

brigade of volunteers, who he advanced to the support of the forces now under General Cadwalader. But it was so late, they did not get into position until in the night.

The next morning, before daylight, the brigade of Pierce advanced, in execution of the original order of battle—renewed the assault in front, while Riley's brigade, supported by Cadwalader, turned his left—assailed the enemy's work in reverse and gallantly carried it, capturing a large force of the enemy, 22 guns, (among them those lost at Buena Vista,) and killing in the general engagement between 600 and 800 of the enemy.

Having achieved this signal and brilliant victory, General Pillow immediately resolved to pursue the retreating forces of the enemy, and while his troops were flushed with victory, give battle to a large force, still in Santa Angelo, which he did, and drove them before him. He then sent an officer of his staff back to General Scott, to say to him, if he would cause General Worth to co-operate with him, he would sweep around the valley and assault the strong works of San Antonio in reverse, and carry that place so as to open the direct route to the capital for the advance of his siege train, upon the other battery on that road. General Scott replied, that Worth should co-operate with him. General Pillow moved rapidly around the valley at the head of his triumphant forces, until he reached within one mile of San Antonio, where he halted to allow his troops a short time to recover their breath and exhausted strength, before engaging the enemy at San Antonio.

While waiting for this purpose, General Scott overtook the army. At this moment it was discovered, at the distance, that the enemy (seeing their main work had been carried, and that they were about to be attacked in rear,) had abandoned the work at San Antonio, and fallen back upon a second strong work, at Santa Martha. General Scott, who now assumed command, immediately directed Twiggs's division to advance upon the left, and arrest and cut off the retreating forces of the enemy; while he ordered General Pillow to lead Cadwalader's brigade to advance and assault the enemy upon the right and in front.

Twiggs's division soon became desperately engaged with the enemy's left, at Santa Martha. Pillow's division, in the effort to get to the battle-ground, got entangled among some ditches, wide, and waist deep in mud and water. The general dismounted from his horse, and, plunging through, called upon his column to follow him, which they nobly did. He advanced rapidly with it, in front of the enemy's main work; and, finding it would be cut down by the terrible fire of grape and canister which swept down the road, he turned it into the field, on the right, to attack the main battery on its left flank. Here his forces and General Worth's were joined, and went forward, and gallantly carried this work, in conjunction.

During the advance upon this work, the general himself was knocked to his knees by the concussion of a cannon ball, which brushed his head. In the course of the action he shot a Mexican officer, and killed him with his pistol.

The enemy's battery being taken, Pillow's and Worth's division

pursued the enemy until they came under the fire of the enemy's guns from the battery, at the very gate of the city.

During the battle, in which the first work, with twenty-two pieces of artillery, was taken, Santa Anna was present all the time upon the field of battle, commanding his forces in person.

Our total loss was heavy; amounting, in killed and wounded, to about eight hundred—the enemy's, to near two thousand. In the two works, the enemy's forces amounted to at least thirty thousand men. His positions were remarkably strong, and well fortified; and in every case he was driven out of his works at the point of the bayonet.

The general's well devised plans of battle; his judicious disposition of his forces; his coolness and daring during the whole of this terrible battle, is the subject of universal congratulation among his friends, and general remark with all.

Very respectfully.

No. 2.

General Pillow admits that the paper here presented, marked one, he caused to be furnished, by the clerk of his adjutant general, to Mr. Freaner, knowing him to be the correspondent of the New Orleans Delta. The paper was furnished at the request of Mr. Freaner; is in the hand-writing of the said clerk, Dr. Heistand, and is, as far as the facts relative to my orders, the movements of the troops under my command, on the 19th and 20th August; the forces engaged, and the statement of the fact of my having shot a Mexican officer, a substantial copy of my rough report, from which it was taken. The caption and concluding portion was not copied from that report. The following words, interlined in this paper, are in my own hand-writing, viz: "Battery," "It," "Ground," "The General," "Genl.," "in conjunction," "in person," "about," "universal," "general remark with all," "Very respectfully." The facts, as stated in this paper, and referred, I am prepared to prove are substantially true.

GID. J. PILLOW.

Presented March 21, 1848.

No. 3.

MIXCOAC, MEXICO, August 27, 1847.

Three miles from the capital.

GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to hand you the annexed account of our engagement with the enemy which commenced on the 19th instant, at a strongly fortified position, about four miles west of St. Augustin.



*Great battle of Mexico!!!*

This engagement with the enemy commenced on the 19th instant, by the 3d division, under the immediate command of Major General Pillow, composing a force of 3,500 men. The enemy had 16,000, of whom 5,000 were cavalry, and 27 pieces of artillery.

General Pillow's order for the attack was, that General Twiggs should advance with one brigade of his division and assault the enemy's strong works in front, while the other should turn his left wing and assail the work *in reverse*. He also placed, at the disposition of General Twiggs, Captain Magruder's battery, and Lieutenant Callender's howitzers, (both of which belonged to the proper division of General Pillow.)

Having thus opened the battle, he then advanced General Cadwalader's brigade to support the brigade of Colonel Riley, who had moved to turn the enemy's left, and attack in reverse, and advanced General Pierce's brigade to support General Smith, who had advanced to assault the work in front.

The action had now become, with the advancing forces, very severe, and General Pillow seeing *five or six thousand men* advancing from the city to reinforce the enemy, whom he apprehended would fall upon General Cadwalader's rear, detached from General Pierce's brigade Colonel Morgan's regiment, (which was yet within reach,) and ordered it instantly to the support of General Cadwalader, who, seeing so large a force approaching his rear, threatening to overwhelm him, halted his forward movements, confronted the enemy in a strong position, and held him completely at bay.

The forces under General Smith, Colonel Riley, and General Pierce, were hotly engaged with the enemy's strong battery and large force of infantry and cavalry, until it was quite dark. Magruder's battery and Callender's howitzer battery were both much cut to pieces and disabled. Late in the evening, General Scott came upon the field and brought with him General Shields's brigade of volunteers, whom he advanced to the support of the forces then under General Cadwalader. But it was so late, they did not get into position until in the night.

The next morning, before daylight, the brigade of General Pierce advanced, in execution of the original order of battle, renewed the assault in front, while Colonel Riley's brigade, supported by General Cadwalader, turned his left, assailed the enemy's work in reverse, and gallantly carried it, capturing a large force of the enemy, twenty-two guns, (among them those lost at Buena Vista,) and killing and wounding, in the general engagement, between 2,600 and 2,800 of the enemy.

Having achieved this signal and brilliant victory, General Pillow immediately resolved to pursue the retreating forces of the enemy, and, while his troops were flushed with victory, give battle to a large force said to be still in "Santa Angel," which he did, and drove them before him. He then sent an officer of his staff back to General Scott to say to him, if he would cause General Worth to co-operate with him, he would sweep around the valley and assault

the strong works of San Antonio in reverse, and carry that work, so as to open the direct route to the capital for the advance of his siege train upon the other battery on that road. General Scott replied that Worth should co-operate with him. General Pillow then moved rapidly around the valley at the head of his victorious forces until he reached Caycua, within one mile of San Antonio, where he halted to allow his troops a short time to recover their breath and almost exhausted strength, before engaging the enemy at San Antonio.

While waiting for this purpose, General Scott overtook the army. At this moment it was discovered, in the distance, that the enemy (seeing their main work had been carried, and that they were about to be attacked in rear) had abandoned the work at San Antonio, and fallen back upon a second strong work at Churubusco. General Scott, who now assumed command for the first time, immediately ordered General Twiggs's division to advance upon the left and arrest and cut off the retreating forces of the enemy, and assault the strong work at this place on the right, while he ordered General Pillow to lead Cadwalader's brigade, and assault the enemy upon the left and in front of the main work at the bridge or causeway.

Twiggs's division soon became desperately engaged with the enemy's right at Churubusco. Pillow's division, in the effort to get to the battle ground, were compelled to wade waist deep in mud and water; the General dismounted from his horse, and, plunging through, called upon his column to follow him, which they did with great ardor.

He advanced rapidly with it, in *front* of the enemy's main work, and, finding it would be cut down by the terrible fire of *grape and cannister*, which swept down the road, he turned it into the field on the right to attack the main battery on its left flank. Here his forces and General Worth's were joined, and went forward, and gallantly carried this work.

During this great battle, which lasted two days, General Pillow was in command of all the forces engaged, except General Worth's division, and this was not engaged, except in taking the last work. General Scott gave but one order, and that was to reinforce General Cadwalader's brigade. The position the enemy's battery occupied was a height commanding the only road passing through a wide plain, covered over with lava stone, which was rent into deep chasms and fissures, so as to be almost impassable even for infantry. It was entirely so for all other purposes. In this position the enemy had entrenched 29 pieces of heavy artillery, which swept the approach in every direction. The enemy's reinforcements increased their force to 16,000 men, about 5,000 of which were cavalry. A stronger position could not have been selected, and a more powerful battery was perhaps never so successfully assailed.

The necessity of attacking this work and carrying it had become *manifest*, as the army had now marched through marshes and almost impassable roads nearly *half* around the city, to find some points upon the enemy's works that could be successfully assailed. Three



main works, commanding causeways leading to the capital, had been *reconnoitred*, and were found so *strongly fortified* and defended by such a weight of heavy artillery that, to risk an assault, would have been to endanger our whole army. The subsistence of the army had now become extremely reduced and nearly exhausted. It could move no further around the city to reach other causeways, as the mountain now intercepted our route, by projecting so far into the lake as to connect itself nearly with the right of the great work at San Antonio. Something had to be done. The prospect before was extremely gloomy. To reach the great work at Contreras, which was carried by the forces under General Smith, a road had to be opened through a gorge of the mountain. It was to open this road, and to drive the enemy and carry this battery, strong as it was known to be, that General Pillow was ordered out by General Scott. The general's *plan of battle* and the disposition of his forces was most judicious and successful. \* \* \* \* \*

In this battle, with about 4,500 men, our arms engaged an enemy with a force of 16,000, occupying a position which could only be reached with extreme difficulty with infantry, with entrenched work commanding the approach to it for a mile round in every direction, with, as I have before observed, *twenty-nine* pieces of artillery. The victory was most brilliant and complete; nothing could have been better planned than this battle. \* \* \* \*

In the two battles the enemy had about 30,000 men engaged in deadly conflict; their total loss, in killed, wounded and missing, is nearly 7,000, according to their own estimate, including 1,600 prisoners, eight of whom are general officers, and about 84 of an inferior grade, captains, lieutenants, &c.; our loss in killed and wounded is about 1,200. Among the dead is the gallant Colonel Butler, of South Carolina, who, until the first day's fight (from a severe attack of sickness) was unable to mount his horse; but the thunder of the enemy's guns nerved him for the conflict, and three cheers were given him as he passed into battle. No one laments his death more than the writer of this communication, who ate with him the last meal of which he partook prior to his death. The foregoing account of this unparalleled victory I was myself an eye witness to, and will vouch for its correctness, and nothing but an order from the commander-in-chief prevented the occupancy of the city by our troops upon the evening of the second day of attack. I cannot refrain, on the present occasion, from expressing a wish that Congress may do *something* for our gallant band who have, under such adverse circumstances and disparity of forces, carried at the point of the bayonet the enemy's outposts, and so nobly upheld and maintained the honor of the American nation. I must not forget to state that we have captured about 130 *deserters*, traitors to their country, whom, I am informed, are now undergoing a trial, and in God's name, I ardently wish they may all share that fate they so richly merit, and be hung by the neck until they are dead, dead!

I am, very truly, yours,

LEONIDAS.

GENTLEMEN: I send you for publication the annexed account of the glorious result of our arms before the gates of the capital of Mexico, and have to request that my name may be withheld from the public.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. BURNS, U. S. A.

To the EDITORS "DELTA,"  
New Orleans.

MIXCOAC, MEXICO, August 27, 1847,  
Three miles from the capital.

Editors Delta—Gentlemen:

I beg leave to hand you the annexed account of our engagement with the enemy, which commenced on the 19th instant, at a strongly fortified position, about four miles west of San Augustin.

This engagement with the enemy commenced on the 19th instant, by the 3d division, under the immediate command of Major General Pillow, comprising a force of 3,500 men. The enemy had 16,000, of whom 5,000 were cavalry, and 27 pieces of artillery.

General Pillow's order for the attack was, that General Twiggs should advance with one brigade of his division and assault the enemy's strong work in front, while the other should turn his left wing and assail the works in *reverse*. He also placed at the disposal of General Twiggs, Captain Magruder's battery and Lieutenant Callender's howitzers, (both of which belonged to the proper division of General Pillow.) Having thus opened the battle, he then advanced General Cadwalader's brigade to support the brigade of Colonel Riley, who had moved to turn the enemy's left, and attack in *reverse*; and advanced General Pierce's brigade to support General Smith, who had advanced to assault the work in front. The action had now become, with the advancing forces, very severe; and General Pillow seeing five or six thousand men advancing from the city to reinforce the enemy, whom he apprehended would fall upon General Cadwalader's rear, detached from General Pierce's brigade Colonel Morgan's regiment, (which was yet within reach,) and ordered it instantly to the support of General Cadwalader, who seeing so large a force approaching his rear, threatening to overwhelm him, halted his forward movement, confronted the enemy in a strong position, and held him completely at bay. The forces under General Smith, Colonel Riley, and General Pierce, were hotly engaged with the enemy's strong battery and large force of infantry and cavalry, until it was quite dark; Magruder's battery, and Callender's howitzer battery, were both much cut to pieces and disabled. Late in the evening General Scott came upon the field, and brought with him General Shields's brigade of volunteers, whom he advanced to the support of the forces then under General Cadwalader; but it was so late they did not get into position until in the night. The next morning, before