

“THE ENTIRE
SOUTHERN COUNTRY ABANDONED
BY THE AMERICAN ARMS”
An Eyewitness Account of the
Siege of Los Angeles, 1846
by Gary F. Kurutz

INTRODUCTION

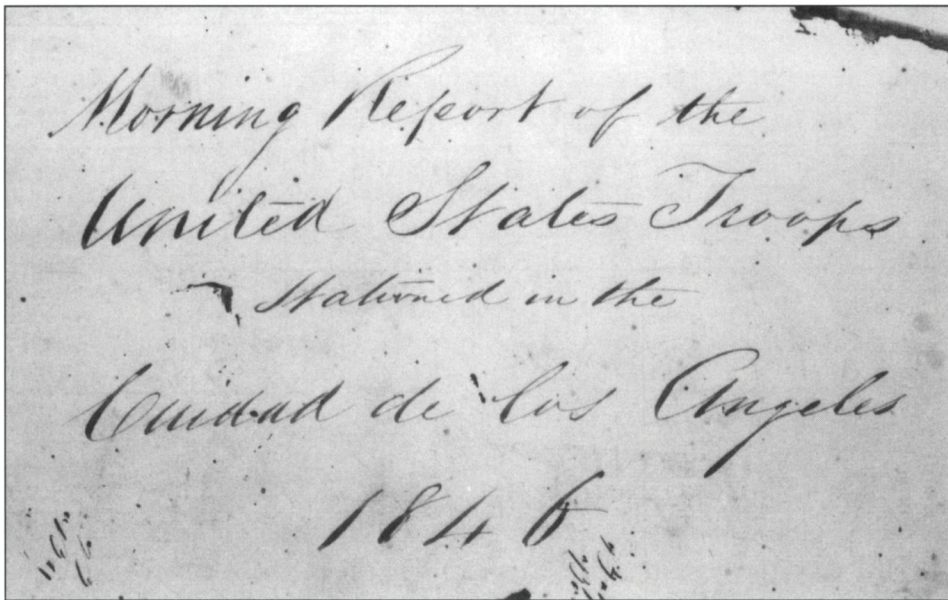
The following is a transcription of a manuscript in the possession of the California State Library entitled “Morning Report of the United States Troops Stationed in the Ciudad de los Angeles 1846.”¹ The account documents one of the more fascinating events in the American conquest of Alta California: the revolt of the Californians against the United States troops under Captain Archibald Hamilton Gillespie in September 1846. This insurrection has naturally received much attention and the following transcription of an eyewitness account written during the siege will add to the allurements.²

Two of Gillespie’s officers—Lieutenants Hiram Rhensaw and Samuel J. Hensley, and Orderly Sergeant J. H. Jones—compiled this fascinating log while garrisoned in the *pueblo* of Los Angeles. Each man alternated as the “officer of the day” and wrote and signed a short report on the events of the preceding day and night.³ Presumably, they penned the report not only as a record but also for review by Gillespie. The officers wrote the original manuscript on twenty folio leaves of paper in oblong or landscape format in order to accom-

modate tables listing names of prisoners, soldiers on guard duty, and the wounded or sick. The table of prisoners also listed rank, date captured, by whom, and crime committed. In size, the manuscript measures $8\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{8}$ inches and is introduced by a cover leaf inscribed in large letters.

The immediacy of the "Morning Report" contrasts with other accounts of the siege that are frequently cited in narrative histories concerning the September 1846 episode of the Mexican War. These were written either at a later date under peaceful conditions or in the form of reminiscences.⁴ Captain Gillespie, who commanded the garrison at Los Angeles, provided the most detailed account of the revolt in a letter to the secretary of the navy, George Bancroft, dated February 16, 1847.⁵ Gillespie, however, enjoyed the benefit of writing months after the event. In comparison to the commander's sometimes emotional and opinionated version, this document is absent of literary flare. The "officers of the day" jotted down facts as they saw them and did not concern themselves with polished prose or saving face. Furthermore, details described at length by Gillespie were omitted in this daily report. The report, for example, does not comment on the acrimony that surrounded Gillespie in his relations with several of the volunteers under his command or his dispute with Captain William Mervine. One other stylistic difference emerges. While Gillespie's narrative is dominated by the first person personal pronoun, his officers made little mention of him except as the "Military Comdt.," and instead, concentrated on the events as they occurred. Surrounded by hostile forces, they no doubt feared for their lives. In general, though, the two accounts complement each other.

The "Morning Report" did not end with the capitulation on a fortified hill above the pueblo, but continued with the retreat of Gillespie's men to Port San Pedro, the arrival of Captain Mervine and reinforcements on the U. S. frigate *Savannah*, the subsequent debacle known as the Battle of Dominguez, and the final ignominious retreat. Unlike the entries posted while in Los Angeles, the last six daily reports were not signed by the officer of the day. In addition to this document, these incidents following the siege are documented by another American eyewitness account, the log book of the *Savannah* written by Midshipman and Acting Lieutenant Robert Carson Duvall.⁶ His log adds the perspective of a naval officer. Captain Gillespie, in his formal letter to Secretary Bancroft, also covered these same events. The side of the victors is preserved in a three-page report dated October 8, 1846,



Courtesy California State Library.

by José Antonio Carrillo, the Californian who directed the defeat of the U. S. troops at Domínguez. Carrillo proudly presented it to José María Flores, the overall Californian commander.⁷

Descendants of Joseph Sims, a Mexican War veteran and member of Company D of the First Regiment of New York Volunteers, generously donated the “Morning Report” to the California State Library in 1915.⁸ Just how he obtained the manuscript is not clear, but more than likely, Sims knew one of the participants. Following the war, Sims remained in California, hunted for gold, and lived in Sacramento as a prosperous rancher and farmer until his death on June 16, 1915.⁹

A SUMMARY OF EVENTS

This daily log records the activities of the garrison in Los Angeles from September 17, 1846, until the final retreat and departure on October 9, following the Battle of Domínguez. Commodore Robert F. Stockton, the com-

mander of U. S. forces in California, appointed Marine Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie as military commandant of the Southern District of California with the rank of captain. Stockton confidently left Gillespie and approximately fifty men to govern not only Los Angeles but also a vast amount of territory stretching from Cape San Lucas in the south to Mission Santa Inés in the north. Stockton reasoned that, following the easy conquest of the south in August, this detachment would encounter little or no resistance.¹⁰ Gillespie's garrison consisted of a handful of officers and the volunteer detachments of Companies B and D of the California Battalion of Mounted Riflemen.¹¹ Lieutenants Samuel Gibson, Samuel J. Hensley, Hiram Rhensaw, and Orderly Sergeant J. H. Jones served as Gillespie's senior officers.¹² In addition, Dr. Edward Gilchrist, surgeon; James Wilson Marshall, carpenter and future discoverer of gold; William Buzzell, gunsmith; and other tradespeople provided necessary and timely skills.¹³ Several of these Mounted Riflemen stationed in Los Angeles had participated earlier in the Bear Flag Revolt on June 14 and brought a rough and sometimes reckless attitude to the pueblo.¹⁴ The troops occupied the Government House and its walled yard just south of the plaza on Main Street.¹⁵ According to Gillespie, his men found three or four spiked cannons in the corral of the adobe. These old iron guns would soon have strategic importance.¹⁶

Captain Gillespie has been both criticized and defended for his actions leading up to the siege. Many of the later recollections and interpretations excoriate the captain for precipitating the revolt by instituting oppressive measures and for treating the Californians in a condescending manner. Others express the opinion that a small garrison, with a short supply of ammunition, no working artillery, stationed several miles distant from protective war ships, and surrounded by a large force of rambunctious and defiant southern Californians, invited insurrection. Further, the men of the California Battalion, while hardened frontiersmen, did not possess the discipline of regular troops, and occasionally, indulged in raucous behavior. Still, others state that the Californians heard that Gillespie had a large cache of specie in the amount of \$20,000.¹⁷ Finally, the *California Star* for June 19, 1847, defended him and blamed the revolt on the "gangs of desperado Mexicans" who continually infested the pueblo.¹⁸ Regardless of the blame or cause, this uprising reignited the Californians' will to throw out the American invaders which, in turn, led to the battles of Dominguez, San Pasqual, San Gabriel, and La Mesa.

The daily report begins with a benign recording of mundane activities such as the serving of meals and the performing of chores, including cleaning the corral, repairing arms, and improving defenses. A foreshadowing of the ensuing trouble was recorded when Lt. Rhensaw arrested two Californians for a violation against Stockton's Proclamation of August 17.¹⁹ Discontent and problems within the ranks of the volunteers became evident when on September 19, John Sanders, Samuel Chase, and John Neal were dismissed out of the garrison and ordered not to return. As Gillespie later wrote of some of his men, "They were unaccustomed to control, perfect drunkards whilst in this Ciudad of wine & Aguadiente [sic], but servicable [sic] Riflemen in the field."²⁰ On the following day, Lt. Rhensaw went in search of four "mutinists" but returned without finding them. Then, on the 21st, five men were imprisoned for "mutiny, drunkenness & using disrespectful language towards the flag and officers of the Garrison." Apparently, Gillespie sent several of these fractious "Riflemen" to Warner's Pass as a means of getting them out of the way and for purposes of looking out for enemy reinforcements. Five others remained in confinement.²¹

This tense situation exploded early in the morning of September 23 when a company of approximately sixty Californians led by Serbúlo Varela attacked the tiny and depleted garrison of twenty-one men.²² Thus began a week-long siege. Immediately, members of the garrison seized several Californians as prisoners, took badly needed ammunition from neighboring homes, and cleared the pueblo of the enemy. The next afternoon, Lt. Rhensaw "sallied out of the Government House yard to drive the Californians off the hill" that commanded the pueblo, but in so doing, one of his men, Samuel Baldry, was mortally wounded by a lance. The combination of the early morning attack and the seizing of prisoners in the pueblo escalated the situation into a full-scale revolt. Because of this hostile environment, several foreign residents of the pueblo sought refuge with the California Battalion including Alexander Bell, John Temple, and Nathaniel Pryor which, in turn, bolstered the number of defenders.²³

Meanwhile, the besieged garrison continued to raid nearby homes for arms and ammunition, frantically bolstered their defenses, repaired the spiked cannon, and intercepted roving bands of the enemy.²⁴ Carpenter James Marshall repaired the gates to the corral. They also took more prisoners including Andrés Pico, the brother of Governor Pío Pico and future hero of the Battle of San Pasqual.²⁵ Responding quickly to gain strategic control, Lt.

*Morning Report of Detachment of Sonoran Guard. Co. of the California Battalion Mounted
Regiment stationed at the Ciudad de los Reyes under the Command of 1st Lieutenant J. Hensley
Sep 23rd 1846*

Prisoners					Grand Roll
No.	Names	Ranks	Whom confined	By whom	Crime
1	Doncho Pico	Citizen	11th Sep 1846	Milit. try court	assisting Prisoner to escape
2	Pedro Romero	"	"	"	Violating orders
3	Juan Nephtali Arana	"	"	"	"
4	Nasero Yutz	"	24	"	"
5	Francisco Gota	"	25	"	"
6	Romando Gota	"	"	"	Attempted battery on a superior officer
7	Juan F. Garcia	"	"	"	Inspection of arms
8	Alvaro Barajas	"	"	"	"
9	Jose Antonio Lopez	"	"	"	"
10	Jose Manuel Lopez	"	"	"	"
11	Jose Antonio Sanchez	"	"	"	"

Remarks

3 o'clock A.M. The Garrison was attacked by a company of about 60 Californians exchanging a few shots. The firing continued at intervals for about one hour, when one of the party being wounded the Californians retired. Many of the soldiers of the 1st Co. came in to their barracks to assist our force among the former they were killed the 2nd Alcalde - at about 7 o'clock both Francisco Gota prisoner with his double barrel gun still in hand and with powder confined by order - also we find Romando Gota, Juan F. Garcia, Melanio Barajas, Jose Antonio Lopez, Jose Manuel Lopez and Jose Antonio Sanchez taken on suspicion of encouraging and assisting the party in arms. Only carried on as usual.

J. H. Jones

Courtesy California State Library.

Hensley was dispatched with sixteen riflemen and a gun of six-pounds-caliber mounted on an ox cart to hold the hill above the city (later known as Ft. Moore). In doing so, the riflemen beat the Californians to this vital position, and for the time being, their cannon and long rifles kept the enemy at a distance. By this episode, the Americans mustered a force of fifty-nine volunteers including foreign residents, Native Americans, and the five "mutinists" who had all been released from confinement upon the promise of good behavior. Gillespie proudly noted a decade later that "every man determined to die rather than yield to the enemy."²⁶ Lt. Rhensaw, in his report for September 25, noted that an "express" started for the north at 9:00 P.M. the previous evening. Presumably, the "express" was none other than John Brown (also

known as "Lean John" or Juan Flaco) who completed a daring and legendary horseback ride of some 600 miles to San Francisco to warn Commodore Stockton of the insurrection.²⁷

During the next several days, the garrison continued to hold its positions at the Government House and on the hill. From time-to-time, the officer of the day reported gun fire and the position of the enemy across the river at Paredon Blanco.²⁸ José María Flores, who had earlier been released on parole, now commanded the Californians.²⁹ Everyone remained in a constant state of alert, and, no doubt, the sporadic shots kept them on edge. On September 25, the Californians signaled a truce hoping to save the pueblo from destruction and sent Francisco Figueroa and Eulogio Célis to present the Americans with a series of propositions.³⁰ What they presented was apparently so unpalatable and insulting that the Americans summarily rejected the propositions as "inadmissible" and hostilities began anew.³¹ Gillespie did, however, order the release of Andrés Pico on parole on September 27. While these negotiations transpired, the "Morning Report" curiously made no mention that a woman came to Gillespie with a note from Flores that enclosed another from Benjamin D. Wilson. From this communication, the commandant learned that Wilson, along with twenty-five of his men, tried to come to his assistance but had been attacked at Chino and brought to Los Angeles as prisoners.³²

Hearing that the vastly superior forces of the Californians planned to overwhelm the fortified heights overlooking the pueblo, Gillespie decided to abandon the Government House and consolidate his men and artillery on the hill on September 28. The commandant assumed that his "express," John Brown, had failed to reach Stockton and reinforcements were not coming. The insurgents by this time had mustered, according to Gillespie, "six hundred well mounted horsemen with escopetas, lances and one fine brass piece of light artillery."³³ As Gillespie later revealed, the lack of water on the hill made this position impossible for a long-term siege.³⁴ Dr. Gilchrist and Nathaniel Pryor, on behalf of the garrison, resumed negotiations with the enemy, and finally on September 29, at a conference held in the home of the French vintner Don Luis Vignes, the parties reached an armistice.³⁵ American merchant William D. M. Howard served as the courier between the two camps.³⁶ Gillespie signed the "propositions," and in effect, surrendered Los Angeles back to Californian rule. Captain Flores generously allowed the beleaguered garrison to keep its arms, personal property, and permitted it to march unmolested to

Port San Pedro and depart by ship. Flores supplied horses, oxen, and carts to facilitate the evacuation. The Americans, in turn, promised to surrender the cannon and return the horses and oxen upon reaching the coast.³⁷ The antagonists then exchanged prisoners including twelve Californians and twelve Americans as listed in the entry for September 31. Many of the Americans received in the exchange consisted of prisoners taken by the Californians at the Battle of Chino.³⁸

On September 30, at 10:00 in the morning, Gillespie and about seventy men, including servants and camp followers, left Los Angeles for Port San Pedro. Later accounts by Gillespie and others mention that they marched out of the pueblo past 600 Californians with “the honors of war, colors flying.”³⁹ In contrast, Lt. Rhensaw, writing under tense conditions, did not mention flags or ceremony but rather focused on the fact that two privates had deserted.⁴⁰ Rhensaw noted with justifiable alarm that, after marching for two hours, a large contingent of the enemy could be seen on the plain. No doubt, the troops wondered if they would be attacked once out in the open.

By 9:30 in the evening, Gillespie and his relieved but weary men made it to the coast, and by 11:00, they pitched camp for the night amid a heavy mist and thick fog. Their fears appeared justified when they heard that Flores had indeed planned to attack them on their march. The merchant ship *Vandalia* under command of Captain John C. Everett happened to be in port to cover the retreat.⁴¹ The following day, the troops sighted the Californians close at hand, and fearing an attack, moved their camp to the home of David Alexander with its walled corral.⁴² In the meantime, communications between Flores and the Americans went back and forth concerning the promised return of the oxen, carts, horses, and cannon. In the afternoon of October 3, they received another communication from Flores, and Gillespie partially obliged by turning over twenty-three horses. Another message from Flores demanded that Gillespie specify a time for departure. Reacting to this ultimatum, the crew of the *Vandalia* joined the troops at the Alexander home thus making a total force of ninety fighting men. Gillespie, in his reminiscences, stated that Flores broke their earlier agreement by cutting off their water supply.⁴³ Once again, the “Morning Report” did not mention another crucial fact. Further negotiations did take place, and on October 4, the troops moved back to the beach in preparation for embarking upon the *Vandalia*. Under the cover of night, the Americans, not trusting Flores, spiked the cannon, and in three boats, boarded the ship.⁴⁴ By morning, they reported that a band of over 250

Californians occupied San Pedro and raised the Mexican flag over Alexander's home. In a delaying tactic, the Americans remained in the harbor with the hope that John Brown had reached Stockton and that help was on its way.⁴⁵

On October 6, the situation changed dramatically when "a sail hove in sight which proved to be the U. S Frigate *Savanna*" under Captain William Mervine.⁴⁶ Gillespie and Dr. Gilchrist went on board to report what had happened in Los Angeles.⁴⁷ Beginning with this date, the "Morning Report" records one of the more embarrassing chapters in the Mexican War from the perspective of the American invaders. Although the report made no mention of what must have been a heated exchange, Captain Mervine decided to march on Los Angeles immediately and ordered all fighting men from the *Savannah* and *Vandalia* on shore. Gillespie and Gilchrist had urged Mervine to wait at least twenty-four hours and to take artillery.⁴⁸ Despite this admonition, approximately 300 sailors, soldiers, and volunteers, without the benefit of artillery or horses, began the march on the pueblo the following morning.⁴⁹ Gillespie led the advance guard or skirmishers, and after marching a short distance, drove off a contingent of Californian cavalry trying to harass the column near the high ground at Rancho Palos Verdes.⁵⁰ After trudging through fields of mustard, this formidable but exhausted invasion force arrived at the Rancho San Pedro adobe of Don Manuel Domínguez at 2:00 in the afternoon and set up camp.⁵¹ Again before sunset, Gillespie's men were called upon to drive off about sixty enemy horsemen on the east side of Domínguez Hill. During the night the troops received little rest as the defiant Californians harassed them with rifle fire. Things became really exciting when at 1:00 in the morning a cannon shot struck their camp causing widespread alarm.⁵² Mervine, agitated by these guerrilla tactics, ordered Gillespie and three other officers to form scouting parties and capture the pesky gun. Such a search at night, surrounded by roving enemy cavalry, doomed the mission.

The next day at 5:00 A.M., Mervine's wearied and harried men took up the march to Los Angeles, and shortly thereafter, encountered the enemy at a creek (Compton Creek), apparently ready to make a stand.⁵³ Gillespie's skirmishers advanced at a fast pace. The Californian horsemen commanded by José Antonio Carrillo opened fire with their field piece and small arms. Although vastly outnumbered, the ninety Californians were mounted and could easily outmaneuver tired foot soldiers. With their horses, they deftly

dragged the cannon from place to place thereby eluding the American troops. Mervine ordered a charge, but another shot from the bronze four-pounder raked the center of the advancing Americans and seriously wounded seven men. Gillespie's skirmishers got within two hundred yards, but because of the effectiveness of the "flying" cannon, the troops halted.^{53a} At 7:00 A.M. the stymied Americans without artillery or cavalry of their own, began a humbling retreat back to their camp at the rancho.⁵⁴ The "Morning Report," while describing the battle, did not mention how the skilled Californian horsemen frustrated Mervine by hauling the gun over the fields with their reatas. Mervine also took the unusual tact of forming his men into a square to fend off Carrillo's cavalry but this strategy backfired as the formation became an easy target for the elusive field piece. Thus ended what became known as the Battle of Domínguez Rancho or the Old Woman's Gun.⁵⁵

According to the final entry for the "Morning Report," the officers held a consultation early the next morning and decided to head back to Port San Pedro and call it quits. They loaded the wounded in a horse-drawn cart and marched toward the port with Gillespie's volunteers bringing up the rear. All was not done. The Californians pursued and, with their cannon, fired several shots across the American lines and wounded a sailor. Unfortunately, two of the wounded died in the cart and were buried at a small island in the harbor appropriately known as Dead Man's Island.⁵⁶ Following this fiasco, the U.S. troops boarded their ships and left Los Angeles in control of Flores and the Californians. A bitter and disgusted Gillespie later called this "one of the most disgraceful defeats our arms have ever sustained."⁵⁷

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript has been edited slightly for readability. Changes include adding punctuation marks such as periods and supplying first names and corrected names in brackets.⁵⁸ Not all first names could be identified and some words remain illegible. Otherwise, the text is unaltered.

MORNING REPORT OF THE / UNITED STATES TROOPS / STATIONED IN THE /
CUIDAD [SIC, MISPELLED THROUGHOUT] DE LOS ANGELES / 1846

[N.B. Each day's report begins with the following heading. Rather than repeat it, I have elected to show only changes. As well, the tables listing prisoners, guard roll, and names of the sick are not repeated each time unless significant changes occurred.]

"MORNING REPORT OF DETACHMENTS OF COMPANIES B & D CALIFORNIA BATTALION
MOUNTED RIFLEMEN UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUT S. J. HENSLEY STATIONED AT THE
CUIDAD [SIC] DE LOS ANGELES SEPTEMBER 18TH 1846."

	Prisoners					Guard Roll
No.	Names	Rank	When confined	By Whom	Crime	
1	Pancho Rico	Citizen	11 th Sept 1846	Military Comdt	Assisting a prisoner to escape	One Sentinel by day Two Sentinels by night Six Sentinels on horse guard
2	Pedro Almenarez	"	12 th Sept 1846	" "	Concealing a prisoner	Lieut. Gibson, offr. of the day
3	Pedro Romero	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	Violating proclamation	1. [Albert] Pulasky [Pulaski]
4	Juan Bautista Moreno	"	" " "	" "	" "	2. Heath 1. Thompson 2. [Stephen] Lincoln 1.

[located below and to left of text]

SICK LIST

Remarks

No.	Names	Rank	Complaint
1	V.[incent] Calvin		absented himself
2	J. Burrick	Private	Feb. Int. [unclear meaning]
3	J.[oseph Willard] Buzzell	Private	Inflammation [illegible] of the leg.
		[signed] Edward Gilchrist, Surgeon	

At 9.30 Lieut [Hiram] Rhensaw returned from Command bringing Pedro Romero & Juan Bautista Moreno Prisoners. Confined by Order. At 12 M the dinner for the Troops was well cooked & served. At 7 AM inspected Breakfast for the Troops it was well cooked & served.

Nine Indian Laborers employed repairing and cleaning corral. Three carpenters employed fitting doors to corral. Two gunsmiths employed repairing guns.

[signed] Samuel Gibson

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUT S. J. HENSLEY STATIONED AT
THE CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES SEPT 19TH 1846"

	Prisoners					Guard Roll
No.	Names	Rank	When confined	By Whom	Crime	
1	Pancho Rico	Citizen	11 th Sept 1846	Military Comdt	Assisting a prisoner to escape	One Sentinel by day Two Sentinels by night Six Sentinels on horse guard
2	Pedro Almenarez	"	12 th Sept 1846	" "	Concealing a prisoner	
3	Pedro Romero	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	Violating proclamation	1. [Franklin] Bedwell 2. [Daniel] Lehigh [Leahy]
4	Juan Bautista Moreno	"	" " "	" "	" "	1. [Henry] Beason [Beeson] 2. [John W.] Eaker
5	Faustino	"	" " "	" "	" "	1. [Franklin] Sears 2. [Joseph or John] Gibb: in the place of Brown

[N.B.: Written between the list of prisoners and report is the following:] List of names of men ordered to form the party under Lieut. [Samuel] Gibson 1. [Henry] M'c Vicer [McVicker] 2. [Levi] Sigler 3. [Samuel] Chase 4. [John] Neal 5. [John] Saunders 6. [John] Scott 7. [William B.] McDonald 9. [misnumbered] 10. [Henry] Booker

At 12 o'clock Lieut [Samuel] Gibson left garrison with 7 men and two pack mules for service in the field. At 12 o'clock John Sanders was ordered out of Garrison not to return. At 6 o'clock Samuel Chase and John Neal were dismissed [from] the service and ordered out of Garrison. At 8 o'clock breakfast was cooked and served in good order. Diner and supper likewise.

[signed] Lieut. Hiram Rhensaw

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT S. J. HENSLEY
SEPTEMBER 20TH 1846"

	Prisoners					Guard Roll
No.	Names	Rank	When confined	By Whom	Crime	
1	Pancho Rico	Citizen	11 th Sept 1846	Military Comdt	Assisting in the escape of a prisoner	One Sentinel by day Two Sentinels by night Six Sentinels on horse guard
2	Pedro Almenarez	"	12 th Sept 1846	" "	Concealing a prisoner	
3	Pedro Romero	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	Violating proclamation	J. H. Jones offr. of the day 1. [Heinrich] Bunte 2. [Ira] Stebbins
4	Juan Bautista Moreno	"	" " "	" "	" "	1. Thompson 2. [J. W.] Marshal
5	Faustino	Indian	19 th " "	Alcalde	Bestiality	[Marshall]
6	Nasario Ortiz	Citizen	20 th " "	Military Comdt.	Violating proclamation	1. [Allen] Montgomery
7	Ramaldo Vallejo	Indian	20 th " "	Alcalde	Crim. Con. [conduct?]	2. [Henry] Busin [Beeson] 1. [Charles] Rother 2. [W. L.] Todd

[Sick list: same as on 18th.]

Remarks

At 7 AM Breakfast for the Troops was well cooked and served. 12 M the Dinner for the Troops was well cooked and served. 6 P.M. Supper for the Troops well cooked and served. 8 PM Lieut. Hiram Rhensaw left with 12 men In search of 4 mutinists Mack Vicker [sic], Sigler, Smith & McDonald Returned 12 M without finding them. [Nasario] Ortiz Surrendered and was Confined by order of Military Comdt. Romaldo Vallejo Taken prisoner and confined by alcalde.

[signed] J. H. Jones O'[Orderly] Sergt

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUT SAML J. HENSLEY
SEPT 21ST 1846"

	Prisoners					Guard Roll
No.	Names	Rank	When confined	By Whom	Crime	
1	Pancho Rico	Citizen	11 th Sept 1846	Military Comdt	Assisting in the escape of a prisoner	One Sentinel by day Two Sentinels by night Six Sentinels on horse guard
2	Pedro Almenares	"	12 th Sept 1846	" "	Concealing a prisoner	Lt. Hiram Rhensaw 1. Bedwell 2. Beesin [Beeson]
3	Pedro Romero	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	Violating proclamation	1. Bunte 2. [Thomas H.] Burgess
	Juan Bautista Moreno	"	" " "	" "	" "	1. Eaker
	Nasario Ortiz	Citizen	19 th " "	" "	" "	2. [Daniel] Lehigh [Leahy]
	Romaldo Vallejo	Indian	20 th " "	Alcalde	Crim. Con.	1. Marshall
	Samuel Chase	Private	21 " "	Military Comdt.	Mutiny	2. [James Harvey]
	Albert Pulasky	"	21 " "	" "	"	Porterfield
	William Russell	"	21 " "	" "	"	1. Rother
	John Sanders	"	21 " "	" "	"	2. Stebbins
	Sam ^l Brown	"	21 " "	" "	"	

[Sick List: only Buzzell listed]

Remarks

Breakfast, Dinner & Supper for the Troops well cooked & served at the proper Hours. 7 AM. 12 M 6 PM. 5 men taken and confined by order of the Military Comdt, for Mutiny, Drunkenness & using Disrespectful language towards the flag and officers of the Garrison. Six Indians cleaning the Garrison. 1 carpenter fitting doors. 2 gunsmiths repairing guns. Two shoemakers making shoes for Troops.

[signed] Hiram Rhensaw,
Lieut

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF 1ST LIEUTENANT S HENSLEY
SEPT 22ND 1846"

	Prisoners					Guard Roll
No.	Names	Rank	When confined	By Whom	Crime	
1	Pancho Rico	Citizen	11 th Sept 1846	Military Comdt	Assisting in the escape of a prisoner	One Sentinel by day Two Sentinels by night Four men on horse guard
2	Pedro Romero	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	Violating proclamation	1 Bunte 2 Stebbins
3	Juan Bap Moreno	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	" "	1 Thompson
4	Nasario Ortiz	"	20 th " "	" "	" "	2 Marshal
5	Romaldo Vallejo	Indian	20 th " "	Alcalde	Crim. Con.	1 Beesin 2 Rothers 1 Todd 2 1 2 1 2

Remarks

Breakfast, dinner & supper for the Troops well cooked & served at the proper hours 7 AM. 12 M 6 PM. Pedro Alminares released by order. 6 Indians employed cleaning the Garrison. Three carpenters employed at work. 2 gunsmiths repairing arms. Two shoemakers making shoes for Troops.

[signed] J H Jones

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT S. J. HENSLEY
SEPT 23RD 1846"

	Prisoners					Guard Roll
No.	Names	Rank	When confined	By Whom	Crime	
1	Pancho Rico	Citizen	11 th Sept 1846	Military Comdt	Assisting in the escape of a prisoner	[none listed]
2	Pedro Romero	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	Violating proclamation	
3	Juan Bautista Moreno	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	" "	
	Nasario Ortiz	"	20 " "	" "	" "	
4	Francisco Cota	"	23 " "	" "	Attempt at robbery & murder	
5						
6	Romando Cota	"	23 " "	" "	Suspicion of aiding the party in arms	
7	Juan F. Garcia	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
8	Hilario Barelás	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
9	José Antonio Copas	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
10	José Manuel Lopez	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
11	José Antonio Sanchez	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	

Remarks

3 o'clock AM The Garrison was attacked by a company of about 60 Californians exchanging a few shots. The firing continued at intervals for about one hour, when one of the party being wounded and the Californians retired. Many of the Settlers of the City came into the Barracks to assist our force among the foremost Alexander Bell the 2nd Alcalde. At

about 7 o'clock took Francisco Cota prisoner with his double barrel gun still warm and wet with powder. Confined by order. Also confined Romando Cota, Juan F. Garcia, Hilario Barelás [Varelas], José Antonio Copas, José Manuel Lopez and José Antonio Sanchez upon suspicion of encouraging and assisting the party in arms. Duty carried on as usual.

[signed] J H Jones.

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF 1ST LIEUTENANT S. J. HENSLEY
SEPTEMBER 24TH 1846"

[Prisoners: List same as September 23.]

Guard Roll: Lieutenant Hiram Rhensaw. Whole Garrison on Duty

Sick List: Baldry. Wounded. In great Danger.

Remarks

The Enemy about one hundred strong in sight in & around the City all the day. At different times sent out parties to intercept them. About 4 PM a party of ten under Lt. Rhensaw sallied out to drive a force of Twenty from the hill above the City. The Enemy retreated upon the approach of Lt. Rhensaw who followed them to the plain. Upon the charge, a young man by the name [of] Sam R. Baldry into danger altho [sic] ordered to halt was cut down & received eight wounds with a lance was brought in for dead. The Troops & Indians employed in preparing the Garrison for defense erecting breastworks and a bastion. Organized the foreign citizens of the City [to form] a party under Mr. Nathaniel Pryor and a second under John Temple to take the Enemy upon the rear. At sunset the enemy not in sight. The night passed in quite. At sunrise some fifteen of the enemy in the town near the church and upon the hill a few shots fired from the breastworks upon the roof. Two men fell upon the side of the enemy. They retreat upon a party of eight sallying from the Garrison under Lt. Hensley and finally retires. The whole force under arms.

[signed] Lieut Hiram Rhensaw

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF 1ST LIEUTENANT S. J. HENSLEY
SEPTEMBER 25TH 1846"

	Prisoners					Guard Roll
No.	Names	Rank	When confined	By Whom	Crime	
1	Pancho Rico	Citizen	11 th Sept 1846	Military Comdt	Assisting in the escape of a prisoner	Lieut Hiram Rhensaw
2	Pedro Romero	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	Violating proclamation	All the Garrison on Duty
3	Juan Bautista Moreno	"	17 th Sept 1846	" "	" "	
	Nasario Ortiz	"	20 " "	" "	" "	
4	Francisco Cota	"	23 " "	" "	Attempt at robbery & murder	
5					Suspicion of aiding the party in arms	
6	Romando Cota		23 " "	" "	" " "	
7	Juan F. Garcia	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
8	Hilario Barelás	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
9	José Antonio Copas	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
10	José Manuel Lopez	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
11	José Antonio Sanchez	"	23 " "	" "	" " "	
12	Andres Pico	Lt. of Mex. Citizen	24 th "		Breaking his parole	
13	Matias Garcia	Citizen	24 th		Violating proclamation	

SICK LIST

No.	Names	Rank	Complaint
1	Baldry	P.	Wound in great danger
2	Beeson	P.	Wound
3	Indian	P.	Do
		[signed] Edward Gilchrist, Surgeon	

At 9 AM under prisoner & confined Andres Pico and at 10 AM Matias Garcia also confined by order. Searched the house of Don Francisco Figaroa [Figuroa] and found one rifle, 6 Shooter, one double barreled Shot gun, two carbines, one pair small pistols, one shot bag, 2 swords, 18 Pounds of Powder (gross weight), one keg of Powder, 50 Pounds of Shot. From the house of Vicente Sanchez 5 Muskets, one Fowling Piece, one Keg of Powder, one Bayonet, five Lances, and one cartridge box. 20 M. past 2 P.M. from the house of Manuel R [illegible] 4 Muskets, 1 Pair Pistols, 1 Sword, 24 Pounds of Powder (gross weight). Past 3 P.M. A Reinforcement joins. The Enemy then in sight. At 5 P.M. the Enemy about 50 Strong attempted to take a position on the hill commanding the Town with [illegible] of cannon. Lieutenant Hensley was detached with some 16 Riflemen and reached the hight [sic] before the enemy who retreated Upon the arrival of a Gun of Six Pounds calibre which had been cleaned in the Garrison and mounted on an ox cart. Lieut. Hensley occupied the hight [sic] until about 9 P.M. when he Marched his party to the bastion on the left wing of the Garrison. Troops and Indians employed during the day in strengthening the Garrison by breastworks and bastions. At sunset the Parties of Volunteers from the city took their posts as upon the night previous. Nothing new during the night the enemy quiet At about 8 o'clock an Indian was shot by the party stationed at Mr. [Alexander] Bells being hailed he would not answer. Four shots were fired three took effect. At about 9 PM an Express [John Brown] starts for the north. At daylight this Morning the Enemy were discovered about 140 Strong on the opposite side of the River⁵⁹ and had commenced entrenching.

[signed] Lieut Hiram Rhensaw

“MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF 1ST LIEUTENANT S. J. HENSLEY
SEPTEMBER 26TH 1846”

[Prisoners and Guard Roll: Same as September 25.] S. H. Jones Officer of the Day

SICK LIST

No.	Names	Rank	Complain
1	Beeson	P.	Wound
2	Indian		Do. Gun shot.
3	Baldry	P.	Continued to sink & died in the afternoon of yesterday.
		[signed] Edward Gilchrist, Surgeon	

Remarks

At 8 AM Lieutenant Hensley with a small Party took possession of the hill commanding the City with one piece of Cannon. 10 AM the man [Samuel] Baldrey wounded 24th inst. died. 11 AM Lieutenant Hensley Pitched his tent on the hill Past Eleven stationed the second cannon. Cleaned & mounted during the day on an ox cart placed to command the streets of the city. At 3 P.M. Messrs [Eulogio] Celis and Figaroa residents of the city represented that a cessation of hostilities for four hours was proposed by the Enemy for the purpose of giving the citizens an opportunity to make some arrangement whereby the property in the city might be saved from destruction. The same was granted at about Sunset. [next page] *Remarks continued* Messrs. Celis & Figaroa returned with propositions which were inadmissible and hostilities commenced again. 5 o'clock PM a party under Lieut Pryor took from the house of Lieut Garcia 1 Rifle & 1 Cartridge box At 8 o'clock at sunset mounted the iron swivel upon the front bastion on the left of the Garrison. At twilight buried Samuel H. Baldry in the corral of the Garrison. Two shots were fired at the Garrison during the night which fell short. Troops stationed as on the night previous excepting Lt. Hensley stationed upon the hill above the city with eleven men. Temperature excessively hot. 9 PM Took from the house of Charles Flugge [Flügge]⁶⁰ Double Barrel Shot Gun and a pair of Small Pistols, 4 canisters of Powder with a small quantity in a keg. At daylight the Enemy discovered in their old position on the opposite side of the river.

[signed] J. H. Jones

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF 1ST LIEUT HENSLEY
SEPTEMBER 27TH 1846"

[Prisoners and Guard Roll: Same as September 26.] Lieut. Hiram Rhensaw Officer of the Day.

[Sick List]

No.	Names	Rank	Complain
1	Indian Beeson	P. [signed] Edward Gilchrist, Surgeon	Died yesterday Wound.

Remarks

At 8 AM The main body of the Enemy descend into the Valley until hid by the gardens. 10 AM a reconnoitering party of 40 strong appeared on the hills about one mile in the rear of our position upon the hights [sic] above the City. Meals for the men cooked and served during the day as usual. At one o'clock PM a flag of Truce borne by the deputies of the city Messrs. Celis and Figaroa arrived [at] the Garrison with propositions for a conference with the Enemy which being acceded to. Dr Edward Gilchrist US Navy and surgeon of the California Battalion and Lieut Pryor [next page *remarks continued*] of the Volunteers of the Cuidad were appointed commissioners to Meet Capt José Maria Seguro [Segura] and

Leonardo Cota⁶¹ of the enemy's forces in conference to be held at the Molino⁶² at 4 O'clock PM about one mile from the Garrison. At 4 O'clock PM the conference with the Enemy took place as was agreed upon, but as there was not sufficient time to conclude the business before it the same[?] was adjourned at sunset to meet again tomorrow /this/ morning 27th inst at 9 o'clock Dr. Gilchrist and Lieut Pryor returned to Garrison soon after reporting a continuance of the cessation of hostilities until the conclusion of the conference. Troops Employed during the day in strengthening our positions preparing ammunition and repairing arms At night force under Lieut Hensley upon the hill twenty strong. Lieut Pryor at Mr. Bell's the same as usual. In Garrison, twenty-two men on the works having seventy-five shots without recharging their pieces. Quiet during the night with the exception of some three or four shots fired towards the Garrison. At daylight this morning the enemy were discovered in their position on the opposite side of the river.

[signed] Lieut. Hiram Rhensaw

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF 1ST LIEUT HENSLEY
SEPTEMBER 28TH 1846"

[Prisoners and Guard Roll: Same as September 27 except name of Andrés Pico is deleted.]
O [Orderly] Sgt J. H. Jones, Officer of the Day.
Sick list: Beeson, wound.

Remarks

Commissioners 9 O'clock AM left the Garrison to continue the conference at the Molino with the Enemy. 11 O'clock AM returned with Propositions which were inadmissible At 2.30 PM Released Andres Pico upon the same Parole as before his confinement. Messrs Celis & Pryor being security for his faithful performance of the obligations imposed. At 4 PM the commissioners left the Garrison for the place of conference with a final answer to the propositions of the enemy. Returned at 5 O'clock when hostilities were renewed. Troops employed in preparing for defence [sic]. Hights [sic] occupied by Lieut Hensley and twenty men with two pieces of cannon. Night clear moon set at about 11 O'clock. The enemy discovered at daylight on the hights [sic] of the Mesa.

[signed] J H Jones

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUT HENSLEY SEPTEMBER 29TH 1846"

[Prisoners and Guard Roll: Same as September 28.] Lieut. Hiram Rhensaw, Officer of the day.
[Sick list: same as September 28.]

Remarks

At 12 o'clock commenced preparation for leaving the Garrison. 12.15 PM sent up the large iron cannon on an ox cart to the Post occupied by Lieut Hensley on the hight [sic] command the city. +30 past 2 PM Messrs Celis & Figaroa arrived as commissioners for the exchange of Prisoners. 4 o'clock fired a gun as a signal that a conference be held which was answered by the Enemy. 1/4 past 4 PM Dr Gilchrist & Lieut Pryor left the hight [sic] and proceeded to the Molino to hold the conference requested and returned about dark remaining a few moments and left again for the seat of conference with the Prisoner Pan-

cho Rico to be exchanged for Lemuel Carpenter. Returned at 1/4 P. 10 PM [next page] with the Prisoner Lemuel Carpenter not being [in] the enemy camp. The night quiet but a very thick fog and dew. After the clearing away of the fog the Enemy were discovered in their position on the opposite side of the river.

+ At one PM Capt Archibald H. Gillespie Military Commandant removed to the heights and took Command of the Camp. At 3 P.M. Dr Gilchrist having completed the removal of provisions and stores from the Government House marched the main body of the Troops and Prisoners to the heights.

[signed] Lieut Hiram Rhensaw

“MORNING REPORT OF DETACHMENTS OF COMPANIES B AND D OF THE CALIFORNIA BATTALION AND A PARTY OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES ENCAMPED ON THE HEIGHTS ABOVE THE CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN ARCHD H. GILLESPIE MILITARY COMMANDANT SEPTEMBER 30TH 1846”

[Prisoners and Guard Roll: Same as September 29.] O Sergt. J. H. Jones, Officer of the day.
[Sick List: Same as September 29.]

Remarks

At 8 AM the Commissioners Dr. Gilchrist and Lieut Pryor left the camp for the house of Don Luis Vignes there to hold a conference with the Enemy. At one PM the Propositions of the Enemy as settled by the conference were brought to the camp by W. D. M. Howard Esq., an American resident of California. Duplicates of which were signed by the Military Commandant. One copy returned. At 2 PM camp commenced making preparations for the march on the morrow At 7 PM made the exchange of Prisoners with the Enemy as fixed by the propositions. Twelve prisoners. Names as follows: Pancho Rico, Pedro Romano, Juan Bapt Moreno, Nasario Ortiz, [next page remarks continued] Francisco Cota, Romando Cota, Juan Garcia, Hilario Barelás, José Antonio Copas, José Manuel Lopez, José Antonio Sanchez, Matias Garcia. (Prisoners received in exchange): Lemuel Carpenter, Evan Callahan [or Callaghan], Isaac Slover, Thomas Smith, Thomas Cantwell, John Baptista, Michael White, N Lorrington, Charles Johnson, Francisco Roland, N. [Neeley] Dobson. Joseph Perdue wounded The day exceptionally hot the night quiet but dark with fog and dew. At daylight the camp called to complete the arrangements for the march. 8 AM ox carts & horse arrived for the transportation of cannon and camp equipage to San Pedro.

[signed] J H Jones

“MORNING REPORT OF DETACHMENTS OF COMPANIES B AND D OF THE CALIFORNIA BATTALION AND A PARTY OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES ENCAMPED AT THE PORT OF SAN PEDRO UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT ARCHD H. GILLESPIE MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 1ST 1846”

[Beginning with this date, no prisoners were listed. Rhensaw and Jones alternated as officer of the day. The table states the following until October 5:] At night 3 Sentinels camp guard; 6 Sentinels Picket guard. Sick list. [Same as previous.]

Remarks

From the heights above the Cuidad. At 10 AM took up the Line of march for San Pedro, when it was discovered that Privates John Sanders and Felipe Espinosa had deserted. About noon discovered a large body of men on the plain to our right at the distance of five or six miles. Arrived at San Pedro half past 9 PM. 11 PM Pitched camp for the night with every preparation for the general security having heard on our arrival that the enemy's plan was to attack us on upon the plain on our line of march. The night quiet with mist and thick fog. 7 AM still a heavy fog. American Ship Vandalia in Port.

[signed] Lieut Hiram Rhensaw

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT ARCHIBALD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 2ND 1846"

[Sick list: same as previous.]

Remarks

At 8 AM a small body of the Enemy discovered on the road leading to the Cuidad de los Angeles about one mile from the house of Capt Johnson. 3 PM Removed Camp to the house of David Alexander having a walled corral in the rear. The front well fortified with carts, pipes scantling etc Night quiet and clear.

[signed] J H Jones

"MORNING REPORT . . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT ARCHD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 3RD 1846"

Remarks

At 3 PM Received a communication from Capt. [José Maria] Flores relating to the return of oxen and carts. Reply sent to Capt. Flores Camp by W. D. M. Howard Esq. who brought a second communication accompanied by Sub Lieut. Gutierrez explanatory of the first when the oxen and carts were delivered to the owner and charges paid A second dispatch sent to Flores' Camp by Mr W D M Howard Esq who returned about dark. Troops emplyed [sic] strengthening Barricades. [next page remarks continued] At sunset, Troops mustered at their stations. Night quiet, bright clear moonlight. At daylight nothing new took place at guard mounting. A messenger from the enemy with a flag of true approaching the camp.

"MORNING REPORT. . . UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT ARCHD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 4TH 1846"

Remarks

At 9 AM delivered the horses 23 in number to sub Lieut. Gutierrez [Gutierrez] taking his receipt for the same. 11 AM a communication arrived from Capt. Flores in relation to the return of the arms belonging to private individuals.⁶³ At 4 PM, a second communication arrived from Capt. Flores relative to embarkation of the Troops naming the time for the same to take place in a peremptory manner. 7 o'clock AM 4th inst. 8 o'clock PM Capt. [John

C.] Everett and 18 men of the American Ship Vandalia came on Shore and joined the Camp for the night [*next page remarks continued*] making our whole force ninety fighting men. The night quiet and clear. Capt Everett and his party returned on board at 7 AM.

“MORNING REPORT . . . EMBARKED ON BOARD THE SHIP VANDALIA PORT SAN PEDRO
UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT. ARCHD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 5 1846”

Remarks

At 8 AM a party of the Enemy about 20 strong led by Capt. Francisco Pico arrived at the lines with a flag of truce bringing for translation a despatch which had been to Capt. Flores the night previous. At 2 PM the Troops commenced preparation for embarking. 5 PM Sub Lieut Gutierrez arrived with a flag of truce bringing a communication from the camp of the Enemy. 6 PM all the camp equipage embarked. At 8.30 PM the Troops moved to the bank above the beach taking positions with the artillery to cover the embarkation and were detailed into four sections. Dr. Gilchrist (at 12 PM a Despatch was received from the enemy's Camp [and] answer returned at 2 PM) [*next page*] & twelve men, Lieut Hensley & ten men, Lieut. Rhensaw & ten men, each section having charge of a gun, & Lieut Bell & twenty men composed of invalids and camp followers. At 8.45 Lieut Bell with his party embarked in two whale boats and landed on the small Island [Dead Man's Island] opposite the point of embarkation. At 9.15 the boats having returned, the Guns were spiked and the whole force embarked [in] three boats and arrived on board the Ship Vandalia without accident. At 10.30 soon after this the small arms were discharged and the Troops retired to rest. At daylight a party of the enemy about five in number were discovered coming down the plain. At sunrise the enemy over 250 strong took possession of San Pedro and hoisted the Mexican Flag upon the house of David Alexander our late quarters.

“MORNING REPORT . . . EMBARKED ON BOARD THE SHIP VANDALIA PORT SAN PEDRO
UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT. ARCHD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 6TH 1846”

Remarks

At 10 AM Capt. Everett & W. D. M. Howard Esq. went on shore to make arrangements to bring off adobes for making furnaces for the Troops to cook, and to get news.⁶⁴ They were met at the beach by José Antonio Carrillo who took them to Capt. Flores who with a party had come to the bank above the beach. After much abuse of Capt. Gillespie and the United State Government, Capt. Flores consented to permit the adobes to be taken off. Capt Everett & Mr Howard returned on board at 11.30. At one PM a boat with Mr. Cole second mate was sent on shore to bring off adobes, but was not permitted to land. At about [*next page*] 3 PM the Mexican Flag was hauled down at our late quarters and the Revolters moved up the plain for the Cuidad taking with them the Spiked Guns left upon the brow of the hill above the beach. Harbour quiet during the night. At daylight a party of twelve discovered patrolling about our old quarters on shore.

"MORNING REPORT . . . EMBARKED ON BOARD THE SHIP VANDALIA
PORT SAN PEDRO UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT. ARCHD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 7TH 1846"

Remarks

At 1 PM a party of the Enemy were discovered driving the horses and oxen from the plain. 4.30 PM a sail hove in sight which proved to be the U.S. Frigate Savanna[h] After showing the Flag she was saluted with two guns from the Vandalia and on her approaching quite near was greeted by three harty [sic] cheers from the Volunteers and the crew of the Vandalia which was returned by the crew of the Frigate when Capt. Archd H Gillespie & Dr. Gilchrist went on board and returned about 10 PM. [next page] At daylight all the Troops called to make preparations for their march. 6.30 AM Troops embarked in the Frigate's boats. 6.45 AM landed on the beach at San Pedro. 7 AM formed the line of march.

"MORNING REPORT . . . ENCAMPED ON THE RANCH OF PEDRO DOMINGUES
[MANUEL DOMINGUEZ] UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT ARCHD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 8TH 1846."

Remarks

At 8 AM a party of the Enemy horse took a stand on the hill about two miles & half from San Pedro. They were driven from their position by the Volunteers acting as skirmishers and advance Guard under the Command of Capt Gillespie. About 10 AM Stragglers of the Enemy attempted to annoy our flanks by firing scattering shots, but were dispersed by skirmishers. 2 PM the whole force encamped at the Ranch of Pedro Domingues [Manuel Dominguez]. 5 PM a Party of the Enemy 60 strong took up a position at the distance of 300 yards, but were repulsed by the Volunteers headed by Capt. Gillespie. 6 PM took prisoner an old man on horse back who appeared to be a spy.⁶⁵ At 8 PM there came into [next page *remarks continued*] Camp an Indian who reported that he was despatched by Bernardo Yorba with three carts for the purpose of returning with salt. From 8 to 12 the camp annoyed by shots being fired at the Sentinels. About one AM the camp alarmed by a cannon shot being fired by the Enemy which struck within our encampment. Parties were immediately sent out in search of the Gun, but soon returned without success. The Volunteers under Capt. Gillespie, Marines under Capt [Ward] Marston and Riflemen of the Savannah under Lieut [I. B.] Carter formed the scouting parties. From one o'clock until daylight, the camp constantly aroused by Capt Mervine's orders in consequence of the Enemy riding within shooting distance. At 5 AM the camp called & preparation made for the march. Proceeding about two miles, the Enemy discovered having taken a position at a creek, as if intending to make a stand, when the skirmishers under Capt Gillespie advance at a brisk pace, and at the distance of 800 yards the Enemy opened their fire with the field piece and small arms. The shot from the former aimed at but fired over the main body in the centre. Our force then charged, when the Enemy repeated their fire of the field piece, raking our centre, enemy shot wounding seriously seven men. The skirmishers have approached within two hundred yards at the charge, when a halt was called and orders for retreat were given. The skirmishers took the rifle of one of the Enemy who was shot and some cartridges of the Field piece. At about 7 o'clock we were upon the retreat, skirmish-

ers under Capt Gillespie in the rear. At 7.30 arrived at the camp ground of the night previous.

"MORNING REPORT . . . EMBARKED ON BOARD THE U.S. FRIGATE SAVANNAH
PORT SAN PEDRO UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT ARCHD H. GILLESPIE
MILITARY COMMANDANT OCTOBER 9TH 1846"

Remarks

At 8 AM a Consultation was held and a retreat to the Port decided upon. The wounded were put in an ox cart drawn by a horse.⁶⁵ The poles of the Cart supported by Sailors. The retreat commenced at 9 AM. The wounded in front, two parties of Seamen Marching by a flank on the right & left of the Cart. The Marines immediately in the rear of the Cart. Capt. Gillespie and a party of Volunteers bring up the rear, with a part of Volunteers on the right flank rear under Lt. Hensley, and one on the left rear under Lieut Rhensaw. Lt. Carter with the Rifles of the Savannah on the left flank. Mid [shipman Robert C.] Duvall with the Rifles of the Frigate on the right flank. All in open order. The Enemy occupied the hill near our Camp, and when upon the descent into the plain, threw shot across our lines, only one took effect, wounded a Seaman immediately in front of the rear flank. From the hill to the port the march was unmolested. The force arrived at about 2.30 PM, two of the wounded [next page] having died in the Cart. At a little after Sunset the whole force was embarked at the point of San Pedro, and the entire Southern Country abandoned by the American Arms.

[Report ends]

NOTES

¹Herein after referred to as the "Morning Report." In military parlance, the "morning report" consisted of a daily record submitted to headquarters that accounted for all personnel. "It is used to record facts as from 6:00 A.M. one day to 6:00 A.M., the next." Eldridge Colby, *Army Talk: A Familiar Dictionary of Soldier Speak* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1942), 139-40.

²Other accounts exist but none are a daily record comparable to the "Morning Report." To the best of this editor's knowledge, this manuscript has not been cited in the narrative histories of the siege. For an excellent general description of the war in California see Neal Harlow, *California Conquered: War and Peace on the Pacific 1846-1850* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1982). His Chapter 11 covers the events before, during, and after the siege. Werner H. Marti in his *Messenger of Destiny: The California Adventures, 1846-1847 of Archibald H. Gillespie, U. S. Marine Corps* (San Francisco: John Howell-Books, 1960) provides the most detailed narrative history of the siege and includes important biographical information on Gillespie. Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of California*, (7 vols., San Francisco: The History Company, 1884-90), V: 305-20 and J. M. Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record of Los Angeles and Vicinity* (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1901), 84-90, also present useful data on this struggle for control of Los Angeles.

³The "officer of the day" was an officer in charge of the guard and prisoners on an assigned day.

⁴Most accounts of the siege consist of recollections given to Bancroft's History Company staff in the 1870s. For a list of these see his *History of California*, V: 311. One of the more curious recollections was given by James Wilson Marshall, the famed discover of gold, to George F. Parsons in his *The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall* (Sacramento: James W. Marshall and W. Burke, 1870), 48-58. According to this book, if Gillespie had only listened to Marshall the revolt may have been prevented, and when the Californians did attack, the carpenter's efforts to strengthen the gate saved the garrison from massacre. For a Californian perspective see

Antonio F. Coronel, *Tales of Mexican California. Cosas de California*, trans. by Diane de Avalle-Acre and ed. by Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. (Santa Barbara: Bellerophon Books, 1994), 34–41.

- ⁵Gillespie wrote this detailed letter from “Cuidad [sic] de los Angeles, Upper California.” It was published in “Gillespie and the Conquest of California from letters Dated February 11, to July 8, 1848, to the Secretary of the Navy,” intro. by George Walcott Ames, Jr., *California Historical Society Quarterly*, XVII (September and December 1938): 281–84 and 325–46. Captain Gillespie wrote a short account of the revolt and the ride of John Brown for the Sacramento newspaper the *Sacramento Statesman* dated May 5, 1858. The *San Francisco Daily Alta California* ran the story on May 10, 1858, under the title “An Incident of California History.” Several documents in the Archibald H. Gillespie Papers, 1845–1860 (Collection 133) Department of Special Collections, University Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles, cover the insurrection and Battle of Domínguez. Document 107A is an undated three-page account of these events as part of a certificate of a claim on behalf of David Alexander. It was probably written three or four years later. A summary of individual documents may be viewed on the Online Archive of California (OAC).
- ⁶Duvall’s account of the Battle of Domínguez has been published several times. See “Extracts from the Log of the U.S. Frigate Savannah Kept by Robert Carson Duvall, Midshipman, U.S.N., 1846–47,” *California Historical Society Quarterly* 2 (July 1924):115–19; J. M. Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record of Los Angeles and Vicinity* (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1901) 87–90, and Ella A. Ludwig, *History of the Harbor District of Los Angeles* (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, Inc., 1927), 246–48. In addition to Duvall’s log see also Stephen C. Foster’s recollection of the battle in *An Illustrated History of Los Angeles County, California* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1889), 74–75.
- ⁷José Antonio Carrillo, “Accion de San Pedro contra los Americanos, 8 de Oct. 1846.” It is found in his “Documentos para la Historia de California, 1749–1850” in the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. Howard Karno Rare Books kindly translated the document.
- ⁸Colonel Jonathan Drake Stevenson led the New York Volunteers to California. See Guy J. Giffen, *California Expedition: Stevenson’s Regiment of First New York Volunteers* (Oakland: Biobooks, 1951).
- ⁹Sims, an Englishman by birth, came to America in 1847, joined the New York Volunteers, and arrived in Monterey in 1848. From there, he proceeded to Baja California as a member of Company D under Captain Henry M. Nagley. He was mustered out in October 1848. Catching gold fever, Sims and a partner, Charles H. Ross, mined on the Mokelumne and American rivers. Sometime in 1850, Sims and Ross acquired a large piece of property south of Sacramento where they raised wheat and cattle. In 1860, Sims bought Ross’ share and became a successful farmer, rancher, and vineyardist. Winfield J. Davis, *An Illustrated History of Sacramento County, California* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1890), 601–03; Jesse Walton Wooldrige, *History of the Sacramento Valley, California* (2 vols., Chicago: The Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1931), II:240–42, and “Joseph Sims, Pioneer Head and Early Settler, Dies,” *Sacramento Union*, June 17, 1915.
- ¹⁰Marti, *Messenger of Destiny*, 73.
- ¹¹The California Battalion of Mounted Riflemen, a volunteer group, consisted primarily of American settlers in Alta California. On July 23, 1846, they were enlisted by Commodore Stockton and served under Frémont until mustered out in April 1847. Harlow, *California Conquered*, 139–40, 221–22, and 262.
- ¹²Samuel Gibson played a prominent role in the American takeover. He participated in the Bear Flag Revolt, went south with Frémont, served under Gillespie at Los Angeles, was wounded at San Páscual, and served under Stockton. He attained the rank of captain in the California Battalion. Hubert Howe Bancroft, *California Pioneer Register and Index 1542–1848* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1964), 158. For a short biography of S. J. Hensley see note 8 in “Benjamin D. Wilson’s Observations on Early Days,” ed. by Arthur Woodward, *Historical Society of Southern California Annual*, XVI (1934): 134. Hiram Rhensaw came overland to California in 1845 with the Swasey-Todd party, went south with Frémont in August 1846, served under Gillespie during the siege, and served as a lieutenant in the California Battalion for the remainder of the war. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 301. I have not found biographical information on Orderly Sergeant Jones.
- ¹³Dr. Edward Gilchrist was the surgeon of the California Battalion. He also served in the same capacity on the *Congress* and *Cyane* warships. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 159. Judging by documents in the Gillespie Papers at UCLA, he seems to have been Gillespie’s right hand man in Los Angeles. For Marshall’s quasi-autobiography see Parsons, *Life and Adventures*. Willard Buzzell came to California in 1841, worked at various jobs including one of the first saw mills in the state at Santa Cruz, and went on a fur trapping expedition with Captain Ezekial Merritt. He later became an armorer with Frémont. Importantly, he left an autobiography that recalled

the siege. It is reproduced by Arthur Woodward in "Juan Flaco's Ride," *Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly*, XIX (March 1937): 28–29.

- ¹⁴Bear Flaggers at Los Angeles include William Anderson, Sam Gibson, Frank Bedwell, Henry Beeson, Henry Booker, Joseph W. Buzzell, John Gibb(s), Sam Neal, Harvey Porterfield, John Sanders, John Scott, F. Sears, Ira Stebbins, and William Levi Todd. Todd, the original designer of the Bear Flag, was also a relative of Mary Todd Lincoln. For short biographies of these men see Barbara R. Warner, *The Men of the California Bear Flag Revolt* (Spokane and Sonoma: The Arthur H. Clark Company and Sonoma Valley Historical Society, 1996).
- ¹⁵The Government House, originally built by Isaac Williams in 1835, fronted Main Street. It had a corral with a wall partially built of stone and a large gate. For a concise history of the Government House and future use of the property as the Bella Union Hotel see note 27 in "Wilson's Observations on Early Days," 143. The garrison, once hostilities began, also occupied the neighboring home of Alexander Bell on Los Angeles and Aliso streets.
- ¹⁶Gillespie in his letter to George Bancroft mentions that he found four cannons in the yard. Gillespie, "Gillespie and the Conquest," 326. In his article written for the *California Statesman*, dated May 5, 1858, the former commandant wrote: "There were three old honeycombed iron guns (spiked) in the corral of my quarters."
- ¹⁷For a discussion of the causes of the revolt see, for example, Coronel, *Tales of Mexican California*, 34; Bancroft, *History of California*, V: 305–306; Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record*, 84–85, and Gillespie, "Gillespie and the Conquest," 325.
- ¹⁸The text of *California Star* (San Francisco) June 19, 1847, article defending Gillespie is reproduced in Woodward, "Juan Flaco's Ride," 38.
- ¹⁹Stockton's August 17 proclamation, among other things provided for a curfew, restricted the carrying of arms, and required all military men to take an oath not to take up arms against the new government or otherwise disturb the peace. It was published as an extra for *The Californian*, September 5, 1846. See also Marti, *Messenger of Destiny*, 71.
- ²⁰Gillespie, "Gillespie and the Conquest," 325.
- ²¹The disposition of these volunteers of the California Battalion is difficult to sort out as they are listed as being banished from the garrison or as being locked up or as being sent out on field service under Lt. Gibson. Sanders and Chase, for example, apparently did return as they were imprisoned on September 21. According to Marti, *Messenger of Destiny*, 76, "Sigler and McVicker were joined in the mutiny by eight others . . . these ten men were sent by Gillespie to Warner's Pass, thereby achieving the dual purpose of getting the trouble makers out of town and acquiring information on a relief party to help the Californians." On the other hand, the "Morning Report" for September 20 states that a search party was sent out to find "mutinists" McVicker, Sigler, Smith, and McDonald but returned *without* finding them. Gillespie, in two signed documents dated September 19 found in the Gillespie Papers, charged Sigler and McVicker with mutiny, desertion, and sedition. The captain, in his letter to George Bancroft, states that he put seven men under confinement on September 21, but released them once hostilities began. Gillespie, "Gillespie and the Conquest," 326. The "Morning Report" lists only five under confinement. In need of every able-bodied defender, Gillespie released them once the revolt started.
- ²²Bancroft described S rbulo Varela as "a wild and unmanageable young fellow . . . a leader in several popular tumults at Angeles under Mexican rule." Bancroft went on to say that Varela in leading the attack, "The Californians had no intention of fighting, but by the suddenness of the assault, by discharging a few muskets, and by shouts and beating of drums, they hoped to surprise and capture the post." Bancroft, *History of California*, V: 307–308. See also Coronel, *Tales of Mexican California*, 35. Varela, a few days after the revolt started, led the Californians when they captured a group of Americans under B. D. Wilson at Chino.
- ²³Alexander Bell, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Los Angeles in 1842 after living in Mexico City. He married Nieves Guirado in 1844 and was involved in mercantile pursuits. Active in California's unsettled politics of the 1840s, he opposed Governor Manuel Micheltoarena and J. A. Sutter. He served as a captain in the California Battalion during the war. On September 19, 1846, he took the oath of office as Justice of the Peace with Dr. Gilchrist as a witness. Document 81, Gillespie Papers, UCLA; Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 55, and Thompson and West, *History of Los Angeles County, California* (Berkeley: Howell-North, 1959 reprint edition), 37. Pioneer merchant John Temple of Reading, Massachusetts, settled in Los Angeles about 1827, became a naturalized Mexican citizen, and opened the first store in the pueblo in an adobe on Main Street. It was in close proximity to the Government House. Temple Street perpetuates his memory. Thompson and West, His

- tory of Los Angeles County, 33 and Leonard Pitt and Dale Pitt, *Los Angeles A-Z* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1997), 496. Nathaniel M. Pryor, according to Gillespie, told the commander that he had a thousand pounds of pipe lead at his house. The garrison turned it into badly needed round shot and grape. Gillespie, "Gillespie and the Conquest," 327. A silversmith by trade, Pryor arrived in Los Angeles around 1828-29. Abel Stearns at one time employed him as a warehouse keeper at San Pedro and Los Angeles. He married into the Sepulveda family and acquired extensive real estate in the pueblo before dying in 1850. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 293 and Thompson and West, *History of Los Angeles County*, 33.
- ²⁴On the 25th, a second six-pounder had been repaired and mounted and sent to the hill with a good supply of grape and shot. Gillespie, "Gillespie and the Conquest," 327.
- ²⁵Andrés Pico played a prominent role in the Mexican War. The brother of Governor Pico, he led the successful cavalry attack against Stephen Watts Kearny at San Pasqual. On January 13, 1847, he capitulated to John C. Frémont at Cahuenga. Pitt, *Los Angeles A to Z*, 392. He was arrested on September 24 for violating his parole. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 284.
- ²⁶Gillespie, "An Incident of California History," *San Francisco Daily Alta California*, May 10, 1858.
- ²⁷For the celebrated ride of John Brown see Woodward, "Juan Flaco's Ride," 22-41. Woodward reprints Brown's own narrative that appeared in the *San Francisco Daily Alta California* for May 17, 1858, which in turn was reprinted from the *San Joaquin Republican* of Stockton, California that Brown dated May 8, 1858.
- ²⁸Some narrative histories state that Paredon Blanco was located in the Boyle Heights district of Los Angeles. Ludwig, *History of the Harbor District*, 244. Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record*, 85, wrote that it was near the home of Mrs. John E. Hollenbeck (on Boyle Avenue in Boyle Heights). Coronel, *Tales of Mexican California*, 98, states the exact location is unknown.
- ²⁹The day after hostilities began, the Californians chose Flores as *comandante-general*, José Antonio Carrillo as major general, and Andrés Pico as *comandante de escuadron*. The Californians later elected Flores as governor, a position he held until January 8, 1847. Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record*, 85 and 90.
- ³⁰Eulogio Célis came to California in 1836 and made Los Angeles his home. He was one of the grantees of the San Fernando estate in 1846 and prospered following the war. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 95. Francisco Figueroa settled in California in 1833 and became involved in the political machinations that beset the province during the Mexican era including a revolt against Alvarado. From 1844-1846, he served as a member of the Alta California Assembly. Following the war, he served as city treasurer of Los Angeles. *Ibid.*, 141.
- ³¹Of Flores' propositions, Gillespie wrote: "The propositions were an unconditional surrender, to relieve everyone from his parole, in short they were insulting." Gillespie, "Gillespie and the Conquest," 328.
- ³²Michael White, following his capture at the Battle of Chino, states he was exchanged for Andrés Pico. Pico, however, was released on September 27, and White on September 29 with the other Chino prisoners. Michael White, "The Battle of Chino" in his *California All the Way Back* (Los Angeles: Glen Dawson, 1956), 55. For a general account of the skirmish see George W. Beattie, "The Battle of Chino," *Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly*, XXIV (December 1942): 143-60 and "Wilson's Observations on Early Days," 106-12.
- ³³The brass field piece referred to by Gillespie and used by the Californians was called the "Old Woman's Gun." Coronel recalled: "We heard from Sra. Clara Cota de Reyes [the old woman] and her daughter Inocencia Reyes that they had an old cannon made to fire stone shot buried on their farm. The gun was immediately recovered and mounted on the bed of a cart, tied with rawhide thongs." Coronel, *Tales of Mexican California*, 36. See also Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record*, 89.
- ³⁴Gillespie, "An Incident of California History," *San Francisco Daily Alta California*, May 10, 1858.
- ³⁵More than likely the Vignes home was located not far from the Government House on his property bounded by Aliso and Alameda streets. The Frenchman Jean Louis Vignes came to California in 1829, purchased property in Los Angeles in 1831, and gained notoriety as a pioneer vineyardist and winemaker. He founded the wine making firm of Sainsevain and Company. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 370.
- ³⁶William Davis Merry Howard came to California in 1839 and became a partner with Henry Mellus in a general merchandise and trading company. He later served as the first president of the Society of California Pioneers and helped organize the first San Francisco Vigilante Committee. For a short biography of Howard see Frank Soule, John H. Gihon, and James Nisbet, *The Annals of San Francisco* (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1855), 779-80.
- ³⁷A signed copy of the propositions for the evacuation of Los Angeles dated September 29, 1846, is in the Gillespie collection. Document 90, Gillespie Papers, UCLA.
- ³⁸The names recorded in the "Morning Report" agree with Gillespie's list. White, *California All the Way Back*,

- 56–57. For a list of all those with B. D. Wilson at Chino see Fred B. Rogers, “Rosters of California Volunteers in the Service of the United States, 1846–1847,” Society of California Pioneers, *Publication for 1950*, 24.
- ³⁹One of the terms that Gillespie agreed to was “to leave the city with the honors of war.” Document 90, Gillespie Papers, UCLA. Gillespie said they left the pueblo with guns loaded and matches lit and this readiness discouraged Flores from attacking them once they were out in the open. Gillespie, “Gillespie and the Conquest,” 332. See also his “An Incident of California History,” published in the *San Francisco Daily Alta California*, May 10, 1858. The description of the exit from Los Angeles is corroborated by Marshall in Parson, *Life and Adventures*, 57–58. Marshall further stated, “The music, of course, was left to the imagination.”
- ⁴⁰John Sanders and Felipe Espinosa were the deserters. Sanders, a participant in the Bear Flag Revolt, was rather undisciplined. Earlier, on September 18, he ran afoul of Gillespie and was temporarily ordered out of the garrison.
- ⁴¹The *Vandalia* has been described as either a merchant or whaling ship. It is not clear how it just happened to be in port at the time of Gillespie’s retreat to San Pedro. W. D. Phelps in his *Fore and Aft; or Leaves from the Life of an Old Sailor* (Boston: Nichols & Hall, 1871), 313, wrote, “Gillespie had been obliged to capitulate, and was allowed to proceed to the port, and there embark on board ship. A whaling-ship happened in there at this time.”
- ⁴²David Alexander came to California in 1841 and later settled in Los Angeles. He was captured by the Californians during the Battle of Chino. He was named collector of customs at San Pedro. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 30.
- ⁴³Gillespie, “An Incident of California History,” *San Francisco Daily Alta California*, May 10, 1858.
- ⁴⁴Gillespie, “Gillespie and the Conquest,” 333.
- ⁴⁵As part of the delaying tactic, Captain Everett and Howard went on shore to gather adobes for the purpose of making stoves or ranges for cooking on ship and to obtain news.
- ⁴⁶Mervine, prior to this incident, commanded the *Cyane*. He raised the U.S. flag over Monterey and took control of the old capitol. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 247.
- ⁴⁷Gillespie complained that Mervine left San Francisco Bay too late to help and that Mervine, after embarking, suddenly returned to Sausalito “for some frivolous thing” and then got caught in fog which delayed him three days. Gillespie wrote, “Had that ship [*Savannah*] proceeded to sea, as her captain had been ordered, and humanity dictated, I would have been found in condition to return to Los Angeles . . . and many valuable lives saved.” Gillespie, “An Incident of California History,” *San Francisco Daily Alta California*, May 10, 1858.
- ⁴⁸Gillespie, “Gillespie and the Conquest,” 334.
- ⁴⁹Carrillo, “Accion de San Pedro,” estimated the number of Americans at 350.
- ⁵⁰Gillespie in his letter to George Bancroft complained that Mervine reprimanded him for charging the enemy and wasting ammunition. Gillespie, “Gillespie and the Conquest,” 335.
- ⁵¹The men were exhausted from a march of fourteen miles and were not accustomed to quick marches. Gillespie, “Gillespie and the Conquest,” 336. For an excellent account of the march, skirmishes along the way, and the Battle of Dominguez at Rancho San Pedro see Les Driver, “Carrillo’s Flying Artillery: The Battle of San Pedro,” *California Historical Society Quarterly*, XLVIII (December 1969): 335–49. See also Robert Cameron Gillingham, *The Rancho San Pedro* (Los Angeles: The Dominguez Estate Co., 1961), 150–52 and K. Jack Bauer, *Surfboats and Horse Marines: U.S. Naval Operations in the Mexican War, 1846–48* (Annapolis: United States Naval Institute, 1969), 177–79.
- ⁵²According to Stephen Foster’s recollection, “The [cannon] ball entered the window and sent the adobe clattering down on the sleepers, the roar of the gun giving them the unwelcome news that the enemy still had artillery.” Thompson and West, *History of Los Angeles County*, 74. During that long night, Gillespie described Mervine as “an insane man.” Gillespie, “Gillespie and the Conquest,” 336.
- ⁵³Carrillo states that although lacking lances he attacked the American forces with about ninety men. “At that moment, I arranged it so every one of the riflemen was defeated by the gunshots of my auxiliaries, and the column was defeated by the cannon. In this manner, the action proceeded, and after a half an hour of very active fire, I succeeded in driving them away and consequently leaving many dead and injured.” Carrillo, “Accion de San Pedro.” Gillespie estimated the enemy to be about 200 strong. Gillespie, “Gillespie and the Conquest,” 337. Duvall estimated the enemy between 175 and 200. Duvall, “Extracts from the Log,” 117.
- ^{53a}Gillespie’s skirmishers did get close enough to take the rifle of one of Carrillo’s wounded men and some cartridges of the cannon. See “Morning Report” entry for October 8.
- ⁵⁴Carrillo wrote that the Americans retreated back to the camp in disorder. He followed them on their retreat

and noted that they left behind equipment, tobacco, and a flag. He presented the flag to Flores. He went on to say: "[We] will have had the glory of defeating the entire division of the Anglo Americans that attacked me." Carrillo, "Accion de San Pedro." Of the retreat to San Pedro, Duvall wrote: "We presented truly a pitiable Condition, many being bearily [sic] able to drag one foot after the other from excessive fatigue, and extream [sic] soreness of the feet having gone through the exertion and excitement in Battle and afterwards performing a march of 18 or 20 miles." Duvall, "Extracts from the Log," 117.

⁵⁵The battle has received this colorful sobriquet because the field piece was dug up from the yard of an "old woman," Clara Cota de Reyes. See note 33 above. Guinn says of the field piece: "Before the battle the old gun had been mounted on forward axle of a Jersey wagon. It was lashed to the axle by means of rawhide thongs, and was drawn by riatas, as described by Lieut. Duvall. The range was obtained by raising or lowering the pole of the wagon. Ignacio Aguilar acted as gunner, and having neither lanyard or penstock to fire it, he touched off the gun with the lighted end of a cigarette." Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record*, 89-90.

⁵⁶According to Duvall, four died as a result of this attempt to retake Los Angeles, another died from an accident, and six others were wounded. The Americans buried their fallen comrades on Dead Man's Island. Duvall, "Extracts from the Log," 118. Gillespie later stated "Mervine commanded and sacrificed thirteen of his men." Gillespie, "An Incident of California History," *San Francisco Daily Alta California*, May 10, 1858. Mervine did write a letter to Stockton explaining his actions. See Driver, "Carrillo's Flying Artillery," 340.

⁵⁷Gillespie roundly criticized Mervine for ignoring his advice and for his tactics in dealing with the skilled Californian horsemen. Thereafter, they became bitter enemies. Marshall also blamed Mervine in telling his amanuensis, Parsons: "The square would have been well enough in repelling cavalry, but the ideas of facing artillery with such a formation was as novel as it proved mistaken." Parsons, *Life of Marshall*, 61-63.

⁵⁸Essential to verifying names of members of the California Battalion is Fred B. Rogers, "Rosters of California Volunteers in the Service of the United States," 17-28.

⁵⁹The river is the Los Angeles River.

⁶⁰Charles Flügge came to California in 1841, settled in Los Angeles sometime after 1844, and opened a store in the pueblo. He supported Sutter and Micheltorena in the political power struggle before the American conquest. Flügge also served as a messenger between Flores and Stockton during the final days of the war. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 145.

⁶¹José María Segura came to California in 1842 serving as a captain of the *batallon fijo*. He remained after Micheltorena's expulsion, participated in the action against Gillespie and departed with Flores in 1847. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 323. Leonardo Cota served as a *regidore* of Los Angeles, helped defend California against the Americans, and was the grantee of Rio de las Ánimas. *Ibid.*, 109.

⁶²The exact location and ownership of the mill is not known. Gillespie described it as halfway between the opposing forces. It is not, as some have said, El Molino Viejo in present-day San Marino.

⁶³The "Morning Report" is probably referring to the arms seized by the garrison during the first days of the revolt. See the entries for September 23 and 25.

⁶⁴The "Morning Report" is referring to Rancho San Pedro of the Domínguez family.

⁶⁵The horse would later be used to pull a cart of wounded soldiers back to San Pedro.