

AMERICAN MARINES IN NICARAGUA

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HISTORY OF NICARAGUA

ALTHOUGH America was discovered in 1492, it was not until 1502 that the coast of Nicaragua was first seen by a European, when Christopher Columbus on one of his later voyages, was in that vicinity. In an exploring expedition headed by Gil Gonzales Davila Lake Nicaragua was discovered in 1522, and Fonseca Bay was also discovered and visited. During the Spanish colonial period Nicaragua was a part of the Captaincy General of Guatemala, and in 1821, declared its independence from the mother country, and in 1822 joined the Mexican Empire, under Iturbide. In 1823 Nicaragua became a member of the United Provinces of Central America, or Federal Union, which was recognized by Mexico the following year. A long civil war resulted in the dissolution of the confederacy in 1838, when Nicaragua became an independent state. During the brief existence of the Federal Union no fewer than 396 persons exercised the supreme power of the Republic and the different states.

A dispute arose in 1841 between Nicaragua and Great Britain concerning the rights of a native chief on the Mosquito Coast, which was settled by the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwar Treaty in 1850 and by a separate treaty in which Great Britain ceded all rights of a protectorate over the disputed territory to Nicaragua. In 1854 United States Naval Forces, including Marines, were forced to intervene in Nicaraguan affairs.

In 1855 an American named William Walker attempted to establish a slave-holding state in Central America, was driven out in 1857, later renewed his attempt, and in 1860 was captured and shot at Trujilla in Honduras on September 12, 1860. Naval forces of the United States, including Marines, figured very prominently in these incidents.

Chamorro became President in 1875 and was succeeded by General Zavala, who in 1883 was succeeded by Doctor Cardenas. Peace continued until 1883, when a struggle under General Barrios to unite the five Central American States was a cause of war between Guatemala and Honduras on one side, and Nicaragua,

Salvador and Costa Rica on the other. A treaty of peace was signed April 11, 1885. Don Evaristo Carazo succeeded Doctor Cardenas as President in 1887, but died in a little over two years and was succeeded by Dr. Roberto Sacasa. President Sacasa was overthrown by a revolution in 1893. After a period under a provisional government, a successful uprising under General José Santos Zelaya occurred. José Santos Zelaya was inaugurated President in 1894 and the annexation of the Mosquito Territory caused strained relations with Great Britain.

In 1895 Nicaragua, Salvador, and Honduras united and formed the Greater Republic of Central America with provisions for the subsequent admission of Guatemala and Costa Rica, and while the constitution was adopted and went into effect on November 1, 1898, this union was dissolved, owing to the dissatisfaction of Honduras. An attempt to overthrow Zelaya was made in February, 1896, but it was crushed after severe fighting.

Zelaya was re-elected in 1898, 1902, and 1906.

A successful war with Honduras occurred in 1907, after which Nicaragua declared war on other Central American states. This war-like attitude of Nicaragua resulted in a peace conference being held at Washington, from November 14 to December 20, 1907, at which the Central American States and Mexican representatives were present. This conference resulted in a treaty of peace providing for peace among the Central American States. By treaty in 1908 Great Britain recognized the sovereignty of Nicaragua over the Mosquito Coast. In October, 1909, General Juan J. Estrada led a revolt against Zelaya, and during the operations two Americans, who were alleged to have fought under Estrada, were executed. Zelaya was forced to resign in December, 1909, and José Madriz was elected President, but the revolt under Estrada continued. An expedition of Marines landed in Nicaragua about this time.

President Madriz fled from the capital in August, 1910, and Estrada was proclaimed President and was elected provisional President for a two-year term on December 31, 1910. An expedition of Marines landed in Nicaragua during this year. Estrada resigned in May, 1911, and was succeeded by the Vice-President, Adolfo Diaz.

The old Zelayist faction returned to power on October 7, 1911, when General Luis Mena was elected President for a four-year

term, beginning January 1, 1912, but his election was declared illegal on March 1, 1912; this resulted in Mena revolting against the government. Naval forces, including a large body of Marines, under Rear Admiral Southerland, were forced to intervene at this time, to safeguard the lives of American citizens and their property.

Diaz was again elected to the Presidency November 2, 1912.

A revolt occurred in 1914; martial law was declared, but serious disorder was prevented by the presence of the United States Naval Forces, and peace was soon restored.

General Emilio Chamorro was elected President for a term of four years in 1916.

A treaty between the United States and Nicaragua was proclaimed June 24, 1916. This treaty, among other things granted in perpetuity to the United States, exclusive right for "an inter-oceanic canal by way of the San Juan River and the Great Lake of Nicaragua, or by way of any route over Nicaraguan territory." This treaty also provided for a lease of Great Corn Island and Little Corn Island and the right for the United States to establish, operate, and maintain a naval base on the Gulf of Fonseca. For all the foregoing the United States agreed to pay Nicaragua three million dollars, which sum was to be expended under the supervision of the United States.

In December, 1920, a treaty was negotiated at San Juan, Costa Rica, for the creation of the Central American Union. Under this treaty, Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, and Costa Rica would be merged under the new federation, and it was hoped that Nicaragua would eventually join and that by September 15, 1921, the new state would come into existence.

Diego Manuel Chamorro and Bartolo Martínez were elected respectively President and Vice-President of Nicaragua on October 3, 1920, and inaugurated on December 31, 1920.

From 1912 until the present date an American Legation Guard composed of Marines has been stationed at Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

The following information regarding the Mosquito Coast should prove of value to those who are interested in these operations: The *Mosquito Coast and Reserve* is a division of the Republic of Nicaragua, officially styled the Department of Zelaya. Its name is derived from its principal inhabitants, the *Misskito* Indians. From 1655 to 1850 Great Britain claimed a protectorate

over it, but on November 20, 1894, it was formally incorporated in that of the Republic of Nicaragua as the Department of Zelaya.

THE CONSTITUTION OF NICARAGUA

The following is taken from "The Constitutions of the States at War, 1914-1918," edited by Herbert F. Wright:

"Shortly after the dissolution of the Central American Union, the State of Nicaragua proclaimed its independence (April, 1838) and gave itself, on 12 November, 1838, a new Constitution to replace its Federal State Constitution which was dated 8th of April, 1826. After the bloody wars which troubled the Republic from 1855 to 1857, and the overthrow of the adventurer, William Walker, a Constituent Assembly met at Managua and amended the Constitution on 19 August, 1858. The Constitution of 1858, little respected by the political parties which successively contended for the power, gave way in 1893 to a new text adopted by a Constituent Assembly at Managua on 10 December. After the revolution of 1896, the Constitution received important amendments by a law of 15 October, 1896. The Sixth Constitution, dated 30 March, 1905, gave way to the present Constitution on 10 November, 1911."

LANDING OF MARINES NOT AN "ACT OF WAR"

In 1909 Rear Admiral Pillsbury stated that "you can land a Sailor or a Marine and it is not considered war; but if you land one section of the Army that is war."

A memorandum dated August 15, 1912, by the Major General Commandant to the Secretary of the Navy, reads as follows:

"In conjunction with the State Department, the Navy Department is of necessity intrusted with the duty of protecting American interests in those countries more or less under the influence of the United States and for whose conduct the United States has assumed certain responsibilities. By custom the Marine Corps has come to be considered a body of troops available for immediate despatch to those countries where conditions require a display of force, either as a caution or for the actual protection of American interests. Marines are part of the naval force, are so considered by the countries concerned, and their employment in this manner (as an adjunct of the naval force) is accomplished with-

out the strained relations that would follow in case troops of the Army were so employed, and at a much less expense than would be involved in the use of the Army."

The policy of the Navy Department on this subject, as expressed to Congress by the Secretary in 1911 (see Naval Institute Proceedings, No. 147) is as follows: "This Corps is primarily an adjunct of the Navy, to be used as a mobile force, stationed on board ship, in home ports, and at advanced bases, always ready to act in conjunction with the Navy in preserving order beyond the territorial limits and in occupying strategic points in advance of the Army *when to move the Army would occasion war.*"

For the above reasons the several landings from Naval vessels and the expeditions to Nicaragua have not come within the international law definition of "war," but they were anything but "peaceful" from the viewpoint of those engaged.

Marines were on the *Cyane* when Greytown, Nicaragua, was bombarded in 1854, and with the naval force that landed; they were on the *St. Mary's* and the *Wabash* in Nicaraguan waters during the Walker regime and at his downfall in 1856 and 1857; in 1909 an expedition was sent to Corinto, and one to Bluefields in 1910, to protect American interests; the last and, it is to be hoped final, straightening-out of Nicaraguan affairs was performed by a large naval force, including many Marines, in 1912.

BOMBARDMENT OF GREYTOWN, NICARAGUA, IN 1854

The bombardment of Greytown on the San Juan River, Nicaragua, on July 13, 1854, by the American Sloop-of-War *Cyane*, was preceded by certain interesting incidents. Greytown had been constituted a free city and recognized by Great Britain. United States citizens had established a transit company for travel between New York and San Francisco via Greytown, San Juan River, Lake Nicaragua, Fort San Carlos, Virgin Bay, and San Juan del Sur. The United States had never recognized a King of Mosquito or the protectorate of Great Britain over Greytown, although British officials claimed that both the American and British Governments had instructed their naval commanders to support the government *de facto* of Greytown. Trouble arose between the Greytown authorities, and the transit company and the *Cyane*, arriving at Greytown on February 10, 1853, the Marine Guard was ordered to land on the Island of Punta Arenas to pro-

tect the buildings of the transit company. The British warship *Geyser* hastened to Greytown in response to an untrue telegram sent by the mayor that. "Hollins had landed the Marines of the *Cyane*, hauled down the Mosquito flag, taken charge of the town, and blockaded the harbor." In February, 1853, the Marine Guard of the *Cyane* consisted of 25 enlisted men commanded by Orderly Sergeant James E. Thompson. The *Cyane* remained at Greytown for seventy days, being relieved on May 30, 1853, by the Sloop-of-War *Albany*. The situation eased up and all parties seemed satisfied even to the extent of the mayor apprehending and delivering to the *Albany* a Marine who had deserted from the *Cyane*.

About a year later new difficulties arose which involved American life and property and the *Cyane* arrived at Greytown on July 11, 1854. On July 12, 1854, Commander Hollins of the *Cyane* gave Greytown twenty-four hours to render satisfaction or suffer bombardment. On the morning of July 12, 1854, a guard of Marines and Seamen were sent ashore to confiscate all arms and ammunition, and at 9.00 a.m., July 13, 1854, the *Cyane*'s batteries were opened on the town with shot and shell. About 4.00 p.m. a force of Marines and Bluejackets were landed with orders to complete the destruction of the town by fire. An attack was made on this landing force by an armed party, but the volley being returned, the attacking party fled. On this date the Marine Guard of the *Cyane*, consisting of 25 enlisted men, was commanded by Orderly Sergeant James E. Thompson.

DOWNFALL OF WALKER IN 1856

William Walker, from California, led a band of Americans to Nicaragua in 1855, and threw in his lot with the Democrats in their struggle against the Legalistas. Walker and his band arrived at Realjo, on board the brig *Vesta*, in June, 1855. In June, 1856, Walker was elected President of Nicaragua, but had little peace in his administration, because all the Central American Governments declared war on Nicaragua.

On April 24, 1856, the commanding officer of the *St. Mary's* sent a naval officer and a corporal of Marines to interview Walker, who was practically besieged in his capital at Rivas, and made arrangements for removing the women and children to San Juan del Sur, where they would be under the protection of the American flag.

At the end of April, 1856, the commanding officer of the *St. Mary's* suggested to Walker that he surrender to him, and that if such surrender were made all the Americans would be saved. At 5.00 p.m., May 1, 1856, the commanding officer of *St. Mary's* entered the Plaza of Rivas and Walker surrendered. Walker and the Americans were placed on board the *St. Mary's* and other ships and taken out of the country. The single vessel of Walker's Navy, the *Granada*, commanded by Fayssoux, was given up and eventually turned over to Costa Rica.

During these incidents the Marine Guard of the *St. Mary's* was commanded by Second Lieutenant James Wiley. There were twenty-three enlisted men, including Orderly Sergeant Jackson Durling and Corporals Michael Fox and James Gallagher.

WALKER'S SURRENDER TO PAULDING IN 1857

Walker headed another filibustering expedition to Nicaragua in 1857, landing at Greytown. In December, 1857, the *Wabash* (flagship of Commodore Paulding), the *Saratoga*, and the *Fulton*, blockaded Greytown, and on December 7, 1857, the *Saratoga* sent boats up the river to prevent any of Walker's party from ascending the river. Commodore Paulding informed Walker he intended capturing all the filibusters and returning them to the United States. On December 8, 1857, 300 Marines and sailors went on board the *Fulton* and landed from that vessel on the Transit Company's wharf. "The Marines of the squadron, commanded by Lieutenants Lewis and Payne, and three divisions of seamen from the *Wabash*" landed. Walker disbanded his force and surrendered. Just as Walker surrendered, "the *Morgan*, which had gone aground 12 miles upstream, came in sight, having 12 filibusters and 30 Costa Rican prisoners on board. A detachment of United States Marines seized the boat, liberated the prisoners, captured the filibusters, and placed the steamer in the keeping of the United States commercial agent." "When Walker surrendered, some 40 of his men took to the chaparral, intending to make their way up the river and join * * * one of Walker's lieutenants. On the following day the Marines beat around the dense undergrowth, and by night had rounded up 32 of the men. The rest had taken a boat and gone up the river." On December 12, 1857, Walker's men were on their way back to the United States on board the *Saratoga*. Walker travelled on the *Wabash* to Aspinwall, and from there on a mail steamer to the United States.

In December, 1857, the Marine Guards of this squadron were composed as follows: *Wabash*, Captain Benjamin Macomber, Second Lieutenant James Lewis, and sixty enlisted men, including Orderly Sergeants Joseph P. McDonald, Charles T. Young, and Peter Ludwig; *Saratoga*, Second Lieutenant John O. Payne and twenty-six enlisted men, including Orderly Sergeant George M. Miller; *Fulton*, thirteen enlisted men under Orderly Sergeant Thomas Bowe.

MARINES LAND IN 1909

While naval vessels carrying Marine Guards were frequently in the vicinity of Nicaragua, it was not until 1909 that Marines landed in any port of that country. In October of that year General Juan J. Estrada led a revolt against President Zelaya, and two Americans were executed. In December Zelaya resigned, and José Madriz was elected to the Presidency, but the revolt under Estrada continued.

An expeditionary regiment consisting of 32 officers and 709 enlisted men, under command of Colonel James E. Mahoney, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed on the U. S. S. *Prairie* from Philadelphia, Pa., December 2, 1909, for Nicaragua.

The regiment was transferred from the *Prairie* to the U. S. S. *Dixie* on December 5, 1909, sailing from a point on the Delaware River below Philadelphia for Cristobal, Canal Zone, on the same day, and arrived at the latter point December 12th. The regiment was disembarked at Cristobal on December 12th and reembarked the same day on the U. S. S. *Buffalo*, and proceeded to Corinto, Nicaragua, arriving at that place December 20, 1909, where it remained until March 15, 1910.

The regiment returned to Balboa, Canal Zone on the *Buffalo*, March 23, 1910, where it was disembarked and went into camp at Las Cascadas, Canal Zone, remaining there until April 14, 1910, when it was embarked on the *Prairie* and left for the United States on April 15th, arriving at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa., on April 25th.

On December 11, 1909, Colonel William P. Biddle, U. S. Marine Corps, was directed to take command of the First and Second Regiments, which were organized into an expeditionary brigade. The Second Regiment, consisting of 30 officers and 712 enlisted men, was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Eli K. Cole, U. S. Marine Corps, and sailed from Philadelphia, Pa., on the U. S. S.

Prairie December 14, 1909, arriving in the Canal Zone December 24th, where it was disembarked and took station at Camp Elliott, Canal Zone, the same date, remaining at that place until April 14, 1910, when, with the exception of 3 officers and 200 enlisted men, it embarked on the U. S. S. *Prairie* and sailed for the United States, arriving at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, on April 25th. Three officers and 200 enlisted men embarked on the U. S. S. *Buffalo* on April 13, 1910, and sailed for the Navy Yard, Mare Island, Cal., where they were disembarked on May 5, 1910.

A battalion of the First Expeditionary Regiment remained at Camp Elliott, Canal Zone, relieving the detachment regularly stationed at that post. The battalion relieved (7 officers and 383 enlisted men) returned to the United States on the *Prairie*, arriving at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa., on March 30, 1910.

The following report dated December 27, 1909, written on board the U. S. S. *Buffalo*, then at Corinto, Nicaragua, by Colonel James E. Mahoney, commanding the First Provisional Regiment, Nicaraguan Expeditionary Force, to the Major General Commandant is of interest:

"I have the honor to report that the health of the officers and men of the Regiment is, and has been, excellent since leaving the Delaware River. The men are cheerful and have shown a most willing spirit in performing the work entailed by the numerous transfers of the expeditionary stores and provisions; *viz.*, loading into the *Prairie* at League Island; breaking out and getting them into lighters when the *Prairie* was aground in the Delaware River; transferring into the *Dixie*; discharging and loading into freight cars at Cristobal; and finally transferring into the *Buffalo* at Balboa (LaBoca). It took eight working hours to transfer all supplies from the *Dixie* to freight cars and fifteen working hours to load and store on the *Buffalo* at Balboa, two steam hoisting cranes being used at the latter place.

"The *Dixie* secured at the dock at Cristobal early in the forenoon of December 12th. Major Neville's battalion with a section of the freight left Cristobal about 2.40 p.m., and arrived at Balboa about 5.00 p.m. Major Butler's battalion with the remainder of the freight left for Balboa at 7.30 p.m., and arrived at the dock about 10.00 p.m. same day.

"The *Buffalo* left the dock at Balboa in the forenoon of December 14th and anchored in Panama Harbor, off the Quarantine Sta-

tion. During the stay in Panama Harbor (December 14th to midnight of December 17th) such men as had had no rifle practice with ball cartridges were exercised in shooting from the ship at anchored targets. The men were exercised in pulling boats, and swimming parties, a company at a time, were sent to the beach of the Quarantine Station. On December 13th Major Bannon, Captain Clifford, and Second Lieutenants Murray, Raynor and Hoyt, the officers who would be assigned to duty with the Panama battalion in the event of that battalion joining this regiment, were ordered to Camp Elliott for temporary duty to enable them to get acquainted with their various commands. These officers rejoined the regiment on the evening of the 17th, as Major Fuller's battalion was not to embark on the *Buffalo*. Two privates with scabies were sent to the Ancon Hospital for treatment as with the crowded condition on the *Buffalo* it would be impracticable to isolate them on the ship. The Commanding Officer at Camp Elliott was notified to look out for these men.

"The 'dry season' is a blessing to the regiment, enabling half of the men to sleep on deck every night. Everything possible has been and is being done for the health and comfort of the regiment. Since our arrival at Corinto on the 20th, physical exercise is being secured by pulling boats, setting-up drills, and by swimming on the beach of the town of Corinto * * *."

From reports received from the commanding officer of this Nicaraguan Expeditionary Force it appeared that the health of the entire command was excellent during its stay in the Tropics, and the commandant of the Nicaraguan Expeditionary Squadron (Rear Admiral W. W. Kimball, U. S. Navy) under date of March 15, 1910, sent the following letter to the commanding officer of the First Expeditionary Regiment:

"U. S. S. *Albany*, Flagship,
Corinto, Nicaragua, March 15, 1910.

"Sir: You will please convey to the officers and men of the First Regiment of Marines, *Expéditionary Brigade*, the high appreciation of the commander of the Nicaraguan Expeditionary Squadron of the manner in which you and the officers and men under your command have met the effects, usually so destructive to discipline and efficiency, of a long stay in a transport in the Tropics, accompanied by a succession of disappointments of

hopes for service in the field. Under such conditions, the facts that the fine morale of the regiment has been maintained and that fitness, efficiency, and resourcefulness have steadily increased should give you a feeling of proper pride in duty done to you and your command."

The Muster Rolls for December 31, 1909, show that the First Provisional Regiment of Marines, on that date, was composed as follows:

REGIMENTAL FIELD AND STAFF

Colonel James E. Mahoney, Commanding.
Major Philip M. Bannon, Unattached.
Captain Louis McC. Little, Adjutant.
Captain Hugh L. Matthews, Quartermaster.
Sergeant Major Thomas F. Hayes, Sergeant Major.

FIRST BATTALION

Major Wendell C. Neville, Commanding.
First Lieutenant Arthur Stokes, Adjutant.
Company A: Captain Louis M. Gulick; First Lieutenant Harry G. Bartlett; Second Lieutenants Richard H. Tebbs and Leon W. Hoyt; First Sergeant Joseph J. Franklin.

Company B: Captain William H. Clifford; First Lieutenant Holland M. Smith; Second Lieutenants Thomas S. Clarke and Joseph D. Murray; Gunnery Sergeant George Heinsohn, First Sergeant.

Company C: Captain Harry R. Lay; Second Lieutenants Francis T. Evans, Donald F. Duncan, and Sidney N. Raynor; Gunnery Sergeant Robert Carrigan, First Sergeant.

THIRD BATTALION

Major Smedley D. Butler, Commanding.
First Lieutenant Harold F. Wrigman, Adjutant.
Company G: Captain James C. Breckinridge; First Lieutenants William H. Buckley and William D. Smith; First Sergeant Charles D. Meginness.
Company H: Captain William H. Parker; First Lieutenants Edward H. Conger and Charles F. B. Price; First Sergeant Charles A. Pennington.

Company I: Captain Robert M. Gilson; First Lieutenant Edward S. Willing; Second Lieutenant Robert E. Adams; First Sergeant Daniel J. McNamara.

Company K: Captain John A. Hughes; First Lieutenants Charles A. Lutz and Ralph L. Shepard; First Sergeant Robert F. Slingluff.

In his Annual Report for 1910 the Secretary of the Navy wrote as follows concerning this expedition: "A number of smaller vessels have been actively employed since December in protecting American interests in tropical American waters, especially on both coasts of Nicaragua. In connection with this service a force of Marines was embarked on board the U. S. S. *Buffalo* and held at Corinto ready to land should circumstances require it. To protect American interests in Greytown and Bluefields during the Nicaraguan revolution, the naval officers notified both parties that hostilities would not be allowed to take place in either city."

MARINES LAND IN 1910

Under date of May 27, 1910, in accordance with cable orders from the Major General Commandant, Major Smedley D. Butler, U. S. Marine Corps, with Companies A and C, consisting of six officers and 200 enlisted men from Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, embarked on the U. S. S. *Dubuque* at Colon, Panama, on May 29, 1910, and on the same date proceeded to Bluefields, Nicaragua, where they arrived the next day.

The following cable was received by the Major General Commandant on May 28, 1910:

"Butler, Breckinridge, Gilson, Shepard, Willing, Clarke, and Duncan, Companies A and C, 200 enlisted men, 2 Hospital Corps, embark *Dubuque* 6.00 a.m., 29th."

On May 30, 1910, the Major General Commandant received the following cable:

"Major Butler, two companies sailed *Dubuque*, Bluefields, 8.00 a.m. this date."

This two-company battalion was organized as follows:

Major Smedley D. Butler, Commanding.

Company A

Captain James C. Breckinridge.

First Lieutenant Ralph L. Shepard.

Second Lieutenant Donald F. Duncan.
First Sergeant Charles D. Meginness.

Company C

Captain Robert M. Gilson.
First Lieutenant Edward S. Willing.
Second Lieutenant Thomas S. Clarke.

On June 7, 1910, the Commanding Officer of the U. S. S. *Paducah* at Colon, Panama, sent the following to the Secretary of the Navy:

"Relations Bluefield strained *Prairie* with two companies Marines from Camp Elliott leave to-morrow forenoon for Bluefield."

The following cable was sent to the Major General Commandant on June 8, 1910:

"By order Commander Gilmer two companies under my command with Hughes, Wrigman, Buckley, Reid, Tebbs, will embark *Prairie* early eighth for Bluefields following remain at Camp Elliott; Conger, Lutz, Tucker, Ziegler, seventy-five men. Parker."

On June 8, 1910, the Major General Commandant received the following message:

"Parker and two companies sailed Bluefields *Prairie* to-day."

The June Muster Rolls of Companies B and D for June, 1910, contains the following notation:

"8-12, temporary expeditionary detached duty on U. S. S. *Prairie*, Bluefields, Nicaragua."

"8th, embarked U. S. S. *Prairie*, Cristobal, I. C. Z., 13th disembarked U. S. S. *Prairie*, Cristobal, I. C. Z., Panama."

These two companies sailed on the *Prairie* from Cristobal, Panama, June 8, 1910, arrived off Bluefields, Nicaragua, on June 9, 1910, did not disembark, but lay off that town until June 12, 1910, when they sailed for Cristobal and disembarked on June 13, 1910. Captain William H. Parker, commanded Company B and Captain John A. Hughes, Company D.

Companies A and C, under Major Butler, remained at Bluefields, Nicaragua, guarding American interests at that place until September 4, 1910, when they embarked aboard the *Tacoma* and sailed for Colon the following day, arrived at Cristobal September 6th and resumed their proper stations at Camp Elliott.

Reports received by the Major General Commandant showed that the health of these Marines was excellent during their stay at Bluefields, and this was due, in no small degree, to the strict

observance of the following Sanitary Orders published under direction of Major Butler while his battalion was ashore at Bluefields. These orders illustrate how constructive measures accompany American Marines in minor interventions.

“ SANITARY ORDER

“ Bluefields, Nicaragua,
“ June 6, 1910.

“ For the preservation of the health of the United States citizens and troops now quartered in Bluefields, Nicaragua, and for the general good of the public, it becomes necessary to issue, and enforce, the following Sanitary Regulations:

“ 1. Each person occupying a house is required to keep this house and its grounds and outbuildings clean. All garbage and trash is to be either burned or buried. Garbage which is buried must be at least two (2) feet under ground. Grounds must be drained so that no pools of stagnant water can collect; all tanks holding water must be screened or destroyed.

“ 2. Special care must be taken of water closets. Water closets must be kept clean and dry, and so arranged that no rain water will wash under them and carry impurities away. Water closets must be covered over each day with a layer of earth about two (2) inches deep. When any closet is within two (2) feet of being filled it must be either completely covered with earth, and a new closet dug, or it must be cleaned out and disinfected and its contents either burned or buried at least two (2) feet under ground. Any person who occupies a house and does not do his utmost to comply with the foregoing Regulations will be arrested and fined or otherwise punished.

“ SPECIAL SANITARY ORDER FOR THE MARKET

“ Each room in the market must be cleaned out every day, and kept clean all day. Persons having rooms must keep the hallways and outside gallery clean around their rooms.

“ No person is permitted to sleep in any room in the market.

“ No rotten meat, fruit, vegetables and other food can be sold or kept in the market.

“ Pigs must be kept confined. Owners of dogs must keep them confined, as all stray dogs will be killed.

"Frequent inspections will be made by Sanitary Officials, who will prescribe additional sanitary methods.

"L. Sequeira, M.D.,

"City Health Officer.

"It is my opinion that the foregoing Rules and Regulations for local sanitary improvement are urgently necessary, and are immediately required to relieve the negligible sanitary conditions prevailing in this post.

"Allen Russel, Jr.,

"Acting Assistant Surgeon,

"U. S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service.

"The enforcement of the foregoing sanitary rules and regulations is considered essential for the maintenance of the general health of the United States troops stationed ashore.

"E. W. Smith,

"Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Navy.

"Senior Medical Officer Present on Shore.

"The foregoing regulations being for the good of the whole community and a necessity for the health of the American forces here stationed, are approved, and the force under my command will render all possible assistance toward enforcing them.

"S. D. Butler,

"Major, U. S. Marine Corps,

"Commanding Officer."

In his Annual Report for 1910 the Secretary of the Navy stated that: "To protect American interests in Greytown and Bluefields during the Nicaraguan revolution, the naval officers notified both parties that hostilities would not be allowed to take place in either city, and men of the Navy and Marines were landed at Bluefields in June, 1910, to insure compliance with this order."

MANAGUA OCCUPIED IN 1912

In August, 1912, the Liberal faction in Nicaragua, under the leadership of General Luis Mena, a former adherent of Zelaya, raised an army and began active operations against the existing government, directing its particular attention to the Ferrocarril de Nicaragua, dynamiting the tracks, burning rolling stock and killing employees. Nicaragua intimated to Washington that the

Nicaraguan Government would not be averse to the United States landing forces for the protection of American interests. The following extract from the Annual Report (1912) of the Secretary of the Navy gives the general facts leading up to the intervention of 1912:

"The Navy and Marine Corps have taken a conspicuous part in Nicaragua during the revolution that started in that country on July 29, 1912, and have performed most valuable services in protecting the lives and property of American citizens and other foreigners in that country.

"When the revolution broke out under General Mena the *Annapolis* was performing the usual routine duties on the west coast of Central America and proceeded promptly to Corinto. A few days later, upon the recommendation of the President of Nicaragua, conveyed through the American legation, a force of about one hundred bluejackets was sent on August 4th from the *Annapolis* to Managua, the capital, which force protected American citizens and acted as a legation guard during the ensuing bombardment of Managua by the revolutionists.

"Meanwhile, it became advisable to send the *Tacoma* to Blue-fields on the east coast of Nicaragua, and this vessel remained there from August 6th to October 19th, a landing force of about fifty men being ashore most of this time to insure protection of American life and property in case of disorder.

"Also a force of 350 Marines from the Canal Zone was brought north in the collier *Justin* and at once proceeded to Managua, arriving there on August 15th and reënforcing the legation guard. Their arrival produced an excellent effect and was much appreciated by the Nicaraguan Government and all foreigners.

"On August 10th the *Denver* was diverted from a projected cruise to the Mexican coast and ordered to Nicaragua, and affairs continued to grow so serious, with increasing menace to the railroad and other American properties, that on August 21st it was decided to send an additional regiment of Marines and the armored cruiser *California* to the scene. The *Glacier*, with provisions, and the *Prometheus* and *Saturn*, with coal, were also dispatched there, followed finally by the *Colorado* and *Cleveland*, thus bringing the force to a satisfactory strength for keeping open communication with Managua and Granada, for protecting the lives and property of Americans and other foreigners, and for maintaining an adequate legation guard."

Major General Commandant William P. Biddle made the following statement regarding the above-mentioned detachment of Bluejackets that first entered Nicaragua:

"A detachment of Bluejackets from the U. S. S. *Annapolis* had previously been sent to Nicaragua as a guard for the American Legation at that place. The detachment was under the command of Lieutenant James A. Campbell, U. S. Navy, and I have been informed that its duty was performed in an exceptionally creditable manner. It later became a part of Major Butler's battalion and served as such throughout the campaign."

The following letter dated August 7, 1912, from the Acting Secretary of the Navy to the Major General Commandant sets forth the orders that started Major Butler's Marines toward Nicaragua from Panama:

"1. Confirming the previous verbal orders of the Department, you will assemble, for embarkation on the *Justin* at Panama, a force of about 350 Marines, and necessary equipment and supplies for sixty days' service ashore in Nicaragua.

"2. It is expected that the *Justin* will arrive at Panama about August 9th. The expeditionary force will be embarked as promptly as possible and the commanding officer of the Marines will direct the master of the *Justin* to proceed to Corinto, Nicaragua, at which place the commanding officer of the Marines will report to the Commander of the U. S. S. *Annapolis*.

"3. It is probable that there will be delivered on board the *Justin* at Panama about \$1000 worth of Red Cross stores for transportation to Corinto and eventually for distribution under the supervision of the American Legation to noncombatants in Nicaragua who are threatened with famine. If these stores are placed aboard the *Justin* it is desired that they be delivered by the commanding officer of the Marines to the commanding officer of the *Annapolis* for further delivery by him to the representatives of the American Legation designated to receive them."

* * *

The Commanding Officer of the *Annapolis*, on August 7, 1912, received the following orders from the Acting Secretary of the Navy:

"*Justin* with 350 Marines will arrive at Corinto about August 13th. Object of the expedition is to protect lives and property of

American citizens and foreign subjects needing protection. Whether or not Marines land must be left to your discretion, bearing in mind that total force is small and must not be subjected to undue risk. If you land Marines the Department will understand that it is at the request of present Government because of its avowed inability to afford proper protection to American citizens and other foreigners. If Marines remain afloat quarter them on *Justin* and *Annapolis*, as best suited for health and comfort. Keep the Department informed. Return Marines Panama as soon as practicable."

Major Butler's Battalion consisting of Company A (Beaumont), Company B (Vulte), and Company C (Conger) sailed on the *Justin* from Balboa, I. C. Z., on August 11, 1912, his cablegram to the Major General Commandant reading as follows: "Left Panama on *Justin* at 3.30 a.m. with eleven officers 343 enlisted. Butler." The battalion arrived at Corinto, Nicaragua, at 5.00 p.m., August 14th, disembarked immediately, and at 10.45 p.m. two trains with all Marines and stores on board started for Managua, which city was reached at 10.30 a.m., August 15th. The details of this battalion's operations from August 10th to September 6, 1912, on which date, with his battalion, Major Butler joined Colonel Pendleton's regiment, are described in the *Marines' Magazine and Indian* for August, 1920.

Of these operations occurring prior to September 6, 1912, the American Minister reported in part: "Major Butler was the first commanding officer to arrive here, and by his energy, tact, and determination, succeeded in reestablishing order in Managua and Granada." He made special mention of several other officers of the battalion, and referred particularly to the gallant services of Sergeant George Copeland.

In a letter dated November 21, 1912, the American Minister wrote as follows:

"I can best express my deep appreciation of the important services in Nicaragua rendered by you, your officers and men by saying that Butler's battalion has brilliantly maintained the traditions of the United States Marine Corps. The Secretary of the Legation and my brother join me in wishing for all of you a safe and pleasant voyage."

(To be continued.)

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