

PLATE 11: APPROACH TO GRAND GULF, 1864

To make an effective assault on Vicksburg, it was necessary that General Grant's troops be ferried from the west to the east shore of the Mississippi River south of Vicksburg. For this reason, after running the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg, Union Rear Admiral David D. Porter, ordered the Confederate fortification at Grand Gulf, Mississippi, on April 29, 1863. On May 3, his fleet transported Grant's troops just south of Grand Gulf.

Even after the fall of Vicksburg, Confederate guerrilla parties continued raiding in the area. Accordingly, Coast Survey Assistant F. H. Gerdes was assigned, by Rear Admiral David D. Porter, the Union armed steamer *Cutbow* and her crew, to map the vicinity in detail. This meant, considered her in 1864, not only above the soundings carefully made in the bend of the river, but also the shore topography and vegetation, together with all the cultural features in the vicinity of the town of Grand Gulf, and the Confederate and Union lines of fortifications.



APPROACHES TO GRAND GULF

From a Topographical & Hydrographical Survey

by F. H. GERDES Assistant,

assigned by

A. D. BACHE Supdt. U.S. Coast Survey

to act under orders of

Rear Admiral D. D. PORTER U.S. Navy

Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

Scale 10:600

1864

Note: The Soundings are in feet, and refer to a mean stage of the river.
The survey was made in May 1864.
The curves of 6, 12 and 18 feet are represented thus

Statute Mile

Nautical Mile