

making the fall of the 25th of April I well knew that if the Mexicans fought us at all it would be before the arrival of the volunteers. It was for the purpose of clearing the river and performing such further service as the government might direct that I thought it proper to ask for reinforcements.

It is extremely doubtful whether the four regiments from Texas can be raised and I shall desire the Governor who is expected here to suspend the call for them. None of the mounted companies except Captain Price's already in service have reported to me.

I fear that the volunteers have exhausted the supply of tents deposited in New Orleans for the use of this army. We are greatly in want of them; and I must request that immediate measures be taken to send direct to Brazos Santiago, say 1000 tents, for the use of the army in the field. The tents of the 7th Infantry were cut up to make sand bags during the recent bombardment of Fort Brown.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant

Z. TAYLOR.

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A. Comd'g.
The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington D. C.

Extracts from a despatch from General Taylor, dated Matamoros May 21, 1846

Our future movements must depend, in a great degree on the extent to which the Rio Grande is navigable for steamboats, and I fear that my expectations in this particular will not be realized. Though, at times, navigable as high as Camargo, or even Mier, it is doubtful whether a boat can now be pushed higher than Reinos. Indeed the 'Nera,' which is in the river, and accompanied the expedition under General Smith, has not yet reached this place though hourly expected.

I shall lose no time in ascertaining the practicability of the river for steamboats, and shall occupy Reinos, and such other points as a boat may be able to reach.

All the cavalry (regular and irregular) of the army, under command of Lieut. Col. Garland, is in pursuit of the retreating army, to harass its rear, and capture prisoners and baggage. We have no authentic intelligence from the lieutenant-colonel since his departure. Deserters are, however, coming in from the Mexicans.

Lieut. Col. Wilson's battalion 1st infantry with some two hundred volunteers, was at Baria on the 17th, and has since been reinforced by Gen. Smith, with about seven hundred Louisiana volunteers. This column is ordered to move up the right bank of the river and look hourly for its arrival.

A large amount of public stores, chiefly ordnance, has been found concealed in this town. We are gradually recovering it from the places where it was hidden. Two field-pieces, several hundred muskets, and two hundred shells are among the articles recovered.

Head Quarters Army of Occupation,
City of Matamoros, May 24, 1846.

Sir—I have to report the arrival this day of Gen. Smith with the battalion of the 1st infantry, the Washington regiment of Louisiana volunteers, and a company of volunteers from Mobile. Another regiment of Louisiana volunteers is below, and will probably arrive this evening or to-morrow.

This command was accompanied from the mouth of the river by the steamboat 'Nera,' which succeeded without difficulty in reaching this place.

Lieut. Col. Garland returned on the 22d from his expedition in pursuit of the retreating party. He succeeded in capturing a small rear party, after a trifling skirmish in the night, in which a man and unfortunately a woman were killed on the Mexican side, and two men slightly wounded on our own. He pursued the route of the army for sixty miles, and then returned agreeably to his instructions. The scarcity of water and condition of his horses made it useless to proceed farther.

I would respectfully solicit instructions as to the disposition to be made of certain property captured in the camp of Gen. Arista. A pavilion, and several pieces of musive plate are among the articles. His clothing, and other property purely personal, have been deposited in this city with a view of being returned to him. I would suggest that the pavilion be sent to Washington, to be disposed of as the President may direct.

The recovery of ordnance and other public stores still continues here. Two pieces of cannon have been taken from the river, and small arms in considerable numbers have been taken in the town.

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

Z. TAYLOR.

Brevet Brig. General U. S. A. Comd'g.
The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington D. C.

MESSAGE.

Of the President of the United States, relative to the operations and recent engagements of the Mexican Frontier:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith, for the information of Congress, official reports received at the War Department from the officer commanding the army on the Mexican frontier, giving a detailed report of his 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 Matamoros.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant:

W. L. MARCY, Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT.

BATTLE OF PALO ALTO.

Head Quarters Army of Occupation.

Camp near Matamoros, May 16 1846.

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

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

Our march continued 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 our force. I ordered a halt up on 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 chapparel, 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 Lieut. Col. McIntosh; Major Ringgold's artillery; 31 infantry, commanded by Captain L. N. Morris; two eighteen pounders, commanded by Lieut. Churchill; 31 infantry, commanded by Major G. W. Allen; the 2d and 4th regiments, composed the 3d brigade under command of Lieut. Col. Garland; and all the above corps, together with two squadrons of dragoons under Capt. Ker and May, composed the right wing under the orders of Col. Twiggs. The left was formed by the battalion of artillery commanded by Lieut. Col. Childs; Duncan's light artillery, and the 9th infantry, under Captain Montgomery—all forming the 1st brigade, under command of Lieut. Col. Belknap. The train was packed near the water, under direction of Captains Croaman and Myers and protected by Capt. Ker's squadron.

At 2 o'clock we took up the march by heads of columns, in the direction of the enemy—the eighteen pounder battery following the road. While the columns were advancing, Lieut. 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 & 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 eighteen pounders and Major Ringgold's artillery soon dispersed the cavalry, which formed his left. Capt. Duncan's battery, thrown forward in advance of

the line, was doing good execution at this time. Capt. 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 chapparel to our right, to threaten that flank, or make a demonstration against the train. The 5th infantry was immediately detached to check his movement, and, supported by Lieut. Ridgely, with a section of Major Ringgold's battery and Capt. Walker's company of volunteers effectually repulsed 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 as the cannonade had been suspended, I ordered forward the eighteen 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 eighteen 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 eighteen 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 eighteen 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 meantime the battalion of artillery 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 and a severe fire from the eighteen 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 cannoner from the eighteen pounders dispersed them. A brisk fire of small arms was now opened upon the square, by which one officer Lieut. Luther, 21 artillery, was slightly wounded, but a well directed fire 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 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 chapparel in rear of his

position. Our army bivouacked on the ground it occupied. During 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, 44 wounded, and 2 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 reports, herewith, to have been 177 officers and 2,111 men—aggregates, 2,288. The Mexican force, according to the statements of their own officers, taken prisoners in the affair of the 9th, was no 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 reports of their own officers.

As already reported in my first brief despatch, the conduct of our officers and men was every thing that could be desired. Exposed for hours to the severest trial—a cannonade of our 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 meantime I refer, for minute details, to reports of individual commanders.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brev't Brig. Gen. U. S. Army Comd'g.
The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

The tabular statement alluded to in the above letter represents that 9 non-commissioned officers and privates were killed in the battle, and 44 wounded, including 3 commissioned officers, 14 horses killed and 4 wounded.

RESACA DE LA PALMA.

Head Quarters Army of Occupation.

Camp near Fort Brown, Texas,

May 17, 1846.

Sir: In submitting a minute report of the affair of 'Resaca de la Palma,' I have the honor to state that early in the morning of the 9th inst 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 Matamoros, 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 eighteen pounders which had done such good service on the previous day—and two twelve pounders which had not been in 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 chapparel or forest which extends to the Rio Grande, a distance of seven miles. The light companies of the 1st brigade, under Capt. C. F. Smith, 2d artillery and a select detachment of light troops, the whole under the command of Capt. McCall 4th infantry were thrown forward into the chapparel 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 four o'clock I came up with Mr. McCall who reported the enemy in force in our front occupying a ravine which intersects the road and is skirted by thickets of dense chapparel. Ridgeley's battery and the advance under Capt. McCall were at once thrown forward on the road and into the chapparel on either side while the 5th infantry and one wing of the 4th were thrown into the forest on the left, 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. Capt. 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 Capt. May to charge the battery 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 meantime 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 change 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 1st brigade and the 3d and 4th regiments of infantry had been deployed on the right of the road where, 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 repelled 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 the 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 2048 men—aggregate 2222. The actual number engaged with the enemy did not exceed 1700. Our loss was three officers killed and seventy-one wounded. Among the officers killed, I have to regret the loss of Lieut. Inge, 2d dragoons, who fell at the head of his platoons, while gallantly charging the enemy's battery of Lieutenant Cochran, of the 4th and Lieut. Chadbourn, of the 8th infantry, who likewise met their death in the thickest of the fight. The officers wounded were Lieutenant Col. Payne, Inspector General Lieutenant Dobbins, 3d infantry, serving with the light infantry advance, slightly Lieut. Col. McIntosh, 5th infantry, severely (twice) Captain Hooe, 5th infantry severely (right arm since amputated) Lieutenant Fowlers 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 5th, both by cavalry and infantry, and no doubt to an extent at least equal to his loss on that day. It is probable that 6000 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 1000 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 Col. McIntosh, commanding the 5th infantry, Lieut. Colonel Garland, commanding the 3d brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Belknap, commanding the 1st brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Chittes, 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 Col. McIntosh repulsed with his regiment a charge of lancers in the action of Palo Alto, and shared with it in the honor 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 Lieutenant Ridgely deserve especial 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 eighteen 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 on the enemy's batteries on the 9th was gallantly led by Captain May, and had complete success.

McCall, 4th infantry rendered distinguished service with the advanced corps under his orders. His 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 connection 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 enclose an inventory of the Mexican property captured on the field, & also a sketch of the field of 'Resaca de la Palma,' and of the route from Point Isabel, made by my Aid de camp, Lieutenant E-ton. 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.

Brev't Brig. Gen. U. S. A. Comd'g.
The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington D. C.

MEXICAN SEAPORTS.

To assist the reader's memory the Norfolk Beacon gives the following list of the seaports belonging to Mexico.

On the Pacific.—San Francisco the northernmost, is in new California, in a fertile district, inhabited by civilized Indians under Roman Catholic missionaries.

Monterey, about eighty miles S. of St. F., is also in New California. It is often visited by American whalers. [This is the port which Com. James captured by mistake a few years ago.] There is another Monterey about 130 miles northwest from Matamoros.

Mazatlan and Guaymas; the former about 750 miles S. of Monterey; on the east side of the Gulf of California. Both have excellent harbors and considerable commerce.

San Blas, at the mouth of the Santiago, in the province of Jalisco, is about 100 miles S. of Mazatlan.

Apoculpo, 500 miles S. of San Blas, and 120 miles of Mexico, has one of the finest harbors in the world, but the situation is unhealthy.

On the Atlantic.—Besides the ports in Yucatan (a ceded province) of Sisal and Campeche, Mexico has none on the Atlantic side but Vera Cruz, Tampico, and Matamoros, which are too well known to require description.

The locusts have appeared in Ohio in immense numbers in the eastern counties of Muskingum and Coshocton and the eastern portions of Knex and Lickin.