

what was then Santa Anna's line. The village was a most important point; that was the reason I moved to it.

Question by defence. Had the forces under Santa Anna been brought to a stand, formed into line, before you got into the village?

Answer. Yes; formed perpendicular to the road before I got to the village, and then moved, after I got there, parallel to the road.

Question by defence. Suppose Santa Anna, with his forces, had taken possession of the village of Ensalda before you or any other American troops entered it, could you have entered the village after it was so occupied, with your brigade, over the natural obstacles between yourself and the village?

Answer. It is impossible to say what you could do. It could not have been done without very great loss; and if it had been well defended, it could not have been done.

Question by defence. As you regard the possession of this village as the key to the operations upon the field upon the twentieth, cutting as it did the enemy's line of retreat, and his line of communication to and from the city, cutting off his reinforcements, &c., will the witness say what influence the possession and occupation of this village exercised on the result of the operations of the twentieth of August? was it decisive, or not, upon that result?

Answer. The whole operation of the twentieth was based upon the possession of the village. The whole of the plans were formed after the possession, and founded upon that. But the proper attack, in my opinion, in the position we were, was on Santa Anna, as was intended the evening before. The attack on Valencia was merely taken as an alternative, as the night, and the ravine leading to the rear of his camp, offered the means of doing it with certainty; and the darkness prevented us from taking the first.

Question by defence. Did you consider the positions of Colonel Riley and General Cadwalader's forces in and about the village before named, on the flank and towards the rear of the enemy, which positions were taken up before you got upon the ground, the result of chance; if not, upon whose authority, or under whose orders, did you suppose these troops were in position?

Answer. I suppose Colonel Riley went over there by General Twigg's orders, having seen him separate from me at the time Magruder's battery went to the front. I never knew who sent General Cadwalader. I presume, of course, that he was ordered there.

Question by defence. If witness did not hear the orders of Major General Pillow referred to or spoken of by the commanders who had reached the village and taken possession of it before he got there, will he state whether he did not see and understand from the movements and position of these brigades of Riley and Cadwalader, that the object of their movement to that flank must have been to get to the enemy's flank and rear, and then assail him there?

Answer. I thought the whole movement of these troops was in conformity to the order given by General Scott in the morning, to

move across and get possession of the San Angel road, that these troops were there in pursuance of that order. When I got over and Colonel Riley joined me, I found I had about three thousand six hundred men in the face of from fifteen to twenty thousand; and I occupied myself with the means of defeating them, without thinking what had brought us there, except the general object of getting possession of the road to the city. I can't say that I thought our object in going there was to make a particular attack upon the left flank or rear, but that our object was to get a good position from which to make an attack, according to the circumstances which might disclose themselves there.

Question by defence. Witness will state, if he did not understand that a battle was being fought on the nineteenth, and that the object of that battle was to dislodge the enemy from the position he occupied, commanding as it did the only known road across the pedrigo?

Answer. I knew nothing about the road across the pedrigo. I found the enemy opposing our advance across the pedrigo, and, of course, the object was to defeat him, and get possession of the passage. I had no information about the roads at all.

Question by defence. Being in that position, could you have attacked the enemy's entrenched camp anywhere else than the flank or rear?

Answer. I don't think I should have attacked it unless in flank or in rear. I would not have done it. I can't say that it was impossible; but from all the information I possessed, I should not have attacked in front. If I had had an hour more of daylight, I should have attacked Santa Anna; and, having defeated Santa Anna, Valencia's position would have fallen, of course.

Question by defence. Were not all the movements, as well those of the twentieth as the nineteenth, made in conformity with General Scott's general order, of the nineteenth, to gain the San Angel road?

Answer. As far as I know anything of them, they were in conformity to a verbal order given by one of General Scott's staff, in details afterward. A written order to the same effect, but less in detail, was seen by me sometime after the battles.

Question by defence. If a battle was to be there, and was then being fought, did witness suppose these forces had gone forward and occupied that village without the orders of the senior officer then in command of those forces, and charged with the duty of conducting the operations to said San Angel road?

Answer. I can only say as I said before, that I supposed these troops were there in conformity with general orders issued by General Scott in the morning. I did not know who was immediately directing them. I did not know but that General Scott was himself on the field and directing the movements; it was impossible to see further than a few feet around in the pedrigo; it was impossible to see who was commanding.

Question by defence. Did the reconnoitring officers (so far as you know) Captain Canby and Lieutenant Tower, who discovered