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CALIFORNIA—EXPEDITION OF 1781: Teodoro de Croix to Captain Fernando de Rivera y
Moncada

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RECRUITAL OF SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS FOR CALI- FORNIA—EXPEDITION OF 1781

Teodoro de Croix to Captain Fernando de Rivera y Moncada

Translated by MARION PARKS

PROVINCIAS INTERNAS TOM. 122 ARCHIVO GENERAL.

NSTRUCTION to be observed by Captain Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada in the Recruiting and equipment of *familias pobladoras*¹ and troops, assembling of mounts, and transportation of these, and further auxiliaries solicited by and granted to Colonel Don Phelipe Neve,² Governor of Californias, for the defense, benefit and conservation of the new and old establishments of that Peninsula.

1.

As it has been resolved to add two Subaltern Officers to the Presidio of Monterrey, one Alferez to that of San Francisco, the same to that of San Diego; and to name one Lieutenant, one Alferez and three Sergeants for the new Presidio of Santa Barbara, which is to be erected midway of the Channel of that name, I have sent provisional commissions as Lieutenants to the Alferezes Don Alonso Villaverde, and Don Diego Gonzalez; and as Alferezes to Sergeant Don Mariano Carrillo and to the Cadets Don Manuel Garcia Rovi [Ruiz] and Don Ramon Laso de la Vega, reserving decision on the commission for the officer lacking in this class pending advice from the Governor of the Province of Californias. By the same order, three Sergeants, two Corporals and twenty volunteer Soldiers of the Presidial Companies of this Province have been withdrawn so that they may continue their service in the said Province of Californias.

¹ Families of settlers.

² Old style of spelling has been retained throughout translation.

2.

Of the Cited Individuals two are in the Peninsula, and the rest must assemble on the first day of February next in San Miguel de Orcasitas, enjoying from the same day the salaries and supplies pertaining to their new employments, according to the Reglamento which governs in California.

3.

I select this rendezvous so that Captain Don Fernando de Rivera may appoint from the Officers, Sergeants and Corporals under his immediate command those whom he considers best fitted to aid him in the discharge of his duties.

4.

As, in discharging these duties, the principal *comisionado*³ as well as those who will assist him, naturally will need some supply of money for their subsistence and marches, the former will request of me the amounts which he considers necessary for each one, in order that I may draw against the *Real Caja de los Alamos*⁴ advances on the respective Salaries and Supplies.

5.

With these foregoing matters completed, Captain Rivera will despatch his people to the proper destinations, and having requested the Necessary Passports, will leave without delay to prosecute the recruitment of Troops and families, and the assembling of Mules and Horses to the number specified in the attached documents numbers, 1 and 2.

6.

Provisions for
the Recruitment

For the recruitment and gathering of the remount, I do not limit the territory, but assign to the *Comisionado* the Provinces of Ostimuri, Sinaloa and the rest which extend to Guadalajara inclusive. In those which are not recognized by the *Comandancia General* as in my charge, he will proceed in virtue of permission which I have asked of His Excellency the Viceroy. Since the requirements for the recruitment and for securing the

³ Commissioner.

⁴ Branch of the Royal Treasury at Los Alamos.

remount are distinct, I will make provision for them separately.

7.

Twenty-four families and 59 men are at present needed in Californias to erect a new Presidio and Town, but if this number is taken from the territories under my charge, there will be a scarcity [of people] what with the number which already has been taken out, and with the numbers which in future may be withdrawn, for the necessary repopulation of Sonora; which is equally to the interest of California, since the two Provinces should be united and have communication one with the other through the establishments on the Rivers Colorado and Gila. And while it is expedient for them and for those of the Peninsula to secure Recruits in these interior Territories, it is also certain that there are not enough people for the two enterprises [there] and that it will always be necessary to apply to the neighboring Provinces, commonly called *tierra afuera*,⁵ in consideration of which the *Comisionado* must direct careful attention to the object of accomplishing an advantageous Recrui tal for California without greatly affecting the Population of Sonora and in everything possible acting in accordance with the points prescribed in the following Articles.

8.

In order to direct his course to the City of Guadalajara Captain Don Fernando de Rivera must travel perforce through all the Provinces subject to the Government of Sonora. In these he has a free hand to recruit the families as well as the Soldiers, but as he will not be able to complete the Recrui tal of Volunteers [there] it will be necessary that he conclude it in Guadalajara, and by this means the withdrawal of People from Sonora will be minimized.

9.

Three Sergeants, two Corporals and 20 Soldiers already have been taken from the Presidios of this frontier, and since their Places are being kept vacant so that they may be filled

⁵ Outlying territory.

by an equal number of Recruits of similar rank, whom *el Capitan Comisionado* will have to bring from Guadalajara, it follows that for the Presidios of Californias he will only have to recruit 34 Men. If he secures all of them in the Provinces of the Government of Sonora, he will not continue the Recruitment in Guadalajara, as also in the case of *familias pobladoras*; but, the success of this being doubtful, *el Comisionado* will bear in mind the number of People which he may recruit in the *territorios internos*,⁶ in order to complete in those *de afuera* the number needed and prescribed for California.

10.

Recruitment of
the 24 familias
Pobladoras

The head or Father of each family must be a Man of the Soil, *Labrador de ejercicio*,⁷ Healthy, robust, and without known vice or defect that would make him prejudicial to the Pueblos. For these will be situated in the midst of a numerous population of Gentiles, [who are] docile and without malice but susceptible, like all Indians, to the first impressions of good or bad example set by the Spanish who settle among them aiming to civilize them with good treatment and to win them happily through the practice of true Justice and good deeds to a knowledge of our Sacred Religion, and the Sweet Dominion of our Catholic Monarch.

11.

Among the said families must be included a mason, a carpenter who knows how to make yokes, ploughs, *rodadas*⁸ and *Carretas*, and a blacksmith, who will do if he knows how to make ploughshares, pick-axes, axes and crowbars.

12.

Recruitment for
the Presidios
of California

The Soldier recruits for California must be Married, and of the same Qualities and conditions as must be the settlers, adding those of greater strength and endurance for the hardships of the frontier service.

⁶ Interior provinces.

⁷ A worker in the fields.

⁸ Solid wooden wheels.

13.

Recruits for
the Presidios
of Sonora

All those recruited for the Presidios of Sonora must be Bachelors, young men not over 25 or 30 years of age, and not under 18 and who are at least two yards tall, healthy, robust, of good presence, and without defect of body or face.

14.

No recruit must be forced to enter but must volunteer, and he must not be deceived by offers of more than can be fulfilled, and you will emphasize this Instruction.

15.

From the day on which enlisted, the Recruits must receive [as follows]: those *who are destined for Californias and Sonora*, the goods allotted to them respectively according to the Reglamentos of that Province and of *these frontier Provinces*; and the *vecino Poblador* his salary of 10 pesos a month and the customary rations; while each Recruit *without exception* will receive the daily *socorro* [stipend] of two *reales* in cash, where he can use it in maintaining himself, and provisions when traveling through unpopulated places or on the frontier where money is of no use to him, reserving the rest of his pay to cover the costs of the march and equipment.

16.

All Recruits without exception will be enlisted for ten years, which will be counted from the day of the date of their affiliations.

17.

The Soldiers' enlistments will be formalized as prescribed by the general ordinances of the army, except with the general provision that they must join one of the Presidios of California or Sonora. The *Comisionado* must deliver the registers of enlistments to the *military Governor of the latter [province]* Don Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola and to Don Phelipe Neve [military governor] of the former in order that these chiefs may assign the Recruits to the presidial Companies as they see fit.

18.

As to the *vecinos Pobladores*⁹ they shall enlist in the proper mode and for the same period of ten years, for either the Pueblo of San Joseph de Guadalupe or of La Reyna de los Angeles de la Porciúncula, adding after their own declarations those of their wives, sons, daughters and sisters or unmarried female relatives who of their own will desire to accompany them, for to these latter there offers the possibility that they may marry members of the troops who remain single in California for lack of Spanish Women, according to the notices communicated to this Superior Government.

19.

It will be advisable for the Commissioner to take with him in his company from San Miguel de Orcasitas three officers or two officers and one sergeant, and also a small party of troops, charged solely with looking after the Recruits.

20.

During his march to the boundaries of the Jurisdiction of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, it is very likely that he will make some Recruitment of Soldiers and settlers for Californias, and as these will have to be assisted with their daily rations, they will have to be habilitated and escorted, the *Comisionado* will appoint one of the officers who accompanies him, with a detail of troops, to return from the place in the *Provincia Interna* where the last Recruit is enlisted, to pick them up and conduct them to the Real¹⁰ de los Alamos.

21.

During the time consumed by the return of the *Oficial Comisionado*, the *Justicias*¹¹ will be careful to supply the Recruit or Recruits with the daily allotment of two *Reales*, Captain Don Fernando de Rivera leaving in their charge [for this purpose] the small sum he judges sufficient according to the time that the return of the Subaltern charged with assembling the Recruits is expected to take.

⁹ Village settlers.

¹⁰ Real: an encampment or village, originally a mining camp.

¹¹ Village magistrate.

22.

No expenditures for the recruits should be made by the Subaltern Officer other than for the daily Provisions, baggage, and incidentals requisite for the march to the Real de Los Alamos. There, where the resources are greater, the recruited Soldiers, *Pobladores* and families will be equipped with all Clothing, Arms, riding equipment, and Animals stipulated for them.

23.

For the said expenses of daily provisions and transportation of Recruits, Captain Don Fernando Rivera will Require the advance of some money, but since I cannot determine the correct amount myself, the said captain will inform me how much he estimates as sufficient so that a warrant may be drawn for him by the *Gobernador Intendente* of this Province, Don Pedro Corvalan. In case the expenses be greater than the amount now delivered, the warrants of Captain Rivera will be honored and paid in the *Caxa de los Alamos*, he giving a statement explaining with detail and clarity the ends for which he may have used the money drawn; and the Royal Officials of that *Caxa* will forward their report to me by way of the *Gobernador Intendente*.

24.

From the boundary of these provinces to Guadalajara Captain Don Fernando de Rivera will continue the Recrui tal of *Pobladores* and soldiers for Californias. He will conduct the recruits to that city in his Company or entrust to some Subaltern Official their transportation and the responsibility of providing them with the daily allowance of two Reales, as well as care of the Baggage and other impedimenta necessary to the march.

25.

As soon as he arrives in Guadalajara he will present himself to the *Señor Regente*, and delivering to him the attached *Pliego* [paper], will request lodging for the Recruits mentioned in the preceding Article, for the Officers and troops of his Party, and for the people who are to be recruited in said City and are to be destined for the Presidios of Sonora.

26.

If the Captain shall not have been able to complete the Recruitment for Californias during the march, he will finish the quota in Guadalajara, and will present the enclosed *Pliego*¹² to the Royal Officers of that *Caxa* so that in compliance with the orders which His Excellency the Viceroy will soon communicate to them they will deliver the sums necessary to supply the Recruits with Clothes and riding equipment in accordance with *relacion* [memorandum] No. 3.

27.

The Recruits, Soldiers and *Pobladores* whom the Comisionado shall enlist for the Peninsula from the Boundaries of these Provinces to Guadalajara will have to be transferred to California by way of San Blas. In this understanding, the Recruits and their families, being furnished with what they may need in clothing and further supplies as provided in *Relacion* No. 3, will proceed to their destination when ordered by *el Señor Regente*, under the command of another Subaltern Officer to whom Captain Don Fernando de Rivera will give written Instructions as to what he must do, it being understood that until the day of the embarkation of Recruits at San Blas they must receive the daily *socorro* [stipend] in money or provisions as circumstances dictate.

28.

To cover the *socorros* of these Recruits and expenses of the march to Guadalajara *el Capitan Comisionado* will inform me as to the prudent sum which should be advanced to him by the *Caxa de Alamos*, and he will present his request for what he may need to meet similar expenses on the march thence to San Blas, to the Royal Officials of Guadalajara.

29.

I have stated in Article 26 that these *Señores Ministros* [Ministers] will deliver to Captain Don Fernando de Rivera the funds necessary for supplying the said recruits for Californias with Clothing and other supplies stipulated, but it will be understood that the distribution must be made under

¹² Paper or document.

the supervision and with consent of the said Ministers and that it must appear in the reports covering this subject, which the *Capitan Comisionado* will prepare and forward to me.

30.

He will receive in addition [to the amount drawn] from the *Real Casa de Guadalajara* and with obligation to reimburse [*la casa de*] Alamos, the money which he may need to supply the Soldier Recruits of Sonora, to pay the expense of their baggage, and to fulfil the pledges of Clothing and riding equipment prescribed in *Relacion* No. 4.

31.

Having completed and equipped this recruital, and despatched by way of San Blas [the recruital] for California, he will entrust to the other Subaltern Officer the march of the first with part of the members of the detail of troops and taking the rest [of the troops] the Captain will go forward in order to carry out the task of securing the remount.

32.

All of this is completely expressed in *Relacion* No. 2. If [the *Comisionado*] delay, all his care will not avail to control circumstances so that the several auxiliaries may arrive approximately at the same time in Californias, and many days will be lost.

33.

In order to take advantage of every day, at the same time that the *Capitan Comisionado* on his march to Guadalajara discharges the duty of Recruiting, he may address himself also to securing the remount, having someone to help him in its care and gathering, and for this he will make use of the rest of the officers and Sergeants provided for Californias, and of the Corporals and Soldiers who will rendezvous in Orcasitas.

34.

I may omit advising the Captain Don Fernando de Rivera of the places where he can secure the remount and best arrange to assemble it, for he has a rich knowledge of the territory; the same is true as to the quality of the Mules

and Horses, since he already knows that for this stock to be useful in California it must have in addition to the conditions of strong health, of robustness, sound bone, and normal stature, that of *newness*, for the Old Beasts become useless on protracted marches, and it is not possible to restore [their strength] in whatever length of time. And finally, I realize it is unnecessary to remind the *Comisionado* of the care that he must observe in concluding the purchases [to secure] them under advantageous conditions, and [to observe] economy in the adjustment of prices, for these are points which will attest to his zeal, intelligence and faith to his obligations; but I do advise him that in case the remounts do not have to be assembled, if that be possible, in any particular place until the arrival of the Recruits, he will try to stipulate with the venders of the stock that the Horses, Mules, Mares and the rest must be maintained at the venders' cost and risk in their summer pastures until the officers and troops enlisted by the *Capitan Comisionado* return, gathering the animals and transporting them to the Place of Reunion which he will designate as expedient. This must not be omitted, so that the *Hacendero* [farmer] or *Ranchero* [rancher] vender may receive without delay the value of the Beasts which he sells, on condition that he enters into formal obligation to deliver them in the complete number and of the quality and conditions stipulated, and to bear the cost and risk of those [animals] which die, are lost, or become useless or are stolen by Enemy Indians up to the day of the delivery to those commissioned to assemble the remount.

35.

In order to gather them up, the Captain Don Fernando de Rivera will inform me as to what funds he will need and if it be preferable that his warrants to the *Hacenderos* for the price of the Beasts needed, be paid from the *Real Caja de los Alamos*.

36.

As prescribed above, the Soldiers and *Pobladores* destined for Californias who are Recruited in the *pais interno*¹³

¹³ Interior.

must go to the *Real de los Alamos* and in charge of one Subaltern Officer. Those who are recruited for the same Province in territories *de afuera*¹⁴ must be transported to Guadalajara, and from there to San Blas for embarkation as soon as convenient, under orders of another Subordinate officer. The recruits destined for the Presidios of Sonora who are enlisted in Guadalajara must be conducted under another Officer by the most direct road to San Miguel de Orcasitas. On his march, with a complement including the rest of the Officers, Sergeants, Corporals and Soldiers, the *Capitan Comisionado* will devote himself to finding, contracting for and purchasing the remount, and on his return [will attend] to assembling and transporting [the animals] to the place found convenient for their assemblage.

37.

I must advise *el Comisionado* that this Place must be selected by the good judgment of the Comisionado taking into consideration the fact that the entire Remount has to be transported by way of the Rivers Gila and Colorado, and that I will provide the necessary requirements for its custody up to the day on which the Expedition starts out, and at that time such assistances as necessary for the successful conduct [of the Expedition].

38.

In order to prevent delay to the march overland, it may be desirable to transport by Sea the *familias Pobladoras* and the Troops for Californias which are to rendezvous at los Alamos. The *Comisionado* will inform me what circumstances present themselves and what he thinks on this point, in order that I may formulate my instructions.

39.

All persons who exercise any Commission delegated by the Captain Don Fernando de Rivera must keep account and a clear and formal record of the funds that they receive and the objects for which they are disbursed, in order to satisfy themselves as well as to render accounts to their Commander

¹⁴ The outlying provinces.

who must approve them if they are meritorious, and use them to balance his general accounts.

40.

Four [records] must be rendered by the Captain Don Fernando de Rivera: first of the Remount, second of the *familias Pobladoras*, third of the Soldiers recruited for Californias, and fourth of those destined for the Presidios of this Province, according to the forms which will be handed to him by the *Gobernador Intendente*, to whom he will deliver the records so that the latter may examine them, add his comments, and put his approval on them, and report to me.

41.

Everything cannot be held in mind, nor is it feasible to give a minute and prolix account of all the new situations with which the carrying out of these Commissions naturally will be confronted, therefore the *Comisionado* will [be depended upon to] surmount with his own zeal, action and experience the difficulties [that may arise].

42.

Finally, from whatever place where there may be provision for a post, he will advise me of the condition of his charge, and if any grave matter or new thing arise which makes Superior aid or orders urgent, he will despatch his Letters to me by *cordillera*¹⁵ and thus his difficulties will be known and I shall be able to make contingent decisions.

Arispe, December 27, 1779.

(Enclosure) No. 1.

STATEMENT of the Number of Families for the new Pueblo of la Reina de los Angeles, and of the number of Soldiers for Californias to be recruited by Captain Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada in the Places, and of the

¹⁵ Message sent from camp to camp.

Character and Conditions prescribed in the accompanying Instructions of this date.

<i>Recruits</i>	<i>Number</i>
Families of Settlers	24
Soldiers for Californias	59
Total.....	83

Note: Among the twenty-four *familias Pobladoras* must be included one Mason, one Carpenter, and one Blacksmith.

El Caballero De Croix (Rubric).

Arispe, December 27, 1779 (4 Copies).

(Enclosure) No. 2

STATEMENT of the remount to be procured by Captain Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada for the Province of Californias in accordance with the provisions made in the attached Instructions.

	<i>Mules</i>	<i>Horses</i>
For the Four existing Pre- sidios of Loreto, San Diego, Monterey and San Francisco }	350	130
For the new Presidio of Santa Barbara..	153	102
For the 24 Settlers of la Porciúncula	48	24
	Mules	256
	Horses	256
For the Pueblos of San Joseph, and of that planned for la Porciúncula }	Brood Mares	60
	Iden. Burros	80
	Donkeys	6
	Stallions	4
	Geldings	4
Grand Total....	961	961

Arispe, December 27, 1779 (2 Copies).

PROVINCIAS INTERNAS TOM. 122 ARCHIVO GENERAL.

YOUR EXCELLENCY

My dear Sir: The Province of Californias is one of those placed especially in my charge by His Majesty in the Royal Instructions, and in consequence of orders from his Excellency the Viceroy, predecessor of yourself, and from me, the Governor Don Phelipe Neve has offered several suggestions relative to the better defense, conservation and development of that important Country.

Having examined in detail the Reports made by the Governor, and viewing them in the same favorable light as did the late Viceroy,¹ I have ordered the Occupation of the Channel of Santa Barbara with one Presidio of that name and three Missions; the establishment of a Pueblo with the title of la Reyna de los Angeles on the River Porciúncula; and His Majesty has deigned to approve the one named San Joseph which has been founded on the banks of the Guadalupe.

These provisions require an increase in Troops as shown in the attached Statement No. 1, to be distributed as provided in Document No. 2. In order that [these plans] may prove effective it is necessary to recruit families of Settlers and Soldiers, assemble a remount, and secure various other auxiliary items which I will expound to Your Excellency in separate reports.

In order to facilitate the matters to which I refer herein, I have prepared the Instruction of which copy is enclosed. I have charged Captain Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada with the responsibility of carrying out its provisions, and that Officer already has entered upon his duties. But as the gracious assistance of Your Excellency is necessary for the successful outcome [of the plan], I enclose the attached Note No. 3, which indicates the dispositions necessary on the part of Your Excellency. And while I have given the orders pertaining to the Account and Purpose of expenditures, which Comisionado Rivera is to present as soon as he concludes the Recruitment of troops and families of Settlers and the Assembly of remounts, my subsequent advices and the remittance to

¹ Antonio Bucareli.

Your Excellency of Documents regarding the expenses and warrants in favor of the Presidios of Californias and for the families, and for the reimbursement of advances made by the Royal Treasuries of Guadalajara and Alamos, must await his reports.

Señor Mayorga.²

Arispe, February 9, 1780.

No. 2.

DISTRIBUTION of Troops for Californias as detailed by Governor Don Phelipe Neve:

<i>Destinations—</i>	<i>Cap- tains</i>	<i>Lieut- en'ts</i>	<i>Alfer- ezes</i>	<i>Ser- geants</i>	<i>Cor- pl's</i>	<i>Sold- iers</i>	<i>To- tal</i>
Presidio of Loreto	1	..	1	1	1	10	14
Real de Santa Ana del Sur	1	..	6	7
Missions of the Northern Frontier	1	..	2	..	23	26
Presidio of San Diego	1	1	1	2	27	32
Missions of its (San Diego's) district....	3	15	18
New Pueblo of la Reyna de los Angeles..	4	4
Presidio of Monterey	1	1	1	2	27	32
Missions of its district	3	15	18
New Pueblo of San Joseph	4	4
Presidio of San Francisco	1	1	1	2	16	21
Missions of its district	2	10	12
New Presidio of Santa Barbara and Central Mission	1	1	1	2	26	31
Mission of San Buenaventura	1	..	14	15
Mission of la Purísima Concepción	1	..	14	15
Totals.....	1	5	5	8	18	211	249

Arispe, February 9, 1780.

² In de Mayorga, successor to Antonio Bucareli as Viceroy of New Spain, after the death of Bucareli in April, 1779.