

GUARDIA NEWS LETTER NO. 29 (January 2-8, 1931).2 January 1931

Lieut. Gutierrez and Corinto Finca (CA) Guardia patrol arrived in Jinotega.

Captain McJee and Guardia cleared Terrabona (CA) for Bonete on combat patrol. Returned.

Lieut. Pulver cleared San Isidro (CA) for Sebaco.

Lieut. Kerns and Guardia reported Terrabona (CA) from combat patrol. Cleared in pursuit of bandit group.

Lieut. Kessler and Guardia from Boaco (Dept. Chontales) cleared Muy Muy on combat patrol to Cumayca.

Lieut. Navarette and Guardia arrived Terrabona (CA) from Bonete and cleared in pursuit of bandits.

Guardia combat patrol with Lieut. Pennington and Lieut. Lynch arrived in Matagalpa (CA) after patrolling area Mina Verde-Chile-Susuli and Guadalupe.

A Navarro (CA) patrol cleared for Palo Blanco, reconnoitered and returned to Navarro.

Captain Fricke, Lieut. Gale and Jinotega (CA) Guardia patrol arrived in Navarro; cleared for Guapotal via Agua Amarillo.

Navarro (CA) Guardia patrol cleared for Santa Cecilia and Constancia. Returned to Navarro.

Major Miller, Lieut. Anderson and Jinotega (CA) Guardia cleared for aviation field. Lieut. Anderson cleared for Managua by plane. Major Miller and patrol returned to Jinotega.

Captain Healey, Lieut. Rittman, Lieut. Hall and Yali (CA) Guardia patrol cleared for San Rafael and arrived. Cleared San Rafael on combat patrol.

Lieut. Prieb, Lieut. Ashbrook and Jinotega (CA) Guardia cleared on combat mission.

Lieut. Manning and La Concordia (CA) Guardia patrol to San Rafael and return.

3 January 1931

Captain Leinhard, Lieut. Miller, Lieut. Curry, all USMC, and Marine patrols detached from Apali (NA) and cleared for Jicaro and San Juan de Tolpaneca.

Gy. Sgt. Stutz and Marine patrol arrived in San Juan de Tolpaneca (N.).

3 January 1931
(Continued)

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Quilali (NL) Guardia post reports that two groups of bandits, twenty to thirty strong, passed about one and a half miles south of town about 3:00 a.m., heading southwest.

Commanding Officer, Guardia post at Palacaguina, reports that runners arrived from Ocotal, passing the scene of Captain Russell's contact and reported having seen two dead bandits.

Lieut. Kessler and Boaco (Dept. Chontales) Guardia patrol cleared Esquipulas for Boaco.

Lieut. Pulver and Guardia cleared Sebaco (CA) on combat patrol.

Lieut. Pennington, Lieut. Lynch and Matagalpa (CA) Guardia cleared on combat patrol to Naranjo area.

Lieut. Kerns and Guardia patrol arrived at Chaguitillo. Cleared in Pursuit of bandits. Joined in Lieut. Pulver's contact at Cacao routing bandits. Joined by Lieut. Navarrette's patrol. Combined patrols of Kerns and Navarrette continued in pursuit of bandit group.

General McDougal, Colonel Smith, Colonel Sheard and Jinotega (CA) Guardia cleared for aviation field. General McDougal and Colonel Sheard cleared for Managua via Ocotal by plane. Colonel Smith and patrol returned to Jinotega.

Captain Healey, Lieut. Rittman and Yali (CA) Guardia arrived in La Concordia. No information. No contact with bandits.

Lieut. Chenowith and Navarro (CA) Guardia cleared on police mission through La Corona, Yasica and Elapo. Returned to Navarro.

Navarro (CA) Guardia detachments patrolled to and reconnoitered El Roblar and Constancia.

4 January 1931

Lieut. Livermore and Guardia patrol from Ocotal and Santa Maria (NA) cleared on police mission to Monsonte, Achuapa and Las Cruces. Returned with three bandits who gave information on contact and ambush of Marine patrol on Dec. 31.

Guardia posts at Dipilto, Pueblo Nuevo, Jalapa, Jicaro, Quilali, San Juan and Tolpaneca report all quiet.

Lieut. Levonski and Tolpaneca (NL) Guardia had contact with group of 50 in Chipote, killing one bandit. No Guardia casualties.

Captain Forsyth and Ocotal (NL) Guardia patrol returned to Quilali. Reported having destroyed two bandit camps.

4 January 1931
(Continued)

Captain Kelly, Lieut. Gomez and Jicaro (NL) Guardia patrol returned to station from combat mission in Chipote. Mission took this patrol through Pamali, Romangon, La Luz, Chupon, Rempujon, Chipote, Santa Ana, Zapotillal and Guapinol, thence back to Jicaro. Discovered and burned large camp and killed one bandit at Zapotillal. Group of 40 or 50 had occupied this camp a short time before. Camp at Guapinol was discovered and destroyed; no bandits seen but camp showed recent evidence of having been occupied.

Lieut. McDonald and Esteli (NL) Guardia patrol had contact near Licoroy with group of 100 armed with two sub-Thompsons and rifles. Jefe unknown. Followed group through Sacasti and lost them in darkness. Group headed toward San Marcos. Bandit casualties three known killed; four wounded. Bandits were carrying their four wounded when they passed through Santa Lucia. Guardia casualties one slightly wounded. Three horses, fully equipped; cooking utensils and some food captured by patrol.

Lieut. Stephenson and Chichigalpa (WA) Guardia cleared to patrol vicinity of Rio Dolores to investigate report of bandit activities.

Chinandega (WA) Guardia cleared to patrol northern section out from Chinandega. Returned; nothing to report.

San Ramon (CA) Guardia patrol cleared on intelligence mission to Hacienda Laguna. Returned.

Lieut. Kerns and Guardia combat patrol returned to Matagalpa.

Lieut. Lynch and Jinotega (CA) Guardia returned from combat patrol via Matagalpa.

5 January 1931

Lieut. Martin, Lieut. Casperonis and Managua combat patrol cleared Esquipulas for Teustepe enroute to Managua.

Captain Elmore and Jalapa (NA) Guardia patrol returned to Jicaro from Chipote area operations. Reported having destroyed one bandit camp and killed one bandit in that vicinity. Covered north and south slopes of Chipote, came out via Monchones, Zapotillal and Jicarito.

Leon (WL) Guardia cleared on patrol to Los Ranchos. Returned to Leon with two civil prisoners.

Telica (WA) Guardia patrolled to Leon and returned.

Information being received that a group of 25 armed with pistols and cutchas had attacked ~~xxx~~ a ranch between Balsamo and San Juan de Telpaneca, Lieut. Curry, USMC, with Marine and Guardia patrol cleared to investigate. Patrol returned and reported a house burned by bandits and minor injuries inflicted on mozos. Motive of bandits is to terrorize mozos and prevent picking of coffee crop.

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5 January 1931
(Continued)

RG 127/73A/31

Captain Williams and Somoto (NA) Guardia cleared on patrol to vicinity of Cañas, north of Somoto. Patrol returned. Destroyed bandit camp.

Major Croka and Esteli (NA) Guardia patrol arrived in Paso Real. No contacts and no information gained.

El Sauce (NA) Guardia patrol returned from Valle de Zapatas.

Lieut. Hutchcroft and Somotillo (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for San Francisco and arrived.

Marine patrol, temporarily stationed in Jicaro during absence of Guardia, returned to Apali.

Quilali (NA) Guardia post reports message received from San Juan de Telpaneca Guardia patrol operating in Chipote area that patrol gained contact on December 31 near Zapotillal, southwest of Chipote area. Bandit casualties unknown. No Guardia casualties. Patrol destroyed three bandit camps.

Northern Area Commander reports that a group of bandits, jefe and number unknown, fired several shots and burned one house in Yalaguina.

Captain Bales, Lieut. Clark and Guardia patrols from Pueblo Nuevo (NA) and Condega respectively arrived in San Rafael (CA). Reported contact south of Los Cedros with group of 30, jefe unknown. Contact lasted 5 minutes. No Guardia casualties. Bandit casualties unknown but blood trails indicated at least four wounded. The Guardia captured 1 Krag rifle, 4 rounds of ammunition, 4 red and black hat bands and 11 hats left by the bandits. Only three bandits actually seen and they were dressed in Guardia uniforms. ~~See~~ On January 2, this patrol fired on a group of five thought to have been a post of the group in this contact. ~~Results~~ Results unknown.

Lieut. Pennington and Matagalpa (CA) Guardia returned from combat patrol.

Captain McAfee and Guardia cleared Terrabona (CA) for Dario. Arrived in Dario.

Lieut. Navarette and Guardia reported to Matagalpa (CA) from combat patrol. Reports having thoroughly patrolled area west and north of Naranjo and Jocomico. Lost trail of bandits. Believes they have broken up into small groups and are heading north.

El Viejo (VA) Guardia cleared on patrol of vicinity. Returned; nothing to report.

Captain Fricke, Lieut. Gale and Jinotega (CA) Guardia returned from combat patrol.

5 January 1931

(Continued)

Colonel Sheard, Lieut. Stuart, Jinotega (CA) Guardia and four civilians cleared on combat patrol. Returned to Jinotega.

Captain Healey, Lieut. Rittman and Yali (CA) Guardia returned to La Concordia after having thoroughly patrolled the vicinity around La Mora.

Lieut. Martin, Lieut. Casperonis and Managua Guardia combat patrol cleared Esquipulas (CA) for Teustepe (Dept. Chontales) enroute to Managua.

6 January 1931

Captain Williams and Somoto (NA) Guardia patrol had contact with a group of 20 under Jose Leon Diaz at 6:30 a.m., near Santana, northeast of Somoto. Group armed with 1 Thompson gun and 10 rifles, remainder with pistols. One bandit killed. Evidence of others killed or wounded. Bandits dispersed in all directions. Captured 2 revolvers, 2 cutachas, small quantity of ammunition, hat bands, 1 guitarra, food, large quantity of clothing and miscellaneous supplies. Destroyed newly constructed camp sufficient for 150 men. No Guardia casualties.

Leon (WA) Guardia returned from patrol to Los Castillos having sent in one civil prisoner in the custody of La Ceiba's Juez de Mesta.

Captain Williams and Somoto (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for area south of Yalaguina.

Lieut. Bell and Limay (NA) Guardia returned to Limay having patrolled area north and northwest of Limay.

Lieut. Calvert and Guardia patrol cleared Limay (NA) and arrived in Esteli.

Lieut. Levonski and Telpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol arrived Quilali enroute to home station.

Marine patrol cleared San Juan de Telpaneca to investigate reported bandit camp in vicinity.

Lieut. Smith, Lieut. Fox and Esteli (NA) Guardia patrol No. 2 returned to Esteli from combat mission.

Lieut. Cobb and Guardia patrol returned to La Trinidad (NA) from combat mission.

Lieut. Hudnall, USMC, and Marine patrol arrived in Palacaguina (NA) from Ocotal.

Captain McQueen and Somotillo (NA) Guardia cleared to patrol border.

Lieut. Bell and Limay (NA) Guardia patrolled to Las Gracias Mine and returned to Limay.

6 January 1931
(Continued)

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Major Croka and Esteli (NA) Guardia patrol No. 1 returned to Esteli from combat mission.

Captain Bales, Lieut. Clark and combined Pueblo Nuevo (NA) and Condega (NA) Guardia patrol arrived in Yali (CA).

Lieut. Pattison and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia patrol returned from Ocotal.

Captain Holdahl and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for Ayote and vicinity at 10:30 p.m.

Chichigalpa (WA) Guardia patrol cleared for El Siramo as guards for Police Judge of Leon and Alcalde of Chichigalpa. Patrol divided and part returned to Chichigalpa with three prisoners.

Lieut. Stephenson and Chichigapa (WA) Guardia patrol cleared for El Siramo. Captured one man wanted for murder in Leon. Returned to Chichigalpa.

(Note appearing under heading of 3 January 1931 regarding General McDougal and party returning to Managua is erroneous. Should appear under this date).

Lieut. Prieb, Lieut. Ashbrook and Jinotega (CA) Guardia with five civilians returned from combat patrol.

Captain Maynard, Lieut. Lill and San Rafael (CA) Guardia reported at Jinotega from combat patrol.

Lieut. Stuart, Lieut. Ashbrook, Lieut. Lill and Jinotega (CA) Guardia patrol cleared on combat mission.

Lieut. Manning and La Concordia (CA) Guardia cleared for San Rafael. Arrived and cleared at dark on combat mission.

Captain Healey, Lieut. Rittman and Yali (CA) Guardia patrol cleared La Concordia in the direction of Yali on information that Peralta and group of 50 were headed north and had passed through La Mora and that another small group were near San Carlos (CA).

Navarro (CA) Guardia cleared for Palo Blanco valley, patrolled and returned to Navarro.

Navarro (CA) Guardia cleared on police patrol to Cornubia. Returned upon completion of mission.

Navarro (CA) Guardia cleared for Yasica and Los Limones on police patrol.

7 January 1931

Captain Elmore, Captain Bach, Lieut. Bowen and Guardia patrol cleared Jicaro (NA) for and arrived in Apali.

7 January 1931
(Continued)

The entire staff, Captain Trumble, Licut. F.J. Cunningham, Licut. Grieco, Licut. Castillo, and the student cadets comprising the present class of the Nicaraguan Military Academy were transferred to Ocotal by planes for intensive practical training in the field during present activities. This detachment reports to the Area Commander, Northern Area, for such disposition as he considers necessary.

Captain Forsyth, Licut. Lovonski, Licut. Torres, and combined Ocotal (NA) and Telpaneca Guardia patrol cleared Quilali for Jicarol. Patrol arrived.

Gy. Sgt. Stutz, USMC, Marine and Guardia patrol cleared San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) for reconnaissance of Babylonia. Patrol returned to San Juan; nothing to report.

Captain Williams and Somoto (NA) Guardia patrol returned to Somoto via Santa Barbara. No recent bandit activity in area south of Yalaguina.

Licut. Gomez and Jicarol (NA) Guardia patrolled to ~~xxxxxx~~ Apali and returned to Jicarol.

Licut. Hudnall, USMC, and Marine patrol cleared Palacaguina for Ocotal.

Licut. Cobb and La Trinidad (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for and arrived Est-li.

Licut. Klein, Licut. Grieco, Licut. Castillo and Guardia patrol of student cadets, cleared Ocotal (NA) for Dipilto. Licut. Grieco, Licut. Castillo and cadet patrol returned to Ocotal.

Captain McQueen and Somotillo (NA) Guardia returned to Somotillo from border patrol. Reports all quiet.

Licut. Satterfield, Licut. Broderick and San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol returned from combat mission in Chipote area.

Licut. Schuler and Chinandega (WA) Guardia patrol cleared for finca north of Chinandega in search of criminals wanted for murder. Returned with two prisoners.

Captain Craig and Chinandega (WA) Guardia cleared with two Hacienda Inspectors to patrol vicinity of El Tempisque. Returned with four prisoners. Captured 1 ~~xxxxxx~~ pistol. Recovered 4 stolen animals.

Licut. Stephenson and Chichigalpa (WA) Guardia cleared for San Rafael.

Licut. Pulver and Guardia cleared San Isidro (CA) for Sobaco and arrived.

Licut. Navarette and Guardia cleared Matagalpa (CA) for and arrived in Darío.

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7 January 1931
(Continued)

Matagalpa (CA) Guardia cleared for halfway patrol to Jinotega. Returned after meeting patrol.

Jinotega (CA) Guardia cleared for halfway to Matagalpa. Met patrol, then returned to Jinotega.

Lieut. Lynch and Guardia patrol cleared Jinotega (CA) for Corinto Finca.

Lieut. Manning and Guardia patrol returned to La Concordia (CA). Laid ambush, no results. Line to Yali reported down; patrol cleared to repair it. Patrol arrived in Yali.

Captain Healey, Lieut. Rittman and Yali (CA) Guardia returned to Yali.

Lieut. Barrilas and Yali (CA) Guardia cleared for La Pavona area on combat mission.

Captain Balos, Lieut. Clark and combined Guardia patrol from Pueblo Nuevo (NA) and Condega (NA) cleared Yali (CA) in direction of Pueblo Nuevo.

8 January 1931

Leon (WA) Guardia on patrol to Las Nubes.

Lieut. Levonski and Tolpancea (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Jicaro for Tolpancea.

Captain Kelly, Lieut. Gomez and Jicaro (NA) Guardia patrol cleared to investigate report of bandits in vicinity of Esperanza. Returned via San Diego and Muyuca. Reported no bandit activities.

Lieut. Curry, USMC, and Marine patrol cleared San Juan de Tolpancea (NA) for and arrived in Apali.

Captain Balos, Lieut. Clark and their patrols arrived in Palaeaguina (NA). Captain Balos and Guardia cleared for and arrived at Pueblo Nuevo. Lieut. Clark and Guardia cleared for and arrived at Condega.

Captain Arnett and Lieut. Cobb cleared Estoli (NA) for La Trinidad. Captain Arnett returned to Estoli.

Captain McQueen and Somotillo (NA) Guardia cleared for Villa Nueva.

Limay (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for Villa Nueva.

Lieut. Bell and Limay (NA) Guardia cleared to patrol area south of Limay.

Lieut. Quesada Castillo and Student cadet Guardia patrol cleared Ocotal (NA) for Totogalpa. Patrol returned to Ocotal.

Captain Holdahl and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia patrol arrived Ocotal from reconnaissance of Lyoto Mountain and El Horno. Nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following extract from "Report of Air Missions" of the Aircraft Squadrons, 2nd Brigade, Managua, Nicaragua, 3 January 1931, is quoted as of general interest:

- " 5. Two O2U-1 airplanes, Lieut. Fike, pilot, with Sgt. Owens, observer, and Lieut. Henderson, pilot, with Cpl. Brown, observer, took off Managua and carried out a reconnaissance and liaison mission to the Northern Area and return:
- " 6. 0730 - MANAGUA: Took off.
0900 - OCOTAL: Landed.
0920 - OCOTAL: Took off. Made reconnaissance along the ridge swing south to Totogalpa. Nothing unusual observed.
0945 - TOTOGALPA: Marine patrol just leaving for Ocotal.
1000 - OCOTAL: Landed.
1055 - OCOTAL: Took off. Reconnaissance of area northeast of Ocotal and to North of Ocotal. Observed an abnormal amount of activity around "fincas" to the north and east of Dipilto. No signs of hostility.
1130 - OCOTAL: Landed.
1430 - OCOTAL: Took off. Reconnaissance of Cua area, Daraili, and south of Daraili. Group of about fifteen horses in corral. Ten men came out of house to look at planes. Suspected these men of being bandits but could get them to show no signs of hostility.
1605 - MANAGUA: Landed airdrome."

The following patrol reports of Captain W. Elmore, G.N., Jalapa, and Capt. W.P. Kelly, G.N., Jicaro, are quoted:

Guardia Nacional de Nicaragua,
District of Jicaro, 6 Jan. 1931.

"From: Captain William P. Kelly, Guardia Nacional.
To: Area Commander, Guardia Nacional, Ocotal.
Subject: Patrol report.
Reference: (a) Your radio 12325 Dec 30.
(b) Field Order No. 3 of 23 Dec 30.
(c) 2nd Brig Map Nueva Segovia RF 1:150000.

"1. In accordance with reference (a) a patrol of one other officer, 24 enlisted, 4 members of the auxiliary defense unit and 2 guides, under my command, cleared Jicaro at 8:30 a.m., 29 Dec. 1930 for operations in the Chipote area as outlined in reference (b). The patrol was provided with 4 saddle animals, 4 pack animals and was armed with 2 Browning automatic rifles, 2 Thompson sub-machine guns, 3 Springfield rifles, 2 colt automatic pistols and 10 machetes. Patrol arrived at Quilali at 4:50 p.m., same date and remained there that night. No bandits observed. No rain. Trails dry.

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December 30, 1930: Cleared Quilali at 12:50 p.m. Proceeded to Pamali (251-361) thence to 255-364 where patrol bivouaced for the night. No bandits. No rain, trails dry but little used up the Pamali river valley and much overgrown with brush in places.

December 31, 1930: Proceeded at 6:15 a.m., to Rumongon, La Luz, and Chupon, where patrol bivouaced for the night. No bandits. Several bandit shelters observed at different points on Division de Aguas ridge. These shelters were several months old. No rain. Trails dry, unused and overgrown with brush.

January 1, 1931: Proceeded at 6:00 a.m., to Rempujon and Chipoto where patrol bivouaced for the night. No bandits. No rain. Trails dry but unused and much overgrown with brush.

January 2, 1931: Proceeded at 6:30 a.m., to Santa Ana and Zapotillal where patrol bivouaced for the night. No bandits. No rain. Trails dry, little used, and overgrown with brush in places.

January 3, 1931: Proceeded at 5:30 a.m., through Zapotillal area. On arrival in one of the many ravines which indent this ridge a much used trail was observed. Part of the patrol followed this trail to bandit camp with accommodations for about fifty. One 3 men were present when patrol arrived. One was killed. Two escaped. This camp had an outer defense system located from the main house of the camp at a distance of about 75 yards. This defense system was unoccupied at the time of our approach. Placed in a circle around the main house were 7 fireplaces so situated that the fires were secure from observation at night. The main house was about 3 months old, was very substantially built and well concealed. Supplies of meat, corn, and beans were on hand; also 12 chickens and a number of cooking utensils and household supplies. The whole thing was destroyed.

Patrol continued to Guapinol and bivouaced there for the night, burning 5 other houses enroute. All these houses had sheltered bandits during the past month. No rain. Trails dry but overgrown with brush except for short distances where bandit runways converge.

January 4, 1931: Proceeded at 6:00 a.m., through Guapinol (238-374). Discovered bandit camp with accommodations for about 30. This camp had been evacuated hurriedly on January 3rd, apparently on hearing our fire in Zapotillal. A cleared space about 50 feet square had been turned over and the earth wetted down and tamped to provide dancing space. Several women guests were apparently expected for the occasion as 10 Pompeian style couches were under construction and almost completed when the camp was abandoned. Meat had been provided by the recent slaughter of 2 animals. Beans, corn and other food supplies were on hand. This camp and 4 other houses in Guapinol which had sheltered bandits during the past month were destroyed. After a further search of Guapinol, patrol proceeded to Jicaro, arriving at 12:15 p.m.

"2. I believe there are no bandit groups at present in the areas covered except in Zapotillal and Guapinol. Effectively to hunt bandits here and clean out these 2 places requires 4 patrols for 3 days. One patrol acting alone in these 2 areas is remindful of the cat chasing its tail.

"3. The health of all members of the patrol was good and the morale high.

(s) W.P. Kelly.

"Guardia Nacional de Nicaragua.
Headquarters, Dist. of Jalapa,
Jalapa, Nueva Segovia.
6 Jan 1930.

(Mailed from Jicaro).

"From: Commanding Officer.
"To: Area Commander, Northern Area, G.N., Ocotal, Segovia.
"Subject: Patrol report.
"Reference: (a) Field Order No. 3.
(b) Konyon Map.
"Enclosure: (1) Sketch.

"1. In compliance with reference (a) I left Jalapa with Lt. (MC) Bowen, 20 enlisted Guardias, and 1 civilian guide on 28 December 1930. Eight pack animals were with the patrol, 1 Lewis Machine gun, 1 Browning automatic rifle, and 2 sub-Thompson machine guns. One Guardia was equipped as a rifle grenadier. Events of each day of this patrol are set forth chronologically below.

28 Dec: Left Jalapa at 8:30 a.m. Arrived at Los Encinos (112-318) at 4:30 p.m., and camped there. Country sparsely populated and peaceful.

29 Dec: Left Los Encinos at 7:00 a.m., and arrived Murra at 4:00 p.m. Captured an armed bandit, one Isidro Palma, about 1 league north of Murra. This man had a pistol and some ammunition. Correspondence on his person indicated that he had been a farmer until about a year ago and had considerable traffic with bandits on El Chipote. He claimed his home was in San Gregorio (SW of Murra). I could get no information from him concerning bandit concentrations. Palma was killed this night at Murra in attempting to escape.

30 Dec: Left Murra at 7:00 a.m. for Jicaro on account of sick Guardia. Arrived Jicaro at 1300, left the Guardia, and cleared for Chipote at 1500. At 1800 camped about 3 leagues east of Jicaro. Country for about a league west of Murra appears to be inhabited and trails are in frequent use by a few people. I did not investigate any side trails.

31 Dec: Left camp at 7:00 a.m., and arrived at Murra River (115-297) at 1630 and made camp. Ocotal patrol came in on same trail from San Albino and joined me at 1700. Talpaneca patrol came in on same trail from Jicaro and joined me at 1800. Route covered by my patrol seemed uninhabited.

1 Jan: Left camp, combined with Ocotal and Talpaneca patrols, at 0630. Followed a trail toward Chipote for about 400 yards up a ridge; then cut trail up and over this ridge for about 2 leagues, arriving at Olingo Creek at foot of Chipote at 1600 where all patrols camped. Crossed no other trails and saw no signs of inhabitants along the route. About 0800, while Talpaneca patrol was still on Murra River a group of 5 armed bandits approached from the south, were fired on and pursued down river until they escaped. No casualties. Bandits fired one shot.

2 Jan: Left camp at 0630 and cut trail up west slope of Chipote. Talpaneca patrol left other patrols at 0930 with orders to work in southerly direction. This was about on the crest of that shoulder of Chipote, and Jalapa and Ocotal patrols moved along this crest in westerly direction. At 1200 Ocotal patrol was ordered to proceed in southerly direction and turned off along an old trail. Jalapa

patrol proceeded east along an old trail to a few hundred yards from the highest peak, where trail turned left and down the mountain. This trail led to 2 houses about 2 thirds of the way down the mountain on the north slope. This place was surprised but no one was there at the time except 4 women and some children. Five men lived at this place, and they had about 8 acres cleared and most of it in cultivation. About 2000 tobacco plants were cut down and much of the corn ruined by grazing. The one man seen here, Clemente Rizo, was killed approaching the houses after the Guardia had been there about half an hour. Rizo was identified by papers on his person as having been a captain under Sandino in Dec. 1927, and was apparently second in command of Salgado's force at that time, this force having previously been under Echevarra, who had been transferred elsewhere. Some powder was found in the houses and a few detonators and fuses. Arrived at this camp about 1600 and camped there.

- 3 Jan: Left camp at 0800, proceeded east, then south, and crossed to south slope between the two peaks of Chipote. Ran into another GN patrol trail on south-east slope, followed it west about 200 yards and then turned right and up the mountain. I was then following a trail followed by a Jalapa patrol in November 1930, and kept on it until I reached a bandit camp site destroyed by that patrol. I camped there at 1700. One of the houses burned this date had a bomb or a detonator concealed in it.
- 4 Jan: Left camp at 0730 and followed the trail west for 400 yards, then turned southwest on Monchones trail, which had almost entirely grown over. One league northeast of Monchones I passed through a large potrero in which at least 30 animals were pastured. Searched for trails out and for animals for 2 1/2 hours, but saw only 1 horse which apparently had not been used for a long time. At Monchones picked up a GN patrol trail and followed it west across Jicaro River to Zapotilla, where I camped at 1700.
- 5 Jan: Left camp at 0700 following GN patrol trail for about a league then cut across country to left to hit the Quilali-Jicaro road, and hit it at Jicarito. Country was very rough and with plenty of trails, which seemed to be well travelled. Arrived at Jicaro at 1600.

"2. From all the evidence I saw I do not believe that El Chipote has entertained any groups of bandits for many weeks past. There are many trails there but the only one that plainly showed recent use was the trail to the houses where Rizo lived. Chipote is very large and difficult to cover and a patrol get only an occasional glimpse of the mountainside but I believe that any large number of bandits would leave more evidence of travel on Chipote on trails which crossed mine that I noted. All trails traversed on this patrol were dry. The trail I left on Chipote can be easily traversed by pack animals until rainy season.

(s) Willett Elmore.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Major J.W. Webb arrived in Managua from Leon on Jan. 5th. Will return to Leon after annual physical examination.

Captain J.D. O'Leary, Commanding the Dept. of Corinto, arrived in Managua Jan. 4th on short leave of absence.

General McDougal and Colonel Sheard returned to Managua by plane via Ocotal Jan. 6th.

Captain E.E. Larson, Commanding the Dept. of Rivas, arrived in Managua on Jan. 6th.

Lieut. E.C. Spencer cleared Leon for La Paz Centro and Nagarote Jan. 5th. Returned Jan. 6th.

Lieut. Stevens cleared Leon for Rota to inspect and arrange for permanent Guardia post there. Returned, mission accomplished.

Colonel C.A. Wynn, Area, Commander, Western Area, arrived in Managua from Leon on Jan. 9th. Returned to Leon, Jan. 12th.

Lieut. Schuler arrived in Managua Jan. 9th from Chinandega.

Captain R. Arnett arrived in Managua from Esteli Jan. 11th. Return to Esteli Jan. 12th.

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