

# VILLA RAIDS AN AMERICAN TOWN

## KILLED BY MEXICANS COMMANDED BY VILLA

### Band of Rebels Made Attack on Town Across Border, Burning Four Buildings and Slaying Eleven People.

## FOUR U. S. SOLDIERS WERE SLAIN

### Troops Chased Invaders Away After Killing a Number of Them With Machine Gun Fire.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] EL PASO, Texas, March 9.—In a battle between Villista bandits and United States soldiers at Columbus, N. M., following the Mexicans' attack on the city at 4:30 a. m. today, three American soldiers were killed and four wounded; four Columbus civilians were killed and a number were wounded, and an unknown number of the bandits were killed.

This report was given the United Press by Brigadier General J. P. Pershing, who received an official account of the fighting from Colonel Slocum, commanding officer at Columbus.

The dead Mexicans were strewn about the streets of Columbus, according to Slocum's latest account.

Four of the principal buildings of Columbus were fired and destroyed by the Mexicans, including the town's hotel.

One woman was among the dead or wounded civilians.

The United States troops after beating the bandits off, pursued them southward toward the Mexican border, Colonel Slocum reported. He did not give the names of any of the killed or wounded American troops.

Slocum's report did not convey any of the dramatic scenes which must have accompanied the bandits' attack on the city during the night. A special message to the El Paso and Southwestern railway's office declared the Mexicans, reported to be personally commanded by Francisco Villa, crept up on Columbus under cover of darkness and set fire to the railway depot and neighboring buildings.

United States troops with a machine gun beat the Mexicans off, according to the railroad's advice. The size of the attacking party was not stated, but Villa was recently reported to have been in the vicinity of Columbus with several hundred followers and several American prisoners.

An El Paso and Southwestern extra freight train was stopped six miles east of Columbus by an American patrol of two soldiers and warned not to enter Columbus on account of the fighting there. Conductor Lumble, of the extra freight, made this report to the company's office on arriving in town after the battle was over.

Unconfirmed reports here declare several guests in the hotel burned by

the bandits, are believed to have perished. M. A. Richmond, the proprietor, is believed to have been killed.

R. C. Miller, a citizen, and one other American born man, are also said to have been shot down in the street. The thirteenth United States cavalry, comprising about 900 men, is stationed in and around Columbus. The regiment is equipped with four machine guns. Columbus is only three miles from Palomas, Mexico, on the border. Villa's band has been encamped near Palomas for the last two days.

In anticipation for just such an attack on the town, Colonel Slocum had increased the guard around Columbus. Brigadier General Pershing had no further report from Colonel Slocum at 9 a. m. today.

Eleven Americans Killed. COLUMBUS, N. M., March 9.—Eleven Americans were killed by 400 Villistas who swooped down on this town in the darkness early today, and were driven off only after nearly two hours of fighting with 300 United States cavalrymen and citizens.

Thirty or forty Villistas were killed or wounded, it is estimated. Five American civilians were wounded.

Aroused from sleep by the sudden onrush of the Mexicans, firing into the streets and houses, four American troops and seven civilians, including one woman, were killed before the Villistas were finally driven across the border, three miles below Columbus. Three United States soldiers were shot dead and a wounded trooper died shortly after the battle.

Rumors that several guests died in the Commercial hotel to which the Mexicans applied the torch, are not credited, although the ruins are being carefully searched for trace of bodies.

Mrs. Dean, wife of James Dean, a leading merchant, was shot down in cold blood beside her husband, who was also killed in the defense of his home.

T. C. Miller was shot and killed by the Mexicans before they set fire to his drug store.

Albert Ritchey, proprietor of the hotel, was no match for the squad of

(Continued on page 2.)

## THREE CORNERED STRUGGLE OVER SUBMARINE QUESTION

### United States, England and Germany Each Have Different Opinion.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, March 9.—In a triangular diplomatic struggle over arming of merchantmen—between the United States, England and Germany—a clear cut issue is gradually assuming form. This American officials now believe, may be summed up in the question: "Is the new German campaign against armed merchantmen a justifiable reprisal against England?"

Upon the American government's answer, officials declared today depends not only German-American, Anglo-American relations, but also the future conduct of new German U. S. warfare.

Although not formally presented by Germany, this was the issue which administration officials believe will finally be presented. They asserted today that Germany has already indicated her stand will be taken on this proposition. The memorandum delivered yesterday to Secretary Lansing by Ambassador Bernstorff, was accepted today as the preliminary overture to this end.

This government today was in the position of umpire in the dispute as the final arbiters. Lengthy diplomatic

exchanges were presaged. The state department will consume some time in studying the German memorandum and appendices, it was indicated today. The whole question probably will go before President Wilson and his cabinet tomorrow. It appeared probable this government's first action will be investigation of alleged secret British orders to her merchantmen to attack submarines. Officials had ground for hope today that Germany will go slow in unwarned attacks upon merchantmen, pending negotiations. In exact nine days, the new admiralty decree has not yet brought forth an instance of violation of international law, according to official information here.

While diplomacy was simmering, renewal of the fight in congress over resolutions to warn Americans off armed ships threatened. In the senate, the parliamentary situation opened the way for further debate and possibly another vote on the McCumber warning resolution.

Ambassador Bernstorff is not expected at the state department again until the administration is ready to reply to the last German memorandum, or unless a sudden crisis should develop from the unwarned sinking of an armed merchantman.

Clear Statement. WASHINGTON, March 9.—A statement making clear this government's position in the new international sub-

(Continued on page 2.)

## GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] AMSTERDAM, March 9.—A German cruiser squadron accompanied by several speedy destroyers, conducted a successful reconnaissance in the North sea and returned to its base without encountering any enemy ships, according to Berlin dispatches received here today.

The seaward dash of the cruiser squadron, it is now believed, explains recent reports from Dutch skippers that the German battle fleet had left Kiel canal and was cruising the North sea in search of the British fleet.

The reconnaissance expedition, according to well informed persons here, probably was inspired by news of the return of the commerce raider Moewe to a German port. Several fast scout cruisers accompanied by speedy auxiliary craft disguised by false funnels and a flotilla of destroyers embarked on the enterprise, knowing they could take to cover if the British fleet came out and counting upon no difficulties should British patrol boats engage them.

Several months ago a German cruiser squadron cruised into the North sea in similar fashion without encountering any British warships. The Dutch trawler captain who brought the report of having sighted many dreadnoughts to Ymuiden, is believed to have mistaken the false funneled auxiliaries at a great distance for dreadnoughts. One Dutch skipper reported the German squadron accompanied by Zeppelins and submarines.

BERLIN, March 9.—Germany today declared war on Portugal and the Portuguese government became the fourteenth involved in the world conflict.

An authorized statement was issued today outlining Germany's position. It was pointed out that the seizure of German ships by the Portuguese naval authorities was in violation of treaties between Germany and Portugal, providing that in the event of such seizure, arrangements must first be made for compensation.

The German minister at Lisbon today notified the Portuguese government of the declaration, handing the official document to the foreign minister with the remark: "The German government therefore now considers herself from this date, at war with Portugal."

The German declaration was based on the act of Portugal in seizing with out previous notice, German merchantmen in Portuguese ports. This action, Germany charged in a sharp note to Portugal, violated existing treaties between Germany and Portugal and offered evidence that Portugal is a "vassal of England."

To this note Portugal on March 4, replied with a communication to the German foreign office flatly declining the German demands.

The government's action occasioned no great surprise. Portuguese and German troops had clashed earlier in the war in the African possessions, Portugal alleging that German troops had invaded her territory.

Portugal later sent troops to aid the British in operations against Germans and in other ways openly displayed her enmity for the central powers. She was bound to England by a treaty pledging her to send ten thousand troops to England's assistance should England be attacked.

The declaration of war according to an authorized statement from the foreign office this afternoon, was made necessary by "illegal seizures of German ships in Portuguese ports, which was the gravest breach of neutrality and of such treaties."

Germany has therefore been obliged to surrender her former forbearing attitude which she had maintained on account of Portugal's awkward position with respect to England," the statement added.

It is believed here that Austria will take similar action. Austrian ships having been seized by the Portuguese naval authorities.

In other quarters it has been hinted that another result will be Spain's entrance into the war on the side of Germany.

The German statement lists a long series of neutrality violations by Portugal. The charges are: That Portugal gave English troops

(Continued on page 2.)

## PORTUGAL IS NOW IN THE WAR

### Germany Declares War Against Her Today, Making Fourteen Governments Involved.

## VIOLATION OF TREATIES

### Seizure of German Ships in Portuguese Ports, Resulted in Break Between the Two Countries.

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(Continued on page 2.)

## FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, March 9.—Repeated and heavy German attacks against the village of Bethincourt, eight miles northwest of Verdun, throughout last night, were repulsed, the war office reported this afternoon.

Two of the heaviest onslaughts were preceded by artillery fire lasting several hours. The German advance was stopped by a French curtain of fire from Goose Hill and Dead Man Hill to the east.

"East of the Meuse, around Vaux Des Pits, the intense artillery firing continued throughout the night, accompanied by violent assaults," said the war office. "The enemy, however, was unable to weaken the efficacy of our artillery and was completely repulsed."

"In the Woerwe region intermittent bombardment continued throughout the night. West of Lepreux woods, we took twenty prisoners. In the eastern Argonne, in the region of Montfaucon and Montillols, we continued to bombard enemy communications."

The Germans attempted to swing forward with their right wing on the Corbeaux woods positions, southeast of Bethincourt, recaptured by the French yesterday.

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In this region, the French are consolidating the reconquered works, it was stated.

German troops entered the village of Vaux, southeast of Fort Douaumont, but were completely driven out by a counter attack, the war office reported. Several strong attacks on the Douaumont Vaux front were repulsed.

## THE WEATHER.

[U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau.] For Keokuk and vicinity: Generally fair tonight and Friday. Warmer tonight. Colder Friday.

For Iowa: Unsettled weather tonight. Probably snow flurries northeast portion. Colder west and central portions. Friday partly cloudy and colder.

For Missouri: Generally fair tonight and Friday. Warmer tonight east and south portions. Colder Friday extreme north portion.

For Illinois: Partly cloudy and somewhat warmer tonight. Friday partly cloudy south; probably snow flurries and colder north portion.

Weather Conditions. With the eastern storm central off the New England coast, snow in the lake region and eastern states, has been followed by colder weather from the central valleys to the eastern coast, and the temperature is near the frost line in the southeastern states.

Warmer, unsettled weather prevails from the Rockies to the Mississippi valley, and it is raining in the extreme northwest.

Local Observations. March 9. Bar. Ther. Wind W'th. 8 7 p. m.—30.07 31 NW Clear 9 7 a. m.—30.01 25 SW Clear River stage 7 a. m., 4.8 feet. Change in 24 hours, fall .6. Mean temperature 8th, 25. Highest, 34. Lowest, 18. Lowest, last night, 24. FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.

Helps Some. Lincoln Journal: Anyhow, it is a consolation to know that the allies are kicking the Turks.

## The High Cost of Gasoline Sends Autos to the Garage

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, March 9.—Henry Ford is to be asked to use his brains and money in solving the problem of the high cost of gasoline.

Representative Randall of California is preparing a letter to Ford, asking him to test the so-called Rittman process for the manufacture of gasoline. By this process, discovered by the United States bureau of mines, it is said gasoline can be manufactured at a much reduced cost. If no other way be found, Randall says the government should manufacture gasoline. He has introduced a resolution calling on the president to formulate the necessary legislation for such a plan.

Representative Steenerson of Minnesota, who introduced a resolution some time ago, asking the attorney general to inform the house of representatives why he has not prosecuted the oil companies under the anti-trust laws, expects to speak on his resolution in a few days.

"I am told the district attorneys throughout the country have been instructed to be on the lookout for the oil companies," says Steenerson. "Recently, I heard the district attorney in Chicago is investigating the prices of gasoline. I expect however, to show that the Clayton act has destroyed the effectiveness of the Sherman anti-trust law and makes it impossible for the department of justice to break up the monopoly."

Representative Britten of Illinois proposes by a bill introduced—an export tax of fifty cents a gallon on gasoline. This would require a constitutional amendment.

Autos are Not Run. NEW YORK, March 9.—With gasoline retailing 27 to 30 cents a gallon, New York motorists are storing their cars or economizing on fuel, according to statements of garage owners today. If the wholesale price mounts to forty cents a gallon as the motor people believe it will, thousands of

pleasure and business cars will go into temporary retirement. The effects of the increase have been felt keenly even at Ardley garage where blue book standing is necessary to obtain accommodations. Wealthy Fifth avenue car owners are buying their gasoline at wayside stations to save three cents a gallon, it was said today, and a number have even given up their motors for the time being. Ten percent of the middle class owners have put their machines away, pending a decline in gasoline prices, it was stated. According to the Standard Oil Co., gasoline prices may go as high as thirty cents wholesale eventually, but no immediate increases are planned. Many prospective buyers of pleasure cars are expected to defer their purchases until the price of gasoline recedes, according to leading auto dealers today. The effects of the increase would have been felt in auto sales by now, it was said, but for the unprecedented wave of orders that came at the first of the year.

## MISTAKE TO NOMINATE ROOSEVELT FOR PRESIDENT

### Says of Himself in Cable Message Declaring That He Does Not Seek or Wish Office.

## CRITICISM FOR PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

### Many Things Can Happen Before June Conventions and Pledges Should Not be Given Now.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, March 9.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt "does not wish" the presidential nomination and "will not consent" to having his name used in any of the coming state primaries. He so declared today in a statement made at Port of Spain, Trinidad, B. W. I., and cabled by Henry L. Stoddard, of the New York Evening Mail. The statement makes it clear, however, that despite his wishes the colonel recognized that his services are subject to draft in a crisis. The statement follows:

"I am deeply sensible of the honor shown me and of the good will conferred on me by the gentlemen who have announced themselves as delegates to be elected in my interest in the Massachusetts presidential primary. Nevertheless, I must request and I now do request and insist, that my name be not brought into the Massachusetts primaries and I emphatically decline to be a candidate in the primaries of that or any other state.

"Months ago I formally notified the authorities in Nebraska, Minnesota and Michigan to this effect.

"I do not wish the nomination. "I am not in the least interested in the political fortunes either of myself or any other man.

"I am interested in awakening my fellow countrymen to the need of facing unpleasant facts. I am interested in the spirit and with the ability shown by those who upheld the hands of Washington and Lincoln. Whether we do or do not accomplish this feat will largely depend on action taken at the republican and progressive national conventions next June.

"I will not enter into any fight for the nomination and I will not permit any factional fight to be made in my behalf. Indeed I will go further and say that it would be a mistake to nominate me unless the country has in its mood something of the heroic—unless it feels not only devotion to ideals, but the purpose measurably to realize those ideals in action.

"It is for us of today to grapple with the tremendous national and international problems of our own hour, to nominate and with the ability shown by those who upheld the hands of Washington and Lincoln. Whether we do or do not accomplish this feat will largely depend on action taken at the republican and progressive national conventions next June.

"I believe that in a crisis so grave it is impossible to too greatly magnify the needs of the country or too strongly dwell on the necessity of minimizing and subordinating the desires of individuals.

"The delegates who go to Chicago will have it in their power to determine the character of the administration which is to do or leave undone the mighty tasks of the next four years. They should be the very best men that can be found in our country, whose one great mission should be to desire in unequivocal terms for a program of cleanest, straightest national Americanism in deeds not less than in words, and to choose as their candidate a man who will not merely

(Continued on page 2.)

## PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN SPITE OF GREAT LOSSES

### Germans Keep Hammering Away at the French Defenses About Verdun.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, March 9.—French trenches were smothered in storms of fire in a renewal of heavy German artillery assaults on the whole crescent shaped Verdun front, according to latest dispatches from Paris today. The cannonade became most violent yesterday on both banks of the Meuse. Driven out of the Corbeaux woods positions by vicious French counter attacks, the turrets poured thousands of shells in upon French positions east of Goose Hill and followed with infantry attacks.

On the east bank of the Meuse the hull in infantry fighting was suddenly broken.

After several hours bombardment, the Germans drove the French from the Harcourt fortified position east of Fort Douaumont in hand to hand fighting.

The crown prince lost five thousand men in a twelve hour fight for possession of Corbeaux forest, seven miles northwest of Verdun, Paris dispatches reported. After driving a wedge in the French front at this point he was caught under a heavy cross fire from French batteries on

"Nothing is to be hoped from the present administration and the struggles between the present and his party leaders in congress are today merely struggles as to whether the nation shall see its governmental representatives adopt an attitude of a little more or less hypocrisy and follow a policy of slightly greater or slightly less baseness.

"All they offer us is a choice between degrees of hypocrisy and degrees of infamy.

"But disgust with the unmanly failure of the present administration, I believe does not and I know ought not to mean American people will vote in a spirit of mere protest. They ought not to, and I believe they will not, be content merely to change the present administration for one equally timid, equally vacillating, equally lacking in vision, in moral integrity and in high resolve. They should desire and I believe they do desire public servants and public policies signifying more than adroit cleverness in escaping action behind clouds of fine words in refusal to face real internal needs and in complete absorption of every faculty in devising constantly shifting hand-to-mouth and day-to-day measures for escape from our international duty by the abandonment of our national honor—measures due to sheer dread of various foreign powers, tempered by a sometimes harmonizing and sometimes conflicting dread of various classes of voters, especially hyphenated voters at home.

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(Continued on page 2.)

Goose Hill to the west and Dead Man Hill to the east and forced to evacuate all but the extreme eastern part of the forest.

Despite this reverse, the Germans have made important progress in the past thirty-six hours. In the new drives upon Verdun from the north, west and southeast. Beginning with an attack on the village of Forges, they have swept forward to the accompaniment of roaring guns until the strongly fortified Goose Hill and Dead Man Hill positions northwest of Verdun are endangered.

The German war office, minimizing the importance of these operations, declared in the latest official statement that the Germans attacked on the west bank of the Meuse with the sole object of straightening their front. Paris dispatches, however, report that the German artillery fire almost equaled the terrific cannonade around Douaumont. Paris believes the crown prince will launch another heavy attack from the northwest.

Sudden Smash. [By Charles P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.] LONDON, March 9.—Breaking out in a sudden smash against the French center, German troops have captured Fort De Vaux, five miles northeast of Verdun, the village of Vaux and adjoining positions according to official Berlin dispatches this afternoon.

(Continued on page 2.)