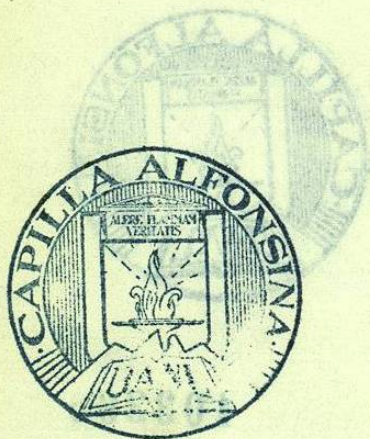


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FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, of the 21st February, 1849,
a copy of the official journal of Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George
Cooke, from Santa Fé to San Diego, &c.*

MARCH 19, 1849.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
March 15, 1849.

Ordered, That the report from the Secretary of War, with a copy of the official journal of the march of Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke from Santa Fé, in New Mexico, to San Diego, in Upper California, which was communicated to that department by Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny, deceased, as directed to be furnished by the resolution of the Senate of the 21st February last, be received by the Secretary of the Senate during the recess, and that the same be printed, together with the two thousand additional copies, for the use of the Senate.

Attest:

ASBURY DICKINS,
Secretary.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 17, 1849.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 21st ultimo, I have the honor to submit herewith "a copy of the official journal of the march of Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke from Santa Fé, in New Mexico, to San Diego, in Upper California, which was communicated to this department by Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE W. CRAWFORD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. D. R. ATCHISON,
President pro-tempore of the Senate.

Journal of the march of the Mormon battalion of infantry volunteers, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel P. St. George Cook, (also captain of dragoons,) from Santa Fé, New Mexico, to San Diego, California, kept by himself by direction of the commanding general of the army of the west.

SANTA FÉ, October 13, 1846.

The rear of the battalion arrived last evening, and this morning I assumed command. It is 486 strong, but about sixty are invalids, or unfit for service, and for much of the march from Fort Leavenworth have been transported in wagons. Captain Higgins and a small detachment were sent from the crossing of the Arkansas in charge of a large number of women and children, who are to winter at a temporary settlement of the Mormons at Pueblo, near its head waters; nevertheless, there are here twenty-five women and many children. Colonel Doniphan, commanding in New Mexico, has ordered those pronounced by the surgeons unfit for the march to California to be sent to winter at Pueblo; and as I believe women would be exposed to great hardships on my exploring winter march, besides being a serious encumbrance, and many of them being willing, I have ordered all the laundresses to accompany the detachment for the Arkansas. Captain Brown will command it, and it will consist of First Lieutenant Luddington and 86 rank and file, embracing only a few efficient men, husbands of the twenty laundresses. Captain Higgins was ordered to join the battalion here with his party.

Contrary to the General's expectation, the paymasters have brought out so little specie that a payment of troops cannot be made. In consequence, Captain Hudson's new company, ordered to join my command, cannot mount themselves, and it has been broken up by order of Colonel Doniphan. Another consequence is, that the quartermaster's department remains without a dollar, and can, with great difficulty, furnish transportation for my *reduced* numbers. The mules that came with the battalion are entirely broken down; those that have been procured here are quite unfit for such an expedition, and they deteriorate every hour for want of food. Beyond a temporary aid of ox-wagons, the assistant quartermaster only calculates to furnish transportation for a pound and a half per day for each man for sixty days: the rations should amount nearly to that; and thus officer's baggage, the company equipage, ammunition, tools, pack-saddles, sick men, &c., &c., are by no means sufficiently estimated for; but particularly, if I shall be forced to leave the wagons. I have just heard that the General's expedition has left theirs; and, in common prudence, have provided pack-saddles.

On the 16th and 17th October the battalion was paid on the August rolls by Major Cloud, who accompanies me; the payment was made in *checks*, under a special agreement and arrangement. The night of the 16th salt pork arrived; there had been none in Santa Fé for two weeks, on the 17th, my beef cattle, previously contracted for, and pack-saddles, were received; on the 18th, the issue to companies of sixty day's rations, packing, &c., were nearly completed. I have reluctantly consented to take five women, the wives of officers and sergeants; they are transported and provisioned at their own expense.

October 19.—I sent the battalion by companies to Agua Fria, about six miles. Its aggregate strength 397. (Second Lieutenant Gully's resignation has been accepted by Colonel Doniphan.) First Lieutenant A. J. Smith and Brevet Second Lieutenant George Stoneman, of the 1st dragoons, whose companies have marched for California, have joined my command; the first will perform the duties of commissary of subsistence; and he has \$800 for the purchase of beeves and sheep. Lieutenant Stoneman will act as assistant quartermaster. Assistant Surgeon George Sanderson, of Missouri, is attached to the battalion.

I have sixty day's rations of flour, sugar, and coffee, and salt; thirty of salt pork, and twenty of soap. There are three mule-wagons to each company, beside six large ox-wagons; also, four other mule-wagons for the field and staff, quartermaster's property, hospital department, and the paymaster; and there are four or five private wagons.

After despatching a multitude of last duties, I left town, and arrived in camp at sunset. Here I found all huddled in the sandy creek bottom; no grass; the thirty-two extra mules arriving at dark, and, like some of the others, without ropes and picket-pins; they and the beeves and oxen were to be herded under rather difficult circumstances. I have no muleteers. Some fodder has been procured and fed.

The battalion were never drilled, and, though obedient, have little discipline; they exhibit great heedlessness and ignorance, and some obstinacy.

This afternoon I met Lieutenant Love, 1st dragoons, on his way to the States; he brought me a note from General Kearney. I am informed that the wagons have been left rather as a matter of convenience. I have brought road tools, and am *determined* to take through my wagons; but the experiment is not a fair one, as the mules are nearly broken down at the outset; the only good ones, about twenty, which I bought near Albuquerque, were taken by Mr. Fitzpatrick, who brought an order for the twenty-one best in Santa Fé.

My guide is a Mr. Weaver, sent to me by the General, who met him coming by the Rio Gila from California.

October 20.—My staff being behind, necessarily engaged, I determined to make the day's march some ten miles to the last water on this side of the river, to which there must be a hard march. I have but twenty-eight beeves; ten less than the number I made every effort to get of the commissary at Santa Fé. When I overtook the drove this morning, I found but eighteen, and learned that the corporal had turned the ten over the day before to a teamster of the battalion on a misdelivered, undirected order of Captain McKissack. I took them out of the wagon, and sent back eight miles to Santa Fé for the oxen, leaving the wagon in the road under charge of a party. The whole train of wagons watered the mules by driving into a small stream, and waiting upon each other until they drank, (with much difficulty;) this kept them an hour, (whilst I was waiting for them;) and I learned that they had brought no buckets—that none could be had at Santa Fé. I have taken every pains to equip them fully, and wrote a form for a requisition for my approval; but the quartermaster frequently assured me he would give them not only what they ask for, but what they wanted, and issued on a simple receipt. It took them six hours to make the eleven miles. There is no grass, and I ob-

tained, with great difficulty, four cart-loads of cornstalks and fodder. The staff officers are still in the rear.

I issued a long order of regulations for the march this evening, and put the command on twelve ounces of flour and a pound and a half of beef—sugar and coffee at three-fourths rations. I require that they should turn out under arms at reveille roll-call.

October 21.—I ordered an early reveille, and march to accomplish the long day of twenty-four miles. I shall give a detailed account of the difficulties of twenty-four hours. I got the wagons ready before 8 o'clock, having ordered to spur them, that each company should send off its baggage as soon as the whole of it was ready, and that they should march in the order in which their baggage got off. When all were ready, I learned, for the first time, that nineteen of the beeves and fourteen of the mules were missing. I had arranged that the guard (increased to twenty-seven privates) should guard both by night, and that a corporal and four butchers should drive the oxen; and a corporal (on daily duty) should, with six of the guard, drive and take care of (except during the night) the extra mules. I had broken up yesterday evening an old wagon I found here for the axles, &c., and ordered the spokes made into picket-pins. Still they were missing, and I found myself without mounted men to send after them. I immediately assembled the old guard, and sent the officer of the day and officers and non-commissioned officers of the guard, with four divisions of it in pursuit, with orders not to leave the ground until all were found, then to bring them on; but this consumed an hour.

They were all recovered. I passed the whole column and reached the Gallisteo at 11 o'clock. I then stopped until all had passed, directing them to move on down the shallow stream, and, with the assistance of men of the companies, to take the animals from the wagons so that all should drink at the same time. I was on the ground an hour and three-quarters before the last wagon had passed. Each company marches in rear of its baggage. On this terrible piece of road, down the stream, several oxen fell in the wagons, and they had to be rolled out of the road by main force, they making no motion; the feet of others are so sore that they have to be turned out. The last of the command have got into camp at 9 o'clock at night; several wagons not getting nearer than a mile. I had a little wood brought two or three miles from the last hill top. There is none here. I had sent forward my interpreter, who could only succeed in buying twenty-four bushels of ears of corn. Lieutenant Smith and Lieutenant Stoneman, Acting Assistant Quartermaster, arrived about 9 o'clock this evening.

October 22.—I got the companies under arms this morning, nearly by the time the music ceased, (yesterday they commenced at that time.) I got off at 9 o'clock, and marched about eleven miles to the village of San Barnallio and encamped near some cornfields, which having been just gathered, (stalks and all,) there was good gleaning of broken fodder. I obtained also ten costales of ears of corn. The rear came up near sundown. Many mules gave out, and oxen also; these I attempted to replace by hiring oxen or a mule wagon, but it was not accomplished; the rich men are ill disposed. I released this evening Captain Hunter, whom I arrested 48 hours ago for leaving my camp and going back to Santa Fé without asking permission.

October 23.—Our camp ground last night was on coarse sand and stone and little hillocks of bunch grass. There was wind and some rain, and I slept under a fallen tent. All my servants, too, are sick, and many of the men. Notwithstanding every exertion on my part, eight mules were missing this morning. I left back the old officer of the day with his whole guard, and now, near sundown, they have not come up. I am encamped on the road extending half a mile along strips of grass. Hitherto I have encamped by regulations. I made an effort to-day to hire oxen, but it failed. The road is excessively bad, and it has taken one company seven hours to come eleven miles. I have killed beef every day but one. I have determined, as a matter of utter necessity, to purchase mules, if I fail in exchanging. I met to-day a number of volunteers going back, and passed, a mile or two from here, their camp, of three companies of Price's regiment, under Major Edmonson. He marched from Santa Fé four days before I did, to relieve Lieutenant Colonel Jackson, under orders to march against the Navahoe Indians. I recovered there two mules belonging to my company. The men I had met were hunting cattle. The Major said after making a day's march it took him two or three to collect his animals. That is far worse than my battalion. The Navahoës, it is to be feared, will escape lightly this season. We heard, by Lieutenant Smith, that Colonel Dougherty, with a regiment of infantry, will be in Santa Fé in a week. Yesterday, the 22d, Major Sumner was to set out with Lieutenants Love and Stanton for Missouri. It is a hazardous trip.

I am directed to keep a journal. I have not one minute of time unoccupied, and am unwell. An influenza is prevailing. For several days before to-day, the heat and dust has been great, whilst I have been kept awake at night, sleeping under three blankets, by cold. The old guard came up at sundown.

October 24.—I sent forward the assistant quartermaster and interpreter to exchange or purchase mules, and made arrangements to borrow from the pay department treasury drafts, if they could be used. About 10 o'clock, in the ranches of Albuquerque, I exchanged my three worst mules for good ones, giving 65 dollars, and bought two others, a great bargain, for 70 dollars. I met here Charboneaux, one of the guides left for me, who reports that he had examined a route different in part, and further than that taken by the General, viz: to descend the river further and fall into a road from El Paso to the copper mines. The report is favorable, but they did not make a thorough examination by any means, and the practicability of the route from the copper mines to the Gila, is still a problem.

In the ranches of Albuquerque I received a message from the assistant quartermaster that he should like to see me in a village, and there I found there was a prospect of getting mules. I left him there, and he succeeded in exchanging thirty of my mules, broken down and utterly worthless to the expedition, for fifteen good ones, and also in purchasing ten at \$40. At Albuquerque I bought 12 fanegos, or costales, of ears of corn, and put them in the wagons and crossed the river, and making my way through three miles of excessively deep sand, encamped a quarter of a mile from the road at good grass, comparatively, and near Captain Burgwin's camp, where he had arrived this afternoon. Here I purchased of officers eight mules, giving treasury drafts. Captain B. was also kind enough to ex-

change eight of his public mules (very indifferent indeed) for eight of my worst, which were worthless to me. I also obtained twenty oxen, also exchanged a very heavy and two nearly unserviceable wagons for two ponton wagons and another. I found some of my sheep skins spoiled. There was rain last night. The march about eleven miles. I have had to-day excessively hard and unremitting labors.

October 25.—Captain Burgwin received by express this morning, from five or six most respectable American merchants, a letter asking for protection, as they had reason to believe that General Armijo was marching up to seize their property which they estimate at half a million. The Captain is very crippled in means and had almost determined to do nothing but forward the express. I advised him, if satisfied of a strong probability of the truth of the report, to go down, even if dismounted, and I left him disposed to do so. In the multitude of my engagements last evening, I forgot the two packs of Indian goods which General Kearny wrote me he had left for me. This morning, after marching a mile, I sent back a pack mule for them. The men have come up with one very poor pack, which "was all they could find." This may be a great misfortune, but it is not all.

At a village above I saw a large herd of good mules going out to grass, and having seen that still several of my teams were broken down, or likely soon to be so, I sent the quartermaster and interpreter to the owner, a Charois, to exchange or buy. He has come up this afternoon utterly unsuccessful; they treated his offers with contempt. It was great good luck to obtain those yesterday from a merchant in want of money. The bargain for exchange, two for one, was made before he saw mine. After that he was so disgusted that Mr. Stoneman was forced to leave in the lot a good mule with a sore shoulder to make up the number, &c., as agreed upon, or he would have broken the bargain. To complete the series, a pair of wagon hounds were found this evening to be broken. I have ordered an issue of pork every fourth day. I also issued an order of further regulations. I assembled the captains this morning at reveille and earnestly exhorted them to lend me a more efficient assistance in requiring the mules to be properly grazed and fed, or else the expedition must very soon fall through. They made excellent promises. I reduced to the ranks this day a 1st sergeant for failing to form his company at reveille, and giving the excuse that it was not light enough to call his roll. I have made a short march of nine or ten miles, because I expected the mule trade to take much time, and because Captain Burgwin reported that there was no grass elsewhere within reach. We encamp on uneven sand and without fuel, or even thinking of it; such are the resources of this country. I could obtain but five bags of corn, (ears.)

The mules were herded loose this afternoon. The oxen are all unyoked at halting for the night.

October 26.—Marched at 8 o'clock. Passed several villages. Besides sand, found deep mud from the breaking of irrigating canals. I sent across the river to Otero's store, at Valencia, for some pack blankets, for which the assistant quartermaster had an order, and directed him to purchase or exchange mules. Otero, like Charois, both malcontents, asked unreasonable prices. He had lost yesterday evening five or six thousand sheep;

two shepherds killed by the Indians. He had been riding all night, hiring some villages of Indians to pursue them. I stopped some time among the Lunas, (great sheep holders.) All the effective males of the village had gone after the Navahoes, who also had stolen six thousand six hundred yesterday; and, as it is said, killed two shepherds. I wrote then a note for Captain Burgwin, informing him of this robbery, for the lady to send. She thought they, mostly women, were in an exposed situation—this was about eighteen miles only from the dragoon camp. But what can they do with broken down mules? (all the best selected by General Kearny,) and horses cannot work and live here. The day quite cool; wore my greatcoat all day; still sick of a cold, which is very prevalent. We are exposed to black frosts nightly, without fuel. Encamped near a village; pretty good grass, but bought about eighteen bushels of corn, and a cart-load of fuel. I find some of the mules getting sore shoulders. I called up the company commanders and gave them a lecture on the subject, such as to fitting and cleaning collars, shortening hames, lengthening bearing chains, &c., and above all, in relieving mules about to become galled, for I have assigned all the mules, giving two extra ones for every team; the march thirteen or fourteen miles. Saw mother and daughter to-day; the latter thirteen and married, as usual here at that age; both fine looking, with the large liquid eye of the Senora.

October 27.—A cold day, with some rain. Marched about 8, as usual. Yesterday morning one of the Charvises claimed a yoke of oxen, received of Captain Burgwin, which he did not get from me. It appears he returned to Captain B.'s camp, left there about sunset with a note on the subject, and overtook us early this morning. Captain B. adds to the subject of the oxen, that an intelligent man had arrived from Santa Fé, (which he left in the morning yesterday,) bringing intelligence of an arrival just before he left, from the United States, with a report of a battle of General Taylor with the Mexicans, with the result unknown, further than a loss of killed of 1,000 Americans and 1,500 Mexicans. The Captain adds, that the report was believed in Santa Fé; that Col. Doniphan had marched with his whole regiment for El Paso; and finally, that the Captain himself would march to-day down the river with many of his men afoot. We passed through a very handsome straggling village, with many cottonwoods. The church is very large, with steeples and bells. The road was good. I encamped early, having come about twelve miles. The assistant quartermaster has failed all day to purchase or exchange a mule either on the route or a mile or two below at the Alcalde Charvis. It seems that many persons, as usual, are setting out with their best mules on a buffalo hunt. I herded all the animals above three hours this afternoon in some old cornfields strewed with broken fodder. I obtained a cart-load of wood. There is scarcely a large *weed* within a mile or two of my camp. There is plenty of grass, but very dry and frosted. I engaged 22 bushels of corn, which have not yet come, near sundown. The arrival may be. Mr. St. Vrain expected daily when I left Santa Fé; 20 days from Independence, I look for an express.

October 28.—It rained all night and this morning till after 9 o'clock. The priest disappointed me in the corn. I marched about 9 o'clock. At 1 o'clock the advanced guard had come to this ground, a mile below Sa-

binal ; the last wagons were two hours later, so deep and heavy was the sand and mud. The sun came out about twelve, but is now cloudy and very cold. The mountains opposite are covered with snow. I got a large cart-load of wood, and have engaged corn. We have obtained no mules, cattle or sheep, to-day. I sent Charboneaux on to La Joya after a man with mules for sale, who is a day in advance, and have directed the assistant commissary to proceed to-morrow, a day in advance, to purchase 300 sheep, 14,500 pounds of beef (in the hoof), which, together with the twenty-eight beeves, will make sixty day's rations from Santa Fé. All the mules, as usual, and all the cattle were herded a half mile from camp until near sunset.

October 29.—Marched about ten miles to the bottom below La Joya; the road still heavy from the rain ; found there my two dragoons and property all safe—mules improved. Lieut. Smith, acting assistant commissary of subsistence and the interpreter have gone on. I have bought here one indifferent mule. With the Mexican, with wagons and mules, no bargain could be made ; his mules poor and price extravagant. Bought some corn. We have the pleasure of encamping here in a cottonwood grove, with plenty of fuel for the first time. The mountains all round are white with snow. Reports are rife that Gen. Kearny has been taken prisoner, and others as outrageously improbable. Two Mexican oxen, strays from Captain Burgwin, were recovered to-day. The weather is clear and cold. Last night a number of the battalion went off and spent the evening in the town a mile off, and this morning a Mexican complained of wood being stolen. Lieut. Stoneman's horse received a bayonet wound, and a favorite shepherd's dog of my personal attendant's was also wounded last night. I have extreme difficulty in causing the mules to be picketed properly. There is a great *vis inertia* in such a command ; they tie two together and picket them by short ropes, and will put them too close together. The guard has, for several days, consisted of 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 30 men. A sergeant and twelve of them guard the beeves and oxen unyoked. Since two or three guards were left back half the day to hunt strays, it has nearly stopped straying. The officers of the day seem to exert themselves very commendably.

October 30.—Marched early ; encountered the sand bluffs ; spent two hours in ascending it, doubling teams, and in addition about 20 men assisted in drawing up each wagon. I suspect that a road a quarter of a mile lower, is better. I depended upon the known route of the regiment of dragoons and the word of a guide who had returned. About six miles from camp, a fine camp-ground was passed, and I came into Pulviders, where I found no grass, unless by passing an immense canal. I determined to do so at a gap. My men worked well with spades and large hoes, furnished by some Mexicans, who worked well with them, unasked, but it was a difficult job. I broke one wagon hound. The camp was thus established about three o'clock in a pretty bottom, where the grass is as good as usual. I bought corn. The men went half a mile or more for cottonwood fuel on the river bank. The sand-hill was very severe on the animals ; it was three or four hundred yards long. The day has been cloudy, with a southerly wind, which reminded me of snow almost as much as the white-capped mountains, everywhere visible at no great distance, or height, some of them.

October 31.—As cold and cloudy as ever. Lieut. Smith, with the interpreter, arrived last evening from below ; he had engaged 300 sheep, some twenty-five miles lower down, and also a sufficiency of cattle, but mostly heavy American beeves, which I think will not do near so well as the Mexican breed. I marched at 8 o'clock precisely. The road was good, until I encountered the spot where it has fallen into the river at a bluff point. The river was higher than when the dragoons passed there. Six teams got through with difficulty ; many men being forced to get into the cold water and remain there a long time. I then ordered the rest over a steep hill, and a mile round, as I was told. I think they did better. We passed several companies of American merchants, who have come over to this side. We learned, by an unusually reliable source, this morning, a report that General Amijo had just written to his wife to lend as much money as was wanted for our army ; that he had set off under guard for Mexico ; that about a thousand volunteers were at El Paso, for the purpose of coming up to attack and rob our merchant caravans ; and that Gen. Wool, when last heard of, was near Chihuahua, &c.

The assistant quartermaster and commissaries of subsistence have been out all day attending to their department wants. I encamped three miles below Succoro, at 2 o'clock, and mustered and inspected the battalion. It is now dark ; Mr. Stoneman has just come in ; he has purchased five mules, for \$170. Mr. Smith has just arrived. We are but two or three miles above the last settlement. The march was 13 miles, the weather cold, but it has cleared up. There is more variety and beauty in the scenery ; the broken bluffs and mountains hem in the river more closely, and there is more woods. I am encamped in the border of a forest. I have determined to send back to-morrow two of the ox-wagons, (there are six,) and but five men were sent to drive them back. One of these, who has been and is very ill, was left in a village to-day. Yesterday and to-day ten oxen have been left on the road, unable to move. I shall send about six yokes of the worst back with the empty wagons. I also heard to-day that the trading company below were sending up mules to assist Captain Burgwin, on his march for their protection.

November 1—5 o'clock, p. m.—I have just encamped on the river, 500 yards from the road, after a march of about fourteen miles. Lieut. Smith came in late last night ; he had bought his beeves, which he could not get nearer than Succoro, and where I had to send for them this morning. I sent back this morning three ox-wagons, one with a broken tongue and pair of hounds, tied behind another, to be left in care of the alcalde of Succoro. I sent seven yokes of the worst oxen. It took me until half-past 9 o'clock to make these arrangements, which I had repeatedly ordered eighteen hours before, and then had to do it myself. A dumb spirit has possessed all for the last twenty-four hours, and not one in ten of my orders has been understood and obeyed. All the vexations and troubles of any other three days of my life have not equalled those of the said twenty-four hours. Weaver was very dangerously ill in the night. Mr. Smith is off with the interpreter after sheep. My guide has been absent the whole day. The assistant quartermaster has been endeavoring to exchange broken down mules. Captain Burgwin is encamped two or three miles above me. Weaver is much better this evening. We have corn this evening ; it was one of my disappointments that none was brought