

GUARDIA NEWS LETTER NO. 32 (January 21-30, 1931).

21 January 1931

Captain Elmore and Jalapa (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for Totocasinte Area. Returned. Reported all quiet. No movements of bandits along frontier trails.

Lieut. Ramirez and Villa Nueva (NA) Guardia patrol arrived from Somotillo.

Captain Arnett, Doctor Bach and Guardia cleared Somotillo for San Francisco (NA).

Lieut. McDonald and Guardia arrived from Villa Nueva, Limon and Cipreses. Nothing to report.

Lieut. Munoz and Jalapa (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Jalapa and arrived Apali.

Lieut. Cunningham, Lieut. Castillo and Guardia patrol of student cadets arrived San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) from Ocotal.

Lieut. Kipp and Palacaguina (NA) Guardia patrol cleared, reconnoitered area to Concepcion and Esteli. Nothing to report.

Captain Fellers, Lieut. Torres and Guardia patrol cleared Somoto (NA) and arrived Ocotal.

Jicaro (NA) patrol cleared for Apali and arrived. Patrol returned to Jicaro with Captain Kelly.

Captain Pefley and Condega (NA) Guardia patrol cleared to work northeast of Condega. Patrol returned. Visited San Diego, Tierra Azul, San José, Santa Rita and Ducuelito. No recent bandit activity.

Captain Power, Lieut. Lynch and Guardia patrol with five auxiliares cleared Jinotega (CA) for Corinto Finca.

Lieut. Manning and La Concordia (CA) Guardia cleared San Rafael for home station.

Lieut. Ragsdale and Matiguas (CA) Guardia cleared Muy Muy for Matiguas.

Lieut. Alexander, Lieut. Lill and Guardia reported Matagalpa (CA) from Managua.

Captain Bourne and Guardia patrol cleared Matagalpa (CA) for Navarro.

NAVARRO (CA)--Jan. 16 to 20

A Guardia patrol cleared Navarro Jan. 16 for La Isla to reconnoiter. Returned to Navarro. Another patrol cleared for Elapo on Police mission. Returned to Navarro.

On Jan. 17, Major Miller, Captain Stafford, Lieut. Sims reported from Matagalpa.

Lieut. Chenoweth and Navarro patrol cleared for Santa Estela on Jan. 19. Returned to Navarro.

Lieut. Chenoweth and Navarro Guardia cleared for Cuatro Esquinas.

22 January 1931

Lieut. Clark and Palacaguina (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Condaga and arrived Palacaguina.

Captain Schwerin, Lieut. Frye and Corinto Finca (CA) Guardia patrol arrived in Jinotega.

Major Miller, Captain Stafford, Lieut. Alexander, Lieut. Lill and Guardia patrol arrived Jinotega (CA) from Matagalpa.

Lieut. McDonald and Esteli (NA) Guardia patrol cleared La Concordia (CA) headed northwest.

Lieut. Manning and La Concordia (CA) Guardia patrol cleared in the direction of Rinconda on information that a group of bandits were headed that way.

Lieut. Prieb, Lieut. Matamoras, Guardia patrol and three auxiliares cleared San Rafael (CA) on combat patrol.

Yali (CA) reported that a group of bandits had robbed a Yali resident of his cargo while on the road between San Rafael and Yali, and that the bandits headed in direction of La Merca and La Concordia. Lieut. Rittman, Lieut. Barrilas and Yali (CA) Guardia with five auxiliares cleared immediately.

23 January 1931

Captain Leinhard, USMC, and Marine patrol cleared on combat mission in coffee area vicinity of San Juan.

Marine and Guardia patrols of Lieut. Curry, USMC, Lieut. Cunningham, Captain Trumble and Lieut. Satterfield cleared San Juan de Telpaneca on combat mission.

Captain Kelly, Lieut. Gomez and Jicaro (NA) Guardia with 3 auxiliares cleared on combat mission.

Lieut. Pattison and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for border patrol south of Santa Maria.

Lieut. Belle and Pueblo Nuevo (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for vicinity between Colorado and Potaste on reconnaissance. Patrol returned.

Captain Sims and Quilali (NA) Guardia with 3 auxiliares cleared on combat mission.

Lieut. Clark and Condaga (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Palacaguina and arrived Condaga.

23 January 1931

(Continued)

Major Hunt, Lieut. Torres and Ocotel (NA) Marine and Guardia patrol cleared on combat mission to south of Ocotel.

Dipilto (NA) Guardia cleared on combat mission. Returned with one prisoner. Confiscated one pistol. Reported all quiet and no bandit activities in northwest part of Dipilto district.

Lieut. Cobb and Guardia cleared La Trinidad (NA) and arrived Esteli.

Lieut. Reed and Guardia cleared El Sauce (NA) for Sabana Grande, Las Mercedes, Valle San Antonio and Santa Lucia on police mission.

Lieut. Satterfield and San Juan de Talpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol had contact with a group under Inoz Hernandez in Ologalpa. Four bandits killed. Three bandits wounded and died later. No Guardia casualties.

Lieut. Rittman, Lieut. Barrilas and Yali (CA) Guardia arrived La Concordia. No contacts and no information. Cleared Concordia and arrived Yali.

Lieut. Navarrette and Esquipulas (CA) Guardia cleared for El Castillo to apprehend a criminal. Returned to Esquipulas.

24 January 1931

Major Hunt, Lieut. Torres and Guardia patrol arrived Somoto.

Lieut. Bollo and Pueblo Nuevo (NA) Guardia patrol returned.

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

Lieut. McGorkle and Somoto (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Ocotel for Somoto and arrived.

Dipilto (NA) Guardia cleared on police mission to Loma Frio. Returned to Dipilto.

Captain McQueen and Somotillo (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for border to the west. Returned to Somotillo.

Lieut. McDonald and Esteli (NA) Guardia patrol returned to Esteli. Nothing to report.

Leon (WA) Guardia cleared on patrol to Abangasea. Returned to Leon. Nothing to report.

Leon (WA) Guardia patrolled to El Olocoton and returned.

Leon (WA) Guardia patrolled to El Telecar and returned.

Captain Schwerin, Lieut. Frye and Gerinto Fines (CA) Guardia cleared Jinotega for home station.

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24 January 1931
(Continued)

Captain Stafford, Lieut. Alexander and Guardia patrol cleared for Matagalpa (CA). Lieut. Alexander and patrol returned to Jinotega.

Lieut. Gale and Jinotega (CA) Guardia with 4 auxiliares cleared for halfway to San Rafael. Returned to Jinotega.

San Rafael (CA) Guardia and three auxiliares cleared for halfway to Jinotega. Returned to San Rafael.

Lieut. Manning, La Concordia (CA) Guardia and 9 auxiliares arrived San Rafael and cleared for La Concordia. Arrived.

Lieut. Prieb, Lieut. Matamoras, San Rafael (CA) Guardia and 3 auxiliares returned from combat patrol. Patrolled the areas of La Mora, La Concordia, Zapote, Upali, Colon, Naranjo, San Marcos and Suni. No contacts and no information.

25 January 1931

Captain Trumble, Lieut. Grieco and Guardia patrol of military academy cadets arrived in Apali.

Major Hunt, Lieut. Torres and Guardia patrol cleared Somoto (NA) on combat mission to vicinity of Yalaguina. Patrol arrived Ocotal. Nothing to report.

Lieut. Pattison and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia returned. Patrolled Mylote, Sepelba and Las Palmas.

Lieut. Satterfield and San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol returned after contact on Jan. 23.

Lieut. Curry, USMC, and Marine patrol returned to Apali.

Captain Leinhard, USMC, and Marine patrol returned to Apali (NA).

Captain Sims and Quilali (NA) Guardia patrol with 3 auxiliares returned. Nothing to report.

Lieut. Cunningham and Guardia patrol arrived Apali (NA).

Lieut. Livermore and Ocotal (NA) Guardia patrol cleared to investigate a report of bandits east of Ocotal. Patrol returned. Nothing to report.

Lieut. Bell and Limay (NA) Guardia patrol arrived Limay from Pueblo Nuevo.

Captain Arnett, Captain Bach and Guardia cleared Limay (NA) and arrived Esteli.

Lieut. Matamoras and San Rafael (CA) Guardia cleared for Sabana Grande on police mission.

26 January 1931

Colonel Smith, Major Miller, Captain Fricke, Jinotega (C.) Guardia and 2 civilians cleared Jinotega for aviation field. The two civilians cleared for Managua by plane and Colonel Smith and the patrol returned to Jinotega.

Captain Power, Lieut. Ashbrook and Guardia returned to Corinto Finca (C.) from hacienda patrol with one civil prisoner.

Lieut. Frye, Lieut. Lynch cleared Corinto Finca (C.) on hacienda patrol.

Lieut. Manning, La Concordia (C.) Guardia and 10 auxiliaries arrived San Rafael. Cleared from there and arrived La Concordia.

Lieut. Matamoras, San Rafael (C.) Guardia cleared for halfway to Yali. Returned to San Rafael.

Lieut. Hall with Guardia and 6 auxiliaries cleared San Rafael for Yali (C.)

Lieut. Rittman, Yali (N.) Guardia and 2 auxiliaries cleared for halfway to San Rafael. Patrol returned to Yali.

Lieut. Baryla, Yali (C.) Guardia and 7 auxiliaries cleared for vicinity of El Tigre on information of bandits operating in that area. Made contact. Returned to Yali.

Lieut. Broderick and San Juan de Tolpameca (N.) Guardia patrol cleared for Baryal on combat mission.

Captain Trumble, Lieut. Grieco and Lieut. Cunningham with their patrols of the Military Academy student cadets cleared Apali (N.) and arrived Ocotal.

Captain Davies and Tolpameca (N.) Guardia patrol with 3 auxiliaries arrived Jicaro.

Lieut. Flippe and Chinandega (N.) Guardia cleared for Somotillo (N.). Returned to Chinandega.

Chinandega (N.) Guardia cleared for Hacienda Villa. The patrol returned to Chichigalpa with quantity of contraband tobacco and two prisoners.

Lieut. Spart and Leon (N.) Guardia patrol returned to Leon from La Paz Centro with four civilian prisoners.

Tolima (N.) Guardia patrol cleared for El Pozo via Las Cuatro Esquinas.

Quezalguaque (N.) Guardia patrol cleared El Pozo via Las Cuatro Esquinas. Patrolled area all night.

Captain Elmore, Lieut. Munoz and Jalapa (N.) Guardia cleared to patrol border west of Jalapa.

Lieut. Broderick and San Juan de Tolpameca (N.) Guardia patrol returned. Nothing to report.

26 January 1931
(Continued)

Captain Williams and Somoto (NA) Guardia patrol had contact near Santa Rosa (Somoto area) with a group of six armed with pistols and cut-throats. Two bandits wounded. Recovered one blood-soaked hat with two bullet holes. No Guardia casualties. Burned bandit camp in vicinity.

Lieut. Barrillas and Guardia patrol with 7 auxiliares had contact with a group of 100 bandits at Montaña La Gloria (CA). Jefe Pedro Blandon. One bandit killed. One Guardia wounded. Captain Healey heard firing and went, with Yali (CA) Guardia, to assist. Bandit camp destroyed.

Lieut. Curcey and El Gallo (EA) Guardia patrol captured a band of thirteen who have been robbing stores, etc., along the upper Rio Grande. Prisoners being taken to Bluefields.

Captain Healey and Yali (CA) Guardia cleared in direction of Oriente on hearing heavy machine gun fire from there.

NAVARRO (CA) -- Jan. 22-24.

Navarro patrol cleared Jan. 22 for La Poyama and La Isla. Returned on Jan. 23. A Guardia patrol cleared Navarro for Verapaz on Jan 23. Returned.

On Jan. 24, Lieut. Chenoweth and Navarro Guardia cleared for Matagalpa. Another patrol cleared for Palo Blanco Valley and returned to Navarro.

27 January 1931

La Paz Centro (WA) Guardia cleared with the Alcalde and Judge of Police on patrol to Momotombo.

Major Webb, Lieut. Spart and Guardia cleared Leon (WA) on patrol to Telica.

Lieut. Cobb and La Trinidad (NA) Guardia cleared La Trinidad for Sebaco.

Captain Bales and Pueblo Nuevo (NA) Guardia patrolled to Condega, picked up Lieut. Titsworth and returned to Pueblo Nuevo.

Lieut. Broderick and San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) Guardia patrol cleared for Yali.

Captain Williams and Somoto (NA) Guardia patrol with 1 auxiliar cleared for vicinity south of Somoto. Patrol returned.

Lieut. Kelly with combined Guardia and Juez de Mesta patrol from Cardenas (Dept. Rivas) cleared Sapoa to investigate report of armed group at Pena Blanca and Santa Clara.

Captain Rosecrans and Jinotega (CA) Guardia cleared on patrol toward San Rafael. Returned with Yali patrol composed of Captain Healey, Lieut. Hall and Guardia.

Lieut. Hall, Yali (CA) Guardia and 6 auxiliares arrived Yali.

27 January 1931
(Continued)

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

Captain Elmore, Lieut. Muñoz and Jalapa (NA) Guardia arrived Apali.

28 January 1931

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

Lieut. Ashbrook, Corinto Finca (CA) Guardia and two auxiliares reported to Jinotega.

Captain Power and Corinto Finca (CA) Guardia cleared on reconnaissance patrol.

Matagalpa (CA) Guardia cleared with Hacienda Inspector on contraband patrol.

Captain Holdahl and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia cleared for Ayote.

Lieut. Broderick and San Juan de Telpaneca (NA) Guardia arrived Apali from San Juan.

Captain Davies, Telpaneca (NA) Guardia and 3 auxiliares cleared Jicaro and arrived Apali.

Captain Elmore, Lieut. Muñoz and Jalapa (NA) Guardia patrol cleared Apali for Jalapa.

Lieut. Cobb and La Trinidad (NA) Guardia arrived Sebaco. Cleared Sebaco and arrived Esteli.

Lieut. Ross, Quilali (NA) Guardia and 3 auxiliares cleared for vicinity of Chipote. Patrol returned to Quilali. Nothing to report.

Lieut. Coffman, Jicaro (NA) Guardia and 2 auxiliares cleared Jicaro and arrived Apali. Lieut. Coffman, Lieut. Broderick, Lieut. Forsyth and combined Jicaro and San Juan Guardia patrols cleared Apali and arrived Jicaro.

Lieut. Klein and Dipilto (NA) Guardia cleared for and arrived Ocotal. Returned to Dipilto.

29 January 1931

Lieut. Kelly and Guardia patrol from Cardenas, Dept. of Rivas, returned to home station. Reports finding evidence of a group of five spending night at deserted finca house at El Carmen, 3 miles SW of Pena Blanca on border within past week. Unable to verify reports of party carrying arms.

Captain Davies, Guardia patrol and 3 auxiliares cleared Apali (NA) for Telpaneca via Carbonal and San Francisco.

Captain Holdahl and Santa Maria (NA) Guardia patrol arrived Ocotal via the border and Dipilto.

Captain Perley, and Candega (NA) Guardia cleared for patrol. Returned after visiting San Diego, Tierra Azul, Santa Rosa, Darcili and Coalouca.

RS 127/734/31

30 January 1931

A Guardia patrol from Las Camolias (CA) under a non-commissioned officer had contact with a group of bandits under Gregorio Rizo, sub-jefe to Villegas, at La Laguna. Bandit casualties 2 dead including Rizo. No Guardia casualties. Captured two revolvers, ammunition, hats, poncho and blankets.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Colonel C.B. Matthews has been appointed Jefe Director of the Guardia and will officially assume that duty in the near future.

Colonel R.L. Denig returned to Nicaragua on Jan. 31, 1931, from leave in the U.S. and will become Chief of Staff of the Guardia Nacional.

Captain F.M. Howard arrived Managua from Juigalpa on Jan. 24th. Cleared for Corinto by plane Jan. 26th and returned to Managua Jan. 27th. Cleared Managua Jan. 30th for Juigalpa.

Lieut. Andersen left Managua for Corinto on Jan. 26th and returned on Jan. 27th.

Lieut. Oechionero cleared Managua for Corinto on Jan. 26th and returned to Managua the next day. Cleared Managua for Masaya.

Captain G.F. Good left Nicaragua on Jan. 27th for the U.S. on leave.

Lieut. J.C. Brauer returned to Nicaragua Jan. 27th from leave in the U.S. and will return to his former station in the Northern Area.

Major L.P. Hunt arrived in Managua by plane from Ocotal on Jan. 28th. Returned to Ocotal Jan. 30th.

Lieut. Miller returned to Chinandega from Managua on Jan. 24th.

Lieut. Spencer cleared Leon for Nagarote on Jan. 25th.

Lieut. Stephenson arrived Chinandega from Chichigalpa on Jan. 26th.

Captain O'Leary arrived Chinandega from Corinto Jan. 26th and returned to Corinto on Jan 27th.

Captain Maynard arrived Managua by plane from Jinotega Jan. 23rd. Returned Jan. 28th.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following extract from the report of Captain A.L. Sims, Commanding the District of Quilali (SBgovia), describing certain conditions in that district, is quoted:

"District of Quilali,
Quilali, Nicaragua.
20 January 1931.

From: District Commander.
To: Area Commander, G.N., Northern Area.
Subject: Intelligence, report of.

"1. During the month of January there has been issued in the District of Quilali 316 boletas by the Guardia and a like number by the Alcalde of Quilali, setting forth the occupation followed by bearer. The Jueces de Mesta have reported fairly regularly and have been informed that men when not at home must carry these boletas to identify themselves to Guardia patrols. The inhabitants are now harvesting their crops and the food supply of this district is ample. Some cargoes of beans, coffee, and corn being transported to other sections.

There is now under construction in Quilali three new houses, application has been made and approved for eight others. The inhabitants have recovered somewhat from their fright caused by the attack on Quilali barracks and are convinced that the Guardia can well take care of their protection.

The trails are beginning to open up and are being burned over to clear them. The reports of the past week are that all parts of the district are quiet and that the people are not being molested in their work.

Quite a bit of sickness has been reported and observed throughout the district, Smallpox, fever, and dysentery being the diseases reported.

(s) Amor LeR. Sims,
Captain, G.N., Commanding."

Esteli reports a big field day in Esteli on January 25. Merchants donated \$30.00 prize money to be competed for by both Guardia and civilians. Running broad and high jump, 100 yard dash, relay races, sack race, equipment race, cock fights, mounted wrestling, boxing, potato race and dance for the enlisted men ~~xxxxxx~~ at the town hall. Refreshments were served.

BA 127/43A/31

The following report of a bandit attack on Somoto on the night of 19 January 1931, is quoted:

SOMOTO, NICARAGUA, 21 January 1931.

From: 2nd Lieut. F. H. McGorkle, G.N.
To : The Commanding Officer.

Subject: Attack on Somoto, report of.

1. At exactly 2130 on 19 January 1931 Raso Ignacio Gonzalez on town patrol, encountered group of men and receiving no answer to his challenge, fired three shots at them and ran for the barracks, garrisoned by myself and the following named enlisted men and auxiliaries, was attacked from all sides by bandits numbering about two hundred under Miguel Ortez, Jose Leon Diaz and Juan Pablo Umanzor.

Sgt. Chavarria, Octavio	# 135	Raso Umanzor, Marcos	#2735
Cpl. Gallardo, Miguel (HC)	1934	" Loisiga, Salvador	2558
" Lopez, Justo	505	" Molina, Carmon	1344
" Martinez, Trinidad	2073	" Monjarez, Benito	2838
" Rodriguez, Maximo	2842	" Pastrana, Geronimo	2185
Raso Aguirre, Isabel	749	" Perez, Emilio	261
" Altamirano, Casimiro	2592	" Davila, Francisco	1482
" Calderon, Alberto	1837	" Rios, Elias	2818
" Raso, Castillo, Julio	3124	" Rodriguez, Ruben	2095
" Gonzalez, Ignacio	1542	" Vanegas, Manuel	2570
" Gutierrez, Asencion	2134	" Espinosa, Juan	782
" Gutierrez, Concepcion	2986	" Vazquez, Francisco	1973

Auxl. Jose Maria Garcia
" Santos Benito Garcia

Auxl. Juan Bautista Garcia.
" Felix Pedro Garcia.

2. Bandits employed two Browning automatic rifles, two Thompson sub-machine guns, eleven rifle grenades, bombs, rifle and pistol fire. Bandits also had one additional Thompson sub-machine gun in the center of town to protect the looters who were also covered by a B. M. R. in the rear of church. Machine guns and bombs were concentrated in the first part of attack on officers's quarters. The bandits were apparently aided by someone who was well acquainted with Somoto and barracks as bombs and rifle fire were accurately directed, rifle fire being directed to parts of building where officers sleep. Ten bombs fell in patio and through roof of officers's quarters. A very heavy fire was maintained in the streets in front of barracks, apparently to keep the Guardia in while the looting of town was taking place.

3. A patrol of ten men under Sgt Chavarria was sent out about ten minutes after the start of the attack to prevent looting of the town. The patrol encountered heavy machine gun and rifle fire and after the failure of their Thompson sub-machine gun were forced to return to the barracks. Stoppage was cleared in about 15 minutes and the patrol was again sent out. Looters were driven from the streets about thirty minutes later. The store of señora Maria Lopez, wife of Senator Lopez, was broken into and robbed. The bandits then made several unsuccessful attempts to set fire to the store and house. The manager of Sierke's store, who was armed with a pistol, opened the door of the store upon request of the bandits armed with machetes and from an investigation of his store a few minutes after the bandits retreated, it was apparent that a comparatively small quin-

city of marsh ndise had been molested, a small amount of clothing and liquor being the principal articles taken.

4. Attack lasted until 330, five unsuccessful assaults being made on the barracks, then apparently upon signal of bomb being fired about one half mile from town on the Ocotal road, bandits retired in all directions but for the most part towards the North and East. Heard one bomb and rifle and machine gun fire about one quarter mile from town of the Ocotal road at about 345 lasting only a few minutes.

5. Bandits were apparently augmented by natives in the vicinity of Somoto for the purpose of aiding in the looting of town.

6. There were no Guardia or civilian casualties. Bandit casualties unknown.

7. Conduct of all Guardias and Auxiliares was excellent with no confusion at start of attack. Stations were promptly manned and an effective fire laid down: Orders were obeyed, especially in the conservation of ammunition, the bandits expending more than the Guardia. Discipline was very good despite the fact that the machine guns were not of much use due to stoppages. Raso Vazquez, Francisco #1973, General Court Martial prisoner waiting transfer to Ocotal, was upon repeated requests, released from confinement, armed and allowed to take part in the engagement where he conducted himself well.

/s/ F. H. McGorkle.

1st endorsement. Guardia Nacional, Somoto, Nic. 21 JAN 1931.

From: District Commander.
To : Area Commander. Northern Area.

1. A patrol consisting of myself and the following named enlisted men cleared Palacaguina at 1830 January 19th and proceeded towards Somoto:

Sgt	Lovo, Joaquin	# 2835	Raso Martinez, Ventura	# 933
Raso	Caceres, Antonio	2203	" Perez, Jesus	2734
"	Carazo, Macario	2950	" Rizo, Ruperto	2311
"	Gutierrez, Pedro	2839	" Vanegas, Victoriano	2559

2. Due to the direction of the wind the firing during the attack on Somoto was not heard until arrival at L. Cruz Grande (170-357) where the telegraph line was found to be cut. Then about one half mile from town a dynamite bomb was fired from a nearby hill. The patrol continued towards Somoto and when about a quarter of a mile from town the movement of a group, apparently of considerable size, was heard on the road ahead and in an adjoining pasture, and at practically the same time a shot was fired at the patrol. The patrol returned the fire and the bandits after firing a few shots dispersed in all directions. From blood trails and cries it is believed that at least two were wounded. The patrol continued on to Somoto and on arrival additional patrols were sent out through the town.

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3. At day light a search was made of the town and outskirts and blood trails were found in the streets and nearby trails leading from town. Reliable native reports indicate that two dead and five wounded bandits were taken out of the town on animals. The following articles were found near positions occupied by the bandits in town: two Thompson clips, ninety rounds miscellaneous ammunition and two bombs.

4. It is believed that the regular bandit groups were temporarily increased by simpathizers from the surrounding districts, many armed only with machetes, who joined to participate in the contemplated looting.

/s/ G. A. Williams.

The following extract of a report of a contact with bandits had by a Pueblo Nuevo, N.M., Guardia patrol, under command of Captain W. L. Bales, on January 2, 1931, near Los Cedros, Jinotega, is quoted:

" Incidents: Patrol was proceeding almost due North as shown in the sketch enclosed. Trail was badly grown up with brush and so close on either side it was practically a wall. One could not see five feet on either side of trail. There had been no signs of bandits beyond a fresh track of one man in the trail we were following. There was a single rifle shot followed with no appreciable interval by a burst of automatic fire and scattering fire along the whole line. As shown on sketch the point and advance party was wholly within the zone of fire. They returned the fire immediately. There were two Thompsons, one BAR and one rifle grenadier were with the point and advance party. They all got into action with surprising rapidity. The bandits were lying in the brush on the crest of a ridge paralleling the trail and were about ten paces from the trail. They seem to have fired only one clip from the Thompson. Their fire was smothered by our fire and I could not tell how long they continued firing. I think they were hardly more than a minute in their position, before they dropped down the slope out of the fire of our advance party. They then came under the fire of the main body and apparently fired a few shots as they ran down the hill as some shots hit in the trail where the main body was located.

When the fire opened my first thought was that a party had been met in the close trail. In a short interval a rifle grenade exploded on my right front and that gave the direction of the bandit location. The rifles and three automatic weapons in the main body then opened fire into the brush on the right front. It was just a piece of luck that the slope of the hill was such that it brought our fire right on their line of retreat. There was no way of seeing how the slope ran and these little bushes do not last long enough for much reconnaissance during the contact. It was well down the slope that we found all the hats. The group scattered as they went down the slope. We found four trails in the brush with blood splashes. The rifle was found about fifty feet down the slope from their initial position.

Their automatic was apparently held on a single aiming point as the fire cut down a sapling about three inches in diameter that was just on the left of our trail and about 35 feet from where the gun was apparently located. It was at a height that would have caught a man in the hips. The Guardia fire in the advance party was particularly well directed. A subsequent examination showed many hits in the brush, most of them below the waist line and not one higher than a man's head. Eight rifle grenades were used, five by advance party and three by main body.

Signs were found of some having been hidden in brush further along the trail. Apparently they opened fire about a minute sooner than they intended as those men never fired so far as we could tell. It was estimated that there were at least thirty in the group and that practically all had some kind of weapons. An empty cartridge case 1927 Springfield ammunition was found and some empty Krag cases all 1917 lot. Three empty cartridges for their Thompsons were found one Western and the other two F.M., 1927 and 1928. They are forwarded herewith.

The conduct of the Guardia was excellent. They acted as though being under fire was an everyday occurrence. The following men are particularly deserving of mention for their promptness in getting their weapons in action: Cabo Fernin Madrigal, #1940 Thompson gunner, in the point; Raso Rafael Espinales, No. 2533, BAR man in advance party; and Raso Aurelio Gonzalez, No. 2030, rifle grenadier with advance party. Six automatic weapons were fired and there was not a jump or stoppage.

The conduct of and Lt. O. Clark, GM., was particularly worth of mention. He was the nearest man to the burst of automatic fire of the bandits. The speed with which he got all automatic weapons engaged, the excellent fire direction in the advance party, the direction of his rifle grenade fire, and in general the conduct of the advance party in this ambush were highly commendable.

/s/ W. L. Bloss.

RG 127/43A/31