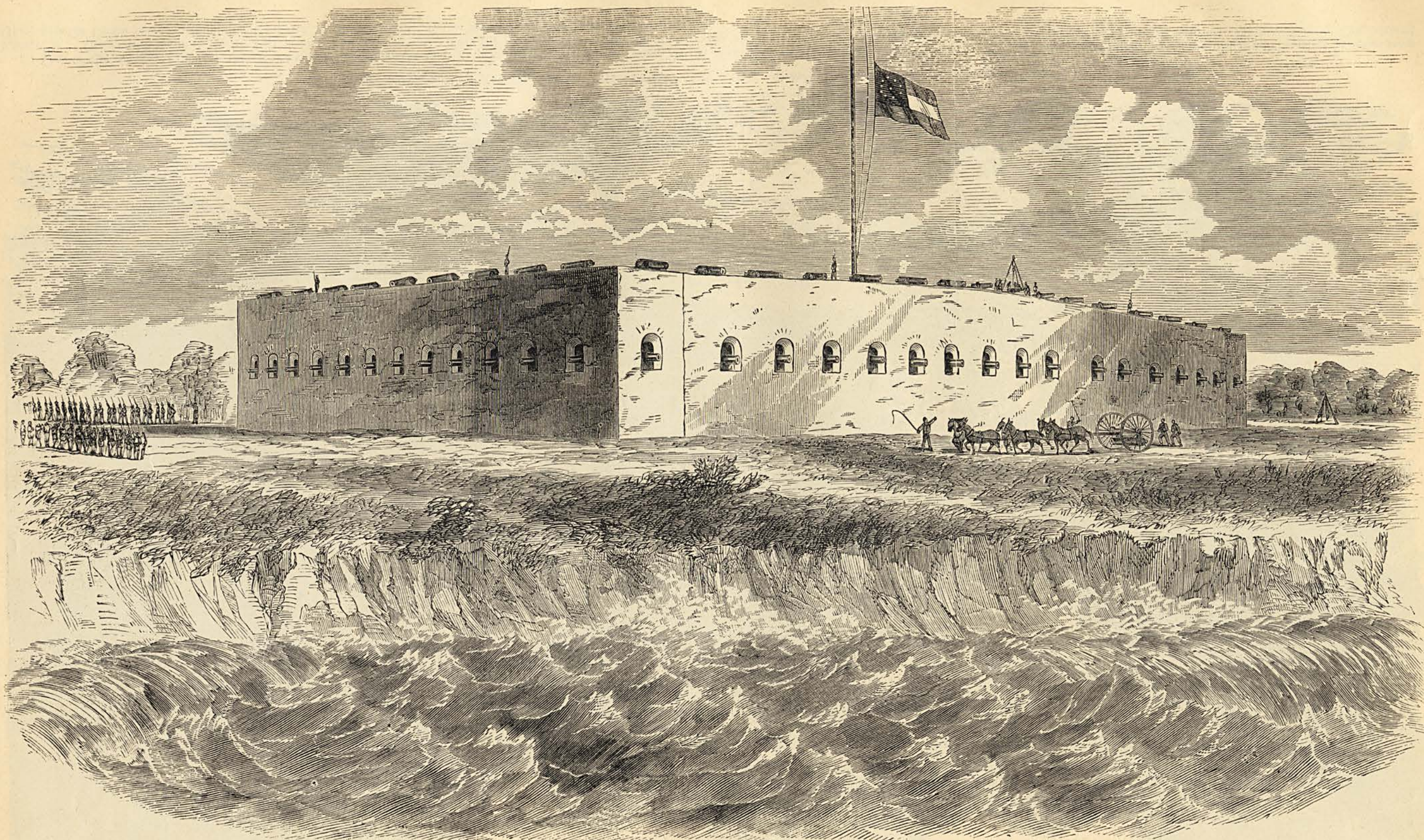




FORT PULASKI, AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SAVANNAH RIVER, AS IT APPEARED WHEN IN POSSESSION OF THE CONFEDERATES.

Fort Pulaski, a substantial fortress erected by the United States long before the Civil War, stood upon Cockspur Island, at the mouth of the Savannah River, and was the strongest defence of the port and city of Savannah. The Federals had blockaded the river and secured possession of the neighboring coasts early in 1861, and early in 1862 undertook the reduction of this and its supporting forts. Troops were sent to Big Tybee Island, and a channel was discovered by which gunboats were able to get into the rear of Fort Pulaski. Another expedition, by way of Warsaw Sound, secured a position where their guns commanded the channel and effectually cut off the fort from the city. Heavy batteries were erected on Big Tybee Island, and upon April 10, 1862, the surrender of the fort was demanded and refused, whereupon 36 siege-rifles and heavy mortars opened fire upon it and battered it so well that upon the 12th it was surrendered. After that there was no more blockade-running at Savannah, the river being not only well guarded by the garrisons stationed at its mouth, but also by the placing of permanent obstructions in the channel, consisting of sunken ships filled with stones.