

colony of miners, was slain in the battle there ten days ago, while a military prisoner, was the statement made by militiamen at the coroner's inquest in progress here today.

Sergeant Mills, Corporal Mason and Sergeant Cullen testified that Tikas was their prisoner April 20 and had been threatened with lynching by un-uniformed guards. They tried to protect him, they said, but when the fighting with strikers from the tent colony started they lost sight of him for a few moments.

Later they found Tikas dead, they said, with three bullet wounds in his back and with his head crushed.

Lieutenant K. E. Linderfelt and Major Patrick Hamrock swore the militia did not begin the Ludlow shooting. Frank Bayes, a racher, testified he saw militiamen set fire to the tents of the Ludlow colony.

He also asserted that after mine guards had shelled his ranch, near Ludlow, where women and children were refuged, he found this note signed "Baldwin-Felts" and "C. N. G.":

"This is to pay for helping strikers. Cut it out or we will call again."

"The federal troops will be absolutely neutral. We will make no distinction whatever between strikers and mine guards and militiamen."

This was the first announcement of Major W. A. Holbrook, U. S. A., when he reached here early today at the head of the Second squadron, Fifth U. S. Cavalry, destined for duty in the southern Colorado strike zone.

The regulars, 400 strong, did not immediately detrain when they arrived at 8 a. m., but leaned from the car windows and chatted with strikers who stood in the rain on the station platform. The soldiers were apparently eager to get all possible information regarding the situation.

William Murray, general manager of the Victor-American Fuel Company, chief representative of the operators in Trinidad, was at the station when the train pulled in. Major Holbrook declined an offer to use the national guard armory here for his soldiers.

As a result of a day of battling, Forbes coal camp of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, north of Trinidad, is today a smoking ruin and militiamen and strikers at Walsenburg are resting under an armed truce, awaiting the arrival of United States cavalry to take command of the situation.

That only the coming of the federal soldiers prevented still greater car-

nage none now doubts. Strikers, militia and mine guards throughout southern Colorado are in a state of high excitement, but the counsel of their leaders prevents them from flying at each other's throats and renewing the fighting.

The principal blood-letting was at Forbes and this tragedy was characterized by many as the strikers' revenge for the destruction of their tent colony there last winter. Several months ago, an armored automobile dashed into Forbes and opened fire on the colony.

Later came soldiers and all the tents were destroyed by order of Adj. Gen. Chase. Since then the place has been without strikers.

For three hours more the men in the camp stood their ground until every building in the place had been riddled. Then they fled, leaving six of their number dead.

In the hills outside of Forbes three corpses of strikers were located during the night. One of these was lodged in a tree, the victim having been slain as he was attempting to pick off the defenders with a high powered rifle.

The strikers burned the mine buildings and then returned to their camp. No militia participated in this fight.

The fighting at Walsenburg, where