

U. S. TROOPS BEAT VILLA IN FIRST BATTLE

Seventh Cavalry Overtakes and Attacks 500 Bandit Followers.

VILLA, WOUNDED, NOT IN COMMAND

Americans Kill Commanding General and Thirty of Followers—Several Americans Wounded—Villa in Hiding Because of Wound in Leg Received During Fight With Carranza Men.

San Antonio, Tex., March 31.—Villa's bandit force, estimated at 500, was decisively defeated March 29 at Guerrero by American troops under Colonel Dodd, according to a report from San Antonio, from General Pershing to General Funston. Villa's loss was thirty killed, the Americans four wounded. Among the Villa wounded is an "Abies" named Lopez, believed to be "Abies" Lopez, who led the band that murdered the American at Santa Ysabel. The Americans were not seriously wounded. Villa was not present. Pershing regards this as confirmation of the report that Villa is suffering from a broken leg.

El Paso, Tex., March 31.—The American expeditionary force in Mexico has fought and won its first battle, and the first blood lost by American troops has been spilled at San Antonio, in the Guerrero district, according to official Mexican reports received here today.

According to General Gavira's information, which was supplied in a telegram from Lieutenant Colonel Davila, the fight took place on March 30, at San Antonio, between the Seventh Cavalry and 500 Villistas, the latter being their commander, Eliseo Hernandez, and thirty men, and the Americans suffering several wounded.

Colonel Dodd, with the Seventh and Tenth cavalry, had been moving steadily south and west since the division of the American forces at Galena, and it was understood the general movement has been toward the point where Villa is expected to make a stand.

Outnumbers Americans. The total strength of the Americans is not as great as that of Villa, but no concern has been expressed here as to the outcome.

A message from Consul Garcia says that General Gavira received a telegram from Queretaro which said General Cavasos had engaged in a skirmish with Villa forces at Guerrero. Gavira, he said, had requested a more detailed report of the skirmish.

VILLA ESCAPES DEATH.

Attacked by Man Whom He Tortured and Almost Choked to Death. Field Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces, Colonia Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico, March 28, by motor truck to Columbus, March 30. It has been learned here that Francisco Villa nearly lost his life a few days ago on the Corralitos ranch, a short distance from this place, where he tortured and put to death five Mexicans.

One of his victims leaped upon him and was strangling him when the Villista officers beat him senseless with the butts of their guns. Mucio Polanco was the name of the Mexican who almost succeeded in ending Villa's career.

Murders Five as Warning. The murder of five members of the Polanco family was said to have been intended as a warning to other Mexicans against having dealings with Americans. Investigation showed that the Polanco family was involved with no political faction in Mexico, but that they had a record of uniform honesty and reliability in dealing with the American managers of the Corralitos ranch, where they were born and reared.

When Villa, retreating from Columbus, arrived at Corralitos ranch he had a list of all the Polanco—six men, the mother and two daughters. He seized the men and hunted for the daughters, but the young women had been hidden so well that he did not find them.

To five of the men, Gregorio and his two sons and Mucio and his one son, Villa said: "I am going to kill you because you are too Americanized. You are gringos lovers."

Instead of killing them outright Villa had them partly stripped and then beaten with the flats of heavy swords. Mucio Polanco broke away from his captors and got one hand locked about Villa's throat before he was beaten off.

would be in a position to confront Villa and force him to give battle.

Mers Auto Trucks in Service. While final details of the shipment of supplies to Casas Grandes are being worked out, every effort is being made by the army to strengthen the motor truck service.

Twenty-seven additional trucks passed thru here today en route to Columbus. The total number of trucks now in service approximates 300. Of these 174 have been purchased since the expeditionary movement began. In other words, six new supply companies, each with twenty-seven trucks, one repair car and one tank car, have been organized.

Villa Murders Three. A man named Herman Blankenburg and two other foreigners were murdered yesterday at Minaca, Chihuahua, by Francisco Villa and his followers, according to private but authentic sources here. Details of the killing are lacking.

Minaca is situated on the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient railroad, which joins with the Mexican Northwestern at La Junta and is about ten miles southwest of Guerrero where Villa is reported to have massacred 172 Carranza soldiers.

Toya's information substantiates, therefore, previous statements of the bandit's whereabouts and indicates the truth of the report that he has turned eastward.

Alho Blankenburg's name indicates he is a German descent the meager information available here is that he is an American citizen. It is believed that the other victims of Villa's wrath were American citizens.

The information regarding the reported assassinations was telephoned from Minaca to Chihuahua over a private line by an employe of an American concern, and telegraphed from Chihuahua to El Paso.

The names of other Americans known to have been in or near Minaca are Ackling, Hempie, Locke and a Dr. Steel.

AMERICANS OUTNUMBERED.

Villa Succeeds in Recruiting Forces—Officials Not Worried. San Antonio, Tex., March 31.—General Funston today awaited news that fighting between American troops and a Villa force had begun along the Northwestern railroad between Madera and Chihuahua.

Information that he styled unofficially as headquarters yesterday that a considerable force of Villa men had concentrated and that the American cavalry was moving forward in strength.

Carranza's troops also were reported to be preparing to attack Villa's men. The information that reached General Funston indicated that Villa's men and the Carranza government troops already were in contact.

Villa has been concentrating his forces within the past few days and the force he has gathered along the railway north from Minaca, where he was reported to have visited his wrath on some of the residents, is believed to be greater than any he has commanded since he began his fight from the border almost a month ago.

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GUERRERO FIGHT DUE TO REVOLT

State Department Informed That Battle Was Not With Villa Forces.

300 INVOLVED IN UPRISING

No Obstacles Placed in Way of Americans in Use of Mexican Railway Line—Situation Along Border Considered Satisfactory—New Army Inventions Being Tried Out in Camp of Expeditionary Force.

Washington, March 31.—The state department today got an unofficial and unconfirmed report that the Villa fight at Guerrero, in which the bandit chief is reported to have killed 172 men, had to do with a revolt in the garrison in which 300 men were involved.

General Scott, chief of staff, said official dispatches from Major General Funston indicated supplies would begin to move into Mexico by railroad today or as soon as General Gavira, commanding the de facto government troops at Juarez, had received instructions from General Carranza.

General Scott added that no obstacles had been raised by Carranza officials to the use of the road.

Situation Satisfactory. The military situation both along the border and in the territory where American columns are operating were described by General Funston as satisfactory, in a personal letter to General Scott.

State department agents at El Paso were reported in conference with General Gavira and Consul Garcia to agree upon beginning the railway movement.

Navy department today has reported Vera Cruz and Guaymas quiet. The gunboat "Wheeling" has left El Carmen, Campeche, for Puerto Mexico.

State department officials said unofficial and unconfirmed information that Brigadier General Pershing over the Northwestern railway had been received.

SOLDIERS PLAY IN CAMP. Campaign Life in Mexico Has Its Amusing Features—Testing Inventions Field Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces, Colonia Dublan, by Motor Truck to Columbus, N. M., March 31.—Establishment of the bakers on a Mexican plantation has released half a dozen automobiles which up to yesterday had been used to distribute bread baked on the American side of the border.

Two field kitchens are capable of turning out 5,400 pounds of bread today. One pound loaf of army bread is a day's ration for a soldier in the field. The estimated cost of carrying this bread from the border was 90 cents a day for gasoline fuel alone.

The bread baked at the new oven is from native Mexican flour, the first obtained by the expeditionary columns.

Test of New Inventions. Whatever the outcome of the chase for Villa it is evident that the army here in Mexico under General Pershing is given at least military inventions under service conditions. All the way from cook's outfits to army aeroplanes, hundreds of officers are obtaining valuable service information which will soon be available for the device for aerial charged with putting into effect the national defense program in the United States.

In spite of campaign hardships the camp life is beginning to produce its round of humorous soldier stories. Today a Chinese laundryman, a resident of Mexico, established his business near a large camp, proceeded to attempt to build his washes, shake out and around the army telegraph wire. He intended to use the wire to hang clothes on. An officer stopped him before the shack was built.

The jack rabbits here grow to unusual size and the cavalry claim a college man in the infantry started to chase a rabbit, thinking it was a lamb.

Man Discusses Other Things. During the rest hours in camp, hardly a word of discussion about the hardships of this expedition was overheard. The men, especially the younger ones, talked about Coney Island, Llan-coln Park, Belle Isle and the amusement beaches of great northern, eastern and western cities. The officers discussed the Mexican situation generally but all were outburst about one desire, namely, to hurry southwest and join the pursuit of Villa.

destroyed bridges were described as the main handicap to the utilization of the 140 miles of track.

For ten days military engineers have been making repairs to minimize the danger in transportation.

Sergeant Edgar Crocker of the Thirtieth cavalry, said that leaky engines and lack of proper fuel had forced his army to its utmost ingenuity in obtaining transportation, while other arrivals said there is constant danger of spreading rails over the whole line.

High winds bringing with them a return of the cold which last week worked hardship on the men in the field, prevailed last night in the district occupied by American troops.

Customary quiet prevailed here today, many excitable persons who had been alarmed by wild rumors that Villa was within fifty miles of the border admitting that their fears were groundless.

SCHILLER A SPY

Young German, Who Terrorized Crew of Matoppo Confesses.

OFFICIALS DOUBT PRISONER'S SANITY

Examination Begun to Determine Whether Schiller Shall Be Turned Over to British Authorities For Trial—Captures Mine Single Handed Outside Three Mile Limit—Captain's Plea Prevents Vessel's Destruction.

Lewes, Del., March 31.—Ernest Schiller, the young German who captured the British steamer Matoppo and terrorized her crew of fifty-six men on Wednesday night, shortly after the ship had sailed out of New York harbor with railroad supplies for the Russian government, declared today he was a German spy.

Wary from the excitement after he had held the crew at bay with pistols all Wednesday night, he threw himself on a cot in the Lewes jail today and sought sleep.

"Yes, I am a spy for the German government," he said. "Yes, you can believe it or not, it makes no difference to me. I give my instructions from the German government to go aboard and blow her up. I could have blown her up but the captain's plea for his wife and daughter was too much for me and I didn't have the heart to do it. I am ready to take the consequences but I ask that my instructions from the German government to go aboard and blow her up be taken into consideration. I am ready to take the consequences but I ask that my instructions from the German government to go aboard and blow her up be taken into consideration."

Schiller had been told that as his daring exploit occurred outside the three-mile limit, he would in all likelihood be taken to Britain, where he would be tried for piracy.

Federal authorities came here today to examine Schiller and to decide what to do with him. Those who have talked with Schiller believe that he is irresponsible and that his story of his career is not true.

Schiller was reluctant to tell his story. "I was born in Germany," he said. "Never mind the town nor my parents' name. I have been in this country one year. I was sent to England and Germany. I was enlisted in the British navy and was assigned to the training ship Conway at Liverpool."

"I want to say right now that there are several thousand Germans in the British navy. I know what this means to me. I got my instructions from the German government to go aboard and blow her up. I could have blown her up but the captain's plea for his wife and daughter was too much for me and I didn't have the heart to do it. I am ready to take the consequences but I ask that my instructions from the German government to go aboard and blow her up be taken into consideration."

Capt. Richard Berger, of the Matoppo, said he is convinced that Schiller is a former naval officer.

German Stowaway Robs Crew and Compels Landing at Breakwater. Lewes, Del., March 31.—How one German stowaway held up the captain and fifty-six members of the crew of the British steamer Matoppo, compelling them at the point of a pistol to change the course of the vessel and land him at the Delaware Breakwater after he had rifled the ship's safes and taken their valuables, was told here tonight by Captain Berger, master of the Matoppo.

The stowaway, who says his name is Ernest Schiller and that he had lived in Hoboken, N. J., for the last eight months, is now locked up in the jail here awaiting the arrival of the United States district attorney from Wilmington, Del., and the British consul general from Philadelphia.

MALANCOURT IN GERMAN HANDS

French Driven From Village But Still Hold Out- skirts.

EVACUATE AFTER ALL NIGHT FIGHT

Forced to Retire Before Fierce Assault by Germans From Three Sides of Town—Germans Twice Attack Douaumont With Liquid Fire, But Paris Claims Both Assaults Are Repulsed.

German pressure on the Malancourt-Bethincourt line northwest of Verdun has proved too much for the French on the western end of the position and they have been forced out of Malancourt village.

After an all night struggle the French evacuated the village which had been laid in ruins by the bombardment. General Pelein's troops still hold the outskirts, Paris asserts.

Northwest of Verdun the Germans twice attacked at Douaumont with liquid fire, but according to the French war office, were both times beaten off.

Last night they developed renewed activity against the French right flank, nine miles southeast of Verdun. This was repulsed, Paris declares.

In a notable aerial battle near Arras between German and British aeroplanes, three British aid crafts were brought down.

Attacks by the Russians in the eastern war zone have ceased, but the German lines are subjected to violent bombardment.

Berlin, via London, March 31.—Capture of the village of Malancourt, in the Verdun region west of the Meuse, was announced by the war office today. The Germans took 328 prisoners.

French Sail Hold Outskirts. Paris, March 31.—The Germans delivered a fierce night attack on three sides of the village of Malancourt, says the French official statement today. The French retreated from the village proper, but were in a position to hold the outskirts.

Infantry fighting lasted through the night. The Germans again tried to carry by assault the positions which the French had won back in the Avocourt woods but they were repulsed.

PRUSSIAN LORDS OBJECT. Claim Right to Participate in Discussion of Empire's Foreign Affairs. Berlin, via Copenhagen to London, March 31.—The Prussian house of lords is unable to share the government's view, expressed in the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, Feb. 13, that only the reichstag is competent to discuss the empire's foreign affairs.

This declaration is set forth in a statement in behalf of the house. The lords declare that while fully recognizing the extraordinary difficulties of the problems presented, they hold the view that "mistakes have been made in various directions in the internal policy."

The declaration mentions especially the desire for improvement in measures affecting the nourishment of the people.

Airmen Bombard Swiss Village. Bern, Switzerland, via Paris, March 31.—Two aeroplanes of unknown nationality, dropped five large bombs at Forstrieden, near the French frontier. Some damage to property was caused.

Fatal Powder Factory Fire. London, March 31.—A Reuter dispatch filed at Oldenzaal, Holland, on Wednesday says that many persons lost their lives in a fire in a powder factory at Treldorf, near Cologne.

Berlin Pleads Ignorance. Berlin, via London, March 31.—Inquiries in government circles developed the fact that nothing is known here of the cause of the destruction of the Sussex except as given in newspaper reports from abroad.

T.-R. BULLETIN. NEWS OF THE DAY

The Weather. Sun rises April 1 at 6:34, sets at 6:52. Iowa: Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday; colder tonight in east and central portions.

PAGE ONE. Telegraphic News: Battle Reported With Villa. Bandit Command Greatly Recruited. Flight at Guerrero Due to Mutiny. Crisis With Germany Not Imminent. Germans Capture Malancourt. German Plotter Admits He Is Spy. PAGES TWO, THREE AND FOUR.

Iowa News: Creams Trust Unfair. Small Checks Good. No Oasls For Sioux City. State Y. M. C. A. Campaign. Governor Boosts For Bonds For Roads. Farm News and Notes. PAGES FIVE AND SIX.

Editorial: John D. and Bill Henry. Straws That Show Direction. Joe Cannon's County. Topics of the Times. Iowa Opinions and Notes. Story, The Turnmill. PAGES SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN AND ELEVEN.

City News: Des Moines Gets Next Conference. Ministers to Fill 20th Flight Program For Railroad Men Made. Hear Paving Objections April 24. Imperials Win in Bowling League. General and Brief City News. PAGES TWELVE.

Markets and General: Better Crop Outlook Lowers Wheat. Corn Sways With Sister Cereal. Cattle Market Weak. Hogs Sell Lower. Arrest in Canadian Plot.

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BIG PASSENGER LINER IMPERILED

Chiyo Maru, Carrying 299 Passengers, Runs Aground in Fog on Lema Island—All Passengers Are Reported Safe.

Shanghai, March 31.—The big passenger steamer Chiyo Maru grounded in the fog at 4:35 this morning on one of the Lema islands, south of Hong Kong. Nine tug boats and launches from a British torpedo boat destroyer have gone to her assistance and are taking off her 299 passengers from San Francisco and Manila.

All Passengers Are Saved. San Francisco, March 31.—Officials of the Toyoi Kisen Kaisha Steamship Company received a cablegram from Hong Kong stating that all the Chiyo's passengers would be brought into Hong Kong today. It was indicated that all had been taken off. The scene of the accident is twenty-nine miles from Hong Kong.

MARRIED FIFTY YEARS.

Old Citizens of Eldora Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary. Eldora, March 31.—Fifty years ago, March 29, 1866, John M. Furman and Miss E. J. Conger were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents near Eldora and Wednesday of this week they celebrated their golden wedding in this city at the home of one of their granddaughters, Mrs. M. D. Barber. Of the thirty-eight guests present all were immediate descendants of the two aged guests of honor.

BOTH TRAINS LATE; BLOCK SIGNAL FAILS

Dispatcher Testifies That Both Sections of No. 86, Wrecked at Amherst, O., Were Racing to Make Up Time—Signal System Out of Order.

Cleveland, O., March 31.—That both sections of train No. 86 were late and were racing to make up lost time, was testified to at the state and federal investigations today by Frederick Bausch, night dispatcher on duty when the wreck of three New York Central trains occurred near Amherst, Wednesday. An allegation that the block system was defective was made by Albert Ernst, signal towerman.

SUB-SEA CRISIS LARGELY TALK

Wilson and Advisers to Await Facts Before Taking Action.

NET DISCUSSES ATTACK ON SHIPS

Nothing to Be Done at All Unless It Is Conclusively Shown That Germany Has Violated International Law—Awaiting Answer to Notes of Inquiry—Delay at Berlin Believed to Be Due to Trouble in Reichstag.

Washington, March 31.—Following today's cabinet meeting, officials said complete evidence had not been received in the cases of vessels carrying Americans attacked recently, that no action would be taken by the American government at present, and no action would be taken at all unless it was conclusively established that an attack was made by a German submarine contrary to international law.

As the cabinet assembled it was plain that the members were not inclined to regard the situation as critical. All the secretaries except McAdoo, Lane and Daniels were present.

Leaders Confer With Lansing. Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee, and Chairman Flood, of the house foreign affairs committee, went over the submarine situation fully with Secretary Lansing today.

The situation with Germany was described as not being "imminent." The two chairmen visited the state department seeking information.

Ordinary delay at Berlin was advanced for failure to receive any response to the American government's last inquiry.

As the inquiry to the American ambassador was sent last Tuesday, officials stated a reply could hardly be received before today.

American Ambassador Page at London cabled the department today that he was forwarding by mail additional affidavits of Americans in the Sussex disaster.

Delay Does Not Worry. Officials declared today they were not worried because they had not heard from Mr. Gerard, who was instructed to inquire at the German foreign office whether a German submarine destroyed the Englishman and the Sussex.

It was pointed out today that the ambassador may not have carried the request to the foreign office while it was engaged in the delicate situation in the reichstag over the submarine policy.

Chairman Stone said that no complications in the situation inspired his call on Secretary Lansing. The fact that Chairman Flood also called was a mere coincidence, he said.

Chairman Stone stated that there was nothing involving congress at present that Secretary Lansing referred no questions to the foreign relations committee, but arranged to keep both chairmen in close touch with developments.

STEAMER AURORA DISABLED.

Shackleton's Auxiliary Ship Sinks Call For Assistance. Wellington, N. Z., via London, March 31.—A wireless dispatch from the steamship Aurora says: "We are setting toward Snarens Island under the command of the wind, and sea. We are unable to maneuver the ship owing to damage to the jury rudder. The authorities here are sending a tug to the assistance of the Aurora. Snarens Islands lie in the south Pacific ocean, between the 45th and 50th eastern most being in latitude 48.3 south, longitude 166.30 east. The Aurora, the auxiliary ship of the Shackleton expedition, was reported 250 miles southwest of Port Chalmers, N. Z., last week."

PICK UP DISABLED LINER. British Steamer Carley Being Towed Into Halifax. Halifax, N. S., March 31.—The British steamer Carley has been picked up disabled at sea by the steamer Fogolia and is being towed to this port according to a message received here today.

WILSON AND ADVISERS TO AWAIT FACTS BEFORE TAKING ACTION.

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Shipping records show that the Carley sailed from Genoa, Feb. 11, for Philadelphia. The Fogolia had been sent out from Louisville, E. C., to help the United States coast guard cutter Seneca to tow the Norwegian tank steamer Svand into port, when she fell in with Carley.

SPANISH COMPOSER MISSING.

Enrique Granados and Wife May Have Lost Lives on Sussex. Paris, March 31.—The Spanish embassy states that alho Enrique Granados, the Spanish composer, and his wife, are reported missing, no positive confirmation of their death has been received. The embassy has just informed that a hospital ship which picked up some of the injured passengers of the Sussex has on board a man and woman whose conditions are such that they can not speak. It is hoped these persons may be the composer and his wife.

TIFFIN STORE ROBBER.

Special to Times-Republican. Iowa City, March 31.—Burglars robbed Amish's general merchandise store at Tiffin, a Johnson county village, last night. A limited amount of goods were stolen. Bloodhounds were sent from Iowa City by the sheriff this afternoon.