

with election to the new Congress as deputy for the district of Ocotlan.

Congress was in session in June, 1861, when firing was heard quite close to the Council Chamber. The President advised the deputies and people to be calm. Diaz at once begged leave to speak, and asked that he, being a soldier, might be permitted to join his comrades in the fight. The attack proved but a feint on Márquez' part to cover the march of his main force to the east.

Colonel Diaz, taking over the command of the Oaxaca brigade, was soon off in hot pursuit. Márquez, however, knew the country too well, and moving among the mountains succeeded for six weeks in avoiding any decisive conflict.

Diaz and his troops were often close upon him, and then just as it seemed possible to catch their quarry, Márquez gave them the slip and was off again.

The formidable Reactionary general was at length routed by the Oaxaca brigade, of which Diaz, owing to the illness of its leader, continued temporarily in command. The action at Jalatlaco, in the mountains, was fought under circumstances which brought conspicuously under notice Diaz' military skill and daring initiative. The attack began in a night of extraordinary darkness—exceptionally dark for Mexico. In an attempt to pass by Santiago Tianguistengo, Márquez found himself cut off by General Ortega, who was in command of the pursuing army of Constitutionalists. So intense was the gloom that the leader could follow only vaguely the movements of a portion of his forces.

A report reached General Ortega that Diaz, with his detached column, had been overwhelmed and captured, so he gave orders to his men to stand on the defensive until daybreak. In the confusion one of his advanced batteries firing into the Reactionaries had been dropping shot among Diaz' soldiers, doing as much harm to them as to the enemy.

Diaz sent a message to the General requesting him to cease firing and to forward him more ammunition. A movement by Márquez to storm the heights held by Ortega was developed

before the messenger could arrive, and as the columns were advancing Diaz fell upon their flank. Numerically his force was much inferior, but other advantages were with him. The attack, led by Colonel Diaz in person, was pressed home with great determination. The Reactionaries, surprised and bewildered at the turn of events, were completely defeated and scattered, and Diaz brought to his General news of the victory, with the capture of seven guns, the whole of their foes' baggage, and some seven or eight hundred prisoners.

The fight at Jalatlaco marked another step in the rise to power of the present President of Mexico. General Ortega, reporting the engagement to President Juárez, warmly commended his soldierly qualities, and said: "I wish for the promotion of Porfirio Diaz. I should be ashamed to be a general if he, after what occurred in my presence and under my command, does not immediately become one also."

Diaz himself records his promotion very simply:

"For the victory at Jalatlaco I was rewarded by the Government with the rank of General of Brigade."

And so the boy whose greatest dream of success had been some day to become a colonel, found himself a brigadier-general.

How proud he must have been! What delight the position must have given him, a position he had worked hard to gain; and yet, with that strange simplicity which always characterises him, he merely noted the fact in a few words in his Diary, as though it were nothing at all. In less than a couple of years he reached the rank of "General of Division" as reward for skill and valour when confronting a foreign invader. This was the highest rank he could attain in the army, in which he continued in active service for another fourteen years, and still holds his commission.

One day when I was sitting talking to General Diaz, he retailed many of these stories of adventure. At last, I asked in despair:

"Can you not give me some list of these battles and events, so that I may be able to keep the dates correct?"

"I can have my military record copied for you if you



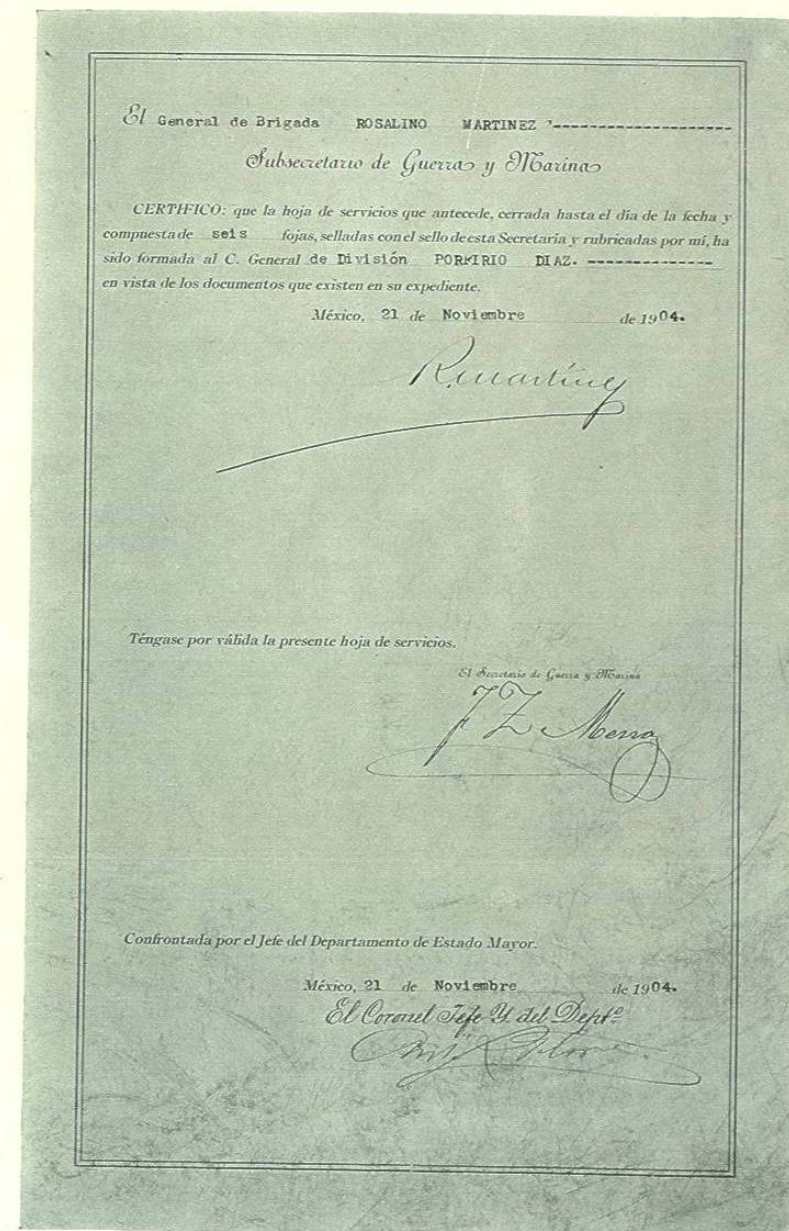
wish. In the Archives of the Mexican War Office official lists of the doings of all soldiers are kept."

"Anything that would be useful, I shall be grateful for," I replied.

Two days later (November 22nd, 1904) he handed me the following most interesting and valuable document, showing the whole of his fifty-four years' military career.

Just like General Diaz! Not only did he have it copied for reference, but to vouch for its authenticity he made the Minister of War and other officials duly sign it, so that it should be in every way an official record. The last page showing the signatures has accordingly been photographed for use as an illustration.

Here, then, is the life record of the most marvellous man of the age, which his own son had never seen until I showed him this remarkable document.



Photograph of the original document and signatures.



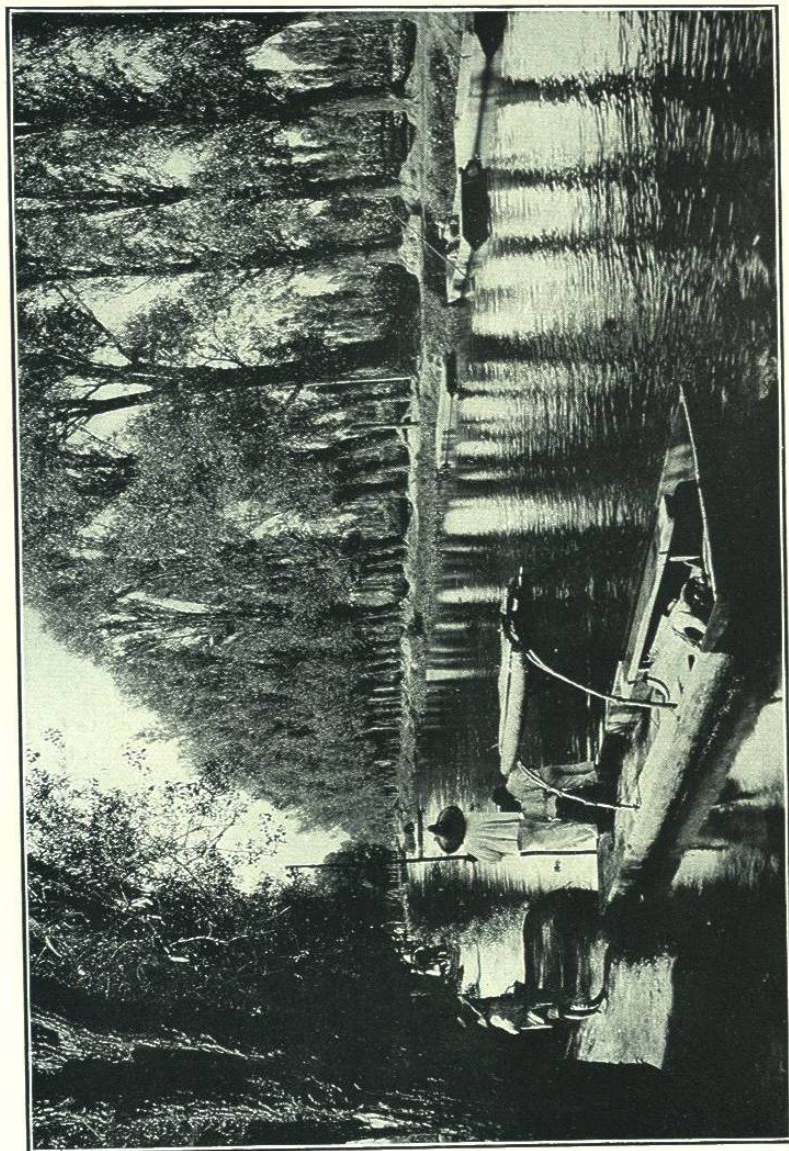


Photo by Cox.]

On the Viga Canal.

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[Translated from the Spanish.]

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.

SECRETARY OF WAR AND MARINE.

OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT.

STAFF OF THE ARMY.

PAPER SHOWING SERVICES of the General of Division PORFIRIO DIAZ. Age 74. Native of Oaxaca, in the State of that name. Married. Services and military performances as follows :

DATES ON WHICH HE OBTAINED HIS OFFICIAL POSTS, AND THE TIME OF SERVICE IN EACH.						
DAYS.	MON.	YEARS.	RANK AND OFFICE.	YEARS.	MON.	DAYS.
24	April	1856	Commandante of the Battalion of the National Guard of the Government of the State of Oaxaca (Militia) ...	3	2	13
22	Dec.	1856	Captain of Infantry, id. id. id. (Auxiliary of the Army) ...			
22	July	1858	Commandante of Battalion, id. id. ...	0	4	19
6	July	1859	Lieut.-Col. of Infantry, id. id. id. ...			
25	Nov.	1859	Colonel of id. id. id. id. ...	3	6	4
22	Aug.	1860	Id. of Mexican Army for the President Benito Juárez ...			
23	Aug.	1861	Rank of Brigadier-General for id. ...	0	4	15
29	May	1863	General id. id. ...			
14	Oct.	1863	General of Division of the Army ...	41	1	7
			Time counted double according to the Decree of 2nd Dec., 1878, and certificate sent 21st of Oct., 1881 ...			
				5	6	13
Total time of service until 21st November, 1904, where this document ends ...				54	1	11



## CORPS IN WHICH HE HAS SERVED, WITH CLASSIFICATION OF TIME.

	Years.	Months.	Days.
In the National Guard (Militia) Ixtlan portion, he served in the 2nd Battalion of the Militia of the State of Oaxaca, and in the regular Forces of the same State, from 24th April, 1856, to the 1st July, 1861 .. .. .	5	2	8
Deputy to the Congress of the Union with Command of a force that marched from this Capital for a Campaign in the State of Mexico, as "Major of the Staff" of the Brigade of Oaxaca, and afterwards with Command of the said Brigade from 2nd July, 1861, to 17th May, 1863 .. .. .	1	10	16
General in Chief of the Army of the East from 18th May, 1863, to February 9th, 1865 .. .. .	1	8	22
Prisoner of War to the French Army from 10th February, 1865, to 21st September of the same year .. .. .	0	7	12
General in Chief of the Army and Eastern Line from 22nd September, 1865, to 21st June, 1867 .. .. .	1	9	0
With Command of the 2nd Division of the Army, from June 22nd, 1867, to 25th May, 1868 .. .. .	0	11	4
In barracks from 26th May, 1868, to 14th September, 1870 .. .. .	2	3	19
Deputy to the Congress of the Union from 15th September, 1870, to 7th November, 1871 .. .. .	1	1	23
Defending Noria and Tuxtepec, from November 8th, 1871, to 30th November, 1876 .. .. .	5	0	23
On different Commissions for the Service as the details of that period show in this paper from December 1st, 1876, to the close of the period here included .. .. .	27	11	21
Time counted double according to the Decree of December 2nd, 1878, and certificate sent on October 21st, 1881 .. .. .	5	6	13
Total of services to 21st November, 1904, when this document ends .. .. .	54	1	11

## CAMPAIGNS, MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES.

1857.

*Served :*

In the action of Ixcapa against Col. José María Salado, on the 13th of August, in which he (Díaz) was wounded and Col. Salado defeated and killed.

In the defence of two Quadrants of the City of Oaxaca, from 26th December to January 16th, 1858, on which date he attacked and took the aforesaid fortress, which was defended by the leader Cobos.

1858.

In the taking of the fortress of Talapa (State of Oaxaca), defended by the same leader, on February 25th.

In the action of Las Jícaras against José Conchado on April 13th, when this leader was killed.

1859.

In the action of Mixtiquilla against Lieut.-Col. Espinosa on June 17th, in which this leader was killed.

In the action of Tehuantepec against Manzeno, on November 25th.

1860.

In the action of Mitla against the leader Marcelino Cobos on January 21st.

In the action of the fortress of Soledad against the same leader on February 2nd.

In an action at Marquesado against Casimiro Acebal, on March 9th.

In an action at Ixtepeji against Anastasio Trejo, on May 15th.

In the taking of the fortress of Oaxaca on August 5th, under the orders of General Salinas, in which Díaz was wounded ; and for bravery, the rank of Colonel was conferred upon him.

1861.

In the action of Jalatlaco against Ex-General L. Márquez, under orders of General Jesús González Ortega, on August 13th, in which his good conduct won the rank of General of Brigade.

In the Battle of Pachuca, under orders of General S. Tapia, on October 20th.

1862.

In the action of the Heights of Acultzingo, against the French Army, commanded by General Lorencez, Díaz being under the orders of General Ignacio Zaragoza, on April 28th.

In the battle of May 5th against the French Army, when Díaz was under the orders of the same General Zaragoza.

In the battle of La Ceiba against the same army, on June 14th, when Díaz was under the orders of General Zaragoza.



1863.

In the siege of the fortress of Puebla, from March to May, under the orders of General Jesús González Ortega, against the French Army, commanded by General Forey.

In the actions of Tasco on the 26th, 27th and 28th of October, against the Intervention, in chief command.

1864 and 1865.

In the action of San Antonio Nanahuatipan, against General Curtois d'Hurbal.

In the siege of the fortress of Oaxaca, against Marshal Bazaine, from December, 1864, to February 9th, 1865, in chief command.

The same in Tehuitzingo, against Imperialists, on September 22nd, in chief command.

In the action at Piaxtla against Carpintero, on September 23rd, in chief command.

In the same at Jultzingo, against Bissoso, on October 1st, in chief command.

In the same at Comitlipa, against the same, on December 4th, in chief command.

1866.

In the action at Tlaxiaco, against Trujeque, on January 6th, in chief command.

In the action at Lo de Soto, against General José María Ortega, on February 25th, in chief command.

In the combat at Putla, against Trujeque, on April 14th, in chief command.

In the action of Huajuapam, against Viriker, on September 5th, in chief command.

In the battle of Miahuatlan, against Carlos Oronoz and E. Testar, on October 3rd, in chief command.

In the action of Nochistlan, against Count Ganz, on September 23rd, in chief command.

In the battle of Carbonera, against Krikar, October 18th, in chief command.

In the taking of the fortress of Oaxaca, defended by Ex-General C. Oronoz, October 31st, in chief command.

In the action of La Chitova, against Remigio Toledo, on December 19th, in chief command.

1867.

In the storming and taking of the fortress of Puebla, on April 2nd, which was defended by Ex-General H. Noriega, in chief command.

In the battle of San Diego Notario, against Ex-General L. Márquez, on April 6th, in chief command.

In the action of San Gregorio, April 8th, against Márquez, whom Diaz was pursuing.

In the battle of San Lorenzo, against the same Ex-General, on April 10th, in chief command.

In the siege and taking of the fortress of Mexico, against the same, Ex-General Márquez, in chief command, from April 12th to June 21st, when the fortress surrendered.

1870.

In the action of Huajuapam, against General I. Alatorre, in chief command.

1876.

In the taking of the fortress of Matamoros, against General La Barra, on April 2nd, in chief command.

In the action of Icamole, against General C. Fuero, on May 20th, in chief command.

In the battle of Tecuac, against General I. Alatorre, on November 16th, in chief command.

## COMMISSIONS UNDERTAKEN AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES RENDERED.

In the year 1861 he was elected Deputy to the Congress of the Union.

On July 2nd of the same year he undertook the command of a force for a campaign in the State of Mexico.

In the year 1873 he was elected Deputy to the Congress of the Union.

In the year 1884 he was named President of the Mexican Commission for the New Orleans Exhibition.

	Years.	Months.	Days.
Was President of the Republic from 1st December, 1876, to November, 1880 .. ..	4	0	0
Was Secretary of Fomento from 1st December, 1880, to November 30th, 1881.. ..	1	0	0
Was Constitutional Governor of the State of Oaxaca and Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice from 1st December, 1881, to November 30th, 1884 .. ..	3	0	0
President of the Republic from December 1st, 1884, up to the date on which this document ends .. ..	19	11	21
Total .. ..	27	11	21



## REWARDS OBTAINED FOR MILITARY ACTIONS.

## PROMOTIONS.

Won the rank of General of Brigade in recognition of the good services rendered in the action of Jalatlaco, on August 13th, 1861.

Earned the position of Full General of Brigade by his brilliant service in the campaign against the French Army, and particularly on the 5th of May, 1862, and in the siege of the fortress of Puebla, in 1863.

## GOVERNMENT DECORATIONS.

Special Decorations for the storming of the fortress of Puebla, on April 2nd, 1867.

Distinguishing Badge for the War of Reform.

Medal of Honour for the battle of Pachuca.

Medal of Honour for the battle of the Heights of Acultzingo.

Medal of Honour for the battle of May 5th, 1862.

Cross for the siege of Puebla, in 1863.

Cross of 1st Order for having fought in the French Intervention.

Cross of Constancy (granted for perpetual service) of the 3rd Order.

Cross and Star of Constancy of 2nd Order.

Cross and Star of Constancy of 1st Order.

## DECORATIONS OF THE STATES.

Decoration presented by the Legislature of the State of Guerrero for having fought against the French Intervention and against the Empire (Maximilian).

Medal of Honour granted by the Legislature of the State of Chihuahua with Declaration of Merit.

Honourable Decoration granted by the Legislature of Oaxaca for the actions of Mihuatlan and Carbonera, and the siege and taking of that fortress.

Honourable Decoration granted by the Legislature of the State of Puebla for the assault and taking of the aforesaid fortress on April 2nd, 1867.

## FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic (Spain).

Grand Cross of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Carlos III. (Spain).

Grand Cross of the Order of the Sword (Sweden and Norway).

Grand Cross of the Tower and Sword for Valour, Loyalty and Merit (Portugal).

First Class of the Order of the Liberator (Venezuela).

Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour (France).

Grand Cross of Cristanemo (Japan).

Grand Cross of the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus (Italy).

Grand Cross of the Order of Military Merit (Spain).

Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold (Belgium).

Grand Cross of the Order of the Red Eagle (Prussia).

Grand Cross of the Royal Hungarian Order of St. Stephen (Austria and Hungary).

Decoration of First Class with Grand Cordon of the Order of the Lion and the Sun, in brilliants (Persia).

## NOTES.

*Valour*—Proved in the contemporary history of the country.

*Capacity*—Competent and trustworthy.

*Instruction in Ordnance*—Complete.

*Instruction in Drill*—Absolute.

*Instruction in Mathematics*—The military course.

*Instruction in the Country's Geography*—Complete, theoretically and practically.

*Instruction in Statistics of the Country*—Perfect.

*Military Conduct*—Irreproachable.

*Civil Conduct*—The same.

*Health*—Perfectly robust.

I, ROSALINO MARTINEZ, General of Brigade, Under Secretary of Naval and Military Affairs, do hereby certify that the service papers above, comprising six sheets, sealed with the seal of this office and signed by me, have been drawn up of General of Division Porfirio Diaz, from the documents existing with reference to him.

Mexico, 21st of November, 1904.

(Signed) R. MARTINEZ.

Audited by the Secretary of Naval and Military Affairs.

(Signed) J. F. MENA.

Confirmed by the Head of the Official Department, Mexico, 21st of November, 1904.

Colonel and Head of the Department.

(Signed) ANTONIO FLORIS.