

San Augustin to General Pillow, a little before three o'clock. I estimate that it took me half an hour to communicate the order to Major Smith, and about half an hour to conduct Morgan's regiment where I did, and to return to General Pillow, making it about four o'clock.

Question by defence. Did witness deliver any orders to troops in relation to crossing the pedrigal, after General Scott reached the mound, or any other order of importance?

Answer. I don't recollect that I did.

Question by defence. Looking from the mound you have spoken of, what appears to be the strategic point of the field of operations before you?

Answer. I do not know that there were any of them strategic points. If the object of the question is to ascertain the important points, I should say that the hamlet of Ensalda was of the first importance.

Question by defence. Have you visited the field since, and has subsequent observation confirmed your opinion in respect to this point?

Answer. I have been on the field a number of times since, and under the then existing circumstances, I know of no position in the vicinity of the enemy's position so important as that.

Question by defence. What considerations rendered the village spoken of of so much importance?

Answer. It afforded shelter to the troops occupying it. It was a favorable position for them to intercept reinforcements, and it was a starting point from which the enemy's work could be easily turned; in fact, when the troops occupied that position, the work was almost, if not quite turned. From each side of the village, ravines extend to the rear of the work, each of which furnish excellent cover for troops beyond the reach of musket shot, and where none but plunging shot from artillery could reach them. These ravines may intersect beyond the enemy's position, perhaps; I don't remember how that is.

Question by defence. Is the village in rear of a line passing through the front of the enemy's entrenched camp? If so, state how far.

Answer. I think that if from a central point of the enemy's work a line was drawn to the mound occupied by General Scott and General Pillow, on the 19th, and from the same point another line was drawn to the hamlet of Ensalda, the angle between them would be greater than a right angle.

Question by defence. Has witness been upon the ground with a compass?

Answer. I have.

Question by defence. With the limited knowledge, possessed on the 19th of August, of the topography of the ground in the neighborhood of Contreras, was it possible for an officer, directing his forces from the mound spoken of, to have given other than general instructions; and did, or not, this circumstance necessarily devolve wide discretion upon subordinate officers as to details?

Answer. I know of no person on the field who knew the ground. For that reason, I am of opinion that no other than general instructions could have been given; and I think that the subordinate officers would necessarily be compelled to act upon their own discretion in cases of that kind.

Question by defence. Was witness, as a member of General Pillow's staff, with General Pillow on the night of the 19th of August, when he, General Pillow, started across the pedrigal to join his command, then at the village of Ensalda? If so, state what prevented his joining his command, and who was along besides General Pillow and his staff.

Answer. Just before sundown, on the 19th, General Pillow started to join his forces at the hamlet of Ensalda with Mr. Rains, his aid, and myself. On leaving, General Pillow asked General Scott if he had any orders to give him? to which General Scott replied that he had none. We then moved off in the direction of the road that the battery (Magruder's) had passed over early in the afternoon, and, while on that course, we fell in with General Twiggs, Captain McLellan, topographical engineers, and Mr. McDonald, aid to General Twiggs, and, for a short time, Lieutenant Stevens, engineer, and Lieutenant Sykes, third infantry. When we started across the pedrigal, in the direction, we supposed, of the hamlet of Ensalda, it was very dark, and at times it rained with great violence. After wandering on the pedrigal for a long time, the enemy's bugles informed us that we were approaching them. We then took up another line of march, and, while on that course, we fell in with a person who said he had been over there. We took him for a guide, and followed him a great distance, and until, I should judge, it was towards eleven o'clock, (I guess at the time,) when General Twiggs said he could go no further. He had fallen down two or three times during the time, and was lame. I think there were others in the party who considered it useless to continue our course that night, and proposed that we should remain there until the morning. General Pillow then said he would go forward if any one would accompany him; and Lieutenant Rains and myself started to accompany General Pillow across. After proceeding some distance beyond where we left the balance of the party, the idea of crossing that night was abandoned. We then returned to where we had left the others, where, after some consultation, it was determined to return, if possible, to where the horses had been left.

Question by defence. Was the route across the pedrigal abandoned as impracticable that night; was there any object or other means by which General Pillow and his party could direct their course; and how did the party find their way out of the pedrigal; what object enabled them to find their course out?

Answer. The idea of crossing the pedrigal was, I think, abandoned, because it was impossible to cross it with the means at our command. In returning, we had a guide or sort of a mark, by which we could, at times, direct our course; which was the summit of the hill which General Pillow had left in parting with Gen-



eral Scott. That appeared, at times, either between showers or from lightning. I forget which now.

Question by defence. Does witness recollect at whose suggestion the party determined to go to San Augustin, to report to General Scott that we had been unable to cross the pedrigal? Was it at General Pillow's or General Twiggs's?

Answer. I don't know.

Question by defence. Was witness in company with General Twiggs and Pillow when they returned to San Augustin, to report to General Scott the impracticability of crossing the pedrigal in the night?

Answer. On leaving the field, I remarked to General Pillow, that with his permission I would remain there. This was near where we came out of the pedrigal. General Pillow said that he would be absent but a short time, and he wanted me to go with him. I don't think I knew at that time what the object of going to San Augustin was, nor was I informed of it until we reached the position held by Captain Taylor's battery, when I think I heard General Pillow remark that he was going to report that he was not able to cross, and for any orders he might have. I think I could not have been present at the time it was determined to go to San Augustin, for I have no recollection about it. I accompanied Generals Pillow and Twiggs to San Augustin.

The court then adjourned until to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock.

CITY OF MEXICO, *April 12, 1848.*

The court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: All the members and the judge advocate and recorder.

Major General Scott present.

Major General Pillow before the court.

Captain J. Hooker under examination:

Question by defence. Witness will state, if he knows, whether or not, General Pillow intended to return to the field of battle upon the night of the 19th of August, after reporting to General Scott at San Augustin; if so, what prevented his doing so?

Answer. I know that General Pillow intended to return that night, and was prevented, I supposed, by the orders he received from Major General Scott, to remain in San Augustin. General Scott said to General Pillow: "you will remain here to-night," or words to that effect; which order was repeated.

Question by defence. Was witness at General Scott's quarters with General Pillow, on the night of the 19th of August; if so, state if he heard General Pillow, more than once, express the wish and determination to return to the field of operations, and what was said by General Scott?

Answer. I don't know what was expressed by General Pillow of

his determination to return. I don't remember the language that was made use of. He told me that he should return, and I heard nothing said by him to remove the impression that I was under, that he was to return. General Scott's order to General Pillow has already been recorded.

Question by defence. Was witness present, and did he hear a conversation between General Pillow and Captain Taylor on the night of the 19th of August, near the corn-field; if so, state what he heard said by General Pillow?

Answer. I was present at a conversation that took place between General Pillow, General Twiggs and Captain Taylor. I thought that I heard all the conversation, but as it was raining severely, and a number talking, I cannot state positively that I heard the whole of it. Captain Taylor asked General Pillow how matters were looking; and my impression is, that General Pillow told Captain Taylor that he found the enemy in a stronger position than he expected, and that the attack in front would have to be abandoned. There was more conversation, but I can't repeat it as it occurred. General Twiggs had something to say, but I forget what it was.

Question by defence. Where did witness and Lieutenant Rains sleep on the night of the nineteenth? State what time General Pillow, on his way to the field of battle upon the morning of the twentieth of August, called upon yourself and Lieutenant Rains, to go with him to the field of battle? Was it before or after sunrise; and did he wait for you or leave you that morning, and go to the field without you?

Answer. Mr. Rains and myself slept in a house, occupied at the time, I think, by General Quitman. The house was on the plaza at San Augustin, and near the road leading from General Scott's quarters to Contreras. General Pillow came in early in the morning; I can't tell whether it was before or after sunrise; I am inclined to think it was about sunrise. General Pillow said it was time to be off; but, I think, he did not start immediately. He may have been detained by Mr. Rains having his horse saddled; I don't know but by other causes. With regard to myself he did not wait for me. I had lost my horse and was some time in finding another to go on the field. I do not know the precise time General Pillow left, as I was not with him.

Question by defence. Does witness believe that on the nineteenth of August, he possessed the confidence of General Pillow in as high a degree as any one else known to witness? If so, state if General Pillow, at any time on the nineteenth, or during that night, expressed to witness, or any one else known to him, the least doubt or want of confidence in the success of the American arms, that day—that night—or next morning?

Answer. I believe that I enjoyed the full confidence of General Pillow all the time that I was on duty with him. From about four o'clock on the nineteenth, until I parted from him at General Scott's quarters, which was late at night, I was with him almost the entire time, and I am confident that I never heard him express a doubt or a word of despondency, with regard to the ultimate result of the