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Mexicans Kill And Burn U. S. Soldier

Fate of Samuel Parks, Who Entered Lines While Insane, Disclosed

Five days ago Samuel Parks, a private, while of unsound mind, rode on a horse belonging to Colonel Taggart into the Federal lines and did not return. Various explanations were given of his disappearance. I was at that time on the way to Mexico City and did not know the man was missing, but a story told to me in Mexico City makes me believe that I can explain why Parks has not returned.

What follows was told to me by a man who got it from the last man who saw Parks alive. For their own safety I cannot give the names of my informants, but they are known to me and I can vouch for their responsibility.

At Tembladora, three miles outside of our lines, Parks was seen by five Mexican regulars in uniform and mounted. From the rear one of the Mexicans struck him at the base of the spine with the butt of his rifle. Parks fell from his horse and was bound and either rode or was forced to walk to Tejeria, where there was a major and twenty soldiers and several foreigners waiting for a train to Mexico City. One of these is my informant.

The major placed Parks, still bound, on the floor of a hut, set a guard at the door and told my informant he intended to shoot Parks at sunrise. My informant says he tried to dissuade the major, which angered the major, and he threatened my informant, which he gives as a reason why he did not talk with Parks, but in passing the door of the hut he told Parks he was to die.

The second time my informant passed the door Parks said: "I am Samuel Parks." The third time he passed Parks said: "Tell the colonel of the 28th Infantry."

At daybreak the major beckoned Parks out, and with a squad led him to a woods near the station. My informant says Parks smiled and looked meaningly at him as though to remind him to deliver the message. He says the bearing of Parks was so brave that he could not bear to see him die, and remained at the hut. Other foreigners followed, and in a few minutes he heard a volley, and the foreigners returning told him Parks was killed, dying instantly, and the Mexicans to conceal the body were pouring kerosene on it preparing to cremate it.

It is added that the horse ridden by Parks was sent by an orderly to General Maas. This is set down as told me, and from knowledge of my informant I believe it is true.

(Source: *Chronicling America*: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1914-05-12/ed-1/seq-1/>)