

Gen. Decker

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Nov 2, 1831

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Head Quarters

Camp near Far West.

Nov: 2nd. 1838.

His Exc. L. M. Boggs

Comd in Chief. m. m.

Sir. On Monday 27th

Oct: the troops ordered out by Maj: Genl: Atch: ison & myself (as per our report to you of said date) took up their line of march from

Camp near Richmond for Far West - we

encamped the night of the 27th at Lin:

villie's Creek, (a short distance from the road)

about sixteen miles from Far West, at which

point we received an express from Brig:

Genl: Doniphan, informing us that he was

then encamped on Log Creek, with a force

of 500 men, and that he would join us

at the crossing of said creek on the road

from Richmond to Far West, by 10 o'clock, A.M.

the next morning - On 30th Oct: the troops

got together at the late named point, when

we mustered about 1800 men - whilst at

this place we received your orders of 26th

ult. and I received an order of 27th ult. & a

letter from you of the same date - At this

point Maj: Genl: Atchison left me for Liberty -

when I was left in sole command. Before leaving Log Creek, I received information that a band of Mormons, 200 in number, called Sanites, had been seen about two hours previous, near the route that we had passed. Upon receiving this intelligence, I ordered a detachment of two companies from the respective commands of Brig: Genl: Wilson, Doniphan, Parks & Graham, to go in pursuit of said band - which I placed under the command of Genl: Wilson, with instructions to intercept, if possible, to cut off their retreat to Far West. I then took up my line of march for Goose Creek, one mile south of Far West, which point we reached about one hour by sun in the evening. Just as the troops were encamping, I received intelligence from Genl: Doniphan, from his position on the right, that he had discovered a party of ~~mormons~~ mormons approaching Far West from the East - and requested permission to intercept them if possible. Leave was granted, & his Brig: started off at nearly full speed to accomplish the order, but the mormons succeeded in reaching the fort - Genl: Doniphan approached within ⁴² 200 yards of their fortress, when they displayed

a force of about 800 men. At this juncture I ordered Genl. Graham's Brig: (holding Genl. Parker & part of Genl. Wilson's, mounted, in reserve) to march at full speed to the relief of the 1st. Brig 3rd. Div. - but from the inequality of the force of the first detachment (being only 250 strong at that time) & the morning it was considered prudent to withdraw the troops, & march against them in the morning. Which was accordingly done, and they all returned, at dark set in, to camp. At this place I established my Head Quarters, & continued there during the expedition against the Mormons. The detachment under Genl. Wilson returned about 9 o'clock P. M. The next morning 31st. October, I received a message from Col. Hinckley, the Commander of the Mormon force, requesting an interview with me, on an eminence near Far West, which he would designate, by hoisting a white flag. I sent him word that I would meet him at 2 o'clock P. M. being so much engaged in receiving & encamping of fresh troops, who were hourly coming in, that I could not attend before. Accordingly at that time I started with my staff officers and Brig: Genls: Wilson, Doniphan & Graham - Genl. Parker being left in command. We

We met him and some other morning at the point before mentioned. He stated that his object in asking me to meet him there was to know if there could not be some compromise or settlement of the difficulty without a resort to arms. After giving him to understand the nature of your orders, I made him the following propositions, which I furnished him a copy of - Also a copy of your order. viz -

1st. To give up their leaders to be tried & punished.

2nd. To make an appropriation of their property, all who had taken up arms to the payment of their debts and indemnity for damage done by them -

3rd. That the balance should leave the State, & be protected out by the militia, but to be permitted to remain under protection, until further orders were received from the Commander in chief -

4th. To give up their arms of every description, to be receipted for.

Col: Dinckle agreed to the proposition readily, but wished to postpone the matter until morning - I then told him that I would require Jos. Smith jr, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wright,

and Parley Pratt and Gen: W. Robinson as
 hostages for his faithful compliance with
 the terms, and would pledge myself and
 each one of the officers present, that
 in case he, after reflecting and consulting
 upon the propositions during the night, de-
 clined acceding to them, that the hostages
 should be returned to him in the morning,
 at the same point they were received - but
 it was understood, that in case they did comply,
 they were to be held for trial, as part of the
 leaders, called for by 157. stipulation. I then gave
 him until one hour by sun in the evening, to
 produce and deliver them. We then returned to
 camp. I directed the troops to make prepa-
 rations to march to Far West by an hour &
 a half by sun, with a determination, in case
 the hostages were not produced, to make an
 attack upon the town forthwith. I directed
 Genl. Parks' brigade to be mounted, & to form
 on the right of the division, to act as flankers,
 if necessary, and, if required to pass entirely
 around the town, and form on the north
 side, with instructions to make the attack,
 at the report of the cannon, which was to
 be the signal for the general attack. Genl: Gra:
 Harris' brigade was mounted & formed on the
 extreme left to act as flankers, and if required

to form the line on the west side, with similar instructions, as to the commencement of the attack. Genl: Doniphan's Brig: was ordered to parade on foot and to form on the left of Genl: Parks, with instructions to form on the east side, with similar orders relative to attack. Genl: Wilson's Brig: was ordered to parade on foot and to form on the left of Genl: Doniphan, with instructions to form the line of battle, on the south side, with same instructions, as to commencement of attack. The artillery company, with one piece of ord: nance, was placed at the head of Genl: Doniphan & Genl: Wilson's Brigades, with instructions to occupy an eminence within 300 yards of the Town. The army being disposed of in this manner, at the appointed time, I took up the line of march in the direction of Far west. When the troops got within about 600 yards I discovered the flag, and the hostages advancing. I immediately halted the army, and rode out and met them, received the hostages and placed a guard over them for their safety and protection, and ordered the forces back to our encampment. I cannot forbear at this point expressing my gratification and approbation of the good conduct & gallant bravery evinced by all the officers and men

under my command. They marched up with
 as much determination and deliberation, as
 old veterans, not knowing but that the
 charge would be sound every moment for
 surrounding the Town. There was no noise or
 confusion - nothing but an eager anxiety upon
 the countenance of every man to get at the work.
 When the hostages were received, the troops with
 some ^{slight} exceptions marched back in profound
 silence. 1st. Noon I ordered the whole force
 amounting to 2500 men to parade at 9 o'clock
 A.M. & to take up the line of march for
 Far West, and in part 9 o'clock to receive the
 prisoners & their arms. The troops marched ^{out}
 formed in the Prairie about 200 yards ^{south}
 east of the Town. Genl: Wilson's Brig: formed
 the West line, Genl: Doniphan's the east line,
 Genl: Graham's & Genl' Parker's the South line
 with the artillery company and the Cannon
 in the center of the two latter, leaving one
 side of the square open. The Mormon army
 reduced to about 600 men by desertion and
 otherwise, under their commander Col: Hinckle
 marched out of their Town, through the space
 into our square, formed a hollow square and
 grounded their arms - Col: Hinckle then
 rode forward & delivered up to me his sword
 & pistols - I then directed a company from

the respective Brigades to form a front, rear, and right & left flank guards, & to march the prisoners back to Far West, & protect and take charge of them, until the next morning. I then detailed a company from Genl: Doniphan's command to take charge of the army. Then in order to gratify the army, & to let the Snormony see our forces, marched around the town, & through the principal streets, & back to the head quarters. Considering the war at an end in this place, I issued orders for Genl: Doniphan's brigade, with the exception of one company, & Genl: Graham's Brig: to take up their line of march for their respective Head Quarters, & dismiss their men - and directed Genl: Wilson to take charge of the prisoners (demanded for trial) & army & march them to my head Quarters at Independence, to await further orders, & to dismiss all except a guard for the prisoners & army. Ind. Nov: I relieved the guard placed over the prisoners at Far West by 4 companies of Genl: Parks' Brig: and placed them under the command of Col: Thompson 2nd Brig: 3rd: Div: with instructions to report to Genl: Clark.

42 The balance of Genl: Parks' Brigade with Capt: Gilliam's company of Genl: Doniphan's Brigade

under the command of Genl: Parker, I ordered
 to Adam on Diamond, a mormon town in Daviess
 County, with instructions to disarm the
 mormon forces at that place, and to
 leave a guard of 50 men for the protec-
 :tion of prisoners, & to report to Genl: Clark.
 In order to carry the treaty & stipulations
 into effect, I have requested your Aid:
 -de-Camp Col: Williams, together with Col:
 Burch & Maj: A. Reese of Ray to attend to
 drawing up all the papers legally, and
 directed Col: Thompson to wait on them
 with a portion of his command, & to cause
 all their orders and requirements consist:
 :ent with the stipulations to be carried
 into effect. This day about 12 o'clock
 there was a Battalion of 100 men from
 Platte arrived at Far West, which I or-
 :dered back, having understood that Major Genl:
 Clark would be on in a day or two, with a suffi:
 :cient force to operate in Daviess and Living:
 :ton, & for any service that may be requi:
 :red-

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I have the honor to be
 most respectfully -
 Your Obedt. Servant
 Maj: Genl:
 Commanding -