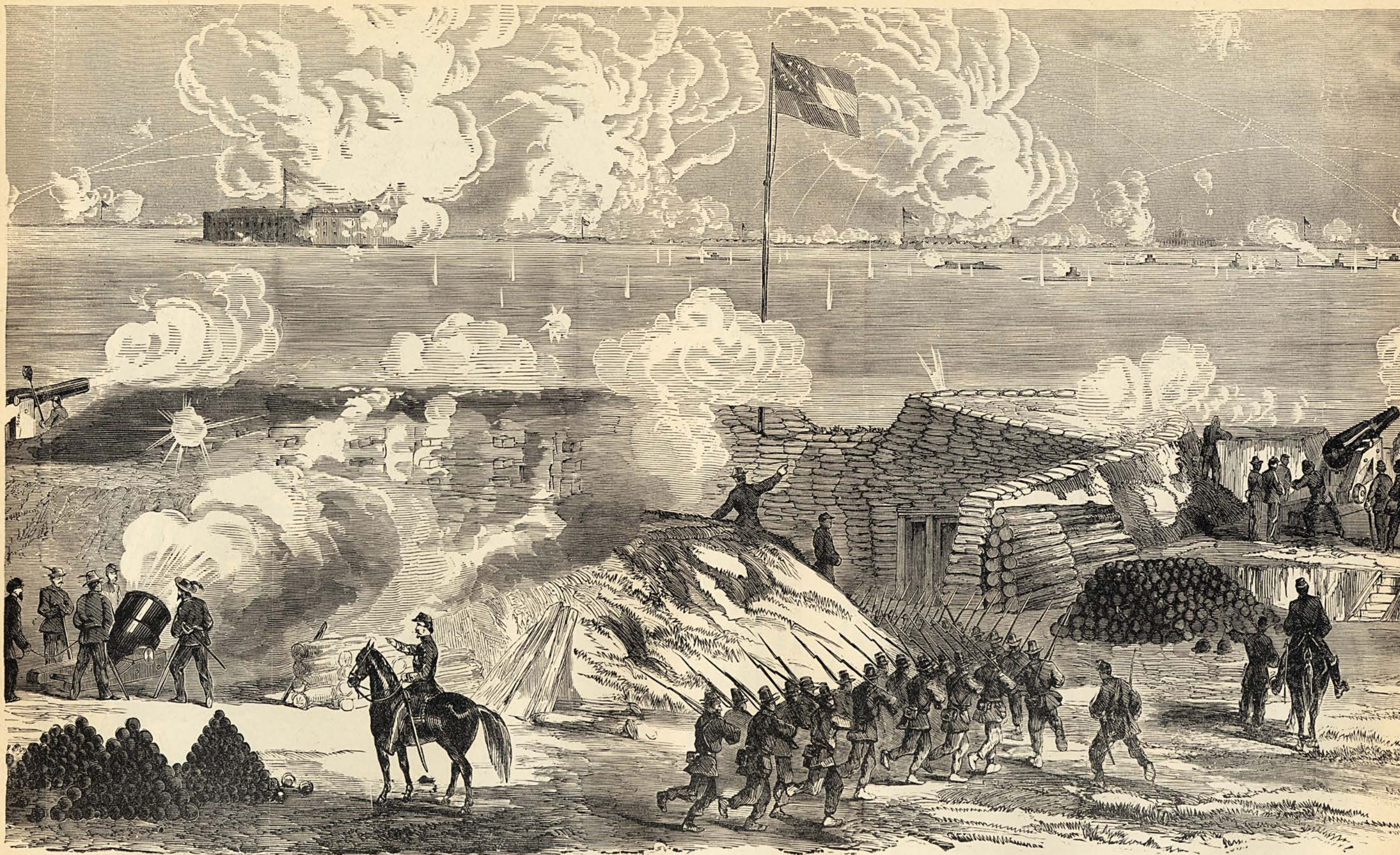




THE FEDERAL FLEET, COMMANDED BY ADMIRAL DUPONT, OPENING FIRE ON FORT SUMTER, APRIL 7, 1863.

The bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 7 had the character of a reconnaissance in force. Seven monitors and two ironclad steamers took part. But little damage was done to the walls of Sumter; on the other hand, the monitors emerged from the combat with crippled guns and turrets. The attempt to reduce the fort by battering was then declared impracticable.