

for many days, Villa ceased hostilities and an uncanny calm prevailed.

CALM IS BROKEN

Shortly after 2 o' clock p. m., on Saturday, November 15, 1913, a freight train rolled into the yards over the Mexican Central Railroad at Juarez and from it poured hundreds of Rebels.

That the surprise was complete was proved by the fact that not a shot was fired until the Rebels had penetrated into the very heart of the city.

Three thousand men were aboard the train. Commanding them were Generals Villa, Herrera and C. Ortega. One division of a thousand men was led by Villa in person.

Briefly, the result of the Juarez Coup gave the Rebels one hundred and twenty-five prisoners, 95,000 rounds of ammunition, two field pieces, and two machine guns, all in addition to an important border port of entry.

Not knowing the whereabouts of Villa, nor anything regarding his plans, Americans continued leaving Chihuahua City, crossing the border at Ojinaga.

According to the report of an American reaching the border several days after the fall of Juarez, the citizens were still unenlightened as to Villa's whereabouts.

Up to late hour Saturday p. m., November 18, 1913, Chihuahua City had not learned of the fall of Juarez, according to W. Burns, who left the capitol by automobile Saturday night and made his way to Ojinaga. From which place he went to El Paso.

Telegraph wires between Juarez and Chihuahua were cut, and, since radios had not made their appearance, there was no way for the inhabitants of Chihuahua to get the news, as wires south of Chihuahua were out too.

Villa said: "The reason I took Juarez was because the five days of fighting at Chihuahua had depleted my supply of ammunition, and I wanted to replenish it. It is needless to say I got all I came for." On November 28th Villa stated, "Within two weeks, if all goes well, my men will be eating their meals in Chihuahua and the last trace of Huerta will have disappeared."

On November 29th Rebel army movements against Chihuahua started in earnest at three o'clock in the morning, this being two weeks to the hour and day from the time Villa started his battle to take Juarez. Entraining of cavalry for the movement south was in progress, superintended by the Rebel leader



1 2 3 4
(1) LIEUT. NORTON OF 14TH CAVALRY. (2) GENERAL MERCADO.
(3) COLONEL LANDA. (4) GENERAL CASTRO

himself. Shortly before dawn one train carrying eight hundred men, under orders of General Maclovio Herrera, steamed slowly south. A second troop train, bearing fourteen machine guns and more cavalry, departed at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, and was followed two hours later by a third train load of cavalry. A fourth train left Saturday afternoon, completing the troop movement.

Five million pesos, or more than two million gold, the property of General Luis Terrazas, Chihuahua multi-millionaire, was being carried overland from the city of Chihuahua to the American border, across from Ojinaga. Don Luis was reputed to have left behind 600,000 pesos secreted in a hollow pillar of the bank of which he had been the directing head for many years.

The Federal army of 1,500 men under General Salvador Mercado evacuated the state capitol on Sunday morning and struck out for the border village of Ojinaga, according to word that came to General Villa.

News of the evacuation and flight of the Huerta troops reached General Villa in the form of a telegram from General Maclovio Herrera at Villa-Ahumada, on the Mexican Central R. R., eighty-three miles south of Juarez.

Herrera's telegram read: "I have the honor to report that the enemy has evacuated the state capitol and is retreating along the roads that leads to Ojinaga. The evacuation took place Sunday a. m. I am informed that the strength of the enemy is 1,500 men."

Villa ordered Herrera with his army of thirty-five hundred men to occupy Chihuahua. "Will you send a force out to intercept the Federals?" was the question asked Villa.

Villa replied, "I do not think it wise to disclose my military plans, but can say that the Huertistas will probably not reach the border without a fight."

Accompanying the Federal column were fifty or sixty Chihuahua families of the up-