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AMERICAN ARMY CROSSES MEXICAN BORDER; JOINED BY LARGE FORCE OF CARRANZA MEN

MEXICANS SHOW EVIDENCES OF STRONG FEELING OF HOSTILITY TOWARD U. S. BULLETINS WILD RUMORS FLY ABOUT THE CORRIDOR OF WAR DEPARTMENT DURING THE DAY

Not Before Friday Are Sharp Developments Really Expected.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 15.—Gen. John J. Pershing, with more than 4,000 troops, began the pursuit into Mexico today of Francisco Villa. General Pershing's report that he and his command had crossed the international boundary line, just south of Columbus, reached Gen. Frederick Funston late today. Reports of progress in the country where the search has been begun, will be made by General Pershing, to General Funston, but it is not expected these will be frequent or deal with any but the more important developments.

How far into Mexico the column had reached tonight was unknown here. Not until after Friday are sharp developments expected.

Col. George A. Dodd, heading a similar column that entered Mexico some distance west of Columbus, also is moving in a southerly direction, and these two forces should be within touch of each other before the end of the week. By that time it is expected an infantry support will hold the line of communication along which motor trucks for the transportation of ammunition and supplies will be operated.

Although the censorship imposed by General Funston was relaxed tonight, efforts still were made to keep secret the details of the plan of campaign.

General Pershing's report of his entrance into Mexico served to dispel to a great extent fears that had been entertained in some quarters that resistance would be offered by the troops of the de facto government.

Colonel Bertani, the commanding officer of the Carranza garrison at Palomas, on the south side of the line, joined General Pershing. His force was only some 400 men, but they were reported to have displayed willingness and even eagerness to join in the chase. As a body the Mexican troops will remain under their own commander, but a number of them are being employed as scouts by General Pershing.

General Pershing has gone into Mexico with orders to wipe out Villa and his organization. Unless orders to the contrary are received from those higher in authority than General Funston, the campaign that was begun today will continue until Villa is captured or killed. No limits have been placed on the field of operations. News that the expedition was under way reduced tension evident at army headquarters here during the earlier part of the day. It was expected the troops would cross earlier in the day but minor troop movements and other details of organization delayed the start.

There now are available in this department for operations in Mexico, more than 20,000 troops, and if the plans for recruiting the companies to full strength are carried out, this number will be increased quickly.

Cavalry posts have been relieved by infantry in most cases in order to furnish a more mobile force for the pursuit of Villa, although in expedition that went in today there is a considerable force of artillery, which can be reinforced at any time by several more batteries that now are held on the American side within easy distance of the border.

If the exact whereabouts of Villa are known at army headquarters, the fact has not been disclosed. Generally, it is believed he has moved southward toward the Guerrero district, in the foothills of the Sierra Madre, but reports from Mexican sources indicate that the de facto government troops will do their best to turn him northward towards the advancing American columns.

Bands affiliated with Villa in other parts of Northern Mexico have not indicated their intentions, but brisk activity on their part will be no surprise to the American army officers. It is expected that in chasing Villa these hands will have to be engaged from time to time.

BULLETIN.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., March 15.—Numerous reports have reached the United States military authorities here tonight that open rebellion has broken out among the Carranza troops at Cabullona, 18 miles south of here. Americans here are seriously disturbed and extra precautions have been taken to guard the town.

Consul Lavelier treated lightly the report that the Carranza soldiers were in revolt. He said that the garrison at Cabullona had been under the command of General Calles since the siege of Naco, a year ago, and were devoted to him.

A rigid censorship over messages to all points in Sonora is being enforced by the Mexican officials.

Carranza Troops Being Withdrawn From Yaqui Indian Campaign.

NOAGLES, State Librarian, 15.—News that the American expedition crossed the international boundary here and in the Mexican gales, across the border, quietly. As soon as it was officially confirmed that the crossing had been effected, assembly was sounded from the military headquarters in Nogales, Sonora, and the 400 men of the garrison were summoned to quarters. This was explained by the Mexican authorities as due to their desire to avoid any possible friction.

Later in the day a printed pamphlet was distributed among the Mexicans by General Calles, military governor of Sonora, containing a declaration by General Carranza explaining the negotiations between the Mexican and the American governments, which resulted in the dispatch of the American expedition and urging the people of Mexico to remain calm.

It was learned from sources which are usually authentic that Carranza troops are being withdrawn rapidly from the Yaqui campaign in West Central Sonora and are being concentrated on the border in Chihuahua and Eastern Sonora.

TEXANS ORGANIZE.

CORPUS CRISTI, Texas, March 15.—Formation of a military organization composed of cowboys, former Texas rangers and persons who have been in Mexico and know conditions there, was started here today by Raymond Bellamy, a deputy sheriff and former Texas ranger, who lived in Mexico many years. He telegraphed the war department tonight he would have a full company ready when needed.

News that American troops had entered Mexico to pursue Francisco Villa was received with gratification in this section, many south Texas towns immediately beginning the organization of home guards and companies whose services will be offered to the state and national governments.

One of Largest Forces Assembled Since War Between States.

EL PASO, March 15.—American troops were on Mexican soil tonight, 200 miles west of here, the vanguard of a band of his handpicked men, but nevertheless, one of the most powerful military forces assembled by this country since the war between the states. They were out on the low gravel hills where one week ago tonight, Francisco Villa led 1,200 of his bandits to make an early morning rush upon the sleeping American city of Columbus, N. M., and murder 17 Americans, eight of them soldiers and one a woman.

From how many hundreds of miles this force had been assembled, the elements of its armament, its numbers and the direction or directions in which its various columns headed after they passed the international line, was a secret held by the military censorship.

The one important fact, that the Americans had gone into Mexico again, was an event witnessed by hundreds of spectators, who crowded into Columbus. They saw the troops move off toward the imaginary boundary line until, when the men crossed, they were tiny but distinct brown lines in the distance in the clear western air. As the troops passed farther into the hills, clouds of white dust hid the men and their further movements as effectively as the censorship. Brilliant sunshine occasionally caught the flash of the soldiers' accoutrements.

Behind the troops moved forward new regiments which rapidly filled the vacated camps in Columbus. The Eleventh cavalry from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, was one of the new arrivals. The new regiments expected to follow, but their officers would not say how soon nor from what points. The disposition of the First

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BULLETIN.

HACHITA, N. M., March 15.—Copies of military orders issued to the expeditionary force and received here indicate that news dispatches from the correspondents with the troops will not be passed by the censor for several days.

The country through which Col. George A. Dodd's command will traverse is extremely rugged. It is a succession of hills and mountains, topped by irregular, rocky peaks and crossed by valleys and canyons. Scattered through this territory are large stock ranches with thousands of head of horses and cattle. Some of it is desert, with here and there skeletons of cattle which strayed too far from water holes.

Tons of supplies have been sent forward from here overland to the border, which at the point where the troops went in is 50 miles from Hachita. Motor trucks, camp wagons and teams of ranchers in this section are being worked to the limit, forwarding tons of supplies for Colonel Dodd's command. Each truck and wagon moves under heavy guard. Many of the teamsters are Mexicans. Small patrol camps are scattered along the road as far as the border. Beyond, into Mexico, the system for guarding communications has not been revealed.

BULLETIN.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., March 15.—The torpedo boat destroyer Stewart will leave here at midnight for Ensenada under orders from Admiral Winslow, commanding chief of the Pacific fleet, following instructions received today from the navy department. This action follows reports brought here by fishermen of a threatened revolt in the garrison there.

Maisters of fishing vessels arriving here today declared that Ensenada, the capital of Lower California, is a Villa hot bed and that trouble is feared there when news of the movement of American troops into Mexico becomes known. It is not known how many Americans are at Ensenada.

The Stewart hurriedly took on fuel and supplies tonight and indications were that the vessel would leave promptly at midnight.

A high naval officer tonight admitted the destroyer is being sent to the Lower California town to investigate, but he would not say if further reports of any trouble had been received.

BULLETIN.

KINGSVILLE, Texas, March 15.—Mexican bandits, said to have numbered about 30, fired upon 16 American soldiers guarding the Barreda bridge on the St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico railroad, about 14 miles north of Brownsville, at 10 o'clock tonight. At least 100 shots were exchanged. None of the Americans was injured. It is not known if the bandits suffered any casualties.

While the fight was in progress, a train approaching from the south was flagged and stopped by an American soldier. A guard of five soldiers on the train rushed forward and reinforced the men fighting at the bridge. With the arrival of these reinforcements, the bandits fled and are believed to have escaped into Mexico.

This was the first bandit trouble in the Brownsville region since last October. Troops guarding the railway line have been ordered increased.

BULLETIN.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, March 15.—At Fort Brown tonight it was reported that American soldiers guarding the railroad bridge 14 miles east of Brownsville, were fired upon about 11:30 p. m. from the Mexican side. Four or five shots were fired. The troops did not return the fire. No one was injured. A small detachment of troopers was sent from San Benito in automobiles to reinforce the guard at the bridge.

BULLETIN.

LOS ANGELES, March 15.—Seventeen Mexicans were arrested here tonight on a Santa Fe train which arrived shortly before midnight from San Diego. They were held by the police on suspicion of violating the neutrality laws of the United States. They were alleged to have been recruited for service with Villa, in Mexico, according to the police.

BULLETIN.

EL PASO, Texas, March 15.—Brig. Gen. Bell Jr. arrived here tonight from San Antonio, Texas, to take command at Fort Bliss. He refused to make any statement beyond saying that he would remain here during General Pershing's absence.

Juarez Is Quiet on Surface, but Americans Are Insulted.

JUAREZ, March 15.—General Gavira, Carranza commander here, said tonight that he had received instructions from General Obregon, Carranza's minister of war, to order all troops in his district to co-operate in every way with the American expeditionary force. Juarez is quiet on the surface, but Americans met with insults in some parts of the town and there were evidences of a strong under current of hostility toward the United States.

There are about 1,000 troops in this town and nearly all were confined to barracks today. They have been forbidden by General Gavira to frequent saloons. Nothing stronger than beer is permitted to be sold in the town.

In a statement issued late today, General Gavira said:

"My soldiers are absolutely loyal and there is no danger of any outbreak in this section. I have received reports that Colonel Rojas has been murdered by the troops of Obregon and am trying to act in communication with that town, but so far have failed. There is no reason whatever for any hostility toward Americans on the part of loyal Mexicans, and I have assurances that all troops in my district will act in full concert with the Americans who are pursuing Villa. I am in complete control of the situation here."

General Gutierrez left here today for Chihuahua to take command of one of five columns of 1,200 men each, who are declared by General Gavira to be closing in on Villa in the Casas Grandes region. General Bertani, who has been in command of the garrison at Palomas, has gone to Guzman, according to General Gavira and will direct the operations of another of the five columns from that point.

In spite of General Gavira's assurance

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Villa Bandits Shut Off From Getting Arms From Uncle Sam.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—On request of the state department, orders have been sent to collectors of customs at seaports of the United States and along the Mexican border to hold up shipments of arms, ammunition or explosives consigned to Mexico, except such as, it is clearly established, are designed for the de facto government.

The order was said tonight to be the outcome of information reaching the department, that a large consignment of explosives intended for the Villa forces was about to be sent south. The instructions are sweeping in character and forbid shipments to any point in Mexico along the northern border, or to any seaport.

Officials tonight refused to discuss the subject, but there was reason to believe that some credence had been placed in recent reports that friends of certain European nations had been willing to put munitions of war at the disposal of Villa.

The instructions sent out as a result of the present situation virtually supersede those issued several months ago. In the former orders the exportation of arms was forbidden to the Mexican provinces of Lower California, Chihuahua and Sonora, except where there was a specific authorization by the president. This allowed shipments to go through to mining companies, and others, when it was clear that they were not destined to Villa or his adherents.

AFRAID OF MEXICANS.

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 15.—A detail of militiamen to guard the Roosevelt dam was asked today of Governor George W. P. Hunt by the United States reclamation service. Governor Hunt promised aid if needed, but suggested the 20 government employees stationed at the dam be armed.

It was reported that some of the Mexicans employed near there formerly were soldiers with Villa.

Map of Territory Where Villa Raided Columbus



U. S. SOLDIERS PURSUING MEXICANS ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE.



PANCHO VILLA.

This map shows the territory surrounding Columbus, N. M., where Villa bandits attacked Americans and killed a score or more of them. The upper photograph shows American soldiers crossing the Rio Grande near El Paso, in the hunt for greaser bandits. The lower photograph is that of Pancho Villa, believed to have been the leader in the attack.

In Command of Troops at Columbus.



COLONEL HERBERT J. SLOCUM.

Colonel Herbert J. Slocum was in command of the American troops of the Thirtieth cavalry at Columbus, N. M., whose camp was attacked by

the Villa bandits. Colonel Slocum's revolver was shot from his hand as he emerged from his headquarters to learn what the firing was about.

DISCUSS THE HIGH SCHOOL

An interesting discussion of the present work and the probable development of the Fergus county high school, located in this city, developed at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday.

The spread of the day was served at Jaeger's cafe, and proved a very tasty one, with about 100 men of the city and country present, and enjoying it very much. Secretary L. D. Blodgett, just prior to presenting Judge E. K. Chesdle, called attention to the money saved the business men in advertising by the chamber refusing to grant permits to certain schemes that were not deemed worthy. He informed the business men that whenever an advertising solicitor, other than for local newspapers calls, he should be asked to

show his letter of authorization from the Chamber of Commerce.

Judge Chesdle, who was asked Tuesday to give a short talk on the scope and purpose of the high school, entered into a discussion of the subject in his usual vigorous and comprehensive manner. He referred to the misapprehension of the county high school in some outside sections, but that with the increase in the usefulness of the school, this was being overcome rapidly. The institution, he said, was a permanent one, and it had shown great development. He made it clear at the outset that none of his remarks were meant in

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One Said a Regiment of American Cavalry Had Been Annihilated.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—With American troops across the Mexican border tonight, seeking Villa and his bandits, President Wilson and officials of the war department resigned themselves to wait possibly many days for news of developments in the chase. Information that forces of the de facto Mexican government were co-operating with the expedition from the United States, served to relieve anxiety that had been apparent on all sides over the possibility of Carranza troops revolting against their commanders and attempting to oppose the entry of the Americans.

Although Brigadier General Pershing and Colonel Dodd marched into Mexico with some 5,000 men about noon today, it was not until more than six hours afterwards that the official announcement came to Washington. It was received this evening and Secretary Baker at once hurried to the White House for a conference with the president. At 10 o'clock the secretary made announcement that United States troops had crossed the border.

Secretary Baker made it clear that he had not given out the whole of General Funston's dispatch. He said while the expedition was in progress the department would make public no details which might interfere with General Funston's plans for secrecy.

Officers of the general staff were on duty at the department until late tonight, but so far as could be learned no additional information of importance had been received. General Funston is expected to report only when there are developments, and it is generally understood that there is little probability of a clash between the American troops and the bandits before Friday or Saturday.

Reports tonight told of General Obregon, Carranza's new secretary of war and chief military man, ordering General Gavira, commander of the Juarez garrison, to co-operate in every way with the United States. This was accepted as convincing proof of the attitude of the Carranza government and any remaining fears of trouble between the Americans and soldiers of the de facto government are based on the possibility of insubordination or of mistaken identity.

Throughout the day the war department maintained silence as to the situation on the border. General Funston was moving his pieces in the game with Villa behind a curtain of secrecy. It probably was the most complete censorship the country has ever known. The screen was drawn so close that the department itself was not advised of the crossing until hours after the troops were on the march.

The only dispatch as to the border situation received by Secretary Baker during the afternoon, dealt with the departure of the Eleventh cavalry from Chattanooga to reinforce the border patrol.

Rumors flew about the corridors of the war department all day. Some dealt with reported fighting on both sides of the border. One said a regiment of American cavalry had been annihilated. Department officials had no reports on which such statements could have been founded.

Only meager news bulletins from the troops in Mexico are expected. While four correspondents of press associations have been given credentials to accompany General Pershing's command, they will be under strict censorship. Regulations of the war department under which they were designated, give the commander control over the information sent back. Nothing that could be of value to the enemy will be permitted to pass over whatever line of communication General Pershing keeps open.

Such messages as are relayed will be brief. At most the expedition will have only field radio sets to keep in touch with the border and official reports will clog this means of transmitting news. The American people probably will hear of the chase and of the battle with the bandits if there is one, in terse official messages from General Pershing and through the sifting of the rumors that reach the American side through Mexican sources.

The announcement of General Funston that the chase was on, disposed of rumors that were particularly persistent throughout the day that a temporary halt had been called to permit the Carranza troops to carry out their own plans to capture Villa before the American soldiers took up the task. At the state department it was said positively that no request from General Carranza for such a delay had been received. Neither had any rejoinder come to the reply sent to General Carranza Monday accepting his proposal for a reciprocal agreement on the border.

Secretary Lansing's note clearly stated the position of the United States that the agreement for pursuit of bandits was in force with its ac-

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