

REPORT OF BATTLE

His Excellency, David G. Burnett, president of the Republic of Texas. Headquarters of the Army, San Jacinto, April 25, 1836.

I regret extremely that my situation since the battle of the 21st has been such as to prevent my rendering you my official report of the same previous to this.

I have the honor to inform you that on the evening of the 18th. after a forced march of fifty-five miles, which was effected in two days and a half, the army arrived opposite Harrisburg. That evening a courier of the enemy was taken, from whom I learned that General Santa Anna, with one division of his choice troops, had marched in the direction of Lynches' ferry, on the San Jacinto, burning Harrisburg as he passed down. The army was ordered to be in readiness to march the next morning. The main body effected a crossing over Buffalo Bayou below Harrisburg, on the morning of the 19th, having left the baggage, the sick and a sufficient guard in the rear. We continued the march throughout the night, making but one halt in the prairie for a short time and without refreshment. At daylight we resumed the line of march and in a short distance our scouts encountered those of the enemy, and we received information that General Santa Anna was at New Washington and would that day take up the line of march for Anahuac, crossing at Lynches' ferry. The Texan army halted within half a mile of the ferry in some timber and were engaged in slaughtering beeves, when the army of General Santa Anna was discovered to be approaching in battle array, having been encamped at Klopper's point, eight miles below. Disposition was immediately made of our forces and preparation for his reception. He took a position with his infantry and artillery in the center, occupying an island of timber, his cavalry covering the left flank. The artillery, consisting of one double fortified medium brass 12 pounder then opened on our encampment. The infantry in column advanced with the design of charging our lines, but were repulsed by a discharge of grape and canister from our artillery, consisting of two 6 pounders. The ememy had occupied a piece of timber within rifle shot of the left wing of our army, from which an occasional interchange of small arms took place between the troops until the enemy withdrew to a posiition on the bank of the San Jacinto, about three-quarters of a mile from our encampment and commenced fortifications. A short time before sunset our mounted men, about eighty-five in number, under the special command of Colonel Sherman, marched out for the purpose of reconnoitiering the enemy. While advancing they received a volley from the left of the enemy's infantry, and after a sharp re-encounter with their calvary, in which ours acted extremely well and per-formed some feats of daring chivalry, they retired in good order having had two men severely wounded and several horses killed. In the meantime the infantry, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Millard and Colonel Burleson's regiment, with the artillery had marched out for the purpose of covering the retreat of the cavalry if necessary. All then fell back in good order to our encampment about sunset, and remained without any ostensible action until the 21st, at half past three o'clock, taking the first refreshment that they had enjoyed in two days. The enemy in the meantime extended the right flank of their infantry so as to occupy the extreme point of a skirt of timber on the bank of the San Jacinto, and secured their left by a fortification about five feet high, constructed of

packs and baggage, leaving an opening in the center of the breast-

work in which their artillery was placed, their cavalry upon their

About nine o'clock in the morning of the 21st the enemy were reinforced by 500 choice troops under General Cos, increasing their effective force to upward of 1500 men, while our aggregate force for the field numbered 788. At 3:30 o'clock in the evening I ordered the officers af the Texan army to parade their respective commands, having in the meantime ordered the bridge on the only road communicating with the Brazos, distant eight miles from our encampment, to be destroyed, thus cutting off all possibility of escape. Our troops paraded with alacrity and spirit and were anxious for the contest. Their conspicious disparity in numbers seemed only to increase their enthusiasm and confidence, and heighten their anxiety for the conflict. Our situation afforded me an opportunity of making the arrangements preparatory to the attack without exposing our designs to the enemy. The First regiment, commanded by Colonel Burleson was assigned the center. The Second regiment, under the command of Colonel Sherman, formed the left wing of the

The Artillery, under the special command of Colonel George Hockley Inspector General, was placed on the right of the First regiment, and four companies of infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Millard, sustained the artillery on the right. Our cavalry, sixty-one in number, commanded by Colonel Mirabeau Lamar (whose gallant and daring conduct the previous day had attracted the admiration of his comrades and called him to that station), placed on our extreme right, completed our line. Our cavalry was first dispatched to the front of the enemy's left for the purpose of attracting their notice, while an extensive island of timber afforded us opportunity of concentrating our forces and displaying from that point, agreeably to the previous design of the troops. Every evolution was performed with alacrity, the whole advancing rapidly in line, and through an open prairie without any protection whatever for our men. The artillery advanced and took station within 200 yards of the enemy's breastwork and commenced an effective fire with grape and canister. Colonel Sherman and his regiment having commenced the action upon our left wing, the whole line, at the center and on the right, advancing in double quick time, rung out the war cry "Remember the Alamo" received the enemy's fire and advanced within point blank shot before a piece was discharged from our lines. Our line advanced without a halt until they were in possesion of the woods and the enemy's breastwork, the right wing of Burleson's and the left of Millard's taking possesion of the breastwork, our artillery having gallantly charged up to withing seventy yards of the enemy's cannon, when it was taken by our, troops. The conflict lasted about eighteen minutes from the time, of close action until we were in possession of the enemy's encampment, taking one piece of cannon (loaded) four stands of colors, all their camp equippage, stores and baggage. Our cavalry had charged and routed that of the enemy upon the right and given pursuit to the fugitives, which did not cease until they arrived at,

the bridge which I have mentioned before. Captain Karnes- always among the foremost in danger-commanding the pursuit. The conflict in the breastwork lasted but a few moments, many of the troops encountered hand to hand, and not having the advantage of bayonets on our side, our riflemen used their pieces as war clubs, breaking many of them off at the breech. The rout commenced at 4:30 and the pursuit by the main army continued until twilight. A guard was then left in charge of the enemy's encampment, and our army returned with the killed and wounded. In the battle our loss was two killed and twenty wounded, six of whom mortally. The enemy's loss was 630 killed, among whom was one general, four colonels, two lieutenant colonels, five captains and twelve lieutenants, wounded, 208, of which were five colonels, three lieu tenant colonels, two second lieutenant colonels, seven captains and one cadet: prisoners, 730, President General Santa Anna, General Cos, four colonels-aides to General Santa Anna-and the colonel of the Cuereo batallion are included in the number. General Santa Anna was not taken until the 22d, General Cos on yesterday very few having escaped. About 600 muskets, 300 sabers and 600 pistols have been collected since the action; several hundred mules and horses were taken and near \$12,000 in specie, for several days previous to the action our troops were engaged in forced marches. exposed to excessive rains and the additional inconvenience of bad roads, illy supplied with rations and clothing, yet 'mid every difficulty they bore up with cheerfulness and fortitude and performed their marches with alacrity. There was no murmuring.

Previous to and during the action my staff evinced every disposition to be useful and were actively engaged in their duties. In the conflict I am assured they demeaned themselves in such manner. as proved them worthy of the army of San Jacinto. Colonel T. J. Rusk, secretary of war was in the field. For weeks his services have been highly beneficial to our army. In battle he was on the left wing, where Colonel Sherman's command first encountered and drove the enemy: he bore himself gallantly and continued his efforts and activity, remaining with the pursuers until

resistance ceased. I have the honor of transmitting a list of all the officers and men who were engaged in the action, which I respectfully request may be published as an act of justice to the individuals. For the commanding general to attempt discrimination as to the conduct of those who commanded or those who were commanded would be impossible Our success in the action is conclusive proof of much daring. intrepidity and courage; every officer and man proved himself worthy of the cause in which he battled, while the humanity which characterized their conduct after the victory richly entitles them to the admiration and gratitude of their general. Nor should we withhold the tribute of our grateful thanks from that being who rules the destinies of nations, and has in time of greatest need enabled us to arrest a powerful invader while devastating our country. I have the honor to be, with high consideration, your obedient servant,

SAM HOUSTON

Commander in Chief

FAREWELL TO TROOPS

Army Order Headquarters: San Jacinto, May 5, 1836. Comrades:

Circumstances connected with the battle of the 21st render our separation for the present unavoidable, I need not express to you the many painful sensations which that necessity inflicts upon me. I am solaced, however, by the hope that we will soon be reunited in the great cause of liberty. Brigadier General Rusk is appointed to command the army for the present. I confide in his valor, his patroitism and his wisdom. His conduct in the battle of San Jacinto was sufficient to insure your confidence and regard.

The enemy, though retreating, are still within the limits of Texas. Their situation being known to you, you cannot be taken by surprise. Discipline and subordination will render you invincible. Your valor and heroism have proven you unrivalled. Let not contempt for the enemy throw you off your guard. Viligance is the first duty of a soldier and glory the proudest rewards fo his toils.

You have patiently endured privatations, hardships, and difficulties. Unapalled you have encountered odds two to one of the enemy against you and borne yourself in the onset and conflict of battle in a manner unknown in the annals of modern warfare. While an enemy to our independence remains in Texas the work is incomplete; but when liberty is firmly established by your patience and your valor, it will be fame enough to say "I was a member of the army of San Jacinto."

In taking leave of my brave comrades in arms, I can not suppress the expression of that pride which I so justly feel in having had the honor to command them in person, nor will withold the tribute of my warmest admiration and gratitude for the promptness with which my orders were executed and union maintained throughout the army. At parting my heart embraces you with gratitude and affection.

SAM HOUSTON, Commander In Chief

THE ARMY OF SAN JACINTO

MY OF SAN JACINTO

James Beldin, J. M. Mary, James J. W. Crasse, Jack Greek, P. R. Center, W. L. Lawren, W. R. Lordon, P. R. Center, C. L. College, C. C. College, J. Marchen, P. L. W. Crasse, J. M. Carrier, C. L. W. Markey, M. Carrier, C. L. W. Crasse, J. C. W. L. L. W. L. College, C. C. College, C. College, C. C. College, C. C. College, C. College, C. College, C. C. College, C. College, C. C. College, C.

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