

First Pictures of Fighting at Gates of Torreon, Taken by Photographer With Villa's Army



The Mexican pictures of the fighting at Torreon are the first ever taken of the battle with real accuracy. These pictures are the first ever taken within range of the bullets, and they show fragmentary but definite ideas of the fighting.

William Roberts is the man who made them. Until recently he was a borderland photographer. When war action in the north of Mexico began to attract the attention of the world he bought a moving picture camera and attached himself to the Villa force to see the action. These pictures are the first ever taken of the battle in Mexico within bullet range.

The attack on Torreon began on March 22 and the pictures are probably of the assault on Gomez Palacio, that town is 210 miles in line from El Paso and the only way the pictures could have been sent is by special messenger traveling on horseback. The pictures arrived in El Paso on Tuesday night and were rushed straight to New York, arriving yesterday morning at 10 o'clock.

It took five hours to develop this and yesterday evening the pictures were in possession of The Sun. This is a speed record to add to the record of Roberts' bravery in taking the pictures.

sell this will not be given for a few days, when the licensees will have to settle with him. A census was taken this evening and so far as can be ascertained to-night in all the fighting not a foreigner, man, woman or child, was injured.

Villa's campaign against Torreon was the most ambitious conducted in Mexico since Benito Juarez defeated the forces of Maximilian. His army was better equipped, better drilled and in better spirits than any force in the north. The forces of the Juarez and Chihuahua victories behind it and it had as its commander a man who a year ago was little more than a bandit with a price on his head, but a man who has never been defeated. Unable to read or write, unsmooth in his ways, yet he has the magnetism to draw men to him and hold them in good or evil report.

After Chihuahua fell it was reported that Villa would descend on Torreon, 400 miles distant, in ten days or two, but he waited. Weeks after he had left without a word from him. He rested in Juarez, attended the races there, but on the night of March 20 he was waiting. He was waiting for the night of March 20 he announced: "It is all ready. I know where to get water. We will go." He had worked out the great problem of fighting in Mexico. He had worked out a method by which his men could assuage their thirst.



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No Delay in Start South.

Within a half hour he and his staff were on a train bound for Chihuahua. They arrived the next day and the following morning twelve troops and supply trains were leaving for the southwest. Machine guns and ammunition came from stores where they had been hoarded, hand grenades, shells and even field guns were hoisted on flat cars, hundreds of boxes of alfalfa were loaded for the horses. Added to this were armoured automobiles equipped with machine guns which had been purchased for every man in the army.

Jimenez, Escalon, Conchos, Yermo and Hermosillo, directly in the path of the entrained army, fell almost without a struggle. A few days after the train left from the machine guns and their small force fell. Hermosillo became Villa's base and straggling columns under Ortega, Herrera and others went to the south, southeast and southwest to take the smaller cities and towns of the district.

Gomez Palacio was the one obstacle in the path of the attack on Torreon. A city of 22,000 or thereabout, it is about four miles to the northeast of Torreon along the National highway, and is 100 miles from Gomez Palacio, was the key to that situation and became a new base.

Villa received his only check at Gomez. Gen. Refugio by the name of Gomez held his position, used a stratagem, which, if pursued, might have brought about a different result.

Villa's men captured Gomez Palacio on the afternoon of March 22 after a bloody fight, in which the losses were heavy on both sides. Both sides used their rapid fire guns with great effect, the automobiles running out and returning before the cavalrymen could get at them. The town fell and the victorious soldiers marched in with jubilation. Messages were sent to Juarez, and arrangements were made that on the following Wednesday, at the outside, Villa would take breakfast in Torreon.

Evacuation a Feint.

The fall was only a feint. Violating all traditions in Mexican warfare, Velasco awaited the fall of night and buried the bulk of his force on Gomez Palacio and upon the retreating rebels. It was a complete surprise. The rebels were mowed down by machine guns and sharpshooters. The artillery, using a home made shrapnel of railroad spikes and cut up barbed wire, did fearful execution. The Constitutionalists were routed so that the forces never reached until they had gone on the other side of Brittingham. Had Velasco followed his success that time the result of the campaign might have been different.

Villa caught himself before daylight. Realizing the importance of the point he held his men back until he could bring up his entire force. Gen. Felipe Angeles, Minister of War in the Carranza Cabinet, who came over from the Federal army the last summer, was ordered to take the position. He brought his field guns up to a position in the mountains overlooking the town. The infantry, using the irrigation ditches, crept closer and closer to the Federal evacuated their position and fell back to the principal city.

Thus the action stood last Sunday night when the move to take Torreon really began. The Federalists themselves began the last fight for their territory opened up from the mountains to the east of Torreon on the Constitutionalists' march until it received its answer at once between Gomez Palacio and Torreon, the river and the irrigation ditches intervened. In one way it was an advantage and in another it was a disadvantage. The Constitutionalists' cavalry and artillery could not maneuver, but the infantry and the sharpshooters found splendid positions for their work.

Herrera Reaches City's Outskirts.

A force under Gen. Herrera at once crept forward and during the night reached the east of the city, where they found lodgment in the adobe huts on the outskirts. The center of Villa's army under his personal command came straight on from Gomez Palacio and in spite of the heavy artillery fire now in the Federal outposts. In this they were handicapped. The railroad out of Torreon to the north was intact, and the Federalists could send their artillery out on flat cars. However, the Constitutionalists persisted. The right wing of the Constitutionalists attacked the Federal left, which was entrenched in the mountains to the west of the city. This was done to prevent the Federal left from going to the aid of those opposing Herrera.

The fighting of that night and Monday was heaviest on the left. Herrera and his men crawling into the huts held them although they were swept by machine guns, field guns and steady rifle fire, closely but steadily their position was maintained. They crept from house to house. The dead lay piled in heaps in the streets and in the buildings, but the rebel troops never faltered.

Nights saw no cessation. It came to even closer quarters then, for the grenade men, products of the Madero revolution, went forward and at some length threw their bombs into windows of which several had been shot out. Velasco hurried detachments after detachments against these men, but they stood

Reinforcements Expected.

Then came the report that 5,000 troops were coming to reinforce Velasco from Monterey and Ortega went after them. It is not known definitely what he did to them, but he has reported that they are broken and scattered.

The Constitutionalists' right came down from the mountains on Wednesday and gained a foothold in the city, which happened on the day that the three battalions from that time on it was house to house, man to man fighting. Gen. Contreras and Robles of Villa's staff were wounded early, but the fight was not over.

There are many tall buildings in Torreon, some of them five stories in height, and these were hived with sharpshooters. Villa's army on that day beat the very hard to hold, but the Federalists held them until they crumpled and fell, shot to pieces. One force would rush forth and meet another and the two would have it at ten feet in the streets until one side was shot to pieces. There was no surrender and no getting away from the British Vice-Consul Cummings appeared before Villa's camp on that day bearing a white flag and a British flag. He brought a message from Gen. Velasco asking for an armistice to bury the dead. Villa promptly declined it, alleging it was a move to gain time for reinforcements to come up. In his turn he sent an offer if Velasco would surrender unconditionally before Herrera's army on that day bearing a white flag and a British flag. He brought a message from Gen. Velasco asking for an armistice to bury the dead. Villa promptly declined it, alleging it was a move to gain time for reinforcements to come up. In his turn he sent an offer if Velasco would surrender unconditionally before Herrera's army on that day bearing a white flag and a British flag.

Fight in Last Three Quarters.

The fighting on Wednesday afternoon and night had been hard. By that time the remnant of Federalists had fallen back until they had only about three quarters, or fortified military barracks, left, and from these they fought with all the desperation they had ever shown.

Angels brought up his artillery on Thursday morning, and Villa's own men, the sharpshooters, found advanced positions in the southwest and they threw to the eastward and the Constitutionalists left swung around to the south, hemming in the Federalists.

There was one thing, however, against which Villa could not provide. The wind rose in the early afternoon and with it came a dust storm. Only those who have been in the southwest can understand what that means. A cloud of dust denser than any channel of fog, blinding and stifling sweeps over the country. Men can hardly breathe in it, much less see. Only an Indian with his serapi tied tightly around his head can live outdoors in it, and yet Velasco took advantage of it. Troops of men evacuated the quarters within two hundred feet of their assailants and were never detected. Artillery was dragged out, machine guns taken apart and carried and the entire force of volunteers crept away to the exposure of the southwest temporarily in safety.

A dust storm rarely lasts more than an hour, and when it cleared preparations were made to resume fighting. There was no fighting. The regular army soldiers, who had been left behind made no resistance, and an hour later Villa was in command of the city.

Nothing could stop the first hour's looting, which the Mexican soldier regards as his prerogative, but after that order was restored. Villa's act in destroying all the sugar beets, mescal, tequila and American whiskeys, undoubtedly helped much. "Not a drop must remain," he ordered, and it went out into the streets, where the heads were knocked off barrels and the tops of kegs.

There were few other preliminaries. Spies gave the commander in chief the names of all Mexicans who had supported the Federal cause and their property was confiscated in the name of the new republic. Their homes to-night are the quarters of Villa's officers; his men are encamped in their palaces. Their photographs and their belongings are being sold for the food of the victorious troops who are resting and mending their wounds after nearly two weeks of as hard fighting as any man, white or yellow, has ever seen.

HUERTA DENIES DEFEAT.

But Americans in Mexico City Welcome Torreon News.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun, Mexico City, April 3.—The Government persists in its denial that Torreon has been captured by the rebels. A despatch was received today from Gen. Javier de Moore, who was on his way to Torreon with reinforcements, stating that he defeated the rebels again this morning at Sacramento.

The press news of the fall of Torreon is generally welcomed by Americans here because they believe that it will bring intervention by the United States nearer. Prominent Mexicans say, however, that President Huerta will fight to the last ditch.

Gen. Huerta's best move, if Torreon has fallen, would be to concentrate the scattered Federal armies about San Luis Potosi, according to military men. The mistake which has been made heretofore has been the scattering of the Government forces. The territory on which the capital depends for supplies extends from San Luis Potosi to Queretaro and it is most important for the Federalists to hold this country.

The railroad line from San Luis Potosi to Tampico has again been damaged by the rebels, who carried off the rail covering half a kilometer of the road.

The Minister of Finance presented the budget to the House of Representatives this afternoon. It shows that there is a

LIND TO LEAVE TOMORROW.

Says Wilson Has Given Him a Month's Vacation.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun, Vera Cruz, April 3.—John Lind, the special representative of President Wilson in Mexico, says that because of the hard work he has been doing President Wilson has given him a month's vacation. He will leave here Sunday afternoon on the Mayflower for New Orleans. The family of Rear Admiral Fletcher will also go back home on the yacht.

The hospital ship Solace sailed for New Orleans this afternoon. The scout cruiser Chester is now coaling prior to sailing for Tampico.

Gen. Maass is most emphatic in his denials of Federal defeats in the north, notwithstanding the numerous press despatches which have been received here relative to Gen. Pancho Villa's victories at and about Torreon.

FALL OF MONTEREY AND TAMPICO NEAR.

Military Experts in Washington Also Predict Early Capture of Saltillo.

HUERTA GARRISONS SMALL.

Prospects of Constitutionalists Better Now Than at Any Time.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—All doubt in Washington as to the capture of Torreon by Villa was dispelled late this afternoon, when the State Department received from George C. Carothers, its representative with the rebel forces, a telegram confirming the earlier and unofficial despatches. Mr. Carothers reported that the Federalists abandoned Torreon last evening. Their departure was so hasty that they left their wounded behind.

It is conceded here that Villa has won a substantial victory for the rebel cause, which may have far-reaching effects on the Mexican situation and on the course of the United States in dealing with the Huerta regime. The rebel agents here are predicting the early fall of all three.

It is said there are only a total of 5,000 Federalists in Saltillo and Monterey, and the rebel Generals Herrera and Urbina are now moving toward Saltillo from Torreon. Evacuation of the cities by the Federalists rather than undergoing a siege is predicted by rebel agents here as the next development. The fall of these places would be of considerable importance because of their situation with respect to the representative of the south.

Surrender of Tampico Expected.

Of even greater importance, however, from the rebel point of view would be the taking of Tampico, which has been practically surrounded by rebels ever since the failure of the attack on the city last winter. Advice received here today along with reports of the fall of Torreon indicated that the Federal port is in a very precarious situation and likely at any hour to be made the objective of an assault by a strong force of rebels.

Private advices received by Admiral Cochrer at Vera Cruz are to the effect that the Federalists at Tampico may capitulate and surrender the city without fighting. Should there be a battle, however, the rebels are expected to win. The Federal garrison number only about 1,000 men, reinforced by several Federal gunboats, while the Constitutionalists have in the Tampico district several times that number.

One thousand well mounted rebels are reported today at Laguna Puerto, near Tampico, and their commander is quoted as saying that the attack will begin upon the arrival of 1,000 more rebel troops under Gen. Castro, who are working their way along the San Luis railway line. The Constitutionalists are reported as extending east to the coast from Canalete

TEACHER ACCUSES ELOPER COLLINS.

English Captain Wanted Here for Alleged Fleecing of Girl of \$220.

HEIRESS IS GUARDED.

Relatives of Miss Singer Try to Prevent Fourth Attempt to Run Away.

A bench warrant for the arrest of Capt. Charles Glenn Collins was forwarded to Baltimore yesterday by District Attorney Whitman to be served there should he be discharged by the local authorities, who are holding him under bail for an alleged bad debt of \$25. Capt. Collins was indicted here for grand larceny some weeks ago on complaint of Miss Elizabeth Lauterbach, a school teacher, who last June had a school at Cranford, N. J.

Capt. Collins recently gained notoriety in Baltimore, where he attempted to elope with Miss Amelia Wheeler, daughter of Samuel Wheeler of Chicago, a retired sewing machine manufacturer. To date these efforts have been frustrated. Miss Lauterbach, in her story to the assistant District Attorney Minton, said she told Capt. Collins that her parents lived in Breslau, Germany, and that she intended to spend the summer with them. One day in June, just as school was ended, she confided to the captain that she had a draft for \$220 that she did not know how to get cashed. From her story it appeared the captain said that she need only endorse it and his secretary would get the money.

Miss Lauterbach had arranged for passage and had paid a deposit for tickets to and from Europe. She had planned to use the proceeds of her draft to pay for the tickets and was greatly surprised when Capt. Collins informed her that he was just a little short and would advance her the money for her trip in Baltimore for her to get away as arranged.

As the time drew near the Captain avoided her, she said, and up to the day of sailing failed to give her any of the money, but told her he would get a hundred dollars in a day or two and would send it to her by the Mauretania.

After reaching Germany, she said, the money did not come. She then wrote and named the Captain to keep his promise and give her the money. Not hearing from him she borrowed money to return to New York, and after making arrangements to meet the Captain went to see the District Attorney.

It was said at the District Attorney's office that a lawyer claiming to represent Capt. Collins had said that no criminal had been committed and that the money was a loan. He also said that the charges had been instigated by the father of Miss Wheeler.

Capt. Collins was divorced by Natalie Schenck, who later became the wife of S. Osmond Fell. Mr. Fell was killed last summer when his automobile was struck by a train near Long Beach. Mr. Minton said his office would make any move to bring Capt. Collins to this city until after the charge against him in Baltimore had been disposed of.

CHICAGO, April 3.—Relatives of Amelia Wheeler, daughter of Samuel Wheeler, a retired sewing machine manufacturer, whose three attempts to elope with Capt. Charles Glenn Collins, frustrated by Baltimore relatives, are said to be guarding her here to prevent a fourth effort on her part to elope with the English army officer.

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