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THURSDAY MORNING AUGURT 17.

GEN. TAYLOR AND GEN. LANE'S REPORTS.—We publish this morning Gen. Taylor and Gen. Lane's Official Reports of the battle of Buena Vista, and we ask our readers to give them a careful perusal, and to save this copy of the Journal containing them. It was our intention to have accompanied these reports with some remarks of our own and an extract or two from the reports of Gen. Wool, and Col. Davis, but our columns are too much crowded to enable us to do so; we shall do this, however, in to-morrow's paper, when we shall have more room and more time.

☞ We should like to know what has happened, or what we have done, that the Democrat of yesterday contained not one word of abuse of the Journal. Something is wrong, that's certain, and we intend to be upon our guard, and we caution every Whig to be upon their guard also; for when the locofocos cease their abuse for a moment, they have either given up the contest, or what is more likely, are busy hatching some secret and diabolical plot against us. We know that all hands are very busy and we may expect them to break loose soon, and so we caution every body to stand from under. "Was that thunder?"

GEN. TAYLOR'S DETAILED REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Augua Nueva, March 6, 1847.

SIR. I have the honor to submit a detailed report of the operations of the forces under my command which resulted in the engagement of Buena Vista, the repulse of the Mexican army and the reocupation of this position.

The information which reached me of the advance and concentration of a heavy Mexican force in my front, had assumed such a probable form, as to induce a special examination far beyond the reach of our pickets to ascertain its correctness. A small party of Texan spies, under Major McCulloch, despatched to the Hacienda of Encarnacion, 20 miles from this, on the route to San Luis Potosi, had reported a cavalry force of unknown strength at that place. On the 30th of February a strong reconnoissance under Lieut. Col. May was despatched to the Hacienda of Hedionda, while Major McCulloch made another examination of Encarnacion. The results of these expeditions left no doubt that the enemy was in large force at Encarnacion under the orders of General Santa Anna, and that he meditated a forward movement and attack upon our position.

As the Camp of Agua Nueva could be turned on either flank, and as the enemy's force was greatly superior to our own, particularly in the arm of cavalry, I determined, after much consideration, to take up a position about eleven miles in rear and there await the attack. The army broke up its camp and marched at noon on the 21st, encamping at the new position a little in front of the Hacienda of Buena Vista.

With a small force I proceeded to Saltillo to make some necessary arrangements for the defence of the town, leaving Brig. Gen. Wool in the immediate command of the troops.

Before those arrangements were completed on the morning of the 22d, I was advised that the enemy was in sight, advancing. Upon reaching the ground it was found that his cavalry advance was in our front, having marched from Encarnacion, as we have since learned at 11 o'clock on the day previous, and driving in a mounted force left at Agua Nueva to cover the removal of public stores. Our troops were in position occupying a line of remarkable strength. The road at this point becomes a narrow defile, the valley on its right being rendered quite impracticable for artillery by a system of deep and impassable gullies, while on the left a succession of rugged ridges, and precipitous ravines extends far back towards the mountain which bounds the valley. The features of the ground were such as nearly to paralyze the artillery and cavalry of the enemy, while his infantry could not derive all the advantage of his numercial superiority. In this position we prepared to receive him. Capt. Washington's battery (4th artillery) was posted to command the road, while the 1st and 2nd Illinois regiments under Colonels Hardin and Bissell, each eight companies, (to the latter of which was attached Capt. Conner's company of Texas volunteers,) and the 2d Kentucky under Col. McKee, occupied the crests of the ridges on the left and in rear. The Arkansas and Kentucky regiments of cavalry, commanded by Cols. Yell and H. Marshall, occupied the extreme left near the base of the mountain, while the Indiana brigade, under Brigadier General Lane, (composed of the 2d and 3d regiments under Cols. Bowles and Lane,) the Mississippi riflemen under Col. Davis, the squadrons of the 1st and 2d dragoons under Capt. Steen and Lieut. Col. May, and the light batteries of Capt. Sherman and Bragg, 3d artillery, were held in reserve.

At 11 o'clock I received from General Santa Anna a summons to surrender at discretion, which, with a copy of my reply, I have already transmitted. The enemy still forbore his attack evidently waiting for the arrival of his rear columns which could be distinctly seen by our look-outs as they approached the field. A demonstration made on his left caused me to detach the 2d Kentucky regiment and a section of artillery to our right, in which position they bivouacked for the night. In the mean time the Mexican light troops had engaged ours on the extreme left, (composed of parts of the Kentucky and Arkansas cavalry dismounted, and a rifle battalion from the Indiana brigade under Major Gorman, the whole commanded by Col. Marshall,) and kept a sharp fire, climbing the mountain side, and apparently endeavoring to gain our flank. Three pieces of Capt. Washington's battery had been detached to the left, and were supported by the 2d Indiana regiment. An occasional shell was thrown by the enemy into this part of our line, but without effect. The skirmishing of the light troops was kept up with trifling loss on our part until dark, when I became convinced that no serious attack would be made before morning, and returned with the Mississippi regiment and squadron of 2d dragoons to Saltillo. The troops bivouacked without fires, and laid upon their arms. A body of cavalry, 1,500 strong, had been visible all day in rear of town, having entered the valley through a narrow pass east of the city. This cavalry commanded by Gen. Minon, had evidently been thrown in our rear to break up and harrass our retreat, and perhaps make some attempt against the town if practicable. The city was occupied by four excellent companies of Illinois volunteers under Major Warren of the 1st regiment. A field work, which commanded most of the approaches, was garrisoned by Capt. Webster's company 1st artillery, and armed with two 24 pound howitzers, while the train and headquarter camp was guarded by two companies Mississippi riflemen under Capt. Rogers and a field piece commanded by Capt. Shover, 3d artillery. Having made these dispositions for the protection of the rear, I proceeded on the morning of the 23d to Buena Vista; ordering forward all the other available troops. The action had commenced before my arrival on the field.

During the evening and night of the 22d the enemy had thrown a body of light troops on the mountain side, with the purpose of outflanking our left; and it was here that the action of the 23d commenced at an early hour.—Our riflemen under Colonel Marshall, who had been reinforced by three companies under Major Trail, 2d Illinois volunteers, maintained their ground handsomely against a greatly superior force, holding themselves under cover, and using their weapons with deadly effect.—About 8 o'clock a strong demonstration was made against the centre of our position, a heavy column moving along the road. This force was soon dispersed by a few rapid and well-directed shots from Capt. Washington's battery. In the meantime the enemy was concentrating a large force of infantry and cavalry under cover of the ridges, with the obvious intention of forcing our left, which was posted on an extensive plateau. The 2d Indiana and 2d Illinois regiments formed this part of our line, the former covering three pieces of light artillery, under the orders of Capt. O'Brien—Brig. Gen. Lane being in the immediate command. In order to bring his men within effective range, General Lane ordered the artillery and 2d Indiana regiment forward. The artillery advanced within musket range of a heavy body of Mexican infantry and was served with great effect, but without being able to check its advance. The infantry ordered to its support had fallen back in disorder, being exposed, as well as the battery, not only to a severe fire of small arms from the front, but also to a murderous cross fire of grape and cannister from a Mexican battery on the left. Capt. O'Brien found it impossible to retain his position without support, but was only able to withdraw two of his pieces, all the horses and cannoneers of the third piece killed or disabled. The 2d Indiana regiment, which had fallen back as stated, could not be rallied, and took no further part in the action, except a handful of men who, under its gallant Col. Bowles, joined the Mississippi regiment and did good service, and those fugitives who, at a latter period in the day, assisted in defending the train and depot at Buena Vista. This portion of our line having given away, and the enemy appearing in overwhelming force against our left flank, the light troops which had rendered such good service on the mountain, were compelled to withdraw, which they did, for the most part in good order. Many, however, were not rallied until they reached the depot at Buena Vista, to the defence of which they afterwards contributed.

Col. Bissell's regiment, (2d Illinois,) which had been joined by a section of Capt. Sherman's and was compelled to fall back, being entirely batterry, had become completely outflanked unsupported. The enemy was now pouring masses of infantry and cavalry along the base of the mountain on the left, and was gaining our rear in great force. At this moment, I arrived upon the field. The Mississippi regiment had been directed to the left before reaching the position, and immediately came into action against the Mexican infantry which had turned our flank. The Kentucky regiment and a section of artilery under Capt. Bragg, had previously been ordered from the right to reinforce our left, and arrived at a most opportune moment. That regiment and a portion of the 1st Illinois, under Col. Hardin, gallantly drove the enemy, and recovered a portion of the ground we had lost. The batteries of Capt. Sherman and Bragg were in position on the plateau, and did much execution not only in front but particularly upon the messes which had gained our rear. Discovering that the enemy was heavily pressing upon the Mississippi regiment, the 3d Indiana regiment, under Col. Lane, was despatched to strengthen that part of our line, which formed a crotchet perpendicular to the first line of battle. At the same time Lieut. Kilburn, with a piece of Capt. Bragg's battery was directed to support the infantry there engaged. The action was for a long time warmly sustained at that point—the enemy making several efforts both with infantry and cavalry against our line, and always repulsed with heavy loss. I had placed all the regular cavalry and Capt. Pike's squadron of Arkansas horse under the orders of Brevet Lieut. Col. May, with directions to hold in check the enemy's column, still advancing to the rear along the base of the mountain, which was done in conjunction with the Kentucky and Arkansas cavalry under Cols. Marshall and Yell. In the meantime our left, which was still strongly threatened by a superior force, was further strengthened by the detachment of Capt. Bragg's, and a portion of Capt. Sherman's batteries, to that quarter. The concentration of artillery fire upon the masses of the enemy along the base of the mountain, and the determined resistance offered by the two regiments opposed to them, had created confusion in their ranks, and some of the corps attempted to effect a retreat upon their main line of battle. The squadron of the 1st dragoons under Lieut Rucker, was now ordered up to the deep ravine which these retreating corps were endeavoring to cross in order to charge and disperse them. The squadron proceeded to the point indicated, but could not accomplish the object, being exposed to a heavy fire from a battery established to cover the retreat of those corps. While the the squadron was detached on this service, a large body of the enemy was observed to concentrate on our extreme left, apparently with the view of making a descent upon the hacienda of Buena Vista, where our train and baggage were deposited. Lieut. Col. May was ordered to the support of that point, with two pieces of Capt. Sherman's battery under Lieut. Reynolds. In the meantime the scattered forces near the hacienda, composed in part of Majors Trail and Gorman's commands, had been to some extent organised under the advice of Major Munroe, chief of artillery, with the assistance of Major Morrison, volunteer staff, and were posted to defend the position. Before our cavalry had reached the hacienda, that of the enemy had made its attack having been handsomely met by the Kentucky and Arkansas cavalry under Cols. Marshal and Yell. The Mexican column immediately divided, one portion sweeping by the depot, where it received a destructive fire from the force which had collected there, and then gaining the mountain opposite, under a fire from Lieut. Reynold's section, the remaining portion regaining the base of the mountain on our left. In the charge at Buena Vista, Col. Yell fell gallantly at the head of his regiment; we also lost Adj't Vaughan, of the Kentucky cavalry—a young officer of much promise. Lieut. Col. May, who had been rejoined by the squadron of the 1st dragroons and by portions of the Arkansas and the Indiana troops under Lt. Col. Roane and Maj. Gorman, now approached the base of the mountain, holding in check the right flank of the enemy, upon whose masses, crowded in the narrow gorges and ravines, our artillery was doing fearful execution.

The position of that portion of the Mexican army which had gained our rear was now very critical, and it seemed doubtful whether it could regain the main body. At this moment I received from Gen. Santa Anna a message by a staff officer, desiring to know what I wanted. I immediately despatched Brig. Gen. Wool to the Mexican general-in-chief, and sent orders to cease firing. Upon reaching the Mexican lines, Gen. Wool could not cause the enemy to cease their fire, and accordingly returned without having an interview. The extreme right of the enemy continued its retreat along the base of the mountain, and finally, in spite of all our efforts, effected a junction with the remainder of the army.

During the day the cavalry of Gen. Minon had ascended the elevated plain above Saltillo, and occupied the road from the city to the field of battle, where they intercepted several of our men. Approaching the town they were fired upon by Capt. Webster from the reboubt occupied by his company, and then moved off towards the eastern side of the valley, and obliquely towards Buena Vista. At this time, Capt. Shover moved rapidly forward with his piece, supported by a miscellaneous command of mounted volunteers, and fired several shots at the cavalry with great effect. They were driven into the ravines which led to the lower valley, closely pursued by Capt. Shover, who was further supported by a piece of Capt. Webster's battery; under Lieut. Donaldson, which had advanced from the redoubt, supported by Capt. Wheeler's company of Illinois volunteers. The enemy made one or two efforts to charge the artillery, but was finally driven back in a confused mass, and did not again appear upon the plain.

In the meantime, the firing had partially ceased upon the principal field. The enemy seemed to confine his efforts to the protection of his artillery, and I had left the plateau for a moment, when I was called thither by a very heavy musketry fire. On regaining that position, I discovered that our infantry (Illinois and 2d Kentucky) had engaged a greatly superior force of the enemy—evidently his reserves—and that they had been overwhelmed by numbers. The moment was most critical. Capt. O'Brien, with two pieces, had sustained this heavy charge to the last, and was finally obliged to leave his guns on the field—his infantry support being entirely routed. Captain Bragg, who had just arrived from the left, was ordered at once into battery. Without any infantry to support him, and at the imminent risk of losing his guns, this officer came rapidly into action, the Mexican line being but a few yards from the muzzle of his pieces. The first discharge of canister caused the enemy to hesitate, the second and third drove him back in disorder, and saved the day. The 2d Kentucky regiment, which had advanced beyond supporting distance in this affair, was driven back and closely pressed by the enemy's cavalry. Taking a ravine which led in the direction of Capt. Washington's battery, their pursuers became exposed to his fire, which soon checked and drove them back with loss. In the meantime, the rest of our artillery had taken position on the plateau, covered by the Mississippi and 3d Indiana regiments, the former of which had reached the ground in time to pour a fire into the right flank of the enemy, and thus contribute to his repulse. In this last conflict we had the misfortune to sustain a very heavy loss. Colonel Hardin, 1st Illinois, and Colonel McKee and Lieutenant Col. H. Clay, 2d Kentucky regiment's fell at this time while gallantry heading their commands.

No further attempt was made by the enemy to force our position, and the approach of night gave an opportunity to pay proper attention to the wounded and also to refresh the soldiers, who had been exhausted by incessant watchfulness and combat. Though the night was severely cold, the troops were compelled for the most to bivouack without fires, expecting that morning would renew the conflict. During the night the wounded were removed to Saltillo and every preparation made to receive the enemy should he again attack our position. Seven fresh companies were drawn from the town and Brigadier Gen. Marshall, who had made a forced march from Rinconada, with a reinforcement of Kentucky cavalry and four heavy guns under Capt Prentiss, 1st art., was near at hand, when it was discovered that the enemy had abandoned his position during the night. Our scouts soon ascertained that he had fallen back upon Agua Nueva. The great disparity of numbers and the exhaustion of our troops, rendered it inexpedient and hazardous to attempt pursuit. A staff officer was despatched to Gen. Santa Anna to negotiate an exchange of prisoners, which was satisfactorily completed on the following day. Our own dead were collected and buried, and the Mexican wounded, of which a large number had been left upon the field, were removed to Saltillo, and rendered as comfortable as circumstances would admit.

On the evening of the 25th, a close reconnoissance was made of the enemy's position, which was found to to be occupied only by a small body of cavalry, the infantry and artillery having retreated in the direction of San Luis Potosi. On the 27th, our troops resumed their former camp at Agua Nueva, the enemy's rear guard evacuating the place as we approached, leaving a considerable number of wounded. It was my purpose to beat up his quarters at Encarnacion early the next morning, but upon examination, the weak condition of the cavalry horses rendered it unavailable to attempt so long a march without water. A command was finally despetched to Encarnacion on the 1st of March, under Col. Belknap. Some two hundred wounded, and about sixty Mexican soldiers were found there, the army passed on in the direction of Matehuala, with greatly reduced numbers, and suffering much from hunger The dead and dying were strewed upon the road and crowded the buildings of the hacienda.

The American force engaged in the action of Buena Vista, is shown by the accompanying field report, to have been 334 officers, and 4,425 men, exclusive of the small command left in and near Saltillo. Of this number, two squadrons of cavalry, and three batteries of light artillery, making not more than 453 men, composed the only force of regular troops. The strength of the Mexican army is stated by Gen. Santa Anna, in his summons, to be 20,000; and that estimate is confirmed by all the information since obtained. Our loss is 267 killed, 456 wounded, and 23 missing. Of the numerous wounded, many did not require removal to the hospital, and it is hoped that a comparatively small number will be permanently disabled. The Mexican loss in killed and wounded may be fairly estimated at 1,500, and will probably reach 2,000. At least 500 of their killed were left upon the field of battle. We have no means of ascertaining the number of deserters and dispersed men from their ranks, but it is known to be very great.

Our loss has been especially severe in officers twenty-eight having been killed upon the field. We have to lament the death Captain Geo. Lincoln, assistant adjutant general, serving on the staff of Gen. Wool—a young officer of high bearing and approved gallantry, who fell early in the action. No loss falls more heavily upon the army in the field than that of Cols. Hardin and McKee, and Lt. Col. Clay.—Possessing in a remarkable degree the confidence of their commands, and the last two having enjoyed the advantage of a military education, I had looked particularly to them for support in case we met the enemy. I need not say that their zeal in engaging the enemy, and the cool and steadfast courage with which they maintained their positions during the day fully realized hopes, and caused me to feel yet more sensibly their untimely loss.

I perform a grateful duty in bringing to the notice of the government the general good conduct of the troops. Exposed for successive nights without fires, to the severity of the weather, they were ever prompt and cheerful in the discharge of every duty, and finally displayed conspicuous steadiness and gallantry in repulsing, at great odds, a disciplined foe.—While the brilliant success achieved by their arms, releases me from the painful necessity of specifying many cases of bad conduct before the enemy, I feel an increased obligation to mention particular corps and officers, whose skill, coolness, and gallantry in trying situations, and under a continued and heavy fire, seem to merit particular notice.

To Brig. Gen. Wool my obligations are especially due. The high state of discipline and instruction of several of the volunteer regiments was attained under his command; and to his vigilance and arduous services before the action, and his gallantry and activity on the field, a large share of our success may justly be attributed. During most of the engagement, he was in immediate command of the troops thrown back on our left flank. I beg leave to recommend him to the favorable notice of the government. Brig. Gen. Lane (slightly wounded) was active and zealous throughout the day, and displayed great coolness and gallantry before the enemy.

The services of the light artillery always conspicuous, were more than usually distinguished. Moving rapidly over the roughest ground, it was always in action at the right time, and its well directed fire dealt destruction in the masses of the enemy. While I recommended to particular favor the gallant conduct and valuable services of Major Munroe, chief of artillery, and Captains Washington, 4th artil., and Sherman and Bragg 3rd, artil., commanding batteries, I deem it no more than just to mention all the subaltern officers. They were nearly all detached at different times and in every situation exhibited conspicuous skill and gallantry. Captain O'Brien, Lieutenants Brent, Whiting, and Couch, 4th artillery, and Bryan, topographical engineers, (slightly wounded,) were attached to Captain Washington's battery. Lieutenants Thomas, Reynolds, and French, 3d artillery, (severely wounded,) to that of Captain Sherman; and Captain Shover and Lieutenant Kilburn, 3d artil., to that of Capt. Bragg. Capt. Shover in conjunction with Lt. Donaldson, 1st artil., rendered gallant and important service in repulsing the cavalry of Gen. Minon. The regular cavalry, under Lt. Col. May, with which was associated Capt. Pike's squadron of horse, rendered useful service in holding the the enemy in check and covering the batteries at several points. Capt. Steen, 1st dragoons, was severely wounded early in the day while gallantly endeavoring with my authority to rally the troops which were falling to the rear.

The Mississippi riflemen, under Col. Davis were highly conspicuous for their gallantry and steadiness and sustained throughout the engagement the reputation of veteran troops.—Brought into action against an immensely superior force, they maintained themselves for a long time unsupported and with heavy loss, and held an important part of the field until reinforced. Col. Davis though severely wounded, remained in the saddle until the close of the action. His distinguished coolness and gallantry at the head of his regiment on this day entitle him to the particular notice of the government. The 3d Indiana regiment under Col. Lane, and a fragment of the 2d, under Col. Bowles, were associated with the Mississippi regiment during the greater portion of the day and acquitted themselves creditable in repulsing the attempts of the enemy to break that portion of our line. The Kentucky cavalry, under Colonel Marshall, rendered good service dismounted, acting as light troops on our left, and afterwards, with a portion of the Arkansas regiment, in meeting and dispersing the column of cavalry at Buena Vista. The 1st & 2d Ill. and the 2d Kentucky regiments served immediately under my eye, and I bear a willing testimony to their excellent conduct through the day. The spirit and gallantry with which the 1st Illinois and 2d Kentucky engaged the enemy in the morning, restored confidence to that part of the field, while the list of casualities will show how much these three regiments suffered in sustaining the heavy charge of the enemy in the afternoon.

Capt. Conner's company of Texas volunters attached to the 2d Illinois regiment, fought bravely, its captain being wounded and two subalterns killed. Col. Bissell, the only surviving colonel of these regiments, merits notice for his coolness and bravery on this occasion. After the fall of the field officers of the 1st Illinois and 2d Kentucky regiment, the command of the former devolved upon Lieut. Col. Weatherford; that of the latter upon Maj. Fry.

Regimental commanders and others who have rendered reports, speak in general terms of the good conduct of their officers and men, and have specified many names but the limits of this report forbid a recapitulation of them here. I may however, mention Lieut. Rucker and Campbell, of the dragoons, and Captain Pike, Arkansas cavalry, commanding squadrons; Lieutenant Col Field, Kentucky cavalry, Lieut. Col. Roane, Arkansas cavalry, upon whom the command devolved after the fall of Colonel Yell; Major Bradford, Captain Sharpe, (severely wounded,) and Adjutant Griffith, Mississippi regiment; Lieut Col. Hadden, 2d Indiana regiment; and Lieut. Col. Robinson, A. D. C. to General Lane; Lieut. Col. Weatherford, 1st Illinois regiment, Lieut Col. Morrison, Major Trail, and Adjutant Whiteside, (severely wounded,) 2d Illinois regiment; and Major Fry, 2d Kentucky regiment, as being favorably noticed for gallantry and good conduct. Major McCulloch, quartermaster in the volunteer service rendered important services before the engagement, in the command of a spy company, and during the affair, was associated with the regular cavalry. To Major Warren, 1st Illinois volunteers, I feel much indebted for his firm and judicous course, while exercising command in the city in Saltillo.

The medical staff, under the able direction of Assistant Surgeon Hitchcock, were assiduous in attention to the wounded upon the field, and in their careful removal to the rear. Both in these respects, and in the subsequent organization and service of the hospitals, the administration of this department was everything that could be wished.

Brigadier General Wool speaks in high terms of the officers of his staff, and I take pleasure in mentioning them here having witnessed their activity and zeal upon the field. Lieutenant and A. D. C. McDowell, Colonel Churchhill, inspector general, Captain Chapman, assistant quartermaster, Lieutenant Sitgreaves, topographical engineers, and Captains Howard and Davis, volunteer service are conspicuously noticed by the General for their gallantry and good conduct. Messrs. March, Addicks, Potts, Harrison, Burges, and Dusenberg attached in various capacities to Gen. Wool's head-quarters, are likewise mentioned for their intelligence and alacrity in conveying orders to all parts of the field.

In conclusion, I beg leave to speak of my own staff to whose exertions in rallying troops and communicating orders, I feel greatly indebted. Maj. Bliss assistant adjutant general, Capt J. H. Eaton, and Lt. R. S. Garnett, aids-de-camp, served near my person, and were prompt and zealous in the discharge of every duty. Major Munroe, besides rendering valuable services as chief of artillery, was active and instrumental as were also Col. Churchill and Belknap, inspector general in rallying troops and disposing them for the defence of the train and baggage. Col. Whiting, quartermaster general and Capt. Eaton, chief of the subsistance department were engaged with the duties of these departments and also served in my immediate staff on the field. Capt Sibley, assistant quartermaster was necessarily left with the headquarter camp near town, where his services were highly useful. Major Mansfield and Lieut. Benham, engineers and Capt. Linnard and Lieut. Pope and Franklin topographical engineers, were employed before and during the engagement in making reconnoissances, and on the field were very active in bringing information and in conveying my orders to distant points. Lieut. Kingsbury, in addition to his proper duties as ordinance officer, Capt. Chilton, assistant quartermaster and Majors Dix and Coffee, served also as extra aids-de-camp, and were actively employed in the transmission of orders. Mr. Thomas L. Crittenden, of Kentucky, though not in service, volunteered as my aid-de-camp on this occasion, and served with credit in that capacity. Major Craig, chief of ordinance, and Surgeon Craig, medical director, had been detached on duty from head-quarters and did not reach the ground until the morning of the 24th—too late to precipitate in the action but in time to render useful services in their respective departments of the staff.

I respectfully enclose returns of the troops engaged and of casualties incident to the battle.

I am, sir very respectable, your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR,
Major General U. S. A. Comm'g.

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

ASSIGNEE'S SALE IN BANKRUPTCY

By authority of the United States District Court for the district of Indiana, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Court House door in Henderson, in the county of Henderson, and State of Kentucky, on the 6th day of September, A. D. 1848, between the hours of 8 o'clock A. M. and 6 o'clock P. M. of said day the folowing described Real Estate, being a part of the Assets of F. G. & E. W. King in Bankruptcy, to-wit:

All of the title and interests of the said Bankrupts, in one hundred acres of Land on Rock Bar, below the mouth of Green River, in the county of Henderson, Ky., as derived by them by a Plate and Survey filed in the Register's Office of the State of Kentucky.

JOHN R. WILCOX,
aug 14. Assignee.

GEN. LANE'S OFFICIAL REPORT TO GENERAL WOOL.

HEADQUARTERS, 2D BRG., 1ST DIV'N.
Buena Vista, Mexico, Feb 25.

BRIG. GEN. WOOL, U. A. ARMY:

SIR—I have the honor of laying before you he following report, of that part of the battle of the 22nd and 23rd inst., in which the forces under my immediate command took part.

In obedience to your orders on the 22d, I took position on the left of the field upon which the battle was fought, near the foot of the mountain, with the eight battalion companies of the 2d Regiment of my Brigade, supported by three pieces of light artillery commanded by Lt. O'Brien. The four rifle companies of this Brigade (two from the 2d and two from the 3d Regiments) having been sent under your orders together with two companies of Kentucky mounted riflemen to occupy an eminence and ridge on the side of the mountain to check the advance of the enemy's (two regiments) who were attempting to turn the left flank of my position by climbing the sides of the mountain. Those rifle companies took their position in the afternoon of the 22d, the four Indiana companies commanded by Maj Gorman, of the 3d Regiment, the whole under command of Col. Marshall, of Kentucky, and soon afterwards the enemy opened a brisk fire upon our forces but with little effect, which they continued without intermission for 3 hours, the meantime my men being secure from the enemy's balls, and watching their chances and taking good aim, succeeded in killing and wounding some thirty or forty of the enemy.

In this engagement my loss was four men slightly wounded. During the night of the 22d the enemy sent a reinforcement of about 1,500 men up the mountain and succeeded in occupying the heights which commanded the position of the riflemen —My whole command slept upon the field on their arms that night. As soon as it was light on the morning of the 23d, the enemy opened a severe fire from their whole force on the mountain, now amounting to all to about 2,500 or 3,000 men, commanded, it is believed, by the Mexican Col. Ampudia. Notwithstanding the great superiority of the enemy in numbers, our gallant riflemen held them in check for several hours, killing and wounding some 50 or 60 of their number.

About 8 o'clock A. M. of the 23d I sent a part of the Kentucky mounted riflemen and cavalry (dismounted for that purpose) up the mountain side to support the forces already there, at which time the fire of the enemy became tremendous, but which was returned by our gallant force for more than one hour I ager.

My instructions from yourself were to hold my position on the left of the field against any force which the enemy might bring against me in that quarter. The enemy had been in great force all the morning of the 23d directly in my front and in sight, but too far distant to be reached by Lt. O'Brien's battery. About 9 o'clock I was informed by Col. Churchill that the enemy were advancing towards my position in great force, sheltering themselves in a deep ravine, which runs up towards the mountain directly in my front. I immediately put my columns in motion, consisting of those eight battallion companies, and Lt. O'Brien's battery, amounting in all to about 400 to meet them. The enemy, when they deployed from the ravine, and appeared on the ridge, displayed a force of about 4,000 infantry, supported by a large body of lancers. The infantry immediately opened a destructive fire, which was returned by my small command, both infantry and artillery, in a most gallant manner for some time. I soon perceived that I was too far from the enemy for the muskets to take that deadly effect which I desired, and immediately sent my aid-de-camp to Lt. O'Brien, directing him to place his battery in a more advanced position with the determination of advancing the whole line. By this movement I should not only be near the enemy, but should also bring the companies on my extreme left more completely into action, as the brow of the hill impeded their fire. By this time the enemy's fire of musketry and the raking fire of ball and grape shot of their battery posted on my left flank had become terrible, and my infantry instead of advancing as was ordered, I regret to say, retired in some dis order from their position, notwithstanding my own and the severe efforts of my officers to prevent them. About the same time the riflemen and cavalry on the mountain retired to the plain below. The Arkansas cavalry (who had been posted by your orders in my rear at the foot of the mountain, to act as circumstances might require,) also left their position, the whole making a retrograde movement along the plain towards the rear; at the same time one of the Illinois regiments not under my command, but stationed at some distance in rear, and on the right of my position also retired to the rear. These troops, the most of them, were immediately rallied and fought during the whole day like veterans, a few of them. I regret to say, did not return to the field at all. By this apparent success the enemy were much elated, and poured down along the side of the mountain on the extreme left of the field their thousands of infantry and lancers, and formed themselves in good order along the mountain, fronting perpendicularly to where our lines had been posted. At this critical juncture the Mississippi regiment, under command of Col. Davis, arrived on the field and being joined by a part of the 2d Indiana, met the enemy in most gallant style, and after a severe and bloody engagement repulsed them with great loss. In the meantime a large body of lancers, 600 or 800 in number, who had passed down along the left towards our rear, made a most desperate charge upon the Arkansas and Kentucky cavalry, with a view of cutting off and plundering the baggage train of the army which was at a "Ranche" near the battle-field. This charge was met, and resisted most gallantly by those chavalry, aided by ab't 200 infantry, who had taken refuge there after they had retired from the field. This repulse discouraged the enemy, and the Mississippi Regiment, and part of the 2d Indiana being joined with the 3d Indiana regiment commanded by Col. Jas. H. Lane, now advanced up towards the foot of the mountain for the purpose of dislodging the enemy's force stationed there.

In this enterprise I was aided by Capt.—'s battery of light artillery, and it was crowned with complete success, the enemy retreating in disorder, and with immense loss, back along the side of the mountain to the position which they had occupied in the morning, some flying in terror up the side of the mountain and into the ravines, while a few were taken prisoners.

Amongst the last desperate attempts of the enemy to regain and hold the left of the field was a charge made by a large body of lancers upon my command. This charge for gallantry and determined bravery on both sides has seldom been equalled. The forces on either side were nearly equal in numbers.—Instead of throwing my command into squares to resist the charge, the enemy were received in line of two ranks, my force reserving its fire until the enemy were within about 70 yards, which was delivered with deadly aim, and which proved most destructive in its effects, the enemy flying in every direction in disorder, and making a precipitate retreat toward their own lines. About sunset the enemy withdrew from the field and the battle ceased. In a brief report it is impossible to enter into the details of a day like the 23rd.

The fighting throughout consisted of different engagements, in different parts of the field, the whole of them warm and well contested, many of them bloody and terrible. The men under my command, actually discharged eighty and some ninety rounds of cartridge at the enemy during the day. The 2nd Regiment of my command, which opened the battle on the plain, in such gallant style, deserves a passing remark. I shall attempt to make no apology for their retreat, for it was their duty to stand or die to the last man until they received orders to retire. But I desire to call your attention to one fact connected with this affair; they remained in their position, in lines, receiving the fire of 3000 or 4000 infantry in front, exposed at the same time on their left flank to a desperate raking fire from the enemy's battery, posted within point blank shot until they had deliberately discharged 20 rounds of cartridges at the enemy. Some excuse may be framed for those who retired for a few minutes and then immediately rallied and fought during the day, but unless they hasten to retrieve their reputation, disgrace must forever hang around the names of those who refused to return, and I regret to say there were a few of those from nearly every volunteer corpse engaged. In a battle so fierce and protracted as this, where there were so many exhibitions of coolness and bravery, it is a difficult and delicate task to particularize. But justice compels me to mention Col. Davis and his regiment of Mississippians, who so nobly and so bravely came to the rescue at the proper time to save the fortunes of the day. Col. J H Lane and the 3d regiment of my command were ordered into action soon after Col Davis, and the coolness and bravery displayed by both the officers and men of that regiment have rarely been equalled, never surpassed by any troops at any time. They have done infinite honor to the State and nation that gave them birth.

Lt Col. Hadden of the 2d Reg't of my brigade aided me in rallying his regiment after they had retired, and he in person marched a party of them back towards the enemy with whom he immediate became engaged, and fortunately repulsed them with considerable loss, in another part of the field he succeeded in killing an officer of the enemy with his own hand, by sending a rifle ball through him at a great distance. I was also much indebted to Maj. Mooney, Quarter Master, Maj. Dix, Paymaster, the gallant and lamented Capt. Lincoln of Gen. Wool's staff and to Lt. Robinson, for their assistance in rallying the forces after they had retired from their position They all behaved nobly, and deserve the thanks of the country for the coolness and intrepidity which they displayed on that trying occasion. The latter acting as my Aid-de-Camp during the entire day is entitled to particular attention for the gallant manner in which he executed my orders. Lt. O'Brien who commanded the battery of light artillery on my right, is deserving particular praise for his courage and self-possession throughout the day, moving and discharging his battery with all the coolness and precission of a day of ordinary parade.

Maj. Mooney, Q. M. and Maj. Morrison, Commissarie, attached to my brigade, although not belonging to the line of the army, nor expected to take an active part in the battle, are entitled to great honor for their bravery and coolness in promptly rallying the scattered forces at the Ranche, who assisted under the command of Maj. Morrison in resisting the desperate charge of the lancers made upon the Kentucky and Arkansas cavalry, as by this repulse the whole baggage train of the army was saved from distruction. This important duty they discharged in addition to those which strictly appertain to their respective departments.

A statement of the killed and wounded has already been submitted which need not be recapulated here.

Although censure does justly attach to a few, who proved recreant to their duty on that day, yet, I am of the opinion that veteran troops either of this or any other country could not have fought and won the battle better than those engaged. It is a victory without a parallel in this or any other war on this continent and the men and officers who did their duty at the battle of Buena Vista, deserve to have their names inscribed on the brightest pages of their country's history.

Respectfully your ob't serv't,
JOSEPH LANE, Brig. Gen.
Commanding 3d Brigade.

TO GEN. WOOL, U. S. A.

☞ Below we publish for the first time, the supplemental reports made by Gen. Lane on the 3rd, 5th, and 24th of March, 1847. The reader has now *all* the reports made by Gen. Lane on file in the War office relating to the battle of Buena Vista.

CAMP TAYLOR, *March 3*, 1848.

GENERAL:—Being anxious to render full and equal justice to all the brave officers and soldiers whose efforts contributed to the glorious results of the battle of the 22d and 23d, and having recently learned the part performed by Major Munroe, of the artillery, I wish to amend my report so as to insert, in the proper place, as follows:

"I also take pleasure in awarding to Major Munroe, of the artillery, the highest praise for his active exertions at the *ranche* and its vicinity, in inducing the men to form and rally there. His presence and counsel were highly advantageous, and contributed to bring about the beneficial results at that point."

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant. JOSEPH LANE,
Brigadier General.

Brigadier General WOOL,
U. S. Army, Agua Nueva, Mexico.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 3D BRIGADE,
Agua Nueva, Mexico, March 5, 1847.

SIR: In my official report to you of the killed and wounded of my command in the battle of the 22d and 23d ultimo, I unintentionally omitted the name of Dr. Thomas Johnson, my interpreter, who fell from his horse early in the action of the 23d, from the effects of a severe wound in the breast.

I desire that this correction may be made in my official report.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,
JOSEPH LANE,
Brigadier Gen. commanding 3d Brigade.
Brigadier General WOOL.

HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE,
March 24, 1847.

SIR: In my report of the battle of the 23d ult., I find that a slight error has been committed in copying, which I desire may be corrected.

In alluding to the commencement of the action by my 2d regiment, the following sentence occurs:

"By this time the enemy's fire of musketry and the raking fire of both ball and grape shot of their battery posted on my left flank had become terrible; and my infantry instead of advancing as ordered, I regret to say retired in some confusion," &c.

The error is of one word, *ordered*, towards the conclusion of the sentence, and should read, "and my infantry instead of advancing as I *intended*," &c.

By making the above correction, you will much oblige, Yours respectfully,
JOSEPH LANE, *Brig. General.*
LIEUT. MCDOWELL,

May 15, 1847.

COL. LANE: Please transmit to brigade headquarters a full and detailed report of the gallant conduct of the 3d regiment of Indiana volunteers at the memorable battle of Buena Vista. JOSEPH LANE, *Brig. General.*

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