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Headquarters - Morins

MILITARY REPORT OF

First Lieutenant, Ross E. Rowell, U.S.M.C., Intelligence Officer.

To: The Secretary, War College Division, War Department,
Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT: Military Monograph of Nicaragua, (Chapter V.)

(CONFIDENTIAL).

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(copy for W. G. C., usmc.)

March 30, 1916.

From: 1st. Lieut. Ross E. Rowell, U.S.M.C., Intelligence Officer.
To: The Secretary, War College Division, War Department,
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Military Monograph of Nicaragua, (Chapter V.)

Sometime in the summer of 1914 Captain Walter F. Martin, U.S.Army, Military Attaché to the Central American Countries, directed a letter to the Commanding Officer of this Detachment stating that for certain reasons it was not practicable for him to visit this Republic and requesting whatever assistance it might be possible to render him along the lines of his work. At that time I was performing duty as drill officer and officer of the day and, as my time was not over-taxed, I had taken up the project of mapping the military reservation of the Nicaraguan Government in this City upon which this Garrison is quartered. The Commanding Officer referred Captain Martin's letter to me suggesting that I might cooperate with him so far as my duties would permit and supply him with any data available. I informed the Military Attaché that I would be glad to assist in any manner that my opportunities would permit. Three or four months later I received from your Office an outline of the information desired for the purpose of completing Chapter V., of the above mentioned Monograph. In the meantime I had been relieved of my former duties and assigned to duty as Special Disbursing Agent, for both the Paymaster's and Quartermaster's Departments, Post Exchange Officer, Post Quartermaster, Post Treasurer, Radio Officer, in charge of the 3-Inch Artillery Platoon, and retained the detail as Intelligence Officer. Since receiving the copy of the Monograph I have been looking forward to an opportunity to carry out in detail the work outlined by your Office, but the circumstances have been such that until the present time it has been impossible for me to devote the necessary time to this work unless at the expense of my other duties which I have not been authorized to do. I have very recently been relieved of the duties just mentioned, and pending the arrival of my relief from the United States, I have attempted to gather as much data along the lines suggested by the War College as the very limited time has permitted. Consequently it has not been possible for me to make the voluminous translations from the "Ordenanza Militar" and to place them in the proper form for insertion in the Monograph. Presumably you have the necessary facilities for performing this work in your offices so I take the liberty of forwarding herewith the following publications which are the latest available;

"Reglamento Militar del Ejército de Nicaragua, 1897",
"Código Militar, 1901",
"Ordenanza Militar, 1901",
"Presupuesto General de Gastos, 1915-1916",
"Reglamento Para la Infanteria, 1906".

A copy of the Constitution was forwarded to you some time ago. Serious military organization and training in Nicaragua began in the early Nineties with the advent of the rule of the Ex-President Zelaya, who in effect was a military dictator. The Army reached its climax in strength and efficiency during the seventeen years of his administration. Since his fall the Army has declined very much in both size and quality. A great deal of the data which you desire can be found in the above mentioned publications. However, these books were all prepared and published during time of Zelaya, and although they are still theoretically in force, information obtained from them would be quite misleading in regard to the conditions obtaining at the present writing. The present state of the Army is due to several circumstances, among which are the following; the natural reaction following the over-throw of a strong military government by its political enemies, the economic and completely exhausted financial condition of the Nation, and the strong influence exercised over the Country by the United States including an armed intervention in a local struggle followed by the establishment of an American military force at Managua. The latter feature has undoubtedly operated to give the established government a certain feeling of security which has not existed for many years previous. This being the case, I will pass very briefly over such subjects as are referred to in the above named books and are applicable to the existing circumstances, and inform you of the data which I have been able to acquire and which is not accurately obtainable from such sources. This will enable your Office to combine the theory and the practice in the manner which may be deemed most appropriate for insertion in the Monograph.

Ga. GENERAL SCHEME. The authority for the creation of the Army and Navy is vested in Congress by virtue of the Constitution. In the enumeration of the powers vested in Congress the Constitution states, "At each regular session, to fix the strength of the land and sea forces." It further provided that, "The armed forces are instituted for the purpose of assuring the rights of the Nation, the observance of the law, and the maintenance of public order." At present the strength of the Army is fixed at approximately two thousand Officers and men. This number, however, is only the maximum strength authorized by Congress, the actual strength seldom exceeding a half as many.

Military service is compulsory for every male citizen of Nicaragua between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, but only when called upon by the proper authorities. There is a reserve list of officers consisting of two or three thousand names. It could, however, be better called a roll of honor

as it is of very precious military value. There is no organized militia nor a reserve of enlisted men.

Gb. COUNCIL OF DEFENSE. See, "Capítulo III, Art. 12, Ordenanza Militar".

Gc. BUDGET. See, "Presupuesto General de Gastos, (Departamento de Guerra y Marina),"?.

Gd. WAR DEPARTMENT. See, "Parte Primera, Título Primero, Ordenanza Militar". At the present time the President has announced that he has placed the War Department directly under his own office. When he did this he removed the Minister of War from office, and a brother of the President immediately occupied the chair of the Ex-Minister and unofficially performs the duties formerly in charge of the head of the War Department. The Constitution prohibits a member of the President's family from occupying a cabinet office. The office of the Assistant Minister of War has not been filled for more than a year. There is a chief clerk and two or three stenographers in the office of the War Ministry. This completes the present organization of the headquarters of this Department. There is, however, a chief of staff with the rank of colonel attached to the President's office, also two or three company officers and a similar number of enlisted men. They are known respectively as "Ayudantes" and "Ordenanzas". The present chief of staff is a youngster of about nineteen years, and his duties seem to be practically those of a personal aid. He also makes small purchases on behalf of the President for the Army. The other officers and men are practically messengers and servants.

Ge. THE ARMY IN GENERAL. The following table shows approximately the strength and distribution of the Army.

Military District.	Name of Post.	Location.	Authorized Officers-Men.	Total Number actually present.
Managua,	Campo de Marte,	Managua,	252-125	300
Managua,	Casa Mata,	Managua,	43-210	240
Granada,	Cuartel de La Pólvora	Granada,	8-174	80
Leon,	Fortín de Acosasco.	Leon	9-184	50
Masaya,	Fortaleza de Coyetepe	Masaya,	11-166	100
Carazo,	Jinotepe,	Jinotepe,	9-168	100
Chinandega,	Chinandega,	Chinandega,	5-95	40
Bluefields,	El Bluff,	Bluff,	7-92	25

Nuevo Segovia,
Jinotega,
Estelí,
Matagalpa,
Rivas,
Chontales,

Small guards and patrols
only in these Districts.

The above table does not include several small guards attached to the Police Department. In all Departments except Managua the "Jefe Politico" (civil governor), is also the "Comandante de Armas", (commander of the military district), with the rank of colonel. In the same districts the, "Mayor de la Plaza", (Commanding officer of the Garrison), is also ex-officio "Director de Policia", (chief of police), and ranks as major. In Managua the President, at the present time, has combined the office of "Comandante de Armas", with his own, and the two military garrisons are each under an independant "Mayor de la Plaza", who answer to no one but the President himself. The offices of "Jefe Politico" and "Director de Policia" are purely civil in the Department of Managua. The very large proportion of officers to enlisted men in the Campo de Marte is due to the President's Guard of Honor being stationed at that place. This Guard is an infantry company of about one hundred officers and men. The "Acting Minister of War" told me that they are all selected men, and, in order to give them more pay, nearly all of them have been commissioned as officers. They march and drill as enlisted men and furnish the guard for the President's palace. They are known as "Cadetes" and attend a school in the Campo de Marte. Most of the lower ranking officers in the Army are appointed from this Company. The Army is organized into companies of infantry and batteries of artillery. The law authorizes a certain number of organizations of a certain strength for station at certain Posts. However, in practise the troops are stationed wherever the President sees fit. At the present time there is no organization of the troops into greater units than the company or battery. In two or three of the larger posts there are more than single units present. However, I have yet to see a battalion assembled except once a month when they form a column of companies for a ceremony called a "Revista". Even in this ceremony no movements are performed in unison. In time of war units are organized more or less along the lines laid down in the "Ordenanza Militar".

Gf. MILITARY SUBDIVISIONS OF THE COUNTRY. The military districts of Nicaragua are identical with the civil divisions, called departments, as are shown on the map forwarded to me with the Monograph, except that the name of the "Departamento de Zelaya" has been changed to "Departamento de Bluefields" and,

for military purposes
nominated "District".

Gh. GENERAL STAFF. At the present time there is no General Staff. The theoretical organization of such a body will be found on pages 6 and 7 of the "Ordenanza Militar".

Gm. OFFICERS. The officers in the lower grades are practically all appointed from the ranks. The high ranking and commanding officers are nearly all members of the President's family or persons closely associated with him politically. At present there are no officers serving with the colors who have higher rank in the active Army than that of Colonel. Many officers have much higher rank on the inactive or reserve list than they enjoy in the regular Army. In time of war officers and enlisted men of the active Army, officers on the reserve list and civilians are appointed to command the volunteers, the more important commands going to members of the ruling family and trusted friends. The late Minister of War, Jose Andres Urtecho, is a West Pointer, the "Mayor de la Plaza" in the Campo de Marte, a nephew of the President, is a graduate of one of the military academies on the Hudson River, and one or two other officers have had some military education in Central or South American countries; but further than this the officers have had no military training in our sense of the term, other than that gained through service in Nicaragua. The various grades authorized are as shown in the "Ordenanza Militar". There are no prescribed educational requirements for officers. Excepting the high ranking officers who are usually members of leading families, the average officer comes from the middle or lower classes, is more or less illiterate, and has no social standing.

Gn. ENLISTED MEN. Every male citizen of Nicaragua who is physically fit is liable to military service, if called upon between the ages of eighteen and fifty years. Recruiting is entirely by conscription, and the methods employed are devious and varied to suit the circumstances. In time of peace they aim to recruit the unemployed, but in time of war they take anyone beginning with the bare-footed classes, (the peons), then taking coatless ones, (the artisans), and finally all who have not sufficient influence to escape the recruiting patrols. Usually they send out patrols from the garrisons to secure a fixed number of recruits from the neighboring town or ranches. Occasionally they round up the spectators at a fiesta, or a baseball game, or a band concert, etc., etc. Those who are able to exhibit certificates of employment signed by the proper officials are freed, as are many others upon the subsequent application of employers. Naturally a large number desert at the first opportunity. The "Acting" Minister of War told me that they usually catch about four men for each vacancy to be filled to compensate for the various losses just referred to. The period of enlistment in time of peace is supposed to be two years, but in practice men are usually allowed to leave after six months service. All soldiers are required

by law to be citizens of the Country, but in practice they are not particular on this point. It is taken for granted that a man is physically fit for the service unless he is able to prove the contrary with a physicians certificate. I have seen cripples in the ranks. There are no educational requirements for enlistment. The natives as a rule take great pride and interest in military evolutions and revel in the excitement of a revolution. Even at times when they are required to drill several hours per day the soldiers are frequently seen practising the manual of arms and the steps while off duty. Yet the military service is not popular, probably on account of the confinement of garrison life in time of peace. Only officers receive any leave or liberty. The men are usually required to remain within the four walls of the fort or compound during their entire enlistment. Cruel punishments are sometimes inflicted. However, some foreigners claim that the natives are not amenable to ordinary punishments and do not show any appreciation of kind treatment. I am inclined to believe that this statement has some virtue.

Gp. INFANTRY. The infantry at present varies from five to six hundred officers and men. For organization see, "Parte Segunda, Ordenanza Militar". The equipment of the soldier includes the following: A 7 mm Remington rifle, bayonet and scabbard, a thimble type cartridge belt, uniform including shoes, a cotton native blanket, and a tin canteen. The Guard of Honor company are equipped with all of the above articles and also knapsacks. The other troops have a part of the above articles, the amount of equipment and clothing issued apparently being in inverse proportion to their proximity to the Capital. The average troops outside of the Capital are supplied with rifles and ammunition bags, a straw hat and a suit of dungarees, a cotton blanket, and no shoes. This is also the usual outfit of the so-called volunteer. The Guard of Honor and most of the troops in the Capital wear a uniform with shoes and leggins almost identical with the summer field uniform supplied to United States troops. The cap is the only article which differs materially. The infantry soldier carries fifty rounds of ammunition and a reserve supply follows him in bull carts. Troops in garrison are messed in general messes, and in the field they are supposed to receive daily supplies to be prepared by the camp followers of the several units. In time of war troops are frequently obliged to subsist themselves in the field by foraging. There is no organized transportation system. The only drills which the troops are exercised in are, the manual of arms, company and squad movements in close order, setting-up exercises, and the handling of machine guns. At times they reach a very high degree of proficiency in the manual and the close order steps at which they spend a great deal of time. The company commanders give their commands in a very snappy manner, while the officers in the file closers who are usually equipped with dog whips or naked swords do not hesitate to use them

effectively upon men in ranks who do not bond with the required promptness. The Guard of Honor Company is the only one that I have seen hold target practise. They fire at a bulls eye target at a range of about two hundred yards. The marksmanship is poor compared with our standards. In the field the Army is followed by bands of women and children who do a part of the cooking and assist in carrying the luggage. The troops perform comparatively little manual labor. The recruits and prisoners perform most of it. There is no instruction given in field work. In time of peace the principal occupation of the troops is guard duty. Heavy guards are maintained at all posts, particularly at night.

Gq. CAVALRY. There is no organized cavalry. In time of war native horses are commandeered and a part of the infantry is mounted. I have been unable to learn of any mounted actions having taken place in this Country. The horse is regarded simply as a means of rapid movement. Not infrequently troops take the field as infantry and in a very short time become mounted by confiscating mounts along the line of march. The natives prefer a mule to a horse for hard riding. This is particularly true in rough country. The natives are all accustomed to riding, but they use a poorly constructed native saddle and are prone to misuse the animals. The result is that horses in the hands of native soldiers soon get out of condition, acquire sore backs that are beyond description, become lame, and otherwise unserviceable until many are abandoned to the turkey buzzards that hover over the columns.

Gr. FIELD ARTILLERY. There are two or three organizations known as batteries. None of them have field guns issued to them for drill purposes, but the batteries outside of Managua each have a gun and a small amount of ammunition in their possession. The gun is cared for by a man detailed for the purpose but is not used for instruction. The other guns are kept in store in the Campo de Marte, except four or five on the hill at the Casa Mata which are stored in the casemates. No target practise is held with field guns. Once or twice a few test shots have been fired over the Lake. The duty actually performed by these batteries is to man the machine guns mounted on the towers of the several forts and compounds. They are instructed in infantry drill as noted in par. Gp, care for their guns, and perform guard duty. Once a month they fire a few strings of shots with the machine guns for testing purposes. These organizations, which in effect are machine gun companies, have a strength of about a hundred officers and men when fully recruited. Occasionally they hold a target practise at which time they fire a few strings of shots at a bulls eye target at very short range. The marksmanship is not good and they have considerable trouble with "jams". In the field the practise is to send the guns and ammunition in units of about two guns each in bull carts to accompany the infantry. They have no pack animals nor pack equipment on hand for the machine guns, but they could be readily packed on the native pack mules used

for the transportation of coffee.

Gs. OTHER ARTILLERY. There is no heavy artillery either in store or mounted in any permanent works.

Gt. FORTRESSES. For a description of the forts in Managua see my map entitled "Military Posts and Vicinity, Managua." For descriptions of other forts see the reports of the officers attached to the Marine Brigade in Nicaragua, 1912.

Gu. ARTILLERY MATERIAL. The following is a list of the ordnance belonging to the Nicaraguan Government which is considered as obsolete and is in store at the Campo de Marte. These guns are in fairly good condition considering their age, etc. The bores are free from rust and the breech mechanisms function properly. They are kept well oiled. All guns are fitted for the type of open sight in common use at the date of their manufacture and the carriages are painted and in fairly good condition. All of the caissons, battery wagons, limbers, and pack saddles, were lost in an explosion and the fire which followed. All of this ordnance was manufactured prior to the use of recoil cylinders on field guns and on some pieces the sights are missing. All guns except the two Frederic Barnes have the sliding wedge type of block. The two former pieces have the interrupted screw type of breech mechanism. There is a small amount of 75 mm. ammunition on hand, probably not more than four or five hundred rounds, and a limited amount of one pounder cannister. Otherwise there is no ammunition for this ordnance.

No. of Guns.	Maker	Type	Caliber	Year Manfd.
2	Krupp,	R.F.G.	75 mm.	1892
4	Krupp,	"	75 mm.	1895
1	Krupp,	"	60 mm.	1895
6	Krupp,	"	1 pounder	1892
14	Hotchkiss,	"	1 pounder	1895
6	Krupp,	"	80 mm.	
2	Frederic Barnes,	"	76 mm.	
4	Hotchkiss,	Revol.can.	37 mm.	
2	Gatling,	Gat. gun Mod.1890	45 cal.	
2	Naval guns on pedestal mounts		3 pdr.	
3 or 4 very old unserviceable machine guns, (worthless).				

The Nicaraguan Government is at present attempting to sell the above named pieces. Pieces not dated are approximately of the same date of manufacture as those preceding. The artillery equipment on hand with which it is expected to equip a battalion consists of the following:

- 12 76 mm. Hotchkiss Mountain Howitzers.
- 72 complete sets of pack saddles with blankets, etc.,
- 2 spare cartridges for guns,

Sights, spare parts, etc.

5000 to 10000 rounds of shell and shrapnel, (estimated).

The above ordnance is all in good condition. The guns are of a similar type to the last mountain guns used by our troops before recoil cylinders and telescopic sights were adopted for this type of gun. They are equipped with open sights but have range quadrants for indirect firing. (There are no native officers who are capable of working out the data for indirect firing.) The breech mechanism is of the sliding wedge type. I do not believe that more than two or three of these guns have ever been fired. They were purchased in Paris late in 1912 or early in 1913.

Gv. SPECIAL TROOPS. There are no organized special troops unless the batteries handling guns could be considered as such. The Nicaraguan Government has on hand about sixty machine guns. They are all made to use 7 mm. rifle ammunition. Most of them are Colt guns of the same type as those used in the U.S. Navy, but some are water-cooled Maxims. All have tripod mounts, and there are few wheeled carriages for the Colts also. At two or three of the larger Posts there is a man detailed as a hospital apprentice. At the Campo de Marte they have a shop fairly well equipped for the repair of ordnance with two or three mechanics in charge. There are a few small and poorly armed guards attached to the Police Department. They act as border patrols to prevent smuggling, assist in the Internal Revenue Department, and maintain order on the larger plantations and ranches.

Gw. MILITARY SCHOOLS. During the time of Zelaya a military school was organized at Managua under the charge of a German Artillery Captain by the name of Charles Uebersezig, assisted by one or two Chilians who had received some German instruction. Captain Uebersezig is responsible for the organizations, drill regulations, etc., etc., which are still in effect in the Nicaraguan Army. The School disappeared with the fall of Zelaya and the removal of Uebersezig which promptly followed. During the present administration many of the German features of the military service have disappeared, including the

"goose step", and no further purchases from the Krupps have been made. There is a school in the Campo de Marte which is attended by the cadets of the Guard of Honor. They receive instruction in drill regulations and one or two of the elementary branches.

Gy. MANEUVERS AND TRAINING. No field maneuvers are held and there is no training given other than that heretofore mentioned.

Gz. MOBILIZATION PLANS. To my knowledge the only mobilization plans that have been made are that in case of war all recruits will be sent to the Campo de Marte to be equipped and organized. All surplus stores and materiel are kept at that place.

Ha. RESERVES. There is no reserve of enlisted men. They have a reserve list of officers consisting of two or three thousand names, more or less. The officers named on this list vary in rank from second lieutenant to major general. It seems to be the custom to reward all of the leaders of successful revolts, many of the soldiers, and other persons, with commissions in the inactive Army. The commission conveys to the individual the actual rank and title named thereon, but only requires service in case of call by the President. There is no compensation involved. A surprisingly large number of persons possess these commissions. None of these officers have any qualifications as such other than the experience gained in a local revolt, and some with rank as high as that of colonel are unable to read and write.

Hb. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARMY IN TIME OF PEACE. See par. Ge, and others preceding. The troops are quartered in garrisons. Some sleep in built-in-bunks, such as seen in lumber camps, others have their own hammocks, and the remainder sleep on the floors of buildings and porches.

Hc. DISCIPLINE AND MORALE. The standard and discipline in the Army is not high. The patriotism of the troops consists of a blind following of the political idol of the party which predominates in their own locality. Even struggles between nations in Central America usually have their beginnings in the political struggle for power between the well known liberal and conservative parties. Before going into action the spirit of the troops is frequently stimulated by a distribution of the local alcoholic beverage. The average intelligence is low. A very large percentage of the troops, certainly much more than a half, can neither read nor write. They are difficult to control under any circumstances, and cannot be prevented from looting and stealing when the opportunity presents itself.

Hd. MILITARY COURTS. See "Codigo Militar". The methods employed for punishing minor offenses are, administering setting up exercises to the point of exhaustion, double timing in light or heavy marching order, and whipping. Crimes are punished by confinement at hard labor in civil penitentiaries.

I have never known of any military courts being convened.

Hc. MEDICAL SERVICE. There is no organized medical service in time of peace. In the Campo de Marte and the Fortin de Acosasco they have small dispensaries under a soldier detailed as a hospital apprentice. In serious cases a civilian physician may be called in. The budget provides for two surgeons at a monthly salary of \$32.00, but none have been appointed. In time of war a volunteer medical service is organized.

Hf. RATIONS. Each commanding officer is allowed to take twenty cents per day from the pay of the soldier for the purpose of rationing him. They receive the usual diet of the native workman, consisting of fresh meat, rice, beans, coffee, etc. The commanding officers are permitted to use their own discretion as to the quality, quantity, and the variety of the articles of food supplied. Each garrison has its own general mess. The men appear to fare as well as they do on the ranches and plantations. I remarked to the "Acting" Minister of War that twenty cents per day is a very liberal allowance for troops in this Country. He replied, "Oh yes; they live very well, and the commanding officers are still able to make a very nice profit". In time of war the food supply is generally very doubtful, so the deficiency is made up by foraging.

Hg. UNIFORM. The officers of the Guard of Honor and the President's aids have a full dress uniform similar to the German artillery uniform, and all officers have a white uniform. Otherwise officers and men are uniformed as noted in par. Gp. It is an unusual fact that in this Country the commanding officers and generals seldom if ever appear in uniform. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the officers of the lower grades do not come from the classes which have the entre to society.

Hh. The pay of commanding officers and their assistants will be found in the "Presupuesto". The pay of all other officers and men is as follows:

Colonel	\$1.00 per day,
Lieutenant Colonel,	.88 " "
Major,	.84 " "
Captain,	.70 " "
First Lieutenant,	.64 " "
Second Lieutenant,	.60 " "
Sergeant, 1st. Class,	.52 " "
Sergeant, 2nd Class,	.51 " "

Corporal, 2nd. Class,	.44	"	"
Private,	.32	"	"
Musician,	.48	"	"

(Privates stationed at the Casa Mata receive eight cents per day additional).

The commanding officer deducts twenty cents per day from the above amounts for rations. Clothing is furnished free.

Hi. REMOUNT SYSTEM. The Government only possesses a very few animals in time of peace. In time of war they commandeer as many private animals as they need. They are supposed to give receipts which constitute a claim against the Government, but sometimes this formality is overlooked.

Hk. FORAGE. There is no fixed forage ration. In time of peace they either purchase or send prisoners out to cut the necessary fresh grass. In time of war animals are foraged in any manner which the circumstances make most convenient.

Hm. SUBMARINE MINES. There are no mines.

Hn. ARSENALS. There are no arsenals.

Ho. PRISONS. There are no military prisons.

Hp. AMMUNITION COLUMNS. Ammunition columns are improvised with bull carts when needed.

Hq-r. LAND TRANSPORTS. The local railroad, bull carts, and pack animals constitute the only land transportation available.

Hs. WATER TRANSPORTS. There is one steamer on Lake Managua belonging to the Railroad capable of carrying about three hundred persons. There is another on Lake Nicaragua capable of carrying about three hundred and fifty and also the property of the Railroad. The Government owns a small steamer on Lake Nicaragua capable of carrying about one hundred persons. There are a few fishing boats and pleasure launches not worth mentioning in addition to the above. There are no deep-sea going vessels flying the Nicaraguan flag.

Ht. Aeronautics. Up to the present writing no aeroplane has ever flown over Nicaragua, and there are no balloons.

Hu. VETERINARY SERVICE. There is no veterinary service. Horses are not shod in this country.

It is thought by the War Ministry that Nicaragua can put about fifteen thousand troops in the field. They have on hand about five thousand 7 mm. Remington single shot rifles, and about ten thousand caliber .41 old style repeating Mauser rifles on hand. Many of these are in an unserviceable condition. I estimate that they have on hand about two million 7 mm. rifle cartridges and about three million caliber .41 rifle cartridges.

A call for a force of this size would probably find a considerable shortage of equipment of various kinds.

I will shortly be in the United States and will turn in the Monograph to the War College as requested in your letter of April 27, 1916. If it is still desired that the data recorded in the Monograph be checked for inaccuracies, I would suggest that the book be returned to this Post with a request that this work be performed By the officer having the most time for it at his disposal.

My future address will be Marine Corps Recruiting Publicity Bureau, 117 East Twenty-fourth Street, New York City.

(Signed) Ross E. Rowell

Copies to

Major General Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps,
Headquarters, Washington, D.C.
Senior Officer Present, U.S. Navy,
Managua, Nicaragua.
Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment, American Legation,
Managua, Nicaragua.
Military Attaché, American Legation,
Guatemala, Guatemala.
