

REPORTS FROM GENERAL TAYLOR.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

Official reports from General Taylor.

JUNE 12, 1846.

Read, and laid upon the table.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith, for the information of Congress, official reports received from the officer commanding the army on the Mexican frontier, giving a detailed report of the operations of the army in that quarter, and particularly of the recent engagements between the American and Mexican forces.

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, June 12, 1846.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 11, 1846.

SIR: I respectfully submit, herewith, reports of Brevet Major General Taylor, and accompanying documents, giving a detailed account of the battles of "Palo Alto," and of the "Resaca de la Palma," in Texas, which took place on the 8th and 9th ultimo; and also of the bombardment of the fort opposite Matamoras.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Matamoras, May 16, 1846.

SIR: I have now the honor to submit a more detailed report of the action of the 8th instant.

The main body of the army of occupation marched under my immediate orders from Point Isabel, on the evening of the 7th May, and bivouacked 7 miles from that place.

Our march was resumed the following morning. About noon, when our advance of cavalry had reached the water-hole of "Palo Alto," the Mexican troops were reported in our front, and were soon discovered occupying the road in force. I ordered a halt upon reaching the water, with a view to rest and refresh the men, and form deliberately our line of battle. The Mexican line was now plainly visible across the prairie, and about three-quarters of a mile distant. Their left, which was composed of a heavy force of cavalry, occupied the road resting upon a thicket of chaparral, while masses of infantry were discovered in succession on the right, greatly outnumbering our own force.

Our line of battle was now formed in the following order, commencing on the extreme right: 5th infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel McIntosh; Major Ringgold's artillery; 3d infantry, commanded by Captain L. M. Morris; two 18-pounders, commanded by Lieutenant Churchill, 3d artillery; 4th infantry, commanded by Major G. W. Allen. The 3d and 4th regiments composed the 3d brigade, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Garland; and all the above corps, together with two squadrons of dragoons under captains Ker and May, composed the right wing, under the orders of Colonel Twiggs. The left was formed by the battalion of artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Childs, Captain Duncan's light artillery, and the 8th infantry, under Captain Montgomery—all forming the 1st brigade, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Belknap. The train was packed near the water, under direction of Captains Crosman and Myers, and protected by Captain Ker's squadron.

About 2 o'clock we took up the march by heads of column, in the direction of the enemy, the 18-pounder battery following the road. While the columns were advancing, Lieutenant Blake, topographical engineers, volunteered a reconnoissance of the enemy's line, which was handsomely performed, and resulted in the discovery of at least two batteries of artillery in the intervals of their cavalry and infantry. These batteries were soon opened upon us, when I ordered the columns halted and deployed into line, and the fire to be returned by all our artillery. The 8th infantry, on our extreme left, was thrown back to secure that flank. The first fires of the enemy did little execution, while our 18-pounder and Major Ringgold's artillery soon dispersed the cavalry which formed his left. Captain Duncan's battery, thrown forward in advance of the line, was doing good execution at this time. Captain May's squadron was now detached to support that battery and the left of our position. The Mexican cavalry, with two pieces of artillery, were now reported to be moving through the chaparral to our right, to threaten that flank or make a demonstration against the train. The 5th infantry was immediately detached to check this movement, and, supported by Lieutenant Ridgely, with a section of Major Ringgold's battery and Captain Walker's company of volunteers, effectually repulsed the enemy—the 5th infantry repelling a charge of lancers, and the artillery doing great execution in

their ranks. The 3d infantry was now detached to the right as a still further security to that flank yet threatened by the enemy. Major Ringgold, with the remaining section, kept up his fire from an advanced position, and was supported by the 4th infantry.

The grass of the prairie had been accidentally fired by our artillery, and the volumes of smoke now partially concealed the armies from each other. As the enemy's left had evidently been driven back and left the road free, and as the cannonade had been suspended, I ordered forward the 18-pounders on the road nearly to the position first occupied by the Mexican cavalry, and caused the 1st brigade to take up a new position still on the left of the 18-pounder battery. The 5th was advanced from its former position, and occupied a point on the extreme right of the new line. The enemy made a change of position corresponding to our own, and, after a suspension of nearly an hour, the action was resumed.

The fire of artillery was now most destructive; openings were constantly made through the enemy's ranks by our fire, and the constancy with which the Mexican infantry sustained this severe cannonade was a theme of universal remark and admiration. Capt. May's squadron was detached to make a demonstration on the left of the enemy's position, and suffered severely from the fire of artillery to which it was for some time exposed.

The 4th infantry, which had been ordered to support the 18-pounder battery, was exposed to a most galling fire of artillery, by which several men were killed, and Capt. Page dangerously wounded. The enemy's fire was directed against our 18-pounder battery, and the guns under Major Ringgold in its vicinity. The Major himself, while coolly directing the fire of his pieces, was struck by a cannon ball and mortally wounded.

In the mean time the battalion of artillery under Lieut. Col. Childs had been brought up to support the artillery on our right. A strong demonstration of cavalry was now made by the enemy against this part of our line, and the column continued to advance under a severe fire from the 18-pounders. The battalion was instantly formed in square, and held ready to receive the charge of cavalry; but when the advancing squadrons were within close range, a deadly fire of cannister from the 18-pounders dispersed them. A brisk fire of small arms was now opened upon the square, by which one officer, Lieut. Luther, 2d artillery, was slightly wounded; but a well-directed volley from the front of the square silenced all further firing from the enemy in this quarter. It was now nearly dark, and the action was closed on the right of our line—the enemy having been completely driven back from his position, and foiled in every attempt against our line.

While the above was going forward on our right, and under my own eye, the enemy had made a serious attempt against the left of our line. Capt. Duncan instantly perceived the movement, and, by the bold and brilliant manœuvring of his battery, completely repulsed several successive efforts of the enemy to advance in force upon our left flank. Supported in succession by the 8th infantry and by Capt. Ker's squadron of dragoons, he gallantly held the enemy at bay, and finally drove him with immense loss from the field. The action here, and along the whole line, continued until dark, when the enemy retired into the chapparal in rear of his position. Our army bivouacked on the ground it occupied. Du-

ring the afternoon the train had been moved forward about half a mile, and was packed in rear of the new position.

Our loss this day was nine killed, forty-four wounded, and two missing. Among the wounded were Major Ringgold, who has since died, and Captain Page, dangerously wounded; Lieut. Luther slightly so. I annex a tabular statement of the casualties of the day.

Our own force engaged is shown by the field report (herewith) to have been 177 officers and 2,111 men; aggregate, 2,288. The Mexican force, according to the statements of their own officers taken prisoners in the affair of the 9th, was not less than 6,000 regular troops, with 10 pieces of artillery, and probably exceeded that number; the irregular force not known. Their loss was not less than 200 killed and 400 wounded—probably greater. This estimate is very moderate, and formed upon the number actually counted upon the field, and upon the reports of their own officers.

As already reported in my first brief despatch, the conduct of our officers and men was everything that could be desired. Exposed for hours to the severest trial, a cannonade of artillery, our troops displayed a coolness and constancy which gave me, throughout, the assurance of victory.

I purposely defer the mention of individuals until my report of the action of the 9th, when I will endeavor to do justice to the many instances of distinguished conduct on both days. In the mean time I refer, for more minute details, to the reports of individual commanders.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A., commanding.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing of the Army of Occupation at the action of Palo Alto, May 8, 1846.

Corps.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Aggregate.		Horses.	
	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
Right wing—light artillery, (Ringgold's)	-	1	*1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
2d dragoons	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6	10	2
3d brigade—3d infantry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th infantry	-	1	†1	2	-	-	1	3	-	-
5th infantry	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
1st brigade—light artillery, (Duncan's)	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	4	-
battalion of artillery	-	3	†1	9	-	-	3	10	-	-
8th infantry	-	4	-	16	-	2	4	16	-	-
Aggregate	-	9	3	41	-	2	9	44	14	4

* Major Ringgold, mortally, (since dead.)

† Captain Page, dangerously.

‡ Lieutenant Luther, slightly.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Matamoros, May 16, 1846.

W. W. S. BLISS, Assistant Adjutant General.

Z. TAYLOR, Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A., commanding.

Field report of the corps composing the Army of Occupation, commanded by Brevet Brigadier General Z. Taylor, May 8, 1846.

Corps.	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Aggregate.
General staff - - - - -	11	9	20
Right wing—light artillery (Ringgold's) - - - - -	5	50	55
2d dragoons - - - - -	19	243	262
3d brigade—3d and 4th regiments - - - - -	52	611	663
5th infantry - - - - -	22	358	380
1st brigade—light artillery (Duncan's) - - - - -	4	49	53
battalion of artillery and 8th infantry - - - - -	64	791	855
Aggregate - - - - -	177	2,111	2,288

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Matamoras, May 16, 1846.

Z. TAYLOR,
Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A., commanding.

W. W. S. BLISS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Fort Brown, Texas, May 17, 1846.

SIR: In submitting a more minute report of the affair of "Resaca de la Palma," I have the honor to state that, early on the morning of the 9th instant, the enemy, who had encamped near the field of battle of the day previous, was discovered moving by his left flank, evidently in retreat, and perhaps at the same time to gain a new position on the road to Matamoras, and there again resist our advance.

I ordered the supply-train to be strongly packed at its position, and left with it four pieces of artillery—the two 18-pounders which had done such good service on the previous day, and two 12-pounders, which had not been in the action. The wounded officers and men were, at the same time, sent back to Point Isabel. I then moved forward with the columns to the edge of the chapparal, or forest, which extends to the Rio Grande, a distance of seven miles. The light companies of the first brigade, under Captain C. T. Smith, 2d artillery, and a select detachment of light troops, the whole under the command of Captain McCall, 4th infantry, were thrown forward into the chapparal to feel the enemy, and ascertain his position. About 3 o'clock I received a report from the advance that the enemy was in position on the road, with at least two pieces of artillery. The command was immediately put in motion, and about 4 o'clock I came up with Captain McCall, who reported the enemy in force

in our front, occupying a ravine which intersects the road, and is skirted by thickets of dense chapparal. Ridgely's battery, and the advance under Captain McCall, were at once thrown forward on the road, and into the chapparal on either side, while the 5th infantry and one wing of the 4th was thrown into the forest on the left, and the 3d and the other wing of the 4th on the right of the road. These corps were employed as skirmishers, to cover the battery, and engage the Mexican infantry. Captain McCall's command became at once engaged with the enemy, while the light artillery, though in a very exposed position, did great execution. The enemy had at least eight pieces of artillery, and maintained an incessant fire upon our advance.

The action now became general; and although the enemy's infantry gave way before the steady fire and resistless progress of our own, yet his artillery was still in position to check our advance, several pieces occupying the pass across the ravine which he had chosen for his position. Perceiving that no decisive advantage could be gained until this artillery was silenced, I ordered Captain May to charge the batteries, with his squadron of dragoons. This was gallantly and effectually executed. The enemy was driven from his guns, and General La Vega, who remained alone at one of the batteries, was taken prisoner. The squadron, which suffered much in this charge, not being immediately supported by infantry, could not retain possession of the artillery taken, but it was completely silenced. In the mean time the 8th infantry had been ordered up, and had become warmly engaged on the right of the road. This regiment and a part of the 5th were now ordered to charge the batteries, which was handsomely done, and the enemy entirely driven from his artillery and his position on the left of the road.

The light companies of the first brigade, and the 3d and 4th regiments of infantry, had been deployed on the right of the road, when, at various points, they became briskly engaged with the enemy. A small party, under Captain Buchanan and Lieutenants Wood and Hays, 4th infantry, composed chiefly of men of that regiment, drove the enemy from a breastwork which he occupied, and captured a piece of artillery. An attempt to recover this piece was repulsed by Captain Barbour, 3d infantry. The enemy was at last completely driven from his position on the right of the road, and retreated precipitately, leaving baggage of every description. The 4th infantry took possession of a camp where the headquarters of the Mexican general-in-chief were established. All his official correspondence was captured at this place.

The artillery battalion (excepting the flank companies) had been ordered to guard the baggage train, which was packed some distance in rear. That battalion was now ordered up to pursue the enemy, and, with the 3d infantry, Captain Ker's dragoons, and Captain Duncan's battery, followed him rapidly to the river, making a number of prisoners. Great numbers of the enemy were drowned, in attempting to cross the river near the town. The corps last mentioned encamped near the river; the remainder of the army on the field of battle.

The strength of our marching force on this day, as exhibited in the annexed field report, was 173 officers and 2,049 men; aggregate, 2,222. The actual number engaged with the enemy did not exceed 1,700. Our loss was three officers killed, thirty-six men killed and seventy-one wounded. Among the officers killed I have to regret the loss of Lieu-

tenant Inge, 2d dragoons, who fell at the head of his platoon, while gallantly charging the enemy's battery; of Lieutenant Cochrane of the 4th, and Lieutenant Chadbourne of the 8th infantry, who likewise met their death in the thickest of the fight. The officers wounded were Lieutenant Colonel Payne, inspector general; Lieutenant Dobbins, 3d infantry, serving with the light infantry advance, slightly; Lieutenant Colonel McIntosh, 5th infantry, severely, twice; Captain Hooe, 5th infantry, severely, (right arm since amputated;) Lieutenant Fowler, 5th infantry, slightly; Captain Montgomery, 8th infantry, slightly; Lieutenants Gates and Jordan, 8th infantry, severely, each twice; Lieutenants Selden, Maclay, Burbank, and Morris, 8th infantry, slightly. A tabular statement of the killed and wounded is annexed herewith.

I have no accurate data from which to estimate the enemy's force on this day. He is known to have been reinforced after the action of the 8th, both by cavalry and infantry, and no doubt to an extent at least equal to his loss on that day. It is probable that 6,000 men were opposed to us, and in a position chosen by themselves, and strongly defended with artillery. The enemy's loss was very great. Nearly 200 of his dead were buried by us on the day succeeding the battle. His loss in killed, wounded, and missing, in the two affairs of the 8th and 9th, is, I think, moderately estimated at 1,000 men.

Our victory has been decisive. A small force has overcome immense odds of the best troops that Mexico can furnish—veteran regiments, perfectly equipped and appointed. Eight pieces of artillery, several colors and standards, a great number of prisoners, (including fourteen officers,) and a large amount of baggage and public property, have fallen into our hands.

The causes of victory are doubtless to be found in the superior quality of our officers and men. I have already, in former reports, paid a general tribute to the admirable conduct of the troops on both days. It now becomes my duty, and I feel it to be one of great delicacy, to notice individuals. In so extensive a field as that of the 8th, and in the dense cover where most of the action of the 9th was fought, I could not possibly be witness to more than a small portion of the operations of the various corps, and I must therefore depend upon the reports of subordinate commanders, which I respectfully enclose herewith.

Colonel Twiggs, the second in command, was particularly active on both days, in executing my orders and directing the operations of the right wing. Lieutenant Colonel McIntosh, commanding the 5th infantry; Lieutenant Colonel Garland, commanding the 3d brigade; Lieutenant Colonel Belknap, commanding the 1st brigade; Lieutenant Colonel Childs, commanding the artillery battalion; Major Allen, Captains L. N. Morris and Montgomery, commanding respectively the 4th, 3d, and 8th regiments of infantry, were zealous in the performance of their duties, and gave examples to their commands of cool and fearless conduct. Lieutenant Colonel McIntosh repulsed, with his regiment, a charge of lancers, in the action of Palo Alto, and shared with it in the honors and dangers of the following day, being twice severely wounded. Lieutenant Colonel Belknap headed a charge of the 8th infantry, which resulted in driving the enemy from his guns, and leaving us in possession of that part of the field.

Captain Duncan and Lieutenant Ridgely deserve special notice for the gallant and efficient manner in which they manœuvred and served their batteries. The impression made by Captain Duncan's battery upon the

extreme right of the enemy's line at the affair of Palo Alto, contributed largely to the result of the day; while the terrible fire kept up by Lieutenant Ridgely, in the affair of the 9th, inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy. The 18-pounder battery, which played a conspicuous part in the action of the 8th, was admirably served by Lieutenant Churchill, 3d artillery, assisted by Lieutenant Wood, topographical engineers. The charge of cavalry against the enemy's batteries, on the 9th, was gallantly led by Captain May, and had complete success. Captain McCall, 4th infantry, rendered distinguished service with the advanced corps under his orders. Its loss, in killed and wounded, will show how closely it was engaged. I may take this occasion to say that, in two former instances, Captain McCall has rendered valuable service as a partisan officer. In this connexion, I would mention the services of Captain Walker, of the Texas Rangers, who was in both affairs with his company, and who has performed very meritorious services as a spy and partisan. I must beg leave to refer to the reports of subordinate commanders for the names of many officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, who were distinguished by good conduct on both days. Instances of individual gallantry and personal conflict with the enemy were not wanting in the affair of the 9th, but cannot find place in a general report. The officers serving on the staffs of the different commanders are particularly mentioned by them.

I derived efficient aid on both days from all the officers of my staff. Captain Bliss, assistant adjutant general, Lieutenant Colonel Payne, inspector general, Lieutenant Eaton, aide-de-camp, Captain Waggaman, commissary of subsistence, Lieutenant Scarritt, engineers, and Lieutenants Blake and Meade, topographical engineers, promptly conveyed my orders to every part of the field. Lieutenant Colonel Payne was wounded in the affair of the 9th; and I have already had occasion to report the melancholy death of Lieutenant Blake, by accident, in the interval between the two engagements. Major Craig and Lieutenant Brereton, of the Ordnance department, were actively engaged in their appropriate duties; and Surgeon Craig, medical director, superintended, in person, the arduous service of the field hospitals. I take this occasion to mention, generally, the devotion to duty of the medical staff of the army, who have been untiring in their exertions, both in the field and in the hospitals, to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded of both armies. Captains Crosman and Myers, of the Quartermaster's department, who had charge of the heavy supply train at both engagements, conducted it in a most satisfactory manner, and finally brought it up, without the smallest loss, to its destination.

I enclose an inventory of the Mexican property captured on the field, and also a sketch of the field of "Resaca de la Palma," and of the route from Point Isabel, made by my aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Eaton.

One regimental color (battalion of Tampico) and many standards and guidons of cavalry were taken at the affair of the 9th. I would be pleased to receive your instructions as to the disposition to be made of these trophies—whether they shall be sent to Washington, &c.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Bvt. Brig. Gen. U. S. Army, commanding.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,

Washington, D. C.

Return of killed, wounded, and missing of the Army of Occupation at the action of "Resaca de la Palma," May 9, 1846.

Corps.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Aggregate.		Horses.		Remarks.
	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	
Headquarters - - - -	-	-	1	1	-	-	7	2	-	-	Lieut. Col. Payne, Insp'r General, wounded.
Advance under Captain McCall - - -	-	7	1	15	-	-	7	16	-	-	
Right wing—light artillery (Ridgely's) - -	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	1	11	
2d dragoons - - - -	1	10	-	8	-	-	11	8	18	8	Lieut. Inge, killed.
3d brigade—3d infantry - - - -	-	2	1	4	-	3	2	5	-	-	Lieut. Dobbins, slightly wounded.
4th infantry - - - -	1	5	-	5	-	-	6	5	-	-	Lieut. Cochrane, killed.
5th infantry - - - -	-	9	3	19	-	2	9	22	-	-	Lt. Col. McIntosh and Capt. Hooe, severely wounded; Lieut. Fowler, slightly wounded.
1st brigade—light artillery (Duncan's) - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
battalion of artillery - - - -	-	3	-	5	-	-	3	5	-	-	
8th infantry - - - -	1	7	7	25	-	-	8	32	-	-	Lieut. Chadbourne, killed; wounded, Captain Montgomery; Lieut. S. Gates, (severely,) Selden, Maclay, Burbank, Morris, and Jordan, (severely.)
Aggregate - - - -	3	36	12	71	-	5	39	82	20	19	

N. B.—The killed and wounded of the "advance" being included in their own regiments, are omitted in the aggregate.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Matamoras, May 16, 1846.

W. W. S. BLISS, Assistant Adjutant General.

Z. TAYLOR, Brevet Brig. General U. S. A. commanding.

Field report of the corps composing the Army of Occupation, commanded by Brevet Brig. General Z. Taylor, on the 9th May, 1846.

Corps.	Commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates.	Aggregate.	Remarks.
General staff	11	9	20	
Right wing—light artillery (Ridgely's)	4	49	53	
2d dragoons	18	219	237	
3d brigade (3d and 4th regiments)	51	608	659	
5th infantry	22	354	376	
1st brigade—light artillery (Duncan's)	4	47	51	
battalion of artillery and 8th infantry	63	763	826	
Aggregate	173	2,049	2,223	

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Matamoras, May 16, 1846.

Z. TAYLOR,
Brevet Brig. General U. S. A. commanding.

W. W. S. BLISS, Assistant Adj. General.

INVENTORY OF CAPTURED PROPERTY.

Report of a board of officers composed of Captain G. Morris, Captain C. H. Larnard, and First Lieutenant B. Alvord, of the 4th infantry, convened at the camp of the 3d brigade, on the 10th of May, 1846, with orders to take an inventory of that portion of the property which was collected in that camp, captured from the Mexican army in the battle which occurred on the 9th of May, 1846, about four miles north of Matamoras.

ORDNANCE AND ORDNANCE STORES.

Six 6-pounder cannon, field pieces.
Two 12-pounder cannon, field pieces.
Ammunition boxes for same, containing 49 rounds of 6-pounder cannister, fixed.
Ammunition boxes with 7 rounds of cannister for 12-pounders.
Five boxes, containing 40 rounds 12-pounder cannister.
36 rounds of 6-pounder strap-shot, fixed.
Limbers, with mules and harness, belonging to the 8 field pieces.
Three bags of slow-match and priming tubes.

- 393 stands of small arms, as follows :
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 265 muskets, with bayonets, | } Serviceable. |
| 24 muskets, without bayonets, | |
| 18 scopettes, | } Unserviceable. |
| 78 muskets, broken parts, | |
| 13 scopettes, broken parts, | |
- 100 cartridge boxes.
 155,600 rounds of musket ball-cartridges.
 18 lances.
 20 swords.
 2 cavalry guidons.

INTRENCHING TOOLS.

- 30 shovels.
 10 pick-axes.
 10 axes.

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

- About 500 mules.
 About 450 pack-saddles, with trimmings.
 A large quantity of cabristas and mats, for packing.
 20 horses.
 15 saddles.
 3 spring wagons, with harness.
 3 ox carts, with a pair of oxen in each.

SUBSISTENCE.

- 4 sacks of rice.
 6 sacks of salt.
 9 sacks of beans.
 6 barrels of flour.
 3 sacks of flour.
 2 sacks of sugar.
 2 sacks of bread.
 3 kegs of lard.
 3 stones for pounding corn.
 1 sack of pepper.

PERSONAL BAGGAGE OF OFFICERS.

- Portfolios, writing desk, canopy, and other baggage of General Arista.
 Packages containing orders and official correspondence ; one topographical sketch of route from Matamoras to Barita, and one plan of the position of the American forces opposite Matamoras, &c., &c.
 Personal baggage of General La Vega, &c.
 One clothes bag and roll of bedding, marked J. M. Martinez.
 4 mess-chests.
 7 rolls of bedding, officers' baggage.
 2 canopy frames.
 1 chest, apparently belonging to a staff officer, containing " order book of division of the north," diary of events, maps, &c., signed Francis Zegura, &c., &c.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- 16 sacks of corn.
 - 1 anvil.
 - 1 blacksmith's vice.
 - 1 bar of iron.
 - 1 bag of iron axletrees, containing two sets.
 - 1 bag of mallets.
 - 1 box of blacksmith's tools.
 - 2 boxes, containing carpenter's tools.
 - 2 bags of felloes and spokes.
 - 1 bag, containing jars of tar.
 - 2 large boxes of band instruments; one containing, also, 18 uniform coats for musicians.
 - 2 bass drums.
 - 16 common drums.
 - 3 water casks.
 - 1 large copper caldron.
 - 10 large iron camp kettles.
 - 32 large tin camp kettles.
 - 7 iron pots.
 - 1 medicine chest.
 - 3 bundles of cot frames and cots, hospital furniture.
 - 1 chest, containing officer's baggage and \$95 in silver, owner not known.
- The board, in making their report, have to add that the inventory is very imperfect, in consequence of the constant additions made throughout the day, and brought into camp and deposited after the property had been counted by the board.

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Captain 4th infantry.
 C. H. LARNARD,
Captain 4th infantry.
 BENJ. ALVORD,
First Lieutenant 4th infantry.

Report of Colonel Twiggs to General Taylor.

HEADQUARTERS, RIGHT WING ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Matamoras, May 11, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the transactions of the different corps of the right wing of the army under my command during the actions with the enemy on the 8th and 9th instants. About 2½ p. m., on the 8th, we found ourselves at the Palo Alto, within one mile of the chapparal which borders the Rio Grande, and nine miles from the river. My command being composed of Major Ringgold's company of light artillery, two squadrons of dragoons, the 5th infantry, and the 3d and 4th infantry, composing the 3d brigade.

The enemy, at the distance of about half a mile, opened their batteries on their right; which, being immediately responded to by our two 18-pounders, in charge of Lieut. Churchill, brought on the action of the 8th instant. Major Ringgold's battery was ordered to the right and front

of the 18-pounders, at a distance of about seven hundred yards from the enemy, when the battery was opened with great effect, as was shown the next day by the number of the enemy's dead found along his line. The infantry, in the mean time, was formed in rear of the artillery, receiving, with the greatest possible coolness, the enemy's fire, and only anxious for the order to rush in and participate actively in the affair.

A regiment of the enemy's lancers was observed to move to our right, apparently to gain possession of our wagon-train, a few hundred yards in rear. The 5th infantry and two pieces of Major Ringgold's artillery, under the command of Lieut. R. Ridgely, were ordered to check this movement. Having gained ground to the right some four or five hundred yards, the 5th was formed in square, to receive a charge from the lancers, who advanced to within fifty yards, when the opposing side of the square fired into and repulsed them; having received, in the mean time, several irregular discharges from the enemy. The lancers re-formed, and continued their movement to get in rear of our right flank, when I ordered the 3d to move to the right and rear, around a pond of water, and prevent their progress in that direction. Seeing their movement frustrated in this point, the lancers commenced a retreat in good order, marching apparently by squadrons, when First Lieutenant R. Ridgely, of Major Ringgold's battery, assisted by Brevet Second Lieutenant French, opened a fire on them, and scattered them in all directions. In this affair the enemy lost some twenty-eight or thirty men. This portion of the right wing served in about this position until the close of the action. In the mean time, Major Ringgold, with the remaining two pieces of his battery, continued to play on the enemy with great success. The gallant major was mortally wounded by a cannon ball towards the close of the action, and his horse shot under him at the same time. The army and the country will long deplore the loss of so brave and accomplished an officer.

The 2d squadron of dragoons, commanded by Captain May, who, during the day, was under the immediate orders of the general commanding, being ordered to turn, if possible, the left flank of the enemy, the 4th infantry was ordered to support him. Having advanced in our right and front some four hundred yards, under a very severe fire from two of the enemy's batteries, it was found the force he had to oppose was eight or nine hundred cavalry. He retired, agreeably to his orders; and the 4th infantry was accordingly withdrawn. In this operation Captain May's squadron had five men wounded and six horses killed, and the 4th infantry one man killed, one officer (Captain Page) mortally, and one man severely wounded. Night coming on, the right wing took position in front of the wagon-train, and slept on their arms on the ground first occupied by the enemy. The perfect coolness of Lieutenant Ridgely, and the great precision with which he fired his pieces whilst acting in concert with the 5th, deserves notice; the last and most effective shot he having aimed himself.

On the morning of the 9th, some of the enemy being discovered in the edge of the chapparal, we advanced; the 5th infantry on the right, with the 2d squadron of dragoons in front; Major Ringgold's battery, commanded by Lieut. Ridgely, on the left of the 5th, and the 3d brigade on its left. On advancing, (the enemy having retired,) we entered the chap-

paral, and approached to within eight hundred yards of *Resaca de la Palma*, where the enemy had taken position for fight. The advance guard having kept up a fire till our arrival, Lieut. Ridgely was ordered in front of the 5th with his battery; and, having advanced cautiously to within about four hundred yards of their battery, in the road to the enemy, opened on him with grape. Lieut. Ridgely pushed forward rapidly about one hundred yards further, and returned their fire with great spirit and success, advancing on them whenever their fire slackened: at times, the two batteries were firing cannister at each other when not more than one hundred yards apart. Having advanced in this manner about five hundred yards, Captain May's squadron was ordered to charge the enemy's guns. Dashing forward in columns of fours, (the main road admitting of no other formation,) the squadron charged across the ravine, through seven of the enemy's pieces, driving the gunners from them; Captain May, with Lieutenants Inge, Stevens, and Sackett, and the 1st and 2d platoons of the squadron, charging the guns in the road, and on the right of it; Captain Graham, accompanied by Lieutenants Winship and Pleasanton, with the 3d and 4th platoons, leading the charge against the pieces on the left of the road, in the ravine. Captain May, having charged through the pieces in the road, rallied some six men, and charged again at some of the gunners who had regained their pieces, drove them off, and took General Vega prisoner. In the charge, Lieutenant Inge fell at the head of his platoon whilst leading it on gallantly, having passed through their batteries. Corporal McCauley was taken prisoner; nine privates and eighteen horses were killed; Sergeant Muley, nine privates, and ten horses wounded.

The 4th infantry, under the command of Brevet Major Allen, the 5th, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel McIntosh, and the 3d, commanded by Captain L. N. Morris, retained possession of the enemy's artillery, repulsing at different times largely superior parties brought to bear against them, and finally brought off the pieces, making several prisoners of war. After the unsurpassed if not unequalled charge of Captain May's squadron, the enemy was unable to fire a piece. In this affair, in which Lieutenant Inge, 2d dragoons, and Lieutenant Cochrane, 4th infantry, were killed, Lieutenant Colonel McIntosh, Captain Hooe, and Lieutenant Dobbins, were wounded, I would respectfully call the attention of the commanding general to the gallant conduct of Colonel McIntosh, 5th, and Colonel Garland, 4th infantry, (commanding the 3d brigade;) Lieutenants Ridgely, Shover, and French, 3d artillery; Captains May and Graham, Lieutenants Winship, Stevens, Pleasanton, and Sackett, 2d dragoons; and Captains Buchanan, Lieutenants Hays and Wood, 4th infantry, &c.—the latter two having captured a piece of artillery, defended by one hundred and fifty or two hundred, with but a few men.

The enemy having been routed with great loss, this day's action closed with much honor to the American army, spreading terror amongst the Mexican people. In this action every officer and man performed his duty most gallantly.

But, Captain Arnold and Lieutenant McDonald, 2d dragoons, my aids on the 8th and 9th instant, performed the several duties assigned them with promptness, coolness, and courage. They accompanied me during the whole of the affairs, except when detached carrying orders. The de-

tailed account of the commanders of each regiment and corps is herewith submitted.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 D. E. TWIGGS, *Colonel 2d dragoons,*
Commanding right wing Army of Occupation.
 Captain W. W. S. BLISS, *Asst. Adjt. General,*
Army of Occupation, camp near Matamoras.

BATTLE-FIELD NEAR MATAMORAS,
Headquarters, 3d Brigade, May 11, 1846.

COLONEL: I have the honor to enclose herewith, for the information of the commanding general, the reports of Captain Lewis Morris, of the 3d, and Brevet Major Allen, of the 4th infantry, giving a detailed account of the services performed by the regiments under their respective commands in the actions which took place on the 8th and 9th instant.

I have only this moment received these reports; and, as I am under orders to march immediately with my brigade, have not a moment to add anything to them, if I were disposed to do so. Both of these regimental commanders used every effort to meet the enemy and to overcome him. It was pleasing to me to witness the gallant rivalry between these two corps: they shared liberally in the dangers and exertions which brought about our signal success. I witnessed with great satisfaction, in a dense chapparal, Captain Morrison, of the 4th, overcoming obstacles which I believed insurmountable, in order to reach the enemy.

Of Captain McCall, 4th infantry, whose merits are fully appreciated by the commanding general, I can make no remark, as he was detached with a separate command under the special instructions of the general himself.

It gives me great pleasure to speak in terms of high approbation of the efficient services of my principal staff officer, Lieutenant Brannan, of the 4th infantry, brigade major. Lieutenant G. O. Haller, A. C. S., also rendered me valuable service during the two actions.

Most respectfully, I am, colonel, your obedient servant,
 JNO. GARLAND,
Lieut. Col. 4th infantry, commanding 3d brigade.

Col. D. E. TWIGGS, *2d dragoons,*
Commanding right wing Army of Occupation.

HEADQUARTERS, 4TH INFANTRY,
Camp on the battle-field, May 10, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report, for the information of the colonel commanding the 3d brigade, that, in obedience to orders received yesterday when the firing commenced, the 4th infantry deployed as skirmishers on the right and left of the road, and advanced towards the point where the firing seemed most lively. After rushing on for some short distance, it was discovered that the enemy were pouring in a heavy fire of grape and musketry from a small breastwork just in front, defended by one piece of artillery and about 150 or 200 men. Captain Buchanan being nearest

this point, and finding himself the senior officer, collected some 25 or 30 men of the regiment, portions of his own company, and companies D, H, and K, together with Lieutenants Hays and Woods, charged the works, completely routed the enemy, and captured the piece. The regiment still continued to move forward, until it emerged from the thicket into the main camp of the enemy, containing the headquarters of the commanding general of the Mexican army, their ammunition, some 300 or 400 mules, saddles, and every variety of camp equipage. I regret extremely to announce the death of First Lieutenant R. E. Cochrane, of my regiment, who fell at the very edge of the camp whilst gallantly leading his men into it. The nature of the chapparal was such, that, in going through it, it very frequently became unavoidably necessary to divide the regiment into several detachments, each of which met the enemy at different points, and always put him to flight. I cannot pass over in silence the brave and distinguished behavior of Lieutenants Hays and Woods, as well as that of Sergeant Major Maloney, and Corporals Farrall and McFarlin, who, whilst their gallant commander, Captain Buchanan, was briskly engaged in driving back the infantry, rushed forward with six men to the cannon, and whilst Lieutenant Hays was endeavoring to despatch one of the mules attached to it, Lieutenant Woods sprang to the handspikes, turned the piece in such a direction as to lock one of the wheels against a tree, and thereby prevented its being moved, and succeeded in defending and securing it. The conduct of the officers and men on this day, as well as on the 8th, reflects the highest credit on the American soldier. On the 8th, Captain Page was severely, if not mortally, wounded, and one man killed and one wounded. On the 9th, First Lieutenant R. E. Cochrane and three men were killed; Lieutenants Wallen and Hays and six men wounded. Lieutenants Wallen and Hays very slightly.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. ALLEN,

Brevet Major, commanding 4th infantry.

To Lieut. Col. J. GARLAND,

Commanding 3d brigade.

P. S.—For further particulars you are referred to the accompanying report of Captain Buchanan. G. W. A.

I have the greatest pleasure in expressing my warmest thanks to the adjutant of the 4th infantry, Lieutenant A. Hoskins, for his coolness and gallantry and efficient assistance throughout the whole of both affairs.

G. W. ALLEN,

Brevet Major, commanding 4th infantry.

CAMP ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, May 10, 1846.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to report that, in the deployment of the 4th infantry, I found myself in command of companies B, D, and K, on the left of the road as we entered, and having been ordered to cross to the right and advance, did so. After crossing the pond, I had with me Lieutenants Hays and Woods and about 30 men of different regiments—mostly, however, of the 4th. Upon deploying my

men on the crest of the hill, I discovered one of the enemy's pieces about fifty yards in my front, which was defended by about 150 infantry. I charged and took the piece, and attempted to spike it; but, not being able to do so, took it back to a place of safety. The enemy had a breastwork in my rear, and opened a heavy fire on me; when, with about ten men, I dislodged him and drove him across the road. Too much credit cannot be given to Lieutenants Hays and Woods, of the 4th. They were among the very first to reach the piece, and to them belongs the credit of its capture. Whilst I was engaged in driving the enemy from his breastwork, these officers, with their men, repulsed a party that charged them in order to recapture the piece. I cannot refrain from calling your attention to Sergeant Major Maloney and Corporal Farrall, who behaved with remarkable coolness and gallantry. Everybody did his duty nobly, as becomes American soldiers.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

ROBERT C. BUCHANAN,

Captain 4th infantry.

To Major G. W. ALLEN,

Commanding 4th infantry.

HEADQUARTERS 3D INFANTRY,

Camp on battle-field near Matamoras, May 10, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your orders immediately before the battle of the 9th inst. at this place, I deployed the 3d infantry as skirmishers on the right of the road—the left resting on the road. The regiment advanced rapidly to the front; and, soon after the firing commenced, I found my command so far advanced as to be exposed to a cross fire from our own and the enemy's batteries; and, in consequence of the very dense chapparal, the regiment became very much scattered. I passed an order down the line for the officers to collect all the men they could, and bring them into the engagement, which was altogether on the left of the road. I returned myself with all the men I could collect, turned Duncan's battery, and joined in the action on the left flank, with Lieutenants Johns, Bee, Williamson, and Hatch, 3d infantry. Lieutenant and Adjutant Irons passed on to the right with a few men, and joined a party under Captain McCall. The officers near me, on this occasion, did all that could be desired of gallant soldiers; they directed the men with coolness, judgment, and activity. The soldiers, too—about thirty in the detachment—did themselves great credit. I regret that I cannot give a more full account of what the regiment accomplished. As stated before, it became scattered, and each officer was compelled to act independently. Some few have to regret that they could not find their way out of the chapparal in time to join in the battle. Captain Barbour did good service with his detachment, by driving back a body of cavalry attempting to recover a piece of artillery taken by some officers and men of the 4th infantry. I must not omit to notice in this report the conduct of Corporal O'Sullivan, of company E, 3d infantry, who fired at a body of the enemy and immediately rushed in upon them and seized a lieutenant by the collar, disarmed him, and delivered him a prisoner to Lieutenant Graham. He afterwards went with a party under Sergeant Kendall, of F company,

3d infantry, captured a gun from the enemy, rolled it out into the road, and turned it over to an officer of the 5th infantry. There were many other acts of individual daring; but, where all behaved well, it is deemed unnecessary to multiply instances.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. N. MORRIS,

Captain 3d infantry, commanding regiment.

Lieut. Col. J. GARLAND,

Commanding 3d brigade, Army of Occupation.

HEADQUARTERS 5TH INFANTRY,
Camp on the field of battle, May 10, 1846.

SIR: In obedience to your orders I have the honor to report, that, in the action of Palo Alto, on the 8th instant, the 5th infantry was placed on the extreme right of our line. After sustaining the cannonade of the enemy for about three-quarters of an hour, the regiment was ordered to turn the left flank of the enemy, and was detached for that purpose, advancing nearly half a mile to the right and front—the cavalry of the Mexicans, with two pieces of artillery in view, extending themselves, apparently for the purpose of outflanking us. On the near approach of the enemy's cavalry the regiment was thrown into square, with Captain Walker, of the Texas rangers, and twenty mounted men, on our right. The enemy commenced an irregular fire upon our square, as they advanced—wounding three or four of our men—and continued to do so until within about fifty yards, when our fire was delivered from one front of the square, killing several men and horses, and causing the enemy to retire. Our fire was followed by the rifles of the mounted men. At this moment Lieut. Ridgely, with two pieces of his battery, came to our support, and poured in a destructive fire of grape and canister on the enemy, now in full retreat towards his right. The regiment remained on this ground for about half an hour, when we were ordered to take position on the right of the new line which had been formed by throwing forward our right—the enemy having changed his front nearly perpendicular to his first line. Here we received a severe fire from the enemy's batteries, wounding a corporal of the color company, and the color sergeant slightly. As it was now near night, we were ordered up for the protection of the train; the cannonading from both sides ceasing at dark.

In the battle of the 9th, the 5th being in advance, and the enemy being discovered in front, the regiment was ordered into the chapparal on the left of the road, and directed to advance as skirmishers and push for the enemy. The chapparal at first was dense and almost impassable; consequently the regiment became much separated and extended, rendering it impossible to advance with much regularity. A severe cannonading from both sides now began, mingled with a tremendous fire of musketry. In a few moments the order was given to charge the enemy's batteries, which was promptly done by cavalry and infantry, and the enemy's guns were all captured. In this brilliant exploit the 5th bore a conspicuous part, a portion of the regiment successfully resisting the attempt of the enemy to recapture these guns on the right of his battery—the remainder of the regiment being extended towards the right, and mingling in the severe

and close engagement which was there going on, and was so gloriously terminated.

During the action of this day Lieut. Col. McIntosh and Captain Hooe were severely, and Lieut. Fowler slightly, wounded; loss of the rank and file, nine killed and twenty-five wounded—many of them severely.

In conclusion, I will only add that all, both officers and men, did their duty in a most gallant manner, determined to conquer the enemy or perish in the conflict.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. STANIFORD,

Major 5th infantry, commanding regiment.

Col. D. E. TWIGGS,

Com'g right wing Army of Occupation.

CAMP NEAR MATAMORAS, *May 10, 1846.*

SIR: In compliance with your directions, I have the honor to report that the company which I now have the honor to command took up its position in the line of battle about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 8th, at a distance of about 800 yards from the enemy's line. After receiving a few rounds of artillery we advanced about 100 yards, when we opened our battery with considerable execution, as proven the next day; but in consequence of their making a flank movement to our right, I was detached, with two pieces, to operate with the 5th infantry, who had been sent forward to oppose the movement. My section had already lost one man, and two horses badly wounded. As I was taking position on the right of the 5th, who were in square, they fired a volley from one of its faces on the enemy, whose cavalry had charged. I at once unlimbered and commenced firing. Very shortly I saw their artillery and cavalry, which latter was in large force, retiring. I am happy to state our fire proved effective, and the movement was frustrated. Brevet 2d Lieut. French had the immediate charge of one of the pieces. We continued changing position from point to point until dark, when we encamped. I then learned that Brevet Major Ringgold, who had been with the other section, had been badly wounded. The section was brought up by Lieut. Shover, who had kept it actively employed the entire afternoon.

The following morning, about noon, I took my position in rear of the 5th infantry, on our way to Matamoras, marching in column of sections wherever practicable. After having advanced about five miles, I was ordered to the front with my battery, and was there informed the enemy were immediately in our front, occupying the road with their artillery. Captain Walker, of the Texas rangers, was sent to point out to me their exact position. After moving very cautiously for a short distance, I discovered them about 400 yards in advance, *in the road*, and almost instantly their artillery opened. I moved rapidly to the front for about 100 yards, and returned their fire, which was kept up very spiritedly on both sides for some time—their grape shot passing through our battery in every direction. So soon as it slackened, I limbered up and moved rapidly forward, never unlimbering unless seeing them in front, or perceiving, from the fire of their infantry, they were on my flank. Frequently the several pieces fired canister on them when not over 100 or 150 yards. After hav-

ing advanced in this manner for about 500 yards, Captain May, 2d dragoons, rode up and said, "Where are they? I am going to charge." I gave them a volley, and he most gallantly dashed forward, in "column of fours," at the head of his squadron. I followed as quickly as possible, at a gallop, only halting when I came upon the edge of the ravine, where I found three pieces of artillery, *but no cannoniers*; however, their infantry poured into me a most galling fire, at from 25 to 50 paces, and here ensued a most desperate struggle; but, our infantry coming up, they were completely routed. Their cavalry came so near that I once cut at them with my sabre. I did not advance as rapidly as I desired, as I perceived I was not, *at times*, supported by the infantry—it being impossible for them to get through the chapparal.

I cannot, sir, speak in too high terms of the gallantry and coolness of my officers, and the behavior of my non-commissioned officers and men generally, and respectfully beg leave to call the attention of higher authorities to the fact that the officers, during the greater portion of the engagement, and always when closely pressed, had to perform the duties of not only one *but two* cannoniers, handling their own shot and firing their own pieces, in consequence of the very limited number of men.

In conclusion, sir, I am proud to state that, until the enemy's artillery was taken, and they completely routed, no other artillery was required, or, at least, used, but the battery I have the honor to command.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RANDOLPH RIDGELY,

1st Lieut. 3d artillery, com. light company C.

Casualties.

Wounded.—1 brevet major, 1 sergeant, and 3 privates, on the 8th.

Killed.—1 private, on the 8th.

2 horses wounded on the 8th, since dead; 1 wounded on the 8th, abandoned; 5 wounded very severely on the 9th, unserviceable; 6 wounded on the 9th, not very severely.

DRAGOON CAMP, RESACA DE LA PALMA,

On the Battle Ground, May 10, 1846.

SIR: Having been detached from the headquarters of my regiment, with my squadron, and acting under the immediate orders of the commanding general, during the actions of the 8th and 9th instant, it becomes my duty to report the services which the squadron I had the honor to command rendered during those actions.

You are aware that my first orders, on the 8th instant, were to strengthen the left flank of the army and sustain Lieutenant Duncan's battery. In this position I lost four horses killed and two wounded.

About half an hour before sunset I received orders to proceed to the enemy's left flank, and drive in his cavalry. In execution of these orders, and while passing the general and his staff, the enemy concentrated the fire from their batteries upon us, killing *six* of my horses and wounding

five men. I succeeded in gaining a position on the enemy's left, with a view of charging his cavalry, but found him in such force as to render ineffectual a charge from my small command; and therefore returned, in obedience to my instructions, to my first position, where I remained until the close of the action, which terminated very shortly afterwards. Thus ended the service of my squadron on the 8th instant.

On the morning of the 9th, my squadron was actively employed in reconnoitring the chapparal in advance of the field of the 8th, and on the advance of the army, I took my position as the advance-guard. When about half a mile from the position which the enemy were reported to have taken, I was ordered to halt and allow the artillery and infantry to pass, and await further orders. I remained in this position about three-quarters of an hour, when I received orders to report with my squadron to the general. I did so, and was ordered by the general to charge the enemy's batteries and drive them from their pieces, which was rapidly executed with loss of Lieutenant Inge, seven privates, and eighteen horses killed; and Sergeant Muley, nine privates, and ten horses wounded. Lieutenant Sackett and Sergeant Story, in the front, by my side, had their horses killed under them, and Lieutenant Inge was gallantly leading his platoon when he fell. We charged entirely through the enemy's batteries of seven pieces—Captain Graham, accompanied by Lieutenants Winship and Pleasonton, leading the charge against the pieces on the left of the road; and myself, accompanied by Lieutenants Inge, Stevens, and Sackett, those on the direct road, and gained the rising ground on the opposite side of the ravine. The charge was made under a heavy fire of the enemy's batteries, which accounts for my great loss. After gaining the rising ground in the rear, I could rally but six men, and with these I charged their gunners, who had regained their pieces, drove them off, and took prisoner General Vega, whom I found gallantly fighting in person at his battery. I ordered him to surrender, and on recognising me as an officer he handed me his sword.

I brought him, under a heavy fire of their infantry, to our lines, accompanied by Lieutenant Stevens and a sergeant of my squadron. I then directed Lieutenant Stevens to conduct him in safety to our rear, and presented his sword to the commanding general.

From this time until the enemy were routed I was engaged in collecting my men, who had become scattered in our lines, and succeeded in assembling half of my squadron, joined the army in pursuit of the enemy until he crossed the Rio Grande, from which I returned to camp.

I cannot speak in terms of sufficient praise of the steadiness and gallantry of the officers and men of my command. They all behaved with that spirit of courage and noble daring which distinguished the whole army in this memorable action, and achieved the most brilliant victory of the age.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. MAY, *Capt. 2d Dragoons,*

Commanding Second Squadron.

Lieutenant McDONALD,

Adjutant Second Dragoons.

*Report of Lieutenant Colonel Belknap to General Taylor.*HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE,
Camp near Matamoros, May 15, 1846.

SIR: In submitting an official report of the operations of the first brigade, in the actions of the 8th and 9th of May, at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, I feel a degree of delicacy in the task, from my humble rank in comparison with the importance and magnitude of my command, and lest I shall be unable to do full justice to the admirable conduct of the officers and men who served under my orders.

On first meeting the enemy, I received your order to form on the left, with instructions to move into the chapparal and allow the men to refresh themselves by getting water. Perceiving in a few moments that the enemy were advancing, and not knowing precisely—being on the left of the line—where water was to be obtained, I directed the men to remain in the ranks. The enemy shortly after having halted, and your instructions for the refreshment of the men having been repeated, they proceeded to get water, and immediately fell in prepared and eager for action. The brigade was then ordered to advance in column on the left of the army; the battalion of artillery, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Childs, on the right; the 8th regiment of infantry, commanded by Captain Montgomery, on the left; and Captain Duncan's battery in the centre. The army having then been ordered to advance, the brigade moved in this order until the enemy opened his batteries; when the brigade was halted, Captain Duncan's battery advanced about two hundred yards, and commenced a most destructive fire upon the enemy. This disposition was maintained for about two hours, when the enemy's fire slackened, and finally ceased. Nothing could surpass the coolness and steadiness of the command, while thus exposed to a galling fire, receiving, as they did, the heavy discharges of the enemy's well-aimed artillery, without the power of defending themselves.

In a short time after the firing ceased, the army was ordered to advance and take position somewhat nearer to the enemy; the battalion of artillery taking post in rear and to the right of the two 18-pounders, Captain Duncan's artillery on their left, and the 8th infantry on the left, and to the rear of his battery. At this moment Captain Duncan, with his usual quickness of perception, discovered and communicated to me the fact, that the enemy was moving the entire cavalry and infantry force of his right wing upon our train in rear of the left of our line of battle, and that his battery could produce a more destructive effect upon the enemy by taking a position further to the left. I ordered him to proceed to the threatened point with all possible despatch, and hold the enemy in check till the 8th infantry could come up to his support. The battery dashed back to the left flank in full view of the enemy, and engaged him within point blank range of his small guns. So sudden and unexpected was this movement to the enemy—who, a moment before saw this battery disappear in the opposite direction behind the smoke of the burning prairie—that his whole column of cavalry pulled up to a halt before a shot had been fired, or even the guns unlimbered. A strong body of the enemy's infantry, supported by two squadrons of cavalry, debouched from the extreme right point of the chapparal, and moved steadily forward to the attack. One section of the battery opened upon them with round shot,

shells, and spherical case, so well directed that the whole advance, horse and foot, fell back in disorder to the bushes. The other section played in the meantime upon the masses of cavalry that had halted at the sight of the guns as before mentioned. Although these shots were well delivered, and each made an opening through an entire squadron, this part of the enemy's line stood unshaken.

The column of cavalry and infantry, driven back in the chapparal by the other section, re-formed there, and moved forward a second time to the attack with great regularity. After they advanced about one hundred yards from the chapparal, the section before ordered to drive them back again opened, and drove them with even greater success than before. They fell back pell-mell to the bushes and commenced their retreat; their supporting cavalry abandoned them, rushed back upon the head of the columns that had before withstood our shot, and a flight commenced. Squadron after squadron took it up, and the entire right wing of the army was in full retreat. Both sections were now brought to bear upon the enemy's broken and flying columns, and a brisk and destructive fire kept up till they disappeared in the chapparal or darkness put an end to the battle.

When this battery first reached its position on the left, and before the infantry could arrive for its support, Captain Ker, of the 2d dragoons, who had been directed with his squadron to guard the baggage train, with a promptness and eagerness worthy of all praise, offered to repel any attempt of the enemy to assail the battery on its left.

During the absence of the 8th infantry, on the left, the commander of the artillery battalion vigorously and successfully repelled a desperate effort on the part of the enemy to carry the 18-pounders, by promptly forming square and arresting the charge of cavalry. While in this position he received a fire from a line of the enemy's infantry, which was quickly returned. He then encamped on his own ground; at this time the brigade was re-united near the 18-pounder battery, and bivouacked in front of the army.

On the morning of the 9th, we were instructed to assume the same order, and advance upon the enemy, he having in the night and early in the morning retired. The brigade advanced across the plain, and took position in the chapparal, where we halted for several hours, waiting instructions, and burying in the meantime eleven of the enemy's dead, that were there found terribly mangled. The army having been put in march in the afternoon, the brigade was ordered to halt as a reserve, when within about a mile of the enemy's position. In a few minutes, the firing having commenced in front, I received orders to move up Duncan's battery and one battalion of infantry. The battery and the 8th regiment were immediately put in motion, the latter in double quick time.

On arriving at the scene of action, the 8th regiment charged the enemy on the right of the road, and drove him from his position. At this moment Captain May, of the 2d dragoons, informed me that he had charged and carried one of the enemy's batteries; but, being unsupported, was unable to maintain it. I immediately ordered the 8th infantry to form in the road, when it was led to a charge upon the battery, a part of which had, as reported, been re-taken by the enemy. This movement was executed with the greatest celerity, and the battery secured. The regiment then charged upon the ravine and across the small prairie amidst a sheet of fire from the front and right, drove the supporting column before it, de-

stroying the enemy in vast numbers—they having maintained a most determined and obstinate resistance until finally repulsed and driven from the field. Captain Montgomery, with his regiment, pursued vigorously into the chapparal on the opposite side of the ravine, until, from the rapid flight of the enemy, further pursuit was useless.

The conflict was short—the result shows with what severity.

At the head of the ravine, I met with Captain McCall, 4th infantry, who, in command of the advance, had gallantly brought on the action and poured a most destructive and kept up an incessant fire upon the enemy.

After the commencement of the action, on advancing with the 8th infantry and the battery of artillery, I ordered Lieutenant Colonel Childs to remain with his battalion as a reserve. It is due to Colonel C. to state that he was desirous that his battalion should be selected to advance into the action, instead of the 8th regiment. He soon after received orders from the commanding general to advance. He obeyed, and rapidly pursued the enemy to the Rio Grande, where, having thrown out pickets, he captured one captain and about twelve privates during the enemy's flight.

As soon as the enemy's batteries were carried, and his infantry began to give ground, Captain Duncan was ordered to cross the ravine and take up a new position, that previously occupied rendering it impossible for him to assail the enemy without galling our own troops. This was done, and the enemy vigorously pursued; a few well-directed shots from our batteries driving him from position to position till he reached the river.

Where all have acted nobly, it may seem improper to speak of individuals, but I feel compelled to name the commanders of corps in the brigade. The commander of the battalion of artillery, Lieutenant Colonel Childs, needs no praise from me. His well-earned fame, won on many a field, is known to all; but his coolness and intrepidity in the battle of the 8th, during the heavy cannonade of the enemy, the prompt manner in which he repulsed the charge upon the 18-pounder battery, and his hot pursuit of the enemy to the banks of the Rio Grande, on the evening of the 9th, are new evidences of his zeal and soldiership, which it gives me pleasure to record.

Captain Montgomery, in command of the 8th infantry at Palo Alto, manifested the utmost coolness during the cannonade of that day, when his horse was shot under him. The celerity with which he moved to the support of the battery of artillery, when threatened by the enemy's cavalry, as well as his eagerness in getting into action on the 9th, in which he was wounded, and his vigor in pursuing the enemy, merit high commendation.

I cannot too much commend the skill and judgment of Captain Duncan on both fields. His quick eye detected at Palo Alto the threatening movement of the enemy on our left, whose advancing columns were arrested by his prompt action, and finally turned back by the rapid and skillful discharges from his fine battery.

In the battle of the 9th, the 8th regiment lost, in Lieutenant Chadbourne, a promising young officer, who fell in the manful discharge of duty. Lieutenants Gates and Jordan were badly, but not mortally wounded. The latter, when personally charging the enemy, being overpowered by numbers, was relieved by Lieutenant Lincoln, who slew with his own hand two of the fiercest assailants. Lieutenants Selden, Burbank, Mac-lay, and Morris, were wounded. Lieutenant Luther, of the artillery bat-

talion, was wounded by a musket ball, in the action of the 8th. On this day Lieutenant Daniels, acting aid-de-camp, had his horse shot under him by a cannon ball. Captain McKavett, of the 8th infantry, and acting field officer of his regiment, had his horse shot under him by a musket ball on the 9th.

I cannot close this report without bearing testimony to the zeal and efficiency of the brigade staff. The highest praise belongs to Lieutenant Chase, 2d artillery, acting assistant adjutant general, and Lieutenant Daniels, 2d artillery, brigade commissary and acting aid de-camp, for the rapidity with which they communicated my orders from point to point, and the coolness and courage they displayed under the hottest fire in both these battles.

My thanks are also due to Mr. John B. Cozzens, of New York city, who rendered valuable assistance by transmitting with intelligence such information as I had occasion, from time to time, to communicate.

It is impossible to enumerate all the instances of personal bravery conspicuous on these days. It may be confidently asserted that, in their passive exposure to the deadly fire of the enemy's batteries on the plain of Palo Alto, the fortitude, high moral courage, hardy valor, and perfect discipline displayed by the troops, have few parallels in the history of war; while the battle of Resaca de la Palma will long be associated with deeds of heroism and intrepid daring which can never be surpassed.

In the action of the 8th the artillery battalion lost, in killed, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 1 private; wounded, 1 lieutenant, 2 artificers, 1 musician, and 5 privates. Aggregate, 12.

The 8th infantry lost, killed, 4 privates; 16 privates wounded. Total, 20, including missing, 2 privates.

The artillery company had wounded, 1 non-commissioned officer, 1 artificer, and 2 privates. Total, 4.

On the 9th the companies in Captain McCall's command belonging to the artillery battalion lost, in killed, 1 corporal and 2 privates; wounded, 1 sergeant and 4 privates. Total, 8.

The 8th regiment of infantry, on the 9th, lost, in killed, 1 subaltern, 4 non-commissioned officers, and 3 privates—total, 8; wounded, 7 officers,* 8 non-commissioned officers, and 17 privates—aggregate, 32.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. G. BELKNAP,

Lieutenant Colonel, commanding 1st brigade.

Captain W. W. S. BLISS,

Asst. Adj. General Army of Occupation.

Report of Captain McCall to General Taylor.

CAMP NEAR MATAMORAS, May 13, 1846.

SIR: On the 9th instant, in obedience to your orders, I marched from Palo Alto, the battle-ground of the 8th, with the "advance," (consisting of 220 men,) to follow and observe the movements of the enemy on the route to Matamoras. I directed Captain C. F. Smith, 2d artillery, with

* One captain and six subalterns.

the light companies of the 1st brigade, to move on the right of the road; while I advanced with the detachment composed of artillery and infantry on the left. Captain Walker, of the Texas rangers, with a small detachment of mounted men, was ordered to examine the road in front; and Lieutenant Pleasanton, 2d dragoons, with a few dragoons, marched in rear of the columns of infantry.

Having followed the trail of the enemy about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles through the chapparal, a prisoner was taken on the edge of the Jackass prairie, and one of the enemy killed by Captain Walker's men on the prairie.

Having examined the opposite side, Captain Walker reported the road clear; when, desiring to procure definite information as to the position of the enemy, I pushed him forward into the chapparal, (within supporting distance,) and one or two parties of from three to six were seen in the brush, one of which, a mounted party, was fired upon by my right flankers. On reaching the open ground at La Resaca de la Palma, the head of my column received three rounds of canister shot from a masked battery, which killed one private and wounded two sergeants on the left of the road, and made my men take cover. They rallied, however, handsomely within forty or fifty paces. I now brought Captain Smith's detachment to the left of the road, proposing to attack by a flank movement what I supposed to be only the rear-guard of the retiring army; and I sent Lieutenant McCown, with two men, to recall Lieutenant Dobbins, who, with a few men, had deployed to the left, where he killed one or two of the enemy who showed themselves in his front. On the return of Lieutenant Dobbins with Lieutenant McCown, the former reported a large body of troops in motion on our left, and at the same time some lancers were observed in the road in front. Being now satisfied that the Mexican army was in force in our front, I despatched three dragoons to inform you of the fact, and then moved my command to a stronger position to await your arrival.

On your arrival, Captain Smith was again ordered to take the right of the road, while I took the left, with orders to bring on the action, and then flank the enemy. Advancing about three hundred yards or more to the front and flank, I encountered the right of the enemy's infantry, and the action immediately commenced. They were strongly posted in the ravine on the near side of the pond, (the principal line being on the opposite side;) and in addition to the fire of musketry from both lines, my men were exposed to heavy discharges of canister from two field pieces in rear of their centre, yet, in a short time, the enemy were driven from their right towards the road, and my men followed with a hearty cheer. In following them, however, I soon found that our own batteries were sweeping my front, and their fire being kept up, I made a flank movement to the road; and here I at once became engaged with the enemy, occupying the pond on the *right* of the road. As soon as their fire ceased at this point, I recrossed the road to regain my former position on the right flank of the enemy. Here a part of my regiment became mixed in with the 5th regiment of infantry; they united with that regiment, and charged with it. Lieutenant Pitcher, of the 5th regiment, was of the number. I continued to advance on the left of the 5th regiment, and was soon engaged with part of the regiment of the Tampico Guards. They received several destructive fires from my men, and then retired. I should mention that, during this interval, Lieutenant McCown, having been

separated from me, joined the 8th infantry, and charged with them. My command continued to move forward on the enemy's right, with more or less interruption, (inseparable from a bush fight,) until the close of the battle.

Captain Smith being separated from me, I was not an eye-witness of the individual conduct of himself and officers; but I enclose, herewith his report, made to me this day.

In that part of my command where I was in person, every officer and man did his duty most handsomely. I received every assistance from the good conduct of Lieutenants Dobbins, McCown, Wainwright, and Pitcher. Lieutenants D., W., and P. used their own rifles and guns with good effect against the enemy, and everywhere inspired the men with confidence and eagerness to engage.

The loss sustained by the "advance" on the 9th of May was 6 killed and 14 wounded.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE A. McCALL,

Captain 4th infantry, commanding the advance.

Captain W. W. S. BLISS,

Adjutant General Army of Occupation.

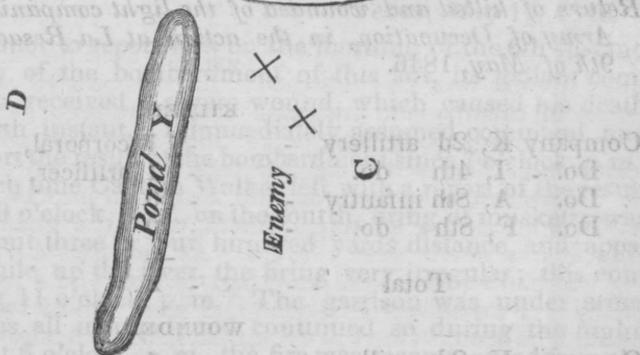
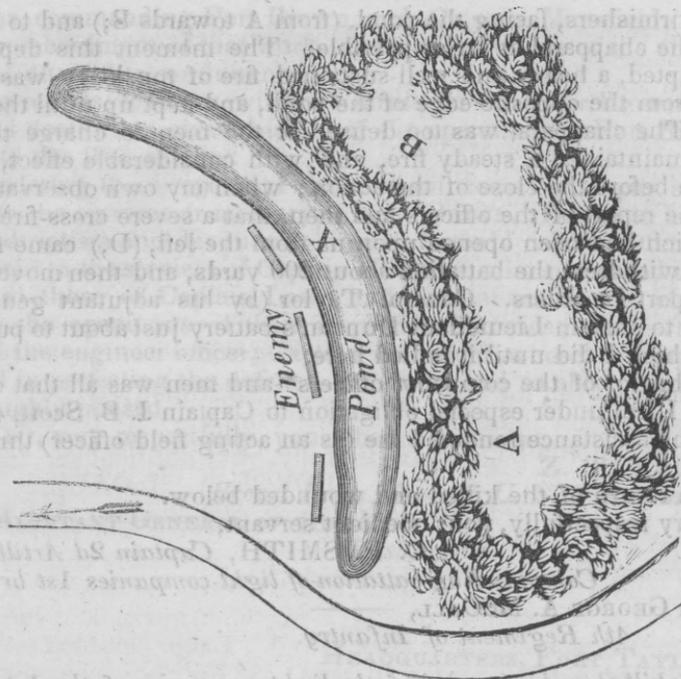
Return of killed and wounded of the "advance" on the 9th of May, 1846

KILLED.

	Corporal.	Privates.
2d artillery, K company	1	1
4th artillery, I company	0	1
5th infantry, F company	0	1
8th infantry, A company	0	1
8th infantry, D company	0	1
Total	1	5

WOUNDED.

	Sergeants.	Privates.
2d artillery, K company	1	1
4th artillery, F company	0	1
4th artillery, I company	0	3
3d infantry, A company	1	0
3d infantry, G company	1	0
5th infantry, A company	0	1
8th infantry, A company	0	3
8th infantry, C company	1	0
8th infantry, F company	0	1
Total	4	10



CAMP OF THE ART. BATT., 1ST BRIGADE,
Near Matamoras, Mexico, May 13, 1846.

SIR: Agreeably to your desire to-day, I have the honor to report, that pursuant to your orders on the 9th instant, my command (consisting of the four light companies of the brigade) advanced on the right of the road flanking our artillery, and about eighty yards from it. The moment the fire of the enemy was heard, I hastened the battalion, marching it by the right flank in the direction of the pond X, until stopped by the thick chapparal, when it was faced to the front and advanced in the direction of the enemy's battery C. It being impossible to get through the chapparal, advancing in line of battle, I ordered an advance by the heads of companies, and to have the line re-formed as soon as we could get through—a matter that seemed difficult, if not impossible. We had advanced thus but a few paces, when a discharge of musketry was given by the enemy towards the battery, and from our right and rear. This rendered a corresponding change on my part necessary. Accordingly, I ordered the battalion to de-

ploy as skirmishers, facing the pond, (from A towards B,) and to advance through the chapparal as far as possible. The moment this deployment was attempted, a heavy and well-sustained fire of musketry was opened upon us from the opposite edge of the pond, and kept up until the enemy retired. The chapparal was too dense for the men to charge through, but they maintained a steady fire, and with considerable effect, until a short time before the close of the action; when my own observation confirming the report of the officers and men, that a severe cross-fire of musketry, which had been opened upon us from the left, (D,) came from our friends, I withdrew the battalion about 200 yards, and then moved up the road to report for orders. General Taylor (by his adjutant general) directed me to sustain Lieutenant Duncan's battery just about to pursue the enemy, which I did until it halted here.

The behavior of the company officers* and men was all that could be desired. I feel under especial obligation to Captain J. B. Scott, 4th artillery, for the assistance rendered me (as an acting field officer) throughout the day.

I give a return of the killed and wounded below.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. F. SMITH, *Captain 2d Artillery,*

Commanding battalion of light companies 1st brigade.

Captain GEORGE A. McCALL,

4th Regiment of Infantry.

Return of killed and wounded of the light companies of the 1st brigade, Army of Occupation, in the action at La Resaca de la Palma of the 9th of May, 1846.

KILLED.			
Company K, 2d artillery	-	1 corporal,	1 private.
Do. I, 4th do.	-	1 artificer,	0
Do. A, 8th infantry	-	0	1
Do. F, 8th do.	-	0	0
Total	-	2	2—4.

WOUNDED.			
Company K, 2d artillery	-	1 sergeant,	1 private.
Do. I, 4th do.	-	0	3
Do. A, 8th infantry	-	0	3
Do. F, 8th do.	-	0	1
Total	-	1	8—9.

Total, 4 killed and 9 wounded.

C. F. SMITH, *Captain 2d Artillery.*

[No. 41.] HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Matamoras, Mexico, May 19, 1846.

SIR: I respectfully enclose, herewith, the official reports of Captain

* K, 2d artillery—Brevet 2d Lieutenant H. F. Clarke; I, 4th artillery—1st Lieutenant J. C. Pemberton; A, 8th infantry—1st Lieutenant A. T. Lee, 2d Lieutenant J. Longstreet; F, 8th infantry—2d Lieutenant J. Beardsley, Brevet 2d Lieutenant T. J. Montgomery.

Hawkins, commanding Fort Brown, and Captain Mansfield, engineers, of the bombardment of that work, and the operations of the engineer department during its continuance.

These reports, together with one furnished by Major Brown before his lamented death, will give a history of the operations at Fort Brown from the 1st to the 10th of May.

In rendering these reports, I deem it unnecessary to pay any further tribute to the services or memory of Major Brown. His death is a voucher for his patriotism and devotion to duty. I would call the attention of the department to the services of Captain Hawkins, who succeeded to the command; to those of Captain Lowd and Lieutenant Bragg, who skilfully directed the operations of their respective batteries; and particularly to those of the engineer officer, Captain Mansfield, whose untiring vigilance and zeal in perfecting the defences which he had so ably planned cannot be too highly praised.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. General U. S. A., commanding.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT TAYLOR,
Texas, May 10, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the morning of the 6th instant, during the third day of the bombardment of this fort, its gallant commander, Major Brown, received a severe wound, which caused his death at 2 o'clock on the 9th instant. I immediately assumed command, and have the honor to report the result of the bombardment since 7 o'clock, p. m., on the fourth, at which time Captain Walker left with a report of the result up to that time. At 9 o'clock, p. m., on the fourth, firing of musketry was heard in our rear, about three or four hundred yards distance, and apparently extending a mile up the river, the firing very irregular; this continued until half-past 11 o'clock, p. m. The garrison was under arms, batteries and defences all manned, and continued so during the night. On the fifth instant, at 5 o'clock, a. m., the fire was recommenced from the enemy's batteries, which was immediately returned from the 18 pounder battery, and 6 pounder howitzer placed in embrasure on the southeast bastion; the firing was kept up one hour, receiving during that time about fifty round shot and shells from the enemy. The batteries on both sides ceased firing at the same time; our expenditure of ammunition was thirty rounds of both caliber. At 8 o'clock, a. m., Valdez, a Mexican, came in and reported that a party of dragoons had been driven back from the prairie to the point, and also a party to the fort; that he had seen thirty deserters from Arista's army, who stated that the Mexicans were without subsistence stores; that they were tired and left for their homes; that it was stated in the Mexican camp that Arista had received an express from Mexico, informing him that another revolution had broken out in Mexico, and that he could receive no support from the government. At 9 o'clock, a. m., it was reported that a reconnoissance of officers, escorted by mounted men of the enemy, was going on in rear within eight hundred yards of

the fort, and that other parties, mounted and infantry, were at the same distance, extending from the bend of the lagoon to the river. Lieutenant Hanson, 7th infantry, asked permission to take the dragoons and go and look at them; this was granted, and in an hour he returned, reporting that the enemy was establishing a battery at the cross roads; his appearance among them created great alarm, and they were soon concentrated at a distance under cover of their work. Every man at work to day strengthening their defences. Several parties of cavalry and infantry seen to-day occupying our old encampment. At 11 o'clock, p. m., musketry was heard in our rear from bend of lagoon to the river. The troops all at their places in the bastions during the night.

WEDNESDAY, *May 6.*

At 5 o'clock, a. m., the cannonade commenced from the lower fort and mortar battery; many round shot and shells thrown until 6 o'clock, when there was a cessation of firing; during the last hour the shot and shells were well directed, bursting in all directions in the interior of the fort, tearing our tents to pieces and injuring several horses. At half past 6 o'clock the signal 18 pounders were fired, at which the enemy opened their batteries in our front and rear, and the cannonade continued from two mortars and a howitzer in front, and a mortar established at or near the cross roads in rear until 10 o'clock, a. m., when our gallant commander received a mortal wound from a falling shell. Large mounted parties and infantry were seen at this time in rear. At 7 o'clock one mortar was playing upon us from town, and two from the rear. At 10 o'clock, a small party of infantry crept up in ravine and fired musketry, but being out of range the fire was not returned. At half-past 10 o'clock, a. m., several parties of infantry and mounted men were seen surrounding us in rear. Several rounds of canister were fired from Lieutenant Bragg's battery, which soon dispersed them. Several afterwards heard to have been killed. Immediately afterwards, and until half-past 12 o'clock, p. m., we received a continual shower of shells from the enemy's batteries. At 2 o'clock, five shells were thrown. At half-past 4 o'clock, p. m., a white flag was shown at the old buildings in rear, and a parley sounded by the enemy. Two officers advanced and were met by two officers of my command, who brought me the document marked A, signed by General Arista, allowing me one hour to reply.

This document being considered one of great importance, I deemed it necessary to convoke a council consisting of all the company commanders in my command, and laid it before them: they unanimously concurred with me in the reply, a copy of which is the accompanying document, marked B. This document was despatched in the allotted time, and shortly after its reception the enemy's batteries opened on us with a continual shower of shot and shells until sunset. The night was passed very quietly, but constant vigilance was exercised in the command; every man kept at his post, as an attack was confidently expected in the morning.

THURSDAY, *May 7.*

At half-past 5 o'clock, a. m., the enemy's batteries opened with shells, and continued for about an hour and a half, then ceased. At half-past 7, a. m., several rounds of canister and grape were fired into the enemy's picket-guards, at the houses in rear, and at the old guard-house of the second brigade, which caused them to abandon their positions; this was

replied to by a discharge of some ten or twelve shells. At 9 o'clock, a. m., we received a shower of some four or five shells, and then stopped. About this time the enemy commenced firing iron shells, having previously thrown composition shells, and it was discovered that one of the mortars had been removed from our rear and returned to the city. At quarter-past 10, a. m., we received three shells; at 11, a. m., eight shells; at 12, m., six shells, by which four of Lieutenant Bragg's horses were killed, and the wheel of one of his caissons disabled. At half-past 12 the batteries were opened with round shot and shells, and continued for an hour and a half; by this time our bomb-proofs were so far advanced that our troops were comparatively protected. At 2 o'clock small parties of infantry commenced on us with random musketry on the bank of the river and from the ravine. At half-past 2, p. m., a regular bombardment with shot and shells from a howitzer and the mortars was kept up with little intermission until sunset. At 5 o'clock, during this bombardment, a shell struck in a tent, almost entirely destroying the instruments of the seventh infantry band, to the value of three hundred dollars. The accuracy of their firing now evidently increased, as at least one-half of the shells thrown fell in the fort. A sentinel to-day lost his arm by a round shot from the enemy. As soon as it was dark enough, a party headed by our indefatigable engineer, Captain Mansfield, was sent out to level the traverse thrown up by General Worth, and cutting down the chapparal which served as a cover to the sharp shooters of the enemy. At 12 o'clock at night a random fire of musketry commenced around us, followed by two bugles; this continued for about one hour, and from 3, a. m. was continued until near daylight.

FRIDAY, May 8.

At a quarter past five o'clock, a. m., the enemy's batteries again opened with shells from the lower fort, from the sand-bag battery, and from our rear; the fire this morning was kept up until 8, a. m., without cessation. A party was sent out this morning and burned the old houses near the traverse, on the river bank. This drew from them several round shot and shells. From twelve to half-past two, p. m., a heavy bombardment of shells was kept up; at least fifty thrown at us during that time. At half-past three they again opened their shells upon us, accompanied by round shot. At this time the enemy had established a mortar in the ridge of chapparal across the river, and immediately west of us. Mortars were now playing upon us from the north, south, and west—four in number. The firing of round shot was kept up for two hours, and that of shells until half-past seven, p. m. About half-past two, p. m., a heavy cannonading was heard, supposed to be a little north of east of us; it apparently approached until half-past four, when it became very distinct; it lasted until nearly seven, p. m.; this we supposed to be an action between our forces and the enemy. A little before sunset a Mexican came running in with a white flag from the direction of the second brigade guard-house, claiming protection; he stated that our forces had come in contact with those of the enemy, had driven them back; that he was a prisoner in charge of the picket guards, fired on by our batteries; that while they were burying the dead, and carrying off the wounded, he effected his escape. During the cannonade this afternoon a small column of infantry

from above, and one of cavalry from below, were seen advancing, supposed to be reinforcements to the enemy. The excitement in our command during this distant cannonading was intense. During the day we received from one hundred and fifty to two hundred shells, and from seventy-five to one hundred round shot, and not a man disabled. During the previous night the halyards of the flag on the outside had become unrigged, and, as the firing had become too intense to re-establish them, a temporary staff was erected on the inside, and the national flag of the 7th infantry raised as a substitute. We passed a very quiet night—the troops on the alert at their guns.

SATURDAY, *May 9.*

An officer of the seventh succeeded in lowering the topmast of the flag-staff and rigging the halyards, but found he could not raise it again without great labor and exposure; he therefore lashed it in position, and raised the national flag, after having stood a succession of round shot, canister, and shells from the enemy's batteries for fifteen or twenty minutes. At ten o'clock a sergeant and ten men fired the houses on the road which had been successively occupied by our own and the enemy's pickets. It brought a heavy discharge of shells, canister, and round shot, from the enemy's batteries. Shells, with slight intervals, continued until half-past two, p. m.; the mortar on our west silent, and one firing from a position between us and the fort at the upper ferry; it was much further off, but fired accurately. Two, p. m., Major Brown died, and in a short time we heard the re engagement between the armies. Quarter to six, quite a number of Mexican cavalry and a few infantry were seen in the retreat. At this time we received a heavy fire of round shot and shells from the time the battle commenced, and continued to increase. An eighteen-pounder and six-pounder were fired in the direction of the upper ferry, when, finding it difficult to distinguish between friend and foe, the firing was discontinued. I cannot close this report, and pass in silence the gallant and laborious efforts of the officers and men of this command to fulfil the high trust imposed in them by the commanding general. Under the most disadvantageous circumstances, labor was performed by the men with the greatest alacrity, and always in good cheer. Our indefatigable engineer, Captain Mansfield, is entitled to the highest praise. We have only to lament the loss of a gallant and faithful officer, who, proud of the trust reposed in him, would have gloried in the accomplishment of the task which he so gallantly commenced.

I have the honor to report, as follows, a list of the killed and wounded during the seven days' bombardment of Fort Taylor, Texas:

KILLED.

May 3, 1846. Sergeant Weigart, B company, 7th infantry.

WOUNDED.

May 6, 1846. Major J. Brown, commanding post.
 3, Private Lefear, E company, 3d artillery, slight wound.
 6, Private Thompson, E company, 3d artillery, slight wound.

- May 6, 1846. Private Thompson, D company, 5th infantry, slight wound.
 6, Citizen J. Paugh, sutler's clerk, slight wound.
 7, Mexican prisoner, slight wound.
 7, Private Smith, C company, 7th infantry, slight wound.
 7, Private Moody, H company, 7th infantry, fracture of arm.
 8, Citizen Russell, discharged soldier, fracture of leg.
 8, Private Stewart, H company, 7th infantry, slight wound.
 8, Private Ratcliff, H company, 7th infantry, slight wound.
 8, Mexican prisoner, slight wound.
 8, Mexican prisoner, slight wound.
 8, Recruit Cowan, 7th infantry, slight wound.

DIED.

May 9, 1846. Major J. Brown, commanding post.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. HAWKINS,

Captain 7th infantry, commanding post.

Captain W. W. S. BLISS,

Asst. Adjt. Gen. Army of Occupation, Texas.

A.

EJERCITO MEXICANO, DIVISION DEL NORTE. GENERAL EN JEFE.

Se halla V. S. *istiad* por fuerzas suficientes á rendirla y adimás se encuentra á su espalda una numerosa division encampada que libre de toda atencion, valirá cuantos auxilios tenga V. S. esperanzas de recibir.

El amor de la humanidad reconocido en el siglo presente por todas las naciones cultas, impone sin duda el deber de hacer menos crueles los desastres de la guerra.

Este principio que los Mejicanos profezan con preferencia á cualquiera otra nacion, me obliga á indicarle que siendo inutiles sus esfuerzos, se rinda, para que por una capitulacion evite la total ruina de los soldados que le obedecen.

Así me proporcionará V. S. el placer de cumplir con los sentimientos indicados de bondad y dulzura que forman el caracter de mis compatriotes, á la vez que daré lleno al mas imperioso de los deberes que mi pais exige, por las ofenzas que ha recibido.

Dios y Libertad! Cuartel general en los Fanques del Ramireño, Mayo 6, de 1846.

M. ARISTA.

B.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Near Matamoras, May 6, 1846, 5 o'clock p. m.

SIR: Your humane communication has just been received, and after the consideration due to its importance, I must respectfully decline to surrender my forces to you.

The exact purport of your despatch I cannot feel confident that I un-

derstood, as my interpreter is not skilled in your language; but if I have understood you correctly, you have my reply above.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. HAWKINS,

Commanding U. S. forces opposite Matamoras.

General M. ARISTA,

Commanding division of the north.

FORT OPPOSITE MATAMORAS,
Texas, May 12, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report the proceedings of myself, the only engineer officer of your command at this place during your absence with the army, from the 1st to the 10th instant. On the afternoon of the 1st, after your departure, the carpenters were continued at work on the draw and bridge of the fort till dark. No work was done by the soldiers this afternoon in consequence of the removal of their camp and tents, &c., into the fort. On the morning of the 2d, the labor of completing the ditching and embankment of the unfinished front was resumed, and continued all day with much success. On the morning of the 3d, (Sunday,) at break of day, the command were roused by the fire of the enemy on our batteries. But the labor of ditching and embankment was resumed and continued all day, notwithstanding the fire from the enemy's batteries, without interruption. On the 4th and 5th the ramparts were completed, although the fire of the enemy was continued, and progress made in the construction of a bomb-proof and traverse in rear of postern. On the 6th other bomb-proofs, &c., were commenced, and continued uninterruptedly, except by the falling and bursting of shells. On the 7th, in the evening, as we had frequently been insulted at night by musketry, it was deemed best to level the traverse on the bank of the river to prevent the use of it by the enemy to fire into the fort, and 100 men, with three officers, besides myself, accomplished the work by midnight. On the 8th the men were encouraged at their excessive labor by the sound of distant firing—your first battle on the prairie. On the afternoon of the 9th, being apprehensive, and hearing no sounds of battle, and receiving no courier from you, and having ascertained that the enemy had sent off his troops from our rear to reinforce himself in your front, a party was sent out to burn and destroy everything that might be a cover or of service to the enemy in case he returned to his operations against the fort; and we continued at it till the sound of battle and the retreat of the enemy indicated their defeat in the afternoon.

In the course of the duties it has fallen to my lot to perform in this short period, I have to state that I have been most truly and faithfully seconded in my operations by the late Major Brown, the commanding officer, till the 6th, when he lost his leg by a bomb-shell while standing six or eight feet from me, and which caused his death on the 9th. The same aid was extended cheerfully by his successor, Captain Hawkins, to the command. And all the officers and soldiers worked cheerfully to the full extent of their strength at the various works which, on consultation with the commanding officer, it was deemed necessary for us to undertake for the defence of the fort and safety of the men.

The official report of the commanding officer will give you all other particulars that do not fall strictly under my department.

I cannot close this official report without expressing my regret for the loss of the lamented Major Brown, who indicated by the manner he exercised his command, and his coolness and self-possession under trying circumstances, the true characteristics of the soldier and the gentleman.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOS. K. F. MANSFIELD,
Captain Corps of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR,
Commanding U. S. army in Texas.

