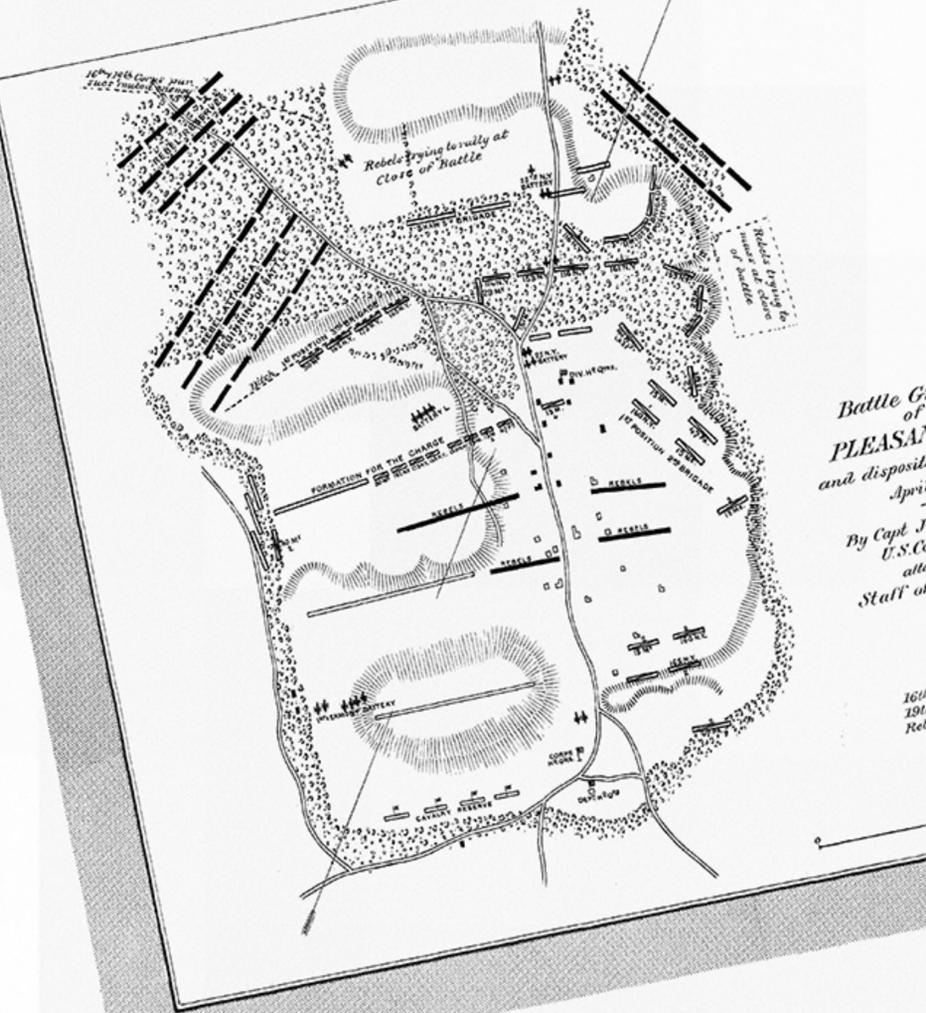
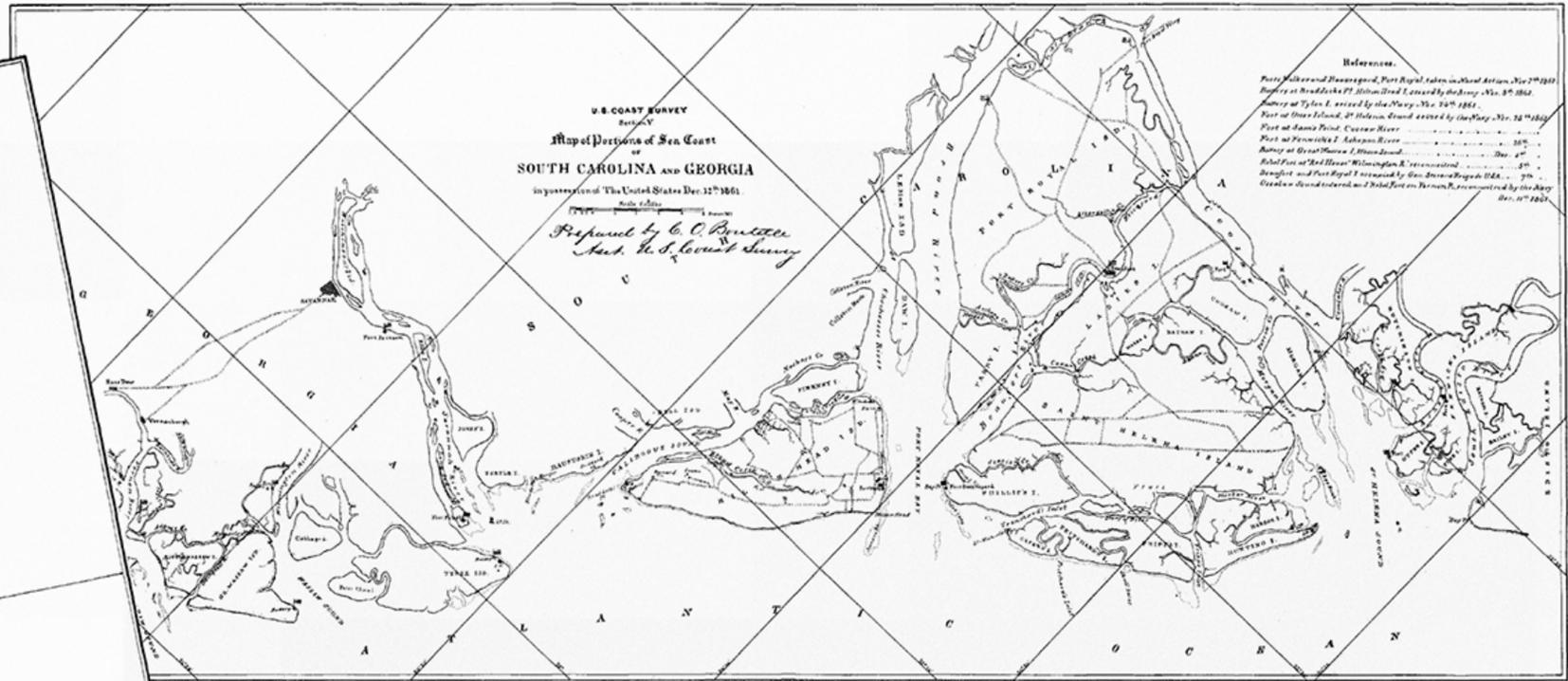
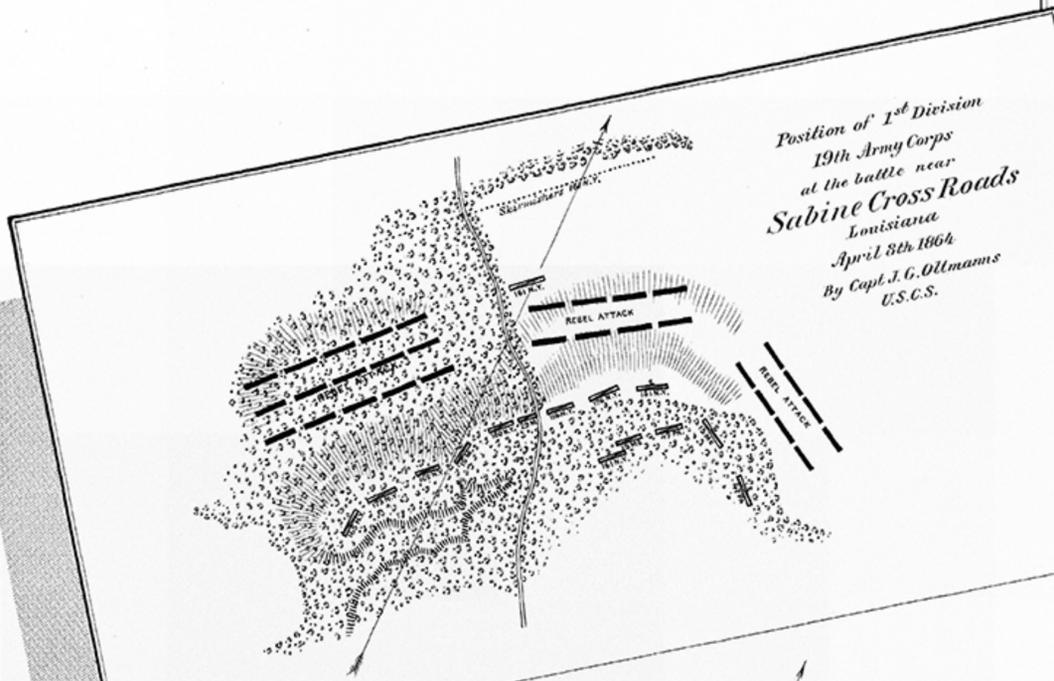


# MILITARY MAPPING BY THE COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, 1861-1865



The Coast and Geodetic Survey produced scores of maps, sketches, and special surveys for military use during the Civil War. These were prepared by Coast Survey personnel in the field. (Left: Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Hill), and in the Washington Office, where topographic and military intelligence was disseminated and compiled into charts of strategic or historic value. (Above: Seacoast of South Carolina and Georgia.)

At the onset of the war material in the Coast Survey office was rapidly compiled into hydrographic notes, and, by lithographic and photographic processes, the unpublished maps and charts, and memoirs of the coast were placed at the disposal of the departments of the Government, and of the officers engaged in consultations in regard to, or the executions of, operations along the coast.

In May 1861, a hydrographic reconnaissance of the Potomac, between Blakistone Island and Georgetown, D. C., was executed by the Coast Survey. The results of the reconnaissance were immediately plotted and furnished to the military and naval authorities.

The Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, which had done a magnificent job of exploring and mapping the western United States, was, by 1861, numerically insufficient for the performance of all the duties of reconnaissance, surveying, etc., resulting from the immense military forces in the field. Besides, they were urgently needed for duties strictly of a military engineering nature. Thus, under the circumstances the Coast Survey proved its usefulness. General McClellan, in reference to the Peninsula Campaign, ob-

served that the Topographical Engineers were so few in number that the War Department relied upon parties furnished by Professor A. D. Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and "other gentlemen from civil life."

Prior to the war, the demand for charts did not average ten thousand annually, but in 1861, the Coast Survey issued twenty-one thousand copies of charts and in 1862, forty-four thousand.

Coast Survey Assistant J. G. Oltmanns served as aide-de-camp to Union Major General W. B. Franklin at the battles of Sabine Cross Roads, April 8, 1864, and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864. During this engagement Oltmanns executed the battlefield plans shown on the left. These were important engagements of the war in which General Franklin was seriously wounded and subsequently retired from battle, and the retrograde movement of Union Forces from Sabine Cross Roads was nearly disastrous. Franklin's army reassembled, however, to check the Confederate advance at Pleasant Hill. While at Sabine Cross Roads, Assistant Oltmanns had the bridge cut from his hand by a shell.

Another Survey Assistant, C. O. Boutelle, compiled the map illustrated above of the Seacoast of South Carolina and Georgia in Possession of the United States, December 12, 1861. Assistant Boutelle's field services were of considerable value to the military effort along the southeastern coastal areas. General Sherman states: "It is my duty to

report the valuable services of Mr. Boutelle, Assistant in the Coast Survey, in assisting me with his accurate and extensive knowledge of this country."

During this year of 1957, the Coast and Geodetic Survey is observing its 150th year of service to the nation. This demonstration is both a part of its year-long Sesquicentennial celebration, and a salute to the Society of American Military Engineers on the occasion of their 37th Annual Meeting. The Coast and Geodetic Survey is host to these engineers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and civil employment, May 20-21, 1957. The Survey and the Society have cooperated closely in recent years, in many ways, especially through the splendid S. A. M. E. Publication *The Military Engineer*.

Since 1949, the Survey has sponsored the 955 Engineer Co. (Topographic) (Corps) an Army Reserve Unit, whose mobile press van has been employed in this demonstration.

The 368th Engineer Detachment (Geodetic) (Survey) is another Bureau sponsored unit that performs highly technical work related to topography and geodesy.

The relationship between the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the military forces of the United States has always been close, and continues in an alliance of technical "know-how" for the defense of the nation.



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY**  
**SESQUICENTENNIAL**  
1807 - 1957