

VERA CRUZ TODAY IS IN THE HANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Continued from Page One)

The marines replied immediately but the action ceased in a moment. There was a lull for 10 minutes and then another brief exchange from the west end of Montesinos street, where a federal outpost was stationed.

At 12:30 the firing became general and at 1 o'clock the guns of the *Prairie* went into action.

Prior to this a detachment of bluejackets from the *Utah*, holding the ground between the consulate and the water front, opened with two of their 3-inch guns. The first shots from these pieces were directed against the ancient Benito Juarez tower, which once served as a lighthouse. This was occupied by Mexican sharpshooters, Lieutenant-Commander Buchanan, of the *Florida*, ordered that it be destroyed. Five shots brought the old tower down.

The women of the American colony in Vera Cruz had been placed aboard the chartered steamers *Esperanza* and *Mexico*, but the foreign colony, especially the American section, was greatly augmented this morning when three trainloads arrived from the capital. Some of these remained ashore but many were taken aboard the steamers. So far as can be learned no refugees were injured.

The foreign ambassadors in Washington were summoned during the day by Secretary Bryan and informed of developments. All declined to talk but it is understood they were given the same information transmitted abroad to American embassies and legations, being especially told that the American government would not attempt to confiscate goods in the customs house at Vera Cruz, but would detain shipments, giving the shippers an opportunity to recover their property. There will be no attempt to interfere with foreign vessels but it is believed the American fleet will keep a close watch on ships which might be carrying arms to Mexican ports, seizing their cargoes after they are landed.

While the army has received no orders to move, should it become apparent that there will be resistance to the holding of Vera Cruz, the four army transports at Galveston, carrying four or five thousand troops, will be ordered under way.

General Charles J. Bailey of the coast artillery will command the first detachment from Galveston when sent, and will be followed by Major General Wood, in supreme command.

His term as chief of staff expires tonight. The movement of troops would bring into play the plans of the joint army and navy board. Ever since the war between the states there have been controversies over the range of army and navy officers in joint operations. A scheme has been worked out to prevent friction. Five thousand marines, more than half of the corps, will be assembled on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Mexico and take a prominent part in the American government's plans.

Representative Butler of Pennsylvania, whose son is an officer of marines at Vera Cruz, was at the navy department seeking information about the killed and wounded. There were tears in his eyes as he left. He said he had heard the marines probably would march on Mexico City.

Secretary Bryan tonight, as a precaution, had extra police sent to guard the Mexican embassy here. There were no signs of disturbances, but it was thought best to take this precaution.

The postoffice, government telegraph and the cable office were the first buildings occupied after the customs house. A squad of marines was placed in charge of the cable office. The telegraph wires were found intact and enough Mexican operators were retained to man the lines to Mexico City.

After General Maas had been driven from his position in Central Plaza, the Americans found themselves the object of fusillades from housetops. It was learned only tonight that most of those engaged in this resistance were civilians. They stationed themselves at points of vantage and did much to prolong the action.

Lieutenant Colonel Wendell C. Neville commanded the marines from the *Prairie* and Majors Reid and Berkeley and Captains Hughes, Hill and Dyer along the lines have been reinforced by a detachment which originally was in position beyond the terminal works.

Towards the middle of the afternoon a large body of Mexicans evacuated their position and are now somewhere in the sand hills back of the city, where it is reported from Mexican sources they are expected to be joined by reinforcements sent down from the capital.

This withdrawal, however, was not entirely pronounced. Those watching on the ships observed through their glasses a large force of Mexicans moving over the hills in the western outskirts of the city apparently with the intention of flanking a battalion of marines in the rail way yards and along Montesinos street, which runs east and west not far from the American consulate.

Immediately the 5-inch guns of the *Prairie* belated both breaking the Mexican formation and causing a hasty retreat. This ended the flanking movement. Only a few minutes before the 3-inch guns of the *Prairie* were used effectively near shore. A small detachment of Mexicans had gained positions near the customs house and their concealed marksmen were causing some trouble. A few shots from the *Prairie's* guns silenced them. From time to time the same guns played their shells along the line of the shore, keeping the territory comparatively free of sharpshooters.

In the action about the customs house two bluejackets in a launch that carried a rapid fire gun were wounded.

While on the eastern side of the city occupied and into the tracks of the railroad on the west end of the terminal house near the western end of the terminal house on the western side of the city, the Mexicans were seen to be in the process of moving their guns and other equipment to the west end of the city. It is believed that this movement was made to enable them to fire on the American fleet from the water front.

The demand for the surrender of Vera Cruz was made in their Admiral Fletcher through Consul General Wood in the morning. The consul called Gen. Gustavo Maas, commander-in-chief of Vera Cruz, by telephone and presented the demand, saying that the United States forces were about to occupy and hold the town. He called upon him to surrender in the name of humanity and assist the American fleet in restoring order.

General Maas replied that compliance was impossible and asked the consul for a personal parley. The consul informed General Maas that he had no instructions to grant a parley and ended the conversation. He then called the telegraph office and the customs collector by telephone and informed them of the proposition being made and asked for their cooperation in the maintenance of peace.

The customs collector responded that in order to attend to certain duties and matters he could promise nothing.

Rear Admiral Fletcher, aboard the *Florida*, in this time was in communication with Rear Admiral Tamm, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, who was spending his



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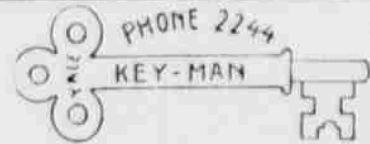
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CONSTITUTIONALISTS

WON'T HELP HUERTA

SAYS THAT HUERTA IS TRYING TO INVOLVE ALL OF MEXICO IN WAR

INDOOR, Ariz., April 21.—A formal, official declaration of war was made today by the constitutionalists against Huerta.

CONVOY KILLS PHILOSOPHER. NEW YORK, April 21.—Word was received here last night of the death of a philosopher, who had been in the city on Sunday in his mission to see the

ROBBERS INVADE TOWN. PHILADELPHIA, April 21.—Four robbers, after cutting the town off from wire communication early today, broke into two stores, blew upon the

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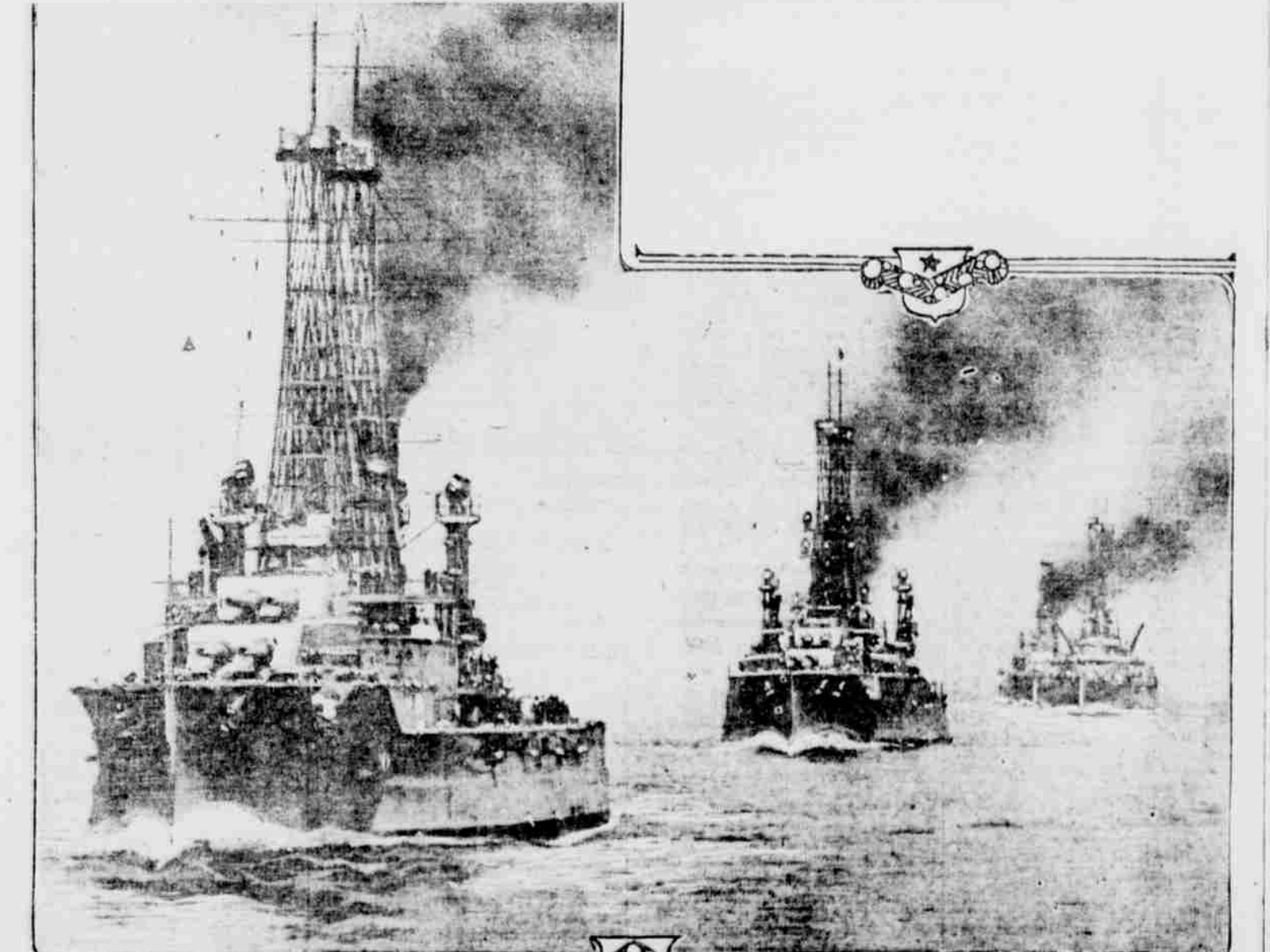
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Killed by a Lion. KJARVANSKI, Russia, April 21.—Hev, (Italy) was struck by the American United Fruit system monster in the Southern, and today at noon was rescued in an encounter with a lion.

The United States Atlantic Fleet Which Arrived at the Port of Vera Cruz Yesterday in Time for the Fighting on Shore



Those Who Died

GALVESTON, Tex., April 21.—The last Americans who gave their lives for their country in the Mexican revolution.

CONSWAIN-ROEMAKER

CORPORAL HUGHES

REAR ADMIRAL FLETCHER

The names of the fourth men killed here were announced here.

A formal list of wounded included: C. L. Leary, J. S. Schwarz, F. D. Clark, J. P. Prew, son-in-law of the President, and D. D. McMillan, private. Several other names were omitted from the list.

198 Indictments in Siegel Case

BOSTON, April 21.—A record indictment of 198 counts was returned today by the grand jury that has met before the affairs of the Henry Siegel company of Boston.

The jury has investigated the alleged action of the company in receiving deposits in its savings bank department in the two days prior to the institution of bankruptcy proceedings.

Robbers Invade Town

PHILADELPHIA, April 21.—Four robbers, after cutting the town off from wire communication early today, broke into two stores, blew upon the