

# MAY CROSS THE LINE TOMORROW

## AWAIT MAGIC WORDS: "FORWARD MARCH!" TO SEND AMERICAN TROOPS INTO MEXICO

### Order Expected Any Moment at Several Points Along the Border for Soldiers to Start After Villa.

## CARRANZA MAY OBJECT AT LAST MINUTE

### Strict Censorship With Deepest Secrecy as to Movements of the First Invasion of Mexican Soil.

[By H. D. Jacobs, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

EL PASO, Texas, March 11.—"Forward march" from General Frederick Funston at San Antonio was all the word needed tonight to send the armed forces of the United States into Mexico at several border points, to exterminate Villa and his bandits.

The order was expected hourly, although it may not come before Sunday or Monday. Behind an official silence comparable to the European censurings, the preparations have gone on since yesterday. They reached their climax tonight in scenes of the greatest, but orderly, activity.

Within sight of what may be a real war front within the next twenty-four or forty-eight hours the army's field equipment at Fort Bliss was being overhauled, horses reshod and new war supplies distributed.

The words from Funston were all that was needed to send an expeditionary force of several thousand men on an enveloping movement against the murderers of sixteen American soldiers and civilians at Columbus, N. M.

The man they will be seeking was last reported enroute to Guzman, Mex., over fifty miles away, bent on ambushing a special train carrying 500 American Mormon colonists, including a large number of women and children. Villa had sworn to kill them all.

The action of Carranza authorities ordering the train back to Casas Grandes is believed to have prevented the worst human slaughter in Mexico's history. There is reported to be a strong Carranzista garrison at Casas Grandes. If they do not oppose the entry of American troops, the soldiers of the defacto government were not expected by local authorities to aid the United States in the bandit hunt.

That Carranza may even be making a final play to prevent the expedition entering Mexico, was stated to the United Press tonight by a high American government official unusually well informed on Mexican affairs.

Carranza has sent large numbers of troops to Palomas, south of Columbus, and to Agua Prieta, opposite Douglas, Ariz., while an important pass near the junction of the New Mexico-Arizona-Mexico lines has been picketed by a strong Carranzista force.

Two thousand other soldiers of the defacto government, originally intended to go to the relief of the endangered Mormons were expected to reinforce the Juarez garrison, across the river here, and the United States with about 5,000 of his soldiers

along the border, Carranza might say to the United States government, according to this American official, that the defacto organization had sufficient troops on the ground to handle the situation. Then Carranza might be expected to suggest that American interference might be unnecessary. Such a ruse will make no impression on Washington arrangements, stated army officials unofficially. They agreed with General Funston, who in a message tonight to his superiors at Washington, recently pointed out the helplessness of the Carranza government, pointed to the report that while Villa and a force estimated at 300 followers were enroute from LaAscension to Guzman today, he passed within three miles an equal force of the Carranzistas who made no attempt to intercept the outlaws.

Arguing for the chance of going into Mexico after Villa and possibly meeting death, yet army men were outwardly calm tonight.

Privates, "non-commission" and the lesser commissioned officers could be seen strolling on the streets as in normal times. They say they are going into Mexico, but don't know when.

Only the regimental and staff officers, busy at Ft. Bliss with the telegraph and telephone, unloading munition and supplies on side tracks and down town telegraph offices crowded with soldiers sending money and farewells to relatives and friends, could the tremendous activity behind the scenes be sensed. It was practically certain from talk in official circles that troops from several interior posts were coming toward the border.

There was even some discussion on the possibility that interior garrisons would be among the first to cross the border with the punitive expedition, leaving a strong nucleus of experienced men on border patrol duty.

The invasion of Mexico was expected to start when a sufficient number of soldiers from the interior have arrived to replace the border troops joining the expedition.

Brigadier General J. J. Pershing, mentioned actually to lead the expedition under the direction of General Funston, who may come to El Paso, denied having knowledge of what moves were to be made. He insisted he had no confirmation that he had been picked to lead the invasion.

Pershing's evidently inspired denial that he was familiar with any of the steps relative to the expedition at Fort Bliss of which he was the center.

Reports from Douglas, second only to El Paso as a concentration point, told of the same speeding up toward

the ultimate goal—an invasion so well prepared for at the start that there will be no costly mistakes.

The ambulance corps, field wireless and two batteries of field artillery at Fort Bliss expected to accompany the Fourth cavalry and Twentieth infantry on the first dash into Mexico.

Fears of Villista incursions between the border camps, caused Pershing to send two companies of the Twentieth infantry tonight to Deming, N. M., to guard against a possible repetition of the Columbus raid and to protect Deming from 100 Mexicans who armed themselves following their discharge from mines in the vicinity.

Columbus produced a sensation today by turning up six dead Mexicans who evidently had received summary justice on suspicion of their having given the Villistas information during Thursday's raid. The six had been released by the military authorities and told to leave the vicinity, but enraged citizens are believed to have ambushed the Mexicans. They were riddled by bullets. An investigation is in progress.

Seven wounded Villista bandits, arrested during the raid, will be tried on charges of murder. They are Lieutenant Ysabe Chavez, Juan Sanchez, Elias Moras, Antonio Morandas, Leon Luis, Jesus Reyes, age only 12, and Ausieto Reyes, his father.

A Mexican taken while in the act of signalling the bandits across the border last night, was charged with aiding the enemy on American soil.

Captain Pablo Garcia, one of the bandits, died of his wounds today.

Early tonight, no further bandit raids had been reported since the appearance of Villistas threw Osborn Junction, Ariz., into a panic and another smaller group raided the home of H. A. Blankenship at Malpais, eighteen miles east of Columbus.

Five of the seven American soldiers slain Thursday were placed aboard the Golden State limited at Columbus today and shipped to their homes for burial.

The Thirteenth cavalry's band played a funeral march as the bodies were placed in a special coach. Taps were sounded by the bugle corps and the train held eastward.

Chaplain S. M. Lutz held brief, impressive field services over the bodies, the entire regiment standing in a great semi-circle with heads up.

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## RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, March 11.—The Russian torpedo boat Litanan Pushtchin was sunk by a mine yesterday, according to Sofia dispatches tonight. Four officers and eleven sailors were rescued.

[Presumably the Russian warship was sunk off the Bulgarian coast. An official statement from the German admiralty today reported that German hydroplanes yesterday attacked a Russian squadron consisting of a battleship and several torpedo boats northeast of the Bulgarian port of Varna.

The Litanan Pushtchin was built in 1905 and displaced 326 tons. She carried sixty-seven men, indicating that about fifty-two of her crew were lost.]

### INCREASED ACTIVITY.

PETROGRAD, March 11.—Increased activity by the Germans in the Baltic.

(Continued on page 3.)

## ITALY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, March 11.—Italian soldiers, home on furloughs, report terrible Italian losses and a hopeless situation on the Austrian front, according to interviews printed in the Berlin newspapers today with neutrals, who have been traveling through Italy. Out of one Italian battalion, 400 have been killed and the rest captured by the Austrians, the reports said. Another company entered an engagement and returned with only thirty men. The Italian troops are said to be suffering from cold and exposure on the Alpine front, most of them being from southern Italy. The Italian officers, the reports said, declare they have no chance against the natural and artificial fortifications of the Austrians.

In printing these reports the Berlin papers recalled that in recent debates in the Italian parliament, Socialist Deputy Maffei protested against police surveillance of soldiers home on furlough.

Under Secretary for the Interior Calesia responded that the soldiers told incorrect stories about conditions at the front, necessitating some sort of police control.

(Continued on page 2.)

## GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] THE HAGUE, March 11.—One of the Zeppelins participating in the last raid on England failed to return to Germany and is believed to have been lost, according to advices from Berlin today.

[The German admiralty reported tonight that the Zeppelin which occurred in Berlin because of the people's disappointment over the own prince's failure to capture Varna.

"A train from Holland was detained at Spandau ten hours on Thursday," said one report. "The passengers were told that the train was held up because of daily riots which had occurred in Berlin, due to the failure of the Verdun offensive and the German authorities did not want outsiders to witness the scenes. The Kaiser is expected to return to Berlin the middle of next week."

### GIVEN IRON CROSSES.

BERLIN, March 11.—The crew of the German commerce raider Moeve,

(Continued on page 3.)

## FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, March 11.—German artillery attacks against the French front west of Douaumont continued with great intensity throughout today, but the Teutons attempted no infantry attacks on the entire French front, the war office reported tonight.

On the west bank of the Meuse, and south of Ville Aux Bois, in the Rheims region, where the Germans launched heavy attacks last night, the artillery fire was less intense today.

### TREATY WITH ITALY.

PARIS, March 11.—Italy today signed a treaty with France whereby Italian residents and Italian interests in Morocco hereafter will be governed by French laws. The treaty is of much importance because of the size of the Italian colony in Morocco.

## TWELVE THOUSAND MEN TO RUN DOWN VILLA

### American Army Which Will Cross the Border is to be Much Larger Than Was First Intended.

## MUST KEEP THE BORDER GUARDED

### General Funston Asks for Additional Horsemen to Take Part in the Chase of the Bandit.

[By J. P. Yoder, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The American army going over the border after Pancho Villa will be an army of 12,000 to 15,000 men, the war department believed tonight, after receiving late dispatches from Major General Funston, asking for more troops. Funston called for four additional regiments for patrol duty on the border. This means, it was said at the department, that Funston is not going to take any more chances than military strategy requires; that he will call on all the U. S. military strength available.

Funston's request was answered by the war department ordering four regiments of horses to the border. They are to concentrate there immediately. It had been believed at first that Funston would need not more than from 6,000 to 8,000 men. This would have left from 11,000 to 13,000 men patrolling the border, a number barely sufficient to guard against surprise raids from scattered bandit bands. Taking of 12,000 to 15,000 as an "army of invasion" would have left hardly a "corpsal" guard" to patrol the great stretch of boundary lines.

Instructions sent General Funston by the chief of staff, direct soldiers entering Mexico to treat with particular care and consideration the civilian population of the country through which the troops march. Every effort is to be made to prevent any opposition by the civilian population.

Quiet at This Point. BROWNVILLE, Texas, March 11.—Normal conditions prevailed tonight over the lower Mexican border, reports indicated, with no excitement evident between Rio Grande City and the gulf coast, one hundred and twenty miles of border territory, patrolled by five thousand American troops. The first effect of the order for U. S. forces to pursue Villa and his bandits in Mexico was felt among the American forces on this border tonight when a detachment of the engineering corps, under Lieutenant Brand, detailed here on mapping duty, was tonight ordered to leave for Fort Bliss at once.

A guard of United States infantrymen was tonight placed at the American end of the international bridge, which had been left unguarded since the cessation of bandit activities last fall.

Utmost Secrecy. SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 11.—Major General Frederick Funston will not go into Mexico, but will direct the expedition from Ft. Sam Houston. Washington has indicated, it is stated here, that Brigadier General John J. Pershing, commanding the Eighth brigade, with headquarters at El Paso will command the troops in the field.

The actual movements of troops into Mexico, General Funston stated tonight, may not get under way for two or three days or until additional troops are concentrated on the border territory.

Utmost secrecy is being maintained (Continued on page 2.)

Mexicans here appear to be taking the Columbus situation philosophically and no anti-American sentiment is apparent.

No Chance for Militiamen. WASHINGTON, March 11.—Both Chairman Hay of the house military committee and Secretary Baker tonight threw a damper on aspiring militiamen who hope to get into action.

Chairman Hay conferred with Baker for half an hour and then said he had no idea any militia would be called to the colors.

"The forces on the border," he said, "are ample to do what is required of them. There are enough regulars at various army posts to fill in the gaps. Of course, if the Mexicans generally should rise against our troops and we sent all the regulars available into Mexico, then the militia might be called on to do border patrol duty. They couldn't be sent across until they had been called as volunteers and sworn in as such. And there could not be a call for volunteers by the president until a declaration of war was authorized by congress."

As long as President Wilson remains aggressive as he is toward Villa, he will meet nothing but approval from the senate.

Senators Gore, James and LaFollette, the leading peace advocates, all approve the president's action.

The foreign relations committee members this afternoon went over the international law of the situation. Afterwards Senator Borah said: "A dozen justifications" could be found for an expedition into Mexico, even if Carranza would object.

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## Man to Man Encounters Along Banks of the Brook

[By Charles P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

LONDON, March 11.—The Germans have redoubled their efforts against Verdun fortress in the past twenty-four hours. At the same time they are systematically feeling out weak spots in the French lines by sharp surprise night attacks.

East of Verdun, the French front is being deluged with big shells. German infantry is following up the artillery attack with vicious charges. The Germans are again attempting to storm Fort De Vaux and to push in upon all the eastern forts of Verdun.

Dispatches from Paris received here early tonight, admitted that the French line was thrust back slightly at several points by the furious German onslaught, but reported most of the lost ground regained in equally furious counter attacks. At the village of Vaux, fierce hand-to-hand struggles continued today, the French making desperate efforts to oust Posen troops from houses on the eastern outskirts of the village.

French Zouaves and Senegales are distinguishing themselves in the man-to-man encounters along the Vaux brook.

The slaughter around Fort De Vaux now almost equals that in the fighting for Douaumont fort. In fighting continuing throughout last night, the Germans rushed up the slopes into steady stream of fire and almost succeeded in reaching the wire entanglements immediately before the French positions. Their ranks were riddled and they were beaten back down the slopes, but the latest dispatches from Paris indicated that they returned to the attack.

Confused reports about the fighting northwest of Verdun, on the west bank of the Meuse, continued to come from Berlin and Paris today. The German war office declared that French troops have been cleared from the Corbeaux and Cumleres woods, indicating that the French on Goose Hill are two-thirds surrounded. The French war office flatly contradicted this claim, declaring that French counter attacks drove the Germans out of all the trenches they had gained in a strong attack in this region last night.

There was nothing in either the German or French official statements or press dispatches from Paris tonight, to indicate that the German thrust northwest of Rheims was the forerunner of a serious offensive. Paris reported that the fighting ended when French troops by a counter attack drove the Germans from those portions of the Ville-Aux-Bois they had occupied. Berlin, on the other hand, claimed the capture of French trenches in the forest more than 1,400 yards wide and nearly two-thirds of a mile deep.

No serious infantry fighting had occurred on this sector for many months. The French line northwest of Rheims bent in a sharp salient. Presumably the Germans attempted to drive in the salient, by a surprise attack, as a measure of protection against the expected allied offensive through the Rheims region.

Drugged Into Action. LONDON, March 12. (Sunday)—German troops were drugged with ether before they were sent forward against French positions at Verdun, Lord Northcliffe, noted English newspaper proprietor, charged in dispatches from the Verdun front tonight to the Weekly Dispatch.

The prisoners he saw, Lord Northcliffe said, were, for the most part, the dregs of humanity, under sized, badly dressed and apparently badly frightened.

"The ether with which they were drugged before facing the French guns, 2,000 in number, alone enabled them to survive the terror," wired Northcliffe. "Still under its influence, some of them were unable to speak."

"No word has hinted in anything sent out from Germany of the horrible slaughter to which the Germans have been subjected this week. I saw it for myself. I spent two hours hidden in an observation trench, entanglements separating opposing trenches, where had I shown myself, my physiognomy would have been recognized by the enemy."

Lord Northcliffe's observations, he wired, convince him that the allies defensive wall in France is absolutely unbreachable. He admitted that probably the same thing could be said of the German positions, but the difference is, he said, that Germany is beleaguered.

"Even the feeble blockade we have so far maintained, has deprived her soldiers of proper clothes and her citizens of certain necessities," he said. "whereas, the allies are freely supplied with everything, the same as in peace."

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## IOWA'S FAMOUS AVIATOR WAS BURNED TO DEATH BENEATH WRECKED MACHINE

### William Robinson of Grinnell, Held World's Record for Long Continuous Flight.

## BODY, CHARRED MASS

### Aeroplane Turned Over, Crashing to the Ground and Destroyed by Great Explosion.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] EWART, Iowa, March 11.—William Robinson, 25, Grinnell aviator, was burned to death after his aeroplane

had overturned and dropped from a great height near here late today. The gasoline tank on his machine exploded as the biplane hit the ground, throwing the burning liquid over the machine and Robinson, enveloping them in flames.

Robinson was terribly burned. His hands and feet were burned off and his body was a charred mass of burned flesh. He was dead when William Clelland, farmer, and William Cline, Ewart implement man who witnessed the machine fall and heard the explosion, reached the scene a few minutes later.

The machine was entirely destroyed and the cause of the accident which caused Robinson to fall, probably never will be known.

Robinson conducted an aviation school at Grinnell near here and manufactured his own planes. He held the long distance continuance record flight of America, having flown from Des Moines to a point in Indiana southeast of Chicago in one flight last summer.

## SEVEN AMERICANS ABOARD WHEN NEUTRAL SHIP WAS TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING

### All Were Saved, But Announcement Causes Much Anxiety in Official Circles.

## OFFICIAL NEWS LACKING

### No Action Can be Taken Until Detailed and Reliable Information is Secured.

[By Carl D. Great, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Secretary Lansing tonight awaited in deep anxiety further details of the reported torpedoing of the Norwegian steel bark Silius, off the coast of France, without warning. Since the scant cable from the consul general

at Havre, saying, in effect, that the bark had been torpedoed, that seven Americans were on board and that all on board were saved, the state department had received no further word.

What Secretary Lansing desires most to know is: What reason the consul general has for believing the Silius was torpedoed and was not the victim of a mine or internal explosion.

What flag whipped at the mast head of the submarine, if the sub-sea boat was sighted.

The department announced this afternoon that no action would be taken until these facts are learned. They can only be learned in a way to make the facts relevant evidence, upon receipt of affidavits of the passengers and crews.

There was no attempt to conceal the gravity with which the officials view the attack and placing American lives in danger. It details bear out the "face value" of the cable dispatch and the identity of the attacking submarine can be learned, it was across the nation to which the undersea warship belonged will have to answer and answer quickly. (Continued on page 14.)