

VILLA ELUDES HIS FOES AND GAINS HILLS, IS FEAR

which form a working basis for a... General Funston officially announces that "the next few hours may tell the tale" stating that to all appearances the Mexican outlaws are surrounded.

VILLA HAS ESCAPED FOES. IS NOW BELIEF IN EL PASO

EL PASO, Tex., March 21.—Villa has escaped the Carranza and American pursuing columns, it was believed here today.

Since a Carranza force under Colonel Camp was reported to have engaged Villa near Namiquipa no official word has come from the battlefield, neither was word received from the American forces reported to be in on the bandit leader.

That Villa had given them the "slip" was not certain, but advices indicated the possibility that he had outflanked both the American expedition and the Carranzistas. The bandits engaged just east of Namiquipa are now believed to have been part of Villa's 1500 men who were recently reported in the vicinity of Hachita and San Geronimo, Chihuahua. Reports that Villa had been killed were denied.

Villa himself was believed to be in another part of the Guerrero Mountains, although his exact whereabouts apparently was unknown to officers in Juarez and El Paso.

Considerable apprehension was shown over the announcement in Juarez that communication with points near Namiquipa over the Northwestern Mexican line had been cut. Before trace of Villa was lost it was learned that instead of disbanding his followers, as the Carranza authorities announced, he was recruiting troops in the districts he traversed.

Major Manuel Prieto, of Gaviara's staff in Juarez, stated today that, according to his latest advices, the United States expedition's main body was encamped outside of Casas Grandes. The guerrillas have been calm since the entry of the American troops, he said.

"Carranza's proven control of the Mexican people," said Prieto, "makes it impossible for any one successfully to tempt another revolution in the country."

CARRANZISTAS BEAT VILLA IN TWO SHARP ENGAGEMENTS

EL PASO, Tex., March 21.—Francisco Villa, twice defeated in one day by Carranza soldiers who stood the test and baffled his attempts to escape, rallied his forces and was reported today marching toward the northwest from Namiquipa. If he continues along this route he will come directly into the trap formed by three columns of American cavalry.

Unless Villa by one of the dashing maneuvers for which he is famous, doubles on his trail and escapes between the American and Carranza soldiers who hem him in, it is expected that before night he will be making his last fight. The American cavalry, although worn by its rapid march into Mexico, is reported in advices at General Gaviara's headquarters in Juarez to have been sent forward at a still faster pace to join battle with Villa's band. Aeroplanes sent from Columbus are said to be flying over Villa's forces and making frequent reports to General Pershing as to the movements of Villa and his forces.

VILLA DIVIDES FORCES.

Villa has divided his followers into two bands. This was officially confirmed today in the reports received by General Gaviara. One of the bands was defeated at Las Cruces yesterday by the Carranzas. The other was whipped at Namiquipa late yesterday afternoon.

Villa's characteristic tactics call for a swift, sure stroke—a surprise attack. But the Carranzistas were prepared. They began to fire as soon as Villa's horsemen came in sight. When the Villistas finally fled the Carranzista commander immediately sent dispatches to General Gaviara in Juarez reporting a decisive victory over the Villa forces.

VILLA LEADS BEATEN TROOPS.

During the night, according to the Carranza report on the engagement, the bandits vanquished at Las Cruces in a two-hour battle effected a junction with the leaders of the Namiquipa conflict to the northwest of Namiquipa, only 28 miles from the leading American column.

General Gaviara believes that Villa's movement toward the points from which the American troops were advancing was with the hope of reaching an ancient trail a few miles north of Namiquipa by which he could double back toward Babicora.

The Villistas defeated at Las Cruces were led by the bandit chieftain in person. Villa is said to have had with him about 800 men.

They were opposed by Carranzistas. The battle was fought on the banks of the Santa Maria River, which Villa was attempting to cross. The Carranzistas held good positions and were able to repulse three different assaults. When the Villistas' attacks weakened the Carranza troops took the offensive and drove Villa's forces into headlong retreat.

Villa's force in the Las Cruces battle was larger than that which he had with him in the Columbus raid. He had gathered in many volunteers during his retreat from the border. Though virtually as strong as when he left the border, he confronted him on the Santa Maria. Villa is said to have wished to avoid conflict at that time, but was forced by his own men. Most of his recruits had been gathered with the promise of a fight with American troops. Villa had boasted that he could whip the whole American army.

Following their record-breaking ride from Hachita, Colonel Dodd's cavalry was reported making another forced march to aid the Carranzistas in cutting off the flight of the Villistas.

To trap Villa, if he escapes into the mountains, the central column from Casas Grandes, General Pershing has sent cavalry squadrons southward to the Babicora ranch and to Carmen on either side of Namiquipa.

One of these three columns should be within striking distance of Villa's rear-guard before night.

FORCES FORM TRIANGLE.

The Carranzistas' position at Namiquipa is part of the trap set in the campaign plans of General Gaviara, who outlined them last week in a dispatch from this place.

Carranza guerrillas form a rough triangle, the apex of which is at Chihuahua. American troops from the north were chasing Villa into this narrowing line of Carranza soldiers when the Las Cruces fight began.

The American soldiers headed for the Villa country are in three detachments, but they are cooperating closely. One of these started for the Lake Babicora district. The others started in one column from Casas Grandes, and divided at Galvaston, southeast of Casas Grandes. One detachment pressed forward to Las Cruces.

LOOKS LIKE END FOR VILLA. DECLARES GENERAL FUNSTON

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 21.—"The next few hours may tell the tale," declared General Funston's curt comment on dispatches relating to Villa's defeat at Cruces by Carranza troops coming north from Chihuahua, the bandit's defeat and subsequent flight north directly toward three neighboring American cavalry columns. With these troops, detachments of United States soldiers headed for Lake Babicora, El Valle and Caransa, any effort on Villa's part to escape to the north seems effectually spiked.

"Villa is caught," a hard night ride brought the American soldiers close to their quarry today. While army headquarters had no definite word that the commander of the Carranza column is formally keeping in touch with General Pershing, the latter, through his own scouts, evidently is being kept advised of the Mexican movements.

"On the map it looks like Villa might be in hot water," remarked General Funston. "But we must not forget he still has free movement over a big lot of country and that he knows every trail and cowpath in those mountains."

According to the best information at army headquarters, Villa will make every effort to slip past the southwest corner of Lake Babicora and dash for the Sierra Madre mountains in the region about Guerrero.

FUNSTON WANTS SPEED.

Funston is anxious that the American troops' task be completed at the earliest possible moment, for two reasons:

First, the agreement between the American and Mexican Governments is said to provide that the American troops shall be withdrawn from Mexican soil if Villa's trail is lost.

Second, it is difficult to make the American soldiers obey all the regulations necessary to prevent sickness. Typhoid fever is raging south of the border. Typhoid is also a peril, pure drinking water being almost unobtainable.

General Funston announced today that the censorship which has hidden the military movements along the border would be greatly modified.

"There is no need for the strictest censorship now," he said. "Villa is so far south of the border that American newspapers cannot reach him. I have directed General Pershing by wireless to give the correspondents more liberty and facilities."

SMALL DANGER OF U. S. FORCE BEING CUT OFF IN MEXICO

J. L. RIZZ, Mex., March 21.—General Gaviara, Carranza lieutenant, today pointed to the battle at Namiquipa in denial of reports that Carranza troops were disposed to let Villa get away and give him an equal chance with the American army on his trail.

The Carranza leader intimated that the United States expedition had established a base near Casas Grandes. Reports that the Carranza guerrillas there had been withdrawn to Juarez to avoid friction remained unconfirmed.

Even if a large Carranza force had been placed between the expedition in Mexico and the border, it was pointed out that the thousands of American troops at Fort Bliss and Columbus were sufficient protection against the implied threat to cut them off. There has been no sign of friction between the de facto Government generals in Juarez and the expeditionary forces.

U. S. WARSHIP AT GALVESTON; OTHERS ORDERED SOUTHWARD

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WASHINGTON, March 21.—The cruiser North Carolina, with four hydro-aeroplanes aboard, today was ordered from Pensacola, Fla., to the naval base at Guantanamo. Officials said there was no special significance attached to the movement of the warship.

The Navy Department was silent regarding the mission of the gunboat Wheeling, which left New Orleans last night for "southern waters." Officials refused either to confirm or deny reports that "southern waters" meant a Mexican port.

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When Douglas was in danger and Villista bullets rained in the city during the bandit's attack on Agua Prieta the two American cavalry regiments "stood by" Douglas and the warmest feeling prevails here for the squadron.

"The 10th is now reported to be in the vanguard of General Pershing's column. A number of troopers in both regiments have fallen victims to Villa snipers in the fighting around Agua Prieta. The squadron is expected by officers here to give a good account of itself if it catches up with Villa's band.

Disturbing reports of concentration of large Carranza forces within striking distance of the border near here, are believed to be exaggerations.

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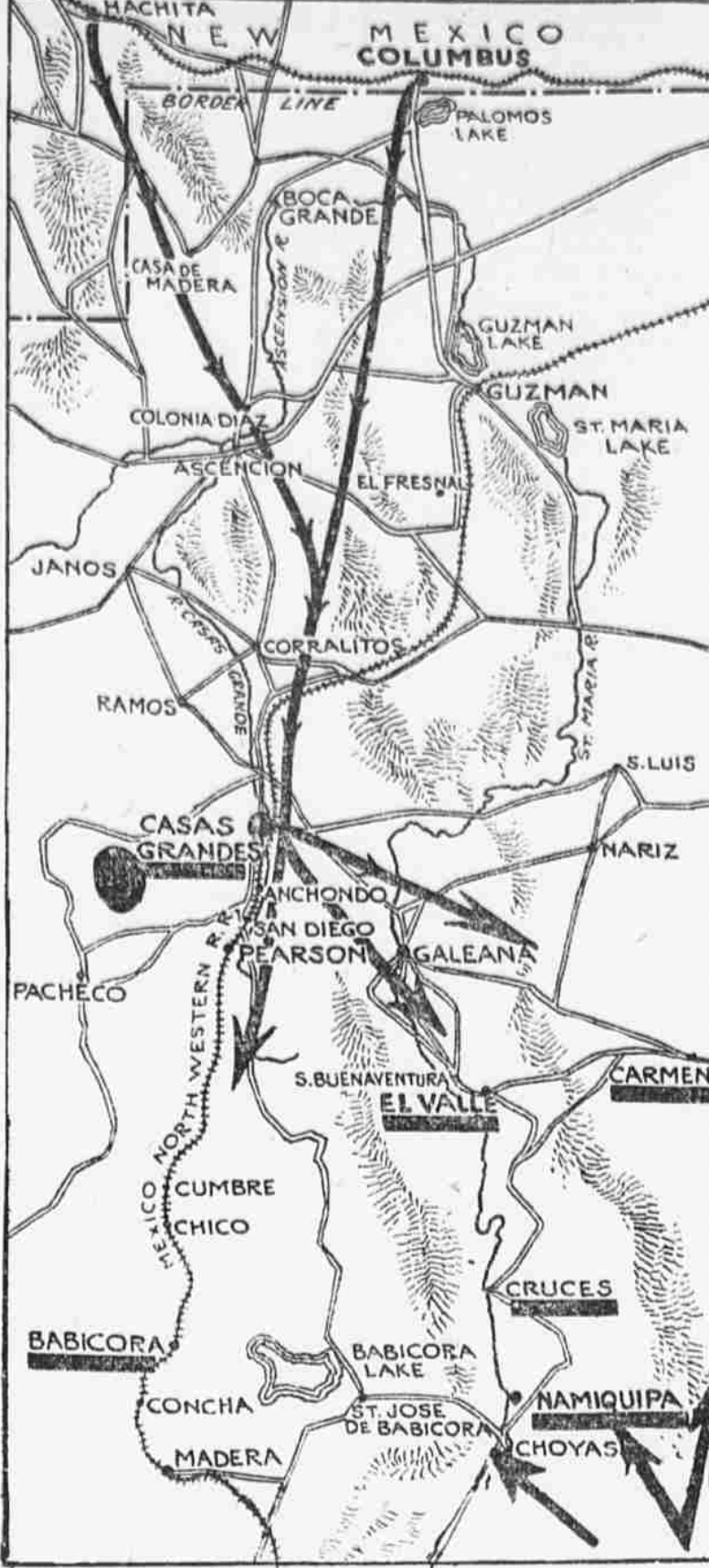
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DEVELOPMENTS IN HUNT FOR VILLA



SCALE OF MILES

VILLA IS TODAY REPORTED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF NAMIQUIPA, WHENCE HE FLED AFTER SPENDING A DAY AT BABICORA ON THE RANCH OF MRS. PHOEBE HEARST, MOTHER OF THE NEW YORK NEWSPAPER OWNER.

The pursuing American forces have spread out in three directions from Casas Grandes, on the northwest, at the same time that three columns of Carranzistas are coming up from Chihuahua and spreading out, as indicated in the lower right-hand corner of the map, in the shape of a net for the purpose of entrapping the bandit chief. Villa forces were yesterday attacked and defeated by Carranza troops at Cruces and Namiquipa.

CARRANZISTAS WIPE OUT TOWN, IS REPORT

Bandits Reported to Have Killed Score in Raid in Coahuila

GALVESTON, Tex., March 21.—The little town of Bellicans, in southwestern Coahuila, was wiped off the map by bandits last week, according to stories reaching the border today. It is said that more than 20 of the inhabitants were killed during the raid, and that every house was burned after being robbed. Whether any Americans lost their lives in the raid is not known.

The stories reaching the border declare that the raiders were remnants of defeated Carranza soldiers in the State of Durango. All horses and cattle were driven off by the bandits. Several of the dead were women who protested against their homes being robbed. At the cathedral one of the priests was killed and the church was robbed and burned.

(Coahuila is far to the southeast of the Chihuahua district, where the present American and Mexican campaign is now proceeding. Just what "defeated Carranza troops" are meant is not known.)

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WILSON ACCEPTS PLAN OF CARRANZA TO UNITE FORCES AGAINST VILLA

President and Cabinet Agree to Sign Protocol for Co-operative Action in Hunt for Bandits

FIGHT COMMON ENEMY

WASHINGTON, March 21.—President Wilson today decided upon the formation of a protocol, to be signed by representatives of the United States and the de facto Government of Mexico, providing for co-operative movements to exterminate "a common enemy"—namely, Francisco Villa.

The decision was reached at a lengthy Cabinet meeting immediately following the session, Secretary of War Baker went into conference with General McCain, Judge Advocate of the army, concerning the army's needs, which will have to be outlined in the agreement.

The protocol, in substance, will provide for: First, Co-operation between the military forces of the United States and those of the de facto Mexican Government toward the termination of a common enemy—in this case Villa.

Second, The right of either Government to send troops across the border in pursuit of bandits and to continue such pursuit indefinitely until the bandits either are captured or killed.

Third, Common use of the railways of both countries for movement of supplies and munitions to troops so engaged.

Every effort, it was said by members of the Cabinet, will be extended by this Government to make easier the task of First Chief Carranza in organizing and maintaining a stable Government south of the Rio Grande.

The legal forces of the State and War Departments were put immediately to work on the agreement following the Cabinet meeting.

It will be emphasized in the protocol that the United States does not want the use of Mexican railroads for transportation of its troops, but for supplies only. It is not believed that the Mexican people would take kindly to Mexican railroads being utilized to transport "enemy" troops.

Acting Secretary of State Polk, after the members had departed, going over with the President some of the most intimate details of the situation. Then he returned to the State Department and began the preparation of a tentative draft of the document which will tighten the friendly relations between Carranza and the United States.

Secretary Baker announced following the meeting that 54 more motortrucks have been ordered for immediate delivery for use of the Pershing expedition.

BIG PART OF TOBACCO FUND GIVEN BY CITY

Philadelphians Donate Nearly \$2100 for "Smokes" for Belgian Soldiers

More than one-fifth of the entire amount contributed by Americans to the Belgian Soldiers' Tobacco Fund has been given by Philadelphians, according to the reports of Drexel & Co., who are in charge of local contributions. It was reported today that the fund, which now totals \$9,933.95, will easily reach the \$10,000 mark today.

Drexel & Co. announced that additional subscriptions amounting to \$450 have been received, making the total contributions from Philadelphia and vicinity nearly \$2100.

Realization that tobacco to the modern soldier is a veritable necessity and preferable to food and drink is the cause of the generous response of Americans. Not only smokers, but nonsmokers as well, have contributed. As a result of the encouraging start each Belgian soldier will receive each week a parcel of 50 cigarettes, pipe tobacco, matches and a reply postcard, upon which will be the name of a donor. Contributions may be sent to Drexel & Co.

Eastern League Rejects Schedule WASHINGTON, March 21.—The newly organized Eastern Baseball League has rejected the schedule which came before the league today. The meeting adjourned until April 5, when the club owners will discuss the matter again in detail. It was announced that a vote of 100 would be given for the schedule which should prove acceptable.

Outfielder Cruikshank to Retire SCRANTON, Pa., March 21.—Frank Cruikshank, who played center field for the local New York State League team and former major league player, today announced that he will not report this season, as he intends going into some other business.

Conzelmann Quits Game INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 21.—Pitcher Joe Conzelmann had not reported late yesterday, and A. J. McGill, owner of the local American Association club, said he was afraid the pitcher had quit baseball.

Advertisement for S.S. White Tooth Paste, featuring a woman's face and a tube of tooth paste. Text: "See your dentist twice yearly. Use 'S.S. White' Tooth Paste twice daily and you will be doing your full duty by your teeth."

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Advertisement for Wrigley's Spearmint and Doublemint chewing gum, showing the product boxes and the text "Chew it after every meal" and "Sealed tight Kept right".