

GEN. HUERTA, ONE TIME DICTATOR OF MEXICO, CLOSES BOOK OF LIFE

Aged Mexican Leader Dies Peacefully at His El Paso Home, in a Room Where His Last Conscious Gaze Was Upon His Troubled Native Country—The Body to Be Held in El Paso in a Vault.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE reads the plain silver plate on the black metal casket containing the mortal remains of Gen. Victoriano Huerta.

Gen. Huerta rests in peace with the flag of Mexico draped over his last couch, a guard of honor, composed of his old officers, stands at the head and foot of the flower banked catafalque at the Huerta home on West Boulevard, while on the panel of the door flutters a bit of black crepe.

This afternoon at four the body of the former provisional president of Mexico will be taken to Concordia cemetery to be placed in the receiving vault there until the general's body can be returned to his native land. No funeral service will be held. Padre Carlos Mayer, the Jesuit confessor of Gen. Huerta, will say a prayer for the dead and the famous Oaxaca commander's book of life will be closed with the clanking of the steel vault door.

Gen. Huerta's passing was as peaceful as his life has been stormy. Since he feebly signed his last will and testament Wednesday night and had received the last sacrament, the general had been in a comatose state, sinking gradually into unconsciousness Thursday, which ended in a deep sob of escaping breath at exactly 4:27 Thursday evening. Senora Huerta held his emaciated hand to the last, while his sons, Jorge and Victor and the remainder of the family surrounded the ornate brass bedstead on which, propped up with pillows, the dying man reclined.

Could Look on Mexico. The death chamber was the rear room of the Huerta home on the second floor, the window of which opened toward Mexico to the south, where, when he was less feeble, the aged general could look off to the Mexican mountains and the land of his nativity which he once ruled as a dictator. His bed was against the west wall of the room, between the door and the window, in order that the old commander, accustomed to life in the field, might have all of the breeze which blew through the chamber. By one of those strange coincidences which are only noticed when events happen, the little ivory clock on the dresser beside the general's bed stopped exactly 4:27 within two minutes of the general's passing. Beside the clock was framed picture of the Virgin Mary, placed at an angle on the dresser where he could see it without turning his head from the pillow.

On the wall of his room was a picture of his little daughter, enlarged in crayon. Died Peacefully. After death, the white counterpane of the bed was used as a winding sheet for the general, being wrapped loosely about his feet and a fringed border pulled over his face until only the bald top of his head protruded. There were no signs of a final struggle and the old general lay as if asleep.

As an evidence that the Huerta family is not wealthy, Jorge Huerta asked the price of the undertaking services and of the casket. After mayor Lea, Jorge and Dr. Olivia left the undertaking parlors to select the coffin, the body was removed from the death chamber in a wicker basket to the waiting auto hearse outside. The body was lifted down the narrow stairs by the members of Gen. Huerta's staff, gently as if the old general still lived.

Former Mexican Dictator Loses In Battle For Life



VICTORIANO HUERTA.

They insisted upon carrying it to the waiting hearse, and brave old Gen. Bravo wept as he walked beside the body of his former commander, as the little cortege filed down the three high flights of steps leading from the Huerta home.

The Guard of Honor. After the body had been embalmed—Jorge insisting that it be prepared so that it will be preserved in good condition for at least five years—the heavy metal casket containing the body was returned to the Huerta home, where it was placed in the center of the room, directly in front of the big brick fireplace. There the guards of honor, all former federal commanders under Gen. Huerta, were stationed by Gen. Alessio Robles, again in command over the bodyguard of his general. This bodyguard included Gen. Ignacio Bravo, Col. Jose Posado Ortiz, Maj. Rafael Roma, Lieut. Col. Ernesto Sanchez Fuentes, Col. Ferrario Gil, Lic. Fausto Miranda, Lic. Garmandio and Ing. J. D. Hernandez. Jorge, the eldest son, wearing a fur lined overcoat over a gray sweater, was in charge of all of the arrangements, received the callers at the home and selected the coffin for his father, Lieut. Col. Luis Fuentes, son-in-law of Gen. Huerta, in a house coat and "comfy" slippers, assisted his brother-in-law and there was an endless coming and going of Mexican servants carrying trays of steaming milk and coffee to the chamber above. The trained nurse, who had been with Gen. Huerta, left a few minutes before the body was removed and chaplain Francis P. Joyce, of the Fourth Field artillery, who had been with Gen. Huerta overnight, slipped out of the house and to camp to get a little sleep. In his long night's vigil beside the dying general's bed.

Gen. Huerta made no statement Thursday night before his death. He had been unconscious all day and Dr. M. P. Schuster said he knew little that was going on around him during the 24 hours preceding his death. His last conscious act was when he made his cross to the typewriter, which prepared by mayor Lea Wednesday night. As he signed, he threw his arm over the typewriter, which he should have done in Spanish. "I am deeply obligated to you for all you have done for me, señor Huerta," he whispered again. "I forgive all of my enemies and I am at peace with the world. This was his last conscious statement.

Note in Pillow. However, when the body was removed from the bed by the undertakers Thursday night, one of the sons rushed from his mother's room, grabbed the pillow and the sheet and a slip of paper from it. What was in the paper, whether it was a dying statement or a note to his family was not made public. The last will, which senora Huerta the executrix of the estate without bond and left all of the general's property, which he had in Mexico, to his widow, giving each of the children a nominal amount.

Gen. Huerta was 62 years of age. Was Loyal to Porfirio Diaz. Victoriano Huerta became provisional president of Mexico, following the arrest of Porfirio Diaz by the army on Feb. 18, 1911. He supported many Mexican presidents before he took the chair himself.

Gen. Huerta was loyal to president Porfirio Diaz, the "grand old man of Mexico," as some referred to him, or "the dictator," as others regarded him, until president Diaz resigned. Gen. Huerta was held in great esteem by president Diaz, who had frequently said that Gen. Huerta was a military hero.

Under the Porfirio Diaz regime, Gen. Huerta was in command of the federal forces fighting Gen. Francisco I. Madero, did not prove to be a successful success as a federal commander. Shortly before his resignation, president Diaz sent for Gen. Huerta and told him that he had considered abdicating. Gen. Huerta counseled against it, and said that if he had 2000 good men he could recoup the federal losses.

Federal fortunes went completely to smash shortly after his resignation, and Diaz concluded to depart from Mexico, whereupon Francisco de la Barra assumed the presidential seat, which Diaz's rule had given the office of a throne. Gen. Huerta's loyalty to his late chief was so great that he accepted command of the military force that escorted Porfirio Diaz to Veracruz, where Diaz left Mexican soil forever.

Porfirio Diaz once on the water bound for Europe, Gen. Huerta was found to declare his loyalty to provisional president de la Barra. He remained loyal to de la Barra until Francisco Madero was elected president. Gen. Madero then became loyal to Madero, whom he had told Diaz he could wipe out of existence if he only had 2000 good men.

Tries to Aid Madero. The man whom Huerta had fought to the best of his ability, and to whom he had many times contemptuously referred as "bandit in the class of Zapata and Orozco," accepted Huerta's vows of allegiance probably because of the fact that he, like Porfirio Diaz, believed Huerta a military genius, and Mexico was badly in need of military geniuses to suppress the innumerable groups of bandits posing as "revolutionists."

In March, 1912, Gen. Gonzales Salas, Madero's commander of the federal army, committed suicide following the defeat by Orozco of the federal forces at the battle of Salas. Gen. Huerta had been in charge of the federal troops in the state of Morelos. Following the death of Gen. Salas, president Madero remained loyal to Madero, whom he had told Diaz he could wipe out of existence if he only had 2000 good men.

When Gen. Felix Diaz was released from prison in Mexico City by cadets of a military college and led his revolution against the Madero administration, Gen. Huerta remained loyal to Madero, for a time. On Feb. 18, (1913) president Madero was arrested in the national palace by Gen. Blanco, one of his own generals. He was forced to sign his own resignation. Preceding the arrest there had been over a week of fierce fighting in the streets of Mexico City, with Felix Diaz getting a decided shade the better of it.

On that same day Gen. Huerta went

WAR ON HUERTA IS ENDED—LEDGE

United States Senator Introduces Resolution in Senate Full Of Sarcasm.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—The American war against Gen. Victoriano Huerta has just ended, according to senator Lodge, who today introduced in the senate the same resolution he introduced April 23, 1914, authorizing the president to use armed forces in Mexico to force its demands upon Gen. Huerta. He asked that it be reprinted in the records.

"That resolution," said senator Lodge, "expressed the Republican attitude regarding the war against Gen. Huerta. That war has reached a successful termination, inasmuch as Gen. Huerta has just died."

He dined with Gustavo Madero, a brother of the president and really the man behind the administration, and often called the "most despised man in Mexico." While the two were dining with all appearances of friendliness, Gen. Huerta suddenly placed Madero under arrest. Not long after this Gustavo Madero was killed while attempting to escape from his captives.

Huerta Becomes President. Within three hours after the arrest of Francisco Madero, Huerta had been elected by Madero's congress and named provisional president, and from the Palacio Nacional he made a speech to the populace in which he asserted that he had no personal ambitions, but that he was assuming the change of administration president Huerta professed great friendliness for America. This was at a time when it was thought that intervention might become necessary.

Huerta and Felix Diaz were supposed to be cooperating to a certain extent in the management of the affairs of Mexico. Several breaks were threatened between Huerta and Diaz, however. It had been arranged when Huerta accepted the presidency, that he should call an election for the presidency, when it had been supposed that Diaz would be a candidate and be elected.

Assumes Dictatorship. Huerta later disbanded congress, arrested a number of the congressmen and senators and assumed the power of dictator, which he held until forced to flee his country, as Diaz had done, because the United States refused to recognize his rule in Mexico. Huerta he after showed that his elevation by the Madero congress was legal. During his regime, the American flag was insulted at Tampico. The United States declared an embargo on arms and gave it and American forces landed and took Veracruz. Huerta later fled the country, embarking at Puerto de Mexico for Cuba, then Spain. Returning a few months later to New York, he resided there for a time, then started west ostensibly to see the Panama-Pacific exposition.

Arrested at Newman, N. M. At El Paso he was arrested when alighting from a train at Newman, N. M., 20 miles north of El Paso, where Pascual Orozco was awaiting him with an automobile. Both Huerta and Orozco were arrested and released on bond. Orozco escaped a few days later and Huerta, which he had refused to give it and American forces landed and took Veracruz. Huerta later fled the country, embarking at Puerto de Mexico for Cuba, then Spain. Returning a few months later to New York, he resided there for a time, then started west ostensibly to see the Panama-Pacific exposition.

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He was an Indian of poor parentage.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Of El Paso County and City Democratic Club.

A meeting will be held tonight at 7:30 at Ryan's Dancing academy, corner Oregon and Overland streets. The executive committee will recommend candidates to the club for the coming primaries. All members are urged to attend.—Advertisement.

HUERTA COST U.S. A LARGE AMOUNT

United States Spent \$25,000 Alone to Indict Dying Ex-President.

San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 14.—United States court officials estimated here today that the indictment of the late Gen. Victoriano Huerta and 11 other men on charges of conspiracy to violate the neutrality laws had cost the government \$25,000.

This included the cost of "shadowing" the former dictator from the time of his arrival in the United States from Spain, the government's telegraph bill, and the expense of bringing more than 20 witnesses from New York, New Orleans, El Paso, Los Angeles and other places.

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POST MORTEM IS HELD ON HUERTA

Cirrhosis of Liver Cause of Aged General's Death, Examination Shows.

Gen. Victoriano Huerta's death was due to cirrhosis of the liver, according to the findings of the physicians who conducted the autopsy upon the body of Gen. Huerta Friday morning at the undertaking establishment of McBean, Simmons and Hartford. There were no indications of cancer, the report stated.

ARIZONA DEEPLY MOURNS MASSACRE OF AMERICANS

Bisbee, Ariz., Jan. 14.—All of Arizona, and Cochise county in particular, is sincerely mourning the fate of the American mining men slain by Chihuahuan bandits. A number of them were from Cochise county and had many friends here.

Charles Wadleigh was in Bisbee very recently. He lived on Opera Drive and left here on his last journey. Alexander Hall of Douglas was employed here when he was left for Chihuahua. William Wallace's fate is being mourned by many Tombstone residents. He lived there and his wife and her parents still live there.

Wallace joined general manager Watson at Wilcox a week ago Wednesday. Tom Evans of Douglas and H. C. Haas of Miami were other Arizonans slain. J. P. Coy was a resident of Bisbee, employed by the Copper Queen, and later by the Calumet and Arizona company.

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