

[Feb. 8, 1861]

Head Quarters Fort Moultrie
February 8th 1861

Captain

Since receiving the accompanying communication of last evening's date, I have considered the remarks which I had the honor to suggest, for consideration, & I am more positively impressed with the belief that no forty eight hours firing will bring down Fort Sumpter, unless the Command Office chooses to surrender to avoid civil war.

Physically it is merely an impossibility, & as for the moral effect, I leave it to the consideration of candid minds, whether brave men, or desperate men are to be turned from their purpose by forty eight hours turmoil & confusion. I believe that we should be prepared for a continued cannonade & bombardment, that being the method decided upon, if we hope to succeed in it. If we only desire to attack it with the probability of defeat, I suggest that it should be understood.

I believe these views will be agreed to & supported, by every Officer who has served actually under fire & who knows the

effect of projectiles at long ranges, against masonry. I do not wish to advance my individual opinion on a point of such importance, and if there be any Artillery men at hand who have had experience I would suggest a consultation with them.

Holding the batteries on this island ready to commence the fire at half an hour's notice, prepared or not, either to serve a political necessity, or to attempt a desperate effort, which I certainly regard the commode of Fort Sumpter for forty eight hours with the view of bringing it down, as being, and believing as I do, that the effect will be a loss of what ammunition we have, with little effect on either side

I have the honor to remain
Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

R S Ripley
Lieut Col (Comd)

Capt-George James
Acty Adj General.

7015

Head Qrs. 1st Mil. District
Dept. S. C. Sa & Fla
Charleston August 13th 1863

General Orders
No 36

I It has been found impracticable to enforce General Orders No 34 current Series from these ^{Head Qrs.} and it is modified as follows:

- 2 - all troops going on duty ~~at~~ the Outposts will take three days cooked rations in haversack -
- 3 - the Post Commissary in this city will continue to send daily to Morris Island, cooked rations for 1100 men; and keep on the Island two days supply, at least, of provisions for that number, to be drawn in case of emergency - The Commissary there notifying him immediately when the reserve supply has been drawn upon.

Official
H. H. Thomas
Capt. A. H. G.

By Command of
Brig Gen. Ripley
(Sgd) Wm. F. Stancil
A. H. G.

Wm. H. Hall, Esq.
Aug. 19th 1863.

1. Inhabitants of
referring to D. C. & H. 24.
I. W. Hall, Esq.
I have to state that the
letters and instructions in
reference to
I. W. Hall, Esq.
and duty to attend to
concerning the
and keep on the
stand. I have nothing
to say.

(P)

Head Quarters Fort Moultrie
July 21st 1861

General

Have the honor to inform you that Lieut Pelot, has applied for a company to reinforce his Guard Boat, as the Pilot Boat Leach has reported having fallen in with the Steamer Daniel Webster off Cape Roman today at 12 O'clock -

Have sent the boat for Capt Hallingress & Capt Hamilton & if there is an experienced Officer or two besides in the city it would be as well to let them be down here by 12 O'clock P.M.

I complied with Lieut Pelot's requisition & the Abbeville company of Gregg's Regiment will go on board

Am very resp

Your obt servant

Rd Ripley

Lieut Col (and)

Brig Gen Dumont

S. C. S.

Charleston

[Mar. 2, 1862]

Private General Orders
 March 4th 1861

Orders }

1st Boards of inspection will assemble at Sullivan's Island, Castle Pinckney and Fort Johnson, at the times hereinafter named or as soon thereafter as practicable for the examination of the recruits for the regular Military Service of South Carolina, which may be at the respective Stations named.

2nd. The Board to meet at Sullivan's Island will consist of Capt. G. Hallquist Arty, Capt Thomas M. Baker of the Infantry and Surg Arthur M. Lynde, Medical Staff and will assemble at Fort Moultrie, at 10. A. M. today.

3rd The Board to meet at Castle Pinckney will consist of Lieut Oursy Blumie Arty, Lieut Jacob Valentine Infantry and Asst. Surg Linnin, Medical Staff and will meet at 11. A. M. today.

4th The Board to assemble at Fort Johnson will consist of Capt George James, 1st Lieut W. H. Gibbs of the Arty, and Asst. Surg Linnin and will convene on Monday March 4th at the earliest hour practicable.

5th The reports of the different Boards constituted by this order, are required as soon as they can be rendered.

R. Ripley
 Surgeon General

E Feb. 5, 1861

Mr. Munroe, Major

Captain

I have to suggest
that no more vessels
should be sent down
here for a few days.

The quarters will be kept
up to them, a portion of
Capt. Green's Company
can be dispersed with
those we have can be
kept inside - as follows -
while all off on the island
they may be kept to

Arthur

The large building com-
menced building down
last night. Five have
to be repaired

Buy receipt
from doctor

R. D. Rye

Maloney

Capt George James

Act Adj Gen

[Feb. 7, 1861]

Head Quarters Fort Moultrie
February 7th 1861

Captain

In obedience to General Order No 2 I have the honor to submit the following report & papers on the condition of the Batteries on Sullivan's Island.

The accompanying requisitions from Captain Hallowquist, will show what is necessary for the Mortar Battery. His remarks concerning his magazine, they have to endorse fully. The Magazine requires much fortification & moreover it was pitched so low as to be very wet. Powder staying in it one damp day would be seriously injured.

I also enclose a copy of my requisition made on the 3rd inst with a statement of what is required ^{deducting from the former requisition} now, & what has been received since ^{the 3rd}. The estimate made on the 3rd was considered by me then, to be small, and for any effective fire against Fort Sumpter, I consider it so still. The order requires the estimate to be made with reference to 48 hours continued firing.

Now, 32 pounders can be effectually fired once in two minutes, and there are 6 in Battery against Sumpter, which would give 30 shots an hour each & estimating 4 hours for kindling, gun cooling &c would give 600 shots a day each or for the, 6 32 pdr.

3600, Shots a day or 7200 Shots in 48 Hours. This would be what might be called effective firing -
The Estimate, ^{made in my requisition} based on the deficiencies in Ordnance stores, was however made on a basis of 700 rounds only, to 32 pors (each piece); 300 to each Columbiad & 300 more to be used in replund Columbiads, either by remounting during the fire as suggested, in the remarks to the ^{requisition} Estimate, or unmasking some Columbiads bearing on the Channel, so as to let the fire of the Columbiads keep pace with ^{the} the 32 pors -

Now near we are to the supply required, the papers will show, & I beg leave to state that when ~~all is~~ ^{on this Island} store that is to be supplied ~~here~~, at the Mouton Battery & this fort, we shall want from 24 hours to 48 hours to get every thing to rights, as it must be expected to arrive in some confusion.

When the Ordnance will arrive or the requisition be filled or approximated to, I have no means of judging & I respectfully refer it to the board of Ordnance.

With regard to the work of the Engineer Department, I have to state, that I consider the works now in a tolerable state of defence. A few traverses for the men to take shelter ~~behind~~ when a shell falls, a cover face to the face of the work looking to Sumpter & a bomb proof, easily made, for the relief to take shelter in, are all that are ~~required~~ ^{say so} & with a good lot of sand bags & a few hands, could be done in three days.

The traverse across the Gorge of the North East bastion & the temporary hospital behind it will I suppose

be finished in that time.

Meanwhile however the hands are going to leave us on Saturday, & whether any more are coming, or not I do not know.

These works of the Engineer Department—certainly are important, but are secondary to the supply of ammunition. If there is to be any delay in furnishing the last they should be carried on if the labor can be supplied. I hardly think the Chief Engineer can supply it & I recommend the matter to the consideration of the Authority's superior to him.

In connection with this whole matter, I beg to remark that I have made frequent efforts, orally, written, officially, & unofficially, to obtain the necessary articles of ammunition for the service of the batteries, & we are now only about one third advanced towards preparation in this most important particular, even to the 48 hours supply. And if it is presumed that 48 hours firing will cause the surrender of Fort Sumpter I beg leave to express my opinion most positively that such anticipation will be disappointed, & I beg to suggest that if the political necessity requires the commencement of an action with almost the certainty of finding ourselves at the end of it, out of ammunition, & no nearer Fort Sumpter than at the beginning, we should bring on the fight at once, after securing our

communications, and thus accomplish any
object to be obtained by an unsuccessful cannon-
ade, & save our powder at least.

This opinion and suggestion may be unavail-
ing, but - I consider it due to the Officers &
Soldiers who commence the cannonade that
they should not be expected to achieve the tasks
placed before them with such inadequate means
as have been provided for the real work in
hand - I have made this report very hurried
but the extreme pressure upon my time, will
permit any addition, or hardly a revision.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant.

RS Ripley

Lieut Col Comdr

Capt George James

Acty Adjt General

Army of Savannah