

In 1849 and 1850 the territory on the Pacific had constituted the third division of Department No. 11; but on the 17th of May, 1851, the command of departments 10 and 11 were merged in that of the Pa-

goons, commanded by Lieut Davidson, and a detachment of the 2d infantry, the whole in charge of Capt. Nathaniel Lyon. Davidson having failed of reaching the Indians the previous year, by reason of their taking refuge on an island in Clear lake, wagons accompanied the troops, carrying boats to be used in pursuit. This unexpected movement surprised and alarmed the Indians, who from being defiant became terrified. They showered their arrows ineffectually upon the troops, who first drove them from their concealment with a howitzer, and afterward shot them down with their muskets, until 60 out of 400 were killed, after which their rancheria was destroyed. The command then proceeded to Russian river, where two settlers, Stone and Kelley, had been atrociously murdered, and surrounding the Indians in a jungle, slaughtered 'not less than 75 of them.' In these two engagements the only damage received was two men wounded. Sending the horses to Benicia to be rested, the troop then marched to the Goose lake country to search for Warner's bones and punish his murderers.

While these events were taking place, Gen. Smith was making a tour of inspection in the south. Finding at San Diego that persons arriving from the Gila complained that a gang of thirteen lawless men had established a ferry over the Colorado, in competition with the young Indians, and were extorting enormous prices from travellers, besides committing robberies and murders, and being besought to send a command to drive them away, he offered, if a writ could be issued for their arrest, to assist the civil officers in the execution of their duty. But nothing was attempted to be done by the authorities, and the gang continued to rob and kill, charging their crimes upon the Yumas. They killed an Irishman who had set up an opposition ferry, and destroyed the boats of the Indians. The Yumas retaliated by killing eleven of the men, including the leaders, for which nobody was sorry, although Major-general Bean of the 4th Cal. division of militia endeavored to raise a company to punish the Indians for the murder of the white men, but failed. The ferry was soon reestablished, and in order to prevent the recurrence of such trouble, and to protect the immigration, Gen. Smith ordered Major Heintzelman to proceed as soon as possible to the mouth of the Gila to establish there a military post. This action was rendered possible by the arrival at San Diego in the spring of a body of troops under lieut col. J. B. Magruder, who occupied that station in the absence of Heintzelman. On the 27th of November, 1850, two companies of the 2nd infantry established Camp Independence at the crossing of the Colorado, which was transferred to the former site of a mission, in March 1851, and was thenceforth called Fort Yuma. So little were the Indians in the vicinity feared that the fort was soon left in charge of Lieut L. W. Sweeney and ten men. They soon, however, began murdering immigrants, and attacked the fort, which on account of the difficulty of obtaining supplies was abandoned in Dec., after being reinforced by Lieut Davidson. It was not again occupied until in February 1852, when Heintzelman returned to make a permanent establishment at this point, which for many years retained its importance.

The adjournment of the boundary commission on the Rio Grande, in February, to meet at El Paso in November, left a company of infantry under Lieut Coultz, disposable for garrison duty, in addition to which was a company organized from detachments that had marched across the country on the Gila route, under Maj. E. Fitzgerald. From these companies, too small to take distant or exposed posts, Gen. Smith organized three garrisons, stationing Fitzgerald at the rancho El Chino, in San Bernardino valley, the remainder of the infantry at the Cajon pass, and the dragoons at San Luis Rey.