


Sam Houston's Copy of His Official Report of the Battle of San Jacinto, page 1

405

Head Quarters of the Army
San Jacinto 25th April 1836

To his
Excellency
J. J. Burnett
President of the Republic of Texas

Sir, 

I regret extremely that my indisposition since the Battle of the 21st has been such as to prevent my sending you my official Report of the same, previous to this time.

I have the honor to inform you that on the evening of the 18th inst after a forced march of fifty five miles, which was effected in two days and a half, the army arrived opposite Harrisburg, that evening a Courier of the Enemy was taken from whom I learned that Gen Santa Anna with one division of his choice troops had marched in the direction of Lynch's Ferry on the San Jacinto, having left Harrisburg as he passed down.

The Army was ordered to be in readiness to march early on the next morning. The main body effected a crossing over Buffalo Bayou, below Harrisburg on the morning of the 19th having left the baggage, the tents, and a sufficient camp, landed in the rear.

We continued the march throughout the night, making but one halt in the prairie for a short time, and without refreshments. At daylight we resumed the line of march, and in a short distance our scouts encountered those of the Enemy, and we received information that Gen Santa Anna was at New Washington and would that day take up his line of march for San Antonio, stopping at Lynch's.

Sam Houston's Copy of His Official Report of the Battle of San Jacinto, page 3

their Artillery was placed. Their Cavalry upon their left wing. About 9 o'clock on the morning of the 21st the Enemy were reinforced by 500 choice troops under the command of Gen Cos, increasing their effective force to upwards of 1500 men, while our aggregate force for the field numbered 783. At 1/2 past 3 o'clock in the evening, I ordered the officers of the Texan Army to parade their respective commands, having in the mean time, ordered the Bridge on the only road communicating with the River, distant 8 miles, from our Encampment, to be destroyed, thus cutting off all possibility of escape. Our troops paraded with alacrity of spirit, and were anxious for the contest. Their superior disparity in numbers only served to increase their confidence, and heightened their anxiety for the conflict. Our situation afforded me an opportunity of making the arrangements preparatory to the attack without exposing our designs to the Enemy. The first Regiment commanded by Col Bullock, was assigned the center. The second Regiment under the command of Col Sherman, formed the left wing of the army. The Artillery under the special command of Col Geo. W. Hockley Inspector Genl, was placed on the right of the first Regiment; and four companies of Infantry under the command of Lieut Col Henry Millard, sustained the artillery upon the right. Our Cavalry sixty in number, commanded by Col Mearns B. Lamar (whom gallant and daring conduct on the previous day had attracted the admiration of his comrades, and called him to that station) placed on our extreme right completed our line. Our Cavalry was first dispatched to the front of the Enemy's left, for the purpose of attracting their notice, which an extensive island of timber afforded as an opportunity of concentrating our forces and displaying from that point, a greatly to the previous design of the troops. Every evolution was performed with alacrity, the whole advancing rapidly in line, and through an open prairie, without any prohibitions whatever for an instant. The Artillery advanced and took station within two hundred yards of the Enemy's Breastwork and commenced an effective fire with grape and canister. Col Sherman with his Regiment having commenced the action upon our left wing,

Sam Houston's Copy of His Official Report of the Battle of San Jacinto, page 4

the whole line at the center and on the right, advancing, in double
quick time, using the war cry "Remember the Alamo" secured the Enemy's
fire and advanced within point blank shot before a piece was discharged
from our line - Our line advanced without a halt, until they were in
possession of the woodland and the Enemy's breastworks. The right wing of
Burlinson's, and the left of McMillan's, taking possession of the breastworks,
our artillery having gallantly charged up within 70 yards of the Enemy's
cannon, where it was taken by our troops. The conflict lasted about 18
minutes from the time of close action, until we were in possession of
the Enemy's breastworks, taking possession of Cannon (Load 4) 4 stands
of colors, all their camp equipage, stores, and baggage. Our cavalry
had charged and would that of the Enemy upon the right and given
pursuit to the fugitives, which did not cease until they arrived at the bridge
which I have mentioned before. Capt. Warner, always among the foremost
in danger commanding the pursuers. The conflict in the breastworks, lasted
but a few moments, many of the troops encountered hand to hand, and not
having the advantage of bayonets on our side, our soldiers used their
pieces as war clubs, breaking many of them off at the touch. The route
commenced at 1/2 past 4, and the pursuit by the main army continued
until twilight. A guard was then left in charge of the Enemy's Encamp-
ment, and our army returned with one killed and wounded. (TX)

In the Battle our loss was two killed, and twenty three wounded, six of
whom mortally. The Enemy's loss was 600 killed, among which was our
General Officer, 4 Colo, 2 Lieut Colo, 5 Captains - 12 Lieut. Wounded
308 of which were 3 Colo, 3 Lieut Colo, 2 Second Lieut Colo, 7 Captains
& Cadets. Prisoners, 700. Residents General Santa Anna, Gen Colo, 4
Colo, aids to Gen Santa Anna, 1 Lieut Colo, the private secretary of Gen
Santa Anna, and the Col of the Guerrero battalions are included in the
number. Gen Santa Anna, was not taken until the 22nd, and Gen Wood
on yesterday, very few escaped. About 600 muskets, 300 Sabres, and 200
horses have been collected since the action. Several hundred mules and horses
were taken, and nearly twelve thousand dollars in specie.
For several days previous to the action our troops were engaged in forced marches
exposed to excessive rains, and the additional inconvenience of extremely bad

General Houston's Battle Report

At half-past three o'clock in the evening, I ordered the officers of the Texan army to **parade their commands**. [...] Our **cavalry** was first **dispatched** to the front of the enemy's left, for the purpose of **attracting their notice**, while an **extensive island of timber afforded us an opportunity** of concentrating our forces. [...]

The **artillery** advanced and took station within two hundred yards of the enemy's **breastwork**, and **commenced** an effective fire with **grape and cannister**. Col. Sherman, with his regiment, having commenced the **action** upon our left wing, the whole line, at the center and on the right, **advancing** in double quick time, raised the war-cry, "Remember the Alamo," received the enemy's fire, and advanced within **pointblank shot**, before a **piece was discharged** from our lines.

Our line advanced without a **halt**, until they were **in possession of** the woodland and the enemy's breastwork. [...]

The **conflict** lasted about eighteen minutes from the time of close action until we were in possession of the enemy's **encampment**. [...] The conflict in the breastwork lasted but a few moments many of the troops **encountered hand to hand**, and, not having the advantage of **bayonets** on our side, our riflemen used their **pieces** as war-clubs, breaking many of them. The **rout** commenced at half-past four, and the **pursuit** by the main army continued until twilight.

parade their commands = line up their soldiers

cavalry = soldiers on horseback

dispatched = sent

attracting their notice = getting their attention

extensive island of timber = group of trees

afforded us an opportunity = gave us the chance

artillery = cannons

breastwork = wall around Mexican camp

commenced = started

grape and cannister = groups of small cannonballs

action = fighting

advancing = moving forwards

pointblank shot = very close

piece was discharged = our cannon was fired

halt = stop

in possession of = took control of

conflict = battle

encampment = camp

encountered hand to hand = fought without weapons

bayonets = sharp knife attached to the end of a gun

pieces = guns

rout = retreat

pursuit = chase

