

Sugar Kings

For a comprehensive report on the Cuban Sugar Kings series with the Miami Marlins, turn to page 16 and read "Miami and Havana Split Four Game Series Here," by Máximo Sánchez.



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Crack U.S.-Equipped Battalion Is Airlifted to Oriente Front

Cuban Army Unit Joins in The Big Push

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Cuba has thrown its crack infantry unit into the extermination campaign against rebel elements in the Sierra Maestra mountains, the United Press learned today.

The 1st Battalion of the First Infantry Regiment, advised and equipped by the United States, has now entered the "big push" against rebels, informed sources said. The 800-man unit has been advised by the U. S. military mission to Cuba and is equipped with the most modern American weapons. It comprises five companies of 160 men each. The entire battalion was transported to the battle scene by air from its staging grounds, the Cuban Army GHQ Camp Columbia.

(Use of the American-aided and equipped unit in the fight against rebel forces does not, however, constitute a violation of the Cuban-U. S. military aid agreement. The enabling legislation passed in Washington setting up the mutual aid program states specifically that such units may be used "to maintain internal security and order" as well as in the defense of the Western Hemisphere.)

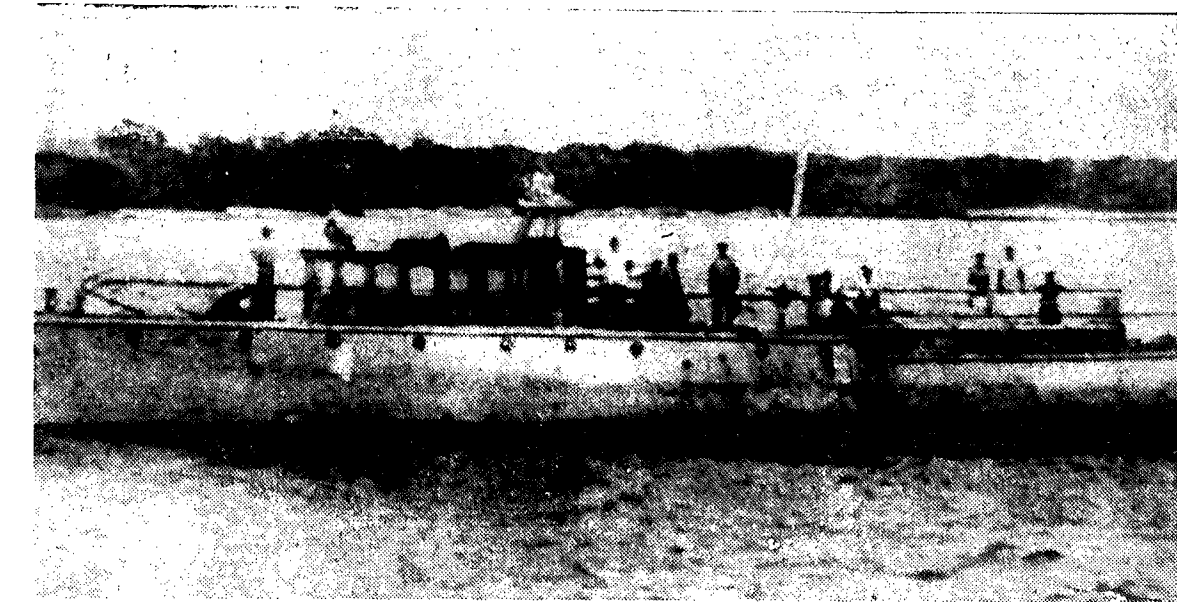
The disclosure coincided with reports of the capture by army units of the only woman known to be serving with the rebel forces.

Ella Sanchez, a woman in her thirties educated in the United States and daughter of a prominent physician practicing in Pilon, Oriente province, fell into Cuban army hands in Friday's dawn battle near Pico Turquino, informed sources said.

(The Army said it killed nine rebels and wounded four others in this engagement. It was understood the Army suffered some casualties but these were not disclosed.)

Miss Sanchez joined rebel forces under Fidel Castro last January. There were no details as to her capture but it was assumed she had been acting as a nurse for the rebels. She was understood to be unhurt.

Friday's pre-dawn clash was the first phase of the "big push" campaign drafted by a newly-created military "brain trust" headed personally by President Fulgencio Batista. It came only hours after the Army started evacuation of peasant



INVASION YACHT—The yacht "Corinthia" is shown in Caborico Bay in Oriente Province after being abandoned by a Cuban revolutionary crew. The government claims only 27 men landed, but fishermen reported they transported at least 120 ashore from the yacht. The yacht is registered in Miami. (United Press radiophoto).

families from the Sierra Maestra range. The first 100 families to be evacuated reached Santiago during the week-end.

Army sources confidently predicted they would eradicate the rebel revolt center "within a week". They said they would use "every means at our disposal."

These sources said bombs dropped on rebel hideouts hitherto have been largely ineffective because they exploded on contact with tree tops. It was understood their new "saturation bombing" program would be concentrated in and around Pico Turquino, Cuba's highest mountain top (over 6,000 feet).

There have been no reports of further military activities since Friday morning's clash but army chief Maj. Gen. Francisco Tabernilla was optimistic and predicted an early end to operations.

"The principal problem was to get on the trail of the rebels," th army chief said, "and we have now done this."

He disclosed that on personal orders from Batista, civil and military authorities of Santiago have furnished bed and board to the more than 100 persons evacuated from the Sierra Maestra "death

zone.' Tabernilla denied these families had been forced to evacuate and said they left the region "on their own volition."

In Santiago, however, women's groups telegraphed a protest to Batista against the evacuation program and called on him to revoke orders for saturation bombardment of rebel strongholds.

Prayers for civil peace were voiced by the faithful in Catholic churches of three provinces yesterday as the army continued its pursuit of revolutionary bands. Thirty-day prayer periods were ordered by church dignitaries in Oriente, Matanzas and Pinar del Rio provinces.

In Havana, meanwhile, a writer-photographer team from the Columbia Broadcasting System found itself in and out of trouble with police yesterday.

Peter Kallscher and Al Gritz, both of New York, were interviewed twice by authorities while conducting a sound on film poll of Cuban political sentiment.

They were picked up by a tourist policeman on Cathedral Square yesterday morning and taken to headquarters where, after explain-

ing what they were doing, they were released and authorized to continue with their poll. Last night, however, they were invited to headquarters again for an interview with Police Chief Brig. Gen. Hernando Hernandez to whom they explained their mission.

Both men said they received courteous treatment. Kallscher said Gen. Hernandez

went so far as to furnish them a police car to take their film to the airport for early shipment to New York.

(The radio newsmen said their poll was based on the question "Who would you vote for if general elections were held tomorrow." They said that more Cubans polled expressed indecision than were either for or against Batista.)

Yank Faces Trial Today

The case of Richard Joseph Merk, 19-year-old Exeter, N. H., youth, will be heard in Urgency Court today.

Merk was arrested in Cotorro recently for carrying a .22 pistol and a Commando-style knife. He was hitchhiking to points in the interior when picked up by plain-clothe policemen.

He has been in Principe Prison awaiting trial for several days.

Ex-Veep Wallace To Talk In Preston

Former United States Vice President Henry Wallace arrived in Havana on Saturday night and will leave for Preston in Oriente Province on Wednesday.

On Saturday he will deliver an address at the Methodist Mission School "Escuela Agricola e Industrial."

The school has been established by the Methodists on land donated by the United Fruit Company to educate rural boys. It is directed by Richard Milk, an agricultural expert.