.

Commodore CRAVEN.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON ARSENAL, *December 1, 1861.*

The *Jacob Bell* has left to report to Captain Craven, under the temporary command. Acting Master Warren, Lieutenant McCrea being absent. The *Anacostia* went down previously.

JNO. A. DAHLGREN.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Report of Acting Master Austin, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Anacostia, of duty performed by that vessel.

U. S. S. ANACOSTIA, *December 1, 1861.*

SIR: I have to report that I proceeded down the river as you ordered; arrived off Quantico Creek at 7:30; found all quiet. At 9:30 a boat came from Maryland shore with three of the members of the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment. They stated that the batteries had fired on a schooner yesterday, and a shell from them had burst in their camp. At 4:25 ran up to Stump Neck and spoke the steamer *Herbert*. At 4:50 heard six musket shots on Virginia shore. Started up at 7:55.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. A. AUSTIN,
[Acting] *Master, Commanding U. S. S. Anacostia.*

Captain T. T. CRAVEN, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Captain Craven, U. S. Navy, ordered to assume command of U. S. S. Brooklyn.

U. S. S. HARRIET LANE, *December 2, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of the 29th ultimo, detaching me from the command of the Potomac Flotilla, and directing me to report to Commodore Pendergrast for the command of the steam sloop *Brooklyn*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. T. CRAVEN,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Report of Acting Master Street, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. schooner Dana, regarding needed repairs to that vessel.

U. S. CUTTER DANA,
Wade's Bay [Md.], December 3, 1861.

SIR: I arrived here on the 1st instant, out of provisions and with my mainsail split. Having no canvas or twine, I could not mend it until I arrived here.

My sails, sir, are very old and tender, and should I get caught in a squall I have no canvas to mend them. I also require a large anchor.

Should I not get a new set of sails soon the vessel will be rendered ineffectual. She is also in need of other repairs.

Hoping you will permit me to go to the yard, I remain, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

W. T. STREET,
Acting Master's Mate, Commanding Dana.

Captain THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Wyman, U. S. Navy, to assume command of Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, December 5, 1861.

SIR: You will without delay assume the command of the Potomac Flotilla.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Lieutenant Commanding R. H. WYMAN, U. S. Navy,
Washington, D. C.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Lieutenant Harrell, U. S. Navy, detaching him from temporary command of Potomac Flotilla.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, December 5, 1861.

SIR: You are hereby detached from the temporary command of the Potomac Flotilla and you will proceed with the U. S. S. *Union* to Philadelphia, and on your arrival you will turn her over to the commandant of that navy yard and then report to that officer for the command of the U. S. steam gunboat *Miami*.

I am, respectfully,

GIDEON WELLES,
[Secretary of the Navy.]

Lieutenant Commanding A. D. HARRELL, U. S. Navy,
Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, December 5, 1861.

The [*Cœur de Lion*] has arrived from below. She convoyed eleven vessels past the batteries last evening about 7 o'clock. No shot fired.

JOHN A. DAHLGREN,
Commandant Navy Yard.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

Abstracts of log books of vessels serving in the Potomac Flotilla during the period from April to December 7, 1861.

Abstract log of U. S. S. E. B. Hale, September 4 to November 22, 1861.

September 4, 1861.—At 2 p. m. the vessel was put in commission, navy yard, New York.

September 28.—At 8 a. m. got underway for Washington.

October 1.—At 3:45 a. m. arrived at navy yard, Washington.

October 7.—At 11 a. m. got underway to proceed down to the flagship for further orders.

October 10.—At 6 a. m. went up river. Received orders to board every vessel bound out.

October 11.—At 3 a. m. we heard the report of guns and saw the flash in the direction of Quantico Creek.

October 15.—At 9:20 a. m. the U. S. S. *Pocahontas* passed down the river. When off Shipping Point heard the report of three guns fired from a battery on the point. At 10:15 the U. S. S. *Seminole* passed down the river. When off Shipping Point, 11:10, two shots were fired from the battery, the *Seminole* returning the compliment. Kept firing till 11:30; nineteen shots were fired from the battery and eleven from the *Seminole*.

October 16.—At 4:40 a. m. U. S. S. *Pawnee* passed down with two boats in tow. When the boats were down toward Shipping Point the battery opened fire upon them. Kept on till 6:25; twenty-seven shots were fired. At 6 p. m. three shots were fired from Shipping Point battery; nineteen shots were fired from the battery toward the *Mount Vernon*, as reported by the *Pusey*.

October 17.—At 6 a. m. sixteen shots were fired from the battery, Shipping Point, and fifteen at 8:25.

October 18.—From 1:45 till 12:10 midnight: Fourteen shots were fired from the rebel battery toward the U. S. S. *Columbia*, which passed us during the time up river. From 1:57 to 2:20 a. m. six shots were fired from the battery. At 10 Captain Foster and Chief Engineer Harrington went in the starboard boat, all armed with small arms, in company with the *Reliance's* boat, up Chicomuxen River [Creek], and returned at 1 p. m., each with a skiff. At 5 p. m. three shots were fired off Aquia Creek from the U. S. S. *Satellite*.

October 19.—At 12:40 a. m. six shots were fired from the rebel battery. At 2:10 three shots were fired; at 9 seventeen shots fired. At 10 a. m. commenced firing, continuing until 10:55; in that time fired 152 shots from the rebel battery toward the towboat *Resolute*, with two schooners, and the towboat —, with two schooners in tow alongside. At noon towboats passed with three schooners; the *Resolute* let one schooner go, which the rebels took into Aquia Creek. From 1:30 p. m. five shots were fired from Shipping Point.

October 20.—From 8 until 11 a. m. thirty shots were fired from rebel battery at passing vessels.

October 22.—At 9:15 p. m. the U. S. S. *Rescue* came with dispatches from Commodore Craven; reported a new battery erected on Mathias Point, mounting eighteen guns.

October 23.—At 11 a. m. saw a steamer off the rebel battery going up Quantico Creek.

October 28.—At 7:30 a. m. dropped anchor off Indian Head. During the afternoon twenty-nine shots were fired from the rebel battery at Shipping Point. At 8:15 dropped anchor off Stump Neck.

October 29.—At 7:30 a. m., in company with the *Resolute* and *Reliance*, anchored off Indian Head. During the afternoon eleven shots were fired by the rebel battery at Shipping Point. At 7 p. m. three shots were fired from the Union battery at Budd's Ferry.

October 31.—At 2 a. m. three oyster sloops passing up river reported having seen the rebel steamer *Page* in the Potomac off Shipping Point.

November 11.—During the forenoon forty-five shots were fired from the rebel battery on Shipping Point toward some passing schooners.

November 14.—At 1:30 p. m. a battery on Cockpit Point opened fire on a schooner laden with wood, bound up.

November 15.—Heavy firing off Shipping Point from the rebel battery during the afternoon, forty-five shots in all.

November 22.—Got underway for Fortress Monroe.

Abstract log of the U. S. S. Pawnee, May 20 to August 21, 1861.

May 20, 1861.—Off Alexandria from 8 to meridian. The steamer *Thomas Freeborn* passed up the river to Washington with several prizes in tow.

May 24.—Making preparations to land troops. At 4:20 a. m. an officer was sent ashore by the commanding officer to demand the surrender of the city (Alexandria). Before negotiations were concluded the steamers *Baltimore* and *Mount Vernon* arrived with troops and took possession of the place. Manned and armed boats and took out from the dock the steamers *Thomas Collyer* and *Gipsy*. From meridian to 4 p. m.: Prisoners in charge of Lieutenant Chaplin were sent up to navy yard (Washington) in the *Baltimore* and delivered to Commander Dahlgren.

June 1.—At 10:20 a. m. came in sight of Aquia Creek; steamed in. At 11:40 the batteries on shore opened fire with rebel flag up. Returned fire. At 12:30 p. m. ceased firing. At 1 p. m. beat to quarters and opened with effect with shell. Continued firing until 4:05 p. m., when, having been within 1,700 yards, after an action and hot fire of four hours and twenty-five minutes, in which this ship expended 196 shell, and 155 hollow shot, hauled off at 4:30, having completely silenced their batteries. The enemy at an early stage of the action set fire to the railroad wharf and bridge. Received eight shot, one in pipe, one in maintopsail yard, one in forecastle deck, one through first cutter, one port quarter, one through mizzen topmast, one cut ridgerope, starboard side, and one cut lead off after air port, starboard side.

June 2.—Commences and till 4 a. m.: At anchor off Aquia Creek. From 8 to midnight: Lights moving along the beach at Aquia Creek.

June 3.—From 8 to meridian: Rebels throwing up earthworks.

June 4.—From meridian to 4: Boarded several vessels bound up and down and warned them off the blockade coast.

June 5.—At 4:30 a. m. got up anchor and steamed down the river. At 6:30 anchored off Mathias Point. At 8 a. m. sent armed party of marines and seamen on shore, under command of Master Blue, to protect surveying party. At 5:30 p. m. completed survey. Got underway and steamed up to Aquia Creek. At 8 anchored in old position.

June 6.—At 5 a. m. got underway and stood up the river, with Captain Palmer and surveying party on board. Stopped several times to overhaul crafts. At 10:30 stopped off White House. Sent 40 marines and seamen, under command of Lieutenant Chaplin, to protect survey-

ing party. At 12 party returned, having finished. At 3:30 p. m. surveying party returned in boat. Got underway and stood down the river. From 4 to 8 p. m.: Anchored off Aquia Creek.

June 15.—From 8 to meridian: Sent first cutter under Master Blue up river to reconnoiter.

June 16.—From 8 to meridian: Guns fired by the rebel battery, supposed to be trying range of their guns. From 8 to midnight: The first cutter and *Daisy* left the ship to prevent communication between the Maryland and Virginia shores.

June 18.—At 3:30 a. m. the third cutter returned from a reconnoitering expedition down the river.

June 19.—Off Aquia Creek. At 9 a. m. discovered several teams on shore about to remove the provisions from Carpenter's fish house. Sent an officer on shore and seized them in the name of the United States as contraband of war. From 4 to 8 p. m.: Sent an officer and men on shore to remove the provisions to the schooner for transportation to Washington.

June 21.—From 4 to 8 a. m.: The West Hill battery fired two shots at a sailing vessel beating up the river; both shots fell short.

June 25.—Off Mathias Point. At 2:45 a. m. got underway and stood down the river. At 5:30 discovered armed troops in ambush along Mathias Point. Opened fire with shell. Armed and sent on shore under charge of Lieutenant Chaplin, Master Blue, Midshipman Snell, Engineer Trilley, sixty men, all armed, under command of Captains Palmer and Woodbury, U. S. Army. Boats landed and men scouted about the secession forces. At 8 the party returned, having captured two horses with their equipments. Reported driving in the enemy with a fire of musketry. Discovered a camp and supposed the forces were 500 men. Fired forty-eight shell, grape and shot. A man, Kelly Jackson, came to our boat and gave himself up. At 10 stood up the Potomac.

June 26.—Off Aquia Creek. At 9 p. m. Lieutenant Chaplin left the ship in command of first and third cutters, consisting of — men, armed and equipped, to be towed by the tug *Reliance* to the *Freeborn*; near Mathias Point, there to report to Commander Ward, in obedience to an order received from that officer an hour before. The boats, in addition to the usual complete equipment have, by order of Commander Ward, a bale of waste, 4 gallons tar, 1 gallon spirits turpentine, axes, hatchets, and coal bags.

June 27.—At 9 p. m. the *Thomas Freeborn* came up river and hailed this ship, saying, "Captain Ward was killed and several men wounded in the expedition at Mathias Point." The *Reliance* came up with the *Freeborn*. Sent a boat and brought the wounded on board. In retiring from the point the boats left behind them 200 coal bags, 1 spyglass, several shovels, and one Sharps rifle.

June 28.—At 2:30 a. m. got underway and stood up river. At 9:30 hauled alongside the navy yard (Washington) wharf. At 11 sent the remains of Captain Ward on shore with an escort of about forty of our men.

July 3.—At 4:20 p. m. went to quarters passing Mathias Point; fired shell on the point.

July 14.—At 11:30 a. m. got underway in company with the *Yankee* and stood down the river. At 4:15 went to quarters passing Mathias Point. *Yankee* fired two shell at rebels on the point. At 10:10 p. m. came to anchor off Piney Point.

July 15.—Off Point Lookout. From meridian to 4 p. m.: Sent launch, first and second cutters on an expedition. At 6:30 p. m. the *Yankee*

and *Resolute*, with our boats in tow, returned from their expedition up the Yeocomico River.

July 16.—Got underway at 8:30 a. m.; went as far as the Rappahannock. At 6 p. m. came to anchor off Coan River.

July 24.—Commander Rowan communicated with General Runyon, in command of Alexandria. From 4 to 8 p. m.: Lieutenant McOrea and seventeen men went on shore to man a howitzer in the naval battery at Fort Ellsworth.

August 10.—From 4 to 6 p. m.: Sent a guard of twelve marines, in charge of Lieutenant Blue, on steamer *Mount Vernon*, to seize a man at Port Tobacco.

August 16.—At 11:40 a. m. came to anchor off Wade's Bay. From meridian to 4 p. m.: Several guns were fired from one of the hill batteries at Aquia Creek.

August 21.—From 8 to meridian: Sent Mr. McOann (prisoner) to the *Columbia*, in charge of Lieutenant F. A. Parker. From 6 to 8 p. m.: The marines sent on the expedition to Port Tobacco returned on board from steamer *Baltimore*.

October 16.—Steaming down the Potomac with tugs alongside. At 5 went to quarters to pass the batteries at Quantico. At 5 the enemy commenced firing and continued for twenty-five minutes. We were struck by a 32-pounder shot abreast mizzenmast, the shot passing through dingey and lodging in ship's side. The enemy fired twenty shots, three shots in ship's side above water line, one through the netting, others through the rigging, carrying away the forward vang, the ridgerope, starboard after guy, rudder to third cutter. Ship did not return the fire. Came to anchor above Maryland Point. *Mount Vernon* came alongside, when we reembarked troops.

Abstract log of the U. S. S. *Pocahontas*, April 25 to October 15, 1861, Commander John P. Gillis, Commanding.

April 25, 1861.—In the Potomac River. Passed near the White House, below Mount Vernon, to ascertain if any batteries were there. At 11 discovered two large schooners at Aquia Creek landing. Stood down for them; everything looking quiet, hauled off and stood down the river. From 8 to midnight: Point Lookout bore E. N. E. $\frac{3}{4}$ E., distant about 1 mile. Saw a fire bearing S. by W.

May 2.—From 8 to midnight: Discovered a steamer standing up the [Chesapeake] Bay. At 8:45 got up steam and gave chase; fired a rocket and howitzer, but failed to heave her to.

May 12.—At noon spoke the schooner *Sally Frances*, of Accomac, Va. From 12 to 4 p. m.: Sent a boat on board the schooner *Sally Frances*; found she had neither pass nor flag on board; sent a prize crew in command of Lieutenant Howison on board.

May 15.—Mouth of the Rappahannock River. The *Mount Vernon* came alongside and reported that she had spoken a schooner from up the river, which reported a fortification about 35 miles up the river. At 9:30 p. m. discovered a steamer passing down the bay. The *Mount Vernon* got underway and gave chase, and at 10:20 returned without being able to speak her.

May 21.—At 10 a. m. stood in Aquia Creek, beat to quarters; discovered a battery on shore and the steamer *George Page* at anchor off the wharf.

May 26.—Captain Dove came on board and relieved Captain Gillis of the command of this ship.

June 17.—At midnight [16th] sent a party of twenty-two men ashore with the howitzer, in charge of Lieutenant Nicholson and Lieutenant Howison. From 8 to meridian: Lieutenant Nicholson with seven of the men returned, leaving the rest still ashore.

June 29.—At 9 p. m. sent a party of men in the launch to go down the river to watch some lights, supposed to be signals made to the enemy. At 11 launch returned.

June 30.—At 9 p. m. armed and manned the launch and sent her in charge of Lieutenant Howison on a scouting expedition down the river.

July 1.—From meridian to 4 p. m.: Brought on board officers and men, howitzers and ammunition from camp at Cloud's Mill.

July 5.—At 9 a. m. the captain went under flag of truce to the Virginia shore. At 9:40 p. m. the *Freeborn* passed down and stood over to the Virginia shore. Shortly afterwards heard reports of firing and explosion of two shells.

July 7.—At 3:45 a. m. U. S. S. *Freeborn* stood down the river. Several shots fired on Virginia shore during the watch. At 4:45 got underway and shifted the port aftergun to the starboard gangway. At 5:45 beat to quarters for action, turned head down the river, and stood toward the Virginia shore. When within range fired seven shell and six round shot at the steamer *George Page*, the smokestack of which was just visible across the land. Two batteries replied, their shot falling from half a mile to a mile short. At 6:45 stood off and anchored.

July 11.—At 9 p. m. got the launch out and sent an armed crew along with the boat howitzer, in charge of Mr. Ferguson, in tow of *James Guy*.

July 17.—At 1:15 a. m. sent the launch armed with Sharps rifles on a cruise. At 1:10 p. m. discovered a boat ahead, crossing from Virginia side. At 1:40 anchored on the Maryland side off Watson's farm and sent an armed boat ashore. At 3 our boat returned, having burned the boat that ran the blockade.

July 18.—At 2:30 a. m. sent the launch on a cruise. From 8 to meridian: The launch, with howitzer and Sharps rifles, in charge of first lieutenant, went on a cruise.

July 21.—Sent the launch with crew of 8 men, armed with Sharps rifles, in charge of Mr. Ferguson, on a cruise. From meridian to 4 p. m.: During the first hour heard heavy cannonading in the direction of Manassas Junction.

July 29.—8 to meridian: There was an exchange of shots between the Potomac Creek battery, on the Virginia shore, and the *Yankee* and *Reliance*.

August 6.—The commander landed on the Virginia shore with a flag of truce.

August 8.—8 to meridian: Sent the launch, armed with rifles, in toward Potomac Creek on a cruise.

August 11.—4 to 8 p. m.: *Ice Boat* fired on a boat under the Virginia shore filled with men bearing the secession flag; did no execution.

August 14.—Meridian to 4 p. m.: The *Reliance* went down and then returned and fired at something on the Virginia shore.

August 15.—Meridian to 4 p. m.: The *Resolute* came up with flag at half-mast. Upon boarding her learned she had been fired into from Mathias Point and had 2 officers and 1 man killed and 1 man wounded. *Freeborn* got underway and went down. 8 to midnight: *Freeborn* returned from the bombardment of Grimes's house and boat.

August 16.—At 5:15 a. m. a new battery opened fire upon us. One shot fell short and three passed over us, between main and forerigging.

8 to meridian: Whole fleet underway until flagship signalized us to anchor. Meridian to 4 p. m.: Firing from the upper battery.

August 17.—The *Resolute* came down and threw two shells into the Virginia shore. 8 to meridian: Several shots from a heavy gun were fired from the Virginia shore during the watch. Meridian to 4 p. m.: Five heavy guns were fired from up the creek.

August 23.—4 to 8 p. m.: The *Ice Boat*, *Jacob Bell*, and *Resolute* exchanged several shots with the batteries on shore.

August 26.—Meridian to 4 p. m.: The *Hull*, in charge of Brown, and *Perry*, in charge of Coffee, were sent to tow a wreck from the Virginia side of canal [channel], but being fired upon by the battery were recalled.

September 7.—*Resolute* threw three shells into West's farm (on Virginia side) and then went up river.

September 10.—Lieutenant Commanding Wyman assumed command.

October 9.—Commander Percival Drayton formally took command of the ship.

October 10.—Received on board one rifled gun.

October 15.—Fired three 12-pound rifled shot, two 32-pound shot, one 32-pound shell, and one shell from the pivot at the batteries at Evansport. About 11 a. m. heard heavy firing astern; turned and stood upstream. At 11:50 spoke the *Seminole*. She reported having received several shot from the battery at Evansport. We turned around and resumed our course down the river in company with her. At 2:30 p. m. went to quarters, fired one 10-inch shell and one 12-pound rifled shot into Mathias Point.

Abstract log of U. S. S. *Satellite* from September 12 to December 7, 1861, Acting Master Joseph Spinney, commanding.

September 12, 1861.—Ship put in commission [Brooklyn navy yard].

September 13.—At 11:50 a. m. cast off buoy and sailed.

September 17.—At 7:20 a. m. came to anchor off Indian Head.

October 18.—Got underway and fired three shells into Shipping Point.

October 19.—From 8 to 12 m. fired one round 8-inch shell into Virginia.

November 2.—At 3:20 p. m. *Union* made signal to get underway and come within hail; was ordered to take in tow a schooner that was dragged into Aquia Creek. While giving her a line was fired into three times from the shore, all of which fell short.

November 12.—At 1 p. m. got underway and proceeded to Maryland Point, a rebel battery having opened on the *Freeborn*; discovered it on the Virginia side, near Boyd's Hole.

November 15.—At 10 a. m. sent two officers and five men down river on scouting expedition.

November 16.—At 2:30 p. m. boat returned from down river with two scows and three skiffs as prizes.

November 18.—At 9 a. m. proceeded down the river. In passing the place below Boyd's Hole, where a few days ago they had a rifle battery, we threw two 8-inch shells from after and one from the rifle gun forward; no reply from shore, battery having been removed.

December 7.—At 11 p. m. proceeded up the river; in passing Shipping Point the batteries opened on us, and four shells passed over us, about 15 feet above the deck, between the pilot house and after part of the paddle box.

Abstract log of the U. S. S. Union, from August 23 to December 10, 1861.

August 22, 1861.—Potomac Creek. At 1 p. m. observed two men making signal to us from the beach. Sent the cutter off. They proved to be two officers, who had been captured at Manassas and escaped. Received a launch and howitzer, with six cases of fixed ammunition.

August 23.—At 4:30 p. m. the gunboat [*Jacob*] *Bell* and tugs *Reliance* and *Resolute* came down for the purpose of driving away new encampment of the rebels south of Potomac Creek on the highland. The *Ice Boat* accompanied them over. After some very ineffectual wild firing the first three returned on signal from this vessel. The *Ice Boat* engaged at long range, with her rifle gun and IX-inch, the Potomac Creek battery, which fired briskly at her but without effect; nobody hurt.

August 28.—At 12:15 p. m. the launch, in charge of Midshipman Stewart, was dispatched to destroy all boats found on the Maryland shore in this vicinity. From 6 to 8 p. m.: Launch returned, having destroyed three small boats and one scow belonging to George Carpenter, and three small boats and one scow below him.

August 30.—At 9 a. m. sent launch to destroy small boats. At 11:30 launch returned with two small boats; destroyed them alongside the ship; having destroyed one large fishing boat, one scow, and five small boats, valued in all at about \$350, belonging, it is said, to James Ferguson, of Baltimore.

August 31.—The enemy fired a gun from a battery at the mouth of Aquia Creek.

September 3.—Lieutenant P. G. Watmough took command of this ship.

September 19.—At 9 p. m. sent out the cutter to observe the movements of the enemy at Aquia Creek.

September 20.—Boats returned from expedition to Virginia shore.

September 21.—From 6 to 8 p. m.: Steamer *Island Belle* passed down the river, throwing a few shell in the direction of Aquia Creek.

September 30.—Lieutenant A. D. Harrell was placed in command of this vessel.

October 10.—From 4 to 6 p. m.: Prepared launch for immediate action. At 8 our launch and the *Release's* shoved off. At 9 an expedition for the purpose of destroying a schooner called the *Martha Washington*, lying up Dumfries [Quantico] Creek, left this anchorage. It consisted of two launches, with howitzers, each of 17 men; one in charge of Midshipman Stewart, accompanied by Master E. L. Haines and Assistant Engineer McCutcheon; and the other of Acting Masters Palmer and Foster; and the gig and four men and pilot, containing Lieutenant Commanding Harrell, in command of the expedition. These boats were towed off the mouth of the creek by the steamers *Rescue* and *Resolute*.

October 11.—At 2:30 a. m. the boats pulled into the creek and reached the schooner, which was effectually fired. In coming out the enemy fired several volleys of musketry, which were replied to, but fortunately nobody hurt. The steamers then fired several shell where the firing was seen. At 3 got underway for our station. Observed two rockets ascend and burst up the river, supposed from the expedition. Soon after saw the flash of powder, and soon heard the report of cannon at intervals of five minutes. Directly after saw flames ascend from what proved to be a vessel fired by the expedition. At 4:15 a. m. the expedition returned, having burned the schooner in Dumfries Creek without losing a single man.

October 15.—At 10 a. m. heard firing from a steamer coming down; she proved to be the *Pocahontas*. At 10:45 heard heavy firing in the neighborhood of Dumfries [Quantico] Creek; it proved to be from on shore and the steamer *Seminole*. From 12 to 4: Orders given to stop all vessels bound up.

October 16.—At 5:30 a. m. the batteries on Quantico Creek opened fire on the steamer *Pawnee* as she was coming down. As she passed us she reported "no damage done; struck only six times." At 9 p. m. the battery on Dumfries [Quantico] Creek opened fire on the steamer *Resolute* and fired nine shots.

October 17.—From 12 to 4 a. m.: Flashes as if from guns were occasionally seen in the direction of Quantico Creek, but heard no reports. From 4 to 8 a. m.: Transport steamer *William Whildin* arrived from upper Potomac with mail for Commodore Craven; reports a heavy battery and large caliber guns mounted upon the Virginia side. Several schooners passed down and were fired on, but were not injured, though near. At 10:30 two schooners arrived from up river; were fired on from batteries at Dumfries [Quantico] Creek, none of the shots injuring the vessels. From 3:15 p. m. to midnight: Shots were frequently fired from the batteries at Quantico Creek at vessels going up and coming down the river.

October 18.—At 5 p. m. discovered a battery in process of erection on the Virginia shore; sent the *Resolute* and *Satellite* to reconnoiter.

October 19.—At 2 a. m. the steamer *Murray* arrived from above and was fired on by the batteries at Dumfries [Quantico] Creek. From 8 a. m. to 12 m.: Dispatched boats for the purpose of intercepting any movements up the river. At 1:30 p. m. steamer *Satellite* ran in under the Virginia shore to reconnoiter; threw two shot by firing ashore and was recalled. At 3 p. m. discovered a schooner off Dumfries, a prize to the enemy. Steamer *Satellite* dispatched to watch Aquia Creek movements.

October 20.—At 6 a. m. dispatched the cutter, well armed, to notify every sailing vessel to get underway and go down the river below Mathias Point. From 8 to 12 meridian: A few shots were fired by the batteries at Quantico Point at vessels passing down, none taking effect.

October 28.—At 2 p. m. *Release* went up to exchange shot with batteries; discovered one gun below any before opened.

November 1.—At 3 p. m. three small sailing vessels came down from upper Potomac and were saluted by the batteries by three shot, but passed unscathed. From 4 to 6 p. m.: Two schooners in passing down were fired upon by the batteries at Quantico.

November 11.—At 10 a. m. steamer *Freeborn* arrived from Maryland Point; reported a battery at Boyd's Hole, which opened fire upon her while passing, the missiles passing over and beyond some 150 yards, sustaining no damage. From 12 to 4 p. m.: Steamer *Satellite* passed down the river to reconnoiter near Boyd's Hole. At 12:30 p. m. heavy firing at Quantico Creek upon sailing vessels passing.

November 12.—From 8 to 12 midnight: Steamers *Freeborn* and *Release* left for reconnoissance.

November 13.—At 2 p. m. heard heavy firing in the direction of Potomac Creek and saw several shots strike the water about the middle of the river. At 2:50 p. m. steamer *Satellite* arrived from Maryland Point; reports troops crossing Potomac Creek in large numbers in launches toward Aquia Creek.

November 15.—At 3:55 p. m. heavy firing by the batteries on the Virginia shore. Between 4 and 5 p. m. the batteries at Quantico kept up a heavy firing at a schooner coming down; she reported one shot through her jib.

November 17.—At 2:30 p. m. firing at oyster vessels from the batteries at Quantico.

November 19.—Two of the flotilla report that, "while passing the batteries heavy shot were fired, which came near, doing no damage."

November 20.—Commenced firing from rebel batteries at Quantico Creek at 10:30 a. m., at intervals of five minutes.

November 22.—At 3:30 p. m. a schooner went up river; was fired upon by thirty-two shots from the rebel batteries at Quantico Creek without damage.

November 26.—At 7 p. m. the gig, manned by an armed crew, went over to the Virginia shore to reconnoiter.

November 28.—The scouting boat returned at 10:30 p. m. and reported having been chased by the *Page*, which was lying out in the river.

November 29.—From 8 to 12 meridian: Five shots fired from the batteries at Quantico Creek over to the Maryland shore.

December 1.—At 12:15 a. m. the gig came alongside from reconnoitering. At 6 a. m. saw thirty shots fired at a schooner by the batteries at Quantico. Steamer *Cœur de Lion* in waiting to give assistance if necessary.

December 3.—At 10:30 a. m. batteries fired thirty shots at a passing schooner, none taking effect.

December 10.—Went out of commission, navy yard, Philadelphia.

Abstract log of the U. S. S. *Valley City*, September 13 to October 22, 1861, Lieutenant J. C. Chaplin, U. S. Navy, commanding.

September 13, 1861.—At 10 a. m. ship put in commission, navy yard, New York.

September 14.—At 6:30 a. m. ship got underway and stood down the bay.

September 17.—From 4 to 8 a. m.: Standing up the Potomac. At 9 went to quarters and fired two shots into Mathias Point.

September 25.—At 9 a. m. U. S. S. *Jacob Bell* stood into Occoquan Creek and opened fire upon Freestone Point with shell. At 9:30 *Seminole* also commenced firing, when the fire was returned from a concealed battery with rifled cannon. The rebels commenced felling the trees and exposed the battery to our view. As our guns could not reach them, we up anchor and got out of range and stood up to Indian Head in tow of the *Seminole*.

October 15.—At anchor off the Rappahannock River.

October 21.—At 12:10 p. m. discovered a steamer standing down the Rappahannock River toward us; hove up anchor and stood out of the bay with the ship ready for action. Finding she came no further we stood down for her. She then turned and ran up the river with us in pursuit. From 4 to 6 p. m.: Standing up the river under sail and steam in pursuit of the enemy's steamer; finding we could not overhaul her we fired one shot at her and started down the river. From 6 to 8 p. m.: Discovered two schooners inshore; sent a boat in charge of Mr. Brooks to take them. The schooners got underway and stood up the creek, ran ashore and [crew] deserted, taking with them all valuables.

Mr. Brooks chased and captured the boats and proceeded to the schooners, taking all that was valuable, and not having means to fire [them] left [them]. Came to anchor 40 miles from the mouth of the river.

October 22.—Crew under arms. Number of lights on both shores. Sent a boat to burn the schooner, but the weather being too hazy was unable to fire her. Stood down the river and at 9 a. m. came to anchor at its mouth.

CONFEDERATE REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Report of Major Williamson, Virginia army, and Lieutenant Lewis, Virginia navy, regarding reconnoissance in Aquia Creek with a view to fortifying it.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., *April 24, 1861.*

[SIR:] By your orders I proceeded to Aquia Creek and examined the place with the view of fortifying it for the purposes indicated by your verbal directions of this date, viz, to secure the railroad iron, the timber, two vessels, and a small steamer at that point from the enemy. I was joined in the evening by Lieutenant Lewis, of the Virginia navy, at your request, and we reviewed the ground together. After examining the topography of the ground and the character and position of the channel, we are of the opinion that the best place to put a battery is on the Split Rock Bluff [Va.], as the channel can be commanded from that point by guns of sufficient caliber. A battery on Cream Point [Va.] would invite attack and, being separated from the landing by Aquia Creek, would be difficult to hold. We do not think the place worth fortifying, and would respectfully recommend that a small force of ten or twenty men be kept there to keep off any boats that might attempt to land there, and be employed in loading cars, which should be sent to remove the iron and timber to Fredericksburg at once; that the captain of the vessels be allowed to sail with their vessels at their pleasure. While the enemy holds the Potomac the steamer is of no value to us, and we have not the slightest idea that the enemy will make the attempt to possess themselves of it. The men kept there should be required to give information to headquarters of any attempt of the enemy to land there in force, which would be indicated by the number of vessels in the offing, and not allowed to harass the inhabitants by reporting every vessel they see in the river.

Very respectfully submitted by

THOMAS H. WILLIAMSON,
Major of Engineers, Virginia Army.
H. H. LEWIS,
Lieutenant, Virginia Navy.

Brigadier-General RUGGLES.

P. S.—William H. Kerr, brigade inspector, concurs in this report.

Report of Brigadier-General Cocke, commanding Potomac Department, transmitting copies of instructions and reports regarding operations in that river.

HEADQUARTERS POTOMAC DEPARTMENT,
Culpeper Court-House, Va., May 2, 1861.

SIR: I send herewith copies of instructions to Brigadier-General Ruggles, commanding on my left; also a copy of the report of Lieu-

tenants Maury and Smith, U. S. Navy, in regard to the condition of the Northern forces in Washington and on the Potomac in connection with our designs upon a certain point. I concur in the correctness, in the main, of their (M. and S.) views of that condition and instruct Brigadier-General Ruggles accordingly. I also gave General Ruggles general outline instructions, as asked for by himself, in other connections. You will please aid us both in organizing, in the manner indicated, should you approve our views, or else instruct me how you would have their views and designs modified.

Very respectfully, your most obedient,

PHILIP ST. GEO. COCKE,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Major-General LEE,
Commander in Chief.

[Enclosures.]

HEADQUARTERS POTOMAC DEPARTMENT,
Culpeper Court-House, May 2, 1861—7 a. m.

[SIR:] After consultation with Lieutenants Maury and Smith, of the Navy, I find the time is not yet when we should unmask our designs upon a certain point, or when we are in force sufficient to enter fully upon that enterprise, in the very face of the enemy, now probably 50,000 strong at Washington, Annapolis, and the Potomac River. The heavy guns should doubtless be held ready in your rear and in mine until we shall be ready on both lines of operations to converge, unmask, and force on that enterprise in the face of any odds that can be brought against us. Strengthen your position, therefore, with men, munitions, and heavy ordnance, while I shall do the same. As to your front, cover it with the "eyes and ears of an army"—cavalry—as best you may. Observe the enemy; gather intelligence; keep at your outposts lines of vedettes and couriers; gather, therefore, all the cavalry you can in your district without infringing on mine; strengthen yourself in infantry and field artillery; drill, organize, equip, discipline, and generally get ready to converge with me when the time shall come; keep yourself in regular, prompt, and speedy communication with my headquarters through all media—rail, wire, and courier. Report to Assistant Adjutant-General Jones from time to time the numbers, description, and general condition of all forces under your command and how located or distributed.

Very respectfully, your most obedient,

PHILIP ST. GEO. COCKE,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

General RUGGLES,
Fredericksburg, Va.

CULPEPER COURT-HOUSE, *April 29, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to your order, we have conferred upon the subject of placing a battery at the point indicated in your instructions, and have the honor to make the following report:

To place this battery a large supporting force will be necessary, and as the Federal Government has now in Washington, as we believe, 20,000 or 25,000 troops, and means of transporting 4,000 or 5,000 in a

few hours to any point on the Potomac, we consider a movement of that kind at present injudicious. We would respectfully suggest that the two 8-inch guns, ammunition, etc., now in Alexandria, be removed to this or some other point on the railroad, where they would be in a safer position.

We are, respectfully, your obedient servants,

WM. L. MAURY,
WM. TAYLOR SMITH,
Lieutenants, U. S. Navy.

General P. ST. GEORGE COCKE,
Comdg. on Line of Potomac, Culpeper Court-House, Va.

Letter from Colonel Garnett, adjutant-general of Virginia forces, to Brigadier-General Cocke, in regard to the defenses of the Potomac River.

HEADQUARTERS VIRGINIA FORCES,
Richmond, Va., May 2, 1861.

GENERAL: Your communication of this date, enclosing one to General Ruggles and one from Lieutenants Smith and Maury, U. S. Navy, has been received. Captain Lynch, U. S. Navy, has been sent to examine the defensible points of the Potomac, and when anything, based upon his report, has been definitely determined upon, you will be duly informed of it. Colonel Terrett, Virginia volunteers, will be ordered to report to you, when you will be able to put him in command at Alexandria in the place of Colonel Taylor.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

R. S. GARNETT,
Adjutant-General.

Brigadier-General COCKE,
Alexandria, Va.

Letter from Colonel Garnett, adjutant-general, volunteer forces of Virginia, to Brigadier-General Ruggles, commanding Virginia volunteers, regarding cooperation with the Navy.

HEADQUARTERS VIRGINIA FORCES,
Richmond, Va., May 6, 1861.

COLONEL: Captain Lynch, of the Navy, has been instructed to use the four guns first intended for Mathias Point to protect the approaches to Fredericksburg from the Potomac. You are instructed so to dispose of the force under your command as to aid, to the extent of your power, in this purpose. Measures must be taken to destroy the railroad approach to wharf, etc., if our troops should be driven by force from its terminus, in such an effectual manner that they can not be opened again by the enemy without great delay.

I am, sir, etc.,

R. S. GARNETT,
Adjutant-General.

Colonel D. RUGGLES,
Virginia Volunteers, Fredericksburg, Va.

Extract of letter from Captain Ingraham, Virginia navy, to Captain Lynch, Virginia navy, regarding erection of batteries at Mathias Point.

I am given to understand that the intention of erecting a battery at Mathias Point is not abandoned. Although, after sounding the channel off that point, I expressed in my report the opinion that a cross fire from it upon a steamer, at a distance $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, for the space of about five minutes, would be a waste of ammunition, yet I am ready to obey any order upon the subject; and in pursuance of the information I have received, respectfully ask what guns can be furnished for that position? It was originally designed to mount twelve 8-inch guns there and a like number at the White House [Va., Potomac River]. To the latter place I gave the preference.

Instructions from Major-General Lee to Brigadier-General Ruggles, commanding Virginia volunteers, regarding measures for defense of Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS VIRGINIA FORCES,
Richmond, Va., May 8, 1861.

GENERAL: I am instructed by Major-General Lee to acknowledge the receipt of communications from Major T. H. Williamson, engineer Virginia army, Lieutenant H. H. Lewis, Virginia navy, and W. H. Kerr, brigade inspector Virginia volunteers, in relation to fortifying Aquia Creek. The general commanding desires me to say that the object in view is the defense of the avenues of approach to the terminus of the railway, rather than the protection of the few vessels at Aquia Creek; that the instructions given by him with reference to this matter were based upon the report of Captain Lynch, Virginia navy. You will therefore, being on the spot and in possession of the facts requisite to a proper disposition of the works and the troops under your command, exercise your judgment, in connection with that of Captain Lynch, with reference to the defense of the avenues of approach to the terminus of the railroad and the general protection of that country.

The importance of erecting batteries at Mathias Point is apparent; but from the report of Captain Lynch, which represents the necessity of supporting such a movement by a larger force than you had at your disposal, it was considered advisable to employ the guns originally intended for that point in the defense of the approaches to Fredericksburg by rail or river.

Very respectfully,

J. M. BROOKE.

Brigadier-General RUGGLES,
Commanding, Fredericksburg, Va.

Report of Brigadier-General Ruggles, commanding Virginia volunteers, regarding erection of battery at Aquia Creek Railroad Landing.

HEADQUARTERS, Fredericksburg, Va., May 8, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report for the information of the commanding general that I located a battery at the Aquia Creek Railroad Landing this morning and placed it under the charge of Major T. H. Williamson, engineer, for completion.

In the absence of Captain Lynch, of the Navy, for whom I have dispatched a messenger, I have directed Captain Thorburn to put the guns in position and make the necessary preparation for service. It is my expectation that the battery will be in a measure completed within forty-eight hours. Measures will be taken to give the requisite protection.

I respectfully recommend that a battery of four 32-pounders be established on the Rappahannock River at Bristolmines [Brisco Mines?] or Tappahannock, with as little delay as is practicable.

I transmit a memorandum of a statement made yesterday by Messrs. John T. Washington and John H. Stuart, of King George County, Va. Measures were taken immediately by dispatching mounted men to intercept and recover the slaves supposed to have escaped, but thus far without satisfactory results.

Repeated applications have been made to me from counties bordering on the Rappahannock on both sides, along the Northern Neck, for instructions preliminary to enrollment as volunteers, from the fact, doubtlessly, that they were within my original jurisdiction. I am instructed by General Cocke to embrace my original limits until further orders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General Volunteers, Commanding Forces.

Colonel R. S. GARNETT,
Adjutant-General Volunteer Forces, Richmond, Va.

Report of Commander Kennedy, C. S. Navy, of a reconnoissance of the Potomac River.

RICHMOND, July 8, 1861.

SIR: I have returned from the exploration of the river Potomac at Evansport. The activity of the enemy's cruisers on the river, the method and importance of keeping the secret from the enemy, necessarily caused much delay. I lost also much time by endeavoring to measure the angles for the determination of the distance across the river with a worthless quadrant that would not stay in adjustment, and I was at last compelled to borrow a surveyor's compass in order to measure the angles. I found the nearest measured distance from shore to shore to be 2,513 yards. There are two channels and a middle ground between them, with $3\frac{1}{4}$ fathoms of water on it. The Virginia edge of this middle ground lies about 600 yards from the shore. From this edge the water gradually shoals to $3\frac{1}{4}$ fathoms and then deepens again to 5 fathoms on the Maryland edge of the bank, the width of the bank being about 300 yards. The main ship channel runs on the Virginia shore, and I learned from a fisherman, who professed to know the river well, that the course of ships of heavy draft is on a line connecting Sandy Point with Possum Nose, a point on the Virginia shore about three-fourths of a mile above Ship [Shipping] Point, the southern point Quantico Creek. He also informed me that a kettle bottom shoal makes out about 600 yards from the Maryland shore below Budd's Ferry, with channels between the knolls, and that another shoal makes out from the Maryland shore about 2 miles from Stump Point [Neck], the northern point of Chicomuxen Creek. I was not able to verify this

statement, nor to measure the width of the Virginia channel. I went out in a crazy skiff for this purpose, and having narrowly escaped capture by one of the enemy's tugs I did not attempt it again. Ship [Shipping] Point is a bluff of clay formation and about 25 feet in height. From it the land slopes away gradually to Mulberry Point, and a little distance therefrom dips suddenly, forming a depression; thence it rises again to a height of 8 or 10 feet, and slopes away to the edge of the marsh in rear of the wharf. Through this marsh runs a very small stream, emptying into the river near the wharf. Ship [Shipping] Point is thickly wooded with a growth of cedar trees, extending nearly or quite to Mulberry Point, but thinner there. How far the middle ground extends up or down the river I was unable to ascertain. I was informed that vessels of 12 feet draft could not pass over the shoal that makes out from Stump Neck without difficulty, the channel being very narrow and winding among the knolls comprising the shoal. My opinion is that 9-inch guns will command the channel, and with the aid of one rifled 12-pounder will close the river in the day time. During the night tugs and vessels of light draft may pass by hugging the Maryland shore. I was assisted in the work by Mr. Holmes, of Prince William County, and the other surveyors.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. KENNEDY,
Commander, U. S. Navy.

Captain S. BARRON,
Officer of Ordnance and Detail, Richmond, Va.

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