

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

I communicate herewith a report of the Secretary of War with accompanying documents, being in addition to a report made on the 27th of February 1847, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 1st of that month, requesting the President "to communicate to the House of Representatives all the correspondence with General Taylor since the commencement of hostilities with Mexico, which has not yet been published, and the publication of which may not be deemed detrimental to the public service; also the correspondence of the Quartermaster General in relation to transportation for General Taylor's army; also the reports of Brigadier Generals Hamer and Quitman of the operations of their respective brigades on the 21st of September last" [1846]

Samuel A. Jackson

Washington January 4th 1848. -

Ex. Doc. No. 17.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH GENERAL TAYLOR.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A report of the Secretary of War and accompanying documents, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 1st of February, 1847, being in addition to his report made on the 27th of the same month.

JANUARY 4, 1848.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, January 4, 1848.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 31, 1847.

SIR: By a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 1st of February last, the President was requested to communicate to the House, with other correspondence therein mentioned, "the reports of Brigadier Generals Hamer and Quitman, of the operations of their respective brigades on the 21st of September last," [1846.] These reports had not been received when that resolution was answered, on the 27th of February; (see Document 119 of that session;) they were transmitted to this department by Major General Taylor on the 10th of April following; and I have the honor to submit, herewith, copies of his letter of that date, and all the reports therewith enclosed, including the two above designated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Monterey, April 10, 1847.

SIR: I respectfully enclose, herewith, several minor reports of the operations in the attack upon Monterey, deeming it best that they should find a place in the archives at head-quarters, where they can readily be referred to, if necessary, at any future time.

I would also beg leave to amend my report of that engagement in two particulars; first, by stating that after the fall of Major Lear, the command of the 3d infantry devolved upon Captain L. N. Morris, and was exercised by him with ability and gallantry, until he met his death in the second attack near the *tete du pont*; his untimely loss depriving the country of the services of a brave and meritorious officer; secondly, by inserting in the notice of my staff that, in the attack upon the town on the 23d, Captain Ramsay of the ordnance joined me and served near my person, actively performing the various duties confided to him.

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

Z. TAYLOR,

Major General United States Army Commanding.

The ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, Washington, D. C.

CAMP UNITED STATES ARMY AT MONTEREY,
October 9, 1846.

SIR: It has become my duty to report to you the manner in which, agreeably to your orders, I performed my duty on the 21st ultimo—the day of the storming of one of the enemy's batteries on the left.

On the morning of the 21st, on the field, I received your orders to

make a close reconnoissance of the enemy on the left at his batteries, and if I saw a prospect of success, to advise a capture of the redoubt, and that I would be supported by a brigade under Colonel Garland, &c. These orders were unexpected by me, and I was not able to call immediately to my assistance Lieutenant Scarritt; but Captain Williams and Lieutenant Pope, of the topographical engineers, were placed under my orders.

In compliance with the above, I immediately applied to Colonel Garland, whose force I found assembled under cover in a corn field, about one mile from the battery, for one company to advance in light infantry order to drive back some few mounted men of the enemy in our front, but immediately after sent for another company, and both advanced admirably in light infantry order, under the command of Captain Field, and covered well. Our direction was towards that point of the suburbs of the city that would lead to the gorge of the redoubt and its rear. The front of the redoubt was sufficiently apparent. In the advance, we halted twice to notice and observe the enemy; and as we proceeded, to my surprise, we were permitted to pass a breastwork thrown across the entrance of the street, and enter fully the suburbs, without being fired on. I there saw the practicability of covers among the stone buildings, and of attaining the gorge of the redoubt; although, I could not then approach near enough to see the exact state of the defences, and concluded, with the knowledge I had previously obtained, that if our troops were there it must of necessity fall, and, I presumed, without serious loss. I accordingly sent word to Colonel Garland to "come on;" but as they advanced, the enemy opened on them a severe fire, and kept it up until the redoubt was taken by the advance of the 3d division under your immediate orders. In the course of the battle, which was vastly more serious than I had expected, our troops being unaccustomed to that mode of fighting, exposed themselves and advanced too rapidly into the city; whereas, they should have inclined more to the left, to the position taken by the 1st regiment, where the enemy was fast being driven out of the redoubt, from the top of a house, and the covers in his rear. The report of the commanding officer of the troops, will explain what he did with the troops under his immediate command. I had myself advanced into one street that terminated in rear of the redoubt, where the fire of the enemy was severe, and there acquiesced in, and advised the withdrawal of the troops that came in after me from that place, and recommended them to cover. It was in this advanced position that I received my wound, early in the action, and which prevented my doing as much as I otherwise could have done. I had just withdrawn myself from this place when you entered the suburbs and the battery was carried.

In the course of this day's operations, I have to lament the fall of many brave officers and soldiers. Captain Williams, associated with me, was mortally wounded in the execution of his duties. Lieutenant Pope executed his duties with great coolness and self-possession, and deserves my highest praise. He aided me greatly in the carrying of communications to Colonel Garland, in the rear.

Colonel Kinney also volunteered his services; was well mounted, and gave great assistance in carrying communications to the rear.

Lieutenant Scarritt, in the morning, had taken a course towards the right of the cathedral fort to examine a hollow, and his services were not available except under your immediate orders. He remained, however, in the captured redoubt during the night, and occupied in endeavors to place the works in condition to be held.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOS. K. F. MANSFIELD,
Brevet Major Corps Engineers.

MAJOR GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR,
Commanding United States Army in Mexico, present.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 3D BRIGADE,
Camp at Walnut Springs, 3 miles from Monterey,
September 29, 1846.

GENERAL: Pursuant to the orders of the commanding general and yourself, given to me on the morning of the 21st instant, on the field, I moved to a safe position with the 3d infantry, 240 strong, and, whilst awaiting a summons from the chief engineer, Major Mansfield, to advance, Lieutenant Colonel Wilson, 1st infantry, joined me with that regiment and the Baltimore battalion, the former 162 strong, and the latter 239, making in all 641 bayonets.

In a few minutes after this junction, the chief engineer despatched Lieutenant Pope for a light infantry company to support him in making his reconnoissance. The leading company of the 3d infantry, under Lieutenant Hazlitt, was immediately ordered forward. In a short time afterwards another company was applied for, and Captain Field, of the 3d infantry, detached. They had proceeded about a quarter of a mile, when Major Mansfield sent a request for my whole command to advance in supporting distance. This was promptly done, and in a few minutes a request followed for me to advance in line of battle. In moving forward in this order we soon encountered a direct fire of artillery from redoubt No. 1, and an enfilading fire from the citadel. I then ordered the command to quicken their pace; this soon brought us within range of their musketry. The chief engineer then indicated a movement to the right, which would enable us to gain a position in the town and in rear of the 1st redoubt. We soon found ourselves in narrow streets, where we received a most destructive fire from three directions. Near this point Captain Bragg came up with his battery, and asked for orders. One gun was speedily placed in a position to rake a narrow street, from the direction of which we had sustained some loss; but finding, after several shots, that but little impression could be made upon the barricades, I ordered the captain to retire with his battery to a place of greater security. The infantry continued to press ahead, until the chief engineer, then wounded, and seeming to have no care for himself, advised us to

retire to another position, when, according to my understanding of the orders, to support and consult with Major Mansfield, I yielded to his suggestion, and directed the command to retire in good order. This was not done, however, until we had lost many men, and some of the most valuable and accomplished officers of the army. At this time Major Lear, while gallantly leading his regiment, the 3d infantry, was wounded and totally disabled. His high-toned adjutant, Lieutenant Irwin, and the noble Barbour, killed; Captain Williams, of the topographical engineers, and Lieutenant Terrett, of the 1st infantry, mortally wounded. Brevet Major Abercrombie was also wounded by my side, and thrown from his horse. Captain La Motte had been badly wounded more than a hundred yards in advance of this point, and in the direction of the 1st redoubt, where Captain Backus, with indomitable courage and perseverance had succeeded with his company in gaining the roof of a stone building, and not hearing the order to retire, continued to pour a galling fire into the rear of the redoubt until the volunteers of General Quitman's brigade rushed in, took, and kept it.

As soon as my command was reunited and put in order, having been joined by the 4th infantry, which had at this time suffered considerable loss, both in officers and men, the ever to be lamented Hoskins and the distinguished Woods having been killed, and Lieutenant Graham badly wounded, in an attack upon the 1st redoubt, I was ordered to advance again, and, if possible, carry the 2d redoubt at the point of the bayonet. In attempting the execution of this order, with but little more than half of my original force, I passed several barricaded streets, raked both by artillery and infantry, until I believed the command sufficiently advanced into the town to enable me to enter the rear of the redoubt. I then directed Captain Morris, who headed the 3d infantry, to enter the back of a garden to his left, and press forward to the street nearest the rivulet. But Major Graham, with the remnant of the 4th infantry, followed. These two commands, though few in numbers, sustained themselves in the most admirable manner, under the heaviest fire of the day, for instead of the 2d redoubt, of which we were in search, we unluckily ran foul of a *tete du pont*, the strongest defence of the city, and, from the opposite side of the bridge, two pieces of artillery were brought to bear upon us at a little more than a hundred yards distance. Here the brave Morris fell, and also his friend, Lieutenant Hazlitt, who had just placed him in a house. Captain Henry, who succeeded to the command of the 3d infantry, Captain Bainbridge having been wounded, and retired, and Brevet Major Graham, the senior officer at this point, with the 4th, in their exposed situation, maintained their position against fearful odds, until their ammunition began to fail, when, hearing nothing of the battery, for which two staff officers had, at different times, been despatched, I reluctantly ordered this truly Spartan band to retire; and I am proud to say, under all their afflictions, it was accomplished in good order.

Lieutenant Colonel Wilson was with me during the greater part of this last struggle, and displayed great personal courage. His

command was, however, so much dispersed that I saw but little of it. Brevet Major Allen was also by my side. Captain Shivors, with his independent company of volunteers, performed admirable service. They were with Bragg's battery during the greater part of the day.

It is impossible for me to speak of the many individual acts of gallantry, both of officers and men, during this day of trial. Their conduct was worthy of all praise. I cannot let the opportunity pass by to express my warm thanks to Lieutenant Brooks, acting assistant adjutant general, whose horse was killed under him, and to Captain George Mason Graham, of the Louisiana volunteers, my acting aid-de-camp, for the efficient services they rendered me in communicating orders throughout the day, incurring, as they did, the greatest personal danger. If it were not out of place, I would also mention the name of Lieutenant Pope, of the topographical engineers, who deported himself as a gallant soldier under the heaviest fire of the enemy. I cannot trust myself to speak of the gallant Colonel Watson, that sterling officer, Captain Field, and the other distinguished dead; this must be done by others, whose grief is less profound.

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

JNO. GARLAND,

Lieutenant Colonel 4th Infantry.

Brigadier General D. C. TWIGGS,

Commanding 1st Division, Army of Occupation.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 4TH BRIGADE,

Camp near Monterey, September 27, 1846.

SIR: In accordance with the orders received by me, requiring a report of the proceedings of the 4th brigade on the 21st instant, I have the honor to state:

At about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 21st instant, the brigade was paraded and marched to the town of Monterey, immediately in rear of the 3d brigade, (the 4th infantry being on duty, guarding the mortar battery, in charge of Captain Ramsay of the ordnance department.)

After passing through some corn fields, the column was halted, and the command of the whole was assumed by Lieutenant Colonel Garland, 4th infantry, and a company of the 3d brigade thrown out as skirmishers, when the line resumed its forward movement. A second company of skirmishers (Captain John Scott's 1st infantry) was then deployed to cover the front of the 1st infantry battalion. After clearing the corn fields and obtaining the plain, the line advanced with steadiness and rapidity, Lieut. Dilworth, 1st infantry, was struck by a cannon ball which tore off his foot and killed a soldier near him, (private Emmel, of E company, 1st infantry,) in the commencement of the cannonade, which was kept up with pertinacity and execution, from the moment of the

line being perceived by the enemy, from the "long battery." The suburbs of the town were entered by a flank movement, company G, 1st infantry, leading the brigade. Upon entering the town the obstructions of stone walls, houses, watercourses, and shrubbery intersecting the streets, precluded all possibility of maintaining the order of the respective lines, and the galling and destructive fires poured in, rendered it necessary to take advantage of any protection which might offer, as exposure could but result in heavy loss without adequate advantage, as the full and cross fires of the enemy's batteries were in full play upon the brigade. The troops availed themselves of the buildings, walls, &c., to avoid the fire and return their own to the best advantage. Orders were given by Colonel Garland to retire in good order, which was accomplished through the corn fields and streets on the other side of the road, under the continued fires of the batteries. At this time Major Abercrombie reported to me that he had been wounded in the arm.

On emerging from the fields, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Watson, Lieutenant Bowie, and a few of the Baltimore and District of Columbia battalion of volunteers, finding that the men had become scattered in their passage through the corn fields, I directed these officers, with their men, to join the Ohio volunteers and proceed to battery No. 1, which was announced, by General Taylor, on our way to it, to have been carried.

The regulars and Baltimoreans, under Colonel Garland, were sent for by a general staff officer, when they were concentrated and moved down the street from the battery upon the town. On the way, Lieutenant Colonel Watson gallantly fell, from the fire of the enemy; he was accompanied by Lieutenant Bowie, Baltimore and District of Columbia battalion. The advance was continued under severe fire of round shot, musketry, and grape, the fire being returned, as well as could be effected, by the musketry of our own men from the cover on the way. When, upon the non-arrival of the light artillery, which had been sent for by Colonel Garland, and the reported expenditure of the ammunition of the infantry, the order was given to retire in good order, when the command was marched to battery No. 1; the number of officers and men, consisting of Captains Backus and Scott; Lieutenants Hamilton, 1st infantry, and Taylor, Baltimore and District of Columbia battalion; thirty-one men of the 1st infantry, and nine men of the Baltimore battalion, the half of whom were placed on duty and in charge of Lieutenant Hamilton, 1st infantry, in the entrenchments. After dark, Captain Miller and Lieutenant Woods joined with the remainder of the men of the 1st infantry in the tannery, to which the 1st regiment had been assigned.

The nature of the ground was such as to break the order of of march, and render it impossible to have a general observation of the troops, but, where I was enabled to perceive, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, distinguished themselves, by the utmost gallantry and coolness.

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the alacrity and prompt-

ness of Captain Scott and Lieutenant Hamilton, 1st infantry, upon receiving and executing orders personally given to them, and Lieutenant Wood, 1st infantry, to the time his horse was lost and he was separated from me, for his assistance as acting assistant adjutant general, in the advance into the town.

From the impracticability of my perceiving throughout the line, I enclose the reports of the battalion and company commanders, whose detachments were under their immediate observation, and unavoidably separated from me. I am pleased to acknowledge the coolness and decision of Sergeant Major Alfred Day and Sergeant Lansdale, of company E, Baltimore battalion, in disengaging the wheels of a caisson when they were jammed, under a galling fire.

All praise is due Assistant Surgeon Laub, United States army, and Acting Assistant Surgeon Smith, of the Baltimore battalion, for the humanity, kindness, and attention, evinced in their painful duties, both during on the plain and after the battle, to the wounded in their position, which, I am officially informed, was rendered perilous from the fire of the enemy's batteries.

It was not until the evening of the first day that the information reached me, that Captain Lamotte and Lieutenant Tenett, having been wounded; the latter gentleman, I grieve to say, has since died.

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

HENRY WILSON,

Lieut. Col. 1st Infantry, Com'g. 4th Brig.

Lieutenant D. C. BUELL,

A. A. A. G., 1st Div. A. of O.

I also enclose a list of the killed and wounded and missing, together with the strength of the brigade on the 21st instant.

HENRY WILSON,

Lieut. Col. 1st Infantry, Com'g. 4th Brig.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 1ST FIELD BRIGADE,
Camp near Monterey, September 25, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report in regard to the operations of the brigade under my command, during the first day of the attack upon Monterey:

Early in the morning of the 21st instant, I was ordered to lead my command into the field immediately in front of the town, on its northern side, and within the range of their artillery at the citadel.

This order was promptly obeyed, my brigade taking the extreme right and General Quitman's the left of the division. General Twiggs's division was stationed still further to the left, throwing them in front of the small forts near the river bank, which protected the eastern flank of the city. We were informed that our movement was intended merely as a diversion in favor of General

Worth, who had turned the western flank of the city, and was to attack the batteries there on that day.

We remained in position some time, occasionally receiving a fire from the guns at the citadel, when discharges of small arms were heard on the left of General Twiggs's division. This proved to be a sharp skirmish between part of his troops, under Colonel Garland, and the forces of the enemy in and about the small fort nearest our line. The firing increased, and was soon followed by rapid discharges from the heavy guns in the fort.

Major General Butler's division was ordered to advance to the support of our troops who were thus engaged. We accordingly faced by the left flank and marched in the direction of the firing. This movement threw General Quitman's brigade in front, and mine in the rear, in reference to the scene of action. At the same moment, I was directed to detach my first regiment, (the Louisville legion,) and leave them on the plain to protect Captain Webster's battery of field artillery and Captain Ramsay's mortar from any attack that might be made by the enemy in that quarter. The second regiment, (Ohio troops,) under Colonel Mitchell, which I accompanied in person throughout the day, moved rapidly forward, under a heavy fire from the citadel, until within a few hundred yards of the small fort on which the attack had been made, when General Quitman's brigade, being nearest to it, was ordered to advance in that direction, and the Ohio regiment to change direction to the right and pass it, with a view of attacking a battery beyond it, or of acting according to circumstances at some point farther up in the city, the localities of which were unknown to us. As we advanced, the fire of the enemy became more galling at every step. The discharges of artillery and small arms were opened at new points by men who were protected behind stone walls and other defences, placing them beyond the reach of our musketry and rifles. At one time, it was proposed to seize upon some of the houses, and make our way through them along the streets, thus avoiding the fires from their barricades, which were so destructive; but, as the engagement had been unexpectedly commenced, we had neither axes, crowbars, nor mattocks, to assail their stone buildings, and this project was abandoned. Finding that no chance presented itself for annoying the enemy, and several of our men having been killed and wounded, we were ordered to retire to a point where the regiment would be less exposed. In executing this order, we were informed that the small fort where the firing first commenced had been taken by General Quitman's brigade, and our direction was again changed towards the next fort above it, called, by the Mexicans, "El Diablo," (the devil,) from the unusual means of destruction concentrated there for its defence. We soon encountered a canal, running parallel to the river, and some distance in front of the fort. This was crossed, and the regiment drawn up in line in the street between the canal and a stone wall, flanked by several buildings, which protected them in part from the fire of the fort and the outworks thrown up for its

protection. About this time, Major General Butler, who had been at the head of the regiment from the time it separated from General Quitman's command, was wounded, and retired from the field. Here, also, Colonel Mitchell, who was gallantly leading his men into action, was shot from his horse. Adjutant Armstrong, a brave young officer, received his wound near the same place, which disabled him from any further participation in the fight.

The immediate command of the regiment devolved upon Lieutenant Colonel Waller, who, with the assistance of Major Giddings, formed it in good order, and kept up for some time a steady fire upon the enemy, which must have killed and wounded many of their number. This was the first time we had been able to get a view of the fort and its outworks, and a very slight examination satisfied us that it would be madness to attempt to carry it by storm with a single regiment. Indeed, if it had been in our possession we could not have held it, for other forts, immediately in rear of it, would have had a plunging fire into this work that must have driven us from it at once. It was equally clear that we were waging a most unequal contest; for, whilst the greater part of those in front were firing upon us from their place of concealment, we were assailed from the right flank and from the rear by tremendous volleys of grape shot and cannon balls, subjecting us to a converging fire from three directions. The troops were, therefore, ordered to recross the canal, to assume a more secure position in an adjacent street, and wait for orders from the general-in-chief. This movement was effected, and in a few minutes we received orders to repair to the support of Captain Bragg's battery of field artillery, which was about to re-open its fire upon the town.

In obtaining their new position, the troops were exposed to a constant fire, and the point occupied by them, for several hours, was within range of the enemy's guns, both from the citadel and the fort upon which they had made the attack. The fire was continued, at intervals, from both during the whole time we remained there.

In retiring from the city, we fell back upon the plain towards the position we first occupied in the morning. In doing so, a large body of cavalry (lancers) approached us from the citadel, with a view of attacking the column. We immediately formed a line of battle inside of a brush fence that skirted the road, and waited their approach. Such was the impatience of the men to fire, that, notwithstanding the exertions of the officers to restrain them, several pieces were discharged at those most advanced. A number of horses and men were killed, and the main body wheeled to the left in the direction of Captain Ramsay's mortar. This movement was promptly met by my first regiment, (the legion,) who instantly formed square for the protection of the piece. At this moment, Captain Bragg opened his battery upon them from our left flank, and they made a rapid flight to their old position under the guns of the fort. A shell was then thrown by Captain Ramsay in their midst, and we saw no more of them during the day.

Late in the evening, I was ordered to send down one wing of the first regiment to hold possession of the fort our troops had taken. The left wing was detached by Colonel Ormsby for this purpose, under command of Major Shepherd, and proceeded to the fort under a heavy fire of cannon from the old cathedral, by which several men were severely wounded. They held possession, under very great exposure from the inclemency of the weather and the fire of the enemy from their forts, until the next evening, when they were relieved by troops from General Quitman's brigade.

Throughout the entire contest, until the city surrendered, the officers and men under my command conducted themselves so as to merit my most cordial approbation. They bore the galling fire of the enemy with the coolness and courage of veterans, and obeyed my commands with promptness and pleasure. Their steadiness in the field was the more praiseworthy as they had not the excitement of a mutual conflict to sustain them, for, a large portion of time, they were not in a position to return the fire.

I am under particular obligations to the chief of my staff, Lieutenant J. Hooker, of the army, and to my aid-de-camp, Captain J. W. Johnston, of the Ohio volunteers, for the assistance they afforded me during the whole conflict. The former, by his soldierly conduct and fine military acquirements, has been invaluable to me through the whole campaign; and his coolness and self-possession in battle set an example to both officers and men that exerted a most happy influence. Captain Johnston was indefatigable during the day, and, in the heat of the engagement, dismounted and took his station on foot, to enable Colonel Mitchell, who was wounded, to retire on horseback from the field.

After General Butler was wounded, the command of the division devolved upon me, and his staff reported accordingly. They performed every duty with alacrity, and rendered important aid, particularly General A. Sidney Johnston and Major Thomas, who remained with me both days and through the night in the fort. Their military knowledge and experience made them excellent counsellors in every emergency.

In conclusion, I have but two principal causes of regret in reference to my brigade. The first is, that so many brave men were unfortunately killed and wounded in an unequal fight with a concealed enemy.

The second is, that, by the force of circumstances, my brigade was divided. Had it been practicable to keep them together, and to have had some definite object pointed out to them as *their work*—the taking of a fort, storming a battery, siezing barricades, or anything else leading to the capture of the city—I am confident, from what I know personally of the officers and men, that it would have been accomplished in a manner worthy of themselves; and of the high character of the two great States which they represented in the field.

Herewith, I send a detailed statement of the killed and wounded

on the 21st instant—the former amounting, in the aggregate, to 15, and the latter to 41.

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

THOMAS L. HAMER, *Brigadier General*
1st Field Brigade of Volunteers.

Major L. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant General
1st Division Volunteers.

CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, MEXICO,
September 25, 1846.

SIR: In obedience to orders, I have the honor to make the following report of the 1st regiment of Kentucky volunteers, during the action of the 21st, 22d, 23d and 24th instants.

Monday, 21st. Moved from camp with first field volunteer division, (the legion on the right.) The division formed line of battle in a ravine opposite the city. The three left regiments were ordered into the action, and the legion (1st Kentucky regiment) was placed in a position to support the mortar batteries. On the afternoon of the same day, the left wing of the regiment (under Major Shepherd) was ordered to occupy one of the forts taken from the enemy, and was marched in under a heavy fire, having one man dangerously wounded. The remaining portion of the regiment (right wing) remained on the ground for the protection of the battery until midnight, when two companies were ordered (under Captain Saunders) to protect the batteries during its change of position.

Tuesday, 22d. The left wing having, during the night, had two men severely and two slightly wounded, was relieved from duty at the fort, by a command from General Quitman's brigade, and left the fort under a heavy fire from the enemy, having one man wounded.

Wednesday, 23d. The legion under my command, with the exception of one company which was left to guard the camp, occupied a fort which had been evacuated the preceding night, and remained until the evening of the 24th, when they were relieved by Colonel Garland's command. During the formation, and whilst exposed to the enemy's balls and shells, every officer and soldier under my command manifested the greatest desire to be more closely engaged, and conducted themselves, in every respect, to my entire satisfaction.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STEPHEN ORMSBY,

Col. com. L. L., 1st reg. Ky. Vol.

To First Lieutenant J. HOOKER,

A. A. A. General, 1st Field Brigade Volunteers.

CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, MEXICO,
September 26, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the 1st regiment of Ohio volunteers, now under my command, was led by its commanding officer, Colonel A. M. Mitchell, into the attack made on Monterey on the 21st instant. Notwithstanding the galling fire to which they were exposed for many hours, from the batteries of the enemy, the loss has been much less than was anticipated. The whole force brought into the action, exclusive of commissioned officers, as near as can be ascertained, was three hundred and seventy. Soon after the column reached the city, and near one of the enemy's batteries, my immediate commander, then at its head leading the charge, received a severe wound in the leg, compelling him to retire from the field. The battalion remained for some time exposed to a severe fire in front and on both flanks from the batteries, and, after receiving orders to that effect, were marched from the streets to an open piece of ground, where it was supposed the fire would be less destructive, and a better opportunity could be had of ascertaining the actual position of the enemy. A considerable number of the enemy were shot from the fortifications, but the extent of the impression made upon their batteries cannot now be ascertained. A constant fire was kept up by our troops, who sustained their position and exhibited the highest degree of bravery, although assailed at every point by batteries beyond their reach, and by a foe rarely seen. The troops were marched out upon the plain, when a considerable number of the enemy's cavalry (lancers) were seen advancing for the purpose of attack. We took a position immediately on the opposite side of a brush fence, and arranged in line of battle to receive them. Notwithstanding every effort had been made to restrain the men from firing until the enemy was near, a considerable number discharged their pieces, killing the leader and several others, who were seen spearing our wounded laying upon the field. This, together with the discharge of a shell near at hand, dispersed them, and they retreated to the fort. The battalion was again marched to the city to sustain one of our own batteries then playing upon the enemy; and, after remaining in that position for some time, and receiving orders to withdraw, were marched in order to the camp, having been exposed for some five hours within range of the enemy's guns. On the 22d the regiment remained in camp. Upon the 23d we repaired to the field to cover Captain Webster's battery, and were subsequently marched to the fort, which had previously been taken from the enemy, and still within range of their guns. We remained in the fort until near the close of the succeeding day, when the battalion again returned to the camp.

Too much credit cannot be given to the officers and men under my command, for the gallant and chivalric manner in which they acquitted themselves during the engagement. They proved satisfactorily that in their hands the reputation of Ohio will never be tarnished, and that whenever an opportunity is presented they will be found ready and willing to maintain it.

I regret to say that, in the battle of the 21st, Adjutant A. W. Armstrong was severely wounded in the leg, making amputation of the limb necessary; 1st Lieutenant Hett, of company H, was killed; 1st Lieutenant Niles, of company E, severely wounded, and Captain George, of the 2d rifles, and Lieutenant Walter, of company B, slightly wounded. The whole number of killed, wounded, and missing is fifty-four, a detailed statement of which I send herewith.

It is proper to remark that company F, under command of 1st Lieutenant Beaugrand, had been detailed as a guard for the camp, and of course was not brought into the action.

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

JOHN B. WELLER,

Lieut. Col. com. 1st reg. Ohio Vol.

To First Lieutenant J. HOOKER,

A. A. A. General, 1st Field Brigade Volunteers.

CAMP BEFORE MONTEREY,

September 29, 1846.

GENERAL: In obedience to your call, I have the honor to report, that in pursuance of your orders the field brigade under my command, consisting of nine companies of Colonel Campbell's regiment of Tennessee infantry and eight companies of Colonel Davis's regiment of Mississippi riflemen, moved from their encampment about three miles north of the city of Monterey on the morning of the 21st instant, at 8 o'clock, preceded by General Hamer's brigade of Ohio and Kentucky volunteers. Arrived within a mile of the city, we were posted in line of battle on both sides of Captain Webster's battery, on ground somewhat depressed, the round shot discharged from the citadel occasionally ricocheting over our ranks. My brigade occupied the left of the line. From this position I was ordered by you to advance my brigade by the left flank of regiments to the support of a body of regular troops under the command of Colonel Garland, who appeared to be engaged in an attempt to force some strong works of the enemy, constructed for the defence of the city on its side opposite to our line. I ordered Colonel Campbell's regiment (it being armed with musket and bayonet) to file past Colonel Davis's regiment, and take position on its left. In this order, the brigade marched by its left flank to its prescribed position, under a constant discharge of shell and round shot from the citadel. Upon ascending a slight elevation, the head of the line came in full view of the Mexican fort or redoubt called El Tortin de la Tanniere, distant about one half a mile. In a moment afterwards, the artillery from this fort commenced playing upon our column. One of their shot passed transversely through the ranks of Captain Allen's company of Tennessee volunteers, and cut down seven men, killing four on the spot, mortally wounding another, and disabling two more. This appalling casualty did not for an instant check the firm advance of the troops. Moving onward at a brisk step towards the

northwest angle of the fort, the head of the line first, and shortly after the whole line, became exposed to a galling fire of grape and musketry from the redoubt and from a strong building in the rear and left of the fort, from the roof of which Mexican sharpshooters, protected by sand bags, kept up an incessant fire. It was at this point, about 200 yards from the fort, that Major Alexander, of the Tennessee regiment, fell from his horse severely wounded while actively urging on his battalions. In this position, directly opposite one front of the fort, perceiving that the attacking party to whose support my brigade had been ordered to advance had been withdrawn, and being unable to retire from the field without great loss, relying upon the bravery of the troops, I concluded to storm the fort, and ordered Lieutenant Colonel Anderson, who was the field officer nearest to me of the Tennessee troops, (Colonel Campbell being at the head of his line, advancing at a quick step obliquely towards the northwest angle of the fort,) to move the regiment to within 100 yards of the fort, fire a volley, and charge upon it with the bayonet. Colonel Davis's rifle regiment had come up obliquely opposite the west front of the fort in fine style. I found them under the orders of Colonel Davis, advanced by the left of companies in echelon, and in this position pouring their fire into the enemy. Believing that a position about 60 yards in advance of the right wing of the regiment would not be more exposed, and would render the rifle still more effective in silencing the destructive fire of the enemy from his batteries, I ordered the right companies to be advanced to that position. This movement was promptly effected by Captain Cooper's and Crump's companies in good order, the whole regiment moving briskly up to the new alignments under a heavy fire from the fort—some of the companies never stopping, but advancing in a charge upon the works. While these movements were being executed, I proceeded to the right of the Tennessee regiment, and ordered a charge upon the batteries. Colonel Campbell, with a portion of his command, had anticipated this order, and was advancing in a charge on the north front of the fort. The charge was instantaneously general, and the fort which, but a few moments before, had spread death in our ranks, was occupied by the brave men who had breasted its batteries. Three Mexican officers and 30 men were taken prisoners in the fort and adjoining works. Four pieces of artillery and a considerable quantity of ammunition fell into our hands. One of the officers surrendered his sword to Colonel Jefferson Davis, another to Lieutenant Colonel McClung, and the third to Lieutenant Patterson, of the Tombigbee volunteers. The body of the garrison fled at the charge across a stream, in the direction of another strong redoubt about 400 yards in the rear, called by the Mexicans El Diablo, into which those who escaped the fire of the volunteers retreated, covered by a severe fire from the latter works. A portion of our troops, led by Colonel Davis, pursued the enemy across the stream, but a larger portion of both regiments occupied a lane extending on the right towards the city, from which position I had some hopes of being able also to carry the commanding redoubt, El Diablo, by an approach under cover of some dilapidated

buildings and stone walls. Several parties of riflemen were sent forward to ascertain the practicability of an approach to the fort in this direction, but found all avenues exposed to the fire of the fort, and numerous batteries and breastworks erected to sweep every position. Colonel Campbell was also at this time ordered, with a portion of his command, to advance to the support of Lieutenant Ridgeley's battery, which had been posted in the direction of the city. This order was executed under a most severe fire from the enemy's battery and breastwork, Colonel Campbell remaining until the battery was withdrawn. In this position I received orders to withdraw my brigade to the cover of the works which had been seized. Measures having been taken for the occupation during the night of the works which had fallen into our hands, my brigade, exhausted with the fatigue of the day, was led back to their camp.

Subjoined you will find a list of the killed and wounded of my brigade in the affairs of the 21st. It will be perceived that both regiments have suffered severely in officers and men; Colonel Campbell's Tennessee regiment most severely. It was necessarily most exposed in the commencement of the action. Being armed with musket and bayonet, it was my intention to post them in a situation ready to charge, so soon as the enemy should have received the full fire of the rifle regiment. In a campaign country, without cover, the troops were necessarily exposed to the whole fire of the enemy, and it is now matter of surprise that our loss was not greater. A mere description of the affair constitutes the best commentary upon the gallant conduct of both the officers and men. I will not attempt to describe the many instances of gallantry and daring which came under my own observation, and which have been reported to me by the commanders of the two regiments and other officers.

The brigade is deeply indebted to the bravery and skill of the field officers of both regiments for the success of this affair. Of the Tennessee regiment, Captain Ballen, of company K, and Second Lieutenant L. M. Putman, of Captain Cheatham's company, were killed on the field before their respective commands; and Major R. B. Alexander and First Lieutenant J. L. Scudder, and Second Lieutenant J. C. Allen, severely wounded, and First Lieutenant George H. Nixon slightly wounded.

Of the Mississippi riflemen, Lieutenant Colonel A. K. McClung was severely wounded by an escopet shot through the body, while in the act of receiving the sword of a Mexican officer in the strong building in the rear of the fort. In the commencement of the charge he had sprung before his former company, invoked them to follow him, and at their head rushed into the embrasure of the fort, sword in hand. Captain R. N. Downing, while at the head of his company in front of the batteries, had his arm disabled by a ball; and First Lieutenant Henry F. Cook and Second Lieutenants R. K. Arthur and L. T. Howard, were slightly wounded in the field. For the remaining killed and wounded you are respectfully referred to the lists.

My aid-de-camp, First Lieutenant W. A. Nichols, of the 2d artillery, who performed all the duties of my staff on this trying day,

was much exposed during the greater part of the action, and discharged his duties to my entire satisfaction.

Captain John W. Whitfield's company A, of the Tennessee regiment, was not in action on the 21st. This company, being the first for detail duty, was, to the great regret of its officers and men, ordered to remain in charge of the camp.

I reserve a detail of the events of the 22d and 23d for a further report; and have the honor to remain, with the highest respect, your obedient servant,

J. A. QUITMAN,

*Brig. Gen. U. S. army, commanding 2d brigade
of the field division of volunteers.*

To Major General W. O. BUTLER,
Commanding field division.

MONTEREY, MEXICO,
September 26, 1846.

SIR: In conformity with your instructions, I have the honor to report such facts in relation to the conduct of the regiment of Mississippi riflemen, on the 21st and 23d instants, as came under my immediate observation, and will add such explanations as may seem necessary.

When, on the morning of the 21st, the 1st division was drawn up in order of battle before the city of Monterey, you will remember that the position of the regiment under my command was thought to be too much exposed, and that it was detached to the left. Separated from the division, I did not hear the orders by which it was put in motion, but seeing the other regiment of your brigade (Col. Campbell's) moving towards the enemy, I ordered the Mississippi riflemen to advance by the left of the battalion, and follow it.

Thus, when the regiments of your brigade were united, their natural order was inverted. In this order, under a cross fire of artillery, we advanced in front of the fort upon our left to a point within the range of the enemy's musketry, but beyond the effective fire of our rifles. Under your orders to fill an interval which had been created upon my left, I ordered the Mississippi riflemen to advance obliquely by the left of companies to a line which I estimated as effectively near to the enemy, and then ordered the battalion into line, the companies being directed, when formed, to commence firing as in open order. In a few minutes, the fire of the enemy had so far diminished as to indicate the propriety of a charge, and, being without instructions, it was accordingly ordered.

Lieutenant Colonel McClung sprung before his old company, and called on them to follow him. The call was promptly answered. In an instant the whole regiment rushed forward, the flanks converging to the sally-port, which lay nearly before our centre, and it became a contest of speed who first should reach the fort. The enemy fled from the rear sally-port as we entered the front, leaving

behind his artillery, a considerable number of muskets, his dead and wounded. Passing immediately through the port, we found the enemy flying in disorder—some to a fortified stone building immediately in rear, others across the stream to the fort which stands beyond it. Our pursuit was so close that we reached the gate of the stone building before it was secured, and upon forcing it open the men inside fell behind the pilasters of the portico, and held up their hands in token of submission. An officer offered me his sword, and announced the surrender. I received it, and retired to select an officer to take charge of the prisoners and receive their arms. Lieutenant Townsend, of company K, was directed to discharge this duty, and the pursuit of the enemy was immediately resumed. Leading those who had come up across the ford, we advanced within rifle range of the fort beyond the stream, and opened a fire upon such of the enemy as showed themselves above the wall. The intention being to storm the fort as soon as a sufficient number of our regiment came up. In this position we received no fire from the enemy's artillery, and his musketry had not proved destructive up to the time when I was ordered to retire.

Until after we withdrew, I knew nothing of the position or co-operations of the forces on our right. In accordance with my instructions, and expecting to find the main body of my regiment, I passed up the street, to our then right, with the force just withdrawn across the stream. We soon became mingled with other troops which we found along the wall, and, after rallying my command for a forward movement, I found it much reduced. Captain Cooper had kept, say twenty of his company together; with these, and about ten others of our regiment, I advanced until we met with Captain Field, of the United States army, who led us to a point where he had discovered a considerable body, probably one hundred, of the enemy. On our approach they fled beyond a street which was enfiladed by the fire of a strong party sheltered behind the *tete du pont* of the principal bridge. Captain Cooper, with the party accompanying us, was posted in an interior building to act as sharp shooters against the men of the *tete du pont*, until we should be sufficiently reinforced for more offensive operations. After a brief period, we were joined by Major Mansfield, of the United States engineers, with a small party of the 1st infantry, under his command. Whilst the men were resting, we reconnoitered the position, and decided on a plan of attack. At this instant, we were joined by General Hamer, with a portion of his brigade, and from him we received orders to retire, as I was afterward informed, to give protection to a battery of artillery threatened by lancers in the rear.

In the meantime, a few individuals, but no organized portion of my regiment, had joined me, and we followed in rear of General Hamer's column. After having proceeded the half of a mile or more, the enemy's cavalry appeared on our left, and the troops in front began to close and form on a chapparel fence in advance of us. The men under my command had undergone such severe fatigue that their movements were necessarily slow, and some of

them fell behind, when a party of lancers dashed forward to attack the rear. I ordered the riflemen to face-about, and returned to the relief of our comrades. The movement was readily executed, and though the files were in loose order, their effective fire soon drove the enemy back, leaving several dead behind him. Soon after this, I was joined by Major Bradford, with the portion of our regiment which had served under his orders a great portion of the day, and for whose conduct during that period I refer to Major Bradford's report accompanying this statement. We were now on the ground where, for the third time during the day, we had been under the cross fire of the enemy's batteries, and where I learned from you the position of another portion of my regiment, and received your orders to join and consolidate it. Were I to mention all the instances of gallantry and soldierly firmness which came under my observation, this statement would extend beyond a convenient limit. I saw no exhibition of fear, no want of confidence, but on every side the men who stood around me were prompt and willing to execute my orders. I cannot omit to mention the gallant bearing of Lieutenant Colonel McClung. At the storming of the fort he first mounted the parapet, and turning to the regiment waved his sword over his head in token of the triumph of our arms. Leaving him in that position to cheer the men on to further danger, it was my misfortune soon after to lose his services. At the fortified stone building he was dangerously wounded. I must also mention Lieutenant Patterson, who sprung into the sally-port as Colonel McClung mounted the parapet, and fired the first American piece within the works of the enemy. Captain Downing, in whom is happily combined the qualities of a leader and commander, was severely wounded (whilst among the foremost) cheering his company to the charge, and I have felt severely the loss of his services.

Corporal Grisham, of Captain Taylor's company I, fell near me, after we had crossed the stream, and were advancing upon the fort beyond it. He had fired his rifle several times, and was advancing, firing with exemplary intrepidity, when he fell, pierced by two wounds, and died as he had fought, calmly, silently, and with his eye upon the foe. Lieutenant Calhoun attracted my notice by the gallantry with which he exposed himself, and the efforts he made to shelter others. Pleased with the enthusiasm and dashing spirit of all, I was yet more struck with many instances of coolness which verged upon indifference to danger, but which the limits of this communication will not allow me specially to notice. Subjoined is a list of the killed and wounded in the action of the 21st of September, 1846.

Killed—Seven, viz : Corporal William H. Grisham, company I; Private L. M. Turner, company C; Private Silas Meecham, company E; Private Samuel Potts, company G; Private Jos. P. Tennille, company H; Private Joseph Heatron, company I; Private Joseph Downing, company I.

Wounded in the same action—Forty-seven, viz : Four commis-

sioned officers, five non-commissioned, and thirty-eight privates, as follows :

Lieutenant Colonel A. K. McClung, dangerously; Captain R. N. Downing, severely; Lieutenants H. F. Cook and R. K. Arthur, slightly.

Sergeant E. W. Hollingsworth, company D, and Sergeant J. H. Langford, company E, slightly; Sergeant F. A. Wolf, company I, and Sergeant W. H. Bell, company K, dangerously; Corporal John B. Markham, company C, severely.

Five privates of company B, viz: W. H. Miller and J. H. Jackson, dangerously; A. Lanehart, severely; J. L. Anderson and G. H. Jones, slightly.

One private of company C, viz: H. B. Thompson, slightly.

Seven privates of company D, viz: G. W. Ramsay, mortally, and since died; Alpheus Cobb, dangerously; George Wills, O. W. Jones, and W. Huffman, severely; Wm. Orr and D. Love, slightly.

Nine privates of company E, viz: A. P. Burnham, mortally, and since died; H. W. Pierce and Wm. Shadt, dangerously; Wm. H. Fleming, severely; Jacob Fredericks, John Coleman, W. P. Spencer, M. M. Smith, and James Kilvey, slightly.

Four privates of company G, viz: J. Williamson and A. W. Teague, dangerously; Warren White and Robert Bowen, severely.

Three privates of company H, viz: Frederick Mathers, mortally; B. F. Roberts and Avery Noland, slightly.

Three privates of company I, viz: C. F. Colton and G. Williams, severely; Nat. Massie, slightly.

Six privates of company K, viz: E. B. Lewis, D. B. Lewis, and Charles Martin, dangerously; John Stewart, James L. Thompson, and John McNorris, slightly.

Very respectfully,

JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Colonel Mississippi Riflemen.

General QUITMAN,

Commanding 2d Brigade, 2d Division Volunteers.

ADDITIONAL REPORT.

SIR: Omitting to notice those occurrences which transpired whilst with you, holding the fort on the 22d, I resume my statement at the point when ordered out to reconnoitre the movements and position of the enemy on the morning of the 23d. My command consisted of company H, commanded by First Lieutenant Moore; company G, commanded by First Lieutenant Greaves; and two companies of Colonel Campbell's regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Anderson. Having been deprived of the very valuable services of Adjutant Griffith, of the riflemen, by an injury received in his shoulder, which compelled him to remain in camp, Lieutenant Cook, at a time when the duty we had to perform was both difficult and perilous, offered me his services, and

rendered great assistance. As we advanced into the town, armed bodies of men fled through the streets at our approach. Having turned the flank of the fort, we found it evacuated. The artillery removed, as I suppose, under cover of the night, and we took possession of it; but as it was commanded by the forts in rear of it, and the *terre pleine* exposed to their fire, it was necessary to take shelter upon the outer side. At this time I was accompanied by, and received valuable assistance and advice from Lieutenant Scarritt, of the engineers. After a reconnoissance still further to the left, I received your orders to advance to what my examination induced me to believe a better position; and my command was changed in relieving company G, by Captain Cooper's company B, of our regiment, and by substituting for one of the companies of Colonel Campbell's regiment, company D of the Mississippi riflemen, commanded by First Lieutenant Russell. Finding no enemy within our range at the next position, we advanced to a breast-work thrown across the termination of a street to our left. Whilst examining it, I was twice fired at by sharp-shooters. The files of my command nearest to me stepped forward to punish the assailants, and in a few moments we were in action. Our fire was effective upon the right, but the enemy, posted upon the top of a large building on our left, continued to fire from his place of security, and killed one of our men, whose gallant conduct had, I remember, attracted your attention. Private Tyree, of company K, who, his company being in the rear, had voluntarily came up and joined us. We had, I think, done all which we could effect from that position, when you directed us to a place of greater safety, to which you had ordered the remaining companies of my regiment to advance. Captain Taylor and his company was not relieved from the duty with which I had charged him, that of holding a post in the rear, which was very important in the event of our being compelled to retire. I had found him so efficient on the previous occasion, and his company so prompt and gallant, that I regretted his absence. After we were joined by the Texan volunteers, under General Henderson, I derived great support from them—as well from their gallantry as their better knowledge of the construction of Mexican houses.

We continued to advance and drive the enemy, by passing through courts, gardens, and houses, taking every favorable position to fire from the house tops, which, from their style of architecture, furnishes a good defence against musketry, until near the plaza, where we found all the streets barricaded, and swept by so severe a fire, that, to advance from our last position, it became necessary to construct a defence across the street. For this purpose we used the baggage and pack saddles found in the houses; and, though under a fire of artillery as well as musketry, had more than half finished the work, when we received orders to retire. This was done in good order, though I regret to say that the enemy, emboldened by the first retrograde movement, followed our retreat, by a cross street, and wounded several of our party; among others Lieutenant Howard, of the Mississippi riflemen, who was bringing

up the rear. As on the former occasion; to name those whose conduct equalled my highest expectation and hopes, would be to furnish a list of the officers and men engaged in the action.

I wish to mention for your notice two gentlemen who joined my regiment and served in the ranks as volunteers on the 23d. Major E. R. Price, of Natchez, and Captain J. R. Smith, late of the Louisiana volunteers. They were both conspicuous for their gallantry and energy on every trying occasion—always with the advanced detachment, and as prompt in the observance of orders, as in the encounter of danger.

Whilst I cannot mention all who deserve commendation, and feel that you will bear me out in claiming the highest credit for each, I cannot forbear from naming Captain Cooper, Lieutenants Moore, Russell, and Cook, and Sergeant Major Harlan, who being especially under my observation and generally out of your view, might otherwise pass without that notice which their most soldierly conduct so well merits.

The conduct of Regimental Surgeon Seymour Halsey, is worthy of the highest credit, and claims especial notice. On the 21st he was on the field of battle, and exposed several times to much personal danger whilst giving early relief to the wounded, and has effected much by his attentions since. To his vigilance and skill it is fair to assign the fact that but one case of amputation has occurred in our regiment up to this date.

List of the killed and wounded in the action of the 23d.

Killed—One, viz: Private John M. Tyree, of company K.

Wounded—Four, viz: Private R. W. Chance, of company B, mortally; Private P. W. Johnson, of company C, severely; Private Platt Snedikor, of company K, mortally; Second Lieutenant Howard, of company D, severely.

Killed on the 22d, viz: Private Daniel P. Dubois, of company H.

Wounded on the 22d, viz: Private Robert Grigg, of company H, slightly.

JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Colonel Mississippi Riflemen.

General QUITMAN,

Command 2d Brigade, 1st Division Volunteers.

CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, MEXICO,
September 26, 1846.

SIR: I was called upon by you last evening to make such report of the conduct of the Mississippi riflemen as came within my immediate observation during the battle of Monterey, and, in conformity thereto, I herein send you a statement, which I vouch to be correct as far as it proposes to detail. On the morning of the 21st instant our brigade, under the command of General Quitman, moved out on the direction of Monterey—the Tennessee regiment on the right; when we arrived opposite the city we halted a short

time, and then were ordered to move south by the left flank—the Tennesseans still being in front. A brisk cannonade was kept up upon us until we had moved our regiment, with its whole front, nearly opposite the lower fort or redoubt of the town—the Tennesseans still being on the left; at this moment a most destructive fire opened from the fort, of grape, cannister, and musketry, raking our whole line from right to left. We instantly received orders to charge, and they were as promptly executed, and the fort carried by storm. As far as my attention was directed to the first occupation of the fort by our troops, I can say, that Lieutenant Colonel McClung, of our regiment, was the first on the wall, followed immediately afterwards by others of the regiment; at this moment I heard Adjutant Griffith proclaim we had taken the fort. As to the conduct of the officers and soldiers of the regiment on this day, I say, with pleasure, they did their duty nobly. On the 22d General Worth, on the part of the American army, had the field; and we had but little to do, except to receive such shots at the lower fort, which was in our possession, as the enemy thought proper to send at us.

On the morning of the 23d you were ordered out by General Quitman, with two companies of our regiment and two companies of the Tennesseans, to take the fort No. 3, opposite to our then position, which was promptly done. In about an hour thereafter, I was ordered by General Quitman to move out quickly with the balance of the regiment, except Captain Taylor's company, which was ordered by you to remain and guard the fort, to sustain him in an attack made with the detachment under your command on the lower part of the town; we instantly moved out, and immediately after passing the creek a heavy fire of grape and musketry opened, by which we were annoyed and exposed to for several hundred yards, yet it was met with admirable firmness by the riflemen until their arrival in town, when a warmer salute awaited them, which was received with equal spirit by the whole regiment. We remained some time under cover of the houses, during which time a portion of the regiment joined your command, and a portion remained with me. We were afterwards ordered by General Quitman to charge on the town, and the command was executed with almost unparalleled firmness. We carried the street west for several hundred yards, under a continued shower of grape and canister shot, accompanied with musketry, and took a position at the head of the town, and maintained it firmly for several hours, under a most galling fire the whole time, and until we were ordered by the commanding general to draw off, and then retired in good order. The officers with me of the Mississippi riflemen, as far as now recollected, were Captains Willis and McManus, and Lieutenants Patterson, Townsend, Wade, Arthur, Bradford, and Markum, who all behaved with great presence of mind and courage, as did every soldier who accompanied us. Indeed their gallantry was conspicuous throughout, and met my entire approbation. I cannot close without making mention of Captain Bennett, of the 1st Tennessee regiment, under Colonel Campbell, and Captain Terrett, of the 2d regiment of Texas

mounted men, under Colonel Woods, who voluntarily served with my command, and under my orders. They both, together with their companies, behaved with great gallantry, and from them I received most efficient aid. Dr. Vuch, quartermaster of Colonel Woods's regiment, was also with me the whole time; and with his great coolness and courage rendered me essential service. All reflected on themselves the highest honor.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

A. B. BRADFORD,

Major Mississippi Riflemen.

Colonel JEFFERSON DAVIS.

CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, MEXICO,

September 27, 1846.

SIR: In obedience to your request that I should make a statement, in writing, relative to the conduct of the regiment which I have the honor to command, and the part it acted on the 21st inst. in the attack made upon the city of Monterey, and particularly in the attack made by that regiment upon the fort and other fortified buildings at the northeast end of the city, I have to state that, while standing in line of battle, formed by General Butler's division on the rising ground in front of the city, about one mile distant therefrom, I received an order from you, through your aid-de-camp, Captain Nichols, directing me to move off my regiment by the left flank, at a quick pace, to the support of a body of troops who, from the firing heard, were engaged in an attack on the fortifications at the northeast end of the town. I instantly led the regiment off, as directed, at a very rapid pace, and took the road which led directly to the fort near which the firing seemed to be. During the march, from the starting point towards the point designated for me to approach, the whole line of my regiment was subjected to a very frequent discharge of heavy artillery from the large fort on the right and situated at the northwest end of the town; but the shot from that fort passed over the line, and did no damage until I arrived near the point designated for me to go, when the fire from the large fort took effect upon my line, and was most destructive. When the head of my line (marching by the flank) arrived within about 400 yards of the fort upon which I was marching, a most galling and destructive fire was opened on my line from that fort and from another in its rear about 300 yards, with artillery, while the whole line was still subject to the frequent discharge of artillery from the fort on the right. As I approached the fort, the rapid pace of my regiment was hastened into a run. At the distance of about 400 yards from the fort, one cannon ball passed diagonally through my line, about ten feet from the head of the line, which killed four men and wounded badly three others. This circumstance was calculated to produce some confusion, as the whole line had to pass over the place, yet they passed on rapidly without much disorder, and continued the march. When the head of the line arrived within about 150 yards of the

fort, in the absence of any orders from you, I came to the determination to form my regiment into line and charge directly into the fort; for, at this point, the fire from the enemy was very destructive. I halted the first company for the purpose above stated, but the next company filed off to the left, taking position on the left of the preceding company, and faced to the fort. This movement brought my whole line directly in front of the fort, and at a distance of about 150 yards from it. The heavy fire of artillery and musketry from the forts and a large fortified house, about 30 yards in rear and to the right of the first fort, was so galling and destructive at this time, that it caused my whole line to recoil and to fall back 15 or 20 paces; but they were soon halted and rallied by the prompt call made upon them by myself and Lieutenant Colonel Anderson and Adjutant Heirmen—Major Alexander having fallen (or dismounted) from his horse badly wounded near the place where the companies filed to the left, about 150 yards from the fort. Major Alexander being a brave and a tried officer, his loss at this time was a heavy one to the regiment. Finding some difficulty in getting the men to form in line of battle in order, under the heavy fire of artillery and musketry then pouring upon them from all the fortifications in front and to the right, I ordered the company officers to lead their men instantly to the charge upon the fort by a flank movement, which order was promptly executed, and the whole regiment went forward towards the fort in a run. In a few seconds, I saw many of my men ascend the walls of the fort and discharge their arms at the retreating Mexicans, who were running in great numbers from the first fort and the fortified house in its rear towards the other fort. From the position I occupied (for I was on horseback) I could see that my regiment were the first to enter the fort as a body of troops, although individuals of another regiment may have entered with the first of my regiment. At the time the charge was effected by my regiment, it was nearer to the fort than any other troops, (for I saw nothing of the troops who were engaged when I received the order to go to their support, when I arrived on the ground, and have since heard nothing of them, and I suppose they were engaged at some other place.) The Mississippi regiment marched down in the rear of my regiment and formed on my right, came gallantly to the charge simultaneously with my own, and the large fortified house, to the rear and right of the fort, being more directly in front of the Mississippi regiment, was, as it seemed to me, more properly the point of attack for that regiment, which they did attack with numbers of my regiment, and carried it immediately after the abandonment of the first fort. My command advanced beyond the fortified house to the right, and many crossed the river, while others passed into streets to the right and opened a heavy fire upon the enemy with their muskets, while others sheltered themselves behind some houses and walls from the fire from the fort beyond the river; yet they kept up an irregular fire from their shelter upon the enemy wherever he was to be seen. Lieutenant Putnam, a brave young officer, was killed, and several men

wounded in the attempt to advance upon the town after the taking of the fort.

Captain W. B. Allen, a brave and gallant officer, was killed in the charge, as was also many brave soldiers of my regiment, and many officers and soldiers were badly wounded in the same charge. The very gallant conduct of Lieutenant Colonel Anderson and of Adjutant (Lieutenant) Heimen, in rallying the men and effecting the charge, exposed as they each were to the fire of the enemy, being both on horseback, as well as myself, during the whole engagement, and the cool and deliberate courage they displayed during the whole day, cannot be too highly praised or appreciated. The company officers and men deserve the highest praise for their bravery displayed on that occasion. For, under the circumstances, with the heavy fire of artillery and musketry which constantly poured upon them, no troops could have acted better or effected more than they did.

Seeing my men upon the fort, and supposing that the ditch would prevent my entering it on horseback, I dismounted at the distance of 15 or 20 yards from it, passed the ditch to the left, and entered the fort on the left hand side. I found the men of both the Tennessee and Mississippi regiments collecting in the fort, and I ordered those of the Tennessee to form and march on to the charge, which they did; many of the Tennesseans and Mississippians ascended to the top of the tannery and fired from that position at the enemy.

You, sir, were on horseback also during the whole of that engagement and very much exposed to the deliberate fire of the enemy's small arms, and you were along the line giving directions and encouragement to your command during the whole action.

During the day, and after the fort was taken, you ordered me to take my command and go up the street to the right to the support of Captain Ridgeley's battery. I collected together as many of my officers and men as I could, (for they had become scattered in the outskirts of the town in attacking the enemy,) and passed up the street designated, under a most severe fire from the enemy's battery and small arms, to the place where Captain Ridgeley had posted his battery. Captain Ridgeley expressed the opinion that he could not effect anything by firing his artillery from that point unless the fortification in his front was taken. The small command I had with me, and the fatigued condition of my men and the want of ammunition, (for my men had not more than three or four rounds each of cartridges left in their boxes,) would not justify me in making the attack, and I returned with my command, in rear of the battery, on the same route I had gone up, being all the time subjected to a most severe fire, which wounded three of the men badly, and one man, who remained with one of the wounded, was shortly afterwards killed by the enemy.

There were about 20 of my regiment killed dead before the fort, and 66 wounded; all in front of the fort, and within 150 yards of it.

The whole number of killed in my regiment, during the fight on the 21st September, was 26 killed and 77 wounded, and one miss-

ing, who no doubt was killed. Since the battle two of those who were mortally wounded have died of their wounds; one was reported missing who has since come in.

The command of the Tennessee regiment, on the 22d and 23d instant, devolved on Lieutenant Colonel Anderson, in consequence of my severe indisposition on those days, and his report will be given of the conduct of the regiment on those days.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. B. CAMPBELL,

Colonel 1st Regiment Tennessee Volunteers.

Brigadier General QUITMAN.

N. B. I left camp on the morning of the 21st instant with 384 men, including officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates; but during the march, and before we approached the fort where the fire of the enemy was so destructive, many had dropped out of the line on account of sickness, and others from fatigue, so that, when the command arrived in front of the fort, where it suffered so much, it did not exceed in numbers more than 300, inclusive of officers and men.

W. B. CAMPBELL,

Colonel 1st Regiment Tennessee Volunteers.

I may be permitted also to state, that while in line of battle in the division, before the order was given to me to move off, I was on the right of the Mississippi regiment, and I filed past them, and they followed after my regiment in its rear, and before the fort formed on the right of my regiment.

W. B. C.

CAMP NEAR MONTEREY,

September 29, 1846.

DEAR SIR: In obedience to your request, I proceed to give you a very brief statement of the movements of the 1st regiment of Tennessee volunteers on the 22d and 23d September, 1846.

I beg leave to say, that I was placed in command of the regiment during the time in consequence of the severe indisposition of Colonel Campbell, who was wholly unable to accompany us.

On the morning of the 22d our regiment, though greatly exhausted by the previous day's fight, were ordered to the fort taken the day before, situated at the northeast of Monterey. We reached the fort in safety, though greatly exposed to the fire of the enemy from their fort at the upper end of the city, and also one some four hundred yards in rear of the one we were marching to. During the day we had quite a constant fire directed upon us from these works, but without doing us any damage. At night you ordered the utmost vigilance to be observed, and even superintended the posting of the different guards, and you accompanied Captain Whitfield's company in making reconnoissance in the neighborhood of

the enemy, to observe their movements. The night passed with an occasional fire of a sentinel, but no serious alarm—no attack.

The Mississippi regiment of riflemen marched in at the same time we did, and were posted in the large still-house and tannery, just in connexion with the fort, and which was strongly fitted up by the enemy for military defence. Early in the morning of the 23d it was believed by you that the Mexican force were about to abandon the fort in our rear, and you ordered Colonel Davis, with two companies of his command, together with two companies of my command, to march and take the fort. I proceeded with Captain Whitfield and Lieutenant Davis's companies, directly in rear of Colonel Davis's command—you led the whole force; when we reached the fort (which was done without the fire of a gun) we found that the Mexicans had fled. We captured a small amount of ammunition. After a short stay some other force came up from the fort below, and you ordered forward some two or three companies of the Mississippi and Tennessee regiments some two or three hundred yards above the fort; but, as your force was so small, and you had so many points to protect, you deemed it most prudent for a time to withdraw the advanced force and take position at the newly taken fort. In the course of the morning you ordered the Mississippi regiment, with three companies of my command, to make an attack upon a large force of the enemy in the lower end of the town, that were posted behind breastworks and other fortified places. The companies of my command that accompanied you were Captain McMurry's, Captain Burrit's, and Captain Blackamore's company, under command of Lieutenant Smith, (Captain Blackamore was sick, and was left in charge of the camp.)

You had ordered me, with the remaining seven companies of my command, to remain in, and protect the fort taken on the 21st; and this was believed to be the more important, as the demonstrations of the enemy indicated an attack; and it was the more important to keep an infantry force in the fort, in order to co-operate with Captain Ridgeley, who had stationed his artillery there, and was bringing it to bear upon the enemy whenever he could do so most effectively.

The force you had marched against the enemy had now passed out of my view, and I could only tell of what was going on by the heavy and continued fire of your men upon the enemy. After you had been engaged in the fight for some considerable time, General Henderson, with the 2d regiment of Texas rangers, came to your aid, and was soon followed by a regiment or more of regulars; the firing continued, and was kept up very spiritedly, and the enemy was evidently fast giving way under your decided attack upon them. Thus the fire continued for several hours. In the evening the troops were withdrawn, and returned to camp. I do not know your loss, but I understand it was very small. I learned the enemy suffered much.

In closing this very brief account of the 22d and 23d, I hope you will allow me to say, from my own personal observation on the 21st, as well as from what I saw on the 22d and 23d, in connexion

with the universal account of all that witnessed your conduct in the attack upon the town and the fort, that no man could have conducted himself more gallantly than yourself; you evidenced to your command, throughout, the most determined courage and bravery, and thus encouraged your command forward in their bold and daring attack upon the enemy.

I only have to add, that my command acted with great promptness, and was ready for any emergency; those who went forward with you, I understand, fully sustained their high character for cool and determined bravery. All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. R. ANDERSON,

Lieut. Col. 1st Regiment Tennessee Volunteers.

General QUITMAN.

N. B. You will remember my command on the 22d and 23d was very small; our regiment had suffered very severely on the 21st, and a large force had to be detailed to nurse the wounded. I suppose that some seventy men of my regiment accompanied you in your attack upon the town, and about ninety or one hundred remained with me at the fort for its defence.

S. R. A.

CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, MEXICO,
September 26, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report, for the information of the commanding general, that, in obedience to orders, I moved from camp on the night of the 20th, with the 24-pounder howitzer battery under my command, with fifty rounds of ammunition for each gun, and took position on the left of the mortar battery, within twelve or thirteen yards of the enemy's main work, and waited for orders to commence firing. At 7 o'clock on the morning of the 21st, the signal being given, I commenced firing shells upon the work till some time after the first and third divisions had passed the battery, and moved down upon the redoubt on the extreme right of the enemy's line. The fire was immediately returned from the enemy's batteries with extreme accuracy and rapidity. During this time, I had one man killed at the guns, and a wheel of the ammunition wagon badly shattered. I saw a number of shells fall into the enemy's works, but cannot judge of the effect. At half past 10 o'clock, I received orders to move down to the support of the attacking parties, and, on my arrival, finding the first redoubt in our possession, I took position in the road, immediately to the right of the tannery, which had been carried by our troops. From this position, I continued to fire with shells, spherical case, and cannister, at the second redoubt, about 250 yards distant, till all the ammunition I had brought into the field was expended. There being no caissons attached to the battery, I was obliged to return for a new supply. Having obtained it, I reported to the commanding general for orders, and received instructions not to advance any

further; and I returned to camp about sunset, shortly after the third division had entered it.

While engaged this time, the battery was exposed to a most galling fire of musketry and grape, and the carriages somewhat injured by it.

It is hardly necessary to say, that, in every position, I was most efficiently supported by my officers, Lieutenants Donaldson and Bowen, and the men of my command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. B. WEBSTER,

*Captain 1st Artillery,
Commanding Howitzer Battery.*

Major MONROE,
Chief of Artillery.

Executive Documents
No. 17

Correspondence with General
Taylor.

One page

from
The President of the United
States transmitting a
report of the Secretary of
War and accompanying
documents in answer
to a resolution of the
House of Representatives
of the 1st of February 1847,
being in addition to his
report made on the 27th
of the same month.

January 4, 1848
Read and laid upon
the table