

communication (verbal) he bore to General Scott from General Pillow, and what were the orders in reply?

Answer. I was a member of General Pillow's staff on the 19th of August last, and after General Pillow's division had advanced as far as Peña Pobre, that is a hacienda between San Augustin and Contreras, I was sent back to General Scott with Major Kirby, who had just previously arrived, with a message from General Scott to General Pillow. Of the message borne by Major Kirby to General Pillow, and from him to General Scott, I have no personal knowledge; but was sent to bring back General Scott's reply to General Pillow. I met General Scott on the roof of his quarters in San Augustin, shortly after Major Kirby had delivered his message, and was directed by General Scott to deliver a message to General Pillow in the following words, as near as I can recollect: "Tell General Pillow that he will keep his attention fixed upon making the road, and will complete it, as far as practicable. Twiggs's division is already, or soon will be, in the advance of General Pillow, and should the enemy become impertinent, Twiggs will brush them away. If the action becomes serious, and he can go no further, Pillow will support Twiggs with his whole division, and assume the command."

Question by defence. Was witness present, in the field of operations in front of Contreras, on the 19th of August, at an interview between Generals Pillow and Twiggs in reference to the disposition of the American forces, preparatory to the commencement of the operations against the enemy's entrenched camp; if so, state what directions were given to General Twiggs?

Answer. I was present on the field at the interview referred to; and the conversation which took place was to the following effect: General Pillow addressed General Twiggs by saying that he could go no further with the road until the enemy was dislodged, and that it would be necessary to take that battery. General Twiggs replied, with one or two oaths, "yes, we must take it before sunset." General Pillow said to him then, that General Scott had placed him in the advance, and that he, General Pillow, did not wish to interfere with him; and that he would open the battle. General Twiggs replied that he would take the battery in one or two hours—I don't recollect which—and appeared anxious to move off. General Pillow spoke to him again, and, I think, first, there was something said about the batteries, and afterwards said to General Twiggs, that, if he would move with one brigade against the enemy's works, and send the other over in the direction of that steeple, pointing in the direction of San Geronimo, to operate on that flank, and cut off the communication with the city, that he thought the situation of the enemy would be very precarious. General Twiggs assented to this in very much the same way as he had done to General Pillow's previous remarks, when General Pillow told him to go ahead, he would support him.

Question by defence. Witness has spoken of General Pillow having spoke to General Twiggs of certain batteries; what batteries has witness reference to?

Answer. As well as I can recollect, General Pillow asked General Twiggs whether he had any artillery with him; General Twiggs replied, the battery of his division had not come up; and General Pillow offered him the batteries of his division, Magruder's field battery and Callender's howitzer battery, both of which moved forward soon after.

Question by defence. Had General Pillow been upon the hill (commanding a view of the entire field of Contreras, and the approach to the city) reconnoitring with his glass the enemy's position, and the grounds thereabout, during a good part of the forenoon? State, also, if General Twiggs had just come upon the ground, and if he passed directly on without taking any time to reconnoitre the enemy's position or work?

Answer. I know that General Pillow was on the hill for some time during the morning, but as I was not immediately present with him, I cannot state whether he was reconnoitring or not. General Twiggs had arrived fifteen or twenty minutes before the conversation took place, perhaps more. During that time he had been engaged in passing his troops to the front of General Pillow's command, and immediately after the conversation, which I have related, he passed on with Smith's brigade to the front.

Question by defence. Has witness a recollection of the time at which General Scott reached the mound occupied by General Pillow? If so, state his recollection, and his means of knowing that time?

Answer. My recollections are that it was half past three or four o'clock. I have not particular means of recollecting the time. It may have been later than four o'clock.

Question by defence. Does witness know when Morgan's regiment commenced the movement across the pedrigal? Was it before or after General Scott reached the mound?

Answer. I recollect seeing Morgan's regiment in motion through the corn-field, entering on the pedrigal, just before General Scott arrived, and I understood from General Pillow, I think, that he had sent it off.

Question by defence. Has witness any recollection of hearing General Scott ask General Pillow, what troops or bayonets those were passing through the pedrigal? If so, say what was General Pillow's reply?

Answer. I remember that while Generals Scott and Pillow were conversing on the hill, concerning the disposition of the forces within five, and certainly within ten minutes after General Scott's arrival, General Scott inquired, "what bayonets are those," pointing to Morgan's regiment. General Pillow replied that it was Morgan's regiment, and, I think, added that he had just sent it to support Cadwalader.

The court then adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

CITY OF MEXICO, *April 14, 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.

Lieutenant Ripley under examination:

Question by defence. Has witness any recollection of hearing General Pillow explain to General Scott (after the latter arrived) his orders, and the dispositions he (Pillow) had made of the forces under his command, in the battle then being fought? If so, what was General Scott's reply? Did he approve or disapprove those orders and dispositions?

Answer. I recollect hearing the conversation which occurred between the two major generals, immediately after General Scott's arrival, relative to the disposition of the forces, and General Scott's approval of them, in the word "admirable," or "capital," I don't recollect which.

Question by defence. How far in the pedrigal was Morgan's regiment, when General Scott made the inquiry respecting it?

Answer. I should suppose three or four hundred yards; perhaps, less.

Question by defence. What message or report did witness bear from General Pillow to General Scott, from the battle field of Churubusco, just after the convent fort had fallen? Where did witness leave General Pillow, and where was he when he again joined him (General Pillow?)

Answer. I left General Pillow in the road leading to the tête de pont of Churubusco, just after the tête de pont had fallen, and, by his direction, reported to General Scott the fall of that work. When I next saw General Pillow, he was about half a mile beyond the tête de pont, on the road to the city. I was not present with General Pillow when the convent fort surrendered.

Question by defence. Was witness with General Pillow in his movement across the marshy plains and ditches, in his efforts to reach the battle field of Churubusco? If so, state the character of the ground over which his command passed, and if all officers had to dismount and wade through?

Answer. I was with General Pillow's command, which was Cadwalader's brigade and a body of horse, in the movement referred to. When we came in sight of San Antonio road, we saw some of General Worth's troops on that road. The command immediately inclined strongly to the left; crossed a very muddy field; came to a ditch where all the officers dismounted, with, I think, the exception of Captain Kearny, who leaped the ditch. The officers and command passed on through the ditch and another field and the main ditch along the San Antonio road. The head of the command entered on that road, close to the village. The cavalry followed after, and came upon the San Antonio road, through the ditch, at a point a quarter or half a mile nearer San Augustin.

Question by defence. Witness will state what time General Pil-

low's command took possession of Piedad, and the relative strength and condition of the works at and about the San Antonio garita, on the ninth, tenth, and eleventh of September last?

Answer. Piedad was taken possession of early in the morning of the ninth. The enemy was then at work upon the fortifications around the San Antonio garita, and stretching thence to the garita of Niño Perdido. The works at that time were in a very incomplete state; and, during that day and the two days following, were rendered stronger by the completion of the batteries and curtains and the placing of artillery in position.

Question by defence. Witness will state if he bore any message to General Scott from General Pillow on the ninth of September, as to the strength and condition of the works at the San Antonio garita, and what was General Scott's reply? and if General Scott returned with witness?

Answer. On the morning of the ninth of September, I think, between ten and eleven o'clock, I was ordered by General Pillow to take an escort of dragoons, to go by the short road from Piedad to Tacubaya, to see General Scott, to inform him that the enemy were at work at the fortifications which were then in an incomplete state, and to request that, if possible, General Scott should come and examine them; and, if not, he would send some engineer officers, who could report to him the state of the enemy's works. I went and met General Scott coming out with his staff, and an escort from Tacubaya. I reported to him General Pillow's message, concerning the state of the works, and his request. A conversation ensued, in which General Scott said: "I suppose your general wants to fight a battle." I replied, that I did not know that such was the case, but that General Pillow, I thought, desired that he, General Scott, should see the works, and form his judgment accordingly. General Scott replied that he was not going to fight a battle until he got ready; that he should choose his own ground, and not fight on the ground chosen by the enemy. That is the substance of the conversation. General Scott returned with me to Piedad, and arrived there about eleven or twelve o'clock.

Question by defence. Witness will state if he knows where General Pillow stayed on the night of the eight of September, after the battle of Molino del Rey, and where he was on the evening of that day?

Answer. I returned with General Pillow from Tacubaya, after the battle of Molino del Rey, to the hacienda San Borgia. Shortly after, he mounted a fresh horse, and rode off, as he told me, to reconnoitre. He came back that evening, I think between six and seven o'clock, and remained at San Borgia that evening and night. I slept in the same room with him.

Question by defence. Did General Pillow, on the reconnoissance, have any member of his staff with him, and state also if he reconnoitred the position of Piedad, preparatory to a movement upon that place, next morning?

Answer. He had no member of his staff with him; he told me,