

**A1238**

**David D. Porter (1813-1891) Papers, 1862-1864**

141 items

Processed by Dennis Northcott, November 1999

**REPOSITORY**

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**DONOR INFORMATION**

Collection was donated by William K. Bixby, with the exception of document dated December 21, 1862, which was purchased from Forest H. Sweet, Battle Creek, Michigan, in July 1949.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

David D. Porter was born June 8, 1813, in Chester, Pennsylvania. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1829. During the Civil War he commanded the Mississippi Squadron, and after the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863, was promoted to rear admiral. Following the unsuccessful Red River Campaign of 1864, he was sent to command the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. After the war he served for several years as superintendent of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and in 1869 he moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as assistant to the secretary of the navy. He died February 13, 1891, in Washington, D.C.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Collection consists primarily of correspondence to Admiral Porter from several high-ranking Union officers—including generals Nathaniel P. Banks, Ulysses S. Grant, John A. McClernand, and William T. Sherman—regarding operations in the lower Mississippi River Valley. Collection contains accounts of the Yazoo River Expedition, the Arkansas Post Expedition, the Vicksburg Campaign, the siege of Jackson, Mississippi, and the Red River Campaign. Also contains information on gunboats and the operations of the Mississippi Squadron.

**The following abbreviations have been used in this inventory:**

AL        Autograph Letter unsigned (an unsigned letter in the hand of the author)

ALS       Autograph Letter Signed (a letter entirely in the hand of and signed by the author)

ANS       Autograph Note Signed (a brief or informal letter or message, often fragmentary, entirely in the hand of and signed by the author)

- 1862 Dec 21 ALS W.T. Sherman, steamer *Forest Queen*, to Porter, Flagship *Black Hawk*. "...I will give specific instructions in your company to the officers who will command the cavalry force to operate against the Yazoo up about Henry Island. I fear we will not secure those boats. If in danger of losing them surely the enemy will destroy them." 1 page
- 1863 Jan 2 ANS Joseph P. Couthouy, *U.S.S. Chillicothe*, off mouth of Red River, to Porter. Letter of transmissal regarding returns of deaths, desertions and punishments on board his ship. 1 page
- 1863 Jan 3 ALS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, Right Wing, 13th Army Corps, camp Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, to Col. J.A. Rawlins. Contains Sherman's report to General U.S. Grant of the Yazoo River Expedition, December 1862. Includes list of killed, wounded, and missing, by brigade, for the right wing, 13th Army Corps. 16 pages
- 1863 Jan 6 ANS A. Schwartz, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, steamer *Tigress*, to Porter. "I have the honor to transmit...a copy of the instructions communicated to the Generals commanding the two army corps of the Army of the Mississippi." 1 page
- 1863 Jan 8 ANS J.A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, steamer *Tigress*, to Porter. "Will you please inform me when you are ready to move? I will also inform you when the transports will move." 1 page
- 1863 Jan 8 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, steamer *Tigress*, to Porter. "I propose to start in the morning....the gunboats might find a favorable landing for the protection of the disembarkation of the land forces at Notrib's farm, three miles below the fort." 2 pages
- 1863 Jan 12 ANS John A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, Post Arkansas, to Porter. "I will advise you as soon as our boats with prisoners and wounded are ready. I will also provide for your wounded on board of my hospital boats, going up the Mississippi, if agreeable to you." 1 page
- 1863 Jan 12 ALS W.A. Gorman, headquarters, Dist. East Arkansas, on board steamboat *Kenton*, mouth of White River, to Porter. Preparing for movement up White River. 1 page
- 1863 Jan 13 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, Post Arkansas, to Porter. "...the transports bearing prisoners and sick and wounded will be ready for the convoy..." 1 page

- 1863 Jan 13 ALS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, 15th Army Corps, Post of Arkansas, to A. Schwartz, assistant adjutant general to Major General John A. McClernand. Contains Sherman's report on the attack on Arkansas Post. Includes postscript dated January 15. 13 pages
- 1863 Jan 14 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, Post of Arkansas, to Porter. "A transport bearing a detail sent up the river today...was fired upon and some of the men wounded. I propose to send a regiment up in the morning to punish the aggression...." 1 page
- 1863 Jan 14 ALS L.M. Dayton, headquarters, *Forest Queen*, 15th Army Corps, to Porter. Regarding provisions. 1 page
- 1863 Jan 17-18 ALS John A. McClernand, Napoleon, [Arkansas], to Porter. Regarding departure of fleet for Milliken's Bend. 1 page
- 1863 Jan 17 ANS Linus[?] Ramsey (by order of General J.A. McClernand), headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, Steamer *Tigress*, to Porter. "...We will rendezvous at Napoleon." 1 page
- 1863 Jan 19 ALS P. Davidson, headquarters, chief of artillery, D[istrict] E[ast], to Captain J.W. Gorman. Request recalling a detail of artillerymen from the 16<sup>th</sup> Ohio Battery. (Includes notes of W.A. Gorman, General McClernand, and General Grant.) 2 pages
- 1863 Jan 25 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, near Vicksburg, to Porter. "...transports were lately fired upon by persons at Greenville. This practice must be stopped....I request that you take such measures...to protect unarmed transports passing up and down the Mississippi River." 1 page
- 1863 Jan 26 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, near Vicksburg, to Porter. Requests convoy and protection for foraging expedition up the river. 1 page
- 1863 Jan 28 ANS John A. McClernand, headquarters, Army of the Mississippi, near Vicksburg, to Porter. "It would be desirable that you should send one of your tugs under orders to increase the action of the water in the upper end of the canal by the use of its screw if you think it may be safely done." 1 page
- 1863 Feb 10 ALS J.H. Hammond, headquarters, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, to Porter. "The general is before the court today....I mentioned the cavalry of the Marine Brigade to him. He has it under consideration....I had a decent cow to send you...." 2 pages

- 1863 Feb 13 ALS Charles H. Abbott, headquarters, 30<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Briggs House, Louisiana, to Brigadier General Steele. Reports “great commotion among the enemy...and other indications of a movement.” (Includes note of General Sherman to Porter regarding these movements.) 2 pages
- 1863 Feb 13 ALS Charles H. Abbott, headquarters, 30<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Briggs Plantation, to Brigadier General Steele. “I have the honor to report that a large steamer without signals has just passed this landing and kept on without stopping until out of hearing. Three guns were fired at her....” (Includes note of General Sherman to Porter regarding the passage of the *Indianola*.) 2 pages
- 1863 Feb 19 ALS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps camp, to Porter. “I now send you a tracing of our map. Connecting our lines here with those of yours. I think it very correct. Our camps are almost afloat and the road worse than I can describe. We are literally mud bound. Should the river rise one foot now we will be almost forced to take to the levee and the trees. Our pickets report nothing new on the other shore on in the river below. I suppose we need not expect the *Queen of the West* for about five days.” 1 page
- 1863 Feb 24 ALS U.S. Grant to Porter. “Report from opposite side of the point says that *Queen* has just gone down the river, also that heavy guns have been heard far down the river. The firing this afternoon was at the dummy. So far as heard no damage was done.” 2 pages
- 1863 Mar 2 ALS Grant to Porter. “I send you my reply to the letter brought by ‘flag of truce’....” 2 pages
- 1863 Mar 3 ALS Charles H. Abbott, headquarters, 30<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Briggs Plantation, to Brigadier General [Steele?]. “This will be handed to you by a negro man who has just arrived and who represents himself as having been one of the ‘*Indianola*’ crew....” (Includes note of General Sherman.) 2 pages
- 1863 Mar 3 ANS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, camp before Vicksburg, to General Grant. “I send the negro boy who came up this morning. He belongs to the *Indianola* and can tell his own tale....” 1 page
- 1863 Mar 10 ALS U.S. Grant to Porter. “Will you be kind enough to furnish our dredging machines with one barrel of lubricating oil to last until some already sent for can be brought from Memphis....” Contemporary copy. 1 page
- 1863 Mar 10 ALS J.H. Hammond, headquarters, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, near Vicksburg, to Porter. Reports on the efforts of Captain Hefferman to clean the passage. 2 pages

- 1863 Mar 22 ALS J.G. Klinck, Chief Quartermaster's Office, 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Lake Providence, to Captain A.K. Eddy. Regarding shipment of cotton on the steamboat *Tigress* belonging to W.C. Wagley. 1 page
- 1863 Mar 26 ALS U.S. Grant to Porter. "Should twelve to fifteen small boats be required at the foot of the Canal tonight, to be taken below to be used in landing troops at Warrenton, can they be got from you?...." 3 pages
- 1863 Apr 4 ALS U.S. Grant, headquarters, Dept. of the Tennessee, before Vicksburg, to Porter. "I see by the Vicksburg papers an advertisement calling upon planters to bring in all their small boats to be sold to the Govt. May this not be intended to make a raid upon our transports and burn at least a part of them?...." 2 pages
- 1863 Apr 4 ALS Wm. C. Stiles, Philadelphia, to U.S. Grant. Offers his plan for protecting the Union's iron clad boats in the Mississippi River. Note of U.S. Grant dated April 16 on verso reads, "Referred to Admiral Porter." 2 pages
- 1863 Apr 17 ALS Charles H. Abbott, headquarters, 30<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Briggs Plantation, to Porter. Mentions the damage done to the government transport *Forest Queen*. 1 page
- 1863 Apr 20 ALS Thomas S. Mather (colonel & chief of staff of General McClernand), headquarters, 9<sup>th</sup> Division, to Porter. "Several of the officers of General Osterhaus' command report that they have just seen a number of men on the opposite side of the river who have shown a white flag..." 1 page
- 1863 Apr 25 ALS John A. McClernand, Perkins' Plantation, Louisiana, to Porter. "Several persons on the boat upon which I have just come say that they saw a long train back from the east bank of the Miss., moving in the direction of Grand Gulf. Could you cause a reconaissance to be...made down the river for the purpose of making further discoveries?" 1 page
- 1863 Apr 26 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Perkins' Plantation, Louisiana, to Porter. "Having kindly said that the 'Price' might be used to transport troops to Grand Gulf, I propose to make her the flag ship of my fleet of transports, if she is capable of carrying a few horses...." 1 page
- 1863 Apr 26 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Perkins' Plantation, Louisiana, to Porter. Requests repairs for the steamer *Empire City*. 1 page
- 1863 Apr 27 AL U.S. Grant, Smith's Plantation, Louisiana, to General W.T. Sherman. Suggests that Sherman make a reconaissance of Haines' Bluff. Contemporary copy. 2 pages
- 1863 Apr 27 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, to Porter. Requests repairs for the steamer *Horizon*. 1 page

- 1863 May 2      ANS Simeon H. Crane, provost marshal, 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, to Porter. "I send you by Lieut. Butterfield fourteen prisoners. Dispose of them as per Gen. Grant's order of May 1, 1863." 1 page
- 1863 May 2      ALS U.S. Grant, Port Gibson, to Porter. "Our forces entered this place...this morning. Found all the rebels gone and the bridges burned. [When the stream is bridged], I will move immediately to Grand Gulf....I do not anticipate any resistance....I think tomorrow at 10 o'clock my advance may be looked for at the Gulf. Would it not be well to have most of the gunboats there at the same time." 2 pages
- 1863 May 4      Special Order No. 68, headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Milliken's Bend, Louisiana. Details Private Lewis B. Jones, Company A, 30<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, for special duty on the tug *Thistle*. 1 page
- 1863 May 19     ALS U.S. Grant, rear of Vicksburg, to Porter. "My forces are now investing Vicksburg. Sherman's forces run[?] from the Miss. River above the city two miles east. McPherson is to his left and McClernand to the left of McPherson. If you can run down and throw shell in just back of the lower part of the city it would aid us and demoralize and already badly beaten enemy...." 2 pages
- 1863 May 19     ALS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, 15th Army Corps, Walnut Hills, to Porter. "My Right is on the Mississippi. We have possession of the Bluff down for a mile or more below the mouth of the Bayou. Can't you send immediately a couple of gunboats down...." 1 page
- 1863 May 20     ANS U.S. Grant, Haines Bluff, to Porter. "A gunboat playing on the second water battery would materially help us. The first water battery is in our possession." 1 page
- 1863 May 21     ALS U.S. Grant, near Vicksburg, to Porter. "I expect to assault the city at 10 a.m. tomorrow. I would request...that you send up the gunboats below the city and shell the rebel entrenchments....If the mortars could all be sent down to near the point on the Louisiana shore and throw in shells during the night it would materially aid me...." 1 page
- 1863 May 29     ALS U.S. Grant, Lake's Landing, Mississippi, to Porter. "Will you have the kindness to order the Marine Brigade to Hains' Bluff with instructions to disembark at that point and remain in occupation till I can relieve them by other troops....I have also to request...two 9 inch guns, implements and ammunition, complete, to be placed in battery in the rear of Vicksburg...." 2 pages

- 1863 Jun 3 ALS Ezra Taylor, headquarters, 15th Army Corps, Office, Chief of Artillery, Walnut Hills, Mississippi, to Porter. Requests Porter "...to furnish to Lieut. Col. J. Condit Smith, Chief Quarter Master of this Corps, as many 30 pdr. Parrott Shells with fuzes and friction for same as you can conveniently spare...." 1 page
- 1863 Jun 4 ALS John A. McClernand, headquarters, 13th Army Corps, near Vicksburg, to Porter. Extends his thanks to Porter for furnishing guns, ammunition, and hand grenades. 1 page
- 1863 Jun 5 ANS Ezra Taylor, headquarters, 15th Army Corps, Office Chief of Artillery, to Porter. Extends the thanks of General Sherman to Porter for furnishing the ammunition he requested. 1 page
- 1863 Jun 6 ALS J.H. Burdick, Ordnance Office, Steamer *South Wester*, Yazoo River, to Porter. Requests ammunition from Porter. 1 page
- 1863 Jun 7 ALS Chas. R. Woods, headquarters, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 15th Army Corps, Walnut Hills, Mississippi, to Captain R.M. Sawyer (assistant adjutant general, 15th Army Corps). Regarding the guard on the gunboat *Cincinnati*. (Includes note of General Sherman on verso which reads, "Respectfully referred to Admiral Porter. I was certain there was a mistake about the Guard. The shore near the *Cincinnati* is wooded. 4 sentinels are at the water's edge and the rest of the Guard back out of sight.") 2 pages
- 1863 Jun 12 ALS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, 15th Army Corps, Walnut Hills, Mississippi, to Porter. Sherman deems the bearer of this letter, Robt. H. Russell of Texas, worthy of a permit to go to Bayou Sara and thence to Texas. 1 page
- 1863 Jun 14 ANS J.H. Burdick, Ordnance Office, Chickasaw Bayou, to Porter. Request for ammunition. 1 page
- 1863 Jun 18 ALS F.J. Herron, headquarters, Army of the Frontier, left of investing forces, to Porter. Regarding ammunition stores. 1 page
- 1863 Jun 22 ALS H.T. Reid, headquarters, Post of Providence, Louisiana, to Brigadier General Elias S. Dennis. Regarding the movements of Confederate forces in Arkansas. Includes note of U.S. Grant dated June 24 on verso forwarding the letter to Admiral Porter. 3 pages
- 1863 Jun 26 ALS Chas. R. Woods, headquarters, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 15th Army Corps, Walnut Hills, Mississippi, to Porter. Regarding the progress of his effort to remove guns from the gunboat *Cincinnati*. 2 pages
- 1863 Jun 30 ALS John C. Miller, headquarters, 2nd Division, 15th Army Corps, to Major J.H. Hammond. Mentions reports of enemy movements. Includes note of General Sherman. 2 pages

- 1863 Jul 6 ALS U.S. Grant to Porter. "The company you speak of being captured at Brook Haven is the one I expected to reach Pensacola...." 1 page
- 1863 Jul 11 ANS Jno. S. Rawlins, headquarters, Department of the Tennessee, Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Porter. "The General is out; have sent your dispatches to him, and have no doubt he will carry out your suggestion as to the movement of Gen. Herron." 1 page
- 1863 Jul 12 ALS U.S. Grant, headquarters, Dept. of the Tennessee, Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Porter. Regarding boats going to Natchez. 2 pages
- 1863 Jul 19 ALS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, Army in the Field, Jackson, Mississippi, to Porter. Contains account of the siege of Jackson, Mississippi. 4 pages
- 1863 Jul 21 ALS U.S. Grant, headquarters, Dept of the Tennessee, Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Porter. Grant suggests "that the gunboats between here and Cairo be instructed to let all boats pass until further orders, without convoy." 2 pages
- 1863 Jul 21 ALS U.S. Grant, Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Porter. "I am called in just now for transports to supply Gen. Banks to move the Confederate and our sick, to send off prisoners of war who refused to take the parole, to return the 9th Army Corps to Gen. Burnside and lastly I am ordered from Washington to send a force to Helena to go after Price who is said to be moving into southeast Missouri." Requests boats from Naval Brigade. 2 pages
- 1863 Jul 23 ALS U.S. Grant, headquarters, Department of the Tennessee, Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Porter. Grant requests that soldiers in his command now on Porter's vessels be directed to report to Lieut. Col. L. Kent, provost marshal general at Vicksburg. 1 page
- 1863 Jul 23 ALS James W. Shirk, U.S. Ship *Tuscumbia*, U.S. Mississippi Squadron, to Porter. Discusses the want of officers for this ship. 1 page
- 1863 Jul 23 Telegram S.P. Chase to surveyor customs. "Clear boats & cargoes except of prohibited articles for New Orleans if desired taken bond not to land goods at intermediate points except under permits authorize by existing regulations." 1 page
- 1863 Jul 25 Telegram S.P. Chase to surveyor customs. "Goods shipped to New Orleans under bond not to land at any intermediate points and not be charged the five percent fee." 1 page

- 1863 Aug 4 ALS Nimrod B. McPherson (lieutenant commanding Company A, 101st Illinois Volunteers), on board gun boat "Gen. Bragg," off Helena, Arkansas, to General U.S. Grant. Complains of treatment his company has received from naval officers. Includes note of General Grant dated August 19 on verso requesting of Admiral Porter that "this company be ordered to its regiment if it can be spared from its present duty without detriment to the service." 2 pages
- 1863 Aug 18 ALS Jno. V. Johnston, *U.S.S. Romeo*, White River, to Porter. Requests 10 or 12 seaman to fill positions in his crew. 1 page
- 1863 Aug 20 ALS S.A. Hurlbut, headquarters, 16th Army Corps, Memphis, Tennessee, to commanding officer, Navy Department at Cairo, Illinois. Letter of transmissal of report of General F. Steele, commanding expedition in Arkansas. 1 page
- 1863 Aug 22 ALS Thos. O. Selfridge, *U.S.S. Conestoga*, Vicksburg, to Porter. Contains accounts of the movement of boats in the vicinity of Vicksburg. 2 pages
- 1863 Aug 23 ALS Joshua Bishop, *U.S.S. General Bragg*, off Helena, to Porter. Regarding Acting 2nd Assistant Engineer W.U. Jackson's intention not to accept his appointment. 2 pages
- 1863 Aug 27 ALS Geo. M. Bache, *U.S.S. Linden*, White River, to Porter. Mentions several boats and officers. 3 pages
- 1863 Aug 28 ALS N.P. Banks, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, 19th Army Corps, New Orleans, to Porter. Requests "assistance of some of your gunboats to keep up uninterrupted communication on the Mississippi River....There is great need of patrolling boats along the river, from the mouth of the Red River to College Point..." 2 pages
- 1863 Aug 29 ALS John McLeod Murphy, *U.S.S. Carondelet*, off Hurricane Plantation, Mississippi River, to Porter. Mentions appointment of commissioners to receive testimony relating to depredations committed by Ellet's Marine Brigade last July; and efforts to protect the *Indianola*. 1 page
- 1863 Aug 31 ALS Jas. Laning (Act. Vol. Lieut. U.S.N., Supt. of Construction), Cairo, Illinois, to Porter. Regarding claims relating to the construction of the *Lafayette* and *Choctaw*. 1 page
- 1863 Aug 31 ALS W. Brenton Boggs, Office of Purchasing Paymaster, Mississippi Squadron, Cairo, to Porter. Request permission to employ a temporary writer. 1 page
- 1863 Sep 1 ALS LeRoy Fitch, U.S. Steamer *Moose*, Cincinnati, Ohio, to Porter. Regarding medical surveys. 2 pages

- 1863 Sep 4 ALS Frank M. Ramsay, *U.S.S. Choctaw*, off mouth of Red River, to Porter. Mentions movements of federal gunboats against rebel forces near Morganza. 2 pages
- 1863 Sep 5 ANS S.A. Hurlbut, headquarters, 16<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, to Porter. "...Genl. Steele thinks that the gunboats in White River should be replaced by others, as they are out of repair." 1 page
- 1863 Sep 5 ALS Geo. M. Bache, *U.S.S. Marmora*, Duvall's Bluff, to Porter. Mentions expedition of the *Romeo* to Augusta to catch a Colonel Matlock who was conscripting in the area. 1 page
- 1863 Sep 6 ALS Frank M. Ramsay, *U.S.S. Choctaw*, off mouth of Red River, to Porter. Contains information regarding movements of rebel gunboats obtained from a deserter named George Gallagher; includes detailed description of the rebel gunboat *Missouri*. 3 pages
- 1863 Sep 6 ALS K.R. Breese, Office Mississippi Squadron, Cairo, Illinois, to Porter. Mentions several gunboats. 3 pages
- 1863 Sep 8 ALS S.L. Phelps, U.S. Gunboat *Hastings*, Helena, to Porter. Regarding the movement of federal gunboats. 2 pages
- 1863 Sep 11 ANS Geo. P. Lord, U.S. Gunboat *Covington*, Duvall's Bluffs, Arkansas, to Porter. "...most dispatches that come to this vessel are directed to Actg. Vol. Lieut. J.S. Hurd. I have been commanding this vessel since June 18, 1863." 1 page
- 1863 Sep 13 ALS S.A. Hurlbut, headquarters, 16<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Memphis, Tennessee, to commanding officer, U.S. Navy, Cairo, Illinois. Reports that a force of guerrillas is near Daniel's Point and another force will soon be at Hickman's Bend. 1 page
- 1863 Sep 13 ALS K.R. Breese, Office Mississippi Squadron, Cairo, Illinois, to Porter. Discusses status of several federal gunboats and mentions desire of Walker to join the Squadron. 3 pages
- 1863 Sep 14 ALS Jas. A. Greer, *U.S.S. Benton*, off Natchez, to Porter. Regarding efforts of a man named Drake, a citizen of Illinois, to receive gunboat protection for his shipment of cotton. 2 pages
- 1863 Sep 16 ALS LeRoy Fitch, Office Mississippi Squadron, Cairo, Illinois, to Porter. Recommendation for promotion of Acting Ensign Joseph Watson to acting master. 2 pages

- 1863 Sep 17 ALS Jas. Laning, Cairo, Illinois, to Porter. Reports himself ready for any service. 1 page
- 1863 Dec 15 ALS N.P. Banks, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, to Porter. Regarding gunboats to be sent to the Atchafalaya and Berwick's Bay. 3 pages
- 1863 Dec 22 ALS Jas. P. Foster, *U.S.S. LaFayette*, off Bayou Sara, Louisiana, to Porter. Regarding the firing on the *Von Phul*. 2 pages
- 1863 Dec 25 ALS E.K. Owen, *U.S.S. Louisville*, off Skipwith Landing, to Porter. Regarding stores sent on *Champion No. 5* and *Great Western*. 1 page
- 1863 Dec 27 ALS Jas. M. Prichett, U.S. Gun Boat *Tyler*, mouth of White River, to Porter. Regarding J.F. Wright, a resident of Mississippi, who brings salt from Napoleon to Bolivar County. 1 page
- 1863 Dec 29 ALS N.P. Banks, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, to Porter. Regarding the removal of the guns mounted on the river at Port Hudson, and gunboats to be sent to the Atchafalaya and Berwick's Bay. 2 pages
- 1863 Dec 31 ALS A.S. Bowen, U.S. Naval Rendezvous, Cincinnati, Ohio, to Porter. Mentions men working for him. 1 page
- 1864 Jan 1 ALS M.R. Kintzing, Marine Barracks, Cairo, to Porter. Reports arrival of detachment of U.S. Marines. 1 page
- 1864 Jan 8 ALS James W. Shirk, *U.S.S. Peosta*, Savannah, Tennessee, to Porter. Mentions bands of rebels in Tennessee. 1 page
- 1864 Feb 10 ALS E.K. Owen, *U.S.S. Marmora*, off Yazoo City, to Porter. Discusses taking formal possession of Yazoo City, and depredations committed by Acting Ensign Daniel Jones and Acting Master's Mate H.M. Scott. 4 pages
- 1864 Feb 20 ALS Geo. P. Lord, *U.S.S. Covington*, to Porter. Contains report of a refugee, Captain Delancy, regarding Confederate ironclads. 3 pages
- 1864 Feb 20 ALS N.P. Banks, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, to Porter. Regarding plans for Red River Campaign. 2 pages
- 1864 Feb 24 ALS Alfred W. Ellet, headquarters, Mississippi Marine Brigade, flag ship *Autocrat*, Grand Gulf, Mississippi, to Porter. Request investigation of Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Hoel, who stopped the steamer *Welcome*, which was carrying troops under Ellet's orders. 2 pages

- 1864 Feb 29 ALS J.S. Watson, *U.S.S. Juliet*, off Ellis' Cliffs, to Lieut. Commander F.M. Ramsay. Reports on recent action of the *Cricket*, which inadvertently fired on a scouting party near the head of Glascock's Island. 2 pages
- 1864 Mar 1 ALS Robert Townsend, U.S. Ironclad Steamer *Essex*, off Donaldsonville, Louisiana, to Commodore James S. Palmer. Mentions the sinking of the steam scow *Hope* in a collision with the *St. Clair*. 2 pages
- 1864 Mar 2 ANS John G. Mitchell, *U.S.S. Carondelet*, Gaines Landing, to Porter. Requests copy of the Regulations of the Treasury of March 31, 1863. 1 page
- 1864 Mar 3 ALS Geo. P. Lord, *U.S.S. Covington*, White River, to Porter. Mentions Pilot McKay. 1 page
- 1864 Mar 7 ALS J. Palmer, *U.S.S. Pensacola*, off New Orleans, Louisiana, to Porter. 2 pages
- 1864 Mar 7 ALS J. Palmer, *U.S.S. Pensacola*, off New Orleans, Louisiana, to Porter. The owner of the steamer *Hope*, which was sunk by the *St. Clair*, is coming to present his case. 1 page
- 1864 Mar 8 ALS Robert Townsend, U.S. Ironclad Steamer *Essex*, off Red River, to Porter. Request permission to send Coxswain Stephen H. Berry, who is ill, to Cairo. 1 page
- 1864 Mar 8 ALS Geo. L. Andrews, headquarters U.S. Forces, Port Hudson, Louisiana, to Lieut. Commander J.P. Foster. Reports that rebels intend to exchange cotton for medicines under a flag of truce. 1 page
- 1864 Mar 30 ALS Ch. P. Stone, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Alexandria, to Porter. Request assistance for passing the *Iberville* and *Jennie Rodgers*. 2 pages
- 1864 Mar 30 ALS Ch. P. Stone, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Alexandria, to Porter. Regarding the *Alice Vivian*. 1 page
- [1864 Apr?] ALS Thos. O. Selfridge, *U.S.S. Osage*, Grand Ecore, to Porter. "...Our cavalry made a reconnaissance towards Alexandria yesterday, & found the rebels in strong force. We have all the cotton worth taking in the three gunboats." 2 pages
- 1864 Apr 1 ALS Jas. M. Prichett, U.S. Gun Boat *Tyler*, mouth of White River, to Porter. "...I have this day sent the officers and crew of the *Linden* to Cairo by the *New National*. 1 page
- 1864 Apr 3 ANS Charles A. Wright, *U.S.S. Avenger*, mouth Black River, Louisiana, to Porter. Forwards quarterly returns. 1 page

- 1864 Apr 3 ALS W.T. Sherman, headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi, Nashville, Tennessee, to Porter. Discusses General Banks' movements. 4 pages
- 1864 Apr 4 ALS Geo. M. Bache, *U.S.S. Lexington*, to Porter. Describes skirmish with rebel forces at Camptown [Campti?]. 2 pages
- 1864 Apr 5 ALS E.K. Owen, *U.S.S. Louisville*, to Porter. Regarding operations. 2 pages
- 1864 Apr 6 ALS N.P. Banks, Headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Grand Ecore, Louisiana, to Porter. Mentions the arrest of Hanson and Sells and policy regarding cotton shipments. 2 pages
- 1864 Apr 6 ALS K.R. Breese, Mississippi Squadron, Flag Ship *Black Hawk*, to Porter. Mentions boats traveling on the river. 4 pages
- 1864 Apr 8 ALS Robert Townsend, U.S. Ironclad Steamer *Essex*, off Fort De Russey, to Porter. Regarding the effect of shot on the ironclad, casemated battery at the fort. 1 page
- 1864 Apr 8 ALS Thos. Kilby Smith, headquarters, 17th Army Corps, *Hastings*, to Porter. Briefly reports on skirmishes with rebels. 2 pages
- 1864 Apr 10 ALS Watson Smith, Mississippi Squadron, to Porter. Regarding the grounding of his vessel in the river. 3 pages
- 1864 Apr 10 ALS S.L. Phelps, U.S. Ironclad Ram *Eastport*, Grand Ecore, to Porter. "...Our army is in full retreat to this point...." 1 page
- 1864 Apr 10 ALS Thos. Kilby Smith, headquarters, 17th Army Corps, steamer *Hastings*, on Red River, Louisiana, to Porter. Contains report of General Banks' battle with rebel forces near Mansfield. 2 pages
- 1864 Apr 12 ALS C[yrenus] Dominey, steamer *General Bragg*, mouth of Red River, to Porter. Reports a Mr. Bennet's demand for confiscated cotton on board the *U.S.S. Juliette*. (Attached are ALS W. Bennet, office of assistant special agent of the Treasury Dept. for Leasing Abandoned Plantations, Natchez, Mississippi, to Capt. Cyrenus Dominey, stating his rights to cotton confiscated from the Elger Plantation; and DS W. Bennet describing seized bales of cotton.)
- 1864 Apr 14 ALS Geo. B. Drake, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Grand Ecore, to Porter. "The Commanding General [has recalled] the signal officer from duty with you, to send him out in direction of Campti." 1 page
- 1864 Apr 14 ALS Ch. P. Stone, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Grand Ecore, to Porter. Regarding receipt and delivery of dispatches to Lt. Com. Smith and Brig. Gen. Kilby Smith. 1 page

- [1864] Apr 17 ALS Thos. O. Selfridge, *U.S.S. Osage*, Grand Ecore, to Porter. Mentions that he will bring cotton down; also mentions a Col. Bailey, “who has much experience in raising boats.” 2 p.
- 1864 Apr 17 ALS B. Wilson, *Ouichita [Ouachita]*, mouth Red River, to Lt. Com. K.R. Breese. “...[have] heard nothing lately from Fort Pillow....” 1 page
- 1864 Apr 17 ALS N.P. Banks, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Grand Ecore, to Lieutenant Commander Thomas O. Selfridge, on board *U.S.S. Osage*. Questions whether he will receive cooperation from General Steele in moving on Shreveport. 3 pages
- 1864 Apr 20 ALS Jas. P. Foster, *U.S.S. La Fayette*, to Porter. Recounts recent operations on the Black River and Mississippi River. 5 pages
- 1864 Apr 20 ALS N.P. Banks, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Grand Ecore, to Porter. Recommends Mr. Conway, chief of telegraphic operations. 1 page
- 1864 Apr 25 ALS Watson Smith, *U.S.S. Chillicothe*, above falls, Alexandria, Louisiana, to Porter. Reports on condition and whereabouts of gunboats, and skirmishes with rebels. 3 pages
- 1864 Apr 29 ALS N.P. Banks, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Alexandria, Louisiana, to Porter. “Colonel Bailey has been ordered to build the dam...” 1 page
- 1864 Apr 29 ANS Geo. B. Drake, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Alexandria, Louisiana, to Porter. “Permission has been granted Major General McClermand to have the muskets of his command discharged at 5:30 p.m. By command of Major General Banks.” 1 page
- 1864 Apr 29 ALS William Dwight, headquarters, Department of the Gulf, Alexandria, to Porter. Request the loan of a boat to lay a bridge across Red River. 1 page
- 1864 May 1 ALS C. Grover, headquarters U.S. Forces, Alexandria, Louisiana, to the assistant adjutant general, headquarters, Department of the Gulf. Requests “that the commander of the flotilla of this post be requested not to open fire upon the other side of the river without a direct request from Col. Molineaux, commanding brigade near Pineville...” 1 page