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Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 116, 26 April 1852 — FROM THE SOUTH—MILITARY OPERATIONS ON THE GILA. [ARTICLE]

FROM THE SOUTH.—MILITARY OPERATIONS
ON THE GILA.

The arrival of the steamer *Ohio*, Capt. Hilliard, five days from San Diego, gives us intelligence from Southern California of an interesting, though not important nature.

The post on the Gila, which by our last accounts was seriously threatened by Indians and by famine, has been maintained, and supplies conveyed thither from the relief vessel moored in the Colorado. The troublesome Indians have been held in check, and Camp Yuma is again in prosperous circumstances. We subjoin a report of matters in that section, from the *San Diego Herald* of April 17 :

ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT COURIER FROM THE GILA.—The Government Courier from the Gila reached here on the 14th inst., four days from Camp Yuma, bringing despatches for the commanding general of the division and the mail for the Atlantic States. By this arrival we have advices as late as the morning of the 10th. The route over the desert is daily becoming worse, owing to the scarcity of water and grass, and as a consequence, much suffering will be endured by the train of animals now employed on the road. The transport schooner Sierra Nevada is moored in the Colorado, at a point distant seventy miles from Camp Yuma. The contractors are indefatigable in their exertions to supply the post from the vessel, but owing to a loss (previously reported in this paper) of one of their flatboats, they fail to meet, to any great extent, the want of the troops. A thorough examination of the river has been made, and all parties are satisfied that it can be safely navigated by small steamers, such as are used on the Ohio—a fact of no small importance, inasmuch as it demonstrates a problem hitherto wanting solution, that a line of posts can now be established upon the Gila with a certainty of being supplied with facility and that promptness so necessary to the success of all military operations, and will secure to us an easier transit of travel over a route, but for Indian

depredations, would be considered by everybody as the most feasible of the numerous land routes leading from the old States to our favored country.

Major Heintzelman, with that energy and promptness that has ever attended his command, has been active in the pursuit of the Indians, and they have received a lesson that will long be remembered on the Gila. Their fields have been destroyed, and they themselves been driven to the mountains.

The report speaks in terms of warm commendation of the conduct of the officers and men of Major Fitzgerald's command, engaged in the skirmish with the Indians a short time since on the Colorado. The Indians were armed with rifles, escopettes, pistols and arrows, and twice charged the little band with the ferocity of tigers. They were repulsed by superior skill and courage. Pasqual, the celebrated chief of the Yumas, was killed, within 25 or 30 yards of our line of skirmishers, evincing the utmost bravery, as indeed did all his men, who made every effort to close in on Fitzgerald's small force, in order to end the fight with their clubs.

An expedition against the Indians was fitted out at Camp Yuma on the 27th March, which after moving up the banks of the Colorado, encountered a large body of the foe, who fled before them into the mountains.

Company A., First Dragoons, commanded by Lieut. Stoneman, and Company F, Second Infantry, under charge of Lieut. Frasier, arrived here on the 15th instant. Company C, Lieut. Roy arrived yesterday. The whole are *en route* for Benicia. We, in common with our readers, regret the departure of this fine body of troops, officered by young officers of tried energy and zeal. Their services have been invaluable during their short campaign in our district, and entitle them to the thanks of our people.—*San Diego Herald*.

The U. S. Transport barque *Anita*, Capt. Belcher, having on board Companies A, First Dragoons, and C and F, Second Infantry, with their officers, left San Diego for this port on the afternoon of the 17th inst.

LOWER CALIFORNIA.—Captain Don Manuel Castro, Mexican Commandante of the neighboring frontier, is in town. Our readers will remember that a few weeks since, we commented on the inhuman murder of two

American citizens, (Van Ness and McDonald,) by a party of Mexican soldiers, headed by an officer. We are rejoiced to learn that Captain Castro has taken the matter in hand, having arrested, ironed, and dispatched the accused to La Paz, for trial before a Court Martial. We doubt not justice will be meted out with an even hand, for Captain Castro is determined to use his influence and office towards redeeming the stigma now resting upon his command, growing out of the murder above alluded to.—*San Diego Herald*.

The wharf at San Diego, new town, has been purchased by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. for ten thousand dollars.

We understand, says the *San Diego Herald*, that Maj. Emory now unites in his person the joint offices of principal surveyor and chief astronomer for the American Boundary Commission. This releases Mr. A. B. Gray from his position as chief surveyor of the Commission.

EARTHQUAKE.—On Monday night last, precisely at midnight, our citizens were alarmed by a very severe shock of earthquake, which continued some thirty seconds. An adobe house, with a tiled roof, situated near the Plaza, at Old Town, was destroyed by the shock. The motion was vibratory and oscillating from west to east, and it is more than probable that it had its origin in some of the islands lying to the westward of us, whose volcanic construction renders them at any moment liable to a visitation of this nature. We await with anxiety intelligence from the Sandwich Islands.—*Herald*.

We have the *Los Angeles Star* of the 17th, but there is no news.