

placed many soldiers under care of physicians and more seriously afflicted are being sent back to border as rapidly as possible.

Private R. J. Harding of Company A., 16th Infantry, latest arrival today, said pneumonia was very prevalent in column, due to the extremes of country encountered.

When dysentery was discovered in the ranks, medical corps immediately increased precautions against use of impure water. Sanitary precautions also were redoubled. Dysentery, one of the greatest terrors of an army on the march, is principally caused by drinking of impure water. Boiling is commonest precautionary measure.

CAVALRY COLUMNS DRAW IN TO PREVENT VILLA'S ESCAPE

San Antonio, Tex., March 22—

With Gen. Pershing reported at Lake Babicora, Col. Dodd in district between El Valle and Namiquipa and third American column near Carmen, contact with forces of Villa regarded as inevitable today if he is still hemmer in between American troops and line of Carranza soldiers to south. If he has slipped through into Guerrero region, chase, it is conceded, will be weeks, perhaps months, longer.

Censorship has noticeably tightened as to operations north of Casas Grandes within last few hours. Significance of call for Fifth cavalry reinforcements freely admitted. Admitted necessity of strengthening line of communication indicates fear that Villa bands purposely left behind by bandit chief on retreat south may start sudden raid in Pershing's rear and leave American forces isolated in region admittedly pro-Villa in sentiment.

Despite every effort of officers at Columbus base, it was not until yesterday auto truck companies were able to muster full strength in vital task of rushing forward supplies and loss of complete control of line of

communication at this time would be serious matter.

GUERRILLA BANDS HINDERING PERSHING'S COMMUNICATION

El Paso, March 22.—Cut off from the border when the field wireless failed and Villista bands cut telegraph lines from Juarez, nothing has been heard from Gen. Pershing's expeditionary forces today since he reported his vanguard near Villa, who had sought Santa Clara canyon, following severe defeat by Carranza soldiers near Namiquipa yesterday.

Terrors of Villa hunt were emphasized just before communication lines were cut by reports of two American aviators lost in Chihuahua desert since Sunday, men going blind from glare of sands under tropical sun and horses dropping from exhaustion.

Other members of the aeroplane squadron searching for Lieuts. Robt. H. Willis and Edgar S. Correll, whose 3-day rations and scant water supply must be practically gone by today. Fate of two aviators or cause of their mishap unknown here.

There still is hope that the aviators may have escaped injury or would turn up in some settlement in barren stretch north of Casas Grandes. Engine trouble may have forced them to descend, and with their maps and other equipment they might have reached settlement out of touch with the army base.

Fall of Thos. S. Bowen, army flier who was injured in first American aero mishap under war conditions, and disappearance of two fliers cut Capt. Foulis' squad to five machines.

American cavalry rushing toward Namiquipa reported to have passed El Valle yesterday, within 24 hours forced march of Villa. If outlaw has not escaped into wild Santa Clara mountains U. S. troops ought to be in touch with him before night. Likely, however, that Villa had split up his followers and would himself avoid fight with Pershing's vanguard.