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Guerrero Fight Described by One of Army Leaders

[Floyd P. Gibbons in Chicago Tribune.]
Rancho Providencia, thirty miles south of Nampiquipa, April 1, by courier to Columbus, N. M., April 5.—Here is the first eyewitness story of the first battle of the American Mexican campaign at Guerrero, as it was related to me this afternoon by one of the participants in the fight, which dissipated the bandit Villa's forces on Wednesday morning.

In the Tribune car, which has enabled Robert Dunn of the New York Tribune and myself to be the only two correspondents immediately at the front with the American forces, I drove all day behind the two automobiles carrying General Pershing and his escort.

Congratulate Yankees.

We arrived at this deserted ranch as the first civilians to greet and congratulate the 350 men of the Seventh cavalry who were victorious in the first contact with the bandit's forces.

Col. George D. Dodd's bearded, hungry and tired men were vociferously attacking the regular rations after long marching and hard fighting. The supplies arrived with us in a train of motor torries which had been rushed forward as a special reward for the victorious Seventh.

Around the broad ranch yard bacon was sizzling and black coffee simmering over a hundred fires, while in the large corral under the cottonwood trees that fringe the water hole the horses munched their first oats in many a day or eased their aching limbs in the dust.

"We Hit 'Em First"—Dodd.
"We met them first; hit them first, and routed them." Colonel Dodd told me with pardonable pride after he had received the congratulations of General Pershing and conferred with the expeditionary commander. "We are all sorry that the real quarry slipped away before we surrounded the town."

It was a great race, a fight against time and distance. That was the real test. The battle itself was nothing. It really came as a relief to the men after the heavy marching we had been doing.

"The command marched over 425 miles in fourteen days, and on the night before the fight the men were in the saddle seventeen hours, covering fifty-four miles. At the end of this test of endurance, which was performed on empty stomachs, the men went into the fight and made things hot and fast for five hours longer."

"Hungry, Tired, But Scraggy."
"They deserve the greatest credit. Out of food and fodder, coffee and tobacco all gone, horses exhausted, dirty, tired, hungry and sleepless, they never lagged once. Every man in the command knew that other columns were out after the same game, and we wanted to be the one to deliver the first blow."

When pressed for details of the fight, Colonel Dodd referred me to "Capt. E. M. Leary, regimental adjutant of the Seventh cavalry, who was with the expedition throughout the long march, took part in the engagement, and was assigned by Colonel Dodd to assemble the representatives of the eight troop commanders who participated in the fight."

Before telling me the story, Captain Leary took me to a large room in the ranchhouse, where the five troopers who were wounded in the fight were receiving clean dressings for their wounds.

Here are the names of the wounded: Private Thomas P. Brown, shot twice in the side and once in the head; Farrier Palmer E. Mandeville, shot in the left forearm.

Private Joseph Garbell, shot in the upper left arm.

Private Walter Gardner, shot in the left hand and right thigh.

Private Joseph Bennett, shot in the right ankle.

Private Brown's name was mentioned in the official dispatches for his bravery and fortitude. Altho twice shot in the side, he continued to use his rifle until a third bullet struck him in the stomach, on the side of the head and stunned him. When he revived after the fight he not only refused the assistance of comrades who wanted to carry him into camp but led his horse rather than ride the exhausted animal.

None of the wounded is in a serious condition.

In Saddle All Night.
"We left Bachineva at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon," Captain Leary told me. "We were in the saddle all night en route across the mountains from the valley of the Rio San Maria to the Guerrero valley by way of the pass of Aguascalientes. On the march not a man or animal tasted food in spite of the fact that we had only reached Bachineva the day before after long marches, which had been severe on the horses."

"Day was just breaking when our column reached the tracks of the Mexican Northwestern railroad, at a little cluster of mud huts called San Antonio, eight miles directly east of Guerrero."

"When we attacked at Guerrero our forces were divided as follows: "Major E. B. Winans with troops E, F, G, and H, comprising the second squadron numbering about one hundred and sixty men, turned to the south and crossed the river several miles south of the town. His orders were to station his men to the west and south of the town."

"Lieut.-Col. Thomas Tompkins, who, by the way, just came down from Fort Sheridan, took up a position east of the town and a little south of its center with troops C and B."

"Col. Dodd with the remaining two troops and two machine guns under command of Maj. Alexander L. Dade turned to the north, but remained on the east side of the river."

"I was with Colonel Tompkins. We heard the sound of a number of horsemen crossing the river. Realizing that this might be the movement of a large force against Major Winans, Colonel Tompkins ordered Lieut. Albert J. Myers, Jr., and two men to skirt the south of the town and carry the information to Major Winans."

"Myers made the ride and it was a plucky one, but he found Winans was aware of the movement. About 100 mounted Mexicans, riding in columns of two were out to the west and a little to the north. Major Winans' column was farther to the west, but advancing in an almost parallel line with the Mexicans with the hope of preventing their reaching the rocky foothills of the mountains not 1,000 yards west of the town."

Mexicans Reach Shelter.
"The advance Mexicans reached the shelter of parallel arroyos, running back to the mountains, and split into

two forces at the same time they opened fire on Capt. Feche's troop. Feche returned the fire and spurred on to the pursuit of the northwest party, while Captain Dallam with troop E was dispatched to chase the other band.

"Our men spurred their tired horses and fired from the saddle as they charged thru the arroyos after the fleeing bands. The Mexicans returned the fire but without result. Troops E and G chased them far into the foothills, where the rocks became so rough that the exhausted horses could not negotiate them. The troops proceeded on foot, dodging from boulder to boulder and putting the Mexicans to flight. The Mexicans tried to make a stand."

"It was in one of these attempts that Captain Dallam's men killed General Elycio Hernandez, one of Villa's oldest and most important lieutenants. At the same time they captured two machine guns."

Bluffs the Mexicans.
"Evidently the rout of the advance parties convinced the main Mexican column that exit on the west side of the town was unhealthy."

"The main column recrossed the river and started out of the town to the northwest. This was the second failure of Colonel Dodd's plans."

"When the column's advance reached a point opposite Colonel Dodd and his two troops, Major Dade's men opened fire with the two machine guns, sweeping men and horses to the ground. The troopers poured in a hot and direct volley to the surprise of the Villistas."

"The Mexican column melted back from the road in the direction of the river, but still maintained their northerly flight."

"As the last of the Mexicans ran the scoutlet and were, and Colonel Tompkins received orders to proceed east with all haste and set in front of the Villistas, who had turned in an effort to reach the mountains in the direction of Bachineva."

"By hard riding Colonel Tompkins with troop C reached a point six miles east and dismounted his men directly in the path of the Villistas. The Mexicans approached on the gallop. Captain W. J. Hendricks and Lieut. Peter G. Hennessey remained mounted to better direct the fire of their men."

"The first volley staggered the Mexican advance and brought down horses and men."

Could Hardly Do Her Work.
Housework is trying on health and strength. Women are so much inclined to kidney and bladder trouble as men. Symptoms of aching back, stiff and sore joints and muscles, blurred vision, puffiness under eyes, should be given prompt attention before they lead to chronic or more serious ailments. Mrs. George Hauck, 855 Pearl St., Benton Harbor, Mich., writes: "I was awful bad, with such pain I could hardly do my work, and I am very thankful for Foley Kidney Pills." McBride & Will Drug Co.

Daily Thought.
There are no chagrins so venomous as the chagrin of the idle; no pangs so sickening as the satieties of pleasures.—Ruskin.

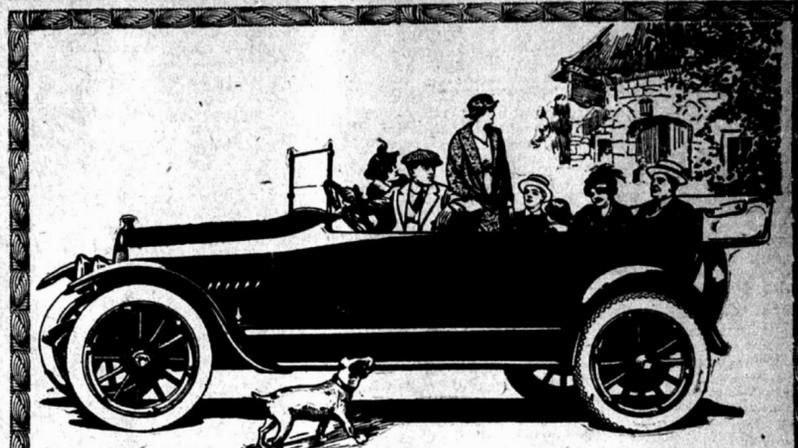
Wealth in Coconut Trees.
The coconut trees of Ceylon are valued at \$187,500,000.

A Full Sized Hint.
They had been engaged to be married fifteen years, and still he had not mustered courage enough to ask her to name the happy day. One evening he called in a peculiar frame of mind, and asked her to sing something tender and touching, something that would

move him. She sat down at the piano and sang: "Darling, I am growing old."

The discovery of a process by which aluminum may be plated with nickel has been announced in a paper read

before a French industrial society. The plated metal is claimed to endure hammering and to be bent in sharp form without cracking. The metal, as cleaned in the iron-acid bath, shown under the microscope a surface full of minute cavities in which the nickel deposits and adheres.



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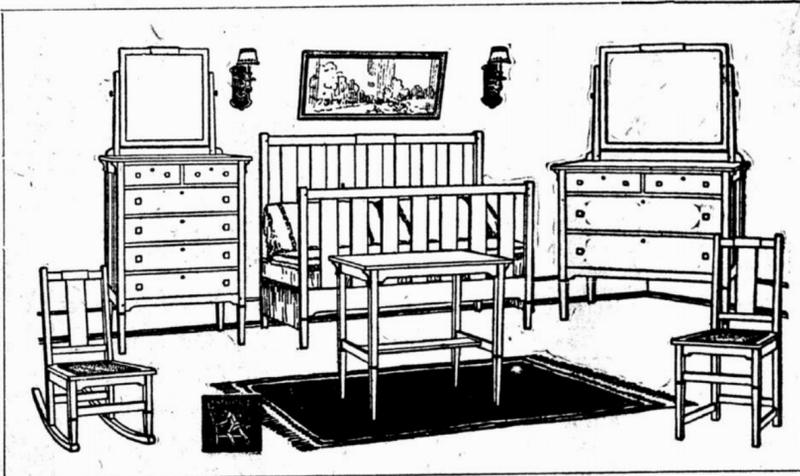
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