

NATIONAL ARCHIVES
MILITARY CORRESPONDANCE
BETWEEN OFFICERS AT
CAMP INDEPENDANCE RE: INDIANS

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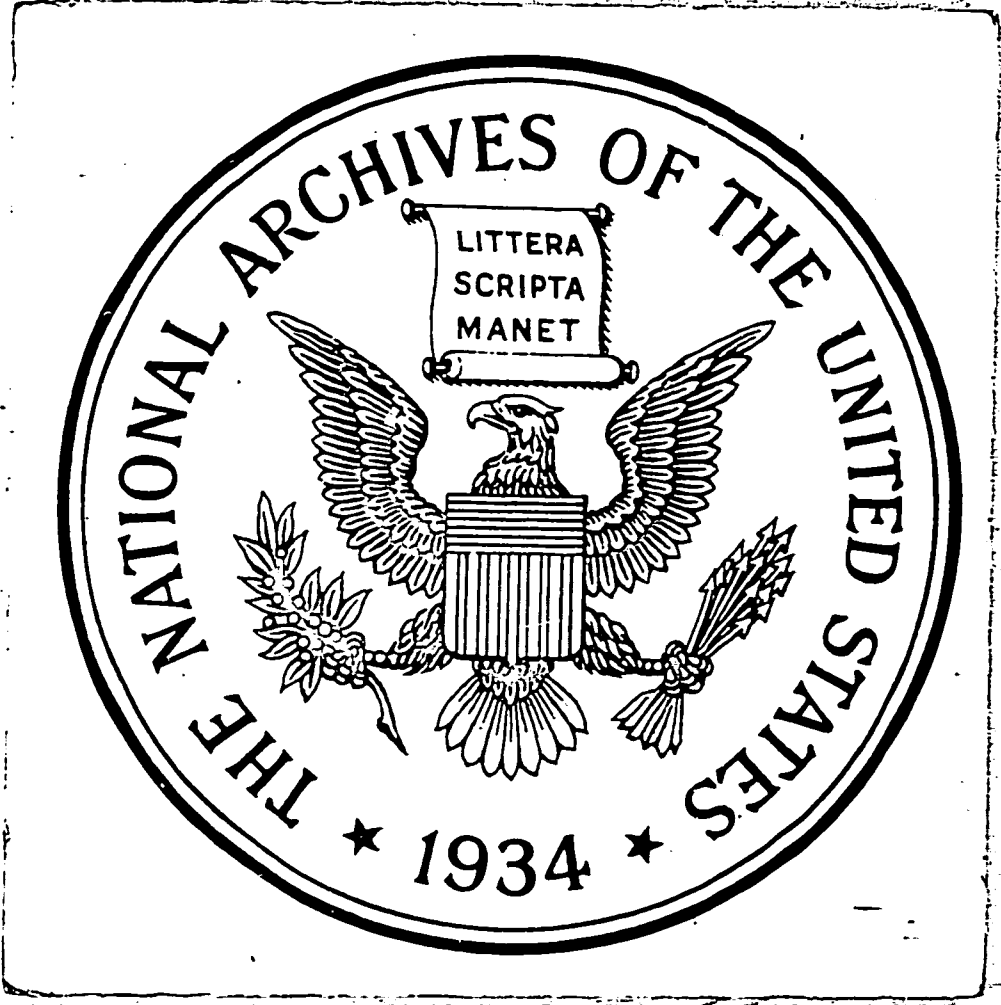
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RECORDS OF UNITED STATES ARMY COMMANDS
RECORD GROUP 28

DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC
SELECTED LETTERS RECEIVED
1851 - 1852



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington: 1965

with the Indians. The day after that four Americans at Ague Caliente had been murdered & that there was a general combination of all the Indians in Southern California, including Lower & those on the Colorado that some Californians were with them. The alarm in town & amongst the Californians is very great.

Since then communication has been had with the civilized or christianized Indians living at San Pascual, Santa Isabel, San Louis Rey, Tomacusa & the ranchos near here & information from Lower California. These Indians have been invited by the chief Antonio Garza of the Ague Caliente Indians; but have all declined joining him & some have signified their willing ness to join & aid the whites.

There has been all well of long standing between Mr. Warner & the Indians at Ague Caliente; aggravated by the taxes collected from the Indians in this county & the killing of some at Los Angeles recently. There has also been great dissatisfaction amongst the Californians at the heavy taxes.

On the first news of the outbreak I was called upon by the city & county authorities to furnish arms & ammunition for the protection of the town & to equip a volunteer force to proceed to Ague Caliente. I have thereupon loaned them some of my company arms & ammunition.

The affair has assumed a much less serious aspect, but I still consider it highly important the Indians at Ague Caliente

San Diego Caly II-18
Nov. 22. 1892
- J. H. Ketchum
Capt. 2nd Regt. Inf. U.S.A.

Containing Lt. Mearns's
report of murder of
Americans on the
Cochitudo.

[1 enclosure.]

Copy sent Capt. Ketch. Jan. 19/52

Recd. (P. D. K.) Dec. 4/51

Sonoma Dec. 4. 1851

NA Box 3, P. D. 642

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I accept Independence
Nov 18. 1857

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that in consequence of the Indians having assumed a hostile attitude I have deemed it necessary to detain St. Mary's command at this point and as the train cannot safely go in without an escort of at least 25 Men I am obliged to detain it also.

I struck the crosses on the 12th Inst. and rode up to this place the next arrival here I was informed by St. Mary that his command had narrowly escaped being cut off the day before by a body of Indians about 400 in number composed of Coocpas, Sumas, &c. all of which tribes have evidently been brought together for war. St. L. further informed me that on the same day that these Indians

contemplated cutting off his command
six out of seven men composing a
party of men driving sheep to Los Angeles
had been reported as murdered by Indians
a few miles below this place one of
the party having made his escape
and got back to this camp and
from the description given by him
of the Indians, he St. J. had no doubt
that they were the same who
had visited and nearly gained at
Mittanceito his camp (on the day
the murder was committed) under
pretence of trading with the men
in St. J. suspected some treachery
on their part from ^{the large number of them} the Cheaper
at which they sold their horses a
blanket for each a thing he had
never known to occur before, they
were then ordered off by him which
order they would not obey until
he placed his 12 fide position in
position, they then substantially left.

On hearing this I immediately went
to the Algabones to my train of Army
furnishing me with three men to
strengthen my command. On
my way to this place the next day
I found the bodies of four men much
mutilated and already so offensive

from decomposition that they could not be moved and I had them covered with earth, this was about half way between this place and the Algodones since my arrival at this place I have been engaged putting up a small picket work the camp has been kept constant on the alert. The Indians have been night prowling around the camp and some of them nights since the Government cows & one belonging to the ^{infantry} ~~company~~ ^{company} men cut away and carried off. Night before last a body of Indians attempted to force ^{their} way into camp by tearing away the brush ^{and} ^{poorly} ^{thrown} around the camp, they were ^{found} ^{on} by the sentinels and made off through the thickets. In screening who saw them think there were from 40 to 50 of them, I wish I could be useful through such dense thickets as those around us I had intended to send off the train as soon as the work was complete but from the boldness of the Indians I have no doubt they are in force in our neighborhood and I cannot spare a sufficient escort to ensure its safety. I would therefore request that an escort be sent out for it.

I am Sir very respectfully
 your Obedient Servant
 J. M. [Signature]

✓
 There is sufficient forage with
 the picking the Mules can get about
 here to keep them about at their
^{present} condition until they can
 be sent for, the Wagon Master states —
 we shall require about 36 loads
 of forage to go in on —

Respectfully
 J. May
 1st 1875

I send this by Pls Warner
 & Lane who leave this evening after
 dark by which means they will be
 able to get through the most dangerous
 portion of the route safely.

M. Jose

Copy sent to J. B. Lane
 June 19/57

H. B. Rao (Rao) June 1/57.

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San Diego Cal
Nov. 22. 1857.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith for the information of the General Agent I have this moment received from St. Murray informing me of the murder of some Americans a few miles below his camp on the Colorado & an attempt, & an attempt on the camp.

As soon as I can collect the necessary transportation I shall send out a small train with supplies, under an escort & to bring back the train now out there. In the meantime I shall await further instructions from the General.

I have the honor to be Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

J. G. H. Johnston

Capt. 2 Regt. 1st. Major

Lt. Col. J. Brocken
Adj. Adjt. Genl
1st. Army
Sonoma Cal

San Diego Col, H-17
Nov. 28. 1857.

L. P. Hittelman
Capt. 2 Regt. Major

Have sent a detachment
of an officer & 16 men to
the Colorado.

The Indians of Agua
tequite have murdered
some Americans.

Copy sent Capt. Smith Jan. 19/52

Sonoma 5 Dec. 1857

San Diego Cal

Nov. 28. 1857.

Colonel:

In consequence of the information contained in St. Vrain's letter of the 18th. Nov. I enclosed to you in mine of the evening of the 22nd. a hint of the morning of the 24th. Capt. Davidson with 16 men & some pack mules; to take the Southern trail across the mountains; by which he should reach the river in a week, or at the farthest ten days.

I directed him to make enquiries into the circumstances attending the murder of those Americans; take measures to on foot and the guns closed to send back the wagon train with St. Vrain & his command detachment, with as many more men as he might deem it prudent to detach, or as might be necessary to escort the train. On his arrival there his force including some emigrants others will be between 45 & 50 men. Less than half that force with the defensive works there; I deem ample to manly hold the position.

I heard on Saturday (the 22nd.) in town, that all the Indians were rising & intending to drive the Americans out of the country. There have been so many reports about the Indians I placed no reliance on this; but on my return the next day from the new town where I had been to make arrangements to send off this detachment to the Colorado, I learned that Dr. Brown's ranch had been attacked & his cattle & horses driven off; the next day that his major-domo was killed, in a fierce skirmish.

should be prevented severely. They belong to the
large tribe of Cooro-wies said to number 3000 men
rivers, occupying the mountains from San Bernar-
dina to the pass at Bellicentes. We have no informa-
tion from further north & do not know how many of
these are engaged in the outbreak. Those at Agua
Caliente have been estimated at 400. Mr. Warner
thinks his cattle have been driven into the mountains
east of Agua Caliente about 15 miles, amongst the
Cooyotes, a branch of the same tribe.

I have been then full in the de-
tails to enable the General to understand our situa-
tion. I cannot help believing that if the troops had
remained on the river or even during the rain might
fall at Santa Isabel these outbreaks would
not have occurred.

Since writing the above I have learned
Mr. Warner's man is a prisoner with the Indians. This
Antonio Gama was with the Indians who murdered
the Americans on the river & the chief witness in
both affairs.

I am for
Very Respectfully
yours
J. B. Littlejohn
Capt. 2 Regt. 1st. Regt.

St. Col. J. Horner
Capt. G. E. G. G. G.
Gama
Col.

San Diego Cal,
Dec. 7, 1857.
L. J. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H.
Capt. L. J. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H.
H-19

Antonio Gorra reported
captured - party gone
to see some other chiefs
Indian dispersed from
Cedote - the bodies of
four American found

Benicia Dec. 10.

8 75

San Diego Cal
Dec. 7. 1857.

Capt.

I have this moment returned from the Old Town, where I saw Capt. Prosser, in from Ague Caliente, who informs me that there is a report that Juan Antonio at Tomacusa had seized Antonio &orra & was taking him to Los Angeles. The Volunteers heard at Santa Ynez that Juan Berro, Bill Marshall (a white man) & several others were at Santa Ynez & the Sheriff with two or three men has gone to try & capture them. The Indians at Callote have dispersed. If this information is true it puts an end to the outbreak.

The volunteers found & recognized the bodies of the four Americans murdered at Ague Caliente & buried them.

Yours for

Very Respectfully
Yours for

Capt. L. Stebbins

West. Cent. Adjt. Genl.

U.S. A. Benicia

Cal.

J. H. Cutler

Capt. E. J. B. Major

San Diego Colo
H-21 Dec. 13, 1857.
S. F. Hewitt
Capt 2 P.M. Major

No more troops necessary
here at present. Troops
will march tomorrow a
gainst the Indians.

Force of the Gila suffi-
cient.

General combination a-
gainst the Indians - two
men to be hung.

Brevia Dec. 19, 1857

San Diego Cal.

Dec. 13. 1857.

Capt.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the General's letter of the 7th. Dec. & order no. of the same date.

After a conversation with Sr. Prosser I have determined to take all the disposable men in this vicinity ^(some 60 or 70) & proceed at once to the Gallies & endeavor to punish the Indians for the atrocities committed. From the information I have at present I do not deem more troops necessary.

The force I have sent to the Gila is supposed to be amply sufficient to keep the Indians quiet in that quarter. The train from there should now be this side of the desert. The report of the officer in command will no doubt indicate what further steps it will be necessary to take.

The white man, Moon hall & a Californian have been tried by court martial & I understand will be executed this afternoon. From the confession of the former there is no doubt of the attempt to unite all the Southern Indians with them on the river & the aid & countenance of some Californians to exterminate the American. This plan has miscarried in

consequence of the failure to surprise Lt. Green
up's command on the Colorado & the oportune
arrival of Lt. Murray's detachment.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt. Servt.
T. J. H. Williams
Capt. 2 Regt. 3rd U.S. Major

Capt. S. Steele
1st Co. 6th U.S. Cavalry
Benicia
Cal.

Adj. Gen. Frank Smith
 Los Coyotes Cal.
 H-24 Dec. 21st. 1851.
 J. B. De Witt
 Capt. 2 Regt 1st W. Major
 H. #

Expedition against
 the Indians of Los
 Coyotes & destruc-
 tion of their villages,

Letter to Maj. H. Jan. 7/52
 Copy sent Capt. De Witt Jan. 19/52

Recd. (P. H. S.) Jan. 18/52.

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Old. Ins. South. District. Col.
Los Coyotes Dec. 21st. 1837.

Captain: I have the honor to report for the information of the General that I left on the 15th, with F. C. & company 2 by numbering me 46 men & seven pack mules Santa Isabel & proceeded by a circuitous march to enter the cañon in which the Coyote village is situated & endeavor to surprise it. We started from our camp on the desert two hours before day & entered the cañon as the day advanced. Half a mile up we were surprised to see a body of some 30 or 40 Indians advancing to attack us. I left a small party to attack some Indians on the side of the mountain on our right & crossing the deep bed of a small stream attacked the enemy in front. The Indians were armed with rifles & arrows & after firing a few shots ran through a dense swamp of willows & tules to the village, half a mile higher up. We pursued them, but on entering their village they had fled up the side of the mountain & around the point above. I set fire to the village & sent a party in pursuit, when the widow of Bill Marshall with a child in her arms came down the side of the mountain asking for a parley, stating that there were two parties if we would quit firing they would come in. I stopped the burning & called back the pursuing party.

I immediately convened a Council of War & had them tried. After a patient investigation the four above named were unanimously found guilty & recommended to be executed. Sr. Prosero craft was requested to be present at the proceedings & to express an opinion on the result. The four above named were shot in the presence of the troops & Indians, on the morning of the 25th. In consequence of our baggage being left at Santa Sabal the proceedings were taken in pencil & have been delayed. They will be forwarded the next opportunity.

Runners have been sent, in the mean time, for the Indians to assemble at this place & at the request of the Commissioner I marched with the command, by the direct route across the mountains. It takes but a few days longer than the other route; shows the Indians we can traverse the country in any direction & at the same time displays our force. It has rained every day but one since before we left Santa Sabal.

We learn to-day that most of the persons accused of being directly engaged in the murders & attack on Mr. Johnson are in the hands of Gen. Bean & on their way to Los Angeles. All the chiefs & head men sent for will probably be in here. I have no doubt the outbreak is completely over, by this prompt movement & that there will be a permanent peace in this section of country. - I cannot close this without ex-

expressing my entire satisfaction at the cheerful manner in which officers & men, left their baggage behind & underwent the hardships & exposures to rain & snow in the mountains. I am also under many obligations to the Hon. J. Warner for the aid so freely rendered & so valuable from his intimate knowledge of the country & Indians & for his services as guide & interpreter. Sr. Proenza of the U.S. commission & Indian Agent I myself have agreed entirely as to the best policy to be pursued towards the Indians & I have had his cordial cooperation.

Capt. David's company I detached at Ahwangai temporarily to Santa Isabel, in consequence of a letter received reporting the murder of some Americans at Bellicita or San Felipe & to be present at the meeting ordered by the Indian commissioner, of the Indians in the vicinity of Santa Isabel, at that place. Should appearances remain unfavorable as at present we will be on our return in two or three days.

I am for
 very Respectfully
 your Obedt. Servt.
 J. H. Mitchell
 Capt. 2nd Regt. Miss. Inf.
 Comd'g Co. Santa

Capt. H. Stack
 U.S. Adjt. Genl.
 U.S. Benicia
 Capt.

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Adj. Dir. South West. Cert.,
Camp near Tomacula
H. 23 Dec. 30. 1851.

J. H. Sturtevant
Capt. 2 Regt 13th Major

Reporting the execution of
four of the murderers of
Agua Caliente
Indians causing in-
convenience at an early
date. The remainder of the
troops will be in a
few days.

Recd. Jan. 16/52

Copy sent Capt. Genl. Jan. 19/52

Recd. (P. Dir.) January 16/52

Adj. Dir. Southern District Cal.
Camp near Tomocula Dec. 30. 1858.

Captain:

I have the honor to make the following report, for the information of the General, of the result of the expedition against the Ca-huic-ya & other Indians, living in the mountains east of Agua Caliente west of the desert.

The day after the engagement mentioned in my letter of the 21st, some Indians came & requested permission to look for the body of Che-pu-li. It was granted & in a short time it was found in the mountain & brought in. They report six Indians missing. None of the Coyotes have come in & the runners sent for them report they cannot be found. A number of the Indians of Agua Caliente & some from San Ysidro have come in & there is no doubt were in the engagement. The runners sent to Razon's village, two days journey on the desert & to other neighboring villages came back with friendly messages, but excuses for not coming. One chief had to make a burial feast for his father & another was sick. Other runners were sent immediately requesting them to meet us at this place.

A message was sent requesting all the San Ysidro Indians to come in. They come & we seized three - Juan Bautista, or Colon, Juan the Alcalde of Agua Caliente & Francisco Moeche, Captain of San Ysidro & another Jacobo or Luis was sent for specially that night & brought in.

Adj. Dir. Southern District. Cal.
Camp near Tomocula Dec. 30. 1857.

Captain:

I have the honor to make the following report, for the information of the General, of the result of the expedition against the Ca-hu-ya & other Indians, living in the mountains east of Agua Caliente west of the desert.

The day after the engagement mentioned in my letter of the 21st, some Indians came & requested permission to look for the body of Che-pu-li. It was granted & in a short time it was found in the mountain & brought in. They report six Indians missing. None of the Coyotes have come in & the runners sent for them report they cannot be found. I remember of the Indians of Agua Caliente & some from San Ysidro have come in & there is no doubt were in the engagement. The runners sent to Reason's village, two days journey on the desert & to other neighboring villages came back with friendly messages; but excuses for not coming. One chief had to make a burial feast for his father & another was sick. Other runners were sent immediately requiring them to meet us at this place.

A message was sent requesting all the San Ysidro Indians to come in. They came & we received through Juan Bautista, of Cortes, Luis the Alcalde of Agua Caliente & Francisco Novate, Captain of San Ysidro; & another Jacobo or Luis was sent for specially that night & brought in.

A few moments later Juan Bautista the chief
of a village a few miles higher up in a branch
cañada made his appearance on the side of the
mountain, with some ten warriors. I induced him
to come down, when he stated that we were
discovered the day before passing the mouth of
a cañon, by the San Ysidro Indians & that he
had been sent for but declined to come as
he was friendly.

We killed several Indians, Cha-pu-li the
chief of the village & Ce-ci-li, Antonio Garza's prin-
cipal councillor, with others of less note.

I divided the command leaving a com-
pany with Artz, K 3 Artz & H. & I 2 by ascending to
about 50 men to cross by the direct route across
the mountains, under the command of Lt. G. R. Ma-
gander. The intention was to enter the village
from both sides at day light, but there was so
much uncertainty I had to modify the instruc-
tions to enable my party to enter first from the
direct, as we would be last expected from that
direction. The whole command joined in the
evening, with Lt. Moser & others.

We have sent out runners to bring in all the prin-
cipal chiefs & those engaged in the recent mur-
ders. I believe we shall find no difficulty in
putting an end to Indian hostilities in this
vicinity. We had no one injured.

Capt. R. Steele
U. S. A. Genl Secy
Benicia Cal.

Very Respectfully
Yours
F. H. H. [Signature]
Capt. 2 [Signature]

Hel. Dr. South. Dist.
 Santiago, Cal.
 Jan. 11. 1852
 S. P. Wittkeiman
 Capt. 2nd Regt. Br. Arty.
 H-4.

Enclosing proceedings
 of Council of War
 at Los Angeles Dec.
 1851.
 for trial of Anderson, Juan Bautista
 Castro, Jacobs & Orin, and Luis the Alcalde
 & Murders.

[enclosure]

Letter to Maj. H. Jan. 19.

Recd. P. Dir. Jan. 18/52

Vol. 20. South. Light. Co. Co.
San Diego Jan. 11. 1852.

Captain:

I have the honor to en-
close herewith the proceedings of the
Council of War they tried the prisoners
at Los Angeles, 14th the very action this con-

Am Sir,
Very Respectfully

Yours Obedt Servant

J. S. Mitchellman
- Capt. 2 July 1852

- Capt. K. Stebb
A. A. Adjt. Genl
M. G. Berwick
Col.

44

Camp Yuma Colorado River California

March 6th 1852

Sir
I have the honor to report, that pursuant to your orders, I proceeded hence with my Troop E, 1st Dragoons dismounted, consisting of thirty-three Non Commissioned Officers & men, down the Colorado River on the Eastern Side, to ascertain if the U.S. Transport Schooner Sierra Nevada had arrived within its mouth.

The following Officers & men accompanied the command
Captain F. C. Lee 2^d Infy, asst Surgeon J. S. Griffin U.S.A.
Mr Thomas Tilyman, two packmen, a guide & cook.

For two days, in consequence of the ignorance of my guides I followed the banks of the River. Saw many deserted Indian huts & fresh trails were abundant, on the evening of the 5th Instant I arrived at a Laguna, some light winds blew from the River & in the chow of a great bunch of almitas from the point I first struck it I discovered five Indians who fled at our approach abandoning a mule & some fishing nets; in the vicinity were discovered the evidences of the Camp of a large party the night before.

I proceeded up the Laguna about a mile to the usual camping place of your men, halted for the day, & turned my animals loose to graze with a guard of nine men.

The Laguna passed through a thick bottom of arrow-wood & mesquite, but the ground at the bivouac was open, & commanded by the edge of a desert plain, which dipped therefrom at an angle of forty five degrees. Upon this edge was my camp.

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guard.
About two o'clock P.M. a volley was heard fired
by the guard of the animals, which immediately after
came rushing through the camp followed by a
number of Indians mounted & afoot, estimated
at between two & three hundred, yelling their
war-hoop, & appearing to wish to disconcert us
by driving the animals amongst us. We gained
however the edge of the plain before they were on
us, when the Indians which were on foot rushed
to the bottom of the hill within forty yards, covered themselves
in the thick brush and opened on us with their arrows, the
mounted ones in the mean time encircling us on the table land
in rear. After a very sharp fire was succeeded in repulsing
those in front, & they fell back in a skirt of woods about
three hundred yards distant, leaving a considerable number
somewhat advanced.

A number of the footmen now joined the mounted ones &
approached near our left flank, while a party crossed
the Laguna & endeavored to get our baggage from the
camp, these however were soon dislodged by a few
men led on by Capt Steele 22^d Reg^t & those on the
plain by a volley or two driven beyond the reach
of our guns.

There was now an intermission in the attack, which was
improved by getting our baggage on the plain, with some
wood & water; we also at this time a portion of our
animals, ^{we carried} & shortly afterwards I sent out Capt Steele with
a party of men who soon brought in the remainder
except four, getting three of skins however.

At the time the Indians first gave way, one of the guard
of the animals succeeded in gaining our position & subsequently
another severely wounded, who had been left for dead,
who brought us the melancholy intelligence that all his
companions had been killed in the first rush.
Towards sun-down the attack was renewed with the arrows
~~the~~ rifles & a few escopets which they continued firing
at us from a respectful distance until dark, when
they crept close to our bivouac & kept showering
their missiles on us until shortly before day when
they retreated into the adjacent thickets.

During it of vital importance that you should im-
- mediately be informed of the fact, that so large a
body of the enemy existed on the direct communication
with your supplies, & that the object of my mission would
be compromised by proceeding with so small a command
leaving so numerous an enemy in my rear, I left the
battle ground this morning & returned to the place for a larger
force.

I cannot but express my admiration of the gallantry and
decision exhibited on this occasion by Brevet Capt. J. Steele
2nd Lt. J. S. & Asst. Sur. J. S. Griffin U.S. A. both of
whom aided me in the various military duties, the
occasion demanded and in the most exposed positions.
I am also indebted to Mr. Thos. Tilghman for his handsome
conduct.

My men behaved as American Soldiers always do; they
were exposed during thirteen hours to an almost continuous
fire, which they received with the utmost equanimity.
Many of the Indians were killed & wounded as they were

seen limping & being carried off the field
 Our loss was as follows.

Sergeant Isaiah, B. Taylor	"E" Troop	1 st Drag	Killed
Private Philip Knosh	do	do	do
" Wm A. McCluhan	do	do	do
" George Betts	do	do	do
" John Simmons	do	do	do
" A. Burrows	"A"	do	do

Benjamin 9th Coy a citizen mule driver.

Private Henry Mullin "E" Troop do Wounded

Total 1 Non Com offr & 5 Privates 1st Dragoons Killed
 1 private do Wounded
 1 Citizen employe Killed

I am very respectfully
 Your most obedient Servt
 Capt. A. H. H. [Signature]
 1st Lt. [Signature]
 Comd'g Co E

1st Lt. Maj. J. P. Heintzelman
 2nd U.S. Infy
 Comd'g Det.

11-21-61

39
Camp Yuma Colo
March 24, 1852.
T. A. Stuekelman
Capt - 2 Regt. P. M.

H. 21.

Enclosing Major Fetz-
gerald's report of en-
gagement with the
Indians. Sierra Ne-
veda arrived in the
river & communi-
cation had with her

11 enclosed 1

Recd? April 13/52.

Recd (P. M.) April 13, 1852

Enclosures report which I enclose. T. A. St.

Camp Yuma Colo
March 24. 1852.
T. P. Atwaterman
left - 2 Coy 2nd Regt

H. 21.

inspector's report which I enclose. T. P. A.

Enclosing Major Feltz
general's report of an
engagement with the
Indians. Sierra Ne-
veda arrived in the
river & communi-
cation had with her

1 enclosed 1

Atwaterman April 13/52.

Recd (P. A. W.) April 13. 1852

35th 46

Camp Yuma Cal.
March 24. 1852.

Captain:

In my report of the 29th Feb. I had the honor to inform you that I had detached Lt. Stone with down the river to endeavour to recover some of our boats. With great energy & perseverance he succeeded in getting & bringing to the Post ~~an~~ all ~~the~~ only boat he could find. It was found some 50 miles below the post.

I succeeded in crossing Major Fitzgerald with about 40 men on the 3rd of this month, in a wagon body, to endeavour to gain tidings of the Sierra Nevada.

On the afternoon of the 6th I was much surprised to see a party of Americans approaching. The guide missed the road & on the third day the command encamped 22 miles from here. Their animals were sent off a short distance with a small guard, when they were suddenly attacked by a large party of Indians & out of nine men seven were killed & one severely wounded; only one escaping unhurt. In a few moments the camp was attacked by a body of Indians supposed to number 2 or 300. The attack was repulsed, although made in the most gallant & determined manner, with

the loss of four men & many wounded on the part of the Indians; as I learned since from the Co-con-pai, who are friendly. The next morning at day light the command started back & taking across the desert off from the river, reached here early the same of tomorrow.

becoming it of vital importance to communicate with the vessel, should she have survived & keep open the communication I fitted out an expedition of 60 men. Early the second day we encamped on the better ground & found the bodies of seven men, which we buried.

We proceeded the next day & on the 12th reached the vessel with part of the command. The river was higher than when I was to the north last year & this spring tide unusually so; so the water came three feet over the banks where the vessel lay, filling up all the low places for miles back. Our mules mired & we had to leave them with part of the command. Seven of the last ten miles we waded through the mud & water often more than half thigh deep.

The vessel reached the river on the 17th of last month & on the 8th of this had her boats constructed, waded & on their way up. Officers & men were so much exhausted wading through the stiff mud I remained on board until the next day. We got more provisions

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& taking the ship's boat ascended the river a few miles getting nearer the pack mules, sent for some & reached our camp at dark.

We found on reaching the vessel that the Co-co-pis who live near the mouth are friendly & some of them accompanied us on our return. I endeavored to send some with a note to communicate with the boats; but they were afraid of the Yumas. When we reached Ogden's Landings, the only place the wagon road touches the river, I found the boats had not passed & sent four Indians down with a note. They returned the second day (the 17th) & Major Andrews expected to reach us the same day. He got there with the boats, on the morning of the 21st - four days later. Knowing our provisions would not last until the boats could reach the Port, at the rate they progressed I sent a couple of men up & ordered down a train of wagons. I embarked one of the boats, which after sitting us across the river has gone back to the vessel. The other is on its way up & expected in about a week from this time.

On our way down we discovered very few fresh tracks of Indians, though we were observed one day by a small party on horseback. Near the battle field we saw the fire still burning in a large encampment where they had a feast. I covered below in expectation of finding them on this side; but at

4.

no place did we trace of more than three. My impression is they are nearly all above us.

It will be exceedingly difficult to find the Indians, as the river bottom extends in places 20 miles wide, covered with almost impenetrable thickets & a net work of sloughs impossible to us without boats & crossed by them as readily as the dry land. There are at least 2000 square miles of this country for them to range over without leaving the river bottom & as all their provisions are gathered & can be readily concealed, we have little opportunity to destroy them until their next crop, which will not be planted until July.

I will make expeditions above to see where they have gone. Some days ago they were prowling around our camp & have picked up some of our best horses & mules & all our efforts to pursue them have failed. The crossing is now difficult the currents will stray.

Capt. E. S. Howard
Asst. Adjt. Genl. U.S.
Pacific Division
Bellevue Col.

Very Respectfully
Yours etc
J. H. Miller
Capt. 2 Regt. Art. Mass

P. S. Since writing the above I have received Major Dingwells report which I enclose. T. H. D.

No camp
March 24. 1852.
J. H. Miller
Capt. 2 Regt. Art. Mass

Enclosed in Major Dicks
reports is a report on
a ground north of the
mouth of the river. Some
weeks since we
mined and commenced
then had with him

March 24. 1852.

April 13. 1852

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Camp Yuma Cal.
April 27. 1852.
J. B. Wetherman
Capt. 2 Regt. 3rd Miss.
H. 381

Report of expedition
against the Yuma Indian
and about the junction of
the Gila & Colorado rivers.

Entered April 28/52.

Recd. by Div. April 27. 1852

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Camp Yuma Cal.
April 4th. 1852.

Captain:

The expeditions I informed you in my letter of the 26th. march I would send above, have returned; the last late last evening, a portion having been up the Colorado some 70 miles.

I sent on the 27th. March two detachments of 40 men each under Major Fitzgerald & Capt. L. A. Davidson into the Junction to destroy a Yuma village visited last spring by St. K. under Capt. on the occasion of our losing some animals. The commands were instructed to co-operate or act independently as circumstances should indicate. The united commands went as far as this village & destroyed it, with several others. This village & a few fields. Some of the ranches were of quite recent formation, the willow branches of which they were constructed being still green. The Indians had notice of the approach of the troops, & spread the intelligence by means of minkes & runners, so that the village were deserted & not more than twenty Indians seen. In the furthest village one very old man was found.

A detachment of 40 men under

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St. Stoneman left on the 30th march, crossed into the Junctions & passed up, nearer the Gila & as far as the top of the first ridge of mountains. All the Indian trails he met with tended towards the Colorado, & apparently made just after Major Fitzgerald's affair on the river below. St. Stoneman returned by a different route, meeting with some well built villages, evidently not occupied recently & some old fields.

On the 28th March Capt. Steele started with 20 men & kept on this side of the river. He followed the trail St. Stoneman took the last spring, across the first range of mountains, until when it crosses the Colorado & then some miles further up into another range of mountains; returning by the river. He was so fortunate as to fall in with several small parties of Indians & no doubt killed some. Their never failing resource is to plunge into the river & escape to the opposite bank, when our troops have not the means of pursuit. Capt. Steele came upon a Cavallada & captured a government mule, but most of the animals succeeded in making their escape. He also saw traces where they had driven & slaughtered cattle & mules, quite recently. On his return he destroyed several villages; & fields of wheat, already in the ear

& very flourishing. Capt. Steele's expedition has been the most successful.

I regret the necessity for sending in the old soldiers, but from the scarcity of commissions & almost entire want of quarter master's stores we will be compelled to remain in a state of inactivity. I intend to employ the time in putting up temporary shelters from the sun over our tents & instructing the recruits; many of whom appear never to have had a fire arm in their hands before they reached San Diego. The time will not be lost, as the Indians will have but little to destroy that we can get at, until their crops are maturing.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt. Servt.

J. B. Hutchinson
Capt. & Adj. B. & M. Regt.

Capt. E. S. Townsend
Adj. Capt. Civil
Pacific Division
Benicia
Cal.

Camp Yuma Co.,
May 18. 1852.
S. H. Hittelman
Capt 2 Regt 3rd Ar. Regt
H-44

Reporting the result of
several expeditions a-
gainst the Indians.

acked May 29.

Recd Dir. May 28. 1852

1st. Div. B. at 6. 2. 1/2
 Camp Yuma Cal.
 (May 18. 1852)

Captain:

I have the honor to report for the information of the General that on the morning of the 12th I started Sweeney with a detachment of 25 men to escort the return train as far as the allgoules & proceed farther down the river making a reconnaissance to discover whether the Indians were in any force below & in a position to molest our trains. He came upon a small party of Yuma & killed one & wounded a squaw. He burned the village which contained a large quantity of clothing & provisions.

He resumed the march & in about 20 minutes Chapite, Cozote - three of these warriors made their appearance, with a white flag informing him these people were in the immediate vicinity. One man was sent out & brought them in to the number of 125 warriors. They led him to some deserted rancherias & he destroyed some growing wheat. He brought up the whole party to explain to me their presence in such force so near our posts. They proffered their robes a work party out after some of their children stolen by the Yumas & offered to guide us to their villages.

I immediately sent a party under Major Anderson into the June term & one

up this bank under Lt. Henderson. A few of Chi-pi-tis men went with Lt. Henderson, but returned the same day saying they could not go further as they were hungry.

Lt. Henderson returned yesterday & reports the Indians led him to some small villages which he destroyed & some growing wheat & killed two Indians. Major Conduros returned today, having killed three warriors, wounded two, one of the latter Dosqueal a chief of some note & wounded a squaw. One child was unfortunately drowned.

Two of the wheat fields were spared as they are near enough to the Post for us to secure them for forage.

The presence of no large body of Indians in our camp & the frequent detourments have had an excellent effect on the morale of the men & they are fast recovering from the effects of that disastrous expedition down the river.

The party I sent to dig for water at the Pri. Mesquite returned without finding any.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt. Servant
J. P. H. [Signature]
Capt. 2 Regt. 2d Drizin

Capt. E. S. Townsend
Lieut. Adjt. Col.
Pacific Division
Benicia Cal.

