

500 Americans in Peril as Infuriated Mexicans Ravish, Burn, Pillage and Kill

FROM THROUGHOUT THE REFUGEEES

Operations are Halted Until Americans Can Be Taken to Protected Ports.

NEARLY 3,000 ON SHIPS

Grave Fear Felt for Several Thousand Who Still Are in Small Interior Towns.

The first thought of the American forces in Mexico now is the relief of American refugees. All other operations are being held up until steps can be taken to remove the larger part of the refugees to protected ports where steamships and chartered steamers are waiting to transport them to the United States.

The United States is unable to push military operations for fear vengeance will be wreaked by Huerta upon the Americans in Mexico. It is unable to send forces to the relief of the fugitives for fear the murderous knife and bullet will be used before these forces could reach their destinations.

Representation is being made through the Brazilian and British representatives throughout Mexico that Mexicans in the custody of the United States will be given safe conduct to the interior. This is being done in the hope that the Mexicans will relent and remove the obstacles thrown in the way of Americans leaving for the coast.

Have Located 4,840. The best estimates possible are that there were approximately 7,000 Americans in Mexico when the first shot was fired at Vera Cruz. By the emergency measures employed since that time, 4,840 have been located, and the larger part of these taken to protected ports. Nearly 3,000 are now on ships bound for the United States.

There remain nearly 2,000, distributed for the most part, in small numbers through small towns and mining settlements in Central and Northern Mexico. Huerta and his supporters thus far have avoided a direct attack on the Americans to remain in the republic, possibly as hostages against warlike operations by the American forces. His excuse has been the report that the forces at Vera Cruz were preventing the departure of Mexicans for Mexico City. This was promptly refuted by the United States through every possible avenue of publicity.

The United States, according to these official assurances, will facilitate the departure of noncombatants from Vera Cruz. The soldiers from the three Mexican warships who landed on Tuesday, Thursday and were taken into custody will not be allowed to depart, however, and it is feared that Huerta may make their retention a condition of his sending up the Americans in Mexico City.

The refugees located in the Mexican republic are distributed as follows: Three hundred and twenty-two at Galveston; 100 at Tampico; 100 at Salina Cruz; 100 at Mazatlan; 100 at Vera Cruz; 100 at San Francisco.

Plans Have Been Laid. The plans of the State Department studied out carefully in the last year have been completely upset by the action of the administration in having Vera Cruz seized and then suspending operations. These plans hinged entirely upon a sharp stroke of intervention by the United States, which would have been followed by the Departmental experts had they been able to make Mexico City the central point toward which all forces might be directed.

Plans of Vera Cruz and five days of vacillation not only thwarted the plans of the department for the escape of refugees, but have permitted the knowledge of the warlike step against Mexico to be broadcasted throughout the country. The result is that the Mexican public opinion is now inflamed, and the Americans before they have had an opportunity to withdraw.

The story of the alarming situation now confronting the United States and the desperate efforts being made to meet it is partly told in bulletins given out by the Navy Department yesterday. They said, in part:

From Nogales it is reported that 37 Americans left Cananea on the 23d, under the escort of the United States Army. The train was held up by the Copper Company, and a special second train is being held to bring out all Americans who will come.

Further details of conditions in Mexico City, as supplied to Consul Canada at Vera Cruz by arriving refugees, are to the effect that mobs entered Porter's Hotel, insulting the guests and breaking windows. All guests were taken to other hotels and the proprietors went to Vera Cruz. The windows of the American Club were broken; also of the Photo Supply Company, and several stores were sacked, with a loss estimated at \$9,000 pesos.

Conscription by the Huerta government was very heavy for three days, ending the 23d, after which men began to volunteer. Last Sunday and Monday, approximately 2,000 men were forcibly conscripted. The American colony is said to be well organized for defense and all foreign colonies have concentrated in one zone to facilitate handling. All foreigners are well armed, but the great danger is said to be the greatest danger. Practically all business houses closed.

Tuesday, and the streets were filled with processions of men.

Tehuantepec Railroad Cut. The Tehuantepec Railroad is out of operations since the 23d, and the 23d and 24th, though officials of the line were promised that they might resume on the 25th. All English locomotive engineers of the Mexican Railroad are reported to have been arrested; also American chief dispatcher, all at Orizaba. The latter was later released with admonition not to approach the station. If locomotives have been placed in the hands of the Mexicans, Gen. Navarrete came to Camaron, about sixty-four kilometers from Vera Cruz, with machine gun and explosives necessary for blowing up bridges on Mexican Railroad and unruly mobs have made efforts to burn railway equipment in Mexico City, but were prevented by federal soldiers.

Admiral Howard has been directed to make such arrangements as he deems advisable to assemble at some safe place all American consuls and their families and other Americans, until transportation to the United States can be provided. He has been authorized to charter merchant craft to bring Americans out of the fevered state of the public mind in Mexico City, but even the warmest supporters of Gen. Huerta realize Mexico would be without foreign support if war were declared.

The ammunitions factories of the government are working night and day, but Huerta's war equipment is pitifully inadequate when compared with the resources of the United States already in Mexico.

The financial plight of the dictator is hopeless. His chief sources of income were from the Vera Cruz custom-house, the cable company and the Inter-Oceanic Railway.

Try to Burn U. S. Embassy. The departure of Mr. O'Shaughnessy was followed by an attempt to burn the United States Embassy. The Mexican police on duty were sent in the street playing cards when incendiaries applied the torch. Several arrests were made, but the prisoners later were released.

Of all the anti-American agitators the most radical is Jorge Huerta, son of the dictator. The younger Huerta has just been married and he rushed from the altar, in all his wedding finery, to harass Americans.

The government has discharged all climbed the pedestal of the statue and fastened the rope by which it was hauled down and dragged from an automobile through the streets to the base of the memorial to Juarez, where it was left lying.

Hostage Reason Discounted. The only explanation advanced for Huerta's order keeping Americans in Mexico City, is that he is holding them as hostages for the Mexicans in Vera Cruz. This, however, is regarded here as the thinnest of pretenses. If, indeed, it is his reason, he knows perfectly well that the American marines and bluejackets have fired at Mexicans only when fired at first, and that several trainloads of them, including the family of Gen. Maas, have been helped out of the city.

Consul Canada today sent a messenger to Gen. Maas, asking that he see to it that Americans within the scope of his power be permitted to reach Vera Cruz in safety. Gen. Maas curtly refused.

That Huerta is determined that more blood shall be shed is indicated by concentration orders issued by him yesterday or today. All employees of his government have been ordered to join him. Maas at Tejerias, a great majority are reported to have refused.

PLAN TO BRING BACK BODIES OF MARINES. Full Naval Honors Will Be Accorded Men Killed at Vera Cruz.

These words from a cable dispatch to the Navy Department tersely tell the story of Vera Cruz.

Secretary Daniels and Surg. Gen. Stokes yesterday conferred regarding the disposition of bodies of the dead at Vera Cruz. Full naval honors will be accorded them.

The return next week of the bodies of the dead to United States soil is planned by naval officials. They will be placed in heavy, hermetically sealed, leaden coffins, each wrapped with an American flag.

Secretary Daniels said that the first ship available from Vera Cruz next week would be used as a funeral vessel. It has not been decided whether the bodies will be brought to Galveston, New Orleans, Norfolk, or New York. Telegrams and letters of condolence have been sent to the families of the fallen.

Swim Across River. This news was brought here today by fugitive refugees from the town of Laredo, who crossed the Rio Grande and appealed to Americans for shelter.

Nuevo Laredo was only a smoking heap of ruins when the town, wounded by the buildings there, with the exception of the business section of the town, were destroyed by the Mexican forces. The town is now a mass of ruins, and the American side in droves as fast as the United States troops are able to pass them over the bridge, which the federalists tried to blow up before they departed.

The American military authorities and municipal officials of Laredo have united in furnishing shelter to the hundreds of Mexicans who came into the city. All would have gone to the United States, but given them by the soldiers and citizens.

Huerta Preparing To Defend Capital

COMPLAINS U. S. IS VIOLATING CODE OF NATIONS

Dictator In Serious Financial Plight

Dispatches Sent Here by Way of London, to Get Through Censor, Tell Conditions in Mexico City.

The following description of conditions in Mexico City is a translation of dispatches sent from Mexico City. In order to get through the censor's hand they first were sent to London, the censorship over dispatches to England being less strict than that on dispatches to the United States, which practically have been cut off.

Mexico City, April 24 (via London, April 25).—Gen. Huerta is still in control in the Mexican capital, but outbreaks continue.

Three Americans have been wounded, but as far as can be learned, none has been killed.

Thirty-five Mexican rioters, arrested by rurales, have been executed. Death sentences were imposed upon these men by special decree from Huerta, no so much because they showed anti-foreign hostility as because they took advantage of the fevered state of the public mind to make an anti-Huerta demonstration.

Foreigners have gathered in concentration zones. Some Americans have sought the protection of the British and French flags.

Huerta Holds Conferences. Huerta is holding important conferences with Senor Portillo y Rojas.

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Guns Placed on Roof of National Palace—Foreigners Gather in the Several Concentration Zones.

American employees of the National Treasury system.

All the Mexico City newspapers are carrying flaming headlines and lurid stories directed against the Americans.

Senior J. M. Cardoso de Olleria, Brazilian Minister, who will look after the diplomatic affairs of the United States in Mexico, has been assured by President Huerta that trains will be provided for all Americans and other foreigners who wish to leave the capital.

Machine guns have been mounted on the roof of the National Palace.

Outbreak Today Feared. Sunday is viewed with dread by the foreigners remaining in the city, for Sunday has always been a fatal day in Mexico City. It is generally that day which is chosen for a big demonstration of any kind.

Senior Bernardino J. Coloman, Spanish Minister, and dean of the Diplomatic Corps, has received instructions from his government to extend any protection in his power to foreigners.

Gen. Huerta is making a crafty move in attempting to arouse the diplomatic envoys of the Latin-American nations.

The dictator, on several occasions in the last forty-eight hours, has declared publicly and with emphasis that the real object of the United States is "to seize all the territory lying between the Rio Grande and the Panama Canal."

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WINSLLOW'S FLAG ON NEW DREADNAUGHT



REAR ADMIRAL C. M. WINSLOW. Who, as commander of the newly created special service squadron, Minchocho, is now super-dreadnaught New York, the most powerful fighting ship afloat, as his flagship.

Every detail of her mechanical arrangements worked perfectly. The New York sailed with all her ammunition for her 14-inch guns, but will take on ammunition for her smaller guns from the reserve supply fleet in Vera Cruz Harbor.

to bereaved relatives of each of the dead by Secretary Daniels.

BIG REBEL ARMY NEARS BORDER

Carranzistas Are Advancing Toward Devastated Nuevo Laredo.

MEXICANS SWIM RIVER. Made Homeless Paupers by Vandals, Hundred Appeal to Americans for Shelter.

Special to The Washington Herald. Laredo, Tex., April 25.—Claiming that he was acting under the authority of the constitutionalist government of Mexico, Melquiades Garcia, accompanied by five Carranzista sympathizers, today went to Nuevo Laredo, which was yesterday afternoon evacuated and burned by the Mexican federalists and proclaimed himself commander of the town.

Simultaneously with this action Garcia ordered the international bridge on the Mexican side closed until quiet and order should be restored.

Five Mexican federal soldiers were killed and at least two wounded by American soldiers when the United States troops returned the volleys fired by Huerta's men as they evacuated Nuevo Laredo yesterday.

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GEN. VILLA—HERO OR GOLD BRICK?

Foxy Rebel Leader a Puzzle in His Attitude Toward Carranza.

BLOCKADE VERA CRUZ. Constitutional Leader Guarantees Apology by "Drunkard Huerta" if U. S. Keeps Up Attack.

Conflicting reports as to the whereabouts of Venustiano Carranza, Provisional President of the constitutionalists, and as to his relation with Gen. Villa, came to Washington last night.

One dispatch was to the effect that announcement had been made at the office of Senor Diebold, the Huerta consul at El Paso, Tex., that Carranza had been killed at Chihuahua by order of Gen. Villa.

Simultaneously with this dispatch came one quoting Gen. Villa as saying: "Villa Carranza is my chief. The reports that I have broken with him are sent out by followers of Huerta. They are untrue."

By EDWARD H. HAMILTON. El Paso, Tex., April 25.—Washington continues to ignore Carranza and to treat with Pancho Villa.

Carranza sends out from Chihuahua to Spain a message saying he protests against the American invasion, and declaring the Mexican people will fight against the invaders to the last breath.

Over in Juarez today Pancho Villa said to Roberts, his confidential friend: "My personal wishes are that the United States continue to blockade Vera Cruz; and all the Huerta ports."

There certainly seems a flat break between Carranza and Villa, and now comes the question whether the stronger, Villa, has Carranza where he can play with him as a cat does with a mouse," declared Roberts, emphatically.

"The cat sometimes seems to sleep, but let the mouse try to get away, and how quickly the cat's paw crushes it."

Roberts asserted that in his opinion the other constitutionalist generals will stay with Villa as against Carranza.

Opinions Vary Widely. The United States Federal officials now regard Villa as the dominating factor in the game, and are negotiating with him as such to the exclusion of Carranza.

But there is an entirely different opinion expressed by men familiar with Mexican affairs and by American refugees who have just come up from Torreón, Parral, and Chihuahua.

Some of these men believe that Carranza will be the stronger figure in any split and that most of the generals will stay with him.

So it is not so easy to say whether, in making terms with Villa, the United States is buying a commanding hero or a gold brick. But there is no doubt here that President Wilson has broken with Carranza and taken up with Villa to work his purposes.

Though Washington continues to send out word that the President has sent a message to Carranza, since the United States is buying a commanding hero or a gold brick, there is no doubt here that President Wilson has broken with Carranza and taken up with Villa to work his purposes.

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with Villa and to transmit messages to and from him.

Here just what Villa is said to have said to Roberts: "My personal wishes are that the United States should blockade Vera Cruz and all the Huerta ports. If the United States will do this, we are sure to have the constitutionalist army in the City of Mexico in a short time, and I solemnly promise the United States that I will see to it that the drunkard Huerta offers a full and satisfactory apology for his insults, to the great friends of the United States in the Mexican people."

Stories Are Circulated. From this has grown a story here that Villa is to be given the arm and ammunition he needs; that he is to draw off his troops from the American border and concentrate them in the march to Mexico City; and that the United States is to take care of his border behind him.

There is another view, however, that the foxy Villa is merely playing with President Wilson, to get the 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition he needs; and that those bullets are far more apt to be used against the United States than against Huerta.

These border Americans generally have a very poor opinion of a Mexican hand's word. And so El Paso continues to hear an alarmist note now and then.

One battery of four field pieces has arrived to re-enforce the El Paso defenses, while two more batteries are due tomorrow from Fort Riley, Kansas, which will give this city sixteen field guns for her defense.

Gen. Pershing and his two regiments from San Francisco are due tomorrow. This will encamp in El Paso an army of about 5,000 regular troops, who would not hesitate to tackle three times that number of Mexicans, veterans or recruits.

Refugees coming in daily say that in two years Mexico will face a serious famine if she does not quit fighting.

Houston's Slayer Smiles. It was said today that Roldolph Pierre, on whose shoulders was laid the murder of Benton, the Englishman, in Villa's presence at Juarez, was riding smilingly around El Paso yesterday, though Special Envoy Carothers had warned him to keep away from this side of the river.

Placards calling for "Death to Americans" are being circulated throughout Northern Mexico, according to refugees here and at other points. Within the last few days 1,500 American refugees have reached the border here and at other points. Within the next week it is expected that fully 5,000 more will arrive.

Villa Would Join U. S. An interesting sidelight on the attitude of Gen. Pancho Villa in the present embargo is given in a dispatch received by an official here from the editor of a newspaper at El Paso, Tex. This editor reported that in a conversation with the rebel general he had inquired if he would join the United States army to transport Villa and his army to Vera Cruz so that they might march on Mexico City from there, should such a proposal be made. Villa replied: "You bet your life I would."

Officials here have little doubt now of the sincerity of Villa's outspoken opposition to Huerta.

ARMED MEXICANS RIOTING. Mining Camp in Arizona Sends Hurry Call for Cavalry.

Special to The Washington Herald. Bisbee, Ariz., April 25.—Word has reached here that an armed band of Mexicans is creating a great deal of disturbance at Patagonia, a mining camp, twenty-seven miles north of Nogales, Ariz. According to the report Col. Greenham, in command of the Ninth Regiment of Cavalry at Fort Huachuca, has been asked to send a troop of cavalry to maintain order and to disarm the Mexicans.

The Jeff Pollock of Cananea, has reported to Naco that there is danger of a riot among the unemployed miners in that big copper camp. There are between 5,000 and 6,000 men in the camp divided politically between Carranza and Huerta, all more or less armed.

TA MESSAGE FOR YOU

We Can Correct Your Eye Troubles. GEORGE A. BAKER OPTICAL CO. For 17 years we have been curing eye defects and diseases of all kinds, and today we have the most efficient eye-testing department in Washington.

If your eyes trouble you in any way, don't hesitate, but come in and see our ophthalmologist at once. It is important that you come to ophthalmologist of proven skill, because the eyes are very delicate and tampering by novices might prove fatal.

We examine your eyes free of charge, and do not recommend the use of glasses unless they are absolutely necessary.

We carry a full line of optical goods and photographic supplies.

Good glasses as low as \$2.00.

Photographers Attention. We will conduct a demonstration of "TABLOID" Photographic Chemicals. The demonstration is from 2 p. m. to 5 p. m. You are invited to bring in prints and we will tone or stain them for you free of charge.

Ask about "TABLOID" Chromium Intensifier. It saves thin negatives.

George A. Baker Optical Co. (Inc.) EYESIGHT SPECIALISTS 717 14th Street N. W.



Part of the Texas is shown in the background. It is expected that this ship will leave for Mexico soon after the New York, which sails today. The crews of the big warships in the Brooklyn Navy Yard have been undergoing rigorous drills in landing maneuvers ever since the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Mexico.

LOANS HOORING

John W. South, Editor of Highway Bridge, New American from Washington.