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their sense of the calamity w[illegible] usual badge of mourning for six months.

The Department further directs that upon the day following the receipt of this order, the commandants of squadrons, navy yards and stations will cause the ensign of every vessel in their several commands to be hoisted at half-mast, and a gun to be fired every half hour, beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset. The flags of the several navy yards and marine barracks will also be hoisted at half-mast.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 15, 1865.*

If the military authorities arrest the murderer of the President and take him to the yard, put him on a monitor and anchor her in the stream, with strong guard on vessel, wharf, and in yard. Call upon commandant Marine Corps for guard. Have vessel immediately prepared ready to receive him at any hour, day or night, with necessary instructions. He will be heavily ironed and so guarded as to prevent escape or injury to himself.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commodore J. B. MONTGOMERY,
Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

ALEXANDRIA, *April 16, 1865.*
(Received at Washington 6:10 p. m.)

In the absence of Commander F. A. Parker, commanding Potomac Flotilla, I address myself to you direct.

By orders from Assistant Secretary of War, General Halleck, the military authorities of this place are ordered to stop all vessels from going down the river, and by request of military commander here I have cooperated, and so far as was desired detained certain vessels. I respectfully ask for instructions in the matter from you.

JAMES TAYLOR,
Acting Master, Commanding Guard Vessel off Alexandria.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 16, 1865.*

On Monday fire a gun in honor of the late President each half hour from sunrise to sunset. Keep all flags at half-mast until after the funeral. Officers will wear crape. General order by mail.

G. WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander F. A. PARKER,
Potomac Flotilla, St. Inigoes, Md.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 17, 1865.*

Search all vessels going out of the river for the assassins. Detain all suspicious persons. Guard against all crossing of the river and touching of vessels or boats on the Virginia shore.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander F. A. PARKER, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, St. Inigoes, Md.

Report of Commander Parker, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, of the arrest of noted guerrilla and spy Thomas N. Conrad.

U. S. S. DON,
Potomac Flotilla, April 17, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that last night the U. S. S. *Jacob Bell* arrested a noted guerrilla and spy named Thomas N. Conrad, whom I have sent to Major-General Augur.

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

FOXHALL A. PARKER,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from Captain Drew, U. S. Army, to commanding officer of U. S. S. Commodore Read, regarding orders to search for the assassin of the President of the United States.

HEADQUARTERS ST. MARY'S DISTRICT,
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Point Lookout, Md., April 17, 1865.

The following telegram has just been received from Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

The murderers of the President and Mr. Seward are no doubt in the gang of rebels mentioned in your telegram. Have the navy vessels scour the coast, and spare no effort to arrest and hold them. Put your whole force on the work, as far as can be done with safety to your command.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. DREW,
Captain Veteran Reserve Corps, Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.

COMMANDING OFFICER, U. S. S. [COMMODORE READ.]

Instructions of Acting Master Eldridge, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Delaware, to Acting Master Arthur, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Thomas Freeborn, regarding search for the murderer of the President of the United States.

U. S. S. DELAWARE,
Off Point Lookout, Md., April 17, 1865.

SIR: In consequence of information having been received that the murderer of the President has been seen in this vicinity, I would

request that you patrol the bay from Point Lookout to the mouth [of] Patuxent River, keeping a strict watch on the movements of all vessels and on any small boats that may attempt to leave the west shore of the bay.

All steamers bound down the bay you will hail, and order them to proceed to Point Lookout and remain until further orders.

I have sent the *Nansemond* to the Patuxent, and the *Mystic* and this vessel will patrol the bay in line across.

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

J. H. ELDRIDGE,
Acting Master, Commanding.

Acting Master W. A. ARTHUR,
Commanding U. S. S. Freeborn.

[Endorsement.]

I cruised last night in obedience to this order. Reported to Commander Parker this morning at Point Lookout. He instructed me to carry out your orders.

W. A. ARTHUR,
Commanding Freeborn.

Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander E. HOOKER,
Commanding First Division.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 17, 1865.*

Send any vessels that may be unemployed to blockade eastern shore of Virginia and Maryland coast from Point Lookout to Baltimore, reporting for further orders to senior officer of Potomac Flotilla between those points.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

COMMANDING OFFICER OF NAVAL FORCE,
Hampton Roads, Virginia.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 17, 1865.*

The War Department wishes special attention called this afternoon to order of Saturday relative to confining a prisoner. Keep boat in constant readiness and have such a guard at the gate that he can be safely got on board.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

Commodore J. B. MONTGOMERY,
Commandant Navy Yard, Washington.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 22, 1865.*

Booth was near Bryantown last Saturday, where Dr. Mudd set his ankle, which was broken by a fall from his horse. The utmost vigilance is necessary in the Potomac and Patuxent to prevent his escape. All

boats should be searched for and destroyed and a daily and nightly patrol established along both shores. Inform the people that more than $100,000 are offered for him. Allow none of your vessels to leave except for search elsewhere.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of Navy.

Lieutenant-Commander EASTMAN.

[Telegram.]

ST. MARY'S, MD., *April 22, 1865.*
(Received at Washington 9:50 p. m.)

Telegram received and [it] will be promptly obeyed. I have been cruising for the last four days off the Patuxent and neighborhood, and am going back immediately. I sent several suspicious persons to Baltimore in the *Nansemond*, one of whom is a man named Barnes. Provost Marshal McPhail knows him. I would like to have the *Nansemond* returned to the Patuxent as soon as possible.

T. H. EASTMAN.

Hon. G. V. FOX.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 22, 1865.*

Do not send the *Don* to Baltimore as ordered by Commander Parker.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary.

Lieutenant-Commander EASTMAN, U. S. Navy,
Point Lookout.

[Telegram.]

NAVY YARD, *April 23, 1865—12:30 p. m.*

I am just leaving the yard to go down the river. Am confident when you receive the report of my operations the past week you will find that a strict blockade has been kept by the flotilla.

F. A. PARKER,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 22, 1865.*

I have countermanded your order to send the *Don* to Baltimore. Join your command without delay and give effect by your presence to the prevention of boats leaving the Maryland shore. Allow no absences or cessation of vigilance on the part of officers or vessels. Your absence is strongly disapproved at this time.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary.

Commander F. A. PARKER, U. S. Navy,
Relay House.

[Telegram.]

RELAY HOUSE, *April 23, 1865.*
(Received at Washington 8:10 a. m.)

The *Don* being a good sea boat, and the Secretary of War having requested that the Maryland shore should be closely blockaded from Point Lookout to Baltimore, I sent her with other vessels to that station. I came on shore from the best motives, because I believed that in no other way could I control the movements of the whole flotilla. I have been in constant communication by telegraph with Washington, Baltimore, Annapolis, Point Lookout, and Cherrystone; have been directing everything and have enjoined upon all the utmost vigilance. I will join my command without delay.

F. A. PARKER,
Commander.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary.

Report of Commander Parker, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, responding to the Department's telegram expressing disapproval of his absence from his command.

U. S. S. ELLA,
Potomac Flotilla, April 23, 1865.

SIR: In reply to your telegram of this date, I would respectfully state that on the 17th instant, when I was told by the honorable Secretary of War that Booth had been traced to Upper Marlborough, on the Patuxent River, and that he would like that river and the coast of Maryland from Point Lookout to Baltimore very carefully guarded, I said to you that I would assign Lieutenant-Commander Eastman to that duty with the *Don* and such other boats as I could spare from the Potomac, while I remained behind where I could be in communication with the Department and the whole flotilla. At the same time I suggested that boats should be ordered from Norfolk to cruise in the bay, and you directed me to tell Commander Wyman to issue orders to that effect.

I then made the following disposition of the vessels of my command: Ten gunboats and an armed sloop to patrol the Potomac from Mattawoman to its mouth, with orders to seize all boats; the monitor *Chimo* to remain at anchor at Point Lookout, while two gunboats cruised from the point due east to the eastern shore of Maryland, a distance of but 6 miles, intercepting all vessels bound down the bay, and sending them to General Barnes to be overhauled and detained; four fast boats to cruise along the coast of Maryland from Point Lookout to Annapolis; seven boats to guard the coast of Virginia from Point Lookout to York River; two boats in the York River; three on the eastern shore of Virginia, from Cherrystone to Smith's Island; one at Gunpowder [River]; one at Bush River; one at Havre de Grace. I gave orders to the commanders of all these vessels to act in concert and cooperate fully with the military authorities. I directed that the *Stepping Stones* should carry ammunition and provisions to the *Cœur de Lion* at Gunpowder, and that she should stop for me at Baltimore on her way thither, as I was anxious to see the disposition of the gunboats in that vicinity.

On Monday evening, after giving Commander Wyman my address, I went to my home, about ten or fifteen minutes' walk from the Relay, where I was in direct telegraphic communication with my command. I would here observe that I sent to the Relay regularly four times a

day, and that General Tyler, in command at that post, had courteously promised to send all important dispatches to me by an orderly. On Tuesday morning I received a telegram from St. Inigoes, informing me that the picket guard established by my order, about a quarter of a mile inshore of the depot, had been twice fired at during the previous night. I immediately ordered the guard doubled and all boats on the St. Mary's River seized, and thinking it best not to go in the *Stepping Stones*, went to Baltimore and directed the commander of that vessel to proceed to Gunpowder without me.

On Wednesday I again communicated with St. Inigoes, and found everything going on satisfactorily. On Thursday I visited the Navy Department, and on my return to the Relay in the evening telegraphed to Lieutenant-Commander Eastman to report in Baltimore on Saturday morning, as I wished to run along the entire line of gunboats in the Chesapeake and Potomac. This telegram had not been received yesterday morning, which shows conclusively, I think, how impossible it would have been for me to direct operations on the Potomac while cruising in the bay.

On Friday and Saturday I was in communication with St. Inigoes, Point Lookout, Yorktown, and Annapolis, and drew up and forwarded to the senior officer at Yorktown instructions in relation to trade at that point.

I feel well assured that the Potomac and Chesapeake have been vigilantly guarded, but twice the number of boats constituting this flotilla could not prevent a canoe from crossing at night from Maryland to Virginia.

It was this consideration which induced my suggestion to the honorable Secretary of War, in your presence, that a large cavalry force be sent to scour the northern neck, a suggestion which has but just been partially carried out by the sending of 200 horsemen to Coan River.

I have made the above plain statement of facts in order that the Department may see that, while at my home, I was not unmindful or neglectful of my duty. In Washington I could have done no more; on board the *Don* not so much.

During the whole of this accursed rebellion I have endeavored to do my duty faithfully and honestly to my Government and country, and feeling that I could perform no better service to either than by aiding in the apprehension of the vile assassin of our late lamented President, I am mortified and pained at the censure expressed in the Department's telegram. I earnestly trust, however, that upon a review of all the circumstances of the case the Department will be enabled to alter its opinion.

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

FOXHALL A. PARKER,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Parker, U. S. Navy commanding Potomac Flotilla, censuring him for the escape of the assassin of the President.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 28, 1865.*

SIR: The Department has received your communication of the 23d instant, reporting the measures taken by you to capture the assassin

of the late President and explaining why you were at your residence near the Relay House at so important a period.

Since it has been proved that the assassin has been in the vicinity of St. Inigoes, the headquarters of the Potomac Flotilla, it would seem that the place of the commander of the flotilla should have been there and not at his home. It is supposed that the villain passed out of that district while you were at your residence.

Very respectfully, etc.,

G. WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander F. A. PARKER,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Washington.

Report of Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander Hooker, U. S. Navy, commanding First Division Potomac Flotilla, regarding continued breach of blockade on the eastern shore.

U. S. S. COMMODORE READ,
Rappahannock River, Virginia, April 23, 1865.

SIR: In accordance with your telegraphic order, I have sent Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Commanding Livingston in the *Barney* to Yorktown to relieve the *Crusader*.

From the reports in circulation around the counties on this river, I should think that there must be something wrong in that region (Yorktown). I am told by parties on shore that boats are passing and repassing to and from the eastern shore; that goods are coming in, etc.

I do not know how much truth there is in the stories, and think they are told to me in the hopes of making me relax the blockade here; they will, however, have no effect on me. It is said the army authorities sanction the trade. I mention these as rumors only, and not as things of which I have any real knowledge, but think you ought to know even the rumors.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. HOOKER,
Actg. Vol. Lieut. Comdr., U. S. N., Comdg. 1st Div. Potomac Flotilla.

Commander F. A. PARKER, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Commander Parker, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, regarding captures.

U. S. S. ELLA,
Potomac Flotilla, April 24, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have this day sent to the provost-marshal at Washington four men, one woman, and child, arrested in attempting to cross the Potomac into Virginia.

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

FOXHALL A. PARKER,
Commander, Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Report of Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander Hooker, U. S. Navy, commanding First Division Potomac Flotilla, regarding the proposed raising of the United States flag in Mathews County, Va.

U. S. S. COMMODORE READ,
Rappahannock River, Virginia, April 26, 1865.

SIR: I deem it proper to report the following circumstances, which have transpired since my last communication to you:

On Sunday afternoon, after the *Putnam* had left, I received a note from Mathews County, signed by a Mr. Dixon, and purporting to have been written at the request of many citizens, informing me that on Tuesday, the 25th, a flag would be raised in that county, and inviting myself and officers to be present. On Monday morning I went into the Piankatank and communicated with several citizens on the matter, informing them that any such movement must be a voluntary act on their part, and that neither myself nor officers could attend, lest it should be reported by those opposed to the movement that it was done by my orders, etc. I also explained to them that the hoisting of the flag would not in any way relax the blockade, or grant any privileges in trading or passing or repassing through the blockade lines. I further said to them that in my opinion the better course would be to get the citizens of the county together in a public meeting, have a free interchange of sentiments, and then, if they thought best to raise a flag, to do so, and take the oath of allegiance to the U. S. Government. I also found that there was some opposition to the movement, and that my name had been used as authority for the raising of the flag. This I took especial pains to contradict. I then left the river and returned to the Rappahannock River. I have since been informed that the flag was hoisted on Tuesday and is still flying, there being a few men and a large number of women present; the more responsible portion of the citizens, I understand, accorded with my idea of having meetings, etc., first, and did not attend the flag raising.

While in the Piankatank I received an invitation to visit the house of the Reverend Mr. Towill, in Middlesex County. This gentleman is a consistent Union man, and has been so throughout the war. He had previously taken the oath on board my ship. Consequently I yesterday visited his place and met some of the principal citizens of this district of Middlesex County.

I found that they were endeavoring to get together a meeting at the county seat with a view to expediting the return of the State to her allegiance. I explained to them, as I had to the citizens of Mathews, that whatever they did there could be no privileges accorded to them until it was so ordered by competent authority. This seemed to be the view which they had entertained of it. They, however, both secessionists and Unionists, expressed the wish to take the oath of allegiance before making any movement, and, had I not received your note, I should have felt justified in administering it to them after the careful explanations I had made to them.

On my return to the ship, however, I found your note, and at once informed them that I could do nothing in the matter without further orders. The feeling in this portion of Middlesex County seems to be very harmonious, and I am informed it is so throughout the county. I am further informed that the secession flag has never been hoisted in the county. In Mathews County, however, there seems to be considerable difference, and I am inclined to think that the hoisting of the flag

may engender some bitterness, which, if it had been delayed a little while, would have been avoided.

I shall keep up a constant communication with the citizens and endeavor to make myself acquainted with the popular feeling in both counties.

I would respectfully ask if my course as above described meets your approbation, and I would also ask some advice upon such points as may occur to you, for I am fully aware that brains are now of more consequence than guns.

I would also be pleased to have some instructions about the blockading after the Army arrives, as they will probably give free permits to bring in goods, etc., without any reference to the naval forces here.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. HOOKER,
Actg. Vol. Lieut. Comdr., U. S. N., Comdg. 1st Div. Potomac Flotilla.

Commander F. A. PARKER, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

Report of Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander Hooker, U. S. Navy, commanding First Division Potomac Flotilla, regarding disposition of vessels of his command.

U. S. S. COMMODORE READ,
Rappahannock River, April 27, 1865.

SIR: The available force of the First Division is now the *Morse*, at Wicomico; *Putnam*, Fleet's Bay and creeks; *Commodore Read*, Rappahannock, and *Freeborn*, Piankatank. I have sent the *Freeborn* to the light-ship, but Captain Arthur says that he can not remain there, and is oftener in Mobjack Bay, or some such place, than on the station. The *Freeborn* would be a much better vessel for Cherrystone than the *Periwinkle*, while that vessel is well suited to cruise around the lower part of my station and the Wolf Trap, as she can keep the station in all weathers. With the present disposition of the vessels, the whole coast from Piankatank to Mobjack is most of the time unguarded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. HOOKER,
Actg. Vol Lieut. Comdr., U. S. N., Comdg. 1st Div. Potomac Flotilla.

Commander F. A. PARKER, U. S. Navy,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla.

[Telegram.]

ST. MARY'S, MD., *April 27, 1865.*
(Received at Washington 10:30 a. m.)

Many officers and men on the northern neck of Virginia and on the right bank of the Rappahannock, belonging to the rebel Army of Northern Virginia, are applying to me for paroles under Lee's surrender. What shall I do?

Respectfully,

F. A. PARKER,
Commander, Commanding, etc.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary Navy.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 27, 1865.*

General Hancock will have orders to parole the men. You need not trouble them. They are not to cross into Maryland. Booth was killed and captured with Herold yesterday, 3 miles southwest of Port Royal, Va.

GIDEON WELLES.

Commander F. A. PARKER,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, St. Inigoes, Md.

[Telegram.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 27, 1865.*

The special restrictions relative to retaining vessels are removed. Permit them to pass as usual.

G. WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander F. A. PARKER,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, St. Inigoes, Md.

Order of the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Parker, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to be prepared for surprise by the C. S. ram Stonewall.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 28, 1865.*

SIR: Information has been received from the U. S. consul at Teneriffe to the effect that the rebel ram *Stonewall* left that place, where she obtained a supply of coal April 1, at 6 p. m., and steamed away rapidly to the south. Her destination is believed to be some point on our coast, and every precaution should be taken by you to guard against surprise and to prevent her inflicting serious injury should she make her appearance anywhere within the limits of your command, and the best means in your power used to capture or destroy her.

Very respectfully,

G. WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander FOXHALL A. PARKER,
Commanding Potomac Flotilla, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Order of Commander Parker, U. S. Navy, commanding Potomac Flotilla, to Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander Hooker, U. S. Navy, commanding First Division, in view of rumored approach of C. S. ram Stonewall.

U. S. S. DON,
Potomac Flotilla, April 30, 1865.

SIR: You will bear in mind that in case the rebel ram *Stonewall* should succeed in entering the Chesapeake, the duty will devolve upon the Potomac Flotilla of covering the approaches to Washington and Baltimore, which can only be done at Point Lookout.