



U.S. Military Attaché Major A. W. Bloor's Reports on the Nicaraguan Civil War, March- May 1927

May 7, 1927. Report No. 48.

"The Nicaraguan Revolution, Military Situation."

This is the last report in this series, three days after the Espino Negro Accord formally ended the war in a crushing Conservative defeat. Here Major Bloor offers a capsule summary & analysis of the military events of the war's final days, disregarding his earlier optimism and attributing the Liberals' success to Moncada's shrewd generalship. Sandino is mentioned once — the only time in all these reports. Portrayed as minor players, Generals Sandino and Parajón are said to have commanded only 300 troops each (other evidence suggests different scenarios). The reference to "radios" or reports transmitted by radio and transcribed & filed elsewhere hints at a different archival destination for Major Bloor's other reports.

The narrative report is followed by a map overlay indicating Major Bloor's understanding of the size and distribution of Conservative forces. This is followed by a 3-page ancillary document detailing the size & distribution of US forces in Nicaragua as of May 8, 1927.

Subject: The Nicaraguan Revolution, Military Situation.

From: Military Attaché, Nicaragua
Report No. 48
May 7, 1927
ACTIVE OPERATIONS.

All active operations of any military importance since my report No. 46, April 13, 1927, have been covered as they occurred in the following radios: No. 14-April. 18; Nos. 15 & 16-Apr. 20; No. 18-Apr. 30; No. 22-May 5; and No. 23-May 6.

When the Government Forces advanced on April 12th to Moncada's position on the hills west of Tierra Azul they found he had abandoned it and moved to S. Jose de los Remates and was threatening their line of communications, which was the Tipitapa-Teustepe-Boaco road.

Delgadillo and Reyes with 700 and 800 men, respectively, were about midway between Tierra Azul and Muy Muy when the direction of Moncada's move was discovered and they were ordered to pursue him. Meanwhile Generals Velez and Moraga, who were in the area Trinidad La Trinidad]-Sebaco-Ciudad Dario, were ordered to move south with about 800 men pm the Sebaco-Ciudad Dario-Tipitapa road to a position between Conception and Gen. Estrada (a town west of Las Banderas) with a view to keeping Moncada away from Tipitapa. This force a few days later moved to Los Banderas.

About April 15 a part of the Government pursuing force had a small engagement with Moncada at San Jose de los Remates and he promptly withdrew to Sta. Lucia where a light skirmish took place on the 16th and Moncada withdrew to a strong position on two high hills five miles north of Boaco and about midway between Saguatetepe and San Buenaventura. He is thought to have had about 500 men in this position and as the Government had forces at Tierra Azul, Boaco and Sta. Lucia totaling about 2500 men, the Conservatives attacked his position for several days and reported that they had him surrounded, but they failed to push the fighting and Moncada slipped away and on April 28 we find him with 1500 or 2000 men on the Conservative line of communications and engaging them at Boaquito, Teustepe and Sta. Cruz. In the meantime Parajon and Sandino, with about 300 men each, had moved over from the Western Districts and joined Moncada, and by April 28 he had all the organized Revolutionary Forces, including all the generals, with him.

After the skirmish at Sta. Lucia on April 16 or 17, General Arguello and R. Delgadillo with about 1300 men moved down to Teustepe and General Velez with about 600 men occupied Las Banderas.

The distribution of troops from April 28 to May 3, when the truce was agreed upon, was as follows:

DISTRIBUTION OF TROOPS.

Conservatives.

Boaco & Boaquito: 1600 men under General Viquez.
Teustepe: 1300 men under Gens. Delgadillo & Arguello.
Las Banderas: 600 men under General Velez.
Masapa: 370 men
Tipitapa: 200 men
El Paso: 100 men

Liberals.

Diamante, Boaquito, Cuesta Parada, and Sta. Cruz: 1500 or 2000 men under General Moncada.

(Note. A tracing is hereto attached showing the above dist.)

Fighting at Boaquito, Teustepe and Sta. Cruz continued until the truce was agreed upon on May 3.

Under the agreement between General Stimson and Moncada the latter agreed that the United States would disarm both the Liberals and the Conservatives and that he would advise the other Liberal Generals to agree to disarm; that the Liberal forces under his command were to remain at Boaco and Teustepe and the Conservatives were to withdraw to the south of the Rio Tipitapa; and that a force of Marines was to occupy Tipitapa separating the Liberal and Conservative Forces until they were disarmed.

On May 6 the Fifth Marines (less 3d Bn), Colonel Gulick commanding, was occupying Tipitapa and patrolling the Rio Tipitapa from there to El Paso; the Liberal Forces were at Boaco and Teustepe; and the Conservative Armies had withdrawn to the south bank of the Rio Tipitapa.

CONCLUSIONS.

Moncada outmaneuvered the armies of Viquez at Tierra Azul, S. Jose de los Remates, Sta. Lucia and S. Buenaventura and when the truce came on May 3 he had the Conservative Forces split in half and their communications interrupted and was containing 1600 men under Viquez with a small force at Boaquito, 600 men under Velez with another small force at Sta. Cruz, and was attacking Teustepe with the remainder of his army.

Sources. American Legation, Nicaraguan Government and other reliable informants.

A. W. Bloor,
Military Attaché.
United States National Archives,
College Park MD, Record Group 165,
Entry 77, Box 2660.
Transcribed by Nicholas J. Quadrini.

Ancillary Document

May 8, 1927. Station List: Naval Forces Ashore in Western Nicaragua. Capt. Julian P. Brown, USMC.

NOTE: The numbers refer to OFFICERS and ENLISTED; e.g.: "10-65" means 10 officers, 65 enlisted men.