

*New York Tribune*  
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***Half Funston Men Dead, Mexicans Say***

***Huerta Newspaper Cheers Capital with Report That Heat is Killing Soldiers***

A copy of "El Imparcial," published on Saturday by the government in Mexico City, was brought here by a refugee this morning. It contains gossip of interest to us. It seems, according to this paper, that half of Funston's force is already dead, owing to inability to stand the severe heat, and that the other half is in the hospital. Horses also are, according to "El Imparcial," dying in the streets.

As a matter of fact, this town is so healthy and so clean that nothing is likely to die in the streets except the former scavengers, the buzzards, and each day the city grows more spotless. By order of the medical corps, in the poorer quarters house-to-house visits are paid, and every article likely to breed disease or attract flies, such as empty cans, old market baskets, bedding and carpets, is thrown into the street and burned or buried.

If half our force is dead and the other half in the hospital it would be interesting to know who were the men who packed both grandstand and bleachers at the ball game yesterday. They did not look like convalescents nor yell like ghosts, and certainly they were not Mexicans. As a matter of record the whole force, horse, foot and dragoons, is in splendid health and spirits.

Another item of news in "El Imparcial" is to the effect that to take the place of white soldiers dead by sunstroke four negro regiments are arriving at this city. "El Imparcial" assures its readers that they have reason to rejoice, because these negro regiments are slaves and hate their white officers, and on arriving will at once desert to the Mexican ranks.

If our negro soldiers should come here, and should join the Mexican ranks in the same fashion I saw them join the Spanish ranks in Cuba, the Mexicans should start running now.

(Source: *Chronicling America*: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1914-05-19/ed-1/seq-1/>)