

The Texas Revolution

In Four Easy Steps

The Battle of Gonzales marked the beginning of the Texas Revolution. The following information tells the story of that revolution, from the occupying of Goliad by the Mexican army to the fall of the Alamo to the Texans' final victory at San Jacinto. The fight for Texas independence lasted only a few months, but it was a bitter struggle. In the end a new nation, the Republic of Texas, was born.

The Battle of Gonzales followed the trouble between Texans and Mexican officials in Anahuac. Because of these troubles, General Martin Perfecto de Cos decided to send more troops into Texas. These new troops landed at Copano on the Gulf coast and marched through Goliad to San Antonio.

1. **The Capture of Goliad** - On the night of October 9, 1835, a force of 50 Texans under the command of George Collinsworth, assisted by Ben Milam, attacked the Mexican garrison at Goliad. A brief fight occurred, and one Mexican soldier was killed. The rest of the garrison, outnumbered and surrounded, surrendered to the Texans. The Texan victory at Goliad was important because it gave Texans confidence and much needed ammunition and arms.
2. **The Battle of Mission Concepcion** - Once a Texan army had been organized, plans were made to attack General Cos at San Antonio. Just on the outskirts of the city a battle occurred on October 28th. A force of 90 Texans led by James Fannin and James Bowie were attacked by 400 Mexican soldiers. In the battle, the Texans won a quick and clear victory.
3. **The Grass Fight** - While part of the Texas army remained at Mission Concepcion, Austin and the other Texans moved their camp to the Old Mill. On November 26, a scout named Erastus "Deaf" Smith, rode into camp with the news that Mexican soldiers were bringing horses and mules to San Antonio. About 100 Texans ambushed the Mexicans and captured their horses and mules. When the Texans opened the bags that supposedly held silver, they were greatly disappointed. The bags contained only grass.
4. **The Battle of San Antonio** - The Texans attacked on December 5, 1835. For the next four days, the battle raged for control of San Antonio. The Texans fought from house to house, slowly driving the Mexican forces into retreat. On the fifth day of the attack the Mexican forces were driven from the center of town and into the abandoned San Antonio de Valero mission, also known as the Alamo. On December 10, the Mexican army agreed to the terms demanded by the Texans and surrendered. Cos agreed not to interfere with Texans in their fight to restore the Constitution of 1824.

After the Battle of San Antonio, the Texans went wild with celebration. Many believed they could now become a separate state within Mexico and operate under the laws of the Constitution of 1824. But Santa Anna had different ideas. The ruler of Mexico was gathering an army south of the Rio Grande to destroy the Texas rebellion. He would personally lead the attack.