

SNAPPING AT VILLA'S HEELS TODAY

REPORTED MASSACRE BY VILLA OF GARRISON OF CARRANZISTAS

Carranza Garrison of 137 Men at Guerrero is Said to Have Been Wiped Out by the Outlaws.

PURSUERS ARE CLOSING IN ON HIM NOW

Motor Trucks are Still Being Used to Carry Supplies to the Troops 300 Miles Across the Line.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] EL PASO, Texas, March 31.—Villa's alleged murder of 137 men and officers in the Carranza garrison at Guerrero was unconfirmed by Juarez authorities today. The same unofficial uncredited advice charged Villa with killing several women and children in Guerrero and turning over a number of women captives to his followers. This information reported to have been received at Fort Bliss and forwarded to San Antonio headquarters, did not conform with a report from Major General Punston yesterday that Villa passed Guerrero on last Monday. Pershing's report did not mention the massacre of the garrison. So far as known in El Paso, the unconfirmed story of the massacre occurred Villa's band numbered 2,000 which is at variance with all other reports that his band had been split up and that he was fleeing with only a handful of followers. Villa was reliably last reported northeast of Guerrero, raiding the ranches for fresh mounts to continue his flight probably toward the mountains in northern Durango. Army officers in El Paso estimated that Colonel Dodd's cavalry columns were hot on Villa's trail and that Carranzista troops in the Chihuahua City district also were closing in on him. Momentary fighting was expected. The absence of official news in Juarez was explained on the basis that the pursuit was now taking place in Chihuahua City territory and that Carranza reports would be made to the commander there, General Luis Gutierrez. General Gavia of Juarez believed that the United States troops are well south of the railroad line west of Chihuahua City today. In that case the American line of communications is over 500 miles long. The advanced troops were plentifully supplied with money to buy provisions from Mexicans along the line of pursuit. In the meantime, supplies were being rushed by motor truck trains from Columbus to the bases of the expedition at Casas Grandes and El Valle. Mule pack trains carried the munitions south from El Valle to the

vanguard. Carranzistas at Madera, nearest railroad point to Guerrero, were aiding in supplying the American troops, who were also believed to be drawing on Chihuahua City for supplies. El Paso military authorities have not yet taken advantage of the limited Carranza concession to use the Mexican Northwestern railway from Juarez. General Gavia stated there was no equipment in Juarez to transport food supplies to the American forces into Mexico. Major Elliott of the quartermaster's department, said that three carloads sent to Juarez several days ago consigned to private individuals in Casas Grandes, but intended for the American troops, have not yet left the yards. Villa was Wounded. [By E. T. Conkle, United Press Staff Correspondent.] EL PASO, Texas, March 31.—Villa was shot in the leg in a skirmish with the Carranza garrison at Guerrero, according to General Gavia of Juarez today. A report from General Cabazas, of Guerrero, to Gavia made no mention of any loss to the garrison. Gavia ridiculed reports that Villa massacred nearly two hundred men, women and children there. The garrison only numbered fifty men, according to Gavia. Brigadier General Bell of Fort Bliss, who according to the "rumor" factory reported the massacre to Funston at San Antonio, stated today that his only information regarding the fight at Guerrero came from the newspapers. Bell said he had no further advice from Brigadier General Pershing with the expedition since Pershing reported Villa passed Guerrero Monday. Gavia's impression from the Cabazas report was that the skirmish took place Wednesday or Thursday. According to local newspapermen, Gavia last night stated 100 were killed in the Guerrero fighting. While Gavia said he had no further dispatches this morning his statement today was: "Skirmishes at Guerrero were very much exaggerated. The message General Cabazas of Guerrero simply said there was a skirmish

with Villa's band and that Villa was shot in the leg. The losses on either side were not mentioned. The message said Villa left after being wounded." Gavia's announcement yesterday of receipt of advice that Mayor Rodriguez was assassinated at Ojinaga, Mexico, was met by telegrams today from Presidio, Texas, across the river from Ojinaga that the report was untrue. News of the progress of the American expedition was again delayed today by temporary trouble with the army's field wireless from Casas Grandes to Columbus, due to atmospheric conditions.

Aviators Are Superior. [By H. D. Jacobs, United Press Staff Correspondent.] FIELD HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN ARMY NEAR DUBLAN, Mexico, March 30. (By motor train to Columbus, N. M., March 31.)—The experience of American army flyers in Mexico has made them the superior of any aerial force in the world of equal numbers. Captain E. B. Foulouls of the first aero squadron made this claim today in the face of criticism of his men.

"Our aviators are daily encountering conditions no airman ever before has faced," he said. "The Sierra Madre over which our planes must fly, create shifting winds and dangerous air pockets. The altitude of nearly a mile above sea level gives the machines only about another mile leeway as their maximum altitude is two miles. Despite this and the added handicap of very rough country for landing, the squadron of eight aeroplanes has gone through the campaign so far without any real serious mishap. As the expedition moves farther south, an altitude of nearly two miles will be encountered and the men will test the machines and the men to the utmost. Their experience now makes them the superior of any aerial force in the world."

Regular aerial mail service has been established between here and Columbus. Following an aeroplane's flight south, a column of infantry also left the base camp here today after Villa, who is somewhere 75 miles south of Dublin. A trainload of Carranza troops also passed through nearby Casas Grandes, going southward. A small band of Carranzistas is actively co-operating with the American vanguard. Brigadier General Pershing expresses the greatest satisfaction with the treatment accorded him by the representatives of the defacto government.

Despite this co-operation and the friendliness of the native Mexicans, army officers believe catching Villa will be a long, hard job. Some of the difficulties experienced by the American soldiers in the higher and colder altitudes south of here may be guessed from the bitter cold weather in Dublin. Half an inch of ice formed in buckets during the night. It is rumored that the chase after Villa Saturday went on in a snow storm.

The native Mexicans are staking everything on the success of the expedition. If the bandits are not thoroughly wiped out, Mexican farmers fear they will return and murder everyone who sold produce to the American soldiers. Villa is reported to have killed Mexicans for merely adopting American ideas and working

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, March 31.—Two thousand and twenty workers are now on strike in the government gun factories in the Clyde district and reports from Glasgow today said the labor troubles threatened to spread. Less than 400 strikers have returned to work in spite of pressure of union leaders.

Arthur Henderson, labor member of the cabinet, was due to reach Glasgow at noon. He was to meet a committee of the strikers. The government today directed active attention to the situation at Liverpool, where ten thousand dock workers rejected the award of arbitrators and refused to return to work. The dock workers have now been out three days and the results of the strike are already being felt in shipping circles.

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, March 31.—The fortified village of Malancourt and the defenses on both sides have been stormed and captured by German troops, the war office announced this afternoon. The Germans took 328 prisoners.

THE WEATHER.

[U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau.] For Keokuk and vicinity: Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday. Cooler tonight. For Iowa: Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday. Cooler tonight east and central portions. For Missouri: Unsettled and cooler tonight. Probably rain east and south portions. Saturday partly cloudy. For Illinois: Rain tonight. Saturday partly cloudy. Probably rain southeast portion. Moderate temperature.

Weather Conditions. With the exception of somewhat warmer weather in the upper Mississippi valley, attending a moderate depression which is central near St. Paul this morning, the change in temperature has been slight. There has been scattered light rain in portions of the Missouri and upper Mississippi valleys, and light rain in western Texas, where the pressure remains low.

River Bulletin. Flood stage. Stage Change. St. Croix 14 12.6 x1.4 La Crosse 12 8.2 x0.0 Dubuque 18 10.4 x0.0 Davenport 15 12.2 -0.2 Keokuk 14 16.4 x0.3 St. Louis 20 26.2 x0.5 Warsaw 18 19.0 x0.4 Ottumwa 10 -0.2 The river will fall slowly from Davenport to Keokuk during the next forty-eight hours, and will fall south of Keokuk Saturday.

Local Observations. March. Bar. Ther. Wind W'thr 3 p. m. —30.12 60 SE Cldy 31 7 a. m. —30.07 60 SE L'train Precipitation in 24 hours, trace. River stage 7 a. m., 16.4 feet. Change in 24 hours, rise 3. Mean temperature 30th, 52. Highest, 64. Lowest, 40. Lowest last night, 49. FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, March 31.—The Germans have captured Malancourt in a series of attacks on both sides of the Meuse, French military reports estimated today. Several attacks were wiped out in the French effort to capture Malancourt. The French on Hill 304 tore such great holes in the changing lines of German positions that the attack was halted after the Germans had secured a foothold in the village through lack of men to follow up the drive.

The German losses in the renewal of the attack around Douaumont yesterday were extremely heavy, considering the number of men engaged, Paris despatches claimed. For forty-eight hours the Germans have been dropping shells on the eastern part of Malancourt and on the French front just south of the village. French batteries in Bois Bourrus and on Hill 304 have been active in reply. Before another forty-eight hours have passed, it is believed certain the crown prince will throw fresh regiments into a heavy assault on Malancourt, striking at the same time in the Avoucourt woods. Yesterday's fighting around Douaumont is believed to have been only a diversion while the Germans prepared to renew the struggle northwest of Verdun. French troops have evacuated all but the eastern and southern outskirts of the village of Malancourt, according to Paris dispatches today, heavy German artillery pounding having made the position untenable. The village and the highway intersection is being swept by a fierce French artillery fire, preventing the Germans from occupying the position.

FORCED TO EVACUATE.

PARIS, March 31.—French troops have evacuated the ruined village of Malancourt, but firmly hold the two highways leading to Bethincourt and Eanes, the war office announced this afternoon. The Germans drove the French out of the village last night, attacking heavily three times, after a very violent bombardment. In massed attacks the enemy advanced on Malancourt, attacking in three different places. After a terrible struggle raging for several hours, the French advanced guard battalion evacuated, having inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

The French retired to fortified positions on the two highways leading from Malancourt, where they have successfully resisted all attempts of the German to make further progress. Though the German frontal attack at Malancourt was successful, French repulsed two grenade attacks in the Avoucourt woods to the south. In this region the crown prince has sacrificed several battalions in an effort to drive in the side of the French salient, forcing the evacuation of the whole Bethincourt-Malancourt triangle. On the east bank of the Meuse, the Germans were repulsed in an attempt to carry a French work east of Hautromont.

Fort Madison Suicide.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] FORT MADISON, Iowa, March 31.—After carefully dressing herself in the clothes she wanted to be buried in and leaving written instructions for the funeral, Mrs. Joseph Thomas, wife of a clothing store proprietor, turned on the gas and laid down to die. Her son, a clerk in the state prison, found her body when he returned from work last night.

—Advertise in The Gate City.

IRON GRIP IS CLOSING UPON BURNING VERDUN

German Crown Prince is Aiming Great Blow at Enemy Which has Already Gained Some Ground.

FURIOUS ATTACK IS BEING PUSHED

Despite Official Statements, There has Been no Lull on the Verdun Front for Several Days.

[By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent.] WITH THE CROWN PRINCE'S ARMY ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF VERDUN, March 27.—(Delayed.)—The iron grip of the crown prince's great army is closing in upon Verdun. Storms of artillery shells are systematically preparing the way for a great infantry advance. Despite the official war statements, there has been no real lull on the Verdun front. Every day has been utilized by the Germans in completing preparations for the great blow. There is every indication that the advance is about to begin. The fortified villages of Malancourt and Bethincourt, ten miles northwest of Verdun are hemmed in on three sides by the Germans. When the German infantry begins to move on the west bank of the Meuse they are certain to fall. (The capture of Malancourt by the Germans was announced today, four days after Ackerman's dispatch was filed.) The city of Verdun is aghast in three parts. From hills captured by the Germans, I distinctly saw the heavy smoke vapors above the city. The village of Belleville, northeast of Verdun was set on fire by German shells today. From the summit of the highest hill opposite the Verdun front the whole northwestern battlefield spread before the eye in marvellous panorama. In the distance, the spire of Verdun cathedral glistened in the morning sun. In the foreground lay the village of Belleville, a cluster of houses by the roadside. Across a silver strake on the landscape—the river Meuse—lay Mort Homme (Dead Man Hill) and Porges which were stormed by the Germans March 6. The Commers woods, Bethincourt and surrounding hills stood out in dark relief against the gray curtain of smoke haze. Far to the west the cross roads village of Malancourt was a brown spot low on the horizon. The daily artillery duel had not begun when we took up our position. Below on the slopes, birds were singing in the trees. All the vast trench land about Verdun appeared peaceful. By noon the sun broke through the clouds and routed the mist overhanging the Meuse. Holograph signals flashed from the hills surrounding Verdun. The German guns began roaring a heavy chorus, unanswered by the French. While an officer in charge of our party pointed, six huge shells fired by the Germans struck in the heart of Belleville. Instantly the town was in flames. Great Drive Resumed. [By Charles P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.] LONDON, March 31.—The crown prince has resumed his great drive on Verdun with furious attacks on both sides of the river Meuse. The strongly fortified village of Malancourt, ten miles northwest of Verdun, was captured by the Germans last night. Frontal attacks by massed German legions drove the French out of the village, an important highway communication point, but the French still hold redoubts commanding the highway. Three heavy German infantry attacks were preceded by a terrific bombardment from German batteries on the heights surrounding the town. The German war office announced that not only the village, but French defensive positions on both sides were captured and that the Germans took 328 prisoners. East of the Meuse, the German war office reported, "close fighting" has developed south of the ruins of Fort Douaumont. The battle is for possession of important highways. The French hold on the village of Bethincourt, two miles east of Malancourt, is seriously threatened by the capture of Malancourt.

LONE GERMAN HELD UP SHIP WITH CREW OF 40 ENGLISHMEN

Was After Money and Admits Pirate Stunt Was Not an Act of War.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LEWES, Delaware, March 31.—Ernst Schiller, the 24 year old German, who single handed, captured a British ship just outside New York harbor, may be hanged by the British authorities as a pirate. Schiller is held here while the Delaware authorities are puzzling over what disposition they shall make of his case. If it is proven that the steamer Matoppo was outside the three mile limit when the steamer was held up, he belongs legally in the class of piracy on the high seas. With no trace of bravado, Schiller today told how he played the role of pirate within an hour's sailing of Broadway. He laughed at the discomfiture of Captain Bergener and the Matoppo's crew of forty whom he cowed with a pair of revolvers and planned to make his escape to the Delaware shore after looting the captain's safe. He refused to name the four men. The entire cargo of the Matoppo was being unloaded and searched today for the bombs the captain believed Schiller may have concealed on board. The pirate was removed to the United States custom house today under heavy guard. The building was surrounded by hundreds of curious citizens. —Subscribe for The Gate City.

Others in the Plot. LEWES, Del., March 31.—A daring plot to capture the 5,000 ton British steamer Matoppo with her valuable cargo and run her to sea, was revealed today by Ernst Schiller, the youthful German "pirate" who held up the ship single-handed just outside New York harbor. Schiller confessed that others were implicated. Four fellow conspirators, he said, were to have stowed away with him aboard the Matoppo. When the ship passed off Sandy Hook they planned to overpower her officers, cow the crew by a display of arms and make a run for the high seas. His four comrades backed out a few hours before the Matoppo sailed from Hoboken. Schiller decided to carry out the program alone, but planned to make his escape to the Delaware shore after looting the captain's safe. He refused to name the four men. The entire cargo of the Matoppo was being unloaded and searched today for the bombs the captain believed Schiller may have concealed on board. The pirate was removed to the United States custom house today under heavy guard. The building was surrounded by hundreds of curious citizens. —Subscribe for The Gate City.

MUCH EVIDENCE ON HAND ONLY MUDDLES THE PROBLEM

Cabinet Again Discusses Crisis Which Has Developed With Germany.

By Robert J. Bender, United Press Staff Correspondent. WASHINGTON, March 31.—President Wilson and his cabinet discussed again today the crisis which has developed with Germany as a result of the Kaiser's apparent renewal of illegal submarine activities. With a mass of evidence at hand, the cabinet faced a somewhat muddled problem. Of the four boats attacked upon which American lives were jeopardized, it is understood the Eagle Point is in the service of the English admiralty; the Englishman, it will be probably contended by Germany, was attempting to escape, and the Sussex, it is already declared by German officials, was the victim of a mine and not a submarine. What will be said of the Manchester Engineer, is yet to be seen. In the face of these points, the president and Secretary of State Lansing are hoping to obtain in the next few days from American consuls broad, sufficient evidence on which to base definite conclusions. Absence of word from Ambassador Gerard in reply to suggestions that he obtain informally from the German government information it may have

(Continued on page 2.)

Chapter on Buried Money is Added to Story of Poisoner

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, March 31.—"The strange case of Dr. Arthur Warren Waite" to apply a fiction title to the mystery that has been invested with a thriller added to it today when a posse searched a wide expanse of sand dunes for buried money. The money is \$9,000 in bills. It was paid to Eugene Oliver Kane, an embalmer to give testimony that he used arsenic in the embalming fluid used on John E. Peck, Grand Rapids millionaire whom Dr. Waite poisoned. The case has involved romance, love, "other women," occultism, millions of dollars, subtle and violent poisoning, family history, the "man from Egypt" and intimations of insanity. Now comes the element that rivals Poe's famous "gold bug." After Kane got the money from Dr. Waite, a few days after the Peck funeral, he kept silence. Late yesterday while District Attorney Swann was pushing a nation wide search for him, he walked into Swann's office, accompanied by a lawyer and agreed to talk.

He said Waite forced the money on him and that he buried it in a sandy expanse near Orient Point, L. I. In the early dawn of today, attaches of Swann's office, lawyers representing all parties in the case and a few movie camera men shot Long Islandward in big automobiles. All had shovels. Kane was with them, having agreed to point out the place where the money was buried. His version of the bribery for evidence for \$9,000 after telling me to put arsenic in the embalming fluid and get a sample down to the district attorney. I didn't want the check; I tried to hand it back. He wouldn't take it. "Later in a cigar store Dr. Waite handed me a package, \$9,000 in bills of \$500, \$100 and \$50. I hid it in a bureau drawer and afterward buried it." Mrs. Margaret Horton, Dr. Waite's studio companion, has admitted receiving a valuable ring from Dr. Waite. It contained two large diamonds in a platinum mounting and several smaller stones. It is valued at about \$2,000.

The grand jury which has been grinding away at the Waite case all week, may return an indictment charging first degree murder today. Waite Indicted. NEW YORK, March 31.—Dr. Arthur Warren Waite was today indicted on a charge of murder in the first degree for the poisoning of John E. Peck, his millionaire father-in-law, of Grand Rapids, Mich. An indictment was returned before Judge Nott in court of general session and followed a continuous hearing of evidence in the case by the grand jury since Monday. Due to Waite's illness, he probably will not be arraigned until Monday. He continues to show physical improvement. If the procedure usually observed in murder cases is followed, the district attorney will move the change of the indictment to the supreme court for trial. Action will be as rapid as the crowded court calendar will permit. The penalty for conviction on the charge of first degree murder is death in the electric chair.