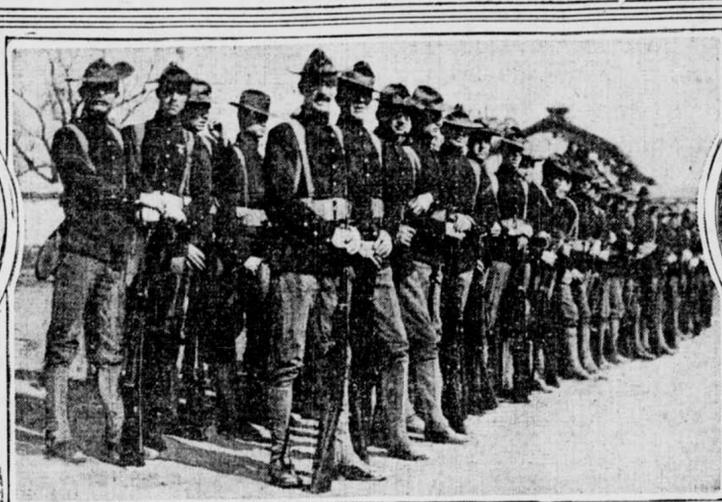


# Trail of Severed Heads Checked Looting Which Made a Hades of Peking



FRENCH TROOPS NOW IN PEKING.



A Company of the American Legation Guard, U.S. Marines



ITALIAN TROOPS, PART OF LEGATION'S GUARD.

**For Two Horrible Nights, a Month Ago, Mobs of Mutilous Soldiers Burned and Pillaged in Chinese City.**

WITH a crackle and a roar and a smoky, trailing column of flames on Thursday night, and today lies a wretched city, stripped of its wealth, in abject fear of further woe and commercially crippled, while from outlying points, particularly Tientsin and Pao-Ting-Fu, come reports of similar troubles, bringing to mind the horrible possibility of this dreadful business spreading over the North of China, and maybe still further. The germ of looting seems highly contagious and a quickly travelling carrier of a vicious disease. Quiet has been restored in Peking, and the trouble there seems at an end. It has been said that lightning never strikes twice in the same place, because it doesn't have to. So it is with Peking. The town has been pretty thoroughly torn apart and divested of its riches. There is much left, of course, but Peking has had its share of the trouble, and folk here devoutly hope that there will be no recurrence of the troubles of Thursday and Friday nights, when the looting was in full swing.

The main business streets of this great city, in the Tartar city and the Chinese city, were sacked from end to end. What the soldiers who started the outrage didn't get on the first night, they went after, augmented by other troops and hundreds of civilians, on the next night. For two whole nights, and during some of the sunlit hours of two days, this town of Peking was in the absolute control of the mob. Not an effort was made to control the soldiers in their mad career through the streets, shooting, smashing and stealing. Up and down the streets they went, bursting the doors of shop after shop, killing where they had to carry on their work, skipping unpretentious places here and there, but going thoroughly through the better business places through miles of streets. And when a shop had been sufficiently stripped the torch was applied. Two hours after the show started the eastern portion of the Tartar city was a mass of flames. There were great, wanton, unnecessary fires in a score of places, and for most of the night it seemed that this great section of the city was absolutely and entirely doomed. It was not so, however, and really only a small part of the region was destroyed. The next night the soldiers moved over to the west city and continued the looting there. The eastern city had been stripped, scarcely a shop there remaining untouched, but there were plenty of rich places in the west city. In the Chinese city, just over the wall from the Legation quarter, the work of the looters was thoroughly done on both nights.

### HEADS FREELY LOPPED OFF.

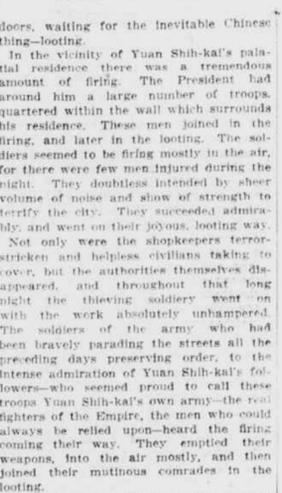
Yesterday morning the authorities came to their senses, and drastic steps were taken for the preservation of order. The venerable General Chiang Kuei-ti, an eminently respectable man with a most dignified air, stepped into his carriage and drove through the city, escorted by a detachment of his own troops—men clad in dark blue that contrasts with the gray of the other troops, and with picturesque turbans wound round their heads. Most of these men are from the south, and while they like their bit of loot as well as any other Chinese soldier, they were more ready to aid in the preservation of order than the soldier who comes from the vicinity of Peking. The old-fashioned General Chiang Kuei-ti also had a pair of public executioners with him—men with great two-handed knives.

The general drove through the streets where the looting had been going on the night before, and in his wake there remained a trail of headless bodies and dead men, men caught in the act and executed on the spot under the personal supervision of this aged warrior. There the bodies still lie, gawsome examples of what happens to looters when an efficient man takes charge of such a situation, and to-day the looting has stopped. General Chiang Kuei-ti is about the only man who has shown much efficiency.

### NO WARNING OF THE OUTBREAK.

There had been absolutely no warning of the impending outbreak. It suddenly burst forth with a roar that swept over the entire city. For weeks Peking had been literally packed with great quantities of ammunition. The soldiers who began the riot left their barracks and marched westward, toward the rich Hatamen street, determined to loot and burn. They emptied their rifles up and down the streets.

THE TYPE OF CHINESE SOLDIER DOING THE LOOTING.



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doors, waiting for the inevitable Chinese thing—looting.

In the vicinity of Yuan Shih-kai's palatial residence there was a tremendous amount of firing. The President had around him a large number of troops, quartered within the wall which surrounds his residence. These men joined in the firing, and later in the looting. The soldiers seemed to be firing mostly in the air, for there were few men injured during the night. They doubtless intended by sheer volume of noise and show of strength to terrify the city. They succeeded admirably, and went on their joyous, looting way.

Not only were the shopkeepers terror-stricken and helpless, civilians taking to cover, but the authorities themselves disappeared, and throughout that long night the thieving soldiery went on with the work absolutely unhampered. The soldiers of the army who had been bravely parading the streets all the preceding days preserving order, to the intense admiration of Yuan Shih-kai's followers—who seemed proud to call these troops Yuan Shih-kai's own army—the real fighters of the Empire, the men who could always be relied upon—heard the firing coming their way. They emptied their weapons, into the air mostly, and then joined their mutinous comrades in the looting.

Not a hand was lifted to put a stop to the affair. The municipal police, who later gained control of the situation, were utterly helpless and some of them joined the looting. The following day the number of municipal police had dwindled from a total of seven thousand to a little more than four thousand.

### SHELL HITS AMERICAN LEGATION.

The heaviest firing kept up more than an hour. Then it dwindled finally stopped almost altogether. Occasional shots rang out above the thud and thump of gun-stocks smashing their way through the doors of shops and stores. But there was no real firing—the soldiers were too busy for that. In the early stage of the game a three-inch shell went shrieking across the city and landed in the American Legation guard compound. It passed through a tent and brought up against a wall without exploding. A number of spent bullets fell within the legation quarter, but none did any damage.

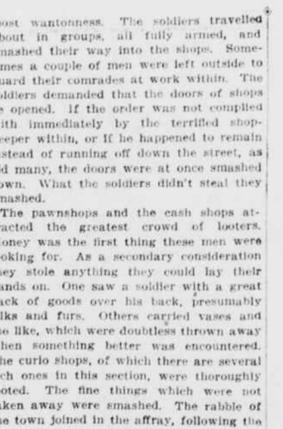
The two great business streets of the eastern city run north and south, parallel and about a quarter of a mile apart. They are Hatamen, on the east, and Ting Tzu-chieh, to the west. It was here that the first looting was done. The rifle shots in the distance set the soldiers on the streets going. It needed no messenger to spread the report or to pass the word that the fun had commenced. The soldiers everywhere opened up with the firing and then set about looting.

Fires soon began to appear, first in the northwesterly portion of the eastern city. The great Tungkuang, which stands at the entrance of the Imperial City, was one of the structures to go. It is about a quarter of a mile from the spot where the attempt to assassinate Yuan Shih-kai was made in January. The street approaching the gate is rich with shops. All were looted and most of them were burned. Some miraculously escaped the flames.

### PEKING IN FLAMES.

Down Ting Tzu-chieh the looters came, working both sides of the streets and setting fire to shops when they had yielded their riches. All the business houses in this region were thoroughly sacked; scores were burned. An attempt was made to get into the Imperial City through the destroyed Tungkuang gate, but a battalion of Manchou troops guarded the entrance with machine guns and the looters did not proceed. These Manchou Imperial guardsmen behaved admirably.

A MAIN STREET OF PEKING AFTER THE LOOTING AND BURNING.



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most wantonness. The soldiers travelled about in groups, all fully armed, and smashed their way into the shops. Sometimes a couple of men were left outside to guard their comrades at work within. The soldiers demanded that the doors of shops be opened. If the order was not complied with immediately by the terrified shopkeeper within, or if he happened to remain instead of running off down the street, as did many, the doors were at once smashed down. What the soldiers didn't steal they smashed.

### THE SECOND NIGHT'S LOOTING.

It was well known on Friday that on that night the west city would get its share of trouble. How in the world it escaped the night before no one knows. Sure enough, night had scarcely fallen when shots were heard in the west city. Presently the fires started and from the Legation Quarter great blazes could be seen. It seemed even before the night, before, and yesterday morning showed that the work had been thoroughly done. The soldiers who had failed to share in the loot of the night before were getting their portion now. The authorities might be excused for their inability to stop the looting on Thursday night, but it does seem that something might have been done to prevent a recurrence on Friday night. Had they sent Chiang Kuei-ti to work a day sooner the West city might have been saved.

The bravest sight of all Thursday night was the rescue work done by the troops of the legation guard. The outbreak was as unexpected in the quarter as elsewhere. Most people were making ready for dinner

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was over not a foreigner was in danger. The Chinese troops made no effort to interfere with the foreign soldiers, but of them and those whom they escorted pass through the streets unmolested.

As a matter of fact, the Chinese soldiers were too busy gathering in the loot to bother with foreigners. Many people simply deserted their homes, quickly picking up what they could while the soldiers waited outside. The next day they went back to get their other effects. Some of the foreigners remained with their residences all night and came to no harm. The general efficiency of the legation guards and their conduct on that terrible night deserve a separate story.

The revolutionary delegation from Nan-



GERMAN TROOPS MARCHING THROUGH STREETS OF PEKING.

when the firing began. In some parts of the quarter it could scarcely be heard at first, and those who chanced to remain indoors knew nothing until a considerable time after the firing began. The first warning that the American legation guard had of the trouble was when that three-inch shell dropped into its compound. Here and elsewhere in the quarter the call to arms was sounded, and within a few minutes every guard had been turned out.

Preparations had long been made for such an event as this, and within a short space of time the quarter was thoroughly protected. Outside the quarter there were scores of foreigners—in fact, several hundred. It was at once apparent that these might be in great danger. The fires were burning around many houses occupied by foreigners.

There was not the slightest indication of information at first as to what it was all about. Rumors flew thick and fast. One foreigner came into the quarter and declared that he had actually seen Yuan's bodyguard attacking his residence; that he knew all within, including Yuan, had been killed, and that he had seen the President's residence burned to the ground. No one knew whether the trouble had taken or would take an anti-foreign turn. As a matter of fact, there was no trace of anti-foreignism. Houses of foreigners were approached by the looters, who beat upon the gates and asked those within concerning the prospects of looting. A reply that a foreigner resided here was sufficient to drive the soldiers away. Few foreigners ventured upon the streets, for there was at all times during the earlier stages danger of random shots.

delegates were in the building at the time. The looters beat upon the doors and finally smashed them in, while the delegates dropped over the back wall into the compound of the Young Men's Christian Association. There they remained throughout the night. Several other members of the delegation were caught in a restaurant in the midst of the trouble. They were compelled to remain there all night. These delegates were particularly uncomfortable for a time, because there was a strong possibility that the attack was directed against them personally. This, however, proved not to be the case.

Yuan Shih-kai was not molested. He remained in his residence throughout the whole affair and afterward. On the first night there was firing all around him, but at no time was there an attack upon him. In order to avoid stray bullets he moved down from the upper story of the building in which he lives to the lower floor, which gets the shelter of the high wall surrounding the structure. A few faithful soldiers and officers remained with him through the night.

### LOOTERS SHOT ON SIGHT.

At the end of the second night Peking had been pretty well torn to pieces. There was not much left to loot, but there were many rumors of further trouble. Yesterday morning, however, Chiang Kuei-ti made his trip around the city. Orders were issued that all soldiers must remain in their barracks, and the policing of the city was turned over to the municipal police. These had orders to shoot any one who appeared on the streets after 7 o'clock at night, unless a satisfactory explanation was given. This did not apply to foreigners.

Half a hundred heads had fallen during the day. The soldiers who were looted during the night before had disappeared. Some of them seized a special train and went westward toward Pao-Ting-Fu. The 3d Division, members of which were responsible for the outbreak, received orders to move out of town. So last night was quiet. There was an occasional shot here and there—some police officer firing at a looter, it is supposed. But, on the whole, the night was deadly quiet.

From the wall which surrounds the Tartar city, also serving to protect the southern boundary of the legation quarter, the silence was really appalling. There was not a sound, save the barking of dogs and the tap-tap of the night watchman as he made his rounds, working away with the rattle which all night watchmen in Peking carry. The usual roar of noise from the city, which is one of the impressive things about Peking's night life, was missing, and the streets were absolutely deserted. It was impressive, and shows the efficacy of the public executioner's knife.

### ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS.

Yesterday afternoon the diplomatic corps held a meeting and determined to bring one thousand foreign troops from Tientsin. These would be of all nationalities. For several weeks previous to the outbreak there had been in Tientsin a large force of foreign troops. Some were regularly stationed there, and others had been brought in to guard the railway from Peking to the sea. This morning two hundred Americans—men of the 15th Cavalry—arrived here. They had left Tientsin at 2 o'clock in the morning, preferring to come up during daylight, and arrived in Peking at 9. At Feng-tai they came close to a fight with the Chinese soldiers. There is a British guard at Feng-tai, looking after the railway, and these soldiers had been having trouble with the Chinese. The Chinese had been fighting among themselves and threatened to stop all trains. The regular evening mail train had been stopped further down the line and obliged to return to Tientsin. The British guardsmen warned the Chinese not to try to stop the train. When the Americans came in sight the British deployed and prepared to protect

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**American Troops Hurrying to Protect Their Countrymen Found Panic and Desolation Among Them.**

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