

GEN. PERSHING MADE EFFORT TO 'GET VILLA'

"Punitive Expedition" First of Three Crossings of Border in as Many Years

CARRANZA OPENLY HOSTILE

History repeats itself for the second time within a period of a little more than three years with the death of United States troops across the border in pursuit of the bandits who captured and held for ransom two American aviators, Peterson and Davis.

At the time of the recent fighting at Juarez, a force entered the turbulent republic for correctional purposes following outrages on our citizens living close to the international line; but the event that created a tension that threatened a rupture with the Mexican Government took place in March, 1916, when the famous Pershing "punitive expedition" was sent across the Rio Grande with the stern instruction to capture or kill Pancho Villa and exterminate his numerous band of outlaws.

This drastic order was the result of a series of border outrages culminating in an attack by Villa and a band of some 500 on the town of Columbus, N. M., and the camp of the Thirtieth United States Cavalry, nearly a score of Americans being killed in the sanguinary fighting and many buildings set on fire before the bandit chief and his followers were driven back across the international border. They were followed by 250 troopers of the Thirtieth Cavalry and in the fighting that ensued on Mexican territory at least seventy-five of the bandits were killed, the loss to the American cavalry being seven killed and six wounded.

Pershing Sent to "Get Villa"

President Wilson and his cabinet acted promptly, and a punitive expedition was at once organized, placed under the immediate command of Brigadier General John J. Pershing, who barely more than a year later was to gain world celebrity as commander-in-chief of the American Army in France, and who was ordered to "get Villa," dead or alive.

Care was taken to impress the Carranza government with the fact that the Pershing expedition was purely punitive and was in no way designed to compromise or infringe upon Mexican sovereignty.

About 10,000 men comprised the Pershing force, made up principally of infantry, with perhaps 2000 cavalry. Many of these soldiers gained experience in what proved a futile search for elusive Villa that stood them in good stead when, in April of the following year, they answered the trumpet that enrolled them into the victorious American army that dealt the decisive blows ending the titanic conflict that convulsed Europe.

While the Carranza Government made pretense of approving the action of the Washington administration to rid Mexico of the border of the constant menace of Villa and his outlaws, the mask was speedily cast aside.

As Pershing and his gallant troops advanced farther into the territory over which the Mexican president held impotent sway, and during the entire period of the hunt for the bandit chief, in the numerous engagements that marked the arduous if unending pursuit, hostility, at first covert, later truculent, was displayed by the Mexican authorities.

On June 17, General Jacinto Trevino, commanding the Carranza army of the north, advised General Pershing that any movement of the American troops east or west from the lines they occupied at the time would be considered "a hostile act" and a signal to begin warfare.

Despite this threat Pershing maintained his search for the fugitive outlaw, and on June 18, 1916, the very day following this insolent ultimatum from Chihuahua, President Wilson ordered the National Guard to the border. On June 21, in a fierce battle at Carrizal, Pershing's forces, Captain Alvar and Lieutenant Boyd, of the American army, were among the slain.

Withdraw Without "Getting Villa"

A month later, during which time several battles and skirmishes were fought and brilliant deeds of heroism performed by Pershing's men, the bandit Villa meanwhile safely hidden from his grim pursuers, but his outlaws army thoroughly beaten and scattered, the Washington government, after much negotiation, agreed to a joint commission for the settlement of the difficulties with Mexico.

To be sure the avowed object of the "punitive" expedition to "get Villa" had not been achieved, but for the time at least he was regarded as innocuous and there were persistent reports of his death.

The first fruits of the conferences of the joint commission were seen in the ordering of fourteen National Guard regiments home. That was on August 30. On November 24 a border protocol was signed by the joint commission, and in January, 1917, Washington ordered the withdrawal of Pershing and his expedition.

On February 5 General Pershing rode out of Mexico at the head of 10,000 soldiers of his "punitive expedition." The bandits were playing "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" as the men marched past their commander, mounted upon a handstand at the border line near Columbus, N. M., the scene of the bandit attack of nearly a year earlier. They looked hard as nails and fully fit for the arduous and heroic duty they were called upon to perform when their country called upon them to go to Europe and help to "make the world safe for democracy."

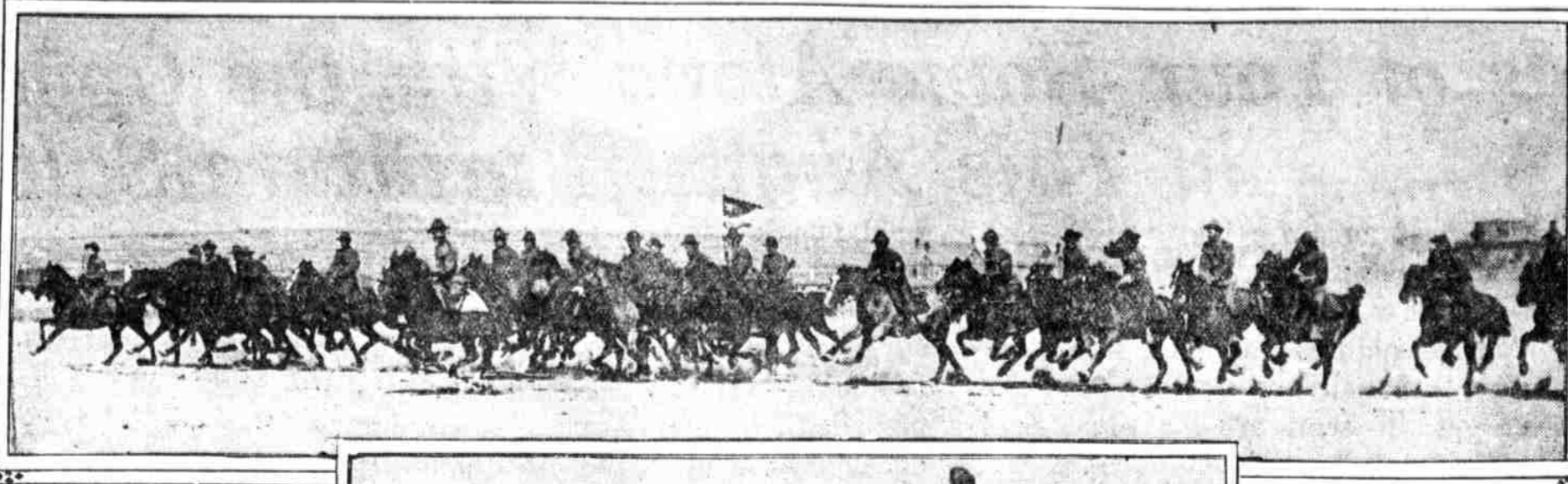
STERLING AT NEW LOW

Demand Bills on London Fall to \$4.19—Market Demoralized
New York, Aug. 19.—Sterling exchange broke to a new low record today, demand bills on London falling to \$4.19 and demoralizing the general exchange market.

In banking circles predictions have been current that unless remedial measures are soon applied the British pound will fall to \$4.

Dealers in foreign exchange attribute the break to the announcement by Premier Lloyd George yesterday of the abandonment by the British government after September 1 of extreme import restrictions.

U. S. CAVALRY ORDERED OVER RIO GRANDE ON EXPEDITION TO HUNT MEXICAN BANDITS



U. S. Troops Cross Mexican Border

Continued From Page One

for the border and made it. They called for us to halt, but I said "Go to Hell" and crossed.

Lieutenant Peterson crossed the border to the American side at 1:15 a. m., and Captain Matlack brought back Lieutenant Davis forty-five minutes later.

Completely confused in their directions, Lieutenants Peterson and Davis believed they were on the American side of the border the entire time from the fall of their plane until their release.

Lieutenant Peterson, first to cross the border today, made the following statement: "We fell about noon Sunday. We thought we were about two miles from Candelaria. We walked all Sunday afternoon and Sunday night until about 2:30 Monday morning, when we came to a ranch where we found a Mexican who talked English. He told us there was three miles south. We asked him to take us there, but he told us the Mexicans would kill us if we went there. So we got him to take us to a road, down which we walked about an hour.

"Six o'clock Monday morning we headed down what we thought was the Rio Grande. We started climbing over the hills, following the course of the river. Then we walked all day Monday, walking an hour and resting half an hour. Monday night we walked by moonlight until 10:30 p. m., when we went to sleep and slept until 6 a. m. Tuesday.

"Tuesday we walked until 9:30 a. m., when we took to the river and swam for five hours downstream, taking one minute rest four different times. When we came to the rapids we decided we must land and walk.

"We landed, dried our clothes and started over the mountains.

Wandered for Three Days

"I had a little fever. We lay down on a mountain path and slept until 6 a. m. Wednesday. We saw smoke from a village and headed in that direction. We thought the village was just around the corner from Candelaria. We reached the village and got lots of food.

"Then we hired a Mexican with three burros to take us to Candelaria. We were ready to start when an armed Mexican came up and addressed the Mexican we had employed. The armed man spoke in Spanish. Then he left hurriedly.

"We began our journey on burros with our Mexican guide. We soon were overtaken by six armed bandits and many townspeople. All but two of the bandits left us, but those two continued following us. After going about forty-five minutes the bandits stopped us and told the Mexican owner of the burros to return to his home. The Mexican objected, as we were riding his burros. The bandits then headed us up the valley to a village where they made the Mexican drink.

"I gave the one-armed bandit leader \$2 and he arranged for food for us and liquor for himself. The bandits took us on to a ranch where they got a horse and a mule for us to ride. This was about 7 p. m. Wednesday. We rode until midnight. Then we slept until 7:30 o'clock Thursday morning. Resuming our journey, we continued in the mountains all day Thursday and slept in the mountains at night.

Bandits Demand Ransom

"Friday afternoon about 6:30 the bandits stopped the horses and said they wanted to have a little chat with us. The bandits told us to write the messages saying ransom must be paid for our release. The bandit leader spoke English very well. He had worked on the railroads in Kansas and had lost an arm and a leg in an accident," he said.

"We stayed overnight in the mountains Saturday night, when the leader returned from sending the messages. The bandits foraged for food, and we had plenty to eat. We camped all day Sunday. The leader left Sunday night and returned Monday morning. He said the money for our release would be paid.

"We left there at noon Monday and then camped until 9 o'clock Monday night, when we started to meet Captain Matlack. We met him at approximately 1:15 a. m. today. After bringing me over the border, he returned for Lieutenant Davis.

"We were well treated. We had plenty of food. There were these bandits with us most of the time. We did not learn the name of the bandits, but believe we could identify them.

"We thought all the time we were near Valentine.

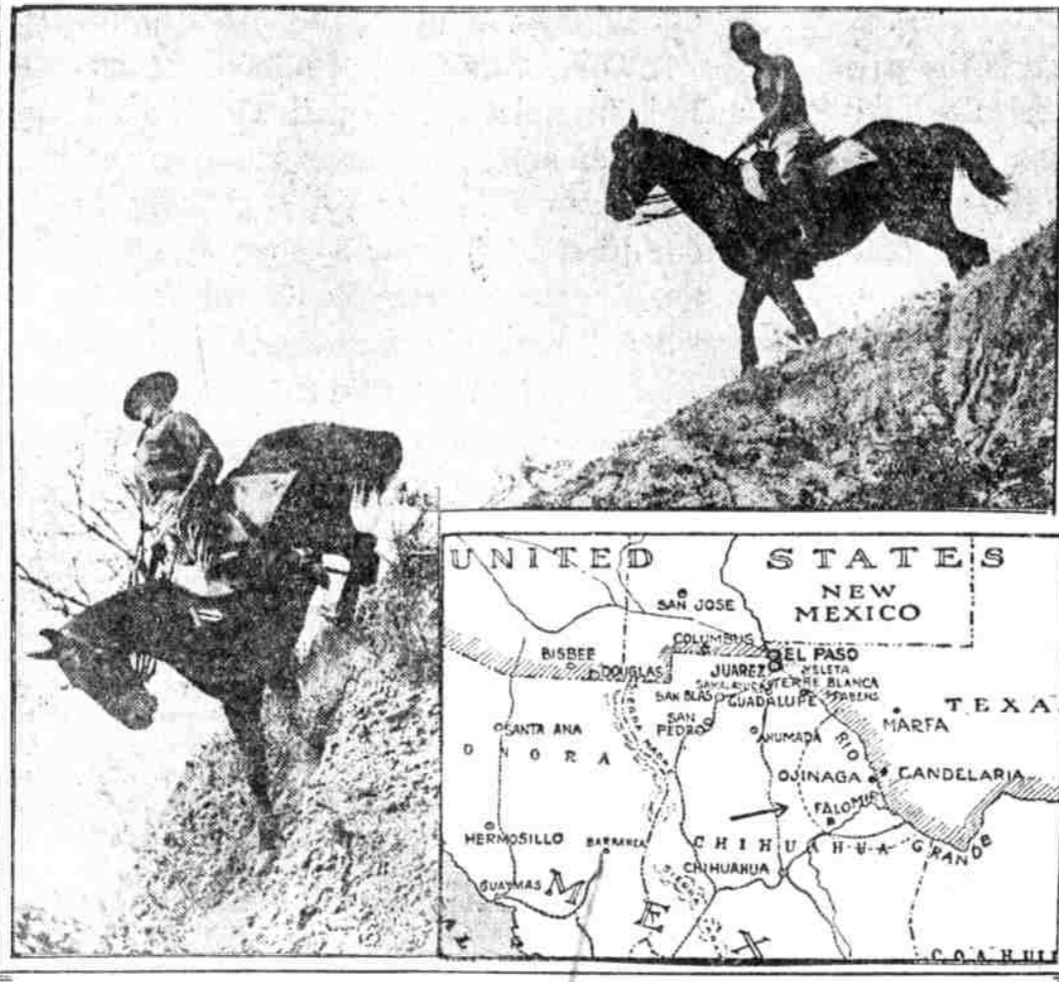
"We met Captain Matlack at a ranch, which is about twenty-five minutes' walk from Candelaria upstream. We were never blindfolded nor mistreated in any way, except once when we tried to escape. The bandits said they would kill us if we tried again.

"They also threatened to kill us if the ransom was unpaid."

Lieutenant Davis's story differed from that of Lieutenant Peterson only in a few minor details. Lieutenant Davis added the fact that the plane fell near a bridge over the river. The place afterward was located near Falmour, Chihuahua.

Peterson immediately sent a message to his father at Hutchinson, Minn., saying: "Feeling fine. Had wonderful experience."

Davis also sent a similar message to his parents at Strathmore, Calif. Captain Matlack returned with Davis



At the top is a group of American cavalry stationed on the Mexican border. Below are United States troopers in a feat of horsemanship necessary in the canyon country of the Rio Grande. The map shows the Big Bend section of southern Texas and the Ojinaga district of Mexico opposite, where the aviators were held captive

Arrangement for Delivery

According to the agreement, Captain Matlack made the journey into the Mexican rendezvous unaccompanied. He was to pay over \$7500 for the release of one aviator and then the remainder when the second aviator was released. Under the arrangement Matlack was to return with the aviators by foot to the American side and then come on to Matlack by airplane.

Plans for the mountainside were to be the signal for Matlack to begin his perilous journey into the bandit country.

Captain Matlack said the two aviators landed in Mexico, contradicting the story of Lieutenant Peterson. He said the aviators thought they had landed in the United States, and this impression after they had reached the border early yesterday morning.

The aviators, the captain said, had become confused while in the air and had mistaken the Conchos river for the Rio Grande. Instead of landing near Candelaria, as they thought, they had landed at a point near Falmour, Chihuahua, more than forty miles up the Conchos river, where they abandoned their wrecked airplane, after stripping it of machine guns and vital parts, which might make it of use to the Mexicans.

Thinking they were on the Rio Grande, they started down stream in an effort to locate Candelaria and report their accident to military headquarters. They landed at 12:30 Sunday afternoon and were picked up Wednesday morning by Jesus Rivera and a band of five other Mexicans. They were taken into the mountains, but thought they were approaching Valentine, Tex. They were told that sixty men belonged to the band, while in reality the aviators saw only twenty men at the ranch where they were held.

Captain Matlack said the bandits were well mounted. The Americans tried once to escape.

MATLACK FAMOUS AS BANDIT FIGHTER

Louisville, Ky., Aug. 19.—(By A. P.)—Captain Leonard F. Matlack, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Matlack, Louisville, gained fame in December, 1912, when with twenty men he followed a band of 200 bandits into Mexico and after a battle in which thirty-five of the bandits were killed, recovered a herd

of cattle stolen from the American side of the border.

J. F. Tigner, owner of the herd, accompanied the command, but in the pursuit became separated from the party. Matlack, unaccompanied, made three trips into bandit-infested area and after forty-eight hours rescued Tigner, who was hiding in the brush.

Matlack, a veteran of the Spanish-American war, enlisted in the regular army in 1903 and saw service in the Philippines. He has been mentioned three times in official dispatches for extraordinary service. During the world war he was given a temporary commission as captain.

but were threatened with death and did not renew their attempt.

Various plans for obtaining the ransom money were discussed by the bandits. One was for the delivery of the money by Americans in the middle of the Rio Grande. Another was for the aviators to be taken 100 yards up river and the money taken an equal distance down river and both left at the same time.

Hutchinson, Minn., Aug. 19.—(By A. P.)—Samuel G. Peterson, father of Lieutenant H. G. Peterson, was overjoyed when informed early this morning of the safe return of his son across the border to the American side.

"I consider that the army acted promptly and did everything in their power to help us. My wife and myself and two daughters will get our first rest in forty hours now," he said.

Secretary of War Baker and Senator Nelson promptly answered my request for nothing in this matter. The raising of the \$15,000 ransom by the aviators in Texas was an example of true Americanism of which I am proud. It was almost impossible to transmit that sum of money by wire for delivery in paid on such short notice. Their action may have saved the life of my boy and his comrades.

"Certainly now that the Mexican rebels have captured and held for ransom officers of the United States army, the government cannot let bandits' acts pass unnoticed.

"The capture of United States army officers by bandits surely strikes at the heart of the government."

DARK AFRICA VEILS PLANE

No News Has Been Received From Missing French Fliers

Casablanca, Morocco, Aug. 19.—(By A. P.)—No news of the great French airplane Goliath, which left Mogador for Dakar on Saturday morning, has been received here, and there is much anxiety over the possible fate of the machine. In view of the solitude of the regions over which the airplane flew, however, it is premature to conclude that the machine has been wrecked.

Naval divisions here and at Dakar have been sent out with well-manned ships, to scout the coast; but it will take several days to complete the search. Until then, hope will not be abandoned. The crew of the Goliath was provided with food and water sufficient for several days, and while here, took on board arms and ammunition.

Harrisburg Sells Army Beef

Harrisburg, Aug. 19.—The city of Harrisburg sold several carloads of army roast beef, bacon and corned beef in the firehouse today. The goods were snapped up in a few hours.

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L'ARRIVO IN ROMA DEL GEN. PERSHING

Il Generale Appare Entusiasmato Quando Sfilarono i Prodi Bersaglieri d'Italia

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Roma, 19 agosto.—Il Generale John J. Pershing, supremo comandante delle armate americane in Francia, e' giunto in Roma ieri mattina alle ore 9, ricevuto dal Ministro della Guerra, Generale Albrici, dal Generalissimo Diaz, da ufficiali dello Stato Maggiore Generale, da Mr. Peter Augustus Jay, incaricato di affari all'Ambasciata Americana in Roma, e dal corpo diplomatico.

Dopo le presentazioni, il Generale Pershing passo' in rivista la compagnia di fanteria, guardia d'onore nell'interno della stazione, e si congratulo' col comandante di essa per la splendida apparenza dei suoi uomini. Quindi il Generale prese posto in un'automobile, seguita da altri nei quali presero posto la personalita' del seguito, e fu condotto

In Piazza dell'Indipenza, ove attendeva Re Vittorio Emanuele. In presenza di circa diecimila uomini della guarnigione, il Re d'Italia conferi' in Grande Croce dell'Ordine Militare di Savoia al Generale Pershing a questi, dal canto suo consegno' le medaglie americane conferite al Generale Albrici, Ministro della Guerra, al Comm. Alfonso Apolloni, sindaco di Roma ed a molti altri ufficiali generali dell'Esercito italiano.

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