

C. Wor., May 22nd 1861 (va. received Apr. 17)
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Portsmouth
May 22nd 1861

Dear Pa;

I embrace the present as a favorable opportunity to let you hear from me, we the Beauregards left Lynchburg Monday morning and arrived at Richmond the evening of the same day we encamped in the Columbian Hotel where we staid until Wednesday morning when we left for this place and arrived here about 12 O'clock to day I dont like here the best in the world as it is far from being a healthy place and there is a very bad smell about the waters edge by what caused I cannot tell we came from Richmond here by railroad via Petersburg we have changed our company into an artillery company called the Beauregard Battery and will leave here to morrow ~~for~~ for Jewells Point where we will take possession of our battery. Jewells Point is about twelve miles below here on Elizabeth river this point has already been fired on by the Northerners without effect

I went over in Portsmouth to day and went through the Gosport Navy yard I had no idea of the damage that was done there by the fire and a great many of the cannons are ruined by being broken so they will be altogether useless

I have no news to write so I must bring my
letter to a close we are all well but our fair
is pretty late. Though we are staying in an old
hotel that is said was used as a hospital du-
ring the time of the yellow fever here
When you write direct to Norfalle as this will
be my office Your Son
Edw. Isbell

Civil War Letter
Pope Isbell to his father