

THE BATTLE
OF BUENA VISTA



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J. HENRY

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1848



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Price 50 Cents

THE
BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA,
WITH
THE OPERATIONS
OF THE
"ARMY OF OCCUPATION"
FOR ONE MONTH.

BY JAMES HENRY CARLETON,
CAPTAIN IN THE FIRST REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS.

NEW YORK:
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
82 CLIFF STREET.
1848.

~~North Am. Rev.~~

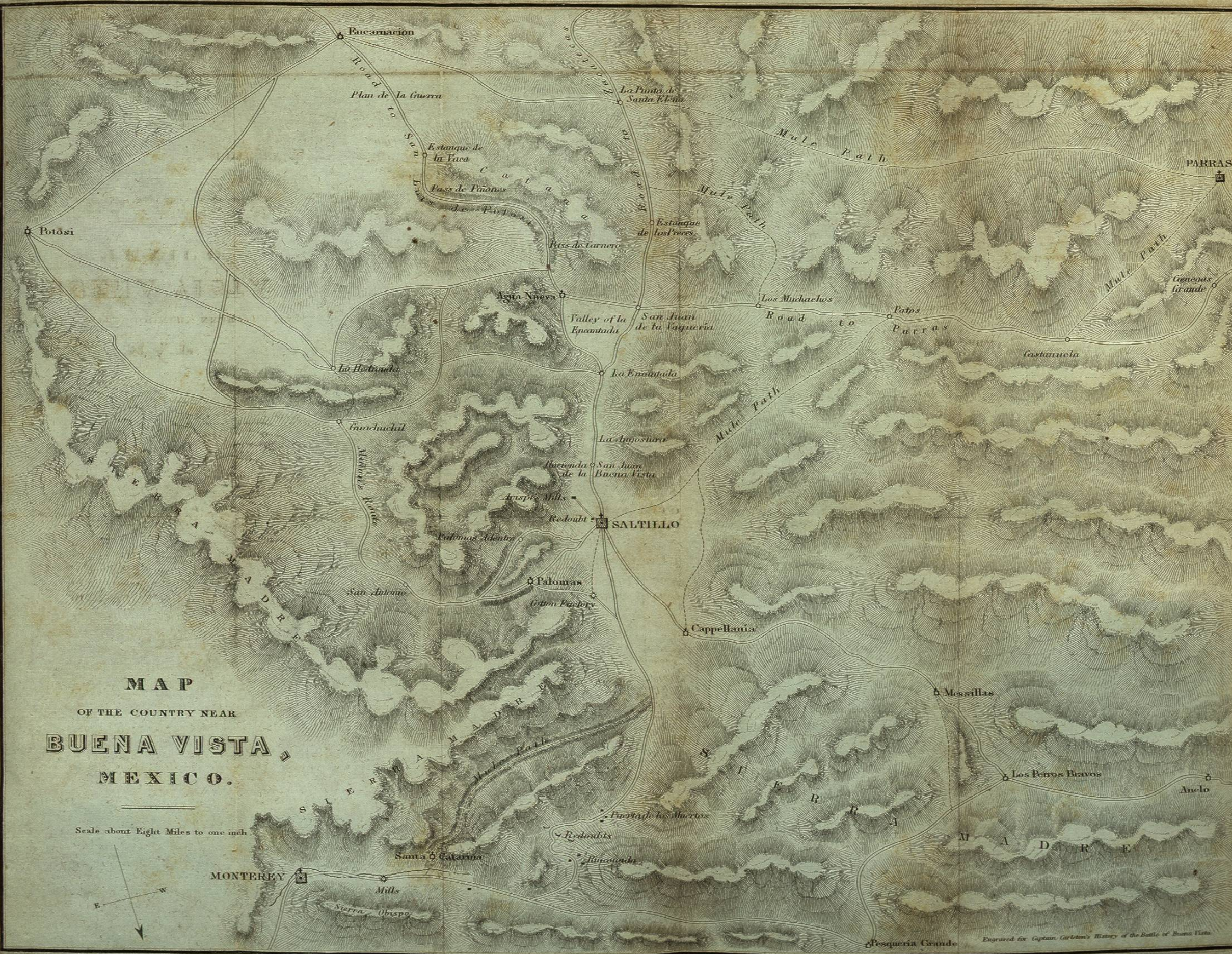
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Nov. 1848

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MAP
 OF THE COUNTRY NEAR
BUENA VISTA,
MEXICO.

Scale about Eight Miles to one inch



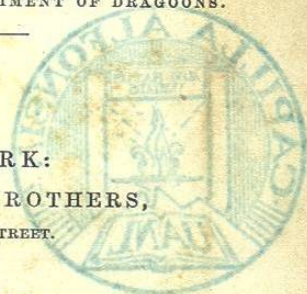
Engraved for Captain Carleton's History of the Battle of Buena Vista.

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FERNANDO DE ALBUQUERQUE

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trict of New York.



FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ VILLARREAL

TO
MAJOR-GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR

THIS ACCOUNT OF
THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA

IS RESPECTFULLY

INSCRIBED.

PREFACE.

It is due to those who are immediately interested in the accuracy of the following account, as well as to the historian who may hereafter consult it, to state what were the opportunities of the writer for knowing the truth.

For two months before the battle of Buena Vista, he was stationed at or near the ground on which it was fought; and, during this time, he was led, with others, to remark its strength as a military position.

In the battle itself, the nature of the service he was called on to perform as commander of a company of dragoons, afforded opportunities of deliberate observation in many different parts of the scene, and enabled him sometimes to take notes of what was going on around him.

For no less than eight months afterward, he was encamped on the same spot, and

had the best opportunities of conferring with the different officers engaged, and of observing accurately the various localities.

Hence arose his purpose of attempting a minute description of the battle, — a purpose he began at once to execute under circumstances which seemed to invite him to the task, convinced as he was, that what had formed so interesting a part of his own experience and observation, would be regarded hereafter as one of the important events in the military history of the country.

With all that fell under his personal notice, or was derived from minute inquiries of other officers immediately after the battle, he has combined the substance of what appeared in the official reports of both parties. To avoid doing injustice to the Mexicans, their reports are generally quoted at the foot of the page.

To Brevet Brigadier-General Churchill, Inspector-General of the Army, he is indebted for the minute report of the killed and wounded, which is inserted in the

Appendix. Brevet Captain Sitgreaves, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, has kindly furnished him with a Plan of the battle-ground, which was drawn leisurely from careful measurements, and may be relied upon as scientifically correct.

The Map of the surrounding country has been sketched from notes made on the spot, and is sufficiently exact to give an idea of the different routes and positions having any relation to the battle.

In the Appendix are given, beside the documents referred to in the text, several others, which seemed pertinent to the general subject of the book.

With this statement of his opportunities of knowing, and of his inducements to describe, the details of the Battle of Buena Vista, the writer presents his narrative to the public, claiming for it only the consideration due to the fidelity and candor with which he has attempted to compose it.

J. H. C.

BOSTON, July 4, 1848.

LEGEND.

▲ Position of General Taylor during the battle of the 23rd of February.

A. Hacienda San Juan de la Buena Vista.

B. La Angostura.

C. Deep gullies to the right of La Angostura.

D. The high land connecting La Angostura with the Plateau.

E. The Plateau.

F. The ravine in rear of the Plateau.

G. The broad ravine in front of the Plateau.

H. The Encampment.

I. The elevated ridge between the first position of the enemy and that of the Americans.

J. The slope of the mountain to the left of the Plateau occupied by Ampudia.

K. The slope of the mountain occupied by the American Riflemen.

L. Position of Lieutenant O'Brien's section of Artillery & the 2nd Indiana regiment at day break on the 23rd of Feb^y.

PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA, FOUGHT February 22nd & 23rd 1847.

Drawn by Brevet-Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves, U.S.T.E.



LEGEND.

M. The Enemy's 8-pounder Battery.

N. Captain Bragg's Battery and the 2nd Kentucky Volunteers.

O. First gorge.

P. Second gorge.

Q. Third gorge.

R. 2nd Illinois Volunteers.

S. Two pieces of Captain Sherman's Battery.

T. Two companies 1st Dragoons.

U. M^o Colloch's Texan company.

V. Colonel Lane's 3rd Indiana Volunteers.

W. Arkansas and Kentucky regiments, Mounted Volunteers.

X. First Column back under General Mora y Willamul.

Y. General Lombardini's division.

Z. General Pacheco's division.

Engraved for Captain Carleton's History of the Battle of Buena Vista.



THE
BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

THE Battle of Buena Vista has now become the property of the Past. In our country's history, it stands beside that of Trenton, Saratoga, Yorktown, Niagara, and New Orleans; but in many respects it much surpasses them all. Of the numerous triumphs of our arms, it is by far the greatest; as a proof of American valor, it shines forth immeasurably the most glorious. That every individual may clearly understand how it was fought, and how won, nothing more is necessary than a simple array of the facts, which constituted the elements, and characterized the movements, of the two armies on that occasion; which determined the various phases of their protracted conflict; and which finally secured the grand result,—a magnificent victory of the one over the other.

It is the purpose of the following narrative