

infantry and the other battalion of the voltigeurs, advanced directly from the Molino del Rey through the Chapultepec grounds; while two regiments, under Colonel Trousdale, with Magruder's battery, were sent along the northerly park wall to intercept reinforcements from that side.

The first of these three detachments, keeping close under the southerly wall, reached, without much loss, a point nearly half a mile from the Molino del Rey where there was an opening in the wall. This was guarded by an infantry breastwork which was quickly carried, and the assailants thus entered the grove near the foot of the hill.

While this first detachment was advancing outside the walls, the second and larger detachment, accompanied by a battery of mountain howitzers, under Lieutenant Reno, issued from the Molino del Rey into the enclosure, deployed as skirmishers, and rushed at the intrenchments which skirted the grove. The Mexican troops, mainly the San Blas battalion, being assailed in front and on their left flank, were driven out and fell back through the grove toward the palace, both Mexicans and Americans availing themselves, as far as possible, of the shelter of the trees. The ground was wet, and the American advance was necessarily slow until the foot of the hill was fairly reached. At this stage of the conflict Pillow was hit by a grape-shot in the leg, inflicting a painful but not dangerous wound, and his fall seems to have resulted in some temporary confusion in the column. It also caused some confusion in Pillow's mind, for he sent a message to Worth begging him to bring up his whole division in support, and to make great haste or it would be too late. Worth sent one brigade (Clarke's) into the enclosure, but its presence was, as it turned out, quite unnecessary. His other brigade (Garland's) was sent to the north of the enclosure, in support of Colonel Trousdale's detachment.

After a short pause, the American column which had halted at the foot of the hill of Chapultepec, again pressed forward, carried the redan which stood half-way up the slope of the hill, and arrived at the wide ditch which was at the very foot of

the retaining wall of the terrace. So rapid had been the rush of the assailants that the mines near the redan were not fired. But here another delay occurred, because of the absence of the scaling-ladders, for the men who had been told to bear them had laid them down in the grove to take part in the battle. Meanwhile the American troops were sheltering themselves behind the rocks, and their rifles and muskets, aided by Reno's mountain howitzers, were keeping up a well-sustained fire against the windows of the palace and against the Mexicans posted on the zigzag road at its turn. But at last the ladders arrived and were laid across the ditch, the men crossed, and the ladders were quickly reared against the retaining wall. By this time all distinction among the several commands had been lost; the nearest men mounted the ladders; many were killed or wounded in the escalade, but others took their places in the wild scramble for the top; and in a very few moments the terrace was cleared of its defenders, and was in possession of the American troops. The first man up seems to have belonged to the voltigeurs.

Simultaneously with Pillow's movement on the western end of the palace, Quitman delivered his assault on the works at its southeastern end. His division, as already stated, had been reinforced during the night by Smith's brigade of Twiggs's division; and this brigade was sent to the east of the Tacubaya road across the marshy fields, for the double purpose of turning the Mexican batteries and of protecting the assaulting columns from skirmishers on their right flank. Headed by the storming party from Twiggs's division, Quitman's main body now advanced along the causeway to a point about two hundred feet from the Mexican batteries. Here the advance was temporarily checked, the column finding shelter in some dilapidated adobe buildings near the road. The volunteer regiments—South Carolina, New York, and Pennsylvania—under General Shields, were thereupon sent off to the left of the road through the meadows, toward the southerly park wall, in an effort to gain the south front of the palace. Suffering under a heavy fire from the

defenders of Chapultepec, the South Carolina regiment, at the head of the detachment, reached the park wall and managed to breach it with pickaxes and crow-bars, while the New York and Pennsylvania regiments, continuing farther west along the wall, found and entered by the opening through which the voltigeur battalion and the storming party of Pillow's column had previously passed. All three regiments then poured into the enclosure to join Pillow's troops, which already were clustered about the southwestern corner of the palace walls or were in the act of scaling them.

While Smith was pushing forward to the east of the road and the volunteers were advancing on its west, Quitman's guns had been firing over the heads of the volunteers at the palace itself or into the grove about Chapultepec, as well as into the Mexican lines in the rear of the batteries. But as soon as the volunteers passed through the park wall Quitman ordered a cessation of the artillery fire and a renewal of the attack along the causeway. The storming parties, supported by the detachment of marines forming a part of the division, rushed forward along the road in the very face of the Mexican batteries, which were manned or supported by General Rangel's brigade.

"The Mexicans behind their batteries and breastworks stood with more than usual firmness. For a short time the contest was hand-to-hand; swords and bayonets were crossed, and rifles clubbed. Resistance, however, was vain against the desperate valor of our brave troops. The batteries and strong works were carried, and the ascent of Chapultepec on that side laid open to an easy conquest."¹

But before the batteries were completely carried the palace of Chapultepec was in possession of the American troops. Climbing up the ladders on the west, or gaining the roadway on the south, and so mounting to the gate under a musketry fire from the windows and roofs of the palace, the assailants were swarming on the terrace, and from the southeastern angle a heavy musketry fire was soon directed against the rear of the batteries on the road, which insured the success

¹ Quitman's Report; Sen. Doc. 1, 30 Cong., 1 sess., 413.

of Quitman's assault. At the same time the palace building was entered and taken.

"Although the Mexicans kept up a resistance for a time, it was soon overcome; but while it lasted the American soldiers showed more ferocity than had been exhibited by them during the whole course of the war. The remembrance of the murder of their wounded comrades on the field of Molino del Rey was still fresh, and, where resistance was made, quarter was rarely given. General Pérez was killed fighting; Colonel Caño, engineer of the castle, and a host of inferior officers and soldiers fell in the tumult; and although the struggle lasted but a few minutes, it was not until the soldiers were satiated with revenge, and the first fury consequent upon the successful assault had passed away, that the bloodshed was put a stop to."¹

The American officers having at length got their men in hand, the different commands were segregated, and Scott himself arrived on the scene. Mounting to the roof, the whole field to the east lay plainly under his view.

While the attacks on the palace itself and the batteries near the southeastern corner of the enclosure were being thus carried to a successful conclusion, a separate engagement was being fought on the northerly side of the enclosure, where a road, the Calzada de Anzures, ran along the park wall. It has been already stated that Pillow had detached two regiments, with Magruder's battery of field artillery, under Colonel Trousdale, to advance on that side in order to prevent reinforcements from entering Chapultepec. Trousdale found in front of him a large Mexican force (the brigade of General Peña y Barragan) with some guns; and he was also exposed to artillery fire from the palace. A section of Magruder's battery, under Lieutenant Jackson, was sent forward along the road, with an infantry support; but Jackson's horses and most of his men were killed or disabled, Trousdale himself was badly wounded, and his men were suffering severe loss.²

¹ Ripley, II, 423. The author, as one of Pillow's aides, took an active part in the attack.

² Jackson felt that his opportunity for distinction had come, and he exposed himself with reckless courage on this occasion.—(Henderson's *Stonewall Jackson*, I, 51.)

While this conflict was going on, with little advantage to the Americans, Garland's brigade of Worth's division, which had been sent forward to this point in response to Pillow's request for help, with the light battalion and Duncan's battery, came round the northwestern corner of the enclosure. Garland's infantry at once deployed in the field to the left and soon drove back the Mexicans, and the united force under Worth advanced along the wall to the Calzada de la Verónica, where it ran north toward the San Cosmé causeway. With this movement the attack ended. The hill was taken, the enclosure and the ground all about it were entirely cleared of Mexican troops, and few obstacles remained between the American army and the two western gates of the city.

The total numbers actually engaged on each side were probably not very unequal. The American force consisted of the whole of Scott's army, with the exception, first, of Riley's brigade of Twiggs's division, which had been held in observation on the south side of the city; second, of the cavalry, a part of which had been detached to watch the Mexican cavalry west of the Molino del Rey and a part to help guard the principal depot at Mixcoac; and, third, of some other detachments, numbering less than three hundred men, at the same place. The American force engaged, according to Scott's report, amounted in all to 7,180.

The Mexicans engaged, including, of course, the troops in and near the batteries at the foot of the hill, must have numbered about the same, or perhaps a little less. In addition, Alvarez, with his cavalry and some infantry—probably a force of some six or seven hundred raw troops from Toluca—occupied the hacienda of Morales, west of the Molino del Rey, but they remained useless spectators of the conflict.

The Mexican losses were large, if the prisoners and deserters be included, and were estimated in General Pillow's report at about eighteen hundred. The American losses were never separately stated, for the troops hardly paused after the palace had been taken, but pushed on directly for the city itself, where, as will be seen, further severe fighting

occurred, which ended only with the complete occupation of the capital itself.¹

¹Scott's report of the storming of Chapultepec, with the reports of his subordinates (which include all the events of September 12 and 13, 1847), are contained in Sen. Doc. 1, 30 Cong., 1 sess., 375-431. Much testimony was also taken in reference to Pillow's attack in two courts of inquiry on his conduct, printed in Sen. Doc. 65, 30 Cong., 1 sess. Other accounts of eye-witnesses will be found in Ripley, II, 413-428; Semmes, 453-456; Wilcox, 459-468; Quitman, I, 380-389; II, 308-310. Santa Anna's report is printed in the appendix to his *Apelacion al buen Criterio*, 111-115. Other Mexican official reports have not been published (except in the newspapers of the day), but copious extracts are printed in Roa Bárcena, 454-488. Reference may also be made to *Apuntes para la Historia de la Guerra*, 305-317.