

GRAVE GIVES UP MOLDERING BODY OF BANDIT VILLA

Apparently Reliable Reports Indicate Outlaw's Death Over Week Ago, If So U. S. Troops To Be Withdrawn

If Villa Is Dead American Troops Will Be Withdrawn

BODY IS SAID TO BE IN POSSESSION OF CARRANZISTA TROOPS AND NOW ON WAY TO CHIHUAHUA CITY FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION

WAS CARRANZA FORCE SHOT UP THE AMERICANS

Administration Officials Make This Statement in Commenting on Reports from Mexican Sources That Body Is Found

OTTOMAN TROOPS GET SET BACKS IN DAY'S FIGHTING IN TIGRIS

NO CONFIRMATORY ADVICES AS YET

In Some Quarters There Is Disposition to Credit Reports Despite Fact Border Rumors Generally Viewed With Suspicion

WASHINGTON, April 16.—American troops will be withdrawn from Mexico immediately if Francisco Villa is dead. Administration officials made this statement tonight commenting on reports from Mexican sources that the bandit's body had been discovered and was being taken from Cusuhuirachic to Chihuahua City by special train.

Neither the state nor war departments had any confirmatory advices on the subject from American sources. Reports reaching El Paso and other border points were forwarded for information. There was no attempt here to disguise their eager interest in the reported killing of the bandit. Every message received was closely scrutinized at the state department and sent to the White House. In some quarters there was a disposition to credit them despite the fact that border reports generally have been viewed with so much suspicion, since the pursuit began.

Officials would not discuss what proof they would deem necessary to establish the fact that the body is that of Villa. It is certain however that every effort will be made to obtain so complete an identification as to make sure beyond reasonable doubt that the man who waged war with a few hundred bandits against the United States and the de facto government of Mexico had paid the penalty. Consul Letcher at Chihuahua should be able to make the identification.

The customs collector Zack Cobb, informed the state department late today that Mexican customs officials at Juarez had told him the body of the bandit had been found and would be taken tonight to Chihuahua City. The Mexican embassy earlier had received this message from Mexican Consul Garcia at El Paso: "The telegraph operator at Cua and Madera have informed me that they have found the body of Francisco Villa"

AUTHOR "PECK'S BAD BOY" IS DEAD

MILWAUKEE, Wis., April 16.—George W. Peck, 75 years old, former governor of Wisconsin for two terms, and at one time mayor of Milwaukee, died here today after a short illness. Peck was one of three democrats who since the admission of Wisconsin to the union in 1848, held the position of governor. He was governor from 1890 to 1895. In 1892, his opponent on the republican ticket was former United States Senator John C. Spooner, whom he defeated. Peck, achieved national fame as a writer of humorous tales, his best known book being "Peck's Bad Boy." He was the publisher of Peck's Sun.

In Other War Theaters the Allies Seem to Have Best of Day's Engagements; Heavy Infantry Fight at Verdun

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] The British troops going to the relief of Kut-el-Amara have gained further ground against the Turks who are hurrying their way along the Tigris river. Pushing steadily ahead the British have driven in the Turks from their advanced lines on the right bank of the river killing many of the Turks and taking a considerable number of prisoners.

The Turks also have met with another defeat at the hands of the Russians in the Black sea littoral. Petrograd reports that the Russians have driven the Ottomans from a strongly organized position 15 miles east of Trebizond and are pursuing them energetically.

The Douaumont—Vaux sector north-west of Verdun has been the scene of another hard fought infantry engagement, but the Paris and Berlin official reports are at variance as regards the result. Paris reports that south of Douaumont, French troops in an attack captured sections of German trenches and took 200 prisoners. Berlin asserts that in the fighting which extended from Fort Douaumont to the Vaux ravine, the French were repulsed with sanguinary casualties and in addition lost two hundred men taken prisoners.

The Germans are heavily bombarding French positions in the Avocourt wood and on Hill 204, and considerable artillery activity also is being displayed around Douaumont and in the Woevre about Moulinville, Haumont and Les Eparges.

The British report the raiding of German trenches south of the Bethun-la-Basse road, while Berlin records the destruction of a British position about sixty metres in length in operations there.

Artillery bombardments continue at various places on the northern Russian line. Further south, near Smorzon, the Germans started an offensive, but were repulsed, while south of the Olyka station the Russians at several places have made advances.

In the Sugana valley and Carso sectors of the Austro-Italian zone, the Italians have taken Austrian trenches. The Austrians evidently are fighting hard to regain the Sugana positions as Rome reports they are being maintained under a curtain of fire.

Three British naval aeroplanes have raided Constantinople, dropping bombs on a powder factory and aeroplane hangars. Another machine dropped bombs on Adrianople railway station. Constantinople reports that no damage was done.

More Ships Are Sunk LONDON, April 16.—Lloyd's announces that the Norwegian steamship Pusanastaff of Christiania was sunk today. She was going from New Castle to Boulogne. The crew was saved.

The British steamship Fairport is reported to have been sunk. She was unarmed.

The Pusanastaff is not mentioned in maritime records. The Fairport, 3,328 tons gross was built in 1906 and owned by New Castle. She sailed from Rio Janeiro on March 19 for an unnamed port.

The British steamer Cardona has been sunk by a torpedo. The crew was saved.

The Cardona was a vessel of 2,065 tons.

NEW NOTE ON SUBMARINES IS READY TO SEND

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The communication in which the United States will call Germany to account for the numerous recent submarine attacks upon merchant ships carrying American citizens is understood to be ready for transmission to Berlin. Officials indicated tonight that it might go forward at any time.

President Wilson devoted nearly the entire day to completing the case of the United States for presentation to the German government. He had before him a mass of evidence and memorandum submitted by the state department.

The communication in its completed form it was said, authoritatively tonight, is to be emphatic in its declarations, and possibly will recall statements made by the United States in previous correspondence on the subject of submarine warfare. It is de-

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RUSSIAN HOSPITAL SHIP SUNK ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN DROWNED

BERLIN, April 16.—(By Wire) Tuckerton.—Announcement is made by the Turkish government that the Russian hospital ship Portugal, sunk in the Black Sea last month, was torpedoed by a Turkish submarine. The statement was given out today by the Overseas News Agency as follows:

The Turkish government publishes the following report of the commander of the Turkish submarine, which sank the steamship Portugal: "The ship was sighted on the night of March 29-30. It was steering toward a landing place. When day-break came it was ascertained that the ship was laden heavily and that it was towing several heavily loaded punts, with numerous occupants. The commander and other officers of the submarine were justified in believing the ship was a transport which was on the way to land troops and supplies. The ship was painted gray, with a small red line, and flew the Russian merchant flag. No Red Cross flag was flying and the name of the ship was invisible.

The first torpedo did not hit. After the explosion of the second torpedo, which struck below the bridge, a violent explosion occurred within the ship. This explosion undoubtedly was due to large quantities of explosives stored in the ship. Immediately after this, a destroyer attacked the submarine.

The Russian affirmation that the ship was struck by two torpedoes was untrue. The Turkish government regrets it if persons exclusively in the Red Cross service perished, but the responsibility rests on the Russian government, which transported the persons on a vessel which is being

used for war purposes against the Turks.

Provisions of the conventions adopted at The Hague stipulate that hospital ships must be painted white, with a green or red stripe one and one-half meters long and also must fly the Red Cross flag."

The Portugal had 273 persons on board, of which 115 were drowned.

The Russian government sent to all neutral governments a note protesting against the torpedoing of the hospital ship. It was asserted the Portugal bore all the distinctive signs prescribed by the special agreement signed at The Hague in 1908.

A semi-official Russian statement contained the assertion that the Portugal had on board neither troops nor war material, but only Sisters of Charity, and the necessary crew.

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ADMINISTRATION IS ATTACKED FOR FAILURE TO ADOPT SUFFRAGE PLANS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., April 16.—The twenty-three suffragists of the Congressional Union party on their thirty-eight day dash through the suffrage states, spent today in Colorado Springs, where the local branch of the organization entertained them. A sight-seeing trip in the mountains and a reception at the Antlers hotel made up the afternoon program.

EL PASO, Tex., April 16.—Pancho Villa is dead and his body, disinterred some days after his burial, is in possession of the Carranzista troops, according to a series of telegrams received in Juarez today by the Mexican officials.

For more than a week reports that Villa had died from wounds have been current both here and in Juarez. Today's accounts were the most circumstantial and apparently reliable yet received. They were accepted with reserve by American officials, including General Bell, but the Mexican officials expressed confidence in their reliability. The message, in the order in which they were received, were as follows:

The dispatcher of the Mexico Northwestern railroad at Juarez reported to General Gabriel Gavira, Carranza commander at Juarez, that he had heard a conversation over the telegraph wires to the effect that Villa's body was in the hands of the Carranzista troops.

General Gavira notified Consul Andres Garcia here, who rushed messages to the telegraph operators at Madera and Chihuahua, asking for confirmation.

The Madera and Chihuahua operators answered confirming the report and stating the body was being taken to Chihuahua.

The telegraph operator at San Antonio, fifty miles west of Chihuahua telegraphed Consul Garcia that Villa's body was in possession of Colonel Carlos Carranza, nephew of General Carranza, who was taking it in a special train to Chihuahua.

In reply to this message telegrams were sent to the Carranza generals in the field, to officials in Mexico City, Chihuahua and other points asking confirmation but no answers have yet been received.

Apart from the telegrams sent here there are some known facts which have been pointed out by Mexican officials as lending strong support to the truth of the report that the bandit chief's career has been closed by death. These facts are:

Villa has been suffering for more than a year from a virulent form of blood poisoning.

He was treated for this disease while in Juarez by Dr. W. L. Brown, one of the best known physicians in El Paso.

Dr. Brown states that the condition of the bandit was such that even a minor wound would be fatal in ten days unless treated promptly and with the best medical skill and care. Even under the most favorable conditions such a wound would be of the gravest character.

It is certain that if Villa was wounded he could not have commanded anything but the most primitive treatment.

Another message from Chihuahua City received here today stating that rioting had broken out there was regarded as in a measure confirmatory of the bandit's death. Villa is known to have had numerous sympathizers among the lower classes in the city and it was considered probable that their sympathy would take the form of violence if they learned the body of their hero was being brought to Chihuahua to be exhibited as that of a criminal.

Nothing positive has been known of Villa since the battle at Guerrero in which time the reports of his being wounded were accepted by General Pershing and other American officers. If he had continued south, as was assumed, he must by this time have reached either Torreon or Durango City in which event some news of his movements would almost positively have become known.

Only one message was received in Juarez today giving any details of the supposed finding of Villa's body. According to it, Villa's death and burial were revealed by a former colonel of a band who had been captured and was under sentence of death. This colonel offered to show his captors Villa's grave in return for his life. He led a detachment of Carranza soldiers under the command of Colonel Cazos to San Francisco Borja, a small town thirty miles south



FRANCISCO VILLA

Detailed Report of Action Written by Major Frank Tompkins to General Pershing Is Received by General Funston

AMERICANS LOSE TWO MEN KILLED

Forty of the Mexican Soldiers Including One Major and One Civilian Were Killed by the Retreating American Troopers

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 16.—It was a force of Carranza's soldiers who engaged the little detachment of American cavalry at Parral Wednesday in a regularly organized action, according to a detailed report written by Major Frank Tompkins and forwarded today to General Funston by General Pershing.

Forty of the Mexican soldiers, including one major, and one civilian were killed by the retreating Americans. The American casualties were two killed and six wounded, including Major Tompkins. His wound was slight.

Major Tompkins' account of the action was received at General Funston's headquarters tonight and served to clarify General Pershing's report received yesterday, in which the identity of the attacking force was unstated and in which he left the inference that the cavalry was under Colonel W. C. Brown.

Gen. Pershing reported to headquarters today that a motor truck train carrying aeroplanes was attacked by 40 bandits Friday night fifteen miles north of Satevo. The Mexicans were driven off and one of their number was killed. General Pershing was with the motor truck train at the time of the attack. There were no American losses.

The Americans are now north and west of Parral, reinforced by a squadron of the Tenth under Major Young, accompanied by Colonel W. C. Brown and a picked squadron under Major Robert L. Howze. Fear for their safety has been dispelled by this report and by reports dispositions that General Pershing has ordered, the character of which General Funston did not wish to reveal.

Major Tompkins' story of the fight indicated lack of control over the troops by the commanding officer of the Parral garrison, General Lozano, and bitter antagonism by the public and troops. The fighting took place outside Parral and was continued over a route of eight miles to Santa Cruz northeast of Parral on the railroad.

General Funston said tonight that while Major Tompkins undoubtedly acted in accordance with his best judgment in retreating he regretted that he had not made a stand on account of the ill effect the story will have on the Mexican people, who naturally will regard the incident as an American defeat.

Major Tompkins arrived outside Parral on the forenoon of April 12

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WOULD HAVE BODY TAKEN TO JUAREZ

EL PASO, April 16.—Consul Garcia said this afternoon that he had made a request to Governor Enriquez, of Chihuahua, to have Villa's body brought to Juarez, where the American people can view it and be convinced that the bandit is really dead.

ENDORSES FOREIGN POLICY

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] BOMB, April 16.—The chamber of deputies has endorsed the foreign policy of the government by a vote of 392 to 24.

DENY DESTRUCTION OF ANY AMERICAN MINING PLANTS IN AND NEAR PARRAL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] EL PASO, April 16.—Americans who arrived here today from Parral denied the stories which had reached here previously of enormous destruction of American mining plants in the fighting in and near that city. In particular they denied that the great plant of the Alvarado Mining company had been destroyed. One of these arrivals said: "The whole affair was nothing more than a riot by street mobs who had been excited by Villa's agitators, who told them the Americans were going to seize the city as part of their invasion of Mexico. The Carranza garrison took no part in the fighting against the Americans, but made strenuous efforts to restrain the mobs. Of course, there was the usual looting, especially in the outlying districts. The Alvarado plant was entered and furniture and supplies carried off, but that was all. The plant itself was not seriously damaged."