

TEXAS MONUMENT HONORS MEN WHO GOT BLACK BEANS

Seventeen Who Fell in ill-fated Mier Expedition of 1842 Given Belated Honors By La Grange Folk

By STUART E. JONES
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LA GRANGE, Tex. (UP)—A tall granite column stands in this town to honor the memory of the 33 Texans, who lost their lives in two of the most tragic events in Lone Star State history.

Recently unveiled, the monument commemorates the men who fell in the ill-fated Mier expedition of 1842, recalling the story of the 17 black beans that spelled death for as many men at Hacienda Salado.

Fund Raising Took 100 Years
It was erected after nearly 100 years of fund-raising. In 1842 the bones of the 17 martyrs of Mier, together with those of 35 other Texans massacred in the Battle of Salado Creek, were returned to Fayette county soil and buried near here.

Citizens of La Grange at once began efforts to raise money for a suitable marker, according to Houston Wade, postal clerk, whose history of the expedition was published with the monument's unveiling.

In the summer of 1842 the Republic of Texas still was at war with Mexico, though the decisive battle of San Jacinto had been fought and won by Gen. Sam Houston's army six years before.

On Sept. 11 a force of 1,200 Mexicans under Gen. Adrian Woll invaded the village of an Antonio, taking captive the district judge, the grand jury and the attorneys attending the court then in session.

Ordered to Attack
The Texas militia west of the Branca river was ordered to attack the Mexicans. Capt. Matthew Caldwell of Gonzales led a company of 80 men against Woll and defeated the Mexicans at Salado Creek.

Through a misunderstanding of positions, however, Capt. Nicholas Dawson, La Grange, leading a company of 83 men to join Caldwell, found himself surrounded and cut off by the retreating Mexicans.

The Mexicans slaughtered the Texans with grape shot. Thirty-two were killed and a number of others captured.

Brig. Gen. Somervell led a force of Texans in pursuit of the enemy, who retreated across the Rio Grande. A force under Capt. William B. Fisher bolted and pursued the enemy across the river.

On Christmas night, 1842, the Texans attacked the Mexican village of Mier. Fisher was wounded and the Texans surrendered.

They were marched toward Mexico City, but at Hacienda Salado, 100 miles from Santhito, they escaped. After wandering for days in the mountains, they were recaptured by a Mexican cavalry squad.

One in Ten Executed
Gen. Santa Anna ordered one in each ten of the prisoners to be shot. On March 25 they were made to draw beans from a pitcher held by an officer. It contained 17 black beans and 159 white ones.

That night the unlucky 17 were shot as they sat on a log.

The rest of the band with the exception of Capt. Ewing Cameron, who was shot at a later date, were taken to Mexico City and kept at hard labor for years. Eventually all were given their liberty.

Later, during the war with Mexico, Texas members of Gen. Zach Taylor's army got an order on the alcalde of Hacienda Salado to surrender the remains of the 17 Texans who were shot there.

They were brought to La Grange, center of the district from which most of the Texans had come. A few years later the remains of the 33 killed at Salado Creek also were returned here.

GERMANY DENIES DESIRE TO GRAB MORE TERRITORY

BERNEVA, Switzerland, Sept. 26.—(UP)—Nothing is further from Germany's thoughts than to seek territorial expansion by force, Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels declared today at an interview.

Dr. Goebbels also asserted it was ridiculous to accuse the Nazis of exalting "cheap revenge" in their campaign against the Jews.

Regarding national security, he said that any German government, whatever its composition might be, would have to demand security for the interests of the world as well as for the interests of Germany.

Touching on the outstanding problems of the new Germany's relations with the world, Dr. Goebbels pictured his homeland as a peace-loving nation bent on reconstruction and striving as a barrier protecting the world against the expansion of bolshevism.

He said he felt that mention must be made of the reproach that the new Germany is pursuing a policy of intellectual expansion merely as preparation for an ultimate policy of expansion by force.

"We have by no means any intention," he said, "of converting national socialism into an article for world export. * * * We have neither the time nor any reason to assume a more or less mystical world mission beyond our frontier."

DRUM CORPS RAISES FAIR JOURNEY FUND

SALEM, Sept. 29.—(AP)—The emergency drive for funds was successful and the Salem drum corps will represent Oregon at the American Legion national convention in Chicago and defend its title as national champion. Commander Allen Carson of Capital post announced yesterday.

The corps will leave from Portland tonight. Only \$250 remained to be collected this afternoon, Carson said.

QUAKERS ASSURED OF FOOD DURING MEETING

WEST BRANCH, Iowa, (UP)—Delegates to the annual state meeting of the Society of Friends here in October will be assured of home-cooked food.

Quaker women for the past month have canned more than 80 quarts of apple sauce for the meeting. Many bushels of vegetables are stored for the event.

PAIR OF ARMY SHOES RESOLED 13 TIMES

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. (UP)—A pair of shoes sold for \$5 in 1916 and worn almost continuously since then were repurchased by the original owner recently for \$2.

It was Victor Goebckl, a plumber, who bought the shoes so long ago. He wore them when he marched to war with other recruits and again when he marched in the Armistice day parade.

"I had them re-soled 13 times," he explained, and thought it would be unkind to wear out the 13th pair of soles. So I sold them."

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