

Death and Destruction in Mad Orgy of Rioting

**Reporters and
Cameramen
Face Death to
Record Revolt in
Cuban Capital.**

(Right) Holding the angry mobs back in Havana's civic square. Several people were shot down just after this photograph was taken.



**Exclusive Story
on Bloodiest
Riot Experienced
in Havana's
Stormy History.**

(Bottom) Revolutionaries kicking a Secret Service officer to death. They later turned on the cameraman who secured this picture.

Mad, hysterical mobs, looting, killing, sweeping the city before them—such is the story that is now being flashed on the cinema screens of the world, told on the front pages of newspapers—the story of the Cuban revolt and the abdication of President Machado. Havana's history has been a stormy one, but never has blood flowed so freely or the mob spirit been demonstrated so wildly as in the Cuban capital in the last few weeks. The story below was supplied to the "Radio Record" by the Paramount Film Service, and tells something of the terrible trials of reporters and cameramen during the orgy.

THE dramatic coup of the military in displacing Dr. Gerardo Machado as president came none too soon to deliver from peril some dozen or more newspaper correspondents and newsreel cameramen. Despite the antagonism of the Machadoists toward their activities, these men sent to the Press and screens of the world a record of one of the most gripping stories of recent history; of blood and joy, destruction and vengeance, fighting, cheering mobs sweeping the streets of Havana, storming homes, looting, shouting, delirious.

Raging fires, wildly cheering mobs, elaborate mansions—their windows flung wide, inviting all to enter and get what they could for themselves—that was Havana during the revolt. Among it all went the busy cameramen, often pursued by the raging Machadoists, filming under the threat of death. There was another kind of danger too—the revolutionists were so proud of their work that a cameraman would be captured and dragged along to photograph them with their victims. The men took many gruesome pictures—followers of the abdicating president being hacked to death in the streets, the tearing apart of the body of one of the secret police, the portions being then paraded through the streets; they obtained, too, shots of the slaying of Colonel Jimenez, chief of Machado's secret police.

When the rioting was at its height the newsreel men rushed to the airport to send their negatives back to New York. On arrival at the ground they were met by several thousand of the rioters, their cars were attacked, many were roughly handled, cameras and valuable film

were destroyed and equipment was smashed—and noses, too. Early the next morning a plane was obtained at Miami and flown secretly to Havana, the newsreel man was put out in a small launch, and in a few moments the plane was on its way back. All communications between the isolated cameramen and their chiefs had to be carried on in code, owing to the strict censorship—President Machado was referred to in messages as "Aunt Mary"—and innumerable tricks were resorted to by the cameramen to obtain their pictures, and to safeguard them once they were taken.

One cameraman was literally hoisted into jail by the pants before a Cuban bayonet when he appeared in the streets of Havana with his camera. All the cameramen reported that at the start of the revolution they were placed under guard, and a strict ruling against filming was enforced by Machado. As the men were not permitted by the guards to take their cameras out into the streets, they were sent the following cable from headquarters: "Remove to Saratoga Hotel as nicer location. Get big airy room with plenty windows, as it must be hot." It was worded thus to foil the strict censorship, and was really a recommendation to the men to film from inside their hotels.

The story of terror which the picture tells is one of personal heroism more than of anything else. . . cameramen, hunted from place to place by a mob they knew would not stop at murder, yet finding time to set up their cameras and obtain for the world a convincing record of one of the most stirring struggles in years.

