

3 Oct 95

Dear Scott,

Excuse sloppy writing; I have
big bandage on right index finger.
Let me give you some advice —
Never pull out a hang nail!!

Enclosed are the extra photos I
spoke of. The Vnaga stela drawings
are of Carl Snout and Stormy Sky →
Smoking Frog's son + grandson.

I've also enclosed my poor copy
of Smoking Frog from his stela;
also copies of the Vnaga name
glyphs of the Tlatocani — you can
tell there's no "magic" in my
fingers!

The other is of Teotihuacan
in Tihel.

About our conversation on where Cortes made his causeway camp. I agree with you that the only militarily sound place would have been at Acachinanco. Also the description of the "size" of the camp means it could only be at a place with enough area as well as ready-made fortifications.

Now Cortes says the force from Coyohuacan attacked about a league up its causeway when he decided to ~~land~~ land... and seize two small temple towers surrounded by a low stone enclosure. "He" does not call it Xoloc - the editor does in a footnote. Gomara does refer to it as Xoloc, however. As I see it, the fort at Acachinanco ^{would be} was the linchpin of the Mexica Mexica causeway defence. The Spanish force

from Coyolmacan, if it had advanced only one (1) league would not have reached Acachinero yet. So by descending upon the fort, Cortés would have ~~immediately~~ "immediately" facilitated the advance of the Coyolmacan force. His own small force would then be within very short range of support by the Coyolmacan force.

If he had landed at Xloc, he could not have been so supported and in fact would have been seriously at risk with the fort at Acachinero still held by the Mexican. At Xloc he would have been on the very edge of the city where large numbers of Mexican could have been massed against him while the Coyolmacan force was still on the far

side of Acachinanes, more than three (3) leagues away. By the way, how far is a Spanish league?

Now my question for you is - does Cortes' description of the site equate with the fort at Acachinanes or the Toi shrine at Xoloc? Diaz says "when we arrived near to Mexico, where there were some other small towers, the Great Montezuma got down"... Reading Gómara more ~~carefully~~, closely, you can see he is plainly talking about Acachinanes ~~at~~ but writes Xoloc! Diaz is referring to the Toi ~~shrine~~ shrine, it is clear! So it seems that the misidentification of Xoloc as both Cortes' landing place on the causeway and the site of his camp

is probably due to a mistake by Gómez. I love this sort of analysis! A careful reading of the sources, examination of the terrain, and some common sense usually works. This is the sort of thing we can do in *The Battle for Anáhuac*.

Speaking of which, I've enclosed a couple paras on what I imagined the causeway fighting was like as Cortés broke into ~~the~~ ^{the} city near Xoloc. I haven't used it ⁱⁿ current book.

I've also enclosed blow up of murals from Temple of Jaguar at Chichen Itza from slides I got from Peabody

6.

Museums. Notice siege tower!

Yours truly

Pete