

# SHOT AND SHELL

## The Fall of Ojinaga in 1914

Orozco was a driver of a pack train for Francisco Madero. When Madero started his revolution against the Diaz regime, Orozco gained his first publicity. He distinguished himself as a daring guerilla war-fare leader. He aided materially in the success of the revolution and was rewarded with the rank of General and \$25,000. However, he felt he had earned a post in Mexico City and \$50,000 for his patriotic labors. In February, 1912, Orozco deserted the Madero Government, taking his army of 6,000 together with munitions and arms, into treason with him. It is said that the Terrazas family of Chihuahua, against whom Orozco had fought so bitterly while he was with Madero, financed him in his individual revolution against Madero.

General Luis Terrazas was born in Chihuahua City July 22, 1829. He received his commission in the old Mexican Army from Benito Juárez. He pacified the Kickapoo and other Indian tribes who were troublesome along the Rio Grande. As commander of the Mexican Federal forces, he effected the annihilation of the Victorio band of Apaches in the Northern part of Chihuahua in the early eighties.

One time the largest owner of cattle in Mexico, Don Luis could not count his possession in livestock. The story is told that an American firm once wired him for prices on five thousand yearlings and he wired back, "What color?" His land holdings included at one time twelve million acres. Terrazas was absolute ruler of the State of Chihuahua until the Madero Revolution.

On March 24, 1912, Orozco defeated the Federal army in a decisive battle at Rellano, a point on the railroad between Torreon and Jimenez. General Huerta told Madero he could whip Orozco, and his promise was so convincing that Madero equipped him to lead the campaign against the rebellion in the north.

From the first Huerta proved to be Orozco's superior, for the Insurrecto was a good guerilla war-fare leader, but an abject failure when it came to leading his men in open battle. On May 20th Huerta forced Orozco to battle at Rellano, and after three days battle, covering six miles, the Orozco army was whipped into head long flight, abandoning arms, munitions and supplies. As the bandit army retreated, they tore up every inch of the rail to Bachimba, forty miles south of Chihuahua. Orozco left his army at this point and went on to Chihuahua.

Several thousand of Orozco's fighting men

had been killed or wounded, but as Huerta had one hundred and forty two miles of railroad to build between Rellano and Bachimba, Orozco felt confident that he would have ample time to recruit and reorganize his army. Huerta did not arrive at Bachimba for the decisive encounter. His army consisted of sixty-five hundred men against eighty-five hundred of Orozco's men, fully equipped with arms sent in from El Paso.

July 3rd Huerta again defeated the Orozco forces and Orozco deserted his broken, bleeding army and sought safety in the United States. Orozco could always change his patriotic feeling to suit the occasion. He was active in December 1912, and by the time Madero was executed in 1913, he was an ardent supporter of Huerta.

In the early part of November 1913, Villa threatened Chihuahua City, and Orozco was in the city with the Huerta forces. Villa was reported to be short of arms and ammunition, but to be bountifully supplied with money. An American came to the border with the information regarding the money, stating: "Villa has a car load of money with him on his advance toward Chihuahua. The car of coin amounts to more than 1,500,000 pesos, mostly in silver coin." The American was told that Villa was planning to send the money across the border at Ojinaga.

Many Americans and prominent Mexican families left, or attempted to leave Chihuahua on the approach of Villa's forces. An ineffectual attempt to get out of Chihuahua City was made by General Luis Terrazas, Sr., Chihuahua multi-millionaire, according to Mexicans who arrived in Juarez, Tuesday, November 4, 1914, on a freight train from the capitol. On November 3rd, it is said, a special train bearing the entire Terrazas family left the capitol for Juarez. When the Terrazas train reached Montazuma, one hundred and twelve miles south of Juarez, it was halted by a Federal Officer commanding a detachment of one hundred men stationed there. This officer asked the General to alight and presented him a telegram from General Pascual Orozco, who commanded the immediate return of the Terrazas party to Chihuahua. Although he carried a passport from General Salvador Mercado, high ranking officer, giving him permission to come to the border, Terrazas was forced to return to Chihuahua City.

1913 was a distressing year for poor, wanton, bleeding Mexico, and the strife caused a great disturbance along the United States-Mexican border. After harassing Chihuahua