

# GEN. HUERTA DIES AT HOME IN TEXAS

**Suffered from Intestinal Trouble  
and Recently Had Under-  
gone Four Operations.**

**WAS UNDER \$30,000 BAIL**

**Trial for Neutrality Violation Had  
Been Postponed — His Stormy  
Year as Mexican President.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

EL PASO, Tex., Jan. 13.—General Victoriano Huerta, ex-provisional President of Mexico, died at his home here tonight, from intestinal trouble, after four operations. He was 61 years old. General Huerta received the last rites of the Church from the Rev. Father Carlos M. Mayer on Wednesday, after saying, "I am a very weak man." With him at the time of his death were his wife and other members of his family.

General Huerta died a prisoner of the United States. He was to have been tried on Jan. 10, for alleged violation of neutrality in conspiring to foment in the United States an armed rebellion in a foreign country. Owing to his illness, the trial was postponed; General Huerta remained nominally under \$30,000 bail.

## **Was a Jalisco Indian.**

General Victoriano Huerta, the Jalisco Indian, who ruled the republic of Mexico for more than a year during its most turbulent period by sheer force of dominant will, who practically defied the world, and who steadfastly refused to salute the Stars and Stripes even after Vera Cruz was occupied by United States marines, and the threat of war quivered in the air, was born in the little pueblo of Colotlan, State of Jalisco, on Dec. 23, 1854.

In the Winter of 1871 General Donato Guerra, then serving under President Juarez, came to Colotlan with a small body of troops. Guerra wanted an amanuensis, and the young Huerta offered his services. So taken was the General with his intelligence and alertness that he asked his name and what he intended to become when he grew to be a man. Huerta, with his ambition uppermost in his mind, looked the General steadfastly in the eyes and told him that he wanted to enter the Military College so that he might become a soldier and a General.

Guerra smiled kindly, laid his hand on the boy's shoulder and said: "Well, then, come along with me."

Huerta was graduated from the college with the rank of Lieutenant, and immediately saw active service during the revolution of Tuxtepec. He served with the army of President Lerdo de Tejada and took part in the battle of Tecuac, which marked the rise of the star of President Porfirio Diaz. Huerta then offered his sword to the new ruler, and for the next thirty years his career was that of a soldier. He assisted in putting down the sporadic revolutions that marked the early days of the Diaz régime, and for a long period was in charge of portions of the work being done by the Geographical Survey Commission.

When President Diaz reorganized the army, Huerta was promoted to be Captain of engineers, and while holding this rank devised the plan for a Mexican General Staff. In 1901, he left the Survey Commission and took command of the infantry in the war against the Yaqui Indians in the Yaqui River Valley of the State of Sonora. After peace was made, he returned to his work on the General Staff and was engaged in the mapping of Sonora, afterward taking part in other campaigns against the Yaqui and later, the Maya Indians. As a reward for his services in these little wars, President Diaz made him a Brigadier General and he again joined the Staff.

## **Faithful to Porfirio Diaz.**

When the Madero revolution broke out in the northern States of Mexico, General Huerta was in command of the detached Government forces in the State of Guerrero, far from the fighting. Diaz sent for him when he finally decided to leave Mexico and at a time when all the world seemed against the old warrior-president and there was no one to whom he could turn. True to his old commander, General Huerta gathered his few men about him and dashed to the aid of his chief, only to find that he was wanted to escort him safely to Vera Cruz. After he had performed this duty he returned to the capital and reported to the new President, Francisco I. Madero.

Pascual Orozco was a sharp thorn in the side of the new administration, and President Madero knew that he must have a real soldier to cope with the revolution he had started. Naturally he turned to the old Diaz General and sent him against Orozco. It was a short and decisive campaign; Huerta broke and scattered the revolutionaries and drove their leader into hiding. General Huerta became at once the greatest man in the Mexican Army. But he had become too great; so he was recalled and walked the streets of the capital, a General without command. This was not for long. Orozco, finding new fol-

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lowers, again raised the standard of revolt, and again President Madero called on General Huerta. Again the old warrior defeated the rebels and was in command at the decisive battle of Bachimba. Again he was acclaimed as Mexico's greatest soldier, and on his return was promoted to be a Major General.

Soon afterward his eyes became affected and he received leave of absence and was unable to take part in the suppression of the first revolution led by General Felix Diaz in October, 1912.

The second Felix Diaz revolution followed. Again Madero called on his greatest soldier to save him and made him ranking General in command of the capital. General Huerta escorted President Madero from Chapultepec, whither he had fled for refuge, to the palace, on the first of the ten days' fighting, and then was placed in entire command of the forces of the republic. He led the Government troops during all the rest of the fighting, and his conduct of the operations was denounced by Madero's friends. They charged that he did not carry on the fighting with spirit, that he disobeyed the commands of the President, and that before the attacking forces led by General Blanquet entered the city the fate of the Maderos had been decided upon. Then came the plot which ended in the seizure of President Madero and his brother, Gustavo.

## The Assassination of Madero.

On Feb. 19, 1913, with the army at his back, General Huerta made himself Provisional President of Mexico and took office. Three days later came the assassination of Francisco Madero, his brother, and José María Pino-Suarez, Vice President under Madero, as they were being taken in an automobile, under guard, from the palace to the penitentiary. This crime, committed in the darkness while the prisoners were under the protection of an armed guard, aroused a storm of indignation throughout this country, and demands that President Taft intervene came from all quarters. President Taft, then about to leave office, decided to take no action that might prove embarrassing to the incoming Administration of President Wilson.

General Huerta then demanded that he be recognized as the lawful executive in Mexico, and England and other powers acceded to his request. President Wilson, however, refused recognition, and soon afterward came the revolutions under Venustiano Carranza and Francisco Villa.

Relations between this country and Mexico then became deadlocked, and Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson was recalled from Mexico City. Conditions were unchanged until August, 1913, when President Wilson sent John Lind, former Governor of Minnesota, to see General Huerta, as his personal representative. Mr. Lind presented certain proposals to General Huerta, the chief of which was that he should resign and allow a national election at which he would not be a candidate. General Huerta promptly rejected these proposals.

In the meantime the Mexican Congress had been growing dissatisfied, and one Senator made an open attack on Huerta in the Senate Chamber. He promptly disappeared, and when his colleagues demanded an investigation Huerta marched a body of troops into the hall of Congress, seized 110 Deputies, and threw them into jail.

Huerta attempted to legitimize his accession to the Presidency by holding a general election. Only his adherents were allowed to vote, and the election resulted in his declaring himself the lawfully elected President of Mexico, with General Blanquet as Vice President. John Lind again demanded that Huerta resign, and again he met with a prompt refusal, after which he left Mexico City, on Nov. 12, for Vera Cruz.

Throughout the Winter of 1913-14 the relations of this country and Mexico continued to grow more tense. American warships were sent to Mexican waters, and a large number of United States troops were stationed along the border. Mexico was rife with revolution. The Constitutionists, as the members of the Carranza faction called themselves, were winning victory after victory in the north, while in the south



Photo by Underwood & Underwood.

VICTORIANO HUERTA.

and west other leaders were fighting against Huerta's forces.

## The Tampico Flag Incident.

The beginning of the end came for Huerta when the paymaster and crew of the United States steamship Dolphin's whaleboat were arrested at Tampico on the orders of Colonel Hinojosa for being within the Federal lines in uniform. The paymaster told Hinojosa that they were going to get gasoline, and the party were quickly released. Admiral Mayo, in command of the ships in those waters, demanded that the United States flag be saluted by the Mexican Government troops as reparation for the insult. The demand was backed by the United States Government, and for ten days Huerta met the request with various forms of diplomatic subterfuge, ending by refusing to order the salute.

On April 22, 1914, American marines and sailors occupied Vera Cruz, after a few hours' sharp fighting, much of it in the streets, in which eight Americans were killed and a number seriously wounded, and more than 200 Mexicans were killed.

While the United States forces proceeded to administer the captured city, but refrained from further seizure of Mexican territory, mediation proposals were mailed by Argentina, Brazil and Chile, culminating in the "A B C" conference at Niagara Falls. This, however, brought no decisive result, as it was found impossible to pin Huerta down to any definite program. In the meantime, matters were going from bad to worse for the Huerta Government. On July 7, when his finances were exhausted, his army thoroughly beaten and disorganized, and his enemies rapidly growing more powerful Huerta presented his resignation to the Mexican Congress. On July 20, Huerta and Blanquet and their families sailed for Spain.

In April, 1915, he left Spain, and came to this city with his family. He announced that he would make his home in the United States, and he and his family were soon established in a

house at Forest Hills. In June General Huerta went West, ostensibly to visit the Panama-Pacific Exposition, and on June 27 he was arrested at Newman, N. M., by a United States Deputy Marshal and his men, on charges of violating the neutrality of this country by planning here a military movement in Mexico.

## Alleged Dealings With Rintelen.

Federal officials asserted that Franz Rintelen, a German agent, now imprisoned in the Tower of London, had spent large sums of money in an endeavor to cause disturbances along the border. Numerous stories were circulated that Huerta had received this German backing in a plan to embroil this country with Mexico, as part of the plan to prevent the shipment of munitions to the Allies. He was soon released on bond, only to be again arrested by United States Secret Service men in El Paso, on July 8, when apparently planning to cross into Mexico.

Huerta was taken to Fort Bliss and kept under guard, and remained there until Dec. 28, 1915, when his illness became serious, and he was removed to his home in El Paso.

To even his intimates, Huerta was always a silent man. He seldom spoke, and his face was always expressionless, with thin lips tightly drawn together, and his cold, black, penetrating eyes looking straight ahead. He was said to have an indomitable will, great strength, fixity of resolve, absolute ignorance of fear and utter mercilessness. There was always the same look in his face, whether he was watching his fighting cocks, himself facing death on the battle line, in the Hall of Congress, or at the El Globo tea rooms in Mexico City, where he was wont to drink large quantities of cognac, during his social talks with the members of his Cabinet, who, however, always drank tea. It was said that he would meet death with the same unperturbed countenance, remembering to the end his proud boast: "I am a common Indian."