

**NOTE: INTERNMENT OF "SOLDADERAS"
(WOMEN CAMP FOLLOWERS), TEXAS, 1911-1915**

In addition to books and published documents, we have a few collections of potentially relevant personal papers, such as:

- A three-reel microfilm collection of the papers of Frederick Funston, Southern Department commander during the Punitive Expedition, 1916.
- Papers of Tasker Bliss, Southern Department commander, Feb 1913- Feb 1915. Bliss also commanded a provisional brigade on the Mexican border in Southern California, 1911.
- The typescript memoirs of Richard Johnson, a black soldier who served with the 9th Cavalry at Douglas, Arizona, 1913-1914, and on the border during Pershing's expedition. As a sergeant in the regiment's field hospitals, he speaks (pp. 173-174) of the treatment of wounded Carranzistas.

Unfortunately, no information on the "soldaderas" was uncovered in the several boxes of papers of Robert Mearns, who commanded the elements of the 20th Infantry that escorted 5,000 Huertista refugees from Marfa, Texas, to Fort Bliss in Jan 1914. Mearns moved with the refugees to Ft. Wingate, New Mexico, a few months later, a transfer carried out "as balm to El Paso's 'peace of mind'" (Christian, 322). The 12th Cavalry was replaced as guards at Ft. Wingate by the 20th Inf in May 1914, when the cavalymen moved to the Colorado coal fields for strike duty, following the infamous Ludlow "massacre" (Estes, 253). Unfortunately, despite Mearns' key role in all this activity of early 1914, his papers are not illuminating.

References to the Fort Bliss detention camp of 1914 appear on pp. 315-322 of Garna Loy Christian, "Sword and Plowshare: The Symbiotic Development of Fort Bliss and El Paso, Texas, 1849-1918." (Ph.D. dissertation, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, 1977; UA26 545C57). The sources Christian used were the El Paso newspapers, Times and Herald, rather than Southern Department reports.

Although we do not have a complete set of Southern Department annual reports, abbreviated departmental reports of both Southern & Western appear in the Annual Secretary of War Reports (UA24A1). The more complete manuscript departmental reports should be in the custody of the National Archives. One separately bound Southern Department report on file here contains information on the Mexican "Prisoners," namely:

Annual Report of Brigadier General Tasker H. Bliss, U.S. Army, Commanding the Southern Department, 1913. Ft Sam Houston, TX: Southern Department, Jun 30, 1913. pp. 41-43. UA24A7S72.

On prisoners.

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Major sources include:

Estes, Georges H. "The Internment of Mexican Troops in 1914." Inf Jrnl (May/Oct 1915): pp. 747-69, 38-57 & 243-64. Per.

Salas, Elizabeth. Soldaderas in the Mexican Military: Myth and History. Austin, TX: U TX, 1990. Chap 4. UB419M6S35.

Brief references to the internment and related bits appear in:

Army Navy Journal (24 Jan 1913): p. 653; (31 Jan 1914): pp. 684 & 688; and (7 Feb 1914): p. 761. Per.

Atkin, Ronald. Revolution! Mexico, 1910-1920. NY: John Day Co., 1970. 354 p. F1234A85.

Historical Sketch of the Twentieth United States Infantry 1861-1919. n.p., n.d. pp. 108-28. #603-20.1920.

Raat, W. Dirk. Revoltosos. College Station: TX A&M U, 1981. 344 p. E184M5R3.

Samponaro, Frank N. & Vanderwood, Paul J. War Scare on the Rio Grande: Robert Runyon's Photographs of the Border Conflict, 1913-16. Austin, TX: TX Hist Assn, 1992. 135 p. F1234S34.

See p. 63 for photo of a soldadera.

Stover, Earl F. Up from Handymen: The United States Army Chaplaincy, 1865-1920. Wash, DC: Office Chief of Chaplains, 1977. pp. 170-71, & 180. UA103A45v.3.

Note AGO doc cited in note 80, p. 180, & The Continent article cited in same.

The records of the detention camps, including possible medical and provost marshal reports, may be in National Archives. Record Groups 391 and 393 (Army Mobile and Continental Commands) and 94 (Adjutant General's Office) for material on Forts Bliss and Wingate, on border stations, and on GEN Hugh Scott's inspections and negotiations. Additionally, the National Archives' regimental and post monthly returns have been microfilmed and can be purchased. See, for example, Microcopy 671, reels #120 and 1453 on Forts Bliss and Wingate, and Microcopy 665, reel #128 on the 20th Infantry Regiment.