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THE WASHINGTON HERALD

TODAY'S 7-COLUMN HERALD

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WEATHER—CLOUDY; WARMER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1916.

ONE CENT.

BATTLE'S FURY REDOUBLES ON VERDUN FRONT

French and Germans Declared Locked in Greatest Slaughter of the World War.

BOTH REPORT VICTORIES

Berlin Statement Says Fort of Vaux Has Fallen Before Drive of Teutons.

ALL AGREE CRISIS IS NEAR

Eastern Bank of the Meuse Declared Veritable Retort of Death—Bayonets Used in Charges.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. London, March 9.—The tide of battle before Verdun has swept back to the eastern bank of the Meuse, where French and Germans are at grips in the greatest slaughter of the war.

From this retort of death tonight rival claims of victory are received. Both French and Germans report fresh glories for their arms.

The Berlin official statement says that in a furious night assault over the shell-swept terrain, two Posen reserve regiments under Gen. Villot Guertaky Cornitz carried the armored fort of Vaux, the village of the same name and numerous adjoining positions, all of which were strongly fortified.

Two French communiques, reporting the same fighting, flatly contradict this German claim.

Germans Declared Driven Out.

The afternoon statement, which makes no mention of the battle for Fort Vaux, asserts that German troops who penetrated the German trenches were driven out immediately at the point of the bayonet.

The midnight statement, issued hours later than the German report, says:

"East of the Meuse the Germans made numerous attacks on our front from Douaumont to Vaux. At the exit from the village of Douaumont their attack was broken by our infantry and artillery fire. Furious assaults against the village of Vaux were likewise repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

"Finally, the Germans launched against our trenches along the foot of the ridge, which is surmounted by Fort Vaux, violent attacks in solid formation which were repulsed with enormous losses to the enemy, inflicted by our barrier fire."

Agree Crisis Is at Hand.

It is pointed out that the French statements have been twelve hours behind the Berlin reports in following the developments of the Verdun fighting. Both French and Germans agree that the crisis is at hand in the great battle of Verdun, the most tremendous of the world war.

The struggle, which is entering its nineteenth day, is steadily increasing in fury until, within the next forty-eight hours, it is expected to reach a climax on which the fate of nations hangs.

More than 200,000 men have been slaughtered in the eighteen days of battle. The German losses are estimated at 125,000 Maj. Morant, the German critic, places the French casualties at 75,000 to 80,000.

The battle is being waged back and forth on a front of about ten miles, intersected by the River Meuse. While the eyes of the world for the moment are turned on the struggle east of the stream, fighting of tremendous violence is progressing on the other side.

The French midnight statement says: "West of the Meuse, our troops continued to progress during the day in the Corbeaux Woods, nearly the whole of which we now hold."

The Berlin war office reports: "West of the Meuse we were occupied in clearing out the rest of the French troops in the woods of Corbeaux."

Statements Conflict.

The French statement is surprising in view of the previous night's communique which said that at that time the Germans occupied only the eastern extremity of the forest. No fresh German attacks had been reported.

On this bank of the river the German shell fire has literally swept the country clear of forests.

The German advance to Fort Vaux and beyond would be a gain or more than two miles into the French lines and would put the Kaiser's soldiers within four miles of Verdun itself.

Urges New Air Defense Plan.

London, March 9.—Addressing Parliament on the aviation service this afternoon, Lord Montagu, of Beaulieu, urged the creation of a separate ministry to take charge of the air service. He said that in twenty-five raids on England not a single Zeppelin had been brought down.

Alleged Swindler Held.

Valdosta, Ga., March 9.—A man giving the name of Harry Ames Van Auker is being held here on the request of Uniontown, Pa., officials. He is said to be wanted in Boston and other cities for swindling.

Turks Planning Dash Through Dardanelles

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. Milan, March 9.—Austria is hastening the completion of two Dreadnoughts larger than any at present in the Austrian navy. These are intended for Turkey.

Meanwhile, the Turks are gradually removing the mines in the Dardanelles to allow passage for the two Dreadnoughts, which it is hoped, will be able to elude the allied fleets and succeed in passing the Dardanelles.

The position of the Turks along the Black Sea is becoming seriously compromised by the superiority of the Russian fleet, which enables the Caucasus army to make rapid progress.

LOVE LETTERS BORN OF FEAR

Mrs. John Watts de Peyster Toler, Wealthy Widow, Makes Novel Defense.

AVERS PATRICK J. CAREY DICTATED AMOROUS NOTES

Threatened to Kill Her Unless She Sent Him Epistles, She Says in Baring Alleged Plot.

Special to The Washington Herald. New York, March 9.—Mrs. John Watts de Peyster Toler, wealthy widow, of an old and distinguished family, today declared before Supreme Court Justice Philbin that it was fear, not affection, which prompted her to write scores of "love letters" to Patrick J. Carey, former apartment house superintendent.

"Every one of the letters," she said, referring to the exhibits in which she had called Carey "Patsy dear," were written by me under sentence of death. Even the judge was startled by this extraordinary defense.

"You mean to say that you did not write those terms of endearment to Carey voluntarily?" she was asked.

"I mean to say, and do say," replied Mrs. Toler, "that Patrick Carey, now missing, is the author of every word in the letters I wrote to him. I was in Rhinebeck and he was in New York. He sent me letters he wanted me to copy, word for word. They are those letters which Mrs. Carey has shown to the jury. He wrote them and had me copy them and send them to him to trap me in this suit. He said he would take the first train, if I refused to do as he said, and I didn't dare to expose him, because I didn't dare to expose him, because I didn't want to mix up my family with those (nodding toward Mrs. Carey and her sisters-in-law) blackmailing people."

Mrs. Toler, wearing a new spring suit of tan, and brown hat and veil, talked slowly and tensely. Again and again she repeated that she had apparently made love to Carey in her letters because "she was under sentence of death."

Sherman Desires Armed Intervention

Senator Declares Mexicans Will Repeat Outrages if U. S. Is Indecisive.

Special to The Washington Herald. Princeton, Ill., March 9.—Armed intervention in Mexico is the answer of Senator Laurence Y. Sherman to the latest outrage of the Villa soldiers.

"I am in favor of armed intervention," said the Senator when told of the invasion of Columbus, N. M. We should send an armed force to the border not only to protect American soldiers, but to go across and make the Mexicans respect us.

"We may expect occurrences of this kind while we continue our indecisive policy. The Mexicans hold us in contempt. They don't fear us and will continue not to fear us until we get some backbone. They have insulted us and laughed at us until we may expect anything to happen."

Senator Sherman, who is on record against President Wilson in the submarine issue, used the Mexican development to bolster up his stand.

"What may we expect if the submarine issue involves us in war with foreign powers when we are unable to protect this country from Mexico?" asked the Senator. "It is not hard to see what would happen in our present state of unpreparedness."

Dicker with Japan Denied.

Berlin, via Sayville wireless, March 9.—Widely circulated reports that Japan offered to enter into an agreement with Germany before the war broke out to maintain peace in the East were officially denied today.

Weather Halts War Operations.

Vienna, via Berlin wireless, March 9.—The following report was issued at the war office this afternoon: "On the Italian front bad weather is hindering operations."

List of Americans Slain by Mexicans

Killed:
A. L. Ritchie, proprietor Central Hotel.
N. R. Walker, United States customs rider.
C. C. Miller, owner, of drug store.

Mrs. Milton James.
J. L. Dean.
Frank Kindvall, horseshoer, Troop K.
Sergt. M. A. Dobbs, machine gun troop.
Corporal Paul Simon.
Sergt. John Nievergalt, Troop Band.

Corporal Harry Wisewell, Troop G.
James Butler, private, of Troop G.
Fred A. Griffin, private, of Troop F.
J. J. Moore, merchant.

Burned to death:
Charles DeWitt Miller, Albuquerque, N. M.
H. N. Hart, cattle inspector, El Paso, Tex.
Harry Davis, private, Troop K.

Unidentified hotel guest, who is thought to be a Mexican.

Wounded:
Lieut. C. C. Benson, Troop G.
Jesse P. Taylor, Troop G.
Theodore Katzorke, Troop L.
Michael Barmael, Machine Gun Troop.

John Yarbrough, Troop K.
James Venner, Troop M.
John Kengh, Troop K.
James Veeder, Troop K.
James Milton, railroad employe.

WOUNDED MEN TELL STORY OF VILLA ATTACK

Injured Troopers Say Women and Children Were Clubbed to Death and Shot.

Special to The Washington Herald.

El Paso, March 9.—Lieut. C. C. Benson and five troopers, all of the Thirteenth Cavalry and all wounded, arrived in El Paso this afternoon from Columbus, N. Mex. They brought the first eyewitness stories of the battle with Villa's bandit army.

The wounded troopers are Corp. M. Barmazel, Machine Gun Troop, shot through the neck; Private J. C. P. Taylor, Troop F, shot in the head; Theodore Katzorke, Troop L, shot through both legs; James Veeder, Troop K, shot in the body, and James Venner, Troop M, shot in the shoulder.

Corp. Barmazel and Private Taylor are in a critical condition. All except Lieut. Benson were rushed to Fort Bliss Hospital.

The hospital at Columbus, which is situated near the water tank, the scene of most of the fighting, was at the mercy of the bandits, according to Private E. M. Johnson, Hospital Corps, who brought the wounded men to El Paso.

"We were asleep in the hospital when the fighting began," Private Johnson said. "But it would have made no difference had we been awake. There were no guns of any kind in the hospital."

Shout 'Viva Villa!'

"When I reached the scene of the fighting, the Mexicans were retreating. One yelled 'Viva Villa,' as he ran past. I picked up a small hand ax and hurled it at him. The blade struck him on the head. He died without a sound."

Private Johnson, describing the battle, said:

"Villa scouts, we learned, had crept forward, cautiously feeling the way. Villa directed the whole attack. He was seen in the center of the fighting."

"Villa and his men were in the town before anybody realized it. Fires were set; men, women and children were dragged out and clubbed to death or shot. Cold-blooded, heinous jests were passed about as the Mexicans dragged their victims into the open and murdered them."

Fight Until Dawn.

"The attack began about 4:30 and the fighting kept up until dawn. The troopers, roused to rage by the cowardly murder of women and defenseless citizens, mingled with the yells of the Mexicans. 'I asked some of the boys if there were any prisoners. 'Nobody took any,' was the answer."

Private Venner said:

"We were awakened by the sound of shooting and got into our clothes in quick order."

"Snipers were picking off people in the streets and several buildings were in flames. We got under cover and began to return the fire."

"I killed four of the Mexicans and was raising my rifle to shoot another when a rifle bullet struck me in the right chest and deflected into my shoulder."

817.75 to Jacksonville and Return March 20. Special excursion via Southern Railway. Consult agents.—Adv.

U. S. TROOPS IN BATTLE ON MEXICAN SOIL WITH FORCE OF VILLA RAIDERS

200 BANDITS SLAIN WHEN VILLA TURNS ON HIS PURSUERS

Fierce Fight, 15 Miles in Interior of Southern Republic Results in Rout of Raiders—Villa Himself Wounded.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Columbus, N. Mex., March 9.—Seventeen Americans are dead tonight as the result of an attempted wholesale massacre by Francisco Villa, the Mexican bandit leader who, at the head of an army of from 800 to 1,000 men, attacked this town before dawn this morning. Nine of the dead were civilians, eight were soldiers. One was a woman.

Villa was driven off by troopers on the Thirteenth United States Cavalry on border guard, after part of Columbus had been burned.

The American soldiers pursued the bandits for a distance of fifteen miles on Mexican soil.

MEXICANS STOP; BATTLE ENSUES.

Villa then made a stand and there began a battle between the 250 pursuing cavalrymen and the bandits, more than three times their number. The Mexicans were put to flight.

The troopers returned to Columbus late this morning.

They left between twenty-five and 100 Mexicans dead in the Arroyo, where Villa made his stand.

Villa himself was wounded, according to a report brought back by the troops. He is said to have been struck by a bullet, almost falling from his horse. Comrades supported him in the saddle.

FULLY 200 MEXICANS KILLED.

Fully 200 of the Mexicans were killed as a result of their raid, according to indications tonight. For miles around corpses of the bandits strew the plains.

The remainder of Villa's raiding force is reported to have circled back to the border and to have appeared west of here near the camp, of the Seventh Cavalry.

A new attack is feared. The troopers of the Seventh, on border guard, are greatly outnumbered by the Mexicans.

In the fighting south of the border, Capt. George Williams, adjutant of the Thirteenth Cavalry, was wounded. One trooper was killed.

BODIES OF EIGHTEEN BANDITS BURNED.

The bodies of eighteen bandits were publicly burned in the center of the city today. A huge pyre was constructed. On top of the heap of bodies was thrown that of Pablo Lopez, Villa's chief lieutenant, who was shot down by an American cavalryman.

It was Lopez who perpetrated the slaughter of eighteen American mining men at Santa Ysabel.

Grave fears are felt for the safety of the American colonists in the Casas Grandes district of Sonora. This territory is under Villa's control.

Villa's attack on Columbus was the climax of a week of murdering Americans. Fully fifty United States citizens have been put to death by the bandit during that time.

This number includes the Columbus victims.

FRESH ATTACKS ARE FEARED.

Villa paid heavily for his attack on the sleeping city. The bodies of 141 Mexicans have been counted so far. Many more are lying in the brush and probably will remain hidden from all but the buzzards. The total of Mexican dead will easily reach 200, military men believe.

The fury of the bandits, lashed by the execution done to their ranks by the Americans, is expected to result in fresh attacks on defenseless hamlets along the border.

Fresh troops are being rushed here from El Paso. They will arrive in the morning.

Sneaking through a deep ravine, which extends from the border almost to Columbus, and on the edge of which is pitched the camp of the Thirteenth Cavalry, the Villa band quietly picked its way into Columbus this morning.

"Kill Every American," Cry. The Mexicans far outnumbered the American soldiers. Citizens, running from their hotels and houses, were shot down. Startled citizens, who were awakened by the firing, sought lights, brought through their windows volleys of bullets.

The Central Hotel was one of the first buildings to be set afire. The bodies of three Americans were incinerated in the fire.

Mrs. Milton James was shot while rushing from another hotel. Her husband was wounded. Her body fell across that of C. C. Miller, a pharmacist, shot down while fleeing from his drug store.

Other Americans were lured to the street by bandits who spoke in English, and shot down.

Americans wise in border methods, at the first sound of attack, barricaded their doors, and with windows darkened sniped the snipers. Firing down into the Mexicans rushing around like Apaches in the light of burning dwellings these citizens of Southwest accounted for a good number of raiders.

The postoffice was raided, but only a small registered package was stolen. The interior of the building was wrecked.

By the fitful light of burning buildings the battle raged back and forth.

U. S. WILL PUNISH VILLA, GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES CARRANZA

Mexican Envoy in Capital Given Ultimatum. Troops Will Be Sent Across Border. May Call for Volunteers.

Secretary of State Lansing last night served notice on Gen. Carranza that American forces had been sent into Mexico for the purpose of crushing Gen. Francisco Villa.

This action was taken following the receipt of full reports of the attack by Villista troops on the town of Columbus, N. Mex., with the resultant killing of at least four American soldiers and the wounding of an officer and seven men.

Now Engaged in Battle. Five troops of American cavalry are now on Mexican soil, engaged in battle with between 500 and 1,000 Mexicans, headed by Villa himself. The engagement is taking place at a point five miles south of the border. Reports reaching the War Department describe the encounter as desperate. Re-enforcements are being rushed to the scene from other points along the American border.

There is strong apprehension in administration circles that it is the beginning of real intervention in Mexico. There is strong doubt as to the position which Carranza will assume.

NOTICE GIVEN ARREDONDO.

Secretary Lansing served his notice to Carranza through Eliseo Arredondo, the Mexican Ambassador designate to the United States.

The Secretary informed the Ambassador that the United States was determined to punish Villa for the unprecedented act of invading American territory and attacking an American town.

The United States, the Ambassador designate was informed, desires no co-operation from the Carranza government; that it does not ask for Carranza's approval of the course that this government finds it necessary to take. All that the United States expects, Mr. Arredondo was informed, is that the Carranza government should keep hands off.

Arredondo expressed satisfaction of the American viewpoint and assured the Secretary that he would advise Carranza not to interfere.

PERSHING ACTS OF OWN VOLITION.

News of the attack on Columbus, followed quickly by information that Gen. Pershing, commanding the border patrol district embracing Columbus, had, on his own responsibility, ordered five troops of cavalry across the border in pursuit, struck Washington like a thunder-clap.

The orders given by Gen. Pershing were without authority from Washington, but there was no disposition in administration circles to call him to account.

Realizing the possibilities of the situation, and the grave prospect that before many hours the United States might find all factions in Mexico arrayed against it, there was serious talk in official circles that the President may go before Congress in the next day or two and ask for authority to raise volunteers.

WOULD NEED 50,000 MEN.

At the present time there are but 19,000 regular army troops on the border. Should a general invasion become necessary, army officers estimate that a force of at least 50,000 regular army troops would be necessary for the purpose, and that probably 100,000 State militia and volunteer forces would be required to guard the border and act as a second line of defense.

What effect the developments of the day will have throughout Mexico generally is a matter of serious concern. Fears are expressed that Carranza will be forced by Mexican public opinion to take sides against the invasion. The least that is expected is a formal protest from him.

Most Punish Villa. In advising Mr. Arredondo of the American government's intentions, Secretary Lansing informed him that it is not the purpose of this government to occupy any territory or to extend its operations beyond a determined effort to capture Villa and his horde of bandits. The Mexican representative was informed that under no circumstances could the United States permit the attack yesterday morning to go unpunished.

From highly authentic sources it was learned last night that as a result of recent developments the United States has reached a point in its dealings with the Carranza government whereby that government must prove its ability to stand the test of stability and meet its foreign obligations. For that reason, until the present situation clears up, there is no intention of sending to Mexico Henry P. Fletcher, the new Ambassador to that country, or of accepting the credentials of Mr. Arredondo.

Primary Returns in Doubt. Indianapolis, Ind., March 9.—The result of Tuesday's State-wide primary will be in doubt for two or three days on account of the neck-and-neck race between Harry S. New and James E. Watson for the Republican nomination for United States Senator.

Ever Pasha's Assassination Denied. Athens, March 9.—The Turkish legation today denied reports that Ever Pasha, Turkish minister of war, had been assassinated.

Quickest Service to Baltimore. Baltimore and Ohio Every Hour on the Hour, with up and down-town terminals, Rate Saturdays and Sundays, \$1.50; other days, \$1.75 round trip.—Adv.

Major Gen. Scott in Charge. At the War Department, Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, is in full control of the situation. Newton D. Baker, of Cleveland, the new Secretary of War, who was sworn in yesterday, stated last night that on account of his unfamiliarity with the situation, he had asked Gen. Scott to take full