

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

MAIL AND FILES

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

No. 5091/691

OCT 28 1927

OFFICE OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
EL PASO, TEX.

REC'D. DIV. OF IMMIGRATION

October 26, 1927.

INDEXED

Commissioner General of Immigration,  
Washington, D. C.

There are transmitted herewith copies of reports concerning two shooting affrays on the 19th instant, Patrol Inspectors William A. Holt and John H. Lewis being involved in one occurrence, and Patrol Inspectors Douglas D. Pyeatt and Max S. Gleason in another. Apparently on both occasions the smugglers attempted to ambush the officers, who shot their way out of the difficulty, the smugglers escaping but leaving behind a large quantity of liquor which was seized by the patrol inspectors.

EC

Incl. 32187.

E. C. Widmuth  
District Director.

E. C.  
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smugglers  
murder  
letter  
made

copies in 55600/773, - 520/436, - 600/939  
700/133, - 605-666



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Immigration Service

No. 4007/3-A  
4000/129A-138A-74A-124A.

Office of Chief Patrol Inspector  
El Paso, Texas,  
October 24, 1927.

District Director,  
U. S. Immigration Service,  
El Paso, Texas.

There are transmitted herewith, each in sextuplicate, reports of gun-fights had by Patrol Inspectors WILLIAM A. HOLT and JOHN H. LEWIS at the foot of Park Street, this City, and by Senior Patrol Inspector DOUGLAS D. PYEATT and Patrol Inspector MAX S. GLEASON at a point  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Pelea, N. M., both on the evening of the 19th instant.

X It will be noted that the officers involved in both affrays were not aware that one of the smugglers had been wounded; however, it appears that Miguel Rivera, a well known smuggler residing near La Mesa, N. M., was wounded in the fight with Senior Patrol Inspector Pyeatt and Patrol Inspector Gleason and died in Juarez, Mexico on the 20th instant.

X It might be stated here that Atanacio Rivera and Alvino Enriquez (the first named alleged to be a cousin of Miguel Rivera, who was shot on the 19th instant), were apprehended at Colonel King's ranch, about three miles North of Vinay, N. M., at 11 AM on the 21st instant by Senior Patrol Inspector T. P. Love and Patrol Inspector A. W. Jones.

The officers in question had trailed a pack-train which was hauling liquor to the above mentioned point but due to shortage of gasoline in borrowed automobile were unable to over-take the wagon which met the pack-train. It was quite evident, however, from the tracks of Rivera and Enriquez that they had accompanied the pack-train from Mexico, and from information furnished Mr. Love and Mr. Jones, they believe Rivera and Enriquez to have been members of the same pack-train which fired upon Patrol Inspectors Pyeatt and Gleason on the 19th instant.

Both Inspectors Love and Jones state that Atanacio Rivera is a very dangerous man; that following his apprehension on the 21st instant, even though covered by the rifles of the apprehending officers, he attempted to draw a pocket knife from his pocket. Both Love and Jones anticipate trouble from Atanacio Rivera in the future.

NDC:WCJ  
Incl.  
COPY  
EC

NICK D. COLLAER,  
Chief Patrol Inspector.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Immigration Service

Office of Chief Patrol Inspector  
El Paso, Texas,  
October 19, 1927.

Chief Patrol Inspector,  
U. S. I. S. Border Patrol,  
El Paso, Texas.

At about 6 p.m. this date Patrol Inspector John H. Lewis and myself worked our way by way of Bowie school house and by the west side of textile mills, thru an adjoining cotton field to a position opposite a turn in the road at the foot of Park Str. and concealed ourselves in the cotton. The "spotters" were so persistent that we crawled across the road to a position in the weeds about 75 feet from the center of the fence which runs from the foot of Park Str. to the railroad tracks on the river. We were constantly being searched out by a powerful light on a high-powered car which made repeated trips from the direction of 7th Str., and at each trip unloaded armed men near the turn in the road at the foot of Park Str. I was sure that they were there to fire on us from the rear when we attempted to apprehend the smugglers whom we knew were about to come across the river due to the activity in that section. Realizing this, we crawled thru the weeds to a position on the river bank at which I knew the smugglers would land. After about 30 minutes a "spotter" came across the river and went on to the turn of the road at Park Str. In about ten minutes he returned and climbed up between two railroad cars which were on the tracks at the river bank. While on the car he struck two matches and in about 15 seconds struck another. Immediately afterwards we heard the smugglers enter the river on the Mexican side. The "spotter" went to the water's edge to meet them and when they all reached the bank I called on them to halt. They dropped their loads and ran back across the river. There were two loads dropped in the river and were floating away and I went in after them and was fired on from the Mexican side with rifles. I returned the fire and silenced them and dragged the liquor to the bank, after which I tried to move it to the north side of the railroad track but was forced to leave it on account of rifle fire. In about 20 minutes relief came from border patrol headquarters and we moved the liquor to headquarters. We were unable to make any apprehensions. As far as is known no casualties resulted from the fight.

Altogether probably a hundred shots were fired on both sides.

On the night of the 17th instant Mr. Lewis and I encountered the same bunch of smugglers and Antonio Rodriguez was apprehended and exactly the same amount of liquor was seized. The liquor in each seizure amounted to 27 gallons of alcohol; 13½ gallons of sotol; 2 quarts of wine; 2 quarts of cognac; 12 pints of whiskey and 12 pints of tequila.

WILLIAM A. HOLTS,  
Patrol Inspector.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Immigration Service

Office of Chief Patrol Inspector  
El Paso, Texas,  
October 19, 1927.

Chief Patrol Inspector,  
U. S. I. S. Border Patrol,  
El Paso, Texas.

This afternoon Patrol Inspector Max Gleason and I rode out toward the east trail which lies about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Pelea, New Mexico, in the sand hills. We did not follow the international line but made a semi-circle around and hit the fence which is about 200 yards from the actual international line (on the American side) at a point about 400 yards west of the east trail. We had seen nothing and were intending to ride along the international line toward Pelea, New Mexico. It was about 6 p.m. then. We had no sooner started back along the line when we were fired upon from a point at the east trail where there is a gate in the fence. We immediately dismounted and opened fire on the smugglers and worked our way closer. The smugglers (while still firing upon us) withdrew into Mexico - having only about 200 yards to go at that point. Upon our arrival at the gate in the fence at the east trail we found abandoned  $13\frac{1}{2}$  gallons of sotol;  $13\frac{1}{2}$  gallons of alcohol; and 10 quarts of tequila, which we brought to patrol headquarters. We also found at the point where the liquor was found, 12 7 m/m Mauzer cartridges for rifle use, which, apparently, had been dropped by the smugglers in their retreat.

DOUGLAS D. PYEATT,  
Senior Patrol Inspector.

CBFY  
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