

and we trust that all will see the necessity of avoiding and preventing any obstructions at the doors, in the vain hope of getting in.

The General Assembly will meet in Hibernian Hall at 10 o'clock this morning.

The Charleston Delegation have made ample preparations for fitting up the Hall and the Saloon for Legislative uses.

MAC

Chicopee Falls, Mass. Dec. 29th 1860

W. C. Bestor Esq.

Dear Sir:

...I have sent the 30 Rifles to Florida and some others to Geo. & S.C. to Genl. Gonzales [...] and will send you the invoices as soon as I can find time to copy them. Whole amount net to his orders on the 29th is \$1978.45. As soon as you find out how the Boxes are to be marked to send to Mississippi I wish you would let me know that I may get a stencil plate made.

Yours Truly
Wm. P. McFarland

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

12 January 1861, 2

Gen. GONZALES, agent of the MAYNARD arms--the best breech-loaders of the day--will be found at the Mills House or the ADAMS Express Office for some days.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

1 February 1861, 2

It may interest some to know that one of the patents of Dr. Maynard, (inventor of the MAYNARD Rifle and Carbine) for whom Gen. A. J. GONZALES is agent, provides a cheap and simple method of changing any old musket into a breech-loader.

EGP

Charleston 15 Feby 1861

My dear Cousin

You do not say whether you wish the whole of Mr Heyward's Bond assigned to Mrs Gonzales, or only fifteen hundred dollars of it. I therefore enclose the Bond without having drawn the assignment. You can sign your name where I have indicated upon it in pencil, in the presence of one witness, and I will draw the assignment above it for the whole or fifteen hundred as you may direct.

Since I wrote, the State has advanced the price of its Stock to 95cts. As yourself and Sister may object to paying this, I have not purchased.

The State offers other Bonds payable at a shorter period, and with interest at 7 pt; perhaps you would rather have them at par -- the price asked-- to the 6% at 95 cts

With my best regards
Yrs truly
Wm C Bee

Miss Emily Elliott

EGP

Head Quarters

Round March 16' 1861

To Capt Ralph Elliot

The order commanding Capts of Beat Companies to drill three Companies weekly is hereby ~~Commanded~~ Countermanded until further orders. The Militia will now muster as directed by Law.

Capt's are ordered to be very strict in having patrol duty performed.

By Order of Col Stewart

H W Frebbane Lt Col

Lower Bat BRgL

S C Mil

DOCUMENT⁹¹

Staff of General P. G. T. Beauregard, South Carolina Volunteers, in the Confederate States Provisional Army. 11 April 1861.

Regular Staff

Major D. A. Jones, A.A.G.

Capt. Stephen D. Lee, Engineer

Capt. S. Ferguson, A.D.C.

Lt. Sydney Legaré, A.D.C.

Volunteer Staff

Col. John Laurence Manning

Col. James Chesnut

Col. William Porcher Miles

Col. Ambrosio J. Gonzales

Col. A. R. Chisolm

Col. Louis Trezevant Wigfall

Col. Roger A. Pryor

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

13 April 1861, p. 2, col. 3

Gen. A. J. GONZALES, a class-mate and friend of Gen. BEAUREGARD, has been added, by his own offer, to the Staff of Gen. BEAUREGARD, and has been assigned to important duty.

On the first intimation of the secession of South Carolina, Gen. GONZALES tendered his services to Gov. GIST.

EGP

Annandale Monday 15th [April 1861]

Your letter of the 11th reached me yesterday dearest Mamma and I was grateful to know you were all pretty well. I have not written since this day week (because my excitement has been so constantly kept up. I really could not). On Wednesday I had a note from Mary Man telling me she had been summoned to the City by Mr. M. and would leave Thursday afternoon begging me

⁹¹ . South Carolina Department of Archives & History. *Rolls of South Carolina Staff and Confederate Officers*, Vol. 1, p. 1.

to visit her in the morning -- on Thursday she sent a messenger telling me She was off at Sunrise, as she had had another despatch to hurry her, this with the newspaper threats, of course led us to anticipate danger on Friday morning. Mr. J.⁹² and Self at daylight heard the firing of the batteries, and we were all so anxious to know what it all meant. On Saturday the rapidity of the guns made us imagine something besides Sumter was being attacked and of course the mail was most eagerly looked for. When the Post boy arrived, there was nothing, the N.E. Railroad having failed. Several of the Gents rushed off to the city unable to bear the suspense, however about 11 O'clock Mr. Weston drove up to tell us the news, as far as 2 O'clock Friday when he left the city for his duties at this fort. Since then we have had private news up to the taking of Sumter (which from the cessation of cannon we had imagined) and the happy termination of *that* attack so singularly far from casualty on our side. As no Steamers have come, of course "those War Vessels" are for the present a barrier and our anxieties are still on the [...]. Tell Emmie She and I were wrong after all but I am thankful we escaped fright so long. I was so very glad to see the General's [**Gonzales**] name on Beauregard's Staff -- next to the safety of our soldiers, that gave me most pleasure. I hope Hattie forgives me. It has been very hard to keep Mr. J. quiet and but that positive duty here required him I don't think we could have detained him. If there is to be any more fighting Mr. J. says he must take the children up at once to Flat rock -- that he may return to *his* duties and tho' such a plan would be very distasteful to me I cannot object. We have 50 men at present at So. Island 20 of our Santee Cavalry Wm. J. among them. Alice & family here -- her baby is better but still looks ill -- poor Alice does not know where she will be in a Month. She has pressing invitations to Charleston & Beaufort with French broad & South Island in reserve. Alice says I must tell you she is still prime and wants to know if you would like to take care of her to the Mountains with the chance of a month at Newbery? I am delighted to report all well again. Dr. Parker has just sent us in the Mercury's extra for Saturday Eveg. which confirms the report of the 5 War Vessels. What next I wonder. You are better off that we for nothing from the city can reach us and we are on war rations. Do write often -- with abundant love to each and all dearest Mama -- Your afft.

Mary

The Mercury

16 April 1861, p. 2, col. 1

THE AIDS TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD--Upon inquiry, finding that the published list of the Volunteer Aids-de-Camp to Gen. BEAUREGARD was both incomplete and incorrect, we have obtained the following correct list:

Col. A. R. CHISOLM	Hon. ROGER A. PRYOR
Gov. J. L. MANNING	Col. LOUIS T. WIGFALL
Col. JAMES CHESTNUT, jr.	Gen. A. J. GONZALES
Capt. ARTHUR M. MANIGAULT	Col. CHAS. ALSTON, jr.
Hon. W. PORCHER MILES	Col. S. R. PROCTOR

EGP

Head Quarters, Morris Island, April 17th 1861

Genl. G. T. Beauregard

⁹² Her husband Andrew Johnstone.

Comdg. Prov. Forces

My dear Genl:

I stated yesterday to my family that I would apply for the command, ad interim, of Genl. Rhett's Brigade, as the arrival of that officer might be long delayed. I have since learnt that he has been appointed Quarter Master Gral. and therefore hasten to request you to present my claim to his late position to Gov. Pickens or to President Davis, as the case may be, in such light as the public interest may warrant you to do. I reside in Beaufort District, to which and the neighbouring coast said Brigade has been apportioned. Gov. Pickens, when I tendered my services to him before the passage of the Ordinance of Secession, inquired from me "how far I lived from Beaufort" and how soon it would take me to reach it "at the tap of the drum." My wife was born in that town as well as the majority of her relatives. My father-in-law, the Hon: Wm. Elliott, was formerly a Senator from that District. His property is all within it. I was married and my three boys were born in it. So much for my domiciliation. As to my military service, I held the position of Adj. Genl. & second in command in 1850 to the Cuban forces.

On the very day that the news was telegraphed from Washington, in Nov. last, of the purpose of Mr. Buchanan to coerce this State, I wrote to Gov: Gist offering my services to her, to which he replied "Should the Genl. Government wage war upon this state, I will, certainly, accept your services in some position suitable to your former rank." On your arrival in Charleston, I offered my services to you and my living in the country alone prevented me, as you know, from assuming, at once, the duties of Volunteer Aid. I think I was the first to offer to serve you in that capacity. The moment I heard from home (26 miles from Charleston) the report of the artillery of your batteries, I started for Charleston, in the freight train and rifle in hand, I offered my services to you as an officer or as a soldier. You did me the honor to appoint me to your staff and to detach me, temporarily to that of Maj. Genl. Bonham, about to be sent to that portion of Morris Island where, to use your own words "the first fight was to be expected."

I started thither, across the bay, with Genl. Bonham, during the bombardment and rowed nearly ten miles and walked about as many to reach my destination.

The enemy not having attacked us, I devoted myself to the duties of Aid to Genl. Bonham and have been reported to you on his staff as Assistant Adj. & Inspector Gral. On the withdrawal of Genl. Bonham you honored me with your confidence by appointing me to the office which I now hold, of Acting Inspector Gral on this Island. Expecting my duties to terminate with the proximate removal of this command and of the batteries it supports I address myself to you for the purpose already mentioned.

I remain very truly
your friend & servant
Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

I take much pleasure in recommending the above application of General Gonzales to the favorable consideration of his Excellency Gov. Pickens. Genl. G. has been very active & intelligent in the discharge of the duties referred to by him.

G. T. Beauregard
Brig. Genl. Commanding.

RG 109, Chapter 9, Vol. 89, Secretary of War - Record, Index to Application Book No. 1, War Department, From April 1st 1861 to June 23, 1861, From No. 1 to 2693.

Gonzales, Ambrose Jose No. 1888

RG 109, Chapter 9, Vol. 89, Secretary of War, Record of Applications for Appointment in the Army, From April 1st 1861 to June 23, 1861, page 284.

Gonzales, Ambrose Jose S.C.

No. 1888 Wants a position under General Beauregard.

RG 109, Chapt. 2, Vol. 256, p. 183.

Head Quarters, Morris Island
April 18th, 1861

Genl. P. G. T. Beauregard
Commanding Provisional Forces

My dear Genl:

I write you hastily upon matters of deep interest to you. Col. Hagood, posted on our centre proposes to you to construct with his men, if you give him the tools, and forego the drill which they much want, a parallel along the crest of the sand hills along his whole line of defence about 30 yds. in rear of the same, obtaining such flanking arrangements as may be without sacrificing propinquity to the beach. A covered way, at least, platoon width, along and in rear of the whole line. This line to be divided into ten equal spaces and a company cantoned in rear of the center of each some 40 yards with such bomb proof arrangements as may be and a zigzag communication to the parallel platoon width. At least, two, (four preferred) howitzers for the flanks to strengthen the flanking arrangements. The latter to be worked by details from his regiment. Two howitzers for the centre of his line, unless a battery of heavy pieces is to be arranged in his rear with a commanding fire. The fire of these pieces would draw the shells of the enemy and the men would be much encouraged by seeing the return made to the enemy from heavy guns in their rear. The howitzers to be arranged "in barbette" approaching as much to bastion as may be without exposing the pieces to enfilade fire from the sea. A reserve of not more than one fourth of his command to be cantoned in rear of his centre some 100 yds. With these arrangements he proposes to await under the bomb proofs till the shelling of the enemy is over and after their [...] and discharging of their howitzers to fire a volley at 88 yds. and charge bayonets at which he is satisfied that his men will aid to your thorough satisfaction. His command is so sparsely decimate that without horses, as he is, he could hardly collect them in time for promptly repelling an attack. I submit that you furnish him with several horses to fully obviate this inconvenient. Also ten drums & fifes. The Col. tells me he has men who can use the drum & that he can train others.

Genl. Bonham is apprehensive, and desires me so to say to you, that the schooner which was made to come to by our batteries day before yesterday is of a suspicious character. Theirs believed to have been all along with the fleet from Friday last and to have remained outside until Tuesday evening. She showed no colors, perhaps to have herself stopped and when detained lowered a boat, which *succeeded in landing on our beach*. After being permitted to proceed she *remained until the next day in front of our lines*. Her Capt, the Genl. says, has a suspicious countenance & it has occurred to us that an engineer in disguise or secreted may have been on board taking plans of all our dispositions. Would it not be well to have the boat examined and the crew closely inquired into.

There is complaint made by the officers of an order issued some time since on the subject of their not leaving the island without a permit. Capt. Huger made one to the Genl. yesterday. I

have told these gentlemen that that order was correctly given on the eve of battle, especially as the majority of our officers have not acquired the discipline & training requisite to appreciate in all its particulars the requirements of the service. I inform you of the fact unofficially and as a friend. You will consider it as your good judgement will suggest. We do not know when Major Whiting⁹³ will be here. Had he been on the Island I would have referred Col. Hagood's proposals to him.

I trust you will soon be among us. We are all impatient to see you.

Ever your truly

A. J. Gonzales

The bearer is Mr. Boyleston, brother of Dist. Commissary Genl. & attached to our staff. He will await orders from you.

OR, Series I, Vol. 53, 153, and **RG 109**, Chap. 2 No. 263, pp. 181-182.

Charleston, S.C., April 22, 1861.

General A. J. Gonzales

Acting Inspector-General

Morris Island, S.C.

My Dear General:

Colonel Ripley⁹⁴ having informed me that Sumter would be ready in three or four days for a through defense, I have concluded not to construct the proposed field-works at Vinegar Hill,⁹⁵ but to remove vigorously the Cummings Point batteries, covered ways, and traverses thrown up to protect them from the fire of Sumter. My order will probably be out to-day to that effect. All the guns, &c., from the south end of the island, except the two field pieces, will be sent from Vinegar Hill or from the Oyster Point to Fort Pickens on the Stono, and the field pieces to Fort Palmetto.⁹⁶ To prevent unpleasant observations and remarks, I desire that you should issue no orders, but, when any are required, that they should come from the commanding general on the island, for an inspector can give no orders, but may make suggestions to those in command or to these headquarters. The Governor desires the Seventeenth to be relieved at once. This will necessarily cause General Simons⁹⁷ to be relieved by General Nelson, whose two regiments are on the island; but this will not be the case for several days.

Yours, very truly,

G. T. Beauregard

⁹³ Major William H. C. Whiting, chief of the Confederate Corps of Engineers and Adjutant Inspector General.

⁹⁴ . Roswell Sabine Ripley. Graduated from West Point in 1843. Veteran of the Mexican War and the Seminole Indian War. Born in Ohio, married a South Carolinian and after leaving the service in the 1850s, became a Charleston businessman. Appointed Lt. Col., First Regiment S.C. Artillery, on 2 January 1861. Commissioned Brigadier General on 15 August 1861, commanding the 2nd. Military District until he was transferred to Virginia in June 1862. Four months later returned to Charleston to command the 1st Military District until 1865.

⁹⁵ Vinegar Hill was near where Battery Wagner later stood. Johnson Hagood, *Memoirs of the War of Secession*, 31.

⁹⁶ Fort Palmetto was on Johns Island at the Stono Inlet.

⁹⁷ . Brigadier General James Simons, of the state militia, in command of the forces on Morris Island.

P.S.--In consequence of Kershaw's regiment and the whole of Gregg's not going away, as I had been informed they would do, I have ordered back General Nelson to the command of his former brigade, to be reposted where it was before or where most convenient to their new positions, for we have now, I think, little to fear from the enemy.

This letter was annulled in consequence of subsequent information received. G.T.B.

The Charleston Daily Courier
22, 23, 24 April 1861, 2

LOST.--TAKEN BY MISTAKE, from the Mills House, on or after the 13th inst., a TRUNK, covered with white Canvas, marked A. J. G. Whoever will give any information of the whereabouts of the Trunk will be rewarded. It is supposed to be at some Rail Road Station.

EGP

Mills House [Charleston] Wednesday 7th [May 1861]

[To Anne Elliott]
My Dear Wife

I reached this in safety and found Ralph & the General [**Gonzales**] at the Mills House. The fleet has disappeared from the bar--and the fear of an immediate attack is removed. Whether they will return depends upon the force at the disposal of the wretched abolitionists--they are raging--at defeat and would put up to fire and sword--if they were able. It appears from the plans of their leaders as explained in the New York papers--published when they only thought our doom sealed--that they had armour for their vessels--boats--covered from shot--and artillery and horses provided for [...] operations--and every thing arranged for triumph over us. The storm was providential it detained the tug steamer--which was today in the harbour the boats which were to be towed by a cable--from the tow. Had they come in there would have been great bloodshed--and a doubtful issue--tho' our boys would have fought like devils.

It is supposed the fleet has divided--part for Pensacola--part for N. York.

The *Herald*--it is said--has gone against us!⁹⁸ but Virginia N. Carolina & Kentucky--are almost sure to go for us.⁹⁹

I have been pleased to meet here my old friend Mr. William Appleton--with Mr. Amory who married the daughter of Mrs. Sears. They are going to Mr. Aiken's, to spend a few days and I have invited them to stop and dine with me--on Monday next, on their way to Savannah--I shall be glad to show them some sense of the kindness I have received from them & their friends in Boston.

The package I brought for the General [**Gonzales**] was apropos--as he has lost his trunk & has not yet been able to hear of it.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ The *Charleston Courier* announced on 29 April 1861, p. 1, that *Herald* editor James Gordon Bennett had given \$3000 to the Volunteer Fund in New York City.

⁹⁹ The Kentucky legislature proposed its intention of neutrality of 16 May 1861, North Carolina seceded on 20 May 1861 and Virginia voted for secession on 23 May 1861. John S. Bowman, ed., *The Civil War Almanac* (New York: Bison Books, 1983),55.

¹⁰⁰ Gonzales placed an advertisement for information on his lost trunk in the *Charleston Courier* on 22, 23 and 24

I saw Mr. Bee this morning and gave him instructions as to the investment of the monies. He promised to invest whatever was in hand--but I understood him to say that Mr. Wm. Heyward had *not* paid up--being unable to sell his rice--on which I remarked that he ought then--to retain it a year so as to secure against loss of interest from future to invest--to the justice of which Mr. Bee assented. A million and a half--is thought will be invested in Charleston. Love to all--with this hurried letter from your affectionate husband

Wm Elliott

I have hired Frank as Cook at the Mills House please have him -- as decently dressed as can well be--and send down. Your aversion to have him on the plantation has led me to determine on this.

WE.

AGP

Extracts from Inspector General A. J. Gonzales' Report to Gen. Beauregard relative to troops in Morris Island, S.C., May 8th, 1861.

Required for the troops on Morris Island

Ice for the hospitals

Sheet and pillow cases (8 or 10 doz. respectively)

Case of surgical instruments for Col. Blanding's Regt.

Rifles recommended instead of muskets for all the troops on the seaboard.

An [...] attached to each Brigade or frequent periodical visits [...], secured to each regiment.

Punches &c for lettering and numbering the muskets & accoutrements of the different Regts. furnished to the same.

Ammunition distributed to the troops for the special purpose of rifle practice. In connection with it, a succinct manual of rifle practice, such as the one adopted at the school of [...], in England, put in the hands of the riflemen.

Uniform accoutrements for the several corps. By exchanging where they have both white & black, with other regiments similarly conditioned, uniformity might be attained in some cases without new purchases.

Many cartridge [...] are without buttons.

Knapsacks for Col. Blanding's Regt. and water proof ones for the same & for Col. Hagood's Regt.

Haversacks better suited to the purpose.

Hagood's Regt.

Haversacks better suited to the purpose.

Broad brim felt hat (of a grey hue furnished the troops instead of the cap they now have. One more flannel shirt to the men for Hagood's Regt. & two pair of socks.

Arm-racks for 2-in guns, to be placed around the tent pole.

Company books & Company & Regimental blank returns.

Instructions to L. Martin as to the positive allowance to each man, rate of pay & allowance for traveling expenses.

A supply of good blankets for Col. Hagood's Regt. those he received being reported

April 1861.

almost valueless.

EGP

Richmond Virginia
May 15th 1861

Dear Aunt Annie

It affords me a great deal of pleasure to inform you that our Corps arrived in Richmond Virginia Saturday at half pass six oclock perfectly safe; at every depot station from the City of Charleston South Carolina to Richmond Virginia we were greeted by the male and female sex of all classes. We are now in camp in the fair ground which is a very high & pretty place for an encampment. The Ladies visit us every day some very pretty ones in the crowd. I have not much time to write for we drill six or seven hours a day. The only news of any importance that reach us this morning is that the tanks at Fort Monrow had given out, & the garrison had no water to drink, & the officer commanding the post had demanded water from a farm well some miles off & had been refused, by the inhabitants of the place. He then took one hundred & fifty men & marched them from the fort & went & took possession of the farm & well of water, without the slightest resistance from the inhabitants; give my love to all I must bid you adieu for my drill hour [...] nigh.

Your affect Nephew
William Elliott¹⁰¹

The Charleston Daily Courier
15 May 1861, 2

Defensive Preparations.

It is difficult to define exactly the limits of prudent publicity in matters relating to defensive preparations and military operations generally.

We prefer, if we err at all, to lean on the side of reticence, but a due regard to the opinions of our friends at a distance, and justice to those in command, require that some statements should be made.

Next to the election of Jefferson Davis to the Presidency, and as a sequel to it, we congratulate the Confederate States and especially our own beloved State, the pioneer and in some sense the frontier State of the Confederacy, on the happy selection made in the appointment of Brigadier-General Beauregard, and his designation to this department.

A thoroughly accomplished Engineer, with a *coup d'ail* rapid and comprehensive, Gen. Beauregard is quick in perceiving what is to be done, and equally prompt and prolific in determination and resources for executing his desires.

He possesses, moreover, the enviable faculty of transfusing into all around and under him his own promptness and energy.

He is indefatigable in execution, and in personal inspection and superintendence of details, no less than in the duties of the council room or the Headquarters' office.

¹⁰¹ Son of Thomas Rhett Smith Elliott. Enlisted at Charleston, 9 May 1861; mustered into Confederate service, 22 May 1861; discharged by Special Order No. 230, 20 November 1861. Wounded at 1st Manassas, and promoted to A.D.C. to Gen. Ambrosio Jose Gonzales. A. S. Salley, Jr., *South Carolina Troops in Confederate Service*, Vol. I (Columbia, S.C.: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1913), 240.

Since his advent and entrance on the command assigned him in South Carolina, he has labored with a zeal and perseverance which are not often combined with other qualities, and traits which characterize and mark him as the man for the place.

The number and contradictory diversity of the newspaper reports concerning the presence and movements of Gen. Beauregard, are in themselves a striking tribute to his activity. One day we hear he is in Montgomery, and the next day his name is a talisman of fear to the vile despot who drinks and lies in Washington. On the next day, with that peculiarly pecuniary refinement [*sic*] which characterizes New York, we are told that a wager on his life is laid in New York.

Without claiming for him ubiquity, we are content to let our and his enemies write, talk, think or bet about him as they please, or as their diversities, Mammon or Moloch, may inspire them.

We only design to inform our friend, that he is, as usual, active, circumspect and vigilant, and has been and is doing fully his duty. He has lately returned from a tour of inspection along the lines and posts of defence between this city and Savannah--has strengthened and improved the posts previously established, and has ordered five new and additional posts at important places.

He found the planters every where eagerly willing to give the labor of their servants, and their own superintendence if necessary, to the execution of the works ordered, and they will soon be completed.

He visited specially and made important additions to defensive resources at Stono, North and South Edisto, St. Helena Sound, Beaufort and the Broad River.

In some of these places, which we need not specify more particularly, are admirable opportunities for the use and application of batteries which cannot be seen, but which may be brought into use by a long wire fuse and a slight charge of galvanism or electricity.

We beg pardon of Major Anderson if we indicate anything transcending the Christian warfare, but we are fighting not for sentimentalities or a maudlin devotion to a piece of bunting, but for our homes and wives, and fields and households, and we intend to fight, if fight we must, in earnest, and with all the effective means which God has placed at our command.

Gen. Beauregard left the final completion of the new works here referred to, in charge of Lieut. Gregg, of the Engineer Corps, South Carolina Army, with competent assistance.

He was accompanied on his tour by many friends, personal and military, who were consulted in reference to local and topographical knowledge.

On his return he was accompanied by a friend and volunteer Aid, **Gen. A. J. Gonzales**, now and for some time Acting Inspector-General, Hon. William Elliott, Col. Chisolm, of the Executive Staff, and Maj. Barnwell, of the Confederate States Army.

Our friends may rest assured that nothing which Gen. Beauregard can do or should do for their defence, will be neglected or delayed.

The Charleston *Mercury*

15 May 1861, 2

General Beauregard, with Hon. Wm. Elliott, Col. Chisolm, Gen. Gonzales, Acting-Inspector General, and Major John Barnwell, Confederate States Army, returned yesterday from a tour of inspection among our coast defenses. The batteries on the various islands and [...] are advantageously posted and well masked, while the noble harbor of Port Royal is at last fully defended by the batteries of another and formidable kind, which render any

demonstration of the enemy in that neighborhood *rather* a hopeless experiment.

Major Murray, of the Calhoun Artillery, remained with his company, in charge of the guns on the North Edisto. Lieut. Gregory, of the Engineers, also remained on special duty.

O.R., Series I, Vol. 53, 167-168.

Charleston, S.C., May 16, 1861

His Excellency Governor Francis W. Pickens:

Sir: I have the honor to enclose you herewith a list of the armament of the works already constructed and to be constructed for the defenses of the South Carolina coast, from North Edisto to Broad River, inclusive. Your aide, Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, and Lieutenant Gregorie, of the Engineers, as well as Inspector-General **Gonzales**, accompanied me on my tour of inspection, and are acquainted with the localities of the new works recommended and which ought to be constructed forthwith. Acting Lieutenant Blake, of the Engineers, now on Morris Island, would be of great assistance to the above named officers. I am of the opinion that the entrance to the magnificent and important harbor of Port Royal can be effectually protected by two strong works on Bay Point and Hilton Head, on each side of the entrance, and the steel-clad floating battery moored half way between the two, all armed with the heaviest rifled guns that can be made; but, the constructions not being practicable at present, I have resorted to local works, guarding the principal lines of communication with the interior of the State. The two works already constructed for the protection of Beaufort, when fully and properly armed, will answer well against any naval expedition; but if they had been constructed with about the same amount of labor at the neck between Beaufort River and the headwaters of Battery River, and at the neck between the latter and the headwaters of Brick-Yard Creek, that town would have been thoroughly protected on all sides. I recommended that two 8-inch sea-coast howitzers, on barbette carriages, should be added to the armament of Fort Elliott, and two of its 18-pounders be exchanged with two 24-pounders, now at Fort Schnierle, near the town. Should the above works, on the new plan proposed, ever be constructed, I recommend that the armament of Fort Elliott be transferred to the new battery on the river; that the work on the headwaters of Battery Creek be armed with two 12-pounders, and that the armament of Fort Schnierle be transferred to the other work defending the rear of the town.

I will now state what I consider should be the garrison of each of the works referred to in this report, besides a supporting regiment stationed at the nearest healthy locality to Beaufort--McPhersonville--provided with one or two light-draft steamers for its rapid transportation to any threatened point on the coast as well as for the conveyance of intelligence. Garrisons: North Edisto, 60 artillerists (or one company) and 1 company of infantry; South Edisto, 40 artillerists and 1 company of infantry; Fenwick's Island, 20 artillerists and 1 company of infantry; Field's Point, 20 artillerists and 1 company of infantry; Sam's Point, 20 artillerists and 1 company of infantry; Beaufort, 1 company of artillery and 2 companies of infantry; Mackey's Point, 20 artillerists and 1 company of infantry; Whale Island, 20 artillerists and 1 company of infantry. Total artillery, 4 companies; infantry, 9 companies. The works on North and South Edisto are ready to receive their armament, and I request that it be sent forthwith, together with their garrisons.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. T. Beauregard
Brigadier-General Commanding

OR, Series I, Vol. 53, 171.

Headquarters Provisional Army, C.S.
Charleston, S.C., May 17, 1861

Capt. F. D. Lee

Corps of South Carolina Engineers, Sullivan's Island, S.C.:

Sir: On the receipt of this letter you will make all necessary arrangements to be absent from Sullivan's Island for about three days on a tour of coast inspection from this post to Georgetown entrance, for the purpose of selecting site for batteries at Bull's Bay, South and North Santee, and Georgetown entrance--one site at each entrance. Colonels Manigault and Allston and General **Gonzales** will accompany you on said tour of inspection. Captain Martin, commanding at Georgetown entrance, will be of much assistance to you in the selection of a site for a new battery at that point to be armed with the guns of the two batteries now there. The batteries at the other points referred to above will be armed with from two to four guns, 12, 18, or 24 pounders. All the necessary arrangements for your conveyance from Mount Pleasant at about 3 p.m. have already been made and you will meet there the officers above designated. But should you have time and desire further instructions you can call at headquarters between now and 2 p.m. this day. You will be provided with the Coast Survey maps to assist you in your examination and selection, which will be submitted to me for approval.

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

G. T. Beauregard
Brigadier-General, Commanding

JDP

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Received May 18, 1861 at 12 o'clock 20 minutes.

By telegraph from Charleston 18 To Prest. J. Davis

Your recent call for Eight regiments five for Virginia and three for the defence of this coast leaves to you the appointment of the General to command the latter. I have for this post the strong preference of Gen Beauregard of the Colonel of the Regiment likely to be assigned on that duty and of very many of the inhabitants of the sea board. Will you intrust me with it in the absence of Gen. Beauregard?

A. J. Gonzales
Ins. Genl.

RG 109, Chap. 2 No. 263, p. 267.

Head Quarters Provisional Army C.S.
Charleston May 25th 1861

Genl. A. J. Gonzales
Charleston, S.C.

My Dear General,

As I am about to transfer my command at this station, I shall no longer need your valuable assistance: but while appreciating your unselfish devotion to the service, as well as your kind personal assistance, while acting as a volunteer Aide-de-Camp on my Staff, and as Acting Asst. Inspector General on Morris Island--I cannot part from you without expressing, at least briefly, my sense of obligation therefor. Especially too are my thanks due to you, coming, as you

did, so efficiently to my assistance at such an important moment and lending to the time all your untiring energy & perseverance.

Such services, past and present, I assure you, will be recalled in my mind with constant pleasure hereafter.

I am, my Dear General,
very truly yours
G. T. Beauregard
Brig. Gen. Comdg.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*
28 May 1861, p. 2, col. 3

A Good Appointment -- Gen. A. J. GONZALES has been appointed and commissioned a special Aid-de-Camp by Gov. PICKENS, with reference to the control, supervision and direction of the sea-board defences between Georgetown and Savannah.

As a volunteer Aid to Gen. BEAUREGARD, and Acting Inspector-General, he has served the State efficiently and acceptably, and has acquired a thorough knowledge of the condition and resources and extent of our sea-coast defences.

His services have been acknowledged in emphatic terms by Gen. BEAUREGARD, and by all officers with whom he has been associated.

We congratulate our sea-board friends on finding their interests and defences in such competent hands, and we invite and commend a prompt cooperation from all planters who are enabled to render any assistance.

Gen. GONZALES, under this appointment, will have full powers, and the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The Charleston *Mercury*
28 May 1861, 2

Our Southern Seacoast.--Gen. Gonzales, who has been serving as one of General Beauregard's volunteer aids, and particularly engaged in inspecting the seacoast defences of the State, has, we learn, been commissioned as a special aide-de-camp by Gov. Pickens, and delegated to superintend the works along our various harbors and inlets towards the Savannah river from Stono Inlet. Gen. Gonzales is in possession of the views of our highest military authorities, and is highly competent. Under his charge every reasonable security is confidently expected. It would be needless to urge the co operation of all interested.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*
31 May 1861, p. 2, col. 4

The control and direction of military works of defence along the coast or elsewhere, are in the hands of Capt. FRANCIS D. LEE acting Chief of the Engineer Corps.

Gen. GONZALES, as a special Aid to the Governor, is vested with the duties of an inspector with special reference to sea coast defences.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*
10 June 1861, p. 2

Passengers.

Per steamer Cecile, from Palatka via Jacksonville, Fernandina, Picolata, Savannah, Bluffton, Beaufort, &c.-- H. T. Baya, Mr. Silverstein, Mrs. Myers and daughter, A. Veaux, W. J. Hawkins, Mr. Brown, **Col. Gonzales, S.C.A.**, and Capt. Costa, S.C.N.

SCA, Confederate Records, Quartermaster Department Vouchers, Box 2.

For *South Edisto*

2 24 pdrs & 2 6 pdrs (iron)
200 rounds of Amm. for the
former. Amm. for the latter.

For *Bay Point Works*

1 24 pdr with amm.
2 24 pd Howitzers -- ditto

For *Braddock's Point*
(Calabague Sound)

3 18 pdrs or 2 24 pdrs with
ammunition.

Requisition for Guns at South Edisto -- Bay Point -- Braddock's Point --
Gonzales

June 10, 1861

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

13 June 1861, p. 1

COAST DEFENCES.--Gen. Gonzales, and Col. R. S. Duryea, Secretary of the Coast Police are now on a visit of inspection along the coast for the purpose of determining suitable locations for erecting fortifications, and preventing the entrance of the enemy.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

18 June 1861, p. 2

Coast Police and Defence.--Col. R. S. Duryea, Executive Secretary, in charge of Coast Police and Defence, has lately made a tour of inspection to the coast defences and posts Southward of this city. He reports "all well."

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

24 June 1861, p. 2

The Coast Defences.--The Calhoun Artillery, Capt. Murray, having been recently relieved from active duty at one of our forts on the seaboard, by the St. Paul's Rifles, Capt. Smith, A. J. Gonzales addressed them a few words in behalf of His Excellency the Governor of the State, whom he had the honor to represent, of the Carolina Coast. He thanked them for their voluntary services, the sacrifices they had made of their planting interest to protect the seaboard, their generous contributions of labor for the works laid out by Gen. Beauregard; their liberality in furnishing themselves with arms, tents, accoutrements and ammunition free of charge to the State, their constant readiness to meet the enemy, should they have attempted to tread the soil of Carolina. He suggested to them to pursue their instruction in heavy as well as in field artillery--bespeak for the new comers, the St. Paul's Rifles, a worthy body of men, all the kindness and hospitality, as well as military aid, which he knew they would from their known

character, most willingly extend. And requesting them to include their neighbors across the Inlet, the Palmetto Rifles, in the thanks extended in the name of the Governor, for patriotic donations towards the common defence, he bid them farewell, wishing them a pleasant return to their homes.

The company gave three hearty cheers for Gen. Gonzales, after which Col. W. C. Heyward, of the Ninth Regiment, being cheered, addressed them in a few appropriate remarks.

The Charleston *Mercury*

24 June 1861, p. 2

The Calhoun Artillery, Capt. Murray, having been recently relieved from active duty at one of our forts on the seaboard by the St. Paul's Rifles, Capt. Smith, General A. J. Gonzales addressed them a few words in behalf of His Excellency Governor Pickens, whom he had the honor to represent on the Carolina Coast. He thanked them for their voluntary services; the sacrifices they had made of their planting interest to protect the seaboard; their generous contributions of labor for the works laid out by Gen. Beauregard; their liberality in furnishing themselves with arms, tents, provisions, accoutrements and ammunition, without charge to the State; and their constant readiness to meet the enemy, should he have attempted to tread on the soil of Carolina. He suggested to them to pursue their instruction in heavy as well as in field artillery; bespoke for the new comers, the St. Paul's Rifles, a worthy band of men, all the kindness and hospitality, as well as military aid, which he was certain, from their well known character, they would most willingly extend; and requesting them to extend to their neighbors across the inlet, the Palmetto Rifles, the thanks of Governor Pickens for patriotic donations for the common defence, he bid them farewell, wishing them a pleasant return to their homes. The company then gave three cheers for Gen. Gonzales. Col. Wm. C. Heyward, Ninth Regiment, being cheered, addressed them, also, in a few appropriate remarks.

EML

Charleston, So. Ca. June 24th 1861

His Excellency F. W. Pickens

Gov. of S. C.

Governor:

Having recently returned to Charleston from North and South Edisto, I beg briefly to report to you on the condition of our Coast Defenses, as coming within the scope of my observation and to make some suggestions in reference thereto for your favorable consideration.

The Firefly, under Col. Duryea, your Secretary of the Coast Police, having, thus far, disappointed his expectations, has been, in her trial trip the cause of many troubles to the part, embarked in her. As Col. Duryea has no doubt informed you, she has been brought back to Charleston in a disabled state, and I have resorted for transportation, to merchant steamers in the public service.

A plan suggested by me to Col. Heyward for the transportation of the St. Paul's Rifles and the Walterboro Company, having been adopted by him and Col. Anderson, the relief of the Calhoun Artillery, Capt. Murray, was affected to the satisfaction of officers and men. Enclosed I beg to furnish a notice of the remarks made by me on that occasion, which I trust will meet with your approval.

The schooner Helen, Capt. Coste, having been towed by the Clinch, from North to South

Edisto part of the armament &c and the troops and provisions contained in the steamer were through the schooner landed safely on the beach. In this operation both vessel and crew have performed the services expected of them: Capt. Coste also piloted both vessels to South Edisto from Ball Cut. The Petrel, Capt. Merden, lying in the Inlet, furnished the service required of her crew. Having used the Helen for the purposes specified in your order to Col. Duryea, she will be recalled to Charleston together with the Petrel.

After unavoidable delay, growing out of the nature of the beach at that Inlet, the two 24 pdrs. were landed safely day on Friday last by running the Clinch upon the beach and operating at low water. The tents were pitched, the guns were placed in battery, and in the evening, as we left the Fort, a salute to the Flag was fired by the Colleton Rifles. The echoes of the surrounding country awakening the ear must have quieted the hearts of many homes, while intimidating to the enemy, if within reach, that in Carolina one more port is closed to his ingress.

The Calhoun Artillery, with their two field pieces, are stationed at Edings Bay, a beach midway between North and South Edisto connecting the two ports and affording a support to either. In efficiency and drill they will compare favorably with our volunteer companies. The St. Paul's Rifles, Capt. B. Burgh Smith, 64, and the Colleton Rifles, Capt. Edwards, 78, strong, I left eagerly seeking military instruction. Capt. Smith, and Major Campbell, at present at South Edisto are graduates of the Citadel Academy and having some ones with them who have served formerly in the Artillery will, it is expected, be able to drill their men to the use of heavy guns.

I leave to-morrow for Beaufort with Capt. Middleton Stuart's Co. that goes to relieve the Beaufort Artillery ordered to Bay Point Works, and with 12 32 pdrs. a part of the armament sent from Norfolk and which has been ordered to Port Royal.

These guns, I must regret to say, are mounted on *naval* carriages, which not only renders the armament of very little value to us, as a means of defence, but subjects them to much danger of capture by the enemy, as guns so mounted can hardly protect themselves, besides exposing unnecessarily the men who serve them. I have made a requisition for some smaller guns of our own, mounted on siege carriages, which are to go with me for the protection of both laborers and garrisons in Port Royal. In connection with the defence of Beaufort waters and the protection of the works about to be constructed there, I am endeavoring to have the Battery already built at Braddock's Point, on Calabogue Sound, which commands the mouth of Skull creek, our only channel of water communication with Savannah, furnished with the armament assigned to it, by Genl. Beauregard. A garrison of one company will be immediately required for its defence. Three more companies will be wanted for even a temporary garrison of Bay Point and Hilton Head at which points the works projected will simultaneously be carried out. I understand that Genl. Gist, with the assent of Col. Anderson and Col. Heyward, will address you upon this subject.

The occupation in force of Dawfuskie Island at the mouth of Calabogue Sound, is in my opinion a matter of the first importance. It fronts Braddock Point on Hilton Head and from it not only can reinforcements be safely sent across Skull creek (under the protection of our battery) to Hilton Head but even across Broad River to Bay Point. If occupied by the enemy not only would we lose there advantages from it but it would gain him admission to the rear of Fort Pulaski, whence, from information given me it could successfully be assailed. As Georgia has, at least, as great an interest as ourselves in the prevention of a landing of the enemy there or with a view to its occupation and also very nearly as much in keeping him out of Beaufort waters, the key to the Savannah Railroad and the Savannah River, I respectfully propose that you furnish me with a

special commission (addressed to Beaufort,) to the Governor of Georgia with the view of concerting a plan by which a Georgia force established in an entrenched camp on Sanfuskie Island may protect Savannah, and, in any event, give aid to Beaufort, keeping open, through Skull Creek our inland navigation to Georgia and protecting our mutual seaboard and Railroad communications. The aid given us by Georgia would be reciprocated by us from Beaufort waters and from Grahamville, were she in her turn, assailed.

I have likewise to propose to your Excellency that out of some of the detached volunteer companies of Cavalry on the Coast, one third be called out at a time into active service to be relieved every month and for the purpose of performing outpost and patrol duty on Edings Island, between North and South Edisto, and on Hilton Head Island between the Fort thereon and the one on Braddock's Point, and for the purpose also of maintaining communications regularly between North Edisto and Stono through Wadmalaw Horses, at great expense, would otherwise be required to be furnished to the various ports on the Coast, the duty would not be well performed by infantry, and the detail of infantry and artillery forces for cavalry service would not only be highly detrimental to the service, but would draw from the already too small garrisons on the Coast, men they cannot spare at all.

Boats for the service of the different ports will need be provided to them and in their connection might it not be desirable to have under some appropriate system in our "inland waters" and connecting in case of necessity our different forts a well organized flotilla on sail and row boats?

The location of the battery at South Edisto has been found defective. I will communicate at the earliest opportunity with Major Trapier upon the subject.

I have, Sir, the honor to be

with high regard
your obt. servt.

A. J. Gonzales

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

26 June 1861, p. 1

(FOR THE COURIER)

Messrs. Editors:--I undertook, in anticipation of our present difficulties, to recommend, last Fall, to the Southern States the Maynard Rifle, as a weapon which my own experience had taught me to be excellent. I had, accordingly, a notice inserted in some of the Southern papers to the effect that I would forward to the Maynard Arms Company orders for their rifles. This notice, it seems from letters I am even now receiving, has been continued in some country papers.

I beg to request of the Editors its discontinuance, and to say to correspondents that as long ago as the 18th of December last, I have been informed by the Maynard Arms Company of Washington City, that their rifles had all been disposed of. My connection with their organization in my desire to see the South better prepared for war, has consequently ceased long since.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

A. J. GONZALEZ.

The Charleston *Mercury*

26 June 1861, p. 1

A Card.

To the Editor of the Charleston Mercury:

I undertook, in anticipation of our present difficulties, to recommend, last fall, to the Southern States the Maynard Rifle, as a weapon which my own experience had taught me to be excellent. I had, accordingly, a notice inserted in some of the Southern papers to the effect that I would forward to the Maynard Arm Company orders for their rifles. This notice, it seems, from letters I am even now receiving, has been continued in some country papers. I beg to request of the editors its discontinuance, and to say to correspondents that, as long ago as the 18th of December last, I have been informed by the Maynard Arms Company, of Washington City, that their rifles had all been disposed of. My connection with them, originating in my desire to see the South better prepared for war, has consequently ceased long since.

Very respectfully your ob't servant,

A. L. GONZALES.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

24 July 1861, p. 2

Sea Coast Defences.--The active, efficient and accomplished member of the Executive Staff, who is charged, as Inspector, with our sea coast defences, has been industriously engaged, and has lately visited several important points.

We shall not give particulars, but refer in the subject only to assure our friends along the coast that those interested are not idle, and to request them to communicate promptly to an officer any pertinent facts or observations.

Our planting friends along the coast may also do much towards the comfort of our volunteers in garrisons or posts, without inconvenience to themselves, in supplying vegetables, fish, &c.

We know they will take pleasure in doing so, and we beg them at once to establish acquaintance.

A Loncoln sloop-of-war, supposed to be the Vincennes, has been off Bull's Bay for some time, and has probably been looking out for some one of our active privatters. Signal guns were exchanged a few days since between this sloop and one of the blockading steamers.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*

27 July 1861, p. 1

THE LAMENTED DEAD.

Arrival of the Remains of

GENERAL

BARNARD E. BEE.

GENERAL FRANCIS S. BARTOW.

LIEUT. COLONEL

B. J. JOHNSON.

...

The procession was formed as follows:

BODY OF GEN. BEE

Pall Bearers.

Pall Bearers.

Col. Ripley

Major Capers

Lieut. Colonel Branch Capt. Thomas

Major Trapier

Gen. Gonzales

The procession counter marched on Broad-street, and moved up Meeting to Calhoun-street; thence to Coming-street to St. Paul's Church, where the procession came to a halt. the bodies were borne to the nave of the Church, the Rev. C. P. Gadsden reading the usual Episcopal burial service. The Church was filled to repletion, and every available foot of space occupied.

...

The Charleston *Mercury*

29 July 1861, 2

The Funeral on Friday.--The following were the pall bearers in the funeral of Gen. Bee and Lt. Col. Johnson:

Pall bearers to Gen. Bee.--Col. Ripley, Lt. Col. Branch, Major Trapier, Major Capers, Capt. Thomas and **Gen. Gonzales**.

Pall bearers to Lt. Col. Johnson.--Lt. Col. Davis, Capt. Magrath, Capt. Ramsey, Capt. Cordes, Capt. Pinckney, Capt. Small, Capt. Pope and Capt. Huger.

EGP

Oak Lawn Aug. 12th 61

Miss P. C. Elliott

Dear Callie

I am much pleased to hear from Chloe of your improved health & spirits-- & trust that the semi-infernal climate of Charleston & the society of your kind friends may entirely restore you to the enjoyments of life.

You may be surprised to hear of my presence here & no doubt would be still more so by seeing me in Charleston tonight, but I am prevented from running down to see you for the want of a pair of inexpensibles all the presentable ones being left with my trunk in Beaufort. I am doing my duty like a good fellow as a private soldier in the "B V A" captain Stu Elliott-- we are in the Confederate service until April next. The work is very hard--mounting heavy guns--building hot shot-furnaces--digging trenches-- moving heavy timbers -- hauling bricks, mortar & sand in wheelbarrows-- & laboring harding [*sic*] than any negro on my plantation. The officers are much flattered at my joining them & say that I am a most exemplary soldier.

I drove Col. Heyward to his plantation on Sunday with Pet & took his brother on to this place. We are both staying on the plantation on the strength of shallenber pills.

I return to Beaufort on Wednesday morning & leave for Bay Point at 12 in a boat which will await my arrival there. Chloe says you are making us some flannel shirts-- they will be most accessive-- not one yard of that material being come at able in Beaufort. Phoebe & Annie are going to Flat Rock the end of this week -- they have been most kind to their uncles. William has been laid up in Beaufort for three weeks, he is well again & has resumed his duties. Good bye--God bless you-- in great haste your attached

Brother Ralph

P.S. Please write to us soon.

BOOK¹⁰²

¹⁰² C. Vann Woodward, ed., *Mary Chesnut's Civil War*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981.

August 13, 1861. (Richmond) “A handsome Spaniard--Cuban--leader of rebellion there, too. So like Beauregard as to be mistaken for him--and yet Beauregard is not handsome, they say. I have only seen his counterfeit presentment--photographs--which are called, wittily, “Justice without mercy.” So happened in Charleston I did not meet him.

This Gonzales, beside his fine person, has a fine voice. He sings divinely. He married a Miss Elliott of South Carolina.

Tonight he told me that Gen. Robert E. Lee was fencing with Rosecrans in the western mountains of Virginia. (p. 143)

August 17, 1861. “Mary Hammy¹⁰³ says Shot-Pouch Walker has the handsomest A.D.C. she ever saw and that Gonzales is splendid in gray uniform--or in blue, I forget which, but the uniform he wore today.” (p. 149)

August 23, 1861. “Gonzales (he likes so much to hear of his likeness to General Beauregard) lit my candle for me--and at the foot of the stairs gave me a bag of quinine pills for my husband, whose fever lingers still.

These foreigners have a way of doing things--gracious and graceful--no native (of the USA can approach.” (p. 157)

August 29, 1861. “Captain Ingraham says Butler and his fleet and 40,000 men will give Charleston the go-by.¹⁰⁴ Ripley is ready for them there. They are off Cape Hatteras now.

Gonzales has telegraphed Port Royal he thinks the fleet means to make for that magnificent door to South Carolina--too big to be properly barred. (p. 177)

September 2, 1861. “I forgot handkerchief and fan. Gonzales rushed after and met me at the foot of the stairs. In his foreign, pathetic, polite, highbred way, he bowed low and said he had made an excuse of the fan &c, for he had a present to make me. And ‘then though startled and amazed--I paused, and on the stranger gazed.’ Alas, I am a woman approaching forty,¹⁰⁵ and the offering proved to be a bottle of cherry bounce. Nothing could have been more opportune and, with a little ice &c, helped, I am sure, to save my life on that dreadful journey home.” (p. 186)

OR, Series I, Vol. 53, 179.

Richmond, August 26, 1861

Maj. J. H. Trapier

Charleston, S.C.

Sir: I have recommended to the Secretary of War that you be authorized to purchase the prize ship A. H. Thompson and equip her as a floating battery, to co-operate with the land defenses of Port Royal Harbor. In the matter of guns we are hard pushed, but I suppose that Colonel **Gonzales** will attend to that. There has not been nor is there now any special appropriation. You can therefore pay for gun carriages. You can also pay on Colonel Ripley’s certificate.

D. Leadbetter

Major of Engineers, Chief of Bureau

¹⁰³ . Mary Whitaker Boykin, cousin of Mary Boykin Chesnut.

¹⁰⁴ . U.S. Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler commanded the expedition that captured two confederate forts at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., on Aug. 28. Only 880 Federal troops were involved.

¹⁰⁵ . May Boykin Chesnut was 38 years old at the time.

The Charleston *Courier*
Thursday, 5 September 1861, 2

For our Coast Defences.--Several very heavy pieces of ordnance, intended for our coast defences, arrived in this city Thursday, on the Northeastern Rail Road from Richmond. Among them was one 24-pounder rifled cannon, four eight-inch Columbiads, four ten-inch Columbiads, and several 32 and 42-pounders.

The Charleston *Courier*
12 September 1861, 2

Big Guns.--Some 9 and 11 inch Dahlgren Guns have reached this city lately, and part of them may now be seen at the Northeastern Rail Road Depot.

They are powerful looking weapons, and when placed in battery, will, no doubt, be equal to anything that the Lincoln fleet can bring forth. We noticed by a mark on the guns that they were manufactured in 1861 by J. R. Anderson & Co., Tredegar Works, Richmond, Va., for the Confederate States. One of the guns, about the size of the 9 inch, but much heavier at the muzzle, was rifled, and is the very thing to be placed on a steamer, and to be used against the blockaders, as we think it quite likely that, with a good projectile, this gun will shoot nearly out of sight. It should be tried with a new kind of shot which has been got up by Mr. R. C. Smith, of our city, and, which, we learn, promises to be a complete success. It affords us pleasure to notice that our batteries are to be armed with the heaviest artillery, as anything less than an 8 inch gun is getting behind the age for sea-coast defence.

The Charleston *Mercury*¹⁰⁶
12 September 1861, 2

Big Guns.--Some 9 and 11-inch Dahlgren guns have reached this city lately, and part of them may now be seen at the Northeastern Railroad Depot. They are powerful looking weapons, and when placed in battery, will, no doubt, be equal to anything that the Lincoln fleet can bring forth. We noticed by a mark on the guns, that they were manufactured, in 1861 by J. R. Anderson, Tredegar Works, Richmond, Virginia, for the Confederate States. One of the guns, about the size of the 9-inch, but much heavier at the muzzle, was rifled, and is the very thing to be placed on a steamer, to be used against the blockaders; as we think it quite likely that, with a good projectile, this gun will shoot nearly out of sight. It should be tried with a kind of shot which has been got up by Mr. R. C. Smith, of our city, and which, we learn, promises to be a complete success. It affords us pleasure to notice that our batteries are to be armed with the heaviest artillery, as anything less than an 8-inch is getting behind the age for seacoast defence.

OR, Series I, Vol. VI, 278-283

Richmond, Va., September 14, 1861.

His Excellency Jefferson Davis,
President C.S.A.:

Sir:

I have the honor to place before you the outline of a system of coast defense which, if

¹⁰⁶ The article "Big Guns" which appeared in both the Charleston *Courier* and the *Mercury* on the same day, have the written style of Gonzales, and were probably sent along with the guns.

adopted, will, I believe, very much increase the security of our Atlantic and Gulf States, and render a lesser force than otherwise would be required sufficient for the protection of our coast. I have not been bold to submit it to you for adoption without having first laid it before scientific officers of our Army and other gentlemen of military experience, who have highly commended it for practicability and efficiency. As acting inspector-general on Morris Island, and since up to this day as inspector of the troops and defenses on the coast of South Carolina by Governor Pickens, I have probably had opportunities for studying our coast and the way of protecting it not enjoyed by others. Taking the coast of South Carolina as a representation, with but few exceptions, of our Southern coast, and taking the island of Edisto as a representation of the nature of its seaboard, we have as roughly marked in the sketch on opposite page.

We have one of our most valuable agricultural regions, with a population of about 5,000 negroes and one hundred and odd voters, with one sand open work (A) on North Edisto entrance, mounting six guns, and another (B) on South Edisto entrance, mounting two guns. On this island, as on the whole of our coast, there is a hard practicable sand beach, and immediately behind it a line of sand hills, forming almost a continuous fort of nature's own making. The shallowness of the water opposite the coast, extending for several miles, would prevent any but the lightest vessels from approaching it. Hence the enemy's large steam frigates, except through their tenders and barges, can inflict no injury upon us. By means of these barges, however, a force can be landed, if unresisted, anywhere upon the beach, and the works at the inlets taken in the rear. Through these inlets the batteries can be engaged by third-class steamers and by gunboats. Supposing the armament at these inlets to be so increased (which should be done) as to prevent ingress of ships, and consequently of heavy artillery (for the latter cannot be landed in boats upon the beach), in the absence of an overwhelming land force lining the whole extent of our coast we should have upon the latter artillery of the greatest range, in order that it may engage small steamers lying off, sink approaching barges, and should the latter effect a landing with howitzers and men, crush them by the superiority of their metal and the advantages of range, and at the same time so portable that it can easily be used upon the coast, and even in emergencies upon the sandy roads on the island or the main-land. In the rifled 24-pounder on siege carriage we have the gun required.

Experience has shown that a rifled 24-pounder, not banded, can throw an elongated percussion shell, the most formidable to ships, much over 3 miles. The conditions necessary for the safety to the gun are, that the shell do not weigh more than one and a half the weight of the round solid shot of the same caliber, and that the charge for the 24-pounder do not exceed five pounds. This 24-pounder rifled cannon, outranging the largest Dahlgren guns of the enemy's fleet, and, if provided with good shells, far more formidable than the former, can, on siege carriages, be drawn with the greatest ease up and down the beach at half and at low tide by 6 horses. I will assign, however, 10 horses to each gun and 10 to each ammunition wagon, and I would permanently attach to each gun and ammunition wagon, for protection and support, for assistance in drawing them at high water or on heavy roads on extraordinary occasions, and for co-operation in action against infantry, a body of cavalry, at the rate of ten mounted men to each gun and ammunition wagon. For such guns, stationed on the coast, no more carriages and no forges, &c., would be required to be moved with the guns, for the reason that this artillery has for its object to link the batteries at the inlets, to close and watch the space which intervenes between them, and to prevent their being taken in reverse. At night they are expected to unite in some central post upon the coast, or to fall back upon the forts which constitute their base. These forts

they would flank against a land attack, and re-enforce materially in a contest against ships. For this purpose, at each fort or battery there should be constructed a suitable work, with magazine and stored ammunition, ready to receive these guns whenever recalled. Thus, if there were stationed three 24-pounder rifled cannon on siege carriages on the natural fortress of sand hills (a most important feature of our coast) back of the beach on Edisto Island, at the points marked C, D, and E, they would cross their fire against barges or land forces, and would even advantageously engage, when united, any small steamers that might contrive to approach sufficiently near to protect the enemy's landing.

To carry out beyond peradventure the operation of moving behind the sand hills, where the road is heavy, to move at high water in great emergencies along the beach, to cross with the sea-coast flying artillery a belt of country in order to intercept the enemy or to take a strategic position, a strong rope, with ten straps permanently affixed to it along its length, is to be connected to the chain the draught horses are pulling by. Each of these straps is hooked on temporarily to the breast-band of the saddle of each cavalry soldier assigned to each gun and ammunition wagon, and thus 20 horses will be the draught to each gun in any difficult traveling. In an emergency, to place the guns in position at the shortest notice and in the most difficult localities, the horses and horsemen belonging to the ammunition wagon can be attached temporarily to the gun, and thus 40 horses are at once available to extricate it even from a morass. This duty performed they can return and still more easily remove the ammunition wagon. In case of an attempt of the enemy to land, the infantry at the two forts A and B, could, unseen behind the hills, come to the support of cavalry and artillery. I would arm the cavalry with sabers and double-barreled guns. Behind sand hills, in defense of a battery from an enemy landing on the beach, where the space to be traversed by him is very short and open, I would prefer the double-barreled gun to any other arm, especially as in landing from the boats the enemy must be crowded. Two volleys of large buck-shot and the saber, even on foot, would do quick work. Our men are all used to the double-barreled gun, and they would fire it promptly and confidently. Besides, that weapon can now be furnished to the troops when rifles could not be had. Moreover, if the enemy is in motion, or the horsemen, or if both, he is far more likely to be hit at short ranges with the double-barreled gun than with a rifle. To the uses of a support as infantry the cavalry could add the services peculiar to itself of charging a disorganized or surprised enemy, vedette and patrol duty, and the transmission of intelligence and of dispatches. On the shells for these guns I would have two fuses--the percussion at the apex, to be used against ships, and the Bormann fuse on the side, to be punched when fired upon infantry, barges, or at sharpshooters on the tops of ships while in close action.

Nothing that the enemy can bring can neutralize this system. The inlets being closed, he can land no heavy artillery. These guns would help to close the inlets, and would prevent even the landing of small guns. These, if landed, would be crushed by our artillery, and so would their small ships, if after passing the inlets they should venture into the narrow and tortuous creeks beyond. In connection with these guns nothing prevents the use of howitzers. The former would always remain guns of position, superior in range and accuracy to the Dahlgren, as well as in destructiveness to ships.

To fully complete this system, however, in addition to the above means of defense permanently and immediately upon the coast, I would have at each State center of operations--at Charleston, for instance, for the defense of South Carolina--a central battery of sea-coast flying artillery of twelve rifled 24-pounders, organized on the same principle as those hereinbefore

mentioned, with forges, sling-carts, extra ammunition-wagons, &c., superadded, as they would have to dart off much farther than the former from their magazines. For this central battery of rifled cannon the *personnel* of two companies of artillery and two squadrons of cavalry might be sufficient. Adding to these a regiment of rifles or light infantry, a compact, formidable flying column would be at hand--a fortress in itself on reaching any part of our coast where nature has provided suitable sandworks. Upon the receipt of intelligence of the proximate attack of any point upon the coast--North Edisto, for instance, in the above sketch--the whole of this armament, with provisions for a week, could be towed in two flats or lighters (such as Ferguson's, in Charleston) in the space of six hours by one or two small steamers. At each of our forts upon the coast a temporary work should be constructed to receive these guns, as well as those upon the beach, as soon as they are called in.

Let us suppose North Edisto fort, when the enemy's fleet appears off it, to have but the six guns it has at present. The three 24-pounders, rifled, on the beach, as soon as in battery, would increase its armament to 9. The arrival of the central battery would in six hours increase it to 21, of which at least 15 are rifled. Should the fleet move to attack another point upon the coast, the battery and its support would also move inland in the creeks on a line parallel to it, to meet it wherever its services are required, the fleet all the time unconscious that a fort is closely following it. Nothing but a few light-draught steamers and large flats always at hand is required for this most important service. Let us roughly estimate the value of the succor brought in this way at the beginning or in the progress of an engagement at North Edisto:

Guns from the beach	3
Guns from Charleston	<u>12</u>
Total	15

Artillerists from the beach, say	50
Cavalry from the beach, say	60
Artillerists from Charleston, say	190
Cavalry from Charleston	240
Regiment of rifles	<u>700</u>
Total	1,240

Fifteen pieces of formidable ordnance and 1,240 men, which, added to the force of even so small a post as it is at present, would give us 21 guns and 1,500 men.

Of course this infantry support from Charleston is what should at all times be ready to leave at a moment's warning. Other regiments could immediately follow--at any rate, within twelve hours. With suitable bomb-proofs at the fort and proper discretion on the part of the commanding officer the enemy could be held in check until the arrival of reinforcements sufficient to discomfit them. Depots for ammunition for these guns should be kept at each post expressly for them, and all ammunition for them should be uniform.

Supposing Georgia to have a similar provision made for her defense, and Savannah to possess, too, her central battery and flying column in the same time--in somewhat more time than it would take to dispatch the Charleston flying column if Edisto is the point attacked, but in much less time if it be the important port of Port Royal Harbor--24 rifled guns can at once be sent to the scene of action from both cities, and together with them over 2,000 men. In a few hours more 5,000 men from the two States, uniting at Savannah by means of the railroad, would at Hilton Head fort defy the power of any assailant. The first point is to prevent surprise. This

the sea-shore guns will do. The second is to prevent the enemy from seizing any inlet in less than a day's fight. This the flying column and central battery should do. The third is that he shall not move inland, and this the succors which can and should be sent in support of the flying column should be able to do. With more guns and of heavier metal at every inlet and strong garrisons at our isolated posts our coast would be secure, and the necessity of a large force up the country, where it can do no service except in re-enforcing Charleston, would not exist. Because the coast is weak, its support should not be more than a few hours removed; because Charleston is strong, its support might be at Aiken or Columbia. Much can be done in uniting the means of Georgia and South Carolina, and even of North Carolina, in defense of either of the three States against an invasion of the enemy.

At all the centers of operations, as, for instance, Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah for our Atlantic coast, there should be one regiment assigned to the special duty of forming part of the flying column at a moment's warning during the said week. Everything needful for the transportation and for the subsistence of this column for one week should be stored up and kept in readiness to be carried off at a moment's warning. The quartermaster and the commissary of each regiment would upon their regiment entering on duty every week look into the quality and quantity of provisions, equipments, &c., designed for their regiment when put in motion. The advantages are obvious of having one regiment assigned each week from the militia of Charleston and other cities for this special duty. The balance are at rest, and the one on duty when called out is not flurried in its arrangements. Should the enemy have forced an entrance into one of our inlets, the central battery at Charleston, as well as the one at Savannah, starting by the railroad, marked upon the sketch, would meet him upon any of the bluffs on the main-land, under which he must necessarily pass in his progress through narrow and tortuous creeks. From these bluffs and within pistol shot the almost vertical fire of rifled guns would be destructive even to iron-clad boats, and if the enemy should effect a landing before the arrival of the battery, it is easy to perceive of what advantage it would be in enabling a flying column at the head of a bridge or in a debouch to arrest his progress, or even discomfiting him, before the arrival (necessarily more tardy) of an army. For carrying out such a plan sea-rangers in boats and small steamers on the lookout, telegraphs, a good system of signals, facilities of transportation in lighters and steamers, prearranged railroad facilities, and the co-operation of our Navy are a matter of course.

We have in South Carolina very nearly the number of 24-pounders on siege carriages required for the establishment of this system. I understand that there are twelve guns of this description lying idle at the Pensacola navy-yard, which, I would recommend our authorities to obtain. By working day and night all these guns can be rifled in two or three weeks. Should there be serious difficulty in procuring horses for these guns, the loan of all the mules required could be obtained, I should think, from our planters for the matter of their own defense. They could be furnished already harnessed by the planters, the Confederate Government reimbursing them their value should they be lost or injured in the service. Cavalry of the very best description exists throughout the seaboard, and is anxious for employment. There is no reason, then, why, in as little time as it will take the Lincoln Government to fit out a squadron, we should not contrive to have an omnipresent fort along the whole extent of our seaboard.

All of which I have the honor to submit, with assurances of my respect and regard,

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

EGP

Beaufort, Sunday 15th [September 1861]
No Fleet yet, off Port Royal.
No. 1

My Dear Father,

Yours of the 11th reached me last night & I am happy to find that you are all well. I was fearful that my letter of the 1st to you had not been recd, as Phoebe made no mention of it in one sent me a few days since.

It is now two weeks since my return home, & in that time, a vast deal of work has been done upon the Forts, Genl Ripley has been here & the Engineers, officers, & Men, have all been stimulated to greater exertions, the mounting of Guns goes barely on, I saw on Friday the great 10 inch Columbiad placed upon its carriage in the Fort, & ready to hurl its terrible looking solid shot & shell at the Enemy whenever they visit us. Four 42 pounders were placed in battery yesterday also, -- the Carriages for the entire compliment of Guns in the Fort are nearly all completed, white, & black Carpenters are busy upon the rest of the Platforms & by the end of this week there will be at each Fort at least 15 or 20 Guns in Battery & ready for work. The Steamers from Charleston will be here in a day or two with several more Cannon which **Genl Gonzales** has forwarded, some of the Rifle ones also. The Genls praises are sounded on all sides for his great energy in procuring the heavy Guns & Carriages, & the prevailing opinion is, that if it had not been for his exertions in the matter we would have been in a sad fix now. Genl Ripley has ordered a hot shot battery to the west of my House, in addition to the sand battery of 4 32s now there, & he intends besides to have a Mortar battery, & a battery at the Narrows of 4 24 pounders. You will naturally say, these batterys [*sic*] are enough, but where are the men to work them? Dunnovants Regiment have been ordered here, one thousand strong, & their camp ground laid out in front of Mr John Barnwells, I presume they will be sent down as soon as transportation is had. One Guerilla Company, Mounted Rifles, 110 Men, are now here in camp near the Baptist Church. They are from St Lukes Parish. On Ladies Island, commanding the Coosaw River, a Fort has been built, 2. 24 pounders mounted, & garrisoned by 75 men-- at Fields Point also the Fort has been finished, mounted with cannon & furnished with 80, or 200 men.

The Hatteras affair, [*sic*] has opened the eyes at least of all parties to the defenseless state of our Coast & to Port Royal in particular. Genl Ripley told me if he had been appointed in July things would now be in condition to drive off any Fleet-- & soon now, he will be ready by the 1st of October to receive old Butler. He has given orders to Col. W. C. Heyward to purchase large Boats & flats to secure the retreat of the Troops from Bay Point should the Enemy come before every thing is ready, & I have taken the opportunity of offering Sebastopol for the purpose, she has been bought for \$600, & has been already delivered into Col Heywards possession. I have now to dispose of my House as officers quarters, which I will try & accomplish this week. Steps have been taken towards having it valued already. W & Ralph are well, W, looks *uncommonly well*, he is fat & hearty as a buck & in fine spirits. I staid two nights with him in his fine tent & found it very pleasant.

Most of the cotton crops have been seriously injured by the great Rains, Codding reports yours as uncommonly fine still-- we are now having fine weather, wind N.E. & cool. I have just seen Ben who reports that all the Staff that was got out at Hilton Head for Negro Houses, was burnt up this Summer in the Pine barren & he has, in consideration of the hard times thought it lost to make all the money for you that he can, & is at present caulking a flat at Port Royal ferry

for the Shell Road company & will do any other jobs that will bring in the cash. It is likely Ralph will communicate with you respecting Frank, & I will therefore only say that I hope you will consent to William & Ralph hireing [*sic*] him, they are willing to pay \$20, per month, & he is now hired at \$15 to a Yankee, (Montague) who to the eternal disgrace (I say) of the Beaufort Artillery, is the orderly Sargent of the Company, he is an intelligent man & some what of a scholar,-- delivered a 4th July Oration some 3 years ago;-- but never the less a flatfooted Yankee, & nothing is more disagreeable to Ralph than to be compelled to parade under him. What I wish to suggest is, that you write to Codding & direct him to turn Frank over to Ralph & Wm as they are very anxious to hire him. Codding & Montague both being Yankees have made an arrangement between themselves (*I* firmly believe), so that you will see very little of the \$15 per month for it is very easy for the Plantations requiring any thing to procure it at the store of Wilcox & Montague, & you will have a sort of *double* discount game to play-- for every thing is at a ruinous price here.

Codding is a first rate Planter, but, I never can make up my mind to trust a half educated Yankee, in *all respects*. If you have any Steers to dispose of either here, or at Cheeha, now is the time,-- the different Commisarys are buying at 12 1/2 per pound & they will be scarce soon. William sells to the Commisary, (Simons) at Hilton Head,-- & last week he got \$133 for two, being an average of \$61. 50/100 each.

I fear I will tire you with my long talk & will conclude with much love to Mama & all.

Your aff Loving
Thos R S Elliott

7 Bales in at S.P. & 5 at the Grove, crop first rate.

CCN

Richmond, Va. Sepr. 16th, 1861

To the President.

My dear Sir:

Believing that I can be of much service in this crisis, to my adopted South, of which I am a full citizen by the Ordinance of my State, you will pardon me for not allowing, in this instance, my bashfulness to stand in the way of what I have to say; and it is this: that if you approve of the plan herewith submitted, I am able with your support to carry it out in about three weeks, and that I am, by the energy activity combination & fertility of resources I have received credit for in every military movement I have engaged in, as well as by my thorough knowledge of the Coast of South Carolina and Georgia and the special duty I have been on since the commencement of these troubles, better qualified to command a Brigade of mobile troops, of the description I have planned, than perhaps, any other man.

My appointment to such command would cause no surprise, and would, as I could easily show to you, meet with the approval of the political men as well as influential citizens of our Seaboard.

Gov. Pickens has already stated to you that he had intended giving me the command of the 1st. Brigade of So. Ca. Volunteers. He proposed to me, not long since, to recommend me to you for a mission to a European Court, which I refused, for the reason that having borne for a long time a high military title I consider it my duty to serve my adopted State and Section where danger was to be met.

For these reasons, but more especially on the score of usefulness I think that I am entitled

from one who for so long has called himself my friend, to a place in this contest more in accordance with what I have understood to have been his estimate of my abilities than the one I have received. A bureau would cramp my energies and kill of my specialty, which is action.

The command of a flying column on the Atlantic Coast, would not in the least interfere with the commands of the Brigadier Generals of the respective States, to whom I would be subordinate, while the authority for conferring it, is, I understand vested in you by the law providing for local defence.

I have, Sir, the honor to be with great regard

Your obt. Servt.

Ambrosio José Gonzales

EGP

Richmond, Va.
Sept. 23d. 1861

Ralph Elliott, Esq.

Bay Point, So. Ca.

My dear Ralph:

I write you in the utmost haste these few lines merely to remember myself to you & to say that I send by the bearer, Mr. West, my special Agent, the balance of the ordnance I have obtained from the Government for our State. What I send with him is especially invaluable just now. The two rifled guns, as yet unfinished still here, will I understand, give us, by exchanging with the Government, the two large Armstrong guns, recently imported in Savannah. I shall then have obtained since my arrival here twenty two guns, of which 15 Columbiads of which 6 rifled, the heaviest & most formidable Armament now existing in any one spot in the Southern Confederacy.

I am awaiting the decision of the Government on a plan or system of Coast Defence which I have recently submitted & with which I understand the President to be highly pleased.

It has been referred to the Engineer Bureau where it has been commended. If adopted, it will vastly enhance the security of the whole Coast.

I hope you are getting along finely. I have been very anxious about Port Royal ever since the departure of Butler from the Cape. I trust that you are reinforced & that the big guns are being mounted briskly. If I hear of any proximate attack I shall be on the Coast as fast as Railroads can carry me without waiting for the determination of the President as to my system.

I write in just haste as the Agent is about leaving. Remember me to William, Stee¹⁰⁷ & the rest of our friends in Beaufort & Port Royal. I expect to be with you soon. Have not heard from Hattie & the children for a century, as the former expects me to be in Charleston by this time & no doubt has been waiting there.

Your Affectionate brother

A. J. Gonzales

EGP

Bay Point Oct. 7th 1861

[To Mrs. Anne Elliott]

¹⁰⁷

Stephen Elliott.

Papa's letter expressing his great concern for our situation here came a few days since followed by yours of 2nd inst. I am very grateful to him for his consideration, but his and your unhappiness, make me feel sorry for the distance that separates us. This distance usually magnifies dangers. In Beaufort too there is great alarm felt by all but old Mrs. Albergattie, who declared, when she heard that Ed Rhett was at Bay Point, she felt no apprehension whatever for he, Mr. Rhett, would *prohibit* the fleet from coming to Beaufort. Lincoln's armament, occasions less concern here than elsewhere -- not that you are as well prepared as we should be, but partly from an enlightened, and partly from a stupid confidence, many not believing that this point is an object for the Yankees and others thinking that South Carolina can't be beaten. Certainly, if this were the *most* desirable point, they would scarcely give us so much time to put it in a state of defence. As regards improvements in defence, one ten inch and one 8 inch Col[umbia]d are mounted in this fort and 42s have replaced 32s. The rifled cannon not yet come, but daily expected. From the fort an embankment running back up brother Toms house joins the hot shot battery of 32s, near [...] is a grate full of balls & wood at hand to head them. This is intended to keep off any ship that may slip in during an attack & attempt to enfilade the fort. In the fort the platforms are finished as well as a large magazine for powder & a smaller for shells, without the fort is being palisaded. At the narrows Ed Rhett & Uncle George have shewn great energy in the construction of an excellent defence to ward off a land attack. Gregorie (the engineers) assisted. The work and nature of the position make it a formidable barrier. On the opposite shore, the fort, said to be every way superior to this-- with shell-proof retreats & has mounted a ten inch Colum[bia]d, & an 8 inch (I think) and a splendid rifled cannon, which can throw a ball five miles. There are also lighter guns. Papa will easily understand then that two or three ships attempting to enter in daylight would probably be beaten off even now, by a [...] fire--a large fleet might make a different result. We certainly are indebted to the Hatteras affair, for our present progress in defence.

The weather since a short gale we had, has been uncomfortably warm--but now is getting more October like sea breeze. Only two or three bass have been caught, we have not much time to fish--painting guns and blacking balls and other duty work interrupting between morning & evening drills. The dress parades are the only ones in which I particularly shine. Ralph has been way on furlough to recover his health. He has been on an excursion to Pon Pon in Tom Cuthbert's Steam Boat. Tom is a non-combatant and has the time. He (Ralph) was expected in Beaufort a day or so ago-- and I suppose will soon be down here again. Tom comes down every now & then. Do give my love to all my sisters & also to Phee & Annie and believe me with much for Papa & yourself

Your affectionate Son Wm. Elliott

The Charleston *Mercury*
8 October 1861, p. 1, col. 2

Gen. A. J. Gonzales

The people of South Carolina owe a debt of gratitude to this gentleman, Special Aid to Governor PICKENS, for his very efficient services in procuring arms, ammunition and equipments for the seacoast defence of the State. He has spent two whole months in Richmond procuring orders on the Tredegar Works, superintending the manufacture, and forwarding the most effective pieces of our armament. The prompt and cheerful compliance of Col.

GORGAS,¹⁰⁸ the admirable Chief of Ordnance, with the requisitions made, the energy and attentions of Major ASHE, of the Transportation Department, combined with the untiring patience and urgent and watchful zeal of Gen. GONZALES, have furnished us with artillery sufficient to our security. Bomb-proofs for protection of the artillerists, hot shot furnaces, and adequate forces organized for rapid movement to meet troops landing, perfect the system. Gen. GONZALES is well entitled to our warmest thanks for his very successful labors in the part he has undertaken to perform.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*
8 October 1861, p. 1
(For the Courier)

Messrs. Editors:--I have just returned from Port Royal, and am gratified to be able to state that, thanks to the energy and activity of Gen'ls. Ripley, Gonzales, and others, of their co-operators from civil life, further anxiety is in a great measure relieved, and great confidence is felt in our ability to repel any attack that the enemy can make on us. If there is any doubt remaining, it will soon be removed, when the plans of the gallant incendiary of Fort Sumter are carried out, and his preparations for setting ablaze the "wooden walls" of Lincoln are perfected.

While the men of Beaufort are either in the field, or drilling faithfully to take it when called upon, the women are actively employed in furnishing Clothing and other comforts, while even the little girls are scraping lint to alleviate the pains of the Yankee prisoners, who they fully expect will be taken and locked up in the runaway quarters of the Jail, should they land.

The crops of Cotton are good, and provisions, generally, better than usual, so that we shall not be wanting in "ammunition" for the enemy, nor for ourselves, without foreign supplies.

X. Y. Z.

The Charleston Daily *Courier*
8 October 1861, p. 2

Gen. A. J. Gonzales, lately Inspector-General for coast defences of this State, has returned from a long visit to Richmond, where he employed his time and talents with his characteristic energy and devotion for the cause of the State and the South.

He has done excellent service, the duties of which cannot be properly presented now.

RG 109, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, October 1861-March 1862, Chapter 1, Vol. 47.

Major A. J. Gonzales, P.A.C.S.
Charleston, Oct. 9, 1861

Declines the appointment. (Four endorsements)

Letter from Gonzales, in Charleston, to Jefferson Davis on 10 October 1861. (See Oct. 16th, Davis to Gonzales).

CSW, Roll 13, 6747.

Charleston, So. Ca.

¹⁰⁸ . Josiah Gorgas, later ascended to General. Confederate Chief of Ordnance.

Oct. 15, 1861

Hon. J. P. Benjamin
Secretary of War.

My dear Sir:

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance General *Wilmot G. DeSaussure*, Secretary of the Treasury of So. Ca. and commanding the 4th Brigade of S.C.M. which comprises the fine corps of Volunteers of Charleston. General DeSaussure commanded our batteries on Morris Island during the bombardment of Fort Sumter and he is as conversant with the topography of our coast as he is with the artillery. I have no doubt but that his views of Coast Defences, which I am glad to say agree with mine, will prove, at this juncture of special interest to you.

I remain very Respectfully & truly yours
Ambrosio José Gonzales

BOOK¹⁰⁹

Richmond, Va., Oct. 16, 1861

A. J. Gonzales,
Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 10th inst. You inform me that you have declined the appointment tendered to you, that of Adjutant & Inspector General with the rank of Major, and express the belief that I will be satisfied with the reasons you have given to the Adj. Genl.

Not being informed of the reasons thus offered by you, I can only say that your right to decline was absolute, and further that the position conferred was designed to continue you on the duty which it was understood you had, by State authority, heretofore performed.

The appointment gave sufficient assurance that your zeal in the cause of the Confederacy was recognized, and would, it seems to me, have justified you in assuming that I did not question it.

I object to your recital of services rendered to me; 1st, because personal obligations do not form my standard in the appointment of officers; 2d, because you have widely mistaken as well what you gave, as what I received.

It is true that I was slandered in relation to the Cuban expeditions which were threatened during Mr. Pierce's administration; and, though I do not recollect having been vindicated by you, it is no more than your frequent declarations might have led me to expect, especially in view of the fact that your former service on the staff of Gen. Lopez would give importance to your opinion in relation to the policy of such expeditions. But you were (not) alone in the modification of your policy so as to make it conform to the change of circumstances. Two others who had been identified with the efforts of Lopez, and who were, at least, as well known as yourself to the people of the South, had undergone a like change. Your chronology, however, is defective, else you would not have connected the defense which you say was contained in a letter to me with my election to the U.S. Senate. I was three times elected to that body, twice before the slander referred to was promulgated, and once long after the slanderers had learned how little they had disturbed the public confidence.

¹⁰⁹ . Letter found in Dunbar Rowland, ed. *Jefferson Davis Constitutionalist: His Letters, Papers and Speeches*, Vol. V. Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1923, 143-144.

The people of Mississippi would no doubt be as much surprised as I was to learn that after many years spent in their service, I had been compelled to seek your aid to save me from their condemnation. There never was a time when I would have sought the letters of any man to sustain my political fortune; it would have been absurd, for such a purpose, to have sought your endorsement. There was, however, a use to which I put your letters and your oral statements, which I am willing you should no longer remember; that was to aid my earnest efforts, in compliance with your frequent applications, to obtain for you employment, both abroad and at home. The little success which attended those efforts may have been your measure of their value, and have led you to pay me in the form of your present tender. It is accepted. You further inform me that you lost the friendship of the conductors of the N.O. Delta, and of Genl. Quitman by your letter to me, which letter, I am sure, neither could have seen; but which supposition implies that your change of position on Cuban affairs was either unnoticed, or was concealed from the public, and only revealed by correspondence with me. If your change was a secret, it was confided to others, and used for the same purpose by them as myself, to claim credit for you, which, at least shows you were regarded as disposed to avow the fact and make a merit of it.

You close your letter with the following sentence, "Had I been your (classmate at West Point) my humble self could have done no more for you." From whom you derive the words in bars, and which you mark as a quotation, I do not know; but the sentence indicates that you propose to me to strike a balance between the services rendered to *me* by Genl. Drayton¹¹⁰ and yourself to the end that I may see whether the just reward has been given to each. I am not aware that I owed to either more than the good will which answers to kindness shown; but am fully aware that the appointing power is a public trust to be exercised for the public welfare, and not a private fund with which to discharge personal obligations. Therefore, quite a different comparison from that proposed is the only one which it was proper to have instituted.

Respectfully yours

&c.

Jeffn. Davis

The Charleston Daily Courier

31 October 1861, p. 2

Gen. A. J. Gonzales has arrived on a brief visit. He is engaged with characteristic zeal and energy in public defences, in which field he has done and is doing noble service.

The Charleston Daily Courier

5 November 1861, p. 2

Gen. A. J. Gonzales is ready and prepared to do duty as a full private in one of the regiments now engaged in the defence of our coast. He has labored ably, perseveringly and zealously, as far as he has been permitted to do, for the public defence, and without adequate position or recognition.

The Charleston Mercury

¹¹⁰ . Gen. Thomas Fenwick Drayton, owned Fish Hall plantation on Hilton Head Island. He built the Charleston and Savannah Railroad and was president of the company. Commanding officer in the Battle of Port Royal.

6 November 1861, 2
Special Orders.

Headquarters Provisional Forces,
Department of South Carolina,
Charleston, Nov. 5th, 1861.

Special Orders No 175.

General A. J. Gonzales, having volunteered his services, is announced as Volunteer Aid-de-Camp to the Brigadier-General Commanding, and is assigned to the command of the Siege Train.

By order of Brig. Gen. Ripley.

Leo D. Walker, A.A.G.

SCA, Confederate Records, Ordnance Department Vouchers 1860-1865, Box 3.

Charleston 7 Nov 1861 Recvd of Ordnance Officer for Mr T D Jervey Vol aid to Genl Gonzales, Seige Train Service

One pair Cav Holsters

Theo D Jervey

SCA, Confederate Records, Ordnance Department Vouchers 1860-1865, Box 3.

Charleston Nov 7 1861. Recd of State Ordnance Officer, Citadel, for "Gonzales Siege Battery" C. S. Service--

(20) Twenty Cartridges, 8in Siege Howitzers 2 lb.

-- 40 lb

(15) Fifteen " " " " 4 "

-- 60 "

Cannon Powder 100 "

Wm. M. Sayer A D C

Nov 7th 1861

Genl Gonzales

Powder & How. Cartgs

EGP

Bethel, Monday Night [11 November 1861]

My Dear Mother,

Papa visited Uncle Ste this evening after spending the day at Gardens Corner & The Ferry. He is wasting his breath upon the Sub officers in trying to persuade them to send troops to Port Royal, to see after the Negroes &&& the officers & troops are all in the *Confederate Service & cannot move without orders*, from the General in Command & the General does not see fit to Send Troops until he is ready to do so. There is however a movement to be made in a day or two, which will accomplish the desired end I hope. I am to accompany the expedition.¹¹¹

On my arrival here yesterday I found my cousin, had visited Beaufort successfully, without Seeing a Yankee, or a Yankee Vessel,--¹¹² on going into my House he found Chloe

¹¹¹ See: "From Port Royal," Charleston *Courier*, 14 November 1861, 1.

¹¹² Beaufort was occupied by Union forces led by General Stevens on 11 December 1861.

Stephens Wife, seated at Phoebes Piano playing away like the very Devil & two damsels up stairs dancing away famously, all of them were from the Grove, this was at mid day on Friday. The House was completely empty with the exception of the Piano some chairs, tables & beadsteads. My large Carriage was left in front of the Baptist Church. The House was completely turned upside down, & inside out. The organs in both Churches were broken up & the Churches themselves robbed of many articles which were deposited there for safe keeping. Two of the ring leaders were caught last night, John Lickling, & Joe the Bricklayer. They had two large flat loads of goods & articles stolen from the Stores & Houses besides \$140 in gold & Silver. They have been sent on to Gen Lee,¹¹³ to be hung immediately I hope. I have had my best Piano brought over & will remove the few articles left. The Grove House has been also depredated upon & nearly every thing stolen. The Negroes are not doing any work upon the Plantations & the fields white with cotton. Ben & Frank reached here today with the ox wagon, with 39 Turkeys 180 oranges & Papas [...]. Alfred is also here. Joe Stephens son I found at Gardens Corner today & he has gone on with Papa to Combahee. It is likely Papa will visit Cheeha tomorrow & send Jacob over to bring away his negroes if possible. They are not inclined to come Ben says, & I think we will have to make a terrible example of many of them.

I will now drop the above unpleasant topic & tell you a piece of news which you all will be glad to hear especially Hattie, **Gen Gonzales** has been made Brigadier General, & as Willie is his first appointment I hope it will be a *pay* one. Tommie arrived today on a short Furlough. He is stationed near Charleston with the Arsenal Cadets. Phe & Annie are quite well & Mary & the chicks delighted to see them.

With much love to all
Your aff Son
Thom R. S. Elliott

The Charleston Daily *Courier*
15 November 1861, p. 2

A special mail will be made up daily at 9 A.M., at the Postoffice, for Gen. Gonzales' command, including Charleston Light Dragoons and Palmetto Guard. Address letters "Gen. Gonzales' command."

EGP

Hardeeville, Tuesday, 17th November 1861

Mrs. William Elliott

My Dear Mother

Accept my best thanks for the most Excellent comforts & Blankets sent us by Ketchie--the Turkey also was duly appreciated by men whose whole sustenance was composed of wheat flour & Bacon, without a pot kettle or pan to prepare it in.

William arrived last night with his man Frederic who has been to Hilton Head & returned unmolested. his negroes are still picking cotton & have been promised protection by the Enemy.

We are probably to remain at this post for some days longer, perhaps a month.

It has been determined, on account of the want of transportation, not to attack the

¹¹³ General Robert E. Lee arrived in the area on 7 November 1861. William Elliott wrote to Lee on 19 November 1861, asking for troops to protect his property on Hilton Head.

Yankees until they come some six miles upon the main land.

I will be permitted to go to the Legislature, but will not have the means of doing so unless Papa will send me \$100. If he will do so, I will come down to Oak Lawn on Saturday Evening.

William asks you to send to the Adams Run Depot for a pair of shoes of his that may be there.

Please excuse this note written under difficulties inconceivable to you -- & if you want to hear again send me by Express some writing materials.

Ste¹¹⁴ is in Charleston trying to get some necessary comforts for his men.

When you write direct to "R. E. Elliott -- Company A, 9th Regiment, Hardeeville, S.C."

Love to each & all from your affectionate Son

R. E. Elliott

OR, Series I, Vol. 6, 323-324.

Headquarters Provisional Forces
Coosawhatchie, November 18, 1861

Capt. T. A. Washington

Assistant Adjutant-General:

Captain: Being about to repair to Charleston, in obedience to the orders of the general commanding, I have the honor to submit the following information concerning the troops in this vicinity:

Bluffton is held by Lieutenant-Colonel Colcock's cavalry, in observation only. It has been reported to me that there are two companies of infantry of Heyward's Ninth (Eleventh) regiment remaining there, but I have nothing definite. This section of country is under charge of General Drayton's command, which it is intended to move forward as soon as possible to occupy positions to cover Bluffton and the roads to Hardeeville. General Drayton's command is composed of Heyward's and De Saussure's regiments, Ninth (Eleventh) and Fifteenth South Carolina Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel's Colcock's cavalry, Colonel Clingman's regiment of North Carolina volunteers (Twenty-fifth), occupies a point on the Honeywood road¹¹⁵ in advance of Grahamville, intended to be a guard for that town and to cover the roads leading from Tenny's or Boyd's Landing. His quartermaster and commissary are directed to establish depots and obtain supplies of subsistence at Grahamville, as far as possible; whether they will be successful remains to be seen, and the regiment will have to be looked after in the general depots.

Captain Trezevant's company of cavalry is in advance of Colonel Clingman, in observation of Boyd's and Tenny's Landings. General Drayton's command is supplied from his own depots at Hardeeville.

At the estate's landing, near Huguenin's plantation,¹¹⁶ are stationed the 8-inch howitzer battery, under **General Gonzales**, as volunteer aide-de-camp to myself. The howitzer battery is manned by the Palmetto Guard (State troops), and has attached to the command the Charleston

¹¹⁴ Stephen Elliott.

¹¹⁵ Honey Hill Road.

¹¹⁶ On Huguenin's Neck.

Light Dragoons and Rutledge Mounted Rifles; the last are, however, in observation near Pocotaligo and Port Royal Ferries.

Colonel Radcliffe's Eight North Carolina Volunteers is on the right of **Gonzales'** command, in position to support the battery or to defend the roads from Eutaw Church or to move forward to support Clingman. He is supplied partly by purchase and partly from the depot here.

A force of negroes, under the supervision of General **Gonzales**, is engaged in obstructing the Coosawhatchie below the landing; and, this being done, the steamer John A. Moore and several flats, sent from Charleston, are available for transportation from the railroad to the landing by water. Mr. Gregory is engaged with his negroes in obstructing the Tulifiny.

At Coosawhatchie is Colonel Edwards' full regiment and Captain Moore's light artillery, both waiting orders, &c.

Six companies of Dunovant's Twelfth South Carolina Volunteers are at Pocotaligo Corners, the remaining four being at Hardeeville. It is supposed that it was intended to order them to rejoin their regiment, but the order may be delayed until the arrival of the general.

Colonel Jones' Fourteenth South Carolina Volunteers holds Garden's Corner, and is stretched in observation towards Combahee Ferry, in advance towards Port Royal Ferry. This is guarded by Fripp's cavalry. Another force of Colonel Martin's regiment, which has its headquarters at Pocotaligo (it may be well to add that Lieutenant-Colonel Colcock's regiment is a portion of Colonel Martin's regiment, with one or two (companies) under Major Farr, a force of Martin's regiment), is also guarding the district of country about Combahee, Ashepoo, and Paw Paw.

Capt. Leo. D. Walker, assistant adjutant-general, with Messrs. Walter Blake, Rawlins Lowndes, and Paul, volunteer aides-de-camp, are now engaged in endeavoring to block the rivers at some point below the railroad bridges. They are to be assisted by Mr. Nolan, who has been sent out by the superintendent of the railroad for the purpose.

The general idea of the disposition of the troops has been to cover the railroad bridges in the direction of Savannah and have them not too far from the railroad, that they might move in either direction, in case of an attack on the road or on Savannah or Charleston.

If everything were in order, and the troops well disciplined, there would be no great difficulty in accomplishing the ends of the disposition, but General Drayton's command has not moved from Hardeeville, and our troops are very raw; they require severe discipline and constant watching; it will take some time of this to make them efficient.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. S. Ripley
Brigadier-General

CSW Roll 16, 7841.

Head Waters of Broad River
Coosawhatchie, P.O., S.C.
Nov. 22d, 1861

Hon: J. P. Benjamin
Secretary of War

My dear Sir:

I address you a few lines to explain a disagreeable incident. When our people were full of concern after the unfortunate capture of Port Royal, I volunteered my services to Liut. Ripley,

who assigned me to the command of the “ Siege Train.” Many gentlemen in Charleston, some in high rank, volunteered to accompany me as Aids. My command only comprised a Battery of 8-in. howitzers, the *Home Palmetto Guard*, the *Rutledge Mounted Riflemen* & the *Charleston Light Dragoons*. Desirous of having my nephew Wm. Elliott (a private in the Virginia Detachment of the Palmetto Guard under Capt. Cuthbert,¹¹⁷) near me, I wrote or rather telegraphed Genl. Beauregard to “let him join my Siege Train.” Gen. Beauregard telegraphed back to me stating that he “had no authority to make the application to the Secretary of War.” I sent this dispatch of Gen. Beauregard to young Wm. Elliott’s father, my brother-in-law Capt. T.R.S. Elliott, who was anxious to have his son with me. Without my knowledge, and doubtless thinking he might promote my wishes & his own Mr. T.R.S. Elliott sent you a dispatch in my name which he now regrets. This dispatch was from Pocotaligo, I believe, I being seven miles on Broad River below Coosawhatchie. Your reply to *his* dispatch, stating that you “would send me Wm. Elliott for my staff” was forwarded to me and I supposed that Genl. Beauregard had communicated my wishes to you and that you had acted in accordance with them. Your mention, however, of the word staff has led Genl. Ripley to believe that a recommendation made by him to your Department & which he thought was dated the 27th of October, had formally been acted upon, thus corroborating a dispatch from you which he had received. Now that my brother-in-law sends word to me explaining his course which he very much regrets, I see the origin of the error in this matter & write to you to satisfy you about it. I am surrounded by gentlemen who are, (voluntarily, & without pay, as I am myself,) acting as my Aids in my arduous & rather difficult position, but beyond this I have no staff properly so called.

I remain, Sir, very truly & respectfully yours

A. J. Gonzales

EGP, R.G. 109, Chapt. 2, Vol. 185, 11.

Headqrs -- Coosawhatchie
23d Novemr 1861.

Mr. William Elliott
Pocotaligo S.C.

Sir

I have received your letter of the 19th inst. and regret that your property on Beaufort Isd. is within reach of the enemy. I have no adequate force for its protection, & the advance of a compy. of Inftry. to the centre of the Isld. as you suggest, I fear would expose it to capture without effecting the object desired. It could not be retained there longer than a few hours without its presence being discovered by the enemy and its retreat cut off by their boats. If that will afford you time enough, I will send a company at the earliest time you may appoint. You must make the necessary arrangements for removing your property, the troops operating as a guard.

I have the honor to be

Your obt. Servant

R. E. Lee

Genl. Comdg.

¹¹⁷ . Capt. George Barnwell Cuthbert. Commanded the Cummings Point Battery during the siege of Ft. Sumter.

R.G. 109, Chapt. 2, Vol. 42, p. 181.

Head Quarters Coosawhatchie
Nov. 24, 1861

Special Orders No. 5

I -- Captain T. S. Rhett, C.S. Artillery and Lieut. J. L. Boatwright, C.S.A. having reported at these Head Qrs. are assigned to duty with the Howitzer Battery under Genl. Gonzales....

T. A. Washington
Capt. & A.A.G.

R.G. 109, Chapt. 2, Vol. 42, p. 182, and **O.R.**

Head Quarters Coosawhatchie
Nov. 26, 1861

Special Orders No. 7

... III. Capt. T. S. Rhett, C. S. Artillery, is hereby relieved from duty with the siege train under Gen. Gonzales and will proceed without delay to Charleston and report to Brig. Gen. R. S. Ripley Comg., for artillery service.

By order of Gen. Lee
W. H. Taylor
A.A.G.

EGP

House of Representatives
Nov. 27th 1861

Miss Emily Elliott

My Dear Emmie

I have just had an interview with the President of the Branch Bank of the State in relation to the proposed deposit of the family's Plate in the vaults of his Bank. He says he will with pleasure afford room in his Bank building for one, or more, boxes of Plate, which should be distinctly marked with the owners name & address, & sent per Express to "Charles H. Clark, cashier of Branch Bank, Columbia, S.C.

He gives a receipt for the box, or case, without examining the contents, & does not hold himself responsible for any accidents that may happen to the articles while in the Bank.

Large rooms are filled with the silver & Papers of those who have fled from the coast & there will be no further room unless you send at once.

The wildest & most improbable rumours of all sorts of disasters to our cause upon the coast are in circulation up here & there seems to be a general desire on the part of members to despatch business & "fall in" as soon as possible.

The up country is by no means exhausted of bone & sinew yet & a considerable number of troops will be ready in a few days to come to our relief in case an advance is made by Sherman.

The election for C. S. senators comes off today. Chestnut & Barnwell will probably be elected. Rhett is as usual a candidate but he stands no chance whatever.

I may be at home on Sunday, if not, I will probably remain the rest of the session. The feed is good here & the lodging more comfortable than at Hardeeville. Tell Mama that I have procured Pants & Shoes for William so she need not disturb herself about them.

Wanting, dear Emmie, that you are getting on as bravely as ever & that you are all well,
I remain with much love to all, Your attached brother

Ralph E. Elliott

R.G. 109, Chapt. 2, Vol. 42, p. 201.

Hd. Qrs. Dept. of S.C. &c.
December 9, 1861

Special Orders No. 16

... 5 -- Dr. T. W. Hutson (contract Physician) with the siege train Genl. A. J. Gonzales comdg....

By order of Gen. Lee
T. A. Washington
A.A.G.

OR, Series 1, Vol. 53, 194.

Headquarters,
Coosawhatchie, December 3, 1861

Messrs. Wm. Elliott, Edmund Rhett, and Leroy Youmans,
Committee, &c.:

Gentlemen: I had the honor to receive the resolution passed by the citizens of Beaufort District at their meeting at Coosawhatchie on the 1st instant, requesting me to establish martial law over the seacoast of South Carolina within limits. The present condition of things, in my opinion, does not render such a course advisable. There is as yet no operation of the enemy to justify the interruption of the civil laws, and though many of the citizens of the State are necessarily engaged in military duties, there must still be sufficient to attend to its civil service. In no part of the Confederacy has it yet been found necessary to arrest the due course of the laws of a State. It should only be resorted to as a last extremity, which I do not see has yet arrived in South Carolina.

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

R. E. Lee
General Commanding

EGP

Bethel, Pocotaligo Decr 5th 1861

My Dear Father,

I have been exceedingly mortified at the result of my application [*sic*] to Greens Company-- not one man in his command would Volunteer to visit Port Royal. I told them that Genl Lee, at my suggestion, had authorized me to call upon their company for Volunteers for this expedition, & that it was paying *them* a compliment when a selection could have been made from any other company in the Regiment, & that their prompt [*sic*] action would have a good effect upon the whole body of Troops, for it would [...] a desire to meet,-- not avoid the Enemy. all however that I could say had no effect. They are poor miserable cowards, & should be Kicked out of service. I was so angry at their want of pluck that I turned to Capt Green & said, men who are afraid to meet seek the Enemy, will *Run*, when the Enemy decks them. I told Col Martin the same thing. Martin I firmly believe, to spite & disappoint me, used his influence to persuade the men, that the risk was great.-- I telegraphed to Genl Lee the result of my application, & his reply was-- I can make no further suggestions-- So the matter is at rest. I presume when above, &

below the Ferry are secured against Gun Boats, Col. Gass will convert his Regiment into Cattle drivers.--

Ste Elliott's command visited Port Royal Island on Wednesday night & returned yesterday morning. He reports that the Enemy were not in Beaufort, nor did their Ships make their appearance. They proceeded to the Battery & to Dr Fullers on Paris Island, at the latter place they burnt 80 Bales of Cotton & 2,000 Bus. Corn. At the Grove, J. Smiths, Shell Point, Baynards, E. Rhetts & all the places along that shore the Cotton, but not the Corn was destroyed by them, about 12, or 14, Cotton Houses he thinks were burnt.-- No Negros were seen except 3 or 4 old ones, *not one prime, on any of the Plantations*.-- The Smoke from the burning Houses was visible from here for several Hours, & I presume the Yankees will soon seek to know the cause. Seventy five vessels are reported in Broad River,-- 15 guns were fired yesterday at regular intervals of 2 or 3 seconds. it was thought to be a salute to old Pic.

Willie is with us, he is suffering from a severe cold & cough & has grown quite thin, I intend to nurse & fatten him up before he reports to the General.

With much love to all I am

Your aff Son
Thos R. S. Elliott

OR, Series 1, Vol. 53, 196.

Headquarters,
Coosawhatchie, December 9, 1861

General R. S. Ripley:

General: In examining the report of Captain Ives of his inspection of the works proposed for the obstruction of the Combahee, Ashepoo, and Pon Pon Rivers, I have been pleased to observe that the selection of the site of the battery for the latter river at Wilton's Bluff is admirably adapted for its defense, and that the construction of the battery has been energetically pushed forward by Captain Perrin. It also appears from his report that about 300 yards below the battery a shoal extends from the right bank of the river to within about fifty yards of the left, and that the depth of the channel at that point at low water is about thirteen feet. If the obstruction you propose to the navigation of the river were located at that point, the work required would not be great, and it would arrest the progress of the enemy within easy range of the battery and thus prevent its being forced. Moreover, the moral effect upon the men in the battery in knowing that the enemy's progress would be arrested would be beneficial, their fire more steady, and their resistance more firm. I understand that the position selected for the proposed obstruction is above the battery. This may have its advantages, but if the enemy can approach the batteries and drive off the garrison, he will have little difficulty, I fear, in passing the barrier. The benefit of placing the barrier below the battery is apparent in the obstruction you adopted for the Coosawhatchie, now under construction by **General Gonzales**. Unless there are circumstances which render a contrary course advisable at Wilton's Bluff, I suggest that you adhere to the same plan. If the obstruction has not been commenced above the battery, there will be no difficulty or delay in changing the location.

Yours, respectfully, &c.

R. E. Lee
General, Commanding

EGP

Beaumont Sunday 15th [December 1861]

Your letter of Wednesday reached me Yesterday dearest Mamma, and I was very sorry to find from it that some of the family were not well. I can readily understand how nervous and uncomfortable the reports You hear, must make You, and only fear such a condition must get worse and worse. Poor Charleston what sad news, our papers brought us yesterday. In such trying times to have so many people made homeless and thro' accident too. I feel almost as tho' the fates were entirely against us. Of course we see few particulars yet of private losses, but I am sure Papa must be a sufferer in Insurance Stock, I hope he wont let it worry him. These are times when we must not be surprised at losing every thing. Do tell me what has become of Ben Deveans? if he is among the faithful? and Frank? and if Wms and Ralph's valets have absconded? I am sorry You have imported Malcontents to Oak Lawn. I believe the darkies, all, think this is a crisis in their lives, that must be taken advantage of and about burying Your valuables, dear Mamma, who have You trusted? because I think for \$10-- any of them would tell the Yankees-- times and slaves have changed since the revolution.

The Yankees seem to be making a fine plan of Hilton Head, who knows but it may be greatly enhanced in value by and bye, when Wm claims his share. As soon as England comes to help us-- and the fact of its importance as a harbor is established by the Yankees before leaving. I hope while there, their improvements will be rapid and durable. You ask about Alice? She is at her home on the River-- quite alone, but quite brave-- The measles were sent up with a family of negroes, belonging to Fred Fraser, and Alice expects her children to come in for the benefit.

Mr Johnstone writes very cheerfully in spite of non intercourse with Charleston he recovered his clothing after some weeks he says the negroes are very cheerful in spite of *no* molasses, *no* bacon, & *no* shoes. The latter want however I am about supplying at Henderson. Willie Huger was much better. Mary Man was with him in Georgetown, Mr & Mrs H had returned to Charleston.

I am happy to report Emmie as greatly improved -- well I should say if I had not to be so prudent with her. She is a prisoner in these two rooms Miss Hinkels and Annie's-- but has an excellent appetite-- and no cough, and sleeps well. She is taking iron, and Cod liver Oil. We are passing the winter comfortably -- have found no lack of provisions etc, and so far the weather has been beautiful. The neighbors are sociable and exchange visits frequently-- it is hard to realize that Christmas is so near -- but the deChoiseuls tell me the weather is often good *until* January.

I hope dear little Brosio is strong again. I think maybe in these exciting times, his diet is overlooked, he ought to eat rice and milk boiled together and other *nourishing* things -- (excusiz Moi) I hope Callie's throat is not still troubling her. I suspect She needs exercise. If Emmie can find time to write to me I shall be delighted but please dont let that exempt You. I look so anxiously each day for news of my brothers thro' You, do tell me, why the Gen¹¹⁸ is not a Brig -- and what he is. Mr J. wrote me that he *was* a B.G. and I want to know all about it. With abundance of love to all I am Your Affete

Mary [Barnwell Elliott]

Ella Pholyneus and Emma Blackcock were lately presented at the French Court.

R.G. 109, Chapter 2, Vol. 185, p. 184.

¹¹⁸ General Ambrosio Jose Gonzales, her brother-in-law.

Application of Private Ralph E. Elliott Co. A, 9th Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers,
to