

The Settling of Texas and the War for Texan Independence

Travis Source (Modified)

From Lieutenant Colonial William Barret Travis

Commandancy of the Alamo –
Bejar, Feb. 24, 1836 –

To the People of Texas & all Americans in the world –

Fellow citizens – I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna – We have survived a continuous bombardment for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy [Mexican Army] has demanded surrender, otherwise we will all be killed if the fort is taken. I have answered their demand with a cannon shot & our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat.

Then, I call on you in the name of freedom, patriotism & everything dear to Americans, to come help us. The enemy is getting reinforcements daily & will increase to three or four thousand troops in four or five days. If my call to service is ignored, I will keep going as long as I can & die like a soldier with honor. Victory or death.

William Barret Travis
Lt. Col. Commander

P.S. God is on our side – When the enemy first appeared we didn't have any corn. Since then we have found 80 or 90 bushels of corn in deserted houses nearby.

Travis

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Travis source student document analysis handout

Author: _____

Date: _____

Intended Audience: _____

What has been happening at the Alamo before Santa Anna demanded surrender?

How did Lt. Col. Travis respond to the Mexican army's demand that the Alamo surrender?

What does Travis' response tell us about him and the men at the Alamo?

Describe the purpose of this letter:

Why does Travis think that God is on the side of the Texans? Why is this important to Travis and his men at the Alamo?
