The North Carolina Standard (Raleigh, NC) – April 14, 1836

IMPORTANT FROM TEXAS

We learn by the Passengers of the schooner Cumanche, 8 days from Texas, that the war has assumed a serious character. On the 25 February the Texan Garrison in Bexar of 150 men commanded by Lieutenant Colonel B. Travis was attacked by the advance division of Gen. San Anna, consisting of 2000 men, who were repulsed with loss of many killed, between 500 to 800 men, without the loss of one man of the Texians. About the same time Col. Johnson, with a party of 70 men while reconnoitering the westward of the San Patricio, was surrounded in the night by a large body of Mexican troops; in the morning the demand of a surrender was made by the Mexican commander unconditionally, which was refused, but an offer of surrender was made as prisoners of war, which was acceded to by the Mexicans -but no sooner had the Texians marched out of their quarters and stacked their arms, than a general fire was opened upon them by the Mexican force. The Texians attempted to escape but only three of them succeeded, one of whom was Col. Johnson.

Between the 25th February and 2nd of March the Mexicans were employed in forming entrenchments around the Alamo and bombarding the place; on the 2nd March Col. Travis wrote that 200 shells had been thrown into the Alamo without injuring a man. On the 1st March the Garrison of Alamo received a reinforcement of 32 Texians from Ganzales having forced their way through the enemy’s lines making the number in the Alamo consisting of 180 men.

On the 6th March about midnight, the Alamo was assaulted by the whole Mexican army commanded by Santa Anna in person. The battle was desperate until daylight when only 7 men belonging to the Texian garrison were found alive, who called for quarter, but were told that there was none for them. They then continued fighting until the whole were butchered. One woman (Mrs. Dickinson) and a Negro of Colonel Travis, were the only persons whose lives were spared.

We regret to say that Col. David Crockett, his companion, Mr. Benton, and Col. Bonham of S. Carolina were among the number slain. Col. Bowie was murdered in his bed, sick and helpless. They told the Negro servant of Colonel Travis, to point out the body of his master, he did so, when Cos drew his sword and mangled the face and limbs with the malignant feelings of a Cumanche savage. The bodies of the slain were thrown into a heap in the centre of the Alamo and burned. The loss of the Mexicans in storming the place was not less than one thousand killed and mortally wounded, and as many wounded—making with their loss in the first assault, between two and three thousand men. The flag used by the Mexicans was a blood-red one in place of the constitutional flag. Immediately after the capture Gen Santa Anna sent Mrs. Dickinson and the servant to Gen Houston's camp, accompanied by a Mexican with a flag, who was the bearer of a note from Gen. Santa Anna, offering the Texians peace, and a general amnesty if they would lay down their arms and submit to his government. Gen Houston's reply was "True, sir, you have succeeded in killing some of our brave men, but the Texians are not yet conquered."

***SOURCE:***

*The North-Carolina standard.* (Raleigh, N.C.), 14 April 1836. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042147/1836-04-14/ed-1/seq-2/>>