

GUARDIA NEWS LETTER NO. 28 (December 23-1930--Jan. 3, 1931).

The Guardia engaged in eleven (11) contacts with bandits during the month of December as follows:

Central Area----- 5
Northern Area----- 5
Dept. Chontales--- 1

The Guardia captured 10 horses and mules, 3 pistols, 8 cutachas, 2 rifles, 30 rounds ammunition, 1 bomb and various quantities of food, clothing, etc. During the month of December, 1930, the Guardia patrols killed 13 bandits, wounded 7 and captured 1. The Guardia had one killed and one wounded.

23 December 1930

Jinotega (C.) Guardia cleared for halfway to Matagalpa. Returned with two prisoners.

Colonel Smith, Major Miller, Captain Fricke and Jinotega (C.) Guardia cleared with General McDougal, Major Hunt and Major Salzman for aviation field. General McDougal and Major Salzman cleared by plane for Managua. Major Hunt cleared by plane for Ocotal. Colonel Smith, Major Miller, Captain Fricke and Guardia returned to Jinotega.

Licut. Ashbrook and Guardia patrol arrived in Jinotega (C.) from Corinto Finca.

Captain Stafford, Licut. Sims and Guardia cleared Esquipulas (C.) for San Dionisio and arrived. Cleared there for Matagalpa.

Matagalpa (C.) Guardia patrol cleared for Garita, San Francisco and vicinity on visiting patrol. Returned to Matagalpa.

Matagalpa (C.) Guardia cleared for La Cuosta, Hamoria and vicinity. Returned.

Matagalpa (C.) Guardia patrol cleared for Jucuapa, Arriba Apanto, Jucuapa Medio and Jucuapa Abajo. Returned.

Licut. Chenowith and Navarro (C.) Guardia cleared for and arrived in Matagalpa.

Matagalpa (C.) Guardia, on patrol with Inspector of Hacienda, returned from San Dionisio and Los Limones.

24 December 1930

Captain Schwerin and Corinto Finca (C.) patrol arrived in Jinotega.

Captain Maynard and San Rafael (C.) Guardia returned from combat patrol of Los Oronos, Santa Fe and Yali Mountain. No contact with bandits and no information.

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25 December 1930

Lieut. Manning and La Concordia (CA) Guardia cleared for route towards Yali and returned to La Concordia.

San Rafael (CA) Guardia patrol cleared for vicinity of Suni to apprehend a criminal.

Captain Healey and Yali (CA) Guardia cleared for direction of La Concordia. Returned to Yali.

26 December 1930

Esteli (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for La Trinidad and arrived.

Lieut. Gomez and Jicaro (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for and arrived in Apali.

Pueblo Nuevo (NA) Guardia under Captain Bales cleared for Condega and arrived. Cleared Condega and returned to Pueblo Nuevo.

Lieut. Satterfield and Guardia returned to San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) from patrol. No bandit activities.

Dipilto (NA) Guardia cleared for and arrived in Ocotal for temporary duty with combined patrol.

Major Croka, Lieut. Smith, Lieut. Fox and Esteli (NA) Guardia combat patrol cleared on mission assigned in combined Northern and Central Afea Guardia offensive movement.

El Tempisque (WA) Guardia returned from Chinandega, duty there completed.

El Viejo (WA) Guardia patrol cleared for El Tempisque. Returned Dec. 27th.

Lieut. Hall and Jinotega (CA) Guardia cleared for halfway patrol to San Rafael. Returned with Lieut. Lill.

Captain Healey, Lieut. Rittman and Yali (CA) Guardia cleared on combat patrol.

27 December 1930

Combined patrol of Ocotal (NA) and Dipilto Guardia under Captain Forsyth cleared for Chipote area on combat mission assigned.

Lieut. Clark and Condega (NA) Guardia, with six civicos, cleared for vicinity of La Virgen on combat mission assigned.

Captain Bales and Pueblo Nuevo (NA) Guardia, with one civico, cleared for Palacaguina. Patrol arrived and, after reinforcement by Palacaguina Guardia, cleared for La Virgen area on combat mission assigned.

Lieut. Cobb and La Trinidad Guardia, with five civicos, cleared for La Virgen area on combat mission assigned.

28 December 1930
(Continued)

Captain Sims, Lieut. Ross and Quilali (NL) Guardia patrol, with four civicos, cleared to carry out combat mission assigned in offensive operations.

Matagalpa (CA) Guardia detachment cleared for Muy Muy to reinforce that post.

Lieut. Chenoweth and Navarro (CA) Guardia cleared Matagalpa for Navarro.

Captain McAfee and Guardia cleared Dario (CA) for Terrabona. arrived and returned to Dario.

Lieut. Pulver and Guardia cleared Matagalpa (CA) for San Isidro and arrived.

Lieut. Stephenson and Chichigapa (WA) Guardia returned from San Antonio.

Chinandega (WA) Guardia patrol returned from El Realejo.

Lieut. Schuler and Chinandega (WA) Guardia patrol made patrol of surrounding country and returned.

Lieut. Gale and Jinotega (CA) Guardia returned from combat patrol. Patrolled through Las Lomas, San Marcos, Santa Barbara, Mesita and Montana. No contact--no information.

Lieut. Ashbrook and Jinotega (CA) Guardia returned from patrol through Horno, Tanque, Naranjo, Jocomico, Yaulica and Santa Barbara. No information.

Lieut. Kerns and Matagalpa (CA) Guardia cleared for Muy Muy on combat patrol.

Information being received of bandit groups operating, another Matagalpa (CA) Guardia patrol cleared to gain contact.

Lieut. Smith, Lieut. Fox and Esteli (NL) Guardia patrol had contact with a bandit group at El Salto, about 6 miles northwest of La Concordia. No Guardia casualties. No known bandit casualties. Bandits fled southwest. Guardia maintained pursuit for about one mile when trail was lost.

29 December 1930

A patrol from Jinotega composed of Guardias and Vigilantes under Lieut. Stuart had contact with a group of 35 bandits under Jefe Sequeira near Sisle. Contact lasted 9 minutes. Our patrol had no casualties. Bandit casualties 2 dead and five wounded. One wounded bandit taken prisoner. Ricardo Moller, second jefe of this group, was killed. Captured 2 rifles, 30 rounds of ammunition, 1 bomb, 6 cutachas, clothing and food.

Guardia combat patrol with Lieut. Martin and Lieut. Casperonis cleared Managua for Esquipulas, Matagalpa, to gain contact with bandits operating there and to act on information received.

29 December 1930
(Continued)

Lieut. Levonski and Telpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for Jicaro and arrived. This patrol, enroute to Chipote area to carry out mission assigned in Guardia combat operations.

Lieut. Satterfield, Lieut. Broderick and San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for Chipote area. Assigned mission in Guardia combat operations.

Lieut. Belle and Pueblo Nuevo (NA) Guardia patrolled to Condega and arrived.

Captain Kelly and Jicaro (NA) Guardia, with four civilians, cleared for Chipote area on combat mission assigned in Guardia operations. Patrol arrived at Quilali.

Information being received that a group of bandits were in Los Ardes, three and one half miles northeast of Ocotal, a Marine patrol cleared from Ocotal to investigate.

Further information indicating that another group was operating in the Guje Area, three and one quarter miles southwest of Telpaneca, another Marine patrol cleared to operate there.

Leon (NA) Guardia cleared with Hacienda Inspector on contraband patrol. Returned to Leon, nothing to report.

Colonel Smith, Lieut. Hall and Jinotega (CA) Guardia cleared for aviation field. Met General McDougal, Colonel Sheard and Lieut. Prieb who arrived by plane from Managua and all returned to Jinotega.

Lieut. Stuart and Jinotega (CA) patrol composed of Guardia and auxiliars cleared on combat mission.

Lieut. Kerns, Lieut. Thompson and Guardia patrol cleared Muy Muy (CA) on combat mission.

Lieut. Navarrette and Guardia cleared Matagalpa (CA) on combat patrol.

Captain Schwerin and Corinto Finesa (CA) Guardia patrol cleared Jinotega for home station.

Captain Herley and Yali (CA) Guardia arrived Corinto Finesa. This patrol reinforced by Lieut. Withers and Corinto Finesa Guardia proceeded to Jesus Maria and La Trampa to investigate report of bandit activities. Patrolled vicinity but obtained no information.

30 December 1930

Lieut. Balance, USMC, and Marine patrol arrived in Telpaneca (NA) from Ocotal. Cleared for Guje area via Jacote on combat mission.

Captain Forsyth and Ocotal (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Jicaro on combat mission assigned in Chipote area.

30 December 1930
(Continued)

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Captain Kelly and Jicaro (NA) Guardia patrol with 4 militars (civicos) cleared for area assigned in Guardia combat operations.

Captain Elmore and Jalapa (NA) Guardia patrol arrived from Murra with one sick man. Left sick man and cleared Jicaro on combat mission assigned in Guardia operations. Reported country enroute to Murra uninhabited and trails untraveled.

Lieut. McGorkle and Somoto (NA) Guardia returned from patrol of surrounding country.

Chinandega (WA) Guardia cleared for patrol to Puente Real. Patrol returned.

La Paz Centro (WA) Guardia reported to Leon with 2 civil prisoners, returned to La Paz Centro after having delivered them.

Telica (WA) Guardia patrolled to Leon and returned.

Captain Puller, Lieut. Lee and Central Area roving patrol cleared on combat mission.

Captain Fricke, Lieut. Gale and Jinotega (CA) Guardia patrol cleared on combat mission.

Lieut. Lynch and Guardia patrol cleared Jinotega for Matagalpa (CA) to reinforce garrison there.

Captain Healey, Lieut. Rittman and Yali (CA) Guardia reported to Jinotega from combat patrol.

Captain Maynard, Lieut. Lill and San Rafael (CA) Guardia cleared on combat patrol.

Lieut. Manning and La Concordia (CA) Guardia patrolled to San Rafael and returned.

Lieut. Kessler and Boaco (Chontales Department) Guardia combat patrol arrived Muy Muy from Boaco.

Lieut. Thompson, Lieut. Kessler and Guardia cleared Muy Muy for Chompipe on combat mission.

31 December 1930

Lieut. Pattison and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for Ocotal via Dipilto. Arrived in Dipilto.

Lieut. Livermore, two other Guardia officers, and Ocotal (NA) Guardia patrol cleared with one Marine officer and Marino patrol for vicinity of Achuapa, Segovia.

Lieut. Lovonski and Telpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Jicaro on combat mission assigned in Guardia offensive operation.

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1 January 1931
(Continued)

Bandit group under Ortoz attacked Guardia barracks at Telpanoeca (NA), firing several shots and bombs. Fire was returned by Guardia and civicos and the bandits driven off in five minutes. The group departed in direction of Palacaguina trail. No Guardia casualties and no known bandit casualties.

Jicaro (NA) Guardia reports that two bandits were captured on outskirts of Jicaro on night of December 31. Valuable information was obtained and sent to Ocotal by plane.

Captain Russell, USMC, and Marine patrol from Ocotal (NA) arrived in Telpanoeca via San Fernando. Cleared for Palacaguina making thorough search enroute, but could not locate any bandit groups. Signalled nothing to report to planes flying over Palacaguina.

A combined Marine and Guardia patrol with Captain Good, G.N., in command and with Lieut. Pattison, G.N., and Lieut. Buechlein, G.N., cleared aviation field, Ocotal, to investigate bandit activities in the vicinity of El Bosque. Patrol returned. Nothing to report.

Quezalguaque (WA) Guardia patrol cleared for Las Cuatro Esquinas to ~~Tellica~~ Tellica; patrol and combing that area in search of criminals. Mot patrol, finished mission and returned to home station. Nothing to report.

Tellica (WA) patrol, after working with patrol from Quezalguaque returned to Tellica.

Boaco (Ghontales Department) patrol under Lieut, Kessler cleared Esquipulas for San Jose and Boaco. Patrolled to Tierra Azul and Muy Muy. Reports no contact.

Lieut. Pulver and Matagalpa (CA) Guardia patrol had contact with a group of bandits estimated at 150 at Cacao, 3 miles northwest of Chaguitillo at 1 p.m. Bandits entrenched behind stone walls. Fight lasted one hour when the patrol was joined by Lieut. Kerns and his patrol and drove the bandits from their positions. Two bandits killed. One rifle, one pistol and several rounds of ammunition captured by the Guardia. No Guardia casualties. Lieut. Kern's patrol was joined by Lieut. Navarette and his Guardia patrol after the contact and this combined patrol continued in pursuit to the northwest.

Captain Russell, USMC, and Marine patrol from Ocotal (NA) had contact between Totagalpa and Ocotal with a group of 200. Marine casualties two wounded. Bandit casualties thought to be very heavy. Contact was had late at night and no check of bandit casualties could be taken. Patrol returned to Ocotal at 2 a.m., (Jan. 3) with wounded. Marines cleared another patrol to search scene of contact at daylight.

Bandits made a demonstration on the east side of Ocotal (NA) at 11 p.m. Fired machine guns into town and set off dynamite bombs. Patrol cleared in pursuit.

2 January 1931
(Continued)

Lieut. McGorkle and Somoto (N.L.) Guardia cleared for Totogalpa. Returned with Lieut. Fitzworth.

Captain Russell, USMC, and Marine patrol from Ocotal (N.L.) cleared for Limon and Cusmaje. Arrived those places and cleared for Palaeaguina.

Gunnery Sgt. Stutz and Marine patrol from Apali (N.L.) cleared for San Juan de Tolpameca.

Guardia from Palaeaguina (N.L.) having been fired on near Dacuclito, a patrol cleared for that place.

Esteli (N.L.) Guardia returned from patrol to the north and west.

Lieut. Hutchcroft and Guardia returned to Somotillo (N.L.) from San Francisco.

Lieut. Bell and Limay (N.L.) Guardia returned after patrolling coffee fincas along the Honduran border.

Guardia returned to Esteli (N.L.) from patrol to Santa Cruz.

Lieut. McDonald and Esteli (N.L.) Guardia cleared for La Trinidad to reinforce that station and to work out of that place on firmation received.

3 January 1931

Lieut. Pennington and Matagalpa (C.L.) Guardia had contact with a small group near Naranjo. No Guardia casualties. Bandit casualties unknown. This patrol heard firing to the west of Naranjo where another Guardia patrol was operating.

NAVARRO (CENTRAL AREA) NOTES

22 December 1930

Guardia detachment cleared, patrolled to El Roblar, Colombia and returned.

Guardia cleared on Police mission to Elapo. Returned with one prisoner and contraband.

23 December 1930

Detachment patrolled to Salvador and returned.

24 December 1930

Captain Bourne and Guardia patrol cleared for Tuma and Agua Amarillo and returned to Navarro.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Major General D.C. McDougal, Jefe Director, and Colonel W.G. Sheard, cleared Managua by plane for Jinotega Dec. 29th.

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PERSONNEL NOTES
CONTINUEE

Lieut. Hall arrived in Managua by plane on Dec. 29th from Jinotega. Returned to Jinotega by Guardia automobile.

Lieut. Anderson, Officer in Charge of Guardia Transportation, with company with Lieut. Hall, drove Guardia Ford to Jinotega on January 1st and turned over to the Area Commander, Central Area. Lieut. Anderson returned to Managua by plane Jan. 2nd.

Lieut. Flippe cleared Chinandega for Corinto. Returned to Chinandega.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following extract from "Report of Air Missions", Aircraft Squadrons, 2nd Brigade, Managua, Nicaragua, 27 December 1930 is quoted as of general interest:

"2. Two O2U-1 airplanes, Lieut. Shridor, pilot, with Corpl. Brown, observer, and Lieut. Henderson, pilot, with Corpl. Adkinson, observer, took off Managua and carried out a reconnaissance and liaison mission to the Tuma River and return.

"3. 0825 - MANAGUA: Took off.

1005 - MANAGUA: Landed airdrome. Returned because of ~~xxxx~~ bad weather.

1100 - MANAGUA: Took off. Patrolled areas Mr. Blandon, north toward Bena Blanca and La Pavona, south to Guasaca, south to Chavarric, north along the Tuma River, south to Guapotal, south of the Tuma River to Tuma. No bandits sighted. Conditions apparently normal.

1330 - MANAGUA: Landed airdrome."

Ricardo Moller D., a sub-jefe of Pedron Altamirano's group and No. 118 on Altamirano's roster of his troops, was killed in Lieut. Stuart's contact. F. Pedro Herrera, one of Altamirano's lieutenants and No. 98 on the roster, was wounded in the contact, captured and brought into Guardia Headquarters in Jinotega.

The following patrol report of Lieut. Joseph M. Broderick, G.N., is quoted as a matter of general interest:

"San Juan de Tolpaneca, 23 December 1930.

"From: Subtnte. Joseph M. Broderick, G.N. de Nicaragua.
"To: Area Commander, Guardia Nacional, Northern Area.
"Subject: Patrol report.
"Reference: Second Brigade Map, 14 October 1929.

"1. Received orders from Capt. Poffey, G.N., to clear with 26 man patrol to cover La Rica (240-353) and La Pavona (238-344) areas.

"2. My patrol was armed as follows: Two B.A.R., three TSMG, one Lewis MG, one rifle grenadier and twenty riflemen. Each riflemen carried one hundred sixty rounds and each B.A. riflemen had an assistant who carried six extra clips.

" 12 December.

1900 Cleared San Juan de Tolpaneca.

- " 13 December.
- 0100 Arrived at Esmeralda. (228-366) and camped.
 0600 Cleared Esmeralda.
 1530 Arrived at Chamaste (240-359).
- " 14 December.
- 6630 Cleared Chamaste.
 1100 Challenged by bandit sentry at 242-359. The point fired at him but he ran into the brush. Increased the point to twelve men and advanced on small hill as skirmishers, leaving the main body to cover our advance with the Lewis and B.L.R if we were fired on. On top of the hill found evidence of a small group who had fled to the south. We then found the bloody trail of man who had challenged us but could not overtake him. Found three rounds of Krag combat ammunition lying on a table. Searched vicinity for an hour but failed to gain contact.
- 1730 Arrived at Roca Abajo (240-352) which lies on bank of Rio Negro (also called Rio Las Vegas). Due to the fact that all houses had been destroyed we were forced to erect small shelters to protect ourselves from the rain.
- " 15 December.
- 0700 Cleared Roca Abajo.
 1130 Arrived at Roca Arriba (244-349.5). Trails were muddy and steep and badly overgrown.
 1600 Arrived at Monte Cristo (241-343) trails muddy.
 1650 Arrived at Las Vegas (241-340) and camped. Found no signs of recent bandit activities. Rained all day.
- " 16 December.
- 0700 Cleared Las Vegas. Investigated several recently used side trails but tracks gradually disappeared showing that the people who had used the trails had left them one by one and took to the brush.
- 1300 Arrived at San Antonio (240-339). Trails very muddy. Ruins of ranch house and two outbuildings of Luis Frenzel were still smoking. Proceeded to house of Gil Perez and found about hundred pounds of fresh meat, also signs that indicated house had been used by small group. Made camp and took out a twelve man patrol to reconnoiter. The family of Nicolas Jiron was just arriving from Yali where they have been living for past eight months. We searched a banana grove near Jiron's house and fired on man who escaped. Jiron told us that Gil Perez saw Blandon with twenty men burn Frenzel house on 14 December and that Perez had informed Yali on 15 December (upon arrival at Yali) found that Perez had not reported. It is recommended that Gil Perez be investigated). On 2 June 1929, when with Gen. Escarilla, we captured Toribio Davila in Perez house. Davila was member of Peralta group.
- " 17 December.
- 0630 Cleared San Antonio from 239.5-338. We went to 238-340.5, cutting new trail part of the way. From this place we observed Pavona (238-344) but could see nothing suspicious. We then cut a trail down the mountain side to Pavona. Arrived at Pavona. People told us that Pedro Blandon with

twenty men had passed Pavona headed toward San Antonio. The people of this place are bandit sympathizers and call the bandits "Los Muchachos". The lack of young men in this locality is noticeable. Made camp. Rained most of the day.

" 18 December.

0600 Cleared Pavona.
1630 Arrived at El Triunfo (237-340) via El Chilar, El Achote and La Esperanza. The people do not want the Guardia to camp in their houses, claiming the bandits have threatened to burn all houses used by the Guardia. Rained most of the day.

" 19 December.

0600 Cleared El Triunfo and passed northeast of Pavona to Las Vegas and from there passed east of San Antonio to Bañaderos (240-338).
1500 Arrived at Coyolar (238-338) and camped. Trails very muddy and overgrown. Rained all day.

" 20 December.

0700 Cleared Coyolar.
0930 Arrived at Yali (232-336).

" 21 December.

0830 Cleared Yali.
0930 At Laguna Escondida (227-343) captured Catarino, Francisco and Doroteo Alguira, known bandits and suspected murderers of Felix and Serapio Salgado, father and brother of Raso Salgado #3745, G.N.
1640 Arrived at Robledalito (222.5-349) and camped. Trails very good.

" 22 December.

0630 Cleared Robledalito.
1650 Arrived at Playa Hermosa (215-359) via San Geronimo and camped. Rained part of time. Trails good.

" 23 December.

People at Playa Hermosa informed me that bandits pass there regularly and that some of the people north of that place had helped ambush Capt. Pefloy at El Portal.

0700 Cleared Playa Hermosa. At 215-363 point sighted small group of macheteros and opened fire, killing Domingo Melgara and capturing Francisco Melgara. The dead man had a freshly healed wounded in left shoulder which the prisoner said had been received at the ambushing of Pefloy's patrol at El Portal. Prisoner also admitted that he was there and that they had been members of the Molecio Sanchez group that ambushed the Marines near El Portal a couple of years ago.

1430 Arrived at San Juan.

Articles captured by patrol:

3 rds. Krag combat ammunition, 1 machete, 1 cutacha, 1 dagger, 1 horse, 1 saddle, 1 bridle and 1 cow.

The following information received from Timoteo Moza, member of Peralta group captured by Yali Guardia and turned over to me as guide.

The jefe of the El Portal ambush was Leoncio (Nicho) Centeno who wrote a letter to Peralta saying his losses were one killed and five wounded and that rifle grenades are not as dangerous as they are supposed to be.

The Juez de Mesta of Santa Maria, named Moreno, is in pay of the bandits and furnishes information about Yali Guardia.

Fajardo, Guardia deserter, has been with bandits in Cerro Blando.

Teodoro Silos, deserter from San Juan, was refused permission to join bandits because his brother is a Guardia. He turned his rifle and one hundred rds. of ammunition over to the bandits in return for permission to live in El Silencio. It is reported that Silos has surrendered himself to the Guardia Nacional.

"3. The men were always cheerful and anxious to follow up bandit information, no matter what additional discomfort it meant.

"4. It is recommended that Cebo Bolaños, Hospital Corps, be commended for the care he took of the men's health and the skill he displayed in sewing up the wound in the leg of one of the men who fell into the Rio Coco and out his left leg to the bone.

(s) Joseph M. Broderick

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