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"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT: LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIMS'T AT, BE THY COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S, AND TRUTH'S."

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NUMBER 31.

HOME! The world is all before me To choose where ef I will-The blue sky bending o'er me Lights valley, plain and hill! Oh! many a nook enchanted, In virgin beauty drest-With Eden freshness haunted-Is wooing in the West!

And many a fount is flowing With none to hear its tale, And only wild flowers showing Its pathway in the vale! And many a boundless prairie-Like some remember'd scene In boyhood's dream of facry-Where man hath rarely been.

And many a sunny highland le gleaming far away— And many a spicy island Where summer loves to stay— And strange, bright birds are courting, The warm and balmy breeze, Like winged lustres sporting Amid the gorgeous trees!

And lands that live in story, Where deeds of old renown In lay and legend heary Have won a deathless crown; Where gray tradition lingers O'er tomb and classic fane. Which time's effacing fingers Have touched with classic stain!

But, oh! to me far dearer And lovelier each morn. The homely landscape nearer— The spot where I was born! And were I like the swallow The wide world doomed to roam, My heart unchanged would follow The path that leads to home!

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,

Agua Nueva, March 6, 1847. Six: I have the honor to submit a detailed report of the operations of the forces under my command, which resulted in the engagement of Buena re-occupation of this position.

The information which reached me of the advance and concentration of a heavy Mexican force in my from, had assumed such a probable form, as to induce a special examination far beyond the reach of our pickets to ascertain its correctness. A small party of Texan spies, under Major Me-Calloch, despatched to the Hocienda of Eurarnacion, 30 miles from this, on the route to San Luis Potosi, hild reported a cavalry force of unknown strength at that piace. On the 20th of February a strong reconnoissance under Lieut. Col. Ma spatched to the Hacienda of Heclionda, while Major McCulloh undernother examination armacion. The results of these expedino doubt that the enemy was in large force at Enganasion under the orders of General Anna, and that he meditated a forward movement and attack upon our position.

As the Camp of Agua Nueva could be turned on either flank, and as the enemy's force was greatly superior to our own, particularly in the cavairy, I determined, after much consideration, to take up a position about eleven miles and cannoneers of the third piece being killed or rappidly forward with his piece, supported by a McKee, and Lieutenant Colonel Clay. Posses- Eaton, and Lieuten. R. S. Garnett, aids-de-camp, in rear, and there await the attack. The army broke up its camp and marched at noon on the broke up its camp an 21st, encompling at the new position a little in took no further part in the action, except a handThey were driven into the ravines which lead to the advantage of a military education, I had lookMunroe, besides rendering valuable service as necessary arrangements for the defence of the town, leaving Bag. Gen. Wool in the immediate

Agua Naeva to cover the removal of public stores. Which they afterwards contributed. seen by our look-outs as they approached the field. horse under the orders of Brevet Lieut, Col. May, mands.

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through a narrow pass east of the city. This cavitreme left, apparently with the view of making a factorily completed on the following day. Our general, Captain Chapman, assistant quartermater, alry, commanded by Gen. Minon, had evidently descent upon the hacienda of Buena Vista, where own dead were collected and buried, and the Lieutenant Sitgreaves, topographical engineers, been thrown in our rear to break up and harrass our train and baggage were deposited. Lieut. Mexican wounded, of which a large number had and Captains Howard and Davis, volunteer sergainst the town if practicable. The city was oc- two pieces of Capt. Sherman's battery under Lieut lo, and rendered as comfortable as circumstances for their gallantry and good conduct. Messrs ment. A field work, which commanded most of Trail and Gorman's commands, had been to some sance was made of the enemy's position, which 24-pound howitzers, while the train and head- Major Morrison, volunteer staff, and were posted in the direction of San Luis Potosi. On the 27th, lery. Having made these dispositions for the tucky and Arkansas cavalry under Cols. Marshall number of wounded. It was my purpose to beat ing of the 23d to Buena Vista, ordering forward vided, one portion sweeping by the depot, where morning, but upon examination, the weak condi-

against a greatly superior force, holding them- portions of the Arkansas and Indiana troops un-This force was soon dispersed by a few rapid and vines, our artillery was doing fearful execution. well directed shots from Capt. Washington's bat-

great effect, but without being able to check its fallen back in disorder, being exposed, as well as and occupied the road from the city to the field twenty-eight having been killed upon the field.— ments, the command of the former devolved upon the battery, not only to a severe fire of small arms of battle, where they intercepted several of our We have to lament the death of Captain George Lieut. Col. Weatherford; that of the latter upon from the front, but also to a murderous cross fire men. Approaching the town, they were fired Lincoln, assistant adjutant general, serving on the Major Fry. of grape and canister from a Mexican battery on upon by Capt. Webster from the redoubt occupied staff of General Wool—a young officer of high In conclusion, I beg leave to speak of my own the left. Captain O'Brien found it impossible to by his company; and then moved off towards the bearing and approved gallantry, who fell early in staff, to whose exertions in rallying troops and in overwhelming force against our left flank, the artillery, but was finally driven back in a confus- ly loss.

In the meantime the Mexican light troops had Cols. Marshall and Yell. In the meantime our had been exhausted by incessant watchfulness ington's battery. Lieutenants Thomas, Reynolds engaged ours on the extreme left, (composed of left, which was still strongly threatened by a supe- and combat. Though the night was severely ded by Col. Marshall,) and kept up a sharp fire, centration of artillery fire upon the masses of the wounded were removed to Saltillo, and every preclimbing the mountain side, and apparently en- enemy along the base of the mountain, and the paration made to receive the enemy should be a-Capt. Washington's battery had been detached ments opposed to them, had created confusion in were drawn from the town, and Brigadier Geneto the left, and were supported by the 2d Indiana their ranks, and some of the corps attempted to ral Marshall, who had made a forced march from regiment. An occasional shell was thrown by effect a retreat upon their main line of battle.— the Rinconada, with a reinforcement of Kentucky the enemy into this part of our line, but without The squadron of the 1st dragoons under Lieut. cavalry and four heavy guns, under Captain Preneffect. The skirmishing of the light troops was Rucker, was now ordered up the deep ravine tiss, 1st artillery, was near at hand, when it was kept up with trifling loss on our part until dark, which these retreating corps were endeavoring to discovered that the enemy had abandoned his powhen I became convinced that no serious attack cross in order to charge and disperse them. The sition during the night. Our scouts soon ascerwould be made before the morning, and returned with the Mississippi regiment and squadron of could not accomplish the object, being exposed The great disparity of numbers, and the exhaus-2d dragoons to Saltillo. The troops bivouacked to a heavy fire from a battery established to cover tion of our troops, rendered it inexpedient and of the officers of his staff, and I take pleasure in without fires, and laid upon their arms. A body the retreat of those corps. While the squadron hazardous to attempt pursuit. A staff officer of cavalry, some 1,500 strong, had been visible all was detached on this service, a large body of the was despatched to General Santa Anna to negoday in rear of the town, having entered the valley enemy was observed to concentrate on our ex- tiate an exchange of prisoners, which was satisour retreat, and perhaps make some attempt a- Col. May was ordered to support that point, with been left upon the field, were removed to Saltilcupied by four excellent companies of Illinois Reynolds. In the meantime the scattered forces would permit. volunteers under Major Warren of the 1st regi- near the hacienda, composed in part of Majors had collected there, and then gaining the mount to attempt so long a march without water. A During the evening and night of the 22d, the tain opposite, under a fire from Lieut. Reynold's command was finally despatched to Encarnacion, enemy had thrown a dody of light troops on the section, the remaining portion regaining the base on the 1st of March, under Col. Belknap. Some mountain side, with the purpose of outflanking of the mountain on our left. In the charge at two hundred wounded, and about sixty Mexican our left; and it was here that the action of the 23d Buena Vista, Col. Yell fell gallantly at the head soldiers were found there, the army having pascommenced at an early hour. Our riflemen un- of his regiment; we also lost Adj't. Vaughan, of three companies under Major Trail, 2d Illinois promise. Lieut. Col. May, who had been rejoinvolunteers, maintained their ground handsomely ed by the squadron of the 1st dragoons and by road and crowded the buildings of the hacienda. selves under cover, and using their weapons with der Lieut. Col. Roane and Maj, Gorman, now ap-

During the day the cavalry of Gen. Minion be very great. advance. The infantry ordered to its support had had ascended the elevated plain above Saltillo, Our loss has been especially severe in officers, officers of the 1st Illinois and 2d Kentucky regi-

tain which bounds the valley. The features of force. At this moment, I arrived upon the field. was finally obliged to leave his guns on the field ations, and under a continued and heavy fire, the ground were such as nearly to paralize the ar- The Mississippi regiment had been directed to -his infantry support being entirely routed. seem to merit particular notice. tillery and cavalry of the enemy, while his infan- the left before reaching the position, and imme- Captain Bragg, who had just arrived from the To Brigadier General Wool my obligations are try could not derive all the advantage of its nu- diately came into action with the Mexican infan- left, was ordered at once into battery: Without especially due. The high state of discipline and merical superiority. In this position we prepar- try which had turned our flank. The 2d Kentuc- any infanty to support him, and at the imminent instruction of several of the volunteer regiments engaged, and of casualties incident to the bated to receive him. Capt. Washington's battery ky regiment and a section of artillery under Capt. risk of losing his guns, this officer came rapidly was attained under his command; and to his vigi-(4th artiflery) was posted to command the road, Bragg, had previously been ordered from the right into action, the Mexican line being but a few lance and arduous services before the action, and while the 1st and 2d Illinois regiments under Col- to reinforce our left, and arrived at a most oppor- yards from the muzzle of his pieces. The first his gallantry and activity on the field, a large share onels Hardin and Bissell, each eight companies, tune moment. That regiment, and a portion of discharge of canister caused the enemy to of our success may justly be attributed. During (to the latter of which was attached Capt. Con- the 1st Illinois, under Col. Hardin, gallantly drove hesitate, the second and third drove him back most of the engagement, he was in immediate ner's company of Texas volunteers,) and the 2nd the enemy, and recovered a portion of the ground in disorder, and saved the day. The 2d Ken- command of the troops thrown back on our left Kentucky under Col. McKee, occupied the crest we had lost. The batteries of Capts. Sherman and tucky regiment, which had advanced beyond flank. I beg leave to recommend him to the faof the ridges on the left and in rear. The Arkan- Bragg were in position on the plateau, and did supporting distance in this affair, was driven back vorable notice of the government. Brigadier Gensas and Kentucky regiments of cavalry, comman-much execution, not only in front, but particular-and closely pressed by the enemy's cavalry.— eral Lanc (slightly wounded) was active and zealded by Colonels Yell and H. Marshail, occupied by upon the masses which had gained our rear.—
Taking a ravine which led in the direction of Captain Washington, s battery, their pursuers ness and gallantry before the enemy. while the Indiana brigade, under Brigadier Gen. upon the Mississippi regiment, the 3d Indiana became exposed to his fire, which soon checked The services of the light artillery, always con-Lane, (composed of the 2d and 3d regiments un- regiment, under Col. Lane, was despatched to and drove them back with loss. In the mean spicuous, were more than usually distinguished. der Cols. Bowles and Lane,) the Mississippi rifle- strengthen that part of our line, which formed a time, the rest of our artillery had taken position Moving rapidly over the roughest ground, it was men under Col. Davis, the squadrons of the 1st crotchet perpendicular to the first line of battle. on the plateau, covered by the Mississippi and always in action at the right place and the right and 2d dragoons under Capt. Steen and Lient. At the same time Lieut. Kilburn, with a peace of 3d Indiana regiments, the former of which had time, and its well-directed fire dealt destruction Col. May, and the light batteries of Capts. Sher- Capt. Bragg's battery, was directed to support the reached the ground in time to pour a fire into in the masses of the enemy. While I recommend terms in line,—including Inspectors General, man and Bragg, 3d artillery, were held in reserve. infantry there engaged. The action was for a the right flank of the enemy, and thus contribute to particular favor the gallant conduct and valu-At 11 o'clock I received a summons to surrender long time warmly sustained at that point—the en- to his repulse. In this last conflict we had the able services of Major Monroe, chief of artillery, at discretion, which, with a copy of my reply, I emy making several efforts both with infantry and misfertune to sustain a very heavy loss. Colonel and Captains Washington, 4th artillery, and Sher-

On the evening of the 26th, a close reconnoisthe approaches, was garrisoned by Captain Web- extent organized under the advice of Major Mon- was found to be occupied only by a small body of their intelligent alacrity in conveying orders to all ster's company, 1st artillery, and armed with two roe, chief of the artillery, with the assistance of cavalry, the infantry and artillery having retreated parts of the field. sed on in the direction of Matchuala, with greatly

on the mountain, were compelled to withdraw, In the meantime, the firing had partially ceased tice of the government the general good conduc- Major Mansfield and Lieut. Benham. engineers, was in front, having marched from Encarnacion, which they did, for the most part, in good order. upon the principal field. The enemy seemed to of the troops. Exposed for successive nights and Capt. Linnard and Lieuts. Pope and Frank-Many, however, were not rallied until they reach- confine his efforts to the protection of his artillery, without fires, to the severity of the weather, they lin, topographical engineers, were employed beed the depot at Buena Vista, to the desence of and I had left the plateau for a moment, when were ever prompt and cheerful in the discharge of fore and during the engagement in making re-I was recalled thither by a very heavy musketry every duty, and finally displayed conspicuous connoissances, and on the field were very active Our troops were in position, occupying a line of Col. Bissell's regiment, (2d Illinois,) which had fire. On regaining that position, I discovered steadiness and gallantry in repulsing, at great in bringing information and in conveying my orremarkable strength. The road at this point be- been joined by a section of Capt. Sherman's bat- that our infantry (Illinoise and 2d Kentucky) had odds, a disciplined foe. While the brilliant suc- ders to distant points. Lieut. Kingsbury, in adcomes a narrow define, the valley on its right be- tery, had become completely outflanked, and was engaged a greatly superior force of the enemy cess achieved by their arms, releases me from the dition to his proper duties as ordnance officer, ing rendered quite impracticable for artillery by a compelled to fall back, being entirely unsupportevidently his reserves—and that they had been painful necessity of specifying many cases of bad Capt. Chilton, assistant quartermaster, and Masystem of deep and impassable gullies, while on ed. The enemy was now pouring masses of inoverwhelmed by numbers. The moment was conduct before the enemy, I feel an increased objors Dix and Coffee, served also as extra aids-dethe left a succession of sugged ridges and precip- fantry and cavalry along the base of the mountain most critical. Capt. O'Brien, with two pieces, ligation to mention particular corps and officers, camp, and were actively employed in the transitous ravines extends for back towards the moun- on our left, and was gaining our rear in great had sustained this heavy charge to the last, and whose skill, coolness, and gallantry in trying situ- mission of orders. Mr. Thomas L. Crittenden,

have already transmitted. The enemy still for-bore his attack, evidently waiting for the arrival sed with heavy loss. I had placed all the regular Lieutenant Colonel Clay, 2d Kentucky regiments, ries, I deem it no more than just to mention all of his rear columns, which could be distinctly cavalry and Capt. Pike's squadron of Arkansas fell at this time while gallantly heading their com- the subaltern officers. They were nearly all de-A demonstration made on his left, caused me to with directions to hold in check the enemy's co- No further attempt was made by the enemy to exhibited conspicuous skill and gallantry. Capt. tached at different times, and in every situation detach, the 2d Kentucky regiment and a section lumn, still advancing to the rear along the base of force our position, and the approach of night O'Brien, Lieuts. Brent, Whiting, and Couch, 4th the Kentucky and Arkansas cavalry under the wounded, and also to refresh the soldiers, who (slightly wounded,) were attached to Capt. Wash- ginia.

parts of the Kentucky and Arkansas cavalry dis- rior force, was further strengthened by the detach- cold, the troops were compelled for the most to that of Capt. Sherman; and Captain Shover and mounted, and a rifle battalion from the Indiana ment of Capt. Bragg's, and a portion of Captain bivouack without fires, expecting that morning Lieut. Kilburn, 3d artillery, to that of Captain brigade under Major Gorman, the whole comman- Sherman's batteries, to that quarter. The con- would renew the conflict. During the night the Bragg. Gapt. Shover, in conjunction with Lieut. Donaldson, 1st artillery, rendered gallant and imdeavoring to gain our flank. Three pieces of determined resistance offered by the two regi- gain attack our position. Seven fresh companies al Minion. The regular cavalry, under Lt. Col. May, with which was associated Captain Pike's squadron of Arkansas horse, rendered useful service in holding the enemy in check and in covering the batteries at several points. Capt. Steen, 1st dragoons, was severely wounded early in the day, while gallantly endeavoring, with my authority, to rally the troops which were falling to the

> mentioning them here, having witnessed their activity and zeal upon the field. Lieutenant and March, Addicks, Potts, Harrison, Burgess, and Dusenberg, attached in various capacities to Gen.

quarter camp was guarded by two companies of to defend the position. Before our cavalry had our troops resumed their former camp at Agua were highly conspicuous for their gallantry and Mississippi reflemen under Capt. Rogers, and a reached hacienda, that of the enemy had made its Nueva, the enemy's rear guard evacuating the steadiness, and sustained throughout the engagefield-piece commanded by Capt. Shover, 3d artil- attack, having been handsomely met by the Ken- place as we approached, leaving a considerable ment the reputation of veteran troops. Brought protection of the rear, I proceeded on the morn- and Yell. The Mexican column immediately di- up his quarters at Incarnacion early the next they maintained themselves for a long time unall the other available troops. The action had it received a destructive fire from the force which tion of the cavalry horses rendered it unavailable portant part of the field until reinforced. Colonel Davis, though severely wounded, remained in the saddle until the close of the action. His distinguished coolness and gallantry at the head of his regiment on this day entitle him to the particular notice of the government. The 3d Indiana regider Col. Marshall, who had been reinforced by the Kentucky cavalry—a young officer of much reduced numbers, and suffering much from hun- under Col. Bowles, were associated with the Misger. The dead and dying were strewed upon the sissippi regiment during the greater portion of the day, and acquitted themselves creditably in repul-The American force engaged in the action of sing the attempts of the enemy to break that por-Buena Vista is shown, by the accompanying field tion of our line. The Kentucky cavalry, under deadly effect. About 8 o'clock a strong demon- proached the base of the mountain, holding in report, to have been 334 officers, and 4,425 men Col. Marshall, rendered good service dismounted, stration was made against the centre of our posi- check the right flank of the enemy, upon whose exclusive of the small command left in and near acting as light troops on our left, and afterwards tion, a heavy column moving along the road.— masses, crowded in the narrow gorges and ra- Saltillo. Of this number, two squadrons of caval- with a portion of the Arkansas regiment, in meet-, and three batteries of light artillery, making not ing and dispersing the column of cavalry at Bue-The position of that portion of the Mexican more than 453 men, composed the only force of na Vista. The 1st and 2d Illinois, and the 2nd tery. In the meantime the enemy was concen- army which had gained our rear was now very regular troops. The strength of the Mexican ar- Kentucky regiments, served immediately under trating a large force of infantry and cavalry under critical, and it seemed doubtful whether it could my is stated by Gen. Santa Anna, in his sum- my eye, and I bear a willing testimony to their cover of the ridges, with the obvious intention of regain the main body. At this moment I received mons, to be 20,000; and that estimate is confirm-excellent conduct throughout the day. The spirforcing our left, which was posted on an extensive from Gen. Sonta Anna a message by a staff officer, ed by all the information since obtained. Our it and gallantry with which the 1st Illinois and 2d desiring to know what I wanted. I immediaely loss is 267 killed, 456 wounded, and 23 missing. Kentucky engaged the enemy in the morning, The 2d Indiana and 2 Illinois regiments formed despatched Brig. Gen. Wool to the Mexican Of the numerous wounded, many did not require restored confidence to that part of the field, while this part of our line, the former covering three general-in-chief, and sent orders to cease firing. removal to the hospital, and it is hoped that a compieces of light artillery, under the orders of Capt. Upon reaching the Mexican lines, Gen. Wool paratively small number will be permanently dis-O'Brien-Brig. Gen. Lane being in immediate could not cause the enemy to cease their fire, abled. The Mexican loss in killed and wounded charge of the enemy in the afternoon. Captain command. In order to bring his men within ef- and accordingly returned without having an inter- may be fairly estimated at 1,500, and will probably Conner's company of Texas volunteers, attached feetive range, Gen. Lane ordered the artillery of view. The extreme right of the enemy continued reach 2,000. At least 500 of their killed were to the 2d Illinois regiment, fought bravely, its capthe 2d Indiana regiment forward. The artillery its retreat along the base of the mountain, and left upon the field of battle. We have no means tain being wounded and two subalterns killed. advanced within musket range of heavy body of finally, in spite of all our efforts effected a junc- of ascertaining the number of deserters and dis- Cel. Bissell, the only surviving colonel of these persed men from their ranks, but it is known to regiments, merits notice for his coolness and bra-

retain his position without support, but was only eastern side of the valley, and obliquely towards the action. No loss falls more heavily upon the communicting orders, I feel greatly indebted. able to withdraw two of his pieces, all the horses Buena Vista. At this time, Capt. Shover moved army in the field than that of Colonels Hardin and Maj. Bliss, assistant adjutant general, Capt. J. H. ful of men, who, under their gallant Colonel, Bowles, joined the Mississippi regiment, and did who was further sphorted by a piece of Capt. Webgood service, and those fuguives who, at a later ster's battery, under Lieut. Donaldson, which had gaging the enemy, and the cool and steadfast tors general, in rallying troops and disposing period in the day, assisted in defending the train advanced from the redoubt, supported by Capt. courage with which they maintained their positive maintained their positive, and those nightees who, at a later star solution, and disposing the defended from the redoubt, supported by Capt. and depot at Buena Vista. This portion of our Wheeler's company of Illinois volunteers. The tions during the day fully realized my hopes, and Col. Whiting, quartermaster general, and Capt. Before those arrangements were completed on line having given way, and the enemy appearing enemy made one or two efforts to charge the caused me to feel yet more sensibly their untimeenemy was an sight advancing. Upon reaching light troops which had rendered such good service ed mass, and did not again appear upon the plain.

I perform a grateful duty in bringing to the not also served in my immediate staff on the field. of Kentucky, though not in service, volunteered as my aid-de-camp on this occasion, and served with credit in that capacity.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient ser-Z. TAYLOR, Major General U. S. A. Comm'g.

ADJ'T. GEN. OF THE ARMY, Washington, D. C.

Accompanying this despatch is a "Return of the Troops engaged in the action of the 22d and 23d Feb., 1847, at Buena Vista." It presents,

among other details, the following facts: The number of officers and men returned as fit for duty when the action commenced was as follows:

Aids, Quartermasters, Paymasters, Surgeons, &c.,

Non Commissioned Officers, Musicians Artifi-Making a total of officers and men, fit for duty,

of artillery to our right, in which position they bi- the mountain, which was done in conjunction gave an opportunity to pay proper attention to artillery, and Bryan, Topographical engineers, as an incendiary publication, in Accomac, Vir-

of 4,377,