

MEXICAN SNIPERS FIRE ON OUTPOSTS ABOUT MIDNIGHT

Machine Gun Rushed to Scene and Several Volleys Fired

GENERAL BELL THINKS MEXICANS WERE DRUMMED

General Murguia Expected to Clash With Gonzales' Followers

By Webb Miller.
(United Press staff correspondent.)
El Paso, Texas, Dec. 25.—More than 300 shots were fired across the Rio Grande river last night when Mexican snipers fired upon the outposts of the Third Kentucky National Guard, just above Juarez and El Paso. A machine gun company was rushed to border when the firing continued from the hills across the river and swept the cactus covered hills with 200 shots. Sniping then ceased. Officers here believe the firing was started by drunken Mexicans.

About midnight several scattered shots, followed by a volley, were fired at Company B of Henderson, Kentucky, under Sergeant Hancock. After a few shots had been fired from the opposite shore, the guardsmen opened fire. From the headquarters of the patrol, near the summit peak, Company L of Litchfield, Company D of Hopkinsville, and a machine gun company rushed to the aid of the patrol. Only desultory shots were coming from the Mexican side when reinforcements reached Company B. But a machine gun was set up and a few volleys fired.

Reports made to General Bell indicated that drunken Mexicans from Juarez were responsible for the sniping.

Despite efforts of federal agents on the border, little further information as to the capture of Torreon by Villa is available. From every source reports are reaching here confirming earlier reports that the bandit chief is in possession of Torreon, the most important railway center in northern Mexico, since Friday. In military circles here it is thought Villa's next move may be upon Saltillo.

Cavalrymen under command of General Jose Murguia, new commander at Juarez, patrolled the streets all day expecting a clash with followers of General Gonzales, deposed Carranista leader. One officer of Gonzales' staff placed under arrest by the new command made a break for liberty and was fired upon but escaped unhurt.

Refugees Arrive

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 25.—Twenty-eight foreign refugees from Torreon have arrived in San Luis Potosi, according to a dispatch received by Philip C. Hanna, United States consul general of Monterey, now stationed in San Antonio. The message was sent by British Vice Consul O'Han, who said when the refugees left Torreon December 19 they had within 15 miles of that city.

The refugees included: W. E. Thomas, Garin, Ivan, G. Squire, J. J. Martin, H. E. Mazbach, Dr. Carr, Dr. King, J. Roquet, L. McEwen and wife, Willis Lee and wife, W. C. Enders, E. L. White, Sam Graham, P. L. Schulz, J. A. Porter and wife, H. N. Boren, G. H. Ford, E. A. Ross, J. Richards, R. Hill, M. Dwyer, H. C. Alvarez and wife and J. M. Woodworth and wife.

Several fugitives remained in the city.

Abe Martin



At a surprise breakfast for Tifford Moots, this morning twelve plates were laid but no eggs. Who ever thought he'd live to see the day, when cigarette cases were among the Christmas suggestions for mother!

NOT CHRISTMAS IN RUSSIA

The Russian calendar doesn't bring yuletide until January 7, our reckoning. That may account for this battle news today.

Russian attacks on Austro-Hungarian forces near Stanislaw.

Outpost assaults by Russian detachments on the German-Austro-Hungarian-Turkish-Bulgarian troops near Cimbroslava.

Two attacks by the czar's forces north of Somoecoe, in the Oltos valley.

OME LITTLE STORIES ABOUT CHRISTMAS THE COUNTRY OVER

Woman 106 Cooks Dinner for Her 26 Grand and Great Grand Children

Boston, Mass.—The spirit of Christmas, ably backed up by the spirits of alcohol, jammed the Boston jails today. As an echo of "Billy" Sunday, railroads refused to transport bibulous celebrators and 542 were jailed.

New York.—"Cheese it, the cop," the familiar cry of the street children, changed today. Coppers played Santa Claus to thousands of New York kiddies.

New York.—Mrs. Alice Bennett, 106 years old, was frantically busy cooking a Christmas dinner and making it a Merry Christmas for her twenty six children, grand children and great grand children. She dined a minuet last night.

Ossining, N. Y.—Was it Christmas at Sing Sing? Rather. Every prisoner had a whole pie for dinner. There were 1600 pies and other things.

Bayonne, N. J.—Santa Claus brought Frank Barella, a revolver and while he investigated the working of the gift it went off and mortally wounded him.

Chicago.—Thousands paused today listening to the chimes in Grace Episcopal church in Chicago's downtown district. But the sound was not welcome at St. Luke's hospital nearby. "It disturbs the patients," doctors congratulated.

Chicago.—Even robbers have the Christmas spirit. "Leave me carfare, I'm on a sick call," pleaded Dr. Benjamin Augustus when held up early today. "Sure," and the robber handed back fifty cents.

Chicago.—Jim and Bill Hill, brothers, have passed each other daily for nine years without speaking. Today they will sit down to a Christmas dinner together. They are porters on trains running opposite directions and are talking today off to be together.

Washington.—Even the horses had Christmas cheer today. Two big trees and plenty of nosebags were ready for them at the horse show grounds.

Chicago.—Dr. Ben L. Reisman, socialist, is playing Santa today, distributing birth control circulars through tenements.

GET LEARNED QUICK DIPLOMAS MADE EASY

Gang Sells Fake Certificates to Members of All Professions

Chicago, Dec. 25.—The "get-learned-quick" business is thriving in the United States and a federal bureau for the certification of college degrees will be in order if the charges aired today that an international scale, are sustained.

After a conference of state and federal officials here last week, District Attorney Charles Clyne has worked out a plan by which the fakers who prey on the weakness of professional men for high university degrees indicating scholarship and learning will be brought to justice.

Evidence accumulated for six months probably will be laid before a federal grand jury here next week.

Fake law, theological, scientific, medical, musical and dental diplomas are sold by the ring. These diplomas are framed and hung in offices and studios to win prestige. On payment of large sums a professional man can get him a "degree" from foreign institutions, according to officials here.

District Attorney Clyne is said to have a confession from a member of the ring which furnishes fake diplomas to the ambitious.

OFFICIALS THINK WAR WILL END DURING THE YEAR

Switzerland Indorses President's Action and Will Work For Peace

FLOOD OF CABLEGRAMS SHOW WORLD'S FEELING

Holland, Norway, Sweden and Others Solidly Behind Peace Move

By Robert J. Bender
(United Press staff cor.)
Washington, Dec. 25.—A flood of cablegrams from organizations and individuals in Holland, Norway and Sweden to the white house today reported a tremendously growing sentiment in those countries behind President Wilson's peace note, and indicated strong movements are afoot to have these nations endorse the note formally as did Switzerland.

Washington, Dec. 25.—War on earth with all its bitterness will turn to peace and good will before another Christmas, government heads believed today. Their hope for and belief in such an outcome with the new year was strengthened by Switzerland's note, approving President Wilson's peace move and offering the mountain republic's bit toward halting the world struggle and seeing that peace is permanent.

Top of this encouraging news came word that other neutrals may take a similar course, while it is known that all, privately at least, are behind the note.

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CRIPPLED BUT CHEERFUL

New York, Dec. 25.—Ten little boys and girls made cripples by infantile paralysis since last Christmas, found lots of good things in their stockings today in the Dr. Lucy Wight temporary hospital for paralysis victims.

Last night they hung up the stockings they hadn't ever seen for months and this morning they lay, some of them with boards strapped to their backs, others with their legs in splints, and looked at all the wonderful things Santa Claus left for them at midnight.

SANTA CLAUS DID NOT FORGET SALEM AND THE KIDDIES

Great Christmas Tree in Court House Yard Bears Great Crop

1,000 BAGS OF CANDY AND AS MANY APPLES

Many Families Have Day Brightened with Much Good Cheer

One thousand bags of candy and nuts and 1,000 apples were given away Sunday evening at the annual festivities of the Cherrians around the Christmas tree in the court house yard and thousands of citizens heard the singing of the school children and the address of Santa Claus.

The weather was fine for the outdoor Christmas exercises and the children seemed to partake of the joyous Christmas spirit.

The exercises began at 5 o'clock with a word of greeting from the Rev. James Elvin, who happened to be dressed in the correct Santa Claus costume. The singing of the Christmas carols was by the children of the primary grades under the direction of Miss Jessie Miller and songs by the high school chorus directed by Miss Minetta Magers. The quartette choice of William McElchist sang an appropriate selection and solos were sung by Mrs. Hallie Parrish Hings. Fully 600 children were on hand to not only take part in the singing, but to line up and be presented with the Christmas remembrance of candy and fruits.

Not only were the children remembered, but 32 families, many of them in need, were on the list of the Cherrians and to each family, toys, candy and food, as well as clothing were taken.

The success of the Christmas tree ex-

STORM WENT NORTH AND FOOLED PROPHETS

Forecasters Aggrieved Because Promised Snow Storm Failed

Washington, Dec. 25.—With a Christmas sun smiling over most of the east and much of the midwest, Uncle Sam's weathermen today are torn between joy and good weather embarrassment over a storm—and incidentally a weather forecast—that went off the track.

Early reports promised an old-fashioned white Christmas of snow and sleet over the country except in the south and the Pacific region. But the lineup today was generally fair for the north and east, with a little snow in the north but generally good weather except in New England; generally cloudy in the middle west, with a little snow in the lake region; and storm generally, with rain and snow west of the Mississippi.

But it wasn't the weather bureau's fault that the storm promised went astray. Saturday it was humming east, giving hope, if one looks at it that way, of a fine, snowy day. But the storm, somewhere east of the Mississippi met a conflicting air current or something, turned north and left the east and the weather men flat.

Ivan G. Martin is visiting in Portland.

PEACE ON EARTH NOT THE MESSAGE ON BATTLE FRONTS

Each Side Striving to Fill Stockings of Other With the Dead

SNOW IS EVERYWHERE BUT FIGHTING GOES ON

Von Mackensen Takes Charge of New Drive in Dobrudja Section

London, Dec. 25.—Not even Christmas cheer stopped war's maiming today. Reports from every front disclosed slight letup in the business of killing. London itself celebrated, but with a cheer, tinged with sorrow for loved ones lost and a re-consecration for the future. London's main manifestation of the Christmas spirit was furnished in the elaborate arrangements made to give forlorned Tommies a real taste of cheer and home comforts. There were thousands of hunk clad warriors who came over from France to spend a holiday at home—or, if not at home, in friendly hands.

Snow made real Christmas surroundings on nearly every front. It traced a covering of the trenches in the Vosges, on the western front; it interposed a natural obstacle to unlimited fighting on the east. High up in the Carpathians the Russians and Germans were locked, and south, in the dazzling whiteness of the peaks of the Alps, the Italians and Australians still fought each other from trenches dixily planted on height and in valleys. In Macedonia both sides were "snowed in."

Dispatches from Rumania and Dobrudja did not detail the weather, but indicated perhaps the most vigorous of all warfare of the day in progress. Field Marshal Von Mackensen has switched from his drive of the Teutonic troops north from Bucharest, to take charge of a new and violent offensive directed against the Russians in Dobrudja.

Here in London, nearly all of Britain's officials stuck closely at their desks planning ahead. Christmas usually found all officials holiday vacationing in the past, but it was symbolic of the new order, installed by Premier Lloyd-George, that personal comfort this year came second to the nation's needs and the officials, for the most part, were right on the job. Premier Lloyd-George himself set an example in this regard, foregoing all plans of his family to spend a Christmas at his home in Wales. He also expects to accomplish some work at his office today. So do most of the other cabinet officers.

BREAKS MAIL RECORDS

San Francisco, Dec. 25.—All San Francisco records for handling mail have been shattered during the past few days by the local postoffice force as the result of the tremendous rush of Christmas mail. The largest day so far was Friday when 65,000 packages and 3,280,000 letters passed through the local postoffice.

All mail trains from the east are from six to 24 hours late.

KING BING LERCHEN HAS DINNER FOR 46 AT MARION HOTTEL

After the Dinner Presents for Each Made Day Memorable

Forty-six young eyes bulged with astonishment and forty-six hearts throbbled with gladness Sunday noon when "King Bing" Lerdchen ushered 46 boys and girls between the ages of seven and 14 years into the resplendent dining room of the Marion hotel and sat them down before a table on which were snowy linen, sparkling cut glass, and a delicious brown turkey.

It was like a trip into fairyland for the youngsters who were given this treat because of the kindness of the "King." And in their eyes "Bill" Lerdchen was a really and truly King. And their eyes danced with keen anticipation at the unusual feast.

The Christmas cheer struck deep into their hearts and they thoroughly enjoyed everything set before them. "Gee," whispered one youngster to another, "ain't this grand?" And the other replied, "You betcha."

One little fellow was standing apart from the rest and King Lerdchen walked over to him and asked what he was doing there, and he bravely replied: "I'm looking for the King, and I'm looking to stay here till I see him." Bill laughed and told him he was the king and the little lad was glad.

Too Darned High.

A big glass of cream was served the youngsters and they appreciated the delicious richness to the last drop. One little fellow was asked if he got any cream at home and he replied: "Nope, it's so darn high we haven't had any for 10 years."

Just like the banquets of the big folks and the Cherrians, there was music all through dinner. There was a pianist from Bilgh's theatre and a solo player also from Bilgh's. Bruce McDaniel, who has been teaching school up in Washington, and who has just returned, also presided at the piano. Holly and mistletoe and big red Christmas bells were the decorations.

And the menu—how they did enjoy it. There was the big, juicy turkey with plenty of gravy and dressing, mashed potatoes, the bright red cranberry sauce, celery, olives, mince pie, and bread and butter, and the big glass of cream.

Came From Portland to See It.

After the dinner was over and every little stomach was crammed full of all the good things it could hold, and longing eyes looked over the bill, the presents were made to hold more, the presents were distributed. Every one there got a present—something that made his heart rejoice. For the boys there were baseballs, marbles, tops, neckties, etc., and for the girls beads, dolls, ribbons, etc. And best of all, the thing that took their eyes and held them fascinated was a big, brand new, glittering DIME. Candy and nuts topped off the dinner nicely.

So unique was this celebration of the Christmas spirit that a traveling man from New York, who heard of the event, came up from Portland yesterday to be present and watch the kiddies enjoy themselves.

Among those who were present at this event, aside from the children, were Grace Taylor, Salem school nurse; Ivan G. McDaniel, secretary of the Salem Social Service Center; Mrs. William Everett Anderson, who assembled the kiddies; Mrs. C. L. Dick, Mrs. Milton Myers and Mrs. Harry Olinger, who assisted.

Family Reunion Has Terrible Ending

Atlantic, Iowa, Dec. 25.—Three persons were killed, three probably fatally injured and every other one of the sixteen gathered for a Christmas family reunion was badly hurt when an acetylene gas plant at the home of John Faaboz, wealthy farmer near here, exploded Sunday. For two hours neighbors worked to rescue the victims from the wreckage. Eight physicians set 18 compound fractures among the injured and performed a number of serious operations.

CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES OF WAR TORN EUROPE



FRITZ'S CHRISTMAS TREE AND TOMMY WITH HIS TURKEY

Photo by American Press Association.

Christmas is the time for "heimweh" (homesickness) among men of the German army, parted by the war from their families and compelled to spend the holiday season in the trench. Officers, solicitous for the welfare of their men, know the extra strain to which the soldiers are subjected at this time and do their utmost to relieve it by making special efforts to forward letters and packets from home and by aiding in getting up Christmas parties like the one shown in the upper picture. The Christmas tree, as is natural, since Germany is its original home, plays a prominent part in the German soldier's Christmas festivities. The lower picture shows two British "Tommy's" with their Christmas turkey sent from home to the Saloniki front.

THE WEATHER

HOPE THIS WEATHER KEEPS UP

Make your own weather today; the weather man is playing with his toys.

AN ARTILLERY DUEL

Berlin, Dec. 25.—A temporary strong artillery duel in the Wyszaco sector was the only fighting that reached more than ordinary, customary intensity on the western front last night according to today's official statement.

GERMANS MAKE GAINS

Berlin, via Bayville wireless, Dec. 25.—Repulse of Russian attacks in the Carpathians and forcing back of the czar's troops in Dobrudja, was reported in today's official statement.

Austro-Hungarian outposts repulsed several Russian attacks near Lysieck.

(Continued on page six.)