

Slaughter of Haitians Described by Observer: Men, Women and Babies ...

By Louis Jay Heath.

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pg. 1

Slaughter of Haitians Described by Observer

Men, Women and Babies Slain by 'Thousands' in Dominican Purge.

By Louis Jay Heath.

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Haitian men were hacked to death, women killed with three-pointed daggers and babies tossed on bayonets in the hands of drunken Dominican rural police, according to a series of reports on the recent "massacre" in the Dominican Republic.

Written by an American neutral observer on the Haitian side of the border, whose name for obvious reasons may not be disclosed, the reports present the first detailed account of the Dominican purge in which upward to 5,000 Haitians are reported killed.

The first report, dated October 6, forecast the events which led to the slaughter. It told of "serious trouble" at Dajabon, of the death of "quite a number of Haitians at the hands of Dominican police," and of the arrival at the hospital of a "camion load of wounded," who had "been stabbed or shot."

Eight days later the writer of the reports recalled he had men-

tioned the Haitian trouble, accused authorities of trying to "hush up matters" and said he had been told that "the number of murders runs into the hundreds."

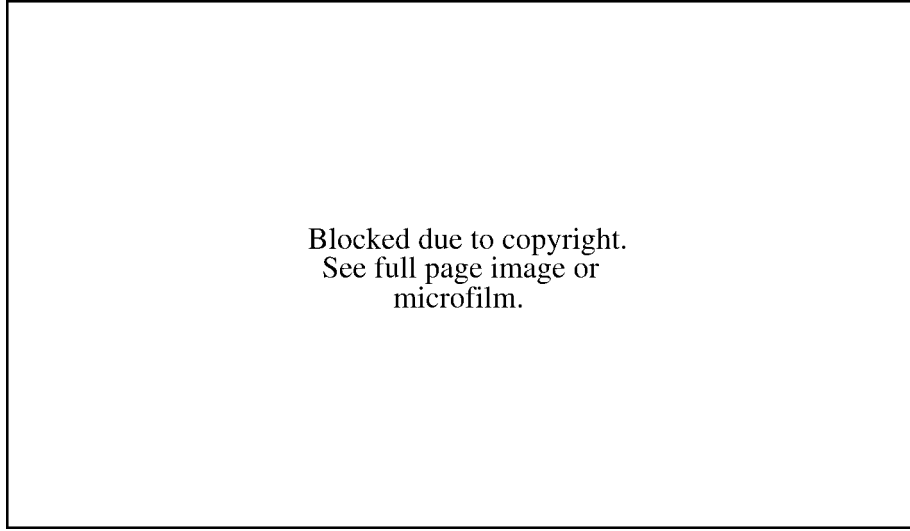
"No satisfactory explanation has

yet been offered," the report said.

The correspondent then revised his reports and fixed the number of dead at "thousands." He said that on October 2 50 Haitians were killed and "their bodies thrown into the sea at Mont-

Cristo." A visitor told the correspondent that a large prison at Mont-Cristo was "packed with others, men, women and children, and that when the order came

Continued on Page 11, Column 2.



Harris & Ewing
From three to five thousand of its nationals have been slaughtered in the Dominican Republic since early October. Georges N. Leger (center), Haitian foreign minister, told Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles (left) yesterday. At right is M. Elie Lescot, Haitian minister to U. S. (Story Page 11)

Observer Describes Horrors In Mass Slaughter of Haitians

Men, Women and Children Led to Death by Dominicans, He Says; Few Who Escaped Re- late Tales of Jungle Brutality.

Continued from Page 1.

they were assassinated, and that not one escaped."

The next communication, dated October 26, reads in part: "Matters are now very serious, in spite of the fact that circulars have been distributed announcing that an inquiry is to be made into the massacre. The testimony of all parties confirms what has been reported."

Killed in Bands of Six.

"The rural police rounded up the Haitians in the different districts and brought them to Dajabon in bands of about 150. When they arrived there they were told that they could not cross by the bridge and were led six at a time through the belt of forest south of the customs.

"Here men armed with clubs, machetes, daggers with three-prongs, and bayonets awaited them. The men were clubbed first and then hacked to death with machetes. Women were told to raise their right arm, and were killed with three-pointed daggers, and the children were tossed on bayonets.

"I learn that the commandant at Dajabon refused to have anything to do with the massacre and that the next day he died, the Haitians say of over-excitement.

"There is abundant evidence that many of the soldiers were shot rather than carry out the cruel orders. Those who did the executions were kept in a drunken condition, which accounts for the fact that quite a number escaped by pretending to be wounded and lying among the dead, until night when they were able to creep across the frontier."

5,000 Dead "Conservative."

"It is quite impossible to know the number of the dead, but they must amount to thousands. One of the officers told me that a conservative estimate was 5,000.

"The bodies were piled in holes on the savannah to the south of Dajabon. Layers of wood interspersed with layers of bodies and kerosene was poured over whole. The flames from these bonfires were visible above the belt of forest between Ouanaminthe and the plain.

"During the six nights these fires were seen, it was reported but it has not been able to confirm it. That . . . an eyewitness at Capotille on the new frontier saw 400 bodies buried in a single trench.

"The frontier is now open and throughout the day there is a continuous stream of people crossing. We saw numbers who

came from Blanco, a town in the Puerto Plata district. They were part of some 800 who were reported to be on the way, and said they had been six days en route. They had had to take the tracks through the forest, etc., as it was reported that robbers were on the highway.

"Robbed of Everything."

"They had been robbed of everything, including their shoes, and I saw some with swollen feet. You cannot realize their joy on crossing the river into Haiti. The frontier is open for two weeks, and I have been wondering what will happen to the thousands of Haitians on the sugar plantations, for it would seem impossible for them to arrive within the time limit.

"The whole town is in mourning and the question on all hands is whether this is but a try-on and that if the American Government does nothing, the next step will not be the invasion of the northern part of Haiti, which is publicly stated across the frontier to be the plan of the President. . . . Police refuse to arrest those who talk about the matter and an order has been issued for them to do so. . . . I wish someone could come down and make an inquiry.

"Scenes in churches are deeply moving. Men and women come to weep. Almost every family has connections across the frontier and the sorrow of those who know that their dear ones have been killed is little more than the anguish of those who are almost certain that their relatives have been murdered.

Sixty in One Family Slain.

"I know of one family who have the names of 60 relatives who have been massacred. Little wonder that the whole town is in mourning."

On October 26 the correspondent wrote again:

"The situation on the Dominican frontier is still very serious and it is amazing to us in Haiti that nothing has yet got into the foreign press . . . The massacres have ceased as far as I can gather but the situation is even more serious.

"Last Friday there was fighting at Capotille, and several were brought in wounded, including a lieutenant . . . A large merchant has ordered a fleet of camions to get the Haitians from the area as far as Santiago. In all, I think 12 camions have gone, and today they have begun to return. I saw two of them packed with people."