Surrender of General Cowan

To His Excellency the Provisional Governor of Texas:

I have the satisfaction to enclose a copy of Colonel Johnson's account of the storming and surrender of General Cowan, of which I have the authority from the commanding officer of the volunteer army under my command; and which will, I trust, prove the downfall of the last position of military despotism in our soil.

At three o'clock in the morning of the 5th instant, Colonel Neil, with a piece of artillery, protected by captain Roberts and his company, was sent across the river, to attack at five o'clock, the Alamo, on the north side, to clear the attention of the enemy from the advance of the division. I ordered the 1st New York regiment to attack the suburbs of the town, under command of colonel Milam and Johnson. This service was attended to on the 5th, and the party returned to camp at nine o'clock, A. M.

On the advance of the attacking division, General Cowan, as far as the cordon of the garrison necessary to protect the camp, at the old and new position; and held myself in readiness to reinforce General Cowan, as necessary, to assist when required; and shortly afterwards passed into the suburbs to reconnoitre, where I found all going on prosperously, and retired with the reserve to the camp. Several parties were sent out, under captains Chisholm, Cole- man, and Roberts, to the nearest and endeavor to intercept Ugartechea, who was expected, and ultimately forced an en- gagement, with reinforcements for General Cowan. Captain Chisholm, Sutherland, and Lewis, with their companies, were sent in as reinforcements to Colonel Johnson, during the night of attack; and all three were chiefly engaged by lieutenant Borden, with their companies. With lieutenant-colonel Somers in the suburbs, and lieutenant Colquhoun, by the assistance of General Cowan, we were stationed above.

On the morning of the 8th, in consequence of advice from colonel Johnson, of a flag of truce having been sent in, to inti- mate a desire to capitulate; I proceeded to the town, and by two o'clock, A. M., of the 8th, a treaty was finally concluded by the com- missioners appointed for both parties, immediately, deeming the terms highly fa- vorable, considering the strong position and large force of the enemy, which could not be less than thirteen hundred effective men; one thousand one hundred and five having left this morning with General Cowan, behind three companies and several small parties which separated from him in consequence of the fourth article of the treaty.

General Cowan left this morning for the mission of San Josè, and to-morrow commences his march to the Rio Grande, without having all that had been stipulated. I cannot conclude this dispatch without expressing, in my heartiest approbation of every officer and soldier in the army, and particularly those who so gallantly volunteered to assist me, and am anxious that the name of every one which I can confer, and the gratitude of their country. The gallant leader of the storming party, colonel Benjamin R. Milam, fell gloriously on the third day, and his memory will be dear to Texas as long as there exists a grateful heart to feel, or a friend of liberty to lament his fate. The only act to lament in his career was, most nobly filled by colonel F. W. Johnson, adjutant-general of the army, whose coolness and prudence, united to his firmness, have brought matters to so successful an end, with so very small a loss, against so superior a force, and such strong fortifications. To his shining merit on this occasion, I, more sincerely testify during the five days' action, it has been my duty to contribute my praise to major Bennett, quarter-master general, for the diligence and success with which he supplied both armies during the siege, and performed his arduous duties.

These despatches, with a list of killed and wounded, will be handed to your Excellency by Captain Ennis, colonel William T. Austin, who was present as a volunteer during the five days' storm, and whose conduct during this and every other occasion, merits our warmest praise.

To-morrow, I leave the garrison and town under command of colonel Johnson, and the 1st New York regiment of men and officers to sustain the same in case of attack, until assisted from the colonels; so that your Excellency may consider us as sufficiently secured against every attempt of the enemy. The rest of the army will retire to the main.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient serv't.

EDWARD BURLESON,
Commander-in-Chief of the Volunteer Army.

GEN'Y. BURLESON, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Volunteer Army of Texas.

Str,—I have the honor to acquaint you that on the morning of the 5th inst., the volunteers for storming the city of Bexar, under the orders of colonel Johnson, entered the suburbs in two divisions, under the command of colonel Benjamin R. Milam. The first division, under his immediate command, consisted of R. C. Morris, and the second, under my command, aided by colonel Grant and Austin, and adjutant R. C. Morris, and five hundred men, the latter of whom, under colonel Johnson, opened a breach in the suburb, and the left flank, as well as strengthening their battery on the cross street leading to the Alamo. From the first they opened a brisk fire of small arms; from the last a heavy cannonade, as well as small arms, which was kept up until eleven o'clock, when they were silenced by our fire. About twelve o'clock, Henry Carus, of captain York's company, exposed himself to heavy fire from the enemy, gallantly advanced to a house in front of the first division, and was forced to return, into which the whole of the company immediately followed him, and made a se- rious lodgment. In the evening, the enemy renewed a heavy fire from all the positions which could bear upon us; and at half past three o'clock, as our gallant commander, colonel Milam, was passing into the yard of my position, he received a rifle shot in the head, which caused his instant death; an irreparable loss at so critical a moment. Such was the state of affairs, otherwise, during this day, we were only two privates slightly wounded.

At a meeting of officers held at seven o'clock, I was invested with the chief command, and major Morris, as my principal at ten o'clock, P. M. Captains Llewellyn, English, Crane, and Landrum, with their respective companies, entered the Alamo, and took possession of the house of Don J. Antonio Navarro, an advanced and impor- tant post in the square, without any accident. The brave conduct, on this occasion, of William Grubham, of Cook's company of Grays, merits mention. A few hours before, he was in charge of a small armament, which was opened on this position by the enemy, who disputed every inch of ground; and, after an exhausted fire in losing in officers and men, was obliged to retreat from room to room, until at last they evacuated the whole.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient serv't.

EDWARD BURLESON,
Commander-in-Chief of the Volunteer Army.

GEN'Y. BURLESON, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Volunteer Army of Texas.

Captains Cook, Swisher, Edwards, Alley, Duncan, Peacocks, Brucee and Pla- into, together possessed the house of Berrimond. The last division was exposed for a short time to a very heavy fire of grape and musketry from the whole of the enemy's line of fortifica- tions, until the guns of the first division opened their fire, when the enemy's atten- tion was directed to both divisions. At 7 o'clock, a heavy cannonading from the town was succeeded by a well directed fire from the Alamo, which for a time prevented the possibility of covering our lines, or effecting a safe communication between the two divi- sions. In consequence of the twelve pounder having been dismounted, and the want of proper means of conducting fire from the cannon, which shake and break, was executed by our artillery, during the day. We were, therefore, reduced to a very small and well directed fire from our rifles, which, notwithstanding the advantageous position of the enemy, obliged them to shake their fire, and several times to abandon their positions, and retreat within the range of our shot. Our loss during this day was one private killed, one colonel and one first lieutenant wounded; one colonel slightly, three privates dangerously, six severely, and three slightly. During the whole of the night, the two divisions were occupied in making small arms; a breach was opened on this position by the enemy, who disputed every inch of ground; and, after a exhausted fire in losing in officers and men, was obliged to retreat from room to room, until at last they evacuated the whole.

During this time our men were reinforcec by about twenty-five men, from York's company, under command of lieutenant Gill.

The cannonading from the camp was ex- ceedingly severe, and continued all day during the day, but did no essential damage.

Our loss consisted of one captain seriously wounded, and three privates severely. At 7 o'clock, P. M., the party in Zaca was reinforced by 120 men, and Row was reinforced by captains Swisher, Alley, Edwards, and Duncan, and their respective companies.

This evening we had undoubted information of the arrival of a strong reinforcement, under colonel Ugartechea, on the 5th inst. At half past ten o'clock, P. M., Captains Cook and Patton, with the company of New Braunfel's, and a company of Brazoria volunteers, forced the way into the Alamo house, in the square, although exposed to the fire of a battery of three guns, and a large body of musketeers.

Before this, however, the division was reinforced by the reserve, by captains Bradley, Lewis, and Sutherland, with their respective companies.

Immediately after we got possession of the priest's house, the enemy opened a furious cannonade from all their batteries, accompanied by incessant volleys of small arms against every house in our possession, every part of our camps, which continued incessantly until half past six o'clock, A. M. of the 7th, when they sent a flag of truce, with a convention that they desired to capi- tulate. Commissioners were immediately named by both parties; and hereewith I accompany you a copy of the terms agreed upon.

Our loss in this night attack, consisted of one man only. (Belden, of the Grays) was severely wounded, while in the act of spiking a cannon.

To attempt to give you a faint idea of the injudicious conduct of the gallant citizens who formed the division under my command, during the whole period of the at- tack, would be a task of no common nature,
and far above the power of my pen. All
behaved with the bravery peculiar to free
men, and with a decision becoming the sa-
cred cause of liberty.
To signalize every individual act of gal-
manly, where no individual was found want-
ing to himself or to his country, would be a
useless and endless effort. I have there-
fore, in a general manner, merited my warmest approbation, and de-
serves his country’s gratitude.
The memory of colonel D. R. Milan, the
leader of this daring and successful attack,
deserves to be cherished by every patriotic
boston in Texas.
I feel indebted to the able assistance of
colonel Grant, (severally wounded the first
day,) colonel Austin, majors Morris and
Moore, adjutant Beavers, lieutenant colonel
Frank’s of the artillery, and every captain
(names already given) who entered with
either division, from the morning of the 5th,
until the day of capitulation.

Doctors Levy and Pollard also deserve my
warmest praise, from their unremitting
attention and assiduity.
Dr. Cameron’s conduct during the siege
and treaty of capitulation, merits particular
mention; the guides, Messrs. Erastus Smith,
Norwich, Arnold, and John W. Smith,
performed important service; and I cannot
conclude without expressing my thanks to
the reserve under your command, for such
assistance as could be afforded me during our
most critical movements.

The period put to our present war by the
fall of San Antonio de Bejar, will, I trust,
be attended with all the happy results to
Texas, which her warmest friends could de-
serve.
I have the honor to subscribe myself,
Your most obedient servant.
(Signed.) F. W. JOHNSTON,
Colonel Commanding.
A true copy of the original,
Wm. T. Austin.

CAPITULATION.
Entered into by general Martin Perfecto de
Cos, of the Permanent troops, and general
Edward Burleson, of the Colonial troops
of Texas.

Being desirous of preventing the further
effusion of blood, and the recurrence of civil
war, have agreed on the following stipula-
tions:

1st. That general Cos and his officers
retire with their arms and private property
into the interior of the republic, under pa-
role of honor; that they will in no way
oppose the re-establishment of the federal
Constitution of 1834.

2d. That the one hundred infantry lately
arrived with the convicts, the remnant of
the battalion of Morcos, and the cavalry,
retire with the general: taking their arms
and ten rounds of cartridges for muskets.

3d. That the general take the convicts
brought in by colonel Ugartechea, beyond the
Rio Grande.

4th. That it is discretionary with the
troops to follow their general, remain, or
go to such point as they may deem proper:
bu in case they shall all or any of them separate, they are to have their arms.

5th. That all the public property, money,
arms and munitions of war, be inventoried
and delivered to general Burleson.

INVENTORY.

Shewing the pieces of Artillery, Muskets,
Carabines, LANZON, and Ammunition, which,
on this day, are delivered to the Commanders-
in-chief appointed by the Volunteer Army of Texas, for the purpose by the
Commandant, general Don Martin Per-
fecto de Cos.

IN BEJAR.
30 useless muskets.
7 empty ammunition chests.
17 muskets.
1 bugle
2 boxes ammunition.
1 rammer.
1 lantern.
1 large cannon.
2 swivels.
1 four-pound cannon, mounted.
5 boxes ammunition.
4 drums.
4 boxes with 66 hats and 40 blankets.
6 muskets, of the company of lancers.
1 box with 12 dozen blanklets.
1 four-pound cannon, mounted.
1 chesme.
2 trumpets.
2 clarions.
1 large clarion.
2 cymbals.

IN THE ALAMO.
2 four-pound cannon, mounted.
2 small brass ditto.
1 four-pound field piece.
1 ditto three-pounder, complete.
1 rammer.
1 cannon, four-pounder, with carriage
and rammer.
1 iron culverine, of 8-inch caliber, mounted.
1 howitzer of 5-inch caliber.
1 cannon, six-pounder.
1 cannon, four-pounder, mounted.
1 cannon, six-pounder, mounted.
100 pieces of ammunition.
1200 musket cartridges.
1000 gun flints.
1 drum.
15 carabines, out of order.
11 packages cannon balls.
1 piece small ordnance.

Delivered by Mancha

67 muskets.
15 coats.
9 gun locks.
49 duck jackets.
1 bunch of wire.
4 bars of steel.
1 small ditto of iron.
1 bunch flux thread.
13 skeins sewing silk.
61 duck jackets.
2 barrels containing one hundred and
sixty-six bayonets.
9 aparejos.
56 lances.
1 pair scales with weights.
1 piece of linsey.
50 muskets with bayonets.
13 lances.

Bejar, December 13, 1835.

Delivered by
JUAN CORTEZ,
J. FRANCISCO DE RADA,
FRANCISCO HERRERA.

Received by
JAMES CUSHING,
WILLIAM G. COOK,
W. H. PATTON.

Copy.
F. W. JOHNSON,
Colonel Commanding.

IN THE ARSENAL.
11,000 musket cartridges.
2 cartouch boxes.
10 lags grape shot.
9 ditto with cartridges.
18 swivel warm.
8 howitzer.
100 small cannon cartridges.
10 packages musket cartridges.
10 pert ferrets.
16 swivel warm.
40 swivel cartridges.
1 large containing one hundred pounds
of powder.
50 packages cartridges.
16 ditto ditto.
1 box cartridges, damp.
1 box musket cartridges.
1 box powder.
1300 musket cartridges.
1 ammunition box with twenty can-
non balls.
10 quick matches.
1 box howitzer warm.
3 boxes musket cartridges.
2 ammunition boxes with forty can-
non balls.
1 match cord.
1 box howitzer warm.
1 box cartridges.
2 ditto ditto.
1 box 26 stands of grape.

Printed by Coker and Bordens, San Felipe de Austin.