

START AFTER VILLA IS DELAYED

THREE ARMIES OF U. S. SOLDIERS TO MARCH INTO MEXICO THIS WEEK

Expeditions Will Leave Columbus, El Paso and Douglas in Search of the Bloody and Thirsty Villa.

STARTING TIME IS KEPT A SECRET

Activity of Carranza's Troops Along the Border is Matter of Doubt, but Not Cause for Fear.

[By H. D. Jacobs, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

EL PASO, Texas, March 14.—Mobilization at the border of a large part of the United States regular army to hunt Villa, continued today while Carranza troops were reported in pursuit of him in hope of rendering an American expedition unnecessary.

With Major General Frederick Funston, declaring that Carranza's possible opposition would not stop the expedition, the army heads in personal command on the border were laying their plans to strike into Mexico from El Paso, Douglas and Columbus, when the order to advance is received. It may be Thursday or Friday before the expedition moves across the border, although with over 12,000 men, forty-eight batteries and scores of machine gun squads already at the boundary line, officers declare themselves ready for the work.

Carranza troops were today showing more activity in northern Mexico and near the border than for months past.

A concentration of Carranzistas was taking place at Nacozari, seventy miles south of Douglas. Information received from Chihuahua City was to the effect that a detachment of five hundred cavalry men had left for the Casas Grandes and Galena districts to protect American Mormon colonists and attempt to cut off Villa's flight in that direction.

General Berian, watching Villa's line of retreat from Palomas to the west, predicted that the bandit chief would either attempt to carry out his threat against the Mormons, or go to the rich state of Sinaloa so far almost untouched by marauding bands.

General Canuto Reyes and 2,500 men, according to another report, were said to be in the Torreón region endeavoring to join forces with Villa. Reyes has under him a good part of the former Villista troops who cut their way through the Carranza lines and marched almost up to the gates of Mexico City during the height of the Villista rebellion against Carranza's rule.

Rodolfo Fierro, Villa's butcher, several times reported killed, is now reported to be a member of Reyes' column.

No direct news has come from the 500 men, women and children in the Mormon colonies since Sunday. Officials of the church in El Paso stated today that the absence of reports from them indicated no disaster had overtaken the colonists.

Brig. Gen. J. J. Pershing was at Columbus today. He has been selected to lead the expeditionary forces

and his presence there was taken as an indication that the principle drive after Villa probably would be launched from Columbus.

The expedition now has an official censor. He is Lieut. Martin L. Shallenberger, aide de camp and his first bulletin was:

"The concentration and mobilization is now being arranged. Brigadier General Pershing is engaged in studying out the strategic plans of the movement."

Col. George Taylor, of the Eighth cavalry was left in command at El Paso. "War" correspondents are already having their troubles with the censorship. Lieutenant Shallenberger, they say, refuses to do anything to aid the correspondents who have to gather their own equipment and even transport their own horses to concentration points. Officers here believed that practically all of the available army in the country will be either on the border or pursuing Villa within a fortnight. Before night, fully 15,000 U. S. soldiers were expected to be mobilized between El Paso and Nogales, ready for any service and all anxious "to go in."

At Columbus were the Sixth and Sixteenth regiments of infantry; three companies of the Twentieth infantry; eight troops of the Thirtieth cavalry; batteries A, B and C of the Fourth artillery; battery C of the Sixth artillery field hospital and ambulance corps, field wireless squad. Engineers and possibly a part of the aviation corps were also due at Columbus, besides reinforcements from the other branches.

In addition to the wireless and aeroplane, the automobile will receive its first real war trial at the hands of the U. S. army. Both light and heavy motor trucks were being listed today in connection with the supply train. Civilian chauffeurs anxious to aid their country and get a view of warfare probably will be accepted to drive the automobiles.

While Villa's men have been frightened away by the mobilization of both U. S. and Carranzista troops near the border, vigilance on the American side has been increased since the Columbus raid last Thursday. Troops guarded the El Paso electric light plant and water works last night. Similar precautions were taken along the entire international boundary line. Nearly every foot of American railway tracks skirting the border were guarded by soldiers. With only a single track paralleling the boundary west of here, the absence of strategic eyes for concentration along the border was frequently commented

on in military circles. Delay in the arrival of men from some interior posts was explained as due to the absence of rolling stock to accommodate the soldiers immediately.

As soon as the troops arrive they are distributed "somewhere on the border," according to Major General Funston's secret orders.

The quartermaster's corps along the Mexican line were working day and night keeping a steady stream of supplies moving to the camps. Columbus became a tent city almost over night. In only a few cases did the arriving troops have to use their "dog" shelter tents. The men easily fitted into camp routine from the long experience at interior posts in more peaceful times.

Members of the "fighting Thirteenth" some of whom still bore marks of the clash with Villa's band, were repeatedly called on by the new arrivals to tell how it was done.

Cavalry drills were commenced at Columbus today and many an imaginary Villista head fell in the wild charges.

The Lid on News.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 14.—The lid has been clamped on news from the border west of El Paso, it was officially announced at General Funston's headquarters at Fort Sam Houston today. Officers stated that General Pershing's action in seizing the telegraph office at Columbus, N. M., and placing the wires under a strict military censorship was prompted by the discovery that military messages were being held up in favor of commercial and press telegrams, the delay in some cases amounting to eight or ten hours.

Danger of Break Has Passed.

MEXICO CITY, March 14.—The danger of a break between the United States and the Carranza government has passed, according to articles in the morning newspapers, evidently at the inspiration of Carranza officials.

No official statement has been made, but dispatches from Washington brought word that the United States has conceded the justice of General Carranza's demands and will accept in a formal note.

General Candido Aguilar, newly appointed minister of foreign relations, will assume office at once and handle all further negotiation with the United States, under the guidance of General Carranza. It is believed he will become provisional president before the elections, General Carranza resigning in order that he may become a candidate. The appointment of General Obregon, conqueror of Villa, to be come minister of war, was forecast several weeks ago.

Already in Pursuit.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 14.—That a flying column of 1,500 American troops, under the lightest possible equipment, supplied with two weeks of rations and plenty of water, crossed the border early Tuesday, is persistently asserted by men in close touch with army circles. Reports of actual fighting between this advance expedition and Villista bandits are momentarily expected.

The column is said to have crossed the international boundary west and south of Columbus, with the intention of throwing a line of United States soldiers between Villa and Sierra Madre mountains, long a Villa stronghold. It is believed here this pursuit

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GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service] AMSTERDAM, March 14.—Addressing the chamber, the Bavarian war minister declared rumors circulated in foreign countries that Bavarian troops had suffered enormous losses in the Verdun fighting, were exaggerated.

RIOTING REPORTED. LONDON, March 14.—The Amsterdam correspondent of the Central News reported today that serious rioting has occurred in Munich because of heavy Bavarian losses at Verdun.

NO MENTION OF VERDUN. BERLIN, March 14.—No mention is made of the Verdun fighting in this afternoon's brief official statement from the war office. The repulse of an English attack near Wietje, in the vicinity of Ypres was announced.

SHORT ON OFFICERS. LONDON, March 14.—A shortage of officers, due to recent heavy losses at Verdun, is causing the German general staff much worry, according to Rome dispatches today. All German officers under the rank of captain, now in the Balkans, have been ordered to return to the western front; it was stated.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service] PARIS, March 14.—After thirty-six hours continuous bombardment, the Germans last night launched heavy attacks against Haudeumont forest, northeast of Verdun and in the Lepretre forest, forty-five miles to the southwest. These attacks were broken up by French artillery, the war office announced this afternoon.

In the Woivre region, the artillery duel continues, the official statement said.

THE WEATHER.

[U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau.] For Keokuk and vicinity: Partly cloudy and colder tonight. Wednesday fair and colder.

For Iowa: Partly cloudy and colder tonight. Wednesday fair. Colder east and south portions.

For Missouri: Cloudy and colder tonight. Wednesday fair and colder.

For Illinois: Cloudy and colder tonight; probably rain or snow southeast portion. Wednesday partly cloudy and colder.

Weather Conditions. The warm weather conditions south of a depression which extends from Arkansas to the Ohio valley this morning, while in the northern section the weather is cloudy and colder, with light snow flurries, from the plateau region to the lakes. In the northern plains states the lowest temperature was from 19 to 20 above zero, and the lowest at Marquette, Mich., was 4 above zero.

Local Observations. March. Bar. Ther. Wind. Weather. 13 7 a. m. . . . 29.64 55 NE Clear 14 7 p. m. . . . 29.59 32 N City River stage, 7 a. m., 5 feet, 6 tenths. Change in 24 hours, rise 8 tenths. Mean temperature, March 13, 48. Highest, 60. Lowest, 36. Lowest last night, 32. FRED Z. GOSSEWICH.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service] LONDON, March 14.—The London newspapers commented at length this afternoon on reports of German peace terms carried to President Wilson by Colonel House, transmitted in United Press dispatches from Washington. They generally ridiculed the German proposals.

"Peace may be made in the not distant future, but not by Berlin," said the Evening Standard.

"Germany will not dictate terms of peace and it will be well for Washington to observe proper continuance when the time comes," said the Globe.

The Pall Mall Gazette said the German idea of proper peace terms was a "fantastic dream."

ITALY

[United Press Leased Wire Service] LONDON, March 14.—Intense Italian artillery firing along the Isonzo front is apparently a prelude to an important action, the Rome correspondent of the Times reported today. The Italian gunners have blasted away enemy entanglements, the dispatches said, and the Austrian artillery is replying less vigorously. Italian censorship prevents the sending of more details, the correspondent added.

Exclusive Rome dispatches to the United Press yesterday reported the sudden resumption of fighting on the Isonzo front, particularly at Gorizia and hinted that an important battle was about to begin.

NAVAL BATTLE.

[By Henry Wood, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

ROME, March 14.—An eleven-hour naval battle off the Albanian port of Durazzo preceded the sinking of the Austrian destroyer Lika and Trety, it was learned today. The ministry of marine recently announced the sinking of the enemy warcraft. A letter from Franz Lugano, an Austrian sailor of Italian origin from the Austrian prison camp to relatives in Italy, brought details of action.

"Coming out of our naval base to bombard Durazzo, our fleet encountered the Italians," Lugano wrote. "We had notable successes, but lost two destroyers, thanks to Italian submarines. Destiny marked out my own boat, the Lika, for one of the victims."

"The battle occurred just off Durazzo. The first shot was fired at 7 a. m., and fighting lasted until six in the evening. Shrapnel was bursting all over and I don't know how many men I saw die. The dying were calling for help, but there was nothing we could do. In the midst of all this, the Lika was struck. Her boilers and munition magazines exploded and she leaped into the air, breaking in two."

"Of the 110 men on the Lika, about fifty were saved. Ten of us were picked up by Italian life boats. I had been floating on some debris for two hours. The others were hauled aboard the destroyers with ropes."

Strike of 1,100 Men.

[United Press Leased Wire Service] SUMMIT, Ill., March 14.—Saloon here were closed today and authorities maintained strict guard at the Corn Products refining plant at Argo, Ill., fearing rioting as the result of a strike of 1,100 men who are out of work at the plant.

FRESH TROOPS POURING IN TO CONTINUE SLAUGHTER

German Reinforcements are Brought Up for Renewal of the Bloody Struggle to Capture Verdun.

WHOLE BRIGADES WERE WIPED OUT

Rumored That Von Hindenburg and Mackensen Have Been Sent to the Front to Supervise Operations.

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

LONDON, March 14.—Heavy German reinforcements are arriving at the Verdun front while German artillery continues the terrific bombardment of French field positions.

Delayed dispatches from Swiss cities today reported the closing of the Swiss-German frontier to insure secrecy for troop movements. French aviators in air invasions far back of the Tooton lines, observed the in-pouring of fresh enemy legions.

These same dispatches revived the report that Field Marshal Mackensen is now at Verdun and carried the rumor that Von Hindenburg has been summoned to the same front by the Kaiser.

The infantry assault that almost certainly will follow the thirty-six hour bombardment of the French Verdun front is expected any hour. French critics believe the crown prince will drive simultaneously on both banks of the Meuse, striking to capture the Goose Hill and Dead Man Hill positions northwest of Verdun and Fort Tranchese, east of the city.

Paris dispatches today reported the German artillery fire developing the greatest intensity on the west bank of the Meuse around Goose Hill and Dead Man Hill. The Germans, it is believed certain, will renew the offensive with a determined attempt to fight their way through Corbeaux and Cumières woods to the southern roads, cutting off the French positions on the hills.

The Paris correspondent of the Mail declared today that the lull in the infantry fighting at Verdun was due partly to the need of redistributing the German forces.

"The ferocious struggle of the last week has so terribly broken the Kaiser's troops that whole brigades have practically ceased to exist as units," the dispatches said.

"The Seventh and Twenty-second divisions, which bore the brunt of repeated attacks at Bethincourt and Goose Hill have been most severely handled and probably need several days rest. It is quite possible that, like the Eleventh reserve division, they will have to be replaced. Despite the marvelous efficiency of German transport, such an interval as the present, becomes imperative."

Away Grand Assault. [By Charles P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

LONDON, March 14.—German

troops broke the long lull in infantry fighting around Verdun by vicious attacks in the Haudeumont forest near Douaumont, the French war office reported this afternoon. No large force was employed and the Germans were driven back, Paris reported. The French war office also announced the repulse of German attempts to reconquer trenches taken by the French Sunday night in the Lepretre forest, forty-five miles southeast of Verdun.

The Germans returned to their trenches in each instance without following up the attack. The Germans continue a heavy bombardment on both banks of the Meuse, particularly around Vaux village and Fort Vaux, and also in the Woivre region, Paris reported, but the expected grand assault on the Verdun forts has not yet begun.

The German official statement was silent this afternoon on operations around Verdun. The only infantry action of importance mentioned by Berlin, was the repulse of an English attack near Wietje, in the vicinity of Ypres.

The clear weather continuing through yesterday along the entire front brought out fliers on both sides and air battles occurred frequently. The German war office announced that three British aeroplanes were brought down in the vicinity of Arras, Bapaume and Cambrai and that two French planes were brought down at Marre, near Fort Malancourt, east of Verdun.

Iowa Supreme Court Decisions.

DES MOINES, March 14.—State of Iowa vs. Gardner et al, Plymouth county, reversed and remanded; Salinger, judge.

Edmond, plaintiff, vs. Goretan, sheriff, defendant, Curry county, writ denied; Salinger, judge.

Brown vs. Des Moines Steam Bottling works, appellant, Polk county, affirmed; H. Gaynor, judge.

Purdy vs. City of Des Moines et al, appellant, Polk county, reversed; Gaynor, judge.

Scott, appellant, vs. Scott, Pottawattamie county, reversed; Ladd, judge.

Leonard vs. Leonard, appellant, Winneshiek county, affirmed; Ladd, judge.

Christenson, appellant, vs. Superintendents of Hamilton county et al, Hamilton county, reversed and remanded; Evans, chief justice.

NO TROUBLE WITH GERMANY OVER SINKING OF THE SILIUS

Norwegian Bark Probably Ran Into Mine and Not Submarine Victim.

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Trouble between the United States and Germany over the sinking of the Norwegian bark Silius, is altogether unlikely, it was said on the best of German authority today.

Should it be proved that a German submarine torpedoed the bark without warning, endangering the lives of seven American sailors, Germany, it was said, would undoubtedly disavow the act of the submarine commander and make all reparation required.

No report on the incident has been received by the German and Austrian embassies. They are waiting for information from the state department or the Norwegian legation. In the meanwhile doubt is expressed that the vessel was torpedoed in view of its apparently inoffensive character.

It was declared that any idea that the sinking of the Silius has a bearing on the armed merchantmen decree of March 1 is wrong. The Silius, according to all reports was not armed and flew the flag of a neutral nation. There would be no purpose on the part of the teutonic allies in destroying her. Teutons believe in the absence of any real information, that a mine must have been responsible for the disaster to the bark. Injury of one American, John Hartman of Philadelphia, was verified in state department cablegrams today from the Havre consular.

The consul threw no more light upon his previous report that the vessel had been torpedoed without warning. Hartman is now in a hospital in a satisfactory condition. Three persons, the cable showed, perished. They were two Norwegians, including the captain and a Dane, Daniel Mohl, John Vangab, and Henry Monahan, American crew members, sailed on Saturday on the steamer Taxandrier, due at New York April 1.

The Silius was not armed. Her cargo was grain and she carried no passengers. The crew totaled seventeen.

Congress is Ready to Explode Over the Mexican Situation

[By Bond P. Geddes, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 14.—With American troops on the eve of marching into Mexico, President Wilson was threatened with a new revolt in congress today over his Mexican policy.

An outburst of criticism was threatened in the senate over the president's agreement with Carranza. Many senators were indignant over the permission given to Carranza troops to enter American territory and house members also threatened to explode in vigorous criticism. Both congressional bodies bubbled with protest because of the Carranza agreement. On the other hand, indignation was general in sources close to the white house over Mexican "war talk."

The administration let it be known that no discussion is one of the most embarrassing and dangerous features of the present situation. Drastic steps were under consideration today by the administration to stem the tide of "war" and "intervention" agitation, both in and out of congress. The principal protest in congress was based on the president's action

without consulting the legislative body in agreeing to let Carranza troops enter the United States to pursue bandits that may raid Mexico from the United States side.

Considering much of the Carranza force mere bands of semi-organized bands and that the majority on the border are former Villistas, opponents of the president's policy fear the agreement may be used for bandits masked as Carranzistas. The statement having admitted no treaty or other written authority exists upon which the agreement is based, the anti-administration factions declared the president exceeded his constitutional powers in agreeing to technical "invasion" of United States soil. Jealous of congressional prerogatives, some members insisted the agreement is void unless at least ratified by the senate.

Politics is being played, administration supporters suggested and any tangible move to make capital of the incident promised to draw sharp criticism.

united Mexico was the thing on which some congressmen based their criticism. Others believe that congress should formally "legalize" the president's course.

Delay in the pursuit of Villa also threatened today to provoke open criticism. This was aimed at the army organization. Transportation facilities were considered the principal cause of the mobilization delay. Lack of trains to transport troops was commented on. Lack of motor vehicles for men, supplies, and ammunition also promised much discussion. The fact that practically all the men being mobilized were immediately on the border and not required to be carried great distances from inland forts aggravated the case, according to many congressmen. It had been claimed that twenty-four hours at most would be required to have the army in complete readiness for action.

Many persons in Washington were today asking why these preparations had not brought results instantly. All administration officials insisting that diplomacy has not impeded army movement.

MAY CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE DOWN IN MEXICO

Spanish War Veterans and State Militiamen to Get First Chance.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Representative Dyer, national commander of Spanish war veterans sent a request today to all state commanders to notify him how many men are available for service in Mexico if the president calls for volunteers.

Dyer thinks he can raise fifty thousand men.

To Full War Strength.

[J. P. Yoder, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 14.—To provide 8,000 more soldiers immediately, the administration today considered asking congress for authority to recruit the army to its full war strength of 100,000 men.

Secretary of War Baker and Chairman Hay of the house military committee, with whom the proposed plan would originate, discussed it. Baker felt that specific authority from congress should be given in a formal resolution. A final decision will be made later today.

Increase in the army above the rec-

ognized war footing is not now contemplated. This was decided at the conference. Neither will a call for the state militia or volunteers be issued at present.

Secretary Baker told Chairman Hay he thought the full strength of the army should be recruited. Many regiments and companies are deficient. The resolution proposed would give Baker authority to ask for recruits to fill every vacancy and place the army upon a war footing.

The reason for the plan is the lack of appropriations for any additional soldiers. They could be recruited, but the war department would have no money to pay them or provide their equipment.

The present strength of the army is 92,000. Hay conferred with Speaker Clark and other leaders at the capitol to pave the way.

Recruit to War Strength.

DALLAS, Texas, March 14.—Commanders of Texas militia companies have received orders from Brigadier General Cecil A. Lyon, commander of the Texas national guard, to recruit their commands to war strength of 150 men. In the absence of a call for volunteers, the order states, the depletion of the border guard of federal troops may necessitate the services of the Texas militia on the Texas-Mexico boundary.