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Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 100, 10 April 1852 — ARRIVAL OF THE OHIO-STARTLING NEWS FROM THE GILA! [ARTICLE]

ARRIVAL OF THE OHIO.—STARTLING NEWS FROM THE GILA!

The steamer Ohio, which left San Diego on Friday the 2d inst., arrived in this port yesterday at 12 o'clock. Her memoranda and list of passengers will be found in another column. We are indebted to Adams & Co., and the Purser of the steamer Ohio for copies of the *Los Angeles Star* and an extra from the *San Diego Herald*.

An express arrived yesterday afternoon from the Gila, to Major McKinstry, and we have been permitted to peruse certain letters, from which, and a conversation with the Express-rider, we have gleaned the following interesting but melancholy state of affairs at Camp Yuma:

The Courier (the indefatigable private Morris, of Co. D, 2d Infantry) left Camp on Friday last, making as is usual with him, a trip that, under the circumstances, may well be considered extraordinary. The Sierra Nevada (for the safety of which much anxiety has been felt here) loaded with Government supplies, and carrying as passengers Major Andrews, Lieut. Fraser, and a small party of soldiers, arrived at the mouth of the Colorado Feb. 17th. It required nine days to put together their flat-boats for the transportation of the supplies up the river. The boatmen on their first trip up the river, were peculiarly unfortunate. One boat was swamped—boat and cargo entirely lost. The contractors have experienced very great and unexpected difficulties on the river. Major Heintzelman's command at Camp Yuma use up the stores about as fast as the contractors can deliver them. It is not expected that the delivery of the supplies will be completed before the 1st of July; in the meantime decisive steps must be taken by the authorities here to maintain the troops on the river and enable them to prosecute a vigorous campaign against a foe that has become emboldened by a temporary success, growing out of their cowardly mode of warfare and their superior knowledge of the country. That portion of the country to which the Indians have fled, is represented as overgrown by a thick and almost impenetrable hammock, and crossed and re-crossed by sloughs, rendering it almost impossible for our troops to encounter an enemy who declines a fair and

troops to encounter an enemy who declines a fair and stand-up fight. On the 4th ult. Major Heintzelman dispatched Major Fitzgerald, with sixty men, with orders to proceed to the mouth of the Colorado, and ascertain whether the Sierra Nevada had arrived. At a point 22 miles down the river, a party of seven men, hunting up some pack-mules, were surprised and inhumanly killed, by a very large party of Indians armed with clubs. The Indians, after possessing themselves of the arms belonging to the murdered party, amused themselves that night by firing into Camp. The following are the names of the men killed:

Serg. T. B. Taylor, and Privates Knorth, Simmons, McCluan, Betts, Beories of Company E, 1st Dragoons; D. B. McCoy, teamster, Quartermaster's Department.

Private Mallias, Company E, wounded.

Finding the Indians in great force, Major Heintzelman determined on forcing a passage to the mouth of the river, which he accomplished after great hardships and difficulties. For ten miles the troops were compelled to wade through water thigh deep. The mule train is well used up, owing to the scarcity of forage. The grazing is next to nothing, and the Yumas do not fail to pick off any wandering animal in search of grass. The detachment of recruits that left here a few weeks since, arrived at Camp Yuma on the 25th ult. No one unacquainted with the section of country in which our troops are now compelled to operate, can form an idea of the difficulties they will have to contend with. It is evident that a most liberal outlay of money and supplies will be required to sustain our force on the Gila. The Indians roam over a country more than 2000 square miles in extent, covered with thickets as bad as any in Florida, interlaced with an interminable network of sloughs, that render it the easiest thing in the world for the Indians to avoid the troops.

Their planting season is not until July, and it will be long after that before the enemy will feel our power over them. The abandonment of Camp Yuma last winter has entailed a series of difficulties upon our suffering country, from which we will not easily recover. The Indians boast to the Sonorians that they drove the Americans from the river and killed their soldiers. There is much truth in the first part of their story, and a fearful responsibility rests somewhere.

We have been permitted to copy the following additional particulars from a private letter, received by a gentleman in town, from a friend at the Colorado:

"There were six soldiers and one citizen teamster, who were herding the animals of Major Fitzgerald, cut off from the camp by a body of more than 200 Indians, and killed; after which they made an open attack on the camp, and were repulsed with the loss of four, and many wounded."

THE GREAT RACE.—The great race between the Sydney mare "Black Swan" and Californian horse "Sarco" came off at Los Angeles on the 21st inst. Distance, nine miles—the "Black Swan" winning by 75 yards. Time—19 minutes and 20 seconds.*

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About \$50,000 changed hands on the occasion.