

In the course of our investigation we encountered a statement made by Señor Delfino Ríos, a Mexican citizen, an old resident of Torreón, who was in the city at the time the massacre took place. This statement appeared in a paper published in Torreón, known as "Diogenes," on the 16th of July, 1911. Since this statement emanates from a Mexican citizen and was not made in connection with any investigation, it is believed to be an unbiased account of what actually took place in Torreón on the 13th, 14th and 15th of May, 1911.

The author of this article was visited by the representative of the President in company with ourselves, and reaffirmed the truth of each statement contained therein. In view of these facts we have resolved to embody this account in this report in full. It is as follows:

**"The Truth About the Assassination of the Chinese in Torreón.**

"The hecatomb which took place in this city on the morning of the 15th of May has been the theme of various articles and a number of commentaries throughout the Republic, without its being known to the nation up to this time what was the real cause of the horrifying and extensive massacre."

"The origin of this startling butchery having been discovered by the various commissions of the same nationality which have visited this place for the purpose of conducting investigations, I may narrate them for the information of the public and in order that the truth of the matter may be known."

"From the beginning of the month of May the towns of Ciudad Lerdo and Gomez Palacio, distant from this place eight and four kilometers, respectively, and having communication by electric road, had been occupied by the Maderista forces under command of Ramirez, Buitron, Jesus Flores and others, because they were undefended by the federals."

"On the 5th of May the revolutionists organized civic parades, circuses, serenades and other diversions to celebrate the victory of our troops over the French forces."

"In the first—that is to say, the civic parades—the troops participated, these being composed mainly of convicts and criminals who had been liberated from the prisons, and of ignorant people of the worst antecedents."

"At different points along the line of march speeches were made by the adherents of the cause or by the leaders themselves, who, as a matter of fact were not to be distinguished by their superior education."

"Among these latter, Jesus Flores, deceased, made a speech. This man was only a stone mason with no social standing and not even a mediocre education. He spoke of the reasons for the celebration and added that all of the foreigners had become wealthy at the expense of the sweat of the Mexican workingman, especially the Chinese, who had taken over even the work of the women, depriving them of their livelihood and that, therefore, it was necessary, and he considered it even a patriotic duty, to *finish with them*."

"These latter words made an impression and remained fixed in the minds of these unthinking, ignorant people and 'patriotism', which was in a state of effervescence, was prepared to break out at the opportune moment."

"In the course of time it became known in this city that in the said towns additional, forces were being gathered to attack Torreon, which was the objective point of their campaign, since there are nine banks and magnificent business houses here. And, in addition to the troops, a call was issued to the mobs from which the troops had been drawn."

"In the meantime, General Lojero, who was at the head of 670 men, including about 50 rurales and some 60 volunteers of the State of Nuevo Leon, who were dressed in yellow

khaki and whose bravery astonished the foreigners, the nationals and even the revolutionists, took charge of the defense of the city and displayed an extraordinary activity and fortified the city in a strategic way in accordance with all the rules of the art of defense.”

“Skirmishing began on Saturday, the 13th, at which time some four thousand revolutionists began the formal attack on the city, which was brilliantly defended by the very small force of federals. The fire lasted forty-two hours, during which time Buitron and Flores, himself, were killed. During this time feats of prowess were performed by the federals which would have excited the admiration of the Spartans themselves. Eight of the ‘Yellow-Jackets’ held back the advance and caused two hundred rebels to retreat. Three hundred men attacked a position held by fifteen federals, who caused them to retreat. The fighting continued all day and all night without the intrepid defenders of Torreón being driven from a single one of their positions.”

“This in spite of the fact that the Maderistas kept up a heavy fire from the house tops, the federals, therefore, being between two fires.”

“On Sunday morning the attacking forces retired to their headquarters and in the meantime the federals remained at their post.”

“Sunday night approached and great was the surprise on Monday morning when it was found that the city had been evacuated. The federals had withdrawn without any one knowing why.”

“It was said that General Lojero had received orders to take such a step, and also, that the ammunition had been exhausted and many attributed this move to the traitorous hostility of the residents toward the troops.”

“Under these circumstances the Maderistas within the city went out to inform their companions of what had happened with regard to the evacuation of the city and the Maderistas at once marched into the city.”

“Everybody expected that in view of the peace which now reigned and the fact that there was now no danger to any one that they would effect a peaceful entry and would commit no untoward acts.”

"However, this unfortunately was not the case. What an uprising of savages! what an outbreak of barbarous Indians! Four thousand men hurled themselves upon the city at the head of six mobs: those of Lerdo, Gomez Palacio, San Pedro, Viesca, Matamoros and Torreon, all of whom were bent on pillage."

"The robbery commenced. Business places and private residences without number were swept entirely clean and it was a sight to witness the lower classes carrying away bureaus, chairs, sewing machines, phonographs, pianos, etc., which they rolled along like bales of cotton. The doors of these houses had been opened by the revolutionists who incited the masses to enter and take possession of the contents. Some of the houses after being robbed were set on fire, which was the fate suffered by the jail, the police headquarters building, the Inferior Court, and Court of Letters and the Municipal Treasury."

"They went to the Chinese stores, some of which were of great value, and after moving even the fixtures, the Madristas fired a rain of bullets upon them and 10 or 12 were killed. When they went to the Chinese Bank, two of the employees who had witnessed the above events, tried to defend themselves and fired their weapons. This was the signal for the house to be surrounded and for carbines to be fired by hundreds. They riddled the two men found there with bullets, as well as all the others, and followed this up in a fury by proceeding to butcher all the Chinese they could find, not even sparing children of five years of age or less. This was the day of judgment. Scenes were enacted which would horrify a Kaffir or a Hottentot."

"These men who wore on their hats the images of the Holy Child of Tongo, our Lady of Guadalupe, The Master of Mercy, and of their patron saints, had no mercy for any one. Their work became an ecstasy. The number of killed reached 303."

"The streets of Torreon at 3 o'clock in the afternoon were strewn with corpses, among which were those of Mexicans who resembled Chinese."

"The residents were terrorized and families wept openly."

—13—

“The massacre ceased, thanks to the arrival of Don Emilio Madero, who immediately ordered the troops to accompany him in charging the mobs with the saber.”

“During the entire afternoon the bodies, for the most part naked, were taken to the cemetery in carts and buried in a trench about forty meters long which was dug outside of the cemetery. The corpses were piled one on top of the other without any covering.”

“The consternation which reigned in the city was indescribable. There are no words with which to express it.”

“Even at this date the streets in which the victims lived and which are in a deplorable condition, present a gloomy aspect, and at night no one wishes to pass through these streets because to do so brings to mind these heartrending scenes.”

“It is not true that the Chinese aided in the defense of the city, nor are the statements with regard to the poisonings true, in any form.”

“The foregoing statement is the truth which has already been conscientiously investigated by the representatives of that nation as well as ours.”

“According to calculations, the value of the goods stolen and destroyed in the lake district during the six months of the revolution amounts to at least 10,000,000 pesos, and the lives lost in the encounters, together with those who were massacred, number more than 1,000.”

(Signed) “AN EYE WITNESS.”

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